EP9/SC1. INT/EXT. BRITISH EMBASSY, RHODESIA. RECEPTION ROOM/BALCONY. DAY 1. 19.05

LADY FELICIA, NICHOLAI, YURI

NSE PARTY GUESTS INC. DEPUTY GOVERNOR, WAITERS/WAITRESSES

Caption - British Embassy, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.

A retirement party. Guests mingle, sip Champagne, swap gossip. The smell of money saturates the warm air. An elderly deputy governor shakes hands with arriving guests.

Lady Felicia works the room, charming, beautiful... and wishing she was anywhere else in the world. Needing a moment of escape, she grabs a fresh glass of Champagne from a waiter's tray then retreats through a door onto a balcony.

She leans on the rails and takes a deep breath. Peace. Until a sympathetic voice catches her off-guard.

(Faint Russian accent)
It can wear one down, can it not?

Concern on Lady Felicia's face - has she let her mask slip? She turns to see NICHOLAI SOLOVEY (46, wealthy Russian, well-spoken, charming with an edge) who has followed her outside.

 $\frac{\text{NI CHOLAI } \left(\text{CONT' D}\right)}{\text{I mean.}}$

LADY<u>FELICIA</u>

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NI CHOLAI

I know. Back in England, I've taken up residence at The Royal Sandborough Hotel. From my balcony, I can make out the rooftops of your ancestral estate. Sadly, the area's beauty has declined since your departure.

LADY FELICIA

(Concer ned)

Real I y?

NI CHOLAI

What reason now do the birds have to sing or the flowers to bloom?

Lady Felicia laughs at his flattery. She weighs up this handsome stranger, wary, scarred by past mistakes.

LADY FELICIA

I should go back inside. The Deputy Governor will be giving his retirement speech soon and who'd want to miss that?!

Ni chol ai blocks her path, suddenly serious.

NI CHOLAI

There's something I must ask you first. As you know, the past few decades have been difficult for my country. I believe you can help -

LADY FELICIA

Mr Solovey, I fear you have overestimated my level of influence.

NI CHOLAI

I'm not interested in state secrets. It's a personal matter.

LADY FELICIA

Go on.

NI CHOLAI

Artefacts belonging to my family were seized after the revolution and sold by the Antikvariat to collectors in Europe.

Ni chol ai takes out a black-and-white photograph; a Fabergé egg pendant decorated with a Russian Orthodox cross in diamonds, hung on a pearl necklace.

LADY FELICIA

My necklace!

NI CHOLAI

By the Fabergé work-master Henrik Wigström I hoped you'd be willing to sell it back to me. I'd make sure you were suitably compensated.

LADY FELICIA

I have great sympathy for your family's losses, but this necklace was a gift from my late father. It would break my heart to sell it.

NI CHOLAI

How can I persuade you? After all, I'm its rightful owner.

An edge to his voice. Is he threatening her? Lady Felicia's resolve strengthens.

LADY FELICIA

I'm sorry.

Lady Felicia glances over and sees another man waiting just inside the door, keeping watch; YURI GALKA, 36, Russian, gruff, well-muscled ex-soldier.

NI CHOLAI

Don't mind Yuri. He's... an old friend. Please -

LADY FELICIA

Even if I were willing, I don't have the necklace with me. It was safer to leave it in England.

NI CHOLAI

Not an insurmountable problem I'm not known for easily conceding defeat. Perhaps if -

LADY FELICIA

For give me, but the answer is no. I hope you understand.

NI CHOLAI

(Icy)

If you change your mind, you know where to find me. Who can tell what tribulations the future holds?

Nicholai returns inside, whispering something to Yuri. Yuri glances at Lady Felicia, threatening. For the first time she sees the scar running across his left eye. Out on Lady Felicia, shaken.

CUT TO: TTTLES

2 <u>EP9/SC2. SCENE OMITTED</u>

3 EP9/SC3. EXT. KEMBLEFORD TRAIN STATION. DAY 2. 11.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

NSE PASSENGERS, PORTER

Caption - One month later.

Lady Felicia steps off the train carrying a small suitcase. Bunty, Mrs McCarthy and Father Brown wait on the platform

MRS MCCARTHY

Only you could travel thousands of miles and arrive without a hair out of place.

LADY FELICIA

I'm not sure about that, my dear Mrs McCarthy, but I certainly feel better for seeing you.

