

**EP5/SC1. INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 1. 15.00**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, SID, FELICIA (V/O)**

Christmassy music over. A cosy hive of domestic festive activity. FATHER BROWN has the thankless task of untangling a box of paper chains. BUNTY aproned and covered in flour, stirring a bowl of mincemeat. She tips half a glass of brandy into the mixture and necks the rest. Mrs McCarthy snatches the bottle.

MRS MCCARTHY

Why you cheeky madam!

**SID** in the doorway - suitcase. Tanned from the African sun.

SID

Good to see nothing's changed.

The Gang crowd round.

FATHER BROWN

Welcome home.

MRS MCCARTHY

We weren't expecting you till tomorrow.

SID

Cadged a lift on the diplomatic flight.

BUNTY

How's Aunt Flis?

SID

Sends her love and news. One for you... and one for you...

SID hands FATHER BROWN & BUNTY a letter each and MRS MCCARTHY a box emblazoned with a designer logo.

SID

...And this comes with strict instructions to open before Christmas.

MRS MCCARTHY opens the box. A beautiful patent leather handbag and a letter to "B".

FELICIA (V/O)

I hope this will go perfectly with your sage twinset for the WI Committee dinner. The Duchess of Windsor has an identical one.

Ghastly woman but there's no denying  
she does have impeccable taste...

Misty eyed smile from MRS MCCARTHY. She tucks the letter in her  
apron to save for later. Divests Sid of his hat and coat and  
pushes him into a chair.

MRS MCCARTHY

Well I don't know what they're feeding  
you, you're nothing but skin and bone.

SID sinks into a chair.

SID

It's good to be home.

FATHER BROWN

Plans for the holiday?

SID

Mrs M's home cooking... and a nice  
quiet Christmas.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC2. EXT. WOOD. DAY 1. 15.02**

**NSE DOG WALKERS, DOG**

**NSE DOG WALKERS** in an evergreen wood. Mufflers and mittens. Pink cheeked in the frosty air. An excited dog burrowing in the undergrowth. Called to heel, the dog bounds to his owners bearing a gift which he deposits at their feet. A partially skeletonised hand...

**CUT TO: TITLES**

EP5/SC3. EXT. WOOD. DAY 1. 17.00

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW**

**NSE DOG WALKERS, UNIFORM POLICE, DOG**

Crime scene. An excavated grave. Police cordon. An NSE PC takes a statement from ashen faced NSE DOG WALKERS. MALLORY is escorted to the body by GOODFELLOW.

MALLORY

Any idea who she is?

GOODFELLOW

Money's on Scarlett Dreyfuss. December 1946. The papers called it the Red Riding hood murder.

MALLORY

Did a big bad wolf get her?

GOODFELLOW

She was leading lady in the Christmas pantomime. Left after the dress rehearsal and was never seen again.

Stopping at a body covered by a Police sheet.

GOODFELLOW

Next day her Cleaning Lady found the bed unslept in. Downstairs there was blood and signs of a struggle.

MALLORY

How did they know it was murder?

GOODFELLOW

A local man confessed, though he wouldn't say what he did with the body. Currently serving life in HMP Wynchurch.

MALLORY

Well that's something.  
(pulls back the sheet)  
What a waste.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC4. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 1. 18.00**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, SID**

**NSE DEREK PUDDLE, AUDITION HOPEFULS**

Open on a poster: *CINDERELLA. OPEN AUDITIONS.*

SID joins snaking queue of audition hopefuls.

SID

Have I missed something?

BUNTY

The Pantomime's being staged at the Haydock this year so they need a much larger cast.

SID

(off their looks)

No chance. Spend my holiday cooped up in a theatre? Although Mrs M's an old pro.

MRS MCCARTHY

Well I did get roped in for Fairy Godmother while on tour with my late husband.

BUNTY

And Father Brown's quite the thespian I hear.

She hears wrong. SID & MRS MCCARTHY - a look.

SID/MRS MCCARTHY

Pontius Pilate.

MRS MCCARTHY

Last year's Passion Play...

FATHER BROWN joins them. Blissfully deluded.

FATHER BROWN

I think I gave a convincing performance. The reviewer described it as "murderous."

A nearby News Stall. *Kembleford Gazette. Evening Edition. "Red Riding hood murder. Body found!"* A publicity shot of Scarlett dressed as Red Riding Hood. Photos of the burial site in the woods.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC5. INT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 1. 18.05

**PRUDENCE, EUGENE, DOUGLAS, ROSE MARIE**

In on the newspaper. Being read by **DOUGLAS BOVARY** (30's.) Quiet and intense. Sat at the piano while members of the Kempleford Amateur Dramatic Society (KADS) bicker amongst themselves.

Leading man, **DOCTOR EUGENE CORNELIUS** consults a list of names. Suave and urbane with just a hint of camp.

EUGENE

I spy the honourable Penelope  
Windermere. Quite the box office draw.

Artistic Director, **PRUDENCE BOVARY** runs KADS - like everything else in her life - with machine like efficiency.

PRUDENCE

Let's pray she can sing and act.

EUGENE

They won't be coming to listen to her.

Leading lady and diva, **ROSE MARIE STURGESS** tosses her head.

ROSE MARIE

I hope you don't expect me to  
audition...

**DOUGLAS** absorbed with the photo of the woodland burial site.

INSERT flash cut: SC45. *Dusk. Woods. A freshly dug grave. A spade in the ground next to it.*

His Mother's voice cuts through the reverie.

PRUDENCE

Douglas... Douglas... shake a leg and  
let them in.

The crowd outside are getting restless. Banging on the doors.

EUGENE

And may God have mercy on our souls...

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC6. INT. VILLAGE HALL. STAGE. DAY 1. 18.15**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE, EUGENE, ROSE  
MARIE, SID, DOUGLAS**

**NSE DEREK PUDDLE, AUDITION HOPEFULS**

EUGENE, PRUDENCE, ROSE MARIE the X factor judges in front of  
the stage. DOUGLAS at the piano. PRUDENCE does the intros:

PRUDENCE

I'm Prudence Bovary your artistic  
Director. Leading players, Rose Marie  
Sturgess and Doctor Eugene Cornelius.  
And my son Douglas - our stage  
manager, actor... and Pianist.  
(daunted)  
Aren't there a lot of you?

JUMP CUT TO:

**NSE DEREK PUDDLE** on the stage. A "before" Charles Atlas. Five  
foot nothing. 100 pounds. Bottle glasses and acne.

PRUDENCE

Who are you reading for?

DEREK squeaks. "Prince Charming."

EUGENE

Dear God.

PRUDENCE

Is played a girl. NEXT!

JUMP CUT TO: BUNTY ON STAGE

BUNTY

Bunty Windermere reading for  
Cinderella.

ROSE MARIE

(mutters)  
I don't think so dear.

BUNTY

(sings MOONSTRUCK)  
I'm such a silly when the Moon comes  
out. I never seem to know what I'm  
about. Skipping, hopping, never, never  
stopping... I can't keep still  
although I try...

JUMP CUT TO: MRS MCCARTHY ON STAGE.

MRS MCCARTHY  
Bridget McCarthy reading for Fairy  
Godmother.

MRS MCCARTHY also sings "Moonstruck."

MRS MCCARTHY  
I'm all a-quiver when the Moon-beams  
glance. That is the moment when I long  
to dance. I can never close a sleepy  
eye. When the Moon comes creeping  
through the sky.

