

Man in the Mirror  
by  
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FADE IN

EXT. MARQUETTE, KS - DAWN

Still, quiet establishing shots of the small, rural town.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. DAVID'S HOME - BATHROOM - DAWN

Extreme Close shot of DAVID shaving.

DAVID RADCLIFFE is a tall, widely-built man, nearing 30 with a receding hair line and mustache. He's just awoke and is wearing dark pajama's and glasses. We can tell he has serious emotional scars behind his eyes. He is sweating and seems nervous.

He finishes shaving and begins washing his face. The bathroom light flickers causing DAVID's eyes to wander up.

DAVID sees a ghostly silhouette of a woman and child holding hands in the room across from the bathroom.

He bolts upright, and we see that the room he looked into is now empty.

Terrified and alone in the big house, he frantically turns on lights and runs upstairs. DAVID stumbles to his knees and vomits thin liquid. He is at the end of the hallway near the front door.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID mopping the hallway where he threw up.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID getting dressed and ready for work. His house looks sterile and lifeless. We see relics from a family and happier times throughout the house. A carcass of a past life.

EXT. DAVID'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID is getting into his car, he pauses and looks at his house before starting the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRADE SCHOOL - LATER

DAVID arriving at school very early, hardly anyone is there. He enters the building.

INT. GRADE SCHOOL - LATER

DAVID sits alone in his room preparing for the day.

The morning BELL jolts him. School starts; his fourth grade students get in their seats and watch DAVID in anticipation. The kids are uncomfortable because, as small towns work, they've all heard the news and rumors surrounding the recent death of his wife and son, their classmate.

//Collage - Slow motion, time cuts. We sit above the class watching the monotonous day go by in a muffled breeze. We see DAVID vacantly teaching the class. The kids leave for lunch and DAVID sits by himself with his tray. The kids come back in and the day continues.//

The BELL rings, breaking up the slowness, and the KIDS rush out.

DAVID watches parents picking up children out the window. He focuses on one BOY sitting alone. The boy is his son, DANIEL. Time SLOWS down.

DANIEL

(Mouth not moving, doesn't  
look at him)

Hi, dad.

DAVID (V.O.)

(Calm, happy, dreamy)

Danny?

DAVID is startled awake by fellow teacher, PAMELA EVINRUDE, late 20's, attractive but conservative brunette, with her son, JOSHUA, one of DAVID'S students. They are sympathetic and cautious, but trying to be casual.

PAM

Good to see you back, David.

DAVID looks at PAM, and then back out the window, DANIEL is gone, as are the rest of the children and their parents. School has been out for some time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID  
 (Uncomfortable)  
 Hi. Thank you, Pam. Good to see you  
 too.

A BEAT.

PAM  
 (Moving Closer)  
 How are you?

DAVID  
 I ... don't really know yet. You?

PAM  
 Oh, you know. Just takin' care of  
 this little guy.

PAM pats JOSHUA'S hair. Josh works up a small smile.

A BEAT.

PAM (CONT'D)  
 So, Josh and I have dinner and a  
 rental planned tonight and we're  
 hoping you'd come.

JOSH  
 (Uncomfortable)  
 Mom got some girly movie about  
 chocolate.

DAVID  
 Well, I have a lot of papers to go  
 over ... Test on Friday, right  
 Josh? Yeah, not ... not tonight.

PAM  
 You sure? We'd really love to have  
 you.

DAVID  
 (Sincere)  
 I appreciate that, Pam.

PAM moves close and touches DAVID'S arm.

PAM  
 (Quiet and comforting)  
 If you need to talk ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAVID tenses a bit, uncomfortable. Her touch sparks something in him that confuses his emotions.

DAVID  
Maybe another time.

PAM  
Okay. Have a good evening, David.

JOSH  
Bye, Mr. Radcliffe.

PAM and JOSHUA head towards the door. Pam looks back at DAVID with concern and anticipation. DAVID doesn't look up from his papers. She exits.

INT. DAVID'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

DAVID sits alone, motionless on his couch. Time speeds up and we see it shift from dusk to dark.

