

CRIME OF THE CENTURY

A Musical Tragedy

Screenplay by Tàlen Legacy

Inspired by a true story

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT - PRESENT

PANORAMIC view of the city, distant STREET SOUNDS--

ISKIERECZKA; a creepy, haunting LULLABY plays on a PIANO.

MOVE THROUGH the city to--

TIMES SQUARE busy with traffic and people to--

BROADWAY THEATRE MARQUEES: THE LOST BOYS, CHICAGO, PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, DOUBT, MOULIN ROUGE to--

THEATRE MARQUEE: CRIME OF THE CENTURY (Title Card).

Lullaby continues-- Through Theatre Front Doors, the Lobby, into the Theatre, past the audience, down the aisle to--

STAGE - APPLAUSE as the Curtain rises. A GILDED AGE SET--

Crystal Chandelier, expensive furnishings, through a window-Lights of the city twinkle; the room is high above the city.

EROTIC PHOTOGRAPHS of young, pretty girls with glazed, glassy eyes, in various degrees of undress, line the walls.

TWELVE MEN (Actors) sit around a large Dinner Table, wearing 1895 EVENING WEAR and CROWNS OF GOLD LAUREL, as they talk, laugh, drink, and smoke cigars.

Circle the table and Actors who play ROBERT J. COLLIER (22), CHARLES DANA GIBSON (28), RUDOLF EICKEMEYER (33), GEORGE LEDERER (33), and STANFORD WHITE (43), friendly, warm, inviting face, hiding a predatory nature.

Glimpses of the Wings-- STAGE CREW (modern attire) working.

A WHITE-GLOVED HAND of a Manservant, carefully drips a few drops from a small Bottle into Aperitif glasses with Green Chartreuse on a tray. The Bottle is put down.

INSERT - BOTTLE: LAUDANUM - 40% ALCOHOL - 47 GRAMS OPIUM.

As the Lullaby slowly FADES-- FOLLOW the Tray as the White-Gloved Hand serves each Man an Aperitif glass.

Lederer, Eickemeyer and Stanford snort COCAINE LINES. Collier lights a JOINT, puffs, passes it to Gibson eager for a puff.

A SILVER DINNER KNIFE taps against a Crystal Wine Glass--

CLINK, CLINK, CLINK--

SILENCE--

GRAMOPHONE-- The White-Gloved Hand puts the needle on a record. A dark, ominous, pulsing VAMP begins--

The Men raise their Aperitif glasses in a SILENT TOAST, drink a small portion, and begin to eerily chant/rap--

MEN (RAP)

*As I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death.*

MANSERVANTS (modern attire with white gloves) open the Double Doors. FOUR WAITERS (modern attire) ceremonially carry an EXTREMELY LARGE PIE in an ORNATE SILVER DISH into the room.

MEN (RAP)

*I take a look at my life and realize
there's nothin' left.*

The Waiters place the pie on the table and all the Staff leave, closing the doors behind them.

MEN (RAP)

*'Cause I've been blastin' and laughin'
so long,*

Stanford carefully cuts the pie open with a large knife.

MEN (RAP)

*That even my mamma thinks that my mind
is gone.*

COLOURFUL BUTTERFLIES burst out as a YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL GIRL (16/17 yrs old) rises sublimely from the pie, draped in DIAPHANOUS PURPLE LACE.

She sensually steps out of the pie, and seductively dances--

PIE PARTY GIRL (SINGS)

*Been spendin' most their lives, livin'
in the gangsta's paradise.*

BURST of cheering and laughing, the Men are pleased.

PIE PARTY GIRL (SINGS)

*Tell me why are we, so blind to see,
(MORE)*

PIE PARTY GIRL (SINGS) (CONT'D)
That the ones we hurt, are you and me?

Stanford salaciously grins as he and a Man assist her gracefully down from the table. She gives Stanford a quick kiss on the cheek, then dances away towards the other Men.

The revelry builds. She repeats the Chorus, dancing from one Man to another, playfully teasing them as they offer her sips from their aperitif glasses.

As the Laudanum begins to take effect, the Men laugh as she begins to stumble and stop singing as the music continues--

THEATRE SET TRANSITIONS INTO REALITY W/FOURTH WALL (1895) AS:

The room SPINS-- Twisted puffs of smoke, contorted mouths laugh, eyes leering, wine pours, a cocaine line is snorted, the record spins, distorted laughter echoes in her ears.

The Pie Party Girl is scared, confused, struggles with the Men as they pass her around, becoming more lecherous, kissing her, groping her breasts, and caressing her.

A Man pulls her into his lap, and reaches up her skirt. She pushes his hand away, and slaps him. He laughs. Others mock her-- "Oooh!" A DRUGGED look of TERROR as she's about to--

EXT. STREET/METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE - NEXT EVENING - PRESENT

The PAST time period of the "play" MIXES with the PRESENT DAY reality--

A young NEWSBOY, (period attire), sells Newspapers--

NEWSBOY#1
 EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!

A bustling, busy street-- pedestrians, modern Cars, Vendors. People (modern attire) quickly buy a paper, hurry away. Others enter the Opera House.

WILLIAM JEROME (36, period attire), serious, focused, determined-- buys a paper, looks at the Headline--

INSERT - NEW YORK JOURNAL HEADLINE: GIRL FOUND DEAD IN THE HUDSON, (picture of the Pie Party Girl).

He shakes his head in disbelief, walks away, passing two wealthy MEN and their Wives (formal period attire), getting lost in the crowd.

A Hansom Cab pulls up, and out comes--

HARRY K. THAW (24), MR. CALEB (24), and MR. DONNELLY (24), period Evening Wear, Top Hats, dressed for the Opera. Caleb and Donnelly both wear a GREEN CARNATION on their lapels.

Harry counts his change. The two wealthy MEN overhear--

HARRY

That son-of-a-bitch! He short changed me ten cents.

Harry chases the Hansom Cab (amongst modern cars), down the street, angrily yelling, leaving Caleb and Donnelly behind, puzzled. Others look on unfazed, as the two Men discreetly--

MAN#1

Harry seems concerned over money!

MAN#2

(nods, indicates Caleb/Donnelly)
Perhaps those two grifters are bleeding him dry.

MAN#1

Ask me, they're a couple of parasites. Why does he keep them around?

Man#2 shrugs as we move down the street--

A DRIVING, RHYTHMIC SHUFFLE begins--

SWEEP along the street, past Pedestrians (modern attire) to--

EXT./INT. STREET/CLUB MARTINIQUE - NIGHT

SANDWICH BOARD: BERT WILLIAMS and the VAUDEVILLIANS.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER: NEW YORK TIMES - March 2, 1901.

A black DOORMAN (period attire) reads the NEWSPAPER, above is a lit SIGN: CLUB MARTINIQUE.

Doorman quickly loses the paper, opens the door--

Through the Entrance, past the MAITRE D' (modern attire), into the opulent, luxurious Dining Room. WAITERS rush about serving New York's wealthy, decadent elite (modern attire).

STEAMPUNK JUGGLERS, ACROBATS, FORTUNE-TELLER, FIRE-BREATHERS and MALE GO-GO DANCERS entertain diners.

FLASHES of-- Roulette Wheel, Card Tables, Slot Machines.

SEXY FEMALE AERIAL SILK ARTISTS perform above the DANCE FLOOR, as the wealthy elite dance below.

YOUNG BOYS in colourful Arab attire (harem-pants, waistcoat, sash, turban), fan diners with large Plumed Feather Fans.

STAGE w/FOUR BRASS POLES/BAND-- BERT WILLIAMS (28) Black, charming, Regency Tailcoat w/Ruffle Shirt/Cuffs sings--

BERT (SINGS)
Welcome to your life.

BOOTH-- Two YOUNG PROSTITUTES (modern attire) entertain a wealthy, heavy-set MAN gorging himself on his dinner as they shower him with kisses while discreetly emptying his pockets.

BERT (SINGS)
There's no turning back. Even while we sleep.

INSERT - SKETCH OF A WOMAN SITTING AT A TABLE.

CORNER TABLE-- Gibson sits alone, drawing the woman.

BERT (SINGS)
We will find you.

BAR-- Eickemeyer and Lederer lecherously chat up young women.

BERT (SINGS)
Acting on your best behaviour.

Stanford sits with CLARE GIRARD (22), an elegant socialite, (both period attire)-- enjoying the excitement of the room.

BERT (SINGS)
Turn your back on Mother Nature.

Collier and his Wife (period attire), discuss a MAGAZINE. A LARGE BIRDCAGE with a Female Steampunk Dancer hangs nearby.

BERT (SINGS)
Everybody wants to rule the world.

STAGE-- FLARE FLASH, BURST OF SMOKE-- Four EXOTIC STEAMPUNK GIRLS (black, white, asian, latino) slide down the Poles--

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
We will, we will rock you. We will, we
(MORE)

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS) (CONT'D)
will rock you.

(BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
*Relax, don't do it. When you want to
 go to it. Relax, don't do it. When you
 want to come. Relax, don't do it. When
 you want to suck it, chew it. Relax,
 don't do it. When you want to come-*

BOOTH-- FEMALE COUPLE, one dressed as a Man, passionately
 kiss. A MAN smoking a HOOKAH PIPE, watches, grins, intrigued.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
*Live those dreams. Scheme those
 schemes. Got to hit me. (hit me!) Hit
 me. (hit me!) Hit me with those laser
 beams.*

A MIDGET in a JESTER Costume, dances on a table, entertaining
 diners, as a TRANSVESTITE walks by, blows the Midget a kiss.

BERT (SINGS)	STEAMPUNK GIRLS
<i>Hell is gone and heaven's</i>	(SING)
<i>here. There's nothing left</i>	<i>We will, we will rock you.</i>
<i>for you to fear. Shake your</i>	<i>We will, we will rock you.</i>
<i>ass, come over here, now</i>	<i>We will, we will rock you.</i>
<i>scream.</i>	<i>We will, we will rock you.</i>

MARK TWAIN (Samuel Clemens, 67, period attire)-- has dinner
 with friends. He reminiscently smiles, watching a young Man
 nervously courting a young Lady (both modern attire) nearby.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
*A little party never killed nobody. So
 we gon' dance until we drop, mmm. A
 little party never killed nobody.
 Right here, right now's all we got.*

DANCE FLOOR-- Dancing becomes energetic, wild, sensual,
 erotic, the room feels as though it will explode, the TENSE,
 THROBBING MUSIC BUILDS--

HOST PODIUM

Harry, with a Walking Stick, walks in with Caleb and
 Donnelly, all three slightly drunk and boisterous.

MAITRE D'
 Good evening, Mr. Thaw, Mr. Caleb, Mr.
 Donnelly. May I suggest the bar?

Before he can answer, Stanford approaches the Podium--

STANFORD
Hello, Thaw. Is there a problem?

Harry glares at him.

DONNELLY
It seems you were given Mr. Thaw's table.

STANFORD
(to Maitre d)
Is that true?

The Maitre d' nods "Yes".

STANFORD
Still, does that justify this behaviour?

HARRY
What I do is my business.

STANFORD
So long as it stays your business.

CALEB
Let's just go to Delmonico's.

HARRY
(sarcastic)
Mr. White may have reservations there.
Perhaps for coffee. After dinner.

Harry purposely BUMPS Stanford with his shoulder, as they all leave.

MAITRE D'
I'm terribly sorry, sir.

STANFORD
It's quite alright. I came to assist.
I hope I have.

They smile, nod. Stanford walks away, passing Twain, they exchange a disapproving look. Collier notices Stanford.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
*All for freedom and for pleasure.
Nothing ever lasts forever. Everybody*
(MORE)

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS) (CONT'D)
wants to rule the world.

APPLAUSE-- Clare claps as Stanford sits. b.g. - Band plays.

CLARE
 Everything alright?

STANFORD
 I don't believe Harry Thaw thinks
 fondly of me. Might even believe I had
 something to do with his membership
 recently being declined at the
 Metropolitan Club.

CLARE
 Did you?

STANFORD
 No, Clare. It's a Club, not a
 reformatory.

Collier approaches, notices on the table--

INSERT - THEATRE PROGRAM: FLORODORA.

COLLIER
 Hello, Stanford. Clare. How was the
 musical?

CLARE
 FLORODORA is simply marvelous! I just
 adore it. This was our second time
 seeing it.

He smiles and hands a copy of COLLIER'S MAGAZINE to Clare.

COLLIER
 Page 14. This will be on the stands
 the day after tomorrow.

CLARE
 (reads)
 "Stanford White - The architect who
 changed the face of a city." Six
 pages. With pictures! Washington Arch,
 Madison Square Garden, St. Paul's,
 Tiffany's. It's wonderful!

Clare passes the magazine to Stanford. He quickly glances
 through the article, then places the closed magazine down.

STANFORD

You didn't leave out the Boston Public Library, I hope? That's the best thing I ever did. Can I keep this?

COLLIER

Absolutely.

Clare picks up the Magazine and looks at the cover--

CLARE

What a divinely beautiful girl.

STANFORD

(leans in to see, grins)
She is very lovely.

INSERT - COLLIER'S MAGAZINE COVER - THE FAMOUS GIBSON GIRL DRAWING - THE ETERNAL QUESTION.

CLARE OS

Where does Gibson find his models?

EVELYN NESBIT SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE DRAWING:

MALE PERFORMER VO (SINGS)

Who's that girl?

SONG CONTINUES:

INT. GARDEN THEATRE - (ROOFTOP CABARET) - NIGHT

EVELYN NESBIT (21), elegant period attire, stunningly beautiful-- with Harry, Caleb, and Donnelly at the Host PODIUM, near the Elevators.

INSERT - THEATRE POSTER on the wall: MAM'ZELLE CHAMPAGNE starring EDNA GOODRICH - OPENING NIGHT JUNE 25, 1906.

Excited, Evelyn looks around the room to--

STAGE-- A MALE PERFORMER sings with a Chorus, centred around EDNA GOODRICH (23) Black, beautiful-- dancing.

MALE PERFORMER/CHORUS (SINGS)

But there's just one thing. (Just one thing.). But there's just one thing, And I really wanna know-

MAITRE D'

This way please.

MALE PERFORMER/CHORUS (SINGS)
Quién es esa niña? Who's that girl?
Señorita, más fina? Who's that girl?

Maitre d' (modern attire) leads them through the room. People (modern attire) notice Evelyn pass by; excited to see her, whisper amongst themselves.

MALE PERFORMER/CHORUS (SINGS)
Talk to me. Tell me your name. You
blow me off like it's all the same.
You lit a fuse and now I'm ticking
away. Like a bomb, yeah, baby. 'Cause
she walks like she talks, And she
talks like she walks.

Twain smiles, admires Evelyn as she passes. She glances up at the Madison Square Garden Tower looming above.

MALE PERFORMER/CHORUS (SINGS)
She bangs, she bangs. Oh baby, when
she moves, she moves. (song continues)

They arrive at a table. Maitre d' pulls out a chair--

MAITRE D'
 Miss Nesbit.

HARRY
 MRS. THAW is only known as Evelyn Nesbit on stage, otherwise, she's known as Mrs. Harry K. Thaw.

MAITRE D'
 Apologies, sir, my mistake. Mrs. Thaw.

Evelyn smiles apologetically to the Maitre d. As she sits, Harry points to an empty table, front and centre.

HARRY
 I would prefer that table.

MAITRE D'
 That's Mr. Stanford White's table, sir.

HARRY
 He doesn't seem to be here. The show's started. I'd like that table.

MAITRE D'

Unfortunately, that table is reserved every night for Mr. White. It's his table, sir.

Harry smiles, nods, but is not pleased, sits. Evelyn leans into him, smiles, reassuring him that the table is fine.

LATER--

STAGE-- Edna sings and dances with a Chorus, a "SLAUGHTER ON TENTH AVENUE" type musical number.

EDNA/CHORUS (SINGS)

As he came into the window. Was a sound of a crescendo. He came into her apartment. He left the bloodstains on the carpet. She ran underneath the table. You could see she was unable. So she ran into the bedroom. She was struck down, it was her doom. Annie, are you ok. Are you ok, Annie. You've been hit by, You've been struck by a smooth criminal. (song continues)

HARRY/EVELYN TABLE-- Harry pulls out a bottle of Laudanum, adds a few drops to his Champagne. Evelyn disapprovingly watches.

She notices Stanford pass by, led by the Maitre d'. She's not pleased, looks to see if Harry's noticed. He has.

STANFORD TABLE-- As Stanford sits, he notices a girl in the Chorus.

STANFORD

The girl, third from the left, have her sent upstairs after the show.

Maitre d' politely smiles, nods. Stanford waves to Guest at another table as a Waiter pours him Champagne.

The Maitre d' walks away, grimly glances up at the Tower.

HARRY/EVELYN TABLE-- Evelyn watches Harry stare at Stanford, brooding. Caleb and Donnelly are unaware of what's happening.

Evelyn is concerned and pretends to yawn, covering her mouth. She takes Harry's hand and casually--

EVELYN

It's getting late, darling, perhaps we should go.

Harry affectionately kisses her hand, smiles, gets up, and pulls out her chair. He leaves money on the table.

They walk back towards the Entrance and Elevators. Evelyn and Caleb in front, Donnelly behind, Harry following in the rear.

STAGE-- Male Dancer fires TWO GUN SHOTS in the Number.

EDNA/CHORUS (SINGS)

Annie, are you okay? (continues)

Harry glances back a few times at Stanford. He STOPS. Evelyn, Caleb, and Donnelly, unaware, continue towards the entrance.

Harry, eyes glued to the back of Stanford's head, slowly walks toward him.

STANFORD TABLE-- The two men stare at each other intensely. Stanford smugly brushes Harry off with a smirk, adjusting himself in his chair.

Harry reaches inside his Dinner Jacket and pulls out a REVOLVER. Stanford laughs--

STANFORD

Put that away before you hurt yourself.

HARRY

You ruined my wife!

GUN SHOT--

Stanford stands, shocked, his shoulder bleeding. People nearby laugh, believing it to be a stunt, part of the show.

HOST PODIUM-- Evelyn turns back to speak to Harry, but he's not there. Looks around. She's shocked to see Harry pointing a revolver at Stanford.

STANFORD TABLE

HARRY

The unwritten Law of Honour compels me to avenge my wife.

TWO MORE GUN SHOTS--

Stanford FALLS back into his chair, SLUMPS over-- DEAD.

A Woman SCREAMS. Pandemonium, screaming and yelling. People quickly rush toward the Exits, others stand, shocked.

PODIUM-- Caleb and Donnelly hold Evelyn back as she screams--

EVELYN

Harry! What have you done?!

STAGE-- Edna and the Cast panic, quickly leave the stage as Musicians clamber out of the Orchestra Pit.

STANFORD TABLE-- Harry holds the revolver up in the air. He releases the cylinder, bullets fall to the floor.

PODIUM

EVELYN

What have you done, Harry? What have you done?

Holding the revolver up in the air, Harry calmly walks through the pandemonium to Evelyn.

EVELYN

My God, Harry, you've killed him.

POLICE OFFICERS quickly enter. Harry calmly hands over the revolver. Evelyn, upset, watches the Officers handcuff Harry.

HARRY

(calmly)

Don't worry, my dear, everything will be fine. I probably saved your life.

INTERCUT--

CLUB MARTINIQUE - STAGE-- Bert and the Steampunk Girls sing--

BERT (SINGS)

And everybody knows that you're in trouble.

GARDEN THEATRE-- Police take Harry into the Elevator, with Evelyn, Caleb, and Donnelly following. Evelyn cries as she hugs Harry. Police try to separate them as the doors close.

BERT VO (SINGS)

Everybody knows what you've been through.

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT (SINGS)

*Everybody knows that you live forever,
When you've done a line or two.*

STREET/THEATRE-- Evelyn, Caleb, and Donnelly walk out into--
Pedestrians, Beggars, Buskers, Suffragettes protesting,
Vendors, Hansom Cabs, Cars, and the bright lights of--

BERT VO (SINGS)

Everybody knows the fight was fixed.

THEATRE MARQUEES: A MARKED WOMAN - A PARISIAN ROMANCE - HEDDA
GABLER - KING LEAR.

BERT VO (SINGS)

The poor stay poor, the rich get rich.

They watch as Harry is taken away in a HORSE-DRAWN PADDY-
WAGON. An OLD WOMAN begs in front of a wall plastered with
HARRY HOUDINI POSTERS - MAN OF MYSTERY - CAN HE ESCAPE.

