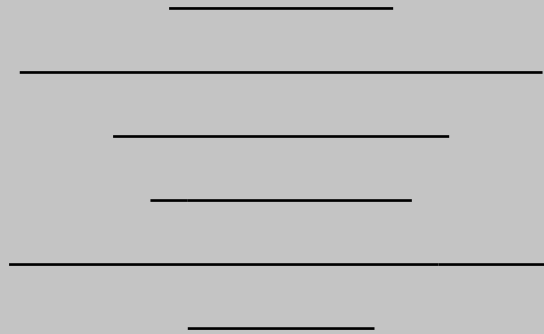


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Bunty, Father Brown, Mrs McCarthy,
Goodfellow, Mallory

(28) - Charming, handsome. Completely blind as the result of an accident. He is an excellent ballroom dancer, an activity he did before he lost his sight and which he has adapted to doing with his dance partner. He has good chemistry with Bunty, who finds him genuinely attractive. He appears as an earnest, decent man who is loyal to his friends. He's from a rich background

(25) - A glamorous, attractive woman. An elegant dancer and Alexander's dance partner. Carefree and mischievous. At heart she is a self-centred person whose looks and family's high status ensures she never has to work hard to get whatever she wants. She's engaged to Oliver, who is equally selfish. Lucy's redeeming characteristic is her devotion to helping Alexander rebuild his life.

(27) - A posh, entitled and selfish man. He is an excellent dancer. He entertains himself by playing pranks at the expense of the people around him. He has a jealous streak, fuelled by the fact that Lucy delights in gloating about the scores of other men attracted to her. When he is arrested and loses power he becomes a frightened, cornered animal; lashing out at people around him and unable to understand how this could happen to someone of his breeding.

(26) - Oliver's dance partner is far plainer than glamorous Lucy, although she is an equally good dancer. Her family were once rich but have fallen on hard times, and she is still grieving the recent loss of her father. She has a kind heart, and wants to do something more meaningful with her life. This is partly the reason why she has agreed to take a job at the local school.

(67) - The host of the dance competition is a sprightly, eccentric figure. She has a joyous cackling laugh and a twinkle in her eyes. She mentors and teaches the young dancers, whom she sees as surrogate children, having none of her own. Despite this upbeat, lively manner she has some darker impulses: she is a control freak, someone who uses and abuses her high social status to manipulate the people around her. On the whole she does this for no better reason than to amuse herself.

EXT. TANGLEWOOD HALL
EXT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. PATIO
EXT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. GARDEN
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. BALLROOM
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. FOYER
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. LANDING
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. CORRIDOR
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. STUDY
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. LUCY'S BEDROOM
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. MERRYN'S BEDROOM
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. ALEXANDER'S BEDROOM
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. DINING ROOM
INT. TANGLEWOOD HALL. STAIRCASE
INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN
EXT. POLICE STATION
INT. POLICE STATION. FRONT DESK
INT. POLICE STATION. CELL
EXT. MERRYN'S COTTAGE

: He does not use a white stick to navigate when indoors. Within the Tanglewood hall he can find his way between locations by keeping contact with the wall and familiar items of furniture - he has a visual map of the area as he was there regularly before losing his sight. In the noisy ballroom he would need leading to the exit as he would be easily disoriented.

When he is being led he holds the back of the elbow of the person leading him. When alone he needs to maintain constant contact with solid surfaces to prevent becoming lost - he would walk at 45 degrees to the wall, with his guiding arm slightly ahead of him.

As he wasn't born blind he will still use some degree of body language, although it will likely be more muted than before.

Blind people do not touch faces to 'see' other people.

1

Waltz music playing.

Establishing shot. A grand manor hall.

The music continues - it's coming from a gramophone. A few N/S DANCERS are practicing.

Our focus is an attractive couple, charming (28) and glamorous (25). They glide elegantly across the dance floor.

The song ends.

(27), a caddish young man, strides in.

There she is!

LUCY puts ALEXANDER's hand on the back of her elbow to anchor him: he's blind.

Walgrave, get your claws off this vision of beauty. You can't possibly appreciate her.

Behave.

Why break the habit of a life-time?
Park him over there, will you.

We're practicing.

I want to discuss a little wager with him. Why don't you run along and help Merryn settle into her room?

(warning)
Oliver....

It's alright, thank you Lucy.

LUCY leads ALEXANDER to a chair.

OLIVER kisses LUCY as she goes.

