

TRIPLE NINE II

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EPISODE 12

Resort to Murder

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TRIPLE NINE II

EPISODE #7

"Resort to Murder"

CAST LIST

MAIN

Inspector Mike Chin
Inspector Elaine Teh
Tracey Teo

SUPPORTING

Cary Ow, former actor turned businessman.
Mrs Ow Su Ling, bitter wife of Cary Ow.
COL Ng Beng San, Mrs Ow's old childhood friend.
Annette Ang, up and coming starlet.
Rex Nam, smug illusionist.
Dr Chris Menon, private surgeon.
Mrs Menon, his mother, apparently.
Hartono, police inspector.

EXTRAS

Non-uniformed Indonesian CID.
Hotel Waiters / Bartenders.
Hotel Housekeeping Staff.
Hotel Guests.
Rex's Assistants

TRIPLE NINE II

EPISODE #7

"Resort to Murder"

SETS

STUDIO

Function Room / Stage Area

LOCATION (INTERIOR)

Resort Lobby
Orzo Restaurant
Verandah Cafe
Horizon Cafe
Kopi-O Cafe
Ow's Suite
Elaine's Room
Corridor outside Function Room / Stage Area
Corridor outside Elaine's Room
Lift Area near Elaine's Room
Corridor outside Ow's Room

LOCATION (EXTERIOR)

Beach
Beach Bar
Beach Volleyball Court
Poolside
Pathway
Jetty

TEASER : The Backstory

FADE IN :

A. INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY 1 <2:00>

GALES OF LAUGHTER from a laugh track issue from the television set.

POV of PEEPER sitting by the window. The Peeper is wearing a set of blue pajamas. His or her sex is not apparent.

The Peeper leans forward and stubs out a cigarette. The LAUGHTER coalesce into the SOUNDS of a SITCOM popular about seven years ago.

The Peeper looks out the window. Idly, the Peeper picks up a pair of binoculars and looks around outside.

POV through the binoculars. We see that we're in an expensive apartment estate. The grounds are lush with greenery, the cars in the driveways are expensive.

The binoculars swing to the swimming pool, watching several PRETTY YOUNG THINGS (of both sexes) frolicking there.

Then the binoculars wander once more, focusing on the block opposite. Through one set of windows can be seen a WOMAN undressing and stepping into her bathroom. The binoculars linger for a moment then, moves on.

Through half-drawn blinds, another YOUNG WOMAN can be seen. She lies on the king-sized bed in the richly appointed bedroom. She looks very pretty and very frail. A drip is connected to her arm. Her HUSBAND, whose face is hidden by the half drawn blinds, paces back and forth, looking at his watch occasionally. He wears stylish black clothes.

The door opens. A DOCTOR (whose face is also not seen) enters, wearing dark green trousers and a doctor's coat. He has a medical bag with him.

The Husband and the Doctor confer for a moment. Then the Doctor reaches into his bag. He takes out a small bottle and a syringe.

The doctor inserts a needle into the bottle and draws out its contents into the syringe.

The doctor sticks the syringe into the drip set and injects the contents inside. Then the Husband and the Doctor step back, looking at the young woman.

A moment. Nothing happens. Suddenly, the young woman starts convulsing, her body spasms uncontrollably and violently. Her arm lashes out, ripping the drip bloodily from her arm. She struggles for breath and her face contorts in agony. She reaches out painfully to her husband. Her husband ignores her. The sound of LAUGHTER from the Sitcom reaches a crescendo. Finally, hands around her throat, she dies.

The Husband's hands are shaky with fear as he watches the doctor check for a pulse.

Then the doctor wipes his hands together in a "washing hands" motion. Cheerfully, the Doctor extends his hand. After a moment, the husband takes it.

ON the two hands clasping each other as we ...

CUT TO :

MAIN TITLES

Time of Teaser : 2 m

Total Time So Far : 2 m

ACT 1 : The Gathering

FADE IN:

1. INT. FERRY UPPER LOUNGE - DAY 2 <0:30>

CAPTION : "7 years later"

The ferry to Bintan is zipping across the water. ELAINE is looking out the window at the scenery in the distance.

MIKE (O.S.)
What are you thinking about?

Elaine turns around to see MIKE, who is settling down beside her with two cups of coffee in his hands.

ELAINE
Us.

Mike takes a sip of coffee.

MIKE
There'll be plenty of time to do that once we get to Bintan.

ELAINE
It's nice to get away for a while. Away from the job. Away from the stress. Away from ... that ...

MIKE
You're talking about Tracey.

ELAINE
(sarcastically)
Thanks for the reminder.

Mike raises his hands defensively.

MIKE
You brought it up ... Anyway. There won't be any Tracey where we're going.

ELAINE
A nice, quiet weekend. Just the way I like it.

CUT TO :

2. INT. RESORT LOBBY - DAY 2 <3:15>

ELAINE and MIKE enter the lobby and head for the front desk.
DR CHRIS MENON is already there, checking in.
He finishes signing his name and turns to them.

CHRIS
Well. You two make a lovely
couple.

Elaine smiles.

ELAINE
Thanks. You are ... ?

CHRIS
Dr Chris Menon.

Chris sticks out his hand and shakes their hands.

MIKE
Hi. Mike and Elaine.

CHRIS
And what do you do?

ELAINE
We're police inspectors.

CHRIS
(beat)
Police Inspectors? ... Wow ...
(beat)
I'd love to chat, but I have to
collect my mother. Catch you
later?

Chris leaves. Mike smiles at the DESK CLERK who approaches
him.

MIKE
We have reservations for ...
(two rooms.)

TRACEY
(O.S. interrupting)
What a surprise.

Mike and Elaine turn and find themselves face to face with
TRACEY.

MIKE
Tracey?

ELAINE
What are you doing here?

The Desk Clerk nods and hands flips through her forms.

TRACEY

I'm doing some groundwork for a story.

ELAINE

I thought you were fired?

TRACEY

I resigned -- There's a difference ... I'm just freelancing until I get back on my feet.

ELAINE

I didn't think that position was possible for you.

Tracey shoots a dagger look at Elaine. Mike hurriedly interrupts.

MIKE

Your story is about Bintan?

Tracey ignores Elaine and gives Mike a "who knew?" shrug. The Desk Clerk gives Mike two sets of keys. Tracey notices.

TRACEY

Two rooms? How quaint.

Elaine ignores her and walks off. Mike follows behind her. He looks back at Tracey who grins at him. Elaine mutters to herself.

ELAINE

Of all the nerve.

MIKE

Hey, take it easy.

ELAINE

I don't believe she actually followed you here.

MIKE

I'm sure it's just a coincidence. Just ignore her and try to enjoy the weekend. All right?

Elaine pauses, then her expression softens and she nods. Mike takes her bags for her. They turn around to go to their rooms.

From behind them comes a loud THUD. They turn and see MRS OW SU LING, sprawled onto the floor with a slightly bewildered look on her face. Her bags are scattered all around her. Elaine and Mike go to help her pick up her bags and get up off the floor. Mrs Ow nods her thanks and sees her husband CARY OW, coming from the toilet. She calls out to her husband.

MRS OW
Cary! Where have you been?
Come and help me with the bags.

Ow ignores her. He steps towards the front desk and leers at Tracey at the front desk.

MRS OW
Aiyah. Why do I bother?

Elaine helps Mrs Ow gets back on her feet.

ELAINE
Are you all right?

MRS OW
Fine. Fine, thank you.

Mike nods. Just then ANNETTE ANG makes her entrance. She's an attractive starlet dressed in a stunning red mini-dress. Ow sees her and hurries to help her. Mrs Ow looks at her in disgust as Ow helps to carry Annette's bags into the lobby.

Mrs Ow's eyes narrow. She storms over to Ow and Annette. Mrs Ow pushes Annette away from Ow. Mrs Ow turns to her husband.

MRS OW
That's it. I've had enough.

ANNETTE
Ouch! Cary! She hurt me!

MRS OW
Shut up.

OW
Don't talk to her that way.

MRS OW
Why? Your actress girlfriend
cannot stand up for herself?

ANNETTE
I'm not an actress. I'm a star!
... Right Cary?

OW
Annette, go check in first.

Annette turns with a HUMPH and glides to the front desk. Ow turns to his wife and raises his hand. Mrs Ow looks at him with fear.

OW
Don't ever humiliate me in
public.

Mike and Elaine start to step forward. As his hand descends, another hand grabs it.

COL NG
(O.S.)
That's enough.

Mrs Ow heaves a SIGH of relief and steps behind COL NG.

OW
Let go of my arm.

Col Ng releases Ow. Ow steps back and studies them for a while.

OW
Both of you. Only after my
money.

