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THE SHADOW

"THE CASE OF THE RIVER OF ETERNAL WOE"

by

BOB SHAW

CHARACTERS

LAMONT CRANSTON

MARGOT LANE

COMMISSIONER WESTON

MURIEL REDFIELD

24. Pleasant

DAN BURKE

27. A soldier

MRS. HAVERSON

55. A nice lady

WARNER REED

30. A desk clerk

OGDEN HINES

40. Hotel manager

FRED GRUNDY

55. A gardener.

SOUND EFFECTS

MUSIC

As indicated

1 ANN: This morning, Lamont Cranston and his friend, Margot Lane  
2 are at the edge of a curious, excited crowd gathered near  
3 Pier seventy-eight at the river-front. Now, amidst the  
4 noise of police cars, reporters, and ambulances, Margot  
5 says...  
6 (CROWD, SIREN OFF, AND CONFUSION)  
7 MARGOT: Lamont, I wouldn't for the world sound calloused, but  
8 just what is this all about?  
9 CRANSTON: Look, Margot...I think they're bringing up the body.  
10 (THEN) Oh. What did you say?  
11 MARGOT: I said, darling, it's perfectly all right to be dragged  
12 out of a sound sleep at the crack of dawn this way. And  
13 I love watching policemen take bodies out of the river!  
14 CRANSTON: You do?  
15 MARGOT: Only it's be a lot more fun if I knew what this is all  
16 about. After all, Lamont, they've found people in this  
17 river before.  
18 CRANSTON: I know darling, but they haven't found Mathilda Redfield  
19 before. And unless I missed the tip, that's the old girl  
20 now.  
21 WESTON: (OFF) Easy, there, men. Take it easy now!  
22 MARGOT: Redfield...Redfield. Oh!  
23 CRANSTON: "Oh" is right! She's the one who disappeared three days  
24 ago. The papers have been full of it...Say, she's  
25 beautiful, isn't she?  
26 MARGOT: (SHIVERS) Lamont, don't be sordid.  
27 CRANSTON: Idiot! I mean the niece. At least, I think that's the  
28 niece. The one going over toward Commissioner Weston.  
29 MARGOT: Oh, yes. I remember her picture in the paper...HMMMMM.

1 WESTON: (COMING IN) Oh, Miss Redfield! Miss Redfield, if you'll.  
2 (HE STOPS, AND THEN IN SOME DISGUST) Lamont Cranston!  
3 CRANSTON: Good morning, Commissioner. Fishing this morning?  
4 WESTON: I might have known you'd show up. Good morning, Miss  
5 Lane.  
6 MARGOT: Top of the morning to you, Commissioner.  
7 WESTON: Well, Cranston, if you've come for any excitement, you're  
8 too late. We just brought the body up.  
9 CRANSTON: Mathilda Redfield?  
10 WESTON: Yeah. The old dame who disappeared from that hotel up  
11 the river.  
12 MARGOT: Anything interesting, Commissioner?  
13 WESTON: Naw...not a mark on her that I can see.  
14 CRANSTON: Suicide?  
15 WESTON: Looks that way. I'll have the medical examiner go over  
16 her downtown. (THEN) Oh, Miss Redfield...  
17 MURIEL: (COMING IN) Commissioner, I....  
18 WESTON: I'm sorry you had to see this, Miss Redfield. It is your  
19 aunt, isn't it?  
20 MURIEL: (CRYING A LITTLE) Yes...yes it is.  
21 WESTON: Oh, this is Miss Lane, Miss Redfield. And Mr. Cranston.  
22 MARGOT: (MUMBLES) How do you do?  
23 CRANSTON: (MUMBLES) How do you do?  
24 MURIEL: Commissioner Weston, this is horrible! Horrible! I....  
25 WESTON: Now...now, Miss Redfield. At least now you know. You  
26 positively identify the body, do you?  
27 MURIEL: It's Aunt Mathilda, all right. But...

1 WESTON: Well then, I think what you'd better do is get some rest,  
2 Miss Redfield. If you'll come down to headquarters...say  
3 about noon, we'll take care of the paper work down there.  
4 MURIEL: Paper work?  
5 CRANSTON: The Commissioner means it's only a routine matter, Miss  
6 Redfield. Your aunt will have to be taken from here to  
7 the city examiner's office.  
8 WESTON: (MOVING OFF) Excuse me, I'll see what the men are doing.  
9 (LAUGHS) Sorry, Cranston. Looks like you got out of bed  
10 for nothing.  
11 MURIEL: I...I don't understand. The shock...it's all so horrible  
12 MARGOT: Of course, Miss Redfield. We understand.  
13 CRANSTON: We have my car, Miss Redfield. Could Miss Lane and I  
14 drive you some place?  
15 MURIEL: But...  
16 MARGOT: It would be better, my dear. There's nothing you can do  
17 here at all, now.  
18 MURIEL: But you don't understand! The Commissioner...those police  
19 ...why, they think Mathilda committed suicide!  
20 MARGOT: And...you don't, Miss Redfield?  
21 MURIEL: Oh, no! No, she couldn't have done that!  
22 CRANSTON: Tell me, Miss Redfield, did your aunt wear expensive  
23 jewelry? A bracelet, perhaps?  
24 MURIEL: (SURPRISED) How did you know that?  
25 CRANSTON: I watched you identify the body, my dear. And the first  
26 thing you did was roll back the torn sleeve and look at  
27 your aunt's wrist.  
28 MURIEL: But...but...

