

## The Mortician

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I add the eyelashes carefully, which is always the hardest part. It is difficult to recreate the look in a living person's eye, there is always a gleam missing characterized by the joys and sorrows of life. It usually looks different in each person, too, as not everybody has experienced the same plights and delights. Afterwards, I move the teeth slightly to the left. I hear a crack. Dammit, I broke a tooth. Handling human anatomy is not at all easy.

There it goes, repairing it again. I sigh tiredly and get my special glue and begin the hard work. Humming, I paste the broken corner to the rest of it. I carefully open the whole buccal cavity and try again: lift it (this usually requires some strength, as these things are well stuck), and forcefully thrust it down again. Ah, this time it is aligned and symmetrical. I appreciate my work for some time, feeling like Pygmalion, though my job is much messier and filthier than his was. There is nothing that I like more than a pretty face: well-aligned teeth, contoured nose, and slim eyebrows. I hate it when they don't look pretty, one puts so much effort with it sometimes and they end up looking average.

The lips, even though it may be surprising, are also a very hard part of the job. Sometimes it is difficult to get the colour right, as sometimes they get smudged due to the brutality and harshness of the job. So, I delicately outline the edge of the lips with a crimson colour that seems natural considering the context. I adjust the wig and caress one of the ears. Restoring is hard, one has to get creative and find different ways of fixing each problem; (that damn tooth that broke three times already), but once it does for the first time you know that it's going to happen again. It never functions well once it breaks.

Nonetheless, it is not an easy profession, however astonishing it may seem. The job can be emotionally draining. To be honest, sometimes the final result can end up being disappointing, and there's nothing worse for your professional reputation than angry clientele. Additionally, the hours can be long and difficult: standing all day, having to measure temperatures perfectly in order to not ruin the art piece, and waiting for the right cooling period. Perfection takes time, and cleanliness even more.

However, you get unique working opportunities: every task is a challenge, and sometimes nature can act in mysterious ways because, even if you follow the same process every time, the results can always turn out to be different. What's more, we are transformers. We have the ability to create, transform, restore as if we were King Midas himself. And besides, not everyone can do it nor wants to, no one likes to get their hands soiled so they prefer to pay for somebody else to do the job.

I admire the results of my job one last time. Everything looks fine: the enticing strands of hair, the firm, velvety skin, as well as the squishy, glossy eyeballs. It's quite weird to think that somebody would order a cake as creepy as this, but I guess now with these new Cake or Fake challenges you never know. "Maybe I'll recreate this next Halloween, give somebody a good scare," I think while chewing some white-chocolate teeth. These things might break often, but they surely taste good.

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