

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,177

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

2

00:00:08,960 --> 00:00:16,139

Devils walk among us. Some just a mile north of the White House.

3

00:00:16,139 --> 00:00:21,481

Whether conjured or elected, they prey on the innocent all the same.

4

00:00:23,070 --> 00:00:30,000

Most won't even listen, so folks knock on the one door in the District of Crime who will.

5

00:00:34,578 --> 00:00:36,359

Dupont Investigations.

6

00:00:36,359 --> 00:00:39,567

[Music: I never thought my heart would mend]

7

00:00:39,567 --> 00:00:43,189

[Music: You taught me how to love again]

8

00:00:43,189 --> 00:00:46,296

[Music: It's you and me until the end]

9

00:00:46,296 --> 00:00:49,625

[Music: Oh, we'll paint this whole town red]

10

00:00:49,625 --> 00:00:55,083

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

11

00:00:56,645 --> 00:01:03,185

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

12

00:01:03,185 --> 00:01:08,326

This is The Scourge from Carthage Part 3.

13

00:01:08,326 --> 00:01:20,364

[PICKING UP TELEPHONE RECEIVER. DIAL TONE. SIX ROTARY DIALS. TWO RINGS.]

14

00:01:20,364 --> 00:01:21,596

Nesbit Residence.

15

00:01:21,596 --> 00:01:25,529

Hi, Angel. I know it's early, but I've got a favor to ask.

16

00:01:25,719 --> 00:01:30,416

Torsten, is that you? I was just reading about you in yesterday's Evening Star.

17

00:01:30,607 --> 00:01:34,686

Some story, wasn't it? Look, I'm in a bit of a rush this morning.

18

00:01:34,686 --> 00:01:40,875

Do you have a copy of the Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas in your Roman lit collection?

19

00:01:40,875 --> 00:01:42,550

In English or Latin?

20

00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:47,361

Oh, Rowena, Latin's a dead language. It killed off all the Romans, and it'd probably

21

00:01:47,361 --> 00:01:50,213

kill me if you can't track down the translation.

22

00:01:50,213 --> 00:01:51,317

Wait one minute.

23

00:01:56,721 --> 00:02:01,366

Alright, you're in luck. I've got the latest translation of their martyrdom by W.H. Shewing.

24

00:02:01,366 --> 00:02:07,163

Thank the gods. Would you be a peach and bring it to my office as soon as possible?

25

00:02:07,163 --> 00:02:10,508

Torsten. What kind of trouble have you gotten yourself into this time?

26

00:02:10,508 --> 00:02:13,808

I don't just sit around all day waiting for you to call, you know.

27

00:02:13,808 --> 00:02:18,400

But I suppose I could bring it by around half past eleven. But only if it's important--

28

00:02:18,400 --> 00:02:22,400

Oh, terribly important. I'd say a life depends on it, but he's already dead.

29

00:02:22,400 --> 00:02:23,619

My word.

30

00:02:23,619 --> 00:02:26,956

I'll have to catch up with you another time, though. I'm headed out myself, but

31

00:02:26,956 --> 00:02:32,206

remember, I always keep the outer door unlocked in case I ever get another prospect willing to wait.

32

00:02:32,206 --> 00:02:36,775

I remember. And I have another translation I'll bring over as well.

33

00:02:36,775 --> 00:02:38,263

Another ancient tome?

34

00:02:38,263 --> 00:02:42,760

No, far more recent, but also set in Carthage. It's not a historical text,

35

00:02:42,760 --> 00:02:45,038
but Gustave Flaubert's Salamambo.

36

00:02:45,038 --> 00:02:48,517
Now, Rowe, why would I waste my time with some nineteenth-century novel?

37

00:02:48,517 --> 00:02:51,685
Oh, Torsten. Sometimes you lack all imagination--

38

00:02:51,685 --> 00:02:53,378
Angel, I really am in a rush--

39

00:02:53,378 --> 00:02:58,874
Salamambo is set during the Mercenary Revolt on the heels of Carthage's First Punic War with Rome.

40

00:02:58,874 --> 00:03:04,070
I recall that one didn't turn out so well for Carthage. But that's what--some four

41

00:03:04,070 --> 00:03:06,254
hundred years before Perpetua's martyrdom?

42

00:03:06,254 --> 00:03:10,381
To understand the ancient people of Carthage, you must appreciate their Gods.

43

00:03:10,381 --> 00:03:13,602
Flaubert treats them with the reverence they commanded.

44

00:03:13,602 --> 00:03:17,071
To a modern reader, it's all too simple to dismiss them outright,

45

00:03:17,071 --> 00:03:21,735
but Torsten, to those people, they didn't just mean a great deal--they meant everything.

46

00:03:21,735 --> 00:03:25,917

Enough to send early Christians to their slaughter. Of course, you're right.

47

00:03:25,917 --> 00:03:30,145

I promise to give it a scan. But I'm afraid I do need to ring off now.

48

00:03:30,145 --> 00:03:31,659

I'll leave the texts while you're out.

49

00:03:31,659 --> 00:03:33,888

Swell, Angel. I'll owe ya one.

50

00:03:33,888 --> 00:03:35,850

And Torsten. Be careful.

51

00:03:35,850 --> 00:03:38,308

I'll do my best, Angel. Bye now.

52

00:03:38,308 --> 00:03:40,020

[HANG UP THE RECEIVER.]

53

00:03:40,020 --> 00:03:41,410

Torsten. Are you in there?

54

00:03:41,410 --> 00:03:43,054

Yeah, Nige. Come on back.

