

~~that~~ the hunchback's staunch allegiance to Niemann is due to the possibility of putting the idiot's brain into an Adonis-like body. Our two evil protagonist<sup>S</sup> escape from Neustadt through a collapsed wall that happens to give way at this moment, and the prison scene ends quite romantically with our two evil protagonists scrambling over the rubble in a swirling mist into a heavily Gothic full-blown thunderstorm. Although the film is black and white the clouds, and trees, and lightning, and sheets of rain are some of the most effective I have come across in ~~the~~<sup>any</sup> cinema, and add to the dark thrill of newly escaped agents of evil.

Niemann and friend now assume the guise of highwaymen and hijack the wagon of a traveling freak show. Before the owner of the wagon is killed Niemann and Dr. Lampinus (the owner of the traveling Dracula exhibit) talk over the legends of Frankenstein and Dracula, and both are avid students of the supernatural who relish this company of kindred spirits. Now the owner of Dracula's skeleton Niemann also has a perfect cover to get to Visaria where he has his laboratory. This introduction of Niemann's desire to get back to his lab is ironic as he never gets back to his lab and old way of life.

Niemann and company, which now includes Lampini's man, who is forced to drive, and is a loose end that later disappears, arrive in Reigelberg and meet up with burgermeister Herr Heeseman, his daughter, and her fiancée, who encounter Niemann down at the crossroads putting on the vampire show. Heeseman tries to counter Niemann's claims about the skeleton, and Niemann is highly diabolical saying something to the effect, "If I remove this stake (the skeleton is upright in a coffin) this monster terror will once again be loosed." Boris Karloff probably is one of the few actors who could carry off this scene in an effective and believable manner; he is quite impressive as he communica-