

A GRAND OFFER

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FADE IN:

INT. PRIVATE STUDY - DAY

An opulent space, grand portraits hanging on the walls, a polished floor and large period windows. This is the private study inside a grand old house.

ASHCROFT (40's) sits behind his desk, a large expensive looking lit cigar in his mouth. He puffs on it, sending out big clouds of smoke out into the air above his head.

There's a gentle knock on the door, Ashcroft has his eyes locked on it.

ASHCROFT

Come in.

The door is slowly pushed open. TOM (60's), sunhat in hand peers inside. He's dirty, his clothes stained with soil and grass. The grounds keeper for the estate.

TOM

Yes sir?

Ashcroft stands up, but staying behind his writing desk he frantically waves Tom to come inside.

ASHCROFT

Please, hurry in. I've got a proposition for you my good dear man.

Tom nods, entering the study he closes the door shut behind him.

TOM

Yes sir?

ASHCROFT

You like this place don't you Tom?

TOM

Very much sir.

ASHCROFT

(clearing his throat)
But you have heard that I'm selling the place?

TOM

(uncomfortable)
Yes sir. I have.

ASHCROFT

And you're worried about your job?

TOM

I am sir. There's much talk about what is going to happen next.

ASHCROFT

(smirking)

And what if I gave it all to you?

Tom bursts out laughing, but then quickly regains his composure.

TOM

Sorry sir.

ASHCROFT

It's a serious question. People always praise MY gardener. The lawns. The trees. The house is falling apart, but the ground around it is wonderful. And that's all down to you Tom. So, I ask again, what would you do if I gave you this house and all the land around it?

TOM

I would love it forever sir.

ASHCROFT

Good. I had hoped so.

TOM

(head shaking)

But what would I have to do for such a gift?

Now it's Ashcroft's turn to burst out laughing.

ASHCROFT

Do you know about wife and her affairs?

Tom shuffles on the spot, uncomfortable. Turning red in the face, he has to look away from Ashcroft.

TOM

I don't ever want to lie to you sir.

ASHCROFT
Then don't. And please look at me
when we're talking.

Tom turns his head back, looking Ashcroft in the eyes.

TOM
(sorrowful)
Yes sir. Everybody knows about
them. In the village too.

Ashcroft reaches down to his desk drawer, opening it he pulls
out a gun and shows it to Tom.

ASHCROFT
Here.

Tom is blown away, in a state of shock.

TOM
Sir?

Ashcroft walks around his desk and comes over to Tom, putting
the gun into his hand.

ASHCROFT
Do you think it's real?

TOM
It looks real.

ASHCROFT
Try it out.

TOM
Sir?

ASHCROFT
Shoot the wall if you like?

TOM
I don't understand.

ASHCROFT
It's perfectly simple Tom. Shoot
the wall and see if it's real.

TOM
Alright, and if it is real?

ASHCROFT
I want you to kill my wife. Shoot
her dead.

(MORE)

ASHCROFT (CONT'D)
Then dig a hole and hide her body.
No one knows this land like you
Tom.

Tom's mouth hangs open, in total disbelief.

'Tap, Tap, tap' a gentle knock on the door. Tom spins around, hiding the gun behind his back.

Ashcroft puts an arm around Tom, looking at the door to his study with him.

ASHCROFT (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Yes?

The door opens. And EVELYN, (20's) walks in. Hat, coat and leather gloves on. She looks ready to head out.

ASHCROFT (CONT'D)
Perfect timing dear as always.

She rolls her eyes.

EVELYN
(annoyed)
You asked me to come here.

Tom looked across at Ashcroft.

TOM
(pleadingly)
I should get back to work sir.

ASHCROFT
Don't be silly. It's me who should
be leaving.

EVELYN
(to Ashcroft)
Have you signed the papers yet?

Ashcroft winks at Tom.

ASHCROFT
She means the divorce papers.

EVELYN
(unimpressed)
Oh please, I don't wish to talk
about these things in front of the
staff.

ASHCROFT

(to Tom)

It's now or never Tom. Do it, and this will all be yours.

TOM

(whispering)

I can't.

ASHCROFT

You must.

TOM

I'm sorry sir.

EVELYN

What on earth is going on between you two?

Ashcroft ignores her, returning to his desk he pulls out a second identical gun, taking aim at Tom.

ASHCROFT

(angry)

Shoot this bitch in the fucking head or I'll gun you down like the useless swine that you are.

Both Evelyn and Tom are stunned at the sight of the gun in Ashcroft's hand.

EVELYN

(to Ashcroft)

Have you lost your goddamn mind?

Ashcroft keeps his aim on Tom but turns to face Evelyn.

ASHCROFT

Will you stay out of this? I'm trying to negotiate your murder. And I like to negotiate hard.

Tom pulls his gun from behind his back, takes aim at Ashcroft and shoots him in the leg.

Ashcroft collapses to the floor. Grunting and groaning in pain.

ASHCROFT (CONT'D)

You fucking idiot.

Tom approaches him quickly.

TOM
(guilty)
I'm sorry sir, but I had to do
something, you not yourself,
you're...

Ashcroft fries back, shooting Tom several times in the chest. Killing him instantly. His lifeless body landed hard on the floor.

Evelyn rushes over to Tom, ripping the gun out of his dead hand and she takes aim at Ashcroft, aiming for his head.

ASHCROFT
You fucking bitch!

BANG.

Evelyn shoots him in the head. Killing him.

CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE STUDY - DAY

Blood on the floor, but the two dead bodies of Ashcroft and Tom are gone.

Evelyn sits behind the desk. Her head in her hands, sobbing.

A uniformed POLICE OFFICER (20's) enters. He moves behind her, kissing her gently on the side of her face.

POLICE OFFICER
(softly)
We better get moving. You've got a
lot of questions to answer. But
I'll make sure you're ok. We can
finally be happy now.

She nods, slowly standing. Turning into him and they embrace.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END