

1

EP9/SC1. INT/EXT. BRITISH EMBASSY, RHODESIA. RECEPTION
ROOM/BALCONY. DAY 1. 19.05

LADY FELICIA, NICHOLAI, YURI

NSE PARTY GUESTS INC. DEPUTY GOVERNOR, WAITERS/WAITRESSES

Caption - British Embassy, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.

A retirement party. Guests mingle, sip Champagne, swap gossip. The smell of money saturates the warm air. An elderly deputy governor shakes hands with arriving guests.

Lady Felicia works the room, charming, beautiful... and wishing she was anywhere else in the world. Needing a moment of escape, she grabs a fresh glass of Champagne from a waiter's tray then retreats through a door onto a balcony.

She leans on the rails and takes a deep breath. Peace. Until a sympathetic voice catches her off-guard.

NICHOLAI

(Faint Russian accent)

It can wear one down, can it not?

Concern on Lady Felicia's face - has she let her mask slip? She turns to see **NICHOLAI SOLOVEY** (46, wealthy Russian, well-spoken, charming with an edge) who has followed her outside.

NICHOLAI (CONT'D)

The heat, I mean.

LADY FELICIA

(Relieved)

Yes! I should be accustomed to it but some days -

NICHOLAI

You can barely breathe.

A moment of eye contact. He sees her.

NICHOLAI (CONT'D)

Give me the bite of a Russian winter any day.

LADY FELICIA

(Laughing)

I wouldn't go that far!

NICHOLAI

Nicholai Solovey.

LADY FELICIA

Lady Felicia Montague.

NICHOLAI

I know. Back in England, I've taken up residence at The Royal Sandborough Hotel. From my balcony, I can make out the rooftops of your ancestral estate. Sadly, the area's beauty has declined since your departure.

LADY FELICIA

(Concerned)
Really?

NICHOLAI

What reason now do the birds have to sing or the flowers to bloom?

Lady Felicia laughs at his flattery. She weighs up this handsome stranger, wary, scarred by past mistakes.

LADY FELICIA

I should go back inside. The Deputy Governor will be giving his retirement speech soon and who'd want to miss that?!

Nicholai blocks her path, suddenly serious.

NICHOLAI

There's something I must ask you first. As you know, the past few decades have been difficult for my country. I believe you can help -

LADY FELICIA

Mr Solovey, I fear you have over-estimated my level of influence.

NICHOLAI

I'm not interested in state secrets. It's a personal matter.

LADY FELICIA

Go on.

NICHOLAI

Artefacts belonging to my family were seized after the revolution and sold by the Antikvariat to collectors in Europe.

Nicholai takes out a black-and-white photograph; a Fabergé egg pendant decorated with a Russian Orthodox cross in diamonds, hung on a pearl necklace.

LADY FELICIA

My necklace!

NICHOLAI

By the Fabergé work-master Henrik Wigström. I hoped you'd be willing to sell it back to me. I'd make sure you were suitably compensated.

LADY FELICIA

I have great sympathy for your family's losses, but this necklace was a gift from my late father. It would break my heart to sell it.

NICHOLAI

How can I persuade you? After all, I'm its rightful owner.

An edge to his voice. Is he threatening her? Lady Felicia's resolve strengthens.

LADY FELICIA

I'm sorry.

Lady Felicia glances over and sees another man waiting just inside the door, keeping watch; **YURI GALKA**, 36, Russian, gruff, well-muscled ex-soldier.

NICHOLAI

Don't mind Yuri. He's... an old friend. Please -

LADY FELICIA

Even if I were willing, I don't have the necklace with me. It was safer to leave it in England.

NICHOLAI

Not an insurmountable problem. I'm not known for easily conceding defeat. Perhaps if -

LADY FELICIA

Forgive me, but the answer is no. I hope you understand.

NICHOLAI

(Icy)

If you change your mind, you know where to find me. Who can tell what tribulations the future holds?

Nicholai returns inside, whispering something to Yuri. Yuri glances at Lady Felicia, threatening. For the first time she sees the scar running across his left eye. Out on Lady Felicia, shaken.

CUT TO: TTLES

2

EP9/SC2. SCENE OMITTED

3 EP9/SC3. EXT. KEMBLEFORD TRAIN STATION. DAY 2. 11.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

NSE PASSENGERS, PORTER

Caption - One month later.

Lady Felicia steps off the train carrying a small suitcase. Bunty, Mrs McCarthy and Father Brown wait on the platform.

MRS MCCARTHY

Only you could travel thousands of miles and arrive without a hair out of place.

LADY FELICIA

I'm not sure about that, my dear Mrs McCarthy, but I certainly feel better for seeing you.

BUNTY

Travelling light, Aunt Fliss. I'm impressed!

Father Brown coughs, nodding to a porter pushing a trolley stacked with larger suitcases.

LADY FELICIA

I had to pack for a colder climate. Don't worry, Hornby said he'd collect them.

FATHER BROWN

May we finally ask the reason for your visit? Your letter was somewhat cryptic.

LADY FELICIA

All in good time. I'm positively gasping for a proper cup of tea!

On Lady Felicia, upbeat. But as the others turn to go, we see her anxiety return...

CUT TO:

4

EP9/SC4. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 2.
11.45

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

A tea-cup is placed back in its saucer, held up in the aristocratic fashion by Lady Felicia. Bunty, Mrs McCarthy and Father Brown are all staring at her expectantly.

LADY FELICIA

It's all so embarrassing...

(Beat, summoning her courage)

About a month ago, Monty was approached about an investment opportunity. A diamond mine, supposedly filled to the brim.

BUNTY

How exciting!

LADY FELICIA

Quite. Only, Monty-being-Monty, greed got the better of him and he offered to finance the whole enterprise, invested every penny we had and more. It transpires the mine contained fewer genuine diamonds than your average pawnbrokers. To make matters worse, there was a terrible accident. Workers were injured and, as the legal owner, Monty is liable.

MRS MCCARTHY

So... You're coming home?

LADY FELICIA

No, sadly. I'm simply back to auction off the family trinkets. Artworks, jewellery... We need to raise rather a lot of money.

BUNTY

(Anxious)

But presumably the house is safe?

LADY FELICIA

I hope so. It depends how the auction goes.

MRS MCCARTHY

(Sympathetic)

Having to sell your prized possessions!

LADY FELICIA

They are only objects, Mrs M. Save your prayers for the poor men who were down that mine. They had families to feed and I'm damned if I'll let Monty wriggle out of his obligations.

BUNTY

So when's the auction?

LADY FELICIA

Hornby is taking me to the bank first thing tomorrow to collect a few items from the vault, then straight to the auction-house.

BUNTY

Let me drive you. For moral support.

FATHER BROWN

Why don't we all go?

LADY FELICIA

You're very kind. Now, who would like a top-up?

Lady Felicia, a brave facade, busies herself refilling cups. The others exchange worried glances.

CUT TO:

5

EP9/SC5. EXT. BANK. DAY 3. 09.01

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy get out of Bunty's car outside a high-end bank. Father Brown waits for them, his bicycle leaning against the wall.

LADY FELICIA

(To Bunty)

We won't be long.

They head inside.

