

Autumn of Terror

By

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Based on the curious case of Jack the Ripper

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

We see a narrow cobbled street, a gas lamp is glowing in the distance. POLLY NICHOLS, a 43-year old heavy woman of the lowest of classes is walking down the street. She is wearing a brown Linsey frock and a gray wool skirt with a black bonnet on her head and a shawl wrapped around her shoulders, she looks cold.

Suddenly FOOTSTEPS is heard behind her. It is JACK.

She stops in front of a wooden gate.

Jack speaks.

JACK (O.S)
'ello miss...

She turns around, a knife flashes and she screams as the screen goes black.

Titles begin.

CUT TO:

2 INT. - COACH - MORNING

We see 1st CLASS INSPECTOR FREDERICK ABBERLINE, a chubby 45-year old man with a large mustache and bushy whiskers wearing a brown suit and tie with a bowler hat on his head, sitting in the seat of a Victorian carriage, looking out the window.

We see through his eyes a bunch of people crowded outside a lodging house with open doors, we hear the voice of a MAN inside of the doors.

MAN
Full!...

The man slams the doors shut.

Our attention is drawn to some ragged clothed CHILDREN picking up apple snufkins of the muddy street and putting them in their mouths.

The coach stops, Abberline wakes up from his daydreaming. The COAHMAN speaks.

(CONTINUED)

COACHMAN (O.S)

Here we are sir!

3 EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Abberline steps down from the coach. He is greeted by the morgue supervisor wearing a simple suit and tie.

The coach drives off.

MORGUE SUPERVISOR

Welcome to the abbys inspector
Abberline...

ABBERLINE

(Taking his hand)

How do you do?

They go in.

4 INT. - AUTOPSY ROOM - DAY

We see a small, kinda dark shed of an autopsy room which doesn't look as clean as it should. The body of Polly Nichols is lying on the table with a white bloodstained sheet up to her neck. DR. LLEWELLYN, a 38-year old man with a full beard, wearing a black waistcoat and tie under a leather apron is standing over a bowl washing the blood from his hands. He hears the door and sees Abberline and the morgue supervisor enter.

MORGUE SUPERVISOR

This is doctor Rees Ralph
Llewellyn, Inspector Abberline, our
local surgeon! Dr. Llewellyn, 1st
class Inspector Frederick Abberline
of Scotland Yard!

Dr. Llewellyn approaches Abberline with his hand out.

DR. LLEWELLYN

Ah! Inspector!

ABBERLINE

(Taking his hand, with some
hesitation)

...Doctor... is this the body?

The morgue supervisor walks out the door.

DR. LLEWELLYN

(Turning to the body)

Ah! Yes it is... poor, poor
woman...

(CONTINUED)

Dr. Llewellyn picks up a piece of paper and prepares to read out loud.

At the same time Abberline takes out a notebook and a pen and gets ready to take notes.

DR. LLEWELLYN (cont'd)
Her throat is cut from ear to ear,
left to right... there is actually
two cuts.

ABBERLINE
Two?

DR. LLEWELLYN
Yes, two...the first is running
from a point immediately below the
jaw and is about four inches in
length... the other is about one
inch below the first one. It is a
circular incision...

Abberline looks a bit disgusted.

DR. LLEWELLYN (CONT'D)
it commences one inch in front of
the first one... it terminates
about three inches below the right
jaw... this incision completely
severed all tissue down to the
vertebrae... the large vessels of
the neck on both sides are
severed... the incision is about
eight inches in length...

ABBERLINE
And the marks on the face?

DR. LLEWELLYN
(Closing in on the face)
Yes... these are bruises... they
could be caused by a blow from a
fist or pressure from a thumb....
there is also a small circular
bruise on the left side of the
face... which could also be caused
by pressure of the fingers... The
killer probably used his free hand
to keep the head steady while
cutting the throat, causing the
bruises.

ABBERLINE

Is there anything else?

DR. LLEWELLYN

Yes it looks as though he's tried to cut open the abdomen, other than that he did nothing more... she is missing five teeth and there are some laceration of the tongue, but her throat is cut so it's a result of the asphyxiation ... A murder of a prostitute in this part of the East End is not that unusual
inspector

Dr. Llewellyn starts packing his autopsy instruments in a black Gladstone bag which is at a different table. Abberline has his eyes fixed on the body.

DR. LLEWELLYN (cont'd)

... I have to go examine a baby I delivered this morning if there is nothing more I can help you with?

Abberline still has his eyes fixed on the body. He isn't listening to what Dr. Llewellyn is saying

DR. LLEWELLYN (CONT'D)

Well, good day inspector!

Dr Llewellyn puts on a black cutaway and top hat.

ABBERLINE

Good day doctor!... doctor! One more thing...

DR. LLEWELLYN

Yes?

ABBERLINE

How much blood did you find at the scene?

DR. LLEWELLYN

I don't know, about a wineglass full I think...

ABBERLINE

Thank you doctor, that's all.

Dr Llewellyn walks out the door leaving Abberline with the body.

Abberline looks at the body with pity.

5 INT. - WHITECHAPEL POLICE STATION - DAY

We see a reception-like room with a desk and an open fire. A young BOBBY sits at the desk sleeping. Abberline enters and walks up to him.

ABBERLINE

Oy!

BOBBY

(Wakes up)

Huh?... who are you?!

ABBERLINE

I'm chief-inspector Frederick
Abberline, I'm looking for
inspector Reid.

BOBBY

(Standing up, fixing his
clothes)

Yes sir! This way sir.