BERT VO (SINGS)

That's how it goes. Everybody knows.

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)

*Off with your head. Dance till you're
dead.*

SONG CONTINUES/TRANSITION OF TIME:

STREET-- As they walk, Caleb steps on a tossed Newspaper,
Headline: HARRY THAW KILLS STANFORD WHITE IN JEALOUS RAGE!

BERT VO (SINGS)

Heads will roll. Heads will roll.

They pass a bundle of Newspapers. Headline: MURDER OVER
EVELYN NESBIT THE TOAST OF NEW YORK.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)

Heads will roll. On the floor.

WEALTHY COUPLE (modern attire), accidentally knock a BEGGAR's
Hat for donations. Coins scatter. They walk away, laughing.

NEWSBOY#1

Harry Thaw charged with murder!

INSERT - NEWSPAPER PRINTING PRESS--

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
The men cry out, the girls cry out.
The men cry out, the girls cry out.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: BIG SHOT ARCHITECT MURDERED.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
The men cry out, Oh no.

INTO FAST UPBEAT INSTRUMENTAL BREAK:

GRAND CENTRAL STATION-- Billowing Smoke as a Train pulls in.

NEWSBOY#2
 Harry Thaw faces electric chair!

STREET/SHOESHINE BOOTH-- A white MAN sits, reads a paper. A black MAN shines his shoes. **Headline: IS HARRY THAW INSANE.** Nearby, a JUGGLER entertains a small crowd.

NEWSBOY#1
 Harry Thaw denied bail!

GRAND CENTRAL STATION/PLATFORM-- DELPHIN M. DELMAS (58), proud, self-reliant, unimposing-- and his ASSISTANT (both period attire) get off the Train. A wealthy white COUPLE passes by, followed by a black PORTER loaded with luggage.

NEWSBOY#1
 Harry Thaw fires lawyer!

STREET/NEWS-STAND-- Collage of BOLD Headlines: THAW - I AM NOT CRAZY! A MAN buys a Newspaper, opens it, **Headline: I HAD TO DEFEND MY WIFE'S HONOUR.** He's bumped by a PICKPOCKET, who puts the Man's wallet into his pocket as he passes an Italian ORGAN GRINDER W/MONKEY. Young KIDS run by HOOP-ROLLING.

NEWSBOY#2
 Harry Thaw hires new lawyer!

GRAND CENTRAL STATION/STREET-- Delmas and Assistant leave the Station, passing two young BOYS begging. A passing MAN flips the Boys a coin, it rolls on the sidewalk. One Boy chases it. A wealthy MAN steps on it. The Boy looks up. The Man grins, picks it up, walks away. A POLICEMAN tells the Boys- "Move on". Delmas buys a Newspaper, as Assistant hails a Cab.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: WHITE'S DEATH REVEALS SECRET SEX CLUB.

- MADISON SQUARE GARDEN TOWER OF PERVERSION.

STREET/PUB-- A BLIND MAN with a cup begs near the Door. A BOUNCER throws a DRUNK out onto the street. A wealthy COUPLE (modern attire) look at the Drunk with disgust as they pass.

STREET/RESTAURANT-- A MAITRE D' yells at young BOYS (in rags), making faces at wealthy diners through the window.

NEWSBOY#1

EXTRA! EXTRA! Thaw trial begins.

COURTROOM-- Jerome, Prosecuting Lawyer-- addresses the Jury of Twelve Men (modern attire).

JEROME

This isn't a whodunit! Harry Thaw, with premeditation, intent, and with such arrogance, killed Stanford White in front of an entire theatre audience.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: WHITE'S SECRET DEN OF ORGIES.

STREET-- A young BOY points a TOY CAP PISTOL at a wealthy ELDERLY WOMAN in a Wheelchair, pushed by her NURSE.

YOUNG BOY

I'm Harry Thaw!

He shoots the Pistol, POP-- and runs off laughing.

ELDERLY WOMAN

(shrieks)

Aah! You rapscallion!

COURTROOM-- Delmas, Defence Lawyer-- addresses the JURY.

DELMAS

Without a shadow of doubt, Harry Thaw suffered temporary insanity and believed he was acting upon the command of Providence.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: IS HARRY THAW AN AVENGING ANGEL.

- UNWRITTEN LAW OF HONOUR IS THAW'S DEFENCE.

STREET-- Past PROSTITUTES smoking, enticing passing men, to--

PROSTITUTE

Take a walk on the wild side!

BERT (SINGS)
*Off, off, off with your
 head. Dance, dance, dance
 till you're dead.*

STEAMPUNK GIRLS
 (SINGS)
*Do-do-do, do-do, do-do-do.
 Do, do-do, do-do, do-do-do.*

TWEED COURTHOUSE/STREET-- Past Newsboys holding up papers,
 Headlines: MADISON SQUARE TRAGEDY - WHITE'S TOWER OF DOOM.

NEWSBOY#1
 EXTRA! EXTRA! Get your
 paper!

NEWSBOY#2
 The trial of the century!

A MINISTER nearby, preaches--

MINISTER
 Do not take revenge, it is mine to
 avenge; saith the Lord.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
Off, off, off with your head.

Through PROTESTORS with Placards: FREE HARRY THAW - HARRY
 THAW A SAINT - THANK GOD FOR HARRY.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
Dance, dance, dance till you're dead.

END INTERCUT

COURTHOUSE/STREET-- A crowd makes its way in.

Jerome and his ASSISTANT watch Delmas and Assistant enter the
 Courthouse.

JEROME
 What do we know about Mr. Delmas?

JEROME ASSISTANT
 He's known to be very shrewd... Lost
 his wife and daughter in the Erie
 Railroad crash a year ago.

JEROME
 Terrible... Makes him a dangerous
 opponent, though. A man who has lost
 everything has nothing to lose.

INT. COURTROOM - LATER

Above the Judge's Bench, a FRIEZE of the TEN COMMANDMENTS, highlighting-- THOU SHALT NOT KILL - THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS.

JUDGE DOWLING (50's) sits at the Bench. Delmas, his Assistant and Harry sit at the Defence Table. Jerome and his Assistant sit at the Prosecution Table.

Eickemeyer, Gibson, Lederer, Twain, and Edna (all period attire) sit scattered amongst the crowd (modern attire).

Collier sits in the row behind Caleb and Donnelly.

BAILIFF

The court calls Mrs. Mary Sibbet
Copley Thaw to the stand.

MARY THAW (55), quietly gracious, protective, fashionably conservative 1906 dress-- walks to the Stand. Briefly stops, gives Harry a concerned look, takes the Stand. Bailiff presents the Bible and swears her in (MOS) as--

Collier leans in between Caleb and Donnelly and whispers--

COLLIER

Where's Evelyn?

CALEB

The Judge ruled she's not to attend until after she testifies.

DONNELLY

He doesn't want her influenced by previous testimony.

COLLIER

She's testifying?!

DONNELLY

Harry's lawyer insists on it!

Collier shakes his head with disbelief.

WITNESS STAND

DELMAS

Please state for the court your relationship to the defendant.

MARY

I'm Harry's mother.

DELMAS

Thank you, Mrs. Thaw. Can you tell the court what kind of child was Harry?

MARY

Harry is the oldest of my five children. He was always a queer, odd child. Did strange things, said strange things. He was expelled from every University he attended. Harvard said... Well, I can't repeat it.

DELMAS

This is a court of law, Madame.

MARY

(reluctantly)

The Dean said Harry was ostrobogulous.

Laughter. Judge bangs his Gavel. Mary looks around confused.

MARY

As a child, he demanded everyone's full attention. He'd get quite upset if he didn't.

DELMAS

Tantrums?

MARY

Horrible tantrums. But, he was never violent towards anyone, if that's your concern. He'd disappear at times too.

DELMAS

Disappear? You mean runaway?

MARY

One incident lasted a few days. We were frantic. He checked himself into the Knickerbocker Hotel.

DELMAS

Here?! In New York City!

MARY

Yes. Took the train by himself. All the way from Philadelphia.

DELMAS
How old was he?

MARY
Eight!

Laughter. Judge bangs his Gavel.

MARY (CONT'D)
We always stay at the Knickerbocker,
we're friends with the Astor's. We
were informed Harry was there, making
a dreadful time of it for the staff.

DELMAS
Did you ever wonder why Harry behaved
this way?

MARY
No! Not at all.

DELMAS
Why not? Weren't you concerned?

MARY
My late husband and I both had a
family member institutionalized for
insanity. It was clear to me that one
of my children was bound to be insane.

People laugh, or react with surprise. Judge bangs his Gavel.

DELMAS
You're suggesting insanity runs in the
family. On both sides.

MARY
Harry's my son, I love him dearly, but
he's as mad as a Hatter! A harmless
lunatic.

The Court burst out laughing. The Judge bangs his Gavel.

JUDGE
ORDER! ORDER! This is a courtroom, not
a Broadway theatre.

DELMAS
Thank you, Mrs. Thaw. Your witness.

Delmas sits. Jerome stands, scrutinizing Mrs. Mary Thaw.

JEROME

It's rumoured your son's Harvard expulsion was due to drug addiction and consorting with prostitutes.

MARY

There are a lot of rumours about my son. Apparently he also lights cigars with 100 dollar bills.

JUDGE

We're all aware of the rumours, Mr. Jerome. Stick to the facts.

Jerome smiles, nods.

JEROME

Thank you, Mrs. Thaw.

Jerome sits. Bailiff dismisses Mary. She leaves the Stand--

BAILIFF

The court calls Dr. Charles Wiley to the Stand.

As they pass, DR. WILEY (70's, period attire), and Mary exchange a discreet smile. He takes the Stand.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? So help you God.

WILEY

I do.

Delmas smiles as he approaches Wiley.

DELMAS

Dr. Wiley, as an expert, are you able to give an opinion regarding the sanity of Mr. Thaw?

WILEY

I can, sir.

DELMAS

Please proceed.

WILEY

I believe that-

JEROME

Objection, your Honour! Expert opinion must be stated, not a belief.

JUDGE

Sustained.

WILEY

My EXPERT OPINION is the remark Harry Thaw made to his wife, "I probably saved your life." is an indication of an insane delusion. When I examined Mr. Thaw in prison his actions were irrational.

FLASHBACK - INT. PRISON CELL

Four Poster Bed, small Dining Table, Armchair, Paintings. Dr. Wiley talks with Harry (MOS). Harry enjoys a delicious meal.

WILEY VO (CONT'D)

His demeanour was as though he was staying at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. His cell was decorated.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

WILEY (CONT'D)

Three meals a day delivered from the finest restaurants. He sends guards on errands for cigars. He's more concerned about his accommodations. Not the normal behaviour of a man possibly facing a death sentence.

DELMAS

Thank you, sir. Your witness.

Delmas sits as Jerome stands, stares at Wiley a moment.

JEROME

Dr. Wiley, did it not ever cross your mind that perhaps Mr. Thaw was more concerned about his accommodations because his exorbitant wealth always allowed him the privilege of relief from any questionable situation, and expects the same here?

WILEY

Well, no. What I observed-

JEROME

I withdraw the question. You state you are an expert regarding one's sanity.

WILEY

That's correct, sir.

JEROME

So, if I presented a man who, say, wore his shirts backwards, you would be able to expertly assess him psychologically as to why he dressed in this manner?

WILEY

His behaviour alone would indicate something psychologically wrong.

JEROME

Yes, of course. I would arrive at that same conclusion myself, sir, and I have NOT attended any medical institutions.

The Court laugh. Judge bangs his Gavel.

JEROME

What qualifications do you possess that determines your expertise?

WILEY

I'm a Doctor, sir, graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

JEROME

And you specialized in?

WILEY

General Practice.

JEROME

A family doctor. In fact, the Thaw family doctor, and therefore your testimony is biased?

WILEY

Yes. No! I mean-

JEROME

Your Honour, I submit that Dr. Wiley lacks the qualifications to assess Mr.

(MORE)

JEROME (CONT'D)

Thaw's sanity, or insanity, for that matter. In fact, he may have inaccurately diagnosed innocent men and women and unjustly placed them in an asylum. I request a psychological assessment be made as to Mr. Thaw's mental state by professional alienists at the court's determination.

DELMAS

Fair and impartial, I expect.

JUDGE

You are excused, Dr. Wiley.

Wiley glances at Delmas, embarrassed, leaves the Stand. Judge considers the request a moment, then--

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Those arrangements can and will be put into effect, and I'm sure both disputants will be equally satisfied. This court will adjourn till tomorrow morning.

Judge bangs his Gavel.

BAILIFF

All rise.

Everyone stands. Judge leaves. A BUZZ OF CHATTER.

HARRY

I don't like this! I've already fired one lawyer because I don't like this.

DELMAS

It's the only way to avoid the electric chair. Your mother, Evelyn, everyone is in agreement.

HARRY

I'm not crazy!

DELMAS

This court is nothing more than a stage. Everyone's playing their part with one purpose in mind. An insanity ruling. Then your mother arranges for a private institution, the right

(MORE)

DELMAS (CONT'D)

doctor, and you're a free man in a couple of years. At the most. Harry, let me do what's needed.

Police Officers handcuff Harry and lead him away. Delmas gathers his papers as Jerome and his Assistant pass by.

JEROME

My condolences, Mr. Delmas. Personally, I wouldn't be able to concentrate if my wife and-

DELMAS

Thank you, Mr. Jerome.

JEROME

I was surprised you took this case. New York is a long trip from California.

DELMAS

Apparently, my reputation has reached all four corners of these great states of America. Over two hundred murder cases, all innocent verdicts.

(leans into Jerome, low)

And the compensation was worth the trip.

JEROME

Yes... Well... The truth will eventually reveal itself.

DELMAS

Truth?! What is that? Judging by the newspapers, a good story is all that matters.

JEROME

I'm sure the papers will find Mrs. Harry K. Thaw's deposition riveting, but unfortunately, the testimony of a devoted wife doesn't carry much weight in court!

They exchange a polite smile. FOLLOW Jerome and Assistant up the aisle--

JEROME ASSISTANT

Why didn't you question Mary Thaw?

JEROME

And let her go on about how crazy
Harry is! The public is already
sympathetic.

They stop at the doors and watch Mary talk with Delmas.

JEROME

A relic of the Gilded Age, corruption
and greed covered by a thin veneer of
gold. Don't be fooled.

As they leave through the Double Doors into--

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

BURST OF MUSIC-- STAGE - Evelyn sings with a Chorus.

CHORUS (SINGS)

What is love? Baby, don't hurt me,
don't hurt me, no more.

(EVELYN/CHORUS SINGS)

*Am I original? (Yeah-) Am I the only
one? (Yeah-) Am I sexual? (Yeah-) Am I
everything you need? I wanna rock your
body now. (Sexbomb, Sexbomb, you're
such a Sexbomb) And baby, I can turn
you on. (Sexbomb, Sexbomb, you're such
a Sexbomb) Give it up, do as I say.
Give it up and let me have my way.
I'll give you love, I'll hit you like
a truck. I'll give you love, I'll
teach you how to. (Sexbomb, Sexbomb,
you're such a Sexbomb) I want your
love and I want your revenge. I want
your love, I don't wanna be friends.
J'veux ton amour, et je veux ta
revanche. J'veux ton amour, I don't
wanna be friends.*

INTERCUT-- STREET - THEATRE STAGE - COURTROOM/WITNESS STAND

NEWSBOY#1

Thaw lives like a king in jail!

EVELYN/CHORUS (SINGS)

*I don't wanna be friends. I just want
romance. (Caught in a bad romance) I
just want romance.*

FEMALE WITNESS

I was mortified! Shocked even!

EVELYN/CHORUS (SINGS)

*I want your love and I want your
revenge. You and me could write a bad
romance. Want your bad romance.*

MALE WITNESS

The blood sprayed all over us. My wife
was horrified.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: WITNESS RECOUNTS GARDEN
THEATRE BLOODBATH.

EVELYN/CHORUS (SINGS)

*I want your love and all your lover's
revenge. You and me could write a bad
romance. I just want romance. (Caught
in a bad romance)*

COURTHOUSE/STREET-- Female Witness and Male Witness smile
with excitement as News Photographers take their picture.

CAMERAS FLASH--

BAILIFF

The court calls Mrs. Harry K. Thaw.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: LUNACY COMMITTEE TO
ASSESS THAW'S SANITY.

CHORUS (SINGS)

*She's a maneater, make you work hard.
Make you spend hard, make you fall
really hard in love. She's a maneater,
make you buy cars. Make you cut cards,
wish you never ever met her at all.*

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE--

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Two Police Officers (modern attire) open the Double Doors.

MURMURING-- Evelyn enters, dressed stylishly in a black
velvet dress, a black hat with a delicate black lace veil, as
if in mourning. She stands in the doorway, takes in the room.

BERT VO (SINGS)

I like that thing you do.

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - CLUB MARTINIQUE

As Bert sings-- All eyes are on Evelyn as she confidently walks to the Stand, a quick glance as she passes Harry.

BERT (SINGS)

*I like that scent you wear. The way
you style your hair.*

WITNESS STAND - Bailiff swears Evelyn in (MOS).

BERT (SINGS)

*And all the boys and the girls and the
girls and the boys they stare.*

EVELYN

I do.

BERT (SINGS)

I like that thing you do.

END INTERCUT

HARRY

You sure about this?

DELMAS

Trust me.

Delmas approaches Evelyn in the Witness Stand, smiles.

DELMAS

Please state your name for the court.

EVELYN

Mrs. Harry K. Thaw.

DELMAS

Also known as?

EVELYN

Evelyn Nesbit.

DELMAS

When and where were you born?

EVELYN

Pittsburgh, December 25, 1885.

DELMAS

When did you move to New York?

EVELYN

My mother and I moved here in 1900.
After my father died unexpectedly. A
heart attack.

DELMAS

When were you married?

EVELYN

April 4, 1905. At the residence of
Pastor McEwen. The Best Man was Josiah
Thaw, Mr. Thaw's brother.

FLASHBACK - INT. PASTOR MCEWEN'S RESIDENCE - DAY

A modest Ceremony with PASTOR MCEWEN, his WIFE, JOSIAH THAW
(30), Mary, Edna, and FLORENCE NESBIT (40's) Evelyn's Mother.

EVELYN VO (CONT'D)

Edna Goodrich was my Maid of Honour.
Mary Thaw and my mother, Florence
Nesbit, also attended.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

DELMAS

Where was the rest of the Thaw family?

EVELYN

They didn't approve of me.

DELMAS

How did your mother feel about the
union?

FLASHBACK - INT. PASTOR MCEWEN'S RESIDENCE - LATER

Everyone celebrates with Champagne. Mary watches with a cold
demeanour. Florence hugs Evelyn--

FLORENCE

My beautiful baby is a married woman.
I'm so happy for you!

Edna hugs Evelyn, whispers in her ear--

EDNA

Congratulations, honey, you just
married forty million dollars.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

EVELYN

I never married Harry for his money.
In fact, I turned down several
proposals. The first time, because I
knew his family wouldn't approve.

DELMAS

And the second?

EVELYN

(mulls it over)
Because of my acquaintance with
Stanford White.

DELMAS

How did you come to know Mr. White?

EVELYN

Early 1901, in February or March. I
was sixteen. Edna and I were in the
chorus of the musical, FLORODORA.

FLASHBACK - INT. THEATRE STAGE

A FULL CAST. A NEW YORK CITY SET. Two CADILLAC MODEL-C CARS,
packed with luggage. Evelyn and Edna are in the Chorus.

CAST (SINGS)

*The weather is spectacular! We're off
on our way, What a beautiful day, With
riotously laughter, we quietly suffer,
the season in town which is reason
enough.*

Actors get into the Cars and drive towards each other,
passing and crossing to the opposite Stage Wing.

CAST (SINGS)

*For a weekend in the country, How
amusing. How delightfully droll. A
weekend in the country, While we're
losing, Our control.*

Buildings move off stage into the wings, or fly up into the
fly-space, replaced with Trees and Bushes.

CAST (SINGS)

*A weekend in the country. How
enchanting, On the manicured lawns. A
(MORE)*

CAST (SINGS) (CONT'D)
*weekend in the country, With the
 panting, And the yawns.*

The Stage is now a COUNTRY SET. The Cars drive back and forth. Two Actors on HIGH-WHEELER BICYCLES ride past, waving.

