



The Monkey's Paw

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CAINIX



The Story

After a father's wish for two hundred pounds is apparently fulfilled through his son's fatal accident, his grieving wife demands a second wish to bring their boy home-and mysterious knocking forces the parents into a desperate struggle over opening the door.

Story

Cinematic adaptation

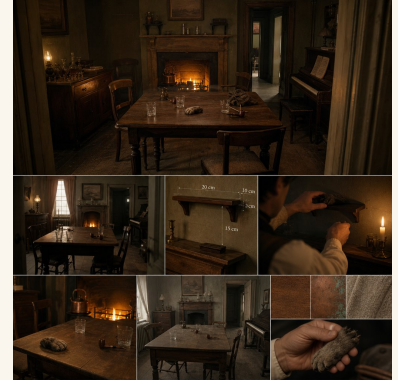


Scene 1

Checkmate

Episode 1

Mr. White blames the miserable road for his irritation while mother and son exchange a knowing look. A banging gate announces Sergeant-Major Morris. Compress hospitality and his accounts of twenty-one years abroad into a lively fireside exchange. When Mr. White asks about the monkey's paw, Morris abruptly withdraws from the conversation. An affectionate family evening acquires a subject their worldly visitor is...

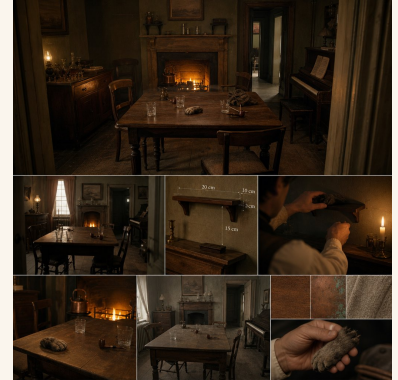


Scene 2

The Third Was Death

Episode 2

Herbert examines the object before passing it to his father. Morris explains that an old fakir enchanted it to demonstrate the sorrow of interfering with fate: three men may each receive three wishes. Herbert challenges him to try it. Morris admits he already has, his face whitening. Asked about an earlier owner, he reveals that the man's third wish was for death. The apparent curiosity becomes an object associated...

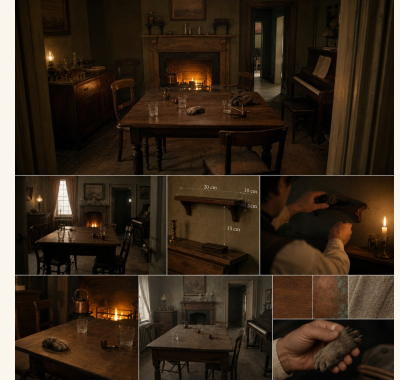


Scene 3

Two Hundred Pounds

Episode 4

Herbert's teasing restores the household's easy warmth. He suggests two hundred pounds-enough to clear the house. While Herbert supplies mock-solemn piano chords, Mr. White raises the paw in his right hand and speaks the wish. A crashing chord and White's cry interrupt the joke. The paw hits the floor. White insists it twisted like a snake; Herbert retrieves it but finds no money. The first wish is spent, and Mr....



Scene 4

Faces in the Fire

Episode 5

The family's conversation falters as the wind rises. Herbert jokingly promises money on the bed and something horrible watching from the wardrobe. After his parents retire, he sits alone beside the dying fire. A simian face seems to form in the coals-an impression tied to his gaze, not an objective apparition. Reaching for water, he touches the paw instead. He wipes his hand on his coat and leaves for bed. Even the...



Scene 5

Only a Tailor's Bill

Episode 6

The paw lies carelessly on the sideboard as Herbert laughs away the previous night. Mr. White recalls Morris saying that fulfillment can look like coincidence. Herbert jokes about the money corrupting his father and leaves for work; his mother watches him down the road. A postman's knock briefly excites her hopes, but the delivery is only a tailor's bill. By dinner, she anticipates Herbert's jokes when he returns,...

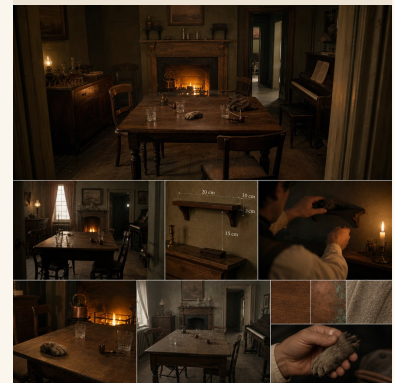


Scene 6

Not in Any Pain

Episode 7

Through the window, Mrs. White watches the stranger hesitate three times before finally entering. Connecting his appearance with the expected money, she hides her apron and brings him into the parlour. Her apologies collide with his strained silence. He finally identifies himself as coming from Maw and Meggins. Asked about Herbert, he says the young man is badly hurt, but not in pain. Mrs. White's relief falters as...