Ow spins on his heels and strides over to join Annette. Mrs Ow and Col Ng go over to Mike and Elaine. Col Ng picks up Mrs Ow's bags. Mrs Ow introduces him.

MRS OW
This is Colonel Ng. And old
friend of mine.

MIKE
Colonel?

COL NG
Retired ... Come Su Ling, let's
check in.

Mrs Ow and Col Ng leave together towards the front desk. Mike heaves the bags on his shoulders and starts walking towards their rooms.

REX
(O.S.)
Interesting bunch of people,
aren't they?

They turn around to see Rex there, a Blue Tropicana (*a type of alcoholic beverage, bluish in color*) in his hand. He nods to Mike and Elaine.

REX
Rex Nam. Master Illusionist. Be
sure to catch the show. I
promise you a New Year that you
will not forget.

Rex spins his blue cloak and throws down a small Ping-Pong sized ball. The ball explodes on the floor amidst a cloud of smoke. When the smoke clears, Rex is gone.

CUT TO :

3. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ELAINE'S ROOM - DAY 2 <1:10>

MIKE and ELAINE stop outside her room. TRACEY comes up to them in a panic.

TRACEY
Mike, I need your help.

MIKE
With what?

TRACEY
There's something wrong with the
plumbing in my room. And the
resort's fully booked, so I've
nowhere else to stay.

ELAINE
(sarcastically)
Isn't that a shame?

TRACEY
Look. I have to finish my
story. And I really need to
stay the night and I was
wondering if ...

ELAINE
(acidly)
If you could stay with Mike?

TRACEY
No. Nothing like that.

TRACEY
(beat, to Elaine)
Could I share a room with you?

ELAINE
What?

TRACEY
I'll even pay for the room.

Elaine thinks for a moment.

ELAINE
No.

TRACEY
I promise I'll stay out of your way ... And I'll get another room first thing in the morning.

ELAINE
'N' - 'O'. No.

MIKE
C'mon, Elaine.

Elaine spins to Mike.

ELAINE
You want her to stay?

MIKE
She needs a place to do her work.

TRACEY
Look. I know we both started out on the wrong foot.
(smiles endearingly)
But I think this is a chance for us to get to know each other a little better.

ELAINE
I don't want to know you "a little better".

MIKE
(to Elaine)
Why don't you stay with me, then she can have your room?

ELAINE
I've a better idea. Why don't
you stay, she stay, and I go
back to Singapore.

Elaine snatches her bag from Mike's hands and leaves, storming past CHRIS. Chris is wheeling Mrs Menon to their room next door. Tracey leans over to Mike.

TRACEY
Thanks, Mike.

Mike shoots Tracey an annoyed look and goes after Elaine.

CUT TO :

4. INT. LIFT AREA NEAR ELAINE'S ROOM - DAY 2 <0:45>

MIKE catches up with ELAINE. He catches her elbow.

MIKE
Hey ... Hey.

Elaine turns to Mike angrily.

ELAINE
You told her about our weekend,
didn't you?

MIKE
No!

Elaine glares at Mike.

MIKE
She has as much right here as
anyone.

ELAINE
How did she find out we'd be
here?

MIKE
She's a reporter. She's trained
to find out things like that.

ELAINE
This was our weekend. Our
chance to work things out.

MIKE
We still have that chance ...
Look. Tracey or no Tracey.
This break is just for the two
of us ... All right?

Elaine calms down and nods slowly. She takes a deep breath.

MIKE
Why don't you stay with me, and
let her have the room to
herself?

Elaine shakes her head with a tight smile.

ELAINE
I can take anything she throws
at me.

ON ELAINE'S look of determination.

CUT TO :

5. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ELAINE'S ROOM - DAY 2 <0:20>

TRACEY is waiting when ELAINE returns with MIKE. Through gritted teeth, Elaine announces.

ELAINE
You can stay with me.

TRACEY
Thanks ... I'll go get my bags.

Tracey leaves. Elaine heaves a SIGH and rolls her eyes.

ELAINE
It's going to be a long weekend.

Mike leans forward and gives her a peck on the cheek.

MIKE
Get changed. I'll see you on
the beach.

ON ELAINE, managing a weak smile.

CUT TO :

6. EXT. BEACH - DAY 2 <0:35>

MIKE arrives on the beach, dressed in swimming trunks and a colorful Hawaiian shirt. ANNETTE is next to him, dressed in a scandalous scarlet swimsuit and a pair of sunglasses. There's

a tall glass of tomato juice next to her. She's busy rubbing sun oil on herself. As Mike puts down his stuff on a beach chair, Annette spills a large amount of oil on her back. It flows quickly down her back. Annette panics and runs to Mike.

ANNETTE

Help, help. I'm dripping.

She turns around in front of Mike. Mike is taken aback when he suddenly finds himself facing her shapely derriere.

ANNETTE

Quick. Don't waste.

Mike grabs a towel and stops the oil from flowing off Annette's back.

ANNETTE

Thank you.

MIKE

Anytime.

Annette kneels down in front of Mike, presenting her back to him.

ANNETTE

If you don't mind. Can you spread it out properly for me?

OFF MIKE's "Who-IS-this-person?" look.

CUT TO :

7. INT. ELAINE'S ROOM - DAY 2 <0:35>

TRACEY is entering the room. Tracey has her bags with her. ELAINE is on her way out, carrying a small bag. ELAINE is dressed in a racy two-piece swimsuit. Tracey smiles at Elaine.

TRACEY

I can't begin tell you how grateful I am.

ELAINE

Try anyway. You might surprise yourself.

Elaine heads for the door. Tracey calls out.

TRACEY

I like your suit. It really flatters you.

Elaine turns to Tracey.

ELAINE

(beat)

Let's get this straight. I don't like you. You don't like me ... I'm only letting you stay because it seems important to Mike ... So just do us both a favor and keep out of my way.

Elaine leaves, SLAMMING the door behind her. ON TRACEY looking at the closed door, a slight smile on her lips.

CUT TO :

8. EXT. BEACH - DAY 2 <1:20>

ANNETTE is chatting with MIKE. Annette is sipping on her glass of tomato juice. Mike wears a tolerant expression on his face, as one would wear when talking to someone of a mental age of five-and-a-half.

ANNETTE

You're so handsome. You look just like my co-star, Randy Kwok.

MIKE

Do I?

Annette nods emphatically.

ANNETTE

He asked me not to marry Cary, you know? ... Marry Cary? ... Got rhyme. So cute. Anyway. I told him ... If Cary wants to marry me. I say no very stupid, right? ... Cary is very rich, you know?

Mike nods past Annette at MRS OW. Annette turns and looks. Mrs Ow is walking by, dressed in white tights.

MIKE

I thought "Cary" was already married?

ANNETTE

They're divorcing already ...
Look at her, so ugly. So
fat still want to wear tights
... She looks like a ...
marshmallow.

Annette TITTERS at her wit. ELAINE comes up to them dressed in a well-cut two-piece swimsuit. She has a towel and a small bag with her. Elaine looks annoyed. Mike helps her with her stuff.

MIKE

How was it?

ELAINE

Nothing I can't handle.

Elaine looks over to the resort building. Mike follows her glance. He sees TRACEY there looking at them. Tracey waves cheerily to him.

MIKE

Let's get in the water. It'll
make you feel better.

Elaine nods. Mike peels off his shirt and gets ready to go for a dip. Annette eyes him surreptitiously behind her sunglasses. As they both get ready to go, Annette turns around suddenly.

ANNETTE

Oh. I forgot. Afterwards, you
want to play ball with me?

Mike stops and turns around. He sees Annette pointing to the beach volleyball court. Realization hits him.

MIKE

Beach volleyball?

Annette nods.

ANNETTE

Just now on the boat. Dr Chris
asked me to ask you.

Mike looks at Elaine. Elaine shrugs "Why not?". Mike nods.

MIKE

Okay. See you then.

Mike and Elaine head for the sea. OFF ANNETTE as she watches them go.

CUT TO :

9. INT. STAGE AREA - DAY 2 <1:30>

CARY OW steps past a sign announcing "The Magnificent Rex! Every Night At 8pm!" REX is on the stage, checking the catches for the night's show. In front of him is his best trick: A frame of spikes hanging over a coffin-like box. The spikes are slowly rising to the ceiling, their sharp points gleaming eerily in the dim light. A loud mechanical CLANKING sound accompanies the spikes as they rise. A DRUMROLL grows louder and louder as the spikes go higher. Ow approaches the stage angrily, waving the letter in his hand.

OW

What is the meaning of this?

The plate of spikes reaches the ceiling. The DRUMROLLS cease. The CLANKING stops. It is deathly silent for a second before the frame of spikes is released and it hurtles down. The spikes impale the coffin-box, appearing through the bottom of it. Then the sides of the box pop open and reveals ... Nothing. It is empty inside.

