

Simply to Die For

Roving Rogue Productions

2021

By CJ Corl

CAST

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Narrator | Announcer and narrator who sets the stage for the project |
| Sonia “Sonny” Day | Granddaughter of May Day and heir to the Day Gang |
| May Day | Matriarch and leader of the Day Gang, having taken over when her husband died |
| Tom Collins | Brewer and smuggler for the Day Gang |
| Millie Graham | Maid for May Day |
| Lew Scannon | Leader of the West Side Gang |
| Rick O’Shae | Enforcer and “muscle” along with Lew’s second in command |
| Robin Hyde | Bookkeeper for the West Side Gang |
| Vera Piercing | Lew’s on/off girlfriend and silent film star with an obnoxious voice |
| Belle Tone | Local Jazz singer who’s been hired to sing at the party |
| Skip Dover | Belle’s pianist and manager, along with the owner of the club she sings at |
| Eddie Bull | Local Politician who’s trying to campaign all the time |
| Theresa “Terry” Bull | Eddie’s wife who’s increasingly unhappy with her marriage |
| Noah Goodman | Owner of the local telephone company along with his sister, Anita |
| Mary Goodman | Wife of Noah Goodman, from old-money who doesn’t have money anymore |
| Anita Goodman | Sister to Noah and technically co-owner of the phone company |
| Dr. Jameson | Doctor who’s struggling and invited in hopes of getting more into smuggling |

EPISODE FIVE:

Scene One:

NARRATOR

So, where did we leave off? Oh yes.

So far, at the annual Day Gala, we’ve got a dead doctor and a dead Mayor’s wife. Add to that an attack outside on three strong young men: Skip Dover, Noah Goodman, and Lew Scannon, and it looks like we’ve got a real murderer on the loose at the Day House. Right before we left, all the power in the house went off. Because, why wouldn’t it?

VERA

-screams-

EDDIE

Oh, bully!

BELLE

(TRIPS INTO THE ROOM)

What the hell?

ANITA

I hate this house! I hate it, hate it, hate it!

EDDIE

Now, everyone, just stay calm and don't move!

ANITA

Of course, we won't move! We can't see!

BELLE

Does anyone have a lighter?

VERA

I do!

NARRATOR

Can I use it?

(SOUND OF A LIGHTER)

Well, at least Vera is useful for something.

BELLE

Good. Vera, can you light those candles behind you? On the mantle? At least we'll have a little light to see by and we can find some more.

MAY

I believe there's more in our cupboard. If you'll just hand me one, I can look.

NARRATOR

It takes a few minutes, but soon several candles are lit for the group in the parlor to see.

ANITA

What about the others?

MAY

I don't think we have enough candles for everyone.

COLLINS

Ma'am? I found a lantern. But I'm afraid I don't know much about electric stuffs.

MAY

Great, just great. Does anyone here know about wiring?

ROBIN

I do.

MAY

You do?

ROBIN

Yes, ma'am. The electricity went out in my apartment on the regular for a long time. I got used to figuring out what the problem was. I can take a look.

MAY

What? And fix it like you 'fixed' our phone line?

ROBIN

Your line was cut. I can't do anything about that.

VERA

Cut?

ANITA

You didn't tell us that!

MAY

No need for you to know.

EDDIE

Actually, it would have been nice to know that we still can't call out.

MAY

Why? So you can worry more? No need to tell you because it doesn't change anything. We're all stuck here until morning either way. No reason to worry you all.

VERA

-wails-

We're going to be stuck here and die! I'll never even make it into a talkie!

MAY

And that's why I didn't tell you all.

NARRATOR

I can't blame you.

EDDIE

Alright, old girl, I suppose I see the reasoning now. Have to keep the natives in line somehow.

ROBIN

I can go down with Collins. He can show me where it is and we can take a look at it together. Maybe we can get the lights back on.

EDDIE

Can't hurt for the girl to take a look now, can it?

COLLINS

It's our only chance, ma'am.

MAY

Alright, alright. Go on now.

COLLINS

Come on, Miss Hyde. Stay close so you don't trip over anything in the dark.

ROBIN

Let's get the lights on.

(DOOR CLOSING)

Scene Two:

NOAH

Hello?

NARRATOR

Looks like someone's getting up to some hijinks upstairs.

SKIP

Noah?

NARRATOR

Mmmm?

NOAH

I was hoping you'd be in here when Belle told me to come in.

SKIP

Of course, I am. Where are you?

NARRATOR

Yeah, where are the lights?

Oh... right... Ummm... does anyone here have a lighter?

SKIP

Wait, here.

