

Bamboozled Pre-Treatment

Log Line: A two-bit scam artist thinks his luck in love has finally turned around until it becomes the greatest scam of his life.

Characters:

Geoffrey Peterson- 40s. Balding- looks more like his deadbeat dad than he wants to, and he's had a rough life being forced to be the old man's stand-in. He's always looking for the easiest way out, how to make the most money with the least amount of effort. There's something endearing about him, but no one knows why, especially him. He's a compulsive liar, but he's bad at it. Selling knives door to door gets him a little money, but he's ready to find the next big hustle.

Jackie Cohen- 30s. Intelligent eyes and an innocent face that hide a brilliant mind. In every situation she's three steps ahead, even if it's just a coin flip. Beyond your average tortured genius she's misunderstood by EVERYONE. So much so that she's assumed to be insane and placed in an institution. Not that she would ever admit it. She has planned a million escape plans and attempted none. Until now. She's looking for the best plan, and she's finally found it.

Gertrude Peterson- 80s. She's difficult, cantankerous, set in her ways, and tough on Geoffrey. Very tough. She's needy but defensive, independent but vulnerable, sharp as a tack and doesn't give a damn. She's been around the block, and she'll keep on walking no matter what people say. She was abandoned by Geoffrey's deadbeat dad and always expects that her son will do the same, even if she is the one pushing him closer every single day. She needs him, but she is afraid to admit it.

Stuart Peterson- 30s. Geoffrey's younger, more accomplished cousin. He's a psychologist and is everyone's lackluster confidant. Geoffrey is always trying to rope him into his plans, which he refuses. But he's powerless to stop it, despite how much he tries.

Kevin Peterson- 30s. Stuart's brother. A cop. More sympathetic toward Geoffrey but family is family. His brother comes first.

Bamboozled (working title) will tell the story of Geoffrey who believes he is setting his fortune by setting up a fake psychology practice. When he gets his first call, he's ready to pounce into his best scam yet. When he meets Jackie, who is caring for her mother at a mental hospital, he has no idea that he might be the one being played. Jackie flirts with Geoffrey, and he asks her out on a date. She agrees. His mother, however, ruins the date, and he doesn't think he'll get a second chance. He goes back to the hospital hoping she'll be there. The workers at the desk tell him of course she is. She must be dedicated! He catches her off guard in the cafeteria, and she is mad that he's there. He tries to apologize, and she forgives him, seemingly angry about something else. He insists they go out on another date, somewhere not at his house. But she will not agree to go anywhere else besides his house. This date goes much better, although his mother doesn't like this new presence. Geoffrey and Jackie, however, get along like bandits. They're almost perfect for each other. After dinner, once his mother has nodded off, Jackie, thinking Gertrude is one of Geoffrey's patients, wonders what his practice is really like. Only one person at a time? She thinks that his plan is to take a life insurance policy out on the old woman, wait for her to pass, and collect big money. He's never thought about this before. She comes onto him, but just before they begin to make out, a car honks outside. Her driver. She's gotta go. The next day Geoffrey finds himself at an insurance company, taking out a life insurance policy on his mother. He doesn't know what he's going to do with it until he goes home and Gertrude rips into him. Comparing him to his father, which he hates, he goes out and buys some gasoline. He's burning up of course, not really intending anything. When he comes home, he takes a long look in the bathroom mirror and goes to cap the gas. He's not going to do anything. A knock on the door reveals the director of the hospital. As Geoffrey heads to the door, he accidentally knocks the gas and it starts pouring into the toilet. The director is wondering where Jackie is. She never came back to the hospital- it turns out she's the patient. That woman is not her mother. She claims Geoffrey is a specialist she's been seeing, and he's the last person to see her before she attacked her driver with hair replacement spray. Geoffrey, now worried, heads toward the police station to find his cousin. Before he can get there, though, a car hits him from behind. It's Jackie. She asks if he took out his patient and collected the money. He reveals that he's been lying and calls her out for her deceit as well. They kiss passionately. Meanwhile Gertrude

has returned home and needs to use the bathroom. Ignoring the smell (Geoffrey is just like his father) she goes in. A montage of the car chase and the house, where Gertrude lights a match after she's done and drops it into the toilet. BOOM! At the end of the montage, the officer turns a sharp corner toward a cliff side and stops just in time. He gets out to look and there is a smashed car at the bottom. Both are presumed dead, and he leaves. They are both hidden away, though. The car at the bottom is a plant. Jackie has planned this whole thing. When they discover the house destroyed, they assume Gertrude is no more and collect the insurance. The final scene is them on a tropical island. They look over on the beach and sitting a few feet away is Gertrude. Turns out she took out a policy on Geoffrey. Turns out he's more like her than she realized.