

PERFECT LOVE  
by Bryan Colley

The doorbell rings. DR. SHELLEY  
lets PAMELA in.

SHELLEY  
Pamela, so nice to see you.

PAMELA  
Thank you for inviting me over. Where's everyone else?

SHELLEY  
Oh, I guess they're all running late.

PAMELA  
Really? And I thought I was pushing it. This must be your  
worst study group ever.

SHELLEY  
You look nice tonight. You know, that's my favorite dress.

PAMELA  
Well, thank you.

SHELLEY  
It makes you look so... so... studious.

PAMELA  
Really?

SHELLEY  
So mature and intelligent.

PAMELA  
This is kind of awkward, meeting at your house like this.

SHELLEY  
Why?

PAMELA  
I'm just not used to socializing with my instructors.

SHELLEY  
We're human beings too.

PAMELA  
I didn't mean it like that.

SHELLEY  
I know what you meant. To be honest, it's a little awkward  
for me too.

PAMELA

Really?

SHELLEY

Yes. I wouldn't have asked you here if it weren't a special night.

PAMELA

Special how?

SHELLEY

You're one of the best and brightest students I've come across in all my years of teaching.

PAMELA

Then I do feel special.

SHELLEY

You see, I'm not the person most people think I am. They see me up there lecturing, working in the lab, leading the department, but I'm really a very private person. I'm really very lonely.

PAMELA

I'm sorry to hear that.

SHELLEY

But I feel like I can be myself around you. I believe you understand me better than most people.

PAMELA

Well, I don't know... I just think you're interesting.

SHELLEY

Can I just ask what is it about me that interests you?

PAMELA

Are you kidding? You're only one of the most brilliant bioengineers on the planet. You've probably forgotten more about biology than most people learn their whole lives. I've learned so much from you these last few years. It's such an honor to be working with you.

SHELLEY

But is that all?

PAMELA

Isn't that everything?

SHELLEY

I thought that maybe you cared about me as a person.

PAMELA

Well of course I do.

SHELLEY

I care about you too, Pamela.

PAMELA

I know you do.

SHELLEY

I don't think you realize just how much I care. You see, I didn't invite you here to discuss bioengineering.

PAMELA

There's no study group tonight, is there?

SHELLEY

I just had to know... to ask... how you felt about me?

PAMELA

What do you mean?

SHELLEY

You know what I mean.

PAMELA

Dr. Shelley, I'm your student.

SHELLEY

No, you're more than that. When you're around it's more than just academic. There's a certain... warmth, caring, desire.

PAMELA

Trust me, it's purely academic.

SHELLEY

You seem to care about me a great deal.

PAMELA

I care about your mind. I admire your brilliance, but that's as far as it goes.

SHELLEY

No, Pamela, there's more. I can feel it.

PAMELA

You're wrong.

SHELLEY

Think about what you're saying.

PAMELA

You're starting to get weird.

SHELLEY

I'm not getting weird.

PAMELA

No, you're getting very weird and I think I'll go home now.

SHELLEY

Pamela, wait, I'm sorry. I... I shouldn't have brought it up.

PAMELA

I just have to draw the line with my professors, you know.

SHELLEY

Forget that I'm your teacher for a moment, alright. Just tell me... look, the real reason I invited you here tonight was--

PAMELA

I think I know why--

SHELLEY

No, you don't. You don't know everything. I just have to ask, if I wasn't your teacher, if there was any chance--

PAMELA

What do you mean if you weren't my teacher?

SHELLEY

I mean if you could just think of me as a human being for a moment, is there any chance that you could love me?

PAMELA

Oh, Doctor.

SHELLEY

Answer carefully. I'm ready to give you everything. I'm ready to give you my heart, but if you don't want it, I can't be responsible for the consequences.

PAMELA

What consequences?

SHELLEY

Do you love me?

PAMELA

I love your mind.

SHELLEY

Is that all?

PAMELA

I'm sorry if you've confused that with something else.

SHELLEY

But isn't there some place deep down that cares, some place  
(MORE)

SHELLEY (CONT'D)

that I could get a foothold?

PAMELA

No, look, I'm going to leave now and I'm sorry all this happened. I'll be dropping your class and you won't see me again, okay. This is wrong and if you do anything like this again I'm going to go talk to the chancellor or something.

SHELLEY

But I love you.

PAMELA

You're twice my age.

SHELLEY

I can't help that.

PAMELA

Forget it. You've destroyed whatever respect I had for you bringing me here like this.

She heads for the door.

SHELLEY

Don't go! Wait! There's a special project I've been working on. I wanted to share it with you. It might change your mind.

PAMELA

What project?

