

BEAUTY ISLAND / DR. KARMA

Treatment, January 2025
by Thom Bierdz

Pilot Premise

Seven winners of THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD contest are boated to an island mansion to get their million dollar prizes - but it's a scam. Everything beautiful becomes ugly, from zebras revealed to be painted donkeys, to hidden cameras filming bedrooms, to missing mirrors, make-up, wigs and clothes - and then these gorgeous people start disappearing one by one. Turns out among them is their disguised old Dr. Karma reversing their plastic surgery procedures to make them all "ugly" because he has discovered they did ugly things and are no longer worthy of the privilege of beauty - except the one he intends to marry. **FANTASY ISLAND meets 10 LITTLE INDIANS meets THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU.**

NOTE: Although this series is drama thriller, the character of Dr. Karma can also be explored as a comic book / superhero movie villain. Huge merchandising potential.

Characters

Boris / Dr. Karma - 58, striking macho male (Polish accent when Boris)

Downtown - 52, gorgeous blonde female pop singer

Hank - 52, studly retired athlete and real estate mogul

Tina - 40, stunning arrogant red-haired reality TV star

Luigi - 35, hunky male model battling alcoholism

Kailani - 25, skittish Asian female model

Marianne - 60, dominant nipped-and-tucked Black politician

Patti - 55, sassy unattractive servant

Carl - 35, Patti's son, a hunchback servant who becomes handsome and vengeful

Pilot Outline

PRESENT DAY. A MYSTERIOUS TINY ISLAND.

With a suitcase, a gorgeous blonde waves to FANS and rushes away to a small boat carrying six other stunning strangers, 3 female, 3 male, all of whom recognize her as famous singer named DOWNTOWN (52). Even the foreign DRIVER of the tipsy boat mimics choreography from her music video and sings in broken English her lyrics, "I'm glued. To you. Heart, no one can pull us apart." She sings along and politely corrects his moves as the others look jealous and impatient, especially arrogant red-head reality star TINA (40) who yells at the driver to get to work. As the rocky boat speeds through harsh wind toward an island, too loud for any introductions, Downtown seems to be the only one enjoying the adventure while the others curse their ruined hair or lost hats. Uptight, perfect-looking BORIS (58), with Polish accent, passes around a plastic bag for them all to keep their phones dry and hands it to the driver.

At the pier of a mysterious tiny island, a geeky hunchback male servant (CARL, 35) and his unattractive mother servant (PATTI, 55) greet them, guiding them through elaborate "Beauty Island" gates toward an isolated island mansion surrounded by zebras and zebra-striped birds. Dialogue reveals these exceptional human specimens are seven winners of THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD contest and came to the mansion to pose with their million dollar prizes. But there aren't any prizes in sight, or any camera crew, or a host with any explanation! Young Asian model KAILANI (25) wants to leave but the boat has left - taking their cell phones!

Carl starts a living room fire and serves drinks, ignoring Tina's insults and whining. Downtown suggests they all introduce themselves, since they all already know who she is. Boris smiles trying to lock eyes but she has more chemistry with handsome bearded mature athlete HANK (52) in dark sunglasses, not recognizing him yet from their passionate high school romance. Tina tries to steal Hank's interest. Sexy rugged model LUIGI (35) is attracted to all the ladies, including terrified model Kailani - who tries to use a house phone to report their missing phones, but the phone has no reception. Timid Carl apologizes that the house has no computers and no way to communicate with the outside world until the boat returns in three days. Infuriated nipped-and-tucked black millionaire MARIANNE (60) insists she has to leave to do TV interviews the next days on her congressional

campaign. Patti shushes their complaints and urges the guests to enjoy the ocean sunset view and the extraordinary indoor aquariums and Picasso paintings and her delicious dinner, being set before them.

During dinner conversation, they unravel that they were all sent \$10,000 for travel so they all came believing they would get million dollar checks - but now are skeptical.

After dessert, from the top of the elaborate staircase, Patti announces they can now pick their rooms. The pretty women race up, playfully competing for the best room, which Marianne demands, pushing out the others. Tina surrenders the next best room to Downtown so Tina can be nearer studly Hank's room, despite him wearing a wedding ring. All seven are shocked when they close their door to see a poster of themselves. How did the house/staff/mystery host know which rooms they would choose?? Even creepier, the text on the posters reads the same: "If a beautiful person does ugly things, do they still deserve beauty?" Tina, Kailani and Boris demand Patti provide answers for the offensive question but she says to Boris she has no idea who the host is because she just arrived before they did. Kailani does not believe Patti and screams, panics and faints. Luigi embraces stranger Kailani as Marianne pours them all drinks from the hall bar, yelling she has not been this upset since her son died. Luigi refuses alcohol despite Boris handing it to him several times.

