

# 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.

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

4 Meirschultz drums on table.

Craftily.

Seeing Maxwell succumbing.

5 Max is agitated and seems afraid of the doctor.

Max is excited.

Notices Satan.

6 CUT to Satan, gazing at him.

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

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.

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

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

MAXWELL

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

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

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

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.

Puts hand over mouthpiece  
and motions to one officer.

JONES (on phone)  
Yes, speaking.

(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 wanted to kill me.

They all know too much-- want to know too much.

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