She's a natural. It washes over Prudence who has just spotted  
SID in the wings with FATHER BROWN.

PRUDENCE  
Young man! How tall are you?

SID  
Six foot two... b(ut)

PRUDENCE  
Name?

SID  
Sidney Carter. Not auditioning just  
here for moral support.

PRUDENCE makes a note of his name anyway.

JUMP CUT TO: FATHER BROWN DOING HIS BEST RICHARD III.

FATHER BROWN  
Is there a murderer here? No. Yes, I  
am: Then fly. What, from myself? Great  
reason why:

Out on the panel - heads in hands.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC7. INT. POLICE STATION. MALLORY'S OFFICE. DAY 2. 10.00**

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW**

NEW DAY. MALLORY poring over the Scarlett Dreyfuss post-mortem report. GOODFELLOW enters.

GOODFELLOW

You wanted to see me Sir?

MALLORY

Tell me about Benedict Clough.

GOODFELLOW

Benny. Nice lad but "simple" if you get my drift. Earned a living making bicycle deliveries.

MALLORY

And Scarlett Dreyfuss?

GOODFELLOW

A newcomer and rather racy for these parts. Two ex husbands and a roving eye.

MALLORY

She must have ruffled a few feathers.

GOODFELLOW

She ruffled Benny's all right. Followed her round like Mary's little lamb.

MALLORY

So when she went missing he was number one suspect?

GOODFELLOW

He was spotted bicycling home in the vicinity with scratches on his face. When the Police turned up to question him, he bolted.

MALLORY

And when apprehended, confessed his socks off.

(reads from file)

"I did something bad to Miss Scarlett."

GOODFELLOW

Tried to "assault" her. When she fought back, he panicked and caved in her skull with a door stop.

MALLORY

Did he now?

GOODFELLOW

Why all the interest in a closed case?

MALLORY holds up the report he's reading.

MALLORY

Because according to the post-mortem - Benedict Clough's confession was a pack of lies.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC8. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 2. 11.00**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, SID**

**NSE VILLAGERS**

The parts have been posted on the Village notice board. Eager faces scan the list.

BUNTY

Fairy Godmother. Bunty Windermere...  
(guilty to MRS MCCARTHY)  
I know you had your heart set...

MRS MCCARTHY masks her disappointment.

MRS MCCARTHY

That's wonderful. Don't you worry  
about me.

BUNTY

And you are...  
(Oh...)  
Prompt.

FATHER BROWN

An indispensable part of any  
production.

MRS MCCARTHY

(brave face)  
Indeed it is.

BUNTY

And Father Brown is Daisy.  
(confused)  
And so is Sid?

SID

That's a mistake. I didn't even  
audition. And there can't be two  
Daisy's.

FATHER BROWN

I think there is only one Daisy...  
just in two halves.

And on that ominous note.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC9 - OMITTED**

EP5/SC10. INT. PRISON. CELL. DAY 3. 11.30

**FATHER BROWN, MALLORY, BENNY**

The cell is festooned with dispiriting chains made from newspaper. FATHER BROWN reads a letter from his Mother to **BENNY CLOUGH** (20's) The mind of a child in a man's body. He cuts paper stars out of newspaper as he mouths the words. Knows the letter off by heart.

FATHER BROWN

...the house is all decorated. Holly and ivy and all the old decorations except for the tree which I'm saving for Christmas eve...

Keys jangle in the door. MALLORY enters.

MALLORY

(to FATHER BROWN)

Padre. I'd say this was a nice surprise but then I'd be lying on both counts.

FATHER BROWN

Benny isn't very fond of Policemen so they thought it best a chaperone were present.

(to BENNY)

This is Inspector Mallory. He's not as scary as he looks.

BENNY

Does he know when I'm going home?

MALLORY sits.

MALLORY

I'm afraid not but I have some questions. In your confession you said you hit Scarlett on the head with a doorstop which you then buried with the body?

BENNY cuts away at his newspaper and refuses to look at him.

MALLORY

But we found the body. And there were no signs of skull trauma. Or a murder weapon.

FATHER BROWN raises an eyebrow. MALLORY persists.

MALLORY

When arrested you said "I did something bad to Miss Scarlett" Can you explain what you meant?

BENNY

(Upset)  
She said I'd go to hell.

FATHER BROWN

Nonsense. God forgives everyone who confesses their sins and are sorry.

Eventually...

BENNY

I had a delivery for Miss Scarlett and saw her car at the theatre. So I went in...

INSERT FLASHBACK SC11. Benny walks in on Scarlett naked.

Back to SC10. MALLORY frowns.

MALLORY

There was no mention of this in your statement..

FATHER BROWN

Benny can't read.

BENNY

The Policeman wrote it and said if I signed it then I'd be home in time for Christmas.

FATHER BROWN exchanges a look with MALLORY.

BENNY

Lying's a ten commandment isn't it Father?

FATHER BROWN

(steely)  
Number nine. Loud and clear.

MALLORY

What about in court? Why did you plead guilty?

BENNY

Ma said it was for the best.

MALLORY

Maybe I should have a word with your  
Ma.

BENNY

She doesn't like Policemen.

MALLORY

I'll take a chaperone.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC11. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 0. 16.00**  
**FLASHBACK - 19.46**

**BENNY, SCARLETT**

Holding a paper bag, BENNY walks in on SCARLETT changing. She can see him reflected in the mirror - transfixed in the doorway but feigns ignorance. A show for his benefit. Teasing displays of flesh before she spins to confront him. Relishing his stammered bewilderment.

SCARLETT

Bad boy, playing peeping Tom on naked ladies.

BENNY

I wasn't... I... I...

SCARLETT

You'll go to hell for that.

BENNY

I... I... brought your n... nerve powders from Doctor Cornelius...

SCARLETT

Was it worth it Benny? Did you like what you saw?

He dumps the bag on the dressing table and scarpers. Her mocking laughter follows him as he flees.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC12. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 3. 12.00**

**NOTICE BOARD ESTABLISHER - PANTOMIME POSTER: WEDNESDAY  
REHEARSALS.**

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC13. INT. THEATRE. FLY LOFT. DAY 3. 12.05**

**NSE STAGE HAND**

Intercut next scene. **An NSE STAGE HAND** unwinds a rope from its cleat.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC14. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "FOREST". DAY 3. 12.06**

**BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS, ROSE MARIE, BOB, EUGENE  
NSE STAGE HANDS, NS PRINCE, DANDINI, VILLAGERS**

INTERCUT PREVIOUS SC. **THE TREE OF TRUTH.** Bench and tree centre stage. NS STAGE HANDS behind the tree working the levers.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA and DOUGLAS/BUTTONS sit either end of the bench. BUNTY front stage.

PRUDENCE directs from the stalls. MRS MCCARTHY beside her prompting.

BUNTY  
Buttons beware...  
(blank)  
Buttons beware...

The mellifluous tones of the Prompt floats from the stalls.

MRS MCCARTHY  
The tree of truth will hear a lie...

BUNTY/FAIRY GODMOTHER  
(wooden)  
The tree of truth will hear a lie and  
drop an apple in your eye.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE  
Is there a girl you love Buttons?

BUTTONS/DOUGLAS  
No.

The STAGE HAND releases a lever. A prop apple drops on BUTTONS' head.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE  
There is! Is she someone I know?

BUTTONS shuffles across the bench.

BUTTONS  
No. Ow... Ow...

...As two apples drop on his head...

FLY LOFT. The **NS STAGE HAND** takes the weight of the rope.