55

00:03:43,054 --> 00:03:45,324

[THE FRONT OFFICE DOOR SHUTS. FOOTSTEPS.]

56

00:03:45,324 --> 00:03:48,000

I thought you were headed to the coroner's office first thing--

57

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:52,314

Get a load of this. Today's Herald reports Steeples Tobacco heir, Phillip

58

00:03:52,314 --> 00:03:56,311

Steeple, went missing during his stay in Washington, possible kidnapping.

59

00:03:56,441 --> 00:03:59,006

That's blood in the water. Did you warn Mrs. Barr?

60

00:03:59,006 --> 00:04:01,740

The sharks will be circling the Mayflower at any moment.

61

00:04:01,740 --> 00:04:06,333

I called on her before coming here. Although she didn't seem surprised.

62

00:04:06,333 --> 00:04:09,142

What about the ME's report?

63

00:04:09,142 --> 00:04:10,116

I wasn't sure they'd let me leave with a copy.

64

00:04:10,116 --> 00:04:14,409

So, hoping next of kin might have better odds, we sent Lilah's husband to fetch it.

65

00:04:14,695 --> 00:04:20,577

It'll be interesting if the ME's report shows any scrapes or contusions on his extremities.

66

00:04:20,577 --> 00:04:23,339

And what would you expect would have caused them?

67

00:04:23,339 --> 00:04:24,729

You better have a seat.

68

00:04:24,729 --> 00:04:28,069

Ahh, is your hunch from reading Calder's journal?

69

00:04:28,069 --> 00:04:28,690
Yeah.

70
00:04:28,690 --> 00:04:32,865
After you called, I eventually fell asleep again and got caught in a
vivid

71
00:04:32,865 --> 00:04:36,711
dream of me just wandering around some old ruins.

72
00:04:37,374 --> 00:04:38,382
Were they circular?

73
00:04:38,889 --> 00:04:39,493
What?

74
00:04:39,716 --> 00:04:40,915
The ruins.

75
00:04:40,915 --> 00:04:47,182
Come to thank of it they were. I kept going around and around,

76
00:04:47,627 --> 00:04:52,436
but I was drawn to a central spot near one end with a twisting column

77
00:04:52,436 --> 00:04:54,197
crowned by a stone cross.

78
00:04:54,959 --> 00:04:57,537
What do you think it means--if anything?

79
00:04:58,236 --> 00:05:00,929
Hard to say at this point,
but I'm looking into it.

80
00:05:00,929 --> 00:05:01,429
How?

81

00:05:02,160 --> 00:05:05,107

A friend is bringing by a text later, which might prove relevant.

82

00:05:05,685 --> 00:05:09,889

But there's an entry in the journal which bears a fair similarity to your dreams.

83

00:05:09,889 --> 00:05:13,400

I'd suggest you have a go at it, but the handwriting is tough--

84

00:05:13,400 --> 00:05:14,593

Tell me then.

85

00:05:14,593 --> 00:05:17,939

Let's not get ahead of ourselves and start from the beginning.

86

00:05:17,939 --> 00:05:23,285

The first part is a familiar tale I've heard from other vets returning from the front.

87

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:28,920

They spend weeks training in the states without gaining any useful skills whatsoever.

88

00:05:28,920 --> 00:05:32,833

Once they hit France, it's a big game of hurry up and wait.

89

00:05:32,833 --> 00:05:37,188

Calder Evans' company purchases some horses, then they load and

90

00:05:37,188 --> 00:05:41,108

unload fleets of train cars
come day or night, rain or shine.

91

00:05:41,108 --> 00:05:48,595

Excitement finally hits when they arrive at the front at the

commencement of the Battle of Saint-Mihiel.

92

00:05:48,595 --> 00:05:52,285

General Pershing's big push to overtake the German lines, right?

93

00:05:52,285 --> 00:05:57,005

Sure, but dear Calder never heard a word of the plan until the sky overhead

94

00:05:57,005 --> 00:06:01,032

explodes with fire, and the forest shakes from unabated shelling.

95

00:06:01,032 --> 00:06:03,153

Hmm. Dreadful.

96

00:06:03,153 --> 00:06:06,675

As they advance as part of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, they pitched their

97

00:06:06,675 --> 00:06:10,982

pup tents within enemy firing range. The Huns shell them so

98

00:06:10,982 --> 00:06:16,599

severely he should have been killed. But, as fate would have it, he barely got a scratch.

99

00:06:16,599 --> 00:06:21,539

Still, an overzealous medic tends to his wound--and considering the cut deeper

100

00:06:21,539 --> 00:06:27,420

than it was or just trying to give the guy a break--Calder gets his first taste of morphine.

101

00:06:27,420 --> 00:06:28,111

Christ.

102

00:06:28,420 --> 00:06:31,621

Oh, we'll get to him in a minute. Or at least his followers.

103

00:06:31,621 --> 00:06:33,710

I don't like where this is going.

104

00:06:33,710 --> 00:06:35,938

Too bad. You're already along for the ride.

105

00:06:35,938 --> 00:06:42,166

So, Calder starts hoarding morphine tablets from every medical station he can manage.

106

00:06:42,166 --> 00:06:46,269

And he's not alone. There's a whole underground racket.

107

00:06:46,269 --> 00:06:50,420

According to him, most men in his company were keen to partake in

108

00:06:50,420 --> 00:06:53,546

excessive dosages of anything they could pop down the hatch.

109

00:06:53,546 --> 00:06:58,947

Then one night, Calder's so doped up that he's unable to move after they're ordered to clear the trench.

