

**THE SEEDS OF REVENGE**

Written by

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Who was attempting to destroy a television star?

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**SEEDS OF REVENGE -- opening scenes**

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**TV drama in two or three parts**

OPENING TITLES, AS APPROPRIATE

INT. CORRIDOR, STRAIT TV STUDIOS, LONDON - DAY

The corridor is empty. It leads to a transmission studio with large double swing doors bearing the logo and name of the television show, *Strait Talk*. Two other signs are prominent: "No unauthorised entry" and "Do not enter when red light is on".

The red light above the door is on. It then turns off seconds before the double doors fly open and are held back by identical twin brothers in their early 30s. They are TOM and BILL. They are muscular and wear identical clothes: tight-fitting black short-sleeved shirts, tight black trousers and black boots. Their shirts bear the *Strait Talk* logo and "Security" front and back.

Tom and Bill nod respectfully at the show's star, JOCK STRAIT, as he comes out in animated conversation with producer, MONICA, and followed by members of the studio crew, including ALISON, the studio director, RONNIE COSSAR, the show's early-50s resident counsellor and psychologist, and assistant producers GERAINT and WINSTON.

Jock is in his late-40s, wearing designer smart casual clothes and still with his studio make-up on. He speaks with a distinct but educated Glaswegian accent. He is unreasonably handsome and tanned with carefully-shaped grey hair. Monica is mid-30s and a lesbian, wearing jeans and T-shirt. She speaks with a soft English regional accent and has a natural air of authority about her.

JOCK

(to Monica)

Wonderful! Best show for months!

MONICA

Yes, but I'm a bit worried about--

Tom and Bill have let the studio doors swing closed, but they immediately fly open again as a man crashes through them. He is HARRY SUTTON, a participant in the show that just came off air. Harry is wearing T-shirt and jeans, is heavily tattooed, aged 30, with a coarse London accent.

Harry confronts Jock. Tom and Bill move to restrain him.

HARRY SUTTON  
I really will kill that bitch of a  
wife. Believe me, mate!

JOCK  
Now, just calm down, will you! Calm  
down!

Tom and Bill grab Harry, who tries to struggle free.

HARRY SUTTON  
Let go of me, you bastards!

JOCK  
Just calm down, please Harry.

Jock signals to Tom and Bill to relax their grip on Harry and  
he motions Ronnie Cossar over.

JOCK (CONT'D)  
Look Harry. Making threats won't  
get you anywhere. Talk to Ronnie  
and he will help you sought things  
out. Okay?

Harry nods reluctant agreement.

JOCK (CONT'D)  
Right then. Off you go with Ronnie  
and maybe you can come back on the  
show to tell us how things go with  
your Tracy.

Jock shakes Harry by the hand. Ronnie guides Harry back into  
the studio. Jock, Monica and the rest of the team continue  
along the corridor.

JOCK (CONT'D)  
(to Monica)  
What a scumbag!

INT. EDITING SUITE, STRAIT TV STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

A VIDEO EDITOR is preparing to edit the final minutes of  
*Strait Talk*.

Jock and Monica enter, followed by a MAKE-UP GIRL. Jock takes  
a seat while his make-up is removed.

MONICA

(to Jock)

I think we should edit out the more extreme death threats from tonight's recorded replay.

JOCK

Oh, we should leave all that in.

MONICA

Well, let's have a look at it.

The video editor pushes the "play" button. Harry Sutton and wife TRACY are seen nose-to-nose, shouting at each other.

HARRY SUTTON

You bitch! You dumped me and the kids so you could go bonking that arsehole salesman.

TRACY SUTTON

It's not true, Harry. You're a thug. I wanted to take the kids, but you threatened to beat me up.

HARRY SUTTON

Bitch! Bitch! I've going to track you down and kill you. Do you understand?! No matter where you hide, I will find you and kill you! Do you understand?!

Tracy is alarmed and Jock puts himself between her and Harry, closely watched by Tom and Bill.

JOCK

Now look, Harry, do you understand that you can't go making threats like that, otherwise you'll be in serious trouble with the police. We're here to bring people together to sort out their problems, not to cause conflict. (BEAT) Now, time has run out for today, so I suggest you and Ronnie Cossar, our resident conflict resolution counsellor, have a little chat. Is that okay?

Harry nods agreement without conviction.

JOCK (CONT'D)

Excellent! (TO CAMERA) So until we meet again, it is goodbye from me, Jock Strait - the Straight One.

(MORE)

JOCK (CONT'D)

May God go with you and all those  
you love and who love you."

The audience cheers and claps enthusiastically. As the credits roll, Jock moves along the front row of the audience shaking hands and kissing the women.

