

MY REFLECTION

by

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FINAL

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FADE IN:

1 **INT. ENTRANCE. DAY**

1

MORGAN (55), stands in the entrance of her home behind her daughter COURTNEY (23) and son-in-law MAX (26), all three in front of the open doors are waving goodbye to friends leaving the wake. Everyone is dressed in black. A small table with a single lit candle, bowl of champagne coloured roses, signature book and gold pen sits to the right side of the entrance. A large family photograph of the Rochester family sits on an easel to the left, a black chiffon scarf has been placed across the top of the picture.

 ASTARA (O.S.)
 (loudly)
 Morgan!

Morgan hears a voice call her name and walks down and into the Morning Room, she stops when her eyes find ASTARA's (45).

2 **INT. MORNING ROOM. DAY**

2

Astara stands in front of the white couch that faces away from the sala. A few people can be seen in other parts of the house and in the sala area outside. A buffet table to Morgan's right is covered in sandwiches and tea cakes.

 ASTARA
 (softer)
 Morgan!

Morgan approaches Astara who is gesturing for the two of them to have a seat on the couch. They sit down together.

 MORGAN
 (confused)
 Thank you for coming... you worked
 with John, right?

Astara smiles and gently pats Morgan's arm.

 ASTARA
 (kindly)
 How are you coping today?

Morgan fiddles with her hair at the nape of her neck.

 MORGAN
 Me? I've not had to think about
 anything. Courtney, Max and my
 sister have done everything, it's
 all been... perfect.

ASTARA
Your daughter is a treasure and
she chose a good man.

Morgan nods and throws a smile Courtney and Max's way. A friend who attended university with Courtney is giving her (and Max) their condolences.

MORGAN
(emotional)
Max is just like her Dad, they say
that, don't they... that you
choose a man similar.

Astara hands Morgan a handkerchief. Morgan wipes the tears from her eyes.

Astara casts her eyes around the room and they fall on Gwen. She raises her hand and points a finger at Gwen.

ASTARA
(interested)
And who is that lady over there?

Morgan follows Astara's hand with her eyes, and then smiles.

MORGAN
That's Gwen, my twin.

ASTARA
She seems lost!

Morgan takes a good look at GWEN (55).

MORGAN
(concerned)
John meant the world to her! Gwen
never married or had kids... John,
Courtney and I are the only family
she has.

ASTARA
And she's your best friend as
well?

MORGAN
That's how it's always been, two
peas in a pod. I mean only the
other day...

FLASHBACK TO:

Morgan can be seen from the entrance to be making notes on a large court document as she relaxes on the large lounge in the sala. Gwen walks in through the open front door carrying two medium takeaway coffee cups.

GWEN
Morgan, are you home?

MORGAN
(waves her hand)
Out here Gwen! What a lovely
surprise.

4

EXT. SALA. DAY

4

Gwen walks through the Morning Room and finds her sister reviewing documents in the sala.

GWEN
I was in the area showing a house,
so I thought I'd grab a latte for
us both - have you got time, you
look busy?

MORGAN
I always have time for you, it's
been ages since we caught up -
your new job is really keeping you
busy.

Gwen holds out the latte in her right hand to Morgan.

GWEN
It certainly has its moments.
Almond Latte, right?

Morgan takes the latte from her.

MORGAN
(delighted)
Perfect, and are you still a Dirty
Chai Latte?

Gwen laughs but nods her head and takes a seat opposite her sister.

GWEN
(joking)
Only before noon now sadly, else I
don't sleep!

Morgan takes a large gulp of her latte and visibly enjoys its taste.

MORGAN
(conspiratorially)
Thanks I really needed that, this
victim statement was starting to
get to me.

GWEN
Big case?

MORGAN
It's been on the news a lot
lately, I'd love to tell you but!

GWEN
(peevied)
Privilege?

MORGAN
Exactly.

Morgan takes another big gulp of coffee to avoid the judgment in her sisters eyes.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Have you ever thought about going
back to university, to pick up
where you left off?

