

DIGGING UP TROUBLE

Written by

Simon K. Parker

simonkyleparker@hotmail.co.uk
Copyright 2020

1 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY 1

The grass is well overgrown, at least four foot high.

Weeds everywhere, plants around the boarder are dead or close to dying.

A neglected garden, and neglected for years.

2 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY 2

Filled with moving boxes the garage is in need of organization.

James, 40, searches for and begins to collect up as many different gardening tools as he can find.

3 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY 3

James, armed with a shovel starts to dig up and pull away at a dead and rotten bush. No hope of it making a comeback.

On the other side of the fence, Sarah , 77, white hair and thick glasses peers over at James.

SARAH

Excuse me, are you the new owner.

James beams at her, a big toothy smile. He places down his shovel and wipes his dirty hands against his shirt. Trying to clean them as best he can.

He offers out his hand to shake.

JAMES

Yes I am. Hi there neighbor. My name is James.

Sarah refuses the offer to shake his hand.

SARAH

(presses herself against the fence and frowns)

I don't want you doing any gardening work. Do you understand. You need to stop what you're doing right now.

James slowly lowers his hand, visibly confused he's taken aback.

JAMES
 (nervous laughter)
 Why can't I do any gardening? Isn't
 all of this an eyesore.

SARAH
 You'll disturb the animals.

JAMES
 The rats?

SARAH
 You'll disturb all the animals that
 use those wild flowers as their
 home.

James spins around, gesturing with outstretched arms to his
 'garden.'

JAMES
 What wild flowers? It's nothing but
 weeds and dead plants.

SARAH
 I won't tell you again, I'll call
 the police if I have to.

She moves away, hurrying back inside her own home.

All James can do is watch, his mouth hanging open. Totally
 stunned.

4 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

4

The counter tops are all covered up with large plastic
 sheets. More moving boxes stacked up in the middle of the
 floor.

Just moved in.

Claire is going through them, checking what's inside a few of
 the boxes.

James comes in. They smile at each other.

JAMES
 I know we've just brought this
 place...

CLAIRE
 Yeah?

JAMES

But you understand all the legal document stuff more than me.

She puts a hand under her chin. Leans against the kitchen table, its covered up with a large plastic sheet too.

CLAIRE

Do I need to be worried?

JAMES

Is there like some kind of law where I can't dig up the garden.

She laughs.

CLAIRE

What have you done?

JAMES

Nothing. Haven't even started . The old lady next door said if I did anything to our garden she'd call the police on me.

Again Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

Get out of here.

JAMES

So I'm good to do whatever I want?

CLAIRE

Yeah, but why she's saying this.

JAMES

Says the garden is home to the animals. So I should leave it alone. And she'll call the police if I do anything. I just wanted to check with you that I was safe?

CLAIRE

Well no there's nothing she can do, but I'd like to find some common ground. Would you like me to speak to her.

JAMES

No.

CLAIRE

Explain to her why we want to change the garden and what we're doing.

JAMES

No, it's my land. I'll do what I want.

5 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - SPARE BEDROOM - DAY 5

Inside a small empty spare room at the back of the house, it overlooks the back garden.

James and Claire gather together at the window. From here they see their garden and the old lady's too.

James points at the overgrown messy garden next to there's.

JAMES

Look at her garden, it's a mess.

CLAIRE

I wish you wouldn't turn this into a thing.

JAMES

Hers is worse than mine, who the hell is she to tell me anything.

CLAIRE

(mortified)
James, please.

6 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY 6

James starts working on the garden, with a shovel in hand he's removing the dead bushes out of the ground.

Claire stands behind him, arms crossed.

She hears the gate behind her opening and closing. Turns around to see Sarah entering.

Claire hurries closer to James, nudging him in the back with her folded arms.

CLAIRE

(excited hissing)
James, is that her?

James doesn't stop working, looks over at Sarah and nods.

JAMES
(proud)
Yep.

CLAIRE
Why is she here?

Sarah continues to march over, frowning with gritted teeth at James and Claire.

JAMES
I invited her so she could watch.

Claire slams her folded arms again into him.

CLAIRE
(snaps)
Well I'm not going to watch you
embarrass yourself.

Claire then quickly moves away, heads back inside without looking back. Banging the back door shut behind her.

Sarah now takes Claire's place behind James.

