

Title: The Scam

PETER'S LIVING ROOM – MORNING

(A cozy but well-kept living room. PETER (65), a retired man, sits in an armchair, reading the newspaper. His partner, EVELYN (60s), sips tea, solving a crossword.)

PETER

“I’ve been thinking—I should put some of my savings to work.”

EVELYN (*without looking up*)

“As long as it’s not another of those get-rich-quick schemes you were talking about”

PETER (*chuckles*)

“No, no. Just something smart. Something low risk but good returns.”

(EVELYN hums, unimpressed.)

PETER’S LIVING ROOM – SOME HOURS LATER

Peter’s phone rings. He hesitates, then answers.

PETER

“Hello?”

JOHN (V.O.) (*smooth, confident*)

“Good afternoon, Mr. Evans. My name is John. I represent Woldingham Investments. We offer exclusive opportunities—crypto, funds, international property. Proven, high returns...”

(Peter glances at the clock—he needs to leave.)

PETER

“Sounds interesting, but I’m heading out. Can you call some other time?”

JOHN (V.O.)

“Of course. I’ll try tomorrow?”

PETER

“Sure.”

(Peter hangs up, grabs his coat, and heads out.)

PETER'S LIVING ROOM – NEXT DAY

(Peter, on the phone again)

JOHN (V.O.)

“Peter, I wanted to follow up. Did you get a chance to check out our website?”

PETER

“Not yet.”

JOHN (V.O.)

“Take a look. You'll see real success stories. Investors doubling, even tripling their money in a few short months in some cases”

PETER'S DOORBELL RINGS

PETER

“Sorry, I need to go. Someone's at the door”

JOHN (V.O.)

“Ah ok, I'll try later then.”

NEIGHBOUR

“Hi, you left this last time you were over.”

(At the door, his NEIGHBOUR (70s) holds out a cardigan.

Peter takes the cardigan from his neighbour, smiles and thanks him and shuts the door.

He reaches into the cardigan pocket and pulls out A VERY OLD UNSCRATCHED LOTTERY TICKET. He stares at it, lost in thought.)

FLASHBACK – SMALL SHABBY APARTMENT – MANY YEARS AGO

(A much younger, visibly poorer Peter scratches a lottery ticket, heart pounding. He checks the numbers against a newspaper - loses. Much frustration.)

BACK TO PRESENT

(Peter shakes his head, stuffing the ticket into a drawer.)

PETER'S HOME OFFICE – NEXT DAY, 2PM

(Peter sits at his computer, the **Woldingham Investments** website open—sleek, professional, full of glowing reviews. He's impressed. He's on the phone to John)

JOHN (V.O.)

“So, Peter, what do you think?”

PETER (*nodding to himself*)

“Looks solid. I'm ready to invest. Twenty thousand to start.”

(He logs into his bank, sets up the transfer. Clicks through security prompts.)

SCREEN PROMPT:

"Are you sure you want to transfer £20,000?"

(Peter hesitates, then—BAM—THE SCREEN FREEZES)

He hears from his living room a breaking news alert on the TV: Nationwide Internet Outage.

PETER

“Oh, for...damn internet's down.”

“Are you there, John?”

JOHN (V.O.)

“Peter, Peter...”(Dial Tone)

PETER'S LIVING ROOM – NEXT DAY

Peter's SON (30s) resets his Dad's router and computer but doesn't resolve the problem.

PETER

“The damned internet is still down, isn't it?”

SON

“Yes, it looks like it, Dad. Did you need to use the computer?”

PETER

“Yes, I was trying to transfer money. Buy some property abroad with Woldingham Investments. They are offering great returns!”

SON

“You're joking, surely. I saw a documentary about them on the TV recently. A scam!”

PETER (*frowns*)

“No, it's a proper company.”

SON

“Scammers make fake websites. The second you send that money, it’s gone.”

(Peter absorbs this.)

PETER (*quietly*)

“I almost lost twenty grand.”

BEDROOM – NIGHT

(Peter lies awake, restless. A DREAM SEQUENCE: He hears John’s voice, sees his own finger clicking "Confirm," watches as his savings disappear into nothing. Images of past lottery tickets. A younger version of himself hoping, losing.)

BEDROOM – MORNING

(Peter wakes up. EVELYN stirs beside him.)

PETER

“I had the strangest dream. Almost fell for a scam. It felt so real.”

(EVELYN yawns, reaches for her phone.)

EVELYN

“Really? Tell me what happened. By the way, the Internet’s still down.”

(Peter stares at the ceiling, exhaling deeply—relieved.)

PETER’S DOORBELL RINGS – 2PM

(Peter opens the door to his old friend, Simon)

SIMON

“Hi. Are you ready? Let’s go! Tee off time is 3pm. It’s a new course called Woldingham Golf Club”

(Peter instantly realises that Simon was John (in his dream), the salesman who was trying to scam him. He also notes the similarity in name between the golf club and the scam investment organisation.)

PETER

(temporarily lost in thought)

“Ah yes, of course. Let’s go”

THE END.