

Document Citation

Title	The death ray
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive</i>
Date	
Type	intertitles
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	9
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Luch smerti (The death ray), Kuleshov, Lev, 1925

2 reels missing (titles and
THIS PRINT IS INCOMPLETE (REELS 1-5 ARE TRANSLATED HERE)

THE DEATH RAY (1925)

Translation of the Russian titles of the print at the Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, Cal. 94720. Notes pertaining to individual titles are placed to the right in parentheses.


1. From the Collection of Films of Gosfilmofond, USSR
(titles 1-7 are "run-on")
- * 2. "THE DEATH RAY"
A Cine-Novel in 7 parts with
a prologue
(NB - See p.8 for
note on the "parts")
(kino-roman = cine-, or
cinema-, or film-novel;
The Russian reads: fantas-
tičeskij kino-roman, a
"fantastic" or "imaginary"
or "fictitious", which I
have left out)
3. A Production of Goskino, 1st Studio.
4. The Second Production of Kuleshov's Workshop.
5. Production Director: Lev Kuleshov
(cf. Ron Levaco, Kuleshov
on Film, p.175. Kuleshov
called himself "head direc-
tor" of a "directorial coll-
ective".)
- Photography: Alexander Levitsky
Design: Vsevolod Pudovkin
Vasilii Rakhals
[Scenario: Lev Kuleshov]
(This credit is not given
in the film titles.)
6. Prologue (In the West)
7. A revolt of workers at the "Gelium" factory has been suppressed.
(suppressed, or: put down)
8. The leader of the revolt, Thomas Lann, has been
sentenced to death./Sergei Komarov/
(The names between slanted
lines are the actors' names)
9. Ruller, the owner of the factory. /P. Galadzhev/
10. Edith -- World Record-holder Markswoman. /Alexandra Khokhlova/
11. Major Hart -- head of a fascist organization./Leonid Obalensky/
12. A week before, the director had got carried away
and had made a proposa.
13. "I agree to be your wife, but with the condition
that you take into your home ...
("take", or "receive",
but it's a permanent
condition.)

14. ... my elder sister and her little son Freddie." (#13-14 are run-on)
15. "I want to get better acquainted with you -- let's postpone the wedding until the 10th of the month."
16. At the Headquarters of the revolutionaries.
17. Thomas Lann manages to escape from prison.
18. "I'll reply to that bandit's escape with a mass arrest tomorrow."
19. Little Freddie is notable for his inquisitiveness. /S. Khokhlov/
20. Arms of the Law. (or: "Guardians of the Order." It's supposed to be ironic.)
21. The stoker's daughter. /N. Stravinskaya/ (stoker, or: fireman)
22. "I'm afraid. 'Take me away.'"
23. At the stoker's house.
24. To Ruller's house with news about the missing child. (N.B. this title should be in quotes if it is a character's speech)
25. Sister Edith comes to pick up Freddie.
26. "Warn the members of the Committee that Hart has begun the arrests."
27. Ruller's nephew, the manager of the factory./V. Pilshchikov/
28. "We know that the Committee is hiding in your house."
29. "Remove this rubbish and smash in the door."
30. The pious sister Edith tells father Reveau about the arrest of the workers./Reveau -- Vsevolod Pudovkin/ (his name in Russian is Revo, but he is supposed to be a non-Russian, so I've given the name a French spelling.)
31. "I saw that the arrest didn't come off." (or: was unsuccessful)
32. The night of the 10th.
33. An unexpected transformation. (the old woman changes into a young woman)

34. "...The safe's been broken into and the money and papers have been stolen..."
35. "Apparently the Committee had been forewarned.
The arrest didn't come off." (ie. the arrest attempt)
36. "The old lady turned into ~~miss~~ Edith on the way, and she went off in a train."

(End of Reel 1)

(Reel 2)

- * 1. Part One (in Moscow) (titles 1 & 2 are run-on)
2. The inventor, engineer Podobed./Porfiri Podobed/
(The actor's name is the same as the character's.)
3. His assistant, Shura./A. Strabinskaya/
4. After fleeing to Russia, Thomas Lann became a frequent guest at Podobed's laboratory.
5. On the outskirts of Moscow.
6. In an abandoned house.
7. It was possible to penetrate into the mysterious house only with the aid of pre-arranged signs ...
8. ... and by complicated routes.
9. Podobed demonstrates "The Death Ray", (#9-10 are run-on)
a device that detonates fuel
10. at a distance.  (or: "... a remote-control fuel detonating device.")
11. The foreigner, Fog. /Vladimir Fogel/
12. They're in love. (Fog and Shura are)
13. Signs of danger.
14. "Be at 3rd Yatskaya Street, house 23, apartment 6,
at 9 o'clock today. You'll find out something interesting." (a note, not a title)
15. At the designated time.
16. "I used to work in a circus and used to dress up as a 'sister' in order to make it
17. easier to penetrate into the midst of the fascists at 'Gelium'." (#16-17 run on)
18. "Call the whole group together for a meeting at once."

