

THE LIFE ONCE LIVED

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. WBC STUDIOS - DAY

A huge audience is on their feet CLAPPING. It's a morning talk show studio with multiple cameras pointing on stage. The host comes out from the back of the stage.

He waves at the audience as he walks to his desk. His name is James (50).

JAMES

Thank you! Thank you! This is the tonight show with James Madison! And I'm your host! Today we have an incredible show for you guys. A scientist by the name of Doctor Conners claims he invented a new device that can help you remember who you were in a past life. Here he is the man himself. Doctor Conners!

The crowd stands up and starts CLAPPING while DOCTOR CONNERS (42) comes from the back of the stage waving at everyone in the audience. He approaches James and shakes his hand. He continues to wave at the audience.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hello! Welcome to the show Doctor Conners! It's finally great to meet you!

DOCTOR CONNERS

Likewise, I am very happy to be here.

JAMES

I'm just trying to get right to it because I'm so excited. Tell us what you've invented here.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Well, I've invented something truly incredible. After decades of developing this project, our team at Conner Industries had a huge breakthrough. We actually found a way to enhance the memory of any human being. As a result, they could remember who they were in a past life. It's truly incredible.

JAMES

Wow, that's pretty amazing. Sounds like something out of a Science Fiction story. But tell us, what were some of the results you've been getting from the patients who actually were able to use this device?

DOCTOR CONNERS

First of all, after we were able to be in the clear with human trials. I decided it needed a name.

JAMES

A name?

DOCTOR CONNERS

Yes. I decided to call it Ganesha. Ganesha is the Hindu god of memory. And here's how it would work. I would sit the patient down and put the Ganesha device on them. Think of it as a helmet. As soon as I put the Ganesha device on them, I would simply press a button. Within 1 minute, it automatically turns off. The patient would not only remember who they were but all the different things they learned in the past.

JAMES

Really? You don't say.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Yes. I had one patient of mine who turned out to be a major league pitcher in the past.

JAMES

No way.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Yes, that's right. I mean at first, I wouldn't believe him until he proved it. So I asked him to throw all the pitches he could remember. Bear in mind, that this is a patient that has never played baseball in his life. Anyway, he threw the curve ball at 88 mph. He threw the 4-seam fastball going at 92 mph. He even threw an 85 mph slider. It was truly incredible.

(MORE)

DOCTOR CONNERS (CONT'D)
I knew right then and there. I have
perfected the Ganesha device.

The crowd starts to APPLAUD loudly.

JAMES
Amazing, just utterly amazing. I'm
speechless. But how about you try
this on me?

DOCTOR CONNERS
What?

JAMES
That's right. I said it. We have
brought Ganesha here with us ladies
and gentlemen. And I would like to
be the first live subject on
television.

DOCTOR CONNERS
Okay, let's do it.

A crew member from the back brought out the Ganesha device
and put it on James's desk.

DOCTOR CONNERS (CONT'D)
Okay. There's no turning back now.

JAMES
One last question before I put this
on.

DOCTOR CONNERS
Yes?

JAMES
And this is probably on everyone's
mind right now. Are there any side
effects? Is it safe?

DOCTOR CONNERS
No, no side effects whatsoever. And
it's absolutely safe. We've
conducted numerous trials.

JAMES
Okay, let's get this show on the
road.

The audience starts CLAPPING. Doctor Connors gets up and puts
the Ganesha device on James's head. He presses the button.
The Ganesha device starts glowing a bright green. One minute
later, the device turns off.

Doctor Conners takes off the device. James passes out on his chair. The audience goes silent. Doctor Conners starts to shake James.

DOCTOR CONNERS
James! James! Are you okay? Can you
hear me? James!

All of a sudden James wakes up and stands up quickly. The audience screams and claps for joy and relief.

DOCTOR CONNERS (CONT'D)
James. Do you remember who you
were?

JAMES
I was... I was...

The audience grows silent again.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I was an Olympic Gold Medal athlete
in Gymnastics. My name is. Was.
Leonardo Green. And I died of
cancer a few decades ago.

DOCTOR CONNERS
Can you give some sort of
demonstration?

JAMES
Yeah. Yeah, sure. Absolutely.

Doctor Conner helps James to the middle of the stage. A DRUM ROLL is heard from the band. James gets into position as all eyes are on him.

Suddenly and without warning he starts running as fast as he can. He does four front flips and a somersault in the air. As soon as he lands on his feet, he puts his hands up in the air.

Doctor Conners and the rest of the crowd start APPLAUDING.

DOCTOR CONNERS
Amazing, just truly amazing.

