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"THE CURSE OF THE GREAT NIRVAN"

by

Sidney Slon

(STANDARD OPENING)

1 MUSIC: ("SPINNING WHEELS" -- FADE UNDER)
2 SHADOW: Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men. The
3 SHADOW knows.
4 (LAUGHS)
5 ("SPINNING WHEELS" UP AND OUT)
6 (PAUSE...NETWORK CUTS OUT HERE)
7 ANNR: Once again your neighborhood 'blue coal' dealer brings
8 you the thrilling adventures of THE SHADOW...the hard
9 and relentless fight of one man against the forces of
10 evil. These dramatizations are designed to demonstrate
11 forcefully to old and young alike that crime does not
12 pay!
13 (BRIGHT THEME UP AND OUT)
14 (OPENING COMMERCIAL)

(OPENING COMMERCIAL)

1 BARUCH: Here's great news for householders. Now...yes, right
2 now...you can afford all the magical convenience and
3 luxury of automatic heat. 'blue coal' has brought the
4 cost of automatic heat down to a point where everyone
5 can afford it. The sensational new automatic 'blue
6 coal' Burner costs less to operate than gas or oil.
7 That's right...'blue coal' automatic heat costs less
8 than gas or oil. You see, the automatic 'blue coal'
9 Burner uses the lowest cost sizes of 'blue coal'...and
10 that's where your savings pile up. 'blue coal'
11 automatic heat costs less than gas or oil. The 'blue
12 coal' Burner belongs in your home. For more
13 information about the lowest cost automatic heat...
14 mail a postcard to 'blue coal'...One-twenty Broadway...
15 New York five...New York.

(INTRODUCTION BEFORE START OF SHADOW STORY)

1 ANN: The SHADOW, who adds the forces of law and order, is
2 in reality, Lamont Cranston, wealthy young man about
3 town. Years ago, in the Orient, Cranston learned a
4 strange and mysterious secret..the hypnotic power to
5 cloud men's minds so they cannot see him. Cranston's
6 friend and companion, the lovely Margot Lane, is the
7 only person who knows to whom the voice of the invisible
8 SHADOW belongs. Today's drama....
9 "THE CURSE OF THE GREAT NIRVAN"....
10 (MUSIC)

1 ANNR: This is the tale of a magician's curse, and a feat of
2 necromancy that leads in Kabbalistic circles. This is
3 the story of a magician whose conjurations had only
4 been surpassed by that last great and final mystery....
5 known to man by the name...DEATH.
6 (MUSIC: OUT)

7 NIRVAN: (HOARSE AND GRATING) Who is that? Dham, is that you?

8 HINDU: It is I, Master. Dham, your humble servant.

9 NIRVAN: Dham....come closer - closer...I must speak with you....
10 yes....yes....

11 HINDU: I am at your bedside, oh Great One.

12 NIRVAN: Good....good...listen carefully....there is not much
13 time left.

14 HINDU: No, no, you will not die master. The Great Nirvan
15 knows the secret of Death.

16 NIRVAN: No Dham that is one secret even the Nirvan cannot
17 solve. Tell me...have you obeyed my orders...have all
18 my wishes been carried out?

19 HINDU: Have you forgotten so soon, my master? It was just
20 this afternoon that the legal one was here...you
21 commanded him to dispose of your property....it is all
22 written down in your will.

23 NIRVAN: (LAUGHS WEAKLY) Yes, now I recall...this afternoon it
24 was...My three tricks...(LAUGHS)...my three great
25 tricks which no other magician can duplicate...will
26 ever duplicate...When I am gone there will never be
27 another to equal me...the Great Nirvan...

28 HINDU: You must not excite yourself, my master!

1 NIRVAN: No, when I die...there will never be another. You see,
2 Dham...I willed my "fire and sword" trick to Arturo,
3 and to Bennington I leave my "Labyrinth of Sorcery"
4 trick, but my greatest invention...my wall of glass
5 and water:.....
6 (LAUGHS INTO COUGHING)
7 HINDU: Please, my master...
8 NIRVAN: That I will take to my grave! Then they will never be
9 able to say...that any magician is as great as the
10 Great Nirvan!
11 (LAUGHS INTO COUGHING AGAIN)
12 HINDU: You must be quiet, oh Great One...it is the doctor's
13 orders.
14 NIRVAN: Very well.....very well.....Tell me,
15 Dham.....must the great Nirvan die alone.....
16 have they all forgotten me?
17 HINDU: For two days, my master, many people have waited in the
18 street outside the door. Many important people have
19 requested admittance, but the sahib doctor has refused.
20 NIRVAN: (PLEASED) Many have waited?
21
22
23 HINDU: One who waited has been more insistent than the rest...
24 NIRVAN: Who? Tell me who? No...no...don't bother...I know
25 who! It is...
26 (DOOR CLOSES OFF MIKE)
27 LORENZ: It is..Lorenz!
28 NIRVAN: You! Get out..get out, I say! I don't want to see you!
29 LORENZ: No? (FADES IN) But I want to see you, Nirvan! I must
30 ask you something....

