

Welcome to

On the Cove

A six hour supernatural thriller.

AMARU ROAD 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Cove is a six hour supernatural thriller.

A dark spin on the nostalgic kiwi summer set in a tired old beach resort town in the far north.

A blend of strong character driven drama, humour and spine chilling suspense. A homage to the classic horror movies of the 80s.



STORY

Haunted by visions of her recently deceased father, 16 year-old Amy Myers is forced to move to a broken-down seaside resort known as the Cove, after her mother accepts a position as the community GP.

Literally infested with old folk, the Cove is the last place on the planet Amy wants to spend her summer. However she begins to suspect there's more to this place, after its elderly residents begin to drop dead from a mystery illness, only to rise again, cast aside their zimmer frames and start preying on the living.

"There's no mystery here," announces Mannix, a local kid with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Cove's dark history. *"They're goddamn vampires."*

After her mother falls ill, Amy begins to fear there's some truth to Mannix's wild claims.

When her mother's condition rapidly deteriorates, Amy sets out to unearth the ancient evil responsible and destroy it, before her mum and the rest of the town join the ranks of the "undead".



SETTING

The setting for The Cove is a fictional seaside resort.

Once billed as The Riviera of the Far North in the 1970's, The Cove had been a popular holiday destination for families, honeymooners and swinging singles alike, but a motorway bypass put an end to that faster than a cattle bolt to the back of the head.

Now The Cove is a forgotten backwater, a crumbling promenade of broken dreams and the last stop for retirees low on cash and close to death. They flock to The Cove to take advantage of cheap beachside real estate and wait in modest comfort for the Reaper's merciful touch.

The Cove is more than just a backdrop for the series, it functions as a character in its own right, with a personality, desires, and even enemies.

An ancient darkness resides there. It has been there a long time, long before the first people. It has poisoned the land, leaching into the rocks, the soil, the trees. In the resort's heyday, the darkness hid in the shadows biding its time, but now it is ready to re-emerge.

It is ready to dance again.



STYLE & TONE

Cinematically, The Cove will be visually rich, moody and dynamic with the camera always on the move.

The storytelling will be bold and fast paced, with the confidence to slow down to build tension and suspense.

As a stylistic reference, think the optimistic visual style of *Cocoon* meets the wild unpredictable energy and lingering menace of vampire classics such as *The Lost Boys*, *Salems Lot* and *Fright Night*.

Like *Cocoon* and *The Lost Boys*, The Cove explores themes of immortality and coming of age, which in today's landscape of the Millennial versus the Centenarian, will be darkly poignant.

The tone of the series will be unapologetically frightening while the frequent use of humour will help counter-balance the horror elements. Exploring themes that celebrate the endurance of the human spirit - courage, loyalty and hope.



TEENAGE CHARACTERS

AMY

16 - smart - independent - city kid, is struggling to come to terms with the recent death of her dad. She is haunted by a recurring nightmare in which she finds herself back in the hospital room standing over her dead father.

Suddenly, his cold hand reaches out and grabs her. He looks up at her through grey, lifeless eyes.

"Don't let them in." He warns Amy in a guttural monotone.

Amy believes she has truly lost her mind after she starts seeing her dead dad while she's awake, but these disturbing visions are merely a forewarning of worse yet to come.