SUPER: 6 MONTHS LATER

INT. JAMES MADISON'S HOUSEHOLD BATHROOM - NIGHT

James is on his knees throwing up in the bathroom toilet. He slowly gets up and washes his hands.

While he washes his hands, his vision starts to blur. He falls to the floor and starts convulsing.

White foam starts coming from his mouth. His eyes start rolling to the back of his head.

INT. BELFORD HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

James wakes up in a hospital bed. DOCTOR WU (35) is at his bedside.

DOCTOR WU
Hello. Good morning James. Do you remember how you got here?

JAMES
No. Last thing I remember is throwing up at home.

DOCTOR WU
You had a seizure. Luckily your maid found you when she did.

JAMES
Doc, I've never had a seizure in my life. What's this about?

DOCTOR WU
Well. There's no easy way for me to say this. We ran blood work and X-Ray.

JAMES
And?!

DOCTOR WU
Mr. Madison. I'm afraid we found a tumor in your brain. With some treatment, I'm sure we can--

JAMES
How long?

DOCTOR WU
I'm sorry?

JAMES
How long do I have left to live?!

DOCTOR WU
Well. Fortunately for you, it's still in its early stages. It can be treated.

(MORE)

DOCTOR WU (CONT'D)

This isn't a death sentence Mr. Madison. Not to worry. We have one of the best radiation oncologists this country has to offer. So I wouldn't worry about it too much.

JAMES

It was the Ganesha.

DOCTOR WU

What was that?

JAMES

Nevermind Doc.

DOCTOR WU

Okay. I will get everything started right away. In the meantime, try to get some rest. We have a long road ahead of us.

JAMES

Will do.

Doctor Wu exits.

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S OFFICE - DAY

Doctor Conners is in his office filling out some paperwork. His office is full of awards and medals. One of them is the Nobel Prize. The phone on his desk starts to RING. He picks it up.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Yes?

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Doctor Conners. You have a James Madison on the line. Says it's urgent.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Put him through.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Okay, no problem.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Hello.

JAMES (O.S.)

Hello, you lying sack of shit.

DOCTOR CONNERS
James? What's wrong?

JAMES (O.S.)
What's wrong is I have a brain
tumor. That's what's wrong.

DOCTOR CONNERS
A brain tumor?

JAMES (O.S.)
That's right. All thanks to your
fucking machine.

DOCTOR CONNERS
That's impossible. All the human
trials I conducted over the years.
I made sure it was safe for
everyone.

JAMES (O.S.)
Yeah? And how many of those human
trials are legit?

DOCTOR CONNERS
Now you hold on one second! Just
what the hell are you accusing me
of?!

JAMES (O.S.)
You know exactly what I'm accusing
you of. I've been doing some
digging on those human trials. And
I got to ask. How many of those
human trials did you pay off?

DOCTOR CONNERS
Listen, I don't know who you've
been speaking to but it's
completely preposterous!

JAMES (O.S.)
You know who I am? I got my own
talk show so I'm a voice of the
people. I'm exposing you to fraud.
See you on the front page of every
newspaper available.

James hangs up.

DOCTOR CONNERS
And I'll see you in court! You
bastard!

(MORE)

DOCTOR CONNERS (CONT'D)
My lawyers are going to eat up
what's left of you! Hello? Hello?

Doctor Connors slams the phone.

DOCTOR CONNERS (CONT'D)
Jesus. If this goes public I'll be
ruined.

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S PROCEDURE ROOM - DAY

JOHN (30) is sitting on one of the many leather chairs. Above each of the leather chairs is the Ganesha device. NURSE JACKIE (20) takes the Ganesha device off John's head.

NURSE JACKIE
John. John. Wake up.

John opens his eyes.

NURSE JACKIE (CONT'D)
John. Who were you? Can you tell me
who you were?

JOHN
A Detective. And a damn fine one.

John gets up and walks towards the exit.

NURSE JACKIE
Wait! Where are you going?

JOHN
I got things to do. Cases to solve.

NURSE JACKIE
We still need to screen you. We
need to run some tests!

JOHN
Now I know why I became a Police
Officer. Give my thanks to Doctor
Connors.

John exits.

NURSE JACKIE
Wait!

INT. JAMES MADISON'S HOUSE BATHROOM - NIGHT

James brushes his teeth. He grabs one medication bottle after the next and pours the pills into the palm of his hand. He swallows all the pills and drinks some water.

He hears a loud THUMP and turns left. He exits the Bathroom.

INT. JAMES MADISON'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

He looks around and walks slowly with caution.

JAMES
Hello? Who's there?