110

00:06:58,947 --> 00:07:01,608

The enemy advances, and he plays dead.

111

00:07:01,608 --> 00:07:05,668

At that point, he says he wants to die. And that's when it happens.

112

00:07:05,797 --> 00:07:06,742

What happens?

113

00:07:06,932 --> 00:07:12,000

Stop interrupting, and you'll hear about it. His eyes open to a luminous glow.

114

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:18,000

Before him, a ladder of gold appears from nowhere, bright as Saint Peter's gates,

115

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:20,884

stretching high above the trenches to the clouds.

116

00:07:21,297 --> 00:07:25,707

Over the whistles, artillery, and small arms fire, he hears instruments.

117

00:07:25,707 --> 00:07:27,955

Lyres and drums.

118

00:07:27,955 --> 00:07:29,069

How's that possible?

119

00:07:29,069 --> 00:07:30,000

It ain't.

120

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:35,109

He muscles the rungs and begins his ascent. It's a slow climb,

121

00:07:35,109 --> 00:07:39,335

which is good as he soon notices it's lined with sharp hooks and daggers.

122

00:07:39,883 --> 00:07:46,065

Then he hears the grumbling of a beast below. He feels hot breath on his shins,

123

00:07:46,065 --> 00:07:49,696

and the thing snarls with a preternatural howl.

124

00:07:49,696 --> 00:07:54,360

He hastens his ascent, snagging himself here or there on the odd sword and saber.

125

00:07:54,360 --> 00:07:56,068
He must have been high as a kite.

126
00:07:56,068 --> 00:08:01,488
Well, sure, but he journaled this all on his return voyage to the States. Sober as a judge.

127
00:08:01,488 --> 00:08:03,471
I assume he made it to the top?

128
00:08:03,471 --> 00:08:06,534
First, he saw a man above waving him up.

129
00:08:06,534 --> 00:08:09,087
He took the encouragement and kept climbing.

130
00:08:09,087 --> 00:08:15,470
Topside, he discovered a merry little band in age-old garb

131
00:08:15,470 --> 00:08:18,686
playing instruments in a sprawling garden.

132
00:08:18,686 --> 00:08:23,484
He couldn't understand their language, but they stopped playing and brought him

133
00:08:23,484 --> 00:08:26,145
over to an old geezer milking a goat.

134
00:08:26,654 --> 00:08:33,327
With just one pensive gaze from the old man, Calder awoke in a medic's tent

135
00:08:33,327 --> 00:08:35,035
five miles from the trench.

136
00:08:36,148 --> 00:08:38,936
They'd found him not far away, caught in barbed wire.

137

00:08:39,436 --> 00:08:41,335

He had run there all on his own.

138

00:08:41,716 --> 00:08:43,519

Even with all that dope in his system?

139

00:08:43,519 --> 00:08:44,852

So he claims.

140

00:08:45,583 --> 00:08:48,611

But what does one hophead's
story have to do with Phillip?

141

00:08:49,183 --> 00:08:51,153

Suppose it's a matter of belief.

142

00:08:51,153 --> 00:08:52,066

Belief in what?

143

00:08:52,225 --> 00:08:53,402

Coincidences.

144

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,721

Are you trying to say Phillip fell at the judge's house in some
botched

145

00:08:57,721 --> 00:08:59,677

attempt to climb to heaven?

146

00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:01,708

That's total malarkey.

147

00:09:01,708 --> 00:09:04,935

I can't say. He's not here to speak for himself, either.

148

00:09:04,935 --> 00:09:08,900

Maybe we'd have a better clue if we could track down his manuscript.

149

00:09:08,900 --> 00:09:12,648

Still, we've got two morphine addicts and one free fall.

150

00:09:12,648 --> 00:09:15,149

But Calder didn't plummet, right?

151

00:09:15,562 --> 00:09:20,847

I'm not even sure he ever left the ground. Maybe he just climbed out of that trench.

152

00:09:20,847 --> 00:09:22,257

What about the woman from my dream?

153

00:09:23,528 --> 00:09:27,588

Not quite sure yet. Neither is Calder, but we've got our suspicions.

154

00:09:27,779 --> 00:09:32,706

Shoot, it's half past nine. I've gotta let some movers into Phillip's place at quarter till.

155

00:09:33,374 --> 00:09:34,918

Isn't that what the manager's for?

156

00:09:34,918 --> 00:09:38,565

We'd like to keep the number of utterances of Phillip Steeples to a minimum

157

00:09:38,565 --> 00:09:40,612

now that the press is on the trail.

158

00:09:41,152 --> 00:09:42,493

That's probably for the best.

159

00:09:42,843 --> 00:09:45,918

After the Cairo, I'll swing by the hotel and review the ME's report.

160

00:09:46,467 --> 00:09:47,852
Shall we meet somewhere for lunch?

161
00:09:47,852 --> 00:09:50,861
I'd love to, but I'm not sure how
long I'll last.

162
00:09:50,861 --> 00:09:53,062
Plus, one bite in me, and I'll be dozing off.

163
00:09:53,857 --> 00:09:57,084
I want to cover this
last bit of lit before taking a siesta.

164
00:09:57,688 --> 00:10:02,097
Why don't you have an automobile?
We're always taking cabs everywhere?

165
00:10:02,097 --> 00:10:05,267
You kiddin'. I drink too much to get behind the wheel.

166
00:10:05,752 --> 00:10:08,529
Besides, cabbies are a great source of information.

167
00:10:08,529 --> 00:10:11,232
You wouldn't believe the
things they pick up from their passengers.

