

The Other

So, I wake up in the morning and look in the mirror and see this 'other' person looking at me.

I don't recognize the face in the mirror and ask myself why not.

Did I have a bad dream and now I don't know the person in the mirror?

I look around the room and there is this 'other' person sleeping in my bed. Who is it?

Did I lose my mind last night?

Who is this 'other' person? Is it my husband, is it my wife? Is it my lover, is it my other half? Is it my son, is it my daughter? Do I talk to this 'other' person? Do I share my life with him/her?

I walk out of my room and down the rickety stairs to the kitchen. Through the kitchen window I watch 'other' people going about their daily chores. The neighbour across the road is taking his pet for a walk. The children next door are running for the bus. A group of women are jogging down the road. I wonder what they are all thinking. I wonder who their 'other' person is.

I make myself a coffee and some toast and sit down to read the paper. I gaze at the pictures and don't seem to be able to focus on anything in particular. There is a photo of two people and a dog adjacent to a photo of a man in hospital. I automatically think that these two kind looking people and their dog are in trouble. The 'other' man looks very miserable. I skim through an article about a famous artist on his latest world tour. I like his music, but I don't think I want to be like all his 'other' fans and get squashed at the next concert that is nearest to our town.

Well, it's time to get ready and face the music. I go upstairs to get ready, find that there is no-one in the bed. Was I dreaming after all?

I leave the house, twenty minutes later, to join all the 'other' people on their way to... I wonder where. I rev up my car and drive off to my job in the city where I will meet the 'other' people I work with. I love my job as an architect. I am always meeting 'other' interesting people.

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Questions:

1. Why do you think the person doesn't recognize the face in the mirror, what happened?
2. Who is the 'other' person in bed? Why doesn't the writer recognize him/her?
3. What do you talk about with your other?
4. Where are the children going?
5. What do you think the women are talking about?
6. What do you think some of them are thinking? Choose three from the list.
 - a. their husband or boyfriend
 - b. their children
 - c. their job
 - d. their appointment at the doctor's clinic
 - e. their parents
 - f. their hair or nails
 - g. their diet
 - h. their next holiday
7. Why does the writer describe the two people in the newspaper as 'kind'?
8. What might have happened to the man in hospital?
9. Why does the writer **not** want to be like the 'other' fans? Would you like to be like them?
10. What does it mean 'to face the music'?
11. Was the writer dreaming after all?
12. Who does the writer work with and which type of people could the writer meet?
13. Do you think the writer is male or female?