1 NIRVAN: How did you get into my house?

2 LORENZ: (LAUGHS MALICIOUSLY) Is that a question for one
3 magician to ask another?

4 HINDU: You must leave! As you may observe, my master is very
5 ill...

6 LORENZ: Oh, I'll leave all right, after I've gotten what I
7 came for.

8 NIRVAN: You want my three great tricks, don't you? Well,
9 you'll never get them! Two I have willed to Arturo
10 and Bennington. One to each of them...

11 LORENZ: And the third, Nirvan...the "glass and water" trick...

12 NIRVAN: That one, Lorenz, I take with me to my grave....

13 LORENZ: Don't be a fool...you will always be known as the
14 great Nirvan...why must you be so jealous of your fame.
15 Give me the third trick.

16 NIRVAN: No.

17 LORENZ: After all, I have earned it! Next to you I am called
18 the greatest magician in the world...

19 NIRVAN: Self-named!

20 LORENZ: You're afraid of me! I've come up too rapidly...I've
21 even challenged your position.

22 NIRVAN: You've stolen every one of my feats of magic...that is
23 how you have come up, but three you will not have!

24 LORENZ: Very well, Nirvan..I will discover the secret of your
25 tricks without your aid!

26 NIRVAN: Never!

27 LORENZ: (LAUGHS) Never? Well, "great" Nirvan, in exactly one
28 year from tonight, I will perform your secret feats of
29 magic for a select audience. Then I shall be acclaimed
30 the greatest in the world! And you will not be able
31 to stop me!

1 NIRVAN: (THREATENINGLY...SPEAKING WITH EFFORT) Listen to me,
2 Lorenz! Listen to me well! I am versed in the arts of
3 black magic!

4 LORENZ: (INSULTINGLY) Do you take me for a child, Nirvan?
5 With this jibberish about black magic?

6 NIRVAN: It is the truth! (COUGHS) I am dying..and I know it
7 ...but if you attempt my great "glass and water" trick
8 ...if you even attempt it...I shall return from the
9 dead and curse you!

10 LORENZ: (LAUGHS) (CONTINUES UNDER FOLLOWING)

11 NIRVAN: (RAGING) Stop! Stop that laughter! (TRYING TO RISE
12 UP IN BED) Stop I say! STOP! (LAUGHTER STOPS)
13 (SLOWLY) I curse you, Lorenz...I curse you...may your
14 mind be seized by rot...and all your efforts crowned
15 by black failure...may you die in mortal agony.
16 (COUGHING FIT SEIZES HIM) (HE FALLS BACK ON THE BED)

17 HINDU: Master! Master!

18 NIRVAN: Water...wa...(STOPS)

19 HINDU: What is it? Speak, oh Great One..speak!

20 LORENZ: (QUIETLY) Your master will speak no more..the Great
21 Nirvan is dead. (STRANGELY EXULTANT) The Great Nirvan
22 is dead! Long live Lorenz!
23 (LAUGHS)
24 (MUSIC TAKES IT AWAY)

25 WESTON: Of course, this whole business is ridiculous. I don't
26 know whether to be insulted, or amused at being
27 invited to the "great Lorenz's" special performance.

28 CRANSTON: Well, personally, Commissioner, I'd be neither...I'd be
29 interested...very much interested!

1 MARGOT: And just a little bit scared, Commissioner. Just
2 think Lorenz is defying the death bed curse of the
3 magician Nirvan and going to perform his three great
4 tricks!

5 WESTON: Miss Lane, it's just a publicity stunt...death bed
6 curse...bah!

7 CRANSTON: (LAUGHS) Maybe not, Commissioner, you know these
8 magicians take themselves pretty seriously.

9 WESTON: Well, I don't, Cranston. Mr. Lorenz won't get me into
10 the theatre tonight.

11 CRANSTON: He may at that, Commissioner. I've got a hunch that
12 something rather unusual is going to occur tonight.

13 MARGOT: You really think so, Lamont?

14 CRANSTON: Never can tell, Margot. Just look at the set-up...
15 Lorenz cursed by the great Nirvan is going to perform
16 Nirvan's feats of magic in Nirvan's own theatre...on the
17 anniversary of his death.

