

“PARALLAX INVERSIONS”

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The front of a house. A man unlocks the front door, walks in, and closed the door behind him. He attempts to take one of his Chelsea boots off but is exhausted from work and the boot won't give way.

HIM

(Sighing)

Nothing to be done.

He keeps his boots on and walks to the kitchen. A woman is seated at a dining table. She closes the book she has been reading. She has been expecting him. He walks over to the table.

HIM

Mucho gusto.

HER

Igualmente

She remains seated; they shake hands.

HIM

You look great.

HER

(Smiling)

I feel terrible. Anyway...

What's for dinner?

HIM

What do you want to eat?

HER

I'll go for anything, to be honest. Pizza, Chinese, as long as it's delivered. I don't feel like going out.

HIM

Well, we have time to decide. In case you settle on something or change your mind.

HER

(Lightheartedly)

A true gentleman, accommodating the lady on a date.

HIM

It's not a date unless there's a film.

HER

Oh? Is that the function movies serve in our world?

HIM

Films serve many purposes, just like any other artform.

HER

(Sarcastically)

Including establishing and enhancing a romantic mood.

HIM

(Amused)

Perhaps.

HER

OK then, my suddenly taciturn friend, what is the function of art?

HIM

Depends on the art.

HER

You don't believe art serves a singular purpose for humanity?

HIM

Does anything serve a singular purpose,
really?

HER

How do you mean?

HIM

A lot of people think entertainment is
nothing more than an escape from reality,
some people don't need an escape.

HER

Or how religion provides comfort for some
and an excuse to be an asshole for others?

HIM

Right, you take things like that and the
person in question will get out of it what
they put in.

HER

(Intrigued)

So your reasons for seeking an experience
are malleable.

HIM

I suppose so. I think it's less my reasons
and more that I understand things have
different functions.

HER

That explains why your music collection is
so strange.

HIM

I mean, if I want to listen to jangly
guitars I'll put on Big Star. If I want to
listen to crazy Germans have a jam
session, there's always Can records.

HER

Which is not how most people think about music.

HIM

My taste is normal. It's everyone else who's limited.

HER

And they need to get off your lawn.

HIM

I'm at that age, I guess. Do you want anything to drink?

HER

I'll have a club soda.

HIM

He goes to the refrigerator and opens it.

We only have Source de Pavilion.

HER

Nothing to be done.

HIM

He closes the fridge and walks back to the table.

HER

Back to life or death matters... what was your point about "the experience?" (She jokingly uses air quotes)

HIM

The experience itself is the most important. Bresson said he preferred moviegoers feel a film before understanding it.

HER

And you're in line with that?

HIM

I'm not a genius. I can't analyze everything on first look. I just like movies and a few other things.

HER

But mainly it's movies.

HIM

Above all else. The universal language.

HER

Unless a cute girl is interrupting a movie you're watching?

HIM

Some movies are worth interrupting.

HER

Ah, even the cinephile makes exceptions. Interesting that it isn't some people who are worth a movie being interrupted for.

She raises an eyebrow to tease him

HIM

He playfully shrugs

You don't get to be a cinephile without watching a lot of movies, including a few bad ones.

HER

I'm sure it took time to refine your taste to such an impeccable level.

HIM

Your sarcasm is noted, but it did, of course. Rome wasn't burned in a day.

HER

That malaprop is going in my diary.

HIM

There was no such mistake.

HER

You didn't mean built?

HIM

I'm not a construction worker.

She stifles a laugh

A pause between them

Why are you so weird?

HIM

Why do you put up with me?

HER

I loved you at your darkest.

HIM

(Amused)

Mountains may depart.

HER

I knew you would follow up with another verse.

HIM

Playing games, people move so fast. You don't need eyes to see if someone's got a heart of glass.

HER

But seriously, food.

HIM

Fine. We'll get-

HER

No, you'll get. I want to finish reading.

HIM

Books are just the outdated form of cinema.

HER

Noted. No argument from me. Now go forth, and surprise me.

HIM

Inconceivable. You don't like surprises.

HER

Surprise me with Chinese food, then.

HIM

As you wish.

HER

And remember the duck sauce.

HIM

For you, a thousand times over.

HER

She smiles, somewhat mockingly. This is a relatively normal interaction in their relationship.

He walks back the way he came towards the front door. She picks up her book.

SMASH CUT:

THE END