CAST (SINGS)
*With the crickets and the pheasants,
 And the orchards and the hay. With the
 servants and the peasants.*

Two Actors play Croquet, they hit the Balls hard into the Audience-- BURST of CONFETTI.

CAST (SINGS)
*We'll be laying our plans, While we're
 playing croquet.*

AUDIENCE-- Confetti FLUTTERS DOWN around-- Clare is caught up with the show. Stanford grins, FIXATED on Evelyn.

STAGE-- Sections of a COUNTRY MANSION move into place.

CAST (SINGS)
*For a weekend in the country. So
 inactive that one has to lie down. A
 weekend in the country.*

The Cars stop head-to-head, and the Actors get out.

Actors; ELDERLY WOMAN in a Wheelchair, pushed by a SERVANT, a younger WOMAN, two more SERVANTS, come out of the Mansion. One Servant serves glasses of Champagne, as two Servants remove the luggage. Younger Woman greets the travellers.

CAST (SINGS)
*Where we're, Twice as upset as in, (a
 weekend), Twice as upset in, (a
 weekend), Twice as upset in, (a
 weekend), Twice as upset in-- Town!*

End Crescendo-- Everyone in a TABLEAU, Parasol's POP OPEN, they all wear Sunglasses, holding Champagne glasses-- End.

CURTAIN COMES DOWN-- THUNDEROUS Applause, Standing Ovation. Curtain rises. Cast Bow. Curtain comes down as we move to--

BACKSTAGE

The Cast breaks the Curtain Call Line and begins mingling.

The Elderly Woman in the Wheelchair, lights a cigar, stands, pulls off a wig-- OLD MALE ACTOR. STAGE MANAGER walks by, without missing a beat, takes the cigar out of his mouth, stamps it out, a nightly routine.

STAGE MANAGER

Great show everyone. Please have costumes ready for wardrobe before you leave and thank you!

Just then, Harry appears, with Caleb and Donnelly.

CAST

(overlap)

Hi, Harry! Hello. Did you like the show? Great to see you! It's Harry!

Evelyn is quite taken with Harry.

FLASH - CLUB MARTINIQUE-- BERT SMILES, MOUTHS "MONEY!"

BACK TO SCENE/BACKSTAGE

HARRY

I would be honoured if everyone would join me for lunch tomorrow as my guest at Delmonico's. I've ordered salad, Maine lobster, baked potato, asparagus (notices Evelyn, smiles) and chocolate truffles. I don't believe I've had the honour.

EVELYN

I've only just joined the cast.

HARRY

Then you shall sit beside me, so we can be better acquainted.

Harry smiles, walks away. Florence (Wardrobe Woman) collects costume pieces as she walks over to Evelyn, watching Harry.

EVELYN

He's so good looking, Mama.

FLORENCE

Papers say he's a millionaire playboy. Nothing better to do than chase...

Harry turns back, smiles at Evelyn, tips his hat, and leaves.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
 No ideas. You're sixteen, and he's...
 Not!

Edna excitedly approaches them--

EDNA
 Is he cute or what?

FLORENCE
 You think anyone in pants is cute!

EDNA
 I like a lot of people without pants.
 Oh! You know what I mean. Evelyn,
 instead of the lunch tomorrow, we're
 going to meet friends of mine. One of
 them is interested in meeting you.

FLORENCE	EVELYN
Meet who?	Meet who?

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
 She doesn't go tramping around, not
 without my permission first!

EDNA
 Mrs. Nesbit, meeting my friends isn't
 tramping around. She's meeting New
 York's elite. Ever hear of Stanford
 White?

FLORENCE	EVELYN
The architect! Well...	Please, Mama, let me go.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)
 As long as you stay together.
 Chaperone each other. Hear me, Miss
 New York Elite! Oh, I have work to do!

Florence turns and hurries away.

EXT. PARKETTE/STREET - DAY

BANDSTAND-- A RAG-TIME BAND (period attire), entertains a
 small crowd (modern attire) as--

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)
*In New York- Concrete jungle where
 dreams are made of. There's nothin'
 you can't do. Now you're in New York.*

FOLLOW a Hansom Cab, past tall buildings, Statues, Monuments, Cafes, Macy's, Bloomingdales, Restaurants, Buskers to--

RAG-TIME BAND OS (SINGS)
*These streets will make you feel brand
 new. Big lights will inspire you.
 Let's hear it for New York, New York,
 New York, New York.*

STORE SIGN: FAO SCHWARZ TOY STORE. Up to--

SECOND FLOOR WINDOW-- Stanford watches--

The Cab pulls up. Edna steps out, followed by Evelyn, wearing sunglasses. She bumps into a passing PEASANT WOMAN (rags, dirty face). She's taken aback, with a sense of dread.

The Peasant Women, embarrassed, steps back averting her gaze down, scurries away. Evelyn watches her. She composes herself, turns back to Edna, looks around, disappointed--

EVELYN
 This is it? A toy store?!

EDNA
 Yes. Come on.

Evelyn follows Edna through a door next to Schwarz.

INT. STANFORD'S STUDIO APARTMENT

Beautifully furnished, many paintings. Stanford greets them. Eickemeyer watches Evelyn, as she looks around.

STANFORD
 Edna! Always a delight!

EVELYN
 Beautiful!

STANFORD
 Thank you. My studio apartment. Hello,
 I'm Stanford White.

EVELYN
 You don't live here?

STANFORD
 No. This is where I work.

EICKEMEYER

May I ask who this lovely creature is?

EDNA

This is Evelyn Nesbit.

EICKEMEYER

A pleasure.

STANFORD

This is Mr. Rudolf Eickemeyer.

EICKEMEYER

No need for formalities, Rudy, please.

EDNA

Rudy is a photographer. You should photograph Evelyn!

EICKEMEYER

Yes, of course. Have you modeled before?

EVELYN

A little.

STANFORD

(indicates Dining Table)

Shall we?

(pours Champagne)

For the young ladies, one glass only.

INT. DELMONICO'S RESTAURANT - PRIVATE ROOM

Cast sit, eating, or mingle about, talking.

Old Male Actor, puffing on his cigar, and Stage Manager stop, glare at each other. Old Male Actor blows smoke in the Stage Manager's face, walks away, gleefully gloating.

Harry looks around for Evelyn, turns to Caleb and Donnelly--

HARRY

We're missing two people.

CALEB

Probably coming late.

HARRY

(to Chorus Girl)

Excuse me, do you know if Edna and the

(MORE)

HARRY (CONT'D)
new girl are coming?

CHORUS GIRL
Evelyn. Her name's Evelyn. No, they're
not coming. They're otherwise engaged.
Luncheon with Stanford White.

Chorus Girl walks away. Furious, Harry unconsciously squeezes his glass. Donnelly pries it from his hands before it breaks. Caleb and Donnelly exchange a concerned glance.

INT. STANFORD'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER

Edna and Eickemeyer discuss a painting. Stanford pours a Port, his back to Evelyn as she looks around, snooping.

EVELYN
That was a marvellous lunch! Thank
you.

STANFORD
My pleasure!

Evelyn opens a door and sees stairs leading up to another door on the next floor. She goes through.

Stanford turns around, sees the open door, and no Evelyn.

INT. SWING ROOM

The walls are painted beautiful green FOREST MURALS. Pots with trees. The ceiling is a deep, dark blue with STARS, and in the centre of the room hangs a RED VELVET SWING.

Evelyn wanders around the room, taking it in. Stanford quietly enters, watches her, after a moment--

STANFORD
THE HAPPY ACCIDENTS OF THE SWING.

Startled, Evelyn spins around, sees Stanford and smiles. Stanford points to--

INSERT - PAINTING: THE HAPPY ACCIDENTS OF THE SWING.

STANFORD
Also known as THE SWING by Jean-Honoré
Fragonard. She playfully swings,
pushed by her husband, as her lover
watches, hiding in the bushes.

EVELYN

The inspiration for the room. Why?

STANFORD

Because I wanted to. Because I could.
Actually, for my niece. She's a grown
woman now.

EVELYN

(points to painting)
She's kicked off her shoe! It's so...

STANFORD

Erotic.

Evelyn blushes, embarrassed. Stanford indicates the Swing--

STANFORD

Get on. I'll push you. Try to kick the
moon. Up there. See it?

MOON PAINTED ON THE CEILING.

Evelyn nods, gets on the swing. Stanford pushes her, higher
and higher, as she tries to touch the Moon with her foot.

MALE SINGER VO (SINGS)

*'Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a
sky full of stars. I'm gonna give you
my heart. (continue as needed)*

They laugh as she swings back and forth, closer and closer.
Finally, she TOUCHES THE MOON WITH HER FOOT. Evelyn squeals
with delight, Stanford cheers. Stanford slows the swing down.
He stares at her on the swing, stunned by her beauty.

STANFORD

So lovely. So beautiful.

They gaze into each other's eyes. Stanford leans in, kisses
her. A sweet, gentle kiss, then realizes--

STANFORD

I apologize. I shouldn't have.

Evelyn smiles.

INT. SMALL ONE ROOM FLAT - NIGHT - LATER

Barely furnished. Florence is busy on her Sewing Machine.
Evelyn is in bed, restless--

EVELYN

He was so nice, Mama.

FLORENCE

Jeez! You were swooning over Harry Thaw yesterday; tonight it's Stanford White. All because a couple of men pay you a little attention.

EVELYN

He said I was lovely, beautiful.

FLORENCE

I tell you you're beautiful, I get nothing. Don't get caught up in all that nonsense.

EVELYN

Mama, look at us. One room. We lost the house, and everything when Daddy died. When I marry, we're never going to live like this again.

FLORENCE

Suddenly, you're getting married! You have big dreams, young lady. Big dreams lead to big disappointments, and I've seen more tears run down pretty faces than plain ones.

DELMAS VO

Mrs. Thaw. Mrs. Thaw?! Evelyn.

END FLASHBACK

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

EVELYN

My apology. What was the question?

DELMAS

Did you see Stanford White again?

EVELYN

Yes. About a month later.

FLASHBACK. INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN TOWER - ROOM - NIGHT

Staff set up the room. The PIE sits on a table. Evelyn sits, waiting. Stanford walks in with a Man.

MAN

This is the girl for tonight.

STANFORD

(sees Evelyn)

No, no, no! Not this girl.

He flips through a little BLACK BOOK, hands it to the Man.

STANFORD

Go to that address, tell him we need someone, and he'll get you a girl.

The Man nods and leaves.

EVELYN

Why can't I do it? I can sing and dance and it's paying a months salary.

STANFORD

(takes out his wallet)

No. You're not doing this.

(hands her money)

Here's the money you would have earned. Call on me tomorrow at my studio.

Confused, Evelyn leaves with a handful of money.

END FLASHBACK

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Delmas paces in front of Evelyn in the Witness Stand.

DELMAS

Did you go to the studio the next day?

EVELYN

Yes. Stanford made arrangements for me to model for Mr. Eickemeyer.

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - THEATRE STAGE - Evelyn Auditions.

EVELYN (SINGS)

I look into the window of my mind.

EVELYN

And other artist, and different advertisements.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Reflections of the fears I know I've
 left behind.*

EVELYN
 Charles Dana Gibson made me a Gibson
 Girl.

EVELYN (SINGS)
I step out of the ordinary.

EVELYN
 Stanford also introduced me to a
 Producer, George Lederer.

THEATRE STAGE-- Evelyn is rehearsing with a Chorus.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*I can feel my soul ascending. I'm on
 my way. Can't stop me now.*

EVELYN
 Before I knew it, I was starring on
 Broadway.

EVELYN (SINGS)
And you can do the same, yeah.

INSERT - THEATRE MARQUEE: Evelyn Nesbit in THE WILD ROSE.

THEATRE STAGE-- A full production number with Sets/Costumes.
 Evelyn wears an EXOTIC THEDA BARA VAMP TYPE COSTUME--

EVELYN (SINGS)
*I've got the stuff that you want. I've
 got the thing that you need.*

BOX SEAT-- Harry watches, enthralled with Evelyn.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*I've got more than enough, To make you
 drop to your knees, Because I'm the
 queen of the night. The queen of the
 night. Oh, yeah, oh, yeah, oh, yeah.*

MONTAGE - INTERCUT-- SONG CONTINUES--

-- EXT. STAGE DOOR - Fans and Photographers (modern attire)
 surround Evelyn. Cameras FLASH--

-- RESTAURANT - Evelyn, Florence and Stanford dine.

-- STUDIO APARTMENT - Evelyn swings on the Red Velvet Swing.

-- STUDIO - Photographer takes a picture of Evelyn posing with a bottle of Coca-Cola. Camera FLASH into--

-- NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENTS - Evelyn models in Coca-Cola, Fashion, Prudential Insurance, Tobacco, Face Cream Ads.

-- STAGE - Evelyn sings. BOX SEAT - Harry is on his feet, caught up with the excitement of Evelyn's performance. Caleb and Donnelly sit watching the show.

-- DRESSING ROOM - RED ROSES - Evelyn reads the CARD--

INSERT - CARD: MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE - HARRY.

-- LARGE APARTMENT - Beautifully furnished. Evelyn, Florence and Stanford enter. Stanford hands the Keys to Florence.

-- APARTMENT - WINDOW - Florence watches Evelyn and Stanford get into a Hansom Cab, looks at a cheque signed by Stanford.

-- CHARLES DANA GIBSON'S STUDIO - Evelyn poses for Gibson.

-- CASCADE of MAGAZINE COVERS: SATURDAY EVENING POST, COLLIERS, VANITY FAIR, VOGUE, COSMOPOLITAN - Evelyn models on the covers.

-- RESTAURANT - Evelyn and Stanford dine. Mary sits at a table in the background, watching.

-- STAGE - Evelyn bows, receiving a STANDING OVATION. BOX SEAT - Harry stands, exuberantly applauding.

-- DRESSING ROOM - A LARGER BOUQUET OF RED ROSES. Evelyn smiles as she reads the card.

-- STUDIO APARTMENT - Evelyn swings on the Red Velvet Swing.

-- APARTMENT - Stanford writes a cheque, hands it to Florence. Evelyn comes into the room, leaves with Stanford.

-- RUDOLF EICKEMEYER STUDIO - Eickemeyer photographs Evelyn in a KIMONO on a BEAR SKIN RUG. Camera FLASH into--

-- SPLASH OF PHOTOGRAPHS - Evelyn in poses, including the Kimono on the bear skin rug.

-- THEATRE BOX-OFFICE - Line of people buying tickets. THEATRE MARQUEE: Evelyn Nesbit in TOMMY ROT.

-- RESTAURANT - A Maitre d' leads Evelyn and Stanford to a table. Diners applauded as they pass. Mary sits, watching.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: BROADWAY SENSATION - EVELYN NESBIT.

EVELYN (SINGS)
I'm the queen of the night, oh yeah!

END FLASHBACK/MONTAGE

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

DELMAS
And your relationship with Harry?

EVELYN
New Years Eve, 1902. I received an invitation to a Masquerade Ball at the Union Club, although, I didn't know who invited me.

FLASHBACK - INT. EVELYN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Evelyn looks at the INVITATION, and a beautiful HALF MASK.

EVELYN VO (CONT'D)
It arrived with a mask, requesting me to wear it.

INSERT - INVITATION: THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY-- (details, at the bottom) - SAVE THE MIDNIGHT DANCE FOR ME. AN ADMIRER.

Evelyn puts the Mask on, as "VOGUE" (Instrumental) begins--

INT. UNION CLUB - BALL ROOM - NIGHT

MASQUERADE BALL-- Evelyn and Florence, Costumed with Masks, watch the wealthy elite, wearing magnificent Costumes, colourful Masks, dance a stylized WALTZ mixed with VOGUE.

LATER--

TWO MEN on the side, smile, intrigued, as they watch Evelyn--

YOUNG MAN
(primping)
These Balls are full of opportunities!

Older Man discreetly glances at his pigeon-faced Wife, turns back--

OLDER MAN

That's because you're not an old
married man.

Evelyn glances at a nearby CLOCK-- 11:54pm. She turns around
and a MAN stands admiring her. He extends his hand--

MAN

I believe I have this dance.

She smiles, takes his hand and is led onto the dance floor.

OLDER MAN

(to Young Man)

An opportunity is an opportunity till
it ceases to be one.

STAGE/ORCHESTRA-- A WOMAN sings. Evelyn, and the Man dance.

WOMAN (SINGS)

*For fear your grace should fall. For
fear tonight is all. If you could look
into my eyes. Under the moonlight,
this serious moonlight. While colour
lights up your face. Sway through the
crowd to an empty space. Let's dance.
We were so in phase. In our dance hall
days. We were cool on craze. When I,
you and everyone we knew. Could
believe, do and share in what was
true. I said, Dance hall days love.
Dance hall days love. Dance hall days.
And you need her, and she needs you.*

Their eyes locked, as everyone around them SLOWS DOWN.

WOMAN (SINGS)

*And you need her and she needs you.
And you need her... She needs you.*

MIDNIGHT COUNTDOWN-- Unaware, they continue to dance.

CROWD

4- 3- 2- 1- HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The room EXPLODES with CONFETTI, STREAMERS, BALLOONS, and
Champagne POPPING. Everyone cheering, hugging and kissing.

Evelyn and the Man stop dancing. He removes his Mask, it's
Harry. He removes Evelyn's Mask.

HARRY
Happy New Year.

EVELYN
Happy New Year.

Evelyn embarrassingly laughs as Harry smiles.

STAGE/ORCHESTRA-- A MAN joins the WOMAN to a sing a Duet, as Harry and Evelyn dance, lost in each others gaze.

WOMAN (SINGS)

It's complicated, it always is. That's just the way it goes. Feels like I've waited so long for this, I wonder if it shows.

MAN (SINGS)

Head underwater, now I can't breathe. It never felt so good, 'Cause I can feel it comin' over me. I wouldn't stop it if I could.

WOMAN/MAN (SINGS)

When love takes over, yaa.

MONTAGE - INTERCUT-- SONG CONTINUES--

-- METROPOLITAN OPERA - Evelyn and Harry watch the opera.

-- NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - They walk out the library.

-- BROOKLYN BRIDGE - Evelyn and Harry walk along Water St.

-- TIFFANY'S - Evelyn and Harry look at the window displays.

-- METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - They look at Art exhibits.

-- MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - They look at the exhibits.

-- HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE-- Evelyn, Harry and Florence talk.
BELLOWS (50's, Valet) announces "Dinner is served." Harry escorts the ladies into the Dining Room--

TRANSITION INTO:

NEW YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL 1903-- Evelyn and Harry dance, gazing into each other's eyes, then passionately kiss--

MAN/WOMAN DUET (SINGS)

Aaaahhh, baby! My heart is full of love and desire for you. So com'on down and do what you got to do. You started this fire down in my soul.

- WASHINGTON ARCH - They walk through as birds take flight.
- CENTRAL PARK - BELVEDERE CASTLE - They cycle past.
- BRONX ZOO - A Monkey scares Evelyn, she jumps back accidentally into Harry's arms. They laugh.
- CLUB MARTINIQUE - CAN CAN DANCERS - They enjoy the show.
- CITY HALL - They watch SUFFRAGETTES protest. Police arrive to stop the protest. Harry ushers Evelyn away.
- CENTRAL PARK - CAROUSEL - Evelyn and Harry laugh, riding the Carousel as it spins around into--

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: NEW YORK SUBWAY OPENS - A smaller Article, Headline: CELESTIAL METEOR SHOWER.

- INT. CITY HALL SUBWAY STATION PLATFORM - Harry and Evelyn excitedly cheer with the crowd as the first Train pulls in.

- CENTRAL PARK - BRIDGE NO.28 (Gothic Bridge) - NIGHT - BOLIDE METEOR SHOWER of 1904. They kiss as the Song changes--

MAN/WOMAN DUET (SINGS)

*Open up your eyes, then you'll realize
here I stand with my everlasting love.*

- FERRY - They kiss on the Deck. b.g. - Statue of Liberty.
- CENTRAL PARK - LADIES PAVILION - They dance and kiss.
- STAGE DOOR - BENJAMIN (Stage Door Attendant) hands Evelyn an EXTREMELY LARGE BOUQUET OF RED ROSES as she signs in.
- DRESSING ROOM - Evelyn, with the bouquet of roses, walks in, stops, surprised by a room FULL of red roses.
- THEATRE STAGE - Evelyn sings with a Chorus--

EVELYN/CHORUS (SINGS)

*Let me hold you for the first
explosion. I will cover you. All you
gotta do, Get in the middle of a chain
reaction. You get a medal when you're
lost in action. I wanna get your love
all ready for the Sweet sensation,
instant radiation. You get a picture
of our love in motion. My arms will
cover, my lips will smother you.
Everlasting love.*

APPLAUSE-- An USHER presents Evelyn with Roses. She looks up to Harry in his Box Seat, smiles, blows him a kiss.

