

**Reflection**

**by**

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FADE IN:

**EXT.** SUBURBAN HOUSE — EVENING

The sound of torrential rain drumming on the pavement fills the air. DAVID mid 30's stands at the end of his driveway soaking wet. He is staring in the kitchen window at his wife SARAH mid 30's doing the dishes with a look of disgust on his face.

He takes out a medicine bottle from his jacket pocket and empties 4 or 5 pills on to his hand.

The rain cascading down his face he takes one last look at his wife. He takes a deep breath, frowns while shaking his head, and throws the pills into his mouth before walking up the driveway towards his front door.

**INT.** FOYER - CONTINUOUS

DAVID takes off his jacket shakes it off then hangs it up on the coat rack behind the door. He hears JAKE his 9 year old son's voice from the other room.

JAKE

Is that you dad?

DAVID ignores him and quickly takes off his wet shoes. JAKE walks out of the living room and gets excited when he sees his dad.

JAKE

Dad, dad, look what I found in the  
backyard.

DAVID trying to avoid making eye contact looks down while rushing to the stairs before JAKE can reach him. But JAKE jumps in front of him, waving a dirty old coin in DAVID'S face before he gets to the bottom step.

SARAH walks out of the kitchen smiling while drying her hands with a towel.

SARAH

Your finally here, the poor thing  
couldn't relax all day waiting for  
you to get home so he could show  
you what he found. He knows how  
much you love this kind of thing.

DAVID forces a smile, and rubs JAKES head without glancing at JAKE or the coin.

DAVID

That's really cool buddy.

DAVID tries to walk around JAKE and go upstairs but JAKE keeps blocking his way.

JAKE

I found it behind the shed, it looks really old. Do you think it might be worth something?

DAVID uninterested puts his hand on JAKES shoulder and gently moves him out of his way.

DAVID

I'm not sure. I will take a look  
later when I get cleaned up.

JAKE drops his head in disappointment and starts walking back into the living room.

JAKE

Ok dad.

DAVID starts walking upstairs.

SARAH shakes her head disapprovingly.

SARAH

REALLY! He thought you would be  
excited he was looking forward to  
this all day. You could have at  
least pretended to care.

DAVID pauses for a moment still staring at his feet. His lip trembling as he tries to hide his emotions, he cough's clearing his throat.

DAVID

I will talk to him later. OK?

SARAH annoyed

SARAH

I don't know what's got into you lately, sometimes it's like you are a different person.

DAVID ignores her and continues upstairs, while his wife follows JAKE into the living room, slamming the door behind her.

**INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING**

DAVID, SARAH and JAKE are sitting around the table eating dinner. David is slouched over the table staring into his soup with one hand under his chin. His wife is on his left and JAKE is sitting across from him.

JAKE is excited about something that happened at school.

**JAKE**

The teacher came running into the classroom today in a panic screaming about seeing a rat in the hallway. All the girls freaked out over her and started climbing on top of their desks. TRACY GIBSON ended up falling face first on top of TOMMY and they fell behind his desk and couldn't get up.

He must be really afraid of rats, he started screaming like a little girl, because he thought the rat was going to get him. It was so funny everyone started laughing at him.

**SARAH**

Isn't he the one that used to pick on you in gym class?

**JAKE**

He picks on everyone, that's what makes it so funny and that's not even the best part; it turns out the rat was actually Mrs. JENKINS fur hat she must have dropped it on the way to class.

DAVID glances up towards JAKE and briefly sees a face in the glass cabinet behind JAKE and JUMPS.

SARAH

Is Mrs. JENKINS the music teacher?

DAVID lets out an exasperated sigh then drops his head and rubs his eyes with his hands.

Suddenly JAKE starts coughing profusely.

DAVID jumps up almost knocking over the table and grabs JAKE aggressively.

DAVID

JAKE, ARE YOU OK? WHAT'S WRONG?

JAKE is shocked by DAVID'S reaction and looks to SARAH for guidance.

Surprised by his sudden outburst she hesitates for a moment before answering sarcastically.

SARAH

I think he is going to be ok  
DAVID, ITS SOUP, just get him a  
glass of water and he will be  
fine.

As DAVID leaves the room, SARAH and JAKE look at each other in confusion.

**INT.** KITCHEN — CONTINUOUS

DAVID is standing at the sink. He fills a glass of water takes out another pill from the jar in his pocket and puts it in his mouth.

