

## "The clone agency"

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*Premiere 02*

In 2030, Michael James, a young teenager living in L.A was a child who was bullied at school because he wasn't the typical famous boy like the others: he wasn't the smartest guy, he was very shy and he has a tendency to fade (not to take his place), so he has accumulated because of all this a big lack of self confidence. That's why he hasn't got many friends to talk to or could help him with that. Given that he is not popular he has therefore received full of harassment, hatred and threats because he was different and because he did not fit into any box. In 2/3 years he received every day messages on social media, mails, messages, chat or just during class at school. One day, while he was working quietly at school, a group of teenagers came after him and started kicking him and punching him in the face and the stomach. So they fled quickly so they wouldn't get caught by anyone. Michael tries to get up and after several minutes he succeeds and decides to leave and set off to go home. To go home, Michael walks 20 minutes to arrive at a bus stop, and normally he have 30 minutes bus drive and he his finally at home. But today isn't a normal day ...

That day Michael was struggling to walk, but after a long walk he finally arrived at his bus stop. Michael was waiting for the bus and during this wait he thought about his aggression and asked himself many questions like: Why did they attack me? What did I do to make him hate me so much? Do I have to talk about it?

Suddenly, Michael saw a man in the distance who was moving slowly, the gentleman passed in front of him, looking at him with a smile and then went on his way. While Michael was reflecting on this most strange encounter, he realizes that the man dropped a paper. So Michael takes it and looks at what he marked on it: he did not have time to look at the subject of this card until he lifted his head to return the card to the gentleman, he disappeared as if by magic, it was as if he had vanished. The bus finally arrived and he decided to look in detail at the map and its contents. It was marked: clone agency with an address, a number and that's it. As soon as he returned home he decided to find out more about this agency. He noticed that this agency had no information on the internet, zero sites, not even a little information, nothing.

Michael, very surprised by this discovery, his curiosity exceeds him so he decided to go there to the address on the card because it was not even 20 minutes from his home. he wanted to see with his own eyes whether it was true or just a scam and the man's joke. After a few minutes of walking, he finally arrived at the address. Unfortunately it was a scam, there was nothing, just an alley with no shop, agency or even door. Just as Michael wanted to turn around, a door came out of nowhere and opened leaving a thread of light. At that moment, Michael's curiosity takes over, so he decides to run and enter this mysterious place.

He finally enter in this place. The first thing he saw is a big sign saying : clone agency. Michael was so happy to finally find the agency so he pushed another door and enter the agency.

He arrived in a huge white room. There was hardly any piece of furniture and was now alone. Despite his overwhelming curiosity, Michael wondered if he hadn't jumped into the mouth of the wolf by going to a stranger's address. He decided to turn around to go back home but the door through which he entered two minutes ago had disappeared as if by magic. Just like the man had disappeared at the bus stop. So he found himself stuck in this huge room and began to worry. He asked "is there anyone? ", " Can anyone hear me? ".

Suddenly, the mysterious stranger welcomed him with a tablet in his hands. Seeing that Michael was worried he reassured him by telling him that he was safe, that he had nothing to fear with him and that he could be back home in a short time. Then he introduced himself as the director of this "clone agency". He said, "Nice to finally meet you, my name is Karl. I have been watching you for several days. I noticed that you were bullied, and, having been bullied me too during my youth, I would like to help you. I would like to offer you a virtual clone. "

Michael, very surprised, he wondered himself, why him but not someone else and replied that it was not possible that it did not exist and that, by the way, he could not afford it at all. Karl understood the situation and informed Michael that if he accepted the offer he could become someone else by cloning himself, start a whole new life and even not be bullied again. He added that he wouldn't have to pay for the clone. Michael was won over by the idea of not being insulted and beaten over and over again, so he accepted Karl's offer. Nevertheless, the director of the agency informed him of the few conditions of this contract. He said, "If you accept my offer, you need to know some details. The clone will look like you like two drops of water, so no one should see you with him under any circumstances because our agency is very secret at the moment. You will also need to bring it back every year for a system check. Finally, he shouldn't replace you, he should just help you getting over this bad stage of your life. Use it with caution. "

Excited to stop being bullied, Michael agreed without even thinking about it. The young teenager signed the contract on the tablet, Karl took a picture of him in order to configure the clone. Then the two men agreed to meet the next day in order to recover the clone.

The next day, Michael was so excited to discover his clone that he didn't go to school. He went to the address from the day before, waited for the door to appear, then entered again. He was welcomed again by Karl who then led him into a room in which were a giant tube containing the levitating clone. When Michael found out about this, he was stunned by the disturbing resemblance. "You can call it whatever you like, now it's yours," said Karl. Karl opened the tube and the clone came out, approached Michael and said "nice to meet you". Still in shock, he didn't answer but didn't stop thanking Karl for everything he had allowed him to have. The director smiled and replied that he was happy for himself and that he understood his situation like no one.

