

# THE MODERN MARRIAGE

## CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Despite a sleepless night Debra breakfasted early with Jim. Mattie, trying to heal the rift. Their quarrel had ceased, served hot cakes with Jim's favorite blackberry syrup and cups of fragrant, steaming coffee.

Jim, too, looked tired but his glance at Debra was anxious. "Sorry I blew my top last night, baby. I never did like Carter Desmond and when I saw you having dinner together and holding hands..."

### EXPLANATION

"All he was saying is that I should see a doctor about my cough," she confided. "And as for being jealous—that's just the way I feel about Barbara when you're working late."

"I'm not making love to Barbara," Jim said coldly.

"That's not her fault!" Debra cried.

They were quarreling again and by the time they left for their respective offices, neither was speaking to the other. Why, Debra thought miserably, as she sat down at her own familiar desk, did it always have to be this way?

Jim had been trying to apologize and she had snapped at him. This time, perhaps, it had been her fault. But not always, she assured herself, one could had pressed to her aching head.

Dutifully aware of her promise she telephoned a doctor and made an appointment for the noon hour, then plunging into her morning's work she tried to forget her domestic problems.

But at 12 Carter Desmond called her on the inter-office phone. "Grab your coat and prepare for the banquet," he informed her. "The scores—quite a few people are taking us to lunch. They'll sign the contracts early this afternoon."

### DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT

"I can't," Debra responded wearily. "I promised Jim to see the doctor and I have an appointment in ten minutes."

"Oh, Debra, really," the attorney said, annoyed. "You know how temperamental these clients

## 'Bad Seed' For Adults Only

By JAMES BACON

HOLLYWOOD — Director Mervyn Leroy, who believes every successful movie must be a love story, calls "The Bad Seed" the greatest love story he's ever made.

Now that's pretty controversial—even for Leroy. "The Bad Seed" is all about an eight-year-old girl who commits three particularly gruesome murders without valid reason—and a shocking lack of remorse.

It's such a shocker that for the first time in Hollywood history, Warner Bros. is recommending an "Adults Only" label for a movie about a child.

I saw the movie all alone the other day in a projection room. Frankly, it scared me—although as a work of motion picture art, it's Academy Award bound.

### GREAT LOVE STORY

"It's a great love story—the greatest I ever made," Leroy said. "It's the love of a mother for a daughter she knows is a sadistic killer. It tears your heart out to see what that mother goes through when she finds out that her only child is a killer—a child she can't stop loving no matter what."

The "Adults Only" tag is applied and entered in many European countries but it has never worked here. One top Warner executive explains their unprecedented recommendation came after private showings to civic groups, notably the Chicago police commission.

"We personally had considered it an adult picture and wanted only official confirmation to make our recommendation to theatre owners stronger," the executive added.

"The Bad Seed" works on the premises that the daughter of a notorious slayer can miss the criminal traits—in fact, peculiar violence—but the abnormality will crop up in the granddaughter.

One cheerful note, Nancy Kelly, who was pretty much wasted by Hollywood in B pictures when she was out here years ago, emerges as an Oscar favorite in the role of the mother. She created the same role on the stage.

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are. Remember Mr. Timmons? He wouldn't sign because of a purely personal issue. Surely you're not going to run the risk of letting it happen again."

Jim would be furious and in his present mood it would not be wise to insist on ordering.

### CARTER'S RIGHT

On the other hand Debra knew that Carter was right. Often an imagined offense had sent a million dollar agent to another firm. She would see the doctor later in the afternoon.

It was the first luncheon of its kind that Debra had not enjoyed. In the past there had been a tiff in meeting the executives of the companies which were the life blood of C.J.'s advertising firm.

There had been the acute uncertainty of whether or not they would sign, right up to the moment Debra heard the pen scratching on the papers Carter had prepared.

There had been the triumph of knowing that she had been responsible for the weeks and sometimes months of persuasion and negotiation which were ending in the successful climax of a big deal. But today she was not thinking like an executive.

Debra was sitting before the fire, warmly wrapped in her pink velvet negligee. She saw Jim's dark eyes anxiously watching her. She knew, from all too bitter experience that if she admitted the truth Jim would be furious.

For the first time in her married life Debra lied. Weak and ill she felt that she must have peace at any price.