EXT. PAM'S STREET - NIGHT

DAVID sits in his car, watching PAM'S house.

//DAVID'S VISION (slow motion, time cuts): He sees himself getting out of his car; in PAM's house, he's suave and well spoken; dinner, clearing the table; PAM putting JOSH to bed early, drinks; DAVID attacking and killing PAM on the couch, then killing JOSH in his bed.//

CUT TO:

EXT. PAM'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

DAVID awakened from his vision by a rap on his car window.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (O.S.)  
Evenin', David.

DAVID  
(Quiet, meek)  
Richard.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM is a dark-haired, gruff, slender man in his 30's. He is dressed in full police garb. He speaks to DAVID with a soft, southern accent, and a slow, subtly condescending voice, consciously letting his suspicion of DAVID spill through.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM  
Nice night, ain't it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A BEAT. DAVID nods.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)  
Yeah, beautiful air. Real nice... I  
s'pose it's 'specially good for  
dazin' off on someone else's  
street... that right?

A BEAT.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)  
David?

DAVID  
I'm visiting a friend.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM  
I see... You know, first time I  
seen you out since the funeral.  
Damn shame, what happened. Bethany  
and Daniel both, same day you  
were...?

DAVID  
(Frustrated, but still  
soft)  
I've explained this. Teachers'  
conference. Kansas City.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM  
That's right. That's right... Damn  
shame.

A BEAT.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)  
Welp. I'll get on and let you get  
to visitin'.

A BEAT.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)  
Oh, and DAVID...

The DEPUTY bends down and closer to DAVID with a serious  
glare. DAVID looks at him.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D)  
Remember... I'm your only alibi  
right now. Let's hope there's no  
more funerals any time soon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The DEPUTY is walking off.

DEPUTY RICHARD CUNNINGHAM  
(O.S.)(CONT'D)

Sure is some beautiful air tonight,  
ain't it?

DAVID watches in his rearview mirror as the DEPUTY gets in his car, pulls past him, and down the street.

DAVID gets out of his car and walks up to PAM'S house.

EXT. PAM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID at front door.

DAVID

Hi--

PAM

(A little taken aback)  
Oh, David! What a surprise! I  
didn't think you were coming.

DAVID

Yeah... I finished up early...

A BEAT. DAVID smiles awkwardly. He follows her inside.

PAM

Well, come in. We've already  
finished the movie--

JOSH

(butting in)  
Bor-ring!

PAM

-- but the food's probably still  
warm. Meatloaf? Here, I'll fix you  
a plate.

INT. PAM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

At the dining room table, PAM attempts to keep conversation. DAVID clumsily fakes attention and hunger while his HEARTBEAT overpowers their voices and the occasional clang of silverware against porcelain. His eyes keep pulling towards a knife lying on the table. He barely eats, only pushes food around his plate.

JOSH notices DAVID acting peculiar.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAM

Well, kiddo, it's about your bedtime. Why don't you get Mr. Radcliffe's plate and brush you're teeth, I'll be there to tuck you in.

JOSH

(glances at DAVID, then pleads softly)  
Mom, it's only 9:30.

PAM

(not angry, just direct)  
Josh, not tonight, honey. Now, please, clear the table and get ready for bed.

JOSH starts clearing the table. He pauses and looks at DAVID with suspicion, but offers a smile as to not let on. JOSH takes DAVID's plate.

DAVID

Thank you, Josh... It was very good.

JOSH

You're welcome.

JOSH and PAM head into the kitchen and put away dinner. We hear them faintly arguing about his bedtime. DAVID rubs his temple, then nervously stares at them while reaching across the table to pick up a knife and tuck it into his shirtsleeve.

JOSH (CONT'D)

See ya, Mr. Radcliffe.

JOSH exits to get ready for bed. DAVID nods, smiles.

PAM

(From Kitchen)  
David, I'm so glad you came.

DAVID

(Head swimming, speaks softly)  
Thanks. Thank you for having me. I haven't ... really been out much since ... Hated being in the house, but ... couldn't ... leave it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PAM

(Coming into Dining room)

Sorry. Water running. What were you saying?