CUT TO:

6

EP9/SC6. INT. BANK. SIDE ROOM. DAY 3. 09.15

FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

NSE SECURITY GUARD

A large trunk full of jewellery boxes and other valuables. Lady Felicia opens a box on the top to reveal the Fabergé necklace; it's even more beautiful than in the picture. She takes a breath, fighting her emotions.

MRS MCCARTHY

Perhaps the rest of it will raise enough?

LADY FELICIA

Not according to the valuation. And if we don't clear the debt soon then the estate's in danger. I cannot risk losing Montague.

FATHER BROWN

Your memories of your father are the real treasure.

LADY FELICIA

Quite so. And I should get a good price. I've already had an offer from some Russian chap back in Rhodesia.

MRS MCCARTHY

Then why not sell to him? Save yourself all this trouble.

LADY FELICIA

To be honest, there was something about him that rather put the wind up me. If I must sell, I want it to go to a good home.

Lady Felicia closes the box, placing it in the case.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

Let's get this over with.

Lady Felicia nods to a security guard who locks the case and carries it away. Out on Lady Felicia, determined to be strong.

CUT TO:

7

EP9/SC7. EXT. BANK. DAY 3. 09.20

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, YURI

NSE FARMER, SECURITY GUARD

The guard carries the case into the back of a security van, now parked outside. Meanwhile Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy get into Bunty's car. Father Brown climbs onto his bike.

BUNTY

Sure you don't want a lift, Father?
I could always pick up Bucephalus later?

FATHER BROWN

No, thank you. Exercise is good for the soul!

BUNTY

You're the expert.
(To Felicia)
So where's this auction-house?

The van pulls off, passing them. Lady Felicia catches a glimpse of the driver. He's wearing the same uniform as the guard (inc. driving gloves), but this man has a scar across his eye. Yuri. Her blood runs cold.

LADY FELICIA

I know him!

BUNTY

Who?

LADY FELICIA

Something's wrong. Quick, follow them!

Bunty pulls off but then a farmer's tractor/trailer emerges from a side-road, blocking her path. Bunty beeps her horn in vain. Father Brown cycles past, swerving through a small gap to get through...

FATHER BROWN

Leave it to me!

...and narrowly avoiding a lamppost.

MRS MCCARTHY

Careful, Father!

Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy exchange a glance, both crossing themselves in unison.

CUT TO:

8

EP9/SC8. EXT/INT. COUNTRY LANE / SECURITY VAN. DAY 3.
09.30

FATHER BROWN

NSE SECURITY GUARD

Father Brown, peddling fast, rounds a bend. Ahead, the van's parked in a lay-by, rear door ajar.

Nervous, Father Brown dismounts. The driver seat's empty, Yuri vanished.

Checking the back, Father Brown finds the guard on the floor, unconscious. Father Brown checks his pulse... then sighs with relief.

On the floor is the necklace box. Father Brown opens it, fearing the worst...

The necklace has gone.

CUT TO:

9

EP9/SC9. EXT. COUNTRY LANE. DAY 3. 10.30

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MALLORY, MRS MCCARTHY

NSE AMBULANCE MEN, FINGERPRINT MAN, POLICE OFFICERS, SECURITY GUARD

Ambulance men carry the guard on a stretcher, pausing for a few words with Inspector Mallory. Mallory approaches the gang.

MALLORY

He's conscious but we won't get much sense out of him for a while. I'll contact the security company, see if they can identify the driver.

LADY FELICIA

I've told you, his name is Yuri.

MALLORY

Ah yes, the mysterious Russian!

LADY FELICIA

He works for Nicholai Solovey.

MALLORY

Or, and I'm only speaking hypothetically, it was somebody else with a similar scar.

(Off Lady Felicia's glare)

Alright. I'll look into it, but I suspect our culprit's a local. Caught wind of the auction and chanced his arm.

FATHER BROWN

If he were an opportunist, why only take the necklace?

BUNTY

Plenty of other valuables in the case.

MALLORY

He probably made his getaway on foot and didn't want too much to carry! Either way, we'll catch him.

MRS MCCARTHY

And retrieve the stolen item?

MALLORY

He's probably melting the thing down as we speak.

(MORE)

MALLORY (CONT'D)

Makes it easier to fence. But we
might get lucky. I'll be in touch.

Mallory leaves.

LADY FELICIA

Solovey's behind this! In fact, it
wouldn't surprise me if he were
responsible for the diamond mine
debacle. Anything to force me to
sell the necklace!

MRS MCCARTHY

You said he was wealthy - why not
simply buy the necklace at the
auction?

FATHER BROWN

Perhaps he didn't want to risk
another buyer pushing up the price.
Or he wanted to teach you a lesson
for refusing his offer.

LADY FELICIA

So you believe me, Father?

FATHER BROWN

I believe, if we're to retrieve
your necklace, Nicholai Solovey is
where to start.

LADY FELICIA

Luckily, I know where he lives!

Out on Lady Felicia, determined.

CUT TO:

10

EP9/SC10. EXT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. DRIVEWAY. DAY 3.
12.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL

NSE GUESTS

Bunty parks outside a beautiful country hotel, balconies overlooking picturesque gardens.

MRS MCCARTHY

So?

BUNTY

Aunt Fliss and I march in there and confront him. Five shillings says we can beat a confession out of him in under a minute.

LADY FELICIA

I appreciate your enthusiasm, Bunty, but this is my problem and -

BUNTY

Your problem? If you don't get the necklace back, you'll have to sell Montague and I'm turfed onto the street! I'll be like Blind 'Arry, wandering the pavements of Kempleford in search of sustenance.

LADY FELICIA

Don't be melodramatic. I'm sure your mother and father would permit your return, given the circumstances.

BUNTY

(Thrown)

You mean, go back to London?

FATHER BROWN

Perhaps I should go in. Test the water. Solovey doesn't know we are acquainted.

LADY FELICIA

Very well. But draw a blank and I'm handling it my way. And my way involves pruning shears.

MRS MCCARTHY

(To Father Brown, sotto)

I worry about their family.

Bunty notices a porter (**DANIEL WINKS**, 24, working-class, handsome, good-natured but mischievous) attending to two guests with luggage.

BUNTY

Their clientele may leave something to be desired, but I certainly approve of the staff.

FATHER BROWN

Isn't that Daniel Winks?

BUNTY

Who?

FATHER BROWN

Used to be a chorister at St Mary's.

Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy watch Daniel carrying luggage inside.

MRS MCCARTHY

Not the Daniel Winks who got drunk before the Christmas Concert and was violently ill all over my best shoes?!

FATHER BROWN

The very same.

LADY FELICIA

I was always quite fond of him.

Out on Mrs McCarthy, insulted.

CUT TO:

11

EP9/SC11. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. LOBBY. DAY 3.
12.05

FATHER BROWN, DANIEL

NSE HOTEL STAFF, GUESTS

On Daniel, being tipped by the guest.

DANIEL

Much obliged, sir.

Father Brown approaches.

FATHER BROWN

Keeping yourself out of trouble, Mr Winks?

DANIEL

Father Brown! It's been years!

FATHER BROWN

St Mary's hasn't moved. You would be welcome to return.

DANIEL

Not the impression I got from Mrs McCarthy last time I was there.

FATHER BROWN

She is nothing if not forgiving.

DANIEL

Must be thinking of different Mrs McCarthys. What brings you to the Royal Sandborough?