Rex looks up from the trick in satisfaction. He grins at Ow, gesturing to the box.

REX

Bet you wish I was in there,
right?

OW

Now you're a mind reader, too?

Rex CHUCKLES, rubbing his hands on the back of his pants.

REX

Well. You seem upset.

Ow shakes the letter at Rex.

OW

Why did you double the amount?

Rex glances at the letter and shrugs. He turns and starts bustling with his other acts, checking out his trick swords and ropes.

REX

Now that you're getting
divorced, I thought you'd want
to share your happiness.

OW
But I can't afford twenty
thousand.

REX
You should've thought of that
before you did it.

Ow advances on Rex.

OW
Keep this up and you'll regret
it.

Rex draws a sword and waves it in front of Ow. Ow stops
quickly.

REX
Is that a threat?

They stare hard at each other for a moment. The point of the
sword hovers unwaveringly in front of Ow's face. Then, a jet
of water jets out from the point into Ow's face. Ow SPLUTTERS
in surprise, wiping away the water. Rex LAUGHS and brings
down the sword.

REX
Gets them every time.
(beat)
Lucky for you, I'm a reasonable
man. I suppose we could ...
negotiate.

Ow nods as he takes out a handkerchief. Then he looks around
the stage. Rex's tricks all seem to involve a sharp object of
some sort. Ow shakes his head in annoyance.

OW
Not here.

Rex looks around and raises his arms to protest. But Ow cuts
him off.

OW
The Beach Bar. 11:30.

Without waiting for an answer, Ow spins on his heels and
storms off. Rex turns and picks up a glass of Blue Tropicana,
sipping it thoughtfully as he watches Ow go.

CUT TO :

9A. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE FUNCTION ROOM - DAY 2 <0:05>

Ow passes TRACEY in the doorway, who is coming out of the lounge and has heard the entire exchange.

CUT TO :

10. EXT. BEACH BAR - DAY 2 <1:30>

MIKE and ELAINE, still in their swimsuits, slowly sip their fruit juices as they wait for the others to arrive. COL NG and MRS OW are at a table next to them. Col Ng nurses his beer while Mrs Ow finishes up the last of her Irish cream. Mrs Ow seems quite upset. She's talking loudly.

MRS OW

He thinks this is funny. Making me spend the whole weekend in front of his mistress.

COL NG

It's not the first time.

MRS OW

I know ... But I can't take it anymore.

COL NG

It won't be much longer. Soon you'll be free.

MRS OW

Sometimes I really feel like killing him.

Col Ng reaches out and holds her hand, which is clenched in anger. Gently he SHUSHES her.

COL NG

Don't say such things.

OW

(O.S.)

Why not? I wish she'd die, too.

Mrs Ow and Col Ng turn around and they see CARY OW walking in. A glass of stout in one hand, ANNETTE on the other. Ow steers Annette to a table beside his wife's. Annette slides into a chair next to Ow. Ow puts down his stout and pulls Annette closer. He sneers at Mrs Ow.

OW

Hello dear. Hope I'm interrupting something.

Mrs Ow ignores him. Ow leans over to Annette and kisses Annette on the neck. Annette GIGGLES and tries to push him away.

ANNETTE
Cary ... stop, lah.

Mrs Ow stands up abruptly, pushing back her chair. Haughtily, she announces.

MRS OW
I'm going for a walk.

OW
Don't come back.

Annette GIGGLES again. Mrs Ow tosses her head. Col Ng downs the rest of his beer and stands up, escorting Mrs Ow away. Ow turns back to Annette. Without looking at Mrs Ow, he says.

OW
Don't do anything I would.

Col Ng flushes. He steps forward. He's about to grab Ow's shoulder when CHRIS comes in from the lobby WHISTLING cheerfully. He holds a volleyball in his hands. Behind him, TRACEY wanders in as well.

CHRIS
Hey. The gang's all here ...
Ready, Annette?

Col Ng stops. Stiffly he turns around and escorts Mrs Ow away. Elaine and Mike rise. Annette zips over to Mike and clings to his arm.

ANNETTE
I want to be on your team.

Mike looks a little taken-aback. He looks at Elaine. Elaine rolls her eyes.

MIKE
Sure.

ANNETTE
Yay.
(to Ow)
Cary, can you order a drink for me?

OW
Finish the game first.

Chris looks at Tracey.

CHRIS
You want to play?

Tracey looks at Elaine. Their eyes lock for a moment.

TRACEY
I don't think so.

CHRIS
(to Elaine)
Looks like it's just you and me.

Annette grabs Mike's arm. Together they go down to the courts, followed by Chris, Tracey and Elaine.

TRACEY
Was it just me? Or did you also
hear the wind whistling through
her skull.

CHRIS
Feel privileged. It's not
everyday you meet someone whose
IQ matches her bra size.

OFF Elaine shaking her head.

CUT TO :

11. EXT. BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT - DAY 2 <0:30>

The game goes badly for MIKE. ELAINE and CHRIS make a good team. ANNETTE is only good at fumbling. Lots of beauty shots (*a la Baywatch*) of Mike, Elaine and Annette diving into the sand, leaping into the air, etc.

CUT TO :

12. EXT. BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT - DAY 2 <1:00>

MIKE springs forward for the ball, but ANNETTE gets in the way. The ball bounces on the sand and sails out of his reach. Mike exhales. He wipes the perspiration from his forehead. From across the court, ELAINE calls out cheerily.

ELAINE
11 - 2.

Mike glares at her. He goes after the ball. As Mike bends down to pick it up, he glances over to the Beach Bar. OW is sitting there watching them. A WAITER goes up to him with a Blue Tropicana. He asks Ow a question and Ow gestures

opposite him. The waiter puts the drink there. Elaine calls out to Mike.

ELAINE
We're waiting.

Mike throws the ball to Elaine.

ELAINE
Ready?

MIKE
Anytime.

Elaine serves and Mike bounces it back to her. Elaine smashes the ball towards Annette. Annette YELPS in alarm and covers her head. The ball whizzes by her. Mike rolls his eyes and rubs his temples with a hand. He's getting a headache.

ELAINE
Yes! ... Game.

MIKE
(under his breath)
I know. I know.

Elaine looks pleased with herself. She glances over to the Beach Bar. Ow looks at his watch, puzzled. Then he gets up and leaves the Beach Bar. Mike goes over to Annette, who is uncovering her head cautiously.

ANNETTE
Your girlfriend ... play so fierce.

MIKE
She likes to win.

ANNETTE
Not sporting ... I don't want to play anymore.

With a huff, Annette heads back for the Beach Bar. Mike SIGHS and shakes his head. He looks at Elaine. Elaine shrugs. Her eyes wander down the beach where she can see MRS OW and COL NG returning from their walk. Mike calls out to Elaine and CHRIS.

MIKE
Let's call it a day.

Chris shrugs "OK".

ELAINE

Quitter.

CUT TO :

13. EXT. PATHWAY - DAY 2 <0:45>

TRACEY is on her way to the Beach Bar. She sees REX coming from the stage area. Rex wipes his grimy hands on the seat of his pants. Across from Rex, OW enters from the Beach Bar. They talk a moment. Ow looks upset, pointing at his watch. Rex LAUGHS and claps Ow on the back. Ow looks annoyed. Rex walks out to the Beach Bar. After a moment, Ow follows.

CUT TO :

14. EXT. BEACH BAR - DAY 2 <0:35>

The players are returning from their game, hot and tired. ANNETTE gets back first. REX and OW are stepping in from the lobby. From around the corner, COL NG and MRS OW are returning from their walk.

ANNETTE

Wah. Hot like anything.

Annette grabs the Blue Tropicana from Ow's table and gulps it down. MIKE, ELAINE and CHRIS head for their table. TRACEY enters from behind Rex and Ow. Annette looks uncomfortable. She starts GASPING.

MIKE

Annette?

The glass slips out of Annette's fingers and SHATTERS on the floor. Everyone's attention is drawn to Annette.

MIKE

Annette!

Mike rushes over to her as she collapses, hands at her throat. Mike presses his fingers to her neck as the crowd gathers around.

MIKE

No pulse.

Laying her back, Mike starts presses his hands on her. He pounds her chest desperately. Chris leans down and bends towards her face. He catches a sniff of something and quickly pulls back.

MIKE

Come on ... come on.

Chris reaches out a hand holds Mike's shoulder.

CHRIS

It's too late. She's dead.

ON Mike looking stunned.

FADE OUT.

Time of Act 1 : 13 m 10 s
Total Time so far : 15 m 10 s

ACT 2 : The Investigation

FADE IN:

15. EXT. BEACH BAR - DAY 2 <1:00>

PC HARESH is keeping off to one side, taking down statements from the SPARSE CROWD. SGT GULAM is taking photographs of ANNETTE's body. MIKE looks at the broken glass near Annette. ELAINE is standing halfway between the Beach Bar and the Beach Volleyball Court, a puzzled expression on her face. HARTONO arrives, looking around alertly. His eyes light on Mike.