Gwen stares hard at her sister for longer than is comfortable.

GWEN
(flatly)
I'm too old now Morgan.

MORGAN
(jovially)
Rubbish, most people enjoy three
career changes in their lifetime.

GWEN
(interrupts)
The truth is I just can't afford
it.

MORGAN
Well if that's all it is, I'll
pay.

Gwen stares at her sister a little stunned, but recovers quickly.

GWEN
(without emotion cold)
No thank you. It's too late, I
should have made a different
decision a long time ago, but now,
well, I've chosen a path to
follow.

Morgan smiles awkwardly and finishes off the takeaway latte. Placing the empty cup onto the nearby table.

Gwen looks at her phone and grimaces.

GWEN (CONT'D)
Damn!

MORGAN

Work?

GWEN

Yes... I've got to go, I have a viewing shortly.

Gwen stands up, bends over and picks up Morgan's takeaway coffee cup and places it inside her own.

Morgan gets up and places her hand on top of Gwen's (which is on the takeaway cups).

MORGAN

(begging)

Come to dinner tonight, John and Courtney would love to see you.

GWEN

(sad)

Sounds good, what time do you want me?

MORGAN

(delighted)

6ish?

Gwen nods and then makes her way to the door.

BACK TO PRESENT

Morgan is disoriented but turns when she hears raised voices to her right.

GWEN (O.S.)

(loud)

Courtney, be reasonable?

Courtney and Gwen are having a heated discussion near the food buffet.

COURTNEY

(firm)

No Auntie Gwen!

GWEN

But Courtney!

COURTNEY

(interrupts)

I really don't think you need to move in Auntie Gwen, especially while the investigation is ongoing.

Gwen holds up both hands in defeat.

GWEN
(exasperated)
Fine, I was just trying to help,
that's all.

Morgan starts to get up but Astara touches her arm and eases her back down. Max hurries to Courtney's side.

ASTARA
Let Max deal with that Morgan.

Morgan nods her head and sits back down.

Morgan (on the white couch) and Courtney (next to the buffet) watch Gwen walk out to the sala. Gwen is nervous and tense, she stops and helps herself to a large scotch.

MORGAN
She's upset... she never drinks
like that, just a glass of white
wine occasionally.

Courtney turns around and Max gives her a hug. Max looks suspiciously over Courtney's head at Gwen's retreating back, a large whiskey in her hand.

MAX
Let's get some air out the front.

Courtney nods in agreement and the two of them head out the front door.

MORGAN
They are so good together.

ASTARA
I believe they met at University,
just like you met John, is that
right?

MORGAN
Yes, Gwen and I were first year
Law and he was third year
Engineering.

ASTARA
You still practice?

MORGAN
Mostly pro-bono now, I semi-
retired a few years back, so that
I could spend more time with John
and Courtney.

ASTARA
And Gwen?

MORGAN

She didn't make it through the first year of Law, mum died and Gwen volunteered to take care of our dad with dementia. After he passed she did a short legal secretarial course and I got her a job in my firm... she recently move into Real Estate.

Astara stares at Gwen with more empathy.

ASTARA

That's a shame.

MORGAN

Yes, it was... She refused to even look into homes for dad, I helped out on weekends but time during term was tight due to the amount of study required. Gwen has always been there for me...

MONTAGE:

A) EXT. LIBRARY - DAY - University Graduation Day (Gwen sulking in the background).

B) EXT. CHURCH - DAY - Wedding Day (Gwen the Bridesmaid sulking in the background).

C) EXT. SOLD SIGN - DAY - Buying a house (Gwen sulking in the background).

D) INT. Hospital - DAY - About to give birth (Gwen sulking in the background holding a large teddy bear).

E) OFFICE. Stage - DAY - Receiving an award (Gwen sulking in the background, whilst John and Courtney applaud).

END OF MONTAGE

SPFX: Blue flashing lights outside are illuminating windows.