MILO

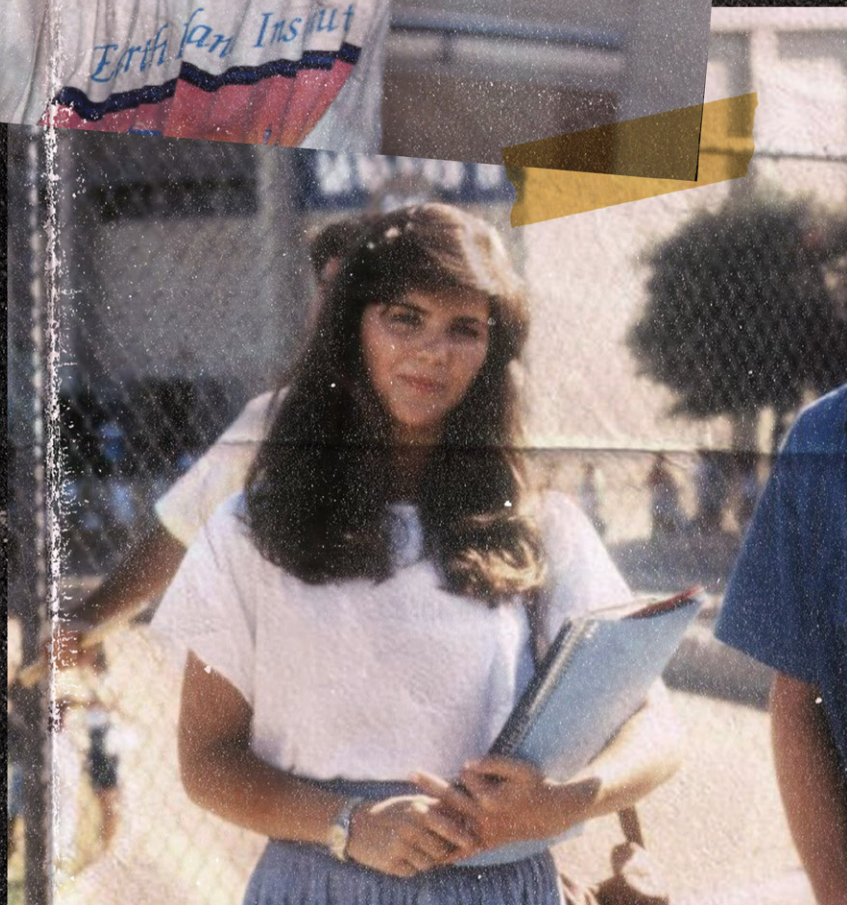
14 - small for his age - anxious - funny, has felt increasingly isolated since the death of his dad.

He misses his father terribly and just wants everything to go back to the way it was before he got sick but things just keep getting weirder, especially after his mum moves them all to The Cove.

MANNIX (named after his dad's favourite TV show)

18 - tall - dark - moody - cool hair, possesses an encyclopaedic knowledge of The Cove's dark history.

Mannix has always felt trapped in The Cove but he plans to escape to the city and enrol in film school and start his real life.



CONT.

His happy place is the VHS rental counter in his parent's corner store.

He has no idea of how to deal with his growing feelings for Amy, falling in love has never been a part of his plan.

FRANKIE

16 - sun bleached blonde - surfer chick, excited to meet Amy and make a new friend from the city.

As the two young women's relationship grows, Frankie and Amy confide more and more in each other, eventually sharing some of their deepest secrets.

ADULT CHARACTERS

BETH MYERS

Beth, Amy's mum, has many happy memories of the Cove. She'd spent long, hot summers there as a kid, lazy days out on the water fishing with her parents. Her first kiss, having her heart broken, all in the space of one swelteringly humid summer.

So Beth wasn't surprised when The Cove popped into her head after her husband died. She'd been happy there and that's what she desperately needed now, to be happy and feel safe. A new start.

However, Beth's memories of The Cove are woefully incomplete. She has forgotten the resort's frequent drownings, the unexplained suicides and that one dreadful summer when those poor young girls went missing.

CONT.

KEN DECKLAND

Ken is the local cop.

Like Beth, Ken had spent his summers at the Cove as a kid. Ken's family had the campsite right next door to Beth's but strangely she has no memory of him.

After graduating from police college and a disappointing stint down in the Big Smoke, Ken returns to the Cove to take up the position of Community Constable.

