

The Splitting Image

Exposing the Secret World of
Doubles, Decoys, and Impostor-Replacements

Tina Foster

First Edition



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1. Introduction

*The eye sees only what the
mind is prepared to comprehend.*

~ Henri L. Bergson

Former *Saturday Night Live* comedian, Tony Rosato, was imprisoned in 2005 after complaining to police that his wife and infant daughter had been replaced by impostors.¹ The prison psychiatrist, Dr. Duncan Scott, diagnosed Rosato with Capgras Syndrome, which is a mental illness characterized by the notion that someone has been replaced by a double.²

Although Rosato's belief might seem funny on its face, the fact is that there is a long history of body doubles being used in psychological operations ("psy-ops"). Psy-ops are military operations "aimed at influencing the enemy's state of mind through noncombative means."³ Public ignorance of how doubles are used in spycraft has helped to keep this realm of covert intelligence operations sub rosa. To protect the secret and keep the public in the dark, claims of doubles are ridiculed, denied, and suppressed by the powers that be.⁴

¹ Freed, Dale Anne. "From jokester to jailbird." Toronto Star Thestar.com. N.p., 13 May 2007. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.thestar.com/News/article/213298>>.

² *Id.*

³ "Definition of psyops," Merriam-webster.com. Web. 13 Jan. 2017. <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/psyops>>.

⁴ See Beter, Dr. Peter David. "Audio Letter No. 46." May 28, 1979, <<http://www.peterdavidbeter.com/docs/all/dbal46.html>>.

Impostors have been used at least since medieval times to serve as instruments of intrigue.⁵ Mata Hari, the famous World War I dancer and double agent, is an example. When she went to Berlin for espionage training, the Germans sent an impostor to take her place on her dancing tours.⁶ No one noticed the difference.⁷

A double pretends to be someone else (the “target”) in order to deceive onlookers into believing he is the other person. To be convincing, there must be a strong physical resemblance, which can be enhanced through the use of disguises, prosthetics, and plastic surgery. Identical twins are ideal doubles, because they are physically indistinguishable from one another. Antonio and Patricio de la Guardia were identical twin brothers who worked as Cuban spies.⁸ Dr. Peter David Beter, intelligence specialist and author of the book *Conspiracy Against the Dollar*, maintained that clones, organic robotoids, and synthetic humans were being used as doubles in the late 1970’s.⁹ Fleshing out this possibility is beyond the scope of this book. Suffice it to say that anyone or *anything* could potentially serve as a double.

⁵ Beter, Dr. Peter David. “Audio Letter No. 44.” N.p. 29 March 1979. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.peterdavidbeter.com/docs/all/dbal44.html>>.

⁶ Armstrong, John. “JFK 101: An excerpt from ‘Harvey & Lee: How the CIA Framed Oswald.’” Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <http://web.archive.org/web/20110404121334/http://www.jfkresearch.com/jfk_101.html>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Beter. “Audio Letter No. 46.”

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In addition to looking like his target, a double must speak and act like him. For example, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, was famous for the inspiring radio speeches he gave during World War II. However, some of those speeches were actually delivered by his voice double, Norman Shelley.¹⁰



*Hillary Clinton, 2009*¹¹

One may think it difficult to find doubles for public figures. However, it is actually pretty easy. There are many talent agencies that specialize in lookalikes of celebrities and politicians. For example, Teresa Barnwell is a well-known impersonator of former Senator Hillary Clinton.¹² Even finding doubles to use as political decoys and in spycraft is not as

¹⁰ Thorpe, Vanessa. “Finest hour for actor who was Churchill's radio voice.” *The Observer*. Guardian News and Media. N.p. 29 Oct. 2000. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2000/oct/29/uknews.theobserver>>.

¹¹ Photo by United States Department of State - Official Photo at Department of State page, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7526134>.

¹² Kitching, Chris. “Is this the greatest Hillary lookalike in the world? Advertising executive quit her job to impersonate the presidential candidate full-time.” *Daily Mail*. N.p. 11 July 2016. Web. 7 Jan. 2017. <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3684267/Hillary-Clinton-lookalike-Teresa-Barnwell-quit-job-impersonate-presidential-candidate-time.html>>.

difficult as one might assume. According to Antonio Mendez, former chief of disguise for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and a co-author of the book *Spy Dust*, “Finding lookalikes willing to serve a higher calling isn’t difficult, particularly when patriotic passions are inflamed.”¹³ Some coercion may be necessary on occasion. Abdul-Latif Yahia agreed to work as Uday Hussein’s double after being imprisoned and threatened with the rape of his sister.¹⁴

A South Korean actor, Kim Young-Shik, was cast in a movie role as former North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Il, because of his resemblance and ability to impersonate the “Dear Leader.”¹⁵ However, other actors may have played the role of Kim as doubles in real life.¹⁶ According to North

¹³ Zeller, Tom. “The World; Will the Real Saddam Hussein Please Step Down.” *The New York Times*. N.p. 6 Oct. 2002. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/06/weekinreview/the-world-will-the-real-saddam-hussein-please-step-down.html>>.