HARTONO
Mike? ... Michael Chin?

Mike turns, surprised.

MIKE
Tony?

HARTONO
How're you? What're you doing here?

MIKE
On holiday. Don't tell me you're in charge here?

HARTONO
Posted here about a year ago.

Elaine returns from the volleyball court. Mike introduces Elaine and Tracey.

MIKE
Guys. This is Hartono. We went to school together.

TRACEY
Tracey Teo.

ELAINE
Hi. Elaine.

HARTONO
Glad to meet you ... Well, let's get down to business. What do we have here?

MIKE
Poisoning, apparently.

Hartono nods.

HARTONO
Do we know what type?

MIKE
I'm not sure. Judging from how
fast she died, probably
something quite potent.

HARTONO
An autopsy will find that out
... Now ... the poison was in
her drink?

Mike nods.

HARTONO
Who could've tampered with the
glass?

MIKE
Offhand, I'd say ... the
bartender?

ELAINE
The waiter.

Mike nods.

MIKE
Then there's Ow himself. He was
sitting here. Alone.

HARTONO
OK. Let's start with the
bartender.

Mike, Hartono and Tracey head for the bar.

CUT TO :

16. EXT. BAR - DAY 2 <1:15>

HARTONO finishes talking to the BARTENDER and the WAITER in Indonesian. MIKE and ELAINE are already at the bar. TRACEY comes forward and manages to insert herself between Mike and Elaine. Hartono finishes up and turns to them. He points to the bar counter.

HARTONO
The drink was made by the
bartender. He left it here
until the waiter served it.

MIKE

How long in between?

HARTONO

About a minute at most.

MIKE

Did the bartender or waiter see anyone going near it?

Hartono shakes his head.

ELAINE

Have they met Annette before?

HARTONO

No. And you can trust their word ... Look, Mike. We seldom get cases like this here. I'd appreciate any help you can give me.

Mike nods.

MIKE

Sure. Let's start by questioning the others.

Hartono nods and goes. Mike follows a couple of steps, then stops. Elaine is not moving. Tracey comes up behind them and watches.

MIKE

Aren't you coming?

ELAINE

I'm sure the local police can handle this.

MIKE

But if I can help in any way ...
(I have to.)

ELAINE

(interrupts)
We came here to talk about us.

MIKE

I know. But this is important.
(beat)
Don't tell me you're not interested.

Elaine pauses for a moment. Then she

nods. Tracey sees her cue.

TRACEY
I'm coming, too.

ELAINE
What?

TRACEY
If you can help, why not me?

MIKE
You're not a police officer.

TRACEY
And you're not in Singapore.

A moment's silence.

TRACEY
Besides, two heads are better
than one ... I'll go tell
Hartono.

Tracey goes after Hartono. Elaine and Mike watch her go.

ELAINE
I'm not going to spend the whole
day with ...

Words fail Elaine. She points at Tracey. Mike reassures her.

MIKE
Why don't you look around? ...
See what you can find?

Elaine nods.

ELAINE
Anything to keep her away from
me.

CUT TO :

17. EXT. POOLSIDE - DAY 2 <1:00>

CARY OW looks distraught. He sits uncomfortably wringing his hands.

OW
I never meant for this to
happen.

HARTONO looks at MIKE, who is sitting with TRACEY.

MIKE

Could you explain that?

OW

This weekend. It's turning out all wrong.

MIKE

What were your plans for this weekend?

OW

I just wanted to drive my wife crazy. The same thing she always does to me.

HARTONO

If you can't get along, why're you here together?

OW

She wants my money after the divorce. Until then, she has to do anything I tell her to.

MIKE

Did you order the drink for Annette?

Ow hesitates, then nods. Mike studies Ow's face for a moment.

MIKE

You mentioned you were an actor? You retired from acting ... When?

OW

Seven years ago.

MIKE

What did you do after that?

OW

I invested in a small chemical plant.

HARTONO

So you had easy access to poisons?

Ow realizes where the questioning is going.

OW
I didn't kill Annette.

MIKE
After the drink arrived, you
left the table. Why?

OW
I was looking for Rex. We were
supposed to have a meeting.

HARTONO
About what?

OW
Money.

MIKE
What about money?

Ow blusters.

OW
It's private ... Nothing to do
with Annette.

MIKE
You were very close to Annette.
Did you know of anyone who might
want her dead?

OW
No. No. Except ...

Ow's voice trails off. Mike sits up, looking a little more
alert.

TRACEY
Except?

OW
Maybe my wife. But she couldn't
have.

MIKE
Why not?

OW
We're already getting divorced.
Annette can't have meant
anything to her.

REX
(V.O.)
If you want my opinion ...

CUT TO :

18. INT. STAGE AREA - DAY 2 <1:15>

MIKE, TRACEY and HARTONO are questioning REX.

REX
... I'd say it's Ow himself who
killed her.

REX is being interviewed. He has a glass of Blue Tropicana in one hand and playing with a coin in another. As they talk, Rex rolls the coin between his fingers and does tricks with it.

MIKE
Why do you say that?

REX
He was closest to the Blue
Tropicana.

TRACEY
The what?

Rex shows Mike the glass he's holding.

REX
The Blue Tropicana.

HARTONO
It's the specialty drink around
here.

TRACEY
But why would Ow kill Annette?

REX
I haven't figured that out yet.
Maybe he wanted to end the
relationship, and she wouldn't
let him.

Rex puts his glass down at a small table. He picks up a deck of cards.

MIKE
Unlikely. They're not married.
Ow could leave anytime he wants.

REX
You don't know her like I do.

Rex starts playing with his cards. A simple "Three Card Monty" game with three face down cards. Tracey watches him moving the three cards around.

TRACEY
You've met her before?

REX
Once, a long time ago.

MIKE
What can you tell us about her?

Rex lets Tracey pick a card.

REX
Let's just say there's more to her than meets the eye.

Tracey points to one. Rex picks it up. It's the wrong one.

TRACEY
How'd you do that? Try it again?

Rex grins.

REX
Never try the same trick twice.

Mike brings the conversation back on track. Rex picks up his coin again. He plays with it once more.

MIKE
You had a meeting with Mr Ow?

REX
Yes.

MIKE
But you were late. Why?

REX
(shrugs)
I was checking out the equipment for tonight's show. Can't be too careful.

HARTONO
What was the meeting about?

REX
(beat)
Money that he owes me.

TRACEY
I think Ow said something about
you doubling the amount he has
to pay?

REX
It's not polite to eavesdrop,
Miss Teo. It might get you
into trouble one day.

MIKE
Why does he owe you money?

REX
I'm afraid you'll have to ask
him. He's the one with
something to hide.

With a small gesture of his hand, the coin vanishes.

CUT TO :

19. INT. ORZO RESTAURANT - DAY 2 <1:30>

CHRIS sits by himself, reading an Agatha Christie novel "Evil under the Sun". ELAINE steps out. She's changed from her swimsuit to something more practical. She sees Chris and goes up to him.

ELAINE
Looking for inspiration?

Chris looks up, confused. Elaine points to the book.

ELAINE
About the murder.

Realization hits Chris' face. He smiles.

CHRIS
No. Just passing the time.

Elaine looks around.

ELAINE
Where's your mother?

CHRIS
She's a little seasick. I've
given her something to help her
sleep.

Elaine gestures to a chair.

ELAINE
Mind if I join you?

CHRIS
(smiling)
I've yet to refuse the company
of any beautiful woman.

Elaine grins as she settles into a chair next to him. They
both look out at the scenery.

CHRIS
Lovely place. Isn't it?

ELAINE
Been here before?

Chris shakes his head.

CHRIS
Hard to imagine a murder
happening here.

Elaine smiles and shows Chris the book cover. "Evil Under the
Sun".

ELAINE
Everywhere there is evil under
the sun.

Chris CHUCKLES.

ELAINE
Have you known the Ow family
long?

CHRIS
A few years. Dad used to be the
family doctor.

ELAINE
And you?

Chris shakes his head.

CHRIS
I have my own practice. But I
still keep in touch with the
family.

ELAINE
So what do you think about
Annette's murder?

Chris nods and pulls up closer to Elaine. Looking around
furtively, he leans forward with a stage whisper.

CHRIS
Just between you and me. I
think the killer is a woman.

ELAINE
Why?

CHRIS
Poisoning is the usual Modus
Operandi for a woman, isn't it?

Elaine's brows furrow in thought.

ELAINE
Where's that from? ... Ellery
Queen? Conan Doyle?

