

REFLECTIONS IN A BLACK MIRROR

Bernard Mersier

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Cast of Characters

MELANATED KING: Energy of life

MELANATED QUEEN:

MELANATED KING CONT'D:

MELANATED QUEEN CONT'D:

CHARACTERS

LIFE: An interesting character you would think has a solid positive view on life, but it's the complete opposite.

DEATH: Death is determined to show Life the things people should be more concerned about, instead of the mirages they believe in now.

"You can't complain about a movement you helped support."

Bernard Mersier

ACT ISCENE I

The story opens with LIFE standing in the bedroom looking out the window at the beautiful scenery.

LIFE

Billions. Billions of voices are heard around the world. They all have different thoughts and opinions, but they all have one thought in mind. Making the world a better place.

(Happy chuckle)

Everybody is enjoying life staying out of people's way. How can you not enjoy this place?

DEATH calmly walks on stage, but doesn't get close to Life.

DEATH

(Laughs)

You don't truly believe the rubbish in your mind you just let spill from your mouth?

LIFE

Your words mean nothing.

DEATH

My words mean everything. Why do you think I'm adorned so much? You on the other hand. You're not respected because you only speak and display illusions. For example, this scenery.

The sound of howling winds and a thunderstorm is now heard.

Life is still looking out the window, and then releases a deep gasp, quickly closing the window.

DEATH (CONT'D)

(Evil laugh)

A person who stands firm on the words you speak shouldn't have fear residing in them. Do you know why you're scared right now?

LIFE

(Nervous tone)

This isn't real. This is all in my head, it is not

real.

DEATH

Your existence and the way you think isn't real. What would make you real is accepting what's going on, instead of keeping it locked away. But...you love living in your pretend world.

Life moves over towards the computer desk, and then picks up the glass filled with liquor, downing it in one gulp.

Standing there for a few seconds absorbing the drink, Life then picks up a joint and the lighter, lighting the joint, taking a calm pull.

LIFE

(Relaxed tone)

This is what I needed.

DEATH

It figures you'd run to these things. Just like the people who feel the same way you do, needing a drink, some drugs or both. But in my world...the real world. You, and the people like you morph into the true people you really are after you get intoxicated.

Life takes a hard pull from the joint, and then pours another cup, immediately downing it.

LIFE

Leave me alone. Leave me alone and return to your misery.

DEATH

You are my misery, and I am your truth you love denying just so you can blend in. Am I lying?

LIFE

Nothing but lies come from your mouth. Enjoy your moment because in a matter of seconds, I'll block you out as I always do.

DEATH

Then let's get to it. Let's take a look at this proclaimed perfect world you believe in.

As Life takes another hit, a sharp cry of pain is released.

The movie projector screen comes down, and then

the stage goes black.

On the screen we see different races of people in various locations getting wasted, enjoying themselves.

Now we see various people attempting to drive or walk home, and their friends are not attempting to stop them.

Now we see various wasted people drunk driving causing accidents, hit and runs, crashing through houses and various other destructive outcomes.

Now we see various people who were walking, starting random fights, trying to steal out of gas stations, harassing people, throwing up on the sidewalk, and so on.

We see various people in interrogation rooms and behind bars saddened or confused about the crimes they committed.

The snippets come to an end, and the screen goes back up as the lights come back on.

Life places the glass of liquor back on the desk.

DEATH

(Evil laugh)

The truth of what happens when people are intoxicated is sickening to you? Or is it sickening because you had to face the truth?

Life takes one last pull from the joint before placing it out in the ashtray.

LIFE

This isn't true about everybody. Some can handle the alternative reserves they use, and others shouldn't tamper with such elements.

DEATH

That's a very delicate excuse you just used, but what does it matter, right?

Life looks on the bed for the television remote control, and finds it lying on the blue blanket on the Queen sized bed beside a cellphone.

The sound of the thunderstorm is still heard in the background.

Before taking a seat on the bed, Life picks up

the glass of liquor.

Life picks up the remote, and then takes a seat on the bed, turning to look at the flat screen mounted on the wall.

LIFE

It doesn't matter. You...you'll be gone---

DEATH

Look at you. It's all starting to kick in. Do you still have the same illusions or are you realizing I'm right?

Life tries turning the television on, but nothing happens.

Attempting to turn it on a few more times getting the same response, Life gets frustrated, placing the remote down.

LIFE

I'll never say you're right because I don't believe in illusions or lies.

