

"ONE BALLOON"

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FADE IN:

1.) INT. INSTITUTE A - EARLY AFTERNOON

A red door opens to a room where a GIRL, 10 is seated at a desk. She is at an institute absorbing knowledge from small paper cards with pictures of simple objects on them.

As she looks at each card, the image on it disappears.

The girl is shown another card and absorbs the information.

SOUND of a CLOCK TICKING fades up.

Girl does not notice the sound.

2.) INT. GIRL

CAMERA pushes into the girl's abdomen.

Layers of clothes, skin, muscle, and machinery are revealed moving in rhythm.

Inside, girl's biological clock is ticking away. C/U of various parts on the clock showing how it works.

STOP-MOTION

- A - Drawers & Compartments with different symbols
- B - Empty slots and compartments
- C - Gauges with intricate symbols
- D - Gears turning
- E - flesh pulsing
- F - time-lapse of flowers opening, closing, wilting
- G - C/U of clock hand on a gauge, as it is about to drop a flag on the gauge.
- H - Tentacles with eye glasses in their hands
- I - Room of eggs with different symbols on them

CU: Two flowers blooming.

A decorative egg comes out of compartment and a timer ticks away. When the time runs out, the egg is smashed. A petal of the flower drops.

Cut back to girl absorbing knowledge.

Sound of scraping on the floor. A small seashell is crawling across the floor towards the open door. The girl sees it and waits until it is almost out the door before picking it up.

Door opens and girl looks outside. She sees two children, a boy and a girl her age playing on opposite ends of the hall. They each beckon for her to join them. She looks at each of them and decides not to go outside to join them.

Girl puts the shell to her ear.

Cut to audio recording of conversation with little girls about what it means to be grown-up.

Girl puts shell down so that the sound stops. Girl and goes back to her work.

FADE TO:

### 3.) INT. INSTITUTE B - AFTERNOON

YOUNG WOMAN in her teens is at Institute B absorbing knowledge from large piles of paper, turning them blank.

Young Woman gets through the whole stack of papers.

A superior with a distinct collar comes over and presents her with a choice of collars to put on.

Young Woman makes a selection, and the Superior puts a new collar around her neck.

When Superior leaves room, she see the seashell (which has now grow larger) trying to crawl out of the room.

Superior picks up the shell and places in a brown crumpled bag and ties it up. Then she puts it on the Teen's desk.

### 2.a) CUT TO:

A decorative egg comes out of the compartment and an hourglass timer is set.

The time runs out, and the egg is smashed.

Another petal of the flower drops.

FADE TO:

4.) INT. INSTITUTE C - LATE AFTERNOON

WOMAN in her late twenties is at Institute C. Woman is creating information cards. She has a high-ranking position, as indicated by her collar.

Woman gives a stack of cards to a CO-WORKER to file.

CO-worker takes the cards and leaves the room.

2.b) CUT TO:

Another petal drops. The flower is now starting to look bare.

The clock reaches critical mass. The hand on the clock reaches its mark.

A small box appears in the clock and is sucked out of the system.

4.) cont.

WOMAN feels something inside her body. She grips her abdomen as if in sharp pain, and falls to the ground.

The seashell in the brown paper bag breaks away from the bag and finally rushes out the door.

HEAVY BREATHING and HEART BEATING are heard over the sound of a CLOCK ALARM.

DOUBLE EXPOSURE - Image of the woman as she splits in two.

The two identical women see each other.

Woman #1 is still holding a stack of cards.

WOMAN #2 removes the cards from her hand and leads her to a box, which appears.

The two women fight violently.

Woman #1 is forced inside the box.

The box shrinks.

Woman #2 picks up the little box and swallows it.

2.c) CUT TO:

INT.INSIDE THE WOMAN'S ABDOMEN

The little box falls into it's place on the clock.

CU on clock message port.

A small paper message comes out of the clock with the image of a man depicted on it.

4.) cont.

CUT TO:

Woman #2 creates the image of a man on an info card,  
~~then burns the rest of the cards.~~

Woman #2 getting out a suitcase and throwing woman  
#1's work into a suitcase which is already filled with  
random items.

Woman places a call.

5.) INT. DATING INSTITUTE CALL CENTER - EVENING

The woman on other end of the message reciever is a  
large woman wearing an Institutional NURSE-like outfit.  
Nurse recieves the meassage.