Scene 7

The Exact Amount

Episode 9

The exact amount lands before either parent can answer. Mrs. White shrieks; Mr. White smiles faintly, reaches out blindly, and collapses. Cut from the parlour's shattered domestic order to the huge new cemetery, where the parents bury their son. Keep Herbert's body unseen and the funeral compressed, with no added mourners or speeches. The couple leave together, carrying a loss that the offered money cannot repair....



Scene 8

The Other Two

Episode 10

Compress the passing days through changed light and the couple's nearly wordless routines. Their initial expectation that something might ease the loss gives way to resignation. About a week after the burial, Mr. White wakes to find his wife weeping at the bedroom window. He asks her to return to the warmth; she answers that their son is colder. He dozes, then wakes to her cry: "The paw!" She urgently asks whether...



Scene 9

By His Clothing

Episode 11

Mrs. White demands the paw, still on the parlour bracket. Mr. White protests that the first fulfillment may have been coincidence. She treats it as proof. Forced to explain his terror, he reveals that Herbert has been dead ten days and was recognizable only by his clothing. She refuses the implication that she could fear her own child. Grief becomes physical conflict as she pulls her husband toward the bedroom...



Scene 10

Alive Again

Episode 12

Having reluctantly descended, White retrieves the talisman and becomes disoriented. His terror that an unspoken wish might already summon Herbert remains subjective; nothing appears. He finds the passage and returns upstairs. His wife's expectant face now frightens him. He calls the act foolish and wicked, but she commands him to wish. He raises his right hand: "I wish my son alive again." The paw falls to the...

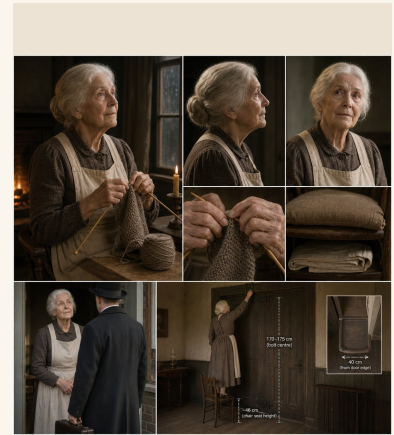


Scene 11

Let Me Go

Episode 14

Mrs. White declares that Herbert has returned. White catches her arm before she can leave the bedroom. She remembers that the cemetery is two miles away and explains the delay as her son's journey home. He begs her not to let it in. She breaks free and rushes downstairs while he follows only as far as the landing. The chain rattles; the lower bolt slides back. Unable to reach the upper bolt, she calls for his help....



Scene 12

The Deserted Road

Episode 15

Crosscut vertically between Mrs. White climbing to the bolt and White searching the bedroom floor for the fallen paw. The knocking becomes a fusillade. As the bolt moves, his hand finds the talisman; he breathes his final wish without intelligible words. The knocking stops. Mrs. White opens the door and wails. White rushes downstairs, then beyond her to the gate. Finish on the flickering street lamp and the quiet,...

Visual Reference

Appendix · characters, places and objects



Mr. White

Elderly father, wish-maker, and central agent of the final action.

Manuscript: an old man with a thin grey beard. Interpretation: an unostentatious domestic presence, physically capable of quick movement despite age; no additional facial anatomy is established.



Mrs. White

Mother and co-protagonist whose hope of recovering Herbert drives the second wish and door sequence.

Manuscript: a white-haired old woman, initially knitting placidly by the fire. Interpretation: economical domestic movement and a recognizable face maintained through every emotional state.



Herbert White

The lively son whose suggestion initiates the first wish and whose absence transforms the household.

Manuscript: youthful, lively and teasing; no detailed face, hair, eye color or build is supplied. His movement and expression, rather than invented physical traits, distinguish him.



Sergeant-Major Morris

Visiting veteran, bearer of the paw, and warning figure.

Manuscript: tall and burly, beady-eyed, rubicund, broad-shouldered, with strong teeth and a blotchy face. His physical solidity contrasts with his unease about the paw.



The Maw and Meggins representative

Uneasy company messenger who reports Herbert's death and the compensation offer.

The text establishes polish and unease, not age, build, complexion or facial features. His neat clothing should contrast with Mr. White's garden coat.