Chris grins. He shows Elaine the book cover.

CHRIS
Christie.

Elaine glares at him.

CUT TO :

20. EXT. POOLSIDE - DAY 2 <0:30>

HARTONO, MIKE and TRACEY are questioning MRS OW. Mrs Ow seems
calm and measured. She explains patiently to them.

MRS OW
Annette was no different from
the others. Trying to part the
fool from his money.

MIKE
And you resent that?

MRS OW
He can do what he wants. Under
the terms of our divorce, I'll
get half of what he owns.

HARTONO
When will that be?

MRS OW
Next month. So you see. I
don't care about his
girlfriends.

HARTONO
Where were you when Annette was
killed?

MRS OW
Taking a walk. With Colonel Ng.

MIKE
When did you leave?

MRS OW
About 11:05.

HARTONO
And what time did you return to
the Beach Bar?

CUT TO :

21. INT. VERANDAH CAFE - DAY 2 <0:25>

ELAINE is talking with COL NG in a plush lobby chair.

COL NG
11:30.

ELAINE
What is the nature of your
relationship with Mrs Ow?

COL NG
(a moment's pause)
We're old friends.

ELAINE
How old?

COL NG
Since childhood.

Elaine leans forward.

ELAINE
I'm sorry if this offends you.
But it seems to me that you two
were more than friends.

Col Ng stops a moment.

COL NG
Look. I'll be frank. I don't
like Ow. I think he's treated
his wife very badly.

ELAINE
And that made you angry?

Col Ng shrugs.

ELAINE
Angry enough for you to do
something rash?

COL NG
Nonsense! If I wanted to kill
anyone, it'll be him.

CUT TO :

22. EXT. BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT - DAY 2 <1:00>

MIKE and TRACEY are walking down to the court. They look
around at the area. Mike looks at the stage area, the Beach
Bar, and then at the beach. He shakes his head.

TRACEY
There seems to be only one
possible suspect.

MIKE
(nods)
Cary Ow.

TRACEY
Annette and Dr Chris were
playing beach volley with you.

MIKE
(pointing)
Mrs Ow and Col Ng were by the
beach.

TRACEY
And Rex was in the hall
preparing for his show.

Mike shakes his head.

MIKE
Everyone had an alibi ...

TRACEY
Feels like the whole thing was staged, wasn't it?

CHRIS and ELAINE approach.

CHRIS
Any suspects yet?

TRACEY
All the guests are accounted for.

MIKE
Except for your mother.

CHRIS
You must be joking. She's under sedation.

HARTONO comes up to them, excited. He has a piece of paper in his hand.

HARTONO
I've got the autopsy results. Guess what poison was used?

They look confused.

HARTONO
Cyanide.

MIKE
Cary Ow runs a chemical plant.

TRACEY
No. It's too neat.

MIKE
Where is he now?

A GUNSHOT echoes throughout the resort. They look about.

HARTONO
What the ... ?

Chris points at a Cabin.

CHRIS

There!

Together, they rush off.

CUT TO :

23. INT. OW'S SUITE - DAY 2 <0:15>

HARTONO, MIKE, TRACEY, ELAINE and CHRIS burst into the room. They see OW sprawled face-up on the couch. The front of his shirt is covered with blood. The room is smoky, and the rear window is open. Chris rushes forward and slips his hand under Ow's body. He checks for a pulse. Then he looks up.

CHRIS

He's dead.

FADE OUT.

Time for Act 2 : 8 m 10 s
Total Time so far : 23 m 20 s

ACT 3 : The Twist

FADE IN :

24. INT. OW'S SUITE - DAY 2 <0:50>

MIKE, ELAINE, TRACEY, CHRIS and HARTONO are looking about the room. A SMALL CROWD is starting to gather in the corridor outside. Mike looks around the room, waving smoke away from his face.

MIKE
Gun was fired in this room.

Chris' arms are crossed tightly across his chest.

CHRIS
But who'd want to kill him?

Hartono goes over and searches Ow's body, around it and under it.

HARTONO
The gun's not here now. Can't
be suicide.

MIKE
Suicides don't usually shoot
themselves in the chest.

Hartono straightens up. He points at the balcony.

HARTONO
The killer must have gotten out
there.

Mike goes to the balcony, looking outside. It's three floors up with some other balconies adjacent to it. There are some people on the neighboring balconies, looking curiously at them.

MIKE
Quite a risk. Too many people
around.

ELAINE
Not to mention a three storey
drop.

Tracey steps nearer Ow's body. She looks at it curiously. She leans down to have a closer look at the wound.

TRACEY
I wonder if he left a dying
clue?

ELAINE
This isn't a detective novel.

Tracey touches Ow's body. Chris looks uncomfortably at the
body.

CHRIS
Wait ... Are you supposed to do
that?

Hartono turns and sees.

HARTONO
Better not disturb the evidence.
(To Tracey)
We'll wait for the Scene of
Crime people outside.

Hartono leads the way outside, shooing away the curious CROWD.
Behind him follows Elaine, Mike, Tracey and Chris.

HARTONO
Move away. This is a crime
scene.

CUT TO :

25. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OW'S SUITE - DAY 2 <0:50>

The CROWD moves off a little. HARTONO waves them further down
the corridor as he steps out from the room. Hartono turns to
a passing JANITOR.

HARTONO
(in Indonesian)
Get the other police here.

The Janitor nods and leaves. Then he turns back to MIKE,
TRACEY, ELAINE and CHRIS. They slowly walk away from the
room.

HARTONO
I don't believe this. Two in a
row!

Behind them, the crowd seems to close back in, looking into
the room with curiosity.

CHRIS
I thought he was the murderer.
Who'd want to kill him?

Hartono SIGHS and shake his head.

HARTONO
We have to start questioning
everyone in the resort again.

MIKE
Not necessarily ... I think the
killer has to be someone a lot
closer to the family.

HARTONO
Why?

MIKE
It just seems too ... complex
... for an outsider to be
involved.

Hartono looks confused.

MIKE
I'll explain when I get more
proof.

Behind them, the crowd seems to push nearer towards the room.
A LANKY WAITER, in particular, seems to be stepping into the
room, looking about curiously. Hartono notices.

HARTONO
(in Indonesian)
Hey! You. Get away from there.

The lanky waiter jumps in shock. Then quickly turns around
and walks away. Hartono looks at his retreating back.

HARTONO
These people ... We'll start the
interviews after we get the body
out of here.

PC HARESH and SGT GULAM from the Scene-of-Crime Unit arrives.
Hartono nods.

HARTONO
Ah, good.

Hartono leads PC Haresh and SGT Gulam into the room. At the
doorway he stops short. Hartono looks stunned.

HARTONO
What the ... ?

Mike and Tracey pushes forward and sees the problem. The body is gone.

TIME DISSOLVE TO :

26. INT. OW'S SUITE - DAY 2 <0:40>

HARTONO paces furiously. He's in a bad mood. MIKE, TRACEY and ELAINE are with him. SGT GULAM is dusting for fingerprints around the sofa. Hartono is barking out instructions to PC HARESH.

HARTONO
(in Indonesian)
Set up road blocks. Tell the
customs people to keep an
eye out for anything unusual.

PC Haresh nods and leaves. Hartono turns back to Mike. Elaine walks in from the balcony.

HARTONO
This is unbelievable. Who'd
want to steal the body.

MIKE
But more importantly, how?

Tracey points at the balcony.

TRACEY
Isn't it obvious?

Mike shakes his head.

MIKE
It's not possible to carry a
body down three stories.

ELAINE
It's also pretty crowded
outside. Someone would have
seen something.

TRACEY
But the only other way out is
through the front door ... And
I'm sure I'd notice someone
carrying a body.

HARTONO
Why would anyone come back and
steal the body?

TRACEY
And under all our noses, too ...
This murderer has style.

Elaine shakes her head at Tracey's callousness. Mike gets a
brainwave, he turns to Hartono.

MIKE
Hold on. The waiter you chased
away. Maybe he saw something.

CUT TO :

27. INT. HORIZON CAFE - DAY 2 <0:40>

HARTONO is looking at a row of WAITERS. MIKE, ELAINE and
TRACEY are with him. Hartono shakes his head.

HARTONO
He's not here.

MIKE
Are you sure?

HARTONO
I know what he looked like.
He's not here.

Hartono looks fed up. He waves his hand. The waiters
disperse. Hartono and Mike start walking towards the lobby.
Tracey and Elaine follow.

MIKE
Could there be another shift of
waiters?

Hartono shakes his head.

HARTONO
No.

TRACEY
Maybe he didn't see anything
helpful.

ELAINE
That's not the point. How could
a waiter just vanish into thin
air?

HARTONO
Vanishing waiters, disappearing
bodies. They never taught
things like this in the academy.