Later, Tina sneaks into Hank's room and undresses, but he politely declines sex... and she angrily leaves. He stares longingly across the courtyard at Downtown's window, watching her undress. Terrified Kailani pulls Luigi in her room, and those two perfect-looking people make love on silk bedding watching themselves on a huge ornate wall mirror. Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Carl and Patti nod to a mystery figure, who brings them into a secret basement which has working computer screens showing Luigi making love to Kailani - and what is happening in all seven bedrooms!

In the morning, Downtown (drugged by dinner?) awakes and wobbles to her bathroom, to find the mirror is spray-painted red! All the mirrors in the entire house are painted red! Tina realizes her make-up is missing. Bald Marianne is furious her wig is also missing! Kailani and Luigi cannot even find their clothes. Hank wakes up bloody - his head and beard have been roughly shaved, and his eyeglasses are broken. Wearing pajamas or sheets, they all storm downstairs to Patti and Carl, setting out a huge breakfast for them. Patti and Carl lie that they have no idea who took their things or shaved

Hank, who Downtown now recognizes as her teenage love. Kailani and Marianne insist Patti and Carl are the culprits; Marianne even punches them until Hank and Luigi pull her away. Humiliated to be seen bald, Marianne flees upstairs. Downtown chases after her, making her a headdress from a napkin, then they join the self-conscious others at breakfast. Downtown flirtatiously asks Hank if he wants her to make him a headdress as well? Jealous Tina fingers his bald head saying "no, Hank's even sexier now." Hank asks why Boris's glasses are not broken like his are? Perfectionist Boris shrugs, while straightening silverware and pulling out dying roses in the wilting floral centerpiece. He hands Downtown a beautiful rose - they lock eyes in mutual attraction.

Patti begs them to enjoy her five-star breakfast, but Kailani warns the food may be poisoned. Tina nods, saying it's because Patti and Carl are jealous of their beauty. As Patti pours them coffee, deliberately spilling some on Tina, Patti quips that she does not find any of them beautiful at all, certainly not as beautiful as her handicapped son Carl. Kind people-pleaser Downtown affirms Carl and Patti are beautiful, but Boris steers the conversation to their posters which implied they all did ugly things and don't deserve beauty. Hank acknowledges he has been unethical in real estate. Luigi admits under alcohol he may have done bad things. Patti asks Marianne if she takes bribes "like all other politicians." Marianne throws water on her. Patti rips the napkin headdress off Marianne. They fight until the men pull them apart.

Later, as the group walks the cloudy beach looking for any passing boat, Boris demands Patti tell them who brought them there. Patti pretends she does not know. Downtown asks where everyone lives: all Los Angeles, except Luigi, from New York, and Boris, from Poland - but Luigi and Boris have spent time in Los Angeles. They concur whomever brought them there is probably a mutual acquaintance from Los Angeles - but who??

Later in the living room, Luigi uses a sewing machine to make clothes from sheets, which Kailani and Tina model, competing for the sexy man's attention.

On the beach, petting a zebra as it starts to rain, Downtown's hand gets black, and she shows the others that the "zebra" is painted with stripes. Rain shows paint also dripping off the birds! Boris wonders aloud if there is a correlation to the beauty/ugly poster text, asking if the "most beautiful people in the world" have been revealed to be ugly without make-up, or unethical like Hank's real estate, or unstable like Kailani, or have ugly tempers like Marianne abusing servants.

Bald Marianne pets the "zebra" and gets black hands and wipes them on Boris's face, giving him blackface, accusing him of racism. Boris wipes the white paint and gives Marianne white face, accusing her of racism. Furious that his collar has paint on it, he storms into the mansion. Meanwhile, Downtown wipes her black hands seductively on Hank's face, who says he never stopped loving her. Marianne asks how they know each other and they admit they were school sweethearts, but they don't answer why they broke up.

Boris sneaks into the basement. He reviews the secret video of the black/white face footage, anonymously posting Marianne with white face on Twitter/X. If that isn't enough to ruin her career, he posts the earlier footage of bald Marianne beating hunchback Carl.

At dinner, Hank notices the aquariums are bloody; the beautiful fish are now eating each other, like piranhas, horrifying Downtown. Boris wonders aloud if the host is again showing that beauty is a façade like the painted donkeys and painted pigeons and the women without wigs and make-up - and the food on their plates which now tastes and smells horrible. None can even stomach it as they beg Patti for edible food. She hands them knives saying there is no more meat so if they want her to roast some, go kill the birds or fish or donkeys, "or each other, I bet roasted Tina or Marianne would be tasty." Hank and Luigi leave with knives to hunt. The others debate beauty and the pretty women guests admit to all having plastic surgery - and all in Los Angeles - and all on Rodeo Drive - and all by a plastic surgeon named Dr. Karma (who they do not recognize is Boris). Boris says he also had work done by Dr. Karma, "the best surgeon in the world."