BUNTY

Travelling light, Aunt Fliss. I'm impressed!

Father Brown coughs, nodding to a porter pushing a trolley stacked with larger suitcases.

LADY FELICIA

I had to pack for a colder climate. Don't worry, Hornby said he'd collect them

FATHER BROWN

May we finally ask the reason for your visit? Your letter was somewhat cryptic.

LADY FELICIA

All in good time. I'm positively gasping for a proper cup of tea!

On Lady Felicia, upbeat. But as the others turn to go, we see her anxiety return...

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

A tea-cup is placed back in its saucer, held up in the arist ocratic fashion by Lady Felicia. Bunty, Mrs McCarthy and Father Brown are all staring at her expectantly.

LADY FELICIA

It's all so embarrassing... (Beat, summoning her courage)

About a month ago, Monty was approached about an investment opportunity. A diamond mine, supposedly filled to the brim

BUNTY

How exciting!

LADY FELICIA

Quite. Only, Monty-being-Monty, greed got the better of him and he offered to finance the whole enterprise, invested every penny we had and more. It transpires the mine contained fewer genuine diamonds than your average pawnbrokers. To make matters worse, there was a terrible accident. Workers were injured and, as the legal owner, Monty is liable.

MRS MCCARTHY

So... You're coming home?

LADY FELICIA

No, sadly. I'm simply back to auction off the family trinkets. Artworks, jewellery... We need to raise rather a lot of money.

BUNTY

(Anxi ous)

But presumably the house is safe?

LADY FELICIA

I hope so. It depends how the auction goes.

MRS MCCARTHY

(Sympathetic)
Having to sell your prized possessions!

LADY FELICIA

They are only objects, Mrs M Save your prayers for the poor men who were down that mine. They had families to feed and I'm dammed if I'll let Monty wriggle out of his obligations.

BUNTY

So when's the auction?

LADY FELICIA

Hornby is taking me to the bank first thing tomorrow to collect a few items from the vault, then straight to the auction-house.

BUNTY

Let me drive you. For moral support.

FATHER BROWN

Why don't we all go?

LADY FELICIA

You're very kind. Now, who would like a top-up?

Lady Felicia, a brave facade, busies herself refilling cups. The others exchange worried glances.

5 <u>EP9/SC5. EXT. BANK. DAY 3. 09.01</u>

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy get out of Bunty's car outside a high-end bank. Father Brown waits for them, his bicycle leaning against the wall.

LADY FELICIA

(To Bunty)
We won't be long.

They head inside.

6 EP9/SC6. INT. BANK. SIDE ROOM. DAY 3. 09.15

FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

NSE SECURITY GUARD

A large trunk full of jewellery boxes and other valuables. Lady Felicia opens a box on the top to reveal the Fabergé necklace; it's even more beautiful than in the picture. She takes a breath, fighting her emotions.

MRS MCCARTHY

Perhaps the rest of it will raise enough?

LADY FELICIA

Not according to the valuation. And if we don't clear the debt soon then the estate's in danger. I cannot risk losing Montague.

FATHER BROWN

Your memories of your father are the real treasure.

LADY FELICIA

Quite so. And I should get a good price. I've already had an offer from some Russian chap back in Rhodesia.

MRS MCCARTHY

Then why not sell to him? Save yourself all this trouble.

LADY FELICIA

To be honest, there was something about him that rather put the wind up me. If I must sell, I want it to go to a good home.

Lady Felicia closes the box, placing it in the case.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

Let's get this over with.

Lady Felicia nods to a security guard who locks the case and carries it away. Out on Lady Felicia, determined to be strong.

7

FATHER BROWN

NSE SECURITY GUARD

Father Brown, peddling fast, rounds a bend. Ahead, the van's parked in a lay-by, rear door ajar.

Nervous, Father Brown dismounts. The driver seat's empty, Yuri vanished.

EP9/SC9

Makes it easier to fence. But we might get lucky. I'll be in touch.

Mallory leaves.

10 <u>EP9/SC10. EXT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. DRI VEWAY. DAY 3.</u> 12. 00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL

NSE GUESTS

Bunt y parks out side a beaut if ul count ry hot el, bal coni es over looking pict ur esque gar dens.

MRS MCCARTHY

So?

