

1

00:00:00,130 --> 00:00:05,170

Nocturne Hall presents an original audio drama intended only for an adult audience.

2

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:10,617

[CRICKETS. A DISTANT HEAVY WOODEN DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES]

3

00:00:11,336 --> 00:00:12,336

Phillip!

4

00:00:14,554 --> 00:00:15,505

Damn, it's freezing.

5

00:00:17,155 --> 00:00:18,000

Phillip!

6

00:00:18,540 --> 00:00:20,600

[Footsteps]

7

00:00:20,600 --> 00:00:23,379

Oh, there you are.

8

00:00:23,379 --> 00:00:27,279

What are you doing down there, silly goose?

9

00:00:27,279 --> 00:00:29,110

Oh, never mind.

10

00:00:29,110 --> 00:00:31,880

Come inside.

11

00:00:31,880 --> 00:00:33,680

You'll freeze out here.

12

00:00:34,909 --> 00:00:38,141

When the fountain stopped, I heard gentle strumming.

13

00:00:40,119 --> 00:00:42,610
Love, it's thirty degrees.

14
00:00:42,610 --> 00:00:44,181
The fountain was never on.

15
00:00:44,181 --> 00:00:45,221
Shh.

16
00:00:46,300 --> 00:00:49,068
She's at it again.

17
00:00:49,068 --> 00:00:50,539
Can't you hear those tender plucks of gold?

18
00:00:50,539 --> 00:00:51,309
[WIND BLOWS LEAFY TREES]

19
00:00:51,309 --> 00:00:53,340
You've had quite a night.

20
00:00:53,340 --> 00:00:54,550
Time for rest.

21
00:00:54,550 --> 00:00:55,550
[DRAMATIC MUSIC]

22
00:00:55,550 --> 00:00:59,010
Where they gather, the ladder must be near.

23
00:00:59,010 --> 00:01:01,220
You won't find it sitting down.

24
00:01:01,220 --> 00:01:03,430
Let me help you to your feet.

25
00:01:04,389 --> 00:01:05,970
My, your hands are ice.

26

00:01:05,970 --> 00:01:08,290
[FOOTSTEPS ASCEND STONE STAIRS]

27

00:01:08,290 --> 00:01:09,750
Climb with caution.

28

00:01:09,750 --> 00:01:10,732
Prudent.

29

00:01:13,310 --> 00:01:16,570
The rungs lined with swords and nasty hooks will cut us deep.

30

00:01:16,570 --> 00:01:19,509
But there's just a balustrade of smooth stone.

31

00:01:19,509 --> 00:01:22,360
A beast lurks beneath but pay it no heed.

32

00:01:22,360 --> 00:01:24,060
To rush will cut us to pieces.

33

00:01:24,060 --> 00:01:27,040
How about you come inside to warm yourself?

34

00:01:27,530 --> 00:01:30,811
Perhaps another glass of sherry would set your mind at rest.

35

00:01:30,811 --> 00:01:36,729
[A HEAVY WOODEN DOOR CLOSES. FOOTSTEPS]

36

00:01:36,729 --> 00:01:39,689
Have a seat near the radiator, and I'll make you that drink.

37

00:01:39,689 --> 00:01:45,952
[SITTING ON THE SOFA. HEELS WALK AWAY ON THE WOOD FLOOR. BARWARE]

38

00:01:45,952 --> 00:01:47,589
HEELS ON THE WOOD FLOOR REAPPROACH]

39
00:01:47,589 --> 00:01:48,410
Here, love.

40
00:01:49,219 --> 00:01:51,769
Oh, thank heavens. He's conked out.

41
00:01:52,039 --> 00:02:01,355
[HEELS WALK AWAY AND ASCEND WOODEN STAIRS]

42
00:02:01,355 --> 00:02:09,043
[A GRANDFATHER CLOCK STRIKES THREE. GRUMBLING MALE]

43
00:02:09,043 --> 00:02:15,331
[THE GLASS DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS. CRICKETS. HARP MUSIC]

44
00:02:16,574 --> 00:02:17,574
Ahh.

45
00:02:18,832 --> 00:02:20,852
What marvelous light.

46
00:02:21,513 --> 00:02:27,071
[MAN STRUGGLING TO CLIMB]

47
00:02:27,071 --> 00:02:49,853
[OMINOUS MUSIC]

48
00:02:49,853 --> 00:02:52,156
Saturus, guide me.

49
00:02:52,156 --> 00:02:56,917
[CRACK OF A WHIP. MAN YELPS IN PAIN, FALLING]

50
00:02:56,917 --> 00:03:00,272
[MAN SLAMMED HARD ONTO BRICKS FROM HIGH DROP]

51

00:03:00,272 --> 00:03:02,191
[THEME MUSIC]

52

00:03:02,191 --> 00:03:05,660
Devils walk among us.

53

00:03:05,660 --> 00:03:08,071
Some just a mile north of the White House.

54

00:03:08,071 --> 00:03:16,010
Whether conjured or elected, they prey on the innocent all the same.

55

00:03:16,879 --> 00:03:22,620
Most won't even listen, so folks knock on the one door in the District
of Crime

56

00:03:22,620 --> 00:03:24,000
who will.

57

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:28,039
[THEME MUSIC]

58

00:03:28,039 --> 00:03:30,164
Dupont Investigations.

59

00:03:30,164 --> 00:03:33,253
[SONG: I never thought my heart would mend]

60

00:03:33,253 --> 00:03:37,467
[SONG: You taught me how to love again]

61

00:03:37,467 --> 00:03:40,687
[SONG: It's you and me until the end]

62

00:03:40,687 --> 00:03:43,369
[SONG: Oh, we'll paint this whole town red]

63

00:03:43,369 --> 00:03:50,231

[SONG: Just the devils, the devils of Dupont]

64

00:03:50,231 --> 00:03:56,597

[SONG: Just the devils, the devils of Dupont]

65

00:03:56,597 --> 00:04:01,644

This is The Scourge from Carthage Part 1.

