

EXECUTIONER OF LONDON

REEL 1

101

SPEAKER 2 Do you plead guilty?

VICTIM 1 No...no! This is not a regular court of law! Please... let me go...I'm not guilty!

SPEAKER 2 You have been brought before this court to receive just punishment and pay for your crimes. The Court will indicate its verdict by black balls for the death penalty, white balls for acquittal. The secret Court recommends the supreme penalty, death by hanging. The Court will now vote.

102

SPEAKER The verdict is unanimous: death by hanging. The sentence shall be executed immediately.

VICTIM 1 I am innocent! I am innocent, I tell you! Please...Help me! Help! Help! Oooohhh

OUT

103

DR. TROOPER The same! The same mock execution, just as in the other cases.

HILLIER This is the third hanging. Is there any chance the man was dead when he was hanged?

DR. TROOPER No, the hanging took place while the man was still alive. Around five hours ago.

HILLIER Is it possible he'd been poisoned?

DR. TROOPER No, this is the usual method of the executioner of London. Third case.

104

SMITH Sure?

HILLIER Positive. Two hundred pounds in banknotes on the body. Not a robbery.

104 (cont)

1/2

SMITH Who is he?

HILLIER He had six passports on him, each with his photograph. Only
the names were different.

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SMITH Who is he really?

HILLIER As far as we've been able to find out, the last name was
Dick Hatfield, he was a construction man, and Interpol had
already alerted us about him. He was wanted for using defective
materials in new houses in the slums of a city of Brazil.
When the houses caved in, he had 18 dead people to account
for...He was last seen in Australia.

106

SMITH Were you informed of his arrival in London?

HILLIER No. The executioner's men must've waited for him either at
the airport or some seaport, and kidnapped him. Here's the
verdict. Thank you. They left it hanging around his neck,
as in the other murders.

SMITH Light

HILLIER It's a brilliant indictment, even the prosecutor couldn't
supply arguments that are more convincing.

SMITH You sound as though you think these private executions were
justified.

HILLIER No, Sir, certainly not.

SMITH I see, anyway this has got to stop. We must do all we can to
prevent another murder. I want each one of you to do everything
in his power to see this murderer doesn't strike again. The
whole country's getting panicky. Did you see the headlines
in the papers? "New execution! Third victim of the executioner
of London, but Scotland Yard is baffled."

107

1/3

SMITH How far have you gotten in your investigations on the first two cases?

HILLIER hhh. These executions are carried out with such absolute perfection and ingenuity, Sir, that I'm completely bewildered. No clues, no evidence, nothing we can even use as a starting point...

SMITH I'm disappointed in you, Inspector Hillier.

HILLIER There's one thing I know for sure, that the executions were performed with the same rope in every case.

SMITH With the same rope? What rope do you mean?

HILLIER It's an object of historical value, stolen from our criminal Museum where it was displayed.

108

MUSEUM GUARD The hanging rope was here.

SMITH Do you mean to say that rope was stolen for the express purpose of hanging someone with it?

HILLIER Yes, yes, Commissioner.

SMITH That is even more scandalous! Where is that rope?

HILLIER It's being brought here.

MUSEUM GUARD As I was going to the Archives this morning, I noticed that one of the window panes had been broken. The iron bars had been sawn through with a hack-saw.

SMITH Really?

MUSEUM GUARD Nothing was stolen, only the hanging rope which was displayed there. It was presented to the museum as an historical item because so many criminals were hanged with it at Tyburn and Pentonville. Over sixty.

SMITH Inspector Hillier, I have been told that you are one of the best men on the Force, that you're ambitious. This will give you a chance to prove it.

HILLIER This is a very unusual case, I don't believe it can be handled by the customary Scotland Yard methods.

SMITH Nonsense! You'll have to work harder, that's all.

HILLIER The victims are criminals. Criminals, who, as it was proven, all deserved the death penalty. I'm using that as a starting point.

SMITH Whether they're guilty or innocent doesn't concern us. That's a matter for the courts, but the person who has been hanging all these men, including this one...he is a murderer, and it's up to you to find him. I want this executioner of London caught and brought to trial, and soon! So get cracking on it!

TROOPER John?

HILLIER Yes?

TROOPER Tell me, this is the same rope that was in the other executions isn't it?

HILLIER Yes, that's right and it was stolen before each hanging.

TROOPER And...and you didn't report it?

HILLIER No, I never reported it and I put it back each time.

TROOPER And each time it was stolen again?

HILLIER Each time it disappeared I knew the executioner had selected a new candidate to send off to hell...The rope was guarded carefully day and night, but the thief...or thieves were very clever. Last night the guard was put to sleep with ether.

TROOPER Do you think it's someone from....?

HILLIER That it's someone from Scotland Yard?

111 (cont)

1/5

TROOPER

Ahah

HILLIER

You mean that the thief is one of us? He wouldn't have to use such devious methods. No, Philop, I doubt it. However, the man's obsession to use this particular rope for everyone of his executions, has given me the one and only clue I've got.

TROOPER

What will you do now?

HILLIER

Put it back where it belongs.

END OF REEL 1