

## **My Perfect Face**

by **Eric Eberwein**

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©2007 *Publication Scene4 Magazine*

Published as formatted by the author in the December 2007 issue of *SCENE4 Magazine*  
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## **Characters**

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

**THE FACE OF LOVE**

**THE FACE OF RESPECT**

## **Setting**

The mind's eye, and the mirror within.

## Scene One

*(A man – THE FACE IN THE MIRROR – sits at a table. He calmly makes a list.)*

### THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Things to do today.***

***Kill father.***

***Find lover.***

***Smash mirror.***

*(pause)*

***Work on self-esteem.***

*(Lights.)*

## Scene Two

*(THE FACE IN THE MIRROR looks at his reflection in a small mirror. He puts the mirror in his pocket, walks forward, and addresses us.)*

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Okay. What was that about? I'll tell you. I'm working on a life, and I'm looking for a face. A perfect face. Equally boy and girl. Easy to fight with. Easy to cry to.***

*(beat)*

***Now, how many faces do you see in life? A million? Ten million? Each one is actually an investment opportunity. Instead of being this disgusting, discategorized nobody, you can invest in this incredible new somebody. This particular disease is called romance.***

*(He picks up a camera. Bar noise, indistinct conversation.)*

***We all have cameras. And impulses. And half-developed images of imaginary lovers. You saw a face when you were 20, or 15. You gotta see that face again.***

*(THE FACE OF LOVE enters.)*

THE FACE OF LOVE

***And he sees it. And he approaches me.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Don't say anything.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***I'm just passing through your mind.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Where are you going?***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***I'm on my way through, please. Out of my way.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Great! Hard-to-get.***

*(The couple link up and collapse to the floor.)*

THE FACE OF LOVE

***I guess he wants me.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***How do you like my pad?***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***Do I know you?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Hey, did I ever tell you that you look like –***

*(She puts her hand over his mouth.)*

THE FACE OF LOVE

***– The madonna-whore thing you explore in every erection?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Yes.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***You see? He hasn't even asked me out yet. But he's already in bed with me.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

*(snapping pictures with the camera)*

***Come on, baby.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***What are you doing?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Everything. Animal, anal, verbal, oral, we're doin' it all -***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***- With a camera?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Shit! Gotta reload!***

*(He opens the back panel and ejects the film.)*

THE FACE OF LOVE

***What is wrong with you?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Nothing. Gimme a minute.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***You were doing something.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***I was anti-climaxing.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***Are you having sex with me?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Sure. We can have sex. In fact, why don't I develop this into a relationship? Will you marry me?***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***You are damaged.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Hey, it's our first anniversary. Why don't we go to Cancun?***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***Oh, you know, I can't.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Why not?***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***Projection only goes so far.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Listen. The three minutes I've spent looking at you have been the best three minutes of my life. They confirm my condition -***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***- Pleased to meet your psychosis. Goodbye.***

THE FACE OF MIRROR

***You can't leave. You're a part of me.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***We never had anything.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Wait.***



*(He holds out a photograph in front of her.)*

***Look at that. Huh? Look at that face.***

THE FACE OF LOVE

***That? That's not mine. That's all yours.***

*(She exits.)*

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Okay. True to my mission, I found a new lover. And, I lost her. But I took a few pictures. Her face was perfect. Everything I needed to collect. A little bit of Mom, and Angelina Jolie.***

*(beat)*

***Now I need to close my eyes again. Readjust the lens. Recapture a face. Another face. Just as unique. Just as unforgiving.***

*(THE FACE OF RESPECT enters.)*

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***Hello.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***How are you.***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

*(to the audience)*

***Well, how am I supposed to answer that? I'm dead.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Yeah, but you still got that look. Evil, unforgiving -***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***- Yes. Don't you love seeing it again?***

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

***No. It's part of some neurosis. Certain situations, situations that require confidence, all I see is you. It's like I'm being judged.***

**THE FACE OF RESPECT**

***You feel you have to measure up to me.***

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

***Exactly.***

**THE FACE OF RESPECT**

***How long have I been dead?***

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

***I don't know. Three years?***

**THE FACE OF RESPECT**

***Why haven't you erased me?***

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

***I've tried. Sometimes, the forehead, the nose, the eyes - they're blurry. But then it all comes back.***

**THE FACE OF RESPECT**

***You wanna forget this face, don't you?***

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

***I don't know.***

**THE FACE OF RESPECT**

***That's what you want, isn't it?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***I thought I did.***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***When you were little, my face was the biggest face in the world.  
Maybe it was the world. Not just the happiness. All the demons, all  
the fears.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Yep. All the stuff I could carry with me the rest of my life.***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***Why don't you throw it away?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Is it that easy? Is that what you did to me? Give me a psychological  
handicap?***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***Why do you worship faces?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***I think it's religious.***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***Religious? Am I a religious icon?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***No. But you were always just as scary. You were mean and tall.***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***Now I'm dead. What have you got to worry about?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***I don't worry. I obsess. Have you ever heard of narcissism?***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***When you're really mature, you don't worry about physical beauty.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Well, I do. I worry that your face might be the one I see in the mirror someday.***

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***Wouldn't that be perfect.***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***That's why I brought this.***

*(Indeed, he produces a knife.)*

THE FACE OF RESPECT

***What are you going to do with that?***

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***Smash the mirror.***

*(Lights.)*

## Scene Three

*(THE FACE IN THE MIRROR looks at his reflection. He holds a broken shard of mirror in his hand. His hands and face are bleeding. He addresses us.)*

### THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

***You spend your life looking for a face.***

***A face you assemble in dreams.***

***It has her look, and his eyes, and hints of God.***

***You won't find it.***

***You might even fear it.***

***But until you see it, it's just you and the empty pages of yourself.***

***I love the pain of looking.***

***I imagine the perfect face.***

*(The play is over.)*