You look exquisite.

I know. _____

With a playfully teasing look, she goes.

OLIVER sits beside ALEXANDER.

So, here's the deal: if I win the
competition then you give up
dancing; let me have my fiancé
back. She's done enough charity
work being your dance partner.

And if I win? _____

Then I'll give you something money
can't buy. I'll tell you who took
your sight.

ALEXANDER is stunned, unable to see OLIVER's sly smile.

You've obviously never seen Father
Brown dance.

I admit it's not my natural form of
expression.

Miss Windermere, you have the look
of a ballroom dancer.

To be honest, I've always found it
rather tedious.



ALEXANDER elegantly performs a turn.

(grinning)
You don't need to shout.

BUNTY relaxes, enjoying herself.

(26, bookish) is unpacking her bag. LUCY, far from helping, is perfecting her own make-up in the mirror.

When do you start?

Three weeks time. I'll be teaching the new second form.

It sounds a hoot.

I just felt I needed to do something a bit more meaningful with my life.

LUCY hums agreement but thinks this is beneath her.

LUCY takes a necklace out of her bag. When MERRYNN sees it her blood runs cold.

Where did you get that?

It was a present. Do you like it?

LUCY puts the necklace on, smiling innocently at MERRYNN's reflection in the mirror.

I think it's important to always look your best, don't you?

MERRYNN stares at the necklace, numb.

ALEXANDER and BUNTY are still dancing together. FATHER BROWN and MRS MCCARTHY watch. LADY ROSE has gone.

Well, there's one gentleman who's bound to ask you to dance.

Who?

She looks round and sees that GOODFELLOW has entered, wearing his civilian clothes.

Holy Mother.

GOODFELLOW sees them and waves. FATHER BROWN grins back.

The song ends. BUNTY and ALEXANDER remain intimately close, still holding hands.

You're a wonderful dancer.

So are you.

What's your name?

Bunty.

I'm Alexander.

Their faces are close.

How did you learn to dance like that?

Patient teachers.

BUNTY smiles. Another song starts.

Shall we?

Oh yes. _____

He holds her again. She finds it sensuous.

But before they can start, LUCY enters. MERRYNN, withdrawn, follows.

Alexander. _____

This is my competition partner,
Lucy Dawes.

Bunty Windermere.

A pleasure. Alexander, we need to
practice.

ALEXANDER hesitates. He'd rather dance with BUNTY.

Oliver has been putting in the
hours. We need to do the same.

Yes. I'm sorry, Bunty. Thank you
for the dance.

LUCY takes BUNTY's place.

BUNTY sighs. She returns to FATHER BROWN. As she goes she sees GOODFELLOW changing into dance shoes. Weirder and weirder.

MRS MCCARTHY and FATHER BROWN spot MERRYNN.

Is that Merryn Tyrell?

Yes. _____

Such a sad business with her
father.

OLIVER breezes in, approaches MERRYNN. She's still in a daze.

Guess I should take you for a spin.

LUCY and ALEXANDER dance towards them. OLIVER notices LUCY's neckline.

7

LUCY has fled upstairs. As she approaches her room she encounters LADY ROSE.

What's wrong?

Her face hardens when she sees LUCY's necklace.

Why are you wearing that?

It goes with my eyes.

Show some respect.

LUCY brushes past her. LADY ROSE watches her go, angry.



9

ALEXANDER, his hand in contact with the wall to navigate, approaches a door. He knocks.

Lucy? _____
(no reply)
Are you there?

He feels for the door handle.

FATHER BROWN is 'dancing' with LADY ROSE. He's very bad at it. MRS MCCARTHY and BUNTY can't look away.

She is tenacious, I'll give her that.

The song ends.

(relieved)
Thank you.

I did warn you I wasn't a natural.

GOODFELLOW approaches MRS MCCARTHY.

Mrs McCarthy, would you do me the honour?

He holds out his hand. She's horrified.

How can I say no?

It's like all my Christmases have come at once.

ALEXANDER enters.

Help! I need help.

His hands are covered in blood.

12

The police car arrives. MALLORY and the POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER
get out.

We are on the landing with GOODFELLOW, who is guarding the door. Through it, FATHER BROWN is performing last rites over LUCY's body.

Requiescat in pace. Amen.

MALLORY and the POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER approach.

Sergeant, what were all these people doing here?

Ballroom dancing competition, Sir.

