

Be Careful What You Wish For

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1 INT. EASTERN PROMISE - CURIOSITY SHOP - N7 - DAY 1

Incense, rugs, mirrors, baubles, bangles.

MIRAM (26) a striking woman of Middle Eastern origin slouches at the till, she's filing her nails.

2 SHOP - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS 2

BARRY STANTON -- short, burly, late thirties -- measuring tape in hand, sizes up the mirror at the far end of the room.

He cranes his neck, sneaks a look at MIRAM at the till.

We hear a little boy.

GENO (O.S.)

I don't think that's the right one for you, Mister.

BARRY, startled, whips around, sees...

GENO (8) short trousers, kaftan jacket, sandals, grinning at him from the other side of the room.

BARRY

Sorry?!

GENO is clutching an elaborate double-sided ornate vanity mirror, silver base, regal in appearance.

GENO

This one's right up your street, Mister. It has magic powers. I would advice you to buy it. Your life will change.

BARRY

No, thanks. I prefer one of these, if it's all the same to you.

GENO

It's all the same to me. I can take it or leave it, but you should take it.

BARRY blanks him, continues measuring.

GENO shuffles closer.

BARRY

What?

GENO

(confidently)
I've told you what.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

GENO (CONT'D)

This should be your buy. It will be the best thing you can ever imagine. It's out of this world.

BARRY sidles over to another mirror.

GENO (CONT'D)

It's magic. I'll show you.

GENO spins the magic mirror.

GENO (CONT'D)

Let's say you want a new watch.

BARRY

I've got one, I'm very happy with it.

GENO

Yes, but I bet you would fancy a swanky Rolex. All you have to do is spin the mirror and wish. Only one side tells the truth.

BARRY

Are you on some kind of a commission? Will you go away and stop bugging me! I'm not interested in that one. This one's fine!

He exits towards the front shop area.

3 FRONT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

3

BARRY enters.

BARRY

(to Miram)

Your son's a bit of a salesman. He has a very vivid imagination. A bit of a character.

MIRAM gives him a quizzing look.

BARRY glances towards the back room.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Sorry, I thought that kid was... Oh, never mind. Can you tell me how much this mirror is, please?

MIRAM follows BARRY into the back room.

4 BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

4

GENO has vanished.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

BARRY
 (puzzled)
 (to himself)
 He was here a minute ago.

BARRY shrugs, points to the mirror he fancies.

BARRY (CONT'D)
 How much for this one?

5 INT. ANDREW'S STUDY - DAY

5

The magic mirror is on ANDREW GLEN'S bureau.

ANDREW (31) glasses, gangly, carelessly shaven, thrusts a prestigious motor magazine towards the mirror, it's a picture of a BMW Z4 convertible.

ANDREW concentrates. He spins the mirror gently.

6 INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

6

The mirror BARRY was measuring in the shop sits on the floor next to the mantelpiece. BARRY springs from the sofa, switches off the television, dons his jacket.

7 EXT. ANDREW'S DRIVEWAY - LATER THAT DAY

7

ANDREW'S polishing his new silver BMW Z4 convertible.

BARRY strolls by.

BARRY
 Hi, Andrew. Nice car. Have you won the pools and kept it a secret?

ANDREW
 (excited)
 Hi, old chap. It's a cracker, isn't it. It's unbelievable.

ANDREW scans around him.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Listen Barry. I have a secret. I still can't believe it works. Promise not to tell anybody?

BARRY barely reacts.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 I bought a special mirror. I have to share it with someone.
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 Incredible.

BARRY looks at him "What the hell."

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 You've known me since we were at
 school. I'm not the lying sort.
 Well, am I?

ANDREW waits for an answer. BARRY looks nonplussed.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 It has magic powers.

BARRY feigns a laugh.

BARRY
 What? Really? Have you been
 drinking?

ANDREW
 Of course not Barry, it's mid
 day... I bought it from the shop
 on Mare Street.

BARRY
 The one that sells the Persian
 rugs?