NARRATOR

I knew I liked that guy. Of course, Skip has a lighter.

Soon, two candles are lit, giving the men just a little bit of light to see by.

NOAH

Come here, I want to see you. Are you okay? Not hurt?

SKIP

I'm probably going to have bruises all over my back by morning. But I'm okay. What about you? Let me see your stomach.

NOAH

You just want to undress me, don't you?

SKIP

That's just a bonus.

NOAH

I was so worried about you. But apparently I didn't need to be.

SKIP

I don't mind if you worry about me. Come here. I want to make sure you're all still in one piece.

NOAH

-hiss-

SKIP

You're going to have a nasty bruise there.

NOAH

Then you'll just have to make it better.

(KISS)

SKIP

Better?

NOAH

Much. But it would be even better if you were kissing my lips.

NARRATOR

Whoo! Now, this is what we're here for.

Noah and Skip cling to each other, arms entwining. Both trying to get closer, if such a thing is possible. Fingers running over skin, mapping out the planes of torsos, shoulders, and faces, as if it's the first time but also familiar paths they've known forever. Finally, Noah pulls back a bit, resting his forehead against Skip's.

NOAH

Do you think anyone's guessed?

SKIP

It's a well-known secret that Belle and I aren't really lovers to anyone who's paid any attention to us.

NOAH

I mean about us.

SKIP

No, I don't think they've guessed that you're in my bed every night. You've been the image of a doting husband to Mary all evening.

NOAH

I'm sorry, that must be hard for you to see.

SKIP

Noah.

NOAH

What?

SKIP

Do you really want to talk about your wife? Or do you want to take advantage of the lights being out in this giant house while we're alone together in a bedroom?

NOAH

Oh, so you want me to do something like this?

SKIP

Damn...

NARRATOR

Ummm... I think we're just going to let those two have their fun...

ANITA

Sonny?

SONNY

Right here. Anita, is that you?

ANITA

Yes, I had an extra light and wanted to find my brother. I figured there weren't any candles up here.

SONNY

Most likely not. Thank you, I've been a bit worried to move since I wasn't sure where the stairs were. It's so dark up here with the storm out.

ANITA

It is. Here, I brought two candles. Can you show me which room Noah is in?

NARRATOR

Uh-oh

SONNY

Yes, he's down at the end of the hall.

NARRATOR

Sonny and Anita approach the door. While they knock, the timing between that and the door swinging open isn't enough to really warn the two men.

SONNY

-gasp-

ANITA

Noah!

NARRATOR

Both Noah and Skip are stripped down to their skivvies, a tangle of limbs on the sofa near the windows. A flash of lightning from the storm quickly illuminates fair skin next to brown skin before Skip falls to the floor in surprise.

SKIP

Oph!

NOAH

'Nita! What are you doing?

ANITA

I was coming to find you! What is going on?

NOAH

Shh! Not so loud.

SKIP

Nothing's going on. I opened the wrong door and tripped over Noah.

SONNY

Uh-huh... tripped.

NARRATOR

Right into some whoopie.

Sonny closes the door, giving the four some privacy for what is surely going to be an awkward conversation. I mean, look at who's here. Brother, Sister, Brother's lover, and your hostess.

NOAH

Skip, stop. We've been caught.

SONNY

I'd say so.

ANITA

So what? You're a fruit?

SKIP

Well, you don't need to call names. Yes, I'm a homosexual. Do you have a problem with that? It's not like it's a huge secret or anything. Most of my regulars know that.

ANITA

I don't care about you!

NOAH

'Nita-

ANITA

Don't you call me that. Who are you?

NOAH

I'm the same as I always have been. But you can't say anything.

ANITA

Like hell, I won't.

SONNY

I don't think that's a good idea, Anita.

ANITA

Stay out of this!

SKIP

She's right. If you tell people, it will be a disaster. A man like me? Few people care if I'm a homosexual. I'm a musician. I'm supposed to be deviant. It lends to my creative aura. But your brother-

ANITA

What about my brother?

NOAH

If this gets out, it will hurt the business, 'Nita. No one will want to support the company. The interest in you, in finding you a good husband, that will all go away if people think I've corrupted you somehow.

SONNY

He's right. We had a boy in our gang. When the rest found out... Let's just say I'm glad it was quick.

NOAH

The rest of the world would destroy me. And you would end up being dragged down with me just because we're related.

ANITA

But it's so... animalistic.

SKIP

No, it's not. Noah and I... we have something special.

NOAH

I love him, 'Nita. It isn't something that's physical or a passing fling. We've been through a lot together. Please, just don't say anything. Keep it between us.