TRACEY
But why was the body was stolen
in the first place?

MIKE
I think if we figure out how the
body disappeared, we'll figure
out why.

CUT TO :

28. INT. HORIZON CAFE PLATFORM - DAY 2 <1:20>

COL NG is comforting MRS OW. HARTONO and MIKE are sitting
opposite them. REX is there as well, sipping on a glass of
Blue Tropicana.

HARTONO
Now that your husband's dead,
how much do you get?

MRS OW
Nothing. He gave all his money
to his company.

COL NG
See? She has no motive.

MIKE
We still need to know where you
were at the time of the murder.

MRS OW
I was resting. In my room.

HARTONO
Can anyone verify that?

Mrs Ow shakes her head.

COL NG
That doesn't mean she killed
anyone.

Rex butts in.

REX
But you know what they say.
"Hell hath no fury ..."

Col Ng hops to his feet.

COL NG

What about you? You're the
"magician". If anyone can make
a body disappear, it'd be you ...

REX

Oh, please.

HARTONO

Calm down. Both of you. This is
just procedure. I need you to
account for all your actions.
All right?

REX

I was having lunch in the
Japanese restaurant.

COL NG

I was on the beach.

MIKE

And Dr Chris was with us.

Hartono looks at Mike.

HARTONO

Anything you'd like to ask?

MIKE

Just a matter of curiosity. Mrs
Ow, when did you meet your
husband?

MRS OW

About seven years ago. After
his first wife died of a heart
attack.

MIKE

Where did you meet him?

MRS OW

We did an amateur play together.
Me, Cary and Chris.

MIKE

Oh? What was it called?

MRS OW

"Mousetrap".

OFF MIKE looking thoughtful.

CUT TO :

29. INT. ELAINE'S ROOM - DAY 2 <0:45>

ELAINE and TRACEY are getting ready for the evening. Elaine grabs a towel heads for the bathroom. Tracey, already wrapped in a towel, meets her at the doorway.

TRACEY

So. Who do you think the killer is?

Elaine gestures to Tracey's swimsuit.

ELAINE

I thought you were here to work?

TRACEY

I am ... Starting tomorrow.

ELAINE

Doesn't sound very professional to me.

TRACEY

It's the weekend, after all.

ELAINE

I know what you're trying to do.

Tracey smiles.

TRACEY

It'd be no fun if you didn't.

ELAINE

It's not going to work.

TRACEY

I'd say that's a decision for Mike, wouldn't you?

Tracey steps past Elaine to enter the bathroom. ON Elaine, furious.

CUT TO :

30. INT. STAGE AREA - NIGHT 2 <1:15>

REX's show is in full swing. He's on the stage with his ASSISTANTS, doing his tricks. MIKE, TRACEY, ELAINE, and COL

NG are at a table. There are some seats still empty. They all have drinks before them on the low table. CHRIS comes in, wheeling his mother, MRS MENON. She is swathed in thick black clothes.

MIKE

Mrs Menon.

ELAINE

How're you feeling?

Mrs Menon croaks out an answer. Her voice sounds muffled.

MRS MENON

Fine, thank you.

CHRIS

I'm sorry. Mom can't really speak properly.

MRS OW walks into the Stage Area, looking angry. She has a crumpled letter in her hand. She stares at Rex on stage. Then sits down stiffly. Col Ng leans over to her and asks her a question softly. Mrs Ow nods.

CHRIS

Terrible business. All these murders.

COL NG

Two in a day! Tell me. Is this normal for you people?

MIKE

(beat)

Yeah.

Mrs Menon COUGHS. Elaine leans forward.

ELAINE

It's a little cold here. Maybe you should button your coat.

Mrs Menon looks down and reaches for the buttons. She can't seem to button them because she has them the wrong way round. Chris quickly gets up and helps her.

CHRIS

Here, let me.

DRUMROLLS start. From the stage, Rex rolls out his final trick. The coffin-box and the spikes.

REX
And now! The Sarcophagus of
Doom! Who can escape from this
chamber of death?

Rex gets into the box. He closes the lid and his Assistant
padlocks it shut. The DRUMROLLS get louder. The spikes begin
to rise to the ceiling, CLANKING as they go.

INTERCUT WITH :

31. INT. BOX - NIGHT 2 <0:05>

Rex smiles as he listens to the mechanical CLANKING and the
DRUMROLLS grow louder. Then he turns aside. There's a catch
in the box. He pulls it. Nothing happens.

INTERCUT WITH :

32. INT. STAGE AREA - NIGHT 2 <0:05>

The spikes are rising higher. Higher. The CLANKING and
DRUMROLLS get louder and louder.

INTERCUT WITH :

33. INT. BOX - NIGHT 2 <0:05>

Rex pushes the secret panel. It's jammed. He pushes the lid
of the box, but it's chained shut. Rex opens his mouth to
shout for help.

INTERCUT WITH :

34. INT. STAGE AREA - NIGHT 2 <0:20>

Rex's cries are drowned out by the DRUMROLL and CLANKING.
Just as the spikes reach the top, the DRUMROLLS and CLANKING
stop. They all hear the pounding of Rex in the box.

REX
(O.S.)
Help! Let me out!

Mike leaps to his feet.

MIKE
Oh my God.

The spikes are released. It hurtles down. Into the box.
Rex's SCREAM cuts off abruptly. The spikes that appear
through the bottom of the box are stained red. The sides of
the box pops open. The audience all GASPS and SCREAMS with
horror.

FADE OUT.

Time for Act 3 : 6 m 55 s
Total Time so far :30 m 15 s

ACT 4 : The Denouement

FADE IN :

35. INT. STAGE AREA - NIGHT 2 <1:10>

SGT GULAM is taking photographs of the crime scene. MIKE, ALAN and TRACEY watch as HARTONO looks up from beneath the coffin-box. MRS OW is sitting nearby with COL NG. PC HARESH is in the background questioning some OTHER WITNESSES.

HARTONO

He was supposed to escape
through a secret door here.

Hartono points to the bottom of the box.

HARTONO

But someone jammed it shut with
this.

Hartono shows them a piece of wood.

MIKE

The doors to the stage area
aren't locked.

HARTONO

Anyone could have come in and
tampered with his equipment.

TRACEY

He was checking them earlier
today.

Mike looks thoughtfully at Rex's equipment.

MIKE

Annette, Ow and now Rex. What
did the three have in common?

HARTONO

I can't think of anything.

TRACEY

Wait. I overheard Ow and Rex
arguing earlier. Something
about money.

MIKE

And Rex seems to know a lot
about the others.

ELAINE
Money ... Knowledge ...
(beat)
Could it be blackmail?

TRACEY
(suddenly excited)
Ow had a letter when he
confronted Rex ... I wonder
where it is?

Mike goes over to Mrs Ow. Hartono follows. Mrs Ow looks up
as Mike approaches.

MIKE
Mrs Ow. When you came in here
earlier, you looked pretty
upset.

Mrs Ow nods.

MIKE
You had a letter in your hand.
Can I see it?

Mrs Ow hesitates. She glances over at Col Ng. Col Ng nods
his head encouragingly. She takes out the letter from her
purse and gives it to Mike.

MRS OW
It was addressed to my husband.

Mike reads it aloud.

MIKE
"Enjoy the show. On this
anniversary of your ex-wife's
demise, tickets will cost double
the amount. Signed R.N."

ELAINE
R.N. ... Rex Nam.

HARTONO
What was he being blackmailed
for?

MRS OW
(beat)
Before I married him, people
were telling me he wasn't a good
person ... you know that his
first wife died?

Mike nods.

MRS OW
Well. He inherited a lot of
money from her. There was talk
that he killed her.

MIKE
Did he?

MRS OW
If he didn't, he's been paying
a lot of money for nothing.

HARTONO
Blackmail! That opens up a
whole new angle.

TRACEY
Maybe the murderer was one of
his blackmail victims.

HARTONO
But Cary Ow was already dead
when Rex was killed.

ELAINE
He could have been blackmailing
someone else.

HARTONO
Like who?

CUT TO :

36. INT. HORIZON CAFE PLATFORM - NIGHT 2 <1:10>

DR CHRIS is shaking his head vehemently.

CHRIS
I've never been blackmailed in
my entire life.

MIKE
We're not interested in what
happened before. But there have
been three murders.

Mrs Menon moves gently. With some effort, she croaks out.

MRS MENON
He's right.

Chris turns around.

CHRIS

Mother?

MRS MENON

He's right, Chris. Answer their questions.

CHRIS

How can you say that?

MRS MENON

No more secrets.

Chris is silent. He stares sullenly at Mrs Menon.

HARTONO

Well?

CHRIS

I lost a patient once. There, you happy?

MIKE

When?