168
00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:15,575
So, shall we split a cab then
to the Theosophy meeting--

169
00:10:15,575 --> 00:10:19,018
Heck, no. We shouldn't arrive together.
Lest they make us from the jump.

170
00:10:19,463 --> 00:10:22,749
True. We aim to get the jump on them.

171

00:10:22,749 --> 00:10:25,842

Oh, they'll have you pegged as a skeptic from the start.

172

00:10:25,842 --> 00:10:29,151

Without you by my side, I at least have a chance of blending in.

173

00:10:29,628 --> 00:10:31,623

But you're the one that's so well-known.

174

00:10:32,036 --> 00:10:34,800

Ah, but the papers never printed a picture of me, see.

175

00:10:34,800 --> 00:10:36,413

I never let them take one.

176

00:10:36,413 --> 00:10:40,417

So, those Theosophists won't know this mug from Methuselah's.

177

00:10:40,417 --> 00:10:48,223

[UPBEAT MUSIC.

178

00:10:48,223 --> 00:10:51,480

MODERATE AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.]

179

00:10:51,480 --> 00:10:55,146

Thank you, Mr. Kendall, for your lovely overview of Theosophy.

180

00:10:55,718 --> 00:11:00,859

If you're a newcomer tonight--and I see several new faces, which excites us--

181

00:11:01,272 --> 00:11:05,084

please know that it can all be a bit overwhelming at first.

182

00:11:05,619 --> 00:11:10,321

But, in time, you'll come to recognize and internalize the fundamentals.

183

00:11:10,920 --> 00:11:15,225

One of my anchor points is a passage from the first volume of

184

00:11:15,225 --> 00:11:19,741

Ms. Helena Petrovna Blavatsky's magazine Lucifer.

185

00:11:21,315 --> 00:11:27,516

She regarded Theosophy not as a religion but rather since all religions

186

00:11:27,516 --> 00:11:31,140

spring from universal wisdom, which unites us--

187

00:11:31,458 --> 00:11:36,512

Theosophy represents the universal brotherhood of religion itself.

188

00:11:37,465 --> 00:11:38,692

[COUGH FROM THE AUDIENCE.]

189

00:11:39,423 --> 00:11:45,222

As Mr. Kendall kindly stated in his introduction, my name is Ms. Irma Krause.

190

00:11:45,222 --> 00:11:46,539

She say Krause?

191

00:11:46,539 --> 00:11:47,452

Shush now.

192

00:11:47,452 --> 00:11:52,458

We reserve this time to receive updates on the latest scholarship from our members.

193

00:11:53,095 --> 00:11:58,528

It is my distinct pleasure tonight to share with you my findings upon returning from Baltimore,

194

00:11:58,528 --> 00:12:02,534

where I attended an illuminating lecture by Mr. Fritz Kunz.

195

00:12:02,820 --> 00:12:05,036
[MEAGER AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.]

196

00:12:06,182 --> 00:12:13,674
A few of us are undoubtedly familiar with Mr. Kunz's pamphlet entitled, Sex Concepts for the New Age.

197

00:12:14,299 --> 00:12:16,992
However, I'm sure many of you are uninitiated.

198

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:22,589
At our lecture, Mr. Kunz first reminded the ladies and gentlemen of the audience

199

00:12:22,589 --> 00:12:29,807
that despite our separate physical forms, our astral selves drive our physical bodies.

200

00:12:30,412 --> 00:12:36,163
Even our present form, which we wear like clothing, is the product of Nature's evolution--

201

00:12:36,163 --> 00:12:43,397
as old as the time when our planet cooled, and the very first creatures came into corporeal shape.

202

00:12:43,397 --> 00:12:50,127
And just as the age of man derives from the giant Saurians, Nature's evolution continues.

203

00:12:50,127 --> 00:12:59,090
For the past decade, Mr. Kunz observed the emergence of a queer, intermediate sex across our country's population.

204

00:12:59,598 --> 00:13:06,198
In the New Age coming, he believes women will become more liberated in their clothing.

205

00:13:06,198 --> 00:13:11,570

Men will change too, but he sees a more marked advancement among women.

206

00:13:12,397 --> 00:13:16,978

He claims that this new race, humanity's Sixth Sub-race,

207

00:13:16,978 --> 00:13:24,463

will not recognize their gendered differences but will only come to regard the burning aura of their souls.

208

00:13:26,843 --> 00:13:27,580

Thank you.

209

00:13:27,580 --> 00:13:32,710

[MODERATE AUDIENCE APPLAUSE. MOVEMENT.]

210

00:13:32,710 --> 00:13:35,841

What color do you think they'd attribute to my soul's burning aura?

211

00:13:35,841 --> 00:13:40,139

You? Same color as your fedora. Now forget these nuts and focus on

212

00:13:40,139 --> 00:13:43,713

convincing this dame to have a little private chat with us elsewhere.

213

00:13:43,872 --> 00:13:46,606

Alright. Do you have a spot in mind?

214

00:13:46,606 --> 00:13:50,514

Sure do. And best let me do most of the talking.

215

00:13:53,446 --> 00:13:59,589

Ms. Krause. You wouldn't by any chance happen to be any relation to Judge Krause from the Municipal Court?

216

00:13:59,813 --> 00:14:01,877

Why yes. He's my father.

217

00:14:02,450 --> 00:14:04,325

I hope you're not cross with him.

218

00:14:04,325 --> 00:14:06,622

Not at all. I hold him in high regard.

219

00:14:07,004 --> 00:14:11,089

Whew. He's always putting someone behind bars, so you can never tell.

