

A DARK COMEDY WRITTEN BY ROBBIE ROBERTSON

PRETTY UGLY

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Being pretty can get quite ugly.



In this dark comedy, a self-described unattractive woman becomes the subject of a plastic surgery makeover TV show, but her sudden beauty complicates her troubled, small-town life, making her realize that being pretty can get quite ugly.

PRETTY UGLY

PRETTY UGLY is a dark character study that serves as a biting, merciless takedown of our culture's fascination with physical beauty. Part ugly duckling story, part relationship comedy, part revenge piece, "Pretty Ugly" is slathered not with dollops, but rather buckets-full of kick-in-the teeth humorous scenes. The theme of inner beauty trumping outer is shown through the story of an unattractive woman who becomes the subject of a plastic surgery makeover TV show—and whose sudden beauty complicates her troubled, small-town life.





SCRIPT COVERAGE

“The script excels where others have failed due to the sincere, respectful treatment it grants Kay Dawn with an odd and welcome humanism to her downfall that inspires a great deal of sympathy. The judicious but horrifying use of gory surgical imagery is wonderfully disturbing to this end. The brutal events of the final act are inevitable yet genuinely surprising.

The proceedings are underscored by an expert attention to detail and a strong affinity for imagery for a uniquely dark and intelligent exploration of our cultural obsession with beauty.”

—THE BLACK LIST

“PRETTY UGLY is a funny, heartfelt script that balances a moving emotional arc for its pitiable lead character Kay Dawn with the ignorant, shallow, and crass small-town society she resides in. The setting and dialogue are two of the script’s strongest qualities, and the dark ending puts a twisted exclamation mark on the classic ‘Ugly Duckling’ story.”

—COVERAGE INK.

PRETTY UGLY - THE PLOT

KAY DAWN SHUMPERT might possibly be the ugliest woman in the world. Or at least that's the message she has heard her entire life—from even those closest to her including her husband EMORY, best friend APRIL and daughter, GINGER. Kay Dawn lives in the small dying town of Swanson and works at the county animal shelter—where she spends the day trying to adopt pets to the public.

The home front is definitely not where the heart is, as Kay Dawn is treated with simmering contempt by her husband and daughter—the ultimate whipping dog surrogate for people painfully unhappy with their own small lives. Kay Dawn's only break from reality comes from a televised plastic surgery makeover show called ABOUT FACE that focuses on fixing the most extreme cases — such as a burn victim who is transformed into “one hot mama.”

Kay Dawn's only other respite from reality is her weekly karaoke sessions at a local bar with some extra mean girls from high school who haven't mellowed with age. As Kay Dawn tries to manage her troubled marriage, she meets the handsome MANLY, a karaoke fan who is also searching for his lost dog. But Kay Dawn's timid attraction to Manly is quickly snuffed when she learns that husband Emory is indeed cheating on her.

A desperate and depressed Kay Dawn tries to do some self-soothing by watching another episode of ABOUT FACE, this time showcasing someone with neurofibromatosis— an “Elephant Woman who was transformed into one foxy lady.” But this time, Kay Dawn also notices the show's call for new surgery contestants.

A week later at the karaoke bar, Kay Dawn is delighted to see Manly back at the bar—but even more surprised to see her friends gathered with her husband and daughter—along with a small television crew.

Kay Dawn is called to the stage where she learns she has been selected for ABOUT FACE—as daughter Ginger says, “Maybe you'll be pretty mama. They work miracles on that show.” And a miracle is what PERRY BUSS, showrunner for ABOUT FACE, promises Kay Dawn as she arrives in L.A. for her intense surgical makeover.

As she learns about the extreme surgeries she faces, a frightened Kay Dawn calls home for support but is surprised when her best friend, April, answers the phone— assuring Kay Dawn she is just “helping out” while she's gone. A few days later, after undergoing brutally horrific alterations to her body, Kay Dawn sees a major transformation has begun.

Perry the producer is so delighted with Kay Dawn's metamorphosis that he takes the opportunity to make love to her – his own beautiful creature brought to life. But as Perry quickly moves on to the next contestant, a bewildered Kay Dawn returns home for her big reveal.

As Kay Dawn debuts her new look in her old hometown, she quickly learns that the other side of beauty can be quite ugly as extreme jealousy, unwelcome attention and an inability to deal with her own new exterior leads to an exposed affair, a possible new romance, and a deadly incident that changes her life forever.



THE SETTING

PRETTY UGLY is primarily set in a dying industrial town called Swanson, South Carolina. The lead character, Kay Dawn Schumpert, lives in a former Pizza Hut that was shuttered long ago, and she works at the local animal shelter where she personally identifies with the strays that no one wants. The only source of entertainment in Swanson is a karaoke bar called FRIENDS, one of the last watering holes in the town.

..While the primary action is set in the small southern town, the lead character does travel to L.A. to live in a mansion as she recuperates from her extreme plastic surgery.





