

"THE MONSTER OF LONDON"

REEL ONE

101

WOMAN Ah ah ah ah hh. Ah. Ah.

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NEWSVENDOR Another prostitute murdered ! Same as on the stage at the Metropole Theatre ! A new Jack the Ripper ! A young lady of the streets is horribly murdered and mutilated ! Paper, Sir.

MAN Thank you.

NEWSVENDOR Young lady of the streets brutally murdered and mutilated ! A monster is loose in London !

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EVELYN Don't you put your dirty hands on me !

ACTOR I You belong to me, you will do what I say !

EVELYN I'll do nothing for you ! What have you ever done for me ?

ACTOR I Everything !

EVELYN You keep me here in this God-forsaken hole ! I tell you, I'll never walk the streets for you again ! Leave me alone !
Hhhh. Hh.

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EVELYN Ahhhhhh !

ACTOR I Mary ! Mary ! Mary !
Police ! He's here ! Jack the Ripper ! He's in the house !
Jack the Ripper is in this house !

RICHARD Hh.

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WOMAN Ah ah ah ah ah !

STAGE INSPECTOR Jack the Ripper is dead, it's all over ! Hh. Hh. He said he would kill twelve women and twelve women are dead. The monster who has terrorised all of London is dead !

HORRLICK I'm sorry, Sir, excuse me.

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RICHARD

Hallo, Michael !

MICHAEL

Hello, Richard !

RICHARD

Excuse me for not shaking hands with you.

MICHAEL

That's alright.

RICHARD

The audience was pretty restless out there tonight !
It's because of those murders. They think there's a
new Jack the Ripper at work.

MICHAEL

Yes, that's why I came here. Ann sent me with a message
for you. She wants you to meet her uncle, Sir George,
he's a member of Parliament.

RICHARD

Yes, well ?

MICHAEL

He's got some pretty strong ideas about censorship.
According to him, your play ought to be taken off
right away.

RICHARD

I doubt whether I'd be able to prevent him doing it.

MICHAEL

Perhaps you could, though. Anyway, Ann is very
optimistic.

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MICHAEL

You know, she was very impressed when she met you.

RICHARD

Hh as an actor, I impressed her !

MICHAEL

That too, of course. But since she met you, she never
stops talking about you. So come on, you'll do her a
favour.

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MICHAEL

Hello !

RICHARD

Good evening ! Nice place.
Yes rather.

MICHAEL

I's alright. Coming ?

RICHARD

Hm.

RICHARD Hello Ann !

ANN I got him to agree.... He's willing to see you.

RICHARD That's wonderful !

ANN Hello, Michael !

MICHAEL Good evening.

ANN My uncle's about to make a fool of himself. He's quite determined, he's going to introduce a bill on theatrical censorship in Parliament tomorrow.

MICHAEL And if it goes through, your play would be one of the first to be taken off !

ANN It's Parliament's responsibility to protect the younger generation, and plays like Jack the Ripper must at all times positively be forbidden !

MICHAEL Ah ah !

RICHARD I see.

ANN Are you prepared to brave the lion in his den ?

RICHARD I'm prepared.

BETSY Jack the Ripper's in the library.

HOUSEKEEPER What's got into you, he's just a play actor, you silly girl !

BETSY I've seen him as Jack the Ripper, and he's scary ! It's a horrible scary play, and since I've seen it, I don't dare turn my lights out.

HOUSEKEEPER Oh, what a stupid girl you are !

BETSY And if they ring, I'm not going in there !

HOUSEKEEPER What's got into you ?

BETSY Well, I'm really scared of him !

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ANN Oh hello, Uncle, are you busy ?

SIR GEORGE No. What is it, Ann ?

ANN Michael's brought a friend along with him and he'd like to have you meet him.

MICHAEL Good evening, Sir George.

SIR GEORGE Good evening, Michael.

ANN And this is Mister Richard Sand.

SIR GEORGE Good evening, Mister Sand.

RICHARD Good evening, Sir.

ANN Remember, uncle, uh, Mister Sand played Hamlet at the Shakespeare Festival.

SIR GEORGE Now you're playing this murderer Jack the Ripper !

RICHARD Yes.

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ANN I thought you might like to meet Mister Sand, Uncle George, because I know you're planning to talk, hh, about the play in Parliament.

SIR GEORGE Yes, I would...

RICHARD You've not seen the play yet, I understand. But it would be a pleasure to arrange tickets for you.

SIR GEORGE Hh, my obligations and my work leave me very little time for theatre-going. I'm afraid I must decline your invitation, though I would like to thank you, I'm sorry !

MICHAEL Hh, the play's quite authentic and all historical facts have been faithfully reconstructed.

SIR GEORGE Mister Sand, you must know las night's murder bears a striking resemblance to those which you yourself are playing at the theater.

RICHARD Yes, I do.

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SIR GEORGE

Acting the part of a psychopathic murderer could be a real challenge for an actor. I can well understand that ! However, my mind is quite made up on this matter and no one will ever change it. I assure you there's nothing personal in this, Mister Sand. Thank you for coming.

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SIR GEORGE

Michael !

MICHAEL

Yes ?

SIR GEORGE

Why Ann so very eager to take in this young man as her protégé ?

MICHAEL

He's an old and very close friend of mine. I introduced them to each other, and, believe me, Sir George, Richard Sans is a very fine man and a great actor !

SIR GEORGE

But he's appearing in a most dangerous play !

END OF REEL ONE