19. "It'll begin at 7:30. Podobed's machine will be brought to the house by that time."
20. "I was able to give warning about the intention to arrest the workers ..."
(or: "I managed to forestall the arrest of the workers", or: "... to warn the workers that they were going to be arrested.")
21. "I staged the safe robbery in order to distract attention, and
(#21 & 22 are "run-on")
22. "I carried away my son Freddie in the big suitcase, not the money."
23. The fateful morning.
24. "I'll chase the scoundrel down."
(or: "I'll catch up with the scoundrel/rascal.")
25. In pursuit.
(or: "On the chase.")
26. "Dolt!"
(N.B. čučelo = stuffed animal, or scarecrow, but it can also mean "dolt" as a term of abuse, which I think it is here: The lab asst. catches up with the car, and he says this as he gets into the running car. I don't think it is supposed to mean that the car is being driven by a "dummy".)
27. The driver has disappeared ...
28. The machine's been stolen.
(This should be in quotes, perhaps.)
- * 29. In the west once again.
(#29 & 30 are "run-on")
30. The fascist band has thought up something new.
(mean to be ironic: vydumka = idea, invention, fabrication)
31. "In the event of an uprising, a squadron of airplanes will wipe the workers' settlement from the face of the earth."
32. "Our ultimatum will be a good bridle for the infuriated revolutionaries."
(a literal translation: or: "Our ultimatum will put a stop to these angry revolutionaries." -- clearer English, perhaps.)

33. Going out on duty.
34. A watch dog.
35. A large quantity of shells is needed for Venezuela.
36. "In order to fill your enormous order very quickly,
all production machinery and all (#36 & 37 are run-on)
37. workers will be thrown into the manufacture
of shells." (snarjady = shells, missiles)
- * 38. Moscow. (#38 & 39 are run-on)
39. In a net of riddles. Lann is trying to find Podobed
while the trail is hot. (zagadki = riddles, mysteries,
enigmas)
40. "How did you get here? Who are you? ..."
41. "I have to see Lann! Where is he?"

(End of reel 2)
(Reel 3)

- * 1. GELIUM (titles 1-2-3 are run-on)
2. The administration's order to convert to
the production of shells
3. provoked the workers' indignant protest.
4. "We will not make shells to eliminate our
brothers overseas."
5. The administration of "Gelium" answered the workers' protest.
6. "Touts les ouvriers de l'usine "Gelium" ont relevés.
Les comptes serait donnés à la caisse." (N.B. a sign, not a
title)
7. The payment. (rasčët = payment, final
payoff -- they're being
dismissed/fired)
- * 8. Moscow. (N.B. very short title; #8 & 9
are run-on)
9. An odd passenger (s-rannyj = funny, odd; strange)

10. "In the name of our love [for each other],
set me free, and I will explain to you
the cruel mistake ..."
(Literally, "In the name of our
love ...", but it may sound
better to say "For the sake of..."
obšibka, which should read
ošibka, means "error", "mistake",
or "blunder", which it could be
translated as here.)
11. The odd passenger is working. . (or: "is at work")
12. In the clutches of the fascists.
13. "The machine cannot remain in their hands. We must find it."
14. "Don't worry about the machine. I managed to hide it."
15. No-one will be able to get to it. The hiding place
is inside the wall. (#14 and 15 are run-on and the
sentence is split between them)
16. "... After the safe robbery, this exceptionally (a note, not a
bold adventuress escaped to Russia. I have proper title)
been informed that she is
17. to be found in Moscow at present. We need
such people, and your task is to recruit her
to work for us, no matter how [you do it]
(#16 & 17 are run-on and the
message is split between them)
18. The "cruel mistake" is explained.
19. Fog remains true to his love.
20. "Everything's ready. I don't know where the
machine is ... I'll wait for you in the laboratory."
21. Reveau begins the offensive. (nastuplenije = offensive,
attack, advance)
22. "We need your help. You must take Lann away."
23. The offensive continues.
24. "We have the child. Choose whom you value most, (a written
and act quickly. message)
Reveal."
25. The offensive is crowned with success. (or: "... is successful")
Edith acts quickly.
26. In half an hour. (or: "half an hour later")
- (End of Reel 3)

(Reel 4)

- * 1. Bent on settling accounts with Reveau for the murder of Shura, Fog turns off the motor. (motor, or: engine)
2. Reveau is forced down in the vicinity of "Gelium".
3. A dog fight. (literally: "The dogs are wrangling.")
4. Gelium. (very short title; #4 & 5 are run-on)
5. The agents-provocateurs began their work. (or: "have begun")
6. In a marsh. (boloto = bog, marsh, swamp, but it also has a figurative meaning in v bolote: "bogged down", "in a mire", etc.)
7. Victory is in whose hands? (literal: or: "Whose is the victory?")

