

BUTTERFLY

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INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

A female PSYCHIATRIST (60) sits with a smile too polite to leave her face.

ELDON (40) sits across the desk in psych-ward clothes. A well-built body with frail eyes that look to ...

A clock on the wall with the date: OCTOBER 31

PSYCHIATRIST

You're doing great, Eldon. There's just one more thing before I make my recommendation. We've done it at all your annual assessments, so you probably remember the drill.

Eldon nods as she puts papers face-down on the desk.

PSYCHIATRIST

Okay. Just look at the ink blots and say the *first* thing that comes to mind.

She flips the first one towards him.

Eldon's pupil DILATES.

His jaw CLENCHES.

Eldon considers his words as he THINKS ...

ELDON (V.O.)

A woman tied spread-eagle on the bed.

But then SAYS ...

ELDON

A starfish.

PSYCHIATRIST

Very good. How about this one?

She shows another.

ELDON (V.O.)

A woman screaming as she burns ...

ELDON

A campfire.

She flips the next image. Eldon bites his lip and thinks ...

ELDON (V.O.)

*A belly sliced open. Her guts
hanging from my fingers. Still warm
on my skin ...*

ELDON

A jellyfish.

PSYCHIATRIST

You have a bit of an aquatic theme
going on.

ELDON

It's always discovery channel in
the rec-room.

PSYCHIATRIST

Let's try one more.

She lifts the paper. Eldon's mouth gapes, searching for words
to cover his thoughts.

ELDON (V.O.)

*My hands on that slut's face.
Thumbs pushing until I feel her
eyeballs pop into her skull and her
brain hemorrhage.*

PSYCHIATRIST

Nothing?...

ELDON (V.O.)

*The blood pumping onto my hands as
her body convulses.*

PSYCHIATRIST

We can move on if you like.

ELDON (V.O.)

*I just wish she was alive to feel
what I did to her next.*

PSYCHIATRIST

Okay, let's -

ELDON

A butterfly! ... I see a monarch
butterfly.

PSYCHIATRIST

Very good.

She places the paper down.

PSYCHIATRIST

I shouldn't really say this until it's official. But I'm going to recommend ongoing care in the community. What do you think about that?

ELDON

A little excited ... And a little scared.

PSYCHIATRIST

That's normal for someone that's been in here so long. But Eldon. Do you know why we do tests like this?

ELDON

No.

PSYCHIATRIST

Because your responses show who you *really* are. And who you can be out there. So I think you've been cocooned in here long enough. It's time to get out there, Eldon ...

The polite smile is still on her lips as she flips the last image back over - the one Eldon identified as a butterfly.

THE INK IMAGE is clear enough for EVERYONE to see the same thing. Hands pushing thumbs into a SCREAMING WOMAN'S EYES.

PSYCHIATRIST

Get out there and be that butterfly.

END