As Luigi holds a donkey for Hank to kill, Downtown races to them and grabs the knife, saving the animal.

Watching this on secret video is Boris, in the basement, who shows Patti, "Maybe I'll let her keep that beautiful face. She is a true beauty. Like me."

During the night, through bedroom courtyard windows, Downtown flirts with Hank - until Patti knocks on Downtown's door, offering her a cup of tea. As Downtown hesitates drinking it, Patti comments, "Oh that Hank is a hunk, isn't he? Shame his pregnant wife couldn't make it." Patti leaves, having killed Downtown's romantic hopes with Hank. Downtown lowers the window shade, blocking Hank's view.

Marianne opens her bedroom door to Boris, asking what he wants. He closes the door and injects her with a syringe. She falls to the floor, limp.

In the morning, Downtown knocks on Marianne's door, then reports to the others that Marianne is missing. As they all drink booze (even Luigi now) and play dangerous darts in the game room, they wonder how Marianne got off the island. Kailani insists Marianne did not and that she was more likely killed.

In a basement room, Boris/Dr. Karma saws off the right hand of sedated Marianne laying on a cot. The basement door opens. Tina enters and sees the computers with spying footage and cans of red spray paint. Before she can yell, Dr. Karma holds her mouth shut. He forces her to watch the moment she tried to seduce Hank in his room - as well as the known reality TV footage of her stealing husbands. Dr. Karma says he sculpted her beautiful face and breasts but her actions are ugly so her face and breasts must match that. As she struggles, he pulls her to a surgical cot net to Marianne and injects Tina unconscious.

When Tina is absent from dinner, tension escalates. Two missing bodies - so the remaining guests worry there's a killer in the house - so they search closets and the attic. Not finding anyone, they reason it must be Patti and Carl - but when Carl goes missing the next day, they start to suspect and accuse each other of being the murderer. No one trusts anyone, further separating Hank and Downtown.

Dr. Karma lovingly pets the donkeys and sees Downtown walking the night beach. He follows her. He smiles with vulnerability like a love-sick kid and picks her a rose - and she can't help but be flattered and attracted to him as he dances and sings her hit: "I'm glued. To you. Heart, no one can pull us apart."

In the morning, searching the house for clues, Hank finds the basement and computers with spying footage and hollers. He also spots the bag of their cell phones. He does not see Dr. Karma behind him with a syringe - but Dr. Karma quickly retreats when Downtown enters, followed by Kailani and Luigi.

Claiming her cell phone, Kailani calls 9-1-1 to rescue them "on some island." Luigi is shocked to watch a hospital video of him sneaking in liquor and fucking a nurse. One screen shows newspapers accusing Marianne of political bribes and

another shows Hank embezzling real estate and another shows Downtown's signature on a form giving a child up for adoption.

Dr. Karma enters from above, pretending he is just discovering the room. He searches online for an image of "Dr. Karma" (unrecognizable as Dr. Karma) and asks the others if this was the same surgeon they had? They affirm and search more info on him - but Google says he disappeared five years ago. Hank insists Patti has the answers so he and Luigi find Patti in the kitchen, interrogate her and tie her to a chair.

In the basement, Marianne wakes with one hand cut off and bandaged. She screams and sees doped-up Carl move on a surgical bed surrounded by contemporary medical equipment. Marianne also finds unconscious Tina on another bed, unrecognizable with her face stitched and bloated - and now flat-chested. Marianne tries to break out the basement door but Dr. Karma enters, pulling in a gagged Kailani.

Dr. Karma forces Marianne and Kailani in a cage and hands them surgical knives. When they holler he is the crazy killer, he says, "only one person in this house is a killer. Her name is Kailani." Frantic Kailani denies it but Dr. Karma reveals that Kailani told him that in her cocaine days she killed a man for his wallet. Kailani insists she never told anyone that, then Dr. Karma drops his fake Polish accent and says patients confess sins under anesthesia. She says she has only had surgery once, rhinoplasty, and realizes he is that doctor, Dr. Karma. Dr. Karma admits he surgically changed his appearance and was the brilliant doctor who made all his guests beautiful but since they did ugly acts, they no longer deserve the privilege of being beautiful, so he has an obligation to take away their beauty. He explains he removed Marianne's hand for taking political bribes. He reveals Kailani was the one who killed Marianne's son years ago. Dr. Karma insists that Marianne now knife caged Kailani. They hear a helicopter. Dr. Karma runs out.