Charlize Theron

THE CHARACTERS



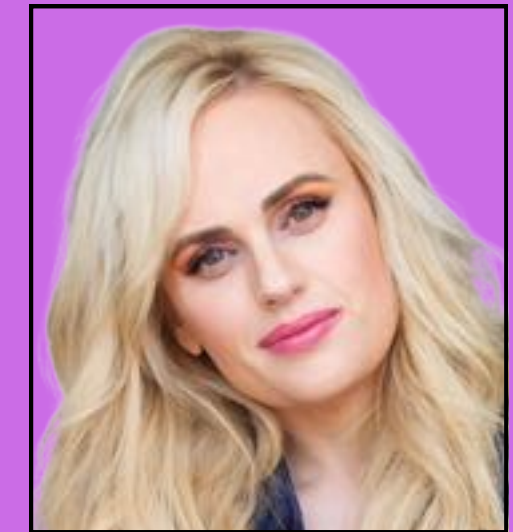
Jennifer Lawrence



Anne Hathaway



Melanie Lynskey



Rebel Wilson

KAY DAWN SCHUMPERT

KAY DAWN SCHUMPERT (40s) first encountered body shaming in middle school while wearing a t-shirt for the band Poison when a mean girl pointed at the shirt and expressed shock as to how fat Bret Micheals had become. And it's been a life of inner turmoil since then as Kay Dawn has struggled with her weight and an outward appearance that she feels never measures up to any standard of beauty. Uneducated and working at the local animal shelter in her small hometown, Kay Dawn is simple, kind, and incapable of seeing herself as anything but an ugly duckling. Her low self-esteem has resulted in an inability to deal with the simmering contempt of her husband, daughter, and friends—becoming the ultimate whipping dog surrogate for people painfully unhappy with their own small lives. Kay Dawn's only break from reality comes from a televised plastic surgery makeover show called ABOUT FACE that focuses on fixing the most extreme cases. But when a desperate Kay Dawn applies to be a contestant, she soon learns the horrors of the plastic surgery experience and how the aftermath—even seemingly perfect—can result in a self-propelled and tragic downfall.

THE CHARACTERS

APRIL BEDENBAUGH



As Kay Dawn’s only confidant, April is the stunted child woman who peaked in high school and has never been able to accept that the decades have passed her by. April is Kay Dawn’s supervisor at the local animal shelter and never misses an opportunity to remind Kay Dawn of her active single life even though it’s mostly exaggerated. Their imbalanced relationship often consists of April passively—or simply aggressively—reminding Kay Dawn of their high school years when Kay Dawn was being bullied and ridiculed for her looks. As Kay Dawn prepares to undergo her plastic surgery, April has taken more than a passing interest in “looking after” Kay Dawn’s husband, Emory, while Kay Dawn is gone. April loves beer, karaoke, and finding the easiest solutions to scratch her itch.



Kirstin Dunst



Wynona Ryder



Tiffany Haddish



Christina Ricci

EMORY SCHUMPERT



Misogynist, simple-minded, and plain out mean, Emory nonetheless believes he is one of the nicest and coolest guys you’ll ever meet. With an unbelievable lack of self-awareness, Emory believes his “joking” takedowns of his wife, Kay Dawn, show what a great sense of humor he has. Emory only married Kay Dawn after a one-night stand ended in pregnancy. As the years have gone on, Emory has gained a sense of entitlement to extramarital sex because of Kay Dawn’s weight gain. Emory works in a local manufacturing plant and is slightly ashamed that he and his family live in an abandoned Pizza Hut turned into a single-family home. He has a real fondness for his daughter, Ginger, but one would never call him father of the year.



Aaron Paul



Henry Thomas



Michael Ealy



Walter Goggins

THE CHARACTERS



Emma Kenny

GINGER SCHUMPERT

As the only child of Kay Dawn and Emory, Ginger is the stoic, realist teenager who cannot wait to leave the nest one day. A plus size, confident young woman, Ginger became this way in spite of having a womanizing father and a mother with no self-respect. Ginger states the truth more than any other Schumpert in the Pizza Hut they call home—regardless of the collateral damage her comments may have. As she tells Kay Dawn on her way to the plastic surgery makeover, “Maybe you’ll be pretty mama. They work miracles on that show.”



Matt Bomer

PERRY BUSS

Perry Buss is the opportunistic showrunner of the plastic surgery makeover show called ABOUT FACE. His cynical world view lessens momentarily when he is confronted with Kay Dawn’s vulnerability during her makeover. As Kay Dawn transforms, Perry begins an odd and problematic flirtation toward Kay Dawn, an almost Dr. Frankenstein affection for the hideous plastic surgery that will soon transform Kay Dawn. But as with all show romances, Perry will soon teach Kay Dawn that “the end” is always right around the corner.



Jay Hernandez

MANLY STEPHENS

Manly is possibly the nicest and best looking man in tiny Swanson, South Carolina. He’s a simple blue collar worker and has no self-awareness of the attraction so many people have for him. After losing his dog, Manly checks the local shelters when he meets Kay Dawn. With a serious penchant for plus size women, Manly is attracted to Kay Dawn in her current state and cannot understand why she would ever want to change because he thinks she’s perfect exactly the way she is.

FILM AND TV COMPS ABOUT SELF-ESTEEM AND APPEARANCE



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THANK YOU!