ANDREW
 You know it? Well a little boy
 comes up to me, says if I buy
 this mirror my life would
change.

BARRY mouths the words "your life will change," in
 unison.

ANDREW takes a beat, glances at him, continues.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 Geno, the little boy who sold me
 it, such a nice lad, well, he
 told me to hold my old watch
 against the mirror and wish. He
 spun it, everything in the room
 seemed to vibrate momentarily.
 Believe it or not, when it
 stopped rotating my watch was
 reflected on one side, on the
 other was this Rolex.

He shows BARRY his new acquisition.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 The very watch I have admired
 for many a year. It's un-
 derstated, don't you think!
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Well, he said if it was meant to be, and I guessed which one of the mirrors told the truth, it would be mine. I closed my eyes and wished hard. When I looked at my old scabby watch it had changed...

BARRY

(butts in)

It does sound a bit crazy.

ANDREW glances down at the car.

BARRY (CONT'D)

You're joking?

ANDREW shakes his head.

BARRY -- mouth opened -- the penny has dropped, listens intently.

ANDREW

There's other things he told me, but made me promise I would keep them secret. He said there were rules never to be broken. Do you want to see the said item. It's in my study.

BARRY

(rattled)

Must dash. I'll see it some other time. Bye.

He's off up the street double time.

ANDREW

(shouts after him)

You can have a wish... Bye.

8 EXT. STREET - DAY

8

BARRY streaks along the street, kicks a waste-paper bin, hurts his ankle, he's furious.

9 INT. EASTERN PROMISE - CURIOSITY SHOP - DAY

9

BARRY hobbles into the shop, passing MIRAM, straight through to the back room.

BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BARRY enters, his heart sinks, GENO isn't there.

He strides back to the MIRAM.

10 FRONT SHOP - CONTINUOUS 10

BARRY stops briefly, gathering his thoughts.

BARRY

Excuse me. I'm looking for Geno.

MIRAM shrugs, looks blank.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Do you remember me? I bought an oak mirror from you last Tuesday. I asked you if he was your son.

MIRAM

Who?

BARRY

Sorry, the little boy dressed in the kaftan, he had a penny whistle. You must have heard him? He tried to sell me a vanity mirror, chrome stock, mirror on both sides, ornate. You or he sold one to my neighbour the other day.

MIRAM

Look Mister, I'm unsure what you're getting at. I don't have a son, I don't remember a little boy. I'm the only one that works here. I'm closing in ten, So...

BARRY scampers off.

CUT TO:

11 INT. BAR - DAY 11

BARRY, half-cut, melancholy, gazing into his empty whiskey glass. He ogles the pretty BARMAID, drains his glass, slams it on the bar.

12 EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - NIGHT 12

BARRY staggers up the street mumbling to himself. He realises he's directly outside ANDREW'S house. The lights are off, ANDREW'S car has gone.

13 INT. ANDREW'S STUDY - NIGHT 13

The magic mirror waits on the bureau. An ancient leather bound book with the inscription "Codes and Practices" lays next to it.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

A crashing sound -- footsteps heading up the stairs.

The door cracks open, in sneaks BARRY. He spies the magic mirror, grins, shuffles towards it.

The magic mirror seemingly vibrates.

BARRY, transfixed, checks out his reflection.

BARRY

You belong to me now.

14 INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

14

BARRY'S at the kitchen table perusing a watch catalogue. Various other magazines are strewn over the table. The magic mirror is in front of him.

He holds up a picture of an expensive Breitling watch towards the mirror -- he takes it away -- the image is still there. He flips the mirror over to the other side -- holds the watch on his wrist towards it, same thing happens. He lowers his arm, the image of his old watch stays. BARRY can hardly contain his excitement.

He concentrates -- spins the mirror -- a shaft of light catches the edge of each rotation, the base wobbles -- it whines slightly -- slows down -- stops.

BARRY recalls what GENO told him.

GENO (V.O.)

Only one side tells the truth.

BARRY chooses the mirror which shows the Breitling image.

Excited, he pulls up his shirt sleeve, the Breitling is strapped to his wrist. He's a happy man.

