

The Shark Doctor

FADE IN:

INT. AQUAWORLD VETERINARY LAB - NIGHT

DR. MCCORKINALE (50) leans over a large tub. A female assistant stands behind him. Chains hang from the ceiling hold in place a harness containing a great white shark.

DR. MCCORKINALE
This is odd. I've never--

The chains shake as the shark thrashes. Dr. McCorkindale leans back. There's CRACK as the chains are ripped from the ceiling. The shark lunges up from the tank and snaps his jaws across the doctor's shoulder.

Dr. McCorkindale screams as his arm is ripped away leaving a geyser of blood in its wake.

The assistant screams and toward the door.

ASSISTANT
(into a walkie-talkie)
Code six in vet lab! Code six in
the vet lab! Call an ambulance!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: Three Weeks Later

TORI (25) straightens her hair in a mirror. She slides her hand across a stack of twenty dollar bills on a dresser and turns toward DR. GARY COLLIER (40) who is on the other side of the room zipping his pants.

TORI
Be sure to call me again sometime.

GARY
Yeah.

Tori takes a step toward the door.

GARY
Don't forget your braclet.

TORI
Oh, thanks!

Gary hands her a braclet with dolphin charms dangling it.

TORI
I forgot about that. I never take
it off. Sorry it scratched you.
That's never happened before.

GARY

I'm fine. It's nothing.

TORI

Yeah, well, I guess I got a little carried away. Like I said, if you're in town for awhile, you should call me again.

GARY

Yeah. I hope so.

As soon as Tori exits through the door, Gary quickly steps into the bathroom. He leans over the toilet but only lets out a sob. He flinches the instant his cell phone rings.

GARY

(into his phone)

Hello...Yeah I got here a couple of hours ago...No, actually, I'd rather work at night. I can be there in about thirty minutes.

EXT. AQUAWORLD ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

LINDA THOMPSON (mid-30's and attractive) steps from a golf cart at the deserted entrance of the theme park as Gary enters.

LINDA

Dr. Collier, thanks for coming in.

She extends her hand toward Gary who looks away as he shakes it.

GARY

No problem.

LINDA

Hop in. I'll show you the exhibit.

Gary climbs in the golf cart as Linda takes her seat behind the wheel and it darts down a walk-way.

LINDA

By the way, I was really sorry to hear about your family.

Gary clings to the side of the cart as Linda pushes the limits of how fast a golf cart should go.

LINDA

I took over as general manager here about two years ago. That's when I
(MORE)

LINDA (cont'd)
heard about it. That's about when
it happened, right?

GARY
Uh, yeah, about two years ago.

LINDA
It happened in my family too. My
cousin killed by a drunk driver. My
aunt never really recovered. Have
you been OK?

GARY
Yeah. I mean...some days are kind
of hard. But...I don't know. I've
got my work.

The golf cart screeches to a halt in front of a high wall
decorated with signs advertising: the Great White Shark
Experience Coming Soon!

LINDA
We're here.

The two step out and Linda punches buttons on a key pad next
to a door in the wall. A green light comes on above the key
pad and Linda opens the door.

EXT. GREAT WHITE SHARK EXHIBIT - CONTINUOUS

Gary's eyes widen as he steps through the door.

He looks across a vast body of water. Even with stadium
lights illuminating much of the area, the center area of the
water is dark and the opposite bank is not visible.

GARY
This is massive!

LINDA
Well, we didn't want to bring the
sharks in and have someone say I
think we're gonna need a bigger
tank.

GARY
This might do it. I guess you read
about the great whites at SeaWorld
that kept getting disoriented.

LINDA
That's right. And we're trying to
duplicate their habitat better.

(MORE)

LINDA (cont'd)

It's the largest man-made, salt water lake in the world. You can see a lot of our attractions from high altitude but this one you can literally see from space.

GARY

You expect people to walk out there on that thing?

Gary points toward a weathered-looking wooden dock that extends hundreds of yards into the water.

LINDA

(laughing)

Oh no! That's just a staging area and it's just for show. The art department did a great job. That walk-way isn't really wooden and it's actually reinforced with steel girders.

GARY

How do people see anything?

Linda points to a building in the distance.

LINDA

You enter that building and take a tram ride through a series of glass tunnels under the lake. It criss-crosses back and forth and it's about a twenty minute ride.

Linda gasps as a massive figure appears behind them.

LINDA

Sung-ki, you scared me half to death.

SUNG-KI (appears to be 40) stands behind them and his muscular, body-builder frame looks like it is about to burst through his security guard uniform.