66

00:04:02,514 --> 00:04:03,514

[THREE KNOCKS ON A WOOD AND GLASS OFFICE DOOR]

67

00:04:03,514 --> 00:04:04,014

It's open.

68

00:04:04,224 --> 00:04:05,224

[THE OFFICE DOOR OPENS]

69

00:04:05,224 --> 00:04:06,224

Mr. Somersby?

70

00:04:06,733 --> 00:04:07,733

You're not from C&P.

71

00:04:07,733 --> 00:04:08,733

C&P?

72

00:04:08,733 --> 00:04:11,142

Chesapeake and Potomac. The Telephone Company.

73

00:04:11,752 --> 00:04:13,352

You must not be from around here either--

74

00:04:13,832 --> 00:04:15,641

Wait. not another blasted reporter?

75

00:04:15,641 --> 00:04:20,229

No, sir, I'm Nigel Clemmons, a claims investigator with Zeugma Insurance.

76

00:04:20,799 --> 00:04:23,970

Although, I admit the story from the papers is why I'm here.

77

00:04:23,970 --> 00:04:24,970

You look familiar.

78

00:04:24,970 --> 00:04:25,970

Have we met before?

79

00:04:25,970 --> 00:04:27,199

I don't believe so.

80

00:04:27,199 --> 00:04:28,410

Come into my office.

81

00:04:28,410 --> 00:04:29,890

[THE WOODEN DOOR OPENS]

82

00:04:29,890 --> 00:04:31,840

Would you like a drink, Mr. Clemmons?

83

00:04:31,840 --> 00:04:32,962

All I've got is bourbon.

84

00:04:34,784 --> 00:04:40,221

[TELEPHONE RINGS ONCE THE RECEIVER IS PICKED UP AND HUNG UP]

85

00:04:40,532 --> 00:04:41,532

Garbled line?

86

00:04:41,772 --> 00:04:43,312

Nah. Works just fine.

87

00:04:43,312 --> 00:04:47,361
Still, I'm having it disconnected after the
Evening Star ran its gem of a story.

88
00:04:47,361 --> 00:04:48,750
[BAR RATTLE]

89
00:04:48,750 --> 00:04:49,521
Here you are.

90
00:04:50,780 --> 00:04:55,000
So, Mr. Clemmons, let me give you some free advice.

91
00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:56,930
Watch out for dame reporters.

92
00:04:57,380 --> 00:05:01,581
They seem innocent enough, but they've got the sharpest teeth

93
00:05:01,581 --> 00:05:03,840
of all the sharks in the pond.

94
00:05:03,840 --> 00:05:05,041
I'll keep that in mind.

95
00:05:05,670 --> 00:05:08,320
Although I've found trouble with every dame I've met.

96
00:05:08,320 --> 00:05:09,630
Ha. You can say that again.

97
00:05:10,679 --> 00:05:13,820
I wonder whether the paper printed the truth about your case?

98
00:05:13,820 --> 00:05:14,840
[GLASS IS SET DOWN ON THE TABLE]

99
00:05:14,840 --> 00:05:16,460

Oh, it was a hoax, alright.

100

00:05:16,460 --> 00:05:19,350

Big dummy me taking another macabre case.

101

00:05:19,350 --> 00:05:24,140

My father swore I'd make a fool of myself chasing after ghouls and goblins one day.

102

00:05:24,560 --> 00:05:29,400

But how come a fine fella like yourself tracks me down after reading that rag story?

103

00:05:29,580 --> 00:05:34,139

Well . . . the paper mentioned you fancy yourself a scholar of the occult.

104

00:05:34,259 --> 00:05:35,350

Oh, brother.

105

00:05:35,350 --> 00:05:37,030

Tell me this ain't another case.

106

00:05:37,030 --> 00:05:38,030

I'm through with it.

107

00:05:38,030 --> 00:05:40,880

I'll tell you through--the whole funny business.

108

00:05:40,880 --> 00:05:44,139

After my last case, no decent person would hire me.

109

00:05:44,139 --> 00:05:45,340

No, sir.

110

00:05:45,340 --> 00:05:46,551

I'm ready to hang it all up.

111

00:05:46,551 --> 00:05:51,830
[THE PHONE RINGS ONCE. THE RECEIVER IS PICKED UP AND HUNG UP]

112
00:05:51,830 --> 00:05:52,680
You see.

113
00:05:52,680 --> 00:05:55,330
But those might be new clients calling.

114
00:05:55,330 --> 00:05:57,030
Clients shmiant.

115
00:05:57,030 --> 00:05:58,950
I'm through with the lot of them.

116
00:05:58,950 --> 00:06:02,870
Most are rich baffoons trying to investigate
the family fortune teller.

117
00:06:02,870 --> 00:06:07,490
Long gone are the serious clients, and you
can forget anyone from the Hill

118
00:06:07,490 --> 00:06:08,500
reaching out again.

119
00:06:09,040 --> 00:06:12,000
All the rats in Congress are getting tailed
by my competitors.

120
00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:13,810
Sorry to hear about your dry spell.

121
00:06:13,810 --> 00:06:18,680
But, I assure you, I have every interest in
this case remaining out of the newspapers.

122
00:06:18,680 --> 00:06:20,150
Which outfit did you say you are with again?

123

00:06:20,150 --> 00:06:21,530
Zeugma Insurance.

124

00:06:21,530 --> 00:06:22,530
Zeugma.

125

00:06:22,530 --> 00:06:23,530
Never heard of it.

126

00:06:23,530 --> 00:06:24,970
Our office is in Zeugma, North Carolina.

127

00:06:24,970 --> 00:06:26,770
Oh, that Zeugma.

128

00:06:26,770 --> 00:06:29,269
Sure. I read the new Empire State Building is

129

00:06:29,269 --> 00:06:32,130
just a scaled-up version of your big building downtown.