15 INT. BAR - DAY

15

BARRY, hair slicked back, sharp suited, swaggers into the bar. He glances at his newly acquired diamond clustered ring, polishes it against his sleeve. He takes a stool at the bar, catches the eye of the pretty BARMAID.

BARMAID

What can I get you?

BARRY

A Jamisons, please.

The BARMAID wanders off to get his order.

(CONTINUED)

BARRY admires his new watch. He turns his collar up as the BARMAID returns.

BARMAID

That will be two-eighty, please.

BARRY

(confidently)

Can I buy you a drink?

BARMAID

No!

BARRY

Are you sure?

BARMAID

What part of no don't you understand? I don't accept drinks from customers. It's the rule. Anyway, you're too short and too ugly.

She saunters off.

BARRY is stunned by her remarks. He knows he isn't God's gift to women, but it's the first time anyone has called him short and ugly. BARRY glares at her, knocks his drink back.

BARRY mutters to himself as he races along the street.

BARRY

I'll show that strumpet.

BARRY'S at the table gazing into the magic mirror. He clamps his eyes shut, makes a wish. After a moment he peeks, turns the mirror over to the other side, makes another wish.

He opens his eyes, stunned to see a younger handsome version of himself reflected. BARRY strokes his chin admiring his chiselled looks.

He wishes with all his might -- spins the mirror hard -- building momentum now -- the two images fuse together -- a whining noise -- the room grows dark, crockery vibrates, windows rattle, shards of light emanate from the magic mirror -- now the frequency of the whine changes as it slows -- BARRY grips it, unable to contain himself. It's stopped on the image of his handsome self.

17 CONTINUED:

17

He rushes over to the wall mirror -- steps into frame -- he's still the plain old BARRY.

He sighs, runs back over to the magic mirror.

Again he closes his eyes, wishes hard, gives the prize object an almighty spin -- this time the vibrations are really something -- all sorts clatter onto the floor -- what a din -- this time the light rays are blinding -- BARRY panics, he grips the spinning banshee -- it groans to a halt. It's stopped again at handsome BARRY.

He rushes to the wall mirror -- no change. Now he's furious.

BARRY grabs the magic mirror -- shakes it -- spins it back and forth -- checks both sides.

His jaw drops -- the handsome BARRY has been replaced by a gruesome version of himself. Now he is bald, ugly as hell and is about seven foot tall.

When he checks himself in the wall mirror he has to bend down to accommodate his new found loftiness.

BARRY

(in despair)

No! This isn't right. This isn't fair.

18 INT. EASTERN PROMISE - CURIOSITY SHOP - BACK ROOM - DAY 18

GENO, crossed legged, is on top of a pile of rugs playing a hypnotic tune on his penny whistle.

19 FRONT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

19

BARRY bolts through the door clutching the magic mirror. MIRAM, the shop assistant, is nowhere to be seen.

He rushes into the back room.

20 BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

BARRY enters -- GENO stops playing, stands, addresses him.

GENO

You have been a very silly man.
Greed is intolerable.

BARRY

(pleads)

I'm sorry I didn't believe you.
I didn't know the rules.

(CONTINUED)

GENO

That's neither here nor there.
There was no need for you to
know the rules, you weren't the
mirrors' rightful owner. You
turned it down. Only the
guardian need know.

GENO holds out his hand.

BARRY gives him the mirror.

BARRY

(upset)

What happens now? What can I do
to make amends?

GENO bounds over to an old wooden box, brings out an
ornate chopping board and a saber.

He unsheathes the saber, the sharp edge of the blade
glistens, he places it on top of the chopping board.

GENO

You have a choice. You can stay
like this for the rest of your
life, or cut off a finger for
every violation of the rules. I
make it six, and in time you'll
revert back to your former self.

BARRY stunned, looks at his fingers, quickly puts his
hands in his pockets.

GENO (CONT'D)

The process can take from two to
five years. There's no
guarantee. It's your choice.
Take it or leave it.