SUNG-KI

Sorry ma'am.

LINDA

It's fine. Sung-ki, this is Dr. Collier. He'll be working nights trying to get our sharks healthy.

SUNG-KI nods at him and walks off.

LINDA
He's our after-hours security
chief.

GARY
He looks like he should be playing
linebacker for the Buccaneers.

LINDA
He started here four months ago.
Guess his age.

GARY
Where's he from?

LINDA
He's from Korea. Guess his age.

GARY
I don't know, thirty-eight?

LINDA
You're way off. Come on, I'll take
to the vet center.

EXT. AQUAWORLD GREAT WHITE SHARK EXHIBIT WALL - CONTINUOUS

The two climb back into the golf cart and Linda stomps on
the gas pedal.

LINDA
He's actually NORTH Korean.

GARY
You're kidding!

LINDA
No. He says he defected about
fifteen years ago. And on his job
application, he said he was
sixty-nine years old.

GARY
What?

LINDA
We figured he didn't understand how
to list his age. But his English is
very good and he came highly
recommended from two hospitals on
the east coast. He actually said he
wanted to work and then retire here
in Florida.

EXT. GREAT WHITE SHARK EXHIBIT - SAME TIME

Sung-ki stands on the dock extending into the shark lake. He strips off his uniform to a black speedo swimsuit. He executes a perfect dive into the water and disappears beneath the surface.

EXT. AQUAWORLD VETERINARY LAB - MOMENTS LATER

The golf cart pulls up to the lab building.

LINDA

They've got the lab set up for the autopsy. Oddly, she was doing better after the, um, incident with Dr. McCorkindale. Then she deteriorated again and we lost her yesterday.

GARY

I'll get to work.

LINDA

Thanks again for coming down. We've had a ton of bad publicity in the last few years and our attendance has dropped. We're counting on this exhibit to turn this place around.

GARY

When's it supposed to open?

LINDA

Next month. So you can see why we're worried. We've lost three of our four great whites since we put them in that lake four months ago. They're fine one day, then lethargic the next.

GARY

I'll give it a look and see what I can do.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Gary is at his desk typing on his laptop. He pauses as he picks up his cell phone.

GARY

(into his phone)

Linda, I know you're not in yet but I found some things that I need double-checked. I don't what you're

(MORE)

GARY (cont'd)
 schedule's like tomorrow night, but
 I think you should stop by the lab.
 That shark was rotting from the
 inside out. I think, well, I'll
 talk to you tomorrow.

Gary puts down the phone.

GARY
 (muttering to himself)
 Rotting from the inside out.

He picks his phone back up and hits a button.

TORI (V.O.)
 Hey, this is Tori. Leave me a
 message--

Gary puts the phone back down and turns back to his
 computer. He starts to type something but then turns away
 and slams down the screen.

He falls onto his bed and, still fully dressed, curls into a
 fetal position and squeezes his eyes shut.

INT. AQUAWORLD VETERINARY LAB - NIGHT

Linda is seated on a stool with her arms crossed. Gary is
 holding a folder as he stands in front of the tub.

LINDA
 Listen, it's almost midnight. I'm
 tired. You've gotta be tired and
 you've been through a lot--

GARY
 I've shown this to some people--

LINDA
 Oh God! Who have you--

GARY
 Just certain pieces. Nobody's seen
 everything and nobody can put
 together all the information.

LINDA
 You're telling me there's bite
 marks on this shark? HUMAN bite
 marks...on a great white shark?

GARY
 Yes. And--

Linda looks away and sighs.

GARY

And look at how the blood vessels
are raised around the teeth marks.

LINDA

You think a person...not only bit
the shark but sucked out...What?
Blood? Cartlidge?

EXT. GREAT WHITE SHARK EXHIBIT - SAME TIME

On the dock extending into the lake, Tori takes off the last
of her clothing as she stands with Sung-ki, who dressed only
in his black swimsuit.

TORI

I always wondered what this place
looked like after dark. It's
creepy...but cool.

Sung-ki walks behind her.

SUNG-KI

Take off your braclet.

TORI

I never take this off. It's my--

SUNG-KI

I need you to take it off. Please,
take it off.

TORI

OK. But believe me, if you're going
to do it from back there, my charm
braclet won't be anywhere near
your--

Sung-ki steps forward and swiftly whips a knife across
Tori's throat. Her eyes show shock as she grabs her neck now
gushing with blood.

Sung-ki picks Tori up, takes her by the ankles and holds her
naked body upside-down over the water. Now limp, the blood
from Tori's neck flows into the water like a facet.