MALLORY winces, he hates dancing.

Why were you here?

Um.

Oh no.

I had an aunt who taught me. Please don't tell the lads at the station.

I always suspected you had a dark secret, but this...

(he shudders)

Come on then, let's see her.

He heads through, sees FATHER BROWN.

It's bad enough that my Sergeant thinks he's Fred Astaire, without finding you here Padre.

Inspector.

You should know the drill by now. Crime scene, get out, comprende?

When she was downstairs, she was wearing a necklace. It's missing.

So robbery was the motive. Very good, now go.

FATHER BROWN heads out. The POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER gets to work.

BUNTY has led ALEXANDER, his hands now clean, to GOODFELLOW.

Sir, the gentleman here discovered the body.

Please, I need to tell you something.

MALLORY sees he's holding BUNTY's arm. Realises he's blind.

I heard the killer leaving.

But you didn't see anything?

I'm blind.

So we're looking for someone with feet. At a dancing competition. Very helpful.

I know who did this.

We'll take your statement later. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've a murder to solve.

BUNTY, infuriated, is about to kick off.

Bunty, leave it.

But he...

Are you going to introduce me to your friend?

This is Father Brown.

Alexander Walgrave.

Perhaps we could go somewhere more
private and you can tell us what
you heard.

FATHER BROWN is with ALEXANDER, who is holding BUNTY's elbow, at the bottom of the stairs. MRS MCCARTHY has joined them.

After I fell I needed a few moments to gather myself so I sat out here. It's hard to identify someone from their footsteps, but there's one person whose sound is entirely distinctive.

Lady Rose. She walks with a cane.

I heard her leaving Lucy's bedroom.

Stay close on his face, the soundscape recreating what he heard: the three 'footsteps' of someone walking with a cane along the wooden landing above.

I realised Lucy must be in her room. I was worried she might blame herself for my fall so I went to reassure her.

Insert SC15: ALEXANDER finds LUCY's body.

Lady Rose must have been the last person to see her alive.

We have to make Mallory listen.

FATHER BROWN and MRS MCCARTHY exchange a look, unsure whether to believe this.

15

ALEXANDER enters LUCY' s bedroom.

Lucy? _____

It' s an unfamiliar space so he doesn' t venture far, keeping his hand on the walls.

He' s about to give up when his foot hits something on the floor. . .

LUCY' s limp, outstretched hand.

ALEXANDER sinks down to feel what he' s discovered.

Just before he touches her we. . .

Is this the necklace the deceased
was wearing?

She had a name.

Did you remove this from her body?

OLIVER, stunned, stares at the necklace.

No! I took it from Lucy's bag.

I'm arresting you for the murder of
Lucy Dawes. You are not obliged to
say anything unless you wish to do
so, but what you say may be put
into writing and given in evidence.

MALLORY handcuffs OLIVER, who is a quivering mass of nerves.
FATHER BROWN watches, troubled.

FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY and ALEXANDER have moved to the picturesque gardens.

You wanted to speak with us.

I've no love for Oliver, he's an arrogant, entitled fool. But he didn't do this. I know what I heard. Lady Rose left the bedroom just before I found Lucy's body.

But we've no way of proving that.

After I lost my sight Lucy fought to help me rebuild my life. She gave me back my confidence, even helped me learn to dance again.

I don't doubt that she meant a lot to you. But...

(desperate)

I have to get justice for her. I can't do it alone.

The others silently consult.

How can we help?

Help me gather evidence to convince the police.

Do you know where to look?

(hesitates)

I think so. I'll need Bunty's help.

Very well. Meanwhile I'll speak to Lady Rose.

Be careful. _____
She's at the heart of
the local establishment. She'll
turn on anyone who displeases her.

I think we _____
just saw that in the
ballroom.

I'm not _____
scared of her.

You should _____
be.

Out on BUNTY, growing wary.

GOODFELLOW, still in civilian clothes, is standing guard outside LUCY's bedroom. BUNTY and ALEXANDER lurk out of sight.

Sergeant Goodfellow is there.

I'll get rid of him.

He steps into view, feeling his way along the wall.

Sorry sir, you can't come this way.

I'm looking for my room.

It's not down here.

I don't know where to go. I'm lost.

GOODFELLOW is torn. Compassion wins.

Here, I'll help you.

GOODFELLOW leads ALEXANDER away. BUNTY smiles, slipping past them and into LUCY's bedroom.