ASTARA

I think the Police are here?

MORGAN

What! Why?

Morgan turns her head to see a smartly dressed man DETECTIVE JARRETT (50), enter the room. Courtney and Max escort the Detective to the sala, and to Gwen.

Morgan stands up and Astara puts her arm through Morgan's. Morgan turns to stare at Astara, confused by her intimacy.

ASTARA

Let's watch from here.

Morgan shrugs not concerned and turns her attention back to Detective Jarrett as Max points out Gwen. Detective Jarrett walks up to Gwen in the sala area (as she reaches for the scotch bottle to pour another drink). Courtney and Max hang back giving the Detective and Gwen some room.

DETECTIVE JARRETT

Gwen Richards?

Gwen turns around and nods her head.

GWEN

That's me, can I help you?

Detective Jarrett walks closer to Gwen and offers his hand, she reluctantly shakes it.

DETECTIVE JARRETT

Detective Jarrett. I'm handling the case. Your statement has been challenged by one of the neighbours nearby Miss Richards.

MAX

(interested)

What do you mean challenged?

Courtney looks from Max to Gwen, her eyes wide in shock.

COURTNEY

Auntie Gwen wouldn't lie?

Detective Jarrett throws a cautioning look Max and Courtney's way and they indicate that they will stay quiet.

DETECTIVE JARRETT

The neighbour in question has signed a statement that says they saw you drive in to the premises, park under the carport and then enter this house on the day in question.

MORGAN

I don't understand... Do they think Gwen killed

ASTARA

(interrupts)

Let's wait and see...

GWEN

(defiantly)

I wasn't here.

DETECTIVE JARRETT

We have security footage from the house directly across the street on that day which clearly shows your car, with you inside, entering, and then later leaving the premises.

GWEN

(uncomfortable)
That's not possible.

An older man enters the room and stops at Courtney's side. He turns his face towards Gwen.

MORGAN

(confused)
But that's!

JOHN

(emotional and loud)
Gwen... the police are saying you killed Morgan.

MORGAN

(confused)
What!

Courtney and Max stare in disbelief at JOHN (57).

COURTNEY

(overwhelmed)
What are you saying Dad?

Morgan stares dumbfounded at John, her supposed dead husband.

JOHN

(insists)
Did you Gwen, did you kill your sister?

Gwen sighs deeply and stands up straight, staring John in the eyes. Her disposition changes instantly, as she knows from what Detective Jarrett has disclosed that she's been caught. Her inner-psychopath rises.

GWEN

I did kill her John, the thought of spending another moment in her shadow was suffocating. She always won and she never shared. She got to go to university, to marry, she even got to have a kid.

Gwen shakes her head from side to side.

GWEN (CONT'D)

It got to the point that I couldn't even look at myself in the mirror without seeing her face... hearing her call me a disappointment, a spinster, a failure... barren. And then one day I realised, if I am her, there really doesn't need to be two of us - now does there?

John just stares at Gwen dumbfounded.

Detective Jarrett puts Gwen into handcuffs, and steers her towards the door.

John collapses onto a nearby chair and holds his head with both hands as it falls forward. Courtney places a hand onto his shoulder for support. Max embraces Courtney and she cries into his chest. Max stares disbelievingly at Gwen as she is led out of the house by the Detective.

Morgan turns to face Astara, deeply affected by Gwen's speech, but having awakened to her present situation.

MORGAN

This is my wake isn't it?

SPFX: Astara's aura glows bright.

ASTARA

It is... there are always things to be resolved.

Morgan turns her eyes to John and Courtney and allows her pain of leaving them to escape.

MORGAN

The day Gwen popped in and brought lattes... that was the day I died.

ASTARA

She laced your Almond Latte with cyanide. You didn't stand a chance.

Morgan can't take her eyes off John and Courtney.

MORGAN

I had no idea she hated me like that.

ASTARA

Not the real you... She hated the Morgan she saw in the mirror.

FADE TO BLACK