FATHER BROWN

I'm looking for Nicholai Solovey.

DANIEL

The Russian? This time of day, he'll be in the bar, reading the papers. Tell him he won't get to Heaven if he don't tip the staff.

Father Brown takes a coin from his pocket.

FATHER BROWN

Would you be so kind as to point him out?

DANIEL

For you, Father, it's on the house.

Out on Father Brown, grateful.

CUT TO:

12

EP9/SC12. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 3.
12.05

FATHER BROWN, NICHOLAI

NSE HOTEL STAFF, GUESTS

On Nicholai in an armchair in a quiet corner, reading a newspaper. Father Brown sits nearby, also with a paper.

FATHER BROWN

(Cheerful)

Morning!

NICHOLAI

Father.

They both read.

FATHER BROWN

Did you hear the appalling news?

Nicholai bristles at the disturbance, forcing a polite smile.

NICHOLAI

Hm?

FATHER BROWN

This robbery. The Countess of Montague's necklace stolen in broad daylight!

NICHOLAI

The world is slipping into a moral abyss, Father. You must've noticed, considering your profession.

FATHER BROWN

Darkness surrounds us, but the Lord provides a path towards the light.

NICHOLAI

Then maybe it was He who lightened the lady's pockets, so she may pass more easily into Heaven?

FATHER BROWN

Are you not concerned by such a crime occurring on our doorstep?

NICHOLAI

My valuables are under lock and key. Perhaps the Countess should have exercised similar caution.

FATHER BROWN

In her defence, I've heard rumours the necklace is cursed.

NICHOLAI

(Amused)
Cursed?

FATHER BROWN

The family it once belonged to were
nearly wiped out by the Bolsheviks.

Nicholai tenses, stung.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

Now its new owner also finds
herself beset by misfortune.

NICHOLAI

I'm surprised a man of the cloth
would give credence to tales of
cursed jewels.

FATHER BROWN

I never said I gave them credence.

Father Brown lowers his voice in mock seriousness.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

Still, perhaps whoever stole this
necklace would do well to return
it, lest a similar fate befall him!

A flash of guilt in Nicholai's eyes, but clocking the
mischief in Father Brown's expression, Nicholai relaxes.

NICHOLAI

You jest.

Father Brown chuckles, raising his hands. Guilty as charged.

FATHER BROWN

Forgive me, I am disturbing you.

NICHOLAI

It's fine.

FATHER BROWN

No, I should go. Souls to save...

Father Brown stands to leave, then turns back.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

In my opinion, there is no abyss,
moral or otherwise, that cannot be
overcome with a leap of faith.

Nicholai watches Father Brown walk away, unsettled.

CUT TO:

13

EP9/SC13. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NICHOLAI'S SUITE.
DAY 3. 13.15

FATHER BROWN, DANIEL

Key in the lock. Door opens. Daniel shows Father Brown into the large, luxurious suite.

DANIEL

I could lose my job for this.

FATHER BROWN

Call it atonement for past sins.

DANIEL

And I used to begrudge a few Hail Marys!

FATHER BROWN

Solovey was responsible for the theft. I could see it in his eyes. Do you know if there's a safe?

DANIEL

Solovey had one installed. Pricey, too. Must be so good it's invisible 'cause I've never seen it.

Father Brown checks the cupboards, under the bed... Daniel peeks into the corridor, nervous.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Any chance we could hurry this up?

Father Brown pauses in front of a framed tapestry on the wall. It reads; "Bog dal, Bog i vzyal" (Russian alphabet).

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You speak Russian?

FATHER BROWN

Picked up a little in the army. I think it means "God... gives, God takes back."

Father Brown takes the tapestry down to reveal a safe behind.

DANIEL

How're you gonna get inside?

FATHER BROWN

Absolutely no idea.

Out on Father Brown, stumped.

CUT TO:

14

EP9/SC14. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 3.
15.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MALLORY, MRS MCCARTHY

A harassed-looking Inspector Mallory updates the gang.

MALLORY

I've spoken to the hotel manager. Nicholai Solovey was having breakfast alongside dozens of witnesses at the time of the robbery.

LADY FELICIA

That doesn't prove he didn't pay this Yuri to do it.

FATHER BROWN

What has the security guard said about his attacker?

MALLORY

Not been able to interview him yet.

MRS MCCARTHY

Typical!

MALLORY

(Defensive)

They had to operate. He's in no fit state!

BUNTY

Could you not search Solovey's safe at least?

MALLORY

I haven't enough evidence to justify a warrant. And Nicholai Solovey has friends in very high places.

LADY FELICIA

(Losing her temper)

So do I and they were my friends first!

MALLORY

I'll call by if there's any news. Good day!

He goes, leaving Lady Felicia fuming.

LADY FELICIA

Infuriating little man!

BUNTY

If you're certain Solovey has it,
why not steal it back ourselves?

MRS MCCARTHY

Because you'd get in serious
trouble.

BUNTY

Only if we got caught.

FATHER BROWN

Tempting as it is, it would take a
master criminal to crack the safe,
steal the necklace and escape
without raising the alarm.

BUNTY

A master criminal, you say? How
fortunate you're such good pals
with one.

LADY FELICIA

You don't mean...?

MRS MCCARTHY

Father, please tell me you're not
considering it?!

On Father Brown, tempted despite himself.

CUT TO:

15 EP9/SC15. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, PARIS. HALLWAY. DAY 3.
18.35

FLAMBEAU

NSE YOUNG COUPLE

A young, Parisian couple descend from upstairs and head out the door.

The coast clear, a puff of cigarette smoke emerges from the shadows, followed by **HERCULE FLAMBEAU**. He checks nobody's watching then unlocks a postbox.

He pockets a few letters. Seeing a telegram message, he opens it, chuckling at its contents.

FLAMBEAU

Greetings, old friend.

CUT TO:

16

EP9/SC16. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. STUDY. DAY 3. 19.00

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Father Brown works at his desk. The telephone rings. He answers, hopeful.

FATHER BROWN

St Mary's Presbytery.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Working late, Father?

FATHER BROWN

The Devil keeps long hours. So must I.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

You're fortunate that your telegram reached me so promptly. I only returned from Istanbul this morning. Don't ask what I was doing there - you wouldn't approve. So you need my help?

FATHER BROWN

Yes. To retrieve a stolen item.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

You've mistaken me for someone else, Father. Try calling that curious local inspector of yours.

FATHER BROWN

You are the only man I know who could pull this off.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Flattery is beneath you, Father, but please don't stop. What exactly would I be retrieving?

FATHER BROWN

A necklace belonging to Lady Felicia, being held in a safe in the penthouse suite of the Royal Sandborough Hotel. Its return is of the utmost importance.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

(Disappointed)

And what would I receive for my considerable pains?

FATHER BROWN

Our eternal gratitude.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Ha! Delightful as watching you descend into criminality sounds, Father, I don't work for anyone else. Especially not without payment.

FATHER BROWN

Without your help, Lady Felicia will lose everything.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

A woman like her will never be destitute. Too many foolish men who'd clamber over each other to save her. I, however, am not one of them. Goodbye, Father.

FATHER BROWN

Very well. I will find another way to get into Solovey's safe. I am sorry to have troubled you.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Wait, did you say Solovey? As in Nicholai Solovey?