BUTTONS shuffles even further across the bench squashing CINDERELLA.

BUTTONS/DOUGLAS

I mean yes... it's...

FLY LOFT. The stage hand preempts his cue. Releases the rope.

A bucket of prop apples lands on Buttons' head. Fake fruit goes everywhere. Prudence yells up to the fly loft.

PRUDENCE

Too early! Wait for the cue. Again please!

(to MRS MCCARTHY)

Be a brick Barbara and gather up the apples.

Poor MRS MCCARTHY.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC15. INT. HOLLY COTTAGE. PARLOUR. DAY 3. 16.00**

**MALLORY, FATHER BROWN, ADA**

A spartan small holding. Benny's Mother **ADA CLOUGH** (70's.) A gruff countrywoman with a gammy leg - shows them into a dusty parlour, which belying her letters is cold and totally devoid of festive cheer.

FATHER BROWN

I was expecting something rather more festive.

ADA

If you mean the letters, I write what he wants to hear. Benny loved Christmas. This place would look like Santa's grotto. When they took him away I burnt the lot. What's the point of Christmas without a child?

MALLORY

(opens his note book)  
Scarlett Dreyfuss....

ADA

Was a succubus.

MALLORY poises his pencil...

FATHER BROWN

(helpful)  
Two c's one b.

MALLORY

(sarcastic)  
Thank you.

ADA

Any male was fair game - even a child in a man's body like Benny.

MALLORY

Tell me about these other men?

ADA

Ask that amateur dramatics lot. And then ask yourself why the Police didn't interview them at the time.

MALLORY

Mrs Clough. As you clearly believe your son is innocent, why did you tell him to plead guilty?

ADA

To save him from the noose. A guilty plea in return for a reduced charge of manslaughter. Your DI Jones was very ...persuasive.

MALLORY

DI Jones passed away last year. I'm on the case now and if there has been any... irregularity, you have my word it will be investigated.

(TO FATHER BROWN)

And no need for you to go sticking your nose in.

Out on FATHER BROWN - butter wouldn't melt.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC16 - OMITTED**

EP5/SC17. INT. CORNELIUS CLINIC. CONSULTING ROOM. DAY 4. 09.30

**EUGENE, DOUGLAS**

**NSE MRS CHETWYND, SECRETARY**

New day. EUGENE'S Clinic. A raft of diploma's on the wall though none of them medical. NS **MRS CHETWYND** on a psychiatrist's couch... EUGENE hands her a freshly laundered handkerchief.

EUGENE

This left you feeling angry?

MRS CHETWYND snuffles a nod.

EUGENE

And did you express your anger?

...DOUGLAS bursts in. Pale, strung out and unannounced. A protesting NS **SECRETARY** at his heels.

DOUGLAS

It's happening again.

EUGENE eyes him with concern.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC18. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 4. 16.00**

**NOTICE BOARD ESTABLISHER - PANTOMIME POSTER: COSTUME FITTINGS.**

CUT TO:

EP5/SC19. INT. THEATRE. GREEN ROOM. DAY 4. 16.01

MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY, SID, FATHER BROWN, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE,  
DOUGLAS, PRUDENCE

NS DANDINI, PRINCE, 2 X VILLAGERS

A spillage of costumes. On rails, in trunks, piled on the floor. SID & FATHER BROWN in Panto Cow get up. SID up front and FATHER BROWN behind. EUGENE as KING CHARMING, ROSE MARIE in red and brown Cinderella rags searching rifling through trunks.

SID/DAISY  
(to his bottom)  
Another fine mess you've got me into.

ROSE MARIE  
If anyone sees a cloak with a hood I need it for the forest scenes...

BUNTY steps from behind a screen in her Fairy Godmother frock. DAISY's head wolf whistles. MRS MCCARTHY raps DAISY'S nose.

DAISY/SID  
Ow.

MRS MCCARTHY  
(To Bunty)  
You look like a fairy tale.

BUNTY  
(the dress)  
It's too big.

MRS MCCARTHY picks up a sewing basket.

MRS MCCARTHY  
A few alterations is all that's needed.

MRS MCCARTHY gets to her knees to pin the hem. A look with BUNTY. Received and understood.

BUNTY  
I read all about the Red Riding hood murder. I suppose she was a friend of yours?

ROSE MARIE  
She was a piece of work.

EUGENE  
Translation. She stole leading lady from under your nose.

ROSE MARIE

I meant poor Douglas. He was engaged to a nice WAAF before she got her claws in him. And that ghastly scene at the dress rehearsal!

INSERT FLASHBACK. SC20. PRUDENCE discovers SCARLETT and DOUGLAS en flagrante.

ROSE MARIE (V/O)

Then a flashpot went off and Douglas had one of his episodes and bolted.

BUNTY

Episodes?

ROSE MARIE

He had a bad war.

EUGENE

I was treating him for shell shock and he was responding well until...

Tailing off as PRUDENCE steams in and clocks MRS MCCARTHY on her hands and knees with a mouthful of pins.

PRUDENCE

Marvellous, we're a wardrobe Mistress short. Think you can double with Prompt Barbara?

MRS MCCARTHY

Bridget... and I don't know if...

PRUDENCE

That's the spirit. You can start by getting this lot sorted.

DOUGLAS arrives dressed as BUTTONS.

DOUGLAS

The Police want to speak to us about Scarlett.

He and PRUDENCE exchange a look of trepidation.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC20. INT. THEATRE. ALCOVE/STAGE. DAY 0. 14.00  
FLASHBACK - 19.46

**PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS, SCARLETT, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE**

**NSE CAST and CREW**

Closed curtains conceal SCARLETT (RED RIDING HOOD) in a clinch with DOUGLAS (stage manager mufti) She's got him pinned against the wall... fumbling with his belt. DOUGLAS hating himself but unable to resist.

The curtain wrenches aside. PRUDENCE. Incandescent. In the back ground. Cast and crew on stage including EUGENE (HUNTSMAN.)

PRUDENCE

Oh you stupid... stupid boy.

(To Scarlett)

You do know he's engaged to be married?

SCARLETT

Maybe he'd like to make an honest woman out of me instead?

A pyro flashpot goes off as ROSE MARIE/WOODLAND FAIRY leaps on stage.

DOUGLAS turns rabbit in the headlights.

PRUDENCE

He'll marry the likes of you over my dead body.

DOUGLAS throws off SCARLETT. Shoves PRUDENCE aside and bolts from the theatre.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC21. INT. THEATRE. SCENERY DOCK. DAY 4. 16.10

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, EUGENE, ROSE MARIE, BOB, DOUGLAS,  
PRUDENCE, FATHER BROWN, SID (DAISY)**

**NS DANDINI, PRINCE, VILLAGERS**

EUGENE raises an eyebrow.

EUGENE

You don't think one of us did it?

MALLORY

I'm merely following up on some loose ends. And as Miss Dreyfuss was last seen alive at the theatre...

ROSE MARIE

Well my husband will vouch for me...

On cue - EX SUPERINTENDENT **BOB STURGESS** - Firm but fair - walks in dressed as BARON HARDUP, followed by DAISY.

BOB

He most certainly can.

MALLORY and GOODFELLOW snap to attention.

MALLORY/GOODFELLOW

Sir/Superintendent.

BOB

At ease Lads. It's plain Mr Sturgess now.

MALLORY

(Of Rose Marie)  
I wasn't aware.

BOB

This gorgeous creature is my wife.

BOB snuggles up to ROSE MARIE. She simpers.