In the distant, a dorsal fin approaches leaving behind a
wake as it rushes forward.

Sung-ki drops Tori and she disappears into a cauldron
churning water, gnashing teeth and blood.

Sung-ki checks his watch.

INT. AQUAWORLD VETERINARY LAB - SAME TIME

LINDA

Aside from the craziness of
this...theory. Why would--

GARY

In the Orient, they've believed for
centuries sharks have healing and
rejuvenating powers. In fact--

LINDA

That's been debunked.

GARY

Some of it has. But there's a lot
we don't know. Last year we studied
a great white that healed itself
from wounds so fast it was
incredible.

LINDA

That doesn't mean a bowl of shark
fin soup is going to--

GARY

I'm not talking about soup. I'm--

LINDA

You're talking about someone going
all Dracula on the most fearsome
creature on the planet. And somehow
swimming to find it in the largest
salt water--

GARY

I know it sounds--

LINDA

Gary!

(sigh)

Gary. Keep the hotel room for the
week. We'll pay you for the two
weeks. But...you should go. I have
a ton of respect for you. But...you
should go.

Linda exits the room. Gary slumps into a chair and buries
his face in his hands.

A few seconds later he pulls out his cell phone and presses a
button.

TORI (V.O.)

Hey, this is Tori. Leave--

Gary kills the call and hits another button.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
You've reached the Church of God
crisis line. All of counselors on
other calls. Please--

Gary ends the call, drops his phone and looks at a table full of surgical implements.

EXT. GREAT WHITE SHARK EXHIBIT - HOURS LATER

Gary walks down the dock with his head down. Nearing the end of the dock he stoops to pick something up.

He rises up holding a charm bracelet with dolphins dangling from it.

GARY
Tori?

Gary looks around. All is quiet. There's not a soul in sight.

He looks at the bracelet with a pained expression on his face and tears start to flow. He drops it and walks to the end of the dock.

Gary takes a scalpel from his pocket, extends one arm over the water and slices the wrist on his out-stretched arm.

He watches the blood drip into the water. There's a SPLASH behind him and he jumps in fright.

Climbing onto the side of the dock is Sung-ki. A milky-white and stringy substance dangles from his mouth. He wipes it away with the back of his hand and turns toward Gary.

GARY
What are you...I was right.

Sung-ki is scowling and strides toward Gary. Gary, with blood still dripping from his wrist, holds out the scalpel like a weapon.

A smirking Sung-ki bats it away with a flick of wrist and drives a punch into Gary's midsection.

Gary collapses and Sung-ki picks him up.

GARY
Does it work?

SUNG-KI
What?

GARY

Does it work? Are you really
sixty-nine years old?

Sung-ki holds Gary over the water. Blood from Gary's wrist
is dripping into the lake.

GARY

It's a myth. You're not--

SUNG-KI

Human blood and bone.

GARY

What?

SUNG-KI

Great whites that feast on human
blood and bone. Extract tissue from
those sharks and the power from it
is great.

GARY

Please don't--

SUNG-KI

You were trying to kill yourself
anyway. Were you not?

GARY

I was, but--

SUNG-KI

So, I'm helping you.

A dorsal fin is seen breaking the surface of the water. Its
approach is slow.

GARY

Please. You're killing the sharks.
And they're going to catch you. I
told them. They don't believe me,
but I told them. Just...stop
hurting the sharks.

Sung-ki drops Gary into the water. He comes to the surface
and tries to pull himself back onto the dock but is jerked
downward.

Gary turns around in the water and squeezes his eyes shut.
He is yanked below the surface and an instant later a great
white shark bursts above the water, its jaws chomping on a
bloody clump the size of a torso. With a SPLASH it dives
back below the surface.

Sung-ki turns and walks down the dock.

Two security men emerge through a door at the other end of the exhibit.

GUARD #1

Sir, what is--

Sung-ki turns around and sprints the other way.

The two guards pursue as they race over the lake on the walk-way.

GUARD #1

Sir! Stop!

Guard #1 unholsters his taser gun and fires it hitting Sung-ki in the back.

Sung-ki breaks his stride for only a moment and rips the taser cords from his back.

The second guard fires his taser but misses and Sung-ki widens the distance between them running at incredible speed.

On the dead run, Sung-ki reaches the end of the dock and dives head-first into the water.

The two guards skid to a halt at the edge of the dock. They watch, open mouthed, for Sung-ki to emerge.

The water remains calm. The only sounds are of the water lightly sloshing against the dock and the breathing of the two guards.

FADE OUT