220

00:14:11,089 --> 00:14:15,372

Nature of his position, I suppose.
My name's Torsten Somersby.

221

00:14:15,372 --> 00:14:16,190

How do you do?

222

00:14:16,190 --> 00:14:21,088

And I, too, am a lingering admirer of yours Ms. Krause. Name's Nigel Clemmons.

223

00:14:21,088 --> 00:14:25,182

Somersby. Why does that name sounds familiar?

224

00:14:25,182 --> 00:14:29,762

I dabble in occult literature. Perhaps you've read some of my work,

225

00:14:29,762 --> 00:14:32,543

although I'm most fascinated by your comments tonight.

226

00:14:33,084 --> 00:14:36,000

I found Mr. Kunz's lecture enthralling as well.

227

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:39,929

If you're free after the meeting, I must insist you allow me to buy you a drink

228

00:14:39,929 --> 00:14:42,847
at the Show Boat Tap Room just around the corner.

229
00:14:42,847 --> 00:14:48,470
You'll find there that the queer, intermediate sex is indeed upon us.

230
00:14:48,470 --> 00:14:52,086
Do you suppose Mr. Kunz would be interested in her observations?

231
00:14:52,086 --> 00:14:55,705
Undoubtedly, Mr. Clemmons. Why you, too, should tag along.

232
00:14:56,069 --> 00:14:58,542
Well, I'm not sure, gentleman.

233
00:14:58,542 --> 00:15:01,957
Please, ma'am. It would be our treat to be your escort.

234
00:15:01,957 --> 00:15:07,918
Ms. Krause, is all you see before you two men not two burning auras,

235
00:15:07,918 --> 00:15:10,818
eager to share your pursuit of truth?

236
00:15:10,818 --> 00:15:12,400
Did you say it's close?

237
00:15:12,400 --> 00:15:14,236
Just around the corner.

238
00:15:14,544 --> 00:15:15,998
We'll wait for you outside.

239
00:15:15,998 --> 00:15:20,531
Alright. I do love a good cocktail on a Friday night.

240
00:15:20,531 --> 00:15:31,140
[TRANSITION MUSIC. VIGOROUS AUDIENCE APPLAUSE AND CHEERS.]

241

00:15:31,140 --> 00:15:36,313

There you have it, folks, another terrific set from Chloe and Lover Boy.

242

00:15:36,313 --> 00:15:42,172

These canaries will take a short break but stick around for more tunes in ten minutes' time.

243

00:15:43,031 --> 00:15:48,000

You're right, Torsten. In this joint, I can hardly tell whose male or female.

244

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:50,002

Ah, there he is with another round.

245

00:15:50,002 --> 00:15:50,985

Here you are.

246

00:15:50,985 --> 00:15:55,045

So, Irma. How was the Belvedere?
I've never stayed there before.

247

00:15:55,045 --> 00:16:00,000

It was lovely, but how did you know that's where I lodged in Baltimore?

248

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:02,773

We read your telegram to Phillip Steeples.

249

00:16:02,901 --> 00:16:04,320

Why ever would you--

250

00:16:04,320 --> 00:16:06,684

We're two private dicks working his case.

251

00:16:06,684 --> 00:16:10,310

I must protest. You've lured me here on false pretenses.

252

00:16:10,310 --> 00:16:13,697

C'mon. We've not done anything objectionable but buy you drinks.

253

00:16:13,697 --> 00:16:16,627

And we delivered on our promise that this place would interest you.

254

00:16:16,627 --> 00:16:18,432

I'm afraid I must be going.

255

00:16:18,432 --> 00:16:22,530

Not so fast, sister. Unless you want me to ring that pestering leech of a

256

00:16:22,530 --> 00:16:26,641

reporter I know at the Star who would be very interested to learn how Judge

257

00:16:26,641 --> 00:16:33,147

Krause's daughter corresponded with the corpse they found on the Judge's back patio early Wednesday morning.

258

00:16:33,147 --> 00:16:39,195

Or I could let a certain detective from the Metropolitan Police Department in on this little development.

259

00:16:39,195 --> 00:16:41,821

What corpse? I don't know what you're talking about.

260

00:16:41,821 --> 00:16:46,084

Not very convincing. Look, we know your parents are in Portugal, and

261

00:16:46,084 --> 00:16:51,416

there's no sign of any staff at the house. So, that leaves you with the key to the front door.

262

00:16:51,416 --> 00:16:58,633

Good lord. It's not what you think. I was out late on Tuesday at some rathskeller off Connecticut.

263

00:16:58,919 --> 00:17:04,171

I left around midnight only to find Phillip glassy-eyed, mumbling on a storefront stoop.

264

00:17:04,457 --> 00:17:09,028

He's been good for such a long time, but lately, he's been worrisome.

265

00:17:09,028 --> 00:17:10,495

Worrisome, how?

266

00:17:10,495 --> 00:17:15,167

He's pretty modest in his consumption of alcohol. And often judgmental of

267

00:17:15,167 --> 00:17:19,281

those who've imbibed in excess. Why I've seen him scold one stupid drunk so

268

00:17:19,281 --> 00:17:24,000

aggressively, it would have warmed the heart of the old Hatchet Granny herself.

269

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:27,392

I didn't have Phillip pegged for the Carrie Nation type based on the

270

00:17:27,392 --> 00:17:29,800

missing vial of morphine we found in his room.

271

00:17:29,800 --> 00:17:32,031

Vial of morphine. Good lord.

272

00:17:32,477 --> 00:17:34,504

So, that's what he was on that night?