18 WESTON: Humph! Nirvan's own theatre which he stipulated was to
19 be closed and draped in mourning for him for a whole
20 year. If this isn't a press agent's dream, I never saw
21 one.

22 CRANSTON: Well, Commissioner, Margot and I are going, aren't we?

23 MARGOT: We are?

1 WESTON: Well, you'll go without me! I'd get more excitement out
2 of a good western story. That hokus-pokus gives me a
3 good swift headache.

4 MARGOT: Oh, come along, Commissioner.

5 WESTON: Miss Lane, Cranston, this is difinite...I am not going!
6 (MUSIC)
7 (SLIGHT BUZZ OF CONVERSATION AS IN THEATRE)

8 CRANSTON: The forth, fifth and sixth seats in this aisle,
9 Commissioner.

10 WESTON: Humph!

11 MARGOT: You go in first, Lamont. I'll sit between you and
12 Commissioner Weston. Is that all right, Commissioner?

13 WESTON: Humph! Hokus Pokus, that's what it is..just a lot of
14 hokus pokus publicity!

15 CRANSTON: Well, you can still go home and curl up with a good
16 western story, Commissioner.

17 WESTON: Yeah? Well, maybe it's not a bad idea...

18 MARGOT: Go on, Lamont...let's sit down.

19 CRANSTON: Right, Margot...(FADES SLIGHTLY) May we get through
20 please...thank you.
21 (AD LIB GETTING SEATED)

22 MARGOT: We didn't get here a minute too soon, Lamont...the lights
23 are dimming down...

24 WESTON: It's a darn good book, too...called "Pinto Pete Prepares"

25 MARGOT: What does he prepare?

26 WESTON: How should I know? I haven't read it yet..thanks to you
27 two!

28 CRANSTON: Sh...the curtains are parting..
29 (APPLAUSE FROM SMALL AUDIENCE)

1 LORENZ: Ladies and gentlemen...(OFF MIKE AND PROJECTING)
2 WESTON: (MUMBLING) It's a good story all right, Cardona says
3 it's about the best..
4 MARGOT: Commissioner..you're disturbing the people around us.
5 WESTON: Eh? Oh, yes...sorry.
6 LORENZ: (OFF) I shall not bore you with a long introductory
7 address...
8 WESTON: (MUMBLES) Glad to hear that...
9 LORENZ: (FADE IN SLOWLY) I'm sure you all know my purpose in
10 giving this performance. It is, in a sense, a challenge.
11 I am going to perform all three of Nirvan's famous tricks!
11A The first two feats I am going to perform before the eyes
12 of the very two magicians to whom Nirvan left his secrets.
13 My esteemed colleagues, Messers Arturo and Bennington.
14 (UP) Bennington.....Arturo, would you both come on stage,
15 please. Are they in the house?
16 (STIR IN AUDIENCE...SLIGHT BUZZ)
17 ARTURO: (OFF) Here. We're here.
18 LORENZ: Will you come up on stage please?
19 BENNINGTON: (OFF BUT CLOSER) (SARCASTICALLY) It will be a pleasure,
20 Lorenz.
21 LORENZ: Thank you. Right up those stairs on the left there.
22 (FOOTSTEPS ON STAIRS)
23 LORENZ: And now, ladies and gentlemen, the famous "Fire and
24 Sword" trick willed to Arturo by Nivran. I begin!
25 MUSIC: (UP FOR A FEW SECONDS)
26 (BURST OF FIRE)
27 (APPLAUSE)
28 LORENZ: Thank you..thank you. Well, Arturo, was that your "Fire
29 and Sword" trick?

1 ARTURO: Yes...Yes, it was.

2 LORENZ: And now ladies and gentlemen, the famous Labyrinth of

3 Socery trick.

4 (MUSIC...GONG...APPLAUSE)

5 LORENZ: There. Bennington...did I perform the trick, left to you

6 by Nirvan, properly? The "Labyrinth of socery"?

7 BENNINGTON: (ANNOYED) Yes...yes...May I go now?

8 LORENZ: Not yet, my friend, not yet. You must also witness

9 Nirvan's greatest feat, my third and last trick...his

10 famous legerdemain of "Glass and Water"...the secret of

11 which Nirvan thought he had taken to his grave with him.

12 BENNINGTON: Don't attempt that feat, Lorenz.

13 LORENZ: (CHUCKLES) My honorable colleague is worried.

14 ARTURO: Do not test the power of Nirvan's curse...Lorenz...we

15 warn you.

16 LORENZ: (LAUGH) Both my honorable colleagues are concerned for

17 my welfare. How touching. (CALLS) Open the curtains...