DEATH

Right. What's wrong with the television?

LIFE

I have no idea. Maybe it's for the best, so I won't see the negativity that's consistently shown barricading the truth.

DEATH

Wait, wait, wait. Barricading the truth?

LIFE

That's what I said. Everything on television consists of violence, sex and money. Nothing of true substance deserving attention.

DEATH

Ironic you would say such things, and all of the things you just named you support.

LIFE

I support life and people who appreciate life. The things I named off in my opinion is the reason why life is the way it is now.

DEATH

That's not why. It's because you support these very things, and as usual, you're still in denial in this world of illusions.

Life takes a sip from the glass.

LIFE

Believe what you want as usual.

The television starts flickering on and off.

LIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What's going on?

Life picks up the remote trying to figure out what's going on.

DEATH

Don't try solving the problem. Just watch why I said you support what's going on. This is the real reason why the world is in chaos.

The movie screen projector comes back down, and the stage goes black.

We see old racial clips from movies and actual interviews, before it goes to various old mafia clips.

Now it goes to the various current racial events that's happened in the world, interviews with serial killers, and other clips depicting drugs and violence.

The snippets come to an end, and the movie projector goes back up, and the lights come back on.

Life picks up the remote trying to turn the television off, but it's not working.

Finally, Life downs the glass, places it on the floor and then gets up as the clips continue being shown.

Life walks up to the television grabbing it by both sides, and then snatches it down from the wall, smashing it on the floor.

DEATH

Oh, my. What's this all about? Something about when you see or hear the truth, you get mad.

LIFE

No truth has been said or shown! I'm frustrated because of the nonsense you're trying to place in my head. I know what you're trying to do, and you know...

(Chuckles)

Why am I letting you get to me? Why am I not controlling this situation?

Life is a tad bit tipsy moving back over to the computer desk, picking up another joint, lighting it, taking a calm pull.

DEATH

Here we go with this again. No matter how much you drink and smoke it won't remove the truth.

Life continues smoking while taking a seat on the bed, picking up the phone.

LIFE

Yap, yap, yap. Keep on talking because you're the only one listening.

DEATH

Ah, another resource you people run to when things don't go as planned. Not to speak about yourself, but to talk about other people, and complain about people not agreeing with what you feel is right. But above all that...you don't speak on both angles about things that's foul going on, and why certain things haven't been resolved.

Life tries turning on the phone, getting no response.

LIFE

Just like the television, you're doing something with my phone, right?

DEATH

Maybe---

LIFE

I wasn't asking you literally because I knew you'd start speaking foolishly. I was just saying aloud...

Life stares at the phone, and now it's on.

DEATH

Ready to blame somebody else for your own actions instead of---

LIFE

Can you be quiet, I'm trying to make a call?

Life looks at the phone confused because the call hasn't gone through yet.

DEATH

All this gossip you wanna spread about something or someone else is probably why your call isn't going through.

LIFE

Or how about because of the weather, the signal is bad?

DEATH

The weather? What's wrong with the weather?

The sound of the thunderstorm stops, and it's a peaceful night.

Life takes a pull from the joint, and then looks at the phone and sees the battery blinking indicating it's dead.

LIFE

Nope. Nope, I'm not about to play this game with you.

DEATH

What game would that be?

Life drops the phone on the bed, and then gets up taking a seat at the computer desk.

After getting settled, Life picks up the bottle taking a nice swig, and then turns the laptop on.

There's a cool peaceful background showing.

DEATH (CONT'D)

The very core of life. The one thing that makes people like you feel as if you're better than any and everybody. The internet.

LIFE

The internet is a source of information and connecting with people you haven't seen in years. This is the most beautiful thing that ever graced the world.

DEATH

For once, you actually said something true. Yes, the internet is a beautiful source of information and connecting with friends and family. But...that's not what people like you use it for. You were just starting to be honest, so let's keep that rolling.

LIFE

You can think what you want. I know what I do on the internet.

DEATH

I do too. Look at what you do.

The movie projector screen comes down, and the stage goes black.

We see various hate speech messages from different people on various sites.

Then it goes to various blogs about different hate filled topics and body shaming.

Now we see racist people talking live from every race posting violent hate pics, memes and videos. All of them are laughing and agreeing this is what should be done.

The movie projector screen goes back up, and then the lights come back on.

Life slams the laptop close, breathing heavy.