273

00:17:35,013 --> 00:17:36,659

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

274

00:17:37,550 --> 00:17:41,722

You see, we weren't far from my parent's house. I live in Woodley Park,

275

00:17:41,722 --> 00:17:45,043

so we'd have to take a cab in his condition, but few were operating. I got

276

00:17:45,043 --> 00:17:50,106

him to his feet and lured him to my parent's house. The walk helped him come to.

277

00:17:50,106 --> 00:17:54,364

He became talkative again. We had a glass of sherry as a nightcap,

278

00:17:54,364 --> 00:17:58,960

but I left him alone for one minute and lost him. I ventured outside and found

279

00:17:58,960 --> 00:18:03,314

him on the Spanish Steps rambling nonsense about hearing music, but

280

00:18:03,314 --> 00:18:05,278

it was quiet as a church mouse at that hour.

281

00:18:05,278 --> 00:18:06,269

What kind of music?

282

00:18:06,269 --> 00:18:09,111

I couldn't say. It was thirty degrees outside.

283

00:18:09,111 --> 00:18:12,215

All I cared about was getting him back inside and hitting the hay.

284

00:18:12,215 --> 00:18:14,688

What do you suppose knocked Phillip off the wagon?

285

00:18:15,339 --> 00:18:18,132

I hate to comment on a man's personal affairs.

286

00:18:18,267 --> 00:18:22,712

I knew Phillip from growing up. I'm sure he'd want us to understand what led to

287

00:18:22,712 --> 00:18:26,068

his demise. No matter how unpleasant the scenario.

288

00:18:27,086 --> 00:18:31,689

It's a complicated tale. Do you know a Mr. Calder Evans?

289

00:18:31,689 --> 00:18:36,608

We understand they were pretty close. Perhaps more than casual acquaintances.

290

00:18:36,608 --> 00:18:38,682

For better or for worse.

291

00:18:38,969 --> 00:18:43,385

They met at one of our Friday night classes almost a year ago. Mr. Evans

292

00:18:43,385 --> 00:18:48,723

had a sincere interest in past lives, but he lost interest in the overall

293

00:18:48,723 --> 00:18:54,000

teachings of Theosophy. Still, he was a welcome social presence.

294

00:18:54,241 --> 00:18:58,234

He and Phillip became involved--I'm not sure the extent to which--

295

00:18:58,234 --> 00:19:00,609

We get it, sister. No need to beat around the bush.

296

00:19:00,992 --> 00:19:03,115

Alright, fine. They had a romance.

297

00:19:03,115 --> 00:19:03,615

Had?

298

00:19:03,615 --> 00:19:08,209

Correct. They seemed fine until a week ago when Calder discovered Phillip

299

00:19:08,209 --> 00:19:13,132

hadn't quite kicked his dope habit. I swear, no one unaware would ever

300

00:19:13,132 --> 00:19:16,730

suspect Phillip as a hophead. He was adept at hiding it.

301

00:19:16,730 --> 00:19:20,502

I thought you said when you spotted Phillip at that store front off Connecticut

302

00:19:20,502 --> 00:19:22,694

Avenue you didn't know he was doped?

303

00:19:22,694 --> 00:19:27,013

I knew he was gone alright, but not what substance was responsible for his condition.

304

00:19:27,586 --> 00:19:29,072

How did Calder find out?

305

00:19:29,072 --> 00:19:33,401

I'm not sure, but his discovery precipitated a real row between them.

306

00:19:33,401 --> 00:19:34,982

And the timing couldn't have been worse.

307

00:19:34,982 --> 00:19:35,679

Why's that?

308

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:40,541

Phillip was already terribly behind on his manuscript. He went incommunicado

309

00:19:40,541 --> 00:19:44,370

for a few days after their tete-a-tete, which wasn't out of the ordinary.

310

00:19:44,370 --> 00:19:50,312

So, let's see. I came to take him to lunch on Tuesday since

311

00:19:50,312 --> 00:19:51,874

we were barreling toward our deadline.

312

00:19:51,874 --> 00:19:52,724

What deadline?

313

00:19:52,724 --> 00:19:56,861

I was to take his manuscript to the Theosophist lecture series in Baltimore.

314

00:19:57,465 --> 00:20:02,081

Some successful publishers with proficiency in selling similar works were attending.

315

00:20:02,081 --> 00:20:07,466

I promised to share Phillip's work with them, but if any offered to review the complete manuscript,

316

00:20:07,466 --> 00:20:09,722

he needed to complete the text.

317

00:20:09,722 --> 00:20:11,273

Holding package.

318

00:20:11,496 --> 00:20:12,045

Pardon?

319

00:20:12,045 --> 00:20:16,651

It's what you wrote in your telegram to Phillip. I assume you held his manuscript.

320

00:20:16,651 --> 00:20:20,846

Good graces, yes. And, much to my delight, more than one publisher was

321

00:20:20,846 --> 00:20:25,593

interested in the piece, but I'd promised Phillip I would obtain his blessing before

322

00:20:25,593 --> 00:20:30,686

sending it off with anyone. There was much to consider in such a decision,

323

00:20:30,846 --> 00:20:32,638

but I never got ahold of him.

324

00:20:32,638 --> 00:20:33,737

So, he never rang you back?

325

00:20:34,150 --> 00:20:34,650

No.

326

00:20:34,873 --> 00:20:36,266

What did you do with the manuscript?

327

00:20:36,266 --> 00:20:40,573

I still have it. Not on me, of course, at my home in Woodley Park.

328

00:20:40,573 --> 00:20:45,593

Sadly, now that Phillip's passed, its value is apt to rise significantly.

