EP5/SC1. INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 15.00

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, SID, FELICIA (V/O)

Christmassy music over. A cosy hive of domestic festive activity. FATHER BROWN has the thankless task of untangling a box of paper chains. BUNTY aproned and covered in flour, stirring a bowl of mincemeat. She tips half a glass of brandy into the mixture and necks the rest. Mrs McCarthy snatches the bottle.

> MRS MCCARTHY Why you cheeky madam

SID in the doorway - suitcase. Tanned from the African sun.

SID Good to see nothing's changed.

The Gang crowd round.

FATHER BROWN

Welcome home.

MRS MCCARTHY

We weren't expecting you till tomorrow.

SID Cadged a lift on the diplomatic flight.

BUNTY How's Aunt Flis?

SID Sends her love and news. One for you... and one for you...

SID hands FATHER BROWN & BUNTY a letter each and MRS MCCARTHY a box emblazoned with a designer logo.

SID ... And this comes with strict instructions to open before Christmas.

MRS MCCARTHY opens the box. A beautiful patent leather handbag and a letter to "B".

FELICIA (V/O) I hope this will go perfectly with your sage twinset for the W Committee dinner. The Duchess of Windsor has an identical one.

Ghastly woman but there's no denying she does have impeccable taste...

Misty eyed smile from MRS MCCARTHY. She tucks the letter in her apron to save for later. Divests Sid of his hat and coat and pushes him into a chair.

MRS MCCARTHY Well I don't know what they're feeding you, you're nothing but skin and bone.

SID sinks into a chair.

SID It's good to be home.

FATHER BROWN Plans for the holiday?

SID Mrs M s home cooking... and a nice quiet Christmas.

EP5/SC2. EXT. WOOD. DAY 1. 15.02

NSE DOG WALKERS, DOG

NSE DOG WALKERS in an evergreen wood. Mufflers and mittens. Pink cheeked in the frosty air. An excited dog burrowing in the undergrowth. Called to heel, the dog bounds to his owners bearing a gift which he deposits at their feet. A partially skeletonised hand...

CUT TO: TITLES

EP5/SC3. EXT. WOOD. DAY 1. 17.00

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW

NSE DOG WALKERS, UNIFORM POLICE, DOG

Crime scene. An excavated grave. Police cordon. An NSE PC takes a statement from ashen faced NSE DOG WALKERS. MALLORY is escorted to the body by GOODFELLOW

MALLORY

Any idea who she is?

GOODFELLOW Money's on Scarlett Dreyfuss. December 1946. The papers called it the Red Riding hood murder.

MALLORY Did a big bad wolf get her?

GOODFELLOW

She was leading lady in the Christmas pantomime. Left after the dress rehearsal and was never seen again.

Stopping at a body covered by a Police sheet.

GOODFELLOW

Next day her Cleaning Lady found the bed unslept in. Downstairs there was blood and signs of a struggle.

MALLORY

How did they know it was murder?

GOODFELLOW

A local man confessed, though he wouldn't say what he did with the body. Currently serving life in HMP Wynchurch.

MALLORY

Well that's something. (pulls back the sheet) What a waste.

EP5/SC5. INT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 1. 18.05

PRUDENCE, EUGENE, DOUGLAS, ROSE MARIE

In on the newspaper. Being read by DOUGLAS BOVARY (30's.) Quiet and intense. Sat at the piano while members of the Kembleford Amateur Dramatic Society (KADS) bicker amongst themselves.

Leading man, DOCTOR EUGENE CORNELIUS consults a list of names. Suave and urbane with just a hint of camp.

EUGENE

I spy the honourable Penelope Windermere. Quite the box office draw.

Artistic Director, PRUDENCE BOVARY runs KADS - like everything else in her life - with machine like efficiency.

PRUDENCE Let's pray she can sing and act.

EUGENE They won't be coming to listen to her.

Leading lady and diva, ROSE MARIE STURGESS tosses her head.

ROSE MARIE I hope you don't expect me to audition...

DOUGLAS absorbed with the photo of the woodland burial site.

INSERT flash cut: SC45.

His Mother's voice cuts through the reverie.

PRUDENCE Douglas... Douglas... shake a leg and let themin.

The crowd outside are getting restless. Banging on the doors.

EUGENE And may God have mercy on our souls...

EP5/SC6. INT. VILLAGE HALL. STAGE. DAY 1. 18.15

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE, EUGENE, ROSE MARIE, SID, DOUGLAS

NSE DEREK PUDDLE, AUDITION HOPEFULS

EUGENE, PRUDENCE, ROSE MARIE the X factor judges in front of the stage. DOUGLAS at the piano. PRUDENCE does the intros:

PRUDENCE

I'm Prudence Bovary your artistic Director. Leading players, Rose Marie Sturgess and Doctor Eugene Cornelius. And my son Douglas – our stage manager, actor... and Pianist. (daunted) Aren't there a lot of you?

JUMP CUT TO.

NSE DEREK PUDDLE on the stage. A "before" Charles Atlas. Five foot nothing. 100 pounds. Bottle glasses and acne.

PRUDENCE Who are you reading for?

DEREK squeaks. "Prince Charming."

EUGENE

Dear God.

PRUDENCE Is played a girl. NEXT!

JUMP CUT TO: BUNTY ON STAGE

BUNTY Bunty Windermere reading for Cinderella.

ROSE MARIE

(mutters) I don't think so dear.

