

## Good Dog

### Logline:

An agoraphobic man travels to a remote cottage to collect a puppy, but on discovering the lonely seller has no dog, he realises there are far worse places to be than outside.

### Synopsis:

James (37) lives in his pristine flat with just his goldfish for company. Working remotely as a graphic designer means he doesn't need to venture out into the world, which is just as well since simply opening the windows is enough to send his anxiety levels soaring. But today is the day James will take a leap towards his recovery and undertake a nerve shredding journey into the countryside.

Arriving at a small, isolated cottage, James meets Poppy (45), a lonely woman in a neck brace. Seemingly surprised to see James, she invites him into her rustic but orderly home where he reluctantly hands his dying phone over to Poppy who has offered to charge it.

In a living room of polished wooden furniture and features fitting of a traditional period cottage, James observes an urn, Best In Show trophies and framed photographs of a younger Poppy competing in Dog Show Competitions with her cocker spaniel, Cocky.

James is presented with a glass of milk, instead of the water he requested. He reluctantly drinks it as he and Poppy make polite but awkward conversation. When James inquires about Prudence, the dog he is there to pick up, Poppy seems confused and after a series of surreal exchanges Poppy declares she does not have a dog for sale.

Poppy's excited outbursts, followed by long periods of silence perturb James. He feels increasingly uneasy from Poppy's constant eye contact and intensity and so attempts to leave. Suddenly a BARK echoes from somewhere in the house which leads James to seriously question Poppy's state of mind.

As Poppy goes to retrieve James' phone as per his request, James descends into a nightmarish haze where reality and illusion begin to merge. Attempting to leave promptly and with his mind slipping, James finds the front door locked. Rapidly losing his cognizance he stumbles back up the hall, entering the room from which the dog's cries are emanating. There, James is faced with Prudence (10), chained to the wall. But Prudence isn't a dog; she is a little girl with her face painted like a dog, as though she has been at a country fete. Attempting to quiz Prudence, James is shocked when she simply barks at him. Poppy appears. She informs James that she expects him to be a good dog. On hearing Poppy's extreme plans for his training, James finally loses consciousness.

The story ends with James staring out the window, his face painted like a dog, Prudence next to him. Both chained to the wall, they bark as a car arrives. A father and son approach the cottage and after a friendly but confused greeting from Poppy they enter. The front door closes.