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WEARY DEATH

(DESTINY, Murnau Stiftung print)

The Players:

The Lovers—Lil Dagover and Walter Janssen

Death—Bernhard Goetzke

The Mayor—Hans Sternberg

The Priest—Carl Rueckert

The Solicitor—Max Adalbert

The Doctor—Wilhelm Diegelmann

The Teacher—Erich Pabst

The Apothecary—Karl Platon

The Tailor—Hermann Picha

The Sexton—Paul Rehkoep

The Night Watchman—Max Pfeiffer

The Beggar—Georg John

The Innkeeper's Wife—Lydia Potechina

The Mother—Grete Berger

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"Somewhere and Sometime"

Collaborators:

Sets:

German Section—Walter Roehrig

Oriental and Venetian Sections—Hermann Warm

Chinese Section—Robert Herlth

Photography—Erich Nitzschmann, Hermann Saalfrank, F.A. Wagner

Lighting Design—Robert Hegewald

The real oriental and Chinese art works and costumes belong to the Heinrich Umlauff Museum in Hamburg.

Written and Directed by Fritz Lang

1. A German folk song in six verses
2. First Verse

- 3 Through a valley to the village
asleep beneath the slope
There came a fresh, young couple
in love and full of hope.
But from the trees
fall golden leaves
like tears in evening's breath
On their path there stood
Silent, in a hood
Waiting for them, D E A T H
4. The village that time forgot.
5. Every evening, their very respectable worthinesses gather at the Golden Unicorn
for a drink or two.
6. His importance, the mayor.
7. His eminence, the priest
8. His learnedness, the doctor
9. His precision, the solicitor
10. And the new teacher
11. Normally, as she lit the lamps each evening, the old wise woman would have
heard the latest news, but for some time now their worthinesses had spoken of
only one thing: The stranger and nothing but the stranger.
12. One day a stranger had asked the sexton for directions to the town. The stranger
was curiously familiar to him, although he had never set eyes on him before.
13. Who owns the land beside the graveyard?
14. And he answered, "The town council has resolved that the land should be used to
extend the graveyard."
15. I hardly believe that the town council would agree to grant you the future
graveyard. And why the devil are you so set on that piece of land?
16. I am a tired wanderer, and I would like to plant a garden there.
17. Beside the graveyard?

18. At the meeting of the town council, the stranger's petition was hotly disputed, but in the end, the gold the stranger was offering was too tempting.
19. The stranger's petition was unanimously passed and the graveyard land was leased to him for 99 years.
20. But the joy over the sudden swelling of the town's coffers was not unspoiled. Just as the foreigner built an insurmountable wall around his property, his mysterious character built a wall between himself and the townspeople.
21. Go and see for yourself, gentlemen. I have walked completely around the wall and could not find a single door or gate.
22. Your efforts are in vain, mortals. The way through this wall is known only to me.
23. And is it true that no one has found a single door in that eerie wall?
24. Second Verse
25. It's an old tradition that every young couple take their first drink at the Golden Unicorn from the bridal cup...and you can tell from the tips of your noses that you two are in love.
26. Excuse me. Can you tell me where my fiancé has gone?
27. My child, your fiancé left with that stranger who sat at your table.
28. Listen people and let me tell
It has rung ten times, the bell
Keep away from wine and drink
Otherwise to hell you'll sink.
29. There are some herbs which when picked by the light of the full moon, have magical powers. Touch-me-not and Solomon's seal. Goatsthorn and centaury. Nobody knows that better than the old apothecary.
30. The old apothecary's shop has known its owner since he was a small boy, back when he stuck his nose into his father's jars and crucibles. But this is the first time that it has seen him with a young woman.
31. Child, child, you're shaking with fever. Wait, I'll brew you some strong tea and you'll soon feel better.