ORCHESTRA SEATS-- Stanford watches the exchange, not pleased.

END FLASHBACK/MONTAGE

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

DELMAS

When did Mr. Thaw propose the third time?

EVELYN

June 1904, in Paris.

DELMAS

You were traveling?

EVELYN

I had suffered acute appendicitis. Harry ensured I received the best medical care. Afterwards, I couldn't perform for quite awhile. Harry thought a relaxing trip through Europe would help. My mother went with us.

Evelyn looks out the nearby window, sighs, as the cityscape CHANGES from New York to Paris.

HARRY VO

I love you, Evelyn. More than you can imagine.

FLASHBACK - INT. - PARIS HOTEL SUITE - DAY

Harry paces. Evelyn sits, anxious.

HARRY (CONT'D)

I want you to be my wife. Don't you care for me?

EVELYN

I do. Very much.

WINDOW - He stares out at the Eiffel Tower a moment, then--

HARRY

Is it because of Stanford White?

No response. Harry turns around, sees Evelyn is upset.

HARRY

Did he do something to you?... You must tell me, Evelyn. I need to understand why you refuse to marry me.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

Evelyn sits, stares out the window.

DELMAS

Are you alright?

EVELYN

They're all staring at me.

DELMAS

It's a public court, Evelyn. Deep breaths! You're doing fine.

Evelyn resigns herself, smiles, nods.

EVELYN

I told Harry everything. The photographs, dinners, the Red Velvet Swing. Everything! Then one night in the fall of 1901.

FLASHBACK - INT. STAGE DOOR - NIGHT

Evelyn is leaving, when Benjamin hands her a Note.

BENJAMIN

Note for you, Miss Nesbit.

Evelyn reads--

INSERT - NOTE: MEET ME FOR A SMALL DINNER PARTY. STANFORD.

EVELYN

Thank you, Benjamin. Good night.

INT. STANFORD'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER

Evelyn finds Stanford alone. Table set for dinner.

STANFORD

This is a fine thing, the others have turned us down.

EVELYN

I should go then.

STANFORD

Nonsense. You must be hungry. Have a little something, then go.

Evelyn smiles, nods, agrees. Stanford pours Champagne.

STANFORD

You know, it occurred to me, you've not seen all the rooms here.

INT. MIRROR ROOM - LATER

Extremely LARGE, HEAVILY GILDED, GOLD-FRAMED MIRRORS line the walls. A Chaise Lounge, and a FOUR-POSTER BED. Evelyn and Stanford walk in--

EVELYN VO

He led me into another room.

EVELYN

(apprehensive)

I really should be going.

Stanford smiles as he shuts the door--

STANFORD

A glass of Champagne first, kitten.

SIDEBOARD-- Champagne in a bucket. He pours ONE GLASS, hands it to Evelyn. He watches her, waits. She sips--

EVELYN

It's bitter.

STANFORD

It's 1888, slight difference in taste. Drink it. All of it.

Stanford waits. She reluctantly drinks it. Stanford smiles.

EVELYN VO

I felt dizzy, sick, the room became blurry.

She's unsteady, swerves. Stanford catches her, kisses her.

EVELYN

No. What are you doing?

STANFORD

It's alright, Stanny is here. I'll
(MORE)

STANFORD (CONT'D)
take good care of you. I always have.

He carries her to the bed. She mumbles, "No, no, no, no, no."

STANFORD
My dear little kitten, it's time to
pay the piper.

LATER--

Evelyn wakes up in bed, groggy. She sees herself, NAKED,
FLOATING ABOVE HER, looking down at her. The image FOCUSES--

Evelyn realizes she's looking at herself in a MIRROR ON THE
CEILING ABOVE THE BED. In the reflection she sees Stanford
sleeping beside her, NAKED, and she's BLEEDING. She SCREAMS.

Stanford wakes, quickly holds her, hugs her, as she cries.

STANFORD
Shh! It's alright, kitten. It's over.
Everything's fine. Shh! You belong to
me now.

END FLASHBACK

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

SILENCE-- Harry weeps into his hands. Evelyn's hands shake as
she wipes a tear away with a lace handkerchief, mumbling--

EVELYN
You belong to me. You belong to me.

Evelyn stares blankly around the courtroom for a moment.

EVELYN
He made me swear to never talk about
it. To no one!

DELMAS
How did Harry react?

EVELYN
He took my hand and said he understood
my refusal to marry but that I was
blameless in this. He said a young
woman's virginity is her virtue, is
sacred. He said Stanford is-

FLASH - INT. PARIS HOTEL SUITE

HARRY

A filthy beast to do what he did to a sixteen-year-old girl. Damn him!

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

Jerome leans into his Assistant--

JEROME

She's either a pathological liar, or the greatest actress ever.

JEROME ASSISTANT

She certainly has the imagination of an erotic minx.

EVELYN

How could Harry live with the humiliation?

DELMAS

Do you recall the date?

EVELYN

(upset, emotional)

No. Vaguely. It was the night after the Kimono photographs... Please, can we stop. Please! I can't go on.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: EVELYN BREAKS DOWN TESTIFYING.

INTERCUT--

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT (SINGS)

*We get our pleasure from the evenin'
news. Just give me somethin',
somethin' I can use. People love it
when you lose. We love dirty laundry.*

VARIOUS-- People read Newspapers in Cafes, Patios, Park Benches with HEADLINES: GIBSON GIRL RELIVES HORRID ORDEAL.

- EVELYN'S TESTIMONY SHOCKS COURT.

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SING)

*Dirt. It's the reason I read. Dirt.
Gimme something that can get me
(MORE)*

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SING) (CONT'D)
*through. Something dirty on the ol'
 who's who. And keep this in mind as
 you do. It don't have to be true.*

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: STANFORD WHITE DRUGGED
 EVELYN NESBIT.

BERT (SINGS)
*Dirty little secrets, dirty little
 lies. We got our dirty little fingers
 in everybody's pie. We love to cut you
 down to size. We love dirty laundry.*

People buy papers from the Newsboys with HEADLINES: PRESIDENT
 ROOSEVELT OUTRAGED OVER SENSATIONALIZED TRIAL.

- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WANT REPORTERS BANNED FROM COURT.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
*It's interesting when people die. Give
 us dirty laundry. Kick 'em when
 they're up. Kick 'em when they're
 down. Kick 'em when they're up. Kick
 them all around. We love dirt.*

- NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: EVELYN TELLS ALL TO SAVE HUSBAND.

NEWSPAPER SHIFTS, COMES DOWN, FOLDED BY JEROME INTO:

EXT. COURTHOUSE - STREET - MORNING

SUFFRAGETTES with Placards: WOMEN DEMAND RIGHTS - RAPE IS A
 CRIME - WOMEN NEED PROTECTION. Crowd, Reporters, Newsboys.

Twain walks past, overhears Jerome talking to his Assistant.

JEROME
 Broadway Star gives the performance of
 her life! That's the real headline.

TWAIN
 Everybody enjoys a circus!

Jerome is not amused.

TWAIN (CONT'D)
 Unfortunately, Mr. Jerome, if you
 don't read the newspaper, you're
 uninformed, but, on the other hand, if
 you do, you're mis-informed, leaving
 (MORE)

TWAIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 one still ignorant of the truth. A
 curious dichotomy, indeed!

JEROME
 True, Mr. Clemens, but repeated
 enough, lies become the truth.

They're distracted by Suffragettes surrounding a Hansom Cab
 pulling up. Evelyn steps out with Caleb and Donnelly.

SUFFRAGETTES (SINGS)
*Shout, shout, up with your song! Cry
 with the wind for the dawn is
 breaking. You gotta change with your
 sense of dignity. No hate, we gotta
 act differently. Why wait? Be the
 positivity. All stand up, we had
 enough. (continues in background)*

Delmas and his Assistant approach the Courthouse.

REPORTER
 Mr. Delmas, are you worried this case
 might be hopeless?

DELMAS
 What did occur to me is that to deny
 the rich the same right to a defence
 as the poor might align with the same
 type of thinking that has prompted all
 these protests; therefore, I think
 I'll leave the final decision to a
 Judge and Jury, and not your Editor.

Suffragettes sing, following Evelyn up the stairs. Evelyn,
 Caleb and Donnelly pass through the row of Police into the
 Courthouse. Police stop the crowd following--

POLICE OFFICER
 Come on now, move back. Now! Move!

Delmas, Jerome and Twain watch--

Tension builds as the crowd presses in. Police push back.

CROWD (YELL OVERTOP SINGING)
 The rich get away with rape!... The
 rich aren't above the law!... Women
 need rights!

Police pull out their BATONS. Photographers cameras FLASH. Police lunge forward. Screaming as a small BATTLE ensues.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: PROTESTORS RIOT AT THAW TRIAL (includes photographs of the confrontation).

JEROME

The world is changing, Gentlemen.

FLASH - BERT SNEERINGLY SMILES, KNOWINGLY NODS "YES".

TWAIN

For better or for worse.

DELMAS

God help us!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Evelyn sits in the Stand, as Delmas paces.

DELMAS

The night of the shooting, when did you first see Stanford White?

EVELYN

At Club Martinique. I might have seen him as we walked there.

FLASHBACK - EXT. 5TH AVE - NIGHT

Evelyn, Harry, Caleb and Donnelly, pass a BANDSTAND - RAG-TIME BAND entertaining a small crowd (modern attire).

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)

*Good times. These are the good times.
Leave your cares behind. She says,
(Good times) I like the night life
baby. She says, (Good times) Let's go.
I like the nightlife baby. She says,
(Good times) I like the nightlife
baby. She says, (Good times) Let's go.*

VARIOUS-- Hotels, Cafes, Bloomingdale's, Buskers, Theatre Marquees: Maude Adams in PETER PAN - Robert Mantell in OTHELLO. Cinema Marquees: LIFE OF A COWBOY - AMERICAN BEAUTIES. Couples walk, enjoying the summer night.

Evelyn watches a Hansom Cab pass by with someone who might be Stanford, although she's not sure.

The Music MIXES into a BIG BOLD RIFF--

INT. CLUB MARTINIQUE - NIGHT

Bert sings, interacting with audience members--

BERT (SINGS)

*All you've got is this moment.
Nineteenth century's yesterday. You
can care all you want. Everybody does,
yeah, that's okay. So slide over here
and give me a moment. Your moves are
so raw, I've got to let you know. I've
got to let you know. You're one of my
kind. I need you tonight. 'Cause I'm
not sleepin'. There's somethin' about
you, girl.*

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)

That makes me sweat. (song continues)

EVELYN'S TABLE-- Bert bows with a grand gesture, kisses her hand. Evelyn embarrassingly smiles.

As Bert continues through the room, Evelyn sees Stanford enter the Club. He looks around for someone and leaves.

EVELYN VO

I saw Stanford walk in.

DELMAS VO

You must have been disturbed, upset?

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JEROME

Objection, your Honour. Mr. Delmas is leading the witness.

JUDGE

Sustained.

BACK TO FLASHBACK/CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT (SINGS)

How do you feel?

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SING)

I'm lonely!

Evelyn writes a Note, slides it to Harry.

BERT (SINGS)
What do you think?

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SING)
Can't think at all.

Harry reads--

INSERT - NOTE: THE BEAST WAS HERE BUT LEFT.

BERT (SINGS)
What you gonna do?

STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SING)
Gonna live my life!

HARRY
 I saw him. Are you alright?

Evelyn nods "Yes". Donnelly looks at his Pocket Watch--

DONNELLY
 Heavens! Look at the time. We leave now, we'll just miss a few minutes. Garden Theatre is just up the street.

CALEB
 Only Stanford White would put a theatre on a rooftop!

HARRY
 Yes, it's a clever idea. Isn't it, darling?

EVELYN
 We don't need to go, Harry.

HARRY
 But, my dear, it's Edna's opening night.

She nods. Harry tosses money onto the table. They leave.

BERT (SINGS)
You're one of my kind.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JEROME
 Were you aware your husband had a revolver in his possession that night?

EVELYN

No. I knew he owned one. I didn't know he had it with him.

JEROME

Thank you, Mrs. Thaw.

She looks at Harry; he smiles, pleased, she's done well.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

Funny how I find myself in love with you.

GAVEL STRIKES THE SOUND BLOCK--

Everyone stands. Judge leaves. Evelyn kisses Harry over the rail. Caleb discreetly, reassuringly squeezes Donnelly's hand. Harry looks back to Evelyn as Officers lead him away.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

If I could buy my reasoning, I'd pay to lose. One half won't do.

INTERCUT--

STREET - Crowd, Reporters and Photographers (modern attire).

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

I've asked myself. How much do you.

Evelyn, sunglasses on, walks out with Caleb and Donnelly.

WOMAN#1

There she is!

The crowd swarms her.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

Commit yourself? It's my life, don't you forget. It's my life, it never ends. It never ends.

NEWSREPORTER#1

A comment, Mrs. Thaw?

NEWSREPORTER#2

A statement?

WOMAN#2

An autograph, Evelyn

WOMAN#3

I loved you in PETER PAN!

EVELYN

That was Maude Adams!

PHOTOGRAPHER

Smile Evelyn!

Evelyn smiles and poses. Cameras FLASH- FLASH- FLASH into--

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*All eyes on us. They lookin' at us.
 They watchin' us. All eyes on us.*

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT (SINGS)
*I want to scream and shout and let it
 all out.*

STREET - The crowd presses in, grabbing at her hat, gloves,
 etc, to get a piece of her. Police whistles blow. She panics,
 SCREAMS. Caleb and Donnelly push her through the crowd.

BERT/EVELYN VO (SINGS)
And Scream and shout and let it out.

CAMERA FLASH--

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Stop callin', stop callin', I don't
 wanna think any more. I left my head
 and my heart on the dance floor. It's
 my life.*

INTERCUT-- THEATRE STAGE - CLUB MARTINIQUE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*It's my life, my worries.
 It's my life, my problems.
 Ooh- Ooh- It's my life.*

BERT (SINGS)
*It's my life... It's my
 life... It's my life... It's
 my life.*

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT (SINGS)
*Shout, shout, let it all out. These
 are the things I can do without. It's
 my life.*

INTERCUT-- THEATRE STAGE - CLUB MARTINIQUE - CROWD SWARMS
 EVELYN OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Stop fighting me, stop
 bugging me. Stop forcing me,
 stop yelling at me. It's my
 life. (repeat with SUPER:)*

BERT (SINGS)
*It's my life... It's my
 life... It's my life... It's
 my life... It's my life...
 It's my life.*

Caleb and Donnelly push Evelyn into a Cab. It drives off as--
 SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: SEX AND RAPE TOLD BY GIBSON GIRL.
 - CRIME OF THE CENTURY, (photograph of Evelyn in the Stand).

NEWSPAPER SHIFTS, COMES DOWN, FOLDED BY EDNA INTO:
 EXT. CLUB MARTINIQUE PATIO - DAY

Edna is having lunch with Evelyn.

EVELYN
 So, what do the papers say today?

EDNA
 Doesn't matter. Today's headlines are
 tomorrow's toilet paper.

She gives Edna a questioning look. Edna opens the paper--

EDNA
 (reads)
 "A rich man has been killed; a rich
 man did the killing, and the world
 sits up to feed on every dripping, red
 morsel."

EVELYN
 Harry's made a mess of it!

EDNA
 He believes he was protecting you. He
 loves you. And you love him, right?

Evelyn stares off--

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
I have never felt like this.

INT. THEATRE STAGE

Stage is dark. Evelyn sings in a SPOTLIGHT--

EVELYN (SINGS)
*For once I'm lost for words. Your
 smile has really thrown me. This is
 not like me at all. I never thought
 I'd know, The kind of love you've
 shown me. I don't know what is going
 on. Can't work it out at all. Whatever*
 (MORE)

EVELYN (SINGS) (CONT'D)
*made you choose me. I just can't
 believe my eyes. You look at me as
 though. You couldn't bear to lose me.
 Now, no matter where I am. No matter
 what I do. I see your face appearing.
 Like an unexpected song. An unexpected
 song. That only we are hearing.*

INT. HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE - MAIN ENTRANCE

Evelyn walks in. Bellows approaches, puts PAPERS on the side Console, beside a PHOTOGRAPH (Harry/Evelyn), takes her coat. Evelyn picks up the papers, looks at them.

EVELYN
 Bellows, this is a subpoena.

BELLOWS
 Yes, ma'am. I've been Mr. Thaw's valet
 for many, many years. They probably
 assume I know something.

She hands Bellows the papers, looks at the photograph.

BACK TO SCENE/THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*He drowns in his dreams. An exquisite
 extreme I know. He's as damned as he
 seems, And more heaven than a heart
 could hold. And if I try to save him,
 My whole world would cave in. It just
 ain't right. Lord, it just ain't
 right. Oh, and I don't know, I don't
 know what he's after. But he's so
 beautiful. He's such a beautiful
 disaster. And if I could hold on,
 Through the tears and the laughter.
 Lord, would it be beautiful, Or just a
 beautiful disaster? He's so beautiful.*

APPLAUSE ECHOES OFF over--

INSERT - LADY JUSTICE STATUE atop New York City Hall.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: HARRY THAW FILES FOR DIVORCE.

EXT. COURTHOUSE/STREET - DAY

Mary is swarmed by REPORTERS (modern attire).

REPORTER#1

Any comment on Harry's divorce suit?

MARY

Regrettably, marrying the chorus girl was the first mistake my son made.

REPORTER#2

Why does Evelyn refuse to sign the papers when she stands to gain a huge settlement?

Mary looks coldly over the crowd, turns and enters the Court.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: I CAN'T HURT HER ANYMORE - HARRY.

INTERCUT--

CLUB MARTINIQUE-- Bert sings with the Steampunk Girls.

BERT (SINGS)

Life, life will never be- Life, life will never be. The same.

PRISON CELL-- BARRED WINDOW-- Harry watches people on the street, living their lives. Lights flicker from an execution. He looks up and down the corridor, scared.

BERT VO (SINGS)

Time is getting cold. What is going on? What is on your mind? Are your feelings gone?

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT (SINGS)

Need to see it clear. Where do you go? Why are you doing things? All the things you do.

PRISON CORRIDOR-- Prisoners watch Guards and Harry walk by.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)

Life will never be the same. Life is changing. (more and more)

COURTHOUSE/STREET-- Protestors march. Newsboys sell papers.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)

Life will never be the same. Life is changing. (More and more)

COURTROOM-- Harry enters, see Evelyn, awkwardly smiles.

BERT VO (SINGS)
*Everybody needs somebody to love, to
 love.*

CLUB MARTINIQUE

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
*Everybody needs somebody to love, to
 love.*

COURTROOM

JEROME
 For days we have wandered through a
 field of romance. Let us not forget
 that this is a murder case, not a case
 of unfortunate abuse of an innocent
 young woman. I'd like to call Dr.
 David McClure to the Stand.

DR. DAVID MCCLURE takes the Witness Stand.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
*More and more and more. I don't know
 where we're going to.*

JEROME
 Dr. McClure, please state who the
 lunacy committee comprised and your
 findings.

MCCLURE
 The committee comprised of myself, Dr.
 Peter Odney, and Dr. Leopold Putzel.
 After individual sessions, we compared
 notes and made our final assessment.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SINGS)
*More and more and more. We do things
 we don't wanna do.*

MCCLURE
 After careful examination of the
 defendant, we find the following.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS (SING)
*'Cause we lie, we cheat and we run,
 From each and every heart affair.*

FLASHBACK - STAGE DOOR-- Harry argues with Benjamin (MOS). He pushes past him and goes down the hall.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SING)
*We lie, we cheat and we hurt, 'Til
 somebody's in despair.*

DRESSING ROOM-- Harry looks around the empty room.

BERT/STEAMPUNK GIRLS VO (SINGS)
More and more and more.