1 CRANSTON: A rather curious way to identify a body, don't you  
2 think? Come along, Miss Redfield. I really think we  
3 ought to drive you home.

4 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)

5 (CAR IN MOTION IN TRAFFIC)

6 CRANSTON: Go on, Muriel. Miss Lane and I have all the time in  
7 the world.

8 MURIEL: It's just the way I said, Mr. Cranston. Mathilda lived  
9 alone at the Hotel Acheron. (NOTE: PRONOUNCED ACKERON)  
10 It's just outside the city, on the river.

11 MARGOT: She was wealthy, then?

12 MURIEL: What?

13 CRANSTON: Miss Lane means the hotel is exclusive, Muriel. You  
14 have to be fairly well-off to afford it.

15 MURIEL: Yes, it is that kind of place. Mostly women who..well,  
16 who live there the year around. They all have money,  
17 I guess. My Aunt had a great deal.

18 CRANSTON: And a diamond bracelet.

19 MURIEL: That's what makes me sure she...sure the police  
20 are wrong, Mr. Cranston. She always wore that  
21 bracelet. It was worth nearly two hundred  
22 thousand dollars!

23 MARGOT: Whew!

1 MURIEL: She had it made, about ten years ago. She took stones  
2 from ear-rings and necklaces...all sorts of gems. It  
3 was the most beautiful bracelet I've ever seen.  
4 CRANSTON: And now it's gone.  
5 MURIEL: It wasn't on her wrist...it couldn't have fallen off,  
6 Mr. Cranston. It locked on.  
7 MARGOT: You're sure it's not in her room, Muriel? At the  
8 Hotel Acheron, I mean?  
9 MURIEL: But it wouldn't be! Oh, I looked, of course. When  
10 they told me she'd disappeared, the hotel manager...  
11 Mr. Hines and I....we searched her room thoroughly.  
12 It's just not there!  
13 CRANSTON: (CASUALLY) You live at the hotel too, Muriel?  
14 MURIEL: No, I don't. I have a small apartment in town.  
15 CRANSTON: I see. You didn't happen to be with your aunt the  
16 day she disappeared?  
17 MURIEL: (ALMOST DARKLY) No....I wasn't. I hadn't seen her  
18 in some time. I've been quite busy, you see. I  
19 have a friend in the Army, going overseas soon, and  
20 ....well, I just haven't seen Aunt Mathilda in several  
21 weeks.  
22 MARGOT: Well, Lamont?  
23 CRANSTON: Bracelets interest me, Margot. Feel like a little  
24 de-luxe living?  
25 MARGOT: What?  
26 CRANSTON: Acheron....Acheron...that's a strange name for a hotel.  
27 MURIEL: Strange, Mr. Cranston? Why?

1 CRANSTON: Oh, nothing, really. It's a mythological term, I  
2 believe. Ancient Greek, or something like that. It  
3 means the god of the river...the river of eternal woe.  
4 MUSIC: (IN AND OUT)  
5 (THREE PEOPLE MOUNT PORCH STEPS)  
6 MURIEL: This is the porch, Mr. Cranston. Aunt Mathilda spent  
7 so much time out here in the nice weather. She loved  
8 to play bridge with the other ladies.  
9 HINES: (COMING IN) Miss Redfield!  
10 MURIEL: Oh, Mr. Hines!  
11 HINES: I heard the news, my dear. They...they found your dear  
12 Aunt's body! It was on the radio about half an hour  
13 ago.  
14 MURIEL: Yes, they found her. She was...(ALMOST BREAKING)  
15 ...all the way down to....  
16 HINES: Now...now, we just won't talk about it. Though I  
17 can't understand how a body could float all the way  
18 from here way down to the piers. Why, it must be  
19 ten miles!  
20 CRANSTON: If the body did float down, Mr. Hines.  
21 HINES: I beg your pardon?  
22 MURIEL: Oh, Mr. Hines...this is Mr. Cranston. Mr. Lamont  
23 Cranston. Mr. Hines is the hotel manager.  
24 CRANSTON: How do you do?  
25 HINES: Mr. Cranston.  
26 CRANSTON: And this is Miss Lane, Mr. Hines.  
27 MARGOT: How do you do?  
28 HAVERSON: (COMING IN, TEARFULLY) Muriel! Muriel, my child!



