Scenario
Chas. H Smith & Roland West,
7 Reels

JUN 23 1921

©CIL 16699 "NOBOD

"Nobody" is a story which begins in the Jury room of the Criminal Court. A man named Hedges, is on trial for his life for the murder of the Big Financier, John Rossmore. The facts in the case prior to the murder were, that Mrs. Rossmore had instituted divorce proceedings. In response Rossmore had promptly started a counter suit, using the man Hedges, his butler, as chief witness and promising him $5000 to testify falsely in his favor. The case was subsequently settled out of Court, after which Rossmore refused to keep his agreement with Hedges, who persisted in demanding a settlement and was heard on various occasions to threaten Rossmore if he should fail to live up to his agreement.

Shortly after, Rossmore's body was discovered in the library of his home. He had died of a pistol wound and Hedges, who had been overheard a few moments before the deed threatening Rossmore, was immediately taken into custody and indicted for the murder and was being tried for the same at the opening of the story. At this time the Jury had been locked up for thirty hours unable to reach an agreement. From the first eleven had voted for conviction and one had held out obstinately for acquittal, although circumstantial evidence pointed strongly and conclusively to Hedges, for a torn piece of photograph had been found on the floor of the library, showing the right shoulder of a man, and the weave of the coat shown in the photo compared identically with the coat worn by Hedges when he was arrested. When the foreman finally proposed a vote for disagreement, one juror arose and announced himself as the one who had held out for acquittal and asked the Jury to reserve their decision until he had been heard. This was agreed to, and the twelfth juror then related a story as follows:-

There was a young married couple by the name of Smith. The husband having lately been promoted and his salary advanced to $10,000 a year, felt that he could afford the luxury of a short vacation with his wife at Palm Beach. Everything there was new and wonderful to them and Mrs. Smith particularly was supremely happy at this opportunity to mingle with the Smart Set, although on their arrival they were both unacquainted. While there they paid a visit to the Beach Club, and tried their luck at Roulette. Quite by accident they became acquainted with a Mrs. Fallon who had at one time in her life shone as a Society Bud and was still clinging to its fringe. Through this Mrs. Fallon, who was an intimate acquaintance of John Rossmore, the Smith's became acquainted with the big financier and were promptly invited to lunch with him. This was followed by other invitations including a trip on his yacht, Rossmore making himself particularly agreeable and solicitous to the husband and promising him a position that would assure his financial future, over which Smith was much elated and assured his wife that he would soon be able to afford a great many luxuries which she craved. The day before the intended Yacht trip, Smith received a telegram from his firm demanding his immediate return to business. This was a keen disappointment to Mrs. Smith, but on the advice of Mrs. Fallon, it was agreed to allow Mrs. Smith to remain at Palm Beach, and Smith left the following morning for New York.

The Yacht trip was quite an [illegible]t for Mrs. Smith, and never having tasted liquor in any form, when offered a cocktail she refused to indulge, but later at dinner time was induced to try one on the plea that she could hardly refuse to join in a toast to her absent husband. So Mrs. Smith allowed herself to be persuaded, the result of which was, before the evening was over, she had been induced to imbibe all too freely, until at length she could not keep her tired eyes open any longer, after which she was taken to the state room assigned to her. The next morning Mrs. Smith was unable to recall anything that had happened, or did she realize who and where she was, but repeatedly pleaded to be taken home. All efforts by Mrs. Fallon to stimulate her memory failed and on the advice of Rossmore, Mrs. Fallon was delegated to bring Mrs. Smith home to New York, giving her key, with instructions to explain the nature of it, to Mrs. Smith and to improvise some logical reason for Mrs. Smith's condition to tell the husband.

On their arrival at the Smith's apartment in New York, the doctor was sent for and pronounced the case some form of aphasia. Mrs. Smith's action in the meantime being extremely childish, occupying herself by cutting doll figures out of paper. The story told by Mrs. Fallon, in explanation of Mrs. Smith's condition, was that on the yacht trip they had run into a storm and heavy seas which had thrown Mrs. Smith head first to the side of the boat and she had been unconscious for hours, after which she was unable to recall anything. The doctor suggested that some similar shock might restore her normal condition. In about a week there is a noticeable change in Mrs. Smith's condition, and one day, when Tom Smith notices in the society column of the paper that John Rossmore has returned to the city and is domiciled at his home on East 72nd Street, he reads the article to Mrs. Smith, who promptly drops some blossoms she has been smelling and gazes straight before her with a far-away expression. The husband goes to her a little concerned, asks her how she feels and she mutters some incoherent syllables. He tries to induce her to take but she only murmurs "Oh please - take - me home". Alarmed, he calls the nurse and tells her he is going to see the doctor and consult him. He leaves and the nurse falls asleep in the next room. Then Mrs. Smith reads the society note again and in deep thought opens the door of her clothes closet and takes down her evening clothes.