Yes, the liar certainly didn't take
Lucy's necklace from my bag.

Miss Dawes sounds like she was a
remarkable young woman. I gather
she helped Mr Walgrave after he
lost his sight.

She spent countless hours with him.
Nobody could have done more.

Do you know what happened to him?

Beat. Touchy subject.

I'm sorry, I should make this
telephone call. It won't get any
easier.

FATHER BROWN clocks her guarded reaction.

Of course. _____

ALEXANDER is sitting on the edge of his bed, waiting. A knock on the door.

Come in. _____

BUNTY enters.

Bunty. _____

How can you tell?

Your perfume. _____

She smiles, sits beside him.

Did you find it? _____

Yes. Lucy brought the case for the necklace with her.

And the name on it? _____

Westwood and Peel.

I knew it. _____

What does it mean?

For years there have been rumours that Lady Rose had a child out of wedlock. They say she paid off the couple who took the child in with items from a very exclusive jeweller.

Westwood and Peel. So you think that Lucy was her illegitimate daughter?

Suppose Lucy had been threatening
to reveal the truth?

The scandal would destroy Lady

22

A new day. FATHER BROWN arrives on his bike.

OLIVER is anxious. FATHER BROWN is with him.

Thank you for coming.

How are you coping in here?

Can't sleep a wink. Every time I close my eyes I can see Lucy's face.

You're still in shock.

I know we had our ups and downs; that I could be difficult. But so could she. She was feisty. Strong. I loved that about her.

I saw you whisper something to her yesterday, just before Mr Walgrave's fall. Whatever you said upset her.

It was just a lover's tiff, nothing important.

(beat)

The whole God thing, it's not really my scene, but... Could you... I mean, would you...

I'll say a prayer for her.

OLIVER manages a terse nod, grateful.

Can I ask something else of you?
Would you deliver a message for me?

I'm a priest, not a courier.

(beat. Curiosity wins)

What message?

GOODFELLOW is escorting FATHER BROWN from the cell.

Sergeant, do you know how Mr
Walgrave lost his sight? Lady Rose
seemed evasive when I mentioned it.

Reckon she feels guilty. It
happened in her house, you see.

When?

Three years ago.

GOODFELLOW checks no-one is listening.

Her top pupils were all staying
over. One night, Alexander couldn't
sleep.

Insert SC25 under his dialogue.

He went downstairs to get a drink.
But as he was heading back to his
bedroom he came across an intruder.
Before he could raise the alarm he
was pushed down the stairs.

Back in the present:

It was a miracle he didn't break
his neck. But when he came round he
couldn't see a thing. The doctors
said he'd hurt the part of his
brain that lets you see.

Did he remember what happened?

No. But Lady Rose found a broken
window around the back of the
house.

Did the intruder take anything?

No. He must have panicked, got out
as soon as he could.

MALLORY enters.

Padre, are you here to learn a pas
de deux from our resident expert?

I was just passing. Good day.

He goes.

Fetch me a cup of tea and a
Garibaldi will you, Twinkletoes?

MALLORY goes to his office. GOODFELLOW sighs.

25

It's dark. In the moonlight ALEXANDER - sight intact - is walking upstairs.

He went downstairs to get a drink.
But as he was heading back to his
bedroom he came across an intruder.

A barely-visible INTRUDER is blocking ALEXANDER's path.

Before he could raise the alarm he
was pushed down the stairs.

The INTRUDER pushes ALEXANDER. He tumbles backwards down the stairs.

FATHER BROWN, puzzled, is drinking tea with MRS MCCARTHY.

Why didn't the intruder take anything? The house is full of valuable items. He could have filled a sack full without going upstairs.

BUNTY comes in.

The dancing competition is going ahead.

That hardly seems appropriate.

Well, at least it will give us an opportunity to go back to the house and ask questions.

And to see your latest admirer.

I do have male friends, you know.

And I have faeries living at the bottom of my garden.

He's a lovely man, but nothing romantic is going to happen between us.

Because he's blind?

No!
(beat)
Maybe.

She's thoughtful, not proud of this.

If we're going to ingratiate ourselves with the dancers then you do realise we're going to have to take part?

He grins apologetically at MRS MCCARTHY.

Oh no...

MRS MCCARTHY is grudgingly partnered up with FATHER BROWN.
LADY ROSE is teaching them to dance.