### DIFFERENT TODAY

Today, the girl in the stunning suit with the gold jewelry

was a wife who had quarreled with her husband—a woman whose mind constantly wandered to Jim. She could not eat the elaborate meal which was put before her and she only pretended to sip the champagne the client insisted on ordering.

The luncheon had not started until after twelve and by the time the papers were signed and several more rounds of cocktails consumed it was almost six. Debra went back to the apartment, exhausted and leverish.

"You look awful, Miss Debra," Mattie commented. "What that doctor say?"

"HADN'T DONE IT!" Guilty Debra realized she had not kept her promise to Jim about the appointment. She hoped that he might forget, but Jim came home early and his first question was the same as Mattie's.

"Even if we did have to spend the whole afternoon to cink the deal. But don't worry, Jim, old boy, Debbie'll see the doctor tomorrow. Take her there myself, personally."

Jim turned to his wife, his voice ominously low. "You lied to me, Debra."

"Yes," she admitted shakily, "but only because I was afraid you wouldn't understand. I couldn't bear another quarrel, Jim! Where are you going?"

"To the only honest woman I know," Jim flared. "Barbara Drake."

"He says I'm all right. Just had cold," Debra answered.

## A Serial Story By Anne Allison

"Good. I was worried about you, baby." His voice was so concerned that remorse struck at Debra's heart. And then the one thing happened that she could not have foreseen. Mattie answered the persistent doorman to admit Carter Desmond.

### SPILLS IT ALL

Carter was elated both by the boy's success and the unaccustomed number of cocktails. He beamed upon Debra and ignored Jim's cold stare. "Did Debra tell you about the big deal she made today? Select Swim Suits—a five year advertising contract. All signed, sealed and delivered," Carter laughed.

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(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

## Radio, TV News

# Frankie-Boy Playing Badman With His Unethical Show Arrangement

By JOHN LESTER  
News, Radio-TV Columnist

NEW YORK — Frank Sinatra knocked the show world on its ear again by agreeing to appear on three different shows on three different networks within the same hour last Sunday.



The fact that the arrangement was unethical from a personal point of view and bad programming if considered from a professional angle didn't seem to bother Frankie-Boy the slightest, so far as I can see.

His principle consideration seems to have been publicity for his picture, "Johnny Concho."

The train of events leading to Sunday's triple-appearance began about two weeks ago when the singer announced he'd guest-plug at that time, Frank published a letter to Sullivan, out-

lining what he considered the unfairness of such an exchange, castigating the emcee and characterizing him as "sick, sick, sick!"

Those aware of Sinatra's two-year-old feud with Sullivan weren't surprised at this and, in fact, rather expected it.

But eyebrows were raised and mouths fell open in amazement and shock last Thursday when word got around that Frank had "volunteered" to appear on Sullivan's show as well in what was called "a special tribute" to the columnist-emcee.

Ed immediately issued a statement from his Connecticut home where he's recovering from a recent auto smash-up, denying there had ever been a feud between himself and FS, adding "it is during a time like this that a man can really tell who his friends are and what better gesture could any friend make than Frankie has made?"

The denial was fantastic since it has been no secret that Frank and Ed fell out bitterly over the singer's refusal to appear on the columnist's big CBS variety hour in exchange for a picture-plug. At that time, Frank published a letter to Sullivan, out-

lines that Welman button-holed Frank about 2 a.m. last Thursday at a party (I was there briefly) given by Joe DiMaggio, another of Frank's close friends, and CBS announced the "plum" later in the day.

After learning of Sinatra's decision to guest on Sullivan's competing show in the same hour and on the same day as his appearance with Steve Allen, NBC was highly indignant, completely disgusted and would have cancelled him had he not been committed to it.

Allen, himself, wasn't at all upset, however, which must be noted to his credit, and even jokingly suggested to Frank that he appear on ABC-TV, too. Apparently, the suggestion, offered in jest, gave FS an idea and he contacted Donald Woods, host of ABC-TV's Sunday "Film Festival" series, to set up a guest-stint with him, also between 8 and 9 p.m. N.Y.T.

Frankie guested for free on all three shows to plug his "Johnny Concho" film, which was his real purpose any way you look at it.

To further muddy matters, word was around late Saturday that Sinatra would be shuttled between shows the following day in the private limousine of NBC President Robert Sar-noff!

As far as I know, this is what happened, although I still haven't been able to get absolute confirmation on it.

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