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# ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S THE LADY VANISHES

Constantly flashing from melodrama to comedy, THE LADY VANISHES thrills the viewer and teases his intelligence to outguess the master of intrigue, Alfred Hitchcock. Awakening from a nap, a young woman discovers that the lady sitting in her train compartment has vanished. Her suspicions unconfirmed by everyone else, the macabre suggestion of a huge conspiracy slips into her mind, and the rest is madness and mayhem in inimitable Hitchcock style.

*"Exciting Thriller"*  
BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

*"Devilishy clever"*  
NEW YORK TIMES

*"Magnificent"*  
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE



## STORY

A lady vanishes on a train. One moment she was sitting there, plump, matronly, reading a needle-work magazine, answering to the name and description of Miss Froy, governess, London-bound from the Tyrol. The next, she was gone.

And the young woman in the compartment, awakening from her doze, was solemnly assured by her neighbors that she had seen no Miss Froy. A brain specialist aboard suggests that she has a hallucination induced by the blow she received when a flower box fell on her head at the station.

A young man who had been one of the avalanche-bound guests at the inn was skeptical, too, but offered to help. The two Englishmen aboard didn't want to be involved; they were eager to reach England in time for the cricket finals. The pacifist was afraid his reputation might suffer; he obviously was traveling with a woman not his wife.

Still, there was something about Miss Froy. When we first saw her she was being serenaded (odd for a woman her age) by an elderly porter in the Tyrolean Inn. And then, although she didn't know it, a pair of shadowy hands knotted about the porter's neck and he died. Besides, she was standing beside the young woman at the station when someone pushed a flower pot off the roof. Could that have been meant for Miss Froy? Yet it doesn't seem quite credible for every one in the train to enter a conspiracy about her — conductor, dining room stewards, a countess, a noted surgeon, a music hall performer, a nun, two cricket-mad Englishmen, a woman in tweeds . . . well, there's the puzzle.

## CAST

Iris Henderson	Margaret Lockwood
Gilbert	Michael Redgrave
Dr. Harz	Paul Lukas
Miss Froy	Dame May Whitty
Mr. Todhunter	Cecil Parker
Mrs. Todhunter	Linden Travers
Caldicott	Naughton Wayne
Charters	Basil Radford
Baroness	Mary Clare
Hotel Manager	Emile Boreo
Blanche	Googie Withers
Julie	Sally Stewart

## CREDITS

Director	Alfred Hitchcock
Screenplay	Sidney Gilliatt, Frank Launder
Original story	Ethel Lina White
Camera	Jack Cox
Producer	Gaumont British

A Janus Films Release

## COMMENT

"Even in so synthetic a medium as the screen it is possible to recognize the work of a master craftsman. THE LADY VANISHES is the product of individual imagination and artistry quite as much as a Cezanne canvas or a Stravinsky score. It is extraordinarily exciting and powerful melodrama because it has been staged by Alfred Hitchcock, who is one of the greatest directors in motion pictures."

**New York Herald Tribune**

"If it were not so brilliant a melodrama, we should class it as a brilliant comedy. Seeing it imposes a double, a blessedly double strain — when your sides are not aching from laughter, your brain is throbbing in its attempts to outguess the director."

**New York Times**

"A delightful comedy-thriller like THE LADY VANISHES gives us the characteristic Hitchcock tone, with its interweaving of tension and light humor."

**Robin Wood, HITCHCOCK'S FILMS**

"Hitchcock has said that he wanted his films to achieve a particular blend of drama and comedy, and consequently found THE LADY VANISHES one of his most satisfying movies."

**Penelope Huston, SIGHT AND SOUND**

"What contributed to the fascination of THE LADY VANISHES was Hitchcock's deliberate underplaying of climactic scenes. We are not shown the kidnapping of the old woman in THE LADY VANISHES: we only know that suddenly in her place in the railway carriage has appeared a dreadful grim-faced substitute wearing her clothes and claiming to be Miss Froy."

**Arthur Knight, THE LIVELIEST ART**

**THE LADY VANISHES** 96 Minutes. Black and white. Great Britain, 1938.