

CONTINUITY
CHARLIE CHAN

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EPISODE.....

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RADIO PRODUCTION

- 23 -

MUSIC: OPENER WITH CYMBALS.

ANNOUNCER The Adventures of Charlie Chan.

MUSIC: UP TO FINISH.

ANNOUNCER Based on the character created by Earl Derr Biggers.

SOUND: CRASH OF CYMBAL.

MUSIC: COMMERCIAL THEME.

SOUND: GONG.

MUSIC: NARRATIVE THEME.

ANNOUNCER Strange happenings in Kohlpuri. Apparently the journey which Timothy Eden, Nancy and Denny have made to India has been all in vain; for the stolen ruby, "The Eye of Buddha", which they sought to recover has again mysteriously disappeared. The Rajah has shown himself in his true colors and now they realize their perilous position. Meanwhile, Morton Rand, the stolen ruby again in his possession, has been foiled in his attempt to escape from Kohlpuri to Bombay because someone has drained the gas-tank of his airplane. In the field where the plane is concealed, Rand now talks with Hamed Yeri and the pilot, Roger Tennant.

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RAND This has put us in a very embarrassing position.

TENNANT If I could get my hands on the guy who drained that tank - !

HAMED The curse of Allah be upon him! May vultures consume his liver and his children be born without noses!

RAND That's all very gratifying, Hamed - but it's not particularly constructive. The question is - what are we going to do?

TENNANT There's a little village about twelve miles south of here. Maybe we'd better start walking!

RAND But will they have gasoline?

TENNANT Your guess is as good as mine!

RAND Then we'll handle it this way: Tennant, you hike those twelve miles to the village and see what you can do. If you can get the necessary gas, buy it and hire a cart of some sort to carry it back here. If everything goes smoothly, that should take you about five or six hours.

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TENNANT And what are you going to do?

RAND Hamed Yeri and I will return to the palace and -
very cautiously, you understand - look the
situation over.

TENNANT Still got that girl on your mind, eh?

RAND It would be an excellent idea, Tennant, if you
stopped trying to mind my business for me.

TENNANT It happens to be my business, too! We're in this
thing together - and if you get jammed up, what
happens to me?

RAND The answer's very simple: you get jammed up too!

TENNANT Sure I do - and that's why I don't want any part
of it! It's going to be tough enough to make our
get-away without any more complications.

RAND Let me get this straight, Tennant - are you trying
to tell me what to do?

TENNANT I'm telling you what not to do - and you'd better
listen!

RAND Then I'm afraid I'm going to have to -

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TENNANT Wait a minute, Rand! You're not going to push me around! If you haven't got me to handle the ship you know you're never going to get out of Kohlpuri alive, don't you?

RAND In other words, you mean that you have the upper hand?

TENNANT I have - and I'm going to use it!

RAND Meaning - ?

TENNANT What's in that little black bag you've been handling so carefully, Rand?

RAND If you insist on knowing, my friend - money!

TENNANT How much?

RAND A very large sum.

TENNANT That's swell - because you're giving me half of it!

RAND What makes you think so?

TENNANT You're much too clever not to! Either we split the dough - and I get the gasoline and take you to Bombay - or we don't - and I don't!

RAND It looks as if Mr. Tennant has us right where he wants us, doesn't it, Hamed?

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HAMED (Excitedly) But, sahib, you are able --

RAND Be quiet, Hamed! - Well, Tennant, what do you want me to do?

TENNANT I'll take Hamed Yeri with me. We'll go to the village and see if we can get the gasoline.

RAND And what becomes of me?

TENNANT You wait here until we get back. I don't think you'll be foolish enough to try to kidnap the girl from under the Rajah's nose single-handed, but just in case of a tie, I'm going to ask you and your ugly-faced friend here, to turn over any weapons you may be carrying. You certainly won't go after her unarmed.

RAND (Slowly) So you want my gun, eh?

TENNANT That's right, Mr. Rand.

RAND Very well, my friend - take it!

SOUND: SHOT.

TENNANT (Groans)

HAMED A clean shot, sahib!

RAND And you wanted to spoil his little moment of triumph by telling him that I knew how to pilot a plane! That was very inconsiderate of you, Hamed!

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HAMED (Feigning sorrow) A thousand pardons, sahib!

RAND Well - I'm afraid you're going to have to take that twelve-mile walk, Hamed!

HAMED As you say, sahib.

RAND And while you're gone, I shall return to the palace and see if I can't persuade Miss Adams to accompany us on our journey!

MUSIC: TRANSITION.

ANNOUNCER Two guards murdered - a rifled strong room - a stolen gem and an open break between Denny and the Rajah! In the palace of Ranji Jaipal, the atmosphere is tense! Pleading a headache, Nancy has gone to her apartment, while in another room, the Rajah, Timothy Eden and Denny talk together.

EDEN I'm afraid, your Highness, we've all been a little hot-headed. I think that just a few moments of quiet discussion -

RAJAH Unfortunately, I cannot agree with you, Mr. Eden! Mr. Dennis Rand has addressed certain remarks to me in a manner in which I am not accustomed to being addressed!

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EDEN Denny didn't mean anything by it, your Highness -
he's just a hot-headed boy.

DENNY (Hotly) I'm sorry, sir - but I can't have you
apologizing for me.

RAJAH In other words, Mr. Dennis Rand, you stand squarely
on your own feet, eh? You have said and done
certain things - and you alone wish to - er -
take the consequences for them, is that it?

DENNY May I point out to you here and now, your
Highness, that these veiled threats of yours
don't frighten me in the least?

RAJAH You are somewhat hot-headed, are you not?

DENNY If by hot-headed you mean that I don't stand by
quietly while another man makes passes at the
girl I love, I guess you're right!

