

"THE MURDER IN BEDROCK"

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FADE IN:

EXT - MAIN ST IN BEDROCK - EARLY MORNING

YOUNG WOMAN (20s) is a dark haired, blue eyed woman who is found dead in the sleeping town of Bedrock, CA in the early spring of 1914.

DR. LINDSEY HYMAN (40) is a serious, studious man who takes life very seriously. He has brown hair and eyes and a tan complexion. He's also German and speaks perfect English

DR. HYMAN

Well, she has been dead for at least 6 hours- Could be more, but no earlier than 6 hours ago.

SHERIFF BLAIN CONNOLLY (50) has been doing this job forever and is tired. He has thick sandy colored hair and dark eyes, with circles under them.

SHERRIFF CONNOLLY

You can't get the time a little more exact?

DR. HYMAN

No, I'm sorry. That's the best I can do for now. I'll let you know when the autopsy is done.

Sherriff adjusts his hat, scratches his head and sighs; then looks over at his deputy.

FRED (22) is the one-eyed sidekick of the Sherriff. He's a little slow on the uptake, but he never gives up on a case no matter how difficult.

FRED

Okay Sherriff, I've been taking down the notes and we've been able to get a few pictures. I'll get this ready for you to take a look at in your office

while we're waiting for the Doctor. Any ideas on what's on the ground here?

He glances at the Sherriff who gently shakes his head no. Fred stares at him confused for a beat and then realizes what the Sherriff wants.

FRED

Well, I'll just run and take care of this quickly then.

He runs off towards the Sherriff's office, while the Doctor gets a couple of men standing around the store to carry the body on a stretcher.

INT - SHERRIFF'S OFFICE - MORNING

PHOTOGRAPHER MATTHEW (30) with brown hair, and glasses. He has the latest photography equipment for the time and is still trying to prove himself in the small town of Bedrock. He was ecstatic to be asked to take photographs of the dead woman and the things around her so the Sherriff could easily remember what all was there.

MATTHEW

I finished developing the photos. They came out quite clear for that early in the morning. I've also brought the negatives for you. Just ask if you need more copies or anything..

He glances quickly at and the Sherriff and Fred before adding

MATTHEW

Or another deputy

He slips out the door quickly, his neck feeling hot and his face flushed from being so out-spoken.

INT - SHERRIFFS OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

FRED

Interesting man, that, wouldn't you say Sherriff?

The Sherriff nods his head in the affirmative as he picks up the stack of photographs and begins to look through them

SHERRIFF

Sorry business, this murder. No idea what this means in the pictures. Glad Matthew was here though. No way these clues would have stayed what with the wind, the dirt and normal every day traffic through town.

He pauses to look out the window

SHERRIFF

Place is becoming too busy already and we hardly have the town in place.

The Sherriff walks back toward his desk and Fred

FRED

That's the truth of it all right. People are still moving out west, trying for the American dream as they say, sir.

SHERRIFF

What do you think this means Fred?

He leans over slightly so Fred can see the picture he's holding. The picture's of the young woman prostrated on the ground with different things drawn on the ground next to her. Each picture is a different close up of the drawings.

Fred looks at the picture and frowns

FRED

Looks just like her hand print to me. You think it means something?

SHERRIFF

Not sure just yet. Then there's this picture here. Wouldn't have thought her to take the time to draw a house. It must mean something to her... but what?

This picture is of a house with many windows. Next to it is the beginning of a word (BLA) and an arrow to the hand. The Sherriff just shakes his head looks outside again and turns and grabs his hat.

SHERRIFF

Well, I'd better start asking some

questions.

The Sherriff leaves Fred standing by the desk trying to say something. Fred just closes his mouth and shrugs and begins to sweep the office.

EXT - TOWN - DAY

MONTAGE - Sherriff walks around town talking to the different business owners. He shows the pictures and each person shakes his head no in response to his questions. The Sherriff stops at the general store next.

INT - GENERAL STORE - DAY

BILL (early 30s) is the store owner, along with his wife Martha. He is one of the towns leading citizens and prides himself with knowing everyone and everything going on in town.

SHERRIFF

Hi Bill!

BILL

Rotten business today Blain. Can't say I envy your job.

He grins at the Sherriff as he says

BILL

Was just saying to Martha, only last night what I nice job you have. Nothing to do but sit around waiting for something to happen (which never does in this town) and you get paid for it. Now that's the kind of job I'd like right now. None of this keeping books and the like.

