

9 INT HOTEL BEDROOM DAWN

DEE and McCORQUDALE in bed, embracing.

McCORQUDALE

Can I ask you a terribly
egocentric question?

DEE

Is it rude?

McCORQUDALE

Out of all the chaps at
that reception last night,
What made you ... approach ...
me?

DEE

You've got bedroom
eyes.

McCORQUDALE

Now come on - I look like
what I am, a middle-aged
civil servant with two
children and a mortgage.

DEE

You look like a
demon lover.

McCORQUDALE

Time for the demon lover
to ring his wife and make
excuses.

McCORMQUALE moves to get out of bed. DEE stops him.

DEE (pout)
I want breakfast.

McCORMQUALE picks up the bedside phone and dials while:-

McCORMQUALE
What would you like?

DEE
A sausage sandwich with brown sauce and three cups of tea.

McCORMQUALE (laughs)
(into phone) Continental breakfast for two in five-one-five, please.

He hangs up. Again he moves to get up, and again she stops him.

DEE
John.

McCORMQUALE
Yes?

DEE
Have you ever done it in front of a mirror?

McCORMQUADALE

(without thinking) Done what?

DEE just giggles. McCORMQUADALE understands then. He is both shocked and turned-on.

McCORMQUADALE

I didn't know ... I
never ...
(shakes his head
in bewilderment)
I mean, are you real?

A knock at the door.

McCORMQUADALE

That was quick.

DEE

John, you're very
sweet. I wish ...

Another knock.

McCORMQUADALE

What do you wish?

Whatever she was going to say, she now
decides not to say it.

DEE (smile)

I wish you'd answer
the door.

MCCORQUDALE looks at her a moment longer, then struggles into pyjama trousers and crosses the room. He opens the door.

CARTER stands there, suddenly looking very menacing, seeming to fill the doorway.

CLOSE ON MCCORQUDALE: he has no idea who this man might be.

CARTER blinks - a nervous tic - then gives MCCORQUDALE one powerful, nasty punch.

A brief SHOT of MCCORQUDALE as he folds up: he is bewildered, hurt, and very frightened.

Opening titles.

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11 INT HOTEL BEDROOM DAWN

CARTER stands inside the door, which is closed. McCORQUDALE is on the floor, a pathetic sight in his pyjama trousers. DEE is crouched beside McCORQUDALE. She is naked.

DEE (to CARTER)
You never told me
it was this scene.

CARTER (disgusted)
Put your knickers on.

DEE goes to a pile of clothes on a chair and steps into her panties.

CARTER
In the bathroom -
haven't you got no
shame?

McCORQUDALE watches this exchange with growing astonishment and fear.

McCORQUDALE (to DEE)
Do you know this man?

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21 INT HECHT'S OFFICE DAWN

HECHT

Never mind the jokes,
have you found out?

NOW INTERCUT AT WILL

CARTER

Course.

HECHT (tense)

Well?

CARTER

It's Continental
Construction Limited.

HECHT (satisfaction)

Ah.

CARTER

You haven't forgotten
you're doing me a little
favour in return.

HECHT

I certainly haven't.
My word is my bond,
as we say in the City.

CARTER

I like doing business
with you. I can trust
you, know what I mean?

HECHT

Indeed. Well, now -

CARTER (conversational)

Now some people you
can't trust. Take
Chalky White. He tried
to double-cross me.
You remember Chalky
White ... ?

HECHT

No - yes. Wasn't that
the name of the man
whose body was found
by a road crew doing
repairs on the M4?

CARTER

That's right. Whereas
with you, being a
banker and everything,
I can rest easy. Know
what I mean?

HECHT

Yes, I think I do.

CARTER

Goodbye.

CARTER hangs up.

HOLD a moment on HECHT.

(go to p32)

25 INT MILLET'S BREAKFAST ROOM DAWN

MRS TEMPLETON hangs up.

MRS TEMPLETON

Mr Joseph Hehht will call
again shortly, sir.

MILLET nods, not very interested.

CATHERINE

He wants to buy your
company, doesn't he?

MILLET

So he says. How did
you know?

CATHERINE

He told me at that
garden party. Why don't
you sell?

MILLET

He hasn't made a firm
offer yet.

MRS TEMPLETON puts sugar on CATHERINE's
grapefruit while:-

CATHERINE

So what are you going to do?

MILLET

About the results?
Nothing. If
Continental Construction
gets the M58 contract
today our troubles are
over.

CATHERINE digs into the grapefruit.
Exit MRS TEMPLETON.

CATHERINE

And if not?

MILLET

(after a beat)
You may have to
learn to sugar
your own grapefruit.

(go to p37)

40 INT MILLET'S BREAKFAST ROOM DAY

MILLET (into phone)
So you keep saying.

NOW INTERCUT AT WILL

HECHT
For one million pounds.

MILLET
A nice round figure.

HECHT
I'm quite serious,
Millet. The deal
must be closed by
two o'clock today.

