

Maniac (1934)

1 Meirschultz laboratory-- cabinet in background. Operating table in semi-foreground. Table containing apparatus-- some strange-looking paraphernalia which might remind one of vivisectionist--overhead light on table--rest of room dim and eerie-looking. Two practical hypodermics.

2 Dr. Meirschultz is working on table, testing hypodermics with back to audience (side view) and doing business with instruments.

He holds hypo to light and addresses his assistant.

MEIRSCHULTZ

Tonight, my dear Maxwell, I am ready to try my experiment on a human.

Maxwell is a bit alarmed.

MAXWELL

Yes?

MEIRSCHULTZ

At the morgue, there is a [lethal] gas suicide--an ideal specimen.

Maxwell is surprised; runs hand thru his hair.

MAXWELL

Have you made arrangements?

We see Meirschultz' face for the first time--rather typical, half-mad scientist--mussed gray hair--very penetrating eyes--beard.

3 Shows his eyes as he says "prying eyes."

MEIRSCHULTZ

(very sharp) No! You know I do not work under prying

Very contemptuous.

eyes.

You will find a way for me to work without detection. It is your chance to show your gratitude for my generosity and protection.

Maxwell is excited at the queer look in Meirschultz' eye.

MAXWELL

I will never forget what you have done for me and will do anything to help you--but the morgue--dead people--suppose we should be caught?

MEIRSCHULTZ

How many times have you told me of your impersonations--that you never had a chance.

4 Meirschultz drums on table.

Craftily.

Maybe your art will serve you after all. You have seen the coroner. Why not impersonate him?--That's it!

Seeing Maxwell succumbing.

Impersonate him. The time has come when you can repay me for what I have done.

5 Max is agitated and seems afraid of the doctor.

MAXWELL

It's horrible, I tell you! Working on the dead; trying to bring back life.

Max is excited.

It's not natural-- you with your weird ideas! Haven't I stayed here and nursed dying dogs--and--

Notices Satan.

--even that miserable cat. And for what--for a measly roof and food. Because you took me in when I was down and out!

6 CUT to Satan, gazing at him.

7 The doctor glares at Maxwell,
who seems to cringe under the
spell of the doctor's eyes.

Max is very contrite--smiles
wanly. Clears his throat.

Meirschultz is satisfied--
but half sarcastically--

FADE OUT

8 FADE IN the morgue--very
dark. Several sheeted tables
with supposed corpses under-
neath sheets.

One, in foreground, is that of
a frail, beautiful girl. Meirschultz
has a case and Max is looking down
in guise of coroner--very dignified
--looks entirely different than
earlier scene. Has extreme at-
mosphere of confidence about him.

9 CUT to cat pouncing on rat
and eating it.

10 TWO SHOT--Meirschultz
hands his case to Maxwell--
whispers

Maxwell, papers in hand,
reads--

11 He shudders involuntarily
as he watches--looks about him.

12 Meirschultz opens case--
takes out hypos--looks at them
--gets air bubble out--gives one

MEIRSCHULTZ
Once a ham, always a ham.
You, an actor! And don't for-
get, my dear Maxwell, the
police will be glad to find you.

MAXWELL
Hm--I did not mean I
wouldn't--

MEIRSCHULTZ
Of course not. In time you
may be a great man.

MEIRSCHULTZ
This is the one--here.

MAXWELL
File No. 26941--Maria
Altura--24--suicide--carbon
monoxide gas--not claimed.

from each into neck of girl.

MEIRSCHULTZ

Perfect--we will have to work fast.

He then starts a series of manipulations--massages abdomen in region of heart--raises arms--works arms.

13 Maxwell watches, then notices that girl is rather good-looking --starts working with arms.

14 Meirschultz puts stethoscope to heart--works more rapidly. He is very tense--and excited. Use every effort to build up tenseness.

Finally, a faint sigh from the girl--then

15 CU of slight drool from the mouth. This is all to let the audience know she is faintly alive.

MEIRSCHULTZ

I must get her out of here-- she must have oxygen.

16 Max is astounded at the signs of life. He seems pretty awestruck. He then looks at the girl. This look decides him to brazen it out.

Meirschultz continues.

Unlock the side door. Then get the cart--but watch [out] for the guard. Get him out of the way and we'll take her out.

17 TWO EMBALMERS are working on a body and notice Meirschultz and Maxwell working on Maria.

1ST EMBALMER

By gosh, them stiffes are gettin' heavier and more of 'em every day. They even got the coroner working overtime.

2ND EMBALMER

Yeah, between the gangsters and the autos, we won't need another war to carry off the

population.

1ST EMBALMER

You didn't even mention the suicides. Did you notice the beaut that came in today?

2ND EMBALMER

Did I?

1ST EMBALMER

That's the one that's got the coroner doing nightwork.

2ND EMBALMER

What--special autopsy?

19

1ST EMBALMER

[Guess so.] Must be. I wonder who that old Santa Claus is?

20

Meirschultz laboratory.
Max and Meirschultz come thru door of room off lab where they have left Maria. Meirschultz looks thoughtful but agitated.

MEIRSCHULTZ

With twenty-four hours complete rest, she will recover.

Maxwell, thoughtful, seems a bit awestruck.

MAXWELL

Think of it--life back in a body that sought oblivion. It's uncanny--the possibilities terrify me.

Meirschultz is excited by Maxwell's speech.

MEIRSCHULTZ

Not a word of this out. This is only a step. Cases like this have an element of doubt. I want a victim with a shattered heart. Yes, a heart--that can be replaced by this beating thing I have forced life back into. Now for my supreme accomplishment. Maxwell you will get me such a victim.

21

CUT TO CU heart beating in bottle.

22

TWO SHOT

MAXWELL

Not from the morgue. They'll
get suspicious.