He spots a window open. The wind blows violently and he notices some knocked-over books.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Must've been the wind.

He closes the window and bends down to pick up the knocked-over books. When he gets up, a MYSTERIOUS MAN appears behind him and puts a rope around James's neck. James loses consciousness and dies.

The Mysterious man drags James's lifeless body.

INT. JAMES MADISON'S HOUSE BASEMENT - NIGHT

The Mysterious man ties a noose from a long and thick rope. He throws the thick rope over a ceiling wood frame. He then puts the noose around James's neck and starts to pull hard.

James's body is hung a few feet from the ground. The mysterious man puts a chair under James's lifeless body and kicks it to the floor.

EXT. JAMES MADISON'S HOUSE - DAY

Yellow tape is being stretched around the house of James Madison by Police Officers. Police cruisers, EMT vans, and a van of reporters are parked outside. A crowd of spectators gathers outside.

INT. JAMES MADISON'S HOUSE BASEMENT - DAY

Crime scene investigators take pictures of James's lifeless hung body. Paramedics cut him down.

They hand over the rope to the investigators and they put it inside a plastic bag for evidence.

The paramedics carry James's corpse and put him on a stretcher. John is on the scene and puts on rubber gloves. He moves James's head from side to side and studies the laceration on his neck.

JOHN
Interesting.

He lifts James's hand and notices some blood under James's fingernails. He takes out a cotton swab and slowly passes it underneath the fingernail. DETECTIVE HILL (43) takes it from him.

DETECTIVE HILL
I'll take that.

Detective Hill puts it in a plastic evidence bag and hands it over to the crime scene investigators.

DETECTIVE HILL (CONT'D)
What are you doing here John?
You're supposed to be controlling
the crowd outside.

JOHN
I've got more pressing matters.

DETECTIVE HILL
Yeah? Like what?

JOHN
I've got a theory.

DETECTIVE HILL
Yeah? What kind of theory?

JOHN
My gut tells me this wasn't a
suicide. Not by a long shot. I took
a look at his file. No history of
mental illness.

DETECTIVE HILL
Hey! That's my business. You stay
the fuck out of it. It ain't your
concern. Now get out of here before
I report your ass back to kingdom
come!

John gives a slight smirk and exits.

INT. BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

SARAH (22) is standing in front of the classroom writing on the chalkboard. The bell RINGS. All the kids start exiting the classroom.

SARAH
Okay, kids! Don't forget tomorrow's homework! There might be a pop quiz tomorrow so make sure you read up on chapter 4!

After all the kids exit the classroom, Sarah locks the door and brings down the window shades. She walks over to a cage that has a bunny inside and opens it. She grabs the bunny by its ears, holding it up.

SARAH (V.O.)
Fight the urges. I have to fight the urges. No. I can't.

She pulls out a knife and her hand starts to tremble. She raises the knife and slashes the bunny's throat. BLOOD spills all over the floor. Sarah drops the knife and bunny as she falls to the ground crying.

SUPER: 14 DAYS LATER

INT. DENVER POLICE CRIME LAB - DAY

John waits outside the crime lab patiently. DOCTOR MILLERSON (50) comes out.

JOHN
Well?

DOCTOR MILLERSON
We've got a match.

JOHN
Wonderful. All I need now is a--

DETECTIVE HILL
An arrest warrant from the judge? I told you already to stop getting involved in my case. You need to learn your place. Officer.

JOHN
Funny thing is, I already took the Detective exam.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)
I passed with flying colors. Thanks
for the motivation.

DETECTIVE HILL
It's still my case.

JOHN
Not anymore. Now if you don't mind,
I'm running out of time. The killer
is still out there and could kill
again at any time. Us being here
arguing is a big waste of time.

DETECTIVE HILL
You're out of your depth. You
might've passed with flying colors
but on paper, you are still just an
officer. Get in my way again and
I'll let your sergeant know what
you've been up to all along. Going
over his head is not a good look
now, is it?

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

Inside looks like a typical waiting room. Phones are RINGING
constantly and receptionists assist patients at the front
desk. Sarah enters.

The RECEPTIONIST (19) looks up at SARAH as she walks toward
the front desk.

RECEPTIONIST
May I help you?

SARAH
Yes. I have an appointment with
Doctor Connors.

RECEPTIONIST
(looking at her watch)
Just made it. Why don't you have a
seat? The Doctor will see you in a
minute. Just fill out this
paperwork in the meantime.

SARAH
Sure.

The Receptionist gives Sarah a group of forms and a pen. A
few moments later while Sarah is filling out the form, the
Receptionist comes back.