And left. _____

FATHER BROWN moves his right leg, colliding with MRS
MCCARTHY.

No, your left. _____

FATHER BROWN moves the correct leg.

And right. Together. _____

They manage this.

Perfect. There you go, you're
waltzing.

They tentatively practice.

We were surprised you're going
ahead with the competition.

I discussed it with Lucy's parents.
We agreed to dedicate the event to
her memory.

That's a nice... (thought)

She yelps as FATHER BROWN steps on her foot.

Perhaps we should take a break?

MRS MCCARTHY gratefully detaches from FATHER BROWN.

How are the others coping? This
must be a blow to Miss Tyrell,
coming so soon after her father
passed away.

I don't think Merryn and Lucy were close.

Why not? _____

Lucy wasn't happy when Merryn started dancing with her fiancé.

If it bothered her, why didn't she just go back to dancing with herself?

She was committed to helping rehabilitate Alexander. But she was also used to being the centre of attention.

She must have known someone else would end up dancing with Oliver?

Yes, but I think she felt Merryn was enjoying it a little too much.

Were they more than just dance partners?

Who can say? Ah, to be that age again.

She smiles, wistful. FATHER BROWN and MRS MCCARTHY make eye contact. A motive?

He met a man in the Red Lion who
claimed to be responsible.

And you believe that?

If there's even a chance that it's
true then I have to know.

What will you do if you find this
person?

Forgive him. I've come to terms
with what happened. Perhaps he
hasn't.

FATHER BROWN smiles, approving.

How can your bet with Oliver go
ahead if he's locked up?

I rather think that's the real
message. He's wants you to find the
killer.

Of course the 842 cm -0.0167r m 0tPerhLady Rosssataps he

Darkness.

Movement.

ALEXANDER leads BUNTY by the hand. He navigates by touch.

Here. _____

He indicates a door.

My turn. _____

She slips a hair-clip into the lock.

The door opens. BUNTY puts her hair-clip away, leads ALEXANDER in.

This is where Lady Rose keeps everything important.

BUNTY starts searching.

Anything incriminating won't be easy to find.

Good point. _____

She feels underneath the desk's drawers. Nothing.

I wish I could help.

You are. _____

BUNTY runs her fingers along some books on a shelf. One of them isn't flush.

I think there's something behind this book.

She removes it and reaches into the gap. Finds something.

What is it? _____

Letters. _____

A bright new day. A small cottage on the outskirts of Kembelford.

MERRYNN takes a drink to her pale and withdrawn N/S MOTHER, who is sitting outside.

FATHER BROWN approaches on his bike. MERRYNN intercepts.

Good morning. _____

Father. _____

I wanted to check if you were alright. I heard you'd returned home.

Mother needed me. _____

How is she coping with the loss of your father?

No answer. She's not.

Mrs McCarthy told me you'd moved here. _____

We couldn't afford to carry on living the way we used to. _____

I'm sorry to hear that. _____

My father made some poor investments before he passed away. We sold off what we could, but it wasn't enough.

Which is why you've taken the job at the school. _____

MERRYNN nods.

I visited Oliver Dewitt yesterday.

How is he? _____

Afraid. You were dance partners?

Yes. _____

Did Miss Dawes mind? _____

Beat. She eyes him, perceptive.

You mean did I kill Lucy so I could have Oliver for myself?

No. That wasn't... _____

To FATHER BROWN's surprise, MERRYNN dissolves into laughter.

Oliver is one of the most selfish people I've ever met. I don't know how Lucy put up with him. I only tolerated him because he was a good dancer.

The police think he's responsible for what happened.

He'd faint at the first sight of blood. Mind you, the way the police are going, we'll never know who was really responsible.

Why do you say that? _____

The house is full of weapons Lady Rose collected on her travels. Why haven't they found the one that killed Lucy?

Maybe it was something else?

Or perhaps they just haven't looked hard enough.

(Looks back at MOTHER)
I should get back to her.

Of course. _____

He lingers, watching as MERRYNN returns to her MOTHER and patiently encourages her to finish her drink. FATHER BROWN finds it touching.

BUNTY and ALEXANDER are in bed together, his arm around her. The sheet with the glass in has been bundled up and discarded on the floor.

Shall we go down for breakfast?

BUNTY's mind is elsewhere.

How do you know what I look like?

I don't. Does it matter?

I could be hideous.

You aren't to me.

BUNTY is thoughtful, unusually fragile

What happens to us after this weekend?