Meirschultz grows more
excited.

MEIRSCHULTZ

I don't care where you get it!
From the morgue, the street--
the undertaker! But get one!
(whispers) The end will just-
ify the means.

23 Maxwell at door. He is
alarmed at the doctor's
eyes and excitement and
decides to be on his way.

24 CU Max at door.

Thinks out loud.

MAXWELL

The undertaker around the
corner. That gangster shot
today. Just the thing.

25 LS Exterior Robinson's
mortuary on Washington
Street. Just a large, brown
house, with sign. Shoot
down to basement window.

26 A basement window--
Maxwell opens it and
climbs in very stealthily.

27 Interior basement mortuary.
Complete darkness, except
beam from small window
shining on hazy outline of
table with stiff on it.

28 CU Max tiptoeing to table,
his figure rather crouched
and looking very fearful.

29 CU Maxwell's head--
glances around as if he
fears a presence.

30 CUT to cat fight outside--
one cat runs and other follows.

31 They jump thru basement window.

32 They scoot across floor under
Maxwell's legs--frightening
him so he knocks over body
with frightful clatter and he

dashes out of the basement.

33 Street from mortuary to
Meirschultz--Maxwell is
running as if pursued.

34 Meirschultz' lab--Maxwell
enters excitedly. His expres-
sion is one of fear and terror.

Impatiently.

Very breathless and excited.

35 CU face of Meirschultz--he
is very angry and glares at
Maxwell contemptuously.

36 Then Meirschultz cools off
and paces up and down with
Maxwell watching as if not
knowing what might happen.

Suddenly, Meirschultz stops
in front of Maxwell.

Then Meirschultz goes on
walking. Maxwell still watches,
fascinated (build up).

37 CU Meirschultz' hands taking
gun from drawer as we hear
his voice.

38 TWO SHOT--Meirschultz
hands gun to Maxwell.

Meirschultz is exultant.

39 Gleam appears in
his eye--CU.

MEIRSCHULTZ
Where is it?

MAXWELL
(gasps) I--couldn't get--it--

MEIRSCHULTZ
Coward--

You fool! You have failed me
in the greatest moment of my
life!

I have it! You have seen my
powers. You have worked
with me! You have faith in
me!

Take this--take your life. I
will give it back to you. You
know I can!

My beating heart shall live
in your body--think of it--

Live!

40 Maxwell thinks the doctor
is mad--takes gun auto-
matically.

41 Turns around and looks at
42 it, then whisks around facing
the doctor, gun pointed.

43 CU hand--fingers pulling
trigger.

(shots)

44 TWO SHOT--Meirschultz falls
to floor. Maxwell drops gun,
goes over to doctor, looks him
over, realizes the doctor is dead.

45 CU Maxwell--whispers on
knees, beside body.

MAXWELL

Murder! Ugh.

Slowly the realization dawns
on him; his remorse is turned
to fear and terror.

Murderer--and of my bene-
factor--horrible--how could
I?

Questioning.

[What will I do? I must bring
him back. But can I?] You
should live--you have so
much to give the world. But
has he? Why should the
unconscious peace of the dead
be disturbed?

Decisive.

Isn't the spark that moves
the maggot the self-same
spark that moves the man?
Preserving that spark in
the individual is not
important. What we do with
the spark while we have it
is important.

Conclusive.

[In Meirschultz, the spark
is gone. In Maxwell, it lives.
Still, Meirschultz was great.
Maxwell was nobody. Meirschultz
could bring life back. Why
couldn't I?

Buckley saw that body--if he
tells the police--no they
wouldn't believe him. Well,]
they might--they would

search this place--they--
mustn't--find him dead. I
must bring him back. I'll find
that formula and use the beat-
ing heart.

46 Maxwell goes thru
letters and papers
before making
dash for liberty.
Among them, he
finds:

47 INSERT:

"By the use of XDSQ formula
in injection into spine, violent
superadrenal criminals can be
made completely docile ...

48 Maxwell.

MAXWELL

The formula for restoring life
must be here. [Nothing to
bring him back. But--this
may come in handy.

I'd better hide him.]

49 Doorbell rings and Maxwell
decides to answer it to avert
suspicion. He shoves the
body into Maria's room.

50 The above formula paper
drops on floor.

51 Doctor's waiting room. Max-
well opens door. A woman is
standing there rather excited.

MRS. BUCKLEY

Dr. Meirschultz, please.

MAXWELL

He isn't here.

She thinks the doctor is just
busy working and will see
her if it is important enough.

MRS. BUCKLEY

That's terrible. It's so very
urgent. Will you tell him that
Mr. Buckley is having posi-
tively alarming hallucinations.
Why, he thinks he's the orang-

utang murderer in Poe's "Murders of the Rue Morgue." Tell the doctor I must have some definite help.

I'll go get him and bring him back.

She rushes off.

MAXWELL

No--No--don't do that--

Mrs. Buckley is out of sight.

52 Maxwell turns--goes back to lab, thinking, locking door before going back.

MAXWELL

Meirschultz would be missed.

Inspired.

Maxwell never would.

Maxwell glances around and sees makeup case.

53 CUT TO CU makeup case.

54 CUT TO Maxwell with case and then

55 CUT TO fades of his changes into Meirschultz. Beard, heavy eyebrows, graying hair, etc.

56 When completed, he takes one long look in mirror and swells with pride.

MAXWELL

Not only do I look like Meirschultz--I AM Meirschultz. I will be a great man.

56a CUT TO CU dead Meirschultz, eyes staring. Maxwell's hands enter scene and pull down the lids.

FADE OUT

57 INSERT: Door--
"MISSING PERSONS DETAIL
Captain H.W. Jones"

58 CUT TO Jones' office.

(phone rings)

He is sitting at desk,
talking on phone. Two
officers lolling about.

