

BEAUTIFUL SOULS

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. PETER'S COTTAGE - DAY

Leaves scatter the quiet lane way, leading up to the front garden. A strong wind sends them whirling into the air. The front gate knocks back and forth.

The door of of the shed next to the house remains firmly shut.

INT. PETER'S COTTAGE - HALLWAY - DAY

PETER (70s), wearing a cardigan and slacks, slightly hunched from old age talks on the phone.

PETER

Yes, that sounds great dear.

He brushes back the little amount of grey hair he has left on his head.

PETER

No, it'll be great to see you.

He closes his eyes and pinches the bridge of his nose.

PETER

I know, I know. Go on I'll see you in a bit. Bye.

He hangs up and stares into space for a second. He walks towards the front door and peers out the window beside it before turning into the

LIVING ROOM

A radio sits on a coffee table in the center of the room.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

That makes it the third suspected murder in under three months. We are expecting an announcement from the Police Department later today.

Peter walks towards the radio and switches it off.

PETER

Oh, shut up.

He sits down on an armchair, slumps himself and stares at the radio as though it had betrayed him.

INT. PETER'S COTTAGE - BEDROOM - LATER

Peter sits at the end of his bed staring at the ground.  
A dark shadow shifts through the room and surrounds him.  
He buries his face in his hands.

PETER  
No, please. Not now. I can't do  
this.

A deep, whispering VOICE speaks.

VOICE  
Paige.

Peter shoots his head up, stunned.

PETER  
No. No, really, I can't. Not Paige.

VOICE  
Tonight.

PETER  
Please. Anybody else.

The shadow moves away from Peter and disappears.

Peter falls back on the bed and begins to cry.

INT. PETER'S COTTAGE - HALLWAY - LATER

The doorbell rings. And again a few seconds later.

Peter walks towards the door, undoes the lock, opens it a little and peers out the little crack.

PETER  
Ah, Paige.

He opens the door fully.

PAIGE (30s) stands at the front step.

PAIGE  
Expecting someone else Dad?

Peter lets out a nervous chuckle.

PETER  
Not at all, no. Come in.

Paige steps in and shakes herself off.

PAIGE  
Crazy weather out there.

PETER  
Awful. Tea?

Paige flashes a quick grin at him.

PAIGE  
Please.

INT. PETER'S COTTAGE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Peter and Paige sit at the dining table with cups of tea in front of them.

PETER  
You sure you don't want a biscuit?

PAIGE  
Yeah, I'm fine.

Peter smiles at her for a second then glances down, looking into his tea.

PAIGE  
Awful news about those murders.

PETER  
Yeah. Animals.

PAIGE  
Three young girls. I went to school with one of them. Sarah Whelan, do you remember her?

Peter, eyes still fixed on his tea, shakes his head.

PAIGE  
She wasn't all there. A bit simple, like. Imagine doing that to a girl like her. She was found just up the

PAIGE  
road. In the trees. Blood  
everywhere.

Peter slams his hand down on the table, his eyes still not shifted from his cup.

PAIGE  
Dad!

A tear rolls down Peter's cheek.

PAIGE  
Dad, what's wrong?

PETER  
I miss her.

PAIGE  
Mam?

Peter nods his head.

Paige reaches over and grabs his hand.

PAIGE  
I know. We all do.

She squeezes his hand tighter.

PAIGE  
Would it not help if you got out of here for a bit. Come spend a few days with us. As long as you like.

PETER  
I can't.

PAIGE  
You can't just hide away Dad. We all miss her. We all need each other now. We never see you. You're shutting us all out.

Peter lifts his gaze and stares into Paige's eyes.

PETER  
You don't want to be around me.

PAIGE  
Dad! Of course we do. We're here to help.

Peter pulls his hand free of Paige's grasp.

PETER  
Sorry. I have to use the bathroom.

INT. PETER'S COTTAGE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Peter stands at the mirror, wiping tears away from his eyes. He looks at himself in the eye and shakes his head.

PETER  
Pathetic.

A dark shadow drifts into the room and once again surrounds Peter.

PETER  
I'm trying.

VOICE  
Now!

PETER  
This is my daughter. Do you have any idea what you're asking me to do?

VOICE  
I need her.

The shadow moves away from Peter and disappears.

Peter slams his hand against the sink.

He goes down onto his knees, opens the cupboard door and routes in the back, finally brandishing a hand gun. He puts it in his back pocket and walks out the door.

INT. PETER'S COTTAGE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Peter walks through the door. He stands in the center of the room and looks at Paige.

PETER  
I have something to tell you.

PAIGE  
What is it Dad?

PETER  
Your Mother was very sick. She would have never made it.

PAIGE  
What do you mean?

PETER  
She was going to die. That's why I  
had to do it.

Paige sits up straighter, anxious.

PAIGE  
Do what?

PETER  
I made a deal with him.

PAIGE  
Who?

PETER  
I had to. To save your mother. And  
it worked. She pulled through.  
Remember?

PAIGE  
Yeah, I remember.

Peter smiles as though he's reliving a fond memory.

PETER  
So it worked.

The smile disappears and it turns into an angry grimace.

PETER  
But then that animal took her. Took  
her life so he could get his fix.

PAIGE  
They got him Dad.

PETER  
Yeah, they got him. But my wife is  
dead.

Paige gets up off her seat and tries to console Peter. He  
pushes her away.

PETER  
(shouting)  
Let me finish.

PAIGE

Ok, ok.

PETER

My wife is dead. Your mother is dead. And the junkie will get a few years in a nice, comfy cell for it.

PAIGE

We can't let it ruin our lives.

PETER

No. But the deal still stood.

PAIGE

What deal?

PETER

He saved her life. In return he asked for seven beautiful souls.

PAIGE

Dad, what are you talking about?

PETER

For his pleasure I suppose. He's pure evil.

Peter reaches into his back pocket and takes out the gun, holding it by his side.

PETER

I've done some terrible things.

Paige moves back in shock. She gasps at the sight of the gun.

PAIGE

What have you done Dad?

PETER

Those innocent girls.

Paige covers her mouth, realising what her father has done.

PAIGE

No, Dad.

PETER

But not my baby girl.

The shadow enters the room. It grows until the whole room is covered in it.



PETER

He's here.

Peter raises the gun to his temple. Tears streaming from his eyes.

PETER

Paigey, when they come, tell them  
there's three more in the shed.

BANG! Blood spurts from Peter's head and he falls to the floor.

PAIGE

Nooooo! Dad!

Paige runs to his body and holds his head. She kisses him on the forehead, crying uncontrollably.

The shadow shrinks and disappears completely.

EXT. PETER'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

Paige sits on the front step talking to police.

Three Coroners exit the shed, wheeling three dead bodies on trollies.

FADE OUT.