1 MURIEL: Mrs. Haverson.

2 HAVERSON: I just heard, my dear. The noon editions are out. See?  
3 I was just reading about it here in the paper. Oh,  
4 my poor dear! My poor dear!

5 MURIEL: These are some friends of mine, Mrs. Haverson, Miss  
6 Lane and Mr. Cranston.

7 CRANSTON & (TOGETHER) Mrs. Haverson. How do you do?

MARGOT:

8 MURIEL: My aunt and Mrs. Haverson have lived here for years,  
9 you see.

10 CRANSTON: Oh?

11 HAVERSON: This terrible, terrible tragedy! Why would Mathilda  
12 want to take her own life? Why? I just can't get  
13 over it! Why the very day she..she did it, we had our  
14 afternoon bridge, the same as always. How she loved to  
15 play cards! Why...oh, why she'd do a thing like this!

16 CRANSTON: Perhaps she didn't, Mrs. Haverson. The police report  
17 isn't ready yet, you know. Perhaps it wasn't suicide  
18 at all.

19 HINES: What?

20 MURIEL: We don't know, you see. We...

21 CRANSTON: (CUTS IN QUICKLY) We just don't know, do we, Muriel?

22 REED: (COMING IN) Mr. Hines! Telephone, sir!

23 HINES: What? Oh, thank you, Warner. I'll take it over here.

24 REED: I....I'm sorry about your aunt, Miss Redfield. She  
25 was always very nice to me.

26 MURIEL: Thank you, Warner. Mr. Reed is the desk clerk, Mr.  
27 Cranston.

1 REED: Yes sir.

2 CRANSTON: I see.

3 HAVERSON: We wouldn't know what to do without Warner, would we,  
4 my boy?

5 REED: I hope not, Mrs. Haverson.

6 HINES: (COMING BACK, EXCITED) Miss Redfield!

7 MURIEL: Yes, Mr. Hines?

8 HINES: Why, that was the police. Some man named Weston.  
9 Commissioner Weston.

10 CRANSTON: Yes? What did he want?

11 HINES: He said for Miss Redfield to stay right here. He was  
12 on his way out here. He sounded excited, Miss Redfield.  
13 He said he'd be here right away!

14 MUSIC: (IN AND OUT)

15 WESTON: All right, Lamont. You and Miss Lane might just as  
16 well hear this. Oh, is that door closed?

17 MARGOT: It's all right, Commissioner. The guests are all out  
18 on the porch.

19 WESTON: All right, young man...suppose you tell us what you  
20 told me this morning?

21 DAN: Muriel, dear, I...

22 MURIEL: Dan, don't! You don't have to talk, Dan. Don't say a  
23 word!

24 DAN: But I want to talk, darling. I have nothing to hide.

25 WESTON: Oh, no? All right then, suppose I tell it. And get  
26 this, Cranston. It's good.

27 CRANSTON: I'm listening, Commissioner.

28 MARGOT: So am I.

1 WESTON: We get the body downtown, see? And what do you think we  
2 find? A letter...all as nice as you please. Even has  
3 this soldier's return address on it, so we can just hop  
4 over to his camp in Long Island and pick him up.

5 MURIEL: Dan, no!

6 DAN: It's all right, Muriel. I admit I wrote her the letter.  
7 I told you about it the same night.

8 CRANSTON: What letter, soldier? What did you say?

9 WESTON: I've got it, Cranston. Here it is...from Private Dan  
10 Burke...to Mathilda Redfield. Addressed right here to  
11 the hotel. Yeah, and delivered the same day the old  
12 lady disappeared, too.

13 MARGOT: Go on, Commissioner. Read it.

14 WESTON: It's short enough. Here. Listen to this. (READS)  
15 "You've made trouble enough for Muriel. Now that we're  
16 married, I warn you, leave us alone! If you make  
17 trouble now, I promise you, I won't be responsible for  
18 what happens". Signed. "Dan Burke."

19 CRANSTON: Married?

20 DAN: Sure we're married. Muriel's aunt didn't approve of me.  
21 That's why I wrote her. She was threatening to break up  
22 our marriage.

23 CRANSTON: Muriel, my dear.....

24 MURIEL: Yes?

25 CRANSTON: This is the "friend" you mentioned so casually? Your  
26 own husband?

27 MURIEL: Oh, please! I know I should have told you! I....

1 WESTON: And that ain't all, Cranston. Not only does the soldier  
2 here admit writing the letter, he can't explain where  
3 he was the night the old lady disappeared. He was out  
4 on a ten day pass. Just got back to his camp yesterday.

