

Roxie McCoy Private Eye

Jim Gustafson





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ROXIE MCCOY, PRIVATE EYE

by

Jim Gustafson

CAST

NARRATOR

RECEPTIONIST

ROXIE

NELLIE

MR. ROSENBLATT

MERKLE

BETTY

COMMERICALS: ANNOUNCER

VOICE

1, 2 OR 3 FEMALE VOICES

ACTRESS ONE

ACTRESS TWO

DEXTER

LORD ABERNATHY

(Sound Effect- Music In: Theme)

NARRATOR: In tonight's exciting episode, American crime has touched British royalty...Lord and Lady Abernathy.

LORD ABERNATHY: Cornelia, my darling. You hired a private investigator?

LADY ABERNATHY (NELLIE): Not just any investigator...I hired the best...Roxie McCoy.

ROXIE: Don't worry...I'm on the case.

NARRATOR: Tonight, Roxie leans on street-wise stool pigeon Betty the Baker...

BETTY: What can I get ya...Tarts or talk?

NARRATOR: To find the whereabouts of the villainous vermin, Dexter Potlish.

DEXTER: I've got the lowdown to blow the tiara off that Bogus Baroness.

NARRATOR: When we last left Roxie McCoy Private eye, she had just put the pinch on Slicker the smuggler before he could spirit a cache of diamonds out of the country. With Slicker in the clink, Roxie was ready for her next case as she returned to her office.

(Musical sting: theme music for the show)

(Sound Effect- Door Opening and closing)

RECEPTIONIST: Nice job, Roxie. The Governor called with his congratulations.

ROXIE: That's yesterday's news. Any phone calls?

RECEPTIONIST: Plenty but there's some classy dame in your office waiting for you.

ROXIE: Classy dame...Who is she?...

Receptionist: Lady Abernathy, Baroness of Worcester.

ROXIE: Royalty huh? Wonder why she's here to see me?

RECEPTIONIST: She wouldn't say...

ROXIE: I guess I'll find out.

(Sound Effect: Door opens)

ROXIE: Morning, Lady Abernathy...Roxie McCoy, Private eye. *(Pause)* Wow, you look famil...Never mind.

NELLIE: I know who you are Miss McCoy. Your reputation precedes you.

ROXIE: Well don't believe all you read in the funny papers, But yeah, I've been around the block...I'll be honest with ya. We don't get a lot of royalty in this joint.

NELLIE: I heard you're the best...I know you're the best. Can you close the door? This has to be confidential.

ROXIE: Gotcha.

(Sound Effect: Door closes)

ROXIE: First things first. What brings you to the colonies, your ladyship and second what brings you here?

NELLIE: My husband, the Baron of Worcester, is in America to look after the family interests and I'm here because I'm being blackmailed.

ROXIE: Blackmailed huh...My specialty, your ladyship... *(Pause)* Pardon me for staring Baroness but you look familiar. Do I know you?

NELLIE: You can stop calling me "Baroness" and call me "Cornelia"...or better yet call me "Nellie" like you did back at PS 124 and Andrew Jackson High School.

ROXIE: Nellie?...Nellie Rosenblatt?

NELLIE: In the flesh!

ROXIE: Holy cow...Where have you been? You disappeared when you were 18...The day after your daddy's delicatessen was almost robbed.

NELLIE: That why I disappeared... Let me tell you about that. (*Sound Effect: Flash back music. Sound of water and dishes rattling*) It was closing time and I was in the deli kitchen washing dishes...I looked at my daddy closing up the deli and counting the money from the cash register...then Mugs Merkle walked in, and that could only mean trouble.

(*Sound Effect: Cash register opening. The door opens and Mugs Merkle strolls in. Sound Effect: Door opens and bell jingles*)

MR. ROSENBLATT: "Beat it, Mugs, we're closed."

NELLIE: And then Merkle says...

MERKLE: "I didn't come for no pastrami..."

NELLIE: And he pulls out a gun.

(*Sound Effect: Sound of gun cocking...click*)

MERKLE: "Gimme all your money and make it snappy."