After drinking the water he refills it for JAKE, as he is about to turn of the tap he sees the reflection of an old man standing behind him in the window and drops the glass.

**INT.** ENSUIT BATHROOM — MORNING

DAVID is partly shaven staring at his reflection in the mirror, while his wife is speaking to him from the bed in the other room out of view. The door is partly opened

SARAH

Wouldn't you think five is enough,  
she can't even control the kid's  
she has, all she ever does is  
complain about how much shit they  
give her. Now she is having  
another one. I don't get it. What  
do you think DAVID?

DAVID lost in thought answers instinctively.

DAVID

mmmm.

SARAH

I don't think they are going to  
stop with this one either, JANE  
tells me she overheard them  
talking and apparently, they want  
at least eight kids, imagine that.

SARAH pauses for a moment.

SARAH

Are you even listening to me  
DAVID? You have barely said a word  
to me sense you got up.

After a brief delay DAVID snaps out of his daze and turns  
towards the door.

DAVID

Of course honey I am just trying  
to concentrate on not getting cut.

When he turns back his expression changes to shock; in the  
mirror he can see the face of the old man staring back at him  
through the crack in the door.

He JUMPS then quickly turns around knocking his razor from the  
edge up the sink in the process, but there is no one there.

SARAH

DAVID what was that?

DAVID looks around in a panic trying to figure out what to do  
next. Trying not to worry SARAH he says calmly.

DAVID

Am, nothing honey I just dropped my razor. Can you do me a favor? I think I left my wallet in the car can you go check for me?

SARAH

Ok DAVID just give me a minute, I am in the middle of reading an article.

SUDDENLY the old man reappears in the reflection in the mirror.

DAVID squeezes the sink with both hands while grinding his teeth.

He takes a deep breath and tries calming himself, never taking his eyes off the mirror.

DAVID

Can you go now, please! I need to check something, it's important!

We see the old man slowly walking toward the bed.

He stops at the end of the bed and looks back towards DAVID, smirks before looking at SARAH.

SARAH

I said I will do it in a minute, what's the big hurry?

In frustration DAVID slams his hand on the sink.

DAVID

For once can you just do this for me without making a big thing out of it?

SARAH annoyed replies angrily.

SARAH

I don't know what your problem is lately, your always snappy with me and what was that at dinner last night? I really think you should talk to someone because you are definitely losing it. I see you

sitting there twitching every  
night, jumping out of your skin  
over the smallest noise, so does  
JAKE.

At the same time the old guy begins to crawl on the bed.

DAVID tries to hold back his anger, opens the cabinet, takes out  
a tablet jar and empties 2 pills into his hand.

He sees his reflection in the mirror, and hesitates for a  
moment. His face fills with disgust and he empties all the pills  
down the drain and drops the bottle on the ground.

DAVID

Why wouldn't I be LOSING IT with  
your constant nagging, you never  
stop until you get what you want,  
no matter the consequences. Yet I  
ask you to do one thing for me  
without complaining and I am  
losing it, just FUCK OFF!

SARAH pauses for a moment then SCREAMS

SARAH

FUCKING PSYCHO.

Suddenly realizing the old man has disappeared from sight, DAVID  
can't hold back his anger any longer, and he rips the mirror  
door off with his bare hands, throws it against the wall sending  
glass everywhere, while shouting

DAVID

GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE NOW.

Moments later he sees his wife run passed the crack in the door  
crying. She can be heard sobbing the whole way down the stairs.

DAVID turns back grabs the sink with both hands while dropping  
his head and letting out a relieving sigh. The water in the sink  
quickly turns red from the blood pouring from his knuckles.

In the sink he sees the reflection of the old man standing  
beside him. He smiles before walking away, while DAVID bursts  
into tears and falls to the ground, cutting his hand even more  
from the glass on the floor

DAVID



I'm sorry, I will do anything,  
just please stop this, I can't  
take anymore.

He hears a bang coming from behind him, and turns to see his wallet on the floor. When he looks up he sees his son standing at the doorway with a horrified look on his face. Before he gets a chance to speak, JAKE runs away.

DAVID follows him into the bedroom.

BEDROOM CONTINUOUS

DAVID'S voice breaking from trying to hold back the tears.

DAVID

Please buddy don't be scared, I  
would never hurt you.

DAVID sees his reflection in the dresser and freezes. Looking himself up and down he realizes he can't face his son looking like that. Before heading back into the bathroom to clean himself up he calls out to JAKE.

