

SHADOWS OF THE GLASS

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - DAY

ANDY, 17, pulls on a shirt. He grabs a book titled "Journeys Out of the Body," and puts it in a backpack and shoulders it.

He takes a framed picture of himself and a young woman from his desk. He looks at it and runs his fingers over the woman. He tears up. He puts it down and heads out of the room.

INT. DINING ROOM - (CONTINUOUS)

The dining room, kitchen, and living room is an open floor plan with a floor to ceiling mirrored wall on the dining side of the room.

Andy's GRANDMOTHER, 58, is at the sink washing dishes.

He puts his backpack on the dining table and moves to the counter, takes a waffle from a plate, and takes a bite.

GRANDMOTHER

You're running late. Don't miss the bus. I don't want to have to drive you again.

ANDY

Shirley usually honks.

He takes a bite smiling. She shakes her head and smiles back.

He gets his backpack, shoulders it, and looks in the mirror running his fingers through his hair. He freezes.

Behind him reflecting in the mirror is the form of a woman. Her features are hazy but resembles the woman in the picture.

His Grandmother sees his reaction and frowns.

GRANDMOTHER

You see her again?

Andy nods. He turns to look behind him. No one there. He looks back to the mirror and the woman is gone. He looks to his Grandmother with tears in his eyes.

She moves to him and embraces him, stroking his hair.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

I know, baby. I still miss her too. Your appointment with Dr. Sherman is tomorrow and...

He pushes her back.

ANDY

I'm not crazy! I see her all the time now. Every window, every mirror. I know she's trying to tell me something.

He hurries out the front door and slams.

His Grandmother places her hand over her mouth and shakes her head as a tear falls.

INT/EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Andy is reading, "Journeys Out of the Body," by Robert Monroe. The bus comes to a stop. He closes the book and puts it on his lap. He looks out the window.

The woman from before is reflected as if sitting in the seat across the aisle. He looks. Empty. He looks back to the window and she is gone.

Andy's friend, Jonas, 17, pushes him over and sits down.

JONAS

Man, you look like shit.

ANDY

Don't sleep much anymore.

Jonas looks down and notices the book.

JONAS

Jesus, you're not still thinking about trying that crap are you?

ANDY

She's trying to tell me something. I can't afford a psychic, so what am I supposed to do?

JONAS

Didn't you watch that video I sent you the link for?

ANDY

No.

Jonas shakes his head.

JONAS

Look, you know I believe you that you're seeing her. I get that. But this is dangerous shit.

(MORE)

JONAS (CONT'D)

There's a name for when people die  
in their sleep for no good reason  
like your mom. I can't remember  
wh...

ANDY

Sudden Unexpected Nocturnal Death  
Syndrome. Yeah I know what it is.  
I'm not an idiot.

JONAS

Just watch the video. The guy says  
it is some kind of invasion or  
something. Like harvesting or  
something like that.

Andy looks at Jonas with wide eyes.

ANDY

And they think I'm crazy because I  
see my dead mother in reflections  
of mirrors and glass.

The bus stops at school and everyone stands to exit. Andy and  
Jonas get in line and move down the center aisle.

JONAS

Seriously, dude. Don't try it.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Andy and Jonas inch along in front of the Plexiglas  
protecting the food on the other side as they reach up and  
get each plate of food.

JONAS

So, Cindy Jackson asked about you  
again.

ANDY

Yeah?

JONAS

Yeah. She wanted to know if I  
thought you were gonna ask her to  
the prom.

ANDY

I doubt I'm even going.

JONAS

What? Why not?

ANDY

You really even have to ask that?

JONAS

Well, yeah, but. Dude, Cindy is so freaking hot!

Andy has stopped moving and stares at the Mac and Cheese behind the Plexiglas. Behind him, reflected, is the image of the woman.

She is different this time. Her face is longer and her eyes wider, but it is the same woman.

Jonas watches Andy.

ANDY

She's here.

Jonas looks at the Plexiglas and sees Andy's reflection. He snaps his head to look behind and only sees the busy cafeteria full of students.

JONAS

You okay?

Andy leaves his tray and hurries across the cafeteria and out the double doors.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Andy paces holding his head. He moves to a sink and turns on the water. He splashes his face with water. He looks in the mirror and the woman is behind him, her face darker.

