

Ep 91: The Possessed

Show notes:

- Commemorating Al's 10th show!
- Top 10 of the Last 10:

Episode	Film	Al's Rank	Chris' Rank
81	Naked You Die	1	1
82	Deadly Inheritance	7	4
83	A Hyena in a Safe	10	5
84	Double Face	8	9
85	A Black Veil for Lisa	2	3
86	Interrabang	5	7
87	Les Diaboliques	3	8
88	Dark Glasses	9	10
89	Murder By Music	4	2
90	Carnal Circuit	6	6

- Deep Dive: The Possessed 1965
- Next Up: Death on the Fourposter

Email us:

giallociaociao@gmail.com

Join our FB Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/590298937703464/>

The Giallo Score:

www.thegialloscore.com

Matt Wall:

www.ihatemattwall.com

The Possessed - 1965 - Deep Dive

Bernard - the writer

Enrico - hotel owner

Irma - Enrico's daughter

Mario - Enrico's son

Adriana - Enrico's daughter in law

Servant Girl

Francesco - photographer

Tilde - the ghost

Savereo - Tilde's father

English soundtrack and subtitles are different.

I watched the Italian language version twice and the English language once.

Blu ray is spectacular. Almost 3D.

Opening scene

Bernard in a phone booth talking to a woman. We assume it's his lover who's breaking it off with her. He says he feels empty inside. She hangs up.

(In the English language version, he mentions going back to see "her" again)

Credits roll on a dark screen. Main theme. Tense. Suspenseful. Reminds me of Hitchcock. Renzo Rosallini. Brother of the director.

Bernard drives to the lake. Voice over narration begins. He says he feels better just seeing the lake.

Bernard arrives at the hotel and meets up with Enrico. Enrico tries to give him the best room but Bernard asks for his old room from last year. They ascend the staircase and talk about how Enrico would like to remodel the hotel.

They arrive at the room. Bernard looks out the window to see the warehouse. Enrico tells him that his son Mario uses the warehouse to store and butcher meat and that he just got married and is on his honeymoon. His daughter Irma will be happy to have another woman to help in the hotel.

Enrico says that he'd wish he'd remarried (implying that his wife is dead) but "women are a closed chapter" at his age. Bernard says. No way dude you're only 50. It must be the lake air that keeps you young. (meanwhile, Salvo Randone is 59 when this movie is released).

Enrico leaves and Bernard takes out photos of Tilde (who worked at the hotel when he was there the previous year). In the English language version we already have a hint about Tilde but in the Italian version this is the first time Bernard reveals why he came back.

Assuming she still works there, he rings the servant bell hoping she'll come to his room. Slow camera zoom with amplified sounds of the wind and footsteps. This is a big moment for Bernard. But the servant girl is different now. Bernard asks for mineral water. He drops the photos on the bed and the camera zooms in on the checkered coat that Tilde is wearing in the photo.

Transition to the same coat in the coat closet. Bernard is happy to see the coat, assuming it means that she still works there. Bernard runs into Irma. He lies that he is looking for the stairs to cover his snooping for the jacket. He tells Irma he'll be staying for 20-30 days.

Bernard goes for a walk. He says he feels alive again. He runs into friends in a cafe. They talk about writing and how there is an Etruscan ruin under the lake. Bernard says he's never written anything autobiographical, until now. Suddenly he sees a figure walking with the jacket on. He bolts out of the cafe and follows her to a shop. But again he is disappointed because it's the servant girl again.

Bernard strolls around the town and stops at a photography shop. Fransceco recognizes him and they discuss Bernard's book. Bernard then sees a picture of Mario and his bride. Francesco tells Bernard that his wife is a foreigner and very wealthy.

Back at the hotel. Bernard is eating dinner and still lamenting not seeing Tilde yet. Enrico asks if he has any special requests and Bernard asks him about Tilde. Enrico suddenly turns sullen and tells Bernard that Tilde is dead. Suicide. Irma arrives at the table and interrupts the conversation.

Tense music begins playing. Bernard, back in his room, begins pacing back and forth. He should leave now that he knows Tilde is dead but he doesn't want to. He thinks back to a moment in the past.

Ground view of trees in the winter. Camera lens effect making the picture look washed out and blurry, an indication that this isn't the present moment. Bernard stands in a graveyard, he sees a woman in the jacket walk by. He follows. She goes into a house. (Is it the hotel?) A crack in the door. An eye peering through (is it Bernard?).

Image changes back to crisp, clean, focused. Beautiful blonde haired woman... Tilde is in bed with an unknown man. The man is muscular. Multiple edits of her moving, descending.

Bernard in his bed, turns on the light. Sounds of a man yelling outside. He says, "I'll see you all in jail". He coughs and sputters. He's drunk. (In the English version he says, "I know about Tilde")

Daytime. Bernard walking by the lake. Goes back to the photography store. Asks Francesco why he didn't mention that Tilde was dead. (They didn't talk about Tilde in the first scene so I'm assuming Fran knew about Tilde because he developed the photos). Fran says there were too many rumors about her death so he kept out of it. But then tells Bernard that it wasn't suicide. She was found with her throat cut. Fran says that no one really knows the truth except Tilde and maybe someone else.

The move to a projection screening room. Fran shows Bernard a negative of a group of young people, with Tilde in the center. She appears to be pregnant. Beautiful shot of the dark room and the dust flying around the light of the projector. Fran suspects Enrico (as well as the rest of the town). The knife belonged to him. But the family paid off the police to close the case a suicide with Tilde being a virgin. Bernard tells Fran about the time he spied on her. The man she was with couldn't be Enrico. He was younger.