130

00:06:32,130 --> 00:06:35,699
They say yours is the tallest building south of Baltimore.

131

00:06:35,699 --> 00:06:37,509
The Steeples Tobacco Building.

132

00:06:37,509 --> 00:06:39,270
You don't sound like a tar heel?

133

00:06:39,270 --> 00:06:40,569
I'm from Richmond.

134

00:06:40,569 --> 00:06:43,419
My pa got a job in Zeugma when I was in the tenth grade.

135

00:06:43,989 --> 00:06:46,350
Lured by the Steeples operation?

136
00:06:46,350 --> 00:06:47,520
Like most folks in Zeugma.

137
00:06:47,520 --> 00:06:49,289
I can imagine.

138
00:06:49,289 --> 00:06:54,270
I suppose you know what kind of breed that plump white cat is from all their advertisements.

139
00:06:54,270 --> 00:06:55,590
It's a Turkish Angora.

140
00:06:55,590 --> 00:06:58,949
Ah, but Mr. Steeples is the true fat cat.

141
00:06:58,949 --> 00:07:04,199
It just so happens; I'm investigating the death of Phillip Steeples.

142
00:07:04,199 --> 00:07:05,199
The old man?

143
00:07:05,199 --> 00:07:07,249
No, his son.

144
00:07:07,249 --> 00:07:08,800
I hadn't heard he died.

145
00:07:08,800 --> 00:07:12,000
No. Thus far, I managed to keep it out of print.

146
00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:13,460
That's quite a trick.

147

00:07:13,460 --> 00:07:17,750
It cost a small fortune, but the Steeples family can afford it.

148
00:07:17,750 --> 00:07:20,050
So, you're in touch with the family?

149
00:07:20,050 --> 00:07:21,330
Indeed.

150
00:07:21,330 --> 00:07:23,539
My trouble is the case is unusual.

151
00:07:23,539 --> 00:07:26,819
You're gonna have to give me more than that.

152
00:07:26,819 --> 00:07:29,129
Are you familiar with the Spanish Steps in Kalorama?

153
00:07:29,129 --> 00:07:31,530
Sure. What about 'em?

154
00:07:31,530 --> 00:07:36,340
They found Phillip Steeples's body on the pool patio of an adjacent house.

155
00:07:36,340 --> 00:07:42,270
It seems he fell from the roof and died from a harsh, blunt injury to his head.

156
00:07:42,270 --> 00:07:45,830
The trouble is the medical examiner won't rule out foul play.

157
00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:48,090
What does his policy say about murder?

158
00:07:48,090 --> 00:07:51,979
I thought double indemnity is paid out all

the same for murder or accident.

159

00:07:51,979 --> 00:07:55,819

But not for suicide or the decedent's gross negligence.

160

00:07:55,819 --> 00:07:58,780

Still, none of that's in play.

161

00:07:58,780 --> 00:07:59,900

How come?

162

00:07:59,900 --> 00:08:02,419

He didn't have a life insurance policy.

163

00:08:02,419 --> 00:08:05,030

Then why the devil are you working the case?

164

00:08:05,030 --> 00:08:07,600

Ahh, lemme guess.

165

00:08:07,600 --> 00:08:11,011

The family wanted someone they trusted, so they tapped their local insurance

166

00:08:11,011 --> 00:08:14,080

investigator as their P.I.

167

00:08:14,080 --> 00:08:19,640

I've taken the odd case from them--whenever hired muscle couldn't get results.

168

00:08:19,640 --> 00:08:26,310

But when news of Phillip arrived, they recalled how we used to be friends.

169

00:08:26,310 --> 00:08:28,819

Used to be?

170

00:08:28,819 --> 00:08:32,880

He survived a nasty accident but was never the same after.

171

00:08:32,880 --> 00:08:38,640

The family struggled to restore him to his former self, but his recovery proved complicated.

172

00:08:38,640 --> 00:08:42,469

Although his wounds healed, he feared the pain would return.

173

00:08:42,469 --> 00:08:45,740

Ultimately, he withdrew from the family, slipping away to Washington.

174

00:08:45,740 --> 00:08:49,350

So, are they paying you by the day or what?

175

00:08:49,350 --> 00:08:54,000

So far, just expenses, but Mr. Steeples isn't stingy.

176

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,860

After Phillip left home, the family took out a liability policy on him.

177

00:08:57,860 --> 00:09:00,070

They feared he might hurt someone.

178

00:09:00,070 --> 00:09:02,680

Sure, perhaps in another reckless driving incident.

179

00:09:02,680 --> 00:09:05,190

Ah. But the only one he hurt was himself.

180

00:09:05,190 --> 00:09:06,589

So it seems.

181

00:09:06,589 --> 00:09:10,360

At least your company won't have to pay out on his policy.

182

00:09:10,360 --> 00:09:11,203

Mr. Somersby--

183

00:09:11,203 --> 00:09:12,459

Please call me Torsten.

184

00:09:12,459 --> 00:09:18,450

Well, Torsten, I'm outta my depth in our nation's capital, and the Steeples are expecting answers--

185

00:09:18,450 --> 00:09:19,841

And you haven't got any.

186

00:09:19,841 --> 00:09:21,479

Just a few clues.

187

00:09:21,479 --> 00:09:24,578

Whose house was it where dear Phillip took the plunge?

188

00:09:24,578 --> 00:09:31,240

It belongs to Judge Krause from the Municipal Court, but he and his wife are still vacationing in Portugal.

189

00:09:31,240 --> 00:09:36,450

So, what do you figure the heir to a tobacco baron was doing there?

190

00:09:36,450 --> 00:09:38,579

That's one of several remaining mysteries.

191

00:09:38,579 --> 00:09:40,020

Did you visit the scene?

192

00:09:40,020 --> 00:09:41,860

It was my first stop.