BUNTY

Aunt Fliss and I march in there and confront him Five shillings says we can beat a confession out of him in under a minute.

LADY FELICIA

I appreciate your enthusiasm, Bunty, but this is my problem and -

BUNTY

problem? If you don't get the necklace back, you'll have to sell Montague and I'm turfed onto the street! I'll be like Blind 'Arry, wandering the pavements of Kembleford in search of sustenance.

LADY FELICIA

Don't be melodramatic. I'm sure your mother and father would permit your return, given the circumstances.

BUNTY

(Thrown)

You mean, go back to London?

FATHER BROWN

Perhaps I should go in. Test the water. Solovey doesn't know we are acquainted.

LADY FELICIA

Very well. But draw a blank and I'm handling it my way. And my way involves pruning shears.

MRS MCCARTHY

(To Father Brown, sotto) I worry about their family.

Bunty notices a porter (DANIEL WINKS, 24, working-class, handsome, good-natured but mischievous) attending to two guests with luggage.

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BUNTY

Their clientele may leave something to be desired, but I certainly approve of the staff.

FATHER BROWN

Isn't that Daniel Winks?

BUNTY

Who?

FATHER BROWN

Used to be a chorister at St Mary's.

Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy watch Daniel carrying luggage inside.

MRS MCCARTHY

Not the Daniel Winks who got drunk before the Christmas Concert and was violently ill all over my best shoes?!

FATHER BROWN

The very same.

LADY FELICIA

I was always quite fond of him

Out on Mrs McCarthy, insulted.

11 <u>EP9/SC11. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. LOBBY. DAY 3.</u> 12. 05

FATHER BROWN, DANIEL

NSE HOTEL STAFF, GUESTS

On Daniel, being tipped by the guest.

<u>Dani el</u>

Much obliged, sir.

Fat her Brown approaches.

FATHER BROWN

Keeping yourself out of trouble, Mr Winks?

DANIEL

Father Brown! It's been years!

FATHER BROWN

St Mary's hasn't moved. You would be welcome to return.

DANI EL

Not the impression I got from Mrs McCarthy last time I was there.

FATHER BROWN

She is not hing if not for giving.

DANI EL

Must be thinking of different Mrs McCarthys. What brings you to the Royal Sandborough?

FATHER BROWN

I'm looking for Nicholai Solovey.

DANI EL

The Russian? This time of day, he'll be in the bar, reading the papers. Tell him he won't get to Heaven if he don't tip the staff.

Father Brown takes a coin from his pocket.

FATHER BROWN

Would you be so kind as to point him out?

DANIEL

For you, Father, it's on the house.

Out on Father Brown, grateful.

EP9/SC12

13 <u>EP9/SC13. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NI CHOLAI'S SUITE.</u> DAY 3. 13.15

FATHER BROWN, DANIEL

Key in the lock. Door opens. Daniel shows Father Brown into the large, luxurious suite.

DANIEL

I could lose my job for this.

FATHER BROWN

Call it at onement for past sins.

DANI EL

And I used to begrudge a few Hail Marys!

FATHER BROWN

Solovey was responsible for the theft. I could see it in his eyes. Do you know if there's a safe?

DANIEL

Solovey had one installed. Pricey too. Must be so good it's invisible 'cause I've never seen it.

Father Brown checks the cupboards, under the bed... Daniel peeks into the corridor, nervous.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Any chance we could hurry this up?

Father Brown pauses in front of a framed tapestry on the wall. It reads; "Bog dal, Bog i vzyal" (Russian alphabet).

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You speak Russian?

FATHER BROWN

Picked up a little in the army. I think it means "God... gives, God takes back."

Father Brown takes the tapestry down to reveal a safe behind.

DANI EL

How re you gonna get inside?

FATHER BROWN

Absolutely no idea.

Out on Father Brown, stumped.

BUNTY

If you're certain Solovey has it, why not steal it back ourselves?

MRS MCCARTHY

Because you'd get in serious trouble.

BUNTY

Only if we got caught.

FATHER BROWN

Tempting as it is, it would take a master criminal to crack the safe, steal the necklace and escape without raising the alarm

BUNTY

A master criminal, you say? How fortunate you're such good pals with one.

LADY FELICIA

You don't mean...?

MRS MCCARTHY

Father, please tell me you're not considering it?!

On Father Brown, tempted despite himself.