CHRIS

Seven years ago. I was nervous, I made a mistake. The board cleared me of all blame.

MIKE

Then why'd you pay him?

CHRIS

When you're a doctor, your reputation is more important than anything else ... Somehow, Rex got hold of my records. He threatened to let my patients know.

MIKE

(nods understandingly)
Thank You, doctor.

Mike, Elaine, Tracey and Hartono get up an leave.

MIKE

It's all coming together now.

ELAINE

You have it figured out?

MIKE

Some pieces are still missing. I
have to make some calls
tomorrow.

HARTONO

So what do we do now?

MIKE

Now? A good night's rest.

HARTONO

What? How can you sleep at a
time like this?

MIKE

We've done all we can for today.
But, here's something to think
about in bed.

Mike takes a breath.

MIKE

No motive to kill Annette. No
motive to kill Ow. Two motives
to kill Rex.

ELAINE

Ow and Chris.

Mike nods.

MIKE

They were both being blackmailed
by Rex.

HARTONO

Ow died before Rex was killed.

TRACEY

That leaves Chris.

ELAINE

But Chris was with us when the
first two murders happened.

Mike smiles enigmatically.

MIKE

Like I said, something to think
about ... Good night.

Mike goes. ON the others' looks of puzzlement.

CUT TO :

37. INT. ELAINE'S ROOM - NIGHT 2 <1:30>

ELAINE and TRACEY prepare for bed. They're in their sleeping things. Tracey tries to be chirpy and upbeat.

TRACEY

I wonder if Mike knows what he's talking about.

Elaine starts taking out her sleeping things from her bag. Tracey stops and looks at Elaine.

TRACEY

I see you are your usual communicative self.

ELAINE

Why don't you just give it a rest?

TRACEY

Why don't you relax and lighten up?

ELAINE

I would. If you hadn't come along to ruin my weekend.

TRACEY

Your weekend with Mike, you mean.

ELAINE

You planned this all along, didn't you?

TRACEY

You can say what you like.

ELAINE

(beat)

Why're you doing this?

TRACEY

Actually I didn't have to. But you made it all so easy.

Elaine looks at Tracey with disbelief.

TRACEY

(beat)

I'll tell you what your problem is ... You don't know what you want -- Not with your life. Not with Mike ... Why did you come here? To talk things out?

(beat)

Elaine, you talk too much ... You can't make up your mind whether or not you want him ... Well, I'm making it up for you ... Because you're not being fair to Mike ... Because he's only staying with you out of some misguided sense of loyalty.

Elaine is silent for a moment.

ELAINE

You think you know Mike pretty well?

TRACEY

Yup ...

ELAINE

What do you know? ... I mean, What do you REALLY know about him?

(beat)

Do you know where he goes when he's stuck on a case? ... Has he ever brought you there?

(beat)

Do you know that every month, he visits the grave of his brother? ... Do you know what flowers he brings? ... Do know why?

(beat)

Do you know any of this?

TRACEY

That's in the past. How well do you know him now?

Tracey turns over and goes to sleep. Elaine stares at Tracey's back silently.

CUT TO :

38. INT. KOPI 'O' - DAY 3 <1:30>

TRACEY, ELAINE and HARTONO are having breakfast. MIKE finishes talking on the phone and joins them.

HARTONO
So what've we got? Two motives
to kill Rex, none to kill
Annette or Ow.

MIKE
I think it's fair to assume that
Rex was the murderer's target
all along.

ELAINE
I can't help thinking the
murders happened in the wrong
sequence.

HARTONO
Wrong sequence?

ELAINE
If everyone wanted to kill Rex,
why didn't Rex die first?

Confused looks all around. Elaine explains using the salt and pepper shaker as visual cues. She pushes forward her orange juice glass.

ELAINE
Lets say I killed Rex. If
Annette ...

Elaine takes the salt shaker.

ELAINE
... and Ow ...

Elaine takes the pepper shaker.

ELAINE
... were witnesses. Then I'll
have a motive to kill them both.

Elaine knocks over the salt and pepper shakers one by one.

ELAINE
But why kill them before Rex?

TRACEY
"The ABC Murders"!

HARTONO
What?

TRACEY

In "The ABC Murders", the killer murdered three people in a row. But his intended victim was the third one. The first two were only decoys to confuse the police.

HARTONO

Sounds a little far fetched.

TRACEY

Wait. In "A Caribbean Mystery" someone realized a murder was about to be committed. So the murderer actually killed him before the intended victim.

ELAINE

Do you get a headache when you think this hard?

Mike decides to join in.

MIKE

Or in "A Murder is Announced". The first death was actually a "dry-run" for the actual murder. So there was no apparent motive for the first murder.

ELAINE

What's this? Agatha Christie 101?

Hartono laughs. Tracey shoots Elaine an evil glance. Mike smiles in amusement. Simultaneously, Mike and Hartono reach for their drinks. Their hands close on the same glass. They look down in surprise.

HARTONO

Sorry.

Hartono reaches for his glass, just next to Mike's. Mike suddenly becomes serious. He looks at the two glasses, side by side.

MIKE

That's it.

Everyone looks at him curiously.

HARTONO

What?

MIKE

You're a genius. That's it.

Mike quickly stands up and heads off.

HARTONO

What? What'd I do?

CUT TO :

38A. EXT. BEACH BAR - DAY 3 <1:00>

MIKE quickly arrives at where they were sitting the day before. ELAINE, TRACEY and HARTONO follow behind him. Mike quickly sets up the situation again.

MIKE

This was our table. That was where Mrs Ow and Col Ng were sitting. And this was Ow's table.

Mike arranges the chairs.

MIKE

Ow sat here. Annette was here, next to him. Before the game, Annette asked Ow to order her a drink.

HARTONO

So?

MIKE

But when the drink came, Ow told the waiter to put it here. This wasn't where Annette was sitting.

TRACEY

The drink wasn't for Annette?

MIKE

We just assumed it was.

HARTONO

(beat)

Then who was it for?

ELAINE

Wait. Ow ordered a Blue
Tropicana, didn't he?

TRACEY

Which happens to be ...

MIKE

Rex's favorite drink.

HARTONO

Rex?

MIKE

Rex. Rex was supposed to meet
Ow here.

ELAINE

But Rex was late and Ow went to
look for him.

MIKE

When he was gone, Annette threw
a tantrum and we ended the game
early.

ELAINE

When she came up, she saw the
glass, and thought it was for
her.

MIKE

So she drank from it.

HARTONO

By mistake.

TRACEY

But that still doesn't explain
who put in the poison in the
first place.

MIKE

Two people had motives to kill
Rex. But only one of them was
meeting Rex here. Ow himself.

TRACEY

But Ow is dead.

MIKE

Get Dr Chris, Mrs Menon, Colonel
Ng and Mrs Ow.

INTERCUT WITH :

38B. EXT. BEACH BAR - FLASHBACK

As Mike talks, these actions are seen.

OW and ANNETTE arriving at the beach bar. The two of them settle into chairs beside each other. Annette asking Ow to get a drink for her.

The WAITER wanting to put the drink beside Ow, but Ow tells the waiter to put the drink opposite him instead.

Ow looks at his watch in annoyance, then getting up to leave.

Annette and the group coming up from the volleyball court. Annette grabs the glass and drinks from it.

CUT TO :

39. EXT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OW'S SUITE - DAY 3 <0:30>

CHRIS is wheeling MRS MENON. MRS OW and COL NG are walking towards Ow's cabin, led by MIKE, TRACEY and ELAINE.

CHRIS
What's this all about?

MIKE
Hartono will explain.

Mike leads them to the room, but stops short at the doorway. He looks shocked.

MIKE
Oh, no.

The others rush forward as well. MRS OW lets out a scream. Inside, they see HARTONO sprawled on the couch, his shirt covered with blood. The window is open wide.

CUT TO:

40. INT. OW'S SUITE - DAY 3 <0:20>

They all crowd into the room. MIKE rushes forward and feels for HARTONO's pulse.

MIKE
He's dead.

TRACEY
But how? Who?

MIKE

I ... I think we all better move
outside. And wait for the
police to arrive.

ELAINE is reluctant, but the Mike shepherds them out. With a
final glance at Hartono's body, Elaine leaves as well.

CUT TO :

41. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OW'S SUITE - DAY 3 <0:45>

MIKE waves aside a gathering crowd, composed mainly of hotel
staff. Some of them are trying to get in for a closer look.

TRACEY

We're right back where we
started.

COL NG

Four murders. My God. Surely
this is not normal.

A waiter seems to step into the room. ELAINE's eyes narrow
and she tries to peer past Mike for a better look. Mike moves
in front of her and blocks her vision.

MIKE

The murderer has got to be one
of us. And I have a good idea
who.

The waiter leaves and disappears around the corner.