GOODFELLOW

How's retirement treating you. S... Mr Sturgess?

BOB

(His get up)  
As you see, she's roped me in as Baron Hardup. So why all the interest in the Dreyfuss case?

MALLORY

A word in private.

MALLORY leads him out of earshot. DOUGLAS takes his Mother aside without clocking DAISY behind a piece of scenery.

DOUGLAS

Should I say something?

PRUDENCE

Say what exactly?

He doesn't know...

PRUDENCE

You will say *nothing* to the Police Douglas.

DAISY'S head exchanges a "look" with DAISY'S rear.

MALLORY & GOODFELLOW speak privately with BOB.

MALLORY

...and discovered he was duped into signing it by DI Jones.

BOB

Who is conveniently deceased and thus unable to defend himself.

MALLORY

But Sir...

BOB

It's a can of worms. You want the public thinking we left a killer on the loose? I'd call that a catastrophic own goal for community relations.

(off his silence)

Is that clear son?

MALLORY

Perfectly "Mr" Sturgess.

BOB

On the subject of which, we're still short on cast and I'm sure the public would appreciate a Police involvement in such a community event.

As MALLORY opens his mouth to protest...

GOODFELLOW  
Happy to oblige Sir.

BOB  
Good men.  
(heads toward Prudence)  
Found you some volunteers Pru...

GOODFELLOW braces himself for a tongue lashing but...

MALLORY  
Lucky for you, I've no intention of  
dropping anything. We can do some  
sniffing around. And I expect we can  
manage 7th and 8th Villager...

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC22. INT. THEATRE. GREEN ROOM. DAY 4. 16.30**

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE**

MALLORY & GOODFELLOW in full Ugly Sister get up. Hernia and Vulgaria.

GOODFELLOW  
I'm sorry Sir.

MALLORY  
(it's a promise)  
You will be Sergeant...

PRUDENCE hands them both a script.

PRUDENCE  
We'll see you at rehearsals tomorrow.

Go to MRS MCCARTHY sorting a spillage of costumes. Finds a red hooded cloak and while brushing it down feels something crackle in the pocket. A square of brown waxed wrapping paper with a typewritten address label glued to it.

*Rose Marie Sturgess. The Old Rectory, Haydock Rise.*

CUT TO:



BUNTY/FAIRY GODMOTHER (OOV)  
Very well. One. But be careful what  
you wish for Buttons. The tree of  
truth knows everything.

PRUDENCE (OOV)  
(stalls)  
Exit stage right. Curtain. Lights  
down. Positions for the tree of truth.

EUGENE and ROSE MARIE leave. FATHER BROWN looks quizzically at  
MRS MCCARTHY.

FATHER BROWN  
Something to share Mrs M?

MRS MCCARTHY  
If she wouldn't be seen dead in it  
then I'm wondering why her address was  
in the pocket?

MRS MCCARTHY shows him the address label from SC 22.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC24. INT. POLICE STATION. FRONT DESK. NIGHT 4. 19.35

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW**

**NSE POLICE**

GOODFELLOW in the dog house for the Ugly Sister fiasco. At the desk behind a mountain of "Dreyfuss" files. MALLORY switches the light off in his office and comes out in his hat and coat.

MALLORY

Think of it as detention. There must be something we missed. And it's more productive than writing "I must not volunteer my superior officer for the part of Ugly Sister," one hundred times...

GOODFELLOW

Actually Sir there is something we missed or rather something missing. Benny Clough made deliveries near Scarlett's house the evening in question. All were followed up and statements taken.

(picks up witness statements)

But there's one missing. Made by a Peggy Semple.

MALLORY

And she is?

GOODFELLOW

No idea Sir and there's no record of her locally.

MALLORY

You sure it isn't just misfiled?

GOODFELLOW shows him half a dozen witness statements stapled together. Points to an indentation where the staples been taken out and on the other side, tiny puncture marks.

GOODFELLOW

You can see where the staple has been taken out and the page re-stapled.

MALLORY

Quite the Doctor Watson.

The plot thickens.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC25. INT. THEATRE. FLY LOFT. NIGHT 4. 19.40**

**NSE STAGE HAND**

INTERCUT NEXT SCENE. An NS STAGE HAND up unwinds a rope from  
it's cleat...

He drops the rope... It snakes down to the stage...

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC26. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "FOREST". NIGHT 4. 19.41**

**BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS, ROSE MARIE**

**NS PRINCE, DANDINI, VILLAGERS**

INTERCUT PREVIOUS SCENE. THE TREE OF TRUTH.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE  
Is there a girl you love Buttons?

BUTTONS/DOUGLAS  
(lies)  
No.

The STAGE HAND releases a lever. A prop apple drops on BUTTONS' head.

CINDERELLA/ROSE MARIE  
There is! Is she someone I know?

BUTTONS shuffles across the bench.

BUTTONS  
No. Ow... Ow...

...As two apples drop on his head..

FLY LOFT. The **NS STAGE HAND** takes the weight of the rope.

BUTTONS shuffles even further across the bench squashing CINDERELLA.

BUTTONS/DOUGLAS  
I mean yes... it's...

Intercut fly loft. The NS STAGE HAND releases the rope. It snakes downwards to the stage.

BUTTONS  
Vulgaria!

WHUMP! A sandbag drops on DOUGLAS' head. He goes down like a light. ROSE MARIE screams.

Is Douglas dead?

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC27. INT. HOSPITAL. ROOM. DAY 5. 10.00**

**DOUGLAS, FATHER BROWN, PRUDENCE, EUGENE**

New day. FATHER BROWN meets EUGENE leaving Douglas' room.

FATHER BROWN

What's the prognosis Doctor?

EUGENE

Sadly I am a doctor of philosophy not medicine.

FATHER BROWN

I thought... your clinic...

EUGENE

I practise psychodynamic therapy,  
focusing on psychological functioning  
and change.

They look to where Prudence sits vigil beside Douglas.

EUGENE

But I can tell you he's in a deep coma  
and not expected to wake up.

FATHER BROWN enters the room. A pile of personal possessions  
on a locker. On the top - a notebook marked "stage book."

PRUDENCE

Silly boy. It was his own fault. He  
was in charge of numbering the  
ropes... but his head's been all over  
the place...  
(tailing off)

FATHER BROWN

Since the discovery of Scarlett's  
body. Forgive my eavesdropping but I  
overheard him saying he wanted to go  
to the Police.

PRUDENCE sighs. *It hardly matters now...*

PRUDENCE

The night Scarlett went missing... He  
didn't come home after leaving the  
theatre. Staggered back at dawn  
covered in mud and leaves. Couldn't  
remember where he'd been or what he'd  
done but...  
(pause)

When the boy confessed, I could see  
the relief in his eyes.

FATHER BROWN

Then the Police started to question  
his conviction.

PRUDENCE

He was getting flashbacks to the woods  
that night and... he was frightened...

FATHER BROWN looks at the stage book. Cogs whirring.

FATHER BROWN

Of what he might remember?

PRUDENCE

I wouldn't have blamed him. Douglas  
and Lizzie were made for each other.  
She was even prepared to forgive  
his... blip with Scarlett. Idiot boy  
broke it off anyway. "I'm not worthy."  
Now I wonder if it's because he  
thought she'd marry a killer.

FATHER BROWN gets out his stole. A glance to the locker.

FATHER BROWN

I will pray for him.  
(the stage book)  
And... would you like me to return  
this to the theatre? I expect they'll  
be needing it.

