

CHARLIE NORMAN – COCKNEY

Charlie Norman explains to his mother how Bella Wilson had lied to him and goaded him until he murdered her.

“It was that Alec Baynes. He’s always been after here – the filthy swine. I swear I didn’t mean to – it all came over me suddenly – I didn’t know what I was going. I went to Bella’s when I left ‘ere, and Mrs. Wilson told me she’d gone out not five minutes before. And she promised to go with me. We was going to the park. And she’d gone off to the pitchers with Alec Baynes. So I waited about till they come out. I followed them ‘ome to Alec’s place. They didn’t see me. They didn’t see nobody, I don’t think. And then I could see ‘e was asking ‘er to go in. She shook ‘er ‘ead and laughed, and then – she went in. I wanted to knock on the door and break it down and kill them. I walked away for awhile – just to the end of the road and then I came back and waited. I knew Bella wouldn’t stay all night. She’s too afraid of ‘er old man. She come out at last, on ‘er own, and started running down the street. I followed ‘er and caught ‘er just near those trees by the canal. She screamed when I caught ‘old of her arm, and I clapped my ‘and over ‘er mouth. And then – then – then I got me ‘ands round ‘er throat – and squeezed. It was like I was loving ‘er and ‘ating her all at the same time. Then she went all kind of limp, and I let go – and I pushed ‘er into the canal.”