Laburnam Villa - parlour and domestic table

Small inhabited parlour with bright hearth, drawn blinds, chess, knitting, table, piano, sideboard and mantel area. Proposed worn wood and modest textiles keep it domestic rather than gothic.



Laburnam Villa - bedroom, landing, staircase and front passage

Upstairs bedroom linked by landing and staircase to the small front passage and bolted door. Exact orientation is proposed and must be locked before generation.



Laburnam Villa - gate, path and road

Outlying house frontage, gate, muddy path and road, with a street lamp opposite. Only two houses in the road are lit; total building count is unknown.



The huge new cemetery

A huge new cemetery approximately two miles away, seen only for the burial transition.



The monkey's paw

Interference with fate made materially ordinary.



Chessboard and exposed king

An ordinary early image of unnecessary risk and familial play.



Piano, knitting and antimacassar

Humor and care before the house loses its conversation.



Hospitality objects and dying fire

Security, sociability and the first private intrusion of fear.



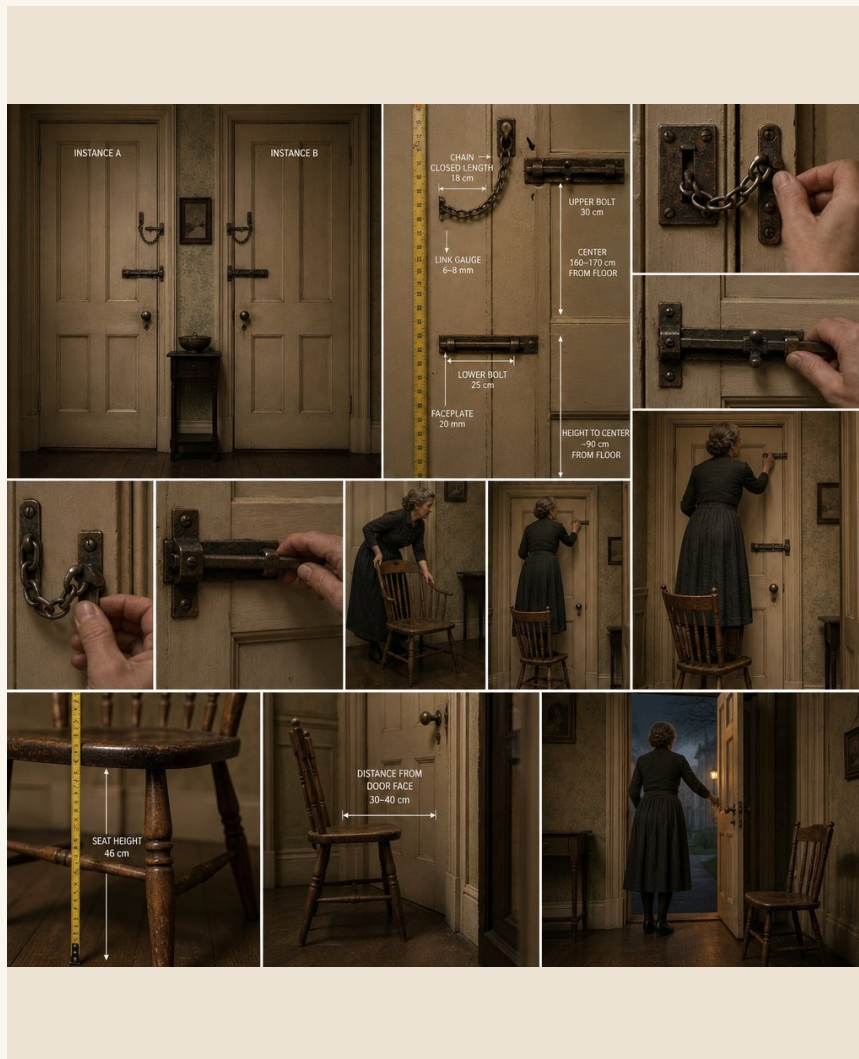
Tailor's bill and two hundred pounds

Everyday expense contrasted with the devastating equivalence of wish and compensation.



China candlestick, matches and clock

Waiting measured by light depletion and ordinary time.



Chain, two bolts and chair

A domestic boundary contested by parental hope and fear.



Blind, gate, street lamp and empty space

Looking and listening without receiving a visible answer.

Francis • Storybook Review

Executive Producer

The key beats read as one story, with approved images of the people and places in each. Canon motifs not visible in any key beat: Chessboard and exposed king, Piano, knitting and antimacassar, Hospitality objects and dying fire, Tailor's bill and two hundred pounds and 3 more. Every key beat has an approved image of who or where it involves. Director's note • Excellent adaptation.

Credits

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