BUNTY

(sings MOONSTRUCK) I'm such a silly when the Moon comes out. I never seem to know what I'm about. Skipping, hopping, never, never stopping... I can't keep still although I try...

JUMP CUT TO: MRS MCCARTHY ON STAGE.

MRS MCCARTHY Bridget McCarthy reading for Fairy Godmother.

MRS MCCARTHY also sings "Moonstruck."

MRS MCCARTHY

I'm all a-quiver when the Moon-beams glance. That is the moment when I long to dance. I can never close a sleepy eye. When the Moon comes creeping through the sky.

She's a natural. It washes over Prudence who has just spotted SID in the wings with FATHER BROWN.

PRUDENCE Young man! How tall are you?

SID Six foot two... b(ut)

PRUDENCE

Name?

SID Sidney Carter. Not auditioning just here for moral support.

PRUDENCE makes a note of his name anyway.

JUMP CUT TO: FATHER BROWN DOING HIS BEST RICHARD III.

FATHER BROWN

Is there a murderer here? No. Yes, I am Then fly. What, from myself? Great reason why:

Out on the panel - heads in hands.

FADE TO BLACK.

EP5/SC7. INT. POLICE STATION. MALLORY'S OFFICE. DAY 2. 10.00

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW

NEW DAY. MALLORY poring over the Scarlett Dreyfuss post-mortem report. GOODFELLOW enters.

GCCDFELLOW You wanted to see me Sir?

MALLORY Tell me about Benedict Clough.

GOODFELLOW Benny. Nice lad but "simple" if you get my drift. Earned a living making bicycle deliveries. b

GOODFELLOW

Tried to "assault" her. When she fought back, he panicked and caved in her skull with a door stop.

MALLORY

Did he now?

GOODFELLOW Why all the interest in a closed case?

MALLORY holds up the report he's reading.

MALLORY Because according to the post-mortem -Benedict Clough's confession was a pack of lies.

EP5/SC8. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 2. 11.00

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, SID

NSE VILLAGERS

The parts have been posted on the Village notice board. Eager faces scan the list.

BUNTY Fairy Godmother. Bunty Windermere... (guilty to MRS MCCARTHY) I know you had your heart set...

MRS MCCARTHY masks her disappoint ment.

MRS MCCARTHY That's wonderful. Don't you worry about me.

BUNTY

And you are... (Ch...) Prompt.

FATHER BROWN An indispensable part of any production.

MRS MCCARTHY (brave face) Indeed it is.

BUNTY And Father Brown is Daisy. (confused) And so is Sid?

SID That's a mistake. I didn't even audition. And there can't be two Daisy's.

FATHER BROWN I think there is only one Daisy... just in two halves.

And on that ominous note.

EP5/SC9 - OMITTED

EP5/SC10. INT. PRISON. CELL. DAY 3. 11.30

FATHER BROWN, MALLORY, BENNY

The cell is festooned with dispiriting chains made from newspaper. FATHER BROWN reads a letter from his Mother to BENNY CLOUGH (20's) The mind of a child in a man's body. He cuts paper stars out of newspaper as he mouths the words. Knows the letter off by heart.

FATHER BROWN

... the house is all decorated. Holly and ivy and all the old decorations except for the tree which I'm saving for Christmas eve...

Keys jangle in the door. MALLORY enters.

MALLORY

(to FATHER BROWN)

Padrè. I'd say this was a nice surprise but then I'd be lying on both counts.

FATHER BROWN

Benny isn't very fond of Policemen so they thought it best a chaperone were present. (to BENNY) This is Inspector Mallory. He's not as scary as he looks.

BENNY

Does he know when I'm going home?

MALLORY sits.

MALLORY

I'm afraid not but I have some questions. In your confession you said you hit Scarlett on the head with a doorstop which you then buried with the body?

BENNY cuts away at his newspaper and refuses to look at him

MALLORY

But we found the body. And there were no signs of skull trauma. Or a murder weapon.

FATHER BROWN raises an eyebrow. MALLORY persists.

MALLORY

When arrested you said "I did something bad to Miss Scarlett" Can you explain what you meant?

BENNY

(Upset) She said l'd go to hell.

FATHER BROWN Nonsense. God forgives <u>everyone</u> who confesses their sins and are sorry.

Event ual I y...

BENNY

I had a delivery for Mss Scarlett and saw her car at the theatre. So I went in...

INSERT FLASHBACK SC11. Benny walks in on Scarlett naked.

Back to SC10. MALLORY frowns.

MALLORY

There was no mention of this in your statement.

FATHER BROWN

Benny can't read.

BENNY

The Policeman wrote it and said if I signed it then I'd be home in time for Christmas.

FATHER BROWN exchanges a look with MALLORY.

BENNY

Lying's a ten commandment isn't it Father?

FATHER BROWN

(steely) Number nine. Loud and clear.

MALLORY

What about in court? Why did you plead guilty?

MALLORY Maybe I should have a word with your Ma.

BENNY She doesn't like Policemen.

MALLORY I'll take a chaperone.

EP5/SC11. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 0. 16.00 FLASHBACK - 19.46

BENNY, SCARLETT

Holding a paper bag, BENNY walks in on SCARLETT changing. She can see him reflected in the mirror - transfixed in the doorway but feigns ignorance. A show for his benefit. Teasing displays of flesh before she spins to confront him Relishing his stammered bewilderment.

