

THE FRANKENSTEIN FACTORY:

A ONE ACT PLAY

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The stage is set into three parts,
sparsely furnished, Kelly's office, a
court room and a patient room.

SCENE 1 KELLYS OFFICE

Kelly, a woman in her fifties and Neo, a
young Asian man enter.

KELLY

Cutting it close that time, Neo. There's a limited time for a brain
transplant, you know.

NEO

Like I've said, you can't rush the process.

KELLY

The brain can only be sustained for so long without blood. After
that you risk cerebral damage.

NEO

I know that, but if one of those connections miss, especially the
spinal cord, you can't imagine the damage.

KELLY

Actually I can.

NEO

I need more money to refine the system.

KELLY

Budget's tight as it is, you know that.

NEO

But I still need to work on the power contacts.

KELLY

Power contacts are fine, we just need to make the arms faster.

NEO

They are already going as fast as they can.

TREVOR MARTIN, enters. He is a smart
dressed young man, corporate lawyer for
New Life Incorporated, holding a folder.

TREVOR

Just coming to get you.

KELLY

I was in surgery. Neo, we'll talk later.

NEO

Count on it.

neo leaves.

TREVOR

We need to talk.

Following Trevor in is MARK POWERS, a young man in his thirties, power dresser & has a determined demeanor. Mark places a document on Kelly's desk. Kelly looks at it.

TREVOR

This is Mr Mark Powers, from the states attorneys office. Mark, Kelly.

KELLY

What's this?

MARK

A cease & desist order from the high court. You are not to perform any medical procedures on Mr Frank Walker.

TREVOR

Which I am going to contest.

MARK

And why would you do that? You know who this man is?

KELLY

He's our patient. You can't make this stick.

MARK

A judge has signed off. You are being ordered not to move forward with any or all procedures that involve the transference of Frank Walkers brain to a designated clone.

TREVOR

Mr Walker has paid in full for this procedure & this facility is obligated to honour that contract.

MARK

This order overrides any contract you have.

KELLY

Gentlemen. Clearly this is a matter that has to be discussed before a magistrate. I have a lot of work to do. Trevor see me in an hour. Mr Powers, good day.

MARK

You can't...

KELLY

GOOD DAY, MR POWERS.

Mark can take a hint. He leaves the order
on her desk & goes.

KELLY

What's your take on this?

TREVOR

We have a contract. It would be bad for business if we chose our
patients according to social status.

KELLY

But this guy's a rapist and a murder.

TREVOR

Not our place to judge.

KELLY

The media are not going to let this go. They'll have a field day.

TREVOR

Wouldn't be the first time we've courted controversy.

KELLY

We'll be responsible for putting this guy back on the street. He
could go back to raping and killing young women, like before. Do
you really want that?

TREVOR

What our clients do after they leave is not our responsibility.
Maybe he will kill again. Maybe he won't. Maybe he will use this
as a chance to do what this was intended for. A New life. A second
chance.

KELLY

For god's sake Trevor, were not talking about a petty thief, He's
a killer. A hardened criminal doesn't change overnight.

TREVOR

It could also be a chance for him to reform. I think you should
meet Walker.

KELLY

What difference would it make?

TREVOR

You can judge yourself.

KELLY

Maybe after I hear what Mary has to say.

SCENE 2: PATIENTS ROOM

Frank Walker is lying in bed. DR MARY
WASHINGTON, a black woman in her forties
is waiting for him to wake up

FRANK :

Who are you?

MARY

My name is Dr Mary Washington. I'm the chief Psychiatrist for New
life incorporated.

FRANK :

You're the shrink for the Frankenstein Factory?

MARY

We prefer New Life Incorporated.

FRANK :

What do you want?

MARY

I'm here to help you. Many of the patients have a lot of anxiety
before and after the procedure. I'm going to help you through
that.

FRANK :

How?

MARY

First. I'd like to know a little bit about you.

FRANK :

You got my prison file. You know who I am.

MARY

I know what you did. I want to know about you.

FRANK :

About being in prison?

MARY

About the kind of person you want to be.

FRANK :

Better. I want to be a better person. When is this going to
happen?

MARY

The preparation takes a while. How are you feeling at the moment?

FRANK :

Honestly? Scared.

MARY

That's normal.

FRANK :

Will it hurt? Will I feel different, afterwards?

MARY

You'll feel disorientated at first. Psychologically and physically. Physiotherapy will help you get back on your feet, and I'll be supervising your mental therapy sessions while you adapt.

