

THE CUBE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. WHITE ROOM -- DAY

A bright light sprays through the blinding white room. The room is bare except for a round white table in the middle of the floor and a slat sticking out from the side wall. A black picture frame with three slots that make up a triangle in the center, hangs on the far wall. THOMAS opens his eyes to the blinding light. His eyes tear at the brightness. He stares up from his fetal position.

THOMAS

What the?

Thomas pulls himself up to his feet and scans the room. He notices he is dressed in an unfamiliar futuristic outfit.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Hello? Hello?

He walks over to the smooth wall and knocks on it. He searches frantically for an exit.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Is anyone there? Where am I?

An ominous voice calls out to Thomas.

VOICE(V.O)

Please, calm down and wait for your instructions.

THOMAS

Excuse me? My instructions? What the hell are you talking about? Where am I?

VOICE (V.O.)

Everything will be explained, if you can pass the tests given to you.

THOMAS

Tests? No, you are going to let me out of here, right now! What the hell is going on?

VOICE (V.O.)

Everything will be explained once you pass the tests set forth.

(MORE)

VOICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

First, you will be given three psychological tests that will test your knowledge and thinking. If you succeed, you will then participate in a test of humanity and ethics.

THOMAS

What tests? I'm not doing this, so you can get off! My father is a lawyer and when I find out who you are I'm going to have you arrested for kidnapping! You hear me!

There is silence for a few seconds.

VOICE (V.O)

First, you must find three black keys in the shape of a triangle. One, you must use your knuckle and your ear to find. Anger will lead you to it. The second lies buried in the white sand that sits below you when you rest. The last key you will find when you find yourself staring to the clouds.

THOMAS

You've got to be kidding me. The whole damn room is white. Who are you? What is this place? Where am I? Crap!

Thomas waits for a response from the voice, but there is complete silence. He searches his pockets for a cell phone or wallet. He finds nothing.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You have got to be kidding me. What happens if I don't find this key, huh? What happens if I don't find the key?

Thomas begins looking around the room. He walks up to the black picture frame and looks at the three triangular indentations in the center. He searches the black frame for the key.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

This is ridiculous. A black key in a white room? Where would a black key be? This is the only black in the room. Where else could it be?

Thomas walks around the perimeter, but finds nothing.

ONE HOUR LATER

Thomas sits against the wall, frustrated.

THOMAS

Hello? Are you there? I can't  
find your stupid key...Let me go!

Thomas looks around the room again and begins getting angry.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Okay...One I need to use my knuckle  
and my ear, the second is in sand  
where I rest and the last one is  
where I would look at clouds.  
Um...Knuckle, ear.

He stares at his knuckle and thinks to himself.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What the hell am I supposed to do  
with my knuckle and my ear! This  
makes no sense! Aaaah!

Thomas punches the wall a couple times.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You want me to use my knuckles,  
I'll use my fist!

He runs to the corner and bangs his head on the wall in frustration. The wall makes a shallow thud. He looks up to the hollow sounding tile and knocks it with his knuckle. It makes another shallow thud. Thomas backs up and takes a big swing at the wall. The wall cracks. A tiny compartment is revealed as he tears away the remaining bits of wall. A small black box sits in the rectangular space.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Knuckle and ear, very clever. You  
come up with that yourself or did  
you need help?

Thomas dusts off the black box and opens it. A black triangular key sits at the base of the box. He pulls the key out and puts it up to the black frame on the other wall. The key slides into the slot and locks in place.

VOICE (V.O)

I am happy to see that you have  
found the first key.

THOMAS

If I solve this stupid puzzle, then what? What is this for? At least tell me the reason that I am here? If you're planning on killing me you might as well get it over with.

VOICE (V.O)

There is not much I can answer. There are rules set into play. I can tell you that a select few will pass the test depending on their skills. Most get through the first, but once it comes to the human as a person, it gets difficult for those who are not true.

THOMAS

I don't understand. You have done this with others.

VOICE (V.O)

Many others.

THOMAS

Jesus Christ! Why?

VOICE (V.O)

The reason is not important, if you don't make it to the final tests. I sincerely hope you do make it that far.

THOMAS

What? Make it that far? What does that mean? Hello? Hello? Damn it!

Thomas sits up against the wall and thinks.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You know, I'm getting really hungry in here. Do you have some type of food or anything? I'll close my eyes or something. You can bring it in and I'll turn my back and...forget it. Okay, what was the second clue. The second key will be buried in sand. Where the hell is there sand? Okay, there is a table, a seat sticking out of the wall and a big white room full of nothing. No sand. No nothing.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Come on! The key will be where you rest?