5 CRANSTON: Is that true, Dan?

6 MURIEL: Dan! Don't! He....he was with me! Oh, I swear it.  
7 He was with me the whole day and night!

8 DAN: (KNOWING SHE'S LYING) Muriel.....

9 (DOOR OPENS)

10 HINES: (COMING ON) Excuse me, there's a telephone message for..

11 (THEN) You!

12 CRANSTON: (QUICKLY) Go on, Mr. Hines!

13 HINES: Why, that soldier! That's the man I threw off the  
14 property!

15 CRANSTON: What?

16 WESTON: When? When was this?

17 MURIEL: Mr. Hines, no!

18 HINES: Why, I caught him prowling around the yard the night....  
19 the night Mathilda Redfield disappeared! Yes sir, the  
20 very night she disappeared!

21 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)

22 (OPENS DRESSER DRAWERS, AND CLOSSES)

23 CRANSTON: Find anything, Margot?

24 MARGOT: Not a thing, Lamont. Just Mathilda's clothes. Things  
25 like that.

26 CRANSTON: Well, she had a pleasant room, anyway. There's a view  
27 of the river from this window.

28 MARGOT: (THOUGHTFULLY) Acheron...the river of eternal woe.

29 (THEN, A NEW THOUGHT) Lamont....

30 CRANSTON: Yes?

1 MARGOT: You don't think Dan Burke killed her, do you?

2 CRANSTON: Oh, Weston had reason enough to hold him, Margot. The  
3 boy obviously threatened Mathilda in that letter.

4 MARGOT: And certainly Muriel was covering up for him. He wasn't  
5 with her that night at all.

6 CRANSTON: And she covered up their marriage. Or tried to.

7 MARGOT: But you don't think he killed the old lady.

8 CRANSTON: Why, I.....

9 (ROOM PHONE RINGS)

10 MARGOT: That's funny.

11 CRANSTON: The manager knows we're up here, Margot. I told him I'd  
12 like to search the room.

13 (TAKES RECEIVER OFF HOOK)

14 CRANSTON: Hello?

15 MURIEL: (FILTER) Mr. Cranston?

16 CRANSTON: Yes, Muriel. What is it?

17 MURIEL: I'm in the lobby, Mr. Cranston. Will you come right  
18 down, please?

19 CRANSTON: Why.....why, yes. What is it?

20 MURIEL: My aunt was murdered, Mr. Cranston. I'm sure of it now.

21 CRANSTON: Muriel, listen.....

22 MURIEL: You see, I....(THEN A SHORT GASP)

23 (PHONE CLICKS AS IN A DISCONNECTION)

24 CRANSTON: Muriel! Miss Redfield!

25 (CLICKS RECEIVER VIOLENTLY)

26 MARGOT: Lamont, what's happened?

1 CRANSTON: C'mon, Margot! We've got to get down in that lobby  
2 fast!

3 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)

4 REED: Why no, Mr. Cranston. I didn't notice anything unusual.  
5 Miss Redfield made a call from the booth just now, and  
6 then she walked out toward the porch, I think.

7 CRANSTON: But she didn't, I tell you! She.....

8 HINES: (COMING IN) Something the matter, Mr. Cranston?

9 REED: It's Miss Redfield, Mr. Hines. Mr. Cranston seems to  
10 think she's disappeared.

11 HINES: What?

12 CRANSTON: No....never mind. Perhaps I was mistaken.

13 HINES: Where is she, Warner? She didn't go down to  
14 headquarters with her husband, I know.

15 REED: No, sir. She stayed here. She just made a phone call,  
16 and then when she was through, she walked out on the  
17 porch.

18 HINES: Probably wants to be alone, Mr. Cranston. You know how  
19 women feel at a time like this.

20 CRANSTON: Yes...Yes, I'm sure that's it.

21 HAVERSON: (COMING IN) Oh, Mr. Hines, I...(THEN) Oh, Mr. Cranston  
22 and Miss Lane! Do excuse me. You know, I can't see a  
23 thing without my glasses. Oh, here they are! (THEN)  
24 You're....you're still here, I see.

25 MARGOT: We thought we ought to be near Miss Redfield, Mrs.  
26 Haverson. She's so upset.

1 HAVERSON: Of course, poor child. Of course. I do want to talk  
2 to her, later on. At a time like this, I wouldn't dream  
3 of bringing it up, but poor dear Mathilda had that  
4 lovely bracelet. I...I was wondering if Muriel would  
5 think of selling it.

6 CRANSTON: You admired the bracelet, Mrs. Haverson?

7 HAVERSON: Mathilda's? Oh, my...we all did! I declare, I never  
8 saw such stones! Never!

9 WESTON: (COMING IN, EXCITED) Out of my way, please! Lamont!

10 CRANSTON: Well, Commissioner Weston!

11 WESTON: Cranston, that soldier...he...he got away!

12 ALL: What? ETC.

13 MARGOT: Got away, Commissioner? How do you mean?

14 WESTON: Why, he's an M.P....you know, a Military Police. On the  
15 way down to the station, he pulled his gun on my men in  
16 the car and simply escaped!

