

Encapsulated Season 3 Episode 7

FADE IN:

INT. CLUTTERED APARTMENT - DAY

There are piles of clothes, stacks of paperwork and home office supplies, and an abundance of cat toys scattered throughout the cozy 2-bedroom apartment. Courtesy of a young, relaxed millennial couple: RITA (34) and MEL (33)

They're lounging lazily on the couch with their mimics, watching a video on Mel's laptop. Behind them, their cat, Tiger, is peering out from a pile of dirty clothes.

MEL

Look, Tiger, there you are!

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr!

They're watching the AFV clip from last episode. Mel and his mimic are in the kitchen, and Tiger is watching them suspiciously. Then Rita and her mimic enter, and Tiger jumps in the air.

Mel and Rita laugh playfully with their mimics, and rewind the video to replay the moment. Tiger purrs in approval.

MEL

I still can't believe they accepted it!

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr!

RITA

I know! It's surreal, being on TV.

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr! Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

Speaking of surreal... Tiger still glares suspiciously whenever the mimics talk. Rita and Mel seem unfazed by their mimics, but Tiger doesn't let her guard down.

INT. BEACH-SIDE TACO SHOP - DAY

Rita, Mel, and their mimics are eating tacos on the patio. Their mimics have their own plates of tacos, and are 'eating' them simultaneously.

The waiter and his mimic stop by. They're both wearing a sombrero and sunglasses.

WAITER

What up my dudes? Everything good?

WAITER'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr? Mrr mrr mrr mrr?

MEL

Perfect as always!

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

RITA

Taco Tuesday is life!

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

WAITER

You know it! Holler if you need me!

WAITER'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr! Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr!

He leaves. The four of them continue eating contentedly.

EXT. DOWNTOWN PLAZA - DAY

The four of them are browsing the local shops. Some people have their mimics, others don't, but nobody seems to mind one way or the other.

Every now and then, a sign in a store's window will read: 'Humans Only' or 'Mimics Welcome'.

RITA

Where to next?

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr?

MEL

Hmm... Something NECESSARY, or something FUN?

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr... Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr

RITA

I would say fun, but, with groceries this week, we don't really have the budget unforch.

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

RITA

(turning to the mimics)

You guys aren't cheap!

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

MEL

But we love you anyways.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

They continue walking, when a man in a Hawaiian shirt, KLAUS (62), smiles politely and hands them each a flyer.

His mimic is wearing a matching shirt over his original 'clothes', and passes out flyers to their mimics.

KLAUS

If you're looking for answers, we're holding our first meeting tonight at 7.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

MEL

Is it nearby?

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr?

KLAUS

Just a few blocks inland.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

Mel and Rita seem intrigued. The flyer reads:
Reflections, a collective led by Shelley Kahn.
We know why they're here, and we want to welcome them.
Join us on the 24th. Address on the back.

Klaus continues his pitch.

KLAUS

Shelley is a delight, very wise, very patient,
and she sees the truth clearly.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

We'd love if you can make it. Shelley welcomes
skeptics, just not deceivers. If your hearts are
pure and receptive, she'll open your eyes.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

RITA

You're in luck - our hearts are as open as our
calendar. We'll be there.

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

Mel and his mimic nod in agreement. Klaus and his mimic
thank them and bid them farewell.

INT. SHELLEY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SHELLEY (79) has a spacious house, but even so, there's barely enough room for everyone. There are over a hundred people gathered with their mimics, including Mel and Rita.

There's no furniture, just decorative rugs. Everyone is seated on the floor. Klaus, Shelley, and their mimics are in the center of the circle.

A few, like Klaus, are wearing colorful Hawaiian shirts, but most are in regular clothes. Shelley is a stately, elegant woman, with faded tie-dye robes, billowing hair, and a dazzling variety of necklaces and bracelets.

Note: She's also deaf, Klaus is her interpreter. Anytime the text is in *italics*, that means Klaus is translating.

Shelley signs and introduces herself; her mimic always signs identically along with her.

KLAUS

Greetings. My name is Shelley Kahn. Welcome to Reflections, skeptics and believers alike.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

I'd like to begin with a story about-

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr-

Shelley stops. She stares at a group of college students huddled in the back. Soon, everyone is looking at them.

The students seem confused.

KLAUS

I'll wait.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr.

The students shrug nonchalantly, still confused. Shelley glares intensely and signs deliberately.

KLAUS

Where. Are. Your. Mimics?

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr. Mrr. Mrr. Mrr?

Some of the students speak up.

STUDENT 1

I didn't think we would... You know...

STUDENT 2

It's not a big deal, we can bring 'em next time.

KLAUS

Would you show up at a wedding with water and declare: 'the drinks have arrived'?

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

Please stop wasting our time.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

The students are aghast, and they're happy to leave.

STUDENT 3

Fine by me.

STUDENT 4

You're all in a CULT!

STUDENT 5

Fucking waste of time...

Shelley and the others wait patiently until they're gone. She scans the room, makes sure that everyone else brought their mimic, then continues.