DAVID

I'AM SO SORRY, PLEASE FORGIVE ME,  
I PROMISE I WILL FIX EVERYTHING,  
JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE.

BATHROOM CONTINUOUS

DAVID washes his wounds in the sink then takes out a bandage from the cabinet and wraps up his hand. When he is done he cleans the sink and begins picking up the broken glass from the floor and puts the pieces in a wicker basket.

DAVID is bent down behind the door when he sees the old guy sticking his head in the doorway from one of the broken pieces of glass on the floor. David loses his temper and slams it shut as hard as he can on the old man's head.

He hears a thud.

When he opens the door he sees his wife lying on the floor unconscious, blood dripping from her ear.

BEDROOM CONTINUOUS

He quickly checks her pulse and lets out a relieving sigh, then lifts her to the bed.

He hears a voice coming from the doorway behind him, it's JAKE.

JAKE

DAD?

By the time he turns around his son is gone.

He sees the old man walking down the hallway after his son from the reflection on the dresser mirror and chases after him yelling.

DAVID

GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE OR I  
SWEAR TO GOD...

HALLWAY CONTINUOUS

JAKE is standing at the end of the hallway sobbing.

JAKE

Dad I'm sorry! Please stop!

JAKE turns the corner and we hear his footsteps going down the stairs, then a tumbling sound.

When DAVID gets to the top of the stairs he sees JAKE at the bottom struggling to breathe with a plastic bag over his head.

DAVID runs down picks him up with one hand and rips the bag off with the other. JAKE screams when he sees his dads face and squirms his way out of his grip, but he grabs JAKES arm just before he gets away.

DAVID

JAKE, PLEASE!

DAVID hears someone shout his name.

SARAH

DAVID.

When he turns around SARAH is standing there with a baseball bat.

SARAH

GET THE FUCK AWAY FROM HIM.

At the same time she swings the bat hitting him across the side of the head and he falls to the floor.

SARAH picks JAKE up and runs out the front door leaving it wide opened.

**EXT.** CAR DRIVING - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

DAVID is driving along a skinny winding road with a steep cliff edge at one side.

His phone rings.

It's SARAH he puts her on loudspeaker and holds the phone to his chin. As he does he briefly crosses the line in the middle of the road before swerving back.

DAVID

Hi honey.

SARAH replies laughing.

SARAH

One minute JAKE I will ask him. Oh hi DAVID, We were going to call to MARIES, JAKE wanted to see JASON. I just wanted to ring first to make sure their home before I drove all the way over there, but I can't find MARIES number anywhere, have you got it?

DAVID

Can't this wait until I get home I am driving?

SARAH

Not really we kind of need it now.

DAVID searches his phone while trying to concentrate on the road but gets frustrated when he can't find the number.

DAVID

I am not sure what it's under  
SARAH. I will be home in 20-  
minutes I will check properly then  
is that ok?

He hears JAKES voice coming through the phone.

JAKE

Please dad, JASON is going to  
LUKES at 7, if we don't leave now  
it will be too late.

DAVID is annoyed and shakes his head, but gives in anyway.

DAVID

OK, just give me a few minutes I will find some place to pull  
in. I will ring you back.

She replies impatiently.

SARAH

Just check there quickly, it will  
only take a second, maybe it is  
under her last name Carter.

DAVID is getting increasingly frustrated.

DAVID

FINE, just give me a second.

Struggling to juggle between steering the car and finding the  
number he drops his phone on the floor.

He leans down and feels around for it while trying to keep his  
eyes on the road. Eventually he looks down and sees it under the  
break. He stretches down as far as he can to reach it but loses  
sight of the road for a moment.

When he gets up he is on the wrong side of the road and there is  
a car coming toward him, the old man that had been haunting him  
is driving.

DAVID quickly swerves narrowly avoiding the other car while the  
old man clips the ditch at the other side. We hear the sound of  
tires SCREECHING then a loud BANG.

DAVID slows down and looks back but the car is nowhere to be  
seen. He pulls in for a moment and thinks about going back while

his wife calls his name in the background. He picks up his phone hangs up and drives off with a blank look on his face.

INT. FOYER - PRESENT MORNING

David wakes up with two cops standing over him they quickly handcuff him and drag him out of there. Outside he sees the old man walking toward a police car, his wife and son are in the back seat.

THE END