

THE LABORATORY

BY

MASATOTAI

© 2018 WALEED ZEIN
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

1. EXT. FOREST - DAY

JAMES, 18, A tall man dressed casually, walks through the forest. Thin streams of light pierce through the overhead foliage. He hears a rustling in the leaves. James nervously scans the trees. He stumbles over the vegetation searching for the sound.

JAMES
(Loud Whisper)
DEE?

A figure whooshes behind him, throwing up leaves as it glides past. James spins around. Nervous. His eyes scan the trees.

JAMES
(nervous)
Dee Dee ? This isn't funny.

A soft tinkling laugh trickles through the wind. James takes a tentative steps back. His gaze focused in front of him. A dark figure approaches him from behind. His breathing quickens. The figure goes completely unnoticed. A blurry hand reaches out to him.

DEE DEE
Boo!

James lets out a yelp as he retreats

Dee dee, 18 blonde, dressed in short skirt and a pink tank top, giggles as she jumps into frame.

JAMES
Jezz, Dee. You scared the
crap outta me

DEE DEE
(sarcastic)
Haha! You should've seen your

face.

James scowls Dee dee rolls her eyes.

DEE DEE
C'mon, it was just a joke.

JAMES
I'm not sure soiling myself
constitutes as a joke.

Dee dee closes the distance between them. She softly tugs on his arm. The two share a passionate look. James reaches down and kisses her. Dee dee breaks away giggling.

DEE DEE
C'mon. If we're going to make
it before dark we need to get
going.

JAMES
(slightly apprehensive)
And where is "it" exactly?

Dee dee wraps her arm around his affectionately.

DEE DEE
Let's go scaredy cat. I'll
show you.

2. EXT. WOODS - NOON

The couple walk hand in hand laughing airily in the open woods. Dee dee abruptly stops, forcing James to jerk forward.

DEE DEE
We're here!

James stares ahead. Directly in front of them is a small outhouse that is so over whelmed with surrounding greenery, it is looks like it's sprouted from the forest grounds. James looks at the outhouse skeptically.

JAMES

So when you say "your
brother's secret laboratory"
please tell me you don't mean
this.

DEE DEE

Come on.

Dee dee lets out a soft laugh as she bounds forward. She jumps into the outhouse and shuts the door behind her. James watches the scene with furrowed brows.

JAMES

Okay! Ha ha Dee! I get it. It
was all just a joke. Which,
by the way, is one of your
lamest ones yet.

Silence. There is no sounds coming from the outhouse.

JAMES

(uncertain)

Dee? I'm not falling for this
again.

Still nothing. James takes a cautious step forward. A blinding light flashes from a slit in the outhouse. There's a sound like a sharp intake of breath. Then nothing.

JAMES

DEE!

James rushes forward into the outhouse. He throws open the door to find...

JAMES
(confused)
It's empty

3. INT.OUTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

James walks in the bare outhouse. The walls are blanketed with over growth, but the floor is surprisingly clean.

JAMES
Dee?

His call echoes along the cramped empty room. James pokes his head further in, and quickly recoils as something bounces on his forehead. He takes a moment to bring it into focus. It's a lever hanging from the wall with a sticky note that reads...

JAMES
(reading)
Pull me?

James reaches out and tugs on the lever. The floor immediately collapses and James falls through into the pitch black screaming.

4. INT.LABORATORY LOBBY - NOON

James comes crashing down, but before he can collide with the ground, his descent slows dramatically. An eerie hum rings around him as he touches the ground gently. A luminous circular plate beneath his feet dims to an unusual pale blue glow, before extinguishing completely. Bewildered he takes in his surroundings. Long sterile walls makes up most of the empty lobby. A pair of doors swing open to reveal Dee dee smiling at James.

DEE DEE
Took you long enough.

James gapes at the lobby.

JAMES
What is this place?

Dee dee bounds forward and takes his hands in hers.

DEE DEE
Welcome to Dexter's
Laboratory

Dee dee guides him forward as they go through the swinging doors.

5. INT. LABORATORY CORRIDOR- NOON

James is greeted with a long narrow corridor with several doors on either side. He peaks through the small glass panel on one of the doors to see chair floating on a similar glowing circular panel, as if unaffected by gravity. Dee dee giggles off James' astonished face.

JAMES
Dexter's? Your brother did
ALL of this?

