I AM PLURAL

excerpt from an original screenplay by

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INT. HOME FILM SET

WOMAN (30's, actor/director) is playing music from a stereo to set the mood. ACTOR CLONE of Woman is working, acting - in hair and makeup, significantly aging her. The CLONE CREW is silent (clones of the Woman), watching. WOMAN at the camera.

ACTOR CLONE writes a letter.

ACTOR CLONE

(reading aloud)

As if lips could light the scene that lightning could not. I was a sight for sore eyes. We all were. We all are. I am plural.

ACTOR CLONE puts the letter down. She cries.

WOMAN

Cut! That's a wrap!

ACTOR CLONE removes wig and is the same age as the rest of the CLONES and WOMAN. ACTOR CLONE has a spark in her eye.

ALL celebrate, hug, support and congratulate one another.

WOMAN goes straight to ACTOR CLONE and kisses her.

CLONES react: that was very forward of the WOMAN. WOMAN is also surprised by her move.

INT. HOME - LATER

Wrap party. Elegant, candles, romantic mood. WOMAN and CLONES laugh, holding champagne flutes.

CLONES

A toast to the original, our uniquely minded director/auteur, the incomparable, the inimitable, the efferves--

SECOND CLONE

COMparable! Imitable!

ACTOR CLONE

Effervescent, yes!

WOMAN

Ha! But, not so unique!

ALL laugh.

INT. HOME - BEDROOM

SOUND of voice message on speaker phone, unheard.

AGENT (V.O.)

Haven't been able to reach you, did you miss the audition? Call me.

INT. HOME - CONTINUOUS

Party. Cheers, clink of glasses. ACTOR CLONE and WOMAN in private conversation.

ACTOR CLONE

I'm not you, that's the thing. I didn't choose this body. I was born you, but my identity is mine.

WOMAN

Maybe I just see the mirror. The we that I want to be.

(beat)

Amazing.

ACTOR CLONE

(playful)

Fuck you. You created this.

Beat. WOMAN and ACTOR CLONE reflect on their conversation. ACTOR CLONE raises their wine glass. WOMAN smiles, cheers.

ACTOR CLONE (CONT'D)

I can't believe it's over.

WOMAN

Post is gonna be hell.

ACTOR CLONE

I have so much to do. I envy you.

I was thinking of going on a vacation.

WOMAN

You should, you should relax.

ACTOR CLONE

(laughs)

You serious? How?

WOMAN

I'll buy you a ticket. You want to?

ACTOR CLONE

I couldn't accept. Honestly.

WOMAN

Consider it a gift to myself.

INT. GYM

WOMAN is alone, resting between workouts. Sweat. Drinks water. She looks around the empty gym.

INT. HOME - LATER

WOMAN touches the clothing in her closet. A few hangers are empty in the arrangement. She rests her hand on an empty hanger. It slowly bends down. She lets go. The hanger, bent, swings free.

INT. CAR - LATER

WOMAN is seated in the back, DRIVER CLONE at the wheel. They wait at the airport. ACTOR CLONE pops open the back door and enters with luggage.

ACTOR CLONE

Hello! That. Was. So nice.

WOMAN

I missed you!

ACTOR CLONE

You miss yourself.

They stare at each other. DRIVER CLONE observes them in rear view mirror.

INT. HOME - NEXT MORNING

ACTOR CLONE wakes up next to WOMAN. She watches WOMAN sleep, content, but slowly becoming aware of her situation. She decides to get out of bed and shake something off.

INT. HOME - LATER

WOMAN wakes up alone in bed. Shame and worry.

She goes to her closet. Same closet full of the same uniformity.