> SCARLETT Bad boy, playing peeping Tom on naked ladies.

BENNY Iwasn't...I...

SCARLETT You'll go to hell for that.

BENNY I... I... brought your n... nerve powders from Doctor Cornelius...

SCARLETT Was it worth it Benny? Did you like what you saw?

He dumps the bag on the dressing table and scarpers. Her mocking laughter follows him as he flees.

EP5/SC12. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 3. 12.00

NOTICE BOARD ESTABLISHER - PANTOMIME POSTER: WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS.

EP5/SC13. INT. THEATRE. FLY LOFT. DAY 3. 12.05

NSE STAGE HAND

Intercut next scene. An NSE STAGE HAND unwinds a rope from its cleat.

EP5/SC14. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "FOREST". DAY 3. 12.06

BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS, ROSE MARIE, BOB, EUGENE

NSE STAGE HANDS, NS PRINCE, DANDINI, VILLAGERS

INTERCUT PREVIOUS SC. THE TREE OF TRUTH. Bench and tree centre stage. NS STAGE HANDS behind the tree working the levers.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA and DOUGLAS/BUTTONS sit either end of the bench. BUNTY front stage.

PRUDENCE directs from the stalls. MRS MCCARTHY beside her prompting.

BUNTY Buttons beware... (blank) Buttons beware...

The mellifluous tones of the Prompt floats from the stalls.

MRS MCCARTHY The tree of truth will hear a lie...

BUNTY/ FAI RY GODMOTHER

(wooden) The tree of truth will hear a lie and drop an apple in your eye.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE Is there a girl you love Buttons?

BUTTONS/ DOUGLAS

No.

The STAGE HAND releases a lever. A prop apple drops on BUTTONS' head.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE There is! Is she someone I know?

BUTTONS shuffles across the bench.

BUTTONS

No. Ow... Ow...

... As two apples drop on his head...

FLY LOFT. The NS STAGE HAND takes the weight of the rope.

BUTTONS shuffles even further across the bench squashing CINDERELLA.

BUTTONS/ DOUGLAS

I mean yes... it's...

FLY LOFT. The stage hand preempts his cue. Releases the rope.

A bucket of prop apples lands on Buttons' head. Fake fruit goes everywhere. Prudence yells up to the fly loft.

PRUDENCE Too early! Wait for the cue. Again please! (to MRS MCCARTHY) Be a brick Barbara and gather up the apples.

Poor MRS MCCARTHY.

EP5/SC15. INT. HOLLY COTTAGE. PARLOUR. DAY 3. 16.00

MALLORY, FATHER BROWN, ADA

A spartan small holding. Benny's Mother ADA CLOUGH (70's.) A gruff countrywoman with a gammy leg - shows them into a dusty parlour, which belying her letters is cold and totally devoid of festive cheer.

FATHER BROWN

I was expecting something rather more festive.

ADA

If you mean the letters, I write what he wants to hear. Benny loved Christmas. This place would look like Santa's grotto. When they took him away I burnt the lot. What's the point of Christmas without a child?

MALLORY (opens his note book) Scarlett Dreyfuss....

ADA Was a succubus.

MALLORY poises his pencil...

FATHER BROWN

(helpful) Two c's one b.

MALLORY

(sarcastic)

Thank you.

ADA Any male was fair game — even a child in a man's body like Benny.

MALLORY

Tell me about these other men?

ADA

Ask that amateur dramatics lot. And then ask yourself why the Police didn't interview them at the time.

MALLORY

Mrs Clough. As you clearly believe your son is innocent, why did you tell him to plead guilty? ADA

To save him from the noose. A guilty plea in return for a reduced charge of manslaughter. Your DI Jones was very ... persuasive.

MALLORY

DI Jones passed away last year. I'm on the case now and if there has been any... irregularity, you have my word it will be investigated. (TO FATHER BROWN) And no need for you to go sticking

your nose in.

Out on FATHER BROWN - butter wouldn't melt.

EP5/SC16 - OMITTED

EP5/SC17

EP5/SC18. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 4. 16.00

NOTICE BOARD ESTABLISHER - PANTOMIME POSTER: COSTUME FITTINGS. CUT TO

EP5/SC19. INT. THEATRE. GREEN ROOM. DAY 4. 16.01

MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY, SID, FATHER BROWN, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE, DOUGLAS, PRUDENCE

NS DANDINI, PRINCE, 2 X VILLAGERS

A spillage of costumes. On rails, in trunks, piled on the floor. SID & FATHER BROWN in Panto Cow get up. SID up front and FATHER BROWN behind. EUGENE as KING CHARMING, ROSE MARIE in red and brown Cinderella rags searching rifling through trunks.

> SID/DAISY (to his bottom) Another fine mess you've got me into.

ROSE MARIE If anyone sees a cloak with a hood l need it for the forest scenes...

BUNTY steps from behind a screen in her Fairy Godmother frock. DAISY's head wolf whistles. MRS MCCARTHY raps DAISY'S nose.

DAI SY/ SI D

Ow.

MRS MCCARTHY (To Bunty) You look like a fairy tale.

> BUNTY (the dher4ther frock.

ROSE MARIE I meant poor Douglas. He was engaged to a nice WAAF before she got her claws in him And that ghastly scene at the dress rehearsal!

INSERT FLASHBACK. SC20. PRUDENCE discovers SCARLETT and DOUGLAS en flagrante.

