

The Ladykillers

Written by William Rose

Sequence 1

Mrs. Wilberforce leaves her home, which sits behind a train station, and walks to the police station, where she tells the officers about her friend Amelia, who apparently saw a “spaceship.” The police are sceptical. It turns out “the whole thing was just a dream.” As she leaves a policeman hands Mrs. Wilberforce her umbrella, which she has forgotten. She walks home, stopping at a nearby shop to enquire if anyone has asked about the advertisement she has placed in the window. Mrs. Wilberforce is followed home by a shadowy figure.

Sequence 2

Back home, Mrs. Wilberforce tends to her parrot. The shadowy figure rings on the doorbell. It is Professor Marcus, who would like to rent the rooms available in Mrs. Wilberforce’s house. He explains that he needs a place for him and his colleagues to practice their string quintet.

Sequence 3

Professor Marcus’ four friends (Major Courtney, One-Round, Harry and Louis) arrive with musical instrument cases. In their rooms, they discuss the robbery they are planning. It becomes clear that Mrs. Wilberforce is an integral part of their scheme.

Sequence 4

Professor Marcus goes to the nearby train station while the other four deal with Mrs. Wilberforce, which involves helping her give the parrot its medicine. The bird escapes and all four attempt to retrieve it. Professor Marcus returns home.

Sequence 5

The robbery. The gang beat up two security guards driving a van and steal four boxes, place them into a large trunk, and drive the trunk to the train station. Harry, dressed as a porter, takes the trunk and leaves it to be picked up by Mrs. Wilberforce, who is en route to the station by taxi. She retrieves the trunk, though returns briefly to the station because she has forgotten her umbrella, then stops to berate a barrow boy who is mistreating a horse, and ends up finally at the police station. Eventually the police carry the trunk home for her. Back home, the gang opens the four boxes, which are full of cash.

Sequence 6

As they prepare to leave, Lawson gets his cello case caught in the front door. It breaks open and cash flies out. The gang returns to the house so they can take care of Mrs. Wilberforce. At that moment several of Mrs. Wilberforce's friends arrive. A newspaper headline reveals all. Mrs. Wilberforce confronts the gang.

Sequence 7

The gang is forced to spend the afternoon with Mrs. Wilberforce's friends. Once they leave, the gang tries – and fails – to persuade Mrs. Wilberforce not to report them to the police.

Sequence 8

The gang decides to kill Mrs. Wilberforce. They draw straws. Major Courtney is chosen, but can't go through with it, and tries to escape the house with the money. He is caught by the other four. Louis kills him. They are about to draw straws again but One-Round decides that no one is going to harm Mrs. Wilberforce. Behind his back, Professor Marcus, Harry and Louis draw straws. Harry is chosen. Professor Marcus and One-Round dump Major Courtney's body onto a passing train. Harry, meanwhile, can't go through with it and steals the money. One-Round catches and kills Harry. Professor Marcus and Louis dump his body onto a passing train as they plan to kill Mrs. Wilberforce and One-Round. Louis kills One-Round. Professor Marcus and Louis dump his body onto a passing train. Professor Marcus kills Louis, and is then himself killed by a railway signal.

Sequence 9

Mrs. Wilberforce is at the police station, explaining that she was involved in the robbery. The police are sceptical and send her home, saying she should keep the money. As she leaves a policeman hands Mrs. Wilberforce her umbrella, which she has forgotten. She says she doesn't want it, and that now she can afford a new one.