FADE TO BLACK

5.a) INT. PRIVATE MEETING ROOM - EVENING

Nurse escorts a MAN #1 with a suitcase into a private  
room furnished with a crude table and lit candles. The  
lighting is harsh and institutional.

Nurse seats Man #1 across from the Woman #2 and then  
leaves the room.

Man #1 has a suitcase with him, which he presents for Woman #2 to inspect.

Woman #2 places her suitcase on the table too for the Man #1 to inspect.

Option 1.

They both present an object on the table.

The objects match. They both present another object on the table, and again it is a match. The final object is a disconnect.

Option 2.

The man singles out an item he finds objectionable in Woman #2's suitcase, and excuses himself from the table, taking with him his suitcase.

Man #1 talks to the Nurse in a whisper.

Nurse apologizes for the mistake and sees Man #1 out.

Woman is dejected.

2.d.) CUT TO:

Another petal dropping from flower.

5a cont.)

CUT TO:

Nurse seating MAN #2 in front of Woman #2.

Man #2 presents his suitcase on the table.

Woman #2 begins the process of inspection again.

[FAST CUTS:

Man changes into several different men, each becoming progressively less appealing, while woman stays the same.

All the men look through the items in the Woman's suitcase.]

Woman is dissatisfied.

CAMERA PANS on a long line of suitors waiting with their suitcases to enter the room.

CAMERA stops on a MAN with a distinct yellow suitcase standing at the end of the line.

2.e) CUT TO:

SOUND of CLOCK TICKING.

Flower loses another petal.

6.) TIME-LAPSE sky changing from day to night.

5.a cont.)

CUT TO:

Man with yellow suitcase sitting in front of Woman #2.

They go through the ritual of presenting objects.

Each item is a match!

They are both happy.

The Nurse returns with a receipt and a dish with two rings.

The man and woman each take a ring and eat them like breath mints, then they sign the receipt and leave.

SOUND of FOOTSTEPS.

FADE TO BLACK

7.) INT. ROOM - EVENING

The MAN is in his space smoking a cigarette. A pot of soup stirs itself.

The MAN finishes the cigarette. He and gets a bowl and spoon and sets up a ladder.

CAMERA pulls back to reveal Woman #2's head mounted on the wall half covered by a black velvet cloth. Only

her mouth is visible. There are other heads on the wall too, but they are completely covered.

The Man climbs up the ladder with a bowl of soup.

Woman #2 talks happily while the Man feeds her soup.

The Man covers Woman #2's head and climbs down the ladder.

The Man walks over to the other side of the room where velvet curtains cover Woman #2's torso.

The Man looks at himself in the mirror, and combs his hair.

The Man uncovers her torso from behind the curtain.

The Man strokes the woman #2's body seductively, and unbuttons her blouse and kisses her body.

Woman #2 runs her fingers through the Man's hair.

A pair of scissors appear in her hands and she snips off a lock of the Man's hair.

CU- SLOW MOTION of hair falling to the ground.

CUT TO:

8.) INT: ROOM, NIGHT

Man's head is in a small room the size of his head.

STOP-MOTION

Man's hair is being cut from all angles.

A pair of SCISSORS WITH LEGS OF A WOMAN is stepping on buttons in the floor, which activate large SCISSORS.

Scissors cut locks of hair off the Man's head.

CU-SLOW MOTION of:

A: Hair falling to ground.

B: Hand picking up lock of hair



9.) CUT TO:

The Man is now normal size in the room holding a lock of his hair.

The Man picks several more locks of his hair and puts them in his pocket and exits through the RED DOOR.

10.) EXT: DAY - PARK - SUMMER or SPRING

The Man walks through the red door and into an empty park.

The Man plants seven locks of hair in a circle in the ground.

Balloons grow from the ground where the hair was planted.

The Man is happy jumping among the balloons.

Woman #2's hand comes out from the earth and cuts one of the balloons and it flies away.

The other balloons deflate around the Man.

The Man notices the balloons are now gone.

A cord is left where the cut balloon once was.

The Man pulls the cord out of the ground which is attached to a large rock.

SOUND of BABY CRYING

Woman #2 picks up the rock and feeds it.

The Man takes the baby (which is now a real baby) and gives the child a lock of his hair and walks away from Woman #2 and towards Woman #3, (who is identical to Woman #2) standing 100ft away. Camera pulls back to reveal Woman #1, Woman 2, Youth, and the young girl all standing in line with each other.

FADE TO BLACK