The bobby shows Abberline to inspector Reid's office.

6 INT. INSPECTOR REID'S OFFICE

We see INSPECTOR EDMUND REID a 42-year old man with a beard, wearing a blue jacket with a dark tie. Sitting at his desk looking at some papers. It KNOCKS on the door.

INSPECTOR REID

Come!

Abberline enters.

INSPECTOR REID

(Standing up)

Fred!, long time no see.

ABBERLINE

Ed...

INSPECTOR REID

Please sit...

Abberline sits down...

INSPECTOR REID (cont'd)

How long has it been?

(CONTINUED)

ABBERLINE

A year in February...

INSPECTOR REID

Yes... I guess you're here because of the murder in Buck's Row, am I right?

ABBERLINE

Correct...

Inspector Reid sits down.

ABBERLINE (cont'd)

Is something wrong?

INSPECTOR REID

...the people are blaming the Jews. They say a man called 'Leather apron' is to blame. You have to act, before every Jew in Whitechapel is hunted down and killed!

ABBERLINE

Do you think it was the Jews Ed?

INSPECTOR REID

Its possible! Surely no Englishman would've committed such an abomination!... Fred, a murder of a prostitute in Whitechapel is not very unusual as you know.

ABBERLINE

Yes... but Ed, you should've seen the body... the amount of violence the killer used..it's...

Abberline looks thoughtful.

7

EXT. - STREET - DAY

We see Abberline walking down a cobbled street in turmoil. A small CROWD are rioting, some BOBBY'S are trying to take control of the situation.

CROWD

Kill the Jews!

Abberline walks up to a door, he turns around and looks at the crime scene just across the street. MARY JANE KELLY, a 25-year old woman wearing a green dress walks by

(CONTINUED)

ABBERLINE
Miss?

MARY JANE
Yes?

ABBERLINE
Have you heard of a man called
'Leather apron'?

MARY JANE
Yes, I have sir... why?

ABBERLINE
Is there some place nearby we could
talk?

MARY JANE
You can buy me some food.

Abberline makes a gesture to Mary Jane to lead the way and they walk away.

8 INT. - THE TEN BELL'S PUB - DAY

We see Abberline and Mary Jane sitting at a table in a crowded pub, Mary Jane is eating a sandwich and drinking from a tin cup. Abberline watches her eat.

ABBERLINE
So... who is this man called
'Leather apron'?

MARY JANE
(Chewing)
He is a Jewish immigrant from
Poland or some place. He threatens
and extorts us women with a large
knife.

ABBERLINE
Threatens?

MARY JANE
Yes, he goes around shouting "I'll
rip you up!"

ABBERLINE
And why is he called 'Leather
apron'?

(CONTINUED)

MARY JANE

Because he always wears a leather
apron, he's a booth maker you see.
Thanks for the food by the way!

Abberline smiles politely and continues watching her eat.

9 EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

We see ANNIE CHAPMAN, a 47-year old woman with curly brown hair wearing a black figured coat walking on the sidewalk, we see a sign which reads HANBURY ST. Jack appear in front of her with his back to us. He is wearing a dark jacket and a worn peaked cap, a bell shims.

JACK

Miss?... will you?

ANNIE

(Inspecting him)

... Yes.

They walk through the door of one of the cottages.

10 INT. - HALLWAY - NIGHT

We see Annie leading the way towards another door. Jack is slowly following her.

Annie opens the other door.

11 EXT. - BACKYARD - NIGHT

We see a small filthy backyard with a wooden fence Annie and Jack comes out descending a low set of stone steps, Jack with his head down so we can't see his face. Annie turns to him.

Jack attacks her and grabs her throat, she screams.

ANNIE

No!

We hear a door on the other side of the fence open and close. Jack freezes.

Annie is struggling a bit but soon faints. Jack drops her against the fence.

12 EXT. - ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE - NIGHT

We see a MAN wearing a night shirt coming out of a similar looking door, he stops whistleing when he hears a faint bump against the fence, but he ignores it.

He walks to the fence and relieves himself.

MAN
That's better.

He walks back in and closes the door.

13 EXT. - BACKYARD - NIGHT

We see Jack bent down over Annie, swinging his arm in an arc revealing a narrow longbladed knife. Blood sprays the wall.

14 INT. - LEMAN STREET POLICE STATION - DAY

We see Abberline sitting at the desk, there is another bobby swabbing the floor. PC Smith enter holding 'LEATHER APRON', a short but thickset 38-year old man with a dark mustache and short hair, wearing a dirty shirt, he has his hands tied behind his back. Abberline pulls up a chair, PC Smith set him down.

ABBERLINE
So it is you who the people are calling 'Leather apron'... you don't look all that scary to me..

'LEATHER APRON'
Bugger of copper!

PC SMITH
John, please!

ABBERLINE
What's your real name? Cause your birth name isn't really 'Leather apron' is it?

'LEATHER APRON'
...John Pizer

ABBERLINE
... All right, John, where were you the night of august 31st?

'LEATHER APRON'
... I was staying at Crossman's Lodging House in Holloway Road, and
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

'LEATHER APRON' (cont'd)
about 1.30am, I think, I spoke to
PC Smith here about a fire at
London Dock's which i then went to
see.

ABBERLINE
Is this the thruth PC Smith?

PC SMITH
Yes it is sir.

ABBERLINE
Ok... you can go... untie him.

PC Smith unties the ropes and 'Leather apron' walks out of
the police station enraged.