

PERUSAL SCRIPT

TERRORFEST

By

Jim Christian

A CHAMELEON'S MURDER MYSTERY



Salt Lake City

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TERRORFEST

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SETTING:

TERRORFEST FILM FESTIVAL

CAST: (6M 3W)

LOUISE RASSMUSSEN

GUSSIE GOTZ

BARBARA DeVORE

OSKAR WEISS

NIGEL BASCOMBE

BUDDY FOX

DAX KIGER

FLOYD KILMAN

BUCK FUJI

TERRORFEST *A CHAMELEONS MURDER MYSTERY* by Jim Christian **Characters: 6m 3w**

Synopsis: The stars of a traveling horror film festival begin dying in the styles of their screen personas' victims . . . revealing a trail of vengeance, competition and long-standing secret identities. The title can indicate whatever year the play is produced in. **(ORDER #3095)**

1 -- COCKTAILS/APPETIZERS

(LOUISE RASMUSSEN, PROMOTER AND PUBLICIST FOR THE TERRORFEST FLM FESTIVAL TAKES THE MICROPHONE AND GAINS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.)

LOUISE: GOOD EVENING.

(WAITS UNTIL ROOM HAS QUIETED.)

HELLO, EVERYONE, AND WELCOME. MY NAME IS LOUISE RASMUSSEN AND I WILL BE YOUR HOSTESS FOR THIS GALA EVENT. AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEAD END COMMUNICATIONS GROUP IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE FOR THE OPENING OF THE TERRORFEST [YEAR] FILM FESTIVAL. FOR THE NEXT WEEK, THIS HOTEL WILL SERVE AS THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THE FINEST ASSORTMENT OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE FILMS OF THE PAST SEASON. THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR. THIS TRAVELING FESTIVAL WILL BE PRESENTED AT HOST THEATRES IN EACH OF THE FIFTY UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, TONIGHT, WE ARE ESPECIALLY THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE WITH US THE HORRIFYING STAR OF EACH OF OUR EIGHT FEATURED FILMS. AS A SPECIAL TREAT, EACH OF THEM APPEARS HERE EXACTLY AS YOU'VE SEEN THEM IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES.

LATER IN THE EVENING, WE WILL BE SEEING BLOOD-CURDLING CUTS FROM THE VARIOUS MOTION PICTURES IN OUR CAVALCADE OF CHILLS AND PRESENTING A "BEST OF THE FEST" AWARD RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMER FROM OUR EIGHT CELEBRITY GUESTS. SPEAKING OF WHOM... I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO EACH OF THEM RIGHT NOW.

FIRST, I'M DELIGHTED TO PRESENT ONE OF THE HOTTEST, RISING TALENTS IN THE NATION. HE HAS MADE A BIG SPLASH ON THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY IN WHAT IS PROVING TO BE THE MOST TALKED ABOUT FILM OF THE YEAR. THIS IS HIS FIRST STARRING ROLE AS MR. HARIMOTO IN *VAMPIRE BUSINESSMEN OF TOKYO*. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU MR. BUCK FUJI!!!

BUCK: *(MOVING TO THE MICROPHONE)* THANK, LOUISE-BABY. HEY IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE, FOLKS. I LOVE YOU. AND I'M TELLING YOU ... EVERYBODY'S RIGHT. UTAH IS A "PRETTY GREAT" STATE. YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. HEY, LEMME TELL YA ...

FLOYD: *(INTERRUPTING)* OH FOR THE SWEET LOVE OF RONA BARRETT.

BUCK: HEY, BUDDY ... YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

FLOYD: NO, BUT OBVIOUSLY THE "HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY" DOES IF THEY THINK SOME INEXPERIENCED, DOUBLE-CROSSING ...

LOUISE: *(INTERCEDING, NERVOUSLY)* WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THERE YOU HAVE IT. WHEN I SAID THAT THIS WAS A TALKED ABOUT MOVIE, I WASN'T KIDDING.

FLOYD: OH, GIVE ME STRENGTH.