329

00:20:45,816 --> 00:20:46,316

How so?

330

00:20:46,793 --> 00:20:50,050

Works by posthumous artists tend to gain substantial value.

331

00:20:50,050 --> 00:20:52,109

But, who will profit from its sale?

332

00:20:52,586 --> 00:21:01,679

Phillip's estate, I suppose. I also have a valid contract as his agent. So, if I

333

00:21:01,679 --> 00:21:06,629

can still manage to sell it, I should be entitled to my cut of the profits.

334

00:21:06,629 --> 00:21:09,665

It seems Phillip's more valuable to you dead than alive.

335

00:21:09,665 --> 00:21:13,060

That's very cold. I loved Phillip just like a brother.

336

00:21:13,060 --> 00:21:19,486

He's already got a sister, sister. And she's in town trying to figure out why you shoved her brother off your parents' roof.

337

00:21:19,486 --> 00:21:22,977

Good lord. I was fast asleep when whatever occurred to Phillip.

338

00:21:22,977 --> 00:21:25,955

Wait, when did you discover there'd been an incident?

339

00:21:25,955 --> 00:21:28,127

Until you sat me down, I hadn't heard anything--

340

00:21:28,127 --> 00:21:33,368

Save it. If I hear one more false word drip from that pretty trap, so help me, Zoroaster,

341

00:21:33,368 --> 00:21:36,249

you'll be having this conversation behind bars.

342

00:21:36,707 --> 00:21:41,312

Look. I wasn't asleep long before I felt a strong draft coming from downstairs.

343

00:21:41,312 --> 00:21:46,591

Phillip left the living room door open. I was aghast at the sight of his lifeless body.

344

00:21:46,591 --> 00:21:51,285

I went over to check on him, but he hadn't any pulse. I wasn't supposed to

345

00:21:51,285 --> 00:21:55,642

be there in the first place, and I presumed no one had seen me arrive with him earlier.

346

00:21:55,642 --> 00:22:00,189

Given his placement on the back patio, I locked the doors and grabbed my mother's

347

00:22:00,189 --> 00:22:05,115

mink coat. I couldn't find a taxi, so I walked the entire length of the Taft Bridge

348

00:22:05,115 --> 00:22:08,432

in the wee morning hours back to my home. I must have appeared to

349

00:22:08,432 --> 00:22:11,313

onlookers like a regular nymph of the pave.

350

00:22:11,313 --> 00:22:13,656

You were so sure he was dead; you didn't even call for an ambulance?

351

00:22:13,656 --> 00:22:18,833

I panicked. I admit it wasn't my best decision. I'd been out drinking late into

352

00:22:18,833 --> 00:22:22,940

the night before encountering Phillip. Honestly, I just wanted to get some rest.

353

00:22:22,940 --> 00:22:26,561

And I couldn't sleep somewhere knowing there was a corpse downstairs.

354

00:22:26,561 --> 00:22:30,911

He could have been rotting out there for days without the intervention of a curious canine and his owner.

355

00:22:30,911 --> 00:22:34,963

So, you would have waited 'till when to alert anyone of Phillip's condition?

356

00:22:34,963 --> 00:22:36,322

It's a moot point.

357

00:22:36,322 --> 00:22:40,776

Something tells me Irma here is used to other people cleaning up her messes.

358

00:22:40,776 --> 00:22:44,778

It's a dreadful affair. I was afraid someone might gain the false impression

359

00:22:44,778 --> 00:22:46,519

I had something to do with it.

360

00:22:46,519 --> 00:22:51,056

You gave a morphine addict alcohol. Ever hear of laudanum, lady?

361

00:22:51,056 --> 00:22:57,056

I didn't know. I'd never seen him in such a state. Honestly, I just thought he was very drunk.

362

00:22:57,470 --> 00:23:02,287

And, unlike some men, I didn't envision such a delicate boy could transform into

363

00:23:02,287 --> 00:23:08,232

something so garish as, say, a mean drunk. I couldn't imagine a drop more of

364

00:23:08,232 --> 00:23:13,446

sherry would upset the apple cart.

It makes me sick even considering it might have--

365

00:23:13,446 --> 00:23:17,861

Contributed directly to his untimely death. Why a jury might even call that manslaughter?

366

00:23:17,861 --> 00:23:25,853

Be reasonable, now. If you speak another word of criminal liability, I'll sue you for defamation of character.

367

00:23:25,853 --> 00:23:30,273

Whoa. Easy counselor. He's just pointing out why you need to help us get to the bottom of this.

368

00:23:30,273 --> 00:23:31,365

What bottom is there?

369

00:23:31,365 --> 00:23:35,254

Would it surprise you that we found Mr. Calder Evans searching Phillip's room last night?

370

00:23:35,754 --> 00:23:38,545

He was after his journal and Phillip's manuscript.

371

00:23:38,545 --> 00:23:42,952

Good graces. What a little sneak. And after all the trouble he's caused poor Phillip.

372

00:23:42,952 --> 00:23:47,843

Is there anything in the manuscript that Calder might consider unsuitable for publication?

373

00:23:47,843 --> 00:23:54,000

I haven't read the entire thing. My word, no. It's an opus. But knowing what little I

374

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:58,786

understand of Calder's past, there would be specific personal stories he might

375

00:23:58,786 --> 00:24:03,322

object to being made public. Its core thesis is on overcoming material

376

00:24:03,322 --> 00:24:08,657

dependence. So, naturally, Calder's wraith spirit encounter featured prominently

377

00:24:09,389 --> 00:24:11,415

Wraith spirit, do you mean a ghost?