MILLET
(comprehending) I see.
(a beat) But after lunch
my shares might be
worth two million.

CATHERINE reacts to this.

HECHT
If you get the M58
contract. But if
you don't, you're
bankrupt. Which do
you want - a million
in your hand this morning,
or two in the bush
this afternoon?

MILLET

You surely don't expect
an immediate answer,
over the telephone.

HECHT

I'm in my office
all morning.

MILLET

I'll be in town in
half an hour or so.

HECHT

Please call me.

They hang up. We stay with the MILLETs.

CATHERINE

Sohhe's made a firm offer.

MILLET

Yes. A million pounds.

He goes to the door, but she stays put.

CATHERINE

Sell the company, Ernest.

MILLET

Perhaps I will. On
the other hand, Hecht
may know something.
I could be throwing
a million away.

CATHERINE

(this comes hard to her)
If you still care for
me, sell.

MILLET is surprised - this is a new twist.

CATHERINE

We'll never spend a
million, let alone
two. Let's retire.
We could live anywhere -
the Mediterranean,
the West Indies ...

MILLET

I didn't realise
you'd given it this
muhh thought.

CATHERINE

I want you to relax
again, eat the right
food, get well and
enjoy life. I want
(looking away, voice
falling)
you to fall in love
with me again.

MILLET stares at her, nonplussed. She holds
his gaze for a moment, then goes to the
window and looks out.

MILLET

I'd no idea you felt
so strongly.

CATHERINE

(looking at him now)
You didn't ask me.

MILLET

Mm. (a beat) We should
go.

CATHERINE

I shan't go into the
village, now.

MILLET

All right. Well ...

CATHERINE

Go on, you'll be ~~late~~ late.

MILLET

Yes.

But he does not go yet. HOLD on him.

(go to p62)

26 INT HOTEL BEDROOM DAWN

McCORMQUADALE alone, in the grip of a deep depression. He has put on a dressing-gown. There is a breakfast tray on a side table, untouched. McCORMQUADALE wanders aimlessly around the room.

A knock at the door.

McCORMQUADALE

Come in.

Enter ROOM SERVICE WAITER.

RS WAITER

If I could take the
breakfast tray, sir.

McCORMQUADALE nods. RS WAITER picks up the tray.

McCORMQUADALE

Have you got children?

RS WAITER

Yes, sir. Five, actually.

McCORMQUADALE

Really. At what age would
you say they become independent?

RS WAITER

Depends what you mean
by independent, sir.
These days, they start
~~xxxx~~ living their own lives
about thirteen, I've found.

McCORMQUALE

Yes, that's what I
thought. By the time
they get into their
teens, you've done all
you can for them - for
better or worse.

RS WAITER

(after a beat) Will
that be all, sir?

McCORMQUALE

Yes. Oh, leave me a
glass of water, would
you?

RS WAITER leaves a jug and a glass, and exits.

McCORMQUALE pours water into the glass. He
takes a bottle of pills from his pocket and
empties it on to the table beside the glass.
CLOSE on the heap of pills and HOLD.

(go to p38)

27 INT TATE'S OFFICE DAY

HACKETT sitting down, reading a file.
Enter TATE in overcoat with briefcase,
just arrived.

TATE
(mildly surprised)
Morning, early bird.

HACKETT
Morning.

TATE takes off coat, etc, and sits
down while:-

HACKETT
Have you ever come
across Chaz Carter?

TATE
What does he look
like?

HACKETT
A handsome thug.

TATE
Oh, yes. Son of the
late Billy Carter,
the safebreaker. I
know Chaz. He used to
be an amateur boxer.

HACKETT

Is he a psychopath?

TATE

He's vicious, but only too sane. South London boy originally. He cleared out just before the Richardson gang was broken up, and moved on to our patch - but we've never been able to pin anything on him.

HACKETT

Nobody has, ~~no~~ since his juvenile-court days. But he's definitely still operating.

TATE

And ... ?

HACKETT

Well, I heard that Alan Ziegler had been asking around for a crane driver. Ziegler is on Carter's firm.

TATE

So?

HACKETT

That's it. Carter's
behind anything Ziegler
does, though.

TATE

What sort of crime
requires a crane
driver?

HACKETT

I don't know, but
Carter's not in ~~in~~
the building trade.

TATE

Yes, he is - he's
got a painting and
decorating business.

HACKETT

Still ...

TATE

It's not much, Steve.

HACKETT

You don't get much
with people like
Carter. I think it's
worth having him followed.
One man.

TATE

All right. Meanwhile'
let's find out who's
selling 20,000 stolen
bottles of gin ...

(go to p42)

32 INT HOTEL BEDROOM DAY

A DETECTIVE from the local CID is poking about. Enter HACKETT and LOUISE.

DETECTIVE

Hello, Mr Hackett. Your squad interested in this?

HACKETT

Our target was in the hotel this morning.

Enter BONNEY from the bathroom. HACKETT sees him.

HACKETT

What are you doing here?