FATHER BROWN

You know him?

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

(Deadly serious)

I'll catch the night-ferry and be at Kembleford station by noon tomorrow.

The line goes dead. On Father Brown, amazed by Flambeau's volte-face.

CUT TO:

17

EP9/SC17. INT. BAR, PARIS. DAY 3. 20.00

FLAMBEAU, FATHER BROWN (OOV)

NSE DRINKERS, BARMAN

Phone conversation as above. A telephone kiosk in the back of a gloomy bar, only a couple of drunk locals in attendance.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

St Mary's Presbytery.

FLAMBEAU

Working late, Father?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

The Devil keeps long hours. So must I.

FLAMBEAU

You're fortunate that your telegram reached me so promptly. I only returned from Istanbul this morning. Don't ask what I was doing there - you wouldn't approve. So you need my help?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Yes. To retrieve a stolen item.

FLAMBEAU

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FATHER BROWN (OOV)

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FLAMBEAU

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FLAMBEAU

(Disappointed)

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FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Our eternal gratitude.

FLAMBEAU

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FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Without your help, Lady Felicia will lose everything.

FLAMBEAU

A woman like her will never be destitute. Too many foolish men in the world who'd clamber over each other to save her. I, however, am not one of them. Goodbye, Father.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Very well. I will find another way to get into Solovey's safe. I am sorry to have troubled you.

Hearing Solovey's name, Flambeau's eyes light up.

FLAMBEAU

Wait, did you say Solovey? As in Nicholai Solovey?

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

You know him?

FLAMBEAU

(Deadly serious)
I'll catch the night-ferry and be at Kembleford station by noon tomorrow.

Flambeau hangs up. END ON SCENE 16.

CUT TO:

18

EP9/SC18. EXT. KEMBLEFORD TRAIN STATION. DAY 4. 12.00

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

NSE PASSENGERS, WORKMAN

Father Brown watches passengers disembark. No sign of Flambeau. Smelling cigarette smoke, Father Brown turns... Only a passing workman. The smoke tickles Father Brown's nose and he sneezes.

FLAMBEAU

(Cockney)

Bless you, Father.

A ticket inspector holds out a handkerchief. Seeing the embroidered letter F, Father Brown smiles - Flambeau.

FATHER BROWN

How was your journey, Hercule?

FLAMBEAU

(As himself)

Profitable. I collected a small fortune in unpaid fares.

Father Brown gives him a disapproving look.

FLAMBEAU (CONT'D)

You didn't summon me for my dazzling repartee. You need a thief and here I am!

Out on Father Brown, regretting his decision.

CUT TO:

19

EP9/SC19. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 4.
12.25

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY

Flambeau holds court while a disapproving Mrs McCarthy slices cake with barely-contained violence.

FLAMBEAU

So I said to Father Brown, "I can't abandon Lady Felicia to the cruelties of this dastardly villain!" Consider me your knight in shining armour.

Mrs McCarthy scoffs loudly.

LADY FELICIA

What's in it for you?

FLAMBEAU

(Mock offended)

You doubt my chivalrous motives?

LADY FELICIA

You wouldn't recognise chivalry if it slapped that devious face of yours! So drop the act. We're impervious to your so-called Gallic charms.

On Bunty, maybe not entirely impervious...

BUNTY

Why did you come?

FLAMBEAU

Revenge. Some months ago, Nicholai Solovey commissioned me to steal a tiara once worn by Alexandra, the last Empress of Russia.

FATHER BROWN

I thought you didn't work for anybody else?

FLAMBEAU

I've never been very good at sticking to rules. Anyway, the financial rewards on offer were considerable.

INSERT FLASHBACK SCENE 20 - Flambeau realises he's been double-crossed. Over this:

FLAMBEAU (V.O.)

Regrettably, the tiara had already been stolen before I arrived.

FATHER BROWN

By whom?

FLAMBEAU

Solovey himself. He tipped off the local police. The buffoons were so busy hunting me, Solovey was able to stroll out the door with the thing practically under his arm.

MRS MCCARTHY

Am I the only one who thinks we'd be mad to trust this man?

FLAMBEAU

Under normal circumstances, I'd agree. It would be foolish to trust me. But you have my word that punishing Solovey is far more important to me than your bauble.

LADY FELICIA

Nobody gets harmed, not even Solovey. Nothing else is taken.

FATHER BROWN

I have already informed Flambeau of our conditions.

BUNTY

You really think you can get the necklace back?

FLAMBEAU

I once stole an antique wedding ring from the finger of a Parisian countess whilst simultaneously exchanging pleasantries with the Prefect of Police. But I'll need help. From all of you.

MRS MCCARTHY

Count me out!

LADY FELICIA

Please, let's hear his plan.

FLAMBEAU

Other than Russian antiquities, Solovey has two weaknesses. Gambling and beautiful women. I intend to exploit both.

Flambeau smiles at Bunty/Lady Felicia. Both look flattered, before catching each other and exchanging accusing looks.

CUT TO:

20

EP9/SC20. INT. BASEMENT / STORAGE ROOM. NIGHT 0. 02.00
[FLASHBACK].

FLAMBEAU

Flambeau opens the heavy door of a museum storage room, full of wooden crates. He removes the lid from one using a crowbar and takes out a small metal box, opening it to find... Nothing. It's empty.

Hearing alarm bells ringing nearby, Flambeau's expression hardens, realising he's been double-crossed.

CUT TO:

21

EP9/SC21. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
13.55

BUNTY, NICHOLAI

NSE GUESTS, BARMAN

Nicholai sits at the bar with a drink. He sees Bunty arriving, wearing a glamorous dress.

BUNTY

Dubonnet and gin with a twist of
lemon, please.

The barman makes her drink. Nicholai watches Bunty. She teases him with the hint of a smile, toying with her necklace, reeling him in...

He bites, getting up and approaching...

NICHOLAI

May I have the honour of paying for
your drink?

BUNTY

Sorry, my mother warned me never to
accept drinks from strangers.

NICHOLAI

My name's Nicholai Solovey. I have
the penthouse suite. I like riding
but not hunting and, despite my
accent, prefer Champagne to vodka.
There, I'm no longer a stranger.

BUNTY

Au contraire. I know who you are
but you know nothing about me.

NICHOLAI

Excellent point. Join me for
dinner tonight. We'll talk, eat,
get to know each other. Then, if
you're satisfied that we're
suitably acquainted, I'll buy you
that drink.

BUNTY

Tempting, but tonight my
godmother's descending for a game
of baccarat. She's not the sort
one likes to disappoint.

NICHOLAI

Would your godmother mind if I
joined you?

BUNTY

You play?

NICHOLAI

A little.

BUNTY

I doubt she'd have any objection.
I'll warn you, though, she's a
terrible flirt.

NICHOLAI

I'll do my best not to encourage
her.

BUNTY

Deal.

(Holding out her hand)

Antonia de Mandeville. Pleased to
meet you.

Out on Bunty, victorious.

CUT TO:

22

EP9/SC22. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BEDROOM. DAY 4.
14.35

**BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY,
DANIEL**

A flustered Mrs McCarthy sits opposite Lady Felicia, staring at two cards - 9 and 6. Lady Felicia has 5 and 4.

MRS MCCARTHY

So I win?

LADY FELICIA

No!