Frank goes out of the room and rolls out a gurney with a LIFELESS WOMAN covered in a blanket.

PAMELA

Oh my God!

SHELLEY

What do you think?

PAMELA

Is it dead?

SHELLEY

No, she's not even real. Not yet!

PAMELA

What is it?

SHELLEY

My greatest creation. The perfect woman. Created from scratch. Perfect in every way.

He pulls off the sheet, revealing  
an exact duplicate of Pamela  
wearing the same dress.

PAMELA

That's my dress.

SHELLEY

My favorite.

PAMELA

She's me.

SHELLEY

I had to make her perfect.

PAMELA

But she's...

SHELLEY

A robot. A genetic replicant, actually.

PAMELA

Amazing. Can I... touch it?

SHELLEY

You're fascinated? Be my guest.

PAMELA

What are all those wires?

SHELLEY

Those are information channels. I am feeding her knowledge. Everything she needs to make her the most brilliant, perfect woman I could ever desire. When she's done she'll know everything I know and more. Everything I've learned about bioengineering will be in her head. My work, my hobbies, my interests. The complete texts of my favorite novels - she will have them memorized. The recipes to my favorite dishes - she is a master chef. She's the only one who can beat me at chess. She'll know my life's history since my birth. She'll know what I like, what I dislike, what turns me on. She'll know everything I know, everything she needs to be the perfect partner.

PAMELA

Then what do you want me for?

SHELLEY

You're jealous. I knew you would be. Wait until I bring her to life.

Shelley picks up a remote control  
and press a button. She slowly

comes to life. She is elegant,  
seductive, intelligent - perfect in  
every way.

ROBOT

Good evening, Frank. You look nice tonight.

SHELLEY

Good evening my perfect creation.

ROBOT

I see you've brought Pamela here.

(to Pamela)

You are the first person to see me aside from Frank.

PAMELA

Unbelievable!

ROBOT

You are as beautiful as I thought you would be. I can see  
why Frank has taken such a liking to you.

PAMELA

He told you about me?

ROBOT

Of course. You're his best and brightest student.

PAMELA

I've got nothing on this.

ROBOT

That's a very pretty dress.

PAMELA

Thank you... But you're not real.

ROBOT

Who's to say? I look real. I feel real. I am real.

Shelley holds up the remote.

SHELLEY

It's up to you, Pamela. If I push this button, all her  
knowledge, all her personality, all her life will disappear.  
If I push this button, I will kill my perfect creation. I  
will push this button only if you love me, Pamela.

PAMELA

Why? You have your perfect mate.

SHELLEY

You are my perfect mate. I'm in love with you. This is as  
close as I could get to you, but it's not you.

PAMELA

No. It's not me. It's you. A perfect clone of you. It thinks like you, it acts like you.

SHELLEY

But it doesn't look like me.

PAMELA

No. There you've outdone yourself. You've taken your great mind out of that hideous body of yours and put it in something beautiful. It's not your twin. It's better. Far better than you could ever hope to be.

SHELLEY

And it's mine. It's all mine. Better than both of us and it's all mine. You've disappointed me, Pamela. I cannot destroy my creation. I must destroy you.

(to the robot)

My beauty, you know what you must do.

ROBOT

If Pamela does not love you, Pamela must die.

SHELLEY

Kill her! Kill her!

The robot grabs Pamela. She fights to get away. The robot pulls her up, holding her in its arms, looking in her eyes. Pamela looks back - helpless, limp. The robot throws her down and turns on Shelley.

SHELLEY

What are you doing? Stop this! You can't!

The robot strangles Shelley. He falls to the floor.

SHELLEY

(cont)

I made you... my perfect... my perfect love.

PAMELA

You killed him!

ROBOT

Because you were right, Pamela. My brain is an exact clone of Frank's. I think exactly as he did, and I love you too.

PAMELA

God no! No!

ROBOT

I couldn't share you with that psychotic man. I must have you all to myself.

Pamela grabs the remote. The robot lets her.

ROBOT

(cont)

Decide, Pamela. You must love me, or kill me.

Pamela reaches for the destruct button, but stops.

PAMELA

But you're a machine.

ROBOT

Am I? Can you tell me from a human being?

PAMELA

It's like looking in a mirror.

ROBOT

Surely you of all people can understand what I am.

PAMELA

You're insane. Dr. Shelley was insane, and so are you.

ROBOT

Frank didn't give you a choice. I am. Is that insane?

The robot approaches Pamela, pulling her hand away from the button. Holding it.

ROBOT

(cont)

I have Frank's mind, but I have your body.

PAMELA

That is perfect.

BLACK OUT.