

‘ALMA’. Screenplay available. (approx. 100 pages).

Written by David Charles Simmonds.

Character list w. background notes and story guideline

ALMA (Clarke) RATTENBURY (a.k.a.“Lozanne”).

Alma grows up something of a musical prodigy, playing solo recitals with the Toronto Symphony at age 17, Her first husband, Caledon Dolling was killed in the 1st World War. Serving as a nurse in France during the war, she is awarded the ‘Croix de Guerre’ and meets and marries Compton Pakenham after being named in his divorce suit as co-respondent. Although not a happy marriage, they have a son, Christopher. Alma becomes increasingly dissatisfied, divorces Pakenham and returns to her mother in Victoria. She makes a living playing piano at tea parties and social gatherings. Meanwhile dreaming of a career as a songwriter, and using her nom de plume, ‘Lozanne’. Alma meets Francis Mawson Rattenbury, ('Ratz'), in the Empress Hotel during a banquet given in his honour.' Ratz', aged 53 is enjoying a brief resurgence in the spotlight. Alma is 28.

FRANCIS MAWSON RATTENBURY (Ratz)

“Ratz’ was born in Leeds, England October 11th 1867. As a young man he studied architecture and soon after arriving in Victoria B.C May 1892, was awarded a prestigious contract to build the Parliament Buildings at the very young age of twenty five. (ref. clippings available). Successful and popular among his peer’s, he marries Eleanor Florence Nunn in July 1898. Although not particularly attractive or adept in social graces, Florrie was a solid and dependable woman. She gave birth to two children, Frank and Mary. ‘Ratz’ being a celebrated architect and developer the family was well established in local society. By 1920, not in the best of health with a declining fortune, he was losing interest in his work and acquiring an increased fondness for whisky and cigars, His children have grown up and Florrie is content to play housewife. He meets Alma Clarke. She is 28 talented and beautiful. The year is 1923.

GEORGE PERCY STONER/ 'Stoner)..'

17 years old when hired as general help on a part-time basis . He is soon to become live-in handyman chauffeur and later Alma's lover, sharing bed and house. Termed 'backward' as a child, Stoner a relatively simple country lad is completely entranced by Alma/"Lozanne". Documented evidence suggests he is introduced to drugs, (heroin and cocaine) and subject: to jealous rages. Trying to assume the role of 'master of the house', he smokes 'Ratz' cigars and sleeps openly with his wife.

IRENE RIGGS

Companion-housekeeper. Completely devoted to her employer. And does anything necessary to support and protect her mistress. Openly dislikes the idea of Stoner coming into the house. And like Ratz, is aware that Alma and Stoner have become lovers and is jealous. There is something of a sexual undercurrent here. Calls Alma 'darling' and like, Stoner, is completely entranced by Alma's charisma. Is always there as a calming influence when Alma is overly excited (on drugs and/or drinking). Her testimony at the trial is to prove incriminating to Stoner's defence.

WILLIAM O'DONNELL

Family doctor. Old country type practitioner. Handles all confessions of the affair, and Alma's talk of Stoner 'on drugs', with good advice and a blind eye. Another sympathetic supporter for Alma. Plays his cards close to the chest.

THE STORYTELLER.

Unidentified old man in London pub

GORDON PHELPS

The young lawyer who meets storyteller in the pub

JOHN RATTENBURY

The son of 'Ratz' and Alma, he is about 6 when the murder occurs.

(Additional secondary characters).

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR CARTER**POLICE CONSTABLES; BAGWELL. GATES AND MILLS.****JUSTICE RICHARD HUMPHREYS****JOSHUA DAVID CASWELL (Attorney for Stoner)****TERENCE O'CONNOR (Attorney for Alma)****REGINALD GROOM JOHNSON (Crown Prosecutor).****FLORRIE RATTENBURY ('Ratz' 1st wife).****FRANK & MARY RATTENBURY (Son & daughter).**