32. (Book Page) The Song of Songs [Canticle 8, verse 6]:
Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. (shot repeats)
33. (Book Page) For Love is strong as Death
34. Listen people and let me tell
It has rung eleven times, the bell ...
35. What are you looking for in my kingdom, child? I have not called you.
36. I want to go where my beloved is.
37. Where is he, whom you stole from me?
38. I did not steal him, his time had come.
39. What you see here are people's lives
They shine and burn for a time
Until God decides to extinguish them...
40. Believe me, my office is not easy. It is a curse. I am so weary of watching human suffering. In return for obeying God's will, I am hated.
41. And is there no way of bringing an extinguished flame back to life, Death?
42. And is there no way to defeat you? I believe LOVE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH!
43. Is YOUR love stronger than DEATH? Do you wish to fight the eternal one? I would bless you if YOU could defeat ME!
44. See these three flames almost extinguished? I put their fate in your hands. If you can save just one, I will give you back your beloved
45. Third Verse
46. To prayers, all believers!
47. Ramadan
48. Allah, Allah, Allah... Mohammed... Allah
49. Zobeide, the sister of the Caliph

50. The Frank!
51. There is no other god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet
52. Are you crazy? Do you want to jeopardize both of us?
53. I have not seen you since Ramadan began. Night after night I have waited in vain for the messenger who will call me back to your arms.
54. Tonight I'll send Aischa...But now, I conjure you, leave the Mosque, or you are lost!
55. A Frank! An infidel! A heathen!
56. An infidel has desecrated the Mosque.
57. Get out! Do not desecrate this holy ground with the blood of an unbeliever
58. The Caliph
59. Zobeide? My sister?
60. We don't know where the Frank lives, but I have a suggestion, oh Caliph.
61. Of what concern to me is the fate of an infidel? I sought nothing more than to protect the sanctity of the Mosque from his blood.
62. Then it will please you to know that the violator of the Mosque will not escape punishment
63. We are on his trail. And I have circled the city with guards. Any attempt to escape will deliver him right into my hands.
64. You must go to him, Aischa, and bring him back to me by the secret way.
65. Here he is safe—They will not seek the quarry in the hunter's home!
66. El Mot, the gardener.
67. When night falls, come the secret way! My mistress will hide you in the palace until the mob's anger has subsided.
68. Surround Princess Zobeide's palaceLet anyone in, but no one out!
69. That night

70. Come with me. I can conceal you until the guards are sleepy
71. The Caliph
72. What is that?
73. They're probably hunting some mangy dog
74. Your orders have been followed, oh master!
75. The night is beautiful, oh my sister...I would like to spend it on the roof of the palace. Will you join me?
76. Who is digging in the garden at this hour?
77. El Mot, the gardener, wants to surprise you
78. Fourth Verse
79. Monna Fiametta
80. Giovanfrancesco
81. Girolamo
82. I am pleased to see a smile on those lips, my beautiful bride to be.
83. How close men come to death without even knowing it. They believe they have eternity before them when they have not even the lifetime of the rose they play with.
84. Master Giovanfrancesco is politically suspect among the Council of 14. Too much so, in fact. He will not live to see the next sunrise.
85. Not for nothing am I the best fencer among the Council of 14...and when Carnival heats the blood, it's not difficult to fall into encounters which can sometimes be deadly.
86. I realize that you despise me, Monna Fiametta. And you're free to do so...that is at least until the moment of our wedding, which you are trying in vain to avoid ...
87. I hope you will then have a smile for me, and a rose, as you do for this other man, who will have long been moldering in his grave
88. A cockfight

89. Letters...
90. This letter is for Master Girolamo
91. Tell him that I send it with my sweetest smile
92. Take this letter as quickly as you can to Master Giovanfrancesco...secretly. No one is to know of it, especially not Master Girolamo
93. Have the Moor come here
94. I, Monna Fiametta, invite you this evening to be my guest. I think we have much to say to one another. Come at 10. The maid will direct you.
95. Madonna Fiametta sends this letter with her sweetest smile.
96. Do you have a second letter to deliver?
97. I have an enemy, Moor, whom I have invited here this evening—and he must not leave the house alive. Is that understood?
98. Flee my love. The Council of 14 wishes you dead, and Girolamo is to be your executioner! Avoid all encounters. Flee now and don't return until I send word! The fate he has prepared for you will find him tonight. I kiss your eyes and your heart!—Fiametta
99. I'll lead him with the tip of my rapier over to where you are standing...and when he turns his back to you...
100. Monna Fiametta sends this to you
101. And this letter...
102. I, Madonna Fiametta, invite you this evening to be my guest. I think we have much to say to one another. Come at 10. The maid will direct you.
103. Take my advice; not a word! If your life and Monna Fiametta's honor mean anything to you, not a peep. Whatever happens, keep silent
104. 10 o'clock
105. Carne vale!
106. NOW!
107. Fifth Verse