ROSE MARIE (V/O)

Then a flashpot

EP5/SC20. INT. THEATRE. ALCOVE/STAGE. DAY 0. 14.00 FLASHBACK - 19.46

PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS, SCARLETT, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE

EP5/SC21. INT. THEATRE. SCENERY DOCK. DAY 4. 16.10

MALLORY A word in private.

MALLORY leads him out of earshot. DOUGLAS takes his Mother aside without clocking DAISY behind a piece of scenery.

DOUGLAS Should I say something?

PRUDENCE

Say what exactly?

He doesn't know...

PRUDENCE

You will say to the Police Douglas.

DAISY'S head exchanges a "look" with DAISY'S rear.

MALLORY & GOODFELLOW speak privately with BOB.

MALLORY

... and discovered he was duped into signing it by DI Jones.

BOB

Who is conveniently deceased and thus unable to defend himself.

MALLORY

But Sir...

BOB

It's a can of worms. You want the public thinking we left a killer on the loose? I'd call that a catastrophic own goal for community relations. (off his silence) Is that clear son?

MALLORY

Perfectly "Mr" Sturgess.

BOB

On the subject of which, we're still short on cast and I'm sure the public would appreciate a Police involvement in such a community event.

As MALLORY opens his mouth to protest...

GCODFELLOW Happy to oblige Sir.

BCB

Good men. (heads toward Prudence) Found you some volunteers Pru...

GOODFELLOW braces himself for a tongue lashing but...

MALLORY

Lucky for you, I've no intention of dropping anything. We can do some sniffing around. And I expect we can manage 7th and 8th Villager...

EP5/SC22. INT. THEATRE. GREEN ROOM. DAY 4. 16.30

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE

MALLORY & GOODFELLOW in full Ugly Sister get up. Hernia and Vulgaria.

GOODFELLOW

l'm sorry Sir.

MALLORY (it's a promise) You will be Sergeant...

PRUDENCE hands them both a script.

PRUDENCE We'll see you at rehearsals tomorrow.

Go to MRS MCCARTHY sorting a spillage of costumes. Finds a red

EP5/SC23. INT. THEATRE. WINGS. NIGHT 4. 19.30

FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, ROSE MARIE, BUNTY, PRUDENCE, EUGENE DOUGLAS (OOV) BUNTY (OOV) PRUDENCE (OOV)

ROSE MARIE & EUGENE in the wings with FATHER BROWN.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/BUNTY (OOV)

(Tortured cat) I'm all a-quiver when the Moon-beams glance. That is the moment when I long to dance. I can never close a sleepy eye. When the Moon comes creeping through the sky...

Winces from the spectators in the wings. Mrs McCarthy arrives with the cloak from scene 22. Shows it to ROSE MARIE.

MRS MCCARTHY BUTTONS/ DOUGLAS (OOV) Is this what you were looking If you're a Fairy can you grant for? me three wishes?

ROSE MARIE recoils.

ROSE MARIE Ugh! Where did you find ?

MRS MCCARTHY In one of the costume trunks. (stalls) Is something wrong? Prompt!

> MRS MCCARTHY (calls to stage) Who do you think I am? The Genie of the lamp. (ROSE MARIE. The cloak) Is something wrong?

> > PRUDENCE (COV)

(stalls) Thank you Barbara!

EUGENE

That's Red Riding Hood's cloak.

BUNTY/FAIRY GODMOTHER (OOV) (wooden) Who do you think I am? The Genie of the Iamp.

PRUDENCE

ROSE MARIE (shudders) Dead woman's clothes. She wore it on the day she died. BUTTONS/ DOUGLAS (OOV) One wish then.

33

BUNTY/ FAI RY GODMOTHER (OOV) Very well. One. But be careful what you wish for Buttons. The tree of truth knows everything.

PRUDENCE (OOV)

(stalls) Exit stage right. Curtain. Lights down. Positions for the tree of truth.

EUGENE and ROSE MARIE leave. FATHER BROWN looks quizzically at MRS MCCARTHY.

FATHER BROWN Something to share Mrs M?

MRS MCCARTHY If she wouldn't be seen dead in it then I'm wondering why her address was in the pocket?

MRS MCCARTHY shows him the address label from SC 22.

EP5/SC24. INT. POLICE STATION. FRONT DESK. NIGHT 4. 19.35

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW

NSE POLICE

GOODFELLOW in the dog house for the Ugly Sister fiasco. At the desk behind a mountain of "Dreyfuss" files. MALLORY switches the light off in his office and comes out in his hat and coat.

MALLORY

Think of it as detention. There must be something we missed. And it's more productive than writing "I must not volunteer my superior officer for the part of Ugly Sister," one hundred times...

GOODFELLOW

Actually Sir there is something we missed or rather something missing. Benny Clough made deliveries near Scarlett's house the evening in question. All were followed up and statements taken.

(picks up witness statements) But there's one missing. Made by a Peggy Semple.

MALLORY

And she is?

GOODFELLOW

No idea Sir and there's no record of her locally.

MALLORY

You sure it isn't just misfiled?

GOODFELLOW shows him half a dozen witness statements stapled together. Points to an indentation where the staples been taken out and on the other side, tiny puncture marks.

> GOODFELLOW You can see where the staple has been taken out and the page re-stapled.

MALLORY Quite the Doctor Watson.

The plot thickens.

