

THE RACE TRACK MURDERS

"Das Siebente Opfer"

REEL I

101

LORD MANT What on earth are you talking about, Palmer? Satan's in cracking good form... fit as a fiddle!

PALMER That may be true, but I don't feel happy.

TRENT Just forget your premonitions, it's your old Irish blood surfacing. Satan's bill of health couldn't be better.

TURNER Give thanks to our Maker, Lord Mant, for allowing you to own such a handsome animal.

LORD MANT Yes, Satan is a wonderful horse.

TURNER Yes, indeed!

OUT

102

TRENT Dead!

OUT

103

TRUMPET PLAYER Beg you pardon my Lord, but... could I have a word with your Lordship?

LORD MANT If it's about money, you cannot.

TRUMPET PLAYER No, no, it's not that, my Lord.

LORD MANT Well, then, what is it?

TRUMPET PLAYER Not here, your Lordship. May we meet later... alone.

LORD MANT Well, if you must! Join me in the hall in ten minutes.

TRUMPET PLAYER Very good, my Lord.

I04

JENNY Why cancel it ? This party was all arranged. But it's unheard-of! Just because some wretched jockey breaks his neck! Rubbish! Ah, there you are, John! Hh... we've just been talking about this morning's darned accident!

LORD MANT I'd be grateful if you talked less about it, my dear!

JENNY But we haven't had a genuine corpse in the mansion for years!

LORD MANT Do you mind, Jenny ?

I05

TURNER The ways of God are mysterious!

GUEST I say, Lord John, isn't it an awful bore... owning a famous horse like Satan... the trouble involved and all that ?

LORD MANT Ah, would you find a well-bred beautiful woman a bore, by any chance ?

JENNY If you do, you'll have the whole family against you.

AVRIL Ah ah ah ah ah!

GIUSEPPE RANOVA Miss Haggarty, may I have this dance with you ?

MISS HAGGARTY Yes, of course!

GIUSEPPE RANOVA Will you excuse us ?

I06

JENNY Isn't it ghastly! I suppose you had to invite him!

LORD MANT My dear girl, he's such a good rider! And whatever people say about the fellow's brother isn't his fault.

TURNER Lord Mant...

LORD MANT Yes ?

TURNER You won't mind of my reminding you of the conversation we had ?

LORD MANT If you must!

(106 cont'd)

TURNER ... during which you hinted that, as a prominent member of our small parish...

LORD MANT A refill ?

TURNER Hm! Thank you... that, as the leading light of our County, you were prepared to consider making a substantial gift to our religious community...

LORD MANT Certainly, but why don't you come to the point, Turner?

TURNER Of course, my Lord. May I be allowed to show what I would gladly accept as a royal gift, hh, and thoroughly fitting ?

LORD MANT What's that ?

TURNER May I ?

OUT

107

AVRIL I'm not sure it's right for us to have so much fun. After all, that jockey was one of my uncle's trusted employees.

TRENT Hm. You're becoming terribly sentimental... but I rather like you this way.

108

TURNER Please don't take offence at this, my Lord, hh, but this painting of the madonna would easily provide for the needy faithful of my parish... Yes... how shall I put it ?

IRVING Excuse me, my Lord.

LORD MANT Yes ?

IRVING It's nine thirty, my Lord. Your cigar.

LORD MANT Oh yes, the cigar! Thank you, Irving.

109

LORD MANT My dear Vicar, it's a trifle difficult for me to give you an answer right now, and this painting is bequeathed already.

(10) cont'd)

TURNER Oh!

LORD MANT On top of which it costs twenty thousand pounds.

TURNER Pray forgive my indelicate suggestion. I didn't know about that!

LORD MANT No, why should you ?

110

AVRIL Anyway, something must have scared Satan out of his wits

TRENT For the love of Mike, can't we talk about something else ?

AVRIL What, for instance ?

TRENT About you, for exemple!

AVRIL Don't be so tactless. Satan is far more important than I, before the race, and, as his wet, you should certainly be aware of that!

OUT

111

TRUMPET
PLAYER My Lord, can I have a word with you now ?

LORD MANT I told you you'll have to wait, I'm very busy.

112

AMBIANCE

MAN 1 Is he dead ?

WOMAN 1 A murder! How dreadful!

MAN 2 Who is he ?

WOMAN 2 The trumpeter!

MAN 3 And slap in the middle of his solo.

WOMAN 3 I want to go home.

(II2 cont'd)

WOMAN 4 He was so good looking, too!

JENNY This is going too far!

TURNER Well, that makes two today!

JENNY Generally speaking, things of this kind only happen amongst the working class!

IRVING Even the artists sometimes live dangerously!

JENNY Irving!

IRVING Milady!

II3

LORD MANT Mr. Trent, will you get hold of the police? My friends unfortunately, I must ask you to stay until the police get here. I'm very sorry.

II4

BRADLEY Lord Mant, I fully appreciate just how annoying this whole matter is... but I am quite sure you understand it's my duty to solve this unpleasant case.

LORD MANT Of course, I'm not a child, Sergeant.

BRADLEY Inspector!

LORD MANT I beg yours?

BRADLEY Inspector!

LORD MANT As you wish, Inspector. You said something about wanting help?

BRADLEY No I didn't, but I'm sure it'll be forthcoming!

LORD MANT Needless to say you may count on my cooperation. After all, I've been a magistrate for the last thirty five years.

BRADLEY You realize that in view of the present circumstances, I'm forced to suspect everyone of your guests!

115

LORD MANT

You're over-reaching your professional duties, Inspector.

BRADLEY

That, Mylord, is a purely personal point of view... Oh, it may interest you, Mylord, to discover that your son knew the deceased quite well, and both frequented much the same kind of society. And now I really must leave. Good day!

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JENNY

Well...

TURNER

Hhh, the police today have very little respect for anyone.

IRVING

Yes, the police... if you don't mind my butting in, are comparable in many ways to doctors. They know how to diagnose alright, but they don't know how to cure!

End of reel I.