When Smith returns and as he is divesting himself of his coat and umbrella, he hears his wife mutter, and turning to her he distinguishes the words, "Mrs. Fallon - orange juice - husband" and other rambling expressions, and finally her words become tangible and coherent and in her sub-conscious state she recites the events on the yacht trip and her experience. When she finishes and Smith has learned the truth he becomes frantic with rage, and seeing his army pistol in its holster on the wall, he grabs it and hastily leaves the house, taking with him the notice of Rossmore's arrival which contains the street address.

At this point in his narrative the twelfth juror picks up the piece of torn photo on the table, which had been stamped "Exhibit A" and lays it face upward on the table, when he takes three more pieces from his pocket and arranges them to match the one on the table, as the jurors intently watch him. Now the four torn pieces plainly show the man's face on the picture, and it is the twelfth juror himself. He then tells the others that he himself is the Smith referred to and that on examination he had sworn he did not know Rossmore as he had hoped to cause a disagreement in the jury in order to give Hedges a chance for his life. Here he is interrupted by a grouchy juror who blurts out, "Then you're the murderer of Rossmore instead of Hedges!" Smith shakes his head in the negative and tells them that by the time he got to Rossmore's house the "Extras" were already on the street announcing Rossmore's death. Astonished and perplexed the Jurymen urge him to continue and Smith resumes his narrative.

When he returned home to read the account of Rossmore's death, he found his wife in an extremely restless state. On approaching the bed Smith spied a key in her hand, along with three torn pieces of miniature photograph. On examining herlocket he found it empty. He was now much perplexed, but more so when he discovered his wife's evening clothes and slippers under the bed and spattered with mud, for it had been raining all evening. In the meantime Mrs. Smith's restlessness had increased to a state that alarmed Smith. Of a sudden and with a start Mrs. Smith started up in bed and looked intently at her husband. It immediately dawned on Smith that the light of reason had returned to her. This was confirmed a moment later when she for the first time recognized him and threw her arms about his neck, saying she had just had a horrible dream. Smith asks her to recall it and she told him it seemed she went to Rossmore's house with a key given to her by Mrs. Fallon. When she was about to step into the library she saw a man enter through a window at the other end and secret himself behind a screen. In another moment Rossmore entered the room and was confronted by the man, who demanded $5000 which was due him. He had evidently been Rossmore's butler. He threatened to shoot Rossmore unless he received the money. Finally Rossmore consented and counted out the money to him, which the butler shoved into his pocket with many thanks and then made his exit, passing Mrs. Smith, who was hidden behind the portiers of the door. The moment the butler had left the room, Rossmore had jumped for the phone and called up police headquarters. This was overheard by the butler, who had just reached the outer door, and a hard determined look spread over his face.

Rossmore was interrupted at the phone by the entrance of Mrs. Smith and he immediately sprung forward to greet her. She did not seem to resent his endearments but displayed a more or less inanimate attitude. Rossmore noticing a locket hanging from her throat, opened it and taking out the picture of Tom Smith tore it into four bits which he threw on the floor, Mrs. Smith meanwhile eyeing him curiously. Rossmore followed his action by proclaiming he would in this fashion dispose of everything in the way of their happiness, after which he drew Mrs. Smith to him in an embrace. Almost instantly three white puffs of smoke synchomised with the reports of three revolver shots and a moment later Rossmore dropped to the floor - dead.

Soon the sound of blows on the large double doors by the servants on the other side of it could be heard, and Mrs. Smith, who had been staring vacantly at the body, slowly gathered up three pieces of the torn photograph and then deliberately made herexit, the same way as she entered. The fourth quarter of the photo was later found by the authorities and preserved as a possible clew and later offered by the prosecution as evidence and marked "Exhibit A".

When Mrs. Smith finished relating the episode she considered a dream, she anxiously inquired of her husband whether it really could have happened. For answer Smith walks to the holster on the wall, extracts the revolver, and with his back to his wife, breaks the barrel and discovers three discharged cartridges and three live ones. Unseen by Mrs. Smith he empties the barrel into his hand and returning to his wife. shows her the empty pistol, telling her it couldn't have been true as the gun had not been loaded for months.

The sequel of Juror Smith's narrative proved a great revelation to the other eleven men, and Smith substantiated his story by producing the key to Rosamore's library and the cartridges, which promptly convinced all in the room and it was unanimously agreed upon by all that not a word of Smith's narrative should ever be repeated beyond the Jury room. After which a final vote was taken, finding Hedges "not guilty".

This document is from the Library of Congress
"Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, 1912-1977"

Collections Summary:

The Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, Class L and Class M, consists of forms, abstracts, plot summaries, dialogue and continuity scripts, press kits, publicity and other material, submitted for the purpose of enabling descriptive cataloging for motion picture photoplays registered with the United States Copyright Office under Class L and Class M from 1912-1977.

Class L Finding Aid:
https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi020004

Class M Finding Aid:
https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi021002

National Audio-Visual Conservation Center
The Library of Congress