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Father Brown works at his desk. The telephone rings. He answers, hopeful.

FATHER BROWN

St Mary's Presbytery.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Working late, Father?

FATHER BROWN

The Devil keeps long hours. So must I.

FLAMBEAU (00V)

You're fortunate that your telegram reached me so promptly. I only returned from Istanbul this morning. Don't ask what I was doing there - you wouldn't approve. So you need my help?

FATHER BROWN

Yes. To retrieve a stolen item

FLAMBEAU (00V)

You've mistaken me for someone else, Father. Try calling that curious local inspector of yours.

FATHER BROWN

You are the only man I know who could pull this off.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Flattery is beneath you, Father, but please don't stop. What exactly would I be retrieving?

FATHER BROWN

A necklace belonging to Lady Felicia, being held in a safe in the penthouse suite of the Royal Sandborough Hotel. Its return is of the utmost importance.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

(Di sappoi nt ed)
And what would I receive for my

FLAMBEAU (00V)

17 EP9/SC17. INT. BAR, PARIS. DAY 3. 20.00

FLAMBEAU, FATHER BROWN (OOV)

NSE DRINKERS, BARMAN

Phone conversation as above. A telephone kiosk in the back of a gloomy bar, only a couple of drunk locals in attendance.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

St Mary's Presbytery.

FLAMBEAU

Working late, Father?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

The Devil keeps long hours. So must I.

FLAMBEAU

You're fortunate that your telegram reached me so promptly. I only returned from I stanbul this morning. Don't ask what I was doing there - you wouldn't approve. So you need my help?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Yes. To retrieve a stolen item

FLAMBEAU

You've mistaken me for someone else, Father. Try calling that curious local inspector of yours.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

You are the only man I know who could pull this off.

FLAMBEAU

Flattery is beneath you, Father, but please don't stop. What exactly would I be retrieving?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

A necklace belonging to Lady Felicia, being held in a safe in the penthouse suite of the Royal Sandborough Hotel. Its return is of the utmost importance.

FLAMBEAU

(Disappointed)
And what would I receive for my considerable pains?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Our eternal gratitude.

FLAMBEAU

Ha! Delightful as watching you descend into criminality sounds, Father, I don't work for anyone else. Especially not without payment.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Without your help, Lady Felicia will lose everything.

FLAMBEAU

A woman like her will never be destitute. Too many foolish men in the world who'd clamber over each other to save her. I, however, am not one of them Goodbye, Father.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Very well. I will find another way to get into Solovey's safe. I am sorry to have troubled you.

Hearing Solovey's name, Flambeau's eyes light up.

<u>FLAMBEAU</u>

Wait, did you say Solovey? As in Nicholai Solovey?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

You know him?

FLAMBEAU

(Deadly serious)
I'll catch the night-ferry and be at Kembleford station by noon tomorrow.

Fl ambeau hangs up. END ON SCENE 16.

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

NSE PASSENGERS, WORKMAN

Father Brown watches passengers disembark. No sign of Flambeau. Smelling cigarette smoke, Father Brown turns... Only a passing workman. The smoke tickles Father Brown's nose and he sneezes.

FLAMBEAU

19 <u>EP9/SC19. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 4.</u> 12. 25

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

Flambeau holds court while a disapproving Mrs McCarthy slices cake with barely-contained violence.

FLAMBEAU

FATHER BROWN

By whom?

FLAMBEAU

Solovey himself. He tipped off the local police. The buffoons were so busy hunting me, Solovey was able to stroll out the door with the thing practically under his arm

MRS MCCARTHY

Am I the only one who thinks we'd be mad to trust this man?

FLAMBEAU

Under normal circumstances, I'd agree. It would be foolish to trust me. But you have m1890

20 <u>EP9/SC20. INT. BASEMENT / STORAGE ROOM. NI GHT 0. 02.00</u> [FLASHBACK].

FLAMBEAU

Flambeau opens the heavy door of a museum storage room, full of wooden crates. He removes the lid from one using a crowbar and takes out a small metal box, opening it to find... Nothing. It's empty.

Hearing alarm bells ringing nearby, Flambeau's expression hardens, realising he's been double-crossed.

21 <u>EP9/SC21. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.</u> 13. 55

BUNTY, NI CHOLAI

NSE GUESTS, BARMAN

Nicholai sits at the bar with a drink. He sees Bunty arriving, wearing a glamorous dress.