LOUISE: WELL, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THE NEXT PERSON I SHOULD INTRODUCE IS MR.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- TERRORFEST -- *A CHAMELEON'S MURDER MYSTERY* -- by Jim Christian

FLOYD KILLMAN, STAR OF *SAY YOUR PRAYERS*. HIS PERFORMANCE AS THE PSYCHOTIC TELEVANGELIST IS GARNERING CRITICAL ACCLIM THROUGHOUT THE MEDIA. MR. KILLMAN ...

FLOYD: THANK YOU.

(ALL OF THIS IS FOR BUCK'S BENEFIT)

MY BELOVED PUBLIC, IT CERTAINLY IS RICHLY GRATIFYING TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR A PIECE OF "WORK" WHICH IS THE "CULMI NATION" OF "EXTENSIVE TRAINING" AND "YEARS" OF "EXPERIENCE."

LOUISE: YES.

(THROUGH CLENCHED TEETH)

WE'RE ALL JUST SO HAPPY FOR YOU. OUR NEXT CELEBRITY HAS EARNED HERSELF THE NICKNAME "DAMSEL OF DISTRESS." SHE HAS ALSO BEEN CALLED THE "ULTIMATE VILLAINESS" AND HER LATEST ROLE IS NO EXCEPTION. APPEARING AS ARIADNE, THE MEDIEVAL SORCERESS IN *HOT SPELL* IS MISS BARBARA DeVORE.

BARBARA: *(TAKING THE MICROPHONE)* THANK YOU, LOUISE DARLING. I AM SO VERY HONORED TO BE HERE THIS EVENING AMONG SUCH PRESTIGIOUS AND "TREACHELIIOUS" COMPANY. NOW, YOU MUST ALL PROMISE TO COME TO OUR WONDERFUL LITTLE FILM FEST. IF YOU'VE LIKED ME IN MY OTHER PICTURES, YOU'LL JUST ADORE ME IN

(MAKING THE MOST OF IT)

HOT SPELL. I CAN ASSURE YOU A "FRIGHTENINGLY" GOOD TIME. IN FACT WITH LOUISE'S PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER OF OUR "JOLLY BAND" OF FRIENDS.

LOUISE: OH, PLEASE BE MY GUEST.

BARBARA: WELL ... HOW CAN I BEGIN?

(WITH SINCEREST FLATTERY)

THIS NEXT MAN IS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE SCUMMIEST DELIGHTS OF TINSELTOWN, NOT ONLY IS HE ONE OF THE MOST GIFTED ACTORS ALIVE TODAY, HE IS A SWEET AND SENSITIVE MAN AND I LOVE HIS BUNS. I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE TO YOU, BUDDY FOX, STAR OF THE RUNAWAY HIT, *MR. GRUESOME*.

BUDDY: *(LUMBERS FORWARD, VERY MUCH THE "GEEK." AS HE BEGINS TO SPEAK HE TRANSFORMS INTO THE PERFECT ALL-AMERICAN BOY.)* THANKS, BABS.

(GIVES HER A PECK ON THE CHEEK)

I WANT TO LET EVERYONE HERE KNOW JUST HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY. YOU SEE , BEING APART OF THE SHOW BUSINESS SCENE IS GREAT AND ALL THAT, BUT

(WITH GREAT WARMTH)

WHEN I SEE THE WARM SMILES ON ALL OF YOUR FACES, I KNOW WHY I DO THIS.

BARBARA: *(GUSHING)* OO-OO-OH ... ISN'T HE JUST EH BEST?

BUDDY: AW, C'MON, BARBARA...

BARBARA: NO PIGEON, IT'S TRUE. YOU'RE FABULOUS. THERE'S NOT ANOTHER ACTOR ALIVE TODAY ...

(SHE IS CUT OFF BY COUGHS, YAWNS, AND VARIOUS EXCLAMATIONS OF DISAGREEMENT FROM GUSSIE, FLOYD, OSKAR, DAX, NIGEL AND BUCK.)

BUDDY: UH ... MAYBE WE SHOULD LET MISS RASSMUSSEN GET ON WITH THINGS ...