193

00:09:41,860 --> 00:09:46,209
I can't say there was anything out of the ordinary except that he died on the wrong

194
00:09:46,209 --> 00:09:48,380
side of the property.

195
00:09:48,380 --> 00:09:50,880
Was there a right side to die on?

196
00:09:50,880 --> 00:09:51,920
Of course not.

197
00:09:51,920 --> 00:09:56,870
It's just that one could access the fourth floor via a stairwell.

198
00:09:56,870 --> 00:10:01,290
There's a rooftop gazebo and terrace, but it opens facing south.

199
00:10:01,290 --> 00:10:04,940
The Codman House is below, so we're talking a five or six-story drop.

200
00:10:04,940 --> 00:10:06,910
But he fell on the north side?

201
00:10:06,910 --> 00:10:10,770
Right, but the northernmost roofline is aligned with the lower third floor.

202
00:10:10,770 --> 00:10:14,019
So, not all that great a height from which to fall.

203
00:10:14,019 --> 00:10:16,060
I'd estimate around a thirty-foot drop.

204
00:10:16,060 --> 00:10:19,089
I see, so he did fall on the wrong side.

205

00:10:19,089 --> 00:10:22,470

It usually takes four stories for a lethal fall.

206

00:10:22,470 --> 00:10:25,470

But, if he struck his head and bled out--

207

00:10:25,470 --> 00:10:26,960

That's the peculiar part.

208

00:10:26,960 --> 00:10:29,410

It seems he fell from a great height.

209

00:10:29,410 --> 00:10:31,480

Could he have crawled up and fallen?

210

00:10:31,480 --> 00:10:33,890

There wasn't a trellis or anything simple to climb.

211

00:10:33,890 --> 00:10:36,881

But, I mean, he fell from a height considerably higher than the roof.

212

00:10:36,881 --> 00:10:39,711

I don't understand.

213

00:10:40,820 --> 00:10:43,010

The body wasn't there when I arrived.

214

00:10:43,010 --> 00:10:45,450

Just a chalked outline and smashed patio bricks.

215

00:10:45,450 --> 00:10:47,940

You tellin' me he smashed apart the bricks?

216

00:10:47,940 --> 00:10:50,540

From less than four stories.

217

00:10:50,540 --> 00:10:52,160

Why that is peculiar.

218

00:10:52,160 --> 00:10:56,459

We're still awaiting the medical examiner to complete his autopsy, but the detective

219

00:10:56,459 --> 00:11:01,211

who responded to the call reported that upon the ME's initial inspection, he

220

00:11:01,211 --> 00:11:03,970

determined most of Phillip's bones were broken.

221

00:11:03,970 --> 00:11:05,910

Who phoned it in?

222

00:11:05,910 --> 00:11:09,180

Someone's dog sniffed out the body around six in the morning.

223

00:11:09,180 --> 00:11:13,810

He kept barking his head off 'till the owner climbed the ivy to peek over the high

224

00:11:13,810 --> 00:11:14,750

cement fence.

225

00:11:14,900 --> 00:11:16,360

Smart pooch.

226

00:11:16,360 --> 00:11:22,100

Once they saw the body, they came to the front and rang the bell, but no one answered.

227

00:11:22,100 --> 00:11:25,770

So they went down the Spanish Steps and used the call box at Decatur and 22nd

228

00:11:25,770 --> 00:11:27,370
to reach the authorities.

229
00:11:27,370 --> 00:11:28,710
How'd they identify him?

230
00:11:28,710 --> 00:11:32,460
Last year, the North Carolina General Assembly required all automobile operators

231
00:11:32,460 --> 00:11:35,709
to start carrying a license listing their name and address.

232
00:11:35,709 --> 00:11:38,200
So, that's how the police reached his folks.

233
00:11:38,590 --> 00:11:44,010
Phillip's parents alerted his sister first,
but their next call was to me.

234
00:11:44,010 --> 00:11:49,640
Once I agreed to take the case, I found their chauffeur at my door
within a half hour.

235
00:11:49,640 --> 00:11:52,200
They reserved my train tickets at Raleigh
Union Depot.

236
00:11:52,200 --> 00:11:56,950
But, by the time I finally arrived in Washington, Phillip was on a
slab.

237
00:11:56,950 --> 00:11:58,630
Who identified the body?

238
00:11:58,630 --> 00:12:00,570
I volunteered.

239
00:12:00,570 --> 00:12:06,070

For all his injuries, he was still the personable face I'd known growing up.

240

00:12:06,070 --> 00:12:07,930
Just lifeless.

241

00:12:07,930 --> 00:12:09,589
Are his folks on their way?

242

00:12:09,589 --> 00:12:13,510
No, the Steeples are too distraught to make any journey at the moment.

243

00:12:13,510 --> 00:12:17,910
They requested Phillip's body return to Zeugma once the medical examiner releases it.

244

00:12:17,910 --> 00:12:20,710
So, they tasked you with settling his affairs too?

245

00:12:20,710 --> 00:12:26,820
No, his sister and her husband took the train down from New York this afternoon.

246

00:12:26,820 --> 00:12:28,960
They should be at the Mayflower by now.

247

00:12:28,960 --> 00:12:30,260
Awaiting some answers?

248

00:12:30,260 --> 00:12:32,730
And I've few to offer them.

249

00:12:32,730 --> 00:12:33,890
Care for another drink?

250

00:12:34,240 --> 00:12:35,830
[BAR NOISE]

251

00:12:35,830 --> 00:12:40,400

Now, you said the dog owner hadn't any luck ringing the bell but did Judge Krause

252

00:12:40,400 --> 00:12:42,470

have any staff?

253

00:12:42,470 --> 00:12:45,570

Someone must have given Phillip access to the premises.

254

00:12:45,570 --> 00:12:49,680

There wasn't a maid or a gardener on the scene when a beat cop let me through to

255

00:12:49,680 --> 00:12:51,600

the pool patio.

256

00:12:51,600 --> 00:12:55,860

If they have staff, perhaps they took leave at the same time as the Krauses?

