

BIZARRE MURDERS

"SWEET TRANVESTITE"

LOCKED

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OPENING TEASE

NARRATOR
On this episode of Bizarre
Murders...

INT. JAMES' OFFICE - DAY

Plastic surgeon James makes surgical markings on his patient's face.

INT. MANSION - PLAYROOM - DAY

Julia plays with Isobel.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
On the surface, wealthy plastic
surgeon James and his homemaker
wife Julia are the picture-perfect
power couple...

WEDDING PHOTO: James in snappy suit kisses Julia who's in a bo-ho wedding dress.

INT. MANSION - BEDROOM - MONTAGE

- XCU: Julia takes pills
- XCU: James does coke

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
But behind closed doors, they both
wrestle with personal demons...

INT. MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

James and Julia argue (BUT DON'T SHOW PHYSICAL VIOLENCE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
When their marriage hits the
rocks...

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Detective Groves holds up the super size panties

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Detectives must look for a
mysterious plus-size lady who's
dressed to kill.

INT. JAMES' SECRET APARTMENT - DAY

Focus on the plus size clothes, lingerie, shoes and other feminine items in the room.

ACT 1

1 SUPER: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 1984. 1

STOCK FOOTAGE: Establishing Seattle beauties and landmarks, the Space Needle, the seaport, the mountains in the distance

NARRATOR

Seattle, Washington. A city blessed with natural beauty.

2 INT. JAMES' OFFICE - DAY (1) 2

STOCK FOOTAGE: HOSPITAL EXTERIOR

Cosmetic Surgeon JAMES (45, controlling, arrogant) wearing a white doctor's coat draws with red grease pencil on his patient's face (LINDA, late 50s). We don't see her face yet.

PRODUCTION NOTE: See link for example

<https://www.dreamstime.com/royalty-free-stock-photos-lined-face-cosmetic-surgery-image7221108>

JAMES

So we'll lift a little here, and here...

NARRATOR

But for some citizens, natural is a relative term...

REVEAL Linda has red surgical markings all over her face. James surveys his handiwork, then touches her neck with a frown.

JAMES

And while we're at it, we'll take care of your neck. That's quite a waddle you have.

James puts the grease pen in his breast pocket. Linda nods with a pained smile.

NARRATOR

James is a respected plastic surgeon with a very successful practice.

3 INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

3

STOCK FOOTAGE: Exterior large stately home

JULIA (35, petite, high strung) plays tea party with her daughter ISOBEL (7, sweet). They sit around a small table, with a large doll in the third chair.

NARRATOR

His wife Julia is a happy homemaker
and devoted mother to their only
child Isobel.

Isobel pours water from the toy teapot. Julia smiles at her and takes a sip from her teeny cup.

JULIA

Simply delicious, Izzy.

ISOBEL

Thanks, Mommy.
(to her doll)
And what do you think, Margaret?

JULIA

(in a high pitched British
accent)
Delightful! I feel as if I'm back
in London.

Isobel giggles.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Now, sweetheart, I've got to remind
Marta to tidy that bathroom! You
know Daddy gets mad when it's
messy.

Isobel nods solemnly. Julia gives her a kiss and hug.

STEVE MOORE

James earns the big bucks, and
Julia runs the household. It's
1984, so it's not an unusual set
up. On the surface, they appear to
be playing their roles perfectly.
But looks can be deceiving...

4 INT. JAMES' OFFICE - DAY (1)

4

James sits behind his desk in a leather swivel chair.

NARRATOR

James has a reputation for being a strict taskmaster.

He dials a number on the phone. The phone rings and rings and with each ring James gets increasingly irate.

JAMES

Where the hell are you?

5

INT. MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

5

The phone on the nightstand is ringing. Julia rushes into the room, nearly tripping over the carpet, but manages to steady herself and grab the phone, completely out of breath.

JULIA

Hello?

JAMES (O.C.)

You know I don't like to be kept waiting.

JULIA

I'm sorry, I was in the bathroom --

JAMES (O.C.)

--Oh? I bet you were taking a bubble bath. Getting ready to see your lover later?

JULIA (O.C.)

James, please. I've got errands to run. Picking up your shirts. Like I always do.

STEVE MOORE

Hmmm, seems like Dr. James is not just a taskmaster but controlling and a little bit paranoid. But I guess it comes with the territory. I might be paranoid if I had to please wealthy and potentially litigious clients, too.

(Beat)

Or could be he's not paranoid and Julia is actually having an affair. And can you blame her?

6

INT. BATHROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) (F1)

6

Super: Seven years before...

James finishes shaving in the mirror. He wipes his face off with a towel and drops it on the floor.

NARRATOR

But there was a time when James
wasn't always so into control...

He pulls out a small vial. He tips cocaine onto a mirror and snorts it using a rolled up bill.

JAMES

Oh yeah!

Wired, he grabs his aftershave and slaps it on his cheeks. He looks at himself in the mirror, flexes his muscles and combs his hair back with his hands.