JONES (on phone)

Yes, speaking.

Puts hand over mouthpiece
and motions to one officer.

(to officer)

Take this down.

58 INTERIOR--JONES' OFFICE.
Coroner, Jones and 1st
embalmer--Mike.

Jones is puzzled.

JONES

You say the corpse of a young
woman was stolen.

Also puzzled.

CORONER

Yes. It sure has me puzzled.
Mike thought I took it out.

Mike quickly
tries to justify
himself.

MIKE

Sure and I would have sworn
it was the coroner himself--

JONES

There must have been a
strong resemblance--?

MIKE

The dead image! And talked
like him too.

JONES

Oh, then you were speaking
with the coroner--?

Quickly explanatory--

MIKE

No--He was a-talkin' to an old
fella looked like Santa Claus--
like I said to Jake--

Mike laughs
here like he did in
the morgue, then,
seeing Jones' stern
face breaks off

suddenly--

Anyway, he had a beard. And busy hair 'n 'n eyes kinda wild.

Half to himself--

It musta been two other fellas.

Jones thinks of Meirschultz but does not commit himself.

JONES

Could you identify the man if you saw him again?

MIKE

I wouldn't swear to anything now--since I was so sure it was the coroner.

Jones has been thinking and turns to the coroner.

JONES

Mike's description sounds like your friend Meirschultz. Have you seen the doctor lately?

Belittles this suspicion as of no consequence.

CORONER

Whuh, Dr. Meirschultz is a great research scientist. Why, he has formulated some amazing methods for preserving gland extracts in their most potent state. He's no body snatcher.

JONES

Well, doctors and scientists often have something queer in their minds. Anyway, I'll look into it.

Jones rises.

CORONER

Go easy, Jones. I wouldn't like to offend the doctor--

Ushering them out.

JONES

Don't worry. I won't embarrass you.

Jones walks back to his desk a bit puzzled. Picks up letter--

Picks up inter-office phone and presses buzzer.

JONES

Collins, see if you have anything on Don Maxwell, last heard from in this city. Impersonations in vaudeville.

Officer nods assent.

(into phone)

Body of Maria Altura, suicide was stolen from the morgue. Thief impersonated the coroner. Party with him looked like Dr. Meirschultz. Yes, I'll look into it before anything is done formally.

Hangs up receiver.

(to officer)

Boy, that's a hot one--and a new one--it used to be getting rid of the body, but now they're stealing them.

59 CUT TO LAB--Maxwell.

(doorbell rings)

Doorbell rings again. Max peeks to see who it is before opening. He turns the lights low.

60 CUT TO Ext. Doctor's house--Mrs. Buckley ringing bell. Mr. Buckley is with her. Maxwell opens door.

61 CUT TO interior office--same door--over Maxwell's shoulder.

MRS.BUCKLEY

Here he is, doctor.

Max takes it.
He invites them in.

62 Office.

MAXWELL

Come in--(to Buckley) You are looking well, Mr. Buckley. What seems to be troubling you?

Buckley is very sullen.

BUCKLEY

Nothing is troubling me. I seem to be troubling everyone else.

Maxwell tries to be affable.

MAXWELL

I wouldn't feel that way. Let's talk it over.

Turns to Mrs. Buckley.

(to Mrs. Buckley)

How often does he have these spells?

MRS.BUCKLEY

They are becoming more frequent. The last ones have been less than a week apart.

MAXWELL

That is bad--let me see. Did we X-ray his head for pituitary pressure?

MRS. BUCKLEY

Oh yes. Don't you remember? You suggested operating after you completed your new experiment. But, really, doctor, I am afraid to wait much longer.

Maxwell is worried about this situation, not wanting to take responsibility.

MAXWELL

Well, you know, we hate to operate on these cases. It's so delicate an operation and I have been awfully busy.

(to Buckley)

You are willing, of course, to sign the necessary papers that you undergo this operation at

your own responsibility.

MRS. BUCKLEY

Of course, James wants to be cured.

Buckley is angry.

BUCKLEY

Who said I did? Always scheming to try to get me to sign papers. You're trying to get rid of me--that's what--

Soothingly but relieved.

MAXWELL

Now, never mind, Mr. Buckley. Nothing will be done that you are not entirely in accord with.

MRS. BUCKLEY

He always seems to feel someone is trying to take advantage of him.

To Buckley he gives a look of appeal as he says

MAXWELL

I'll give him a shot to relieve the nerve tension. It may help him. We'll try that first.

Maxwell is anxious to get rid of them.

63 Meirschultz' lab. Maxwell puts water into hypo. Glances in direction of door with body.

64 CU DOOR

65 Max lays hypo down on table.

MAXWELL (to himself)

Water--that'll do him no harm and I'll be rid of them.

66 CU table, showing hypo laying next to the one used on Maria. Buckley's hypo rolls off on floor. Maxwell's fingers take other hypo.

67 Maxwell with hypo.

MAXWELL (calls)

Come in here, please.

Buckleys enter.

68 Max bares Buckley's arm
and gives him a shot.

His expression
grows a little wild.

69 Mrs. Buckley tries to
soothe Buckley.

70 Instead of growing quieter,
Buckley becomes enraged.

71 Slowly he assumes the
attitude of ape man.

72 Buckley starts to rave, and
during this speech becomes
ape man.

He runs amuck
and begins fight
with Mrs. Buckley
and Maxwell.

73 CUT TO Maria comes thru door,
stepping over Meirschultz' feet
visible thru open door, leaves
door open and wanders into
laboratory in a daze.

74 Buckley knocks Max over by

MAXWELL
There now, you'll feel better--

BUCKLEY
Ugh.

MRS.BUCKLEY
Don't excite yourself, James.
Be calm.