DEE DEE
Mostly. He made some, the
rest was already here.

JAMES
Already here?

Dee dee ponders on the question as she walks James along the corridor. A brilliant display of light flashes from one off the panels.

DEE DEE
It was around the time our
parents were killed.

James stops trying to peer into the rooms. He looks down at Dee dee. She's staring glassy eyed ahead of them.

JAMES
(soft)
How did they...?

The couple slow down their walk. The atmosphere seems almost chilly.

DEE DEE

We were on our way home. Dad used to take us to this crappy pizza joint.

(small chuckle)

Chucky cheese. We were all too full with pizza and soda to notice the car driving behind us.

Dee dee balls her hands into fists.

DEE DEE

It was some big wig's kid. Drunk out his skull and speeding through the narrow pass. He tried to overtake us, didn't see the incoming traffic and slammed straight into our car. The collision sent us spiraling off road.

A single tear runs down Dee dee face.

DEE DEE

They say dad was killed immediately. Mom died a week later..and Dexter...dexter has never been the same again.

James places a hesitant hand on Dee dee's shoulder. She reaches over and squeezes it. A sad smile on her face.

JAMES

What happened to the kid?

Dee dee's face darkens

DEE DEE

A few minor scratches. They pinned the DUI on Dad.

JAMES
(angrily)
He got off?

DEE DEE
(nods)
It was around that time we
found this place.

James raises a quizzical eyebrow at her.

DEE DEE
Dexter shut down after whole
thing, and because of our age
difference. We were going to
be separated at foster care.
So we ran.

Dee dee has a hardened look.

DEE DEE
We ran until we couldn't take
a single step. It was raining
buckets. We were hungry and
shivering. That's when we
stumbled upon this place.

Dee dee gestures to the laboratory.

DEE DEE
Dex says it's the universe
trying to right a wrong.

JAMES
How?

DEE DEE
Logical retribution, the
tools he needs to completely
restructure of the system.
Personally, I think this used
to be a top secret
underground facility. The
amount of cobwebs when we got

here says it was abandoned a long time ago.

JAMES
(impressed)
So you got it to this?

DEE DEE
That was mostly Dexter. I kinda just got in the way, most of the time.

JAMES
That sounds about right.

Dee dee nudges him in the ribs playfully. He stumbles back. SFX: Splash. The pair look down too see a thick blue green liquid pouring from one of the rooms. They look up to see a broken glass container, large enough to house a person. Dee dee's smile immediately vanishes.

DEE DEE
(sotto)
Oh no.

Dee dee tugs on James' hand.

DEE DEE
(panicked)
We need to get outta here.

JAMES
(alarmed)
What?

The lights above explodes in a shower of sparks, plunging the hallway into darkness. Emergency red lights immediately flash above. A soft hiss echoes through the hallway. James looks down at Dee dee's terrified face. The hiss rattles closer. It's behind them. James spins around to see a humanoid figure amble slowly toward them.

JAMES
What is that?

Dee dee pulls James away from the creature. Her breath light and erratic. The creature turns to them. Even in the darkness, it's glowing red eyes can be seen. There is a moment of suspense as they all stare each other down. James and Dee dee take a slow step back. SFX: Craacck. James steps on a piece of broken glass, remnants of a tube light above. The crack breaks the silence like a whip. It triggers something in the creature. It rushes forward.

DEE DEE

RUN!

Dee dee and James shoot through the hallway, they reach the end and take a left, skidding on the wet floor as they round the corner. The creature picks up in speed. A flash of red light reveals thin 10 inch razor like claws extending from his hands.

DEE DEE

This way!

Dee dee pulls James into an open door and slams it shut behind her.

6. INT. LABORATORY MED ROOM- NOON

James quickly scans the room and sees a heavy metal table. He scrambles towards and starts lugging it towards the door. Dee dee notices what he's trying to do and helps him. Together they use the table to barricade themselves in.

JAMES

(panting)

What is that thing?

Dee dee wipes the sweaty hair from her face.

DEE DEE

An experiment gone very wrong. It's not supposed to be alive. Dex tried to create...

She stops mid-sentence. Her eyes fearful. She gives James a horrified look.

DEE DEE

Dexter? Where's Dexter?

Dee dee rushes to the door, desperately trying to pull apart the make shift barricade. James jumps forward and pulls her back. She struggles against him, screaming.

JAMES

Dee!