257

00:12:55,860 --> 00:12:57,760

And about this pool.

258

00:12:57,760 --> 00:13:00,210

Could he have tried to dive in and missed?

259

00:13:00,210 --> 00:13:02,520

No one in their right mind would try it.

260

00:13:03,329 --> 00:13:04,910

Was he of sound mind?

261

00:13:04,910 --> 00:13:09,630

Well, by the look on your face, I'd say you harbor some doubt.

262

00:13:09,630 --> 00:13:12,199

I'd be indebted to you if you could assist me with this case.

263

00:13:12,199 --> 00:13:15,201

No, you'd be in debt because I don't do favors, Nige.

264

00:13:15,201 --> 00:13:16,790

[PAPER WRESTLING]

265

00:13:16,790 --> 00:13:20,870

Look, I'll pay you two "C" notes if you come with me to his room at the Cairo Hotel.

266

00:13:20,870 --> 00:13:23,850

I stopped by there just before I came to see you.

267

00:13:23,850 --> 00:13:25,170

I'm out of my depth.

268

00:13:25,170 --> 00:13:28,449

It wasn't the room of the young man I once knew.

269

00:13:28,449 --> 00:13:30,580

It's a goddamned oddball horde.

270

00:13:30,580 --> 00:13:32,580

Hmm. Interesting.

271

00:13:32,580 --> 00:13:34,230

I've been called an oddball before.

272

00:13:34,230 --> 00:13:36,959

Maybe Phillip and I had something in common.

273

00:13:36,959 --> 00:13:39,300

That's why I'd like you to take a look.

274

00:13:39,300 --> 00:13:42,279

Then there's more dough if you discover anything worth mentioning to Mrs. Barr.

275

00:13:42,279 --> 00:13:43,829
That the Steeples dame?

276

00:13:43,829 --> 00:13:44,829
Lilah.

277

00:13:44,829 --> 00:13:45,829
Lilah Barr.

278

00:13:45,829 --> 00:13:47,240
Who am I to turn down a gig?

279

00:13:47,240 --> 00:13:52,699
[THE PHONE RINGS ONCE. THE RECEIVER IS PICKED UP AND HUNG UP]

280

00:13:52,699 --> 00:13:54,320
You're not what I expected.

281

00:13:54,320 --> 00:13:55,710
Ah, come along.

282

00:13:55,710 --> 00:13:57,670
The Cairo's just a short stroll.

283

00:13:57,670 --> 00:13:59,560
Sounds like it's at least worth a gander.

284

00:13:59,560 --> 00:14:04,250
Besides, we shouldn't keep Mrs. Big Smokes waiting too long.

285

00:14:04,250 --> 00:14:13,426
[TRANSITION MUSIC]

286

00:14:13,426 --> 00:14:16,826
[LATE-NIGHT TRAFFIC]

287

00:14:16,826 --> 00:14:19,690

So, I gotta ask, that case of yours.

288

00:14:19,690 --> 00:14:21,420

You sure you ain't a reporter?

289

00:14:21,420 --> 00:14:24,000

C'mon. One investigator to another.

290

00:14:24,010 --> 00:14:25,139

Why'd you take the case?

291

00:14:25,139 --> 00:14:27,170

Cause I'm a believer.

292

00:14:27,170 --> 00:14:32,300

Not in all things, but well within the realm most folks think unfathomable.

293

00:14:32,300 --> 00:14:34,980

So you honestly thought that little girl was possessed?

294

00:14:34,980 --> 00:14:36,890

I thought her parents deserved to have a P.I.

295

00:14:36,890 --> 00:14:40,390

check out the Diocese's track record on exorcisms.

296

00:14:40,390 --> 00:14:42,470

You think they'll still let you take communion?

297

00:14:42,470 --> 00:14:44,759

They can keep it. I ain't a parishioner.

298

00:14:44,759 --> 00:14:46,070

But you believe in possession?

299

00:14:46,070 --> 00:14:48,720
Sure, as the day is long.

300

00:14:48,720 --> 00:14:50,519
But not in that case?

301

00:14:50,519 --> 00:14:52,579
No, the parents should be locked up.

302

00:14:52,579 --> 00:14:56,030
They had that poor girl under their own spell of self-delusion.

303

00:14:56,030 --> 00:14:59,510
Now, her fate lies in the hands of a social worker.

304

00:14:59,510 --> 00:15:02,250
Against a family as wealthy as Midas.

305

00:15:02,250 --> 00:15:05,829
The great irony is the press might be her only ally.

306

00:15:05,829 --> 00:15:07,870
So, that's why you talked to that reporter.

307

00:15:07,870 --> 00:15:11,789
I thought she might show greater discretion if she understood the matter.

308

00:15:11,789 --> 00:15:13,209
Proved me the dummy.

309

00:15:13,209 --> 00:15:14,819
[OPENING OF A HEAVY GLASS DOOR.]

310

00:15:15,209 --> 00:15:16,650
We don't have to stop at reception.

311

00:15:16,650 --> 00:15:17,650
I've still got a key.

312
00:15:17,650 --> 00:15:20,520
Good. Then this will be the quickest double "C"s I've ever snagged.

313
00:15:20,520 --> 00:15:23,759
You might want to wait till you see the room.

314
00:15:23,759 --> 00:15:25,419
Darn.

315
00:15:25,419 --> 00:15:26,670
The Elevator Operator's on break.

316
00:15:26,670 --> 00:15:28,070
It is late.

317
00:15:28,070 --> 00:15:29,070
Stairs?

318
00:15:29,070 --> 00:15:31,079
Sure, but how high are we climbing?

319
00:15:31,079 --> 00:15:32,079
Just three flights.

320
00:15:32,079 --> 00:15:35,301
It's probably for the best. When they installed the elevators, I heard

321
00:15:35,301 --> 00:15:37,860
someone fell down from the top of one of these shafts.

