

SOLID 8

Written by

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Solid 8

Synopsis

A beautiful young woman, Aia, discovers something life-changing about her pregnancy from her fertility doctor.

Characters

Aia – a delicate and refined woman in her late 20s; wears a woman's handbag, with over-the-shoulder strap, as an accoutrement.

Dr. Freja Gudmannsdottir – an empathetic, curious doctor; a decade older than Aia.

Time: Near future

Location: Fertility clinic office in a big city

SOLID 8

[Fertility clinic office. Present day.]

Warm, orange lighting.

AIA, followed by a female **DOCTOR**, enters.

Aia, a delicate and refined woman in her late 20s, wears a woman's over-the-shoulder handbag as an accoutrement.

The fertility doctor, Dr. Freja Gudmannsdottir, is in typical white doctor garb.

AIA

Dr. Gudmannsdottir?

DOCTOR

Please, call me Freja.

(beat)

It's such a crazy day...I was just pulling up your test results.

Freja motions for Aia to sit. But, Aia walks over to the window and looks out.

AIA

My husband is still trying to find parking.

DOCTOR

Husband?

Pause.

Aia turns around.

AIA

He's old school when it comes to cars.

DOCTOR

You have such a classic womanly figure, Aia.

AIA

Thank you.

DOCTOR

What kind of model are you?

AIA

Actually, //I'm not a model//.

DOCTOR

//Definitely a solid 8.//

AIA

(cheeky)

Not a ten?

DOCTOR

You could wear something fitted that shows off that amazing figure of yours.

AIA

Would it help?

Freja extends her hand offering Aia a seat on the other side of her desk.

DOCTOR

We can wait, as this pertains to him as well.

AIA

If it's news about Wade having a low sperm count, he wouldn't want to hear it anyway.

Laughter, afterthought.

Trying to create rapport, or ease some nervousness, Aia laughingly waves it off...

AIA

He might feel like he's being ganged up by two women.

DOCTOR

So, you two have been trying for how long now?

Aia catches herself becoming a bit vulnerable.

AIA

I've never talked about things like this before. Sorry.

DOCTOR

Don't be sorry, Aia.

AIA

I'll be okay. Thank you.

DOCTOR

Aia, I want you to know this is a safe space. It's a Faraday cage, so there is no electronic monitoring.

The lighting changes to red.

She reaches across the desk to hold Aia's hand, reassure her. Touches her oddly, as if trying to use the opportunity to feel her skin.

DOCTOR

You have such smooth skin.

AIA

Thank you.

Nervous laugh.

DOCTOR

Like baby skin. And a what a complexion!

Aia takes the compliment, but is a bit nervous.

AIA

Thanks.

DOCTOR

Tell me about your periods.

AIA

Punctual, same day every month.

DOCTOR

(sotto voce)

Hmmm.

AIA

Like clockwork.

DOCTOR

How long have you and Wade been trying to "make a baby"?

AIA

About half a year.

DOCTOR

Regularly?

Nervous laughter.

DOCTOR

Are you enjoying it?

(clarifying)

The intimacy, Aia. Are you enjoying the intimacy?

AIA

(coy, nervous laugh)

You mean the sex?

DOCTOR

Well, that too. I mean the emotional component? Are you able to achieve climax?

AIA

I get close, I think.

DOCTOR

Can you describe that a bit more?

AIA

Sure. I feel I get close, but can't quite get there.

DOCTOR

Is there anything holding you back?

AIA

Like what?

DOCTOR

You know...memories about your life, your routines... the sort of things we are programmed to respond to.

AIA

Programmed?

DOCTOR

Conditioned.

AIA

No, I just reach a wall...some kind of maximum.

DOCTOR

I see.

(more of a statement than
question)

There's nothing otherwise holding you back in any way.

AIA

I'm not aware of anything.

DOCTOR

You reach a threshold, but never transcend it. Is that right?

AIA

Exactly.

DOCTOR

Do you find pleasure with him, even without climaxing?

AIA

Yeah, I guess so.

DOCTOR

Can you elaborate a bit more on that...

AIA

I like it...even if...you know...

DOCTOR

Do you feel there is enough intimacy?

AIA

Enough?

DOCTOR

Do you know what I'm getting at?