PRUDENCE stiffens her upper lip.

PRUDENCE

Of course Father. The show must go on.

FATHER BROWN puts the stage book in his cassock.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC28. INT. PRISON. CELL. DAY 5. 10.30**

**MALLORY, BENNY**

MALLORY sits with BENNY.

MALLORY

I wanted to ask if you recognise the name, Peggy Semple?

BENNY

(fond memory)  
She always gave me milk and biscuits "for the ride home."

MALLORY

You made a delivery to her the night Scarlett went missing.

BENNY

(shakes his head)  
Not to Peggy she's the maid. To Mrs Sturgess.

MALLORY

(double takes)  
Peggy Semple is the Sturgess maid??

BENNY

It was the wrong prescription from Doctor Cornelius. She was angry.  
(rubs at his cheek)  
She hit me.

INSERT NEXT SCENE. Rose Marie loses her temper with Benny.

MALLORY

Thank you Benny. That's very helpful.

BENNY

Does it mean I can go home?

MALLORY. Grim determination.

MALLORY

I'm working on it son.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC29. EXT. STURGESS HOUSE. DAY 0. 19.15 - FLASHBACK - 1946**

**BENNY, ROSE MARIE, BOB**

**NSE PEGGY**

All observed by goggled eyed maid, **NSE PEGGY**.

ROSE MARIE flies out of the house in a violent rage. Accosts BENNY as he's getting on his bike.

ROSE MARIE  
Hey you... wait there - It's the wrong  
one. This isn't mine.

She thrusts a paper bag (identical to the one in SC11) in BENNY's hands. Points at his saddle bags.

ROSE MARIE  
Where's mine? Is it in there?

Bewildered, Benny shows her his saddlebag. Empty.

BENNY  
I don't have anything else.

Furious, ROSE MARIE lashes out and slaps him - scratching his face with her talons. BOB drags her off. Leads her inside.

BOB  
...No need to get in a tiz. Let's get  
you inside and we can phone the Doctor  
and sort it out.

BENNY shoves the rejected package in his saddlebag and gets the hell out of there.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC30. INT. THEATRE. FLY LOFT. DAY 5. 11.00**

**SID, FATHER BROWN (OOV) FATHER BROWN**

SID creeps around in the fly loft. Numbered cleats. The chalk board behind. Calls down.

SID  
How will you get to heaven if you're  
scared of heights?

FATHER BROWN'S disembodied voice floats up from the stage.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)  
I'm sincerely hoping there's a  
staircase. What can you see?

SID  
They're all numbered and there's a  
list written on a blackboard.

SID consults the stage book. A page headed "Ropes" and a list.  
Zoom in. *No 3 Apple bucket. He checks it against the  
blackboard. No 8 Apple bucket.* Calls down.

SID  
You were right Father.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC31. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 5. 14.00**

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, ROSE MARIE, BOB**

The Police question ROSE MARIE and BOB.

ROSE MARIE

Peggy left us years ago. Got married to a drayman from Largs and was off without a bye your leave.

MALLORY

Then could you confirm her account of events on the evening of Scarlett Dreyfuss' disappearance.

BOB

Would you mind explaining where this is leading?

GOODFELLOW

The statement is missing Sir.

MALLORY

And for one thing it explains the scratches on Benny Clough's face.

BOB

I told you to stop flogging that dead horse.

MALLORY

With respect that isn't your prerogative any more "Mr" Sturgess.

BOB

Friendly warning boys. I may be retired but one phone call from me and you'll both spend the rest of your careers directing traffic. Do I make myself clear?

Out on MALLORY & GOODFELLOW - duly warned.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC32. EXT. KEMBLEFORD. STREET. DAY 5. 14.15

MALLORY, GOODFELLOW

NSE VILLAGERS

MALLORY & GOODFELLOW walk back to the Police Station.

GOODFELLOW

Now what Sir?

MALLORY

You heard the man. Any more digging  
and we'll be on traffic duty.

GOODFELLOW nods in the direction of the Church spire.

GOODFELLOW

There is something you could try.

MALLORY

You mean some "one."

GOODFELLOW

Think of it like Christmas day on the  
Somme. The German and British  
football match...

MALLORY cogitates.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC33. INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 5. 14.30**

**FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, MALLORY, SID**

All gathered round kitchen table, laid with tea and mince pies.

MALLORY

The German and British football match... Different sides but playing the same game.

SID

Then on boxing day it's back to knocking seven bells out of each other?

MALLORY

(reaches for a mince pie)  
Exactly.

The plate's whipped away by MRS MCCARTHY.

MALLORY

Lad seems barely older than our John. Maybe you can get on the blower to him upstairs. Ask for a miracle and get him home in time for Christmas.

MRS MCCARTHY pushes the plate back toward him.

FATHER BROWN

You only had to ask.

Father Brown turns round "the incident board." Programme style photos of SCARLETT, PRUDENCE, EUGENE, DOUGLAS, BOB, ROSE MARIE. The address label from Red Riding Hood's cloak. Attempted murder? Written next to Douglas name.

MALLORY raises an eyebrow.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC34. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 5. 14.31

**BUNTY, ROSE MARIE**

ROSE MARIE'S at her dressing table fitting a false bottom into a wooden box... when BUNTY bursts in surprising her. ROSE MARIE slams the false bottom into place.

BUNTY  
Forgot my car keys.

ROSE MARIE  
(slurs)  
Did no one teach you to knock?

BUNTY locates her keys on the dressing table. Clocks the glassy eyes.

BUNTY  
Oh you wouldn't believe the gaps in my education. Toodleoo.

BUNTY leaves - suspicious.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC35. INT. PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 5. 14.50**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, MALLORY, SID**

MALLORY scoffing mince pies while FATHER BROWN recaps.

FATHER BROWN

I believe Douglas saw someone in the woods that night.

SID

And when his memory started to return they tampered with the rope numbers and POW!

SID mimes an exploding head.

MRS MCCARTHY

Sidney...

SID

Sorry.

MRS MCCARTHY indicates the address label "Rose Marie Sturgess etc."

MRS MCCARTHY

And why did Scarlett have Rose Marie's address in her pocket?

BUNTY comes in, takes off her coat and joins the rest.

MALLORY

Which leads us back to our missing statement. Retired Superintendent Sturgess is starting to look fishier than Billingsgate. What is he hiding?

BUNTY

I think I might hazard a guess.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC36. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". NIGHT 5. 19.00**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, BOB, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE,  
MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, PRUDENCE**

**NS DANDINI, PRINCE, VILLAGERS**

Hernia (GOODFELLOW) and Vulgaria (MALLORY) in *rehearsal costume*.  
*Skirt hoops and wigs.*

PRUDENCE  
...and thank you Hernia...

GOODFELLOW reads with a script in one hand and a fan in the other.

GOODFELLOW/HERNIA  
Ooh, how wonderful. Tickets for the Royal Ball.

MALLORY  
Yes and I hear the Prince has the largest balls in the country.

GOODFELLOW/HERNIA whacks MALLORY/VULGARIA with her fan.

GOODFELLOW/HERNIA  
Ooh you are a one.

PRUDENCE  
(stalls)  
Can we have that a bit harder?

GOODFELLOW/HERNIA  
(thwack!)  
Ooh you are a one.

Enough! MALLORY brings a halt to proceedings. Snatches the fan from GOODFELLOW.

MALLORY  
There's going to be a change of casting. I'm Hernia. He's Vulgaria.  
(rhetorical)  
If that's all right with you Sergeant?