OSKAR: JA. MAYBE YOU SHOULD.

(BUDDY AND BARBARA WITHDRAW)

LOUISE: EXACTLY! NOW I'M CERTAIN THAT MOST OF YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THIS NEXT GENTLEMAN. NOT ONLY IS HE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FIXTURE IN THE WORLD OF HORROR FILMS, HE RECENTLY RECEIVED THE "VINCENT PRICE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VIDEO RENTAL INDUSTRY. I HAVE TO TELL YOU - - I MYSELF WAS COMPLETELY TRANSFIXED BY HIS PORTRAYAL OF THE DEMENTED JETSET PLASTIC SURGEON IN *BEVERLY HILLS BUTCHER*. IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN HOLLYWOOD -- MR. OSKAR WEISS.

OSKAR: *(TAKING THE MICROPHONE)* JA. I APPRECIATE ZE VARM VELCOME YOU HAVE GIVEN ME. UND I HOPE ZAT EACH OF YOU VILL TAKE ZE OPPORTUNITY TO ZEE MY LATEST PICTURE. IT VAS A GREAAT CHALLENGE TO CREATE ZE ROLE OF A MAN SO DRIVEN BY THE QUEST FOR BEAUTY ZAT HE MUTILATES DOZENS OF INNOCENT FEMALES ...

(HE IS BEGINNING TO GET CARRIED AWAY.)

IN HIS SEARCH FOR ZOSE FLAWLESS FACIAL FEATURES VICH VILL BE TRANSPLANTED ONTO HIS ULTIMATE CREATION. TO CELVE ZE PSYCHE OF A MAN, ZO OBSESSED VIS PERFECTION, ULTIMATE PERFECTION, ZAT HE VILL SHTOP AT NUSSING ...

GUSSIE: *(APPROACHING HIM)* DARLING RELAX. YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE YOURSELF AN ULCER.

(OSKAR BEGINS TO CALM DOWN)

NOW WHY DON'T YOU GO HAVE A NICE GLASS OF ICED TEA AND PUT YOURSELF TOGETHER, HUM?

(OSKAR MOVES AWAY)

LOUISE: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS . . .

GUSSIE: OH, DON'T PUT YOURSELF OUT, SWEETIE. I CAN INTRODUCE MYSELF.

(TO THE AUDIENCE)

FOR ALL YOU GUYS WHO MAY NOT KNOW ME, I'M GUSSIE GOTZ, STAR OF VAUDEVILLE, STAGE, SCREEN, AND MOST RECENTLY, A DELIGHTFUL MOTION PICTURE CALLED *THE CURSE OF THE MOMMY'S HAND*.

(TO LOUISE)

LOUISE, DARLING ... YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING DIFFERENT WITH YOUR HAIR, HAVEN'T YOU?

(LOUISE UNCONSCIOUSLY RAISES HER HAND TO HER COIF.)

IT'S NICE. IT MAKES YOUR FACE LOOK THINNER.

(TO CROWD)

ANYWAY , MY NEW PICTURE IS TO DIE FOR. I PLAY THIS JEWISH SMOTHER-MOTHER WHO POISONS HER WAY THROUGH A SERIES OF HUSBANDS. IT'S GOT EVERYTHING -- SEX, VIOLENCE, GUYILT, AND THE MATERNAL INSTINCT. SO YOU SHOULD ALL DROP BY OUR LITTLE FILMFEST. I MEAN ... WHATS NOT TO LIKE?

LOUISE: *(EDGING GUSSIE OUT)* THANK YOU SO MUCH. WE REALLY MUST KEEP MOVING. OUR NEXT GUEST IS TRULY A GIFTED AND VERSATILE ACTOR. EQUALLY AT HOME WITH IBSEN, SHAKESPEARE, AND O'NEILL, HE HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN HIS CAREER IN HOLLYWOOD WITH A CHILLING PORTRAYAL. HIS PREMIERE FILM IS ENTITLED *DIE LAUGHING* AND I'M SURE THAT, IN THE GREAT TRADITION OF HOLLYWOOD, AS WE ALL ASSOCIATE THE NAME "RAMBO" WITH SYLVESTER STALLONE, AND THE NAME "JAMES BOND" WITH SEAN CONNERY, I'M SURE THAT YOU WILL SOON ASSOCIATE THE NAME "WARPO THE CLOWN" WITH THIS MAN - - MR. NIGEL BASCOMBE.

