

"THE STRANGLER OF BLACKMOOR  
CASTLE"

-101-

REEL ONE

CLARK        My good friends, it's with joy and sincere humility  
              that I announce the happy news that reached me today.  
              This year I shall be elevated to the ranks of the  
              nobility.

AMBIANCE    (Guests)

CLARK        I shall kneel before Her Majesty. She'll touch my  
              shoulders with the blade of her sword and pronounce  
              the traditional words: "Arise, my true Sir Lucius."

AMBIANCE    (Guests).  
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-102-

ANTHONY     Tom! What's the matter with the dogs?

TOM          I really don't know! I've no idea.

ANTHONY     Go and try to quieten them down.

TOM          Quiet! Quiet! What's the matter? Hello. Is there any-  
              body here?

-102-OUT  
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-103-

CLARK        I am unable to tell you how pleasing it is for any  
              man who has devoted long years of his life to the  
              selfless service of Her Majesty, to receive the  
              accolade as his reward, The Queen!

AMBIANCE    (Guests drink toast)  
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-104-

CLARK        It's been a delightful evening. Has my niece returned  
              yet?

ANTHONY     No, not yet!

CLARK        I wish to be alone now.

-104-OUT  
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-105-

SHADOW      Your joy is premature, Lucius Clark! A thief and a  
              murderer shall never be a knight of the realm.

CLARK        Who..Who are you?

SHADOW      You've been expecting me. I'm the avenger of your  
              friend, Charles Mannings.



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CLARK I didn't murder Charles Mannings, that's the truth!

SHADOW I know all about it! You were his friend, and you robbed him, and then strangled him.

CLARK That is not true!

SHADOW I demand an explanation. Where are the uncut diamonds you stole from your victim? Tell me, where are they!

CLARK What diamonds?

SHADOW Diamonds from Kimberley, worth six million pounds!

CLARK More than that! For me they're worth a lot more! Because if you kill me you'll never find where the diamonds are!

SHADOW I shall make your life a hell on earth for you, until you give me what is rightfully mine.

CLARK Don't bother trying to frighten me, it won't work! You don't even have the courage to show your face.

SHADOW I have many faces, I can be anyone! I advise you to remain at Blackmoor Castle. Any attempt you may make to sell the diamonds will mean your death!

-106-OUT

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-107-

CLARK Claridge! You're back late.

CLARIDGE Yes, Uncle, I know. I thought I'd never finish at the office. We had to go to press at ten o'clock.

CLARK What happened outside? Why did you brake like that?

CLARIDGE I had to, I almost ran over the Lord of the Manor.

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-108-

CLARIDGE Come in, Lord Blackmoor. After a fright like that you probably need a whisky.

EDGAR Good evening.

CLARK Lord Blackmoor! Back from Scotland so soon?

EDGAR Yes, since yesterday evening. You had guests, or I'd have been in to pay my respects earlier.



CLARIDGE It's lucky that my brakes are so good. I'm just a reporter, and I prefer writing news to getting stuck with the obituary notices, that's not what I'm paid for.

CLARK Well, tell me what happened!

CLARIDGE He jumped out in front of the car I suddenly saw a dark shadow and only just had time to brake.

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-109-

CLARK Where were you?

EDGAR I was in the bushes following a love call!

CLARK What?

EDGAR Yes! The love call of the pale crested throistle. A bird that makes its nest in bushes, usually. I wanted to record its love song on my taperecorder.

CLARIDGE Here.

EDGAR Thanks. I study the mating habits of our feathered friends. It is my latest hobby. Also I'm fond of collecting proverbs from all over the world. I'm going to write a book someday. Yes, I think it was Confucius who once remarked, "It is impossible to lead a tranquil life when your neighbor is noisy".

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-110-

EDGAR And so, here's to tranquil co-existence here at Blackmoor, tenant old man!

CLARIDGE Yes, but please don't run in front of my car again.

EDGAR And now, if you will be good enough to allow me I'll pop up to the tower.

CLARIDGE You have enough room up there in the tower? It makes me shudder just to think of it.

EDGAR Why? If you hadn't rented my castle I'd have sold it to pay the tax man. I'm very happy in the tower room, believe me. That way I'm far from the hustle and bustle, you know. You saved my life, by the way!

CLARK A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, My Lord. Good night, My Lord.

EDGAR Good night, Mister Clark. Good night, Miss Claridge .



EDGAR            I assume you're joking.

CLARIDGE      You were rather impolite to him.

CLARIDGE But Uncle, Lord Blackmoor is just a harmless lunatic.

CLARIDGE Good night. -111-OUT

REEL TWO

CLARK Don't worry, I'll see to everything, my dear.

CLARK Tomorrow morning I'll go to London and liquidate a few of my holdings.

CLARIDGE Then I shan't worry! Good night.

CLARK Good night.

-201- OUT

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-202-

CLARK Please put me through to London. Gerrard, nine seven three four.

JUDY Old Scavenger Inn.

CLARK I would like to speak to Mr. Tavish.

JUDY The Chief won't be coming in tonight. Is there a message?

CLARK Just tell Mister Tavish! Tomorrow I'm sending his special Havana's over.

JUDY Special Havanas eh? Yes, don't worry I'll tell him. Just a second! I'll be with you right-away!

-202-OUT

INSERT BLACKMOOR WILL DELIVER SPECIAL HAVANAS TOMORROW

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-203-

EDGAR Recording Song Throstle. End of recording! Bye, bye!

-203-OUT

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-204-

EDGAR Go away. Go away. Will you please run along home! Shoo! Horrid beasts.

PHIPS Hold on a second, I'm coming. Don't worry, so long as I'm here they won't hurt you. Donna, Carmen, down Be still.

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-205-

EDGAR Who may you be?

PHIPS I'm your neighbour and my Mother cooks for Mister Clark.

EDGAR Aha!

PHIPS Who are you?

EDGAR I? I'm the landlord.