NARRATOR

He had a 500 dollar a day cocaine habit when he joined a plastic surgery practice that catered to women with super-size vanities and plenty of alimony.

7

INT. JULIA'S APT - BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

7

Julia bops to music on the cassette player as she unpacks a few canvasses. She holds one up against the wall. She frowns and turns it upside down.

NARRATOR

As for Julia, she was a free spirit who worked in the fine arts department at the local college and dreamed of becoming a painter.

On the nightstand, there's a bottle of beer and her slouchy shoulder bag. **(NOTE: IF IT CAN BE FRINGED - ALL THE BETTER)**

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

She had a habit of getting involved with bad boys with dark streaks.

She rustles through the bag and pulls out a pill bottle and turns the pills over onto the nightstand.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And a bigger habit self-medicating her mood swings with Quaaludes and Benzedrine.

She picks through various colored pills and takes out a couple, followed by a swig of beer. She lies back on the bed with a zoned-out smile.

STEVE MOORE

You gotta be careful with uppers
like ludes and downers like
bennies. You don't want to go up
when you need to go down.

(Beat)

Not that I would know. Back in '77,
I'd just bought my first Farrah
Fawcett poster. And was taking a
disco dancing class.

(reacts to off-camera)

What?! After Saturday Night Fever -
everybody was doing it. But back to
Julia and James. The thing with
addicts even the so-called high-
functioning types - is they rely on
their fix to get them through the
day. They'll do anything to hide
their habit and get that high. So
they'll lie, manipulate, and abuse
others. The balancing act lasts
only so long - so they can either
get clean or go down the rabbit
hole and never come out.

8 INT. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)F2 8

Julia slouches in a fold-out chair looking sexy if a little worse for wear.

NARRATOR

Julia and James meet at an
Narcotics Anonymous Meeting.

She listens to a person at the front of the room (**we don't see them, only hear their VOICE. Think Mike Meyers as Deiter**)

GERMAN MAN (O.C.)

Hi, my name is Kurt and I am an
addict.

A chorus of voices responding. Julia joins in.

JULIA

Hi Kurt.

She notices someone looking at her. James is seated across the aisle in an expensive three piece suit. They lock eyes and smile.

NARRATOR

Even though it's against the rules
to date while in Narcotics
Anonymous, James and Julia can't
resist one another.

9 EXT./INT. BATHROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) F3

9

Super: A few meetings later...

James enters leading Julia by the hand who's giggling softly.

NARRATOR

James is attracted to Julia's
passion and charm and James is just
Julia's type - dark and moody. It
doesn't hurt that he's got money.

He looks around and closes the door. He puts a finger to his
lips, mockingly.

JAMES

Shhhh! They can't hear us or else.

JULIA

Then stop talking already.

James grins wolfishly and advances on her.

10 INT. JULIA'S APT - BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) F3

10

SUPER: Two months later...

Julia and James sit on the bed. She's wearing a headband and
a work-out leotard and James is dressed in a track suit.

NARRATOR

In the midst of kicking their
habits, their relationship takes an
unexpected turn.

JAMES

A baby?

She nods, nervous. After a beat, he picks her up and twirls
her around, laughing.

11 EXT. CHURCH - STOCK FOOTAGE - FLASHBACK - F4

11

SFX: Camera shutter and flash goes off

FOCUS ON PHOTO: James in snappy suit kisses Julia who's in a bo-ho wedding dress.

NARRATOR

After a shotgun wedding, James opens his own plastic surgery clinic and expects Julia to quit her job to raise their child.

STOCK FOOTAGE - LONDON, ENGLAND BEAUTIES

STOCK FOOTAGE - FANCY HOTELS

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

As his practice flourishes, James and Julia live like they're starring in their very own night time soap. Move over Blake and Crystal Carrington.

STOCK FOOTAGE - FANCY RESTAURANT EXTERIOR

STOCK FOOTAGE - if we can get a typical '80s power couple having dinner or getting into a car - that would be great.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Fancy trips, fancy dinners and fancy dinners. James has his very own ascot and Julia's shoulder pads are so big she can barely get through the door of the Porsche.

12 INT. MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK - F4 12

Dressed in an expensive suit, James paces. He looks at his watch, impatiently.

NARRATOR

But a few years into their picture perfect marriage, cracks start to appear.

Julia enters adjusting her cocktail dress. James gives her a annoyed look.

JULIA

You're wearing that? Where's the Halston?

JULIA (CONT'D)

I thought this was more appropriate for tonight.

JAMES
Appropriate for what? A hoedown?

Julia glares at him.

STEVE MOORE
If I ever talked to my wife like that...well I don't, because waiting for the other shoe to drop make me nervous.

(Beat)
Dr. James is what we call a dry drunk. He's traded in coke for control. His fix is controlling every aspect of his life - especially his wife. And as for Julia, well she became a homemaker for this guy. She may love the money but I can bet she's not loving the price she's having to pay.