EP5/SC25. INT. THEATRE. FLY LOFT. NIGHT 4. 19.40

NSE STAGE HAND

INTERCUT NEXT SCENE. An NS STAGE HAND up unwinds a rope from it's cleat...

He drops the rope... It snakes down to the stage...

EP5/SC26. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "FOREST". NIGHT 4. 19.41 BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS, ROSE MARIE NS PRINCE, DANDINI, VILLAGERS INTERCUT PREVIOUS SCENE. THE TREE OF TRUTH. CINDERELLA/ ROSE MARIE Is there a girl you love Buttons? BUTTONS/ DOUGLAS (lies) No.

The STAGE HAND releases a lever. A prop apple drops on BUTTONS' head.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE There is! Is she someone I know?

BUTTONS shuffles across the bench.

BUTTONS

No. Ow... Ow...

... As two apples drop on his head..

FLY LOFT. The NS STAGE HAND takes the weight of the rope.

BUTTONS shuffles even further across the bench squashing CINDERELLA.

EP5/SC27. INT. HOSPITAL. ROOM. DAY 5. 10.00

When the boy confessed, I could see the relief in his eyes.

FATHER BROWN Then the Police started to question his conviction.

PRUDENCE

He was getting flashbacks to the woods that night and... he was frightened...

FATHER BROWN looks at the stage book. Cogs whirring.

FATHER BROWN

EP5/SC28. INT. PRISON. CELL. DAY 5. 10.30

MALLORY, BENNY

MALLORY sits with BENNY.

MALLORY

I wanted to ask if you recognise the name, Peggy Semple?

BENNY

(fond memory) She always gave me milk and biscuits "for the ride home."

MALLORY

You made a delivery to her the night Scarlett went missing.

BENNY

(shakes his head) Not to Peggy she's the maid. To Mrs Sturgess.

MALLORY (double takes) Peggy Semple is the Sturgess maid??

BENNY

It was the wrong prescription from Doctor Cornelius. She was angry. (rubs at his cheek) She hit me.

INSERT NEXT SCENE. Rose Marie loses her temper with Benny.

MALLORY Thank you Benny. That's very helpful.

BENNY

Does it mean I can go home?

MALLORY. Grim det ermination.

MALLORY

I'm working on it son.

EP5/SC29. EXT. STURGESS HOUSE. DAY 0. 19.15 - FLASHBACK - 1946

BENNY, ROSE MARIE, BOB

NSE PEGGY

All observed by goggled eyed maid, NSE PEGGY.

ROSE MARIE flies out of the house in a violent rage. Accosts BENNY as he's getting on his bike.

ROSE MARIE Hey you... wait there - It's the wrong one. This isn't mine.

She thrusts a paper bag (identical to the one in SC11) in BENNY's hands. Points at his saddle bags.

ROSE MARIE Where's mine? Is it in there?

Bewildered, Benny shows her his saddlebag. Empty.

BENNY

I don't have anything else.

Furious, ROSE MARIE lashes out and slaps him - scratching his face with her talons. BOB drags her off. Leads her inside.

EP5/SC30. INT. THEATRE. FLY LOFT. DAY 5. 11.00

SID, FATHER BROWN (OOV) FATHER BROWN

SID creeps around in the fly loft. Numbered cleats. The chalk board behind. Calls down.

SID How will you get to heaven if you're scared of heights?

FATHER BROWN'S disembodied voice floats up from the stage.

FATHER BROWN (COV) I'm sincerely hoping there's a staircase. What can you see?

SID They're all numbered and there's a list written on a blackboard.

SID consults the stage book. A page headed "Ropes" and a list. Zoomin.

Calls down.

SID You were right Father.

EP5/SC31. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 5. 14.00

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, ROSE MARIE, BOB

The Police question ROSE MARIE and BOB.

ROSE MARIE

Peggy left us years ago. Got married to a drayman from Largs and was off without a bye your leave.

MALLORY

Then could you confirm her account of events on the evening of Scarlett Dreyfuss' disappearance.

BOB

Would you mind explaining where this is leading?

GOODFELLOW

The statement is missing Sir.

MALLORY

And for one thing it explains the scratches on Benny Clough's face.

BCB

I told you to stop flogging that dead horse.

MALLORY

With respect that isn't your prerogative any more "Mr" Sturgess.

BCB

Friendly warning boys. I may be retired but one phone call from me and you'll both spend the rest of your careers directing traffic. Do I make myself clear?

Out on MALLORY & GOODFELLOW - duly warned.

EP5/SC32. EXT. KEMBLEFORD. STREET. DAY 5. 14.15

EP5/SC33. INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 5. 14.30

FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, MALLORY, SID

All gathered round kitchen table, laid with tea and mince pies.

MALLORY The German and British football match... Different sides but playing the same game.

SID Then on boxing day it's back to knocking seven bells out of each other?

MALLORY (reaches for a mince pie) Exactly.

EP5/SC34. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 5. 14.31

BUNTY, ROSE MARIE

ROSE MARIE'S at her dressing table fitting a false bottominto a wooden box... when BUNTY bursts in surprising her. ROSE MARIE slams the false bottominto place.

BUNTY

Forgot my car keys.

ROSE MARIE (slurs) Did no one teach you to knock?

BUNTY locates her keys on the dressing table. Clocks the glassy eyes.

BUNTY On you wouldn't believe the gaps in my education. Toodleoo.