(End of Reel 4 -- check to make sure that this reel is not out of sequential order.)

(Reel 5)

1. Catastrophe draws near.
2. "Planes with bombs must fly out to the settlement." (#2 & 3 are run-on)
3. "Let the fliers await my radio signal."
4. "Do everything to hold back the insurgents." (#4 & 5 are run-on; hold back, or: keep down, restrain)
5. "Disorderliness will be the ruin of our cause." (or: "A disorderly advance...")
6. PROVOCATION! PROVOCATION!" (the words appear over a shot of a shouting man; could be rendered by "They're provoking us!")
7. "Save the settlement! .."
8. "SAVE THE SETTLEMENT!"
9. "SAVE THE SETTLEMENT!" (same as #8 but much larger)
10. Reveau takes the final obstacle. (If this refers to a physical obstruction, then it could be rendered as "barricade"; berēt = take, seize)

11. "Comrades, victory is in our hands! Restore order!" (N.B. Check to make sure it is the "insurgents" who say this. If it is the "fascists", then it would be better to translate tovarišci as "friends".)
12. The provocateurs receive instructions.
13. "The insurrection is to be called next week. Have to get the young people worked up." (The Russian verbs nado & dolžno, "have to", "need to" etc, do not indicate who "has to". Here, if it is the "fascists" talking, use the following version instead: "There's supposed to be an insurrection next week. Have to incite the young people." Compare #39, where a fascist is speaking on the phone. vozbudit' = arouse, incite, excite)
14. "We will answer the insurgents' first shots with bombs on the settlement...."
15. "... and we'll show the revolutionaries of the whole country that fascists don't talk, but act." (titles 14 & 15 share the sentence, but they are not run-on titles; vsego gosudarstva = "of the whole government", but this leads one to think, erroneously, that there are revolutionaries in the government.)
16. An innocent traitor.
17. The artist wants very much to convey the smile of the proletarian child. (intentionally ironic)
18. "Little one, don't you like this little birdie?"
19. "Papa said that it'll soon be the end of them."
20. Spiders.
21. "We must make use of the child."
22. "Well now, child, show us who was a guest at your papa's."
23. "Don't you dare do it, Teddie. They'll kill your papa."
24. Ruller doesn't want to put the brake on production. (There may be an error here: "Руллер не хочет..." - doesn't want vs "Руллер хочет ..." - R. wants to Compare with #25 & 26: If Ruller is saying this, then "Ruller wants to put the brake on ..." is correct.)
25. "I suggest that order and the well-being of the country will gain more for us ..."
26. "... than all the Venezuelan shells." (#25 & 26 are run-on)
27. "Aren't you Ruller's sole heir?"
28. The sole heir.

29. In an hour.

30. Moscow.

31. "I've been informed that an enormous provocation is being prepared at 'Gelium'."

(I am not sure whether the Russian wording is supposed to be ironic or not. The term grandioznaja provokacija = "grandiose/mighty/vast provocation", but I have used "enormous" because I think the stress must be on the size.);

32. The airplanes' bombs will wipe out hundreds of workers.

(#32 & 33 are run-on)

33. Ruller is dead, and his nephew and Hart "lord it" over the factory.

(xozjajničat' = to manage, or to 'lord it', fig & pejor.)

34. At that time ...

35. Lann has to catch up with the thieves no matter what, and deliver

(#35 & 36 are run-on)

36. the "Death Ray" to the workers of "Gelium".

37. The alarming news from "Gelium" has caused Edith to depart quickly for the West.

38. The claws of the fascists dig in deeper.

39. "I give you 4 days. Get the young people stirred up and disorganized. The flare-up is supposed to be on Monday.

(vzryv = explosion, but "flare-up" is better here)

40. Steadfastly on the trail.

(End of Reel 5 -- not the end of the film, and the trailer on the reel says "End of Part 8". It is confusing: I have put asterisks next to the numbers of titles which may be the natural "breaks" into "parts" of the narrative, but perhaps it is better not to mention the "parts" in the English titles -- see reel 1, title 2, reel 2 title 1.)