NIGEL: *(HE BUFFOONISHLY AMBLES FORWARD BUT WHEN HE SPEAKS, IT IS WITH GRANDNESS)* THANK YOU, MISS RASMUSSEN.

(TO CROWD)

ACTING.

(PAUSE)

HOW DOES ONE DEFINE THAT ELUSIVE MYSTERY WHICH RAISES THE HUMAN SPIRIT TO ITS MOST ETHEREAL HEIGHTS. AN ART, YES ... BUT THE CRAFT -- OH, THE CRAFT! PERHAPS IT WAS STANISLAVSKY WHO BEST CAPTURED THE ESSENCE OF MY THOUGHTS. ONE MUST "LOVE THE ART IN ONE'S SELF -- NOT ONE'S SELF IN THE ART."

LOUISE: *(BUTTING IN)* MR. BASCOMBE ...

NIGEL: PLEASE -- CALL ME NIGEL.

LOUISE: IF IT'S NOT ASKING TOO MUCH, I KNOW EVERYONE HERE WOULD BE THRILLED TO HEAR YOUR FAMOUS "WARPO THE CLOWN" LAUGH.

(TO THE CROWD, GENERATING SUPPORT)

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

NIGEL: *(AFTER ENCOURAGEMENT)* OH, VERY WELL.

(SADISTIC LAUGH)

LOUISE: SPLENDID, JUST SPLENDID.

(OBVIOUSLY NIGEL HASN'T FINISHED HIS THOUGHTS, BUT LOUISE FORGES AHEAD.)

NOW, OUR FINAL GUEST THIS EVENING HAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST FOLLOWINGS IN THE BUSINESS. TRULY ONE OF THE "HOLLYWOOD'S BAD BOYS," HE 'OUT-BRATS' THE BRAT-PACKERS. CRITICS ARE CALLING HIS LATEST FILM HIS FINEST. HIS CHARACTER, "SPIKE" IS BILLED AS "PART VIGILANTE, PART GIGOLO, PART STREET PUNK, ALL MENACE TO SOCIETY." HE'S THE STAR OF *ZOMBIE STUD* -- DAX KIGER.

(DAX DOESN'T COME FORWARD.)

MR. KIGER?

DAX: WHAT?

LOUISE: WELL, AREN'T YOU GOING TO COME UP AND SAY A FEW WORDS?

DAX: (PAUSE) I DON'T GET IT.

LOUISE: WE ARE HERE TO PUBLICIZE AND PROMOTE THE FILMS WHICH ARE BEING FEATURED IN TERRORFEST [YEAR] AND

(WITH FORCED PATIENCE)

YOU ARE THE STAR OF ONE OF THOSE FILMS.

DAX: YEAH ... ?

LOUISE: SO WHY DON'YOU COME UP AND TELL US ABOUT IT?

(AN ENCOURAGING SMILE)

DAX: OH, SURE.

(HE MOVES TO THE MIC)

MY MOVIE IS CALLED *ZOMBIE STUD* ... AND I PLAY "SPIKE" AND I GET TO MAKE OUT A LOT AND I HACK A LOT OF PEOPLE TO DEATH AND I RIDE THIS REALLY GREAT BIKE.

(PAUSE)

IS THAT ENOUGH?

LOUISE: ER, YES ... I SUPPOSE SO. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT SOME OF YOU WOULD REMEMBER MR. KIGER FROM SOME OF HIS OTHER FILMS SUCH AS *DEAD ON THE DASHBOARD* AND *REBEL WITHOUT A PULSE*.

FLOYD: HEY, ENOUGH ABOUT THAT MORON. WHAT ABOUT OUR CLIPS?

LOUISE: OF COURSE.