108. O thou most worthy of praise,
 O thou who will live a thousand years,
 O thou lamp of wisdom,
 O thou jewel,
 Tomorrow is my birthday and I have decreed that happiness reign throughout the middle kingdom! And, I wish on my birthday, that thou, the pearl of all magicians, relieve me of my imperial boredom with never before seen magic tricks from the treasury of thy enlightened spirit.
 With kind regards,
 Zhou Shuan Wang
 Emperor
109. (Continuation of above) PS. Shouldest thou, against all expectation, *also* bore me, most worthy of praise, I would, most regrettably have to have thee beheaded.-
 The Above
110. Tiao Tsien! Liang! Tiao Tsien! Liang!
111. Would you be so good as to bring me my Sunday wand; the jade one
112. Whereupon the honorable Ah Hi rids himself of the object of his irritation
113. We're going on a trip
114. The Son of Heaven!
115. The Emperor's archer...
116. Oh Son of Heaven, forgive this unclean toad, who kisses the dust at thy feet. Ah Hi has not been spotted on any road.
117. Oh Son of Heaven, excuse this miserable worm at thy feet! Not a trace of Ah Hi on all the rivers.
118. A Hi!
119. Hurry up with the magic!
120. Abracadabra, Witches' fat, Three times a black cat!!!
121. Sublime Son of Heaven! That you may be secure from your enemies for all time, I give you a fully organized army!
122. Greet the Son of Heaven!
123. This is going to be quite expensive

124. My dear Ah Hi, thy gift is pretty, but the courier is even prettier. I'll keep her too.
125. Oh Son of Heaven, she is a small toad unworthy of thee. Allow me instead to offer thee this magic horse. There is nothing like it in the whole world.
126. My dear Ah Hi, I am most pleased with you! I'll keep the horse...and the girl.
127. Most Sublime one, that is not possible. I cannot do without the girl in my magic show.
128. So, you cannot? I will explain how you can! Either...
129. ...or!
130. Son of Heaven, thy persuasive powers are irresistible
131. Take him to the tallest Pagoda. At dawn, behold him
132. You must make her obedient to me, Ah Hi, or else...well, you know
133. You'll help me, won't you?
134. Be reasonable Tiao Tsien! What can poor Liang offer you? While the emperor ...
135. Give my back my magic wand!
136. You, you miserable, disgusting cactus, you!!
137. The Escape
138. The Pursuers
139. We'll have to continue on foot, Liang! The path is too narrow.
140. My piece of Ah Hi's jade wand grows smaller every time I use its powers.
141. Farther, farther
142. They're on our heels.
143. Demons of Fire, block their path with flames
144. Night
145. Take Ah Hi's magic horse and bring them both to me...dead or alive!

146. The magic horse
147. Sixth Verse
148. Now, my child, do you see why I am so weary of my office? I am the eternally invincible one...return to the living and live!
149. Give me back the life of my beloved!
150. One final possibility! Bring me, in one hour, another life, not yet spent; one before which years, days,hours lie. Then will I give your beloved his life again.
151. ... eleven times the bell! Put out your lamps and your fire, Before to bed you retire
152. Praise God the All-powerful!
153. Death took my beloved from me...I wanted to follow him!
153. Old man, you've enjoyed life long enough! What else can it offer you?
154. Give me your life...Give me the few days that remain to you. Help me to save the life of my beloved.
155. Not one day, not one hour, not one breath!!
156. The beggar!
157. Beggar, do you want an end to your misery?
158. Give me your life!
159. Not one day, not one hour, not one breath!!
160. The hospital
161. The mother is well and the baby is healthy...but the young man just brought in passed away shortly before 10
162. Dear God, the poor lad! So young and already dead!
163. And here are we, who would be happy not to see another morning, but death has no time for us.

164. If you are tired of your lives—which of you will give me theirs—out of compassion?
165. That was the last one!
166. My child!
167. Another life, not yet spent...
168. I could not defeat you at that price. Now take my life too. For without my beloved, it is worthless to me
169. I shall bring you to him, your beloved
170. Who throws his life away, wins it...
171. Gather round, people, and hear what is said
The clock strikes twelve, and all are abed
Preserve yourselves from ghosts and ghouls
That no evil spirit take your souls.