18 (SOUND OF CURTAINS SLIDING ASIDE)

19 LORENZ: Ladies and gentlemen, I shall describe the great "glass

20 and water" trick for those of you who may never have

21 seen Nirvan perform it. You see before you a huge glass

22 tank filled with water...

23 (TAP TANK)

24 LORENZ: The purpose of the trick is to pass through the tank...

25 through the glass and water..emerging on the other side

26 without breaking the glass or getting wet. As you see

27 the back of the tank is against the brick wall of the

28 stage. The front of the tank faces you. I will pass

29 directly through it. These screens will be placed on

30 both sides of the tank. I will enter one side and will

31 emerge on the other. (FADE AND CONTINUED IN B.G.)

32 WESTON: (SOTTO VOICE...CUE) How does he do it..trap doors in the

33 stage?

1 CRANSTON: Stage is covered with a heavy canvas ground cloth,
2 Commissioner. Trap doors wouldn't help.

3 MARGOT: Lamont, I'm..kind of...worried.

4 WESTON: Say, you know...this is rather exciting...

5 MARGOT: Do you think that Nirvan's curse...

6 LORENZ: (FADE IN) And now, ladies and gentlemen, Messers.
7 Bennington and Arturo will be so kind as to manacle my
8 hands and feet. Will you examine the chains and
9 handcuffs, gentlemen?
10
11

12 (RATTLE CHAINS)

13 BENNINGTON: They look solid enough. What do you think Arturo?

14 ARTURO: I agree, Bennington.

15 LORENZ: Then will you lock me into them, please?

16 BENNINGTON: Certainly. Give me a hand, Arturo.

17 ARTURO: At once.

18 (RATTLE OF CHAINS AND CLICK OF LOCK)

19 LORENZ: Now, will you gentlemen be so kind as to pull the screens
20 around me? I will pass through the tank and
21 emerge on the otherside behind those screens there. Now,
22 the screens..
23 (SOUND OF SCREENS BEING PULLED AROUND)

24 ARTURO: Are you ready, Lorenz?

25 LORENZ: (BEHIND SCREENS) Ready. Start counting. By ten I shall
26 have passed through the glass and water.
26A (DRUM ROLL)

27 ARTURO: Very well. One ...two..three...four.....five..six....
28 seven....eight...nine...

29 LORENZ: (BEHIND SCREENS) (SCREAMS IN MORTAL TERROR)

- 1 (AD LIB FROM AUDIENCE)
- 2 BENNINGTON: What happened?
- 3 ARTURO: (EXCITED) Give me a hand with the screens!
- 4 (SCREENS PULLED BACK)
- 5 BENNINGTON: Good heavens!
- 6 ARTURO: He's ...gone...disappeared!
- 7 BENNINGTON: Nirvan's curse!
- 8 (OFF MIKE...AS THOUGH IT WERE COMING FROM SOMEWHERE IN
- 9 THE DARK BALCONY OF THE THEATRE..THE SOUND OF WEIRD
- 10 DIABOLICAL LAUGHTER..)
- 11 (MUSIC)
- 12 (MIDDLE COMMERCIAL)

1 BARUCH: We will return to the Shadow in just a moment.
2 (PAUSE FOR NETWORK CUT OUT)
3 BARUCH: Friends -- there in ONLY one way you can have dependable
4 CONSTANT heat in your home...by heating with coal....
5 'blue coal'...the world's best! It's a fact...the air
6 in your home STAYS WARM! No gas heating system...no oil
7 heating system....can give you this same CONSTANT,
8 healthful heat. These expensive, wasteful fuels operate
9 on an off-again, on-again principle. When your home has
10 cooled it takes longer...more fuel...more money to bring
11 the temperature up again. But, remember this. A 'blue
12 coal' fire in your furnace is CONSTANTLY giving off heat..
13 CONSTANTLY keeping your home snug and warm. Once heated
14 at the very beginning of cold weather....a 'blue coal'
15 fire will KEEP your home warm even when it is banked.
16 It's just like keeping a kettle of water hot. Once the
17 water is hot you can keep it hot indefinitely by using
18 a very low flame. If you are planning a new home,
19 consider the cost of heating. An automatic 'blue coal'
20 burner and 'blue coal' can save you almost enough money
21 each year to pay your taxes. It will cost you far less
22 than gas or oil...and you will have the one big advantage
23 no other type of fuel can give....CONSTANT, dependable,
24 healthful heat. Talk it over with your 'blue coal'
25 dealer. All authorized 'blue coal' dealers are listed
26 in the classified section of your telephone book.
27 (PAUSE) And now, back to the Shadow.