I don't tend to go in for prolonged romances.

And you never make exceptions?

She hesitates, tempted.

Not usually.

She snuggles closer to him.

FATHER BROWN has returned to see OLIVER. He's more subdued, confinement starting to get to him.

Did you give Xander the message?

I did. And he told me what your stake was in this bet.

Oh.

You claim you overheard someone discussing the attack. That seems like an extraordinary coincidence.

The world is full of them.

By all accounts, Miss Dawes wasn't a particularly altruistic type, except when it came to Mr Walgrave.

She always liked a lost cause.

I think she was somehow responsible for what happened to him, and you've known that all along.

That's outrageous.

I don't believe you killed her, but the Inspector does. I may be able to help, but only if you start being honest with me.

Pause.

She didn't mean to hurt him.

Insert SC35 silently underneath this: the accident.

(genuine regret)
It was the last thing I said to
her.

(pause)
Will you tell Alexander?

No. I'm not the one who needs the
opportunity to make amends.

Out on OLIVER, surprised and thoughtful.

The landing at night. ALEXANDER - sighted - is arguing with LUCY as they climb the stairs.

They got into an argument. He was trying to go upstairs and see Lady Rose.

Stop. Let's talk about this.

If the swine can't play fair then he shouldn't be allowed to take part.

You mustn't tell her.

BUNTY leads ALEXANDER down the corridor.

We should go to the police.

No. We need to know more. We don't want to make Lady Rose suspicious.

There was broken glass in your bed. She's already suspicious.

I don't have the faintest idea what
you're talking about.

Bunty, let's go...

We've got the letters. From Lucy.
Your daughter.

What letters? I don't have a
daughter.

That's what you wanted people to
think.

How dare you.

We'll make sure everyone knows what
you did to silence her.

LADY ROSE fixes BUNTY with an intimidating stare. BUNTY
doesn't back down.

When I was young and reckless a
lover passed *something* on to me. It
stayed in my system and meant I
couldn't conceive.

She falls silent. Ashamed.

BUNTY is speechless. ALEXANDER sinks his head.

So, if you've nothing else you'd
like to accuse me of, I'd like to
finish my tea.

An awful silence as LADY ROSE drinks.

This is outrageous. I'd expect better of you, Father. Come on, Alexander.

She stands, but he doesn't move.

I'm sorry. _____

BUNTY is stunned.

You had us trying to frame an innocent woman?

No! I swear I heard her leaving Lucy's bedroom. I was sure that if we looked hard enough we'd find real proof.

Who put the glass in your bed?

Guilty, he remains silent.

Why would you do all this?

So he could spend time with you, Bunty.

BUNTY is trembling, trying to contain her fury.

Everyone thought I was worthless because I couldn't see. But with you I was useful again. You listened to me, took me seriously.

BUNTY storms out the presbytery.

On ALEXANDER, heartbroken.

Music playing indoors. N/S DANCERS arriving.

BUNTY's car screeches to a halt, FATHER BROWN and MRS MCCARTHY are passengers.

BUNTY looks stunning in her ballroom dress but is in a foul mood. MRS MCCARTHY is also in a dress, FATHER BROWN is wearing his cassock.

You really don't have to be here,
Bunty.

He lied to us, led us down the
wrong path. Isn't that what the
killer would do?

I know you're angry with him...

We have to stop him hurting anyone
else. He's dangerous.

I'm afraid you may be right. So
please, don't get left alone with
him.

BUNTY gets out the car and marches to the front door.

The competition continues.

FATHER BROWN and MRS MCCARTHY see MERRY and GOODFELLOW dance past them, poised and elegant.

Now I've seen it all.

LADY ROSE is circling the dance floor, watching proceedings. She nears them.

I'm afraid we didn't make the final cut.

It's the taking part that counts.

I wonder if you could set my mind at ease about something.

Yes?

I've been wondering if Oliver Dewitt really did find the necklace in your bag.

Why would you think that?

I've spoken with him. He seems to have realised that only the truth will save him.

I hope you're not implying I had anything to do with what happened.

No, it was a busy room, anyone could have slipped it in. How long was the bag unattended?

I put it down when I came to dance with you.

So only a few minutes.

Yes. That cursed necklace has caused nothing but trouble. Lucy should never have worn it in the first place.

Was it a gift from an admirer?

No, her father gave it to her. It was something we acquired as part of a recent business deal. Now, you'll have to excuse me.