17 HINES: I knew it! I knew he was a killer!

18 CRANSTON: (DRY) If I were you, Commissioner, I'd keep this quiet.

19 WESTON: What?

20 CRANSTON: When you arrest an M.P. Commissioner, you really ought  
21 to take away his gun!

22 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)

23 (DINNER DISHES AND DINING ROOM CONVERSATION)

24 HINES: I'm delighted that you stayed for dinner, Miss Lane..  
25 Mr. Cranston. (LAUGHS INANELY) Even at a time like  
26 this, the inner man must be fed, you know. (LAUGHS)

27 MARGOT: And it's delicious, Mr. Hines. It was kind of you to  
28 invite us.

1 HINES: The pleasure is mine. Oh, will you excuse me? I see  
2 Warner motioning at the desk.

3 CRANSTON: Of course, Mr. Hines.

4 HINES: Enjoy yourselves. (MOVING OFF) I won't be a moment.  
5 (WAY OFF) Did you get a nice cut of lamb, Mrs.  
6 Haverson?

7 MARGOT: Lamont?

8 CRANSTON: I know, Margot.

9 MARGOT: But Muriel! Lamont, where is she?

10 CRANSTON: I don't know, Margot. But I've got an idea where she's  
11 going to be.

12 MARGOT: What?

13 CRANSTON: When we sat down to dinner, I found a note under my  
14 plate.

15 MARGOT: A note!

16 CRANSTON: Shh. It tells me to get out of here if I don't want  
17 something to happen to Muriel.

18 MARGOT: Oh, Lamont...no!

19 CRANSTON: Whoever wrote it was exact enough, Margot. It says if  
20 we're not gone in an hour, Muriel will be dead.

21 MARGOT: An hour!

22 CRANSTON: Yes, and by that time, it will be quite dark. Feel like  
23 any dessert?

24 MARGOT: Oh, no!

25 CRANSTON: Good. I'd like to have a look at this river. If  
26 Mathilda met her death in it, it seems Muriel might  
27 end up there too!



1 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)  
2 (LAPPING OF WATER, NIGHT NOISES)  
3 MARGOT: Lamont, it's so dark. I can't see a thing.  
4 CRANSTON: It's all right, Margot. Keep going. The boat house  
5 is just ahead.  
6 MARGOT: Yes, but...(THEN SHE SCREAMS) Lamont!  
7 FRED: Here! Here, now!  
8 CRANSTON: Margot, are you all right?  
9 FRED: Land sakes, screaming that way. Who are you, anyhow?  
10 MARGOT: I'm all right, Lamont...I...I just bumped into this man  
11 in the dark.  
12 FRED: Come on now..who are you? What you doing down here to  
13 the river?  
14 CRANSTON: If you'll take that light out of our eyes, my friend,  
15 we'll tell you.  
16 FRED: Well? 'Fess up, now!  
17 CRANSTON: You're...  
18 FRED: I'm the watchman, that's who I am! And I don't remember  
19 you two as none of the guests!  
20 MARGOT: The watchman!  
21 FRED: Murders...police. Everybody all on edge. You gave me  
22 a start, young lady. Now come along, both of you.  
23 We'll go up to the hotel and  
24 (THREE GUN SHOTS, OFF. THEN A POLICE WHISTLE)  
25 FRED: Good lands, now what's that?  
26 CRANSTON: Margot, come on! That's a police whistle!  
27 MARGOT: Those shots, Lamont...they came from up near the  
28 hotel.

1 CRANSTON: (OFF, RUNNING) I know! Hurry, Margot!

2 FRED: (OFF) Wait for me! I'm the watchman here! Wait for  
3 me!

4 (TRANSITION OR CROSS FADE)

5 WESTON: (FADING IN) All right, Burke! This time I've got  
6 you. Now just stay right where you are.

7 DAN: Listen...

8 WESTON: Not a word out of you, soldier. You got away from us  
9 once. This time, you're done for...Stand back, Mr.  
10 Hines.

11 HINES: I...I didn't mean to shoot, Commissioner. I saw someone  
12 in the bushes. When I called out and he ran, I shot  
13 that's all.

14 WESTON: Well, it's all right. Just got him in the leg. Yes,  
15 and no more than what's coming to you, Burke!

16 CRANSTON: (COMING IN, BREATHLESS) Weston! Commissioner, what's  
17 happened!

18 WESTON Well, Cranston, it looks like the show's over. Mr.  
19 Hines here found our runaway soldier boy.

20 MARGOT: What?

21 HINES: He was in those bushes, Mr. Cranston. When he wouldn't  
22 stop, I fired at him.

23 DAN: Look, I swear, I didn't do anything wrong. I came back  
24 to find my wife! You've got to tell me where she is!

25 WESTON: Nothing wrong? Listen, soldier. You broke away from  
26 police custody at the point of a gun...you were caught  
27 prowling here tonight...and what's more, young man,  
28 I'm booking you for the murder of Mathilda Redfield!  
29 Now come on...we're taking you downtown!