BUCKLEY
Slipping. Creeping. It's ter-
rible. I can't stand it--

MRS.BUCKLEY
Doctor, he seems worse
instead of better. What was
in that hypo?

BUCKLEY
Pouring into my blood--darts
of fire stabbing my brain--
agonizing--I can't stand this
--torment--torture--I can't
stand it--I won't stand it.

table and Maxwell sees hypo
on floor.

75 CU Max sees hypo.

MAXWELL

What was in that hypo?

76 Buckley throws Mrs. Buckley
across room by open door
where body is. He spies
Maria, grabs her and leaves
the room.

77 Mrs. Buckley bending over
Meirschultz body. She looks
up, horrified.

Very excited.

MRS.BUCKLEY

What's this? He's dead! [Call
the police!] Doctor, what have
you done? This looks like
murder.

78 Max is agitated. He feels
he will be undone completely.

MAXWELL

No, no--not murder--my
assistant--he shot himself.

MRS.BUCKLEY

Shot himself? When? Why I
just saw him an hour ago.
Why didn't you call the
police?

Maxwell thinks fast
and talks jerkily.

MAXWELL

No, not the police. I wanted to
bring him back to life. I
wanted to experiment on him.
In fact, I must. I can restore
him.

79 Mrs. Buckley looks
accusingly, then
picks up paper
Max had dropped.

MRS.BUCKLEY

You murdered your assistant,
just to experiment on him.

80 Reads paper.

Dr. Meirschultz, I've often heard of your uncanny experiments, but this tops them all. But, I think we speak the same language--am I right?

MAXWELL

Well, I don't know just what you mean--the same language.

MRS.BUCKLEY

We have a common interest. When you bring your assistant back to life, his mind will do as you direct. You can do that to Buckley too--

To herself says:

And he will do as I direct.

81 She picks up telephone.

MAXWELL

What are you going to do?

MRS. BUCKLEY

I'm going to call the police.

MAXWELL

No, you can't do that--they'll get suspicious--

MRS.BUCKLEY

Hm--with Buckley loose, they'll get suspicious if we don't call them.

82 Mrs. Buckley telephones.

MRS.BUCKLEY

Police Department? This is Dr. Meirschultz' office. An epileptic patient just escaped while here for treatment.

Maxwell listens to her explanation with wonder.

He imagines himself a monkey. He may frighten people ... Please notify me immediately ... oh, no, he isn't dangerous.

83 Hangs up phone.

MAXWELL

Why did you tell them that? You know he is dangerous!

Mrs. Buckley is still angry.

MRS.BUCKLEY

The police will notify you as soon as they capture him ... Now, it's up to you to get him away from the police without arousing suspicion.

Maxwell becomes alarmed.
They are closing in on him.
The police are involved.

Mrs. Buckley leaves, saying

MRS.BUCKLEY
As soon as they call, let me know.

84 After she is gone, Maxwell inspects the body--looks at heart.

85 CU heart in bottle.

86

MAXWELL
Buckley saw that body. The police--if they come--I must bring him back. I must find that formula.

87 Goes to papers and digs out notations at last on restoring life. He reads intently.

INSERT: formula

88 OUTER OFFICE--waiting room.
Goof at door to see doctor.
Sound of bell.

GOOF
Howdy do, Doctor. A couple of my cats got away--did ya see 'em?

MAXWELL
Why, of course not. What would I want with your cats.

GOOF
I knew ya didn't want 'em. Still, I thought ya mighta used 'em for some experiments.

MAXWELL
Me-cats-never-oh-ah-

Unconsciously
he looks quest-
ioning--Then

recovering

That is, I think too much of Satan to use cats for experiments.

GOOF

That's what I thought. No harm meant, doctor--

Goof leaves.

89 CUT TO Satan sneaking along and dragging out heart and starting to eat it.

89a Maxwell returns and discovers Satan devouring the heart.

MAXWELL

What am I going to do. The police will be here any minute. I must dispose of the body. I'll hide it--I'll burn it--no,

I

can't do that--ah, the basement.

90 BASEMENT. Maxwell is looking for a spot to hide the body.

91 CU niche in brick wall.

92 He tears a few bricks out.

93 Turns to go back upstairs and sees Satan watching him--the gleam appears in Satan's eyes.

MAXWELL

Satan--the gleam--you vicious wretch! Stand between me and salvation, will you--

94 Maxwell lunges at cat, thinking the cat has Meirschultz' eyes and gouges one eye out.

(yowls of cat)

94a CU eye in his hand.

MAXWELL

Why, it's not unlike an oyster --or a grape--(smiles--laughs)

Perplexed.

But the gleam is gone.

95 Satan jumps thru window.
96 LABORATORY--Maxwell
drags body out.
97 BASEMENT--Maxwell dragging
body and putting it behind
partially torn down wall.
98 Building under construction.
Max is stealing cement.
99 BASEMENT--Wall nearly com-
plete. He runs out of cement
on his trowel and crosses room.
99a CUT TO limb of trees rubbing
against roof.
100 Satan jumps in with Meir-
schultz body.
101 Maxwell returns and closes wall.

FADE OUT

102 Jones' office. Jones at desk.
Buckley is brought in by an
officer.

OFFICER

Picked him up stealing food.
Seems to be a little off.
Hated to lock him up till you
had a look at him.

Buckley acts very sullen
thru all this scene.

JONES (to Buckley)

What's the matter? Are you
ill?

BUCKLEY

No-

JONES

Who are you? What is your
name?

BUCKLEY

I don't know, [I tell you].

Phone rings.

102a Jones picks up phone.

Show various facial expressions during this conversation to put this over.

Hangs up phone.

102b

JONES

Yes ... hmm ... You say she hasn't been dead an hour? Send up the officer that brought her in.

JONES

What made you steal? Are you hungry?