MCCLURE
 We found the defendant capable of
 understanding the charges against him.

ANTHONY COMSTOCK (62)-- testifies.

COMSTOCK
 I was hired by Mr. Thaw.

INSERT - SIGN: PINKERTON'S NATIONAL DETECTIVE AGENCY.

FLASHBACK - OFFICE - Harry tosses MONEY onto Comstock's desk.

HARRY
 He's betrayed more young girls than
 anyone in New York. You must stop him.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: HARRY HAD STANFORD INVESTIGATED.

MCCLURE
 He referred to Mr. White as The Beast,
 who used drugs to accomplish, as he
 called it, White's Evil Purpose.

MARY
 After their trip to Europe, Harry came
 home to Philadelphia for a visit. He
 was withdrawn, depressed. He played
 the piano over and over.

FLASHBACK - THAW MANSION - Mary finds Harry unconscious on
 the floor, an empty bottle of Laudanum nearby.

JEROME
 You paid off the newspapers to kill
 the story.

MARY
 I couldn't allow them to print it!

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: HARRY THAW ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

COMSTOCK

Stanford White had gambling debts and
planned an auction of artwork. A
suspicious fire destroyed everything!

WITNESS STAND - Benjamin testifies (MOS)--

FLASHBACK - STAGE DOOR-- Stanford waves a gun around as he
argues with Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

She left with Mr. Thaw, sir.

STANFORD

I'll kill the son of a bitch.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: STANFORD VOWED TO MURDER HARRY.

JEROME

You said a "suspicious" fire.

COMSTOCK

Did I?! The, ah, Fire Department said
it could only have been caused by
arson.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: HARRY THAW HIRED AN ARSONIST.

LEDERER

Stanford introduced me to Evelyn. She
was perfect for THE WILD ROSE. You
know, he was like a father to her.
Took care of her, nurtured her career.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: BROADWAY PRODUCER DEFENDS STANFORD
WHITE.

MARY

Harry told me what Stanford had done.
I told him, this sort of thing happens
all the time in New York.

COMMOTION in Lobby-- Doors burst open. PIE PARTY GIRL'S
FATHER barges in, struggles with Police. Commotion. Judge
bangs his Gavel. The Police drag him out, screaming--

PIE PARTY GIRL'S FATHER

Stanford White raped and killed my
daughter. He deserved to die!

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: PIE PARTY GIRL'S FATHER DISRUPTS THAW TRIAL (picture of Pie Party Girl and her Father).

COMSTOCK

I informed Mr. Thaw that Stanford White hired a gang to beat him to death. He then started carrying a gun.

JEROME

That didn't concern you?

COMSTOCK

No. What did concern me was I learned Mr. Thaw hired someone to investigate me! I didn't know what to make of him or the situation at that point.

Comstock continues testifying (MOS). Evelyn watches Harry, contemplating--

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

You only see what your eyes want to see. How can life be what you want it to be?

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)

You're frozen when your heart's not open. Friends, they tried to warn me about you.

FLASHBACK - EXT. - STAGE DOOR-- Stanford watches from a dark corner. Harry kisses Evelyn. She enters the Theatre.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

He has good manners. He's so romantic. But he'll only make you blue.

STAGE-- Evelyn sings.

EVELYN (SINGS)

But Heaven isn't quite what it seems. I've been dying to love, dying to love, dying to love. One more second's enough, second to love, second to love. Everybody needs somebody to love, to love.

STREET/BAR - Harry walks out. THREE MEN (modern attire) push him around. THEY FIGHT. Harry pulls out a Gun. Men run off.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*Life will never be the same. Life is
 changing.*

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: STANFORD TRIED TO MURDER HARRY.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
More and more and more.

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*I don't know where we're going to.
 It's sad, (so sad) so sad. It's a sad,
 sad situation. And it's gettin' more
 and more absurd.*

END INTERCUT

MCCLURE
 In conclusion, Mr. Thaw suffers from
 delusions of grandeur, and based on
 his justification of the act, he is
 morally insane. Non compos mentis.

HARRY
 I OBJECT!

JUDGE
 You can't object. SIT DOWN!

Laughter. Judge bangs his Gavel. McClure leaves the Stand.

JEROME
 Your Honour, I'd like to call Mrs.
 Harry Thaw back to the Stand.

Evelyn sits with Edna, Caleb and Donnelly, leans into Edna--

EVELYN
 Once more unto the breach!

Edna touches her arm, reassuring her. Evelyn takes the Stand.

JEROME
 Mrs. Thaw, are you acquainted with Mr.
 Truxtun Beale?

EVELYN
 Yes. He's a friend of my husband. He
 lives in San Francisco.

JEROME

During his visit in the summer of 1905, you and Mr. Thaw had dinner with him on August 26th at Club Martinique.

EVELYN

I don't recall the actual date, but, yes, it was late summer.

JEROME

I do hope you're able to recall the conversation at least. If not, perhaps I could refresh your memory with notes I made during my conversation with Mr. Beale on the telephone. Apparently, it was a very hot August evening.

Evelyn smiles uncomfortably.

FLASHBACK - INT. CLUB MARTINIQUE - NIGHT

Evelyn feigns disinterest in the conversation between Harry and TRUXTON BEALE (late 30's), but discreetly listens.

TRUXTON

The Editor of the SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER, published a horrendous, slanderous article about my wife.

HARRY

Did she read it?

TRUXTON

She was devastated, poor thing. Refused to show her face at the Jockey Club. I was so bloody angry, I shot him, injuring him.

HARRY

Scoundrel! A man's wife is sacred. I would have shot him myself!

Evelyn discreetly reacts, concerned.

TRUXTON

I completely agree, so did the jury. I was acquitted of attempted murder.

HARRY

Good on you, man! There is justice.

EVELYN
Please excuse me, gentlemen.

Evelyn walks away, trying to keep her composure.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JEROME
"I would have shot him myself." Was
your husband thinking about the
unwritten Law of Honour?

FLASH - CLUB MARTINIQUE-- LADIES ROOM - Evelyn enters, shuts
the door, leans against it, breaks down, crying.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

EVELYN
I can't confess to knowing what my
husband was thinking.

JEROME
Isn't that the moment your husband
decided to commit murder?

DELMAS
Objection! Leading the witness.

JUDGE
Sustained.

JEROME
Mr. Thaw didn't mind that you
continued to grace the stage.

EVELYN
Not at all. Secretly, I think he finds
it very affecting.

JEROME
Was your husband aware Stanford White
arranged your big break?

FLASHBACK - ONE ROOM FLAT - Florence talks with Evelyn.

FLORENCE
Life can be very disappointing for us
women. It's the twentieth century, and
we still don't have the same rights
and opportunities as men. So, when an
opportunity does come along, you grab
(MORE)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

it.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

EVELYN

(to herself)

If the world's a stage, the play is
badly cast.

Jerome stops his pacing, turns and looks at Evelyn, confused.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Yes. Harry knew I took advantage of an
opportunity.

JEROME

You're very adept at playing a role,
aren't you, Mrs. Thaw?

EVELYN

I like how it feels being on stage.

JEROME

And what role are you playing today? A
devoted, loving wife.

EVELYN

Before my father died, I was
everything a proper young lady should
be. My life would have been choosing
which dress to wear and when, who to
have afternoon tea with, while
parading myself till I married. Or
worse, being stuck behind a Woolworths
counter. Life on the stage is much
more appealing.

COURTROOM CROWD-- Three Women (period attire) eat sandwiches.

WOMAN#1

Oh! She's a bit uppity,
isn't she?

WOMAN#2

Nothing wrong with working
at Woolworth's.

GAVEL STRIKES THE SOUND BLOCK--

JUDGE

Quiet back there!

The Three Women look back to the crowd behind--

WOMAN#3

Someone's causing a bit of a ruckus.

WITNESS STAND

JEROME

There is a maxim by which women live.
A lady's name should only appear in
the newspaper three times: her birth,
her marriage, and her death.

EVELYN

I'm not a child. I enjoy being seen
and heard.

Court laughs.

INTERCUT--

FLASH - CLUB MARTINIQUE-- BERT KNOWINGLY, CYNICALLY SMILES.

THEATRE STAGE-- Edna sings with a Chorus of Girls.

EDNA (SINGS)

*Wicked little girls, kissed the boys
and made them cry. Raisin' double
trouble every time we pass them by.
And some might say, we're wicked
little girls, With curves and kissers
and pearly whites. Better keep an eye
on your boys and lock 'em up tight.*

JEROME

How old were you when you met Mr.
James Garland?

EVELYN

What does that have to do with
anything?

JEROME

It has to do with your veracity.
Whether or not you're being truthful.

EVELYN

Fifteen.

JEROME

That's a delicate age to be spending
time alone with a man on his yacht.

EVELYN

My mother was always with us.

EDNA (SINGS)

*You think that I'm a lady? You think
that I won't fight? (Put 'em up, put
'em up). I'll make your eyes shine
like a Liliqoi moonlit night, whoa oh.*

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: MRS. JAMES A. GARLAND, WIFE OF
PROMINENT NEW YORK BANKER, FILES FOR DIVORCE.

JEROME

(holds up newspaper)

Mrs. Garland claimed Mr. Garland was
having an affair with you?

EVELYN

Nothing improper ever occurred between
us. That was proven in court.

EDNA (SINGS)

*You think you're my one and only?
Sophisticated Yoni told me, You gots
to love livin' while you're livin' or
you won't love life.*

Two Officers carry in an EASEL with something covered up.

JEROME

When you posed for various artists,
did you dress inappropriately?

EVELYN

Depends on your definition of
inappropriate.

JEROME

Did you ever pose in the nude?

EVELYN

No.

Jerome removes the cover--

JEROME (CONT'D)

Isn't this a portrait of you?

INSERT - PAINTING: SEMI-NUDE PORTRAIT OF EVELYN.

GASPS, COMMOTION! Judge bangs his Gavel.

DELMAS
OBJECTION!

JUDGE
COVER THAT UP! Order! Order!

EDNA (SINGS)
I'm the high pimpstress (you know her), I'm honey brown, I'm the baddest bitch to ever hit this town (uh uh).

JEROME
Did you ever discuss the pie party girl with your husband?

EVELYN
Briefly. I told Harry Edna had talked about the pie party girl. Harry told me she was dead.

EDNA (SINGS)
Cornbread woman, yoo hoo and a bottle of yum (oh yeah), I'm gonna have a party with my body, do ya wanna come?

JEROME
Does your husband have a drug problem?

FLASH - HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE-- BEDROOM - Evelyn finds a box containing a syringe and bottle of morphine in a drawer.

EVELYN
Opium, morphine, cocaine, every drug conveniently sold in one form or another at your local pharmacy. The whole country has a drug problem.

JEROME
Did Mr. Thaw use Laudanum the night of the shooting?

FLASH - GARDEN THEATRE ELEVATOR-- Crying, Evelyn hugs Harry as Officers try to separate them. Evelyn discreetly removes the Laudanum bottle from Harry's pocket.

EVELYN
No. If he had, it's not a crime.

JEROME
Although, obstruction of justice is.

EDNA (SINGS)
I said here come those devils, cheeky sneaky rebels.

JEROME

How was your trip through Europe?

EVELYN

It was an adventure.

Jerome smiles, presents a LETTER, hands it to Evelyn.

JEROME

This letter arrived from an associate in Europe. Would you be so kind and read the sections I've indicated?

DELMAS

(stands)

Your Honour, this is most irregular.

JUDGE

Mr. Delmas, aren't you even a little bit curious? I'll allow it.

EDNA (SINGS)

*Every day and every night, hot
steppin' is what we like.*

EVELYN

(reads)

"The Mistress stayed in her room for days. The Master would take meals to her. We heard strange noises from their rooms at night."

DELMAS

Your Honour, really?! What is this?

JEROME

The letter accounts for the servant's observations during Mr. and Mrs. Thaw's stay at Katzenstein Castle in Germany. Mrs. Thaw, what was the cause of the strange noises?

Evelyn remembers--

FLASH - CASTLE ROOM - Evelyn tightens a Ladies Corset on Harry. He's excited, aroused.

FLASH - Evelyn gagged, pleurably moans.

FLASH - Evelyn straddles Harry (both semi-nude), drips hot wax from a candle on his bare chest. Harry pleurably moans.

Evelyn indignantly hands the Letter back to Jerome--

EVELYN

Sir, you embarrass not only me but yourself. You need an explanation of the activities in our private rooms?

Men knowingly laugh and chuckle, women embarrassingly gasp.

JEROME

Mrs. Thaw, I very much doubt I am capable of embarrassing you.

EVELYN

May I remind you that my mother travelled with us. I doubt anyone could hear anything from the other side of that huge, gothic nightmare of a castle.

JEROME

I don't know about Germans, but regarding views on sex, New Yorkers are much more conservative.

EVELYN

No, they're not. They just don't talk about it.

JEROME

(smiles)

Enjoying yourself?

EVELYN

There's better ways to spend my time.

EDNA (SINGS)

*Wicked little girls, kissed the boys
and made them cry. Raisin' double
trouble every time we pass them by.*

JEROME

What was your impression of Stanford White when you first met?

EVELYN

I thought he was old and ugly.

JEROME

And yet, you continue to have a relationship with him after he

(MORE)

JEROME (CONT'D)
assaulted you?

EVELYN
Not willingly.

JEROME
Did you love Stanford White?

EVELYN
On the contrary, I hated him.

JEROME
You protested, then?

EVELYN
Naturally! If I'm about to be raped,
I'd prefer to choose who does it.

Women gasp!

JEROME
Why continue a friendship with a man
who has wronged you so terribly?

EVELYN
He threatened to tell my mother what
had happened.

JEROME
Did you ever tell your mother?

EVELYN
No. I'd rather die first.

JEROME
Mrs. Thaw, you have such strong
fortitude.

EVELYN
If you say so.

EDNA (SINGS)
*And some might say we're Wicked little
girls, With curves and kissers and
pearly whites. Better keep an eye on
your boys and lock 'em up tight,
tight, tight. Yeah.*

JEROME
I'd like to address the cheques,
(MORE)

JEROME (CONT'D)

written by Stanford White, made out to you. For the record, all cheques are dated from late 1901 to early 1903, after the alleged rape.

EVELYN

My mother handled all finances.

JEROME

And that is where the problem lies. You were not at the age of consent to be in a relationship with Stanford White without the intention of marriage.

DELMAS

Objection! There was no consensual, intimate relationship established.

JUDGE

Sustain. Careful, Mr. Jerome.

Jerome nods, acknowledging the warning.

JEROME

Where was your mother the night of the supposed rape?

EVELYN

Visiting family in Pittsburgh.

JEROME

And where is your mother now?

FLASH - PENTHOUSE SUITE-- Delmas and Mary watch as Evelyn sees Florence off on a trip. Servants carry her luggage out.

END INTERCUT

EVELYN

Traveling abroad.

JEROME

Conveniently avoiding culpable charges of prostituting her daughter by accepting cheques from Stanford White.

DELMAS

OBJECTION! Sir, you are a prosecutor, not a persecutor! If Mr. Jerome wants

(MORE)

DELMAS (CONT'D)
to question Florence Nesbit, he should
produce her as a witness!

JEROME
Clearly, I can't! She's unreachable.

DELMAS
Did you subpoena the
woman?... If you subpoenaed
her, she would return. It's
a simple procedure.

JEROME
It's very suspicious she
left just as this trial was
about to begin... And hold
the trial up for months.

JUDGE
(angrily bangs Gavel)
Order! Order! ORDER! This court will
not tolerate an outburst of this kind.

DELMAS
Your Honour, I made an objection.

JUDGE
OVERRULED!

Delmas sits. Jerome paces, then--

JEROME
Where did you meet John Barrymore?

EVELYN
Barrymore?! We were both in TOMMY ROT.

FLASHBACK - INT. THEATRE - BACKSTAGE WING

Evelyn and JOHN BARRYMORE (23)-- kiss in a dark corner.

SONG INTRO begins-- Evelyn makes her entrance just in time.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*I wish you gave me a reason, That you
were better at leavin'. That you got
your kicks from seein' me low. I
always let the good ones go.*

She blows Barrymore a kiss, watching from the wing.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Don't want your kisses, unless they're
bitter. I'm hooked on touches.*

FLASH - CENTRAL PARK LAKE - ROW-BOAT - They drink Champagne.

FLASH - RESTAURANT-- They have a romantic dinner.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*That leave me weaker. I swear that I
love nothin' more than broke. I always
let the good ones go.*

FLASH - BEDROOM-- Evelyn and Barrymore make passionate love.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*And baby, you couldn't have loved me
any better. But doin' this is all that
I've known ever.*

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)

*I want the bad ones, 'cause they're
all I know. I always let the good ones
go. I always let the good ones go-oo-
oo- I let the good ones go-oo-oo- I
let the good ones.*

FLASH - CENTRAL PARK-- CARRIAGE RIDE - Barrymore presents a WEDDING RING. Evelyn turns him down with a kiss on the cheek.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*Let you down easy, I'm tryin'. 'Cause
you're everything I've spent my whole
life fightin'.*

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)

*So when I walk away, it's not your
fault. I always let the good ones go.
And baby, you couldn't have loved me
any better, better, better. I let the
good ones go-oo-oo- But doin' this
is all that I've known ever, ever,
ever. I let the good ones go.*

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

EVELYN

It was a brief frolic.

JEROME

It's my understanding that that brief
frolic led to a pregnancy, and the
appendix surgery paid for by Mr. Thaw
(MORE)

JEROME (CONT'D)
was, in reality, an illegal abortion.

HARRY
(stands, angry)
That's outrageous!

Gasps. Judge bangs the Gavel. Delmas pulls Harry back down.

JUDGE
Council, advise your client to control himself... Please continue, Mrs. Thaw.

EVELYN
Your understanding is wrong, sir. I have never been pregnant. You shouldn't believe idle gossip.

FLASH - CLUB MARTINIQUE-- BERT ROLLS HIS EYES WITH DISBELIEF.

JEROME
I believed every word, and looked forward to meeting the woman who defies social norms.

EVELYN
I may agree with the socialists and suffragettes, but I'm not a lunatic. Even though social norms are changing now that the Gilded Age has slipped away, I still have to navigate the social rules of the day.

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - THEATRE STAGE - Evelyn sings--

EVELYN (SINGS)
I don't give a damn 'bout my bad reputation. You're living in the past, it's a new generation. A girl can do what she wants to do. And that's what I'm gonna do.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH: Evelyn in a Kimono on the Bear Skin rug.

JEROME
(holds up photograph)
You stated that Stanford White raped you the night after this photograph was taken by Rudolf Eickemeyer. How is that possible?

EVELYN (SINGS)

*I don't care what the gossips may say.
I don't care they can gammor all day.
If they dare try to get in my way.
They're aware I don't care what they
say.*

JEROME

According to Mr. Eickemeyer's records,
he photographed you on November 4th,
1901, therefore Stanford White raped
you on the night of November 5th.

EVELYN (SINGS)

*Either way I will do as I please. Come
what may if they're down on their
knees. Who can say if I'm doing it
wrong. For today I'm still here, I am
strong.*

INSERT - NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: MANHATTAN ELITE DANCE TILL DAWN.

JEROME

(holds up Newspaper)
And yet, Stanford White held a Dinner
Party, attended by many of Manhattan's
400, on November 5th. A Party that
went late into the evening, according
to the Society Columns on the 6th.

EVELYN

I can't imagine you reading the
Society Columns.

JEROME

Answer the question, please!

EVELYN

Was there a question in there?

Court laughs.

EVELYN (SINGS)

*I don't care what the trendies may do.
I don't care what they tell me is new.
It's so square, monkey see monkey do.
Let them stare, I'm enjoying the view.*

EVELYN

I'm certain those photographs were
taken at the end of October.

JEROME

Thank you. I would like to call Mr. Rudolf Eickemeyer to the Stand.

DELMAS

Objection! Testimony was regarding the night of the rape, not photographs.

JUDGE

Sustained.

EVELYN (SINGS)

I don't care what the people say. I will still carry on this way. Let them jeer, let them rant and rave. I'm still here if I misbehave. And I don't give a damn 'bout my bad reputation.

STANDING OVATION, THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE ECHOES off over--

COURTROOM-- Jerome is frustrated, annoyed.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: EVELYN LEADS A WILD STAGE LIFE.