ANITA

... Okay. But just because it's you.

NOAH

Thanks, 'Nita. What would I do without you?

ANITA

Can you please put some pants on?

NARRATOR

Thankfully, depending on your opinion, new clothes are quickly pulled on.

NOAH

Come on, let's get Mary and we'll head downstairs. I think we'd all feel better with a drink and with everyone else.

NARRATOR

The siblings head down the hall, leaving Sonny with Skip as he adjusts his tie.

SKIP

You won't say anything.

SONNY

No, I won't.

SKIP

The boy you mentioned?

SONNY

I'd grown up with him. We'd played together and he was... the closest thing I ever had to a brother. I wouldn't wish what happened to him on anyone.

SKIP

You said it was quick.

SONNY

Doesn't matter that it's quick when it's family pulling the trigger.

SKIP

Damn...

Well, thank you. We both appreciate it.

SONNY

Of course. You head downstairs. I'm going to find everyone else.

Scene Three:

NARRATOR

While all that excitement has been happening upstairs, downstairs, things are pretty boring.

COLLINS

Think you gots it figured out?

ROBIN

Maybe... It looks like it might be an easy fix, thankfully. Just some wires coming loose.

COLLINS

Not cut like the phone lines?

ROBIN

No, just looks like normal wear . The high winds jostling the wires outside around might have impacted it, or someone could have loosened it. But nothing that can't be fixed.

COLLINS

Good.

ROBIN

Can you bring that light a bit closer? I can't quite see what I'm doing.

COLLINS

You're barely two inches from the wire, girly. How much closer can you gets?

ROBIN

I lost my glasses somewhere. I probably set them down upstairs or left them when I changed clothes.

COLLINS

Need to gets them?

ROBIN

No, I'm okay if I squint.

NARRATOR

Robin twists a few wires before sitting back.

ROBIN

Alright, let's see if this baby works.

(FLIPS SWITCH TO TURN POWER BACK ON)

NARRATOR

There's a pop.

(ELECTRICAL POP)

And the lights flicker back on.

COLLINS

That's the ticket, girly. I'll be honest, I didn't think you could do it.

ROBIN

Thanks for the vote of confidence.

COLLINS

Come on, let's grab a few more bottles of booze and head upstairs. This calls for a bit of a celebration.

ROBIN

That sounds like an excellent plan.

NARRATOR

Can't say that Collins doesn't know how to celebrate. Wonder if he could bring me a drink on his way back...

Scene Four:

BELLE

You okay, honey?

NARRATOR

Belle steps up to Skip, sliding her arm through his. The club owner is standing off to the side, keeping some space between himself and most of the other guests.

SKIP

Hmmm? Oh, yeah, I'm fine.

BELLE

You sure? You seem... off. Did something happen?

NARRATOR

Oh-ho, something happened all right.

Skip jerks his head to the side, slipping out into the hall so they can speak in private.

Or at least, with the illusion of privacy.

SKIP

We got caught.

BELLE

By who?

SKIP

Sonny and Anita walked in on us.

BELLE

Do we need to...

SKIP

No, I think we're okay for right now.

BELLE

Did she get upset? About her brother?

SKIP

Shhh!

BELLE

Sorry...

SKIP

Noah's dealing with her right now. So I'll just let him handle her.

BELLE

What about Sonny?

SKIP

She said she wouldn't say anything.

BELLE

And you trust her?

SKIP

She said a friend of hers was taken out when people found out about him.

BELLE

... Alright... I guess. If you trust her.

SKIP

I don't completely. But I trust her more than others.

BELLE

If you say so. You know that I'll always be here for you no matter what happens.

SKIP

I just hope it solves itself.

BELLE

I'm sure it will, chickadee. Do you want me to talk with them? Girl to girl? I could...

SKIP

Maybe it would help if you talked with Anita?

BELLE

You go get your boy. I'll have a heart to heart with the girls about not screwing this up.

SKIP

Thanks, you're the best.

BELLE

I know.

NARRATOR

I love those two. Don't you? I really hope one of them doesn't end up dead.

Or our murderer. That would be a mood killer.

While Belle is off fetching Anita and Sonny, Skip catches Noah, pulling him into the music room where he and Belle were planning to perform. It's set up for some dancing, with the furniture pushed back and a piano at the wall. The lights had flickered back on moments before, with the chandeliers lighting the room with a rosy glow.

SKIP

How's it going? With your sister?

NOAH

Alright. She won't say anything, so far.

SKIP

Do you think she will?

NOAH

Not right now. But I'm more concerned about you. Come here, I know that rattled you.