BUCKLEY

No--I don't want to give any money. Everybody wants money--I'm not going to give any money.

JONES

Who wants your money-- maybe I can help you.

BUCKLEY

Maybe you want my money, too.

Very friendly.

JONES

No, I don't want money. I only want to find out who you are and where you live. My business is finding people. Not taking their money.

BUCKLEY

You--a friend to me?

JONES

Why, yes, to you, Mr.--Mr. --what?

BUCKLEY

I don't know--I can't tell--

Jones indicates pencil and paper on desk.

JONES

Try him writing. Amnesia victims will often write what they can't say.

103 Excited.

Jones motions for
him to be quiet.

104 To Buckley.

Buckley responds to Jones'
very human treatment.

105

Buckley writes all these words
but when it comes to his name
he writes "James--Chicago,"
then stops short.

Officer enters room.

To Buckley.

To officer.

To 2nd officer.

OFFICER

Mr. Jones, I have news about
that corpse.

JONES (to officer)

Just a moment--

How would you like to write
some spelling for me? Maybe
I can help you. Sit down and
write what I tell you--will
you?

BUCKLEY

[Oh--all right.] (Mumbles--)

JONES

Write "boy," "school,"
"house," "home," "father,"
"his name," "born," "my
name is--"

BUCKLEY

No, no! I won't sign any pa-
pers. You can't make me--

JONES

Hm--pressure--

That's all right. We'll talk
later.

Let him rest.

So, you found the body stolen
from the morgue?

2ND OFFICER

Imagine--she was alive.
What a horror. Could have
been buried alive. She must
have run away from the

morgue.

JONES
Never mind your theories.
Was she ever conscious?

2ND OFFICER
Just before she died she came
to--

JONES
Did she talk?

2ND OFFICER
Said "doctor"--[something]

JONES
[Was it] "Meirschultz"?

[2ND OFFICER
How did you know?]

106 Buckley jumps at the name.
Seems to be going into
another spell. He looks
terrible.

107 BUCKLEY
Dr. Meirschultz--he's the
one-

Jones is alarmed.
Buckley starts
turning to ape man.

JONES
Tell me, just what you know
of Dr. Meirschultz.

BUCKLEY
Papers--they all want me to
sign papers.

JONES
Dr. Meirschultz, too?

108 Buckley is very excited
and starts to have spell.

BUCKLEY
Yes--I can't stand it--
everybody wants papers--
oh, oh (starts to growl)

JONES
Take him to the psychopathic
hospital.

Officers take Buckley out,
leaving Jones alone.

JONES (to himself)
It looks as though I'd better
look in at Dr. Meirschultz.

109 EXTERIOR neighborhood of lab.
Collins walks down street and
encounters woman sweeping off
front steps. Collins stops.

COLLINS
Do you know a Dr. Meir-
schultz and his assistant,
Don Maxwell?

110 Woman stops sweeping and
leans on broom.

WOMAN
Sure--they're sorta queer,
I'd say. They's lots of queer
goings on up there. They
even brought a dog back to
life once.

COLLINS
That sounds to me very
remarkable.

WOMAN
It may be, but to my notion,
those that monkeys with
what they got no business to
get queer sooner or later.

COLLINS
Maybe you're right.

WOMAN
I know I am. Why, I even
heard a shot up there last
night.

COLLINS
Why didn't you notify the
police?

Starts to sweep vigorously.

WOMAN
That's their business--not
mine.

111 EXTERIOR.
Jones leaves and goes to

cat farm. Goof has bunch
of cats around and nods
to Jones.

JONES

I understand from your
neighbors that all [them] cats
are making noise at night.
Dr. Meirschultz has put in a
complaint.

GOOF

He's been stealing my cats to
experiment on [them]. I know
cause I've been [watching]
spying on him.

JONES

[Lot of] How many cats you
have--what's the matter--
rats?

GOOF

Yeah--thousands, and right
in my back yard.

Jones takes this.

JONES

Thousands?

GOOF

Sure, got thousand cats, too.
Look at 'em--

Points to cages of cats.

Jones points to
Dr.'s house.

JONES

What' s the idea [of wanting so
many] do you sell them [to
the doctor]?

GOOF

Oh, no. It's my own idea. I'm
in the business. In the fur
business.

JONES

Oh, I see. Cats' fur.

GOOF

That's it. You get it quick.

JONES

But where do the rats come
in?

GOOF

You're not as quick as I thought. I figured out that rats breed faster than cats-- cat skins make good fur-- The cats eat rats. Rats eat raw meat. That is, they eat the carcasses of the cats. So --the cats eat the rats--the rats eat the cats. And I get the skins--simple ain't it?

Jones is astonished at the Goof's simple logic.
(mouths this)

(aloud)

JONES

Cats eat rats--(nods)

But, rats eating cats--that's news.

[But, tell me, doesn't the doctor object to all this?

GOOF

Oh, him. He has a cat of his own. But his assistant--he's the cat-hatenest man I ever saw. Goofy, if ya ast me.]

JONES

By the way--did you hear a shot last night?

Scratches his head.

GOOF

Maybe. I don't know.

112 Jones walks away,
shaking his head.

[JONES

If I want any information I'd better go to the doctor himself.]

113 Waiting room (office).
Jones with Maxwell.

JONES

I'm detective Jones. Just dropped in to tell you a bit of news.

MAXWELL

You found Buckley?

114 Jones is watching Max closely

as he tells the following.

JONES

Not exactly. He has been seen, though. And not far from here. There is also a report that he has been seen carrying a woman. That's fantastic, though, as no one has reported a woman missing.

115 Maxwell swallows.

MAXWELL

That is a mystery.

116 TWO SHOT--observing.

JONES

By the way, where is your assistant?

MAXWELL

Oh, Maxwell? He's left.

