

VELLUM

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

Kimberley Ainsworth is an estate agent. Life has made her a bitter, greedy, manipulative fraudster who will twist and turn in order to maximise her income without conscience, without regret. She lives alone, drinks too much and focuses almost exclusively on making money.

She sells a house at a vastly inflated cost to Magdalena, a graphic designer, and her carpenter husband Ryan, whilst also ensuring the financial and legal advice they receive suits her purposes rather than theirs.

A year later, 'Maggie' loses her design job to the onslaught of AI. Finances are tight, life becomes difficult and one fateful evening while Ryan is working away, Maggie, feeling lonely and worried about making ends meet, drinks a little too much, falls asleep and dies from inhaling fumes from a nylon carpet set smouldering all night long by a fallen candle.

Ryan and her father Max, grief-stricken and looking for someone to blame, direct their anger at the vendor, who, they were told, kept renegeing on deals and pushing the price higher during a hard-fought bidding war: a war which put them under great financial strain and forced a reluctant Magdalena to seek help from her estranged father.

A few weeks later, buyer and vendor meet for the first time at a neighbour's barbecue, and after an acrimonious beginning, Ryan and Max learn that the vendor, Sarah, had only *one* offer – much higher than she was expecting. Naturally, she accepted. There were no other offers. There was no bidding war. The estate agent had lied to them both for her own gain.

Maggie's father Max is a dealer in antiquities. He specialises in sourcing rare items for museums and private collectors. Having been reunited with his daughter following a period of estrangement, he has lost her again - this time for ever. He is grieving. He is angry. He is vengeful.

Max has never met Kimberley Ainsworth. He watches her for some time, learning about her. He observes her routines and habits, her drinking, her brash, abrasive style and the dismissive way in which she treats people.

One evening just before closing, he visits her in her agency posing as one Victor Laszlo, a wealthy international trader, asking her to find a property suitable to use as his base when in London. He insists on reviewing the properties she finds over dinner the next evening, during which he tantalises her with business possibilities and encourages her to get increasingly drunk and uninhibited.

They play a 'silly game' of wishes, where he establishes what she would wish for before committing it to writing on a piece of paper he happened to have in his jacket pocket. The 'paper' is in fact an extremely rare vellum.

With the wishes committed to writing, he cleverly tricks her using a blood tester for diabetics into producing a tiny bead of blood, with which to 'seal the deal'.

And so Kimberley's wishes are made.

Then, with one exquisite twist after another, her wishes all come true...



VELLUM has been green-lit and is in pre-production.

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