She takes a step closer and then another. Andy's eyes go wide. Another step. He turns. Nothing. His chest heaves.

He turns back to the mirror. She is directly behind him. She puts her hands on his shoulders.

He screams and drops to the floor and cries.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Andy sits at his desk in front of an open laptop. Instant messenger is open with a picture of Jonas. He hovers the cursor over words on the screen - Watch this video.

A loud knocking at the door startles him as the door creaks open and Grandmother sticks her head in.

GRANDMOTHER

I'm going to start cleaning the kitchen. Do you want me to make your snack plate for you?

ANDY

No thanks, Grandma. I think I'm gonna try to go to sleep early tonight.

GRANDMOTHER

All right, darlin'. Good night. I love you.

ANDY

Love you too, Grandma.

She closes the door and he turns back to the laptop. He swirls the cursor around the screen and then settles on the link Jonas sent. He sighs heavy and clicks the link.

The face of a MAN fills the screen as the video begins.

MAN

If you're watching this it means you're thinking about trying Astral Projection. Three words: Don't do it! Traveling to an alternate state of human consciousness sounds real fun and all. Yes, it's a natural human function. Most humans do it on a regular basis and don't even know it. They mistake it for dreams. Some people, like me, can do it at will with little to no effort and the technique can be taught to anyone.

Andy puts his elbows on the desk and props his chin in his hands as he leans closer.

MAN (CONT'D)

It's been done for as long as man has existed, but something has changed. There has been a rise in occurrences of Sudden Unexpected Nocturnal Death Syndrome. It's were seemingly healthy people go to sleep and die. People that have had no medical problems before! Perfectly healthy fucking people!

The man reaches off camera for something.

Andy sits back in his chair, eyes intent on the screen.

The man holds up a drawing of what looks like a typical "grey" alien. But it has a larger mouth with sharp teeth and its skin is not smooth.

MAN (CONT'D)

It's aliens! I've seen them in the Astral Plane! They've punched a hole into our universe, or our plane of consciousness. They're harvesting human energy! Or stealing human souls! For what? I don't know. But whatever you do, don't try to...

Andy slams the laptop shut. He sighs and picks up the book he has been reading. He stares long at the cover. The face of Robert Monroe stares back.

ANDY

Well, he certainly sounds like a nut job. But you, you make sense.

He puts the book down and sighs as he stands. He steps to the bed and sits.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Here goes nothin'.

He lays flat on his back with arms at his side. He takes several deep breaths and then his chest rises and falls in rhythmic patterns. He closes his eyes. Blackness.

Small flecks of light begin to flutter and dance in the blackness. Eventually they make patterns.

The patterns form pictures. Images of himself as a child. He plays with his mother. Image after image flies by faster and faster until ending with his mother in an open casket.

She sits up and turns her head towards him. She reaches out to him.

He opens his eyes and sits up.

The room is different. Everything is a bluish tint.

He stands and looks at the bed. He sees himself asleep. A blue-silver cord runs from his chest on the bed to his own chest. It floats and flashes a dim white light.

He looks around the room and sees a dark shadowy mist floating in the corner of the ceiling.

He moves to the door and reaches for the knob and his hand passes through it.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Whoa. Cool.

He puts in hand up to the door and pushes his arm through. He steps through the door.

INT. HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everything is still tinted blue. He looks down the hallway to the open area. A shimmering light is bouncing of the walls.

He steps into the open space and the mirror wall is shimmering like a liquid pond. Rays of light shimmer from the surface bouncing on the walls, illuminating the room.

He scans the area and sees the same black mist in the corner of the ceiling.

Moving in front of the pool/mirror he touches it with a finger tip and ripples radiate out. The light dance faster around the room.

He turns. Light reflects on everything except the dark mist in the corner.

Turning back to the pool/mirror he sees his mom standing right behind him. She is clear and crisp. He smiles and his eyes widen.

ANDY

Mom!

He turns and the black mist is in front of him instead of his mother. His smile disappears.

Turning back to the pool/mirror a hideous alien looks back. Its thin arms reaches out and grab him pulling him into the pool/mirror. Waves spread out and the light goes dark and the mirror flashes smooth.

The End