RAJAH I realize, that in saying what I am about to say,
I violate every law of hospitality, but the fact
remains that your presence here is the only dis-
cordant note in what would otherwise be a
delightful situation!

DENNY Let me match rudeness with rudeness, your Highness,
and tell you that I'm not here because I want to be!

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RAJAH Charming! Then I feel confident we can work out
 some way of solving that little difficulty!

DENNY The whole thing will be solved when Mr. Eden,
 Miss Adams and I leave here!

RAJAH Ah! But it isn't going to quite as simple as that,
 Mr. Rand. You see - Mr. Eden and Miss Adams are
 not leaving - at least not for the present!

DENNY Why, you -

EDEN (Sharply) Denny!

RAJAH You do well to curb him, Mr. Eden. If I raise my
 voice to summon the guards outside this door -

DENNY There were guards outside the door of your strong
 room, too! But that didn't keep somebody from -

EDEN (Firmly) Wait a moment, Denny! Your Highness -
 you said that we were not leaving here for the
 present. I must insist upon an explanation of
 that remark.

RAJAH It would be most unwise to continue this discussion
 in Mr. Dennis Rand's presence.- Mr. Rand - you
 have our permission to retire!

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DENNY Oh, no, you don't! You'll talk - and you'll talk in front of me!

SOUND: RAJAH CLAPS HIS HANDS - DOOR OPENS.

SERVANT (Off) Yes, master?

RAJAH (Voice slightly raised) Escort Rand Sahib to his apartment!

SERVANT (Off) Yes, master.

DENNY (At white heat) I tell you I'm not going to -

RAJAH (Voice slightly raised) And see to it that a guard is placed outside his door so that nothing is permitted to disturb him. You understand, Deyka?

SERVANT Yes, master.

RAJAH Then go to the apartment of the young memsahib and ask her if she will be so kind as to join Mr. Eden and myself here.

SERVANT Yes, master.

RAJAH And now, Mr. Dennis Rand, I repeat that you have our permission to retire. Will you go quietly - or shall I have my servants drag you out?

EDEN Go ahead, Denny - I'll take care of this!

DENNY Very well, sir. - And your Highness -

RAJAH (Courteously) Yes?

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DENNY Let me leave one little thought with you - (Fading)
- if anything happens to Nancy, there aren't enough
guards in your whole rotten palace to keep my hands
off your throat!

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING.

RAJAH Now, Mr. Eden -

SOUND: KNOCK.

RAJAH (Calling) Enter.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

RAJAH (Voice slightly raised) What is it, Ram Dass?

SERVANT (Off) A Holy Man has come, master; a lama from
Tibet. He is here with his Chela - his disciple -

RAJAH What is that to me?

SERVANT (Fading in) His disciple asks me to say that the
lama seeks an immediate audience with you.

RAJAH (Impatiently) I cannot see him now. See that
they are given food - and have them wait.

SERVANT The chela bade me tell you that his master bears
a message of the gravest importance.

RAJAH A message? (To Eden) Mr. Eden, will you forgive me
for a moment if I speak with this man?

EDEN Certainly, Highness.

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RAJAH Then we can resume our most interesting discussion!
 (To servant) Bring in the Holy Man, Ram Dass!

SERVANT Yes, master.

RAJAH A strange race, the Tibetans, Mr. Eden; One feels
 almost, as if they came from another world.

EDEN If what I've read about their country is true,
 it is another world. They say that -

SERVANT (Off) The lama Chang-lo-chen and his disciple,
 Tsen-po.

RAJAH Greetings, Chang-lo-chen.

LEE From my master, the most holy Chang-lo-chen, to
 Ranji Jaipal, Rajah of Kohlpuri, Protector of the
 Pitiful and Defender of the Oppressed - greetings.

RAJAH Your master is dumb, Tsen-po, that you must speak
 for him?

LEE My master is not dumb, O, most powerful one, but
 he has taken a vow of silence.

RAJAH Why should he do this thing?

LEE Because there came to him a vision in his desolate
 cell in our monastery at Tashi-Lhumpo, - a vision
 concerning you, oh, mighty Raj!

RAJAH (Impressed in spite of himself) A vision concerning
 me?

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LEE And he swore that no words should pass his lips until he had told you of this vision. A long way have we come - from far-away Chwanben - crossing mountains, rivers and plains - in our land and in yours - and all the while my master's lips have been sealed.

RAJAH So! - And will he speak now?

CHAN (Slowly-impressively) I will speak, Ranji Jaipal!

RAJAH Tell me, then - what was this vision which came to you?

CHAN I saw you lying cold in death, Oh Raj! And in my ears there spoke a voice which said: "Thus will it be with Ranji Jaipal unless he heeds the warning!"

RAJAH The - warning?

CHAN (impressively) The curse which follows "The Eye of Buddha" is upon you, Ranji Jaipal! You must -

SOUND: QUICK FLURRY OF FEET. DOOR THROWN VIOLENTLY

OPEN.

SERVANT Master!

RAJAH Yes, Deyka?

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SERVANT I went to the apartment of the young memsahib as you bade me do. I knocked - and knocked again. When no answer came I opened the door -

RAJAH Yes?

SERVANT The room was in disorder, O, master, showing signs of a struggle but that was all that I could discover.

EDEN You mean that Miss Adams -

SERVANT The young memsahib has disappeared!
MUSIC: BIG GONG ON RECORD.

ANNOUNCER Nancy has disappeared! Has the infamous Morton Rand struck again? Has Charlie Chan in his disguise as the holy man arrived too late - or can he save her?
MUSIC: COMMERCIAL THEME.

ANNOUNCER Don't fail to hear the next exciting chapter of -
The Adventures of Charlie Chan!
SOUND: GONG.
MUSIC: THEME. NARRATIVE.

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