117 CUT TO INTERIOR--hotel bedroom.
Four show girls; Alice Maxwell;
Marvel, acrobat; Maizie, in bath;
Jo--business with vibrator.

MARVEL

Hey, Maizie, we know you're hard boiled. You don't have to stay in the water thirty minutes to prove it.

MAIZIE

Aw--let me alone. I may not be decent, but I'm sure gonna be clean.

Alice in vibrator.

ALICE

Say, if anyone is entitled to first place in that bathroom, it should be me. Didn't I sign the register and welcome you as secret guests? Why, if it wasn't for nervy little Alice--

118 Maizie comes in
with towel and
grabs kimono.

you'd all be sinking your weary bones into the soft

recesses of a park bench.
With light, fleecy coverlets

119 Maizie takes glass
tomato juice from
Jo and picks up
newspaper.

made by the great American
press.

JO

Press--that reminds me. I
have pressing business.

MAIZIE

Here's one for the book. A
sandwich man pounding pave-
ments. Walks into a wallet
with forty-two grand in it.

JO

I'd like to find that man--

MARVEL

Maybe we could sandwich
him in--huh?

120 Marvel leaves for bath.

MAIZIE

Can you imagine--the
darned fool turned it in.

MARVEL

His head must have been a
jelly bean--instead of the
way they thought it was.

121 Alice stops vibrator.

ALICE

Well, it sure was soft, all
right. But would it be soft to
land on to forty-two grand.

122 TWO SHOT--Maizie and Marvel.

MAIZIE

Yeah--but listen. After he
turned it in, people made
such a fuss over him that he
went "nutty." Thought he
was the Almighty in person.

MARVEL

So, that's what being honest
gets ya. A nice soft padded

cell in the bughouse.

123 Alice starts vibrator.

ALICE

La Cucuracha--la cocka-
roacha...

124 Marvel gives Alice a push.

MARVEL

[Pushin' all jokes aside.] It is
pretty tough. Imagine the
poor guy. I'll bet nobody no-
ticed him all his life. And
then--say, wasn't there
some guy in history that
spent his life looking for an
honest man?

JO

Sure--but in his day, men
were men. Today, they're
too scared to be anything but
honest.

ALICE

But a brave man can sure get
away with plenty.

125 FULL SHOT
Goes on looking over paper.

MAIZIE

Say, you musta been readin'
the papers. Or maybe you
been drinking "crazy water"
and your head's Wrigley. Be
yourself, Alice, playing the
heavy heavy don't suit you.

ALICE

It's getting me down--always
broke--never a break.

JO

Why don't you ditch that ham
and pick yourself a rich
husband?

ALICE

Rich husband--I've heard
they do come that way--but
not often.

MARVEL

Often enough--but not our
way.

Jo smiles, but Maizie is
intent on an item in
Variety. Her eyes widen.

126 She waves the paper and shouts.

ALICE
The girl has brains. We don't
need to put a zipper on her
skull to prove it either.

MAIZIE
Alice! Listen to this--Don
Maxwell, personality imper-
sonator, gets lucky break.

JO
Why, that's your husband,
ain't it?

127 Alice is very excited--
runs over to look on.

ALICE
Pipe down--let her read it,
will you?

MAIZIE
"By queer quirk of fate, actor
falls heir to Australian estate.
This paper is trying to find
him. He used to be around in
vaudeville days, but we have
not heard much of him lately.
Well, more power to you,
Don. We thought some day
you'd impersonate the right
guy."

MARVEL
The lucky ham--from now
on he'll have the company of
a good egg.

JO
Will wonders ever cease? Our
little Alice in Wonderland--

ALICE
I'm in wonderland, all right--
wondering if that ham's
around. Say--I wonder if
he's still with that goofy
professor.

(knock on door)

MAIZIE
Scram for cover--who is it?

MAN'S VOICE
It's me-

Maizie opens the door.

MAIZIE
Aw, nothing but old music in
the ear. The chorus girl's
union producer.

Young man enters.

MARVEL
Well, what's news from the
front?

YOUNG MAN
Front, my eye--it's the firing
line. Show's closed.

MAIZIE
In the woods of Walter Win-
chell--"There are three kinds
of actors--those on the
screen, those on the radio
and those on their ears"--
well back to the fan dance for
Maizie.

JO
Well, it may be the bread line
for us--but Alice don't have
to worry. She's struck it rich
--But I'm nothin but a nothin.

To Alice.

YOUNG MAN
About time--after all that
digging.

ALICE
You bet, and I'm off to a fly-
ing star. (Mae West gag)
Now you can all come up and
see me some time--

127a CU JO with bathsalts.

JO
Say, when do I take these
bath salts--before or after
my bath?

128 JONES' OFFICE--Jones

questions Mrs. Buckley.
Very easy manner.

Much the dutiful
wife--put on
for Jones.

Slow questioning.

A little exasper-
ated at Jones'
slowness. Very sweet.

Very explanatory
--her sweetest
manner.

Fully for their effect.

She is scared stiff. Wants
to shield Meirschultz but
wants to save herself
from any complicity.

JONES

Your husband seems to be
harassed about something.
Are you aware of it?

MRS. BUCKLEY

Oh, indeed. I am very anx-
ious to have him cured. Dr.
Meirschultz has been hand-
ling the case.

JONES

So I understand. Has the
doctor treated him for--

MRS. BUCKLEY

Pressure on his brain. It can
be easily removed and all
James' worries will be over.
Oh, I will be so happy.

JONES

Do you realize your husband
is in a dangerous condition?
Has Dr. Meirschultz tried any
new theories on him?

MRS. BUCKLEY

Oh no. Not on my husband.
He has a theory about glands
as stimulants. Why, he has
brought dead animals back to
life. He has performed some
amazing experiments.