NARRATOR

The two step close, leaning into each other. Fingers entwine together, foreheads resting close. Taking solace in a few peaceful moments stolen from the world.

(DOOR BANG OPEN)

EDDIE

I knew it! I knew you two were sex perverts!

SKIP

It's not what it looks like.

EDDIE

It looks like the two of you are sex perverts! Don't try to deny it. I heard you talking to that little tramp of yours.

NOAH

Mayor, don't-

EDDIE

Don't you even dare to talk to me, Goodman. Your wife is one of the kindest women out there and you treat her like this? By going behind her back?

SKIP

You're one to talk.

EDDIE

My wife and I had an agreement.

SKIP

I'm sure you did.

EDDIE

Besides, I wasn't a sodomite!

SKIP

-starts to respond but is quickly cut off-

A sodomite-

NOAH

Skip, shut it.

SKIP

No, I won't let this hypocrite get all high and mighty with the rest of us. He's slept around with half the city, trust me, I've seen him dragging all manner of girls to my club. I'm not going to be bullied by a man who couldn't keep it in his pants for his own wife.

EDDIE

Ah, but I'm not a sodomite. Goodman, you dolt, throwing away a good woman for the likes of him. Mary deserves to know.

NOAH

Don't you dare go near my wife.

EDDIE

Try and stop me.

NARRATOR

Mayor Bull moves to leave but is stopped when Noah catches hold of his collar, forcing the man back and against the wall.

NOAH

You listen to me!

(DOOR SLAMS OPEN... AGAIN)

BELLE

What the hell is going on?

ANITA

-little scream-

Noah?

SKIP

Close the door, Belle. Now.

(DOOR IS QUICKLY CLOSED)

SONNY

To repeat what Miss Tone said: What the hell is going on in here?

SKIP

Apparently we don't have much luck today...

EDDIE

Wait? You knew?

SONNY

Knew what?

EDDIE

That you've invited a deviant to your own party? I caught them red-handed!

NARRATOR

Belle raises an eyebrow at Skip, who just shrugs.

EDDIE

And now, I'm going to go tell Mary. She deserves to know. So does everyone else. I know I don't want to be supporting a known sodomite!

ANITA

Mayor Bull, wait. Please, just a moment.

EDDIE

What?!

ANITA

Just, please, stop for a moment.

SONNY

We don't want to go into this rashly. We might make decisions that we can't take back.

EDDIE

I won't regret this. I don't want one of our main utilities run by a pervert!

NOAH

I'm not a-

BELLE

Mr. Mayor, do you really think it's wise for you to go blabbing without thinking things through?

EDDIE

I am thinking.

NOAH

Belle, stay out-

SKIP

Noah... shhh...

BELLE

I mean that you might not want some of your own secrets let loose to the public. What do you think would happen to your campaign if it slipped out that you were having many, many affairs?

EDDIE

Well... I...

BELLE

And not just with girls you could hire off the street. Oh no, a prostitute can be explained away, hidden easily. But what about when you were trying to put the moves on me? Or some of my dancers. You'd try to have a go with dark girls like us?

EDDIE

I-

BELLE

Or I'm sure I could get a few others to talk. After all, I've seen you bring all sorts of girls into Over and Down. Designers? Or what about some of those actresses? Or that socialite I saw you with? The one who's now married to that man with a nasty temper? Oh, or there was Mrs. Gordon? I'm sure her husband would be thrilled to learn the man whose campaign he's been contributing to has been screwing his wife? I'm sure that would go over fabulously, right?

EDDIE

You. Wouldn't. Dare.

BELLE

Oh, I wouldn't? Why not? You're threatening to destroy the lives of people I care about. What makes you think I wouldn't do the same to destroy that threat?

...

...

...

NARRATOR

Whew! You can cut the tension with a knife...

...

...

...

BELLE

Do we have a deal?

EDDIE

... Yes.

BELLE

Good, then this is the last I should hear about this. Shall we all go back to everyone else? I don't think Skip or Noah have been able to get a drink to warm up yet.

SONNY

Oh, yes, of course. Come on, Noah, I think I have exactly what you'd like.

BELLE

After you, Mr. Mayor.

NARRATOR

Sonny escorts Noah out of the room, with Belle and Skip forcing Mayor Bull to walk out before them.

ANITA

-Extravagant sigh-

I guess I'll come too...

NARRATOR

Bringing up the rear is Anita. She reaches for the light switch, pushing the button before there's a pop

(LIGHT POPS)

Some sparks,

(ELECTRICAL SPARKS)

ANITA

-screams while being electrocuted-

NARRATOR

Well, this is certainly shocking good fun.

