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8TH NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL - 1970

LE BOUCHER - France/Italy 1969
The Butcher

San Sebastian Festival 1970 (Best Actress: Stephane Audran)

Running Time: 92 min.

Director	Claude Chabrol
Producer	Andre Genoves
Production Company	Films La Boetie(Paris)/Euro International Film(Rome)
Script, Adaptation & Dialogue	Claude Chabrol
Photography	Jean Rabier (Eastmancolor)
Cameraman	Claude Zidi
Sound	Guy Chichignoud
Editor	Jacques Gaillard
Music	Pierre Jansen
Decorator	Guy Littaye
Director of Production	Fred Surin

Leading Players

Mlle. Helene	Stephane Audran
Popaul	Jean Yanne
Angelo	Antonio Passalia
Grumbach	Roger Rudel
Leon Hamel	Mario Beccaria
Charles	William Guerault

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SYNOPSIS - LE BOUCHER

Mademoiselle Helene (Stephane Audran), the schoolmistress, meets Popaul Thomas (Jean Yanne), the local butcher, at the wedding breakfast of Marie-Jeanne and Leon. They begin to see a lot of each other and become great friends. Later, Mlle. Helene gives Popaul a lighter for his birthday.

One day there is great excitement in the district: a girl from a neighboring town has been found stabbed to death. The police find nothing and life goes on as before.

Not long before exams, Mlle. Helene and her pupils discover the body of Marie-Jeanne covered with knife wounds. Mlle. Helene sees the lighter she had given Popaul in the grass near the corpse and quietly puts it in her bag. When the police question Mlle. Helene about the murder, she does not mention the lighter.

That evening, the butcher comes to see her as usual. She tells him how she found the girl's body and begins to cry. When he lights a cigarette for her, she notices that he still has the lighter she gave him. She begins to cry even harder.

For lack of any leads, the police have abandoned the two murders which they assume are the work of the same maniac. Helene and Popaul continue seeing each other. One day he comes across the lighter she found at the scene of the murder and takes it away with him. The same day, another girl is murdered in a neighboring town.

Mlle. Helene notices that the lighter is gone. Popaul comes to see her that night and wants to talk to her. She refuses to let him in and he leaves finally. The scene is set for a nightmare, but instead of killing the schoolmistress, the butcher kills himself.

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