BUNTY

Dubonnet and gin with a twist of lemon, please.

The barman makes her drink. Nicholai watches Bunty. She teases him with the hint of a smile, toying with her necklace, reeling him in...

He bites, getting up and approaching...

NI CHOLAI

May I have the honour of paying for your drink?

BUNTY

Sorry, my mother warned me never to accept drinks from strangers.

NI CHOLAI

My name's Nicholai Solovey. I have the penthouse suite. I like riding but not hunting and, despite my accent, prefer Champagne to vodka. There, I'm no longer a stranger.

BUNTY

Au contraire. I know who you are but you know not hing about me.

NI CHOLAI

Excellent point. Join me for dinner tonight. We'll talk, eat, get to know each other. Then, if you're satisfied that we're suitably acquainted, I'll buy you that drink.

BUNTY

Tempting, but tonight my godmother's descending for a game of baccarat. She's not the sort one likes to disappoint.

NI CHOLAI

Would your godmother mind if I joined you?

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BUNTY

You play?

NI CHOLAI

Alittle.

BUNTY

I doubt she'd have any objection. I'll warn you, though, she's a terrible flirt.

NI CHOLAI

I'll do my best not to encourage her.

BUNTY

Deal.

(Holding out her hand)
Antonia de Mandeville. Pleased to meet you.

Out on Bunty, victorious.

EP9/SC22. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BEDROOM. DAY 4. 14. 35

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL

A flustered Mrs McCarthy sits opposite Lady Felicia, staring at two cards - 9 and 6. Lady Felicia has 5 and 4.

MRS MCCARTHY

So I win?

LADY FELICIA

No!

MRS MCCARTHY

But I have a nine.

LADY FELICIA

(Frust rat ed)

We've been over this!

On Father Brown and Flambeau, keeping their heads down across the room, going over plans.

<u>FLAMBEAU</u>

(Sot to)

Sure you don't want me to simply kill Solovey in his sleep?

Father Brown gives him the look -

LADY FELICIA

It's simple. You add the two cards together.

MRS MCCARTHY

Then my score's stc 0.r Felici 333.

BUNTY He's on the hook. Said I'd send for him when we're ready.

<u>FLAMBEAU</u>

MRS MCCARTHY

Daniel.

DANIEL

(To Father Brown, re. bag)
You've gotta swear I'll get this back. They'll have my guts for garters if they find out I've pinched it.

Flambeau throws the bag to Lady Felicia.

FLAMBEAU

For you.

BUNTY

I've been assured, godmother, that Mr Sol ovey's quite the card-smith.

NI CHOLAI

I claimed nothing of the sort.

Daniel passes Nicholai his chips.

There you $\frac{\text{DANIEL}}{\text{go, sir.}}$

NI CHOLAI

May I ask the minimum bank?

BUNTY

Shall we say ten pounds?

EP9/SC25. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. CORRIDOR/ NI CHOLAI'S SUITE. DAY 4. 19.35

LADY FELICIA, YURI

Lady Felicia (maid's uniform/hat) pushes a service trolley down the corridor, a plate/cloche on top. She knocks on Nicholai's door. Yuri appears.

LADY FELICIA

26 <u>EP9/SC26. EXT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. ROOF. DAY 4.</u> 19. 38

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

Flambeau climbs out a window onto the roof, kit-bag and abseiling rope over his shoulder. As he ties the rope onto a suitable anchor-point (TBC at location), Father Brown appears in the window.

FLAMBEAU

Wait in our room As soon as I've retrieved the necklace, I'll meet you there.

The rope tied, Flambeau goes to the edge of the roof.

FATHER BROWN

Remember, look up to Heaven, not down to Hell.

FLAMBEAU

Don't worry, Father, I've done this a thousand -

Flambeau's foot slips on a loose tile, which clatters off the side of the roof, breaking on the balcony below.

27 <u>EP9/SC27. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. LAUNDRY ROOM. DAY</u> 4. 19.39

LADY FELICIA, YURI

Yuri eats hungrily while Lady Felicia pours two glasses of whisky. Hearing the clattering noise, Yuri looks alarmed.

What's that?

LADY FELICIA

(Thi nki ng qui ckl y)
That bloom n' dumb-waiter! Makes an awful racket. There you go, love.

