

27

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27

~~Neo can hear his own heart pounding.~~~~TRINITY~~~~Let me give one piece of advice.
Be honest. He knows more than you
can possibly imagine.~~

28

INT. ROOM 1313

28

Across the room, a DARK FIGURE stares out the tall windows veiled with decaying lace. He turns and his smile lights up the room. A dull ROAR of THUNDER shakes the old building.

MORPHEUS

At last.

He wears a long black coat and his eyes are invisible behind circular mirrored glasses. He strides to Neo and they shake hands.

MORPHEUS

Welcome, Neo. As you no doubt have guessed, I am Morpheus.

NEO

It's an honor.

MORPHEUS

No, the honor is mine. Please. Come. Sit.

He nods to Trinity and she exits through a door to an adjacent room. They sit across from one another in cracked, burgundy-leather chairs.

MORPHEUS

I imagine, right now, you must be feeling a bit like Alice, tumbling down the rabbit hole?

NEO

You could say that.

MORPHEUS

I can see it in your eyes. You have the look of a man who accepts what he sees because he is expecting to wake up.

A smile, razor-thin, curls the corner of his lips.

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MORPHEUS

Ironically, this is not far from the truth. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Can you tell me, Neo, why are you here?

NEO

You're Morpheus. You're a legend. Most hackers would die to meet you.

MORPHEUS

Yes. Thank you. But I think we both know there's more to it than that. Do you believe in fate, Neo?

NEO

No.

MORPHEUS

Why not?

NEO

Because I don't like the idea that I'm not in control of my life.

MORPHEUS

I know exactly what you mean.

Again, that smile that could cut glass.

MORPHEUS

Let me tell you why you are here. You have come because you know something. What you know you can't explain but you feel it. You've felt it your whole life, felt that something is wrong with the world. You don't know what, but it's there like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad. It is this feeling that brought you to me. Do you know what I'm talking about?

NEO

The Matrix?

MORPHEUS

Do you want to know what it is?

Neo swallows hard and nods.

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MORPHEUS

The Matrix is everywhere, it's all around us, here even in this room. You can see it out your window or on your television. You feel it when you go to work, or go to church or pay your taxes. It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.

NEO

What truth?

MORPHEUS

That you are a slave, Neo. Like everyone else, you were born into bondage, kept inside a prison that you cannot smell, taste, or touch. A prison for your mind.

The LEATHER CREAKS as he leans back.

MORPHEUS

Unfortunately, no one can be told what the Matrix is. You have to see it for yourself.

Morpheus opens his hands. In the right is a red pill. In the left, a blue pill.

MORPHEUS

This is your last chance. After this, there is no going back. You take the blue pill and the story ends. You wake in your bed and you believe whatever you want to believe.

The pills in his open hands are reflected in the glasses.

MORPHEUS

You take the red pill and you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes.

Neo feels the smooth skin of the capsules, the moisture growing in his palms.

MORPHEUS

Remember that all I am offering is the truth. Nothing more.

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28 CONTINUED: (3)

28

Neo opens his mouth and swallows the red pill. The Cheshire smile returns.

MORPHEUS

Follow me.

~~29 INT. OTHER ROOM~~~~28~~

He leads Neo into the other room, which is cramped with high-tech equipment, glowing ash-blue and electric green from the racks of monitors. Trinity, Apoc, Switch and Cypher look up as they enter.

MORPHEUS

Apoc, are we on-line?

APOC

Almost.

He and Trinity are working quickly, hardwiring a complex system of monitors, modules and drives.

MORPHEUS

Neo, time is always against us.
Will you take a seat there?

Neo sits in a chair in the center of the room and Trinity begins gently fixing white electrode disks to him. Near the chair is an old oval dressing mirror that is cracked. He whispers to Trinity:

NEO

You did all this?

She nods, placing a set of headphones over his ears. They are wired to an old hotel phone.

MORPHEUS

The pill you took is part of a trace program. It's designed to disrupt your input/output carrier signal so we can pinpoint your location.

NEO

What does that mean?

CYPHER

It means buckle up, Dorothy,
'cause Kansas is going bye-bye.

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