

DARK RETURNS

SCREENPLAY BY PETER & DIANA SNOWDON
SCRIPT BY ALISON & KENT FRY

FROM AN IDEA BY COLIN COOPER

2014 PETER & DIANA SNOWDON

snowdonp@bigpond.com
02 9817 6181

kent@clearspeak.com.au
04 2216 4432

1

INT. GREAT AUNT'S HOUSE

1

This scene is set 14 years before the main action. Johnny is 7 years old.

GREAT AUNT HERMOINE

Now my dear, I want to tell you about my brother. He is the black sheep of the family.

JOHNNY

Yes, yes go on.

GREAT AUNT HERMOINE

He was an unpleasant character and did things like pulling the wings off flies when he was a boy.

JOHNNY

I do that. It is fun to see what they do.

2

INT. SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

2

Johnny Robert Dickinson walks into the solicitor's waiting room and sits down. The solicitor comes through.

SOLICITOR

Thank you for coming.

They walk through to the solicitor's office.

SOLICITOR

Tea or coffee?

JOHNNY

No thanks. Could you just let me know what my dear great aunt has left me?

SOLICITOR

Right. Your Great Aunt Hermoine has left you her entire estate. That includes the house and contents including some personal items from her late brother, William Robert Dickinson. Now that you are 21 you can take possession of the estate anytime. The house has been rented to provide income, but the tenants have left.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

That's great. Do you have the key?

SOLICITOR

Please let me finish. She states that the personal items are in a large box of family records. Your great uncle was a rather unsavoury character, I'm afraid. I believe he died in prison. I'm not aware of the circumstances.

JOHNNY

(impatiently)

Yes, yes. What about the key?

SOLICITOR

It's with Martins Real Estate, a Susan Hawkins.

JOHNNY

Just give me the agent's contact details so I can get on with it.

Johnny gets up impatiently and the solicitor hands him the agent's business card.

3 EXT. GREAT AUNT'S HOUSE

3

Real estate agent and Johnny at the door of the house.

SUSAN

Hello Mr Dickinson; very nice to meet you. Everything has been put back exactly as it was when your Aunt passed away.

JOHNNY

Yes, hello. Just give me the keys and I'll see myself in, thanks.

SUSAN

Okay, but if

4 INT. GREAT AUNT'S HOUSE

4

JOHNNY

Yes, I know, I'll ring if I need anything. Bye.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Are you sure

Johnny virtually slams the door in the real estate agent's face and Johnny is left in the house to explore. He finds his Great Uncle's box and rummages around in it, finding a mirror. He places the mirror on the mantelpiece in the lounge.

Johnny goes through the possessions in brief vignettes. He then pours himself a large drink and sits down with a photo album. He falls asleep.

5

INT. LOUNGE

5

Johnny is asleep on the couch, tossing and turning. He wakes up in a sweat. He stumbles up from the couch.

JOHNNY

What the hell???

Johnny peers into the mirror which is fogged up. He wipes it several times and it immediately fogs up after each wipe. During the last fogging he sees a vague image.

FADE TO BLACK

6

INT. LOUNGE

6

Johnny again wakes up the next night in similar circumstances to the previous one. He wipes the mirror and as it fogs up he has the impression of seeing a crime in which the throat of a blonde woman with a bun is cut.

JOHNNY

I must be seeing things!

Johnny has a drink. He looks at the mirror again and again sees the woman's throat being cut. This time he sees the face of the perpetrator, an angry unshaven, somewhat dirty man who looks directly at him in a threatening manner.

JOHNNY

Who the hell are you?

MIRROR

I be William Robert Dickinson and
who might thee be?

JOHNNY

(stares aghast)

Ah

(CONTINUED)

MIRROR

The radiant shine; That fills
your eyes; Is just the breath;
As someone dies.

JOHNNY

Get me out of here!

Johnny is overcome by fear and throws the mirror so that it shatters into shards on the floor. He picks up a large shard, looking terrified.

He makes for the door and collides with a startled Susan Hawkins.

SUSAN

Is everything al

Johnny lashes out with the shard.

The real estate agent falls to the floor clutching her throat, dead. Johnny stands, stunned with the blood-stained shard of the mirror in his hand. A glimpse of a smiling William Robert Dickinson appears in the shard.

FADE TO BLACK