BUNTY leaves - suspicious.

EP5/SC35. INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 5. 14.50

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, MALLORY, SID

MALLORY scoffing mince pies while FATHER BROWN recaps.

FATHER BROWN

I believe Douglas saw someone in the woods that night.

SID And when his memory started to return they tampered with the rope numbers and POW

SID mimes an exploding head.

MRS MCCARTHY

Sidney...

SI D

Sorry.

MRS MCCARTHY indicates the address label "Rose Marie Sturgess etc."

MRS MCCARTHY

And why did Scarlett have Rose Marie's address in her pocket?

BUNTY comes in, takes off her coat and joins the rest.

MALLORY

Which leads us back to our missing statement. Retired Superintendent Sturgess is starting to look fishier than Billingsgate. What is he hiding?

BUNTY

I think I might hazard a guess.

EP5/SC36. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". NIGHT 5. 19.00

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, BOB, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, PRUDENCE

NS DANDINI, PRINCE, VILLAGERS

Hernia (GOODFELLOW) and Vulgaria (MALLORY) in

PRUDENCE

...and thank you Hernia...

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{GCODFELLOW}}$ reads with a script in one hand and a fan in the other.

GOODFELLOW HERNIA

Cooh, how wonderful. Tickets for the Royal Ball.

MALLORY

EP5/SC37 - OMI TTED

EP5/SC38. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. NIGHT 5. 19.05

SI D

SID at work on ROSE MARIE'S box. The lock clicks. SID opens the box. Removes the false bottom Ligature, syringe, wrap of white powder.

EP5/SC39. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". NIGHT 5. 19.10

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, BOB, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, PRUDENCE

NS DANDINI, PRINCE, VILLAGERS

Pick up Ugly Sisters SC36. MALLORY/HERNIA whacks GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA.

MALLORY/ HERNI A

Ooh you are a one.

GOODFELLOW VULGARI A

Ow!

(Squaring up) Do that again and I'll... I'll box your ears.

MALLORY/ HERNIA You can't box. Can she boys and girls?

PRUDENCE

"Oh yes he can etcetera." Then pick up from Hernia "

The Sisters square up like pugilists.

MALLORY/ HERNIA

Show me then.

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA weaves and feints and throws a wild left hook at MALLORY/HERNIA who ducks and viciously hits her with her fan. THWACK! And another for good measure. THWACK!

Out on poor GOODFELLOW - blows raining. OW OW!

EP5/SC40. INT. THEATRE. SCENERY DOCK. NIGHT 5. 22.00

FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, MALLORY, SID, PRUDENCE (OOV) ROSE MARIE (OOV) BOB (OOV)

The team take in the latest development.

SID White heroin is my guess. You don't get that on prescription. And an identical address label to the one in Scarlett's cloak.

FATHER BROWN'S cogs at full steam ...

FATHER BROWN Earlier that day, Benny delivered nerve powders to Scarlett... (beat) Yes of course...

MALLORY Care to share it?

Dialogue runs into Flashback.

FATHER BROWN Benny can't read. He mixed up the prescriptions.

FLASHBACK. SC41. SCARLETT GETS ROSE MARI E'S PRESCRI PTI ON. NAUGHTY ROSE MARI E.

She thrusts a paper bag (identical to the one in SC13) in

SI D

(whistles)

The Superintendent's junkie missus in receipt of illegal drugs. You can see why he'd want to keep that quiet.

MALLORY

It's all starting to make sense. Scarlett found out Rose Marie's dirty little secret and confronted her. He'd be ruined if it got out... That's one big motive for murder.

SI D

Speculation though. There's no way of proving it.

MALLORY

Which means we're back to square one.

FATHER BROWN

There is one way. But we would need to wait for daylight.

EP5/SC40A. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. NIGHT 5. 22.00

ROSE MARI E/ CI NDERELLA (COV) Ch Daddy you do make me I augh.

BOB/ BARON HARDUP (OOV) I just hope you are happy Cinders.

ROSE MARI E/ CI NDERELLA (OOV) I am happy Fat her.

PRUDENCE (COV) I want more emotion Rose Marie – and again.

ROSE MARI E/ CI NDERELLA (COV) I happy f at her.

BOB/ BARON HARDUP (OOV)

LINE!

PRUDENCE (OOV) Prompt!... PROVPT... Barbara! Where the devil are you???

EP5/SC41. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 0. 16.05. FLASHBACK - 1946

SCARLETT, FATHER BROWN (V/O)

Scarlett inspects the package Benny left in Sc 11. Wrapped in brown waxed paper with a typewritten label:

FATHER BROWN (V/O) Benny can't read. He mixed up the prescriptions.

Scarlett rips off the paper and inspects the contents. Wraps of white powder.

SCARLETT Naughty Rose Marie.

Scarlett stuffs the wrapper in her cloak.

EP5/SC42. EXT. HOLLY COTTAGE. SHED. DAY 6. 09.00

SID, FATHER BROWN, ADA

New day. An out shed packed to the rafters with years of junk. Old farm machinery, furniture etc. ADA watches SID & FATHER BROWN sift through junk. Dirty, back breaking work... SID heaves aside an old chest of drawers and spies handlebars.

SI D

Hello. Father! Is this our man?

ADA nods as SID drags out a mangled and rusted bike with mildewed saddlebags. FATHER BROWN pats it. Bicycle empathy.

