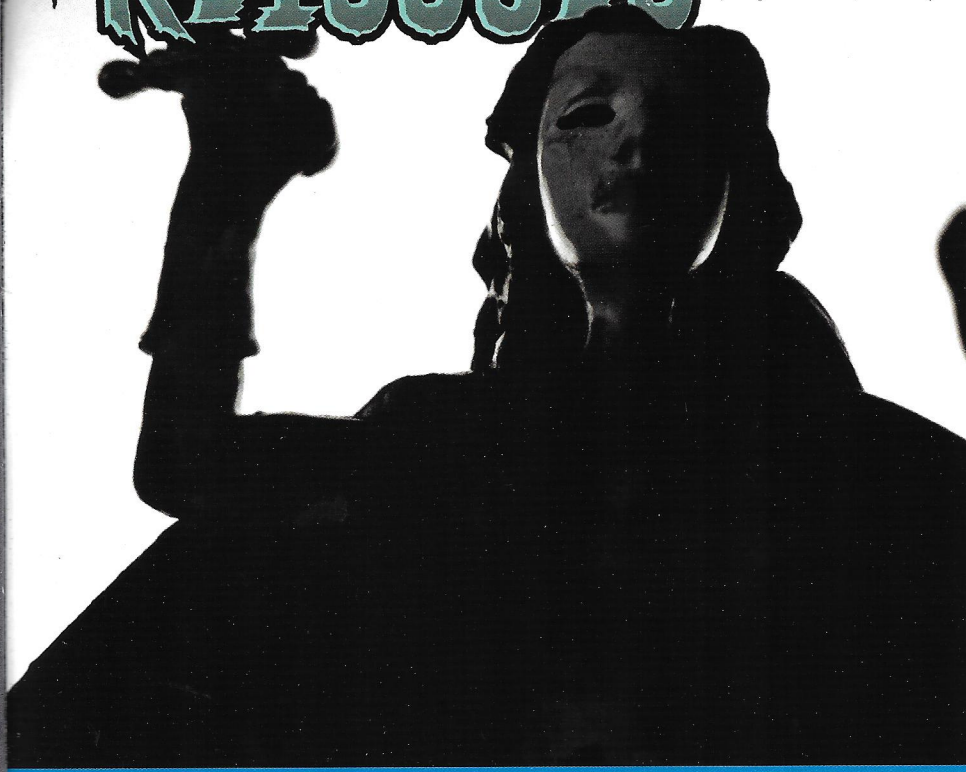


## REISSUES



## DOUBLE FEMALE TROUBLE

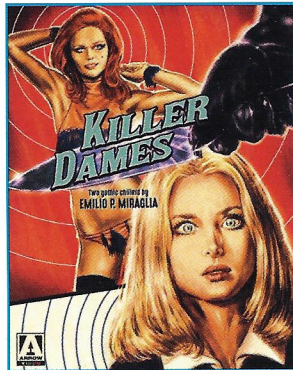
KILLER DAMES:  
THE NIGHT EVELYN CAME OUT  
OF THE GRAVE (1971) Blu-ray

Starring Anthony Steffen, Marina Malfatti  
and Enzo Tarascio  
Directed by Emilio P. Miraglia  
Written by Emilio P. Miraglia, Fabio Pittorru and  
Massimo Felisatti

THE RED QUEEN KILLS  
SEVEN TIMES (1972) Blu-ray

Starring Barbara Bouchet, Ugo Pagliari  
and Marina Malfatti  
Directed by Emilio P. Miraglia  
Written by Emilio P. Miraglia and Fabio Pittorru  
Arrow Video

Emilio P. Miraglia might be an unfamiliar name to most of you, but Arrow Video's *Killer Dames* set should change that. The first of the two films here, 1971's *The Night Evelyn Came Out of the Grave*, sees Lord Alan Cunningham (Anthony Steffen, who played the title character in several *Django* movies) haunted by his dead, red-haired wife. She cuckolded him and now he



lures look-alike prostitutes into his BDSM basement to their demise. After an encounter at a party with the gorgeous Gladys (Marina Malfatti: *All the Colors of the Dark*), Cunningham is immediately smitten and marries her, seemingly cured of his homicidal impulses.

And yet... Gladys sees Evelyn skulking about the castle, family members are gruesomely dispatched, and Cunningham questions his sanity, culminating in a lurid scene in which Evelyn's corpse rises from her coffin. Bodies pile up and the plot twists all over the place until the final frame, ensuring that you'll still be pondering the film after the credits roll.

Miraglia's next project appears as the second film in the set, *The Red Queen Kills Seven Times* (1972). In it, a family curse controls the fate of sisters Kitty and Eveline. Kitty (Barbara Bouchet: *Don't Torture A Duckling*) is a fashion photographer who returns to her family estate after the unexpected death of her grandfather, allegedly caused by a mysterious woman in a red cape. Everyone believes that it's Eveline, fulfilling the murderous prophecy, but Kitty knows better because she'd accidentally killed her a few years ago after a vicious argument, and conspired with an-

other sister, Franziska (Marina Malfatti), to stash Eveline's corpse in the cellar.

When the red-caped woman embarks on a killing spree, Kitty, like Lord Cunningham in *Evelyn*, begins to wonder if Eveline is somehow responsible, albeit from beyond the grave. The plot is more labyrinthine than logical, and reveals within reveals unspool until the climax, which takes place in a flooded basement full of rats.

Both *Killer Dames* films are defined by impeccable cinematography, as well as beautiful production and costume design, and memorable scores from legendary composer Bruno Nicolai. As always, Arrow's special features are outstanding, including significant commentary tracks, interviews, featurettes and trailers. *The Night Evelyn Came Out of the Grave* and *The Red Queen Kills Seven Times* are clearly not only influenced by Mario Bava and Dario Argento, but also Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* and Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Although Miraglia only directed a handful of films in his relatively short career, these two are excellent examples of his gothic-inspired giallo style.

LESS LEE MOORE

## BLACK SNAKE MOAN

## VENOM (1981) Blu-ray/DVD

Starring Oliver Reed, Susan George and Klaus Kinski  
Directed by Piers Haggard  
Written by Robert Carrington  
Blue Underground

Certain films prove irresistible to writers at the *Rue Morgue* office. *Venom*, which promises and delivers a scene in which a poisonous snake bites Oliver Reed on the dick, is just such a film. *Venom* opens with a sexy maid (*Straw Dogs*' Susan George) and an unstable chauffeur (Reed) plotting to kidnap and ransom the son of their employer. They team up with an experienced criminal (Klaus Kinski) to ensure this plan goes off without a hitch. Their scheme is thwarted when the intended target comes home armed with one of the world's most poisonous snakes.

No, the boy isn't as clever as *Home Alone*'s Kevin McCallister, as he has devised no traps nor made use of a TalkBoy Recorder to stop the criminals. Instead, the fun comes because of a mix-up at the pet store, which accidentally gives the boy a deadly Black Mamba instead of a garden snake! The reptile escapes its cage and Reed kills a police officer in the ensuing confusion, attracting the entire force to the house. Our would-be kidnapers attempt hostage negotiations while avoiding the Black Mamba. Rounding out the cast are Sterling Hayden as the boy's

