

PETE

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Pete Cole, (40-50). A man who appears to be a devoted single father—protective, loving, and teaching his daughter right from wrong. Underneath, he's deeply damaged by a traumatic childhood and the violent death of Annie's mother. He believes he's making the world better by kidnapping and "reforming" people he deems cruel or abusive, but he's really just perpetuating the cycle of violence he suffered. Controlled and methodical on the surface, but carrying fifteen years of failure and guilt. His love for Annie is genuine and total—she's the only light in his dark world, which makes her discovery of his secret absolutely devastating to him.

SCENE CONTEXT

Pete has been holding Derek captive in an abandoned house, trying to "reform" the teenage bully. His daughter Annie has just discovered his secret—she snuck in to rescue Derek and now stands face-to-face with her father, the kidnapper. Pete knows this is the moment he loses everything. He's desperate to make Annie understand that everything he's done has been for her, to protect her, to create a better world for her. But he can see in her eyes that she's already gone, and it's destroying him.

PETE sits in the ground, both hands tied behind his back, he wakes up slowly.

PETE

Annie?
I told you not to get involved,
what are you doing here.

ANNIE

How could you! How can you do this
to people?

PETE

I wasn't going to kill him, I was
trying to make him a better person.

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PETE

I always thought you'd understand.
I never wanted to hurt you... but
this is the way the world works.

(MORE)

PETE (CONT'D)

You have to choose what's right,
and you have to be strong enough to
carry it out.

ANNIE

I don't know who you are. You're
not my dad anymore.

PETE

You don't get to decide that,
Annie. I love you, I'm your dad,
I've taken care of you my whole
life, I promised your mom I would
do so. You shouldn't be here. I
thought I taught you better than
this.

PETE

I...I never meant for you to see
this... but you've got to
understand, this was the only way.