Thomas paces the room back and forth, again and again. Time passes as he pulls his hair and thinks about the clue. He sits down on the slat sticking out from the wall.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

It will be in sand under where you rest. There is no bed, so that can't be it. In the floor? Where do I rest? Where am I resting right now?

Thomas gets on his knees and looks under the slat he is sitting on. Under the seat is a square of white sand that blends in with the white tiles. He brushes away the ivory grains and reveals a black box, just like the other. Thomas opens the box and finds another black triangular key. He runs to the black frame and places the second key into the slot.

VOICE (V.O)

Excellent job! I am very pleased that you have advanced to the last stage. Only one more key and you will move on.

THOMAS

Well, I'm glad you're happy, really, I am. But, what happens if I refuse to participate in your game any further? What then?

VOICE (V.O)

The same thing that happens to the human body if you receive no supplement or liquids to live. The reason for these tests are not for my pleasure or your torture, it has to do with survival and preservation. It has to do with prolonging the human existence. Our race must make sure that the strongest in mind and soul be preserved. Remember, the last key lies where the clouds are, and when you advance, if you are pure at heart, you have nothing to fear.

THOMAS

What do you mean, your race? Who do you think you are, God?

VOICE (V.O)  
God is a word, I am a being.

HOURS LATER

Thomas looks up at the ceiling.

THOMAS  
Clouds? I don't see any clouds.  
Unless this whole place is a cloud,  
because it's white and...no, that's  
not it. Clouds? Clouds?

Thomas plops himself down on the floor so he is looking up at the ceiling.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Clouds are in the sky. Clouds?  
Aaaaah!

Thomas begins scooting himself across the slick floor in aggressive thought.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Clouds! Clouds!

Thomas ends up under the table. He notices a pattern of clouds on the bottom of the table. Thomas reaches up and peels a cloud sticker from the shiny surface, revealing a black box from under the table.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Aaahaaa!

Thomas runs to the frame and pulls out the last triangular key. He looks at it in hesitation. Once again he slides the key into place. As the key locks into place the center triangle inside the pattern lights up. Thomas pushes the button in the center.

VOICE (V.O)  
Very good. You have found the  
three keys. Your mind is strong  
and adroit. Now will be the true  
test. The test where humankind has  
the most flaws.

THOMAS  
Why do you keep saying race? I  
passed your test, now let me go!

VOICE (V.O)  
Please, walk through the door  
behind you.

THOMAS  
There is no door behind me. If  
there was, I would have walked out  
of here--

Thomas turns and notices a doorway to another room.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Where the hell did that come from?

VOICE (V.O)  
Enter.

Thomas walks to the room and slowly looks in. It is dark.

INT. BLACK ROOM -- DAY

The room is completely black. A table sits in the center  
with a pile of food.

VOICE (V.O)  
Enjoy some food to satisfy your  
hunger and quench your thirst with  
a beverage. Once you are full the  
test will proceed.

Thomas runs to the food. He stops before he stuffs his  
mouth.

THOMAS  
Wait, is there poison in here? Is  
this a trick? Is this the test?

VOICE (V.O)  
Truth be told, there are multiple  
ways of killing you where you  
stand. But, that is not the  
purpose of this test. My job is  
not to kill innocent people, but to  
save you...and any being that would  
poison the water and food of  
another is immoral and devilish.

Thomas piles the food into his mouth and gulps the water down  
his throat.

THOMAS  
Trying to save me. Yeah, okay.



VOICE (V.O)

Oh..and I have a gift for you.  
Friendship and love are a universal  
feeling that everyone can  
understand and cherish. Behave  
yourself.

The door slowly opens, as VICTORIA, 20s, steps into the room. She is beautiful. She has pitch black hair and vibrant green eyes. She is dressed in the same type of outfit that Thomas is in.

Victoria calmly walks over to the table and sits down across from Thomas. They sit in uncomfortable silence for awhile.

THOMAS

I'm Thomas.

VICTORIA

I'm Victoria.

They look at one another uncomfortably again, not sure what to say.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

So...what do you think we are doing here?

THOMAS

Your guess is as good as mine. But they better let us go soon or else!

VICTORIA

You think they want us to mate or something?

THOMAS

I hope not.

VICTORIA

Why else would they make us meet like this?

THOMAS

I don't know. I mean, you're beautiful, but I'm not having sex just to amuse someone.

VICTORIA

You're telling me. Did you have to do that puzzle with the keys shaped like stars?

THOMAS

Mine was actually with triangles.