JAMES
Go change, we're going to be late.

James turns to leave the room.

JULIA
Nope, I like this dress. And you can stick that in your pipe and smoke it.

James whirls around, surprised.

JULIA (CONT'D)
What? Isn't that what they say at a hoedown?

SLO MO - the two start arguing

13 INT. MANSION - BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)- F5

13

MONTAGE:

- XCU: Julia takes pills
- XCU: James does coke

NARRATOR
Over the next few years, James and Julia fall on and off the wagon and break-up and make-up.

ANGLE ON: Julia is wearing a full-on Pat Benatar look and throwing clothes into a suitcase on the bed.

JAMES

Baby?

Julia ignores him as she dumps a bunch of leg warmers and lingerie into the case.

NARRATOR

Usually Julia threatens to take their daughter and leave him and James goes to extremes to get her to stay.

He enters frame carrying a cardboard box and places it on the bed.

JAMES

I know I was a little out of line...

JULIA

A little? James you accused me of having a fling with the bag boy at the supermarket!

JAMES

And I'm sorry. But I brought a peace offering.

JULIA

A bribe? How fitting.

He opens the box and takes out a VHS player. Julia raises her eyebrow.

JAMES

So you can do your workout at home.

JULIA

(Softening)

That's very thoughtful.

James hugs Julia to him. Julia's face is wary.

JAMES

I just want you to be happy.

James enters hanging up his trench coat on the coat rack.

JAMES

Julia!

NARRATOR

James is expecting his wife to greet him at the door with his daily glass of Scotch.

He waits, no response. Anger flashes on his face. He yells louder.

JAMES

Julia! Where are you?!

NARRATOR

But Julia is nowhere to be found.

Isobel runs into the room, holding her doll.

ISOBEL

Hi Daddy!

JAMES

Hey honey. Where's your mother?

ISOBEL

At aerobics.

15 INT. AEROBICS STUDIO - DAY

15

PRODUCTION NOTE: Could be shot in Studio C

ANGLE ON: XCU of Julia doing aerobics while dressed in a leotard, leg warmers, and a headband. Very Jane Fonda.

JULIA

And one more! And to the other side! Looking good, ladies!

PRODUCTION NOTE: focus on Julia - we don't need to see any people in the class

NARRATOR

But Julia's out stretching more than her hamstrings. She's breaking out of the role James expects her to play.

Julia is on the mat on her hands and knees.

JULIA

Ok ladies, down on your mats. These are called Rovers' Revenge, ready? And one, and two, three, four...

Julia does leg lifts with the leg bent.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Take the thighs high! And six...and seven...Isolate your thighs. That's it!

ANGLE ON front desk. SERAFINA (30, African American, fine and fierce) dressed in multi-colored aerobics gear, headband, leg warmers and long, red nails picks up.

SERAFINA

La Femme Aerobics, Serafina speaking. How can we help you become your fabulous self?

JAMES (ON PHONE)

Put my wife on the line, NOW!

EDIT NOTE: CUT BETWEEN JAMES AND FITNESS STUDIO DURING PHONE CONVERSATION

STEVE MOORE

I never got the whole leg-warmer thing. Working out gets you hot, not cold. So why the extra layers?
(beat)

But James doesn't have a problem with aerobics, per se. No, this control freak is outraged that his wife is not at home to answer his every beck and call. Julia's getting her groove back. And for a guy with James' ego and weaknesses, if he's losing control over his wife, then that makes him terrified he's losing control of *his* life. And when someone with James' coping mechanisms -- or lack of -- is scared they don't just run and hide. No, they come out swinging.

16

INT. MANSION - FRONT DOOR/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

16

James slams down the phone, outraged. He takes out a vial from his jacket pocket and snorts cocaine.

He turns to his reflection in the mirror.

JAMES

Who's the man? I am the man.

(beat)

I can't hear you! Who's the man? I am the man!

STEVE MOORE

Ok, James, Maybe bring it down just a notch. I'm pretty sure you heard yourself the first time.

(beat)

Julia is flexing her independence and James hates seeing her have her own life - without him. We'll see if James' temper fizzles out like before or if this is the start of W-W-3.

ACT 2

17 INT. MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT - 2

17

Wearing a dressing gown with an ascot, James is pacing - totally wired. He takes a slug of the Scotch from the glass he's holding.

NARRATOR

Controlling plastic surgeon James is fit to be tied when his wife gets tired of playing the good little homemaker and takes a job against his wishes.

He whirls around when Julia enters the bedroom, still in her aerobics outfit.

JAMES

There she is! My little Jane Fonda finally home from a long day of leg lifts.

Julia drops her aerobics bag and sits down on the edge of the bed, made up with a red satin bedspread and linens, and eases off her leg warmers. She yawns.

JULIA

James, your material is getting old. Why don't you do your act for somebody that cares?