



“My Love, My Sweet”

An original screenplay by
Matt Whitby and Claire Whyte

Logline and Synopsis

A troubled young woman obsessed with finding love struggles with reality – and the dark entity pursuing her.

More than anything, Louise wants to be loved: deep rooted, aching, to surpass all others. She imagines the love of her life will simply appear and order coffee. When Ben walks through the door, Louise is instantly smitten.

Her obsession with Ben starts the moment he rejects her.

Yet, waiting in the shadows, a demonic presence has been watching Louise. It recognises Ben as the gateway to her soul and manifests itself in his image – as Benjamin. Louise believes it's the real Ben and falls into his arms.

Once Benjamin seeps into her mind, it's unstoppable.

Never letting Louise out of his sight, Benjamin is always present; whispering in her ear; sending shivers down her spine – lust and fear combined. A surge so powerful she can just about breathe.

This unimaginable new love has sworn Louise to secrecy. The ordinary people at work don't understand her anymore. She can't even tell her best mate Ashley about the magic, about Benjamin. Work now seems dull, dreary and uneventful. Ashley smells a rat, he isn't convinced this new man is good for Louise. He's powerless as his friend turns into somebody else.

Benjamin entices Louise into crime, a way out of the poverty trap, pushing her each time to take bigger risks. Louise starts bringing in money from drugs, robbery – theft is her new way of life. He's testing her mentally too. How frightened will Louise become before Benjamin releases her, soothes her panic. He's always the knight in shining armour.

'My love, my sweet Louise.'

As Louise thrives, her confidence soars. She's getting everything she wants: money, power, sex, adoration. She even looks different: shoulders back, chin lifted – she's breathing new air.

You can do anything when you're loved like this.

Louise is convinced the magic surrounding Benjamin is real. Robbing an off licence feels effortless, without consequences. Causing a petrol station forecourt to go up in flames is exhilarating. In the CCTV footage, however, Louise's accomplice is nowhere to be seen.

Louise drags Ashley out to paint the town red, they bump into the real Ben and Louise believes it's her Benjamin – this is her chance to prove to Ashley just how real their relationship is. Louise is embarrassing and Ashley tries to pull her reality into sharp focus, but she's too far gone and Ashley gives up. Ben consoles Louise at the bar and is lured back to her flat.

As they make love, Louise freaks out when she catches sight of Benjamin watching from the shadows. Reality is splintered, Ben is frightened, he can't see who she's screaming at. The demon works quickly to convince Louise that Ben is an imposter. Anger manifests itself and as the flat is turned upside down, Louise is brought to the point of no return. Benjamin wants Ben dead – and she'll do it. Ben is tied, gagged and tortured, Louise is just about to kill him when police storm the flat.

Released to an institution, Louise is getting the help she needs. She's lighter, chatting, getting her meds in line... Until the nurse handing over her pills calls Louise 'my sweet'.

'My Love, My Sweet' is an intense thriller which cleverly explores Louise's dissociation and the overlap between her reality and perception, along with elements of cohesive control in relationships. Louise has Perceptual Reality Dissociation, a complicated mental health issue. Her internal and external signals are unconnected, she cannot decide what is real or imagined.

There is growing evidence to suggest women are more likely to suffer with depression, anxiety and breakdowns than men. They often mask serious conditions and many young women use drink and drugs to alleviate their symptoms.



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