After this, Michael and his clone hurried home for fear that someone would see them together. From now on, Michael's life changed completely.

The next day Michael sent his clone instead of him to high school. As soon as he arrived the other students didn't understand why Michael was prettier than before, well dressed what had never happened before. The other students asked him if everything was okay because they didn't understand why he had change like this in just 2 days. A week after it was a week full of exams, Michael had passed all these assessments: 20 in English, 20 in math, 18 in history. The teachers and the students didn't understand anything, it was the first time Michael had the average. The top three of the class (Anna, John, Lucy) began to get angry and jealous. At night, the clone told Michael how it went and he told him everything. Michael laughed and was very happy to see that the roles had been reversed. The week after the trio had gone to the teacher to ask him to redo an evaluation because it was not normal for Michael to get a better grade than them. The months passed and Michael had become first in his class, he had become popular in his high school, he was invited to every party, all the girls had fallen under his spell. Even Lili the girl John was in love with had fallen in love with Michael. Michael had become the favorite student of the teachers, all the students were on his side, everyone had turned against the trio. Everything was going well for Michael, he was living the life he dreamed and was very happy; He had gained self confidence and thanks to his grades. He even enter Harvard.

A year had passed and Michael had to go to the agency to see if the clone was fine.

Arriving at the agency Michael didn't know how to thanks Karl for what he did. Karl started the analysis of Michael's clone and after 5 minutes he found a flaw, a problem that never happened to a clone generally. It was a computer problem in the

programming of the clone which had reduced his life expectancy to only 10 years. Karl couldn't do anything to fix this problem. There was only ten years left of Michael's clone life after those ten years Michael was going to lose his clone and get his life back. Karl told him just one thing, not to use the clone too often and to use it only for important moments and that in 10 years time he must have a stable life because he will no longer be able to have his clone doing everything for him. However, Michael was still very happy that his clone was in great shape that he didn't listen to the rest. Just before leaving Karl tells Michael not to come to see him every year but just come back in ten years. Michael didn't understand why he told him that, but he agreed.

Michael did not trust others, people or even his family was aware of the existence of this clone except Karl. He became more and more obsessed with success, he wanted to achieve "perfection". 10 years later, He now had the money, the fame, the girls... He saw this achievement as revenge on all the people who had bullied him before. He was CEO of a large IT multinational. The knowledge of this clone was endless. His greatest achievement was an invention that would revolutionize the world of technology. However, Michael noticed over time some bugs on the clone but he decided not to pay attention to it, thinking that it would fix itself. Until the day he had to go to the agency because 10 years had passed. Michael and Karl had not seen each other for 10 years. Karl had designed the clones to grow on its own, which is why he no longer needed to reconfigure it every year. He had told Karl to come back 10 years later just for a little check-up but also to discuss with Michael his rise. During the verification, Karl was shocked, the clone was significantly impacted by a virus in his database. Karl got angry all of a sudden, he told him that he had nevertheless told him not to abuse the clone too much. Because in fact, when the clone was idle, its database would clean itself automatically. However, Michael didn't really listen to Karl's instructions, he used his clone way too much. It was a real problem, Karl informed him that he had to keep the clone for a while to fix his mistake. But for Michael it was impossible, his following days were in charge of conference for the presentation of his invention. Michael couldn't speak to millions of people about a subject he didn't understand, he lost the little self-confidence he had since he got the clone. He then decided to take by force the clone which was very light at rest and then to run out of the agency. Karl didn't even try to run after him, he knew Michael had made a big mistake. On top of that, when Michael ran out, he noticed a rather mysterious man in the avenue. You always had to be discreet when leaving the agency so as not to arouse suspicion. He had left the door wide open, so the man came forward and saw "clone agency". A few days later during the conference, the clone therefore presented its dialogue to the whole world. Everything was fine at first until suddenly the clone fell violently all at once. His skull then split open and everyone could see the cables inside him. Everyone was shocked but no one really knew what had happened because no one knew Michael. An investigation has therefore been launched to resolve this mystery. It was then that the mysterious man entered the scene. He testified by saying to have seen a man running out of a hidden clone agency that he had never seen before when he lives 5 minutes away from it. His testimony was precious because he had unmasked the owner of the clone and also the agency. Michael knew what was going on, he was at home and didn't know what to do. His life was meaningless without the clone. Karl was not aware of anything, not even aware that a man had noticed Michael and his agency. He was then surprised to see with a camera an army of police officers in front of his agency, he was trapped. He then got out and they arrested him. He was risking a lot. Michael also risked a lot, but he also had the world against him who called him an impostor. He knew he was done, that his life was going to be worse now than before the clone. He wondered what the point of it being to stay alive. He walked out of his house, went to a busy square, then said as his last words "I'm leaving with no regrets, I've enjoyed a lot during these 10 years. Thank you for all you have done, I'm sorry, Karl ". Then he shot himself in the head, in front of everyone.