MRS MCCARTHY

But I have a nine.

LADY FELICIA

(Frustrated)

We've been over this!

On Father Brown and Flambeau, keeping their heads down across the room, going over plans.

FLAMBEAU

(Sotto)

Sure you don't want me to simply kill Solovey in his sleep?

Father Brown gives him the look - *Behave!*

LADY FELICIA

It's simple. You add the two cards together.

MRS MCCARTHY

Then my score's still higher than yours.

LADY FELICIA

If your cards add up to ten or more, you only use the second digit. Your score's not fifteen but five.

MRS MCCARTHY

Are you trying to swindle me?

LADY FELICIA

I'm trying to stop you making a fool of yourself!

Bunty enters, looking smug.

FLAMBEAU

Saved by the belle 'demoiselle! Success?

BUNTY

He's on the hook. Said I'd send for him when we're ready.

FLAMBEAU

How could he resist?

Flambeau approaches Bunty, casually intimate...

FLAMBEAU (CONT'D)

Be careful. Solovey's dangerous and he doesn't like to lose.

BUNTY

I've never met a man who does.

Watching Bunty and Flambeau together, Lady Felicia bristles.

LADY FELICIA

(Sulking)

Bunty gets to play the glamorous heiress. Mrs McCarthy is some wealthy godmother. What am I doing?

FLAMBEAU

Don't be cross with me. You would have been more than capable of playing the honey to trap our Russian bear, would he not recognise you instantly. Fear not, your role's equally important. And you'll need this.

He takes a medicine bottle from his pocket, handing it to her.

LADY FELICIA

For what?

FLAMBEAU

Getting rid of Solovey's guard-dog, Yuri. It's tasteless and dissolves instantly in alcohol.

A knock. Father Brown opens the door a crack... then lets Daniel in. Daniel carries a laundry bag.

FATHER BROWN

Daniel, what perfect timing!

Daniel sees Mrs McCarthy glaring at him.

DANIEL

(Nervous)

Mrs McCarthy, lovely to see you again.

MRS MCCARTHY

Daniel.

DANIEL

(To Father Brown, re. bag)
You've gotta swear I'll get this
back. They'll have my guts for
garters if they find out I've
pinched it.

Flambeau throws the bag to Lady Felicia.

FLAMBEAU

For you.

She looks inside, appalled.

LADY FELICIA

Please tell me this is a joke.

Out on Father Brown and Flambeau, both trying to keep a
straight face.

CUT TO:

23

EP9/SC23. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NICHOLAI'S SUITE /
CORRIDOR. DAY 4. 19.30

FLAMBEAU, NICHOLAI, YURI

Nicholai (dinner jacket) adjusts his bow-tie. Yuri guards the door. A knock. Yuri opens it to reveal Flambeau wearing Daniel's porter uniform/hat, disguised by a moustache.

YURI

Yes?

FLAMBEAU

(As porter)

Message for Mr Solovey. Miss de Mandeville and guest await him in the bar.

Solovey checks himself in the mirror, then leaves past Flambeau (not worthy of a glance). Out on Flambeau, satisfied.

CUT TO:

24

EP9/SC24. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
19.33

BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL, NICHOLAI

NSE BARMAN, GUESTS

Bunty and an anxious Mrs McCarthy (evening dresses) are at the card table, along with Daniel (croupier's shirt/waistcoat).

DANIEL

Relax, Mrs M. Nothing to worry about.

MRS MCCARTHY

Easy for you to say. No doubt gambling comes naturally!

DANIEL

Actually, I've never placed a bet myself. Saw what it did to my ol' man over the years.

MRS MCCARTHY

(Guilty)

Sorry, I shouldn't have... I'm nervous, that's all.

DANIEL

(Gentle)

Follow my lead. You'll do fine.

BUNTY

You only need to stay for a few hands. As soon as Solovey's settled in, make your excuses and leave.

Seeing Nicholai approaching, they get into character.

BUNTY (CONT'D)

Here he is! Godmother, this is the charming Mr Solovey. Mr Solovey, my godmother, Lady Agatha Havilland-Frump.

Mrs McCarthy flashes Bunty a look - *What was that?!*

MRS MCCARTHY

(Posh)

Delighted to meet you, Mr Solovey.

NICHOLAI

Likewise.

Nicholai passes Daniel a pile of notes, which Daniel quickly counts.

BUNTY

I've been assured, godmother, that
Mr Solovey's quite the card-smith.

NICHOLAI

I claimed nothing of the sort.

Daniel passes Nicholai his chips.

DANIEL

There you go, sir.

NICHOLAI

May I ask the minimum bank?

BUNTY

Shall we say ten pounds?

Mrs McCarthy chokes on her drink. Bunty glares at her.

MRS MCCARTHY

Excuse me. They were a little
heavy-handed with the bitters.

NICHOLAI

I usually play for higher stakes.

BUNTY

Godmother disapproves of frittering
ones fortunes, but let's see how
the evening progresses. Care to be
banker?

Nicholai nods, satisfied, as Daniel deals the first hand.

CUT TO:

25

EP9/SC25. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. CORRIDOR/
NICHOLAI'S SUITE. DAY 4. 19.35

LADY FELICIA, YURI

Lady Felicia (maid's uniform/hat) pushes a service trolley down the corridor, a plate/cloche on top. She knocks on Nicholai's door. Yuri appears.

LADY FELICIA

(Broad working-class)
Would Mr Solovey like his bed
turned down?

Yuri looks quizzical - does he recognise her? He decides not.

YURI

No.

Yuri goes to shut the door, but Lady Felicia quickly puts out her hand to stop it.

LADY FELICIA

Alright for them, ain't it? Life's
all caviar and bubbles. While the
likes of you and me do the real
work.

YURI

True.

LADY FELICIA

(Nodding to trolley)
S'posed to be taking this to the
fellow opposite but now he's
"changed his mind"! Don't suppose
you're 'ungry? No charge. Us lot
got to stick together, ain't we?

Yuri looks tempted but wary.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

Got a bottle of scotch hidden in
the laundry room an' all. After
all, your master will be gone
hours, won't he?

She smiles, suggestive. Yuri breaks into a grin.

CUT TO:

26

EP9/SC26. EXT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. ROOF. DAY 4.
19.38

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

Flambeau climbs out a window onto the roof, kit-bag and abseiling rope over his shoulder. As he ties the rope onto a suitable anchor-point (TBC at location), Father Brown appears in the window.

FLAMBEAU

Wait in our room. As soon as I've retrieved the necklace, I'll meet you there.

The rope tied, Flambeau goes to the edge of the roof.

FATHER BROWN

Remember, look up to Heaven, not down to Hell.

FLAMBEAU

Don't worry, Father, I've done this a thousand -

Flambeau's foot slips on a loose tile, which clatters off the side of the roof, breaking on the balcony below.

CUT TO:

27

EP9/SC27. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. LAUNDRY ROOM. DAY
4. 19.39

LADY FELICIA, YURI

Yuri eats hungrily while Lady Felicia pours two glasses of whisky. Hearing the clattering noise, Yuri looks alarmed.

YURI

What's that?

LADY FELICIA

(Thinking quickly)

That bloomin' dumb-waiter! Makes
an awful racket. There you go,
love.

She gives Yuri his drink. Out on Lady Felicia, hiding her nerves behind a winning smile.