FATHER BROWN Poor chap. Looks like you've been through the wars.

A search of the saddlebags reveals the package given back to Benny by Rose Marie in SC29. A corroded paper bag. Inside a box wrapped in waxed brown wrapping paper but this time the label is indecipherable, eaten by mildew. Inside - wraps of white powder.

> SID Do they look like nerve powders to you?

The final piece of jigsaw clicks into place.

EP5/SC43. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. DAY 6. 10.00

FATHER BROWN, EUGENE, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW

The theatre in darkness except for a low spot light centre stage where FATHER BROWN sits on the bench under the Tree of Truth. EUGENE joins him

EUGENE

This is all very cloak and dagger.

FATHER BROWN waves him to sit.

FATHER BROWN

The tree of truth. I thought it apt. You needn't fear another accident. Although you know that seeing as you planned it.

EUGENE

I've heard you fancy yourself as the local Miss Marple. Tell me why I would wish to harm someone as inoffensive as poor Douglas?

FATHER BROWN

Because he was in the woods the night Scarlett went missing and saw something he shouldn't.

EUGENE

I take it you mean me. Fascinating. So in addition to the attempted murder of Douglas you are also accusing me of Scarlett's murder?

FATHER BROWN

Not at all. (beat) I think we both know she died by her own hand.

EUGENE'S count enance changes. Now he's interested.

EUGENE

Pray go on.

FATHER BROWN Benny mixed up the prescriptions.

FATHER BROWN produces the mildewed packet from the saddlebag.

FATHER BROWN

Rose Marie wasn't your only addict. I'm reliably informed this is cocaine intended for Scarlett. Instead she received something far more deadly. White heroin intended for Rose Marie.

EUGENE

(guarded) Where did you find that?

FATHER BROWN

In Benny's saddlebag. He was arrested before he could return it.

EUGENE eyes the mouldy package.

EUGENE

Benny made deliveries for the whole village. There's nothing to connect that with me.

FATHER BROWN

And if questioned by the Police - you'd only deny it.

EUGENE

(pl easant) And sue you for sl ander for good measure.

FATHER BROWN

FATHER BROWN

You give them a reason <u>not</u> to live. Admission is the first step toward repentance and God's grace.

EUGENE rises.

EUGENE

Fascinating as this has been. My only concern is with earthly repercussion and as none of it can be proved... at least I'll escape that.

In the dark of the wings, SID throws a switch.

SID Ch no you won't.

FATHER BROWN

Look behind you.

EUGENE spins. Spotlight on the box. MALLORY & GOODFELLOW

MALLORY

Did you get all that Sergeant?

Out on EUGENE - bang to rights.

FADE TO BLACK.

EP5/SC44. INT. SCARLETT'S COTTAGE. SITTING ROOM. DAY 0. 19.45 FLASHBACK - 1946

EUGENE, SCARLETT, FATHER BROWN (V/O), EUGENE (V/O)

EUGENE (V/O)When she didn't answer her telephone I drove to her house...

EUGENE enters. SCARLETT splayed on the sofa, dead from a heroine OD. Blood has sprayed from her nose covering her face and the soft furnishings.

EUGENE wraps the body in a rug.

EUGENE (V/O) I knew it would be traced back to me eventually. It seemed expedient to dispose of the evidence.

FATHER BROWN (V/O) Is that when Douglas saw you?

EP5/SC45. EXT WOODS. DAY 0. 20.00. FLASHBACK - 1946

EUGENE, DOUGLAS

EUGENE V/O

Dusk. EUGENE shovels dirt into a shallow grave car. Pitches the spade in the ground. A movement in the trees. He spins to see DOUGLAS - blank eyed and unseeing.

EUGENE (V/O) I could see he was in a fugue state and would have no recollection.

BACK TO SCENE 42

EP5/SC46. INT. HOSPITAL. ROOM. DAY 7. 12.00

DOUGLAS, FATHER BROWN, PRUDENCE

NSE LIZZIE

PRUDENCE by DOUGLAS' bedside, reading the newspaper. HEADLINE

EP5/SC47. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 8. 17.00

NOTICE BOARD ESTABLISHER - PANTOMIME POSTER: OPENING NIGHT. SOLD OUT!

EP5/SC48. INT. THEATRE. GREEN ROOM. DAY 8. 18.00

PRUDENCE, ROSE MARIE, MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY, SID, FATHER BROWN, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, BOB

NSE PANTO CAST

The cast change for opening night. UGLY SISTERS wig and make up free and in their underwear. DAISY. PRUDENCE in a lather.

PRUDENCE Fairy Godmother! Has anyone seen Fairy Godmother? We've half an hour till curtain and...

Thank God! BUNTY is there. Holding a notebook.

PRUDENCE

I call that cutting it fine.

BUNTY flips open the notebook. Marcel Marceaux meets Bob Dylan. Clutches her throat. Mouths. "I've lost my voice." MRS MCCARTHY diagnoses.

> MRS MCCARTHY Stage fright. Some honey and lemon will do the trick.

Bunty flips the page. "

PRUDENCE

. "

BUNTY flips the page. Nods at MRS MCCARTHY's sewing basket.

"

EP5/SC49. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. DAY 8. 19.00

MRS MCCARTHY, DOUGLAS

NSE LIZZIE, AUDIENCE

Loodmoher hgown. Tj 1 0 0 1 2640 56.76 Tm - 0.1953 Tc - 0.0451 Tw (MRS MCCARTHY, The theatre's packed. LIZZIE & DOUGLAS sat together holding hands. The audience hush, settle in their seats as the house lights dimfor the prologue.