Dee dee is relentless. She claws at the table pinned against the door. James hugs her to himself. She finally breaks down and sobs into his chest. James runs a consoling hand over her back.

JAMES

Dex is a smart kid. He's probably out there, safe. Right now, we need to get out of here. Are there any other exits?

James holds up Dee dee's face gently by the chin. The sense of urgency barely masked by his façade of calm.

JAMES

Dee? Is there another way out?

Dee dee stares at him with wet eyes.

DEE DEE

The bookcase!

JAMES

The book case?

Dee dee dries her eyes. She takes a long steady breath.

DEE DEE

In the library, there's a
book case the hides a tunnel
out of here. Come on.

Dee dee walks to the door, and peers through the glass
panel.

DEE DEE

The coast seems clear.

JAMES

(nervous)

Should we make a run for it?

The couple share an indecisive look. A soft rattling
overhead makes the choice for them.

JAMES

(Horrorified)

Its's above us

The ceiling above them explodes as the creature falls
through. Debris and wires rain all around them. Dee dee
and James rush out the room.

7. EXT.LABORATORY HALLWAY - CONTINOUS

Dee dee and James run as fast as their as feet can carry
them. Both of the breathless as they speed past several
doors. The library doors are wide open just a few meters
from the pair.

James throws a look over his shoulder.

JAMES

Where is it?

The creature isn't chasing them anymore. It's nowhere in
sight.

DEE DEE

Come on! We're almost there.

Dee dee breaks into a sprint. A door beside them bursts open and the creature slams her into a wall. A streak of scarlet paints James shirt. Dee dee lays motionless on the cold tiled floor, blood pooling around her as the creature tears away fabric and flesh. James lets out a primal howl and he lunges himself at the beast. They tumble into the library.

8. INT. LABORATORY LIBRARY

Under the bright florescence, James get a clear view of the creature. It looks like a naked man without skin or hair. A thick black cloth wrapped tightly across the eyes, blinding him. The creature seems dazed. James kneels down slowly and picks up piece of broken tile. His hand shaking with fear and fury. He lunges forward. His shiv finds his mark. The creatures retaliates by digging its claws into James. James lets out a cry of pain. He buries the shiv deeper. The creature lets out a guttural howl before collapsing. Dead. James drops the shiv. He uses his free hand to staunch the flow of blood from his wound. Adrenaline seeping out of him. He falls to his knees, holding back his sorrow. SFX: CLAP. CLAP. CLAP.

James spins around. A short red haired boy in thick black glasses walks towards him. DEXTER, 16 steps over the pool of blood ending his slow applause.

JAMES

Dexter?

Dexter looks down at James.

DEXTER

(softly)

How interesting. She was right.

JAMES

She? Dee is...

(sobs)

Dee is dead.

James looks up, but Dexter is uninterested. He is instead examining the downed creature.

DEXTER

Did you intentionally stab
its heart?

Dexter gives James a once over.

DEXTER

Unlikely. No matter, the next
one will not have such an
obvious flaw.

James is livid.

JAMES

Didn't you hear me? Dee dee
is fucking dead!

DEE DEE

(O.S)

Actually...

Dee dee walks in, quite unharmed.

JAMES

(stunned)

I saw you die.

Dee dee gives him a devious smile.

DEXTER

I created a homunculus, you
really think I couldn't pull
off cheap theatrics.

DEE DEE

Be nice, Dex. I like this
one.

JAMES

What the fuck is going on?

Dexter lets out deep sigh.

DEXTER

To create a homunculus there are crucial elements that we require. Human...elements.

JAMES

Human elements?

DEXTER

Don't worry about the details. Just know that you've performed admirably, just as Dee dee predicted.

Dexter draws a wicked syringe from his lab coat. James shoots Dee dee a disgusted look.

JAMES

Predicted? Was this all some sick prank?

DEXTER

Prank? It was a test! Too see if you possessed the right traits.

JAMES

Traits?

DEXTER

You see, human emotion is not something you can manufacture in a bottle, But fortunately it can be...harvested...from a ready subject. Traits like courage, loyalty...these are essential into creating the perfect soldiers.

James tries to retreat. He crawls slowly away from Dexter

JAMES

Soldiers? For what?

DEXTER
For the new world order of
course

Dexter and Dee dee close in, syringe in hand. A piercing
scream fills the room.

THE END