¹⁴ Copel, Lib. “Body Double: Both Sides Of the Ploy.” *The Washington Post*. N.p. 21 March 2003. Web. 13 Jan. 2017. <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2003/03/21/body-double-both-sides-of-the-ploy/8352f20e-2836-4896-891c-c686d8cd00de/>>.

¹⁵ Jie-Ae, Sohn. “Meet Kim Jong Il's lookalike.” *CNN. Cable News Network*. N.p. 7 Sept. 2006. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/asiapcf/09/07/kim.lookalike/index.html>>; Demick, Barbara. “A Dictator's Double Is Keeping Up Appearances.” *Los Angeles Times*. N.p. 11 June 2006. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://articles.latimes.com/2006/jun/11/world/fg-lookalike11/2>>.

¹⁶ Kirk, Donald. “Would the real Kim Jong-Il please sit back down in his wheelchair?” *WorldTribune.com*. N.p. 30 Oct. 2009. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2009/ea_nkorea0848_10_30.asp>.

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Korean refugees, there were several Kim lookalikes.¹⁷ Ha Tae-kyung, host of Open Radio for North Korea, said a North Korean defector told him that “he [knew] a girl whose father [was] the actor for Kim Jong-II.”¹⁸

Meyrick Edward Clifton James, a British soldier and actor during World War II, landed the role of a lifetime when he was recruited to play the part of General Bernard Montgomery by United Kingdom Security Service, MI5.¹⁹ James’ uncanny resemblance to “Monty” was spotted by British Lieutenant-Colonel, J.V.B. Jervis-Reid in a 1944 newspaper article featuring James.²⁰ After the war, James recounted his experiences in his 1954 book, *I Was Monty's Double*.²¹ In the 1958 film based on the book, James played both Montgomery and himself.²²

¹⁷ Kirk, Donald. “Did President Clinton meet N. Korea's Kim Jong-il or his look-alike?” *The Christian Science Monitor*. N.p. 29 Oct. 2009. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2009/1029/p06s10-woap.html>>.

¹⁸ Kirk. “Would the real Kim Jong-II please sit back down in his wheelchair?”

¹⁹ Hill, Martin. “The Imposter General: Bernard Montgomery's D-Day Body Double.” *Decoded Past*. N.p. 15 June 2013. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://decodedpast.com/the-imposter-general-bernard-montgomerys-d-day-body-double/1332>>.

²⁰ Whaley, Barton and Susan Stratton Aykroyd. *Turnabout and Deception: Crafting the Double-Cross and the Theory of Outs*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2016. p. 66.

²¹ Hill. “The Imposter General: Bernard Montgomery's D-Day Body Double.”

²² *Id.*



*General Bernard Montgomery (left)²³ vs.
M.E. Clifton James (right)²⁴*

Franklin D. Roosevelt may have had a double, as some researchers have noted the absence of a mole over his eyes and inconsistencies in the earlobes.²⁵ Some speculate that Roosevelt may have actually died before his death was officially announced.²⁶

Former U.S. presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, has been suspected of having a body double (other than Teresa

²³ Photo by http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afhra/wwwroot/photo_galleries/merhar/Photos/01097635_017.jpg, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46423>.

²⁴ Photo by Unknown - Francis Russell: *Wojna wywiadów*, Warszawa, Amber 1998, ISBN 83-7169-748-1., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24834791>.

²⁵ Springmeier, Fritz. *Deeper insight into the Illuminati Formula*. Charleston, SC: Createspace, 2010 p. 312. Print.

²⁶ *Id.*

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Barnwell).²⁷ Photographs taken on September 11, 2016 purport to show differences in the cheekbones, skin (smooth versus wrinkled), and a different body type from previous photos.²⁸ Some think the lack of security around Clinton that day was also a clue that a double was standing in for her.²⁹

This book explores some tactical uses of doubles in psy-ops and discusses some of the more famous cases. Due to the furtive nature of clandestine operations, some of the allegations in this book are difficult to prove. The information is offered nonetheless to illustrate certain strategies involving doubles. In the interest of advancing historical doubles research, images of some of the people discussed in this book are available on the *Plastic Macca* blog at <http://plasticmacca.blogspot.com/2017/01/the-splitting-image-by-tina-foster.html>.

The next chapter deals with psychological warfare operations involving political decoys.

²⁷ May, Ashley. "The Internet thinks Hillary Clinton has a body double." USA Today. N.p. 13 Sept. 2016. Web. 30 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/09/13/internet-thinks-hillary-clinton-has-body-double/90297312/>>.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*