

Light in the Shadow

Philosophical drama

Characters:

David, a talented photographer, but suffering from depression.

Clara, an empathetic and optimistic psychologist.

Tom, David's brother, who doesn't understand his depression.

Luna, a street dancer who becomes the subject of David's photos.

The Shadow, an entity that symbolizes David's depression.

Scene 1

A photography studio. David is alone, sitting amid a mess of photos and photographic equipment. The Shadow is present, but it is in the background, not yet intervening.

David, sitting, scrutinizes a photo. The Shadow, silent, looks over his shoulder.

David: *(Speaking to himself)* This isn't right... Something's missing...

The Shadow, in the background, slowly advances, almost gliding, until it is beside David.

Shadow: *(In a soft, almost whispered voice)* Has anything ever been right, David?

David: *(Turning towards the Shadow)* Not for a long time... not since you've been here.

Shadow: *(Softly chuckling)* You think I'm the problem, don't you? But I'm merely a reflection of your feelings, of your pain.

David: *(Looking intensely at the Shadow)* You are more than that. You are a weight, a burden. You cloud everything.

Shadow: *(Gently nodding)* Perhaps... But don't I also make you more creative? Don't I push you to seek beauty where others only see normality?

David: *(Hesitant, looks at the photo in his hand again)* Maybe... But at what cost?

Shadow: *(Stepping back slightly, chuckling again)* That's for you to find out, David...

The Shadow recedes into the background, leaving David alone with his thoughts and his photo.

Enter Clara, holding two cups of coffee, one for her and one for David. She watches David worriedly before approaching.

Clara: David, you're still here? You haven't slept, have you?

David: *(Smiling weakly)* Sleep is just a waste of time, Clara.

Clara: *(Sitting beside him, hands a cup of coffee to David)* Your body needs rest, David, and your health matters. I've brought you coffee, but it's not a permanent solution.

David: *(Accepts the cup with a silent thank you, his gaze fixed on the steam wafting from the cup)* I need to find the right photo... I feel it, it's there somewhere...

Clara: *(Softly)* David, I'm here for you, not just as a psychologist, but also as a friend. I see your struggle, and I want to help.

David: *(Looking at Clara)* I... I know, Clara. And I appreciate it.

Clara: *(Takes a deep breath)* How about a little session now? Just the two of us, here. Sometimes, talking about what you feel can help you understand and overcome it better.

David: *(Hesitant, then nods)* Alright, Clara. We can try.

Clara smiles with relief, ready to help David confront his demons. They begin their session, a light of hope shining amid the shadow.

Scene 2

A psychological therapy session. Clara takes a deep breath, gathers her thoughts, then turns towards David.

Clara: *(Softly)* Tell me about the photo you're trying to find, David. Why is it important to you?

David: *(Looking at the photo he's holding)* It's... as if it represents something that I can't quite grasp. As if it holds the answer to something I've been searching for a long time.

The Shadow begins to slide towards them, a mischievous expression on its face.

Shadow: *(Whisper, heard only by David)* Or maybe you're afraid of what you might find...

David: *(Shakes his head, as if to dispel an unpleasant thought)* No, that's not it...

Clara: *(Looks at David with concern)* David? Are you alright?

David: *(Staring at the Shadow)* It's here... It's trying to make me doubt myself.

Clara: *(Softly)* Who's here, David?

David: *(Turns to Clara)* The Shadow... It doesn't leave me alone, not even here.

Clara: *(Looks around, though she can't see the Shadow)* David, I can't see it, but what I can tell you is this - these are your feelings and thoughts. You have the power to control them, even if it doesn't always seem that way.

David: *(Nodding, turning to the Shadow)* No... not this time. I won't let you interfere.