1 (MUSIC)

2 ANN: On his death bed, the famous old magician Nivran
3 cursed his young colleagues Lorenz when Lorenz swore
4 he would steal and publically perform his celebrated
5 "Glass and Water" feat. Lorenz attempted the
6 incredible feat of legerdemain and...vanished into
7 thin air!

8 MUSIC: (OUT)

9 ANN: Now in the theatre a short while later, Cranston is
10 saying to Margot....

2 CRANSTON: You know, Margot, it's enough to make one believe in
3 black magic. I don't know how Lorenz could have
4 gotten off this stage without our seeing him.

5 MARGOT: I don't either, Lamont...and I.....I don't like it.
6 Let's get out of this theatre...this place gives me
7 the creeps.

8 CRANSTON: Wait till Weston gets back from his tour of inspection.
9 He's got his men searching this theatre from top
10 to bottom.

11 MARGOT: There he comes.

12 CRANSTON: (CALLS) Commissioner, did you find anything?

13 WESTON: We found a trap door under the stage there. My theory
14 is that Lorenz escaped that way.

15 MARGOT: But, Commissioner, the glass tank rests right over the
16 trap door...it would be useless.

17 CRANSTON: And not only that, Commissioner, this heavy canvas
18 ground cloth covering the stage would prevent Lorenz
19 from using it.

20 WESTON: (SIGHS) Well, I don't mind admitting that this
21 stunt has got me licked! What do you suppose happened
22 to Lorenz.

23 MARGOT: I know it sounds rather silly, but, do you suppose
24 he's actually been made to disappear by Nirvan's curse?

25 CRANSTON: Can't say I blame you for thinking that, Margot...but
26 I am beginning to see another motive in this whole
27 business.

28 WESTON: What?

29 CRANSTON: Commissioner, who would stand to gain most by Lorenz's
30 disappearance.

1 WESTON: Gain most?...

2 CRANSTON: Two magicians were ruined professionally here tonight
2 by Lorenz's performance.

4 WESTON: (REALIZING) Why, Arturo, and Bennington...Lorenz did
5 their tricks...

6 MARGOT: Oh, I see....do you think they'd try to get rid of
7 him?

8 CRANSTON: They might, to protect themselves.

9 WESTON: Cranston, I think you've got something there! We're
10 going to have a little talk with Arturo and
11 Bennington!

12 (MUSIC)

13 (BRAKES TO A STOP) (CAR DOOR OPEN)

14 WESTON: This is Arturo's house, Cranston.

15 CRANSTON: Okay, let's go in. Coming, Margot.

16 MARGOT: Right here Lamont.

17 (FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL WALK)

18 MARGOT: Gloomy looking old place, isn't it?

19 CRANSTON: Just the place you'd expect a magician would live in.

20 WESTON: Careful of the stairs, it's pretty dark.

21 (FOOTSTEPS UPSTAIRS) (THEN STOP)

22 CRANSTON: Here's the bell. Should we let him know we're coming?

23 WESTON: Why not? We've got nothing on him, yet.

24 (BELL IS HEARD RINGING OFF MIKE)

25 (PAUSE)

26 MARGOT: Maybe he isn't home yet.

27 CRANSTON: I can see a light in one of the back rooms through
28 this window.

29 WESTON: Ring the bell again.

1 CRANSTON: All right I - hello...what's this?
2 WESTON: What?
3 CRANSTON: The door's slightly open.
4 (CREAK OF DOOR SWINGING OPEN)
5 WESTON: Hmmm...that's strange...let's go in..
6 (FOLLOWING SCENE SOTTO VOICE)
7 (FOOTSTEPS ON WOOD ALONG CORRIDOR)
8 MARGOT: (WHISPERING) Doesn't seem to be anybody here.
9 CRANSTON: Let's take a look in that room with the light on.
10 WESTON: Fine thing for the Commissioner of police to be
11 doing...house-breaking!
12 CRANSTON: Here it is....
13 (OPENS DOOR) (CREAK OF ROPE)
14 MARGOT: I don't see anything out of pl....(SCREAMS) Oh...
15 CRANSTON: Don't look, Marogt....!
16 WESTON: He's dead! Suicide.
17 CRANSTON: Help me cut his body down from that beam, Commissioner.
18 WESTON: Yes.
19 (SOUND OF CUTTING THROUGH TAUT ROPE) (BODY FALLS)
20 CRANSTON: Now, let's have a look at him. (PAUSE) Commissioner,
21 Arturo, has been murdered...
22 WESTON: Now, the question is, who hanged him?
23 (DOOR CLOSES OFF...SOFTLY)
24 CRANSTON: The door! Commissioner, I think we're going to have
25 the answer to your question. Someone has just come in
26Put out the lights in here!
27 (CLICK OF SWITCH)
28 CRANSTON: Stand over here, Margot...Commissioner, you and I
29 behind this door....now quiet.

