

DIE MOMMIE DIE

Lance, Edith (1 woman, 1 man)

Edith, the unhappy daughter of singing star Angela Arden, confronts her brother, Lance, after the sudden death of their father, movie producer Sol Sussman.

EDITH

She can't sell the house. This was Daddy's house. He built it with his bare hands. She has to leave here because every room reminds her of her guilt!

LANCE

Why should she feel guilty?

EDITH

Guilt usually accompanies murder.

LANCE

What are you saying?

EDITH

She murdered our father.

LANCE

She didn't! That's not true!

EDITH

She poisoned him.

LANCE

He died of a heart attack.

EDITH

Many rich old men who die of heart attacks were really the victims of arsenic poisoning. The results are remarkably similar.

LANCE

But Bootsie told us she was with the coroner when he performed the autopsy. She personally inspected the contents of Daddy's stomach. She said there wasn't a trace of arsenic.

EDITH

But what if Mother was clever and found another way to slip him the arsenic. A method devised to bypass the digestive track.

LANCE

I'm confused.

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EDITH

The night Daddy died, he was complaining of constipation. A doctor prescribed a powerful suppository. Suppose Mother found a way of tampering with the laxative.

LANCE

I don't believe it! I won't believe it!

EDITH

You must! You're Sol Sussman's only son. The heir to his great name. It's up to you to avenge his death.

LANCE

I couldn't.

EDITH

I'll stand by you. I know I haven't always been a good sister. I've teased you, shaved your head, tried to blind you. But I was young and immature. I've done a lot of growing up in the last forty-eight hours. Lance, we share the same blood. The blood of Sussman. The Sussman tradition of film making.

LANCE

What do you want me to do?

EDITH

Kill Mother.

LANCE

No!

EDITH

Sol Sussman's death must be avenged!

LANCE

(Sobbing) But I love her.

EDITH

I know you do. And that's really beautiful. Mother wants you to be strong and powerful. A leader of men. Make her proud. Stab her, shoot her, strangle her. Be creative. But do it soon!

LANCE

My head is pounding! Pounding!

EDITH

Yes, it's pounding. Sometimes it feels like you've got an atom bomb inside your skull that's ready to go "pow!"

LANCE

Leave me alone!

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EDITH

Daddy told me it was the drugs, the pill popping Mother did during her pregnancy that made you the way you are. A pathetic half-man, half-child, a cripple, a retard!

LANCE

You're lying!

EDITH

Daddy showed me the doctor's report. It's locked in his safe deposit box. I can get it for you, if you like.

LANCE

No! No! My head!

EDITH

It's all becoming clear to you, isn't it? All your sad little life, you've felt different because you were different. Something was wrong with your brain. It made you a little slow. Made it hard for you to understand things.

LANCE

What?

EDITH

You've always been a big fat failure but don't you see, it's not your fault at all. It's hers. Because Mother was so selfish and evil that she wouldn't give up her precious sleeping pills. She destroyed you! She turned your brains into mush! Into creamed spinach!

LANCE

I hate her! I hate her!

EDITH

And what are you going to do about it?

LANCE

Kill her!

EDITH

Yes, Lance, yes! Avenge Daddy's death!

LANCE

Hey, you made me say that. You squeezed those words out of me.

EDITH

I didn't. That was your unconscious voice speaking.

LANCE

My what?

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EDITH

We all have an unconscious voice that expresses our true feelings and motivations. It's Psychology 101.

LANCE

Well, maybe I did say it and maybe I even sort of meant it. But if I'm going to exact my revenge upon Mother, I'll need proof.

EDITH
(groaning)

Oh, come on.

LANCE

I'll need proof. I want to hear Mother confess to Father's murder.

EDITH

Good luck. She never will.

LANCE

Unless –

EDITH

Unless what?

LANCE

Unless she was under the influence of something. What about sending her on a little trip? An acid trip. LSD. A real mind-bender. That might loosen her up.

EDITH

Yes. LSD. Lysergic Acid Diethylamide. Since the cold war, the CIA has used LSD for interrogation and mind control. Mind control. We must control mother's mind. Force her to reveal the truth of what happened that night. Can you really score some?

LANCE

Got a tab with her initials on it. We'll put in her after dinner coffee tomorrow night.

EDITH

And I've got a small tape recorder. We'll get her to confess. I love this. Her truly last recording.