322
00:15:37,860 --> 00:15:39,550
Ouch. When would that have been?

323
00:15:39,550 --> 00:15:41,100
Some forty-odd years ago.

324

00:15:41,100 --> 00:15:43,279

Do you suppose the shaft is haunted?

325

00:15:43,279 --> 00:15:44,740

Oh, he didn't die.

326

00:15:44,740 --> 00:15:48,000

Nah, the fella limped home and phoned for a doctor to come around.

327

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:49,380

Bananas.

328

00:15:49,380 --> 00:15:51,380

It's true. I swear.

329

00:15:51,380 --> 00:15:54,399

[THE STAIRWELL DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS]

330

00:15:54,399 --> 00:15:57,090

Phillip's room is right over here.

331

00:15:57,090 --> 00:15:59,609

[UNLOCKING OF WOODEN DOOR]

332

00:15:59,609 --> 00:16:01,681

I don't know how to prepare you--

333

00:16:01,681 --> 00:16:02,791

Judas priest.

334

00:16:02,791 --> 00:16:07,918

[DOOR CLOSES. MELENCHOLY MUSIC]

335

00:16:07,918 --> 00:16:12,000

He's been in Washington just shy of a year, but he managed to collect quite a library.

336

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:15,321

Minus the shelves. Look at these towering stacks.

337

00:16:15,321 --> 00:16:18,899

Oddball horde is right. I don't like it.

338

00:16:18,899 --> 00:16:19,899

Not one bit.

339

00:16:19,899 --> 00:16:21,330

What, the books?

340

00:16:21,330 --> 00:16:23,150

The atmosphere.

341

00:16:23,150 --> 00:16:26,209

It's tinged with malevolence.

342

00:16:26,209 --> 00:16:27,460

You a medium, too?

343

00:16:27,460 --> 00:16:31,220

Nah, you don't need to be one to sense something wrong went down here.

344

00:16:31,220 --> 00:16:34,768

C'mon. Let's see what kind of wild lit we're working with here.

345

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:40,130

Clairvoyance, Thought-forms, The Etheric Double:

346

00:16:40,130 --> 00:16:41,569

The Health Aura of Man.

347

00:16:41,569 --> 00:16:46,250

All I can make of this rubbish is Phillip
must have gone slap-happy.

348

00:16:46,250 --> 00:16:47,839
No argument there.

349
00:16:47,839 --> 00:16:51,399
Still, there's got to be some common theme here.

350
00:16:51,399 --> 00:16:52,730
Anything by the desk?

351
00:16:52,730 --> 00:16:54,920
Just an Underwood without any paper.

352
00:16:54,920 --> 00:16:57,819
He's got the Sunday Star open to F-4.

353
00:16:57,819 --> 00:17:02,600
A hand-drawn map detailing John Wilkes Booth's escape route from Ford's Theater.

354
00:17:02,600 --> 00:17:03,600
Keep looking.

355
00:17:03,600 --> 00:17:08,459
The next issue is from the eleventh, open to B-6.

356
00:17:08,459 --> 00:17:10,060
It's a listing of all the Sunday services.

357
00:17:10,060 --> 00:17:13,570
Something tells me he wasn't attending the Presbyterian Church of the Pilgrims.

358
00:17:13,570 --> 00:17:15,220
He was raised Methodist.

359
00:17:15,220 --> 00:17:16,220
Yeah?

360

00:17:16,220 --> 00:17:20,929
Still, I bet he wasn't attending Foundry Methodist, either.

361
00:17:20,929 --> 00:17:22,640
He's got several bookmarks in this gem.

362
00:17:22,640 --> 00:17:24,579
What have we here?

363
00:17:24,579 --> 00:17:29,479
The Secret Doctrine by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky.

364
00:17:29,479 --> 00:17:32,060
And this is just volume one.

365
00:17:32,060 --> 00:17:36,520
Oh, brother, we're in for a wild ride if he's studying this broad.

366
00:17:36,520 --> 00:17:37,520
Who is she?

367
00:17:37,520 --> 00:17:40,220
A corpse, thank the lord.

368
00:17:40,220 --> 00:17:42,100
There's a newsletter stuffed inside.

369
00:17:42,100 --> 00:17:48,100
Here we are--the American Theosophist Society in America.

370
00:17:48,100 --> 00:17:52,049
Madame Blavatsky was a Theosophist.

371
00:17:52,049 --> 00:17:54,820
The Theosophist, in fact.

372
00:17:54,820 --> 00:17:56,410
A what?

373

00:17:56,410 --> 00:17:58,000

A Theosophist.

374

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:01,390

To be honest, I'm not sure what they believe.

375

00:18:01,390 --> 00:18:05,840

I bet I have some of their lit in my home library, but they're an obscure bunch.

376

00:18:05,840 --> 00:18:11,250

I think they reinterpreted ancient religions, which is something I comprehend pretty well.

377

00:18:11,250 --> 00:18:12,460

What is their interpretation?

378

00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:14,180

Well, who's to say?

379

00:18:14,180 --> 00:18:16,710

We'd have to read all this muck.

380

00:18:16,710 --> 00:18:19,700

So, is there anything useful here?

381

00:18:19,700 --> 00:18:21,200

Check the services on B-6.

382

00:18:21,200 --> 00:18:23,720

[WRESTLING NEWSPAPERS]

What am I looking for?

383

00:18:23,720 --> 00:18:26,830

There ought to be a listing for Theosophy.

384

00:18:26,830 --> 00:18:28,830

You're joking.

385

00:18:28,830 --> 00:18:34,809

Look for their symbol, an Ankh in the center of the Star of David, with a Swastika overhead.

386

00:18:34,809 --> 00:18:36,630

A Swastika!

387

00:18:36,630 --> 00:18:37,640

Bananas.

388

00:18:37,640 --> 00:18:40,170

In an American paper?

389

00:18:40,170 --> 00:18:43,631

Son of a gun, look at that, you're right.

