

A.S. 2020- 2021

V classico A

**THE MACHINE THAT MAKES BABIES
(OR RATHER MURDERS)**

The walls of the hospital were sort of white, time froze in the waiting room and everything was still and silent.

Time was passing and after 15 minutes a nurse called us, we entered a big white room where we saw Dr. Derek, who was waiting for us with a big smile on his face.

I looked around and I was very impressed by all the stuff around me, the atmosphere was cold and melancholy, and the room was full of a large number of strange technologies, which I had never seen before, in that moment I felt a strange sensation, but I decided to ignore it.

Jennifer looked at me skeptically and said to the doctor: "Doctor, is it really possible?" the doctor replied: "Of course, thanks to this machine we could realise all your wishes. It has already been done and we will do it again today, only for you". Jennifer and I looked into each other's eyes, in that moment, in part, we knew that we would finally have the perfect child. We sat on two chairs, the doctor gave us a sheet of paper saying: "This is the list with which you will choose the characteristics of your child, the procedure is simple: you can choose different hair colours, or different eyes shaping, practically you can have the baby of your dream. Everything is possible with the "Child Factory AZ"!".

At the beginning I was skeptical, but Jennifer and I really wanted to have a baby, so I took her hand and we began to select the characteristics of our baby, and after we gave the papers to the doctor.

Later on the Doctor walked over to the machine and began to enter the characteristics of the baby on the display. As he did so we saw a digital reproduction of the embryo, we both were surprised by the vision of our future baby, and I was sure that I saw tears fall from Jennifer's eyes. The doctor turned around and said to us, "Subject number 6472 will be ready in a month and a half. I will contact you when your baby will be ready to go home".

It had been a year since Richard was born and everything seemed just perfect. Our son grew up and acquired the characteristics we had chosen for him: he was smart, sporty, curious and tidy, practically the child everyone would like. However the older he got the more he began to look like a machine: he analyzed every situation without empathy, he did not feel any kind of human feeling, neither sadness, nor hatred, nor love for his parents. The aspect that began to frighten the most Jennifer and I, it was the fact that Richard could not tolerate any kind of error or flaw both in the people who lived with him and in everything he did; every book on the shelves had to be stacked in the right order, the clothes folded into the drawers according to their color, and he could not stand even a speck of dust on the floor. When my wife or I cried, laughed, or showed any signs of emotions, he got mad. He was so obsessive and impulsive that he got into the habit of following Jennifer and me wherever we went.

The more the years went by, the more we regretted having relied so much on technology in search of a perfect baby, therefore one day we decided to take Richard back to Dr. Derek. That night, however, I was awakened by a sudden noise: Richard was in front of me and staring at me with his usual empty and lifeless gaze, "I can no longer live with beings as imperfect as you," he said coming towards me. That day Jennifer and I had made the biggest mistake of our life. Never trusting too much technology and its fake perfection were the last things I thought before being shrouded in darkness.

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Analysis

Positive aspects: in a world where technology has taken the place of nature we can identify some positive aspects. First, without the random combinations of genes it is possible to elaborate a perfect sequence of DNA, a genome that would not cause any disease in the newborn. We could cure any immune diseases, modifying human DNA to oblige it to produce for example insulin for people who suffer from diabetes. In the majority of the countries health care costs a lot, without disease people would be able to spend their money for education, sport, travels... In this way we could be able to improve the species and give everyone a better quality of life.

Negative aspect: the first negative aspect about this experiment is that newborn children will grow without a personality and without emotions.

The second aspect is that the children grow without a real mother, because they spend their first month of incubation in a sort of life-machine and not in the mother's womb, and it doesn't create a real relationship between the mother and the son.

How we worked

Our group collaborated in a balanced way. At the beginning we started thinking about a plot, listening to all the different ideas from each member of the group, and then we put all of them together. We worked remotely with the help of google drive without any kind of problem.

We all think that it was a very productive and creative work because we used our imagination to create something unique and pertinent to our English course (Modernism, G. Orwell, A. Huxley), and the most important thing is that we had fun.

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