One/Zero/One

[room]

Written by Winston Wolf
FADE IN:

INT. ROOM

An overhead fluorescent light : on.

No windows.
Bare unpainted walls.
One fake plant, far left corner.

A piece of furniture, one person :

JACK, a young twenty-something with unwashed hair, wrinkled clothes, seated in the center of a white leather couch.

Hazy Jack stares :

A large glass wall ten feet ahead.

On the other side of the glass wall, the rest of the room.

Almost an identical match:
The couch is black.
Plastic plant is a darker green.
Nobody on the couch.

From the right side of Jack’s half of the room:
WILL (20s) stumbles in, scared.

Jack, emotionless.

Will, opposite of Jack in hygiene appearance, looks back from where he entered.

Will opens his mouth in protest, he holds his words.

Swallows his own spit. Fear.
There is no visible door.

Jack glares ahead. Will, unsure what to do.

Sits on the right armrest. Thinks.

Will cranes his neck over, sees part of the light reflect off the glass.

Surveys Jack over who is stiff as a statue.

Will’s gaze goes back to the view on the other side of the room.

Stands up, gets closer to the glass..
Turns to observe the fake plant on their side.

WILL
Okay. One’s more green than the other. Or is it just the way the light’s hitting it?

No response from Jack.

WILL
Hey, I got one for you. Is it day or night? Folks who snatched me up, they drugged me up, I passed out.

Jack : silent.

WILL
Girl in a gas mask wakes me up, pushes me in here. Pretty strong too, she has some guns on her.

Will waves his hand in front of Jack. No reaction. Offers his hand in friendship.

WILL

Jack non-responsive. Will glances back to the glass divider wall. He assesses it east, west, north south.

Heads back to the right side of the room, inspects for seams.

JACK
You don’t see the door on this side because they don’t want you to see the door on this side.

Will smiles, glances quick to Jack- Jack’s attention still focused on the same unseen point.

WILL
What?

JACK
You didn’t hear the door close because then you would know that there is a door there.
WILL
There is...was a door, they just
pushed me through it. It’s there.
Has to be there.

JACK
They took the door away. There is
no door.

WILL
Alright. Since we’re on the
subject, who are they?

Will trots over to the glass divider.

JACK
Whoever they are, they are watching
me on the other side of this glass
wall.

WILL
Like a two way mirror?

JACK
Except that the mirror isn’t a
mirror. It’s a glass wall and you
can see the other side of the room.

Will taps on the glass. Knocks on it.

WILL
Other side?

JACK
They are watching.

WILL
There a small video camera over
there somewhere? There is nobody on
the other side.

Jack points ahead.

JACK
They are there.

WILL
I’m sorry, man. I... Don’t see
anyone or anything on the other
side of this glass wall.
JACK
That’s what they want you to see, is what you don’t see.

WILL
Come again?

JACK
They selected us, put us in this room with no doors, no windows.

WILL
You got a name?

JACK
They are watching me, now they are watching you. All you can do is watch back.

Will motions for Jack to scoot over. After a moment and no success, Will wiggles his way in the left corner of the couch.

JACK
Jack Marks.

WILL
“Jack Marks”. Okay. Jack. Place don’t stink, so while we can’t see the doors, there has to be one.

JACK
Only what they allow to see and when they want you to see them.

WILL
“They” “They”. You know who “they” are?

JACK
They are the Party. The woman who kidnapped you belongs to the Party.

WILL
Is she watching us?

JACK
They’re all watching.

WILL
How long you been in here, Jack? In this room?
JACK
Two hours.

WILL
Looks more like two days. Okay. We know there should be a door somewhere to the right.

JACK
Yes. But there isn’t.

WILL
They have to give you something to eat and drink, let you go the toilet. That door is there.

JACK
They give you fish. They give you chips. White paste, soft bread. Water from the tuna can.

WILL
How about the john?

JACK
You’re suggesting I drink my -

WILL
No, no, hopefully it doesn’t come to that. What I mean is, if there’s a bathroom there’s a faucet.

Mimics turning on a faucet.

WILL
Turn it on, bend down, crank your neck, open wide on the side. Just don’t bump your head.

JACK
If they allow it to be seen, if it is there at all.

WILL
Okay. Let’s get our ducks in a row and in the pond. They are watching us on the other side of this glass.

JACK
Yes.

WILL
They are The Party.
JACK
Yes.

WILL
And this is an experiment which you volunteered for and I did not.

JACK
We were selected.

WILL
I stand corrected. Are you ever going to look me in the eye when I say something?

JACK
I don’t want to take my eyes off them.

WILL
I don’t know what you’re seeing but I don’t see - oh, man, I’m sorry, I should have - they drugged me!

JACK
If you say so. They may have led you to think you were drugged.

WILL
Maybe. Maybe not. But it just occurred to me. They gave you the same junk, maybe a higher dosage.

JACK
If that’s what they wanted me to think. It’s not.

WILL
Oh, God. That’s what they... Oh, God! They aren’t coming back, get me jacked up on some crazy juice.

Gets off the couch, paces around.

WILL
That’s what they are going to do, right? Juice me up?

JACK
Maybe they already did. They are in control. War is peace, peace of mind they say.
WILL
They doped us up, didn’t they? What did they give us?

JACK
They give us what we need. What they think we need. They know what is best for us.

Jack stands up, reaches out. Walks right through the glass barrier, leaves Will. Will follows, but bumps into the glass. Holds his nose.

TWO WOMEN (both mid 20s) in gas masks whose name tags read LOVE and BLISS on their uniforms
Grab Jack by both arms.

Turn him around, seat him on the couch.

Bliss waves a warning finger.

BLISS
You were not supposed to do that!

Love waltzes over to the glass divider, passes through it like it was never there, smacks Will across the face.

LOVE
This is going to hurt me more than you.

Love digs in a pocket, produces a white tablet, shoves it down Will’s throat.

BLISS
What do you see!

Bliss backs away, no sign of Love and Will. They both have vanished. The couch is black and the fake plant a darker green.

JACK
I see nothing.

BLISS
Nothing! You see nothing! I’ll tell you what you see Jack Mark. You see what we want you to see.

JACK
I see nothing!
BLISS
You see us. You’re not supposed to see us. You are not well. You are not supposed to hear us.

JACK
I want to come back! I want to go home.

BLISS
You are home Jack. You are in your own mental prison. Now do you see us? Do you hear us!

JACK
I know you’re here. Somewhere.

BLISS
This exercise cannot fail. It is very important that you follow the rules.

JACK
I’m sorry. I wasn’t thinking.

BLISS
Don’t you want to get better?

JACK
Yes, of course I do.

BLISS
Party says, in room O-Z-O, you must be cleared and cleaned of all bad thought. You are being studied.

JACK
I just want it to stop.

BLISS
Only when you want it to. We don’t take the blame for everything. Wouldn’t make sense. Are you ready?

Jack nods.

BLISS
Crank your neck, wide on the side. Watch your head.

She forces a mouthful of pills down his throat.

FADE OUT.