

REFLEX (brief summary)
Christine Thomas (Bryce)

Birthplace: Wellington, Shropshire, England

Christie Bryce grew up in the small town of Wellington, about 15 miles west of Birmingham. In this small, slow farming community Christie's obvious superiority of the mind made her stand out as different. People thought her snobbish or were intimidated by her quick answers, so left her alone a great amount of time. She spent most of her spare time reading the many physiology, psychology and medical books her father kept in his library. Christie was always fascinated by her father's work, and often followed and assisted the physician on his house call rounds. She wanted nothing more than to follow in her father's footsteps as she had no female role model since her mother died soon after Christie's birth.

At the age of 15, Christie began her higher education as a private student at the University of London, majoring in the neurosciences. With plans to enter the campus's medical school, Christie finished her master's work quickly and proceeded to work toward a science doctorate. During this time, her relationships with other people grew stronger, as her naturally sympathetic nature allowed her to understand people and know what they needed. Little by little she began to experience new people, and a particular man named Bryan Thomas who would change her life.

During her doctorate work, a young physicist named Bryan was working on his doctorate project in the lab next to Christie's. They often went out to lunch or breakfast together and for the first time in her life, Christie felt a strong attraction, an affection, toward a man. He was good looking, funny, and very intelligent, but most of all, he cared for her. They had been seeing each other for almost a year when she got a phone call from MI-6, the branch of the British Secret Service dealing with matters outside of England. They wanted to hire her for neurological engineering projects which they would fully fund. They said they were looking for a way to expand the brain's capacity of use and since she was one of the country's leading experts in neurophysiology, she was offered the position. One stricture of her job was that she could tell no one her true employer, not even Bryan, for national security reasons. The front cover for the company was called Neuromed Inc. and she had to tell everyone that it was a privately funded research facility. Bryan fully supported her new job and around the date of starting, the two received their doctorates.

Christine, now 23, was never happier until the day came when her life would change ever so drastically. Earlier in the evening Bryan had proposed to her, which she immediately accepted. She was in a daze as she went back to work for the rest of her shift. Even more, her calculations and experiments showed that she had quite possibly found her goal. A chemical formula that would allow the brain to open up the hidden places seldom used and her project would be a success. In the lab was a special telephone tie-in with her employers, which she hastily picked up. She told

them of her success and they told her to stay where she was and not to contact anyone else.

A few minutes later, her boss appeared with several large men wearing some sort of costumes. They were slightly frightening, but her boss, whom she only knew as "Neal" simply asked to see her paperwork. He never glanced at it, but gave it to one of the men who promptly stashed it in a locked briefcase. He asked her if she had a working sample and she produced a vial of slightly pinkish liquid. He said he was very pleased with her and congratulated her on her discoveries. They wanted to know if it had been tested on anything other than the lab animals; preferably a human. She said it was too dangerous and too concentrated to use on humans without time for analysis and Neal suddenly became angry. He said she should have tested it before calling him down here, but her excitement for the day had overcome her. He said she would test it right then and there. The man smiled knowingly and it was then that she realized that some was very very wrong. Two of the big men grabbed her and held her head back while Neal poured the syrupy liquid down her throat. She gagged and swallowed most of it and fell to the floor unconscious.