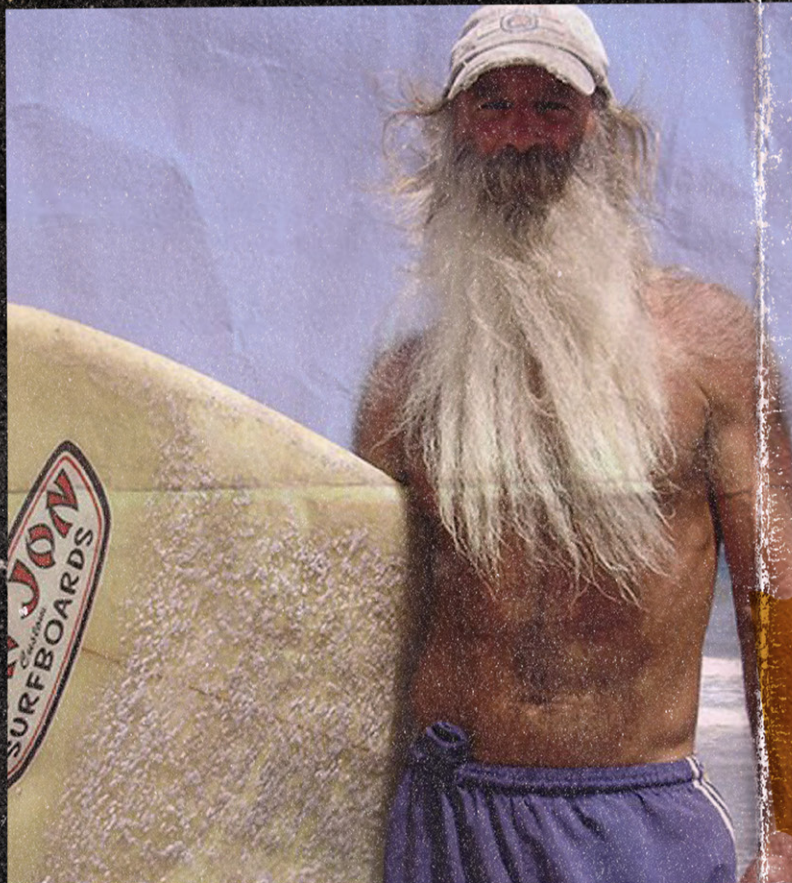
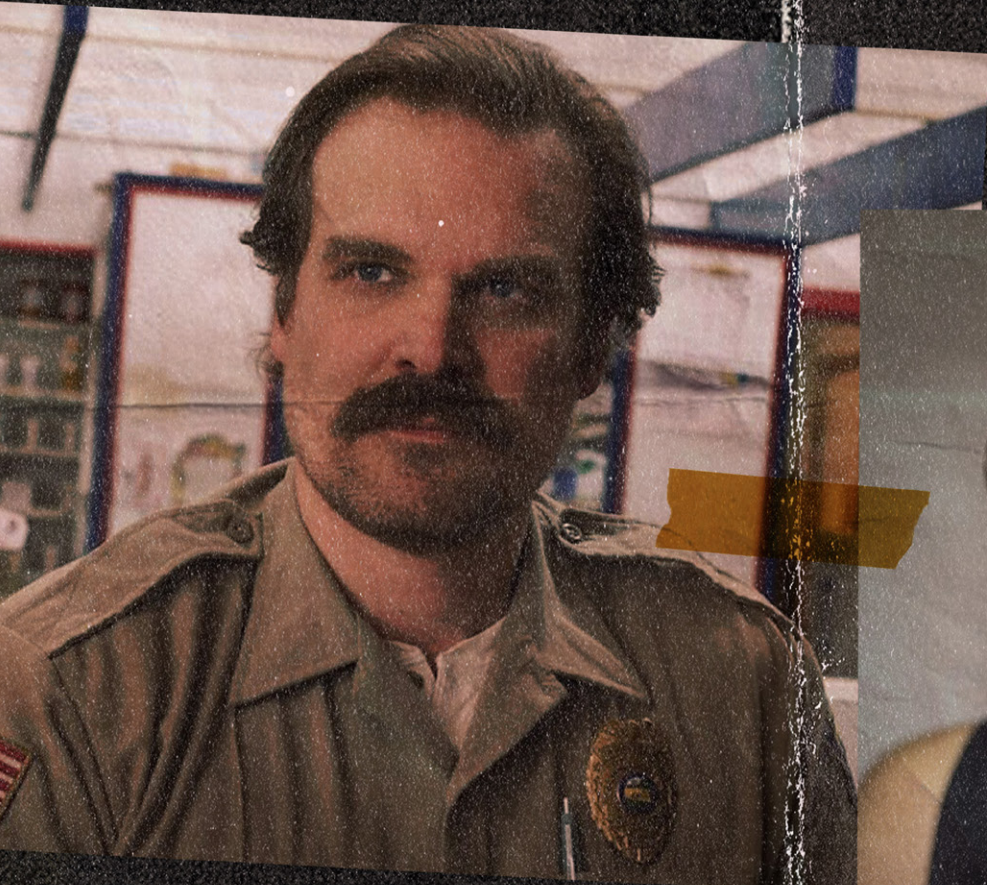
Ken is a simple man who sees life in straight forward terms. Until he is given sharp reason to question his world view.