As if GOODFELLOW has a choice.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC37 - OMITTED**

**EP5/SC38. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. NIGHT 5. 19.05**

**SID**

SID at work on ROSE MARIE'S box. The lock clicks. SID opens the box. Removes the false bottom. Ligature, syringe, wrap of white powder. *And a scrumpled ball of brown waxed wrapping paper. Sid unfolds it. It's identical to the one found in Scarlett's cloak.*

*Rose Marie Sturgess. The Old Rectory, Haydock Rise.*

CUT TO.

**EP5/SC39. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". NIGHT 5. 19.10**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, BOB, ROSE MARIE, EUGENE,  
MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, PRUDENCE**

**NS DANDINI, PRINCE, VILLAGERS**

Pick up Ugly Sisters SC36. MALLORY/HERNIA whacks  
GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA.

MALLORY/HERNIA

Ooh you are a one.

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA

Ow!

(Squaring up)

Do that again and I'll... I'll box  
your ears.

MALLORY/HERNIA

You can't box. Can she boys and girls?

PRUDENCE

"Oh yes he can etcetera." Then pick up  
from Hernia "*show me then.*"

The Sisters square up like pugilists.

MALLORY/HERNIA

Show me then.

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA weaves and feints and throws a wild left  
hook at MALLORY/HERNIA who ducks and viciously hits her with  
her fan. THWACK! And another for good measure. THWACK!

Out on poor GOODFELLOW - blows raining. OW! OW!!

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC40. INT. THEATRE. SCENERY DOCK. NIGHT 5. 22.00**

**FATHER BROWN, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, MALLORY, SID, PRUDENCE (OOV)  
ROSE MARIE (OOV) BOB (OOV)**

The team take in the latest development.

SID

White heroin is my guess. You don't  
get that on prescription. And an  
identical address label to the one in  
Scarlett's cloak.

FATHER BROWN'S cogs at full steam...

FATHER BROWN

Earlier that day, Benny delivered  
nerve powders to Scarlett...

(beat)

Yes of course...

MALLORY

Care to share it?

Dialogue runs into Flashback.

FATHER BROWN

Benny can't read. He mixed up the  
prescriptions.

FLASHBACK. SC41. SCARLETT GETS ROSE MARIE'S PRESCRIPTION.  
NAUGHTY ROSE MARIE.

*FLASH CUT SC29 - ROSE MARIE ACCOSTS BENNY.*

She thrusts a paper bag (identical to the one in SC13) in  
BENNY'S hands. Points at his saddle bags.

FATHER BROWN (V/O)

And Rose Marie got Scarlett's.

ROSE MARIE

Where's mine? Is it in there?

BACK TO SCENE 40.

BUNTY

So the good Doctor supplies Rose Marie  
with something rather more efficacious  
than nerve powders...

FATHER BROWN

Cornelius isn't a physician. He's a  
Doctor of philosophy.

SID

(whistles)

The Superintendent's junkie missus in receipt of illegal drugs. You can see why he'd want to keep that quiet.

MALLORY

It's all starting to make sense. Scarlett found out Rose Marie's dirty little secret and confronted her. He'd be ruined if it got out... That's one big motive for murder.

SID

Speculation though. There's no way of proving it.

MALLORY

Which means we're back to square one.

FATHER BROWN

There is one way. But we would need to wait for daylight.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC40A. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. NIGHT 5. 22.00**

**PRUDENCE (OOV), ROSE MARIE (OOV), BOB (OOV)**

Prudence directs all of this from the stalls. OOV only in the background of Sc 40.

PRUDENCE (OOV)

Upstage right and move down stage centre with your first line Rosemary - we've done this a thousand times - what's wrong with you people? And lights up...

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA (OOV)

Oh Father I will miss you when I marry the prince and move into the palace.

BOB/BARON HARDUP (OOV)

Don't worry Cinders, I have your two step sisters to keep me company.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA (OOV)

Oh Daddy you do make me laugh.

BOB/BARON HARDUP (OOV)

(To the stalls)

Er... Pru? Is that right? Should I be sad about it or am I joking?

PRUDENCE (OOV)

Whatever you feel in the moment Bob.

BOB (OOV)

But he doesn't really like them does he?

PRUDENCE (OOV)

No Bob.

BOB (OOV)

Then I'll play it like I'm joking Pru.

PRUDENCE (OOV)

As you wish Bob, now back to the top... and lights up.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA (OOV)

Oh Father I will miss you when I marry the prince and move into the palace.

BOB/BARON HARDUP (OOV)

Don't worry Cinders I have your two step sisters to keep me company.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA (OOV)  
Oh Daddy you do make me laugh.

BOB/BARON HARDUP (OOV)  
I just hope you are happy Cinders.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA (OOV)  
I am happy Father.

PRUDENCE (OOV)  
I want more emotion Rose Marie - and  
again.

ROSE MARIE/CINDERELLA (OOV)  
I *am* happy father.

BOB/BARON HARDUP (OOV)  
LINE!

PRUDENCE (OOV)  
Prompt!... PROMPT... Barbara! Where  
the devil are you???

CUT TO:

EP5/SC41. INT. THEATRE. DRESSING ROOM. DAY 0. 16.05. FLASHBACK -  
1946

**SCARLETT, FATHER BROWN (V/O)**

Scarlett inspects the package Benny left in Sc 11. Wrapped in brown waxed paper with a typewritten label:

*Rose Marie Sturgess, The Old Rectory, Haydock Rise.*

FATHER BROWN (V/O)  
Benny can't read. He mixed up the prescriptions.

Scarlett rips off the paper and inspects the contents. Wraps of white powder.

SCARLETT  
Naughty Rose Marie.

Scarlett stuffs the wrapper in her cloak.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC42. EXT. HOLLY COTTAGE. SHED. DAY 6. 09.00**

**SID, FATHER BROWN, ADA**

New day. An out shed packed to the rafters with years of junk. Old farm machinery, furniture etc. ADA watches SID & FATHER BROWN sift through junk. Dirty, back breaking work... SID heaves aside an old chest of drawers and spies handlebars.

SID

Hello. Father! Is this our man?

ADA nods as SID drags out a mangled and rusted bike with mildewed saddlebags. FATHER BROWN pats it. Bicycle empathy.

FATHER BROWN

Poor chap. Looks like you've been through the wars.

A search of the saddlebags reveals the package given back to Benny by Rose Marie in SC29. A corroded paper bag. Inside a box wrapped in waxed brown wrapping paper but this time the label is indecipherable, eaten by mildew. Inside - wraps of white powder.

SID

Do they look like nerve powders to you?

The final piece of jigsaw clicks into place.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC43. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. DAY 6. 10.00**

**FATHER BROWN, EUGENE, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW**

The theatre in darkness except for a low spot light centre stage where FATHER BROWN sits on the bench under the Tree of Truth. EUGENE joins him.

EUGENE

This is all very cloak and dagger.

FATHER BROWN waves him to sit.

FATHER BROWN

The tree of truth. I thought it apt.  
You needn't fear another accident.  
Although you know that seeing as you  
planned it.

EUGENE

I've heard you fancy yourself as the  
local Miss Marple. Tell me why I would  
wish to harm someone as inoffensive as  
poor Douglas?

FATHER BROWN

Because he was in the woods the night  
Scarlett went missing and saw  
something he shouldn't.

EUGENE

I take it you mean me. Fascinating. So  
in addition to the attempted murder of  
Douglas you are also accusing me of  
Scarlett's murder?