DEATH

(Laughs)

The internet. I love what you people do and say on the internet, and then get mad when people question your ignorance. How do people know it's ignorance? You do and say all of these hateful things, and then turn around portraying you're this great person. Who believes that image? People who are just like you.

Life snatches the drawer open on the computer desk, and then reaches inside receiving a shock.

Life reaches back inside, and receives another shock.

DEATH

(Evil laugh)

Now, you know we can't touch that. What made you think we could?

LIFE

I can touch it. I don't know what you're doing right now preventing me from touching it, but I know I can read from the good book.

DEATH

How can I prevent you from anything if my words mean nothing, and I don't exist?

(Laughs)

You people kill me. When things don't go your way or you feel things are too tough, the bible is the first thing you reach out for, and this goes for any religion. You pick the sections fitting what you're going through at the time and run with it. You don't stand on the book with faith, but in search of a scapegoat. Since there's so many like you, it's hard weeding out the real from the fake. Well...not in my case.

LIFE

You're a sadistic bastard in desperate need of help. The bible is salvation for those who can't do it on their own, needing help dealing with you. Reading the bible is good for relaxation, but the words are already implanted in us, giving us the will to keep going and triumph over you.

DEATH

Triumph over me?

(Laughs)

I'm the reason why you people behave the way you do? Accountability is a non-existent word to you people.

Life picks up the bottle taking a deep swig, and when trying to place it back, it falls on the floor.

DEATH (CONT'D)

That's my fault, too?

LIFE

Of course it's your fault. You...you're---

(Retching)

You're the---

Life quickly gets up running for the bathroom, and Death is right behind.

Reaching the bathroom, Life quickly drops down hurling in the toilet, while Death stands in the doorway watching. After a few more seconds, Life

finishes, and then flushes the toilet before walking over to the shower turning the hot water on full blast.

DEATH

You don't look so hot.

With a quick clearing of the throat, Life then turns to spit in the toilet.

LIFE

I'll be just fine. I'm about to take this shower. Make me something to eat, and then get some rest. I'll be refreshed in the morning.

DEATH

Oh, I do believe you're far from being refreshed or saved.

LIFE

I'm already over what you think and what you have to share. Once I get into this shower, you'll no longer exist. These are the last few minutes of your moment.

Life is fully intoxicated reaching into the shower to test the temperature, and judging from the steam and how quickly the hand pulls back, the water is perfect.

Attempting to move into the shower, Life staggers back, almost falling on the floor.

Finally getting somewhat of a balance together, Life turns towards the sink.

Life looks at the black wall mirror seeing no reflection.

As the steam continues filling the room, Life's breathing intensifies.

DEATH

(Evil laugh)

My moment doesn't end until I collect what's due. You should've posed that statement on yourself because there's no doubt...these are your last moments.

LIFE

(Scared tone)

What---what is going on? Why is the mirror black?

DEATH

This is the part where we look at the topics people like you bypass. So since these are your final moments...I figured we'd speak on some things that matter.

LIFE

Things that matter? What...

Life reaches out touching the mirror thinking a reflection would appear, and it remains black.

LIFE

(Deep gasp)
What the hell is going on?

DEATH

Death is death, no matter how you cut it, right? Is there really an excuse for people who molest and kill children?

LIFE

...No. ...There's no excuse for taking a child's life or taking advantage of them. Sometimes---

DEATH

So a man or woman can take advantage of a child, and the only consequence should be time in jail? And what about the parent who allowed it because they were paying more attention to a sex life instead of their child? Should they just get a slap on the wrist, and be able to carry on with life portraying a fake grievance, mad at the person who did it instead of themselves?

LIFE

That's nowhere near what I'm saying or would agree with. Murder will never be acceptable, nor a parent placing their child in a position where something as foul as molestation or worse can happen.

DEATH

This might sound cruel, but the things that happen to these children...it's because of people like you letting them act and dress as if they're grown, and then get all tight when these things happen. It's kinda poetic wouldn't you think?

LIFE

That's nowhere near poetic, and people have the right to

dress their children in what makes them comfortable and stand out. The way children behave, if they're imitating their parents or whoever, it's harmless behavior that shouldn't be viewed as if they're adults. No adult should ever take how a child looks and behaves on that level seriously.

DEATH

...So in other words...this is acceptable, and there's no one to blame but the child?

(Laughs)

It'll all make sense in the end.

The movie projector screen comes down, and the stage goes black.

We see various men and women in different areas attempting to lure children into their grasp on playgrounds while their parents are not looking.