MR. ROSENBLATT: Take it easy, Merkle. I'll get the cash.

NELLIE: When I saw that, I grabbed a cast iron skillet and sneaked behind Merkle quiet as a mouse. And I swung that skillet like Babe Ruth swings his bat and hit Merkle smack dab on the back of his head. (*Sound Effect: Sound of smack*) And he went down like a sack of potatoes.

(*Sound Effect: Body falling with a thud*)

Right then my daddy panicked and said,

MR. ROSENBLATT: "Merkle's gang is going to be looking for you. Run to your brother Joey's place. He'll know what to do."

ROXIE: Joey was a sailor. Right?

NELLIE: Yeah, a Merchant Marine. He was sailing the next day on a ship going to France and he snuck me aboard as a stowaway.

(Sound Effect: Ship's steam whistle)

ROXIE: So you disappeared to France...

(Sound Effect: Music In French "Follies-like" Music)

NELLIE: Yeah, I was in Paris working at a dime a dance joint where I met this British aviator flying in the Great War...One dance and we fell in love...The rest is history.

ROXIE: And that flyer was the Baron of Worcester.

NELLIE: He was...But he doesn't know anything about my past and neither does his family. But this blackmailer, Dexter Potlish, is gonna spill the beans on me unless I give him \$100,000.

ROXIE: Don't worry, Nellie...It'll be all right...I'm on the case.

(Sound Effect: Organ Chord)

NARRATOR: When Roxie says, "I'm on the case," the action begins...What does Roxie do next?...How does she step in and foil the slanderous scam from blackmailing the Baroness?

(Organ music Sting)

(COMMERCIAL: Sunbeam Steam Iron)

ANNOUNCER: (In a booming "Announcer-Like" Voice): You're listening to Roxie McCoy...Private Detective...Now a word from one of our fine sponsors.

VOICE: Pfffft.

1, 2 or 3 FEMALE VOICES: Goes the steam iron...

VOICE: Pfffft.

1, 2 or 3 FEMALE VOICES: Goes the steam iron...

VOICE: Pfffft.

1, 2 or 3 FEMALE VOICES: Goes the steam iron...

FEMALE VOICE: (*Singing*) And wrinkles melt away.

VOICE: Pfffft. Pfffft!

ANNOUNCER: (*Drops her booming "Announcer" Voice*) Imagine the magic of steam in a hand held electric iron. Every laundress knows nothing tackles wrinkles in trousers, shirts and blouses like a puff of pure steam. Now the fine folks at Sunbeam Electric have put the power of steam in the palm of your hand.

VOICE: Pfffft. Pfffft!

ANNOUNCER: Turn regular tap water into wrinkle removing steam with the new Sunbeam steam and dry iron. Just in time for Christmas, men...Give your wife or sweetheart a gift every woman wants.

FEMALE VOICE #1: Forget the furs and the jewelry...

FEMALE VOICE #2: I can always buy a pretty dress myself...

FEMALE VOICE #3: Nothing says "I love you" like a steam iron.

ANNOUNCER: Discover how easy ironing can be. Designed to fit a woman's delicate hand. Make your man the envy of the office in his wrinkle-free Sunbeam Steam Ironed clothes.

VOICE: Pfffft.

1, 2 or 3 FEMALE VOICES: Goes the steam iron...

VOICE: Pfffft.

1, 2 or 3 FEMALE VOICES: Goes the steam iron...

VOICE: Pfffft.

1, 2 or 3 FEMALE VOICES: Goes the steam iron...

FEMALE VOICE: (*Singing*) And wrinkles melt away.

VOICE: Pfffft. Pfffft!

ANNOUNCER: The Sunbeam steam and dry iron is available at Woolworth's, Kresge's, and Ben Franklin Five and Dimes all around town.

(Sound Effect: Organ music-Mysterious)

NARRATOR: When Roxie needs to get the low down on low life, she goes to Betty the Baker. Betty has a sweet shop but made her living as a stoolie pigeon ready to rat out any skunk when the price was right. Betty's an odd duck when it comes to money. Since the Stock Market crash, she doesn't believe in paper money any more, and will only deal in change. So Roxie stopped by the First National Bank for a bag full of nickels, dimes, and quarters. Then it was off to Betty's Bakery.