CUT TO:

28

EP9/SC28. EXT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. ROOF. DAY 4.
19.39

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

Father Brown and Flambeau wait. Silence. Reassured nobody heard, Flambeau nods to Father Brown, leans back and disappears off the side of the roof...

CUT TO:

29

EP9/SC29. EXT/INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BALCONY/
NICHOLAI'S SUITE. DAY 4. 19.43

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

From inside Nicholai's suite we hear thuds... Grunts... Then the balcony door opens and a triumphant Flambeau enters... just as the main door opens and Father Brown walks in.

Flambeau looks stunned. Father Brown holds up a key.

FATHER BROWN

Daniel lent me this. Surely you did not believe that I'd leave you unsupervised?

FLAMBEAU

You could have told me you had a key before I abseiled off the roof!

FATHER BROWN

And ruin your big entrance?

On Flambeau, realising he's been had. Father Brown takes down the picture, revealing the safe.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

Can you open it?

Flambeau inspects it, daunted.

FLAMBEAU

It's the latest Mosler. Allegedly, it can withstand a blast from an atomic bomb.

FATHER BROWN

That doesn't answer my question.

FLAMBEAU

Have faith, Father. And patience.

Flambeau opens his kit-bag, ready for work.

CUT TO:

30

EP9/SC30. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
20.00

BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL, NICHOLAI

NSE WAITRESS

Bunty adds her latest win to her already-large stack of chips. Meanwhile Mrs McCarthy looks deeply uncomfortable.

BUNTY

Rather fun, isn't it?

NICHOLAI

I knew that Luck was supposed to be a lady. I didn't know she took such a disarming form.

BUNTY

Don't think, Mr Solovey, I'll allow myself to be distracted by flattery.

NICHOLAI

You can't blame me for trying. How about we increase the bank? Twenty-five pounds?

BUNTY

Fine by me.

Panicked, Mrs McCarthy gets up.

MRS MCCARTHY

Excuse me! I forgot I was supposed to call on my sister this evening. She's not well.

NICHOLAI

Is it serious?

MRS MCCARTHY

(Flustered)
Well...

BUNTY

She has...

MRS MCCARTHY

Gout!

NICHOLAI

How unpleasant for her.

Mrs McCarthy pushes her chips to Daniel.

MRS MCCARTHY

Cash these in for me. I will collect from the concierge in the morning.

NICHOLAI

It's been a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Lady Agatha.

MRS MCCARTHY

Likewise. Farewell, Goddaughter. Don't get too carried away.

BUNTY

Would I?

Mrs McCarthy leaves. Nicholai gives Bunty a wolfish smile.

NICHOLAI

And then there were two.

Bunty smiles back, enjoying herself.

CUT TO:

31

EP9/SC31. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NICHOLAI'S SUITE.
DAY 4. 20.15

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU

Flambeau clicks the dial into position... but the handle doesn't budge. He groans in frustration, then clocks Father Brown sat on the bed, eyes closed.

FLAMBEAU

Praying won't help.

FATHER BROWN

I beg to differ. Take Saint Martin de Porres; he used the power of prayer to pass through locked doors so he might care for the sick quarantined on the other side.

FLAMBEAU

I doubt that Saint Martin de Porres passed through four inches of steel set in reinforced concrete!

Flambeau continues his work. Father Brown clocks a Russian Orthodox cross above the bed.

FATHER BROWN

The egg-pendant is decorated with a Russian cross. Do you know what the slanted cross-beam represents?

FLAMBEAU

(Irritated by the distraction)

The thieves either side of Christ at the crucifixion. One side goes up, the penitent thief ascending to Heaven, the other down, the impenitent thief condemned to Hell.

FATHER BROWN

Which are you?

FLAMBEAU

Don't delude yourself. I'm here for revenge, that's all. Anyway, penitence implies regret. All the fun we've had, Father? I wouldn't change a thing.

Out on Father Brown, not convinced.

CUT TO:

32

EP9/SC32. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
20.25

BUNTY, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL, NICHOLAI

NSE BARMAN, GUESTS

Bunty gathers chips from another successful hand. Nicholai forces a smile, irritated.

NICHOLAI

Let's take a short break. Drink?

BUNTY

That'd be lovely.

Nicholai heads for the bar. Mrs McCarthy approaches from where she's been secretly watching on.

BUNTY (CONT'D)

Back so soon? How's your sister's gout?

MRS MCCARTHY

What're you doing?!

BUNTY

Winning. What's it look like?

MRS MCCARTHY

You're supposed to keep Solovey at the table, not bankrupt him!

BUNTY

Why can't I do both?

MRS MCCARTHY

(To Daniel)

You need to keep her under control!

DANIEL

It's not the done thing for the croupier to intervene.

MRS MCCARTHY

I don't care! Until we get the all clear, we must keep him distracted.

DANIEL

Oh, Miss Windermere's definitely distracting him.

Mrs McCarthy rolls her eyes and returns to her hiding-place. Bunty and Daniel share a conspiratorial smirk.

At the bar, Nicholai watches the barman mix Bunty's drink.

NICHOLAI

Actually, make it a large measure
for the lady.

Out on Nicholai, refusing to lose.

CUT TO:

33

EP9/SC33. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. LAUNDRY
ROOM/CORRIDOR. DAY 4. 20.47

LADY FELICIA, YURI

A giggly Lady Felicia fakes a swig from a nearly empty bottle of whisky, then passes it to Yuri. Yuri gulps down several mouthfuls then blinks, unsteady on his feet.

LADY FELICIA

Wait 'ere.

YURI

Where you go?

LADY FELICIA

To find us something else to drink.
'Ere...

She grabs a spare pillow/blanket from a shelf and hands them to him.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

You make this place more comfy!

Catching on, Yuri grins.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

Don't forget, shhhhh!

YURI

(Mimicking, playful)
Shhhh!

LADY FELICIA

Back in a minute...

She leaves, closing the door, quietly locking it from outside. She drops the drunk act -

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

(Disdainful)
Or two.

- and heads upstairs.

CUT TO:

34

EP9/SC34. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NICHOLAI'S SUITE.
DAY 4. 20.55

FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, FLAMBEAU

A knock. Father Brown lets in Lady Felicia. She sees Flambeau's struggling with the safe, his ear pressed to a cup against the door.

LADY FELICIA

Haven't you opened it yet?

FLAMBEAU

This isn't as simple as it looks.

Mrs McCarthy hurries in behind Lady Felicia.

MRS MCCARTHY

We have a problem!

FLAMBEAU

A little peace wouldn't go amiss!

MRS MCCARTHY

It appears Penelope can't hold her cocktails.

LADY FELICIA

(Heart sinking)

She promised me!

Lady Felicia heads for the door, angry. Father Brown quickly intercepts her.

FATHER BROWN

I'll go. We can't risk Solovey seeing you. Stay with Flambeau.

Father Brown and Mrs McCarthy hurry back out. Lady Felicia watches Flambeau, impatient.

LADY FELICIA

Don't tell me the great Flambeau isn't up to the job?

Out on Flambeau, stung.

CUT TO:

35

EP9/SC35. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
21.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL, NICHOLAI

NSE BARMAN, GUESTS

At the table, Bunty appears drunk, staring at her cards, brow wrinkled in concentration.