JONES

Mrs. Buckley, do you realize
that you are shielding a
murderer--?

MRS. BUCKLEY
Why--er--what do you
mean by that--why, Dr.
Meirschultz--

Takes it when she says
"Dr. Meirschultz." He
watches carefully as he
says the following

JONES
No, not Meirschultz. Your
husband had a dying woman
in his arms when found.

MRS. BUCKLEY
Oh, surely, the doctor can
explain that. My husband is
innocent. You ask the doctor.

JONES
Tell me exactly what hap-
pened when your husband
left Dr. Meirschultz.

She tells this
fable carefully careless.

MRS. BUCKLEY
He didn't want to sign the
necessary papers to enter a
hospital proper. The first
thing I knew he had the most
terrible spell he has ever
had. And before the doctor
could help him--there was so
much confusion I fainted.
When I came to he was gone.

Very careful questioning.

JONES
Then he did not take the
young lady with him?

Trying to save
Buckley to get
him out.

MRS. BUCKLEY
He may have. I think I did
see her then. You had bet-
ter ask the doctor. He can
tell you exactly what she died
of--you'll find she wasn't
murdered--

Ushers Mrs.
Buckley out.

JONES
I'm sure we can straighten

this out. You have been very helpful. Thank you.

MAXWELL

I didn't have anything to do with it. They could not understand why he had not been confined long ago. You knew he was dangerous. So did they.

MRS. BUCKLEY

You can't double-cross me like that. You were to help me. You were to operate on him. You were going to put him under my power.

MAXWELL

Not so fast, Mrs. Buckley. That was your idea!

MRS. BUCKLEY

Say, what's made you so cocky?

Ushers her to door.

MAXWELL

I have a plan--I would like you to help me carry out. Be here at eight tonight.

EXTERIOR Meirschultz.
Alice comes up walk--looks Mrs. Buckley over and swings up to door. Jones is still concealed.

MAXWELL

Did you wish to see someone?

ALICE

I understand my husband is-- your assistant. May I see him please?

Stalling.

MAXWELL

Ah--he isn't here now.

Very dismayed.

ALICE

You mean he doesn't work for you?

MAXWELL

No, not exactly. Why the great anxiety? It must be

something important.

ALICE

It is--you know what a struggle he's had.

MAXWELL

Indeed, he has often told me.

131 Enlarging to make the doctor
 feel her importance. Her
 eyes grow large and Max
 looks intently at her.

ALICE

He's inherited a fortune.

MAXWELL

You say a fortune. He never spoke to me of any rich relatives.

ALICE

He hardly knew of them himself. I believe it was his uncle in Australia.

MAXWELL

I am certainly glad to hear it. I know he'll be pleased.

ALICE

Don't tell him. I want to be the first to bring him the news.

MAXWELL

That's only natural. Maxwell will be here around eight tonight.

ALICE

Okay--I'll be here at eight.

She goes out door.

132 Jones wanders casually in to
 office. Max starts--nervous.

JONES

How do you do.

MAXWELL

Well, news of Buckley?

JONES

Yeah, he was picked up--

also the body from the morgue. Say, what did you have to do with stealing that body?

MAXWELL

Why, Buckley stole that body. That's what alarmed Mrs. Buckley so. I have been trying to get her to put Buckley in an institution but she wants to keep him.

JONES

So--that's it. Buckley took the body.

Maxwell beams, thinking he is safe with that story.

MAXWELL

Yes indeed. He has been a difficult case. Now that you have him in custody--you have him haven't you?

JONES

Oh, yes, he's in good hands now.

MAXWELL

Fine. Mrs. Buckley will be all right when she gets used to the idea.

JONES

Do you have many patients, doctor?

MAXWELL

Oh no. Mostly research in endocrinology.

JONES

Mind if I look around? Seems to me you have carried on some interesting experiments.

Sure of himself
but taking no
chances.

MAXWELL

Sure, I'll take you thru.

133 OMIT

134 They walk thru.

135 Advance to basement steps--
door.

JONES
What's down there?

MAXWELL
Oh, just the basement. Some
day I intend to build an
experimental laboratory down
there. It will save me from
intrusion.

JONES
I'd like to have a look.

136 They go down--look around
but Jones sees nothing.

JONES
Where did you say your
assistant went?

Max is nervous. Does not
know what to answer.

MAXWELL
He? Oh, he's away for a
while. He'll be back, though.

137 OFFICE.

JONES
Thanks. I'll be seeing you.

138 To himself.

[MAXWELL
Not if I can help it.]

139 Max is alone.

MAXWELL
The gleam--it was in Meir-
schultz' eyes when he wanted
to murder me. It was in
Mrs. Buckley's eyes when she
wanted to murder her hus-
band. Alice had that gleam
in her eye when she wanted
to find me. She'd murder
me. That's what she wants
to do. I must get rid of her
--but how--Mrs. Buckley--
she will help. She must
help--

He picks up phone.

Mrs. Buckley, we are being
investigated. The police are
suspicious of you ... you

are withholding information.
... I think I have a way out.
Come over right away.

140 Meirschultz lab.
Mrs. Buckley has arrived.
She is very excited.

MRS. BUCKLEY
We must get him out or we
are lost.

Maxwell watches her eyes
while she talks.

MAXWELL
You are right. But before I
can get him back here, you
will have to help me.

MRS. BUCKLEY
How? What can I do?

141 Maxwell fixes hypo, filling
it from formula. Looks at
formula, then at bottles.

MAXWELL
[Something very important. I
have been threatened;] Mrs.
Maxwell, my assistant's wife,
is crazy. She thinks I mur-
dered her husband. [She
wants to murder me.] I want
you to help me quiet her--
give her a shot from this
hypo. [Keep it hid till we get
her] down in the basement--
there is a secret vault [there].
We will put her there till we
get your husband--[then turn
her over to the authorities.
Then we will both be free.]