BARRY distraught, peers out into the front shop.

BARRY

Please. I didn't know the rules.
I can't stay like this forever.
Look at me.

GENO inspects the mirror.

GENO

The rules are set in stone and
must be adhered too. Nothing can
be done. This mirror has lost
its power. You've ruined it.

(CONTINUED)

BARRY
 (to himself)
 This is crazy. It can't be
 happening.

CUT TO:

FRONT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

ANDREW runs in, dashes to the back room.

CUT TO:

BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANDREW enters. He stops in his tracks when he sees GENO with his magic mirror.

BARRY covers his face with his arm.

ANDREW glances over at the strange figure, then back at GENO.

ANDREW tries to snatch the magic mirror. GENO swipes it behind his back.

ANDREW
 (annoyed)
 Hey! That's mine. How did you
 get it?

GENO
 It is no longer yours. You broke
 the rules, they were specific.

ANDREW
 No I didn't. Someone stole it
 from me. I'm the victim.

GENO
 You spoke of the mirror...

GENO'S eyes dart towards BARRY.

GENO (CONT'D)
 ... to this man.

ANDREW glances at BARRY.

BARRY drops his hand from his face.

ANDREW comes closer, then he realizes.

ANDREW
 (stupefied)
 Barry is that you? What the
 hell's happened to you? Have you
 been in an accident?

(CONTINUED)

BARRY

I stole it Andrew. I'm really,
really sorry.

(bows his head)

I truly regret it.

ANDREW

(stunned)

What?!

GENO

(to Andrew)

You cannot be without blame, you
too broke the rules. I gave you
the chance of a lifetime. You
will share the punishment.

GENO picks up the saber.

GENO (CONT'D)

Three fingers each.

ANDREW squints at BARRY, then at the silver saber, then
back to BARRY.

ANDREW

(stifles laughter)

What is this? You're a loony.
I'm going for the police.

ANDREW spins on his heels, heads out the room.

GENO

(shouts)

By the time they come I will be
gone, and your friend here will
remain like this for ever.

ANDREW skids to a halt.

GENO (CONT'D)

Is your conscience strong enough
to bare that responsibility?

ANDREW and BARRY give a sideways glance.

CUT TO:

ALDO, a giant man of Middle Eastern origin bursts
through the door, races towards the back room.

CUT TO:

23

BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

23

ANDREW'S fingers are on the chopping board. He squirms, looks away.

GENO -- saber poised -- about to strike -- lets loose -- ALDO appears from nowhere -- grips the handle just in time -- the blade hovers centimetres from ANDREW'S trembling digits.

ANDREW, wild-eyed lets out a nervous whimper, squints at his fingers, on the verge, almost faints.

ALDO is a pious looking man with an orator's wide mouth and a well groomed grey beard. His dynamic presence is accentuated by his crisp white three-piece linen suit.

He sheathes the blade, glaring at BARRY.

GENO clambers on to the rug pile.

ALDO

I am Aldo.

(to Andrew)

You have redeemed yourself. You were willing to sacrifice your own fingers for a friend. In my eyes it's a worthy deed.

ANDREW composes himself.

ANDREW

But what about Barry?

ALDO'S eyes dart to BARRY.

He clambers over to the wooden chest -- brings out a hessian sack, unravels it, brings out a replacement mirror.

ANDREW and BARRY watch intently as ALDO presses out the mirror, replacing it with the one from the sack.

ALDO

You could have both used this object to give great joy to the world. You are a representation of your own kind and you did not will for anything except for your own gain. This makes me sad. A great chance has slipped away. Our quest is on-going.

(looks at Barry)

Barry will receive a little punishment.

BARRY doesn't like the sound of that.

ALDO hands the old mirror to GENO.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

He spins the mirror anti-clockwise. It revolves slowly at first -- it builds up momentum until the two images are one.

INSERT

We see a speeded up version of the entire film. It rewinds then it slows to the proper speed.

CUT TO:

24 MIRRORS' REFLECTION

24

ANDREW pleads with a squat, little Hitler of a TRAFFIC WARDEN -- his old VW GOLF is in the process of being lifted onto a low-loader.