She moves away.

The cogs whirr behind FATHER BROWN's eyes.

ALEXANDER comes outside. Music in the distance.

He takes a deep breath of evening air.

I can hear you, Bunty.

BUNTY emerges.

Why are you following me?

To stop you hurting anyone else.

You really think I could do
something like that?

I don't know what to believe about
you anymore.

Then you shouldn't have come out
here alone.

BUNTY tenses, trying to hold her nerve.

LADY ROSE is onstage between tunes.

Congratulations to everybody that
made it through to the next round,
which will be a tango.

FATHER BROWN approaches MERRYNN.

I wonder if I might have a word.

We're about to start again.

The deal your father lost his money
on - was it one of Lady Rose's
business ventures?

She looks up sharply at him.

Perhaps we should talk somewhere
more private?

BUNTY and ALEXANDER are on the patio.

I just don't understand how you
could do that to Lady Rose.

She killed my friend. I know I
shouldn't have lied, but you saw

MERRYNN and FATHER BROWN have moved somewhere quieter.

When I was organising your father's funeral the coroner had recorded his death as an open verdict. I've known him do this as a kindness, when the person has taken their own life.

MERRYNN shuts her eyes, struggling to remain composed.

Was it the shame of not being able to support his family?

MERRYNN manages a terse nod.

I'm so sorry.

Lady Rose deliberately gave my father a bad tip. Then, when it ruined us, she swooped in with Lucy's family to buy up our assets for a pittance. It was all just a jolly wheeze to them.

The necklace used to be yours?

My mother's.

I can't imagine how you felt seeing Miss Dawes wearing it.

She was shameless. Playing innocent while rubbing my face in it.

Mr Walgrave swears he heard Lady Rose leaving the bedroom. But it was you, wasn't it?

Insert SC46: MERRYNN stealing the cane.

Lady Rose only uses the cane if she's walking any distance.

When she danced with me she left it
lying against the wall.

Back in the present:

We are with MERRYNN, angry, beside the door; moments after she walked away from OLIVER in SC8.

Lady Rose only uses the cane if
she's walking any distance. When
she danced with me she left it
lying against the wall.

MERRYNN sees the cane. A thousand terrible thoughts
conflicting in her mind...

She reaches a decision.

She grabs the cane and exits.

ALEXANDER is sitting on the stairs, upset after falling in SC6.

MERRYNN walks along the landing above, using LADY ROSE's cane.

ALEXANDER looks up, hearing the sound but unable to see he is being tricked.

The competition continues.

MERRYNN strides in, pursued by FATHER BROWN.

She grabs LADY ROSE's stick and pushes her to the floor.

What on Earth...

MERRYNN pulls the end away from the stick, as if removing a sheath. Beneath is a blade with LUCY's dried blood on. It is a sword stick!

Music and dancing grind to a halt.

MERRYNN points the blade at LADY ROSE's heart.

No, don't do this.

She killed my father.

This is revenge, not justice.

Let her do what she needs to. I probably deserve it.

You know this isn't right. Repent for what you've done and God will forgive you.

I doubt that.

I don't. There's always a way back.

MALLORY looks baffled as GOODFELLOW - wearing his tail-coat - brings MERRYIN in.

I'll swear I'm beginning to
hallucinate. What are you wearing?

A couple of N/S OFFICERS see him and snigger.

The young Lady has been arrested.

You can let Oliver go. I killed
Lucy.

On MALLORY, unhappy. Wrong again.



The band can be heard playing in the distance.

BUNTY still has ALEXANDER's jacket over her shoulders.
They're with FATHER BROWN and MRS MCCARTHY.

Mr Dewitt is here, looking for you.

Oh?

I told him to wait indoors. He has
something to tell you.

ALEXANDER is overwhelmed.

Half the guests have gone home.
Perhaps we should too.

I'll drive us.

Actually, there's something we need
to attend to first.

There is?

He gives her a look. She takes the hint. They go.

Well that was subtle.

I know you've no reason to trust
me, but everything I felt about you
was true. You're the most
enchanting woman I've ever met.

I can't be with you Alexander.

Because I'm blind?

No. Because you lied to me.

He nods, crushed.

Will you do me one last favour?

What? _____

He holds out his hand. She thinks... then takes it.

His face pained, he takes her into a close hold. She sinks the side of her head against his.

They listen to the music in the distance.

And for the last time, they dance together.