BONNEY

Dukes relieved me. I ~~was~~ saw the ambulance outside here on my way back.

HACKETT

All right, what have we got?

BONNEY

Chambermaid found him
in a coma.
(pointing) Glass of
water, empty bottle
of Mogadon ... but
no suicide note.

LOUISE goes to McCorqudale's case and takes
out a file. She glances at it and hands it
to HACKETT while:-

HACKETT

Who is he?

BONNEY

John McCorqudale. An
address in Surrey.

HACKETT looks at the file.

HACKETT

Department of the
Environment. A civil
servant, then.

BONNEY (lugubriously)

There's a bowler 'at
in the wardrobe.

HACKETT gives a thin smile and puts down
the file.

HACKETT (to DETECTIVE)

Keep me informed on
this one - I'll want
to know everything
you find out.

HACKETT picks up McCordale's wallet and
looks inside.

DETECTIVE

Will do.

HACKETT

There's a wife - let
me speak to her as
soon as she arrives.
Louise - round up three
or four lads and check
on Carter's associates.
You know the ones -
Alan Ziegler, Fred Robbins,
Nosey Parker, that crew.
Find out where they are
this morning and what
they're doing.

LOUISE

Right.

Exit LOUISE.

HACKETT begins to look around the room.

HACKETT (to DETECTIVE)

Keep me informed on
this one - I'll want
to know everything
you find out.

HACKETT picks up McCordale's wallet and
looks inside.

DETECTIVE

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Nosey Parker, that crew.
Find out where they are
this morning and what
they're doing.

LOUISE

Right.

Exit LOUISE.

HACKETT begins to look around the room.

HACKETT (to BONNEY)

Where was Carter
when you left?

BONNEY

Visiting his Ma.

Exit HACKETT to bathroom.

33 INT HOTEL BATHROOM DAY

Enter HACKETT. BONNEY stands in the doorway. HACKETT looks at the electric shaver, toothbrush, comb.

HACKETT

I just can't see what Carter would want with a civil servant.

BONNEY

Perhaps it's just a coincidence.

HACKETT

Keep thinking like that and you'll always be a sergeant.

HACKETT GLANCES into the bin. He frowns and picks it up. He takes from it one of several wads of cotton wool. The cotton wool is stained with something red. He shows it to BONNEY.

BONNEY

Blood?

HACKETT

Or lipstick.

BONNEY

So our bowler-hatted
civil servant spent
the night with a bird.

HACKETT

But where is she now?

BONNEY

Perhaps she left earlier.

HACKETT

Perhaps she left just
before Carter, in a
red-white-and-blue
sports car.

BONNEY

Might be a -

Then he catches HACKETT's eye and stops.

HACKETT

Might be a what, Sergeant?

BONNEY

Might be a clue, sir.

(go to p55, Sc. 38)

43 EXT MA'S HOUSE DAY

A tiny but immaculate terraced house. The Rolls-Royce is parked outside.

A little way down the road is DUKES in another car.

BONNEY in the Ford Escort drives up, parks, and goes to DUKES.

BONNEY

You're relieved. Off
you go.

BONNEY returns to his car and DUKES drives off.

CARTER comes out of the house with MA. She is frail and white-haired, and wears a shawl. CARTER holds her arm and helps her into the Rolls.

MA

You only ever come
to see me when you
need a bloody alibi.

MILLET

You were rather confident.

HECHT

I don't see how you
can refuse.
(gently) Catherine wants
you to sell, doesn't she.

MILLET

Yes. (a beat) She
told me you'd spoken
to her.

HECHT

I hope you don't mind.

MILLET

It's not quite cricket,
you know.

HECHT

We're not ~~playing~~ cricket.
(beat) Some men would be
destroyed by the sale of
their life's work. What
I learned from Catherine
was that you might be
saved by it.

MILLET

I didn't like being
pressured through my
wife.

HECHT

I'm sorry. But you're going to accept my offer, otherwise you wouldn't be here.

MILLET

There's a condition. I want the money now.

HECHT

No problem.

He picks up the phone and dials one digit.

HECHT (into phone)

Mr ~~Eric~~cott, would you write a cheque to Ernest Millet for exactly one million pounds and bring it straight in here for me to sign, please.

He hangs up.

MILLET

You must be very liquid.

HECHT gives a rather Jewish shrug.

HECHT

I own a bank ...

MILLET (warning)

I shall deposit the
cheque today.

HECHT

Why shouldn't you?

Enter ENTICOTT. He hands the cheque to
HECHT. HECHT signs cheque and copy
contract while:-

HECHT

You're entitled to
be sceptical, but ...
Catherine was right
to encourage you to
retire. You've done
enough for one
lifetime, God knows.

(go to p91)

CARTER opens the door.

TATE

You're under arrest.

CARTER

I'd like you to
meet Mr Allison ...

ALLISON appears behind CARTER.

CARTER

My lawyer.

BONNEY and TATE: their expressions say 'Oh, shit.'

(go to p136, Sc. 91)