1 MARGOT: But Lamont..

2 CRANSTON: It's all right, Margot. It looks to me like Commissioner  
3 Weston has solved the case!

4 WESTON: Well, I'm glad to hear you say that, Cranston. For  
5 once you admit it!

6 CRANSTON: Definitely, Commissioner. In fact, Margot and I will  
7 jump in my car and meet you downtown. We'd like to  
8 be there when the boy confesses!

9 MARGOT: But Lamont.

10 CRANSTON: (OFF). Come along, Margot. It looks like Commissioner  
11 Weston has done it again!

12 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)

13 (CAR IN MOTION)

14 MARGOT: Lamont Cranston, what in the world are you thinking of?  
15 We can't go down to headquarters. What about Muriel?

16 CRANSTON: In other words, Margot, you hardly think the soldier  
17 was holding his own wife.

18 MARGOT: Well, certainly!

19 CRANSTON: Exactly. And we're not going down to headquarters.  
20 Matter of fact, this is just about where I get out.

21 (CAR PULLS TO A STOP)

22 MARGOT: Here? At the river?

1 CRANSTON: Look, Margot. See that dam up ahead?

2 MARGOT: Why, yes.

3 CRANSTON: A body can't float over that dam, Margot. If someone  
4 were murdered, for instance, back here on this side..  
5 say, at the boat house back at the hotel.

6 MARGOT: Yes?

7 CRANSTON: The body couldn't float all the way down the river  
8 into town..Right?

9 MARGOT: Lamont, of course! Then Mrs. Redfield was killed on the  
10 other side of the dam!

11 CRANSTON: Not necessarily, Margot. She might have been lifted  
12 over the dam, you know.

13 MARGOT: What?

14 CRANSTON: If someone were going to murder Muriel the same way..in..  
15 (LOOKS AT WATCH) in eight minutes, according to their  
16 warning...

17 MARGOT: Yes?

18 CRANSTON: They could do it at the hotel, couldn't they? Murder  
19 her there, then put the body in a boat, row down to the  
20 dam, and lift it over. Then she'd float right down to  
21 town, just like Aunt Mathilda.

22 MARGOT: Lamont, how horrible! You've got to do something!

23 CRANSTON: And in eight minutes, too. Only this time, Margot, I  
24 think we'll let our old friend, The Shadow, handle  
25 things.

26 MARGOT: Yes, but...

27 CRANSTON: Now look..you go to a phone down the road at that  
28 filling station and call Commissioner Weston's office.  
29 Understand?

1 MARGOT: Yes, Lamont. Go on.

2 CRANSTON: Tell them the Commissioner must be on that dam in..oh..  
3 fifteen minutes. Make that plain, Margot. They'll  
4 intercept him by radio on his way down to headquarters  
5 with Dan Burke.

6 MARGOT: On the dam in fifteen minutes.

7 CRANSTON: Right. And then hang up. Don't tell them who you are.  
8 I'll meet you back at this spot. Oh, and see if you can  
9 find a towel, will you?

10 MARGOT: A towel? What for?

11 CRANSTON: (MOVING OFF) I have an idea, Margot, that the Shadow  
12 might go in for a swim!

13 (MUSIC IN AND OUT)

14 (RIVER LAPPING AND NIGHT NOISES)

15 FRED: (SHARP) Who's there?

16 HAVERSON: Why, Fred!

17 FRED: Oh, it's you, Mrs. Haverson. (LAUGHS SLIGHTLY) Gave  
18 me quite a scare.

19 HAVERSON: It's such a lovely night, I was walking by the river,  
20 Fred.

21 FRED: Yes, ma'am..(LAUGHS) I'm just all a jitter, I guess.  
22 Mrs. Redfield and all.

23 HAVERSON: (SIGHS) Poor Mathilda! We'll miss her so.

24 FRED: (LAUGHS) I'm just all a jitter, Mrs. Haverson. Why,  
25 just now, before you came along, I was making my rounds  
26 here on the boat house pier, and I could have sworn I  
27 heard footsteps behind me!