SHERRIFF

I'd gladly hand the job over to someone else right now Bill. This murder has me stumped. That's for sure. I'm not sure where to begin. Nobody saw this woman in town before and nobody was expecting someone. There aren't any clues, but those on these pictures and those don't make any sense. I've been going around talking to everyone on Main Street to

see if anyone heard anything or if anything in these pictures rings a bell - nothing.

He looks at Bill

SHERRIFF

What about you Bill? You always seem to know what's going on- any ideas?

He shows him the pictures. Bill carefully looks at each one. Scratches his head a few times, like he's trying to remember something

BILL

I do seem to remember something Blain, but I'm not sure if it's relevant to all this. It's just something I read in the paper the other day.

SHERRIFF

Which paper is that, ours or a big city paper?

BILL

It's the New York and Denver papers I mainly read right now, so it must be one of them. We don't always get them on time so it was probably old.

Bill turns around and walks to the stairs. He yells up to Martha

BILL

Martha, do you remember the article I was reading the other day that I commented on to you? About Europe?

MARTHA (28) is a red haired Irish young woman who speaks her mind if anyone asks her that is.

MARTHA (O.S.)

That 'hand' business? Yes that was in one of the New York papers we received last week. We probably have it up here somewhere. I'll take a look for it shall I?

Bill turns to the Sherriff with a smile

BILL

Wonderful woman, that Martha.

Then he turns back to yell up the stairs again

BILL

Thanks dear. Bring it down when you find it will you- I want to show it to the Sherriff.

SHERRIFF

Thanks Bill. I have a few more people to talk to so I'll come back in a little while.

The Sherriff walks out the door and heads towards the next store.

INT - DR HYMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

The Sherriff knocks on the door. While waiting he takes off his hat and pulls his fingers through his thick hair and then uses the hat to dust off his clothes. As he puts on the hat, the door opens.

MRS. DEUSCHLE (55) is a middle aged housekeeper for the doctor. She's German, but speaks perfect American English. She also helps him with his experiments.

MRS. DEUSCHLE

May I help you Sherriff?

SHERRIFF

Yes, I'd like to speak to the Doctor

MRS. DEUSCHLE

He's still working on that poor young woman found this morning.

She shakes her head

MRS. DEUSCHLE

It's such a shame; so young too. Well, come in and I'll see if he can see you.

Mrs. Deuschle sets him in the parlor and leaves the room

INT - DOCTOR HYMAN'S HOUSE - THE BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Mrs. Deuschle knocks on the door and enters. The Doctor is working on the young woman.

MRS. DEUSCHLE

The Sherriff is here to see you sir.
Should I send him away?

The Doctor shakes his head

DR. HYMAN

I suppose I should see him. Not sure
what to say to him yet though.

MRS. DEUSCHLE

Have you figured out what happened yet?
Where the experiment went wrong? I have
no idea how she got out sir, I really
don't. I'm so sorry it happened.

Doctor Hyman looks up quickly and gives her a hard look.
Mrs. Deuschle shrinks, visibly and begins to tremble,
afraid that she has upset him.

DR. HYMAN

What have you said to him? Have you let
anything slip about this woman?

MRS. DEUSCHLE

No sir! I just asked him to come in and
wait while I went to ask if you could
see him.

Dr Hyman breathes a sigh of relief

DR. HYMAN

Why don't you ask him to come back
tomorrow, so I have a chance to finish
this.

Mrs. Deuschle nods yes and leaves

DR. HYMAN (TO HIMSELF)

That is, come up with some plausible
answers so the Sherriff won't get
suspicious

INT - DR HYMAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Mrs. Deuschle reenters the parlor and the Sherriff stands.
Mrs. Deuschle is pale and still trembling a little as she
speaks with the Sherriff

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I'm sorry Sherriff, but the Doctor is working hard and asked me to see if you'd come by in the morning. He says he can have some answers for you then.

SHERRIFF

Well, thank you very much. I'll stop in tomorrow morning around ten o'clock. If that's alright?

Mrs. Deuschle shakes her head yes as she leads the Sherriff back to the door and lets him out. The Sherriff tips his hat to her, before heading down the stairs.

SHERRIFF (TO HIMSELF)

I wonder what's bothering her?

He shakes his head

SHERRIFF (TO HIMSELF)

I'm getting too suspicious about life and everyone I know. I need to get out of this job.

INT - GENERAL STORE - EVENING

SHERRIFF

Did Martha find the article?

BILL

She sure did.

As Bill looks for the paper on the counter, Martha comes from the back of the store where she was cleaning and organizing.