INT. COURTROOM

ABRAHAM HUMMEL (50) period attire-- sits in the Stand.

JEROME

Sir, please state your name and occupation for the court.

HUMMEL

Abraham Hummel, Attorney at Law.

JEROME

In your own words, explain how you came to be acquainted with Mrs. Harry Thaw and Mr. Stanford White?

FLASHBACK - INT. HUMMEL'S OFFICE - DAY

AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPHS of ACTRESSES on the walls. Stanford walks in with Evelyn and shakes hands with Hummel.

HUMMEL VO

It was the summer of 1905.

STANFORD

May I introduce Evelyn Nesbit.

HUMMEL

I would know Miss Nesbit anywhere. How do you do? I'm a great admirer.

(indicates a chair)

How can I be of assistance?

Evelyn sits, explains the situation to Hummel (MOS).

HUMMEL VO

She told me that Harry Thaw had brutally whipped her because she refused to make an allegation of rape against Stanford White.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

HUMMEL (CONT'D)

I prepared an affidavit to that effect, which Mrs. Thaw signed.

Jerome hands Hummel a DOCUMENT.

JEROME

Is this the document?

HUMMEL

Yes. There's her signature.

DELMAS

Your Honour, evidence must be submitted as soon as it is known, so both parties may examine it.

JEROME

I became aware of the document this morning. You may examine it now.

Jerome hands Delmas the Document. Harry leans in to see it.

DELMAS

Your Honour, this is a photograph!

JUDGE

May I see the document?

Bailiff takes the Document from Delmas to the Judge. Harry looks at Evelyn. She shrugs, doesn't know what's going on.

JUDGE

Where is the original?

HUMMEL

Destroyed, burned at Mrs. Thaw's request. I photograph all legal documents, should the originals be damaged or destroyed.

JUDGE

That is not legal procedure. You are excused. Would Mrs. Harry Thaw please take the Stand.

Hummel leaves as Evelyn takes the Stand. Judge hands the Document to the Bailiff, indicates to show it to Evelyn.

JUDGE

Is that your signature at the bottom?

EVELYN

It appears to be, sir. This is the first time I've seen this.

JUDGE

Thank you, Mrs. Thaw. Since there is no way of authenticating a photograph of a document, I will not allow this into evidence. Any further questions for the witness?

JEROME

Yes, your Honour... After marrying, did you see Stanford White again?

EVELYN

Yes. He telephoned me about something important, a matter of life and death. He wouldn't tell me; I had to meet with him. I agreed.

FLASHBACK - INT. HOTEL SAVOY - DINING ROOM

The Maitre d' leads Evelyn through the busy restaurant.

EVELYN VO (CONT'D)

I met him at the Hotel Savoy.

Stanford stands, leans in to kiss her. She avoids the kiss. They sit.

STANFORD

It's wonderful to see you again.

EVELYN

What is a matter of life and death?

STANFORD

Right to the chase... I understand you've been to Europe with Harry Thaw.

EVELYN

What business is that of yours?

STANFORD

You mustn't be seen with a man who's a morphine addict.

EVELYN

And you know your drugs so well.

STANFORD

He's a Cad! Makes love to women, then moves on. You must have nothing to-

EVELYN

You need to leave us alone!

Stanford notices Evelyn's WEDDING RING.

STANFORD

I heard the gossip of your marriage into money.

EVELYN

As I've heard the gossip about you.

STANFORD

Do remember your condition!

EVELYN

My condition?!

STANFORD

You're a woman. Don't overstep your place.

Evelyn looks at Stanford sternly, then slowly stands.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

B-B-B-Big shot.

EVELYN

I'm late for the theatre. Good day.

Stanford watches Evelyn as she walks away.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*Well, you went uptown riding in your
 limousine.*

Evelyn walks out the Restaurant door onto--

THEATRE STAGE-- Evelyn sings a rock-n-roll Song.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*With your fine Park Avenue clothes.
 You had the Dom Pérignon in your hand,
 And a spoon up your nose.*

BOX SEAT-- Harry watches, proud, admiring his wife.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Well, it's no big sin to stick your
 two cents in, If you know when to
 leave it alone. But you went over the
 line. You couldn't see it was time to
 go home. No, no, no, no, no.*

BACK OF THEATRE-- Stanford stands, watches Evelyn, smiling.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*You had to be a big shot, didn't ya.
 You know what everything's about. You
 had to be a big shot, didn't ya. All
 your friends were so knocked out. You
 had to have the last word, last night.
 So much fun to be around. You had to
 have the white hot spotlight. You had
 to have the front page, bold type.*

Stanford notices Harry in his Box Seat, he scowls, leaves.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Before I put another notch in my
 lipstick case. You better make sure
 you put me in my place. Hit me with
 your best shot. C'mon, hit me with
 your best shot. Hit me with your best
 shot, Fire away.*

END FLASHBACK

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: EVELYN NESBIT A FATAL
 BEAUTY!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Through the WINDOW-- Park Bandstand. Rag-Time Band sings. Hummel sits in the Stand. Delmas approaches.

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)

Oh, baby, baby, ba-baby, baby, baby!

DELMAS

Mr. Hummel, isn't it true that you represented chorus girls in lawsuits against wealthy bachelors for breach of promise of marriage?

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)

Ah, push it. Push it good. Push it real good.

HUMMEL

I did represent a few women.

DELMAS

I'd say more than a few. And Stanford White was a defendant in one of those lawsuits filed by yourself.

HUMMEL

Yes.

DELMAS

Didn't Stanford White settled out of court to avoid public embarrassment?

HUMMEL

Yes.

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)

Push it good. Push it real good.

DELMAS

Kind of your specialty! You settle out of court for large sums of money, and you received half of the settlement.

HUMMEL

In all those cases-

DELMAS

That wasn't a question, sir. In Westchester, weren't you disbarred for attempting to bribe a County Judge?

HUMMEL
Suspended... Two months.

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)
Push it good. Push it real good.

DELMAS
Were you not publicly accused of
bribing a witness during the Dodge vs.
Dodge divorce case?

HUMMEL
(visibly uncomfortable)
Yes.

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)
Push it good. Push it real good.

DELMAS
How familiar are you with Mr. Jerome?

HUMMEL
I know him... professionally.

DELMAS
In January of 1905, were you not also
prosecuted for an indictment for
conspiracy and subornation of perjury?

HUMMEL
That is correct.

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)
Push it good. Push it real good.

The Judge indicates to a Police Officer to CLOSE the window.
The Song becomes muffled and fades as--

DELMAS
And who was the Prosecuting Attorney
for that case?

HUMMEL
Mr. Jerome.

DRAMATIC MUSIC INTRO. They glare at each other, then--

DELMAS
Your Honour, I put it to the court
that Mr. Hummel, a supposedly reliable
witness, stands to be permanently
(MORE)

DELMAS (CONT'D)
 disbarred and may face a prison term.
 The only credible statement made by
 the witness is his name! Thank you.

JEROME
 We need a new strategy. Dig deeper
 into Thaw and White's background.

INTERCUT--

DRESSING ROOM-- Evelyn stares at herself in the Mirror.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
Empty spaces, what are we living for.

STREET-- PRISON BLDG - Evelyn gets out a Hansom Cab.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*Abandoned places, I guess we know the
 score.*

INT. PRISON-- Evelyn and Harry talk through the bars (MOS).

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*On and on, Does anybody know what we
 are looking for?*

INT. CAB-- Evelyn looks out the window, lost in thought.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
Another hero, another mindless crime.

THEATRE STAGE-- BEHIND THE CURTAIN - Curtain rises, a full
 theatre. A Silhouetted Evelyn, created by the Spotlight--

EVELYN (SINGS)
Behind the curtain, in the pantomime.

SLOW SPIN AROUND revealing the Silhouette to be Evelyn.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Hold the line, Does anybody want to
 take it anymore? Show must go on. The
 show must go on, yeah.*

THEATRE STAGE-- STANDING OVATION - Evelyn bows, fake smile.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*Inside my heart is breaking. My makeup
 may be flaking, But my smile, still,
 (MORE)*

TWAIN

He covered up the Pie Party Scandal.
All New York knew about it.

EVELYN (SINGS)

The show must go on.

TWAIN

Paid off the police and newspapers.

EVELYN (SINGS)

The show must go on.

TWAIN

Except the NEW YORK JOURNAL, of
course. They can't be bought.

EVELYN (SINGS)

*I'll face it with a grin. I'm never
giving in.*

JEROME

Stanford White is not on trial!

EVELYN (SINGS)

On with the show.

TWAIN

He should have been!

EVELYN (SINGS)

I'll top the bill. I'll overkill.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: STANFORD WHITE A GODLESS
LIBERTINE.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

I have to find the will to carry on.

COURT RECESS - Jerome's Assistant rushes in, hands Jerome a
paper. Jerome reads--

JEROME

Married?!

EVELYN (SINGS)

*On with the- On with the- On with the
show.*

BAILIFF

The court calls Mr. Jonathan Gump.

COURTROOM-- JONATHAN GUMP (24), period attire, good looking-- sheepishly walks to the Stand. Harry glares as he passes.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
The show. Must. Go. On.

DOOR BELL RINGS--

HARRY'S PENTHOUSE - Bellows opens the door. TWO SINISTER MEN.

SINISTER MAN#1
Edward Bellows?

Bellows nods "Yes". They menacingly walk in, shut the door.

END INTERCUT

JEROME
Mr. Gump, how do you know Mr. Thaw?

JONATHAN
(almost inaudible)
I met Mr. Thaw-

JEROME
I understand you're nervous, sir, but you'll need to speak up.

JONATHAN
I met Mr. Thaw at Coney Island. Summer of 1900. I was 18.

FLASHBACK - EXT. CONEY ISLAND - DAY

BANDSTAND-- RAG-TIME BAND sing a fast, upbeat Song.

RAG-TIME BAND (SINGS)
*We were born. Born, born to be alive.
(Born to be alive) Yes, we were Born,
born, born. (Born to be alive)*

VARIOUS-- People swim, walk the Boardwalk, Cyclist, Buskers, Horse Races, Roller Coaster, Merry-Go-Round, Ferris Wheel, Roller-Skating Rink, Hot Dog/Ice-Cream/Cotton-Candy Vendors, Cafes, kids fly Kites, Sail Boats, Hot-Air Balloons above.

RAG-TIME BAND OS (SINGS)
*It's good to be alive. To be alive.
It's good to be alive, To be alive. To
be alive. It's good to be alive.*

ELEPHANTINE COLOSSUS, DREAMLAND TOWER and HOTELS loom in the background, as Harry walks along the beach, notices Jonathan.

HARRY

Fine physique, young man. You exercise?

JONATHAN

Na! Working on the docks, sir. It's just for now, though. I'm attending University in the fall. Engineering.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JONATHAN

We talked about university, my family back in Wyoming, different things. He then made a proposal.

BACK TO SCENE/CONEY ISLAND

HARRY

The country needs good engineers, especially now, the way industry is bursting out. Where are you living?

JONATHAN

A one room flat, with three buddies.

HARRY

Oh, you won't do well in school with those arrangements. I'm a bit of a philanthropist, you know. I've put a few young men through university. What would you say if I sponsored you? Live with me, and I'll pay all school fees. I'm sure your family would appreciate the arrangement.

JONATHAN

Yes, they would, sir. And in return?

HARRY

That you graduate with honours and become a fine engineer. Contribute to society. Reciprocate the favour by putting another young man through school one day.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JEROME

Did you take him up on his fine offer?

JONATHAN

Yes. My family and I struggled to pull together the school fees. I moved in with Mr. Thaw two days later. That night we had dinner. He suggested I take a hot bath, get a good night's sleep.

FLASHBACK - BEDROOM

Harry enters with a DRINK for Jonathan.

JONATHAN VO (CONT'D)

He gave me a nightcap to relax me.

LIVING ROOM

Harry plays "ISKIERECZKA" on the PIANO.

BATHROOM

Jonathan bathes, hears the PIANO. It drifts into a dark, dramatic Song. He lies back, the room spins, he drifts off.

EDNA VO (SINGS)

(distant, echo effect)

Sweet dreams. Are made of this. Who am I. To disagree.

THEATRE STAGE-- Edna sings with Dancers, an erotic Arabian Nights-type number with subtle, suggestive bondage.

EDNA (SINGS)

*I travel the world and the seven seas.
Everybody's looking for something.
Some of them want to use you. Some of
them want to be used by you. Some of
them want to abuse you. Some of them
want to be abused. Sweet dreams- Sweet
dreams- Sweet dreams- Sweet dreams.*

BATHROOM

Jonathan wakes, finds a COLLAR LOCKED around his neck. Confused, hears laughter, turns around--

Harry sits, wearing a full-length Kabuki-Type Robe, holding a leash to the collar. Jonathan yanks the leash. Harry thrashes him with a Horse Whip. Jonathan coils back.

HARRY

Out of the bath, let's have a good look at you.

Jonathan steps out of the bath, covering himself with his hands. Harry smiles, circling him, inspecting him.

HARRY

Ancient Romans had an interesting custom. Do you know what it was?

Jonathan terrified, shakes his head "No."

HARRY (CONT'D)

Young, wealthy men kept a concubinus before marrying. A male concubine, a male sex slave. I'm a young, wealthy, unwed man with needs, can't afford an unfortunate situation with a young woman. You get the idea, my dear, young Jonathan?

Harry is behind Jonathan. He jumps, startled.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Very nice ass. I will enjoy that.

Jonathan SPINS around, punches Harry. They FIGHT, STRUGGLE. A Revolver drops out of Harry's pocket. They both lunge for it. Harry is quicker, points the gun at Jonathan on the floor.

HARRY

Perfect position to start.

Harry ties the leash to a hook. His Robe drops, he's naked. He grips Jonathan by the hair with his free hand, puts the revolver to Jonathan's temple, pulls Jonathan towards him.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JONATHAN

What could I do? He tied me down in bed. Tied me down, did things to me, used me like a... a woman.

HARRY

LIAR! You're a damn liar!

JUDGE
Control your client, sir!

DELMAS
Jerome's playing our game now. He'll
make you seem SO insane, they'll lock
you away forever. Now calm down!

Jerome passes a glass of water to Jonathan, touching his arm.

JONATHAN
Don't touch me. Don't ever touch me!

Jerome backs away, as two Officers approach the Stand.

JEROME
No. Leave him be. Jonathan, it's ok.
Everything's ok. Here, drink some
water. Take a moment.

Jonathan takes the glass, and as he drinks, he begins to sob.
Jerome passes him a handkerchief, watches him, waits, then--

JEROME
How long did the ordeal last?

JONATHAN
Four days.

GASPS, COMMOTION. Judge bangs the Gavel. Evelyn, quickly
leaves, Caleb and Donnelly following.

Courtroom quiets down.

JEROME
How did you get away?

JONATHAN
I got him drunk, kept him talking.

FLASHBACK - INT. HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT

Jonathan, half dressed, tired, listens to a drunken Harry
talk (MOS). Harry staggers as he quickly leaves. Jonathan
tops up Harry's glass, notices a small, heavy FIGURINE.

MOMENTS LATER--

Harry staggers back, looks around for Jonathan. Jonathan hits
him from behind with the Figurine, knocking him out. Checks
his pockets for keys, doesn't find any. He leaves.

FRONT DOOR

Jonathan tries the door, it's locked. He goes to the window, looks out, it's a long drop, then goes out the window onto--

EXT. LEDGE - NIGHT

Jonathan shimmies along the ledge. He slips, terrified, pulls himself up, takes a deep breath, continues. Through a window, he sees Elevators, puts his fist through the glass-- CRASH!

INT. LOBBY

ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN-- Jonathan, bloodied, runs out towards the Lobby door. A commotion as Staff wrestle with him.

INT. POLICE STATION

Jonathan, upset, talks with Mary and the SAME TWO OFFICERS that spoke with Jerome outside the Courthouse.

JONATHAN VO

They questioned me for hours.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

His mother paid me ten thousand dollars to not press charges and never show my face in New York again. He's a monster. A fucking, brutal monster. He has to be stopped!

Murmuring. Judge bangs his GAVEL. Mary ignores the stares.

JEROME

Thank you, sir. Your witness.

DELMAS

Your Honour, at this time, I have no questions for the witness. Thank you.

HARRY

Go on! Make a liar of him.

In the background, Bailiff dismisses Jonathan (MOS) as--

DELMAS

I can't, Harry. It's all true, isn't it? Those two Officers are here, waiting to testify. Your valet,

(MORE)

DELMAS (CONT'D)
Bellows, has also been subpoenaed.

HARRY
Bellows won't be testifying.

JEROME
Your Honour, my next witness, Mr.
Edward Bellows, hasn't arrived.

DELMAS
What have you done, Harry?

They realize Jonathan stands at their table, staring. He
SPITS at Harry, quickly walks away, passing a Police Officer.

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - CLUB MARTINIQUE - Bert sings--

BERT (SINGS)
I read the news today, oh boy.

SUDDENLY, Jonathan spins around-- SLOW-MOTION-- He pulls the
Officer's GUN from the holster, rushes Harry, shooting at
him. Harry and Delmas take cover. Screams and chaos.

LOUD GUN SHOTS--

BERT VO (SINGS)
*About a lucky man who made the grade.
And though the news was rather sad.*

Police Officers try to subdue Jonathan.

BERT (SINGS)
*Well, I just had to laugh. I saw the
photograph.*

INSTRUMENTAL - FINAL BUILDING AVANT-GARDE, ATONAL CRESCENDO:

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: WITNESS TRIES TO SHOOT
THAW (includes photograph of the shooting).

- HARRY THAW A SODOMITE.

- THAW TRIAL TURNS VIOLENT.

Jonathan breaks free, sobbing, pointing the gun at anyone too
close. A calm comes over him; he looks around the courtroom.
SUDDENLY, he puts the GUN into his mouth.

GUN SHOT-- BLOOD SPURTS--

Jonathan drops down DEAD. Gasps and screams.

ENDING CRESCENDO - E MAJOR PIANO CHORD:

EXT. TWEED COURTHOUSE - STREET - LATER

Crowd watch Jonathan's covered body carried out. Jerome and Assistant follow. Photographers cameras FLASH- Protestors march. A MAGICIAN entertains kids. Newsboys sell papers.

Jerome watches Mary get into her PACKARD MODEL-S LIMOUSINE.

LIMOUSINE-- Mary sees the Two Sinister Men approaching. She glances around at all the Police--

SINISTER MAN

Ma'am, it's done. We had to-

MARY

Don't bore me with the details.
Driver, go! GO!

STREET-- As Jerome watches the Limousine drives off, a JOURNALIST approaches--

JOURNALIST

Sir, NEW YORK JOURNAL. Any comment?

A Police Officer hands him a NOTE, and leaves as--

JEROME

The flash of Harry Thaw's gun revealed an immoral abyss in which New York's wealthy elite get away with anything, including murder.

Jerome reads the Note, he isn't pleased.

JOURNALIST

Can I quote you, sir?

JEROME

Knock yourself out.
(aside to Assistant)
Edward Bellows is dead.

They quickly walk away passing the Minister--

MINISTER

For God will bring judgement on every hidden deed, good or evil.

INT. HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE - DAY

BRANDY POURS INTO THREE SNIFTERS--

Caleb passes a snifter to Evelyn, sitting, upset, confused. Bellows's covered body is carried out. An Officer approaches.

OFFICER

A heart attack in his sleep, maybe?
Coroner's report will tell us more.

EVELYN

In his sleep?!... Thank you.

Officer leaves. Evelyn paces as Caleb and Donnelly watch her.

EVELYN

This isn't right. Bellows was fine
this morning. He was to testify today.
Something's wrong... Did you know? Did
the two of you know about Harry?

Caleb and Donnelly look at each other confused.

EVELYN

Oh, stop! I've known about this
lavender marriage for some time now.
So did you two know that Harry-

DONNELLY

NO! We didn't. That's the truth.

She throws her Brandy back, holds out her snifter--

EVELYN

Pour me a double!

EXT. TWEED COURTHOUSE - STREET - MORNING

A crowd (modern attire) makes its way in. The Three Women--

WOMAN#1

This is better than
Broadway!

WOMAN#2

You never know what's going
to happen.

WOMAN#3

Oh, it's so crowded today.

WOMAN#2

I hope we get a good seat!

NEWSBOY#1

EXTRA! EXTRA! Witness
murdered!