DANIEL

Your score is three, madame. You must take another card.

BUNTY

Yes! What he said.
(To Nicholai, chuckling)
What sort of card are you, Mr Solovey? A king? A knave? A joker?

Alarmed she's giving the game away, Daniel quickly deals.

DANIEL

Your card, madame.

Bunty sees Father Brown approaching.

BUNTY

(Delighted)
Father! Mr Solovey, have you met my friend, Father Brown?

NICHOLAI

(Suspicious)
You know each other?

FATHER BROWN

Old acquaintances. How is the game?

NICHOLAI

After a slow start, my fortunes are improving.

FATHER BROWN

Miss de Mandeville, a word?

BUNTY

We're halfway through a hand!

FATHER BROWN

Won't take long.

Bunty huffily allows Father Brown to lead her around the corner, where Mrs McCarthy's waiting.

MRS MCCARTHY

How much have you had to drink?!

BUNTY

Not much! I was under strict instructions! Strict instructions... Now you say it, I do feel a bit wobbly.

MRS MCCARTHY

(To Father Brown)

What do we do?

FATHER BROWN

Keep an eye on her.

Father Brown sticks his chest out and returns to the table, sitting opposite Nicholai.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

Miss de Mandeville has an errand to run. Do you object if I take her place for a few hands?

NICHOLAI

Be my guest.

Daniel deals a new hand.

NICHOLAI (CONT'D)

Do members of the Catholic clergy often gamble in your country?

FATHER BROWN

Terrible habit we picked up during the reformation. Helped pass the time while we were hiding in priest-holes from marauding Anglicans.

Out on Nicholai, not sure if he's being serious.

CUT TO:

36

EP9/SC36. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NICHOLAI'S SUITE.
DAY 4. 21.10

LADY FELICIA, FLAMBEAU

NSE MAID

Flambeau drills the safe, wiping away sweat with his handkerchief. A knock, then a key in the lock. Lady Felicia hurries over, opening the door to reveal an maid (NSE) who looks at Lady Felicia's maid's uniform, suspicious.

LADY FELICIA

We're just... playing a game. Not to be disturbed!

Lady Felicia slams the door shut.

FLAMBEAU

Lucky me.

LADY FELICIA

Concentrate! And in case you get any ideas, know that I'm not someone to be underestimated.

FLAMBEAU

Underestimated?! I hold you in the highest possible regard.

LADY FELICIA

Not as high as my niece, judging by how you were fawning over her earlier.

FLAMBEAU

Jealous?

LADY FELICIA

Certainly not!

FLAMBEAU

Pity. Your niece is a firework; charming, yes, but all colour and show, gone in a flash. Your fire runs far hotter for being locked in its furnace. What would happen, I wonder, if you opened the door?

LADY FELICIA

There's only one door here that needs opening.

Flambeau duly continues his work. On Lady Felicia, flustered.

CUT TO:

37

EP9/SC37. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
21.20

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL, NICHOLAI

On Father Brown, counting his dwindling chips, anxious. He's momentarily distracted by Mrs McCarthy and an unsteady Bunty spying from around a corner behind Nicholai's back... until Bunty nearly falls over and Mrs McCarthy pulls her out of sight.

DANIEL

Your bet, Father.

Opposite him, Nicholai looks impatient.

NICHOLAI

Perhaps we should cash-out? It does not look like Miss de Mandeville plans to return.

FATHER BROWN

No! Let's continue.
(To Daniel)
Am I allowed to bet... all of it?

DANIEL

Er... Yes. But -

FATHER BROWN

Excellent.

Father Brown pushes his remaining chips into the middle.

FATHER BROWN (CONT'D)

In for a penny...

DANIEL

Player bets twenty-five pounds.

FATHER BROWN

(Surprised)
Twenty-five...?!

On Father Brown, regretting his bold choice. Nicholai sits up - perhaps this could get interesting after all..

CUT TO:

38

EP9/SC38. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. NICHOLAI'S SUITE.
DAY 4. 21.30

LADY FELICIA, FLAMBEAU, YURI

Flambeau eases a screwdriver through a small drill-hole... A click. Flambeau tries the handle. The door swings open!

LADY FELICIA

At last! Is it in there?

Flambeau rummages around in the safe. He finds a small satin bag, peeks inside then throws it to Lady Felicia. She takes out her necklace, revealed.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

I could kiss you!

Flambeau looks hopeful.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

(Stern)

A figure of speech.

Flambeau starts pulling out other items, opening boxes.

FLAMBEAU

This bracelet was stolen from the
Duchess of Kent.

Flambeau starts stuffing items into his kit-bag, along with bundles of cash.

LADY FELICIA

Stop that!

Flambeau ignores her.

LADY FELICIA (CONT'D)

We had a deal. We take my
necklace, nothing else. Father
Brown cannot be complicit in theft.

FLAMBEAU

The crimes have already been
committed. I am simply
redistributing property from one
thief to another.

LADY FELICIA

I'll call the police.

FLAMBEAU

And how would you explain your
involvement?

Flambeau finishes emptying the safe and heads for the balcony.

LADY FELICIA

Stop or I'll scream for help!

Flambeau calmly takes a gun from his pocket, aiming it at her.

FLAMBEAU

As you're being so ungenerous, I'll
take the necklace after all.
Something to remember you by.

He holds out his hand. Fearless, Lady Felicia stares him down.

LADY FELICIA

You don't have it in you.

He pulls back the hammer... But then the door crashes open. A groggy, angry Yuri barges in.

YURI

You!

Flambeau is quickest to react. He grabs the necklace from Lady Felicia's hand, waves the gun at Yuri -

FLAMBEAU

Stay back!

- then disappears out onto the balcony.

LADY FELICIA

Flambeau! Don't!

Yuri races out onto the balcony just as Flambeau abseils over the side. Yuri takes a folding knife from his pocket, opens it and starts to saw at the rope. He manages to cut through it and, hopeful, looks over the side of the balcony... only to see Flambeau waving at him from the ground, before running over to Bunty's car. Out on Yuri, furious.

CUT TO:

39

EP9/SC39. INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL. BAR. DAY 4.
21.35

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, DANIEL, NICHOLAI, YURI

Nicholai's now low on chips, counting what he has left, tense.

NICHOLAI

Propose raising the bank to fifty pounds.

Father Brown nods his consent, counts out fifty pounds in chips and pushes them into the middle.

FATHER BROWN

Banco.

DANIEL

Banker is all-in. Player matches the bank.

Nicholai locks eyes with Father Brown, refusing to show his nerves. Daniel deals, skillfully palming Nicholai's two cards from his sleeve. Father Brown reveals his cards - a six and two.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Player has eight and stands.

Nicolai turns over his cards - a four and three.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Bank has seven. Player wins.

Nicholai is struggling to control his anger.

NICHOLAI

I'd like to buy back in.

Father Brown looks apologetic. But then Yuri marches over with Lady Felicia still in his grasp.

NICHOLAI (CONT'D)

What're you playing at, man?

(Recognising her)

Lady Felicia?! I take it from the uniform that your husband's diamond business is struggling?

LADY FELICIA

You're very self-satisfied for a man who's just been robbed.

YURI

The safe.

LADY FELICIA

I believe you've met the culprit.
His name is Hercule Flambeau.