MARTHA

Hi Sherriff. Did Bill show you that paper yet?

SHERRIFF

No, he's just looking for it right now. It's got me right curious.

MARTHA

Do you think it might have something to do with that poor woman's death?

He shakes his head

SHERRIFF

No idea, ma'am. That's why I want to read it. I don't want to leave any stone unturned in this case.

BILL (OVER AT THE COUNTER)

Oh, here it is, under the receipts for the day.

Bill walks over to the Sherriff and Martha

BILL

Sorry for the delay, but here it is. It's the New York paper. The article you want is right here.

Bill taps the paper and shows it to the Sherriff. As the Sherriff takes the paper

SHERRIFF

Thank you Bill, Martha, I'll return it when I'm finished

The Sherriff then leaves and heads for the office

INT - SHERRIFF BLAIN'S OFFICE - EVENING

SHERRIFF (TO HIMSELF)

Well let's see if this article has any bearing on this case, shall we?

He opens the paper to the article and reads:

THE BLACK HAND GANG

The Black Hand Gang is beginning to surface all over Europe. We have not been able to receive much information at this time because the organization has been able to keep its activities very secret. All that has been uncovered by the British is that pockets of revolutionaries are popping up in Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Bosnia/Serbia areas, and their sign is a black hand. There was one document found that stated they were beginning operations in the United States for experiments. Apparently they want U.S. citizens for their tests. Keep on the lookout for revolutionaries and those trying to stir up trouble in the

country.

The Sherriff looks at the photos again and reads the article once again.

SHERRIFF (TO HIMSELF)

Not much here, but what if that hand and the 'BLA' in the pictures was referring to this gang? What are the odds of them showing up in Bedrock of all places?

INT - DR HYMAN'S HOUSE - PARLOR - NEXT MORNING

SHERRIFF

Good morning Mrs. Deuschle. Is the Doctor ready to see me?

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I will let him know you are here. Please take a seat and the Doctor will be with you shortly.

The Sherriff sits down and looks around the room while waiting.

DR. HYMAN

Thank you for coming Sherriff Blain.

The Doctor is happy and chipper, not at all his usual serious self

SHERRIFF

What did you find out Dr. Hyman?

DR. HYMAN

Well... The young woman died sometime around 11pm the other night. I realized that she must have died between 10pm-2am because of the ground.

What I mean is that it had rained a little in the early evening and if she had died during that, or shortly after she would have had sand and leaves on her and in her hair. There was none of that. So the ground had time to dry. It was awfully hot that day if you'll recall and that lasted in to the night.

SHERRIFF

Thank you Doctor. The time of death you gave me before was so broad that anyone in the whole town could have done it. How would you say she actually died?

The Doctor begins to fidget just a little as he explains the cause of death and the Sherriff notices that he's sweating a little as well

DR. HYMAN

That's little hard to say still Sherriff. She wasn't strangled or poisoned (as far as I can tell). There were no odd bruises or wounds.

The Sherriff brings out the photographs again. Dr. Hyman sees them and begins to pale noticeably. He's forgotten about those

SHERRIFF

But Dr. Hyman what about the marks on the body? Here, Here and Here

The Sherriff points to circle marks on the head. They look like burn marks of some kind. As the Sherriff is talking he begins to put a few things into place.

SHERRIFF

Could she have been experimented on in some way? Could this be the place where it all happened and she somehow got away?

Dr. Hyman is scared and is trying to make his face blank. He chose Bedrock, CA because it was so small and people didn't ask a lot of questions about your past. There also wasn't a lot of government or police interference.

DR. HYMAN

That is always possible I guess, but very unlikely out here? It would take someone who's trained to perform tests like this and there aren't many people like that out here, are there? My guess is she hit her head on something multiple times that made those marks. She didn't hit hard enough to bleed, but one of the ones around her temple must have killed her.

Dr. Hyman was grasping at straws as he said this. He began to relax as Sherriff Blain began nodding his head in agreement.

DR. HYMAN (TO HIMSELF)

He's accepting it. Yes! I knew these country Sherriff's were a joke. Now all I need to do is lay low for a little bit before I continue my work. 'The Hand' will understand.

Dr. Hyman gets up and starts walking towards the door. Blain realizes that he's being dismissed and also rises.

SHERRIFF

Thank you for your help. I'm hoping to be able to end this case soon.

DR. HYMAN

Glad I was able to be of some help. This is a tricky business. I'm glad I'm not the one who has to catch criminals. I'd probably mess it all up.