1 (FOOTSTEPS APPROACH SLOWLY..UNCERTAINLY)

2 (THEN DOOR OF ROOM CREAKS OPEN)

3 CRANSTON: Now, Commissioner!

4 (STRUGGLE)

5 WESTON: I've got him, Cranston! Put on the light!

6 (CLICK OF SWITCH)

7 CRANSTON: (SURPRISED) It's Dham...Nirvan's hindu servant!

8 WESTON: And the man we're looking for! You murdered Arturo,
9 didn't you?

1 HINDU: Murdered? No, I came to warn him of his danger...it is
2 the truth...I swear it...

3 WESTON: Danger from whom?

4 HINDU: That I may not say.

5 WESTON: "May not say," eh? Well, I'll tell it..danger from you!
6 You murdered him and were coming back to rob him!

7 CRANSTON: I don't know about that, Commissioner. Why didn't he
8 rob Arturo before...when he murdered him?

9 WESTON: I don't know, Cranston, but I'm going to find out...at
10 headquarters...comon you! (FADES) Right this way!

11 HINDU: (FADES) But I am innocent...I know nothing of this.
12 (DOOR CLOSSES AND CUTS OFF SPEECHES AND WESTON AND HINDU)

13 MARGOT: Are you going to police headquarters, Lamont?

14 CRANSTON: Yes, Margot, the Shadow would like to question Nirvan's
15 servant. I have a theory that only he can give the
16 correct answers to this mystery.

17 MUSIC: (BRIDGE)

18 WESTON: Okay, Dham, we're going to keep you in this cell until
19 you've had a chance to think things over.
20

21 (CLANK OF PRISON DOOR CLOSING)

22 WESTON: (FADING) I'll be back to talk to you in the morning.

23 HINDU: I will not speak..I am innocent..innocent..
24 (PAUSE)

25 SHADOW: (LAUGHS) Innocent? Dham?

26 HINDU: Who calls my name? I see no one!

27 SHADOW: It is the Shadow, Dham.

1 HINDU: Shadow? I have heard of you in my own land...they speak
2 of the unseen one called Shadow. What do you want of
3 me, unseen one?
4 SHADOW: Are you guilty of Arturo's murder?
5 HINDU: No..no..I came to warn him of his danger!
6 SHADOW: How did you know he was in danger?
7 HINDU: I know...
8 SHADOW: You are protecting someone, aren't you?
9 HINDU: I will not answer.
10 SHADOW: Your refusal tells me a great deal, Dham! It will go
11 easier with you, if you make a clean breast of it!
12 HINDU: I will not betray, even if I myself am betrayed. I am
13 guilty of betrayal once. I will not be guilty twice.
14 SHADOW: Very well, Dham..you've made your choice. Remember,
15 the Shadow has ways of finding the truth.
16 (MUSIC)
17 MARGOT: Dham wouldn't talk to the Shadow, Lamont?
18 CRANSTON: All he would say is he was guilty of betrayal once and
19 he will not be again. Weston had to release him this
20 afternoon.
21 MARGOT: Do you believe in black magic, Lamont. Do you believe
22 Nirvan's curse come true and Lorenz has vanished from
23 the earth?
24 CRANSTON: I don't know Margot, there are times when even the most
25 rational mind will seek explanation in the art of black
26 magic. However, I went down to Nirvan's theatre today
27 to have another look around...and I think I'm catching
28 on to the trick.
29 MARGOT: The "Glass and the Water" trick?

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1 CRANSTON: Yes. You see, the place was left just as it was the
2 night Lorenz attempted...
3 (PHONE RINGS)
4 MARGOT: Now, who can that be?
5 CRANSTON: (STEPS) I know a good way to find out.
6 (PHONE UP)
7 CRANSTON: Hello.
8 BENNINGTON: Mr. Cranston, this is Bennington.
9 CRANSTON: (SURPRISED) Bennington.
10 BENNINGTON: Can you get over to my place right away?
11 CRANSTON: What's the trouble, Bennington.
12 BENNINGTON: Cranston would prevent another death?
13 CRANSTON: Who's in danger?
14 BENNINGTON: I am - I will die before this hour is out, unless you
15 prevent it!
16 (MUSIC)
17 MARGOT: This is the address Bennington gave you, isn't it Lamont
18 CRANSTON: Yes, Margot...let's hurry...
19 (FOOTTEPS ON GRAVEL THEN UP STAIRS)
20 CRANSTON: The door is open.
21 MARGOT: Just the way it was at Arturo's house.
22 (DOOR CREAKS OPEN) (STEPS....STOP)
23 CRANSTON: Dham, what are you doing here?
24 HINDU: Sabih Bennington - he is waiting for you in the study.
25 Hurry, please.
26 (FOOTSTEPS ALONG CORRIDOR)
27 CRANSTON: Open the door of the study, Dham.
28 (DOOR OPENS SLOWLY)
29 CRANSTON: Go in. Now, switch on the lights.