ALFIE GIBBS

Besides being a Latin American dance champ (retired), 78 year-old Alfie Gibbs has always had a darkness deep down inside him that over the years, has made him do terrible, terrible things.

Age had mellowed these grisly urges, but after being attacked by a black-eyed stranger, he can feel them rising up again.

"It's time to dust off those old dancing shoes," a familiar voice whispers gently into Alfie's ear, making his blood tingle with exhilaration.



CONT.

CHARLIE BIRD

In his late 60's, Charlie Bird has lived in The Cove his entire life and has first-hand knowledge of its dark history.

After the love of his life Maisie Bloom went missing, Charlie was the police's prime suspect. However with no hard evidence, the police were forced to release him, to the dismay of the townsfolk.

Things soon went downhill for Charlie and he ended up spending time behind bars. While incarcerated, he had plenty of time to think and to research. He concluded the darkness that had taken his sweet darling Maisie would one day re-emerge and on that day, he'd be ready to avenge her death.

The morning Amy and her family rolled into town Charlie somehow knew his waiting was over.

DRAFT SERIES ARC

EPISODE ONE: Pilot

Haunted by visions of her dead father, 16 year-old Amy Myers is forced to move to the dingy seaside resort of Sunshine Cove (The Cove) with Beth, her mother and brother Milo in the hope of starting a new life.

Determined to escape the broken-down backwater, Amy tries to contact her friends in the city but to her horror discovers there is very limited cellphone coverage.

Beth, the new community GP, attends an accident on Old Coast Road, the only road in or out of town and declares the crash victim deceased. The next morning local cop Ken Deckland informs Amy the cadaver has gone missing.

Amy finally gets a connection on her cellphone and receives a mysterious text message from her dead father warning her 'not to let them in.'

Meanwhile Alfie Gibbs, Amy's elderly neighbour, discovers a young man hiding in his garage. It turns out to be Beth's missing corpse who is very much alive and well.

The young man attacks Alfie and leaves him for dead.

EPISODE TWO:

The wound Alfie received the night before becomes badly infected and he eventually collapses into a deathlike coma.

Meanwhile, Amy discovers local hermit and murder suspect Charlie Bird has her lost cellphone. She confronts Charlie.

Charlie warns Amy there are dark forces at work in the Cove, insisting Alfie Gibbs is responsible for the murders that have haunted the region for decades and not him.

Meanwhile, the condition of Alfie's terminally ill wife June dramatically deteriorates. Ken goes to Alfie's house where he finds signs of a struggle and Alfie missing.

That night a gaunt and pale faced Alfie appears at the foot of June's death bed. Alfie runs his icy cold fingers through June's hair and promises she'll be feeling so much better soon.

Alfie smiles exposing jagged, razor sharp teeth.

