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Time Is Ticking

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Sitting up in her bed she had the strangest dream. She was sitting on the beach with her dead grandma who was offering her love advice. Her grandmother also warned her to watch out for the Wraith. She didn't know what that was. Shaking that off she got out of bed and saw that she was running late. Quickly she scrambled into the shower.

Ten minutes later she stood in front of the mirror dripping wet trying to wipe the steam off so she could put her make-up on. Let the games begin! She heard her mother say in the back of her mind. When she lived at home with her parents, she had a tendency to run late in the morning. In her defense mornings were hard. Especially when you had to get out of a warm and comfy bed.

'Time is ticking!' she heard her mother's words echo in her mind.

Dharma raced around her apartment, got dressed, had her make up on and was chewing on a piece of toast as she headed out the door.

She was on the bus when she saw the first one. It was her, standing on the corner waiting for the light to change. Dharma stared wide-eyed as the bus drove pass a woman that looked like her doppelganger.

Dharma conceited to herself she wasn't getting nearly enough sleep lately. Work was crazy, the deadlines were coming at her left and right. She had been working longer hours. Putting in extra overtime now would give her extra cash for the holidays. Maybe she would take a vacation to Cuba this Christmas? It would be a solo trip since she broke up with her long-

standing boyfriend of six years. He said he couldn't take it anymore. She was always working, and he felt like he was living alone anyways so why not make it official. That was three months ago. She saw that he had updated his social media that he was now in a relationship with someone else. He was a great guy and deserved to be happy. Dharma had just hoped that it would be with her. She cared about him deeply, but she was still struggling with her career. She had come too far to just let it sit on the back burner and settle down with a couple of kids. Nope she deserved better than that.

A lady got on the bus and sat in the second seat at the front. The woman had a similar jacket that's why she stuck out. When the woman turned around, Dharma's throat went dry. The woman looked just like her. They could have been twins. It was just a brief moment, but she couldn't unsee that.

Getting up she walked to the front of the bus and asked the driver where first street was. He explained it was coming up, she thanked him. She had already known but she wanted to get a better look at her twin. Turning around she acted like she was headed back to her seat but wanted a closer look at her double. The woman who she thought looked like her was still sitting in the same seat but her face, it was different. The woman looked nothing like her.

Great Dharma you really are losing it. Shaking her head, she found another seat. The rest of the bus ride was uneventful. Getting off at her stop she crossed the street and grabbed a coffee and bagel. Then went upstairs to the 8th floor.

Entering the office, the receptionist behind the desk smiled, "Good morning, Miss Douglas."

"Good morning," Dharma nodded. Her smile faded as the receptionist's features melted into her own. Standing there staring with her mouth open.

“Yes, Miss Douglas is there something I can help you with?” it was her face and voice. It was like looking in a mirror.

Dharma shook her head ‘no’, then scurried down the hall to her office. Her mouth felt dry, her brain felt foggy, and she wasn’t sure what she was seeing this morning. Was she having a nervous breakdown? Was she just tired? What the hell was happening to her?

Dharma realized she had more questions than answers. Sipping her coffee and taking a bite of her bagel she sat down and stared out the window. Taking another big bite, she chewed then began to choke on it. She couldn’t breathe; the bagel was stuck in her throat. Her eyes watered, she banged on her desk. She struggled to get to her feet as her heart was racing, she needed to get help. Staggering across the floor, she couldn’t call out for help, her throat was burning. Tears streaming down her cheeks. Her body felt heavy, and she stumbled falling to the floor, banging on the floor trying to get someone’s attention. The room was getting darker. Darker.

Someone tapped her shoulder, “Hey Dharma.”

Her eyes fluttered open, and she saw herself looking down at her. “Who are you?”

“I’m here for you,” her doppelganger laughed.

“Why? How?” she stared at herself.

She grinned back at herself, then helped herself up. There was a bright light in the corner of her office.

“What’s that?” she asked herself.

“Nothing,” her double stepped in between herself and the light. “Look at me.”

She did, and her double opened its mouth and sucked the air around her in. It was more than the air around her. She felt her double sucking the life energy from her. Until there was nothing left.