1 (CLICK OF SWITCH)

2 MARGOT: Mr. Bennington. He's sitting there in the dark, Lamont.

3 CRANSTON: We got here as soon as we could Bennington. (GRABS HIM)

4 What's the matter, Benningto.....(STOPS)

5 (BODY FALL)

6 MARGOT: Lamont! He's dead.

7 CRANSTON: There's a knife in his back. He's been murdered, Margot

8 ..we got here too late.

9 (DOOR SLAMS SHUT BEHIND THEM)

10 LORENZ: I should say just in time, Mr. Cranston...Miss Lane...

11 CRANSTON: Lorenz!

12 LORENZ: Just in time for your own funerals...(LAUGHS)

13 MARGOT: But you....you disappeared in the theatre.

14 LORENZ: A minor feat of legerdemain.

15 CRANSTON: You forced Bennington to make that phone call to me is

16 that it, Lorenz?

17 LORENZ: His performance was quite good..don't you think?

18 CRANSTON: Why did you bring us here?

19 LORENZ: To kill you both, Mr. Cranston.

20 MARGOT: Why? What have we done to you?

21 LORENZ: Let us call it a form of protection, Miss Lane. Now,

22 you know definitely that I murdered both Arturo and

23 Bennington here. That and the fact that our friend

24 Mr. Cranston knows the secret of the "glass and water"

25 trick. Yes, Mr. Cranston, I was in the theatre this

26 morning while you were examining the apparatus used in

27 that feat of magic.

28 CRANSTON: And you would commit murder for that?

1 LORENZ: Yes, Mr. Cranston, murder is a strange thing..it is
2 difficult the first time..easier the second...after that
3 it is quite simple. And I have so much at stake. Now,
4 I am in complete and absolute possession of all three
5 great tricks...I am the greatest magician in the world..
6 only you two stand in my way. But not for long. Dham,
7 prepare...

8 CRANSTON: (SUDDENLY) You're not going to get us without a
9 struggle, Lorenz! I...
10 (TRAP DOOR OPENS AND LAMONT FALLS THROUGH BODY HITS
11 BOTTOM)

12 MARGOT: Lamont!

13 LORENZ: (LAUGHS) (CALLING DOWN TO HIM IN PIT) You see, Mr.
14 Cranston I knew you would try that...that is why I had
15 the trap door ready for you...

16 MARGOT: (ON) Lamont! You've killed him.

17 LORENZ: (SLIGHTLY OFF) No, Miss Lane, I think the fall into the
18 pit has just knocked him unconscious. Dham and I will
19 attend to him later. But now, I think we shall attend
19A to you!

20 MARGOT: No!
21 (MUSIC)

22 LORENZ: Our friend, Miss Lane seems to have fainted, Dham. Too
23 bad, we must kill her and dispose of her body. Would
24 you suggest a shallow grave with quick lime, Dham?
25 Well? I'm asking for your opinion!

1 HINDU: I have no appetite for this, sahib...I am sick of this
2 killing. I betrayed my master by revealing to you the
3 secret of his three great tricks, but I knew nothing of
4 Bennington's death until you brought me here. I knew
5 nothing of the Arturo's murder till after it happened...
6 I tried to warn him.

7 LORENZ: You're not backing out now, are you?

8 HINDU: I will have no more to do with it...I am going...

9 LORENZ: To the police?

10 HINDU: No...I will not betray you...

11 LORENZ: Suppose I make sure of that!

12 HINDU: No gun...please sahib.

13 LORENZ: With you out of the way, Dham, I'll be safe forever...
14 nothing can touch me. No one can stop me.

15 SHADOW: (LAUGHS) There is one to stop you, Lorenz!

16 LORENZ: That voice...who said that? I can't see you!

17 SHADOW: This is the Shadow! (LAUGH)

18 LORENZ: No...No...I know who you are...you are Nirvan! You've
19 come back!

20 DHAM: Master, master, it is the voice of the Great Nirvan.

21 SHADOW: What have you done, Lorenz? What crimes are yours?

22 LORENZ: Nothing...nothing...I have done nothing, Nirvan.

23 SHADOW: You've been evil..and you must pay for your crimes!

24 LORENZ: No Nirvan...please....

25 SHADOW: You murdered both Bennington and Arturo..so that you
26 would be sole possessor of the three great tricks.
27 Didn't you? Didn't you?