The video editor stops the replay, just as MATT PATEL, the show's publicity officer, walks in. Matt is a sharp-suited Anglo-Indian in his 30s. He speaks with an educated middle-class English accent.

JOCK (CONT'D)

Ah Matt!

MATT

Great stuff, Jock.

JOCK

(to Monica)

See! Matt thinks it's okay!

MONICA

(still unsure)

Okay. We can probably get away with  
it, on this occasion.

JOCK

(to Matt)

Make sure your mates in the  
tabloids are across this.

MATT

(grinning)

I'm getting a courier to deliver  
DVD copies of the bust up.

Jock's mobile rings. He doesn't recognise the number but answers anyway.

JOCK

Yes. (LISTENS) Christ! Who gave you  
this number!? (LISTENS) Yeah, well,  
look Babe, don't ring me again.  
We've had our little bit of fun. I  
enjoyed it; so did you. Let's just  
leave it at that, eh!

Jock ends the call. Monica winces with disapproval.

JOCK (CONT'D)

Don't go all Christian Lady on me,  
Monica.

(MORE)

JOCK (CONT'D)

I bet you've had plenty of one night stands with your girlie friends.

MONICA

You're without shame, Jock.

JOCK

Jeez! These women just want to be fucked by someone rich and famous. So, if they're tasty enough, I fuck them. Simple as that.

Monica shakes her head and Matt gives a nervous laugh.

INT. MAIN WORK AREA, STRAIT STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

Jock goes to a desk where JANICE, his mid-40s personal assistant, is working. He drops his mobile on the desk.

JOCK

(curtly)

Janice, get a new SIM card for this. And make absolutely sure the number is restricted to those on the "need to know" list.

JANICE

Yes, Mr Strait.

Jock goes to his office.

I/E. OUTSIDE STRAIT TV STUDIOS - LATE AFTERNOON

Jock leaves at the end of his day. KEVIN, his muscular 40s-something suited chauffeur and bodyguard, opens the rear passenger door of a top-of-the-range Mercedes with smoked glass windows and personalised number plates, STRAIT 1.

JOCK

Evening, Kevin.

KEVIN

Evening, Sir. Have a good day?

JOCK

Excellent day. Very successful.

I/E. JOCK'S CAR, TRAVELLING THROUGH LONDON - CONTINUOUS

Jock settles down, lights a cigar and picks up a copy of the *Financial Times* folded neatly on his seat. He goes straight to the share prices and rings several of them with his gold fountain pen.

Jock's mobile rings. The screen tells him it is SARAH.

JOCK  
Hello, Darling. Just on my way home now. (LISTENS) Yes, sorry about another mobile number change. (BEAT) Has the move gone well? (LISTENS) Good. Love you!

The car pulls up at red lights. He spots a mini-skirted TEENAGE GIRL crossing in front of the car. He leans forward to get a better look. He likes what he sees.

As the car moves forward again, he goes back his FT.

EXT. JOCK'S HOME, VILLAGE NEAR LONDON - LATER, EVENING

SARAH, Jock's wife, supervises REMOVAL MEN taking the last few cartons and pieces of furniture into the large Tudor-style house. Sarah is 40 and a glamorous statuesque blonde.

Jock's car pulls into the driveway and Sarah goes to greet him. They give each other a cursory hug as Kevin backs the car out the driveway and heads back down the road.

Jock stands back to admire the house.

JOCK  
(to Sarah)  
Classy, Eh!

SARAH  
Yes, very nice. (BEAT) How was work?

JOCK  
Didn't you see the show?

SARAH  
(irritated)  
What with all this going on!?

JOCK  
Well, you missed a great one.

A REMOVAL MAN comes over, as his four workmates clear up and slam shut the back doors on the van.

REMOVAL MAN  
(to Sarah)  
Well, that's it, Mrs Strait.

SARAH  
Good. Thank you.

JOCK  
(to removal man)  
Yes, thanks.

Jock counts out five £10 notes and hands them to the removal van.

JOCK (CONT'D)  
Get some beers for you and your mates.

REMOVAL MAN  
Thanks, Mr Strait.

Jock shakes hands with the removal man who climbs into the van. It drives off.

INT. JOCK'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

The doorbell rings and Jock weaves his way through the removal cartons and junk to answer it. He is still in his pyjamas and dressing gown.

Kevin is at the door with copies of all the daily newspapers. He hands them to Jock.

KEVIN  
You've done very well today, Sir.

Jock is delighted and takes the papers into the breakfast room while Kevin finds a seat among the cartons.