NEWSBOY#2

Thaw's Valet found dead!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Mary Thaw sits in the Witness Stand. Jerome paces.

JEROME

"Horrible tantrums. Mad as a Hatter. Harmless lunatic." Statements you made describing your son.

MARY

I am unable to deny the facts that plainly point out that my son is in desperate need of treatment. That is Harry's story. Stanford's story is still to be told. Unfortunately, he can't be here to tell it, but
(glares at Evelyn)
there is one person here who can.

Jerome follows Mary's eye-line to Evelyn, realizes--

JEROME

Your Honour, I request that Mrs. Harry Thaw undergo a medical examination by a physician of the court's selection.

JUDGE

Will Counsel approach the Bench.

INTERCUT--

THEATRE DRESSING ROOM - Stage Manager burst in on Edna.

STAGE MANAGER

Evelyn's canceled again. You're on.

COURTROOM-- BENCH - Delmas and Jerome return to their seats--

JUDGE

Arrangements for the examination of Mrs. Harry K. Thaw shall be made.

GAVEL STRIKES THE SOUND BLOCK--

THEATRE STAGE-- Edna sings a song, steady, tempo builds.

EDNA (SINGS)

We're caught in a trap. I can't walk out, Because I love you too much, baby.

COURTROOM-- Mary watches Evelyn, smugly pleased with herself.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
*We can't go on together. With
 suspicious minds (suspicious minds).*

THEATRE STAGE

EDNA (SINGS)
*And we can't build our dreams. On
 suspicious minds.*

COURTROOM-- Harry looks back at Evelyn as he's taken away.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
*What you gonna do when things go
 wrong.*

THEATRE STAGE

EDNA (SINGS)
*What you gonna do when it all cracks
 up?*

COURTROOM-- Caleb and Donnelly look at each other, worried.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
*What you gonna do when the love burns
 down?*

Delmas turns and looks at Evelyn, concerned.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
*What you gonna do when the flames go
 up?*

STREET-- People buy newspapers from the Newsboys.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
Who is gonna come and turn the tide?

PRISON-- Evelyn and Harry talk, hold hands through the bars.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
*What's it gonna take to make a dream
 survive?*

THEATRE STAGE

EDNA (SINGS)
*Who's got the touch to calm the storm
 (MORE)*

EDNA (SINGS) (CONT'D)
inside?

OFFICE-- Doctor examines Evelyn. Photographer takes pictures.

EDNA VO (SINGS)
*Who's gonna save you? In the final
 seconds, who's gonna save you?*

CAMERA FLASH--

THEATRE STAGE

EDNA (SINGS)
*I need a hero. I'm holding out for a
 hero 'til the morning light. He's
 gotta be sure, and it's gotta be soon,
 And he's gotta be larger than life. I
 need a hero. I need a hero.*

END INTERCUT

COURTROOM-- Evelyn sits in the Stand, notices Jerome looking
 at the Ten Commandments on the wall. She glances up to--

INSERT - THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS.

JEROME
 Mrs. Thaw, do you understand the
 severity of perjury charges?

EVELYN
 I do.

JEROME
 Would you like to recant your
 testimony?

Evelyn glances at Harry, then to Mary. She nods "Yes".

JEROME
 The truth is never easy, is it, Mrs.
 Thaw?
 (no response)
 What really happened the night of the
 supposed rape?

INTERCUT--

STAGE DOOR-- Benjamin hands Evelyn a Note.

JEROME VO

There was no pretence of a dinner party, was there?

INSERT - NOTE: I MUST SEE YOU. I'VE SENT A CAB. STANFORD.

EVELYN

No. I wanted to see Stanford as much as he wanted to see me.

JEROME

I'll ask you again, were you in love with Stanford White?

STANFORD'S STUDIO-- Stanford and Evelyn passionately kiss.

EVELYN VO

Stanford was the first man I ever loved.

COURTROOM-- Gasps. Harry slams his fist down, angry. To cover up, Delmas knocks over a water glass. Judge bangs his Gavel.

DELMAS

Apologies, your Honour. I'm a little clumsy today.

Delmas cleans up with his handkerchief. Jerome turns back to Evelyn--

JEROME

You must be overwhelmed with grief?

EVELYN

Grief is complicated and personal.

JEROME

Are you still in love with Stanford?

STANFORD'S STUDIO-- Evelyn and Stanford make passionate love.

EVELYN

You never really stop loving your first, do you? The heart can be perverse.

Suddenly, in the back, the Minister JUMPS UP, Bible raised--

MINISTER

LUST NOT FOR THY NEIGHBOUR FOR THE WRATH OF THE LORD SHALL BE UPON YOU!

COMMOTION-- Judge bangs his Gavel. Police quickly escort the Minister out. Court quiets down. Jerome turns back to Evelyn.

JEROME

Was Stanford annoyed with your involvement with Harry Thaw?

FLASHBACK - INT. STANFORD'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

WINDOW-- Evelyn watches a BRIDE/GROOM (modern attire) outside the CHURCH across the street. Stanford closes the curtain.

STANFORD

Kitten, I'll always take care of you and your mother, but I absolutely refuse to marry or have children.

EVELYN

Then this has to end.

STANFORD

No, Evelyn!

EVELYN

Stanny, I'm 18, I'm starring on Broadway now, but that's all going to end. In 10 years, maybe 5 years, then what? This isn't working. We don't even spend holidays together. Not Christmas, not New Year's Eve. I need to think about my future.

STANFORD

This is your future. You and me.

INTERCUT-- STANFORD'S STUDIO - STREET - THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)

You and me, I can see us dying. Are we?

EVELYN

What this is is... Bullshit! We're bullshit. This is going to end, and I am going to marry Harry Thaw.

EVELYN (SINGS)

Don't speak, I know just what you're sayin'. So please stop explainin'. Don't tell me 'cause it hurts.

STANFORD

(takes hold of Evelyn)

Do you love him?

He searches her face for an answer, but doesn't find it, then kisses her. She tenderly touches his cheek and leaves.

EVELYN (SINGS)

*No, no, don't speak, I know what
you're thinkin'. And I don't need your
reasons. Don't tell me 'cause it
hurts. Don't tell me 'cause it hurts.*

STUDIO APARTMENT HALL LANDING-- Stanford watches Evelyn walk down the stairs and out the Front Door WITHOUT LOOKING BACK.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*Once I ran to you, Now, I run from
you. This tainted love you've given, I
give you all a girl could give you,
Take my tears and that's not nearly
all.*

EXT. DOOR-- Evelyn leans against the door, composes herself, wipes tears away, puts on her Sunglasses, and walks away.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*I'm outta love, set me free, And let
me out this misery. Just show me the
way to get my life again, 'Cause you
can't handle me.*

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)

*And I don't care if I sing off key. I
find myself in my melodies. I sing for
love, I sing for me. I shout it out
like a bird set free.*

STREET-- Evelyn watches a HAPPY COUPLE with a Baby Carriage.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

I want. Someone who loves me.

FLASH - FANTASY - Harry and Evelyn are the happy couple.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

I need. Someone who needs me.

Evelyn, smiles, watching the Couple, turns, and walks away.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

'Cause it don't feel right when it's late at night, And it's just me in my dreams. So I want- Someone to love, that's what I fuckin' want. I don't want to wait for my life to be over. I want to know right now what will it be. I don't want to wait for my life to be over. Will it be yes or will it be...

FLASH - The Peasant Woman outside Stanford's apartment.

THEATRE STAGE-- A backdrop of ST. ELMO'S FIRE PHENOMENON.

EVELYN (SINGS)

So my time is now. I'm coming alive. I can see a new horizon underneath the blazin' sky. I'll be where the eagle's flying higher and higher. Gonna be a girl in motion, all I need's this pair of heels. I can feel St. Elmo's fire burnin' in me. Burning. Burning in me.

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE--

INT. COURTROOM

EVELYN

Harry had already proposed once, so I took him more seriously and found myself falling in love with him.

JEROME

And your testimony regarding Paris?

EVELYN

I explained Stanford was a friend of my father who helped with my career.

JEROME

Did Harry believe you?

EVELYN

He did, but didn't like it. His mother then became a problem.

FLASHBACK - INT. THAW FAMILY MANSION - DAY

Evelyn admires a PAINTING: Mary (20's) with a younger woman. Mary walks in.

EVELYN

She's lovely. Who is she?

MARY

My sister. Catherine... My dear, what will it take to stop this imminent wedding from proceeding?

EVELYN

I love Harry.

MARY

I'm sure you've convinced yourself that you do. I propose a consideration. Ten thousand dollars, and you disappear.

EVELYN

I don't want your money.

MARY

Everybody wants my money. Harry won't tolerate your fondness for Stanford.

EVELYN

I ended it some time ago.

MARY

Harry won't tolerate any dalliances, he's peculiar that way. Believes women should be chased, has preconceived fantasies of virtue.

She realizes Mary doesn't know about Harry's secret desires.

EVELYN

Almost an obsession for him, isn't it?

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

JEROME

Why such a modest wedding?

EVELYN

Mary Thaw insisted on it.

INSERT - EXAMINATION PHOTOGRAPH - Scars on Evelyn's back.

JEROME

(holds up photograph)

Is this evidence of your husband's

(MORE)

JEROME (CONT'D)

love?

EVELYN

Harry was informed of the details of my relationship with Stanford.

INTERCUT-- CLUB MARTINIQUE - HARRY'S PENTHOUSE

BERT (SINGS)

Well, the story unfolds. With how she was raised to do what she's told. By a man! Who wrinkled her clothes, And folded her arms back, to beat out her soul.

FLASHES of violent arguing as Harry abuses Evelyn.

BERT VO (SINGS)

She had to love him 'cause the family loved him so. Never told them what he did, just let it go. But she was born to wear the bruises on her throat.

HARRY

He tricked you. Drugged you!

EVELYN

Harry calm down. You're acting crazy!

They continue to argue, Harry gets more aggressively violent.

BERT VO (SINGS)

Everyone's a secret, no-one lets you in. They only show you pieces, never skeletons.

DRESSER-- Harry pulls out his Horse Whip.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Why are you protecting him? Why?

EVELYN

Harry, you have to stop. Stop it!

Harry tears open the back of Evelyn's robe. She screams.

BERT VO (SINGS)

Everyone's a secret, no-one lets you in. They only show you pieces, never skeletons. Everyone's a secret.

He repeatedly whips her, yelling- "Tell me! Tell me! Tell me!", as her back becomes bloodied, she SCREAMS.

BERT (SINGS)

You can't hide the truth, it's on your face. Written in abuse you can't erase. You can't hide the truth, it's on your face. You can't hide the truth if you want change.

EVELYN

Yes, he drugged me. He made me do things, horrible things.

Harry throws the whip aside, takes Evelyn in his arms.

HARRY

I'm sorry, dear. I had to get you to admit the truth. He's a beast, a horrible beast. He'll pay for it, you'll see. The unwritten law allows me. It's easy to run into him; when it happens, you must tell me. I have to avenge your honour.

BERT (SINGS)

Only women bleed... Only women bleed... Only women bleed... Only women bleed... Only women bleed... Only women bleed... Only women bleed.

EVELYN

(crying)

Yes, Harry. I will. I will.

BERT (SINGS)

Only women bleed.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

EVELYN

After constant arguments and beatings, you'll admit to anything at three in the morning.

Jerome picks up the Photographed Document off his table.

JEROME

Your Honour, I realize you've ruled that this photographed document would not be allowed into evidence, but may I have Mrs. Thaw look at it again?

EVELYN

Your Honour, I made the confession.

JEROME

You requested that Mr. Hummel destroy it. Why? What changed?

FLASHBACK - INT. HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT

Harry sits reading a Newspaper as Evelyn lights a CIGAR.

HARRY

Darling, do you know a Mr. Abraham Hummel?

Evelyn is taken aback, hands him the cigar.

EVELYN

I met him once.

HARRY

He claims to be in possession of an incriminating document. He's implied that I would not want it published.

EVELYN

Has he shown you the document?

HARRY

No. He's implying you signed it. He's blackmailing me. He's asking for a large sum of money.

She casually puts a record on the Gramophone. Music begins--

HARRY (CONT'D)

My dear, if you tell me there's nothing to worry about, I'll have my lawyer and the police deal with it. I won't let a pettifogger threaten us.

EVELYN

Of course. I know of no document.

She walks to the door, opens it. Pause.

EVELYN

Do you love me?

HARRY

I do.

EVELYN

Are you happy?

HARRY

Yes.

EVELYN

Enjoy your paper.

Evelyn leaves, walks through the door and onto--

THEATRE STAGE-- Evelyn sings with a Chorus.

EVELYN (SINGS)

*I got my mind made up, man, I can't
let go. I'm killing every second 'til
it sees my soul (Woo) I'll be running
(woo), I'll be running, 'Til the love
runs out, 'til the love runs out. Just
like a monkey, I've been dancing my
whole life. Dance for me, dance for
me, dance for me, oh- I've never seen
anybody do the things you do before.
They say, Move for me, move for me,
move for me, ay-ay. And when you're
done, I'll make you do it all again.*

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

EVELYN

The next day, I went to Mr. Hummel's office. I didn't explain why; I simply told him to destroy it. I watched him burn it in a trash can in his office.

JEROME

If you wanted out of the marriage, surely that would have been the means.

EVELYN

Marriage is a social contract, which I take seriously. Once I made the confession Harry wanted to hear, everything was as it should be.

JEROME

Mrs. Thaw, you knew your association with Stanford White compromised your reputation.

EVELYN

Reputation is a false imposition, oft got without merit, lost without deserving.

JEROME

Imagine yourself as Desdemona.

EVELYN

Women are ostracized for their indiscretions, while men are rewarded.

JEROME

You married Harry Thaw to avoid scandal and poverty.

EVELYN

I did no such thing. I really do love Harry, more than I ever thought possible.

JEROME

But the abuse. Why stay?

EVELYN

Because I'm a woman. Treated inferior, financially dependent, with no rights. Makes me feel trapped... ashamed.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: EVELYN'S TESTIMONY A FABRICATED LIE!

LATER--

Court has adjourned. Jerome watches Evelyn watching Harry.

JEROME

She doesn't realize she's in over her head with the Thaws.

JEROME ASSISTANT

Why didn't you question her further?

JEROME

I'm not here to deal with blackmail, especially when it's my witness who's blackmailing the defendant.

JEROME ASSISTANT

You admire her?!

JEROME

I suppose I do. She has no idea the affect she has on men. It helped her to survive adversity and inequality.

JEROME ASSISTANT
She draws a good crowd!

JEROME
This crowd is a different matter,
watching like they're at a play.

JEROME ASSISTANT
They're just curious.

JEROME
They're insatiable vultures, feeding
on the misfortunes of others. Hungry
for an execution. Newspapers
exaggerate, sensationalize everything.

JEROME ASSISTANT
It's news. It's not good news, it's
not bad news, it's just news!

JEROME
We all should be singing and dancing!
It's entertainment! A media melodrama.
When this trial is done, they'll move
onto a new show!

As Harry is taken away, Evelyn notices HE DOESN'T LOOK BACK.

EVELYN (SINGS) VO
*Like fragments of a dream fallen
apart.*

INTERCUT--

CLUB MARTINIQUÉ-- STAGE - Evelyn sings a Ballad.

EVELYN (SINGS)
*I've lost the final pieces of my
fragile heart. I don't know how I'll
find myself but still I have to try,
Till I reach the ends of this rainbow
coloured sky. Sometimes you're happy,
And sometimes you're sad, But the
world goes round.*

STREET-- TIFFANY'S WINDOW - Evelyn looks at the display.
WINDOW REFLECTION - Harry and Evelyn, very happy, behind her
on the street. She turns around, no one is there.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*And sometimes you lose. Every nickel
(MORE)*

EVELYN VO (SINGS) (CONT'D)
*you had, But the world goes round.
 Sometimes your dreams get broken in
 pieces.*

FLASH - HARRY'S PENTHOUSE - BALCONY-- JULY 4TH FIREWORKS -
 Evelyn and Harry kiss.

FLASH - BETHESDA FOUNTAIN - SUMMER - They walk by.

TRANSITION INTO:

WINTER - They skate on a Rink around the Fountain.

FLASH - PENTHOUSE SUITE - CHRISTMAS PARTY - BALCONY WINDOW-
 Evelyn watches Caleb and Donnelly kiss, smiles.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*But that doesn't alter a thing. Take
 it from me, there's still gonna be, A
 summer, a winter, a fall and a spring.*

CLUB MARTINIQUE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*And sometimes a friend, Starts
 treating you bad. But the world goes
 round. And sometimes your heart breaks
 With a deafening sound.*

EDNA'S APARTMENT-- Edna brings tea, consoles Evelyn, crying.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*Somebody loses, somebody wins. One day
 it's kicks, Then it's kicks in the
 shins. But the planet spins.*

DINING ROOM-- Evelyn eats alone. PASS-BY EFFECT: Dinner party
 with Harry. PASS-BY EFFECT: She cries uncontrollably.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*And world goes round. This world can
 hurt you. It cuts you deep and leaves
 a scar. Things fall apart, but nothing
 breaks like a heart.*

CLUB MARTINIQUE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*And the planet spins. And the world
 goes round. And round and round and
 (MORE)*

EVELYN (SINGS) (CONT'D)
*round and round. The world goes round,
 and round, and round, and round.*

LATER--

Evelyn, Caleb and Donnelly leave. Two Men confront Evelyn--

MAN#1
 Jezebel! Playing men for their money.

MAN#2
 You're a liar!

Caleb and Donnelly quickly usher Evelyn away.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Evelyn sits in the Witness Stand.

JEROME
 Did Mary Thaw make a monetary offer to
 repeat the false story Harry Thaw beat
 you into admitting?

Evelyn glances at Mary, then Delmas and Harry, back to Mary.

EVELYN
 Are you in a position to guarantee my
 protection?

JEROME
 Why would you need protection? Has a
 threat been made?

Evelyn glances around again, distressed.

JEROME
 I withdraw the question. Thank you. I
 call Mr. Josiah Thaw to the Stand.

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - THEATRE STAGE - Edna wears a Wedding
 Dress, sings with a GROOM and a Chorus of BRIDESMAIDS.

GROOM (SINGS)
*Today is for Amy. I give you the rest
 of my life. To cherish and to keep
 you. To honour you forever. Today is
 for Amy. My, happily, soon-to-be wife.*

JOSIAH THAW (32)-- sits in the Witness Stand.

JEROME

Were you not your brother's Best Man at a previous wedding?

JOSIAH

Yes. He was to marry Isadora Duncan.

EDNA (SINGS)

Pardon me, is everybody here? Because if everybody's here, I'd like to thank you all, For coming to the wedding. I'd appreciate you going even more. I mean, you must have lots of better things to do, And not a word of it to Paul. Remember Paul? You know, the man I'm going to marry, But I'm not, because I wouldn't ruin anything, As wonderful as he is. Thank you all for the gifts and the flowers, Thank you all, now it's back to the showers. Don't tell Paul, but I'm not getting married today.

JOSIAH

She stood him up at the altar, jilted. Sailed for Europe the day before.

GROOM

Darling, have you seen my cufflinks?

EDNA

On the table, beside my suicide note.

(SINGS)

Listen everybody, look, I don't know what you're waiting for. What's a wedding? It's a prehistoric ritual. Where everybody promises fidelity forever, Which is maybe the most horrifying word I ever heard of, Which is followed by a honeymoon, where suddenly he'll realize, He's saddled with a nut, and want to kill me, which he should. Thanks a bunch, but I'm not getting married. Go have lunch, 'cause I'm not getting married. You've been grand, but I'm not getting married. Don't just stand there, I'm not getting married. And don't tell Paul, but I'm not getting married today.

JEROME

What prompted Miss Duncan's sudden departure for Europe the day before her wedding without Harry's knowledge?

JOSIAH

I believe she became aware of my brother's, um...

EDNA/GROOM/CHORUS (SINGS)

Look, I didn't want to have to tell you, (Today is for Amy) But I may be coming down with hepatitis (my, happily, soon to be wife). I think I'm gonna faint. So if you wanna see me faint, I'll do it happily. But wouldn't it be funnier to go and watch a funeral? (My adorable wife). So thank you for the 27 dinner plates. 37 butter knives, 47 paperweights, 57 candleholders. And I'm not getting married. (Amen) But I'm not getting married. (Amen) See, I'm not getting married. (Amen) Still, I'm not getting married. (Amen) Let us pray, I'm not getting married. (Amen) Today.