390

00:18:43,631 --> 00:18:45,291

Theosophy.

391

00:18:45,291 --> 00:18:48,550

They're listed right above the Presbyterian Church of the Pilgrims.

392

00:18:48,550 --> 00:18:50,450

That's a fine coincidence.

393

00:18:50,450 --> 00:18:54,140

And the Swastika's been around a few thousand years before those Nazi bastards

394

00:18:54,140 --> 00:18:56,050

stumbled upon it.

395

00:18:56,050 --> 00:18:58,169

The Theosophists have two lodges in town.

396

00:18:58,169 --> 00:19:01,260
One has a service Sunday on The Memory of Past Lives.

397
00:19:01,260 --> 00:19:03,610
Ohh, wait, that's April fifth.

398
00:19:03,610 --> 00:19:04,610
This Sunday's Easter.

399
00:19:04,610 --> 00:19:09,769
Ahh, I opened the wrong B-6, although the Washington Lodge runs weekly classes at

400
00:19:09,769 --> 00:19:13,090
eight in the evening. Tuesday is Blavatsky Class.

401
00:19:13,090 --> 00:19:15,370
Oh, brother, glad we missed hers.

402
00:19:15,370 --> 00:19:18,010
Hey, there's also one tomorrow night.

403
00:19:18,010 --> 00:19:22,059
Every Friday, they run an Elementary Theosophy Class.

404
00:19:22,059 --> 00:19:24,049
Perfect for newcomers.

405
00:19:24,049 --> 00:19:25,049
Where are they located?

406
00:19:25,049 --> 00:19:28,279
At 1216 H Street Northwest.

407
00:19:28,279 --> 00:19:30,539
[TAP ON THE TIN BOX]
Well, now.

408

00:19:30,539 --> 00:19:34,380
Take a look at this gem hiding beneath Isis
Unveiled.

409
00:19:34,380 --> 00:19:35,380
What is it?

410
00:19:35,380 --> 00:19:38,510
It appears to be a field medic's treatment tin.

411
00:19:38,510 --> 00:19:39,970
From the war?

412
00:19:39,970 --> 00:19:42,139
Let's peek inside. [OPENING OF TIN BOX]

413
00:19:42,139 --> 00:19:45,874
Ether, Stovaine, Sparteine--

414
00:19:45,874 --> 00:19:47,091
Any morphine?

415
00:19:47,091 --> 00:19:50,730
Nope, that vial's missing. Why'd you ask?

416
00:19:50,730 --> 00:19:52,370
Call it a hunch.

417
00:19:52,370 --> 00:19:54,280
Young Phillip into morphine?

418
00:19:54,280 --> 00:19:55,740
Why else would he have the tin?

419
00:19:55,740 --> 00:19:58,570
[CLOSING OF TIN BOX]
Nige, I'm short on answers here.

420

00:19:58,570 --> 00:20:01,990
You're the one that grew up with him. [SAD MUSIC]

421
00:20:01,990 --> 00:20:03,780
Phillip was in a nasty accident.

422
00:20:03,780 --> 00:20:07,659
He wound his brand new Lincoln Model K around a telephone pole near Troy.

423
00:20:07,659 --> 00:20:09,470
Spent months in the hospital.

424
00:20:09,470 --> 00:20:11,870
Was never the same after.

425
00:20:11,870 --> 00:20:14,240
You think he got hooked on morphine?

426
00:20:14,240 --> 00:20:15,240
Could be.

427
00:20:15,240 --> 00:20:17,890
I know he began acting erratic after his discharge.

428
00:20:17,890 --> 00:20:20,110
I didn't see much of him back then.

429
00:20:20,110 --> 00:20:22,630
But it wasn't long before he left home.

430
00:20:22,630 --> 00:20:27,700
That when his folks came round to take out the liability policy?

431
00:20:27,700 --> 00:20:28,700
I see.

432
00:20:28,700 --> 00:20:29,909

Neat coincidence.

433

00:20:29,909 --> 00:20:32,640

Now we find a treatment tin missing a morphine vial.

434

00:20:32,640 --> 00:20:36,350

But I still don't get what drew him to Washington.

435

00:20:36,350 --> 00:20:38,460

Or what sustained his attention?

436

00:20:38,460 --> 00:20:41,020

This isn't exactly a bachelor's quarters.

437

00:20:41,020 --> 00:20:43,460

Not an inviting one, at least for the uninitiated.

438

00:20:43,460 --> 00:20:46,880

Are you suggesting he entertained visitors in this horde?

439

00:20:46,880 --> 00:20:51,850

I know dames who would climb Kilimanjaro for a tobacco baron's heir.

440

00:20:51,850 --> 00:20:56,780

Let alone plot a course through a maze of odd books to arrive in his comfy bed.

441

00:20:56,780 --> 00:20:59,130

Anythings possible.

442

00:20:59,130 --> 00:21:01,190

Did you look around for any correspondence?

443

00:21:01,190 --> 00:21:04,591

I'd anticipate a few notes from home if he were here for so long.

444

00:21:04,591 --> 00:21:07,860

Just a letter from his mother, asking him

445

00:21:07,860 --> 00:21:09,919
if he'd consider coming home for Easter.

446

00:21:09,919 --> 00:21:13,630
He'll be home all right, but not the way she
envisioned.

447

00:21:13,630 --> 00:21:19,410
A telegram was sent Monday from the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore.

448

00:21:19,410 --> 00:21:22,620
Says, Called but no answer.

449

00:21:22,620 --> 00:21:24,049
Ring yes or no.

450

00:21:24,049 --> 00:21:25,049
Holding package.

451

00:21:25,049 --> 00:21:27,510
[SHUFFLING OF PAPERS]
No sign of a response.

452

00:21:27,510 --> 00:21:31,370
Odd for a man to toss out all his correspondence.

453

00:21:31,370 --> 00:21:33,780
Oh, Phillip was always very secretive.

