

At the peak of the Roaring Twenties in New York City, wealth and salacious behavior were the words of the day, sometimes with fatal consequences.

Private Eye John Ackroyd, a disgraced former detective, is going over the details of a missing persons case, a husband who likely ran off with his mistress, when there is a knock at the door. A beauty with an accent enters and introduces herself as Simone Moreau. She wants Ackroyd to investigate the suicide of William Stone, an investing tycoon. After some back and forth he agrees to take what he views as an open and shut case, especially once he sees her monetary offer. Moreau leaves him with a tidbit of information that her and Stone were going to run off together.

His first visit is to Stone's widow. She brings up Moreau and mocks her for having dreams of stealing her husband; it wasn't his first infidelity and wouldn't have been his last. The widow doesn't provide much valuable information but insinuates that his business partner made out well with the death.

Ackroyd then visits the business partner. They have a lengthy discussion about Stone and their relationship but he doesn't manage to get anything useful. On his way out he discovers that the man of the other case he is working is also employed by the firm and hasn't been in. He then looks at a picture to confirm and notices that Stone gained a lot of weight recently and is nearly unrecognizable.

Several weeks pass and Ackroyd hasn't made any progress but Moreau wants to meet for a drink to discuss the case. They end up getting drunk and having sex at her apartment. While intoxicated she rambles on about her time in Marseille during World War I and her desire to return. After she passes out he goes to clean up in the washroom and notices all the hair in the sink. Wanting water he knocks on her roommate's door but nobody answers.

The next day he receives a call from the widow begging him to come over immediately. Several of their bank accounts had been cleared out the day before Stone's death. He urges her to check their safe and find it emptied. In a rage, she knocks several things over, one of which is a travel guide on southern France, in particular Marseille.

He rushes over to Moreau's apartment to find it empty, with most of her possessions gone. The roommate's door is still locked so he kicks it down to find a bald Stone dead with his throat slit.

Several months later Ackroyd ambushes a disguised Moreau at a café in Marseille and is able to coerce a confession and explanation out of her. She then laughs at him, explaining how American police can't touch her here. He agrees before pointing out the several tough looking men sitting around them. The widow and business partner didn't look too kindly to the murder and sent people to retrieve her. He smiles as she flees, the men in immediate pursuit.