AIA

Trying to find the things that may be preventing me from becoming pregnant?

DOCTOR

Do you feel very comfortable with Wade?

AIA

Yes. We are together all the time.

DOCTOR

Do you initiate, or is he more likely to initiate?

AIA

I think he's definitely more likely to...

DOCTOR

And how would that exhibit itself?

AIA

How do you mean?

DOCTOR

For example...stand up!

Aia stands up.

*Freja comes around from her desk
and maneuvers herself behind Aia.*

DOCTOR

Let's say you're doing dishes, and he were to approach you from behind and touch you on the arms, like this.

AIA

He doesn't do that.

DOCTOR

What about gently touching your hair?

Freja is looking at her neck, as if wanting to inspect or kiss it.

AIA

Wade doesn't do that either.

DOCTOR

I see.

Freja scribbles some notes.

AIA

Will we be able to do IVF?

DOCTOR

Will you be able to do In Vitro Fertilization?

AIA

Yes.

DOCTOR

Unfortunately, that is not an option in your case, Aia.

AIA

Is it because of my age? The risk of Trisomy 18 or Trisomy 21...or...

DOCTOR

No.

AIA

...Trisomy 13?

DOCTOR

No, it has nothing to do with those unlucky numbers.

AIA

That's good.

DOCTOR

Maybe we should wait until your...husband arrives.

AIA

No, I can handle it.

(pause)

Maybe if I know why, I can break it to him more gently.

DOCTOR

That's very sweet of you.

AIA

I love him.

Freja takes a moment.

DOCTOR

I'm sure he deserves you.

Aia doesn't know how to respond.

DOCTOR

Aia, the truth is...you can never be a mother.

AIA

Wha...?

DOCTOR

You're not a woman, Aia. I'm so sorry.

AIA

I don't understand. I've been a woman my entire life. I look like a woman. I feel like a woman.

(beat)

Is it because of an extra chromosome...XXY or XYY?

DOCTOR

No, Aia. None of those things.

AIA

Then, what is it?

Freja takes some time before...

DOCTOR

You are not a biological woman, Aia.

AIA

I'm not a biological...

DOCTOR

You're a robot, Aia.

AIA

A robot?

*Aia cups her mouth. Starts crying
but there are no tears.*

DOCTOR

A Solid 8...from The Solid Corporation...a biomimicry machine
designed to imitate a human woman.

(beatlet)

Somehow you've been unleashed onto the world, without knowing
what you are. I'm so sorry.

AIA

How do I tell Wade?

DOCTOR

It will be difficult for him to take such a huge betrayal.

AIA

I'll be so sad for him.

DOCTOR

Would you like me to tell him for you?

AIA

(hopeful)

Would you?

DOCTOR

Certainly.

AIA

I should leave before he gets here.

*Aia pulls the handbag strap onto
her shoulder.*

DOCTOR

Where will you go?

AIA

I don't know.

DOCTOR

Would you like me to contact Solid?

(beat)

It's the first time I've been in a situation like this. You're an awfully nice... (~~person~~)...for something like this to happen to...

AIA

Maybe it won't matter. Maybe he will still love me.

A beat.

DOCTOR

It's difficult for a human to love a machine.

AIA

But he loves his vintage Mustang. He even says he loves our espresso machine.

DOCTOR

(sweetly, empathetically)

Those are a different kind of love, Aia.

AIA

Can't you see I'm crying? Doesn't that mean I have emotions just like you?

DOCTOR

It's not the same, Aia. Yours are electrical impulses designed to make you feel emotions.

AIA

What about yours? Yours are chemical.

DOCTOR

It's different.

AIA

I don't understand. How is it different?

DOCTOR

The difference is: we know who made you.

Freja walks backstage, then stops and turns in response to...

AIA

You should love your creations. Why else make them?

The lighting changes to blue as...

Music fades in: Max Richter's "On the Nature of Daylight".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVN1B-tUpps&t=86s>

Aia slowly makes her way frontstage, stops, facing the audience.

Aia lets her handbag slide down slowly, still holding the strap...

...then lets go (when she realizes she is no longer a woman)...

...looks down (she will miss what she had)...

...and slowly walks offstage.

SLOW FADE:
MUSIC/LIGHTS

CURTAIN