BARRY heads up the street, sees ANDREW and his situation, wanders over.

ANDREW and the TRAFFIC WARDEN start to brawl along the street.

BARRY appears. He jumps in, tries to break the two apart -- the TRAFFIC WARDEN aims a punch at ANDREW, misses -- WHACK! BARRY'S hit on the nose.

BACK TO:

25 INT. EASTERN PROMISE - CURIOSITY SHOP - BACK ROOM - DAY 25

BARRY lets out a loud yelp, collapses onto the shop floor, holding his nose.

ANDREW jumps, spins around, looks down at him.

ANDREW

(astonished)

You're back... You're your old self again. Thank heavens.

He helps BARRY to his feet and over to the mirror.

BARRY wiping the blood from his nose is ecstatic to see the plain old BARRY reflecting back at him.

He takes a moment to gather himself.

BARRY

(sincere)

I don't know about my friend, but I am so ashamed at what I've done.

ANDREW glance at BARRY.

(CONTINUED)

BARRY (CONT'D)

We both are.

ALDO

As from the moment you leave this building you will have no recollection of what has happened. One day we'll find a worthy guardian.

GENO

(sarcastically)

Someone we can trust.

ANDREW and BARRY, ashamed, head for the exit.

BARRY stops in front of ALDO.

BARRY

I just want to say again, I am really sorry I...

ALDO holds up his hand "Stop," nothing more to be said. He gestures towards the door.

BARRY and ANDREW leave.

FADE TO
BLACK.

INT. EASTERN PROMISE - CURIOSITY SHOP - BACK ROOM -
NEXT DAY

GENO sits on a pile of rugs, magic mirror in hand.

He spins the magic mirror as he talks to a man with his back to us at the other side of the room.

GENO

(addresses the man)

All you have to do is spin it and wish hard. All your dreams will come true.

GENO smiles at him. The man turns, it's the TRAFFIC WARDEN who punched BARRY.

GENO looks into the magic mirror.

GENO (CONT'D)

Be careful what you wish for. You might just get it.

FADE TO
BLACK.

THE END

(CONTINUED)

1st draft	7	8	09	
1st draft rev 1-3	30	9	09	
2nd draft rev 1-4	11	1	10	pink
3rd draft rev 3	05	3	10	yellow
3rd draft rev 4	14	3	10	green
3rd draft rev 5	22	3	10	green
3rd draft rev 6	31	3	10	green
3rd draft rev 7	26	4	10	green
	21	8	10	blue
4th draft	1	11	10	blue
4th draft rev 9	29	2	11	
4th draft rev 10	1	3	11	

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

BARRY STANTON (30)..... Born, Hampstead. 5'7. Full of himself. Works out. Job: journalist for the Ham and High newspaper. Dreams one day he'll join the ranks of Fleet Street. Bought his own flat six months ago and is finding it hard to make the payments. Plays Golf every Sunday, but he's pretty rubbish at it. He's known Andrew since school: they're only passing acquaintances now.

ANDREW JONES (31)..... Born, Hampstead. 5'9. A right train-spotter. Wears glasses, carelessly shaven, straggly hair. Looks as if his mum still dresses him. Job: struggling writer. Drives a Ford Escort. He's the neighbourly sort; the kind of guy that leans over your fence and makes boring conversation.

MIRAM (23)..... Born, Cairo. 5'9. A stunning looking girl of Eastern origin. Dark eyes, long jet black hair, bright, direct. Job: shop assistant.

GENO (10)..... Born, Middle East. 3'8. A cute little boy with a permanent smile. Dressed in shorts, Wellingtons boots

(CONTINUED)

and a smart jacket. He speaks very wisely for an eight year old.

ALDO (60)..... Born, Middle East. 6'6. A pious looking man with an orator's wide mouth and a well groomed grey beard. Powerful looking, dressed in his white linen, three-piece suit.

BAR MAID (21).....
TRAFFIC WARDEN (?).....