EPISODE THREE:

The next morning Beth returns to work to discover June Gibbs' body has gone missing. (It's turning into a bad first week at work)

Local teen, Mannix, elaborates on his theories concerning the Cove's dark history, speculating a serial killer has been operating in the area for decades. Amy shares Charlie's theory that Alfie is the killer. Together they search Alfie's house for evidence. They discover a box containing personal items belonging to the victims.

June Gibbs wakes with Alfie standing over her. She is cancer free and is filled with a powerful life-force the likes of which she has never experienced before. She is suddenly gripped by an insatiable hunger.

Local thug Rooster Coats and his loser mates are smoking weed down on the beach when Alfie and June appear.

Alfie calmly watches as June kills the boys and feeds on their blood and fear.

EPISODE FOUR:

Beth's elderly patients are hit by a mysterious illness and begin to die.
(Could this week get any worse?)

Horrified by the events of the previous night, June accuses Alfie of turning her into a monster, but Alfie insists he has given her the gift of eternal youth.

Alfie takes June in his arms and they dance again like they did in their youth. As their bodies move together to the rhythm of the music, they begin to float high above the ground.

Alfie learns his secret life as a serial killer has been exposed. He orders Rooster and his loser (now undead) mates, to hunt down and kill Charlie Bird and his allies.

Rooster and his gang turn up at Charlie's caravan. Charlie is ready for them and hands them their arses. Charlie rushes to warn Amy that Alfie is onto them.

Alfie and June appear outside Amy's cottage. Remembering her dead father's warning, Amy refuses to let them inside but Alfie reminds her that she has already invited him in earlier, so is free to cross the threshold.

Charlie arrives and fights Alfie and June - in the ensuing battle June is killed.

Enraged by the loss of his one and only true love, Alfie kills Charlie.

Amy and Milo manage to escape into the night.

Meanwhile back at the retirement village, Beth's patients have begun to rise up from the dead and attack the nursing staff. Beth fends off the hordes of geriatric undead but in the process receives a fatal bite on the arm.

EPISODE FIVE:

Alfie surrounds himself with his people, the elderly residents of the Cove; now youthfully reborn, driven by an insatiable blood lust and wanting to make up for lost time.

Alfie swears to avenge June's death.

Beth becomes seriously ill from the bite she received the night before. Amy decides it's time to get out of the Cove. Ken vows to help them escape and then return with reinforcements to put an end to Alfie and the growing undead.

On the way out of town an unseen force causes Ken to lose control of his car and skid off the road.

With the sun setting Amy and Milo wake in the wreckage of the police car to discover Beth missing. Ken has been thrown from the car and lies injured in a ditch.

Carrying Ken between them, Amy and Milo make it back into town as night falls where it quickly becomes evident the geriatric undead now outnumber the living. Revitalised and thirsty, they stalk the streets in search of victims.

Amy and the others take shelter in the corner store where they find Mannix and his sister Frankie fending off their undead parents.

With Amy's help, Mannix manages to subdue his folks and the teenagers barrack themselves inside the store in the desperate hope of holding out until dawn.

EPISODE SIX:

Mannix announces the only possible explanation for the past few day's events is that the Cove is in the grip of a vampire infestation.

Amy hatches a plan to avenge her mother by locating the vampire lair and sending the blood sucking monstrosities straight to hell.

Meanwhile, we discover Beth is still alive and being held by Alfie as living bait in a trap set for Amy.

Amy tracks Alfie down to an abandoned lodge located in the hills above the Cove and confronts him and his army of geriatric vampires.

In the ensuing battle, a fire breaks out trapping Alfie and his brood in the lodge. Amy rescues her mother and along with Milo and Ken, escapes.

As the sun rises Amy loads the survivors into the family car and drives away from The Cove determined never to return.

On the road out of town Amy sees the ghost of her dead father Michael standing on the side of the road smiling. In the rear vision mirror she sees the smile on her father's face fade and a darkness come over him before his body turns into a mist and is swept away in the slipstream of the speeding car.



Thanks for visiting.

the
Cove



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