James continues digging, ripping up more of the bushes with his shovel. Clearing away a large patch.

SARAH
(shaking)
I told you not to do this.

He throws down his shovel as he turns around to face her. James wags a finger right into her face.

JAMES
It's my land and I can do whatever
I want to.

Sarah now breaks down, crying. Holding her hands in front of her mouth she's too upset and has to leave.

As James watches Sarah rush off, his smile disappears. Now just feeling bad.

He picks up his shovel and returns to work. Digging and clearing away more of the dead bushes.

The soil is soft and easily turned over.

CLANK. His shovel hits something. James scrunches up his face, CLANK. He hits it again.

He kneels down, clears away the dirt with his hands and finds a human skull.

James could faint, can't believe it.

7 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

7

Claire is back to searching through the cardboard removal boxes.

James enters, his hands caked in dirt. Breathing rapid, clearly caught up in the excitement.

JAMES

Claire, who owned this place before us?

She keeps her back to him.

CLAIRE

I'm not talking to you.

He claps his hands together, holding them in prayer.

Dirt is scattered across the floor. She sees this out of the corner of her eyes.

JAMES

Please.

She now turns to face him, points at the bits of dirt on the floor.

CLAIRE

If you're going to be dirty, stay outside.

JAMES

Who owned this house?

CLAIRE

Some Russian mobster owned it but never lived here. We're the first people who've ever moved in.

JAMES

And it's true isn't it. A real Russian mobster.

CLAIRE

(shaking her head)
The whole gang got deported.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

There's none of them left in the country. Something the police and the courts got right for a change.

JAMES

I need you to come with me.

CLAIRE

I'm busy.

JAMES

Come on.

CLAIRE

You're a jerk James. I'm still really pissed at you. I'm not interested in anymore of your childish games. Leave me alone.

JAMES

Please, I really want to show you something.

CLAIRE

I don't care.

She turns back to her boxes.

James shrugs.

8

EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

8

James continues digging around in the same spot, the found human skull now down by his feet.

CLUNK. He hits something else.

James drops down to his knees, with a big goofy smile he digs around in the turned over soil with his bare hands and finds an old suitcase.

He pulls it free, opens it. It's filled with money. Cash. It must be a huge sum.

James just stares down at it, transfixed.

Unseen behind him, Sarah comes back through the gate and into the garden.

She has an old outdated video camera in her hands.

She approaches him, filming.

SARAH

That's right. Keep up with what you're doing.

James snaps out of his daze, glances over his shoulder he sees it's Sarah and closes the suitcase.

Shuffles around to face her, still on his knees.

JAMES

What the hell are you doing?

Sarah marches right over to him, sticks the camera in his face.

SARAH

(riled up)

I'm going to name and shame you.
Show the world how you're
destroying the habitation of
hundreds of innocent wild animals.

JAMES

I haven't got time for this.

She now films the area where he's been digging. She almost steps on the human skull, but doesn't see it.

SARAH

You should be ashamed of yourself.

JAMES

Get out of my garden. Get off of my property.

SARAH

No.

James now tries to cover the suitcase over with the dug up soil.

Sarah films the suitcase. Zooms in on it.

JAMES

I've told you to get out of here.

SARAH

What is that. What are you up to.
Show me what's in that suitcase.

She attempts to reach out for it. Still filming.

James picks up his shovel.

JAMES

I'm going to break that god damn camera. I warned you.

SARAH

What's in it.

James swings the shovel, aiming for her camera but he misses and cracks the shovel across the side of Sarah's head.

She's sent crashing down to the ground, blood sprays out.

James opens up the suitcase, runs his hands all over the money. A greedy smile.

Sarah lies behind him, a pool of blood forming underneath her. Pouring out from the wound on the side of her head.

9 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - DAY 9

James zips the suitcase closed and moves away from the house, glancing suspiciously and repeatedly over his shoulder.

10 EXT. JAMES'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY 10

Claire comes into the garden from the back door, carrying a tray with two freshly made cups of tea.

She sees Sarah on the ground, laying in a pool of her own blood.

Claire drops the tray and gasps. There's no sign of James.

CLAIRE

Oh please god, no.

11 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY 11

James with the suitcase clutched to his chest is now sprinting down the empty city street.

He's making a run for it, a getaway.

FADE TO BLACK