Dr. Karma races outside to the lowering police helicopter. Police shout, "Anyone here call 9-1-1?!" Dr. Karma yells, "No, I am here alone!" The helicopter takes off, not seeing Downtown racing to wave it back.

Downtown finally realizes Dr. Karma is the bad guy and says so. He says she is the bad guy for not telling Hank she had his child, and then giving up the baby. That orphan is Luigi, who has no idea either. Downtown is stunned. Dr. Karma says he forgives her and if she promises to never do ugly things again, she can stay on Beauty Island alone with him and he

won't destroy the face of Luigi. He kisses her. She says he's crazy. In a fit, he loses his accent and she realizes he is Dr. Karma who sculpted her gorgeous face decades ago. He says she is ugly to lust for married Hank, that she deserves a beautiful marriage to handsome him (Dr. Karma). She outruns him toward the house. He trips, injuring a leg.

In the kitchen, Hank threatens to kill Patti unless she tells he and Luigi who is behind all this. She refuses. Before he can stab her, Downtown flies in and saves her, shouting Dr. Karma is the psycho. Patti pleads with them not to hurt her brother Dr. Karma. They ask how could she go along with his heinous schemes and she says "for surgery." Downtown presses, "You did this to be beautiful??" "I don't think any of you are beautiful," Patti repeats, "I did this so he'll make my son presentable, so people stop making fun of him."

In the secret basement cage, Marianne stabs Kailani for killing her son. Behind spooky lab jars is the operating table where doped-up Carl waits. Dr. Karma flies in to grab syringes. Behind him, the basement door flies open. Hank throws in Patti, and charges at Dr. Karma. Downtown enters and stops Hank from strangling Dr. Karma - which allows Dr. Karma to stab Hank's face. Luigi tries to pull him off. Downtown takes a heavy jar and knocks Dr. Karma unconscious, then she hugs bleeding unconscious Hank.

Dead fish remains float in the aquariums. Half-painted pigeons eat Marianne's dead hand. Half-painted donkeys wildly circle two landing helicopters.

Police with three gurneys load Marianne, Tina and Kailani into one rescue helicopter. Patti, helping drowsy Carl, also climbs inside.

Downtown pulls Luigi, gripping a vodka bottle, into the other helicopter where police load the gurneys of barely conscious Hank and Dr. Karma. Mid-flight, Downtown tells Luigi, "Dr. Karma said you are the child I gave up for adoption. Hank is your father." Overwhelmed Luigi closes his eyes and drinks.

Days later, Downtown enters a hospital room as a pregnant woman exits. Downtown asks scarred but conscious Hank if that was his wife? He says she just saw his face and asked for a divorce. Downtown embraces him, kisses him. Luigi enters, sees them, dances her choreography and sings her hit, as they join in, "I'm glued. To you. Heart, no one can pull us apart."

Suddenly the door flings open. Dr. Karma, charading as a doctor at this hospital, enters. "Hank's handsome face is destroyed," Dr. Karma states, "I am still beautiful. Marry me." He points a gun at her, kidnapping her, despite Luigi's efforts to stop it.

The Next Episode

...has Downtown drugged, acting like a Stepford Wife to Dr. Karma, singing for their beautiful new guests...

The Next Episodes

...explore strengths and weaknesses of beauty as Boris/Dr. Karma, like **FANTASY ISLAND'S** Mr. Roarke with a God complex and skewed sense of justice, manipulates ugly-acting beautiful ex-patients to Beauty Island. Aided by sassy sister Patti and nephew Carl, no longer a hunchback but a vengeful sexy stud, Dr. Karma unleashes his victims on a neighbor island, penniless and coping with their disfigured faces and bodies. Like **THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU**, this island houses dangerous half human, half animal creatures. Of course, once "beauty" lessons are learned, there can be happy endings, as Dr. Karma still tries to find a deserving wife...

As Downtown gets her memory back, Dr. Karma honestly pleads to do anything to keep her, vowing to change... so she pretends to love him, and almost can, but cannot. He has a psychotic breakdown, screaming how he is perfect beauty and must be married to her because she is perfect beauty. Escaping his wrath, she breaks his aquariums, knives his masterpiece paintings, burns his mansion and escapes on a boat with his precious zebra-striped donkeys. With nothing around him that is beautiful, he has no reason to live and cries in agony as flames engulf him.

It appears Dr. Karma dies, but he he survives, makes his way to the city. Poor and in need of wealth, he justifies taking money away from greedy bank billionaires and corrupt politicians... Once wealthy again, the complex and controversial Dr. Karma secretly continues his deranged mission of being the ultimate social justice warrior. The series continues with him stealing from the greedy, ugly-ing the ugly-acting, punishing all he finds unethical. No one is safe.