454

00:21:33,780 --> 00:21:35,950
Learned it from his father.

455

00:21:35,950 --> 00:21:40,029
Men learn all manners of sin from their fathers.

456

00:21:40,029 --> 00:21:41,640

Perhaps Mrs. Barr might know more?

457

00:21:41,640 --> 00:21:42,640

[DESK DRAWER PULLED OUT]

458

00:21:42,640 --> 00:21:43,640

[KNOCKING ON WOOD]

459

00:21:43,640 --> 00:21:44,640

If I didn't know better.

460

00:21:44,640 --> 00:21:47,220

What is it? [A PIECE OF WOOD SLIDES OUT FROM THE DRAWER]

461

00:21:47,220 --> 00:21:50,059

A false-bottom drawer.

462

00:21:50,059 --> 00:21:51,169

Something inside too.

463

00:21:51,169 --> 00:21:52,880

You think Phillip was running a racket?

464

00:21:52,880 --> 00:21:55,260

Maybe it's his ledger.

465

00:21:55,260 --> 00:21:57,330

Looks more like a diary.

466

00:21:57,330 --> 00:21:58,990

It's marked C.E.

467

00:21:58,990 --> 00:22:01,200

Let's take a gander.

468

00:22:01,200 --> 00:22:05,309

Oh boy, this handwriting is a challenge.

469

00:22:05,309 --> 00:22:07,610

It's not a ledger.

470

00:22:07,610 --> 00:22:12,190

I can make out the date for this entry, June 5th, 1919.

471

00:22:12,190 --> 00:22:15,388

[DEEP BASS]

Whoa, we lose power?

472

00:22:15,388 --> 00:22:18,000

Nah. It was just a flicker.

473

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:22,016

[A BIRD STRIKES THE WINDOW. FOOTSTEPS]

474

00:22:22,016 --> 00:22:24,658

Christ. I think that was a raven.

475

00:22:25,017 --> 00:22:29,380

Best if I take the journal. I've got a gift for deciphering difficult penmanship.

476

00:22:29,380 --> 00:22:30,810

Here. Be my guest.

477

00:22:30,810 --> 00:22:33,699

[KEY INSERTED INTO THE DOOR. FINGERS SNAP] Bathroom. Now.

478

00:22:33,699 --> 00:22:35,299

[TENSE MUSIC]

479

00:22:35,299 --> 00:22:37,660

Who's that? [DOOR OPENS] I thought you had the only key?

480

00:22:37,660 --> 00:22:39,320

I do. At least, I thought I did.

481

00:22:39,320 --> 00:22:39,820

You got a piece on you?

482

00:22:39,820 --> 00:22:42,000

Never. Do you?

483

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:44,121

[FOOTSTEPS ON HARDWOOD] Gimme the toilet paper roll.

484

00:22:44,121 --> 00:22:44,851

What?

485

00:22:44,851 --> 00:22:45,851

Just do it.

486

00:22:46,271 --> 00:22:48,391

[REMOVAL OF TOILET PAPER ROLL]

Here. Now what?

487

00:22:48,391 --> 00:22:50,740

No dummy. I want the cylinder. And gimme your jacket.

488

00:22:51,091 --> 00:22:51,941

What?

489

00:22:53,170 --> 00:22:54,151

Alright. Here.

490

00:22:54,151 --> 00:22:55,151

Thanks.

491

00:22:55,451 --> 00:22:56,451

What now?

492

00:22:56,870 --> 00:22:59,909

Time for our friend to stare down the barrel.

493

00:22:59,909 --> 00:23:00,940
And if he's got iron?

494
00:23:00,940 --> 00:23:03,859
Then we rush him before he shoots.

495
00:23:03,859 --> 00:23:04,979
Bananas.

496
00:23:04,979 --> 00:23:05,790
You ready?

497
00:23:05,790 --> 00:23:06,290
Heck no, I'm not.

498
00:23:06,290 --> 00:23:09,479
On three. One. Two. Three!

499
00:23:09,479 --> 00:23:11,479
[THE DOOR KICKS OPEN]
Whoa! Who the devil--

500
00:23:11,479 --> 00:23:14,198

Hands up, buster. The devil's the least of your worries.

501
00:23:17,646 --> 00:23:22,982
Dupont Investigations is written by Marc Benjamin Langston and
directed, edited, and sound-designed by Bryce Bowyn.

502
00:23:22,982 --> 00:23:30,618
Keep your ears in the 1930s by becoming a
DUPONT INVESTIGATOR.

503
00:23:30,618 --> 00:23:34,554
Access our private discord server--The Inside Scoop--or explore

504
00:23:34,554 --> 00:23:41,590
Torsten Somersby's recovered case file by visiting Nocturnehall.com/

investigator

505

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:46,029

Dupont Investigations: The Scourge from Carthage Part 1 features

506

00:23:46,029 --> 00:23:48,220

Kara Turner as IRMA KRAUSE

507

00:23:48,220 --> 00:23:50,549

Ryan McLean as PHILLIP STEEPLES

508

00:23:50,549 --> 00:23:53,179

Marc Benjamin Langston as TORSTEN SOMERSBY

509

00:23:53,179 --> 00:23:55,570

Jacob Lowman as NIGEL CLEMMONS

510

00:23:55,570 --> 00:23:58,300

And Joshua Hall as CALDER EVANS

511

00:23:58,960 --> 00:24:04,010

The Original theme song, Devils of Dupont, written and performed by Bryce Bowyn,

512

00:24:04,010 --> 00:24:06,630

is available wherever you stream music.

513

00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:11,290

For individuals and families facing mental health or substance use disorders in the

514

00:24:11,290 --> 00:24:18,350

United States, listeners can call the free, confidential National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP.

515

00:24:18,350 --> 00:24:22,460

That's 1-800-662-H-E-L-P.

516

00:24:22,460 --> 00:24:22,960
[THEME MUSIC]