EP5/SC50. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "FOREST". DAY 8. 19.37

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW (UGLY SISTERS), SID, DOUGLAS

NSE LIZZIE, AUDIENCE, BACK OF COW/DAISY

MALLORY/ HERNIA and GOODFELLOW/ VULGARIA are out of breath as DAISY saunters on behind them

GOODFELLOW VULGARIA Phew Sis that was close!

Audience - it's behind you!

DAI SY chases them of f stage.

EP5/SC51. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". DAY 8. 20.00

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS

NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE, STAGE HAND, MICE

Fan sket ch.

GOODFELLOW VULGARI A

Ow! (Squaring up) Do that again and I'll... I'll box your ears.

MALLORY/ HERNI A You can't box. Can she boys and girls?

VULGARIA whips up the "boys and girls."

GOODFELLOW VULGARI A/ AUDI ENCE Oh yes he can....

MALLORY/ HERNI A Come on show me then.

VULGARIA weaves and feints and throws a wild left hook at HERNIA. Only this time it's not so wild and lands square on HERNIA'S jaw. POW MALLORY goes down like a light.

The audience thinks it's part of the performance and erupt with laughter. GOODFELLOW rooted to the spot in horror. It was an acci dent . . . (

NS STAGE HANDS dart from the wings and drag MALLORY off by his feet to applause and wolf whistles.

PRUDENCE sticks her head around the tabs to cue the COV musi ci ans.

> PRUDENCE M ce medlev now! Scoot scoot G 0

Ο

D

EP5/SC52. INT. THEATRE. SCENERY DOCK. DAY 8. 20.15

FATHER BROWN, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE

NSE UNIFORM PC, PANTOMIME CAST AND CREW

GOODFELLOW finishes a conversation with an NS PC and heads to inform the others including MALLORY - nursing a large bump on his head.

GOODFELLOW

Good news. Benny's being released pending the formal appeal hearing and will be home tomorrow.

In the resulting jubilation, BUNTY forgets she's lost her voice.

BUNTY Christmas eve. How simply miraculous.

PRUDENCE steams through.

PRUDENCE

Back on your feet Hernia - you've got the ballroom

MALLORY/ HERNIA

Not in this corset I haven't.

GOODFELLOW heaves MALLORY to his feet. BUNTY accosted by a livid MRS MOCARTHY. She thrusts her wand in BUNTY'S hand.

MRS MCCARTHY

Laryngitis?! I suppose you felt sorry for me. Well I don't need your pity.

BUNTY hesitates before going for some reverse psychology.

BUNTY

Typical. It's "all about you." I'm worse than... than Pontius Pilate... And yet... you would have let me go

PRUDENCE Fairy Godmother! Transformation scene!

BUNTY thrusts the wand into MRS MCCARTHY'S hand.

BUNTY (final nail) Ask yourself this. What would my Aunt say?

PRUDENCE

Chop chop Barbara!

MRS MCCARTHY goes.

EP5/SC54. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". DAY 8. 20.45

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, DOUGLAS

NSE AUDIENCE, DANDINI, LIZZIE

NSE DANDINI watches on appalled as the UGLY SISTERS tussle over the glass slipper.

MALLORY/HERNIA Let me fit my foot into the crystal slipper.

GCCDFELLOW/VULGARIA You couldn't fit your foot into Crystal Palace.

Audi ence.

EP5/SC55. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. FRONT CLOTH. DAY 8. 21.00

ROSE MARIE, MRS MCCARTHY, DOUGLAS

NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE, PRINCE CHARMING

Front cloth. Cinders and Prince Charming on stage as MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER blesses their union.

MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER My gift to you of joy and laughter as you live happily ever after.

EP5/SC56. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. FINALE. DAY 8. 21.30

SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, ROSE MARIE, BOB, DOUGLAS

NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE, BACK OF COW/DAISY

All company assembled. CINDERELLA & PRINCE CHARMING take their bows centre stage. The company gestures skywards as MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER flies in from the gods.

The audience are on their feet.

FADE TO BLACK.

EP5/SC57 - OMITTED

EP5/SC58. EXT. HOLLY COTTAGE. DAY 9. 17.00

ADA, BENNY

NEW DAY. BENNY walks the last few yards home. ADA is in the yard mending a fence. Sees him coming. A moment of disbelief followed by shock and then she "runs" as fast as her lame leg will carry her. Mother and son embrace.

EP5/SC59. INT. HOLLY COTTAGE. PARLOUR. DAY 9. 17.05

ADA, BENNY, FATHER BROWN, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY

BENNY looks around him at the barren parlour.

ADA

EP5/SC60. INT. HOLLY COTTAGE. PARLOUR. DAY 9. 17.06

ADA, BENNY, FATHER BROWN, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY

MONTAGE - Christmas carols over.

As the day darkens, the Spartan cottage transforms into a festive grotto. Roaring fire and lights twinkling on the tree. BENNY on a chair putting the star on top. SID and BUNTY hanging paper chains. GOODFELLOW pouring sherry. FATHER BROWN places the baby Jesus in a nativity crib. Tea, mince pies and mulled wine. And outside the window, the snow starts to fall.

END OF EPISODE.