END INTERCUT

JEROME

His sadomasochistic tendencies. And she bolted. How did Harry react?

JOSIAH

It was a big wedding. St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was humiliated in front of all New York. He attempted suicide.

JEROME

Why such a lavish wedding for Miss Duncan but not Miss Nesbit?

JOSIAH

Honestly, I don't know.

LATER--

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - CLUB MARTINIQUE - Bert and Edna sing.

Bailiff swears Clare in (MOS). As Evelyn listens to Clare's testimony, distorted memories FLASH.

EDNA (SINGS)
*Carnivals and cotton candy, Carousels
 and calliopes. Fortune-tellers in
 glass cases. We will always remember
 these.*

FLASH - CENTRAL PARK CAROUSEL-- Evelyn and Harry ride.

JEROME
 Mrs. Girard, please state your
 relationship with Stanford White?

CLARE
 Stanford White was my uncle.

JEROME
 You're the niece Stanford White made
 the swing for?

CLARE
 Yes. He liked to indulge me.

BERT (SINGS)
*Merry-go-rounds quickly turning.
 Quickly turning for you and me. And
 the whole world madly turning,
 Turning, turning 'till you can't see.*

JEROME
 Do you know the cause of the animosity
 between your uncle and Mr. Thaw?

CLARE
 Many of the private Clubs declined Mr.
 Thaw's bid for membership years ago.

FLASH - EXT. UNION CLUB-- Stanford watches with disdain as
 Harry laughs, riding a horse up the stairs, into the Club. An
 Organ Grinder w/Monkey works the street in the background.

CLARE
 Harry Thaw assumed my uncle was behind
 the rejections, but the Clubs thought
 his behaviour unbecoming a gentleman.
 Another incident involved a party held
 by Harry. The girls booked never
 showed. Embarrassed, Harry blamed my
 uncle. Both my uncle and Harry were
 stubborn and arrogant with bad
 tempers, which led to many incidents.

BERT/EDNA (SINGS)

*We're on a ferris wheel. A crazy
ferris wheel. A wheel within a wheel
And suddenly we feel, The stars begin
to reel. And down again around.*

CLARE

I met Evelyn at my uncle's studio. We became very good friends.

JEROME

I understand Evelyn called on you sometime during the trial.

CLARE

Yes. She was quite agitated. She told me about a meeting with Mary Thaw.

FLASHBACK - INT. THAW FAMILY MANSION - DAY

A BUNDLE OF MONEY is tossed onto a table.

EVELYN

Stanford didn't rape me.

MARY

But Harry believes it wholeheartedly. You tell the same story on the Stand, and Harry gets an acquittal due to insanity.

EVELYN

Shall I break down in tears as well?

MARY

You're all that stands between my son and the electric chair. See to it that he stays alive.

BACK TO INTERCUT-- CLUB MARTINIQUE - COURTROOM

CLARE

Then Edward Bellows died suspiciously.

JEROME

That has not yet been determined.

CLARE

Well, it scared her. Should anything happen to her, I was to go to the police.

FLASH - MASQUERADE BALL-- Evelyn and Harry dance, as the Song builds faster and faster.

BERT (SINGS)
*Carnivals and cotton candy.
 Carousels and calliopes.
 Crazy clowns chasing brass
 rings. Soda pop and rock-
 candy trees.*

EDNA (SINGS)
*Carnivals and cotton candy.
 Carousels and calliopes.
 Fortune-tellers in glass
 cases, We will always
 remember these.*

CLARE
 And should Harry Thaw be committed to
 an institution, Mary Thaw will
 eventually get him released, which
 brings us to Evelyn's second problem.

FLASH - PRISON-- Harry has hold of Evelyn through the bars.

HARRY
 You love him! You love Stanford White!
 You realize I have to kill you now.

FLASH - CENTRAL PARK CAROUSEL-- Evelyn and Harry ride.

BERT/EDNA (SINGS)
*Carnivals and cotton candy, Carousels
 and calliopes. Kewpie-dolls with
 painted faces. Tricky shell games and
 missing peas.*

FLASH - Evelyn and Stanford make love. Stanford turns into Barrymore. Barrymore turns into Harry.

JEROME
 Did you ever discuss Harry and Evelyn
 with your uncle?

FLASHBACK - INT. STANFORD'S STUDIO APARTMENT

CLARE
 It's really sweet the way they love
 each other.

STANFORD
 It won't last. I'll get her back.

BACK TO INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - THEATRE STAGE

CLARE
 Evelyn did the right thing. My uncle
 was monogamously challenged!

JEROME

Especially since he already had a wife
and son on Long Island.

Murmuring. Clare is taken aback, composes herself, then--

CLARE

Being Catholic, and unable to divorce,
they had an arrangement, an agreement.
It didn't concern me.

JEROME

Clearly, it didn't. You couldn't even
inform your 'good friend' that your
uncle was a married man.

Clare glances at Evelyn, embarrassed.

CLARE

Truth be told, Harry did my uncle a
favour.

BERT/EDNA VO (SINGS)

*So high above the ground. We feel
we've got to yell. La- la- la- la- la.*

CLARE

Smoking, drinking, drugs. His reckless
lifestyle caught up to him. Cancer! He
was in a lot of pain. Doctors gave him
less than ten months. Harry Thaw
murdered a dying man!

Evelyn slowly stands, as "A DYING MAN" echoes in her ears.

BERT/EDNA (SINGS)

La- la- la- la- la- la- la- LA!

The Singing abruptly STOPS. Evelyn FAINTS.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: WHITE WAS DYING OF CANCER.

COURTROOM - LATER

Mary sits in the Witness Stand.

JEROME

You heard Mrs. Girard's testimony.
Anything to add?

MARY

No. Evelyn has been lying since she first took the stand.

JEROME

She has nothing to fear?

MARY

Only that her lies catch up to her.

JEROME

Do you deny such a meeting took place?

MARY

Absolutely. No, it did not take place.

JEROME

You didn't pay her any money?

MARY

No.

JEROME

Did you tell your son about Evelyn's previous relationship with Stanford?

MARY

Evelyn told me she ended the relationship, then some time later.

FLASHBACK - INT. HOTEL SAVOY - DINING ROOM

Mary has lunch with friends, notices Stanford and Evelyn.

MARY VO (CONT'D)

There she was. Sitting with him in the Savoy.

BACK TO SCENE/COURTROOM

MARY (CONT'D)

They left together. I won't let anyone make a fool out of a family member. Thaw is a respectable name!

JEROME

Mrs. Thaw, is it deception and revenge that govern your life?

MARY

What are you talking about?

JEROME

Catherine. Your younger sister.

MARY

Catherine died a long time ago.

JEROME

After a brief relationship with Stanford White, Catherine found herself with child.

MARY

He should have married her.

JEROME

She then desperately attempted to abort the fetus herself, putting her life at risk. Your father claimed it (presents a Document) was a suicide attempt and with Dr. Wiley's help, confined her to an asylum. There's the signatures.

MARY

My father was a monster. He left her there to die. Never spoke of her again.

JEROME

Because Thaw is a respectable name.

MARY

(upset)

Stanford was a monster. A Monster! I won't abandon Harry in an asylum. I won't do it. No. Never! I can't.

JEROME

Thank you... I would like to call Mrs. Evelyn Thaw back to the Stand.

Mary leaves the Stand, upset, sees Evelyn approaching.

MARY

YOU! It's all because of you!

Officers quickly usher Mary away as Evelyn takes the Stand.

EVELYN

That meeting at the Savoy was after Harry beat me. Stanford took me to Mr.

(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)
 Hummel's office. She obviously told
 Harry about our relationship much
 earlier.

JEROME
 Thank you... Just one last question.
 Do you believe your husband is insane?

INTERCUT-- COURTROOM - CLUB MARTINIQUE - THEATRE STAGE - Bert
 and Evelyn sing a slow building, dark, dramatic Reprise.

BERT (SINGS)
Welcome to your life.

EVELYN
 I... I don't know. Most of the time,
 he's gentle, sweet, loving; that's the
 man I fell in love with.

EVELYN (SINGS)
There's no turning back.

EVELYN
 But his obsessions and when they... If
 there's a difference between obsession
 and insanity, it's not clear to me.

BERT (SINGS)
Even while we sleep.

STREET-- Caleb and Donnelly push her through a swarming crowd.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
We will find you.

DRESSING ROOM-- Evelyn applies make-up, looks in the Mirror.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)
*It's my own design. It's my own
 remorse.*

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)
*Help me to decide. Help me make the
 most- Of freedom and of pleasure.
 Nothing ever lasts forever. Everybody
 wants to rule the world.*

INTERCUT-- CLUB MARTINIQUE - THEATRE STAGE

BERT/EVELYN (SING)

*There's a room where the light won't
find you. Holding hands while the
walls come tumbling down. When they
do, I'll be right behind you.*

THEATRE STAGE

EVELYN (SINGS)

*I can't stand this indecision. Married
with a lack of vision. Everybody-*

Evelyn is HIT with a TOMATO, the juice runs down her face.

MAN IN AUDIENCE

Go home, Gold Digger!

BACKSTAGE - LATER - Evelyn looks at a mirror, wipes her face.

STAGE MANAGER

Are you alright?

She nods "Yes".

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Evelyn, the Producers instructed me to
inform you of their decision. This is
your last night. I'm really sorry.

Stunned, she watches him walk away.

DELMAS VO

Gentlemen of the Jury.

COURTROOM - Delmas address the Jury

DELMAS

Harry Thaw did kill Stanford White,
but he did not know the act was wrong.
He was acting under the delusion of
the unwritten Law of Honour.

BERT VO (SINGS)

*So glad we've almost made it. So sad
they had to fade it.*

DELMAS

If you desire a name for this type of
insanity, call it Dementia Americana.

(MORE)

DELMAS (CONT'D)

As we all know, the doctrine of insanity is accepted everywhere. So, therefore; Can one be found guilty because they suffer from Dementia America?

Jerome gives his final summation.

JEROME

Dementia Americana? The unwritten Law of Honour. This is 20th Century America, not 18th Century France.

BERT VO (SINGS)

Everybody wants to rule the world.

JEROME

Will you acquit a cold-blooded killer because his wife has a pretty face?

SUPER: CLOCK - TIME-LAPSE - Hands quickly spin over--

BERT (SINGS)

Say that you'll never never never need it. One headline, why believe it?

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH: DELMAS, HIS WIFE, AND DAUGHTER.

FLASH - COURTROOM-- Delmas sits, forlornly looking at the photo. Jerome watches Protestors outside from the Window.

FLASH - COURT HOLDING ROOM-- Harry paces.

FLASH - ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL-- Mary sits, cries, looking at a picture of Catherine in her Locket.

FLASH - STANFORD'S HEADSTONE-- Evelyn places a single Rose, kisses her fingers and touches the Headstone.

BERT (SINGS)

Everybody wants to rule. The world.

END INTERCUT

COURTROOM - Harry and Delmas stand. Jury Foreman stands.

JURY FOREMAN

We find the defendant not guilty by reason of insanity.

JUDGE

The court finds Harry K. Thaw, not criminally responsible by reason of insanity. Based on testimony, evidence posed, and recent events during these proceedings, the court finds Harry K. Thaw to be a danger to the public, and to himself. It's the court's duty that Harry K. Thaw be committed to the Matteawan State Asylum for the duration of his life.

JEROME

Unfortunately, with all the lies, we'll never really know the truth.

JEROME ASSISTANT

And he'll buy his freedom soon enough. Do suppose he really is crazy?

JEROME

A man who would sell his soul for revenge over a crime that didn't really happen just might be.

SUPER: SPINNING NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: HARRY THAW NOT GUILTY.
- JUSTIFIABLE ACT OF INSANE MAN.

INT. COURT HOLDING ROOM - LATER

Evelyn walks in, hugs Harry. He looks at her lovingly--

HARRY

Every man kills the thing he loves most.

(Evelyn is confused)

My life with you, my dear. Sign the papers. Divorce me. I'm not good for you.

Evelyn watches as Officers escort Harry out the room.

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*When this all began, I knew there'd be
a price to pay. Too late now to turn
away. I have come too far.*

INTERCUT-- CLUB MARTINIQUE-- Bert sings as high-lights of Evelyn's life and romances FLASH.

BERT (SINGS)

*But tell me, did the wind sweep you
off your feet? Did you finally get the
chance to dance along the light of
day. And head back toward the Milky
Way? And tell me, did you sail across
the sun? Did you make it to the Milky
Way to see the lights all faded, And
that Heaven is overrated? And tell me,
did you fall for a shooting star? One
without a permanent scar, and are you
lonely looking for yourself out there?*

END INTERCUT

EVELYN VO (SINGS)

*When this all began, I knew there'd
be. A price.*

INT. COURTROOM - LOBBY

Caleb and Donnelly escort Evelyn out, and run into Jerome.

EVELYN

You don't approve of me?

JEROME

On the contrary, I find you a
remarkable woman. One never really
considers the injustice women
experience.

EVELYN

Women are accustomed to injustice.

Jerome nods. Evelyn puts on her sunglasses as they leave.

EXT. TWEED COURTHOUSE - STREET

Reporters surround Evelyn. Cameras FLASH- FLASH- FLASH- An
ANGRY MAN, grabs Caleb, pulls out a GUN--

ANGRY MAN

You stole my life savings from me.

GUN SHOT--

SCREAMS, CHAOS-- Crowd scatters. Donnelly runs away. Police
detain the Angry Man. Caleb, injured, staggers out onto the
traffic. A Hansom Cab rushes by, TRAMPLING him-- DEAD.

BREWBAKER (40)-- leads Evelyn through the crowd to a Cab.

BREWBAKER

Out of the way. Move! Come on, move!

INT. HANSOM CAB

BREWBAKER

You alright? Brewbaker's the name.
I'll get you home, there'll be
reporters, and photographers. Agents
will offer a season to get their ten
percent. You belong with Brewbaker.
Vaudeville! That's where the money is.

EVELYN

Tell the Driver to stop. I want out.

BREWBAKER

Hey, easy! It's four quick
sets a day.

EVELYN

Stop! Driver stop! Let me
out. Stop!

BREWBAKER (CONT'D)

Look, you're gonna need the money.
Don't bank on Mary Thaw, she'll write
you off as sure as the sun sets.

The Hansom Cab stops. Evelyn jumps out and runs away.

SUPER: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: THAW TRIAL ENDS WITH MURDER.

INT. HARRY'S PENTHOUSE SUITE - LATER

Staff move luggage out. Mary looks around as Evelyn walks in.

EVELYN

Mr. Caleb is dead.

MARY

Good! He and Mr. Donnelly have been
using Harry as a meal-ticket for
years. I've packed Harry's things. I
left an envelope on the table. Evelyn,
I know we had an arrangement-

Evelyn places a Laudanum bottle on the table.

EVELYN

I was trying to protect my husband.
I've been carrying that since the
arrest. If they found that on him...

(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Harry's in an institution, that's what you wanted!

Evelyn opens the envelope, looks at the letter and a cheque.

MARY

Harry thought you might need money.

EVELYN

Did he? Why didn't he sign it?

MARY

I have to sign all cheques now.

Evelyn crumples the cheque, tosses it on the table.

MARY

Take it. It's what you wanted all along.

EVELYN

You don't know what anybody wants. All you see is what you want and how much it will cost. You and Stanford just couldn't leave us alone!

MARY

Silly girl! You were just a pawn. Mr. Delmas wanted your testimony of rape, knowing Mr. Jerome would break you and get to the truth! Ultimately, Harry's obsession with Stanford, along with your and Jonathan Gump's testimony, led to an insanity verdict. The outcome with Jonathan Gump was unfortunate. All that really mattered was saving Harry from the electric chair.

Evelyn is stunned, appalled, taken aback, then slowly smiles.

EVELYN

Do you know a Mr. Brewbaker? Owns a Vaudeville Theatre.

MARY

Brewbaker?! Certainly not.

EVELYN

He knows you extremely well. The wrong
(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Thaw is in the asylum. Good-bye!

She walks out, leaving Mary stunned.

INT. BREWBAKER THEATRE

STAGE-- A Couple Act sing an upbeat Duet.

WOMAN (SINGS)
*Spirits move me, every time I'm near
you. Whirling like a cyclone in my
mind.*

MAN (SINGS)
*You're my lifeline, angel of my
lifetime. Answers to all answers I can
find.*

WOMAN/MAN (SINGS)
*Baby, I want you. Come, come, come
into my arms. Let me feel the wonder
of all of you. Could it be magic. Now,
now, now, and hold on fast. Could this
be the magic at last.*

ACT ENDS - APPLAUSE-- They bow as curtains close. Brewbaker wearing Tails/Top Hat, walks out--

BREWBAKER
Ladies and Gentleman!

INTERCUT-- BREWBAKER THEATRE - CLUB MARTINIQUE - Bert sings.

BERT (SINGS)
*Now they're planning the crime of the
century. Well, what will it be?*

BREWBAKER
You've watched her on Broadway. Read
about her in the papers.

BERT (SINGS)
*Read all about their schemes and
adventuring. Yes, it's well worth a
fee.*

BREWBAKER
The woman who left one man pushing up
daisies, and another man in an asylum.
The most famous Gibson Girl of all.

BERT (SINGS)

So roll up and see. How they rape the universe. How they've gone from bad to worse.

BREWBAKER

The girl on the red velvet swing.
EVELYN NESBIT!

CURTAINS OPEN. Evelyn swings out over the audience on a giant RED VELVET SWING, a fake smile, sad, tearful eyes.

BERT (SINGS)

Who are these men of lust, greed and glory? Rip off the mask, let's see.

AUDIENCE point, ridicule, laugh, throw popcorn at Evelyn.

BERT (SINGS)

But that's not right. Oh, no, what's the story? For there's you and there's me.

(spoken)

That can't be?!

Slowly move past the Audience watching Evelyn, through the Theatre Doors, Lobby, Front Doors onto the street. People walk by, past Suffragettes marching with placards: VOTES FOR WOMEN, to the Newsboys selling papers in front of a CINEMA.

NEWSBOY#1

Serial Killer caught in Connecticut!

NEWSBOY#2

Connecticut shocked by murders!

Newsboys hold up papers, Headline: AMY ARCHER-GILLIGAN KILLS FIVE PEOPLE. People quickly buy a paper, hurry away.

Jerome watches. He looks at an ELECTRONIC STORE WINDOW-TELEVISIONS- Anchors report News stories (MOS), LOWER THIRDS-

- CEO CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT NOT GUILTY.
- MAN CHARGED WITH RAPING 9 WOMEN.
- DRUGS GO MISSING FROM MILLION DOLLAR DRUG BUST.
- HOMOPHOBE BOMBS GAY BAR - 27 KILLED.
- GROCERIES AND ELECTRICITY PRICES SKYROCKET.

He looks at a row of NEWSPAPER BOXES with HEADLINES--

- DISCRIMINATING BIGOT WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.
- RIOTS AFTER BLACK MAN MURDERED BY POLICE.
- POLITICIAN INVOLVED WITH SEX-TRAFFICKING.
- ABORTION LAWS OVERTURNED.
- STUDENT MURDERS CLASSMATES WITH SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE.
- FILM PRODUCER CHARGED WITH SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

He looks up to the CINEMA MARQUEE: THE UNWRITTEN LAW, disappointed, he walks away, getting lost in the crowd.

NEWSBOY#1 OS
EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!

LONG SLOW FADE:

END CREDITS ROLL--

EPILOGUE - INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Architect explains an ARCHITECTURAL MODEL to a Committee.

CHYRON: MIAMI CITY HALL - 1937

Harry (66)-- studies the Model, disappointed, unimpressed.

HARRY
(sarcastic)
My God! I shot the wrong architect!

END CREDITS continue--

MALE PERFORMER VO (SINGS)
EXTRA! EXTRA! Get your paper. See them advertise the latest rage, the kiddies have their comic page and here's the latest movie in town. There's no one this paper wouldn't please, cause every column guarantees a smile, a tear, a laugh or a frown. From every walk of our society, variety, from comedy to tragedy. Just turn the page and see. Get your paper. I'm here to shout it. Read all about it. EXTRA! EXTRA! Get your paper.

THE END