MRS. BUCKLEY
It sounds all right, except for
the fact that she's crazy. It
seems to me she has the
right idea--(laughs).

MAXWELL
Oh, so you feel that way too
(he laughs).

Motions to other room.

Stay in there--I'll call you
when needed.

Mrs. Buckley goes in
to other room.

(door opens)

142 Alice enters. Maxwell comes in and greets her. Motions to chair.

He lets down on his voice.

MAXWELL
[Hello Alice.] I'm glad to see you.

143 Alice recognizes voice.

ALICE
Gosh, you had me fooled.

MAXWELL
Sh--sh--I want to have a few words with you quietly.

144 They go into laboratory.

ALICE
So--friendly or otherwise--?

MAXWELL
[Perfectly friendly, my dear.]
At last, I have really a secure living for us. We can travel or anything we choose.

ALICE
Then you knew of the inheritance?

MAXWELL
Sure--I have one little job to accomplish, then we can leave together. No doubt you are surprised at this disguise.

ALICE
No, I wouldn't be surprised at anything from you.

Winningly.

MAXWELL
Now, honey--you are here in time to help me and you can--

ALICE
I knew there was a catch in this some place--but spill it.

Quiet and dramatic.

MAXWELL
In the other room, I have a crazy woman that I have been treating.

ALICE
Ha ha, you have been
treating.

MAXWELL
Quiet, will you? This is serious. Our lives are in danger.

ALICE
What do you mean "our"?

He demands her attention.

MAXWELL
That's what I said. Now, listen to me. I want you to help me take this woman down stairs. I will give her a shot. You can take care of her till I get help.

ALICE
How about me getting the help. She's quiet now, isn't she?

145 He is fixing a shot for Alice to give to Mrs. Buckley.

MAXWELL
Yes, but she will break out any minute. She is not afraid of a woman. Just push this into her arm. But keep it hid, and all will be well.

146 Goes over to door and calls

All right, Mrs. Buckley. We will go down stairs. I have a special treatment room there.

147 Maxwell stands back. Ushers both women out in front of him. He starts them down stairs.

He backs out and shuts them in the basement where the sealed up body of Meirschultz is.

(door closes)

MAXWELL
(laughs maniacally)

Stands with back to door--hands outstretched in back.

148 Basement--both women are
scared stiff.

149 Both eye each other fearfully.
Both think the other insane.

150 Both conceal hypos. They
watch for a chance.

151 Finally, tough Mrs. Buckley
makes lunge at Alice with hypo.

152 Alice screams.

153 Mrs. Buckley takes it as sign
of insanity and ...

154 Puts hand over Alice's mouth.

155 Alice tries to free herself.
The fight is on.

156 Meirschultz' office. Jones
comes in with officer.

(scream)

MAXWELL
You here again?

JONES
Yes. Mr. Buckley thinks you
treated him a little rough.
He's in the hospital. How
about it?

MAXWELL
Oh, nothing. He is crazy,
that's all. I had a little
trouble with him.

woman)

(muffled screams of

JONES
What's that?

MAXWELL
(laughs) Oh, nothing. A cou-
ple of my patients having a
little argument.

(more screams)

157 Officer grabs Maxwell.

JONES

Take me down there.

MAXWELL

It won't do any good. They are a pair of would-be murderers fighting it out.

JONES

Man, you're crazy. What kind of a place is this?

MAXWELL

Oh, I'm crazy, am I? Let me tell you something. Those women have--the gleam--

JONES

Come on, we're wasting time.

158 Jones drags Maxwell down stairs as the screams subside and all is quiet for a moment. The officer accompanies them.

159 The officer separates the women and holds them.

160 CUT to wall concealing cat and Meirschultz.

(sound of cat meowing.)

161 CUT to Jones looking at wall.

JONES

Say, what's behind that wall?

162 CUT to Maxwell.

MAXWELL

Take that cat away. That's Satan--the murderous Satan. The wretch that ate Meirschultz' heart. He still has the gleam--even in that loathesome one eye. It watches me--that gleam--that gleam--

163 All look at Maxwell, horrified.

164 CUT to Jones.

JONES

Quiet, doctor. What do you mean by the "gleam"?

165

MAXWELL

The gleam--it haunts me.

Meirschultz had it. He knew too much. He brought life back to the dead. He had to die. Satan had it. Mrs. Buckley has it. She wanted to kill her husband.

He points to Alice.

Thrashes arms wildly.

166 All but Jones are terror-stricken. He holds Max firmly.

ALICE
Listen to that! I wanted to kill him, did I? Well, I should have done it--the lousy ham.

(both women yell)

(cat meouws again)

167 During this time, Jones has been edging nearer the wall --motions to the officer to handcuff Maxwell.

Jones then tears down wall and out jumps Satan and the doctor's body is revealed (or rolls out on the floor).

MRS. BUCKLEY
It's the doctor! (turns to Maxwell) Then, who is this?

168 Jones indicates Max.

JONES
Mrs. Maxwell, isn't this your husband?

ALICE
I'm sorry to say--it is-- (or "Yeah--what's left of him")

170 CUT to Maxwell raving and gibbering. Officer helps Jones.

JONES
Come on, Maxwell--

171 CU Maxwell with faces and gleams darting thru his head,

especially Meirschultz' face.

MAXWELL

The gleam--the gleam--they drove me to it! I tell you, they drove me to it! I didn't want to use my art for murder or crime.

They drove me--with hunger, with misery and humiliation. I only wanted to amuse--to entertain--but here I am--spent my life perfecting an art that no one wanted--no one appreciated --I was good--I was able-- anyway, I showed them--Dr. Meirschultz, a real impersonation (laughs maniacally). Meirschultz--my supreme impersonation.

FINIS