FATHER BROWN

Not at all.  
(beat)

I think we both know she died by her  
own hand.

EUGENE'S countenance changes. Now he's interested.

EUGENE

Pray go on.

FATHER BROWN

Benny mixed up the prescriptions.

FATHER BROWN produces the mildewed packet from the saddlebag.

FATHER BROWN

Rose Marie wasn't your only addict.  
I'm reliably informed this is cocaine -  
intended for Scarlett. Instead she  
received something far more deadly.  
White heroin intended for Rose Marie.

EUGENE

(guarded)  
Where did you find that?

FATHER BROWN

In Benny's saddlebag. He was arrested  
before he could return it.

EUGENE eyes the mouldy package.

EUGENE

Benny made deliveries for the whole  
village. There's nothing to connect  
that with me.

FATHER BROWN

And if questioned by the Police -  
you'd only deny it.

EUGENE

(pleasant)  
And sue you for slander for good  
measure.

FATHER BROWN

Some would argue that the right man  
was punished for the crime.

He wasn't expecting this. Now he's engaged.

EUGENE

An interesting perspective.

FATHER BROWN

God will know the truth. And if Benny  
hadn't mixed up the packages...

It's the catalyst he needs to unburden.

EUGENE

Finally... Someone with the sense...  
Idiot boy got what he deserved.

FATHER BROWN

Rose Marie alerted you to the switch?

EUGENE

Scarlett was vapid and greedy.  
Wouldn't think to check what it was.

FATHER BROWN

And if she believed it was cocaine and  
inhaled it - the results would be  
fatal.

EUGENE

When she didn't answer her telephone I  
drove to her house...

INSERT FLASHBACK: SC44. EUGENE FINDS SCARLETT DEAD FROM A  
HEROIN OD.

EUGENE (V/O)

I knew it would be traced back to me  
eventually. It seemed expedient to  
dispose of the evidence.

FATHER BROWN (V/O)

Is that when Douglas saw you?

INSERT FLASHBACK SC45. DOUGLAS SEES EUGENE IN THE WOODS.

EUGENE (V/O)

I could see he was in a fugue state  
and would have no recollection.

BACK TO SC 44.

EUGENE

When the simpleton confessed it was  
karma. The gods way of telling me I  
wasn't to blame.

FATHER BROWN

You let an innocent go to jail.

EUGENE

Feed him and keep him warm and I doubt  
he knows the difference. A being of no  
function to society, whereas I...

FATHER BROWN

Are a common drug peddler. Murderer in  
all but deed. Condemning your victims  
to a long slow death of body and soul.

EUGENE

Desperate wives in gilded cages. I  
give these women a reason to live.

FATHER BROWN

You give them a reason not to live.  
Admission is the first step toward  
repentance and God's grace.

EUGENE rises.

EUGENE

Fascinating as this has been. My only  
concern is with earthly repercussion  
and as none of it can be proved... at  
least I'll escape that.

In the dark of the wings, SID throws a switch.

SID

Oh no you won't.

FATHER BROWN

Look behind you.

EUGENE spins. Spotlight on the box. MALLORY & GOODFELLOW.

MALLORY

Did you get all that Sergeant?

Out on EUGENE - bang to rights.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC44. INT. SCARLETT'S COTTAGE. SITTING ROOM. DAY 0. 19.45  
FLASHBACK - 1946

EUGENE, SCARLETT, FATHER BROWN (V/O), EUGENE (V/O)

EUGENE (V/O)  
When she didn't answer her telephone I  
drove to her house...

EUGENE enters. SCARLETT splayed on the sofa, dead from a  
heroine OD. Blood has sprayed from her nose covering her face  
and the soft furnishings.

EUGENE wraps the body in a rug.

EUGENE (V/O)  
I knew it would be traced back to me  
eventually. It seemed expedient to  
dispose of the evidence.

FATHER BROWN (V/O)  
Is that when Douglas saw you?

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC45. EXT WOODS. DAY 0. 20.00. FLASHBACK - 1946**

**EUGENE, DOUGLAS**

**EUGENE V/O**

Dusk. EUGENE shovels dirt into a shallow grave car. Pitches the spade in the ground. A movement in the trees. He spins to see DOUGLAS - blank eyed and unseeing.

EUGENE (V/O)

I could see he was in a fugue state  
and would have no recollection.

BACK TO SCENE 42

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC46. INT. HOSPITAL. ROOM. DAY 7. 12.00**

**DOUGLAS, FATHER BROWN, PRUDENCE**

**NSE LIZZIE**

PRUDENCE by DOUGLAS' bedside, reading the newspaper. HEADLINE  
"RED RIDING HOOD ARREST." EUGENE photo.

PRUDENCE

"...has been charged with attempted  
murder, unlawful burial and supply of  
illegal drugs"...

(looks up)

Oh and Rose Marie's up before the  
bench which is a five minute wonder  
but at least she's getting  
treatment...

FATHER BROWN enters.

PRUDENCE

The doctors say I should talk to him  
in case he can hear me. I hope he can.  
I don't want him to die thinking he  
was a murderer.

(brisk)

Have you come to pray?

FATHER BROWN

Not on this occasion.

He stands aside to admit **NSE LIZZIE** (30's) a sweet faced woman  
in a WAAF uniform.

LIZZIE sits on the bed. "Hello Douglas."

PRUDENCE & FATHER BROWN tactfully withdraw.

FATHER BROWN

Sometimes love is the most powerful  
prayer of all.

LIZZIE holds DOUGLAS' hand. And then... His fingers twitch. He  
squeezes her hand.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC47. EXT. VILLAGE HALL. DAY 8. 17.00**

**NOTICE BOARD ESTABLISHER - PANTOMIME POSTER: OPENING NIGHT.  
SOLD OUT!**

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC48. INT. THEATRE. GREEN ROOM. DAY 8. 18.00**

**PRUDENCE, ROSE MARIE, MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY, SID, FATHER BROWN,  
MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, BOB**

**NSE PANTO CAST**

The cast change for opening night. UGLY SISTERS wig and make up free and in their underwear. DAISY. PRUDENCE in a lather.

PRUDENCE

Fairy Godmother! Has anyone seen Fairy Godmother? We've half an hour till curtain and...

Thank God! BUNTY is there. Holding a notebook.

PRUDENCE

I call that cutting it fine.

BUNTY flips open the notebook. Marcel Marceaux meets Bob Dylan. "With Doctor." "Laryngitis." Clutches her throat. Mouths. "I've lost my voice." MRS MCCARTHY diagnoses.

MRS MCCARTHY

Stage fright. Some honey and lemon will do the trick.

Bunty flips the page. "*Honey and lemon will not do the trick.*"

PRUDENCE

Disaster. We can't do Cinderella without a Fairy Godmother.

Bunty flips the page. "*Bridget knows all the words.*" Flips the page. "*Lead alto in Church Choir.*"

PRUDENCE

Who the blazes is Bridget?

BUNTY points in unison with...

MRS MCCARTHY/FATHER  
BROWN/SID

I am/She is.

MRS MCCARTHY

(to BUNTY)  
I can't possibly.

Bunty flips the page - "*Oh yes you can.*"

MRS MCCARTHY

But I've nothing to wear.

BUNTY flips the page. Nods at MRS MCCARTHY's sewing basket.

