

don't feel in the mood to see visitors. Tell the gentleman I am not at home.

End Music Cue 56.

Alice (calling off right): Master says he's not at home!

Corder: You blockhead! Get out!

Exit ALICE right. PHAROS LEE enters right and moves to right of CORDER.

Corder (agitated): Were you enquiring for me, sir?

Lee (first looking at CORDER closely): Is your name William Corder?

Corder: My name is Corder, sir. What pray is your business with me?

Lee (slowly and distinctly): Of a very serious nature, Mr. Corder.

Corder (with great uneasiness): Serious?

Lee: Yes, indeed. You formerly lived in Polstead, Suffolk?

Corder: That is my native place, but I have not been there for some time.

Lee: You had an old barn on your property, known as the Red Barn?

Corder (moving away D.L.C.—aside). Who is this man? What knowledge has he of the happening in the Red Barn? (Aloud). Yes, quite true—I do recall a barn to which I believe the local people gave that name—what of it?

Lee (moving to right of CORDER before speaking): Have you ever known a young woman named Maria Marten?

Corder: Never! Never! You must be mistaken, certainly you must. I am not the person you are searching for.

Lee: I do not think I am mistaken. You surely must recollect a girl of that name.

Corder: No, no! I have never known anyone by that name. I tell you—you are mistaken.

Lee: Now, William Corder, I have asked you twice, I shall ask you a third time. Did you ever know a young woman of the name of Maria Marten?

Corder: Oh, yes—now I remember—my brother introduced me at one of the village merrymakings, when I was down from London.

Lee: My name is Lee. I am a Bow Street Officer. It is my duty to tell you that I arrest you on a charge of murder.

Music Cue 57—(Villain Theme).

CORDER starts back. LEE moves to him, places his hand on his shoulder and shows him some handcuffs.

Corder: Murder—what murder?

Lee: The murder of Maria Marten.

Corder: Murder? Me? Oh, impossible—it cannot be!

Lee (moving centre): Her body has been found.

End Music Cue 57.

Corder: But even if her body has been found in the Red Barn what is that to do with me?

Lee (turning): I did not say where her body had been found.

Corder (aside). Ah, I have trapped myself. (Aloud). What I meant to say was—

Lee: Enough! You have partly confessed your crime. You are my prisoner! (Moves to CORDER). I must search you, sir. (Puts his hand into CORDER's pocket and produces a pistol). A pistol! (Examines it and pulls the trigger. It fires). Loaded! 'Tis the fellow to the one found in the Red Barn. William Corder—this is not the only crime for which you will have to answer in Heaven.

Corder: What mean you?

Music Cue 58—(Gypsy Theme).

Lee: Think of the poor gypsy woman you shot down.

Corder: What know you of that?

Lee: I knew well the woman you murdered.

Corder: Murdered?

Lee: Aye, murdered. You shot her down to seal her lips on some terrible secret she held of yours. You had wronged her by betraying her sister and driving her brother away to a foreign land. (To centre stage). I am that brother! *End Music Cue 58.* I took the oath of vengeance on my sister's grave and swore that I would hunt you down. I joined the Law to complete the task. You are a prisoner within my hands at last—my vengeance is fulfilled! And now, Corder, it is necessary that you accompany me.

Corder (moving to left of LEE): I beseech you to grant me but one favour.

Lee: If it be within reason.

Corder: Lest this alarm my family, will you say that I have been arrested for debt?

Lee: I will do so. And now you must come with me to Lambeth Police Office in order to answer the complaint preferred against you by the magistrates assembled there.

Corder: Sir, I am ready but, as the morning is cold, may I be allowed to fetch my coat from yonder room? (Indicates left).

Lee: You can do so.

Corder (moving to door left): Thank you. (Aside). By the window will I escape. (Exit left).

LEE goes to door left, sees something and rushes off left blowing a whistle. Music Cue 59—(Chase Music). CORDER enters up left and runs across right, pursued by LEE. He runs off right, followed by LEE. LEE re-enters