She gives Yuri his drink. Out on Lady Felicia, hiding her nerves behind a winning smile.

28 <u>EP9/SC28. EXT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. ROOF. DAY 4.</u> 19. 39

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

Father Brown and Flambeau wait. Silence. Reassured nobody heard, Flambeau nods to Father Brown, leans back and disappears of f the side of the roof...

EP9/SC29. EXT/INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BALCONY/ NI CHOLAI'S SUITE. DAY 4. 19.43

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

From inside Nicholai's suite we hear thuds... Grunts... Then the balcony door opens and a triumphant Flambeau enters... just as the main door opens and Father Brown walks in.

Flambeau Looks stunned Father Brown holds up a key.

Dani el l'ent me this Surel y you de donot bel 9aA1 Tc (-0.2)

-0.2 Tc 0.0414t 1 0 0 1 240.w (did not bel 9aA1

EP9/SC30

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MRS MCCARTHY

Cash these in for me. I will collect from the concierge in the morning.

NI CHOLAI

It's been a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Lady Agatha.

MRS MCCARTHY

Likewise. Farewell, Goddaughter. Don't get too carried away.

BUNTY

Would I?

Mrs McCarthy leaves. Nicholai gives Bunty a wolfish smile.

NI CHOLAI

And then there were two.

Bunty smiles back, enjoying herself.

NI CHOLAI

EP9/SC33. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. LAUNDRY ROOM/CORRI DOR. DAY 4. 20.47

LADY FELICIA, YURI

A giggly Lady Felicia fakes a swig from a nearly empty bottle of whisky, then passes it to Yuri. Yuri gulps down several mouthfuls then blinks, unsteady on his feet.

LADY FELICIA

Wait 'ere.

YURI

Where you go?

LADY FELICIA

To find us something else to drink. 'Ere...

She grabs a spare pillow/blanket from a shelf and hands them to him

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

You make this place more comfy!

Catching on, Yuri grins.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

Don't forget, shhhhh!

YURI

(M micking, playful)

Shhhh!

LADY FELICIA

Back in a minute...

She leaves, closing the door, quietly locking it from outside. She drops the drunk act -

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

(Di sdai nf ul)

Or two.

- and heads upstairs.

34 <u>EP9/SC34. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NI CHOLAI'S SUITE.</u> DAY 4. 20.55

FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, FLAMBEAU

A knock. Father Brown lets in Lady Felicia. She sees Flambeau's struggling with the safe, his ear pressed to a cup against the door.

LADY FELICIA

Haven't you opened it yet?

FLAMBEAU

This isn't as simple as it looks.

Mrs McCarthy hurries in behind Lady Felicia.

MRS MCCARTHY

We have a problem

FLAMBEAU

A little peace wouldn't go amiss!

MRS MCCARTHY

It appears Penel ope can't hold her cocktails.

LADY FELICIA

(Heart sinking)

She promised me!

Lady Felicia heads for the door, angry. Father Brown quickly intercepts her.

FATHER BROWN

I'll go. We can't risk Solovey seeing you. Stay with Flambeau.

Father Brown and Mrs McCarthy hurry back out. Lady Felicia watches Flambeau, impatient.

LADY FELICIA

Don't tell me the great Flambeau isn't up to the job?

Out on Flambeau, stung.

MRS MCCARTHY

How much have you had to drink?!

<u>BUNTY</u>

Not much! I was under struct instrictions! Strict instructions... Now you say it, I do feel a bit wobbly.

 $\begin{array}{ccc} & \underline{\text{MRS MCCARTHY}}\\ \text{(To Father Brown)} \\ \text{What do we do?} \end{array}$

FATHER BROWN

Keep an eye on her.

Father Brown sticks his chest out and returns to the table, sitting opposite Nicholai.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

Mss de Mandeville has an errand to run. Do you object if I take her place for a few hands?

NI CHOLAI

36 <u>EP9/SC36. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NI CHOLAI'S SUITE.</u> DAY 4. 21.10

LADY FELICIA, FLAMBEAU

NSE MAID

Flambeau drills the safe, wiping away sweat with his handkerchief. A knock, then a key in the lock. Lady Felicia hurries over, opening the door to reveal an maid (NSE) who looks at Lady Felicia's maid's uniform, suspicious.

LADY FELICIA

We're just... playing a game. Not to be disturbed!