*"A few adjustments is all that is needed."*

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC49. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. DAY 8. 19.00**

**MRS MCCARTHY, DOUGLAS**

**NSE LIZZIE, AUDIENCE**

The theatre's packed. LIZZIE & DOUGLAS sat together holding hands. The audience hush, settle in their seats as the house lights dim for the prologue.

A flash! And MRS MCCARTHY is there. Ravishing in her Fairy Godmother gown.

MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER

Welcome good folk one and all. Let me  
be your guiding hand to lead you  
through this magic land.

She waves her wand and a burst of stars halo around her. Gasps and applause from the audience.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC50. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "FOREST". DAY 8. 19.37**

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW (UGLY SISTERS), SID, DOUGLAS**

**NSE LIZZIE, AUDIENCE, BACK OF COW/DAISY**

MALLORY/HERNIA and GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA are out of breath as  
DAISY saunters on behind them.

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA  
Phew Sis that was close!

Audience - it's behind you!

DAISY chases them off stage.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC51. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". DAY 8. 20.00**

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, PRUDENCE, DOUGLAS**

**NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE, STAGE HAND, MICE**

Fan sketch.

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA

Ow!

(Squaring up)

Do that again and I'll... I'll box  
your ears.

MALLORY/HERNIA

You can't box. Can she boys and girls?

VULGARIA whips up the "boys and girls."

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA/AUDIENCE

Oh yes he can....

MALLORY/HERNIA

Come on show me then.

VULGARIA weaves and feints and throws a wild left hook at  
HERNIA. Only this time it's not so wild and lands square on  
HERNIA'S jaw. POW! MALLORY goes down like a light.

The audience thinks it's part of the performance and erupt with  
laughter. GOODFELLOW rooted to the spot in horror. It was an  
accident...(ish)

NS STAGE HANDS dart from the wings and drag MALLORY off by his  
feet to applause and wolf whistles.

PRUDENCE sticks her head around the tabs to cue the OOV  
musicians.

PRUDENCE

Mice medley now! Scoot scoot scoot...

The OOV Orchestra strikes up as PRUDENCE pushes children in  
mice costumes on stage.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC52. INT. THEATRE. SCENERY DOCK. DAY 8. 20.15

FATHER BROWN, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY,  
PRUDENCE

NSE UNIFORM PC, PANTOMIME CAST AND CREW

GOODFELLOW finishes a conversation with an NS PC and heads to inform the others including MALLORY - nursing a large bump on his head.

GOODFELLOW

Good news. Benny's being released  
pending the formal appeal hearing and  
will be home tomorrow.

In the resulting jubilation, BUNTY forgets she's lost her voice.

BUNTY

Christmas eve. How simply miraculous.

PRUDENCE steams through.

PRUDENCE

Back on your feet Hernia - you've got  
the ballroom!

MALLORY/HERNIA

Not in this corset I haven't.

GOODFELLOW heaves MALLORY to his feet. BUNTY accosted by a livid MRS MCCARTHY. She thrusts her wand in BUNTY'S hand.

MRS MCCARTHY

Laryngitis?! I suppose you felt sorry  
for me. Well I don't need your pity.

BUNTY hesitates before going for some reverse psychology.

BUNTY

Typical. It's "all about you." I'm  
worse than... than Pontius Pilate...  
And yet... you would have let me go  
out there... to the ruin of my  
reputation!

MRS MCCARTHY

Yes... No... you showed great  
improvement...

PRUDENCE steams through.

PRUDENCE

Fairy Godmother! Transformation scene!

BUNTY thrusts the wand into MRS MCCARTHY'S hand.

BUNTY

(final nail)

Ask yourself this. What would my Aunt  
say?

PRUDENCE

Chop chop Barbara!

MRS MCCARTHY goes.

FATHER BROWN/DAISY

Nicely done Penelope.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC53. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". DAY 8. 20.30**

**MRS MCCARTHY, ROSE MARIE, DOUGLAS**

**NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE**

MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER and ROSEMARIE/CINDERELLA (dressed in rags) stand either side of a very large pumpkin.

FAIRY GODMOTHER/MRS MCCARTHY  
Cinderella. You shall go to the ball.

Waves wand. Flashpot. Coach appears. Cinderella is magically in her ball gown!

Crowd gasp.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC54. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. "KITCHEN". DAY 8. 20.45**

**MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, DOUGLAS**

**NSE AUDIENCE, DANDINI, LIZZIE**

NSE DANDINI watches on appalled as the UGLY SISTERS tussle over the glass slipper.

MALLORY/HERNIA

Let me fit my foot into the crystal slipper.

GOODFELLOW/VULGARIA

You couldn't fit your foot into Crystal Palace.

Audience.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC55. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. FRONT CLOTH. DAY 8. 21.00**

**ROSE MARIE, MRS MCCARTHY, DOUGLAS**

**NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE, PRINCE CHARMING**

Front cloth. Cinders and Prince Charming on stage as MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER blesses their union.

MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER  
My gift to you of joy and laughter as  
you live happily ever after.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC56. INT. THEATRE. STAGE. FINALE. DAY 8. 21.30**

**SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, ROSE MARIE, BOB,  
DOUGLAS**

**NSE AUDIENCE, LIZZIE, BACK OF COW/DAISY**

All company assembled. CINDERELLA & PRINCE CHARMING take their bows centre stage. The company gestures skywards as MRS MCCARTHY/FAIRY GODMOTHER flies in from the gods.

The audience are on their feet.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC57 - OMITTED**

**EP5/SC58. EXT. HOLLY COTTAGE. DAY 9. 17.00**

**ADA, BENNY**

NEW DAY. BENNY walks the last few yards home. ADA is in the yard mending a fence. Sees him coming. A moment of disbelief followed by shock and then she "runs" as fast as her lame leg will carry her. Mother and son embrace.

CUT TO:

EP5/SC59. INT. HOLLY COTTAGE. PARLOUR. DAY 9. 17.05

ADA, BENNY, FATHER BROWN, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS MCCARTHY, BUNTY

BENNY looks around him at the barren parlour.

ADA  
I'm sorry I lied. It wasn't Christmas  
on my own but next year, I promise  
we'll make it the best one ever.

BENNY disappointment is palpable.

BENNY  
Next year. It will be the best one  
ever.

Hammering on the front door. ADA throws it open. MALLORY & GOODFELLOW hidden under a large Christmas tree.

MALLORY  
Merry Christmas Mrs Clough. Would you  
mind moving aside as this thing's damn  
heavy.

Flummoxed, ADA lets them in. FATHER BROWN is next with a box of decorations.

FATHER BROWN  
We thought you could do with an  
injection of festive cheer.

BUNTY & SID trail in with a hamper and piles of presents. And bringing up the rear - MRS MCCARTHY with a roasting dish. Uncooked turkey with all the trimmings.

MRS MCCARTHY  
It's oven ready so tomorrow you only  
have to pop it in.

ADA - speechless.

CUT TO:

**EP5/SC60. INT. HOLLY COTTAGE. PARLOUR. DAY 9. 17.06**

**ADA, BENNY, FATHER BROWN, SID, MALLORY, GOODFELLOW, MRS  
MCCARTHY, BUNTY**

MONTAGE - Christmas carols over.

As the day darkens, the Spartan cottage transforms into a festive grotto. Roaring fire and lights twinkling on the tree. BENNY on a chair putting the star on top. SID and BUNTY hanging paper chains. GOODFELLOW pouring sherry. FATHER BROWN places the baby Jesus in a nativity crib. Tea, mince pies and mulled wine. And outside the window, the snow starts to fall.

**END OF EPISODE.**