FRANK :

There's no chance I'll go nuts is there?

MARY

You'll be fine.

FRANK :

Will I look different?

MARY

You'll look the way you did when you were twenty.

Frank smiles.

FRANK :

Twenty.

MARY

What's important is how you embrace the change. What do you plan to do with your life after?

FRANK :

Haven't really thought about it.

MARY

You should. It's important to plan this second chance.

FRANK :

I was a bank executive before all this. Earned pretty good money.

MARY

So, a job in investment, maybe?

FRANK :

Who's gonna hire me? Everyone knows what I am.

MARY

What you were. You need to stop thinking about your life in the past. This is a second chance, you have to put all that behind you.

FRANK :

I'm a pedophile and a killer. That's kind of hard to forget.

MARY

WERE A KILLER. After the procedure that life doesn't exist anymore.

FRANK :

I hope you're right.

MARY

I'll drop by again in a few days. Think about what I said.

Mary leaves.

SCENE 3: KELLY'S OFFICE.

Kelly, Trevor, Mary & Neo are gathered watching a news report on a screen. A Reporter appears to one side of the stage.

REPORTER;

Frank Walker, was serving consecutive sentences, for six counts of under aged sex with a minor, four counts of sexual assault, and one count of murder. Walker is currently at the medical ward of New Life Incorporated, often referred to as The Frankenstein Factory, for his controversial operation. Protesters are campaigning against Walker's impending operation. many saying they would rather see this man dead then walk away in a new & improved body.

KELLY

Turn it off.

Trevor hits the remote & the screen switches off. the reporter exits the stage.

KELLY

What's happening with that court order?

TREVOR

They can't prohibit us from doing it. Regardless of the fact he may or may not pose a threat to the public. It's up to them to keep him in prison.

KELLY

So, what's the problem? After the procedure he goes back to jail.

TREVOR

There is a loophole. During the procedure, Walker will be legally speaking, dead for a few minutes...

KELLY

Two minutes, tops.

TREVOR

His sentence states he remains in jail for the rest of his natural life. His natural life ends the second he dies. Even if it is for two minutes.

MARY

So, bottom line, he has the procedure he can walk free.

TREVOR

This is new territory, legally.

KELLY

So what you're saying is we'll be letting a murderer walk out of this facility with a new body,

TREVOR

The state prosecution is building a case to prevent that.

NEO

I'm not going to do it.

KELLY

Neo?

NEO

My youngest sister was raped by such a man. You have no idea what it was like for her. I'm not going to be responsible for someone like that walking away.

KELLY

Neo, you're part of the team.

NEO

I won't do it. Get someone else.

MARY

Neo.

MARY

Look, I can understand you're angry.

NEO

No! You don't understand. Nobody does.

MARY

I'm angry too. I don't like this anymore than you do.

NEO

Then don't try & talk me out of it.

Neo and Mary leave as Kenneth enters.

KENNETH

You wanted to see me?

KELLY

Need your opinion on something.

KENNETH

Of course. What seems to be the problem?

KELLY

You've no doubt heard about this situation with Frank Walker.

KENNETH

Indeed. It's quite a dilemma.

KELLY

We've been issued an injunction but Trevor says he can fight it and Neo says he won't do the operation, because of what happened to his sister.

KENNETH

And how do you feel about it?

KELLY

He signed a deal and paid in full.

KENNETH

I know. But how do you FEEL about it?

KELLY

For what he's done... I'd rather let him die in jail.

KENNETH

A consensus many feel I'm sure. But consider, it's not our job to decide if Mr. Walker remains in prison or not. That is up to the state attorney.

KELLY

But there's a loop hole that might allow Walker to go free.

KENNETH

Loopholes, as Mr. Martin, is fond of saying, are made to be unraveled.

KELLY

What if he does walk free, and another child dies? That's on us.

KENNETH

No, it's on the system that set him free.

KELLY

We provided the means to set him free.

KENNETH

We provide a service that doesn't discriminate. We save lives. That's what we do. It's why you built this company.

KELLY

I built this company to improve quality of life. After my mother died I made it my life's mission to find a way to stop people dying the way she did. No-one should have to suffer the way my mother suffered. It broke my heart every time I looked at her in that bed. Wasting away, the cancer eating at her, she lost so much weight I barely recognized her toward the end. I felt so helpless I wanted to help her, I wanted to save her. I wanted to say, "It's okay mum, I'll make you better". Nobody should have to go like that. I want to save lives, but It shouldn't be at the expense of someone else losing theirs.