(REGAINING CONTROL)

NOW, AS PROMISED, WE HAVE PREPARED SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NINE FILMS WHICH WILL BE SHOWN AT TERRORFEST [YEAR]. TO INTRODUCE OUR FIRST SEGMENT IS MR. BUCK FUJI.

BUCK: GRACIAS, BABY. O.K. BEFORE WE SHOW THIS CLIP, I JUST WANT TO LET MY PUBLIC KNOW THAT I HAVE ALREADY SIGNED FOR TWO SEQUELS: *BITING THE BIG APPLE* AND *HARIMOTO MEETS GODZILLA*. IN MY MOVIE, *VAMPIRE BUSINESSMEN OF TOKYO*, I PLAY THE WHEELER-DEALER VAMPIRE MR. HARIMOTO. IN THE FOLLOWING SCENE I AM FINALIZING A CONTRACT WITH A MAJOR AMERICAN CLIENT, PLAYED BY TIFFANY VANCE. LET'S ROLL THE TAPE.

(VIDEOTAPE OF SEGMENT FROM *VAMPIRE BUSINESSMEN OF TOKYO* IS SHOWN IN WHICH MR. HARIMOTO WATCHES AS CLIENT SIGNS SOME PAPERS AND THEN HE MOVES IN FOR THE KILL. THE ACTRESS' SCREAM IS JOINED BY A SCREAM FROM **BUCK** AS CLIP FINISHES AND LIGHTS COME UP, REVEALING **BUCK** SLUMPING TO THE FLOOR WITH BLOOD ON HIS HANDS AND TWO PUNCTURE WOUNDS IN HIS NECK.)

BUDDY: OMIGOSH!

LOUISE: WHAT IS IT?

DAX: LOOK!!!

(OSKAR RUSHES TO BODY. BARBARA SCREAMS.)

FLOYD: WHAT THE HELL... ?

GUSSIE: MY GOODNESS, HE LOOKS AWFUL.

OSKAR: HE SHOULD LOOK AWFUL -- HE'S DEAD?

BUDDY: DEAD?

DAX: OH, GREAT.

NIGEL: *(TO OSKAR)* JUST A MINUTE. YOU'RE NOT A REAL DOCTOR. YOU JUST PLAY ONE ON THE SCREEN.

OSKAR: DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. IT DOESN'T TAKE A PHYSICIAN TO KNOW VEN A MAN HAS NO HEARTBEAT.

BARBARA: OH, BUDDY ...

FLOYD: WHAT HAPPENED?

OSKAR: HE'S BEEN STABBED IN ZE NECK -- TWICE.

BUDDY: WITH A KNIFE?

OSKAR: NO, IT'S JUST TWO SMALL PUNCTURE VOUNDS .. ALMOST AS IF --

NIGEL: AS IF WHAT?

OSKAR: AS IF HE'D BEEN ATTACKED BY A ... VAMPIRE.

LOUISE: WHAT?

GUSSIE: OH, DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

BUDDY: YEAH. AFTER ALL, HE WAS THE VAMPIRE.

DAX: YOU MEAN IT WAS SUICIDE?

(ALL DO AN "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU AID THAT" TAKE TOWARD DAX)

BARBARA: WELL, ISN'T SOMEBODY GOING TO CALL THE POLICE?

OSKAR: VAIT A MINUTE ... LOOK.

(OSKAR HOLDS UP TWO TINY COLORFUL DARTS)

ZESE VERE IN HIS HAND.

BUDDY: DARTS!!!

DAX: COME ON, YOU COULDN'T WASTE ANYBODY WITH THOSE LITTLE THINGS.

OSKAR: UNLESS ZEY WERE DIPPED IN POISON.

BARBARA: POISON?

OSKAR: JA.

NIGEL: BUT HE WAS ALL BY HIMSELF. NOBODY COULD HAVE JAMMED THEM INTO HIS NECK.

OSKAR: YOU ARE RIGHT. BUT ANYBODY CULD HAVE SHOT ZEM INTO HIS NECK.

BUDDY: YOU MEAN WITH A BLOWGUN?"

DAX: RIGHT, LIKE SOMEBODY AROUND HERE IS PACKIN' A BLOWGUN ...

