

EXT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - READING ROOM - DAY

PROFESSOR HENRY MCCARTY spins around the side of the reading desk in his ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, coming closer to Natalie. She holds out the mirrored locket for his closer inspection.

MCCARTY

It sounds very much like an acute case of eisoptrophobia. A fear of mirrors in general or may even extend to one's own reflection.

NATALIE

But what would cause something like that? If you could have seen her, Professor. She was beyond hysterical. I've never known anyone to become so frightened. And of something so benign.

MCCARTY

Fear is irrational by definition. What might grip one individual with extreme terror can very well be the same object coveted by another.

He holds the locket to the light and dangles.

MCCARTY (CONT'D)

As for the cause of the young lady's affliction, I could only offer generalities without knowing more specifics of her case.

NATALIE

Generalities are more than I have now.

MCCARTY

Well, it could be any number of things, but I would assume that at some point the girl suffered a severe emotional trauma. The image of mirror, either actual or implied, locked in her psyche. She may associate the image with whatever brought about her current state.

NATALIE

Could she have seen whatever it was that scared her in a mirror?

MCCARTY

Anything is possible. I must admit, with every passing year, I find the prospect of facing the mirror every morning more and more dreadful.

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