NICHOLAI

(Appalled)
Flambeau?!

LADY FELICIA

(To Father Brown)
He's taken everything. Including
Bunty's car!

Bunty appears, still tipsy.

BUNTY

I'll knock his block off!

Nicholai looks around, realising they were all in on it.

NICHOLAI

See, Father? A moral abyss!
(To Yuri)
Da-vai! [LET'S GO!]

Nicholai and Yuri race out in pursuit of Flambeau. Lady Felicia glares at Father Brown.

LADY FELICIA

Thank you, Father. By involving
your good friend Flambeau, you've
sealed Montague's fate!

Out on Father Brown, sheepish.

CUT TO:

40

EP9/SC40. EXT/INT. ROYAL SANDBOROUGH HOTEL / NICHOLAI'S
CAR. DAY 4. 21.40

GOODFELLOW, MALLORY, FLAMBEAU, NICHOLAI, YURI

NSE POLICE OFFICERS

Nicholai and Yuri drive out of the hotel onto a country road... only to find a police road-block manned by Goodfellow and others. Yuri slams on his brakes.

Mallory appears, knocking on the window.

MALLORY

Out of the vehicle, please.

NICHOLAI

We are in a hurry, Inspector.

MALLORY

We've had a tip-off that you are in possession of stolen goods. I'd like to search your vehicle.

Yuri looks to Nicholai for his instructions, hand reaching for the glove-compartment. Nicholai shakes his head and both men exit the car.

NICHOLAI

Go ahead. But please, be quick.

Goodfellow checks the backseat, then opens the boot. Inside is Flambeau's kit-bag. Goodfellow reaches inside and holds up Lady Felicia's necklace for Mallory to see.

GOODFELLOW

What do we have here?

NICHOLAI

But... That's impossible!

MALLORY

Nicholai Solovey, you're under arrest. Not obliged to say anything, but anything you say may be given in evidence. And that goes for your chum here, too.

On Nicholai, thrown. Then he notices a figure stood watching from the cover of nearby trees. Flambeau, still in the porters uniform, who tips his hat at Nicholai in mock reverence. Out on Nicholai, seething.

CUT TO:

41 EP9/SC41. SCENE OMITTED

42

EP9/SC42. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. KITCHEN. DAY 5.
14.00

BUNTY, FATHER BROWN, LADY FELICIA, MRS MCCARTHY, DANIEL

On the necklace, now the picture on the cover of an auction catalogue being held by an anxious Lady Felicia.

MRS MCCARTHY

What's taking so long?

LADY FELICIA

These auctions can drag on for hours. That's why I decided I would rather be here, among friends.

FATHER BROWN

Does that mean you've forgiven me?

LADY FELICIA

I suppose so. I still wish you'd told me the whole plan.

MRS MCCARTHY

Hear, hear. It was shameful, leaving us in the dark like that!

FATHER BROWN

Putting Solovey behind bars was the only way of protecting you from reprisal. It was vital that Solovey believed your anger at Flambeau was genuine.

LADY FELICIA

Oh, so it's my acting skills you didn't trust?! At least we got the necklace back. Perhaps Monsieur Flambeau isn't as irredeemable as I thought?

FATHER BROWN

Except, according to Inspector Mallory, not all of Solovey's money made it into the boot of his car. It appears our thief took his reward after all.

Bunty and Daniel enter. Daniel holds back, clutching a bunch of flowers.

BUNTY

(Excited)

Aunt Fliss! I bumped into the telegram boy outside.

(Passing her an envelope)

(MORE)

BUNTY (CONT'D)

I think it's from the auction house.

Apprehensive, Lady Felicia opens it and reads the contents.

MRS MCCARTHY

Don't keep us in suspense! Have you raised enough to save Montague or not?

LADY FELICIA

(Relieved)
We should be able to cover our debts.

BUNTY

Guess that means I'm stuck in Kempleford after all!

Bunty tries to sound disappointed, but she can't disguise her relief.

LADY FELICIA

The necklace fetched a particularly good price.

BUNTY

Does it say who bought it?

LADY FELICIA

An anonymous bidder, via the telephone. Whoever it was, I hope it brings them joy!

FATHER BROWN

And my winnings at baccarat will go a long way towards the restoration of the clerestory.

Mrs McCarthy clocks Daniel loitering.

MRS MCCARTHY

And what are you doing here, Master Winks?

BUNTY

(Innocent)
I promised him... some elocution lessons.

Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy exchange a glance, not believing a word! Daniel approaches Mrs McCarthy and hands her the flowers.

DANIEL

An overdue apology, Mrs M. For the incident at the Carol Concert.

MRS MCCARTHY

(Touched)

Apology accepted. So will we be welcoming you to St Mary's again?

DANIEL

When I can get off work.

BUNTY

You'll see Daniel at my next games night. He's agreed to be croupier.

MRS MCCARTHY

No, thank you! I've had quite enough gambling for now.

FATHER BROWN

I will come. I thought I did rather well at Baccarat.

Bunty smirks at Daniel, who's keeping diplomatically silent.

CUT TO:

43

EP9/SC43. INT. ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY. STUDY. DAY 5. 20.45

FATHER BROWN, FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Telephone rings in the study. Father Brown enters.

FATHER BROWN

St Mary's Presbytery?

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

How does it feel? All these years you tried to make me an honourable man, yet it is I who has turned you into a thief.

FATHER BROWN

You could have kept Solovey's hoard. I would have been powerless to stop you. Yet you did not.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Neither did I leave empty-handed.

FATHER BROWN

Ah, yes, Solovey's money. I confess I'm disappointed. I never believed you were motivated by avarice for its own sake.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

Then you'll be pleased to hear I've invested it in an item of immense aesthetic and spiritual value. I was going to keep it, but now I think I might give it to a lady-friend. An apology for certain uncouth actions of mine.

FATHER BROWN

How uncharacteristically contrite.

FLAMBEAU (OOV)

What can I say? She is someone I hold in the *highest possible regard*. Until next time, Father.

Father Brown hears the click as Flambeau hangs up. He sighs, disappointed but not surprised. OUT ON SCENE 44.

CUT TO:

44

EP9/SC44. INT. BAR, PARIS. DAY 5. 21.45

FLAMBEAU, FATHER BROWN (OOV)

The bar as before. Flambeau at the kiosk.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

St Mary's Presbytery?

FLAMBEAU

How does it feel? All these years you tried to make me an honourable man, yet it is I who has turned you into a thief.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

You could have kept Solovey's hoard. I would have been powerless to stop you. Yet you did not.

FLAMBEAU

Neither did I leave empty-handed.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

Ah, yes, Solovey's money. I confess I'm disappointed. I never believed you were motivated by avarice for its own sake.

FLAMBEAU

Then you'll be pleased to hear I've invested it in an item of immense aesthetic and spiritual value.

Flambeau takes the necklace from his pocket, admiring it.

FLAMBEAU (CONT'D)

I was going to keep it, but now I think I might give it to a lady-friend. An apology for certain uncouth actions of mine.

FATHER BROWN (OOV)

How uncharacteristically contrite.

FLAMBEAU

What can I say? She is someone I hold in the *highest possible regard*. Until next time, Father.

With a wry smile, Flambeau hangs up, slips the necklace in his pocket and walks away.

END OF EPISODE