378

00:24:11,415 --> 00:24:14,014

I've got that angled covered. I'll fill you in later.

379

00:24:14,141 --> 00:24:17,228

Bananas. Now there's a ghost to worry about too?

380

00:24:17,228 --> 00:24:21,463

Lemme get this straight. An addict's guide to kicking an addiction. Who dies

381

00:24:21,463 --> 00:24:25,246

from falling off the wagon. I think you'll need to work on your sales pitch.

382

00:24:25,786 --> 00:24:28,004

How quickly can you deliver the manuscript?

383

00:24:28,196 --> 00:24:31,502

I feel I owe it to Phillip to try my utmost to get it published.

384

00:24:31,502 --> 00:24:37,959

Lady, we ain't interested in selling it. We just need to understand if

all these strange connections add up to something.

385

00:24:37,959 --> 00:24:42,469

But I don't understand. How would Phillip's manuscript have anything to do with his death?

386

00:24:42,469 --> 00:24:45,020

We haven't ruled anyone out, including you.

387

00:24:45,020 --> 00:24:47,312

Best you cooperate with our investigation.

388

00:24:47,596 --> 00:24:51,923

I'm considering it, as well as procuring legal counsel.

389

00:24:51,923 --> 00:24:55,349

Lady, you won't need a good lawyer if the press gets wind of this story.

390

00:24:55,349 --> 00:24:59,106

They'll have sent you to the gallows before they even start jury selection.

391

00:24:59,288 --> 00:25:02,714

Now, what's it going to be? Are you going to help us or not?

392

00:25:03,278 --> 00:25:03,969

[GLASS IS SET DOWN ON THE TABLE.]

393

00:25:04,255 --> 00:25:12,143

I never want to see either one of you again. I'll have a courier bring it over in the morning. Will that suffice?

394

00:25:12,143 --> 00:25:15,090

You can leave it for me at the reception desk of the Mayflower Hotel.

395

00:25:15,558 --> 00:25:19,440

Very well, gentleman. I bid you adieu.

396

00:25:19,440 --> 00:25:23,769
[THE DRUMS ARE WARMING UP.]

397

00:25:23,769 --> 00:25:28,403
It looks like the band is heating up. Time for us to bolt if you want to chat about our new friend.

398

00:25:28,403 --> 00:25:31,453
Sure, but first, I need you to fill me in about this ghost story.

399

00:25:31,453 --> 00:25:35,598
As soon as we get out of here and find a pint of bourbon. Then I'd be glad to regale

400

00:25:35,598 --> 00:25:39,026
you all about it. Doubt you'll believe a word of it, though.

401

00:25:39,026 --> 00:25:40,096
How can you be so sure?

402

00:25:40,096 --> 00:25:44,664
'Cause to men like you, ghosts only exist in A Christmas Carol.

403

00:25:44,919 --> 00:25:48,970
Hey, there's something you should know. I didn't think much of it before.

404

00:25:48,970 --> 00:25:50,075
The spot where Phillip fell--

405

00:25:50,075 --> 00:25:51,148
Or was pushed.

406

00:25:51,148 --> 00:25:55,664
Sure. A circular sculpture is on the house's exterior, some twenty feet up.

407

00:25:55,664 --> 00:25:59,118

Two Greek or Roman gals in togas are playing instruments with a child.

408

00:25:59,118 --> 00:26:02,174

A Roman rondel frieze. Interesting.

409

00:26:02,174 --> 00:26:03,829

And the babe's playing too?

410

00:26:03,829 --> 00:26:06,695

Yup. Irma said Phillip heard music. I just wonder if--

411

00:26:06,695 --> 00:26:08,563

[MUSIC INTRO FOR PERFORMERS. APPLAUSE.]

412

00:26:08,563 --> 00:26:13,129

C'mon, let's make tracks. It's time you understood what we're up against.

413

00:26:13,129 --> 00:26:21,765

[OUTRO MUSIC.]

414

00:26:21,765 --> 00:26:29,353

Dupont Investigations is written by Marc Benjamin Langston and directed, edited, and sound-designed by Bryce Bowyn.

415

00:26:29,353 --> 00:26:34,022

Keep your ears in the 1930s by becoming a DUPONT INVESTIGATOR.

416

00:26:34,181 --> 00:26:37,646

Access our private discord server "The Inside Scoop"

417

00:26:37,646 --> 00:26:41,785

or explore Torsten Somersby's recovered case file by visiting

418

00:26:41,785 --> 00:26:45,277

nocturnehall.com/investigator

419

00:26:45,277 --> 00:26:49,467

Dupont Investigations: The Scourge
from Carthage Part 3 features

420

00:26:49,817 --> 00:26:52,576

Lindsay Gee as ROWENA NESBIT

421

00:26:52,576 --> 00:26:55,772

Marc Benjamin Langston as TORSTEN SOMERSBY

422

00:26:56,282 --> 00:26:58,723

Jacob Lowman as NIGEL CLEMMONS

423

00:26:58,857 --> 00:27:01,555

Kara Turner as IRMA KRAUSE AND

424

00:27:01,555 --> 00:27:03,869

Bryce Bowyn as M.C.

425

00:27:04,251 --> 00:27:08,735

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

426

00:27:08,735 --> 00:27:13,581

Bryce Bowyn, is available wherever you stream music. For individuals
and families

427

00:27:13,581 --> 00:27:18,337

facing mental health or substance use disorders in the United States,
listeners can

428

00:27:18,337 --> 00:27:23,839

call the free, confidential National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP.

429

00:27:23,839 --> 00:27:28,138

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