(Music out; Sound Effect: Door opens with jingley bell)

BETTY: If it ain't my old friend, Roxie McCoy...So what will it be today, brownies, bagels or information?

ROXIE: Information, Betty...What do you know about the local Blackmailers working in town?

BETTY: Blackmailer, huh? Hmmm...Don't know nothin'.

NARRATOR: Roxie knew some cold cash could warm up Betty's memory.

ROXIE: Let me help you.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

BETTY: Now I remember. Yeah, the word on the street is there's a guy working a scam right now.

ROXIE: Is that guy Dexter Potlish?

BETTY: I don't recall.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

BETTY: Come to think of it, that name sounds right.

ROXIE: Do you know anything else about this Dexter guy?

BETTY: I might...Jog my memory.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

BETTY: Now I recall. He moved to town about two weeks ago.

ROXIE: You know why?

BETTY: Nope.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

BETTY: Oh yeah...It was something about blackmailing a princess or something...

ROXIE: A Baroness?

BETTY: Yeah...That's it.

ROXIE: You know how to get in touch with this Dexter guy?

BETTY: Could be.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

BETTY: He comes in everyday and buys cherry tarts...The guy's got a sweet tooth.

ROXIE: When he comes in tell him to go to his target's house tomorrow night at 7:00 for his payoff.

BETTY: That's a lot to remember.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

BETTY: O.K. Tomorrow night...At what time?

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

Oh, yeah seven o'clock. What have you got up your sleeve, Roxie?

ROXIE: I'll ask the questions, Betty. Gotta go...And Betty if anyone asks...I wasn't here.

BETTY: You're hard to forget, Roxie.

(Sound Effect: Sound of coins poured in a metal pan)

I don't remember a thing.

(Sound Effect: Musical Sting)

NARRATOR: With a hot lead, Roxie was off to set a trap to capture a weasel.

Now a word from our sponsor:

Commercial (Singing to an improvised tune)

ACTRESS ONE: Why just scrub to clean your face
When harsh soap dries your skin

ACTRESS TWO: Refresh your face, erase the years
and wash your youth back in.

BOTH: In a Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link bath...

ACTRESS ONE: Bountiful bubbles bring out your beauty....

ACTRESS TWO: In a Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link bath...

BOTH: In a Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link bath...

ANNOUNCER: Bobolink Beauty Bars and Bubble Bath Immersions are available at department stores near you. Bobolink Beauty Products make every bath a Flight of Fantasy.

BOTH: In a Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link bath...

ANNOUNCER: And now back to Roxie McCoy as she meets with Nellie at her palatial estate.

ROXIE: O.K. the trap is set but we have to let your husband in on it...You've got to tell him about your past...No secrets, Nellie.

NARRATOR: So Nellie summoned her courage and told her husband where she came from and how she wound up in France when they met. She also told him that Roxie was going to catch the guy that was going to tell the world about her and embarrass the family. To her surprise Lord Abernathy just smiled as she spun her tale. He even chuckled occasionally. After her story he said,

LORD ABERNATHY: Cornelia...or should I say Nellie...Let's talk to your friend. There's something you both should know.

NARRATOR: With that, Roxie was summoned. After introductions and small talk, Lord Abernathy dropped a bombshell.

LORD ABERNATHY: Since this is a time for confession I have one to make. I have not always been Lord Jonathan Abernathy...I started out as Johnny Jones...In an orphanage in New Jersey.

NELLIE: What?

ROXIE: Son of a Gun...Who 'da thunk?

LORD ABERNATHY: Yep, I was just like you, Nellie...I was a runaway, too. When I was eight I ran away and joined the Circus.

NELLIE: You're joking.