VICTORIA

What do you think they will have us do next?

THOMAS

Another pointless test or something. I have a family to get back to.

VICTORIA

That must be nice.

THOMAS

You don't have any family?

VICTORIA

My mother is somewhere out there, but my father died before I was born and then I was raised in a foster home.

THOMAS

I'm sorry.

VICTORIA

It's not so bad. My foster parents were heavy drinkers, so I ran away when I was ten.

THOMAS

Damn, you're one tough cookie.

VICTORIA

You better believe it.

Their conversation is interrupted by the voice.

VOICE (V.O)

I apologize for interrupting, but we must continue with your tests.

VICTORIA

Oh, yay! Well, it was nice to meet you, Thomas.

THOMAS

Yeah, it was nice meeting you too. Maybe we'll see each other again.

VICTORIA

That would be nice.

She gives him a smile as she stands up from her chair.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Hey. Good luck.

THOMAS

Same to you.

Thomas sits back, full from the meal in front of him.

VOICE (V.O)

Now that your hunger is fulfilled,  
we will proceed with the tests?

Thomas stands up.

THOMAS

Whatever gets me out of here. What  
is this next test?

Once he is out of his seat the table and chair disappear into  
the floor.

VOICE (V.O)

As I said, it will be a test of the  
human soul and mind. Please don't  
try and lie, for we will sense your  
deceiving thoughts. The test is  
actually quite simple if you are  
truthful.

THOMAS

I don't understand what you are  
talking about. What do I have to  
lie about?

VOICE (V.O)

That is what we want to know.

THOMAS

We? So you're not the only one  
doing this?

VOICE (V.O)

You will be asked three questions.  
Answer them the way your mind  
thinks them. Do not think of wrong  
or right, but think of how you  
would execute your actions.

THOMAS

Whatever, ask away.

VOICE (V.O)

Do you think it is ever okay to kill someone?

THOMAS

Wow. Didn't see that one coming. Um...Um. Well, I think that's a hard question to answer because it depends on the situation. I would say, you shouldn't kill someone for no reason or a illegitimate reason, but if you or a loved one was threatened or killed, I would probably want to kill the person who was behind it. I guess we are taught that we shouldn't kill, but I say an eye for an eye. And if you do you have to suffer the aftermath of stress if there is any.

VOICE (V.O)

...That is a fair answer, we too believe that killing is forbidden, but in some cases it may be permitted.

THOMAS

Next question?

VOICE (V.O)

Do you believe it is okay to steal?

THOMAS

What is with these questions? I don't think you should because of personal gain or because you want to. But, I feel that if someone has stolen something from you, you have the right to take it back.

VOICE (V.O)

...You are very smart in your answers. The last question is do you think it is okay to cheat on your significant other?

THOMAS

That one is a plain, no.

There is a long moment of silence.

VOICE (V.O)

...Your answers are valid and admirable. You have passed the test set before you. Now I will reveal to you the reason for these tests.

THOMAS

Finally, thank you. Then can I go.

VOICE (V.O)

You may, but first I must explain something to you. There is no way of putting this lightly, but your world was destroyed. Our race foresaw that earth was in great danger, so we took as many people as we could. We put them in a deep sleep so they wouldn't remember anything, but it is all to save your race. We have to put you through these tests to find out the good people and the bad people. The smart from the dumb. We are dropping you off on a planet almost exactly like earth. I know it seems cruel or inhuman, but we are hoping to have a civil new world without crime and harm of evil. By doing these tests, our hope is to find the best humans to procreate, so you have a better world than before.

A giant door opens to a forest. Thomas turns and walks out to the new world.

VOICE (V.O) (CONT'D)

Thomas.

Thomas turns.

VOICE (V.O) (CONT'D)

Say hello to Victoria for me.

THOMAS

Ok. Hey, will I see you again?

VOICE (V.O)

Technically you never saw me, but yes. When the time is right, we will meet again.

THOMAS

I'm not going to miss your sense of humor, or lack there of. At least tell me your name.

VOICE (V.O)

My name is Xxyxwaw.

THOMAS

Thanks, Xxyxwaw. I hope I said that right.

VOICE (V.O)

Not even close.

Thomas gives off a laugh then turns and continues out the door.

VOICE (V.O) (CONT'D)

Goodbye, and make the most of your new life.

THOMAS

I will. Goodbye.

EXT. FOREST -- DAY

A few other people are walking through the forest to their new home. As he exits the cube he sees Victoria standing in the distance. She smiles and gives him a friendly wave. He smiles back as he starts walking towards her.

FADE TO BLACK: