

The Fatal Sip

by

Steve Sloan

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## **STAFF NEEDED**

**AUDIO ENGINEER** - This person controls all audio visual demands during the performance which includes Audio, Lighting, Sound Effects, Atmosphere Music and operates other audio visual equipment as necessary.

**SECURITY GUARD** - This person watches for intruders attempting to invade the privacy of the performance, protect the property of all areas including props and equipment, deliver medical attention if necessary and be prepared to handle any safety and resolve disputes within the perimeter of the theater. This could be a FLOP staff member but must be experienced in security.

**SERVER 1** - This person prepares each plate and serves correct proportions to guests at request of waiters and waitresses.

**SERVER 2** - This person prepares each plate and serves correct proportions to guests at request of waiters and waitresses.

**COOK 1** - This person prepares the cookies and popcorn and doesn't get them confused by popping cookies and putting chocolate chips on the popcorn.

## **ACTORS NEEDED**

**STUDIO 1 DOOR MONITOR/POPS/CLICK/WAITER** - is positioned in the vicinity of **FRONT DOOR of STUDIO 1** until guests are ready to enter from **STUDIO 2**. Assists in fingerprinting of guests. Once all guests are seated this person switches off appearances with as long as the Studio 1 lobby area is constantly under surveillance.

**STUDIO 2 DOOR MONITOR/OFFICER MALONE/WAITER** - is positioned in the vicinity of **FRONT DOOR of STUDIO 2** until guests are ready to be escorted to **STUDIO 1**. Assists in photographing of guests. Once all guests are seated this person switches off making appearances with **STUDIO 1 MONITOR** making sure front lobby is secure at all times. Gives camera to technician for Power Point display.

**STUDIO 5 DOOR MONITOR/JOHNNY WALKER/WAITER** - opens RED DOOR entrance as guests are coming from fingerprinting. The monitor attempts to be inconspicuous asking if the guests have a life insurance.

**REST ROOM MONITOR** - stands post at REAR STUDIO 5 DOOR leading to bathroom entrance. They open the door for guests who exit the auditorium to use rest room facilities.

The monitor takes mental note of time of exit incase of medical emergency needed and replenishes supplies as needed.

**HOSTESS 1/STRAWBERRY ROUGE/WAITRESS** - greets patrons at the **STUDIO 2** door. Escorts guests from **STUDIO 2** to **STUDIO 1** for fingerprinting. Takes photos of guests and passes them to Mis Kenzy who after seating the guest tells them that someone will be here shortly to confirm their dinner orders. After all guests are seated Mis Kenzy goes to her apartment up stairs.

**HOST/HOSTESS 2** - greets patrons at the door and seats them only after making sure the guest has viewed the news broadcast regarding the murder. After seating the guest they advise them that someone will be here shortly to confirm their dinner orders. Covers lobby area until Waitress 1 arrives.

**ACTORS** - All actors double as waitresses and waiters assigned to specific tables. Should an actor have a request from a table that is not their assigned area they are to take care of the issue at hand and advise the assigned actor of the request.

#### **CHARACTERS** (by order of appearance)

**STEVE ERICKSON** - He's the man every detective wishes hopes to be one day. Steve Erickson is the top cop on the San Bernardino Police Department. Though srude and insensitive at times he always get's his man. If you can afford his fee, he's at your disposal.

**NICK/NACK WALKER** - The co-owners of the Sweet Lela East Cafe. they seem innocent enough until you take a close look at there insurance policies just taken out on you. It seems that after having so many murders take place in Cafe, they have found a way to capitalize on the crimes. They go around asking patrons to sign a document that gives full control of your personal property should something unforeseen occur and something unforeseen usually does happen.

**POPS SINCLARE** - He's the cafe band leader and the smoothest pick pocket in the Inland Empire. Absolutely anything you need as far as jewelry can be purchased from his mobile jewelry store located inside his trench coat. At a flick of a button he can produce from the finest watches to the purest gold, you may even see something that you recognize. What may impress you is he also has the equipment to take any major credit card.

**OFFICER MALONE** - He's the dumbest cop on the beat and doesn't mind taking a pay off to prove it. The only reason he made it though the academy is because his uncle was Chief of Police. He pays off the candy girl to take pictures for him.

He then is willing to pay anyone who can get the middle name of the person in the picture so he can get the name to the owner who will take out a life insurance policy on the person. No one ever been arrested at the Sweet Lela East because Malone is on the scene. You can find him asking questions of the patrons most of the night.

**CALLIE MOREHEAD** - The candy girl she walks around peddling candy, gum and mints. She also snaps pictures of guests who are in attendance for the night. The pictures somehow end up in the hands of OFFICE MALONE, for a price.

**NEWS CASTOR** - Broadcasts the murder that occurred at this place on this night. In detail she advises the community that the Sweet Lela East is locked down and everyone in the place is a suspect. No one will be aloud to leave until the lead detective gives authorization that the cause of the murder has been determined and the suspect apprehended.

**STRAWBERRY ROUGE** - The nightly entertainment singer. Estranged girlfriend POP SINCLARE and is running around with the husband of one of the guests who happens to be in attendance. She has codes she uses to signal how a murder is to be carried out for the night.

**MISS KENZY** - The upstairs tenant and single mother who is sick and tired of all the noise that invades her living room from down stairs in the Cafe. Because of her pregnancy she can't stand the smell of food. Bottom line, she want's the cafe closed down permanently and she's ready to tell all she knows to get it done.

### **TREATMENT**

The Inland Empire will never be the same. With the economy closing it's doors to every exit, poverty is escalating and crime is becoming an epidemic. Everyone is attempting to get over or get even. In this case someone gets even with a patron in well known restaurant located in the Inland Empire known as 'The Sweet Lela East Cafe and this is the hot spot for crime but the food is good. The murders at the Sweet Lela East have become an epidemic. The employees have codes used to communicate as to how to get rid of the bodies the objective is to make everything look perfectly normal.

The restaurant has opened it's doors. As patrons enter they are immediately welcomed by a hostess who attempts to rush them past the obvious dead body lying in the middle of the lobby.

There is only one detective who can solve this crime. He's Steve Erickson and he's on his way to solve the case of 'The Fatal Sip'.

## ACT ONE

## SCENE ONE

The Sweet Lela East Cafe is on the sign as people crowd there way in. They observe the body of a man lying on the floor. Several objects surround the body all possible clues as to how he was killed. There is a cigar with red lip stick on it; the victim's plate of food; a platter with the words 'HELP CANT...' written in ketchup; a fork and spoon but no knife; candy paper from a mint; a ticket stub for the raffle is near the hand. Near by there is a black and white television set playing programs from the 1930s.

Strawberry Rouge turns on the television and a night of mystery begins.

## STRAWBERRY

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, dinner should be ready soon. We've arranged for you to be entertained by the new picture box called the television. I'll go check on things oh and don't mind this guy he's just DEAD tired.

Strawberry exits going into the room next door. The broadcast is interrupted by a news cast.

## NEWS CASTER

This just in. Not an hour ago an innocent victim ordered his last meal but his last will and testament from a well known local dinning establishment known as 'The Sweet Lela East Cafe' located in downtown San Bernardino. Police are still investigating but say this was not a case of food poisoning. Due to the curious and unexplainable particulars of the case in trying to find out what actually occurred tonight, police say they've asked for the assistance of the Los Angeles Police Department's nations number one detective. None other than Steve Erickson private eye. We'll be back with more news and headlines after these messages.

As the commercial rolls Strawberry Rouge bursts into the room in an attempt to down play the broadcast that just aired.

STRAWBERRY

(laughing)

Excuse me ladies and gentlemen, these talking picture boxes are so ridiculous I don't know who would ever think to believe what somebody in a picture box says. Dinner is just about ready just a few more minutes.

ERICKSON

Hold it right there, don't any body move. Just calm down everyone. Is this the body you called about?

Erickson approaches the murder victim and takes a moment to asses.

STRAWBERRY

Why yes - but...

ERICKSON

I'm going to need a little help on this case. If we can all just get along we can go home in one peace.

STRAWBERRY

But who are you?

ERICKSON

Me! You can call me...

NEWS CASTER

Detective Steve Erickson - Has just arrived on the scene of the Sweet Lela East Cafe.

ERICKSON

These new picture boxes - always contaminating the crime scene. I'm officially classifying this - a homicide crime scene.

The news castor is now interacting with Erickson.

NEWS CASTER

Breaking news, Steve Erickson has just announced that the Sweet Lela East Cafe is now a homicide crime scene. Mayhem on the menu!

ERICKSON

Nobody comes in and nobody goes out, if you should...

## NEWS CASTER

Lock down at the Sweet Lela East Cafe. Steve Erickson has just ordered a state of stay everybody in the place is a possible suspect.

Now obviously realizing that he is interacting live with the news castor Erickson makes some unusual requests of the guests.

## ERICKSON

I want you all to lift your hands in the air.

## NEWS CASTER

Erickson says put em up sucker! Put your hands in the air,  
(hip hop dance)  
like you just don't care, this brotha is bad!

## ERICKSON

(to news castor)

Excuse me! We're trying to do an investigation here, would you mind?

The news castor regains her composure.

## NEWS CASTER

Oh umm, not at all. We'll return to the breaking news story in the Inland Empire as details become available.

The television signal goes to a commercial.

Erickson examines the body with pointing out clues for the guests to help solve the murder. After the examination Erickson asks that everyone go into the next room.

## ERICKSON

This may take a while, I'm going to allow you to finish your dinner but I must ask that no one leave the building. I'll advise you of my findings when I complete my investigation.

## ACT ONE

## SCENE TWO

Strawberry escorts the guests into the next room.

CUE MUSIC: CD BENNY GOODMAN TRACK 1-16

LIGHTING UP: STREET LIGHT (CONTROL #1)

## STRAWBERRY

We'll ladies and gentlemen I'm sure  
the nice policeman will tell us why  
that poor man fell asleep in our  
lobby. This way folks, a nice quite  
relaxing evening awaits you. Wait  
here while I go check on your tables.

Strawberry goes in the dinning room closing the door behind  
her.

LIGHTING DOWN: STREET LIGHT (CONTROL #1)

LIGHTING UP: RED LIGHT (CONTROL #2)

MUSIC DOWN: TAPE #1 DINNER MUSIC

SFX #1: ANNOUNCER (SPEAKER NUMBER 1)

## ANNOUNCER

FLASH! This just in, the body of a  
man has been found at the city dump.  
Police have traced the last known  
wareabouts of the victim to the  
alley way behind the Sweet Lela East  
Cafe, a menu riddled with bullet  
holes was found near by. Witnesses  
say this is not the first time strange  
and unusual things have happened at  
the Sweet Lela East Cafe. And now  
back to today's program.

FX: FLASHES OF LIGHT FROM GUN FIRE INSIDE THE DINNING ROOM.

SFX #3: GUN FIRE (SPEAKER NUMBER 3)

LIGHTING UP: LIGHTNING FLASH (CONTROL NUMBER 7)

SFX #4: SCREAM (SPEAKER NUMBER 3)

LIGHTING DOWN: LIGHTING FLASH (CONTROL NUMBER 7)

## STRAWBERRY

Greasy Spoon! Greasy Spoon! Now  
clean this mess up.



Moments later Strawberry reenters the room.

LIGHTING DOWN: RED LIGHT (CONTROL #4)

LIGHTING UP: STREET LIGHT (CONTROL #1)

MUSIC UP: TAPE #1 DINNER MUSIC

STRAWBERRY

All rightie! Because you've been so patient, your all going to get what's coming to you. We guarantee an unforgettable DIE-ning experience.

Strawberry opens the big red doors, other staff members are there to greet the guests.

The first thing they notice is the chandeliers beckoning them to be prepared for a night of drama. On the theater screen an old time movie plays.

A dimly lit portion of the stage displays a hotel room from the second story window. This is the living quarters of (MISS KENZY) the tenant upstairs. In the alley near by the trash can is still emitting flames that keep the homeless hands warm. The soft music of the big band brings an eerie romantic feel to the atmosphere.

While guests are being seated a body is dragged out from one room to another. Shortly after that we HEAR.

Every now and then the music is upstaged by the sounds of criminal activity.

SFX #5: FIGHTING IN REST ROOM BUTTON (SPEAKER NUMBER 4)

SFX #6: GARBAGE TRUCK

At times patrons are urged to make a hasty purchase from POPS SINCLAIR wearing several wrist watches on the same arm and various assortments of fine jewelry within his coat. They never get their hands on his merchandise as a roving police officer is always getting to close for comfort.

A candy girl with box of goodies around her neck roams the room offering mints and candy and taking pictures of special guests(make sure everyone gets a mint individually wrapped).

OFFICER MALONE roams the room inquiring as to if anyone has seen the person in the picture he presents. The pictures are of the patrons celebrating a special occasion for the night.

OFFICER MALONE

Excuse me, you wouldn't happen to have seen this person would you? If you happen to see them I'm paying good money if you could find out their middle name.

## ACT ONE

## SCENE THREE

The owner goes to officer Malone.

NICK/NACK

There's a guy is in the lobby drunk  
as a kuttie bug. Could you please  
get him out of here he's bad for  
business.

OFFICER MALONE

I'm afraid I can't do that Nick/Nack.  
Your cafe is now a crime scene.

NICK/NACK

What! But I got a room full of  
customers and...

OFFICER MALONE

You've got a room full of suspects!  
There's a detective out there and he  
never misses a thing.

NICK/NACK

Yeah! who's that?

ERICKSON

Detective Steve Erickson here, don't  
any body move.  
(showing badge)

CUE MUSIC: THE INSIDE MAN 00:00:11

FX: SMOKE

LIGHTING UP #5

SFX #7: WOOSH (SPEAKER NUMBER 3)

The silhouette of a man appears as the red doors are swung  
open. Erickson enters the dining area.

Erickson makes his way through the audience with shifty eyes  
dissecting each person. His thinking pattern is being  
monitored by the audience.

LIGHTING DOWN #5

LIGHTING UP #6

SFX #8: ERICKSON VO (SPEAKER PANS WITH ACTOR)

ERICKSON (V.O.)

Well Erickson, what are you going to do now? Ya got one dead body and 50 suspects. I don't get it why would the city pay good tax payers money to secure my skills? Hold on Erickson your loosing your cool, it's cause your good - no, your the best. The fact of the matter is there's a dead guy in the lobby so let's get the job done and find out who murdered this poor guy so we can get home for dinner. I'd hate to have to think about eating here, it could be hazardous to your health.

DVD: BODY PICTURE

A picture of the body comes up on the screen. Detailed close-ups move in and out pointing out images in an attempt to establish clues. Erickson grabs a pointer stick

MUSIC UP: 00:06:21 - 00:07:03

SFX #14: ERICKSON 2 VO (SPEAKERS NUMBER 2 & 3)

ERICKSON (V.O.)

So here's what we have. A male adult body approximately 55 years old. Located in said lobby at said time of death at the said place The Sweet Lela East Cafe lobby. Starting from head to toe, slight balding taking place, eyes rolled back with a look of fear frozen in position on his face as if to say something, some sort of helpless request'. That request is verified by this dinner plate with the words written in ketchup 'HELP... CAN'T... can't what?

With Erickson's back to the audience turns his back to the audience one of the staff members talking to pops starts choking.

SFX #9: COUGHING (SPEAKER NUMBER 2)

The staff members yell out!

ALL

Greasy spoon, greasy spoon!

ERICKSON

No it's not a greasy spoon it's a  
plate. With the words 'Help - can't'  
written in ketchup.

The entire staff rushes to obscure the body from view as  
POPS SINCLARE quickly escorts her into a near by room.

SFX #10: PISTOL SHOT (SPEAKER NUMBER 3)

SFX #6: GARBAGE TRUCK (SPEAKER NUMBER 1)

ERICKSON (V.O.)

There was a report of shots fired.  
But there is no sign of an entry  
wound, wait a minute. What about  
the arm pit? The bullet went under  
the arm, between the flab. Wait a  
minute, he would have had to have  
eaten just prior to the shooting.

ERICKSON

Look folks I'm going to have to take  
a little break. How about a song  
that woman in the red dress.

Erickson takes a seat as Pops Sinclair approaches the stage  
and introduces strawberry Rouge.

POPS SINCLAIR

Right now ladies and gentlemen please  
welcome the lady of the night.  
Tantalizing, pulverizing, but not  
surprising - Strawberry Rouge!

CUE MUSIC: YO BULLET 00:56:41 - 00:59:41

LIGHTING UP: SPOT #8

CUE SFX #11: APPLAUSE (SPEAKERS NUMBER 3 & 4)

STRAWBERRY

I'll take yo bullet, any time of  
day. I'll take yo bullet, any kind  
of way. Shot-gun, back-slap, razor-  
blade - turns me on to say. I'll  
take yo bullet, darling can't you  
see. Gru-nade-pin I'll pull it,  
Explodes in ecstasy. Like a caveman  
drag me by the hair, that's how I  
know you really care.

Strawberry mingles with the crowd.

MISS KENZY

(pounding on the floor)

Shut up - stop all that noise down there! This is the last straw. I'm going and give that Sweet Lela Joint a piece of my mind.

Miss Kenzy exits her hotel room.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

The cafe owner mingles with patrons presenting a document of ownership inquiring as to if they have wealth, insurance, bonded, type of car.

Erickson watches intently taking notes, suspicious of Strawberry's actions. Strawberry sometimes uses her napkin to clean a spoon as if it's greasy.

MUSIC IN: YO BULLET 00:56:41 - 00:59:41

ERICKSON

Excuse me Miss Blackberry! Why are you wiping that spoon as if it's greasy?

STRAWBERRY

Strawberry! It's Strawberry rouge and that was a greasy spoon.

ERICKSON

Greasy, greasy, greasy spoon, I've heard that word before.

Miss Kenzy arrives through the red doors.

LIGHTING UP: #5

MISS KENZY

Don't you all have any respect for a woman with child.

MUSIC OUT: YO BULLET 00:56:41 - 00:59:41

MISS KENZY

I need some piece and quite.  
(MORE)

MISS KENZY (CONT'D)

All that laughing and singing and having fun don't you all have anything better to do? to the patrons Besides, if you all knew what I knowed you'd be running for your life. Ya kaint laugh very loud with six feet of dirt in your mouth...

Erickson takes charge.

MUSIC UP: 00:37:57 - 00:39:08

ERICKSON

Excuse me maim. Detective Steve Erickson, maybe I can be of some assistance. May I speak with you for a moment?

Miss Kenzy approaches Erickson.

ERICKSON

Just who might you be?

MISS KENZY

I might be Miss Kenzy I live upstairs and all this hoopla is invading my privacy. Every night I got a song and dance routine to contend wit and I'm just sick of it. I sure hope your here to shut this place down cause there's a lot of strange things going on down here and I'm ready to spill my guts if it will shut this noise up!

SFX 04-12: STAFF SCAMPERING OUT THE BACK DOOR

ERICKSON

You mentioned strange things, what kind of things might you be talking about.

MISS KENZY

People gagging plopping down on the floor, shots fired, trash getting picked up at all hours of the night, you got to do something about this.

ERICKSON

And that's just why I'm here Miss Kenzy. Let me ask you a few questions. Who's causing all the trouble around here?

MISS KENZY

If you ask me, it's all cause of that woman right there. She's the ring leader and all these gum balls just do what she says.

Strawberry attempts to slid out but is intercepted by Erickson.

ERICKSON

Excuse me Miss boysenberry. Would you mind joining this conversation?

Strawberry makes her way to join the conversation.

ERICKSON

Why - Your looking a little pinked would you like something to drink?

STRAWBERRY

Strawberry.

ERICKSON

A drink of strawberries?

STRAWBERRY

My name is Strawberry Rouge.

ERICKSON

My apologies. Miss Kenzy, why don't you just tell us everything you know.

MUSIC UP: BURN BABY BURN 00:59:44 - 01:01:23

2

MISS KENZY

Now I been waiting to do this for a long, long time.

(LEAD)

See the lady wit da red dress on, she got a rap sheet 40 miles long. See da man wit the diamond ring, he got a trench coat mini mall of everything. See the people at table five, they made their reservation for an alibi. The owner of the club wants you to sign your name, but you better think twice cause you will never be the same. Here at the...

(GROUP)

Sweet Lela East you can take your aim, if you lie, steal and cheat you'll be glad you came. Sweet Lela East is sho nuf swell, you can find somebody to pay yo bail.

(MORE)



MISS KENZY (CONT'D)

(LEAD)

I hope you got some time, cause I ain't through, this ain't the kind of place you bring yo moma to. The cook in the kitchen removes all doubt, but you'll think a little different when they carry you out. The girl wit the candy wants you all to sleep, so she can take your wallet and empty yo seat. There's much more evidence to be found, but I hope you have enough to shut the place down.

ERICKSON

That's what I was hoping you would say. Would there happen to be anything else? Anything normal about the Sweet Lela East?

MISS KENZY

Ain't nothing normal about this place. People diaper into thin air, why this place is the roach motel. People check in but they don't check out. And that silly trash man don't never take a day off.

ERICKSON

Trash man, what do you mean?

MISS KENZY

Every time somebody diapers, the trash truck shows up.

(make sound of truck)

All night long why we must have the cleanest dumpster in town. Funny - all the action seems to take place when ever somebody yells 'greasy spoon'.

STAFF

Greasy spooooo...

ERICKSON

Your not insinuating that the trash truck has something to do with the murders are you?

MISS KENZY

Let me put it to you this way detective.

(MORE)

MISS KENZY (CONT'D)

I looked out my window one night, I can see right into the dumpster from my window ya know, and I saw a busted up water heater, with legs.

ERICKSON

Well, thank you Miss Kenzy. Your information plays a key part in solving this case.

MISS KENZY

We'll I hope so, and when you finish with who's doin the dirty work around here, maybe you can investigate and find who's the daddy of my baby!

Miss Kenzy exits the cafe.

Erickson goes back to examining the picture.

MUSIC UP: 00:28:13 - 00:32:04

SFX 04-16 ERICKSON 4 VO (SPEAKERS NUMBER 3 & 4)

ERICKSON (V.O.)

If only this body could talk. A fork, a spoon but no knife. Wait a minute no knife. The killer took the knife with him. That's it, this case just got solved. Who ever has a knife in there possession is more than likely the murder suspect.

ERICKSON

All right folks, don't any body move. I want to see the hands of any body who is in possession of a knife.

Every body raises their hands.

SFX 04-17 ERICKSON 5 VO (SPEAKERS NUMBER 3 & 4)

ERICKSON (V.O.)

I thought sure I had this case wrapped. Wrapped - wait a minute, the candy mint in the mouth of the v

ERICKSON

Ictim could only mean one thing. Who is it in this room that has an empty candy wrapper?

Every body raises their hands.

SFX 04-18 ERICKSON 5 VO (SPEAKERS NUMBER 3 & 4)

ERICKSON (V.O.)

Back to square one. Let's see now who haven't I interviewed yet? The owner himself!

ERICKSON

Alright, who's the owner of this place?

MUSIC UP: 00:07:24 - 00:08:03

Nick and Nack approaches.

ERICKSON

I see, co-owners, okay so come clean! What's your names?

NICK/NACK

Nick Watkins, Nack Watkins.

ERICKSON

Finally, somebody who's willing to cooperate. I noticed Mis Blackberry menuvering the microphone from one hand to the other. What does it mean when she holds her microphone in her right hand?

NICK/NACK

Kill the person to the right.

ERICKSON

And if she holds it in her left hand?

NICK/NACK

Kill the person the the left.

ERICKSON

And if she sings a high note.

NICK/NACK

Hang somebody as high as possible.

ERICKSON

And if she puts on lipstick?

NICK/NACK

Lipstick is shaped like a bullet, shoot em in the head.

ERICKSON

If she drops her handkerchief?

NICK/NACK  
Cover em up, make it clean.

ERICKSON  
And if it a dirty handkerchief?

NICK/NACK  
Cover em up with dirt.

ERICKSON  
If she drinks water?

NICK/NACK  
Drowned em in the river.

ERICKSON  
If she drinks a soda?

NICK/NACK  
Drowned em in a bubbling brook.

ERICKSON  
If a bird lands on the roof?

NICK/NACK  
Knock the feathers off of him.

ERICKSON  
Now wait just a minute, this is crazy.  
Is all that true?

NICK/NACK  
No! Just telling you what you want  
to hear.

ERICKSON  
Excuse me folks, I'm going to have  
to ask that no one leave the  
restaurant until I can conclude my  
investigation. I may have to speak  
with each of you individually so I  
would appreciate your cooperation.  
Nobody leaves except to go to the  
rest room.

Erickson takes a seat.

ACT TWO

SCENE TWO

POPS SINCLAIR

Okay folks, how about a little  
entertainment from our very own Inland  
Empire Flappers.

MUSIC UP: FLAPPER SONG 01:10:11 - 01:11:41

SFX 04-11 APPLAUSE (SPEAKERS NUMBER 3 & 4)

After the song ends, Erickson applauds with the patrons and  
approaches the candy girl.

A guest attempts to flirt with callie but is slapped in  
the face.

SFX 04-13: BULLWHIP

CALLIE

Now keep your hands to yourself.  
Have a little respect for your lady  
friend.

Erickson approaches.

MUSIC UP: 00:48:37 - 00:50:27

ERICKSON

Excuse me, I like how you handled  
your self out there.

CALLIE

Lots of people enjoy how I handle  
myself.

ERICKSON

But I'm not lots of people.

CALLIE

Then -who are you, really? A cop with an assumption that everybody in the place is guilty until proven innocent.

ERICKSON

I'd like to ask you a few questions, starting with your name?

CALLIE

Callie, Callie Desmond But - your timing is a little off. I have to get more supplies for the next show.

Erickson stops Callie from leaving.

ERICKSON

There won't be a next show, not until I find out what's going on around here. I understand there was a little action here tonight.

CALLIE

There's action for me every night.

ERICKSON

In the lobby in particular.

CALLIE

It's not the first time a patron had a little too much to drink.

ERICKSON

So you do know something.

CALLIE

Look Detective, I never saw the guy before.

ERICKSON

I never said it was a guy, how did you know.

CALLIE

Oh come on Erickson, it's all over the picture box.

(mocking the reporter)

'Detective Steve Erickson is on the case mayhem on the menu'.

ERICKSON

Okay, I'll play along with your little game. So where exactly were you when the murder took place.

POPS SINCLAIR

She was with me.

ERICKSON

The two of you - alone?

POPS SINCLAIR

No!

CALLIE

Daddy Bear, please!

POPS SINCLAIR

We need to get this out into the open.

ERICKSON

Now your being smart. Who else was with you?

POPS SINCLAIR

T-three

ERICKSON

T-three? Who's that?

POPS SINCLAIR

The people at table three.

Erickson approaches who ever is seated at table three.

POPS SINCLAIR

This one ordered a salad, that's what started it all.

ERICKSON

Now what's that got to do with anything? I've ordered a salad before but it never killed me.

CALLIE

We were in the dressing room. The waitress was delivering the salad to the man just prior to the the gun shot. She came in a panic to tell me what had happened.

ERICKSON

And what were you doing while this was going on?

Strawberry interrupts before the man at the table can answer.

STRAWBERRY

He was helping me take off my, make-up.

ERICKSON

You were in the dressing room too? Where were you that they couldn't see you.

STRAWBERRY

Hiding behind the changing divider.

ERICKSON

(to table three)

But wait a minute, maim aren't you with this gentleman tonight. Where were you while all this was going on?

COP

Aha! I can answer that. She was with me.

ERICKSON

And I suppose you two were in the dressing room too?

COP

That would be silly we were behind the door.

ERICKSON

Oh for crying out loud. There is 20 people in the dressing room and none of you knew you there. Look - I don't care who was in the dressing room or what you were doing. All I know is that there is a body in the lobby and I aim to find out who put it there.



## ACT TWO

## SCENE THREE

Strawberry breaks down in tears. She puts her microphone in her right hand, takes a drink of soda then drops her handkerchief. Erickson picks up the handkerchief and hands it to her.

ERICKSON

Don't try your little sign language  
on me sweet heart. I know what you  
just signaled. You want to kill me  
on the right side,

(pointing to the  
microphone)

Berry me and make it clean

(pointing to the  
handkerchief)

Then throw me in a babbling brook  
somewhere

(pointing to the glass  
of water.)

I can't believe that no body in this  
room saw anything, no witnesses,  
nothing!

Erickson approaches the owner.

ERICKSON

Listen - I know your trying to save  
your establishment from getting a  
bum rap but you can't hide the fact  
that there is a body out there in  
your lobby. Now somebody in this  
room better wake up and smell the  
roses because...

Suddenly the back door opens, all heads turn to see the man  
who was in the lobby.

MR. ROTHCHILD  
What's all the racket about?

ALL  
Mr. Rothchild?

JONNY  
Your supposed to be dead!

MR. ROTHCHILD  
That's what I get for trying to take aspirin in the dark. I took my plate to the car so I could have a little sip of Granny's cold remedy with my meal. Instead of aspirin I must have took my wife's sleeping pills from the glove compartment instead. I was on my way back inside, the last thing I remember was sounded like 20 people talking about the dressing room. I guess I shouldn't have taken that fatal sip. I don't suppose I'm too late for desert am I?

All heads turn to Erickson.

ALL  
Now what was all that about.

ERICKSON  
Mr. Rothchild - Were you alone at the time of the murder.

MR. ROTHCHILD  
Yes! My wife is at home sleep.

ERICKSON  
Do you happen to smoke cigar?

All heads ping pong back and forth.

MR. ROTHCHILD  
Why yes!

ERICKSON  
If you wern't with a woman tonight how do you explain the cigar at the crime scene had lip stick on it?

MR. ROTHCHILD  
Like I said, I went to get an aspirin from the glove compartment.

(MORE)

MR. ROTHCHILD (CONT'D)

The first thing I tasted was my wife's lip stick. I tried to wipe it off with my hand, I had to put my cigar somewhere. She ain't never gonna believe me.

He motions the cigar in his mouth.

ERICKSON

Yeah, well what about the plate with the distress message written in ketchup. 'Help Cant...' Can't what?

MR. ROTHCHILD

Can't wait any longer. I told the man with the red hat to get me some aspirin. He charged me \$20. When he didn't come back right away I decided to go to my car and get some for my self.

ERICKSON

And the fact that the knife was missing from the scene of the crime, there were two forks, a spoon but no knife?

MR. ROTHCHILD

That stubborn glove compartment, I always did have trouble getting into it. I had to use the knife to pry the door open. I guess it's still laying on the floor of my car.

ERICKSON

What about the raffle ticket laced in blood, there can only be one winner and I've got the winning number right here in my pocket, how do you explain that. Explain the bloody ticket.

MR. ROTHCHILD

Lipstic, I told you it was all over my hands. What was that number anyway.

Erickson reads the number from a raffle ticket in his evidence pouch. The person with the winning number is called up to receive their prize. On the way up POPS and the COP attempt to buy the ticket.

ERICKSON

We'll what's the deal with all these  
bodies getting dragged around yelling  
'greasy spoon, greasy spoon and the  
trash truck?

POPS SINCLAIR

We don't have no back door. How  
else we gonna get rid of the food  
scrapings? What would it look like  
in this respectable place yelling  
'drag the trash, drag the trash?

ERICKSON

I guess I'll just have to consider  
this case close due to...

ALL

THE FATAL SIP?

CUE MUSIC: THE CRIMINAL IN YOU

ALL

(SONG)

There's a Little bit of criminal In,  
all of you in, all of you in, all of  
you. There's a little bit of criminal  
in, all of you, and you know that  
it's true.

POPS SINCLAIR

Now if you want to find a suspect  
you don't have to go far.

JONNY

Your reflection in the mirror says  
you think your a star.

OFFICER MALONE

Every time you look around your in a  
get-away-car.

ALL

The criminal in you.

ALL

There's a Little bit of criminal In,  
all of you in, all of you in, all of  
you. There's a little bit of criminal  
in, all of you, and you know that  
it's true.

CALLIE

Your always looking for a place to  
count your cash in a stack.

STRAWBERRY

You can't conceal you poker face  
that puts a knife in the back.

MISS KENZY

You think you can get away with it  
cause you have the nack.

ALL

The criminal in you. The crim-in-  
nal in you.