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ORSON WELLES

as

"ARKADIN"

Confidential File 15

PRODUCTION

15A

DIRECTION
ORIGINAL STORY
SCREENPLAY.....ORSON WELLES
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER.....LOUIS DOLIVET
MUSIC BY.....PAUL MISRAKI
FILM EDITOR.....RENZO LUCIDI
SOUND.....JACQUES LEBRETON
RECORDING.....JACQUES CARRERE
PHOTOGRAPHY.....JEAN BOURGOIN

A FILMORSA PRODUCTION

CAST

GREGORY ARKADIN.....ORSON WELLES
BURGOMIL TREBITSCH.....MICHAEL REDGRAVE
MILY.....PATRICIA MEDINA
JAKOB ZOUK.....AKIM TAMIROFF
THE PROFESSOR.....MISCHA AUER
RAINA.....PAOLA MORI
GUY VAN STRATTEN.....ROBERT ARDEN
SOPHIE.....KATINA PAXINOU
MARQUIS OF RUTLEIGH.....JACK WATLING
BRACCO.....GREGOIRE ASLAN
THADEUS.....PETER VAN EYCK
BARONESS NAGEL.....SUZANNE FLON

RUNNING TIME: 93 Minutes

"ARKADIN"

(synopsis)

An American confidence man, Guy Van Stratten, (Robert Arden) accompanied by his girl, Mily, (Patricia Medina) is illegally smuggling American cigarettes into Italy. A man called Bracco (Gregoire Aslan) is knifed near Van Stratten's boat on the Milan docks. Before he dies he whispers into Mily's ear two names which he says are worth a fortune -- Gregory Arkadin and Sophie.

Van Stratten learns that Gregory Arkadin (Orson Welles) is an important financier and multi-millionaire. A strange and ruthless man who refuses to allow himself to be photographed, the only person he has any love or regard for is his daughter, Raina (Paola Mori). Determined to cut himself in on some of Arkadin's wealth, Van Stratten manages to meet Raina and her English boyfriend, the Marquis of Rutleigh (Jack Watling). Raina is amused by Van Stratten's brash persistence when he follows her to Spain.

Raina invites Van Stratten to one of her father's parties. There Arkadin shows the young man a dossier he has drawn up giving details of Van Stratten's unsavory past -- a dossier he intends to show to Raina. Van Stratten tries to bluff his way out by mentioning the name of Bracco. Although Arkadin apparently has no reaction he invites the American back to the castle the next day.

There he offers Van Stratten a job -- on the condition that he never sees Raina again. He tells the young man that he (Arkadin) has no idea who he really is: that one night in the

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winter of 1927, he found himself wandering aimlessly through the streets of Zurich with two hundred thousand Swiss francs in his pocket and no knowledge of what had happened to him previously. Now he wants to learn his identity and is prepared to pay Van Stratten a handsome sum to carry out the investigation.

The trail takes Van Stratten from Zurich to Warsaw to a flea circus in Copenhagen where he meets The Professor (Mischa Auer). From there he goes to Algiers to talk with Thadeus, a sinister contraband-runner (Peter Van Eyck). Thadeus sends him to Amsterdam to meet a fence named Burgomit Trebitsch (Michael Redgrave), and for a price, Trebitsch talks. Trebitsch tells Van Stratten about poor, dear Sophie who was in the white slave traffic and who had to leave Poland abruptly when the police got too close.

The next clue leads Van Stratten to Paris, but Arkadin is ahead of him. They both learn from the Baroness Nagel (Suzanne Flon) that Sophie is now married to a Mexican general. The American flies to Mexico and learns from Oskar (O'Brady), Sophie's dope addicted ex-husband, and from Sophie herself, (Katina Paxinou), that Gregory Arkadin was a member of the white slavery gang. Only the three of them and Jakob Zouk (Akim Tamiroff) are still alive.

Arkadin again follows Van Stratten, this time to Mexico and later to Munich where Van Stratten tracks down the last piece in the jigsaw puzzle -- Jacob Zouk.

In Munich, Van Stratten learns that Mily is dead -- knifed just as Bracco was. An awful suspicion seizes him and he telephones

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3. "ARKADIN" (CON'D)

to Mexico to learn that both Sophie and Oskar have been found murdered. Now, Van Stratten realizes that Gregory Arkadin has known his own identity all along; that he has been trailing him, murdering everyone he has contacted who knows about his past, and, in each case, throwing the blame on the American.

Only Jakob Zouk is left alive to speak against Gregory Arkadin. Van Stratten drags the reluctant Zouk off to a hotel, leaving him alone for a short time. When he returns, he discovers Zouk's body -- he has been knifed in the back like the others. The last person to connect Arkadin with the Warsaw gang is dead.

Now desperate, Van Stratten realizes that his only chance is to fly to Spain to tell Raina the truth about her father -- how he murdered five people to conceal the truth about himself from her. He obtains the last seat on the plane and Arkadin, after vainly trying to obtain a seat himself, charters a craft and flies after him. But Van Stratten reaches Spain first. In an effort to save his life, he implores Raina to tell her father that now she knows everything about him.

Broadcasting from his plane, Arkadin's voice booms over the radio and Raina picks up the microphone and answers him. She tells him that she has spoken to Van Stratten....and then there is silence. Raina pleads with her father to answer her, but there is no reply. Arkadin's plane flies on --- but the cockpit is empty.

Raina walks slowly out of the airport building to where her car is waiting. The Marquis of Rutleigh slips into the seat beside her and the two drive off. Van Stratten is left alone.

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