28 DHAM: Speak to the Great Nirvan, Lorenz. Speak to him. Tell
29 him the truth.

1 LORENZ: All right...all right I did kill them. I faked my
2 disappearance on stage....I wanted everyone to think I
3 had disappeared, so that I could commit the murders. I
4 had to kill them. I had to be the greatest magician on
5 earth!

6 SHADOW: Thanks for the confession Lorenz. Now with the kind
7 assistance of the State you will be faced with your
8 greatest performance..a chance to solve the mystery of
9 death...by hanging! (LAUGH)

10 MUSIC: (BRIDGE)

11 MARGOT: I understand everything Lamont, except how Lorenz was
12 able to disappear from the theatre.

13 CRANSTON: Well Margot, in the "glass and water" trick, as you
14 remember...the huge tank of water is on stage. The
15 stunt is to pass through the tank, through the glass
16 and water.....

17 MARGOT: There was a brick wall in back, the audience in front.

18 CRANSTON: That's right. Well, of course that would be impossible.
19 But it wouldn't be impossible to pass under the tank.

20 MARGOT: Under the tank?

21 CRANSTON: Remember we noticed that the stage was covered by the
22 canvas ground cloth?

23 MARGOT: Uh huh. Then you couldn't use a trap door.

24 CRANSTON: That's what I thought at first, Margot, but I found on
25 examination that the tank was set right over a trap
26 door of exactly the same size. When the trap lowered...
27 the ground cloth sagged...allowing just enough room under
28 the tank for a man to squirm through. Now, do you
29 understand?

1 MARGOT: I understand the trick, but how did Lorenz get out of
2 the theatre?

3 CRANSTON: There was a long thin slit in the ground cloth under the
4 tank ...Lorenz squirmed down through that into the
5 trap and got away before we had a chance to search the
6 theatre.

7 MARGOT: It really is simple after all, Lamont. For a while I
8 was ready to believe it was done with black magic.

9 CRANSTON: You know, Margot, there is a little black magic in this
10 case. Nirvan swore Lorenz would die in mortal agony.
11 Something very much like that will happen Margot when
12 Lorenz walks up the scaffold and is hung by the neck
13 until he is dead.

14 (CURTAIN)

1 BARUCH: And now let me present 'blue coal's' distinguished heating
2 authority, John Barclay.

3 BARCLAY: Thank you, Andre Baruch, and good evening friends. Cutting
4 overhead costs is the ambition of every householder.
5 Here's the easy way you can save three out of every ten
6 dollars you spend to heat your home. Install a 'blue coal'
7 Tempmaster Thermostat on your furnace. The Tempmaster is
8 'blue coal's' automatic heat regulator with the wonderful
9 electric eye thermostat. It automatically opens and closes
10 furnace drafts and dampers..keeps your home evenly heated
11 at all times. And because the Tempmaster automatically
12 eliminates overheating which wastes your coal, it saves
13 as much as thirty per cent of your fuel bills. A Tempmaster
14 soon pays for itself and can be installed while your
15 furnace is on. If you want proof that you will save up to
16 three dollars out of every ten dollar bill you spend to
17 heat your home...have your 'blue coal' dealer arrange
18 a free demonstration of the Tempmaster in your home.
19 Thank you.

1 ANNR: This story is copyrighted by Street and Smith
2 Publications, Incorporated. All names and places are
3 fictitious. Any similarity to persons living or dead
4 is purely coincidental. Listen again next week...same
5 time...same station...when the SHADOW will again
6 demonstrate that..
7 SHADOW: (FILTER) The weed of crime bears bitter fruit...crime
8 does not pay...the SHADOW knows...(LAUGH)
9 MUSIC: (NETWORK CUTS OUT HERE COMPLETELY)
10 ANNR: The Shadow is presented by the Delaware, Lackawanna
11 and Western Coal Company, distributors of 'blue coal'.
12 Lamont Cranston is played by Bret Morrison...Margot,
13 by Gertrude Warner-----Your announcer is Andre Baruch.
14 Remember....it's 'blue coal' for finest heating
15 service. It's 'blue coal' for the best home heat money
16 can buy!
17 MUSIC: (TO FILL)
18 (APPLAUSE)