KLAUS

That's better, isn't it?

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

Everyone chuckles and murmurs in agreement.

KLAUS

My whole life, I've been eagerly anticipating their arrival. I remember as a young woman when they abducted me. I thought it was a dream, but it wasn't recurring, it happened only once.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

The memory floats in bits and pieces, but I distinctly recall they extracted my DNA, and injected it into a mold. A blank body, without any distinguishing features.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

Then the mold shifted, morphed, transformed, and took on specificity. I watched and marveled at the conversion. And I beheld MYSELF, a perfect likeness smiling back at me, radiant and pure.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

And in a blink, I was transported back to Earth, almost as if in a dream. At first, I suspected that they tried to purge my memory. But now I believe that they purposely left some of my memory intact, to prepare me for the future.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

It wasn't until they finally arrived that I realized this recreation was not just ME, not merely my appearance. She was PURE, SINLESS, lacking in malice. My OPTIMAL self.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

And so it is that I've invited you all, because in exactly one week's time, I will initiate my transference, and I want to share the moment, hasten their benevolence, and truly LIVE.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

The room goes silent. Everyone was listening to her story with rapt interest. Shelley smiles warmly.

KLAUS

Are there any questions?

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

One of the members, CHRISTOPHER (45), raises his hand, along with his mimic.

CHRISTOPHER

When you say transference... You mean, we'll be transferring into our mimic's bodies?

CHRISTOPHER'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

Weren't you listening? They're clones of us. We're already IN their bodies, it's US, what an inane question.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

We're transferring CONTROL to them, giving them governance of the planet, so we can finally achieve a utopia, free of pain and evil.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

CHRISTOPHER

Oh. So... We're going to separate from them, and live side by side? How?

CHRISTOPHER'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

No, no no no no no. We will relinquish control, and transfer it to them. Remember, they are already US. The transference is to remove our impure selves and make way for the new.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Christopher and the others ponder this - the lightbulb has gone off more quickly for some, like DANA (41).

DANA

So we're killing ourselves?

DANA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

KLAUS

Only the lesser version.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

DANA

Yeah, this is a cult. You guys need help.

DANA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr. Mrr mrr mrr mrr.

She and her mimic leave, as do at least 30 of the others. They grumble and complain while they file out of the room.

But the rest of them stay seated, including Rita and Mel. Once again, the remaining members wait patiently until the nay-sayers are all gone.

KLAUS

Glad we got THAT out of the way...

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

They all laugh. Shelley extends her hands, beckoning for more questions. Mel and his mimic raise their hands.

MEL

What can we do to prepare?

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

KLAUS

Whatever you feel led to do. Take a trip, organize your house, visit loved ones, act as if nothing will change... Your choice.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Mel seems satisfied with the answer. There's another lull.

KLAUS

If there are no other questions, then I bid you all good night. We will reconvene in 3 days, at the same hour, here, in final preparation.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Shelley nods at them kindly. Klaus helps her up, then escorts her and her mimic to the back room, while the guests mingle and leave for the night.

INT. MEL AND RITA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Mel and his mimic are in the shower. It's comical partly because... he's in the shower with his mimic. Partly because his mimic is 'clothed' the whole time.

MEL

(singing)

They're gonna take over and it's gonna be lit because they're really just us, but better and nicer and totally chill...

MEL'S MIMIC

(singing along)

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

INT. MEL AND RITA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mel's 'singing' is audible in the background. Tiger is burrowing her head in the couch cushions, comically trying to tune out the noise.

INT. MEL AND RITA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Meanwhile, Rita is showing her mimic around the kitchen.

RITA

Okay, so you know where the cat food is, and obviously OUR food, we have enough for-

(looking in the pantry)

Maybe two more weeks?

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

RITA

Usually I shop at the farmer's market every Saturday morning. Oh! I almost forgot, here's your bank card!

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

She pulls out her wallet and gives her mimic the card, but her mimic hands it right back, unsure what to do with it.

RITA

I should probably just leave my wallet on the counter beforehand... The pin is 4321.

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

MEL

(from the bathroom)

And it'll be PERFECT because mimics are AWESOME!

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr!

RITA

(continues pacing)

Now, the doctor's number is... Well, I guess you don't need a doctor, do you?

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

RITA

But TIGER'S doctor is just down the road, very smart guy, you can call him 24/7.

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Rita stops and catches herself.

RITA

Rita, you of little faith, she's YOU, she'll figure it out just fine. Won't you?

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Rita smiles and hugs her mimic; the mimic hugs her back. Mel keeps singing badly, and Tiger buries her head deeper into the couch.

INT. SHELLEY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

This time, there are only 40 people, sitting on the rugs like last time. Most have Hawaiian or tie-dye shirts.

Shelley's eyes are closed while she signs, almost like she's in a trance. Everyone else is swaying and humming.