Fran mentions Tilde's father. The town drunk. Benard tells Fran to set up a meeting with the father.

Back at the hotel. Bernard sends back his dinner. He's suspicious of Enrico. Enrico apologies and Bernard says he's not feeling well. Behind Enrico, Tilde appears looking distraught. Bernard asks Enrico if Tilde had a boyfriend. Enrico says he doesn't know.

Bernard drinks and paces again.

Another vision/dream/flashback. This time Bernard is kissing Tilde. She keeps opening her eyes for some reason. Looks like Sharon Stone. She leaves his room.

Mario returns from his honeymoon with his bride (Adriana). Irma is still distraught.

Is it night or day?

Bernard in bed. Shadows. Irma comes to him. Over exposed image. She's scared for the family and the hotel business. She says, "Yes, it was me." and then "I found her."

Bernard wakes up. Looks out the window to see Enrico and Mario butchering a cow in the warehouse and Adriana looking out the window of her room.

Bernard goes to the graveyard to find Tilde's grave. He sees her photo. Another vision/flashback. Tilde in bed again. This time the faces alternate between Mario and Enrico. Faint echoing moan/cry in the background soundtrack.

Bernard at night (?) sees a woman walking by the lake. It's Adriana.

Back at the hotel. Bernard gets mail. It's from Fran asking for a meeting. Enrico tells him that Adriana is not "well". She's having an issue adapting to normal life.

Bernard and Fran in a boat on the lake. They see Adriana walking. They argue about Tilde and Fran's suspicions. Fran says, "We're all hunchbacks of one sort or another". Bernard tells Fran that he's losing touch with reality. Fran says the situation is getting more absurd.

Bernard awakes. It was a dream. He takes a pill. Looks out the window to see Adriana walking again. Is it day or night?

He meets with Fran (for real this time?). They walk into the woods to see Tilde's father, Savereo and talk about Mario's failed marriage (because Adriana doesn't leave the house except to go for walks at night). They arrive at the father's hut but they see Mario leaving first. They ask Savereo about Tilde but he clams up. He raises his head. He's been crying. They suspect that Mario threatened him to keep quiet.

Back at the hotel. Adriana comes down for lunch with the family. She looks out of it. Bernard stares at her. They exchange glances. Enrico tells Bernard that she has poor health.

Bernard goes to his room. Looks out the window. Adriana sees him. She signals him and throws a note out the window. Bernard goes to look for it but it's gone.

Night time. Bernard waits for Adriana. Someone else is there, behind a tree. Someone appears and walks away. Bernard calls for her but she doesn't respond.

Bernard comes down with the flu. Irma takes care of him. Could she be poisoning him?

Bernard wakes up. The police inspector is there. They go to the station. He shows Bernard the body of Adriana. Bernard confirms her identity. She was pulled out of the lake. They take Bernard's statement. He says he thought it was strange that she was out walking that late at night, by herself. They wonder if she was sleepwalking.

Bernard goes back to look at the body again. He's afraid something bad is still happening to Enrico's family.

Funeral procession in the rain. Bernard uses the opportunity to spy. He goes to Adriana's room. He finds her coat. Why wasn't she wearing it when she was found in the lake? Enrico leaves the funeral

He searches through the garbage to find the note Adriana wrote to him. It doesn't say much. He looks at her photos. The tense music starts. Enrico arrives. Bernard spies on him crying in his room. Enrico says, "It's your fault". Main theme starts again.

Bernard re-evaluates his image of Tilde again. This time she is seen blackmailing Enrico because of the pregnancy that could be his or Mario's. She wants to marry into the family. Is this a flashback or a fantasy?

Bernard calls Fran. Asks him to meet. But now Fran doesn't want to get involved anymore. Maybe he's been paid off too? Fantastic scene with the camera rotating around the back of Bernard and then zooming out to reveal Mario in the foreground. Mario tells Bernard he needs to speak with him. Irma interrupts. Tells Bernard that all the guests have gone. Her father will not survive if he stays. She wants to take him away. She asks him to check out.

Bernard goes to find Fran. He's not there. Bernard runs to the train station. He sees Fran leaving on the train.

Back in the room. Bernard drinks more whisky and packs his bag. He tears up the photos of Tilde. He receives a note from Mario asking to meet him at the warehouse at 11. Bernard's watch says 10.

Bernard goes to the warehouse. Mario is there. Enrico told Mario to marry Tilde but he refused. He didn't want to share her with his father, so he killed her instead. He also killed Adriana because he wanted to confess and she freaked out.

"It was her" A knife. Bloody handprint on the window. Scream

Bernard in his room again. Looks out the window. A woman in the white coat by the lake. Spiral staircase. He runs to her. It's Irma. She confesses and runs away. The family name has been saved.

Bernard runs back to find Mario and Enrico both dead in the warehouse.

Bernard in the police station again. He signs his statement. They're still looking for Irma's body in the lake. There will be no trial (since everyone is dead or presumed dead) and Bernard's explanation will serve as a "hypothetical" interpretation of the events which will be shared with the press and the public.

Bernard drives away. He confesses that everything feels even more lost than before.

Shot of the divers in the lake.

Final shot of Bernard driving away with ghost-like trees on either side.

FINE