28 HAVERSON: What?

1 FRED: (LAUGHS) Just my nerves, I guess. (MOVING OFF) Enjoy  
2 your walk, Mrs. Haverson.  
3 HAVERSON: Thank you, Fred. I will!  
4 (HIS STEPS ON WOODEN PIER FADE OFF)  
5 HAVERSON: (AFTER A PAUSE) Now!  
6 (UNLOCKS A DOOR AND SWINGS OPEN A HEAVY-HINGED GATE)  
7 HAVERSON: (NOW TOUGH) All right, Muriel! Come out of there!  
8 MURIEL: (GAGGED, TRIES TO TALK) Mmmmph...Mph...  
9 HAVERSON: Oh, did I forget to take that nasty old handkerchief  
10 out of your mouth, my dear? What a pity! Well, no  
11 matter. I'll do the talking, my child. (VERY TOUGH)  
12 Now come on! This is a gun, Muriel. And I warn you,  
13 I know how to use it!  
14 MURIEL: Mmmmph...  
15 HAVERSON: Step out here, Muriel. Out here to the edge of the pier!  
16 (STEPS)  
17 HAVERSON: That's right. Now don't move, you hear me? (PAUSE)  
18 Now we'll see if everything's ready! (SHE WHISTLES A  
19 SIGNAL, SOFTLY)  
20 REED: (OFF, RETURNS THE WHISTLE)  
21 HAVERSON: (WHISPER) Warner? Are you down there?  
22 REED: (OFF, WHISPER) In the boat! C'mon!  
23 HAVERSON: (WHISPER) Bring it around to the side, Warner. I've  
24 got her all ready.  
25 (OARS DIP IN WATER AND BOAT STRIKES DOCK)  
26 REED: (OFF, WHISPER) Hurry up! That watchman will be coming  
27 back any minute!  
28 HAVERSON: You heard Mr. Reed, Muriel. Get into the boat! Get in!

1 (THREE PEOPLE STEP INTO THE BOAT)

2 REED: (WHISPER) Careful! It's leaning to one side!

3 HAVERSON: Get going, Warner! She's in!

4 REED: It's leaning to one side, I tell you! Move over! No,  
5 not that side. The other!

6 HAVERSON: We're not on that side, Warner. For pity's sake, get  
7 going!

8 (BOAT STARTS OFF IN WATER. OARS DIP)

9 REED: Is she gagged?

10 HAVERSON: Yes..poor darling. Isn't that a shame? And her little  
11 eyes look so frightened, too. Don't be frightened,  
12 Muriel. This is just a lovely little boat ride.

13 MURIEL: (VIOLENT) Mmmmmm!

14 HAVERSON: You're a very clever girl, Muriel. A little too  
15 clever, I'm afraid. Hurry, Warner.

16 REED: I am! This boat is heavy, don't forget!

17 HAVERSON: Isn't this pleasant, Muriel? Your poor dear Aunt  
18 thought so, too. A lovely ride, really. And when we  
19 get down to the dam, why...why then, my dear, we'll  
20 ask you to go on the rest of the way alone! Oh, dear,  
21 Warner...do you suppose Muriel will struggle too?

22 REED: Shut up!

23 HAVERSON: It was really touching, my dear. Poor Mathilda  
24 struggled so when we held her under the water.

25 MURIEL: Mmmmmm!

1 HAVERSON: And it was so unnecessary, really. If she hadn't been  
2 so difficult about her lovely bracelet. Why, do you  
3 know, she actually confided to Warner that I was  
4 cheating her at cards?

5 REED: (BREATHING HARD) This boat weighs a ton!

6 HAVERSON: And all we wanted was that lovely bracelet, too. I  
7 suggested she sell it, you see. After all, she  
8 did owe me a great deal of money from our little bridge  
9 games. Poor Mathilda was so unlucky!

10 REED: Unlucky! With those trick glasses you wear? (LAUGHS)

11 HAVERSON: Oh, perhaps I did cheat a little, Warner. But only to  
12 get that lovely bracelet! And she was thinking of  
13 selling it, wasn't she, Warner? Isn't it too bad?  
14 To think she suddenly suspected me of cheating!

15 REED: Quiet! I can see the dam!

16 HAVERSON: Poor Muriel! (SLOWLY) I'm afraid, my dear, the time  
17 is drawing near.

18 SHADOW: On the contrary, Mrs. Haverson, the time has come!

19 REED: What's that!

20 HAVERSON: Reed!

21 SHADOW: You can stop rowing, Warner Reed! And...(LUNGING) I'll  
22 take that gun, Mrs. Haverson!

23 HAVERSON: Reed! Reed, the gun! It...it flew right out of my  
24 hands!

25 REED: There's somebody in this boat!

26 SHADOW: You're right, Warner Reed. There is someone in this  
27 boat! THE SHADOW!

28 REED: THE SHADOW!



1 SHADOW: The Shadow knows, Mrs. Haverson! (THEN) Muriel!

2 MURIEL: (GAGGED) Mmmmm!

3 SHADOW: Take the gun, Muriel. It's lying there at your feet.

4 Now...now if you point it at Mrs. Haverson, I'm sure

5 she'll undo your gag! (MENACING) Undo it!