(She doesn't give him time to answer)

Oh, hey, why don't you pour us some drinks and I'll tuck Josh in and be right there.

PAM touches DAVID's shoulder before she exits causing DAVID to tense up. His heart booms in his chest.

INT. PAM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID enters the LIVING ROOM, he hides the knife in the couch, shakily pours drinks and sits them down on the coffee table in front of the TV. He sits down and picks up a framed photo of PAM and JOSH. His heart pounds and he grabs his head.

DAVID nervously jerks up as PAM enters the room.

PAM

Boy, he did not want to go to sleep tonight.

PAM notices the photo.

PAM (CONT'D)

That was just a year ago, you remember? He grows so fast.

DAVID

(Struggling to hear his own words)

Josh is one of the brightest in my class.

DAVID's head is pounding and PAM's rant becomes muffled as she speaks.

PAM

I know he tries hard. You're his favorite class. Says you call on him and he can answer, but some of the other kids make fun for that. That one Brewer kid. Scottie, I think. I went to school with his dad. Just the same...

A BEAT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAM (CONT'D)  
I'm glad you came tonight, David.  
We've really missed you.

DAVID  
Thank you.

PAM  
I'm so sorry about Bethany and  
Danny. I just can't believe it.

DAVID  
Thank you.

A BEAT. PAM allows her eyes to linger on DAVID.

PAM  
David ...

PAM lays her hand on top of DAVID's and he looks up.

PAM (CONT'D)  
I care about you very much. You  
helped me and Josh through when  
Matt passed. You've been like a  
father to Josh. Why don't you stay  
with us for a while? So you're not  
alone in that house.

A BEAT. DAVID lowers his head into his palm. PAM gives DAVID  
a sweet, consoling hug.

PAM (CONT'D)  
It'll be okay.

DAVID tenses up and slowly turns his head to face PAM and  
grasps her shoulder.

PAM (CONT'D)  
David ...

PAM looks towards his lips unsure.

DAVID's grip, and his face, tighten.

PAM (CONT'D)  
What are you--?

DAVID presses his face into her bosom and sobs. PAM caresses  
him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PAM (CONT'D)  
Oh, David. I'm sorry.

A BEAT.

PAM (CONT'D)  
It's okay. I knew I shouldn't ...  
I'm sorry. Shhh. It'll be okay.

A BEAT.

PAM (CONT'D)  
I'm here.

DAVID tightens up again. He moves close to her face. Still with tears in his eyes, but a look of determination.

PAM (CONT'D)  
David--?

DAVID KISSES PAM. PAM is thrown off by the approach, but accepts it.

DAVID's arm moves to her neck and he begins to squeeze. PAM lets out a squeak. He pushes her into the couch harder and harder, his face twisted into a confused mask.

DAVID  
(spitting and crying)  
I'm... sorry.

DAVID continues choking and PAM's eyes begin to roll back.

DAVID releases with one hand, pulls the KNIFE out of the couch, and prepares to drive it in.

DAVID is hit in the back of the head. JOSH stands in his pajama's holding a miniature wooden bat, as DAVID falls to the floor with a THUMP!

JOSH  
(Sobbing, scared)  
Mom!

PAM coughs hard and gasps for air, reaches for JOSH. JOSH goes to her.

PAM struggles off the couch and moves over to the phone on the wall of the dining room. She picks up and begins dialing 9-1-1, with JOSH by her side staring in DAVID's direction.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAVID lies lightly convulsing on the living room floor with a KNIFE sticking out of his stomach and a blood stain beginning to grow on his shirt. His body twitches as he dies.

PAM

(In phone, voice fading  
out)

Hello? Oh, god. There's been an  
accident ...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. DAVID'S HOME -- BATHROOM -- - MORNING

DAVID FINISHES SHAVING, rises, and wipes clean.

He pauses and stares into the mirror. His attention falls to the lower corner.

We see a photo of DAVID with his WIFE, Bethany, and SON, Daniel, stuck in the frame of the mirror.

Hold on photo as we hear DAVID exit the bathroom.

FADE TO BLACK.