Now we see various preteen males looking and acting as if they're drug dealers, and we see preteen females dressed in skimpy or fitted attire, acting as if they're easy.

Now we see various drunk men and women in bedrooms in different locations leaving the person who they're dating sleeping on the bed, while leaving to go molest that person's child.

Now we see those same preteens on missing people flyers, on television and on social media.

The movie projector screen goes back up, and then the lights come back on.

LIFE

...What--what's happening to me?

DEATH

The thoughts you try so hard locking away are spilling into your reality. The new things you're seeing now is what people like you view other people as. Drugs and what you call "kinky sex". All of which a rapist or a woman who's been abused can use as the perfect alibi.

LIFE

No. No, no, no! You can't combine pleasure with the rape of an unsuspecting victim. A rapist or a man who verbally and physically abuses a woman has no respect for them, and should be locked away. Yes, if

something traumatizing happens to a woman she's deserves justice, but not by committing murder.

DEATH

Who can say who is and isn't willing these days?
Women today love being talked to any type of way and treated with no respect, especially during sex, and the men are happy to oblige. Now, the women who feel they should murder the man who treated them this way..

(Evil laugh)

How can you be mad at what you subjected yourself to, not just with one man, but even if you move on you let others repeat the process?

LIFE

Stop. Make this stop! This is not what life is about. Stop trying to make me believe what you're saying or you've shown me.

DEATH

Oh, you believe. How else would I be able to speak on these topics, or show you these images if you didn't believe?

LIFE

Because you're a master of deceiving the weak. I'm not weak! All I have to do is wake up from this nightmare.

Life begins hitting himself upside the head.

LIFE

Wake up. Wake up, wake up, wake up!

DEATH

For once, you can finally say you're awake. Blocking the truth out like you do everyday is when you're sleeping.

Life moves up to the sink terrified, breathing heavy.

LIFE

Focus. Regain your focus, and wake up.

Life begins saying a prayer.

DEATH

Why are you praying? You're about to meet whoever your maker is soon.

Life continues praying.

The light go off for a hot minute, and when they come back on, Death is standing in front of Life with a snub nose .38 aimed at Life's head.

The prayer comes to a stop, and Life releases a deep gasp.

DEATH

This place or paradise only dwells in the minds of those in denial, such as yourself. You want peace and for everyone to get along, but behind closed eyes...you support and have your fair share of contributing to what you believe is destroying the world. At least the people you speak down on are honest with their character. Well...until they get caught or killed unexpectedly, thinking they had more time to change.

Death cocks the gun.

DEATH (CONT'D)

At one point there was an equal balance of leaders and followers. As we speak today, it's ninety-eight percent of followers, and the two percent trying to be positive leaders are looked down upon because they're not following the rest of the pack. Those are the people who appreciate life, but the followers of negativity feel they have to either kill them or make sure their words are never heard.

LIFE

...That's...that's not true. The leaders of this world---

DEATH (O.S.)

Are the biggest walking contradictions on the planet, and are highly praised by people they do nothing for, but give them an image and false words to worship. Morals and the fear of being yourself is what's breaking this world down. The things you should worry about are overlooked because everybody has to keep up with the next person. The irony of people keeping up with people is they end up fighting each other over who does what the best. Who looks the best, and so on. Meanwhile, the real threats continue on their destructive path without being noticed until it affects certain people. But by that time, it's too late.

LIFE

(Trembling tone)

The world will change. In time, the world---

DEATH

Will end in the chaos people like you created because you'll continue fueling the fire, and the followers will love remaining burning in it. Racism, murder, sexual abuse, subjecting yourself to degradation, child molestation and so on, all revolves around money, and wanting some form of fame. People will do anything for these things believing with money they can do anything they want because people know and respect them for their money. But...when the followers or the leader of the followers get caught, and they know jail is in their future, but haven't been punished, what do they do? It turns into depression. Not because of what they did, but as an excuse seeking some leniency. And if that doesn't work...

The stage goes black.

When the lights come back on, we see Life standing in the bathroom holding the same snub nose to his head.

Standing behind Life, we see various men and women of different races and ages, all holding guns to their heads.

DEATH (CONT'D)

Instead of accepting the pain they inflicted on others...

The stage goes black, and a gunshot is heard.

DEATH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

They come running to me in hopes the pain will end, not knowing this is just the beginning.

"A solution can never be produced if you constantly add to the problem."

Bernard Mersier

END OF THE SCENE**CLOSE CURTAINS**