KLAUS

If we go on living, our mimics cannot live. Through our death, they will truly live, and we will continue living through them.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

It may take years before their reign becomes permanent and far-reaching. Only when the last corrupted humans have perished will their work finally be completed.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

Utopia WILL be achieved. It's not a matter of 'if', but 'when'. In our corrupted forms, we cannot eat of its fruit or gaze upon its beauty and splendor.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

But we CAN hasten the transfer and quicken the arrival of the new kingdom. We can untether our superior selves so they can more readily begin the work of reconstruction. Amen.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr

Everyone opens their eyes and stops swaying.

Same as last time, Shelley extends her arms for questions. Christopher's hand immediately goes up.

CHRISTOPHER

What about newborns? Will they have mimics?

CHRISTOPHER'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr? Mrr mrr mrr?

Shelley smiles and chuckles softly before responding.

KLAUS

They won't NEED them, don't you see? The world will be perfect. With perfect mothers, fathers, leaders and caretakers, they too will become perfect and without blemish.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

CHRISTOPHER

What about animals?

CHRISTOPHER'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr?

KLAUS

Animals may one day be blessed to experience their transforming power. For now, humanity is the sole recipient.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Christopher seems satisfied. Mel raises his hand.

MEL

I can't help but feel... Nervous. For them.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr... Mrr mrr mrr

Shelley looks at him quizzically and motions for him to expand on his concerns.

MEL

Because, well, they'll be living in hostility, what with all the humanists. The hatred and distrust people have, won't it be dangerous? Until all the evil in the world is eliminated, won't it be hard for them.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Shelley nods empathetically, but she doesn't seem fearful or nervous herself.

KLAUS

Bear in mind, they're immortal. Such is the benefit of perfection - perfect in virtue, and perfect in form. No humanist can harm them.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

And remember, your departure will give them the freedom to be themselves. Although you're right, for some time, they'll live as if among wolves. We can aid them by unshackling them.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Mel is relieved by her answer. He and Rita hold hands, and so do their mimics.

KLAUS

Any other questions? I don't want to leave you with any doubts or uncertainty. If not, we will convene for the transference in 4 days, and then our mimics will be free. Good night.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr? Mrr mrr mrr mrr...

This time, Shelley stays to mingle with the others, and they all chat amongst themselves.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The sun is starting to set. Rita, Mel, and their mimics are walking along the sand, wearing pink Hawaiian shirts and holding hands.

RITA

Any last words for the beach?

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

MEL

Beach... You were very sandy.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr... Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

RITA

We'll be back soon, but just two of us.

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

MEL

It would be three, but Tiger hates the waves.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

RITA

I hope Tiger manages okay...

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

MEL

She'll love it! It'll be much less confusing.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr! Mrr mrr mrr mrr.

Rita smiles and sighs with relief. They kiss, then gaze at the sunset together, their mimics standing beside them.

INT. SHELLEY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The members of the Reflections Collective are gathered for the transference. Everybody is wearing colorful clothes. Shelley looks positively psychedelic in her neon tie-dye robes and glimmering jewels.

There's a palpable excitement as Klaus and his mimic distribute jumbo gummy bears (the size of strawberries).

KLAUS

Don't eat it yet... Wait until we're all ready...

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr... Mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Finally, everyone and their mimics have a gummy bear.

Shelley smiles cheekily and begins her farewell address.

KLAUS

A gummy bear? What an odd choice, Shelley!

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr? Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

They all laugh.

KLAUS

To the outside observer, this bear seems thoroughly absurd. Ridiculous. Inexplicable. However, to those who take it seriously, it's a palatable, safe, even welcoming alternative to its natural counterpart.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

And so, it's a fitting emblem of the mimic, and therefore, the vessel for our transference.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

KLAUS

And now, we transfer ownership, control, and autonomy to our better selves. For the good of all humankind.

KLAUS'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

They all murmur in agreement, hold up their gummy bears, then proceed to eat them, mimics included.

The room is quiet, save for the sound of chewing. They all look around at each other in anticipation.

After a bit, silence. They're all done eating. Shelley reclines in her mimic's arms; Klaus and the others follow her lead. Rita and Mel gaze lovingly at each other.

Then, one by one, the humans collapse. Within minutes, they're all dead.

Their mimics, no longer bound to follow them, stand up and leave the house, murmuring and smiling obliviously.

INT. MEL AND RITA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mel's mimic is mrr-mrr-ing loudly in the shower, while Rita's mimic is eating in the kitchen. Tiger is hiding under a pile of clothes to drown out the singing.

EXT. TACO SHOP - DAY

The surfer waiter and his mimic watch in astonishment as Mel and Rita's mimics dine and chat at their usual table, without their humans.

EXT. DOWNTOWN PLAZA - DAY

Klaus's mimic is on the street corner, smiling blankly and handing out flyers. Mel and Rita's mimics stop by politely and both take a flyer.

INT. SHELLEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shelley's mimic is wandering aimlessly through her house. There are dozens of police officers and EMTs on the scene, taking pictures and wheeling the corpses away.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Mel and Rita's mimics are sitting in the sand, letting the waves wash over them.

MEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr?

RITA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr.

They hold hands, kiss, and look out at the sunset.

FADE OUT.