Jock spreads the papers out on the bench while Sarah and children FINLEY "FINN" and KATIE eat breakfast at the table. Sarah is still in her dressing gown, but the children are in neat school uniform. Katie flicks through a celebrity magazine. Finn listens to his iPlayer and rocks to the music. Jock's pet bloodhound, MBF, slurps from a bowl in the corner of the room.

Jock gleefully scans the tabloids, which all give prominence to the death threats in yesterday's show. The headlines include: "THUG THREATENS TO KILL WIFE ON LIVE TV", "STRAIT



SHOW DEATH THREATS", "I'LL KILL YOU, SAYS MAN ON LIVE TV".

Jock holds up the headlines to show Sarah and the children.

JOCK

Great, eh!

Sarah isn't pleased, but the children are interested.

KATIE

(posh English accent)

Gosh, Dad! It that you?

Jock grins and nods. He opens the *Times* and sees it is also running a story. He holds it up to show Katie.

JOCK

See! I'm even in the posh papers!

SARAH

(curtly to Jock)

Sit down and have your breakfast!

JOCK

I'll have something later. I think  
I'll take a walk to meet my public.

EXT. JOCK'S HOME - SOON AFTER

A TV CREW, REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS are in the street.

Jock appears out the front door with MBF and is now dressed in smart casual. The journalists cluster around him.

WOMAN TV REPORTER

Any comment to make on what  
happened yesterday, Mr Strait?

JOCK

(affected sincerity)

Well, you know, it saddens me  
deeply to see two people who once  
loved each other enough to exchange  
marriage vows should fall out in  
such a spectacular and public way.  
I'm sure our counsellor, Ronnie  
Cossar, will restore peace to the  
family and that the death threat  
will be seen as nothing more the  
actions of a man who is seriously  
stressed by circumstances beyond  
his comprehension. (BRIEF PAUSE) Is  
that the right length for you?

WOMAN TV REPORTER

Yes thanks, Mr Strait. That's just perfect.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Would you mind us taking a few shots of you outside your lovely new house?

JOCK

That's fine, guys, but just make sure you don't reveal the address or the name of the village.

REPORTER

Sure, Mr Strait. (PATS MBF) Nice dog you have. What's his name?

JOCK

My Best Friend, but I just call him MBF for short. (laughs)

Jock poses with MBF for more video and still pictures.

JOCK (CONT'D)

Well, if you'll excuse me guys, I have to give MBF some exercise.

The press step back and Jock and MBF walk off.

EXT. VILLAGE PARK - SOON AFTER

A group of WOMEN DOG OWNERS are with their pets. They are Women Who Lunch and they are in deep conversation. An ELDERLY MAN is also there with his aged spaniel.

Jack appears with MBF and nods to the Elderly Man, who shows no sign of recognising him.

JOCK

Good morning. Nice day.

ELDERLY MAN

Yes. Good morning.

JOCK

Nice dog. How old is he?

ELDERLY MAN

About as old as I am in dog years, I guess. (laughs)

Jock walks past the group of women and their dogs.

JOCK  
Good morning, ladies.

They interrupt their conversation.

WOMEN DOG OWNERS  
(in chorus without  
enthusiasm)  
Hello. Good morning.

The women have recognised him, but turn back to their own conversation. Jock is annoyed, but goes on his way.

WOMAN DOG OWNER #1  
(sneeringly to others)  
Have you seen his show?

WOMAN DOG OWNER #2  
Only when I was flipping through  
the channels one morning. It seemed  
to be about some truly dreadful  
people.

WOMEN DOG OWNERS  
(chorus)  
Yes. Yes. Very common. Awful.

Jock plays ball with MBF briefly, then turns towards home.

Several yellow-jacketed GARDENERS are tidying the park gardens and immediately recognise Jock.

GARDENER #1  
Hey! Mr Strait!

Jock waves and goes to the gardeners.

GARDENER #2  
Great show you have. That guy you  
had on yesterday was somethin'  
though, wasn't he!

JOCK  
(smiling)  
Yes. He certainly was.

Gardener #1 pulls a *Daily Mirror* from his jacket pocket. The front page headline is "DEATH THREAT ON STRAIT SHOW".

GARDENER #1  
Can you autograph this for me?

JOCK  
Certainly.

The other gardeners also produce tabloid newspapers and he signs those too.

JOCK (CONT'D)  
Well, lads, I must keep going.  
Another busy day ahead for me.

Jock shakes each gardener by the hand.

A mixed business store is on the edge of the park. As Jock approaches, the elderly male STORE OWNER comes out to shake his hand. He points to the empty newspaper display racks.

STORE OWNER  
Look at that, Mr Strait! All gone,  
thanks to the story about you.  
Welcome to the village.

JOCK  
Pleased to be here.

Jock lights a cigarette and continues on his way home.

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(c) Ian D. Richardson

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