FLOYD: YEAH. THAT IS PRETTY FAR-FETCHED.

OSKAR: NOT ZO FAST. ANY-SING ZAT'S LONG UND HOLLOW COULD HAVE BEEN USED.

(PAUSE. IT SUDDENLY BECOMES OBVIOUS THAT EACH OF THE PRINCIPALS IS HOLDING A DRINK WITH A STRAW IN IT.)

GUSSIE: YOU MEAN LIKE ... A STRAW.

OSKAR: ABSOLUTELY.

FLOYD: *(TO OSKAR)* WELL THEN, MY FRIEND, HOW DO VE KNOW THAT YOU DIDN'T DO IT?

NIGEL: *(TO FLOYD)* OR YOU?

OSKAR: EXACTLY. THE KILLER VAS VERY CLEVER TO HAVE CHOSEN A MESSOD VICH YOUULD IMPLICATE VIRTUALLY EVERYBODY IN ZE ROOM.

BARBARA: OH, SWELL, EINSTEIN. SO, VHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US ?

LOUISE: HUNGRY.

(NERVOUSLY)

I MEAN AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULD WE ALL STAND AROUND MAKING SENSELESS ACCUSATIONS? DINNER SHOULD BE WAITING AND I'M SURE THATTHE POLICE CAN HANDLE THIS ... AND TONIGHT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A CELEBRATION.

BARBARA: WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY!

LLOYD: OH, DON'T PRETEND TO BE SO WOUNDED. HEAVEN KNOWS YOU HAVE REASON ENOUGH TO BE GLAD THAT THE CROOK IS DEAD.

(LLOYD EXITS)

GUSSIE: HE'S RIGHT, DARLING. THAT MR. FUJI WAS A NOGOODNIK AND I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY TO SEE HIM GONE. BESIDES, A LITTLE NOURISHMENT NEVER HURTS.

(GUSSIE GOES)

BARBARA: *(LASHING OUT)* SURE. TELL THAT TO ALL THOSE HUSBANDS YOU POISONED.

BUDDY: COME ON, HONEY. THE FOOD WILL DO YOU GOOD.

(BUDDY & BARBARA LEAVE)

LOUISE: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE -- WON'T YOU JOIN US IN THE BUFFET AREA WHERE I CAN ASSURE YOU A DELIGHTFUL MEAL.

DAX: HEY GREAT.

(DAX GOES)

NIGEL: YES.

(CYNICALLY)

BON APPETIT.

(NIGEL GOES)

OSKAR: *(TO LOUISE)* WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO VAIT VIS ZE BODY?

LOUISE: THANK YOU. THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

(OSKAR EXITS. LOUISE IS STILL SHAKEN)

NOW EVERYONE, PLEASE, GO ENJOY YOUR MEAL. I'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLY CAN.

(LOUISE GUZZLES THE REMAINDER OF HER DRINK. ALL GUESTS GO IN TO DINNER. STAFF ASSISTS IN BODY REMOVAL.)

2 -- DINNER

(AT SOME POINT, LOUISE AND EACH OF THE SUSPECTS EXCUSE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR TABLES AND RETURN. AS GUESTS ARE FINISHING THEIR MEALS, THE SCENE BEGINS.)

3 -- AFTER DINNER

LOUISE: *(TRYING TO GET THINGS OFF TO A LIGHT START)* LADIES & GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT UNDERWAY. SO, HOW WAS EVERYONE'S DINNER, HMM? MINE WAS JUST WONDERFUL.

GUSSIE: DARLING, I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE. BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW IF THEY HAVE DOGGIE BAGS HERE? I AM JUST STUFFED.

(TO PEOPLE AT HER TABLE)

ARE YOU GOING TO FINISH THAT?

BUDDY: EXCUSE ME, MISS RASMUSSEN, BUT HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD FROM THE POLICE ABOUT BUCK? I THINK WE'RE ALL PRETTY CONCERNED.

LOUISE: *(UNEASILY)* WELL, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH MR. WEISS'S SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT. MR. FUJI DID DIE ... OF CYANIDE POISONING.