Lady Felicia slams the door shut.

FLAMBEAU

Lucky me.

LADY FELICIA

Concentrate! And in case you get any ideas, know that I'm not someone to be underestimated.

FLAMBEAU

Under est i mat ed?! I hold you in the highest possible regard.

LADY FELICIA

Not as high as my niece, judging by how you were fawning over her earlier.

FLAMBEAU

Jeal ous?

LADY FELICIA

Certainly not!

FLAMBEAU

Pity. Your niece is a firework; charming, yes, but all colour and show, gone in a flash. Your fire runs far hotter for being locked in its furnace. What would happen, I wonder, if you opened the door?

LADY FELICIA

There's only one door here that needs opening.

Flambeau duly continues his work. On Lady Felicia, flustered.

37 <u>EP9/SC37. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.</u> 21. 20

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL, NICHOLAI

On Father Brown, counting his dwindling chips, anxious. He's momentarily distracted by Mrs McCarthy and an unsteady Bunty spying from around a corner behind Nicholai's back... until Bunty nearly falls over and Mrs McCarthy pulls her out of sight.

DANIEL

Your bet, Father.

Opposite him, Nicholai looks impatient.

NI CHOLAI

Perhaps we should cash-out? It does not look like Mss de Mandeville plans to return.

FATHER BROWN

No! Let's continue.
(To Daniel)
Am I allowed to bet... all of it?

<u>DANI EL</u>

Er... Yes. But -

FATHER BROWN

Excellent.

Father Brown pushes his remaining chips into the middle.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

In for a penny...

DANIEL

Player bet s t went y-five pounds.

FATHER BROWN

(Surprised)

Twent y-five...?!

On Father Brown, regretting his bold choice. Nicholai sits up - perhaps this could get interesting after all...

EP9/SC38. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NI CHOLAI'S SUITE. DAY 4. 21.30

LADY FELICIA, FLAMBEAU, YURI

Flambeau eases a screwdriver through a small drill-hole... A click. Flambeau tries the handle. The door swings open!

<u>LADY FELICIA</u>
At last! Is it in there?

Flambeau rummages around in the safe. He finds a small satin bag, peeks inside then throws it to Lady Felicia. She takes out her necklace, revealed.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

I could kiss you!

Flambeau looks hopeful.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

(Stern)

A figure of speech.

Flambeau starts pulling out other items, opening boxes.

FLAMBEAU

This bracelet was stolen from the Duchess of Kent.

Flambeau starts stuffing items into his kit-bag, along with bundles of cash.

LADY FELICIA

St op t hat!

Flambeau ignores her.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

We had a deal. We take my necklace, nothing else. Father Brown cannot be complicit in theft.

<u>FLAMBEAU</u>

The crimes have already been committed. I am simply redistributing property from one thief to another.

LADY FELICIA

l'com6e 0 0 GT 0 1 167 om6e 0 0 GT934 op9 1 0 0 1 168 436.56 Tn

Stop or I'll scream for help!

Flambeau calmly takes a gun from his pocket, aiming it at her.

FLAMBEAU

As you're being so ungenerous, I'll take the necklace after all. Something to remember you by.

He holds out his hand. Fearless, Lady Felicia stares him down.

LADY FELICIA

BUNTY, t96 736.56 Tm -0.19A456 Tm 0 Tc P9

LADY FELICIA

I believe you've met the culprit. His name is Hercule Flambeau.

NI CHOLAI

(Appal I ed)

Fl ambeau?!

(To Fat her Brown) He's taken everything. Including Bunt y's car!

Bunty appears, still tipsy.

BUNTY

I'll knock his block off!

Nicholai looks around, realising they were all in on it.

NI CHOLAI

See, Father? A moral abyss! (To Yuri) Da-vai! [LET'S GO!]

Nicholai and Yuri race out in pursuit of Flambeau. Lady Felicia glares at Father Brown.

LADY FELICIA

Thank you, Father. By involving your good friend Flambeau, you've sealed Montague's fate!

Out on Father Brown, sheepish.

40 <u>EP9/SC40. EXT/INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL / NI CHOLAI ' S</u> CAR. DAY 4. 21.40

GOODFELLOW, MALLORY, FLAMBEAU, NI CHOLAI, YURI

NSE POLICE OFFICERS

Ni chol ai and Yuri drive out of the hotel onto a country road... only to find a police road-block manned by Goodfellow and others. Yuri slams on his brakes.