RECEPTIONIST

The Doctor will see you now.

SARAH

Okay, great.

EXT. DENVER COURT BUILDING - DAY

Detective Hill puts the warrant in his coat pocket and proceeds to his car. As he's opening up his car door, he notices a small knife lodged inside his car tire.

DETECTIVE HILL

Motherfucker.

John drives past him in a regular Police Car.

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S OFFICE - DAY

Sarah and Doctor Conners both sit down.

DOCTOR CONNERS

So. How can I help you?

SARAH

Well. Doctor. The reason I'm here is that I've been having these dreams that don't seem to make any sense. Well, the truth is, I've been having this dream my whole life. I think it might have something to do with the past version of myself.

DOCTOR CONNERS

What kind of dreams?

SARAH

Okay. Here goes. I'm a little girl playing with matches in my room. I would light one match at a time and throw them in the garbage bin. Once the garbage bin is on fire, I would grab rats from their tail and throw them inside. The flames would burn the rats and I could hear them screaming. Then when I get up, I accidentally tip over the garbage bin. The whole room catches fire. I can't escape because the room is locked and there's only a small window.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I beg for help but no one comes.
That's when I wake up in my own
urine.

INT. JOHN'S POLICE CAR - DAY

John hits the gas hard. He puts on the police sirens and lights. He moves the steering wheel back and forth to avoid traffic.

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S OFFICE - DAY

DOCTOR CONNERS

Interesting. Have you considered seeing a psychologist perhaps? It might be your subconsciousness trying to tell you something.

SARAH

The truth is that I've been seeing psychologists for years. Even taking medications at one point. The dreams go away for a little while but it always seems to come back.

DOCTOR CONNERS

I see. And I want to help you. However, the reality is that even though this procedure is accurate, it's not covered by any medical insurance.

SARAH

That's okay, my father passed away recently.

DOCTOR CONNERS

I'm sorry to hear that.

SARAH

No. No, it's okay. He had a life insurance policy and had me under his will.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Either way. My condolences.

SARAH

Thank you.

DOCTOR CONNERS

There's one more issue we need to address before starting this procedure. After years of doing this. Some of my patients have a hard time coping with the life they once lived. For example, they found out that they lost a loved one from the past. Those negative feelings come back. In some cases, the patients even become somewhat suicidal.

SARAH

That's okay. I understand the risks. But I still want to do it and hopefully put an end to this dream.

EXT. JOHN'S POLICE CAR - DAY

John's police car swerves left and right. At every corner, he makes one hard turn after the next and hits the gas. He nearly misses a few cars ahead of him.

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S OFFICE - DAY

DOCTOR CONNERS

Okay. Very well, let's set you up.

Doctor Conners presses a button on his desk.

DOCTOR CONNERS (CONT'D)

Nurse?

NURSE JACKIE (O.S.)

Yes, Doctor?

DOCTOR CONNERS

Can you please come in the office and prepare Sarah for the procedure?

NURSE JACKIE (O.S.)

Yes Doctor, right away.

DOCTOR CONNERS

Well. Let's get started.

Sarah nods her head yes.

INT. DOCTOR CONNER'S PROCEDURE ROOM - DAY

Sarah is sitting on one of the leather chairs. Nurse Jackie places the Ganesha device on Sarah's head. She presses the button and the device lights up green.

Doctor Conners turns to his laptop on the desk.

DOCTOR CONNERS
What could it all mean?

NURSE JACKIE
What could what mean?

He starts typing the words "arson, hurting animals, and wetting the bed" on the internet search bar. The results come out as the 3 signs of a serial killer.

Doctor Conner looks over his shoulder. He turns around while the blood reaches his feet. Nurse Jackie is lying on the floor with her throat slit. Doctor Conner sees Sarah with the bloody knife in her hand.

DOCTOR CONNERS
Please, I have a little girl.

SARAH
It's too late.

As Sarah raises the knife, the door gets kicked in. Sarah stabs Doctor Conners in the chest. John points his gun at Sarah and pulls the trigger. BLAM! Sarah's brains fly across the wall.

John runs to Doctor Conner's aid. He clicks on his radio.

JOHN
Shots fired! Shots fired! The
suspect is down! Send paramedics!

DISPATCHER
10-4!

JOHN
Why'd you have to do it Doc? Why'd
you have to kill him?

Doctor Conners gasps for air as he bleeds through his mouth.

DOCTOR CONNERS
I was trying too hard to play God.
That always has its consequences.

Doctor Conners loses consciousness in the arms of John and dies.

FADE OUT.

THE END