LORD ABERNATHY: The circus came to Hoboken and when it left town, I went with them. It eventually wound up in England but went bankrupt and I was left on the streets to make my way in life. By age twelve, I was a pickpocket until I tried to snatch the Duchess of Worcester's purse. She grabbed me by the ear and wouldn't let go. She asked why I was a thief and I told her my story. The duchess was a kind woman and she felt sorry for that little street urchin and adopted me. She and the Duke raised me as their own and sent me to the finest schools in Britain...And little Johnny Jones became Lord Abernathy.

ROXIE: No wonder you two hit it off on the dime-a-dance floor...You're birds of a feather.

NELLIE: Oh Jonathan...Johnny, I love you.

LORD ABERNATHY: And I love you. Let that blackmailer tell the world about your past! It doesn't matter.

ROXIE: Well it matters to me. The weasel has to be stopped. He belongs in the state pen and he's coming by tonight to get his ticket to jail punched.

LORD ABERNATHY: Why is he coming here?

ROXIE: He thinks it's to get his blackmail money but I got a surprise for that little stinker. Nellie, you tell Johnny here what's up while I change clothes.

(Sound Effect: Musical sting)

NARRATOR: With that, Roxie dressed up like the household cook while Nellie explained how they'd give Dexter a satchel that was supposed to be full of money. Once the satchel changed hands Roxie would come in and nab Dexter with the evidence. Then precisely at 7:00 o'clock...

(Sound Effect: Fancy door chimes...Door opens)

DEXTER: Who are you?

ROXIE: What's it to ya?...I'm Mabel, the Lord's cook.

DEXTER: And you're answering the door?

ROXIE: It's the staff's night off and I'm leaving as soon as I let you in.

DEXTER: So no one's around?

ROXIE: Just the Baron and Baroness. They're expecting you in the Drawing Room. Follow me.

(Sound Effect: Footsteps on wooden floor)

ROXIE: Lord...Lady...Your guest has arrived.

LORD ABERNATHY: Thank you, Mabel you may go now.

ROXIE: Very well, sir.

Dexter: You got my money?

LORD ABERNATHY: Yes, we do.

NELLIE: It's in this satchel.

DEXTER: Open it. You're doing the right thing...Now I don't have to tell the world about Nellie Rosenblatt AKA Lady Cornelia Abernathy. Let me see the cash. Oh, yeah 100,000 smackers...How sweet is that?

(Sound Effect: Sound suitcase latches snapping)

NELLIE: There you are.

Dexter: Hey, what's this?...There's only one coin here...A quarter.

NELLIE: Two bits...For a two-bit crook.

DEXTER: Where's the rest of it?

LORD ABERNATHY: That's it...We're not going to pay you.

NARRATOR: Unknown to Dexter Roxie was sneaking up behind him with a large skillet from the kitchen. Furious, Dexter pulled a gun from his pocket.

Dexter: I said, where's the rest of it? Either you come up with the cash or the little lady gets a bullet to complement those diamonds in her necklace.

NARRATOR: With that Roxie wound and walloped Dexter on top of the head with that ten-pound frying pan.

(Sound Effect: Crash of pan

Sound Effect: Gunshot

Sound Effect: Body thumping on the ground)

LORD ABERNATHY: That scoundrel...He shot a hole in our floor.

NELLIE: Better that than one of us.

LORD ABERNATHY: Well. Miss McCoy. That skillet came in very handy.

ROXIE: Skillets work every time.

LORD ABERNATHY: What do you mean by that?

ROXIE: Ask your wife! (*NELLIE and ROXIE laugh*)

(Musical sting: Sound Effect: Siren in the background)

NARRATOR: And so for Roxie McCoy, it's another 'Case Closed' as the Paddy Wagon carted Dexter off to the clink. Tune in next week when you hear the rest of another Roxie McCoy adventure that begins...

MALE VOICE: Say your prayers, Roxie...It's the end of the line for you!

(Sound Effect: Gunshot)

NARRATOR: Is it really time to turn the lights off on Roxie McCoy? Has she finally met her match and cashed in her chips? Tune in again for more suspense with...*(dramatically)* Roxie McCoy...Private Detective.

(Musical Sting)

THE END