6 HAVERSON: Yes...yes, I will!

7 MURIEL: (FREED OF GAG) You! You murderers!

8 SHADOW: Cover them, Muriel! Keep them both covered!

9 MURIEL: Yes! Yes, I have.

10 SHADOW: And now, Warner, you may start rowing again.

11 REED: Rowing?

12 SHADOW: To the dam, Warner. I think the Police Commissioner is

13 waiting for you!

14 HAVERSON: Warner!

15 MURIEL: (SCARED, BUT FIRM) Go on....now!

16 SHADOW: That's right, Muriel. (THEN) Oh, one more thing...you

17 have the bracelet, Mrs. Haverson?

18 MURIEL: It's in her purse, Shadow! I saw it there when she

19 dropped it, this noon, in the lobby! I tried to tell

20 Mr. Cranston, but...I was cut off and they....

21 SHADOW: The Shadow knows, Muriel. Just give the bracelet

22 to the Commissioner on the dam. That will complete

23 the story! And now....goodbye!

24 REED: Shadow, wait! Please! Wait!

25 SHADOW: It's too late, Warner Reed! Good bye!

26 (A MAN DIVES INTO THE WATER)

27 HAVERSON: He...he jumped into the river! I heard the splash,

28 but...but I couldn't see a thing!

1 SHADOW: The Shadow knows, Mrs. Haverson! (THEN) Muriel!  
2 MURIEL: (GAGGED) Mmmmmmm!  
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23 the story! And now....goodbye!  
24 REED: Shadow, wait! Please! Wait!  
25 SHADOW: It's too late, Warner Reed! Good bye!  
26 (A MAN DIVES INTO THE WATER)  
27 HAVERSON: He...he jumped into the river! I heard the splash,  
28 but...but I couldn't see a thing!

1 SHADOW: (OFF) No man sees the Shadow, Mrs. Haverson. But the  
2 Shadow knows!  
3 (WATER SPLASHES)  
4 MUSIC: (IN AND OUT)  
5 (RIVER BANK WATER LAPPING AND NIGHT NOISES)  
6 CRANSTON: See the lights on the dam, Margot? Muriel must be  
7 turning them over to Weston.  
8 MARGOT: (OFF) Are you dressed, Lamont?  
9 CRANSTON: What? Oh! Oh, you can turn around now. And thanks  
10 for the dry clothes.  
11 MARGOT: Think nothing of it, Lamont. All my boy-friends go  
12 for moonlight dips now and then.  
13 CRANSTON: They do?  
14 MARGOT: Lamont....  
15 CRANSTON: Yes?  
16 MARGOT: You knew it was Mrs. Haverson all along, didn't you?  
17 CRANSTON: It wasn't very difficult, Margot. She said she  
18 couldn't see a thing without her glasses, and yet she  
19 was reading a newspaper without them when we met her  
20 this morning.  
21 MARGOT: Say, that's right!  
22 CRANSTON: Then when I got a look at those glasses, I was sure.  
23 They're tricks, Margot. If you look closely, you can  
24 see a special lens in the bottom of the glass.  
25 MARGOT: What?  
26 LAMONT: They're used for reading the backs of marked cards.  
27 Invisible markings show up when you look at the cards  
28 through those glasses! I've seen dozens of them.

1 MARGOT: Then she was a card cheat!

2 CRANSTON: Only to lure out bigger game, Margot. She'd get  
3 Mathilda's bridge debt up high enough, you see, and  
4 then suggest she sell the bracelet. Haverson would  
5 suggest that she handle the sale, and of course, once  
6 she got her hands on the bracelet, she'd disappear.

7 MARGOT: Dry your hair, Lamont.

8 CRANSTON: Her accomplice had me fooled, though. I knew she'd  
9 need someone to help her if she got Mathilda's body  
10 over that dam.

11 MARGOT: And it was Warner Reed, the desk clerk.

12 CRANSTON: I knew it must have been, when Muriel's phone call  
13 was cut off. He was the only one behind the desk at  
14 the switchboard. That's how he overheard her call.

15 MARGOT: Lamont, of course! And Dan Burke was innocent of the  
16 whole thing!

17 CRANSTON: And Muriel was covering up for him. I suppose the  
18 poor girl wasn't entirely sure he didn't kill her  
19 aunt.

20 MARGOT: The night he came to the hotel...

21 CRANSTON: Yes. Only she was dead by that time. Poor Mathilda.  
22 Her mistake was confiding in Warner. As soon as she  
23 told him she suspected Mrs. Haverson of cheating,  
24 she signed her own death warrant.

25 MARGOT: River of eternal woe.....brr.

- 1 CRANSTON: Cold?
- 2 MARGOT: Well....
- 3 CRANSTON: Well, what?
- 4 MARGOT: I could stand an arm around me, Lamont. A big strong  
5 arm.
- 6 CRANSTON: Hmmmmmm. Mine do?
- 7 MARGOT: Oh, yes, Lamont! Yes it will!
- 8 MUSIC: (TO FINISH)