OSKAR: JUST AS I SUSPECTED.

LOUISE: TRACES WERE FOUND ON THE TIPS OF THE DARTS.

NIGEL: SO WHERE ARE THE POLICE? I MEAN, IF A MURDER WAS COMMITTED HERE TONIGHT, WHY ISN'T AN INVESTIGATION TAKING PLACE?

LOUISE: WELL, IT IS.

BUDDY: SO, WHERE ARE THEY?

LOUISE: WELL ...

BARBARA: OH, JUST SPIT IT OUT.

DAX: YEAH.

LOUISE: WELL, I BEGGED THEM TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE SCREENING OF FILM CLIPS SO THAT ...

OSKAR: SO ZAT VAT?

LOUISE: ... SO THAT WE WOULDN'T LOSE OUR ENTIRE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN THIS EVENT.

BARBARA: HOW HEARTLESS!

FLOYD: OH, BARBARA, GET OFF IT. IF LOUISE IS ACTING LIKE A SHARK IT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE LEARNED IT FROM YOU.

BARBARA: WATCH IT, FLOYD ...

BUDDY: NOW, MR. KILMAN, I KNOW THAT YOU AND BARBARA HAVE HAD YOUR DIFFERENCES IN THE PAST ...

FLOYD: IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES.

GUSSIE: DARLINGS, DARLINGS! LOOK, WE DIDN'T COME HERE TONIGHT TO KVETCH AND DRAG EVERYONE'S SKELETONS OUT OF THE CLOSET.

LOUISE: SHE'S RIGHT. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, AND QUITE FRANKLY, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU RUIN THIS EVENING WITH THE SORDID DETAILS OF YOUR DISASTROUS MARRIAGE.

BARBARA: LOUISE!

NIGEL: EXCUSE ME ... HEY-HO? ... HELLO? I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO JUST STOP, AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH ...

(HE DEMONSTRATES)

... AND ANOTHER ...

(HE BREATHEs AGAIN)

... THERE NOW. ISN'T THAT BETTER?

(LOUISE, BARBARA, AND FLOYD EXCHANGE GLARES)

GUSSIE: WELL, I KNOW I'M REFRESHED.

NIGEL: NOW, LOOK, WE'VE ALL COME HERE TO ENHANCE OUR CAREERS -- NOT DESTROY THEM.

BUDDY: HE'S RIGHT! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMEONE FROM THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER WERE HERE?

BARBARA: MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.

OSKAR: UND AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT AS IF VE WERE MOURNING ZE DEATH OF A BELOVED FRIEND. I DON'T SINK ZAT IT IS ANY SCRET ZAT MR. FUJI VAS ZE CAUSE OF GREAT

FINANCIAL TROUBLES FOR MANY OF US.

NIGEL: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LOUISE: YOU SEE, MR. BASCOMBE, MR. FUJI WAS A FINANCIAL COUNSELOR WHO SUCKERED A LOT OF THE HOLLYWOOD CROWD WITH A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SCAM. HE CONVINCED THESE PEOPLE TO INVEST IN "ATLANTIS PICTURES." A BOGUS UNDERWATER FILM STUDIO.

FLOYD: THAT JERKSOAKED US FOR EVERYTHING WE HAD.

NIGEL: SO, WHO ALL GOT INVOLVED WITH THIS SCHEME?

(BUDDY, GUSSIE, FLOYD, BARBARA, OSKAR, DAX, & LOUISE ALL RAISE THEIR HANDS)

NIGEL: OOPS!

BARBARA: OH, DON'T GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT, MR. BASCOMBE. YOU SEE, MONEY WASN'T THE ONLY THING THAT MR. FUJI TOOK FROM SOME OF US.

(LOUISE AND BARBARA EXCHANGE ICY GLANCES.)

6 MORE PAGES OF DIALOG IN THIS SECTION

4 -- RAMBLES

5 -- RESOLUTION

4 PAGES OF DIALOG

6 -- CURTAIN CALL

7 -- ANNOUNCEMENT OF MASTER DETECTIVE