KENNETH

Then don't do it.

KELLY

I can't just refuse.

KENNETH

If it's a legal problem let Mr Martin deal with it.

TREVOR

Actually that's the reason I'm here.

Trevor shows a pad to Kelly.

KELLY

What's this?

TREVOR

A hearing with a magistrate.

KELLY

When?

TREVOR

A few days.

Kelly is disappointed.

TREVOR

What?

KELLY

I was sort of hoping it would be out of my hands.

TREVOR

They're still debating his sentence. He could still go back to prison.

KELLY

He might also go free.

TREVOR

It's not our problem.

KELLY

Isn't it?

TREVOR

Let the state worry about keeping him in prison.

SCENE 6: KELLY'S OFFICE

Neo, is arguing with Kelly.

KELLY

You can't refuse to treat a patient.

NEO

I'm busy refining the connection program. You wanted it faster, didn't you? Judy can do it. She's qualified & she can use the practice.

KELLY

Judy is still new.

NEO

I trained her, she will be fine.

KELLY

We can't afford any mistakes on this one. I need you to do it.

NEO

Really? What's so different about this patient?

KELLY

I don't want to debate this with you. I'm asking you to do this .

NEO

And my answer is no.

Kelly lowers her head. Clearly there is no changing his mind.

SCENE 7: COURTROOM

Kelly is in the witness box.

TREVOR

Professor Anderson. You are the head of New life incorporated.

KELLY

Correct.

TREVOR

Your company has pioneered a number of breakthrough medical procedures.

KELLY

Yes.

TREVOR

In fact you personally developed Cerebral Transplants, the procedure to be used on Mr Walker.

KELLY

Myself and a number of my colleagues.

TREVOR

But you are it's chief architect.

KELLY

I was the team leader.

TREVOR

So, you would understand the procedure better than anyone ?

KELLY

Yes.

TREVOR

Professor, for the purposes of clarification, can you describe the process, briefly in layman's terms.

KELLY

It's a two string process. DNA is taken from a host subject.

TREVOR

Namely a client.

KELLY

Yes, and a genetic duplicate.

TREVOR

A clone.

KELLY

A clone. Which is processed in an artificial embryonic chamber to maturation. When it is required for transference it is removed from the chamber and prepared for cerebral extraction and replacement.

TREVOR

So you grow a clone until it's ready. Extract it's brain and replace it with your clients brain.

KELLY

That is correct.

TREVOR

The result, the client has a new healthier body.

KELLY

A new life so to speak.

TREVOR

A NEW LIFE. A chance to begin again and make amends.

SCENE 8: PATIENT ROOM

Kelly enters

KELLY

Good morning, Mr Walker.

FRANK :

Who are you?

KELLY

Professor Kelly Anderson. Just came to tell you, your procedure is scheduled for next week.

FRANK :

Where's the other one, the shrink?

KELLY

Taking the day off. Thought I'd come and see you myself. How are you feeling?

Franks grunts. It's clear he is a bit scared.

KELLY

It's natural to be nervous. It's a big step.

FRANK :

So, come to check me out yourself, is that it?

KELLY

Just wanted to talk.

FRANK :

You're worried once I'm out I'll go after kids again.

KELLY

Will you?

FRANK :

I don't want to.

KELLY

You want to change?

FRANK :

I don't want to be who I was. I want my wife back. I want my job back.

KELLY

Do you regret what you've done?

FRANK :

I never wanted to murder that kid. That's the truth.

KELLY

And the rest of it?

FRANK :

Not gonna lie to you. The fact is I am a monster, like they said. But I don't want to be like that anymore.

KELLY

Why should I believe you? How do I know you're not saying this so I won't terminate your contract?

FRANK :

Aren't you legally obligated to honour my contract?

KELLY

That's currently in dispute.

FRANK :

Second chances. Isn't that what you're all about?.

KELLY

For people who deserve it.

FRANK :

Look, I'm dying of cancer and yes, I am aware a lot of people would rather see me dead. The thing is I want to change. I saw your company's PR. A new lease on life, a second chance. I came to you looking for a new life. I don't want to be who I am. I want to be someone new. Someone people will not be afraid of. Someone people will let their children near without being scared. I want to be a normal person again, just like everyone else. You offered that. I'm counting on you.

KELLY

And what if it doesn't work out?

FRANK :

I'll kill myself.