Mallory appears, knocking on the window.

<u>MALLORY</u>

Out of the vehicle, please.

NI CHOLAI

We are in a hurry, Inspector.

MALLORY

We've had a tip-off that you are in possession of stolen goods. I'd like to search your vehicle.

Yuri looks to Nicholai for his instructions, hand reaching for the glove-compartment. Nicholai shakes his head and both men exit the car.

NI CHOLAI

Go ahead. But please, be quick.

Goodfellow checks the backseat, then opens the boot. Inside is Flambeau's kit-bag. Goodfellow reaches inside and holds up Lady Felicia's necklace for Mallory to see.

GOODFELLOW

What do we have here?

NI CHOLAI

But . . . That 's impossible!

MALLORY

Ni chol ai Sol ovey, you're under arrest. Not obliged to say anything, but anything you say may be given in evidence. And that goes for your chum here, too.

On Nicholai, thrown. Then he notices a figure stood watching from the cover of nearby trees. Flambeau, still in the porters uniform, who tips his hat at Nicholai in mock reverence. Out on Nicholai, seething.

41 <u>EP9/SC41. SCENE OMITTED</u>

42 <u>EP9/SC42. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 5.</u> 14.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL

On the necklace, now the picture on the cover of an auction catal ogue being held by an anxious Lady Felicia.

MRS MCCARTHY

What's taking so long?

LADY FELICIA

These auctions can drag on for hours. That's why I decided I would rather be here, among friends.

FATHER BROWN

Does that mean you've for given me?

LADY FELICIA

I suppose so. I still wish you'd told me the whole plan.

MRS MCCARTHY

Hear, hear. It was shameful, leaving us in the dark like that!

FATHER BROWN

Putting Solovey behind bars was the only way of protecting you from reprisal. It was vital that Solovey believed your anger at Flambeau was genuine.

LADY FELICIA

Ch, so it's my acting skills you didn't trust?! At least we got the necklace back. Perhaps Monsieur Flambeau isn't as irredeemable as I thought?

FATHER BROWN

Except, according to Inspector Mallory, not all of Solovey's money made it into the boot of his car. It appears our thief took his reward after all.

Bunty and Daniel enter. Daniel holds back, clutching a bunch of flowers.

BUNTY

(Excited)

Aunt Fliss! I bumped into the telegram boy outside.

(Passing her an envelope)

(MORE)

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MRS MCCARTHY

(Touched)

Apology accepted. So will we be welcoming you to St Mary's again?

DANIEL

When I can get off work.

BUNTY

You'll see Daniel at my next games night. He's agreed to be croupier.

MRS MCCARTHY

No, thank you! I've had quite enough gambling for now.

FATHER BROWN

I will come. I thought I did rather well at Baccarat.

Bunty smirks at Daniel, who's keeping diplomatically silent.

43 EP9/SC43. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. STUDY. DAY 5. 20.45

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Telephone rings in the study. Father Brown enters.

FATHER BROWN

St Mary's Presbytery?

FLAMBEAU (00V)

How does it feel? All these years you tried to make me an honourable man, yet it is I who has turned you into a thief.

FATHER BROWN

You could have kept Sol ovey's hoard. I would have been powerless to stop you. Yet you did not.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Nei ther did I I eave empt y-handed.

FATHER BROWN

Ah, yes, Solovey's money. I confess I'm disappointed. I never believed you were motivated by avarice for its own sake.

FLAMBEAU (00V)

Then you'll be pleased to hear I've invested it in an item of immense aesthetic and spiritual value. I was going to keep it, but now I think I might give it to a ladyfriend. An apology for certain uncouth actions of mine.

FATHER BROWN

How uncharacteristically contrite.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

What can I say? She is someone I hold in the

Until next time, Father.

Father Brown hears the click as Flambeau hangs up. He sighs, disappointed but not surprised. OUT ON SCENE 44.

44 EP9/SC44. INT. BAR, PARIS. DAY 5. 21.45

FLAMBEAU, FATHER BROWN (OOV)

The bar as before. Flambeau at the kiosk.

St Mary's Presbytery? (00V)

 $\begin{array}{c} \underline{\text{FLAMBEAU}} \\ \text{How does it feel?} \end{array} \text{All these years} \\$