Dr. Hyman laughs at himself as he leaves. Mrs. Deuschle is standing behind the Dr. as the Sherriff leaves. The Sherriff turns and sees her.

SHERRIFF

Thank you again for your help. Please let me know if you think of anything else or if you find something that might be helpful. Good day

The Sherriff walks down the stairs and turns the corner. Dr. Hyman grins wickedly, knowing he's won! Mrs. Deuschle shuffles back to the kitchen muttering to herself, very worried.

INT - SHERRIFFS OFFICE - BACK DOOR - LATE AFTERNOON

Mrs. Deuschle knocks lightly on the door. Looking around nervously as she does so. She knocks again, a little louder this time. Fred then opens the door

FRED

Why, it's Mrs. Deuschle from over at the Doctor's house.

Mrs. Deuschle hurries inside by pushing past Fred who's

standing in front of the open door. He seems surprised that she would do that.

FRED

Here's Mrs. Deuschle, Boss.

Sherriff Blain looks up from what he's reading and smiles at the housekeeper. He had a feeling she might come to him, but didn't expect her so soon.

SHERRIFF

I thought I might be seeing you here.

He sees how scared she is and so invites her to the back room where she won't be seen through the windows

SHERRIFF

Let's sit right here. Are you comfortable? Would you like some water?

When she nods her head yes, Fred leaves at once to get it.

SHERRIFF

What would you like to tell me Mrs. Deuschle?

She wrings her handkerchief in her hands over and over as she tries to begin. She blurts out

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I know who that young woman who died is sir! But I don't know how to tell you.

SHERRIFF

Just start at the beginning and we'll sort it out

MRS. DEUSCHLE

Well, it all started out in Germany a few years back.

The Sherriff is startled by this announcement, but he controls his expressions so as not to alarm Mrs. Deuschle

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I don't know how it officially started, you see, but Dr. Hyman knows my family and he blackmailed my brother to help him. And to keep my brother in line, Dr. Hyman took me with him to America. If my brother stops his work or I don't do mine, Dr. Hyman will kill me!

She sobs into her handkerchief. It's beginning to get a little soggy. Sherriff Blain offers her his.

SHERRIFF

Please continue. You're safe in here.

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I didn't know what exactly the Dr had planned, you see. I found out after we got here. And I read some papers and over heard some conversations.

The Black Hand Gang in Europe is performing experiments on the mind. Dr Hyman is supposed to discover how to break a sane mind. He's doing electroshock treatments and tortuous things to people's minds.

She continues to cry into a handkerchief.

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I just can't handle the screaming anymore Sherriff Blain. It's all just so horrible. That poor woman was one of the first. She was kidnapped after he discovered her traveling alone. He made me befriend her so she wouldn't suspect anything.

Once we got her to his lab, he discovered she was pregnant and threatened to kill the baby if she didn't cooperate. The baby died from the experiments on her body though.

That's why she ran away. And I let her, or at least I didn't try to stop her when I saw her outside.

Oh, if the Dr. even found out he'd kill me for sure!

Sherriff Blain's mouth is hanging open by this point. He never expected this. Mrs. Deuschle squares her shoulders.

MRS. DEUSCHLE

I've come to you Sherriff to put a stop to these horrible experiments! The Doctor must be stopped at all costs! The Black Hand wants to control minds,

I don't know why exactly, but I do know that it has to do with them wanting control of some government and wanting unity or death. They're crazy revolutionaries!

Mrs. Deuschle once again breaks down and cries.

SHERRIFF

Fred, run and ask Bill to come over here. And don't tell him anything!

Fred takes off running and is back shortly with the General Store keeper

SHERRIFF

Bill, I need you to stay here with Mrs. Deuschle. She's in danger and I want her protected. Fred and I are going to apprehend our murderer.

Bill looks shocked. The Sherriff decides to give him a little information.

SHERRIFF

Turns out your article helped me finish this case. That and Mrs. Deuschle here. Can I count on you to stay here and not let anyone in except me and Fred?

BILL

Yes, Sherriff, you can count on me.

The Sherriff and Fred leave.

EXT - STREET CORNNER - EVENING

Dr. Lindsey Hyman is walking down the street looking for his housekeeper. He doesn't notice the Sherriff until it's too late. Sherriff Blain Connolly and Fred tackle Dr. Hyman and handcuff him. Dr. Hyman is so surprised that he starts talking and cursing in German. The Sherriff nods his head as if satisfied that he has his murderer.

FADE OUT:

THE END