MIKE

Let's go to the lounge. I'll
explain there.

ELAINE

Wait, I'll be right with you.

Elaine walks back to the room and peers in.

ELAINE

It's gone! Again!

The others rush to see that the body is gone.

HARTONO

(O.S.)

Not quite.

Mike and the rest spins around. They see HARTONO there, in
the waiter's outfit.

TRACEY
(simultaneous)
What?

COL NG
(simultaneous)
How?

Mike pulls open Hartono's shirt. It's a two-way shirt, with designs on both sides.

MIKE
A simple actor's trick ... There was no way the body could have been carried out. Therefore, the body wasn't carried out.

TRACEY
Ow wasn't dead?

MIKE
He walked out of the room. Under our noses.

TRACEY
But where is he now?

MIKE
That's the other part of the problem.

CUT TO :

42. INT. OW'S SUITE - DAY 3 <2:00>

They all enter the suite.

MIKE
We've already established that Annette's murder was a mistake. Rex was the intended target all along.

The people all start settling down around the room.

MIKE
We've also shown that Ow was the prime suspect for Annette's murder. And that Ow was not dead but only pretended to be.

ELAINE

Ow was the murderer all along.

MIKE

His plan had an elegant simplicity to it.

(beat)

He would kill Rex, then pretend that he was murdered as well. Then while the police were searching for his killer, he would make his escape.

ELAINE

But the plan went wrong. Annette died instead.

MIKE

That didn't discourage him. Ow went on with the masquerade. Once the police thought he was "dead", he could still murder Rex at his leisure.

ELAINE

Which he did by sabotaging the magic trick.

MIKE

But Ow needed an accomplice. He had to ensure that his death would go unquestioned.

ELAINE

The gun was fired in the room. Yet no gun was found. Someone must have taken it away.

TRACEY

(beat)

An accomplice? ... Who?

MIKE

The person who pronounced him dead. Dr Chris Menon.

CHRIS

What? Me?

ELAINE

A trained doctor, not able to tell a live body from a dead one?

CHRIS

I must have made a mistake.

MIKE

No, you didn't. If anyone discovered that Ow was still alive, his deception would be over. And who wouldn't believe a doctor who declared a person dead?

ELAINE

After Ow fired the gun, he lay down on top of it.

MIKE

When you were examining him, you slid your hand under his body, took the gun, and hid it in your arms.

CHRIS

Preposterous.

MIKE

You arranged the beach volleyball game with Annette on the Ferry.

CHRIS

So?

ELAINE

But you told me you hadn't been here before. How did you know about the courts?

Chris is silent.

MIKE

You needed an alibi. When Annette was killed, you were playing volleyball with us. When Ow was "shot", you were with Elaine.

CHRIS

Why would I get involved?

MIKE

Seven years ago, Cary Ow's wife died and he inherited a lot of money. I did some checking ... You were her doctor.

TRACEY

The patient you lost ... was Cary Ow's first wife?

CHRIS

I told you, the board cleared me of all blame.

MIKE

There was never a board of inquiry.

CHRIS

I don't understand these ridiculous accusations.

MIKE

Once the murders happened. Ow needed a way out of here. He couldn't use his own passport as he was officially dead ... And what's more ... There's no record of a Cary Ow passing through immigration on either the Singaporean or Indonesian sides.

HARTONO

I don't follow.

MIKE

Ow did not come to Bintan as himself. He came disguised as someone else. Isn't that so, Mrs Menon?

General consternation.

HARTONO

What?

MIKE

Mrs Menon did not appear until Ow was dead. That in itself doesn't mean anything. But at dinner, when Elaine told you your coat was unbuttoned, you fumbled with them.

CHRIS

So?

Elaine jumps in. She demonstrates.

ELAINE

That's right. When you tried to button your coat, you tried to do it left over right. But on ladies' clothing, the buttons go right over left.

MIKE

A woman will never make that mistake.

Mrs Menon starts to CLAP slowly.

MRS MENON

Congratulations, Inspector. You have it all figured out.

Mrs Menon changes her voice to Ow's again. Ow takes his wig off.

OW

My apologies. But I've got to be going now.

Ow draws two ping-pong sized balls and throws them on the ground. The smoke bombs explode, making everyone cough. As the smoke clears, we see that the front door is open and Ow and Chris are gone.

FADE OUT.

Time for Act 4 : 9 m 55 s

Total Time so far : 40 m 10 s

ACT 5 : The Obligatory Chase Scene

FADE IN :

43. INT. OW'S SUITE - DAY 3 <0:10>

HARTONO hacks away the last of the smoke from his lungs. TRACEY opens the door to the balcony, letting the rest of the smoke waft out. MRS OW and COL NG follow TRACEY onto the balcony. MIKE and ELAINE dash to the front door.

CUT TO :

44. INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OW'S SUITE - DAY 3 <0:10>

MIKE and ELAINE look both directions. The corridor outside is empty. It stretches in both directions. Footsteps can be heard PATTERNING away. A DOOR SLAMS. Mike and Elaine look in that direction.

MIKE

You go that way.

Elaine nods. She heads the other direction.

CUT TO :

45. EXT. RESORT - DAY 3 <1:00>

CHRIS runs down the path winding through the landscaped area. Behind him, the door to the resort opens and ELAINE comes out. Elaine gives chase. On the beach, Chris panics and heads for the water. As he stumbles in the surf, Elaine catches up with him and pulls him down. Chris tries to drown Elaine by pushing her head underwater, but Elaine knees him in the groin and overcomes him.

CUT TO :

46. INT. RESORT LOBBY - DAY 3 <0:15>

MIKE looks around in the resort lobby. Everything seems normal. The STAFF go about their usual business. Some GUESTS are wandering about. Mike shakes his head, thinking he has made a mistake. Then he spots a LANKY WAITER walking leisurely away from him. Mike's eyes narrow. Mike starts running towards the waiter. The waiter hears him and turns around. It is OW. Ow sees Mike coming for him and makes a break for it. He dashes across the lobby and round the corner, into ...

CUT TO :

47. INT. STAGE AREA - DAY 3 <1:10>

The stage area is empty. There is no one there. Rex's equipment stand silently on their racks and tables. MIKE bursts through the doors. There is no movement inside. Cautiously, Mike steps into the room.

Mike looks around alertly. There seems to be no one in there. Mike steps up to the stage. He hears a soft RUSTLING sound beside him and spins around. He knocks against a magician's hat, tipping it over. A pair of WHITE DOVES FLUTTER away into the darkness.

Mike is momentarily distracted by the doves. On the wall behind him a large shadow looms. It holds a sword in its hands. Mike is facing the wrong direction. Mike he walks a couple of steps towards the centre of the stage, where Rex's equipment lie on the table. The shadow raises the sword high and prepares to strike.

On a shiny plate, Mike sees the reflection of the shadow behind him. Mike picks up the plate and spins around, sending it flying like a frisbee.

The flying plate slams into OW's sword arm. Ow is momentarily distracted. Mike charges him. Ow quickly swings his sword around. Mike grabs a sword from a rack next to him. They square off.

They trade some blows. Mike gets the upper hand. Ow, panicky, grabs a smoke-bomb from his pocket and throws it on the floor.

As the smoke obscures the screen, we hear several THUMPS and sounds of MIKE HITTING OW.

The smoke clears. Ow lies on the floor, cradling his head. Mike stands over him.

MIKE
Never try the same trick twice.

CUT TO :

48. EXT. JETTY - DAY 4 <0:40>

MIKE, TRACEY and ELAINE are getting ready to leave the island. Mike tries to help Elaine with her bags, but Elaine shrugs off his help.

ELAINE
I didn't expect our weekend to
be this exciting.

MIKE
Neither did I.

ELAINE
But we made a good team. Didn't
we.

MIKE
That we did ... Look, Elaine,
I'm sorry things ... (didn't
turn out right).

ELAINE
(interrupts)
Don't. I don't want your
apologies ... I've been doing
some thinking.

MIKE
(beat)
And ... ?

ELAINE
I need some time. To cool off.
To find out what I want.

Mike is silent. Then he nods his head slowly.

MIKE
I see.

Elaine looks at him for a moment. Then she turns and goes off.
TRACEY waltzes past her and comes up to Mike.

TRACEY
Hey. You want some coffee?

Mike pauses for a moment. He looks at Elaine, who is staring
back at him. They hold each other's gaze for a moment. Then
Elaine turns her head away. Tracey slides her arm into
Mike's. Together they head for the snack bar. Just before
they disappear around the corner, Mike turns and looks at
Elaine one more time. Elaine doesn't look at him. Mike goes.

OFF ELAINE, alone.

FADE OUT.

Time for Act 5 : 3 m 15 s
Total Time : 43 m 25 s

THE END