



Film

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# THE WHITE SLAVE TRADE

August Blom, Denmark, 1910  
 33 min. | DK/Feature | Silent films



Anna, a young girl from a poor but honest household, is offered an attractive position as a lady's companion in London. Her childhood friend is worried, but she goes anyway. To Anna's horror, the "distinguished house" turns out to be a brothel, but she manages to overpower her first customer. A helpful maid smuggles out a letter to her parents, and they alert the League for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic. The childhood friend travels to England and hires a detective. Together, they find the brothel and Anna. They arrange her escape. Anna lowers herself down from her window, but after an automobile chase, the slavers overpower her liberators and abduct her again. Fortunately, the maid alerts Scotland Yard, and on board the ship they had hoped to escape on, the villains are caught and Anna freed.

This film is a brazen, setup-for-setup rip-off of an identically titled film, Den hvide Slavehandel, made in the spring of 1910 by the film company Fotorama in Denmark's second-largest city, Aarhus. The Fotorama version was the

first Danish feature-length film (3 reels), and it was phenomenally successful. Nordisk wanted in on the action, and they simply plagiarized the film, scoring a huge hit outside Denmark. Fotorama threatened legal action, but the matter was settled out of court, apparently to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Only a few fragments of the Fotorama version survive, but the similarity is evident. Nordisk even copied technical refinements like the three-panel split screen image, where two of the villains have a telephone conversation in the side panels while the central panel shows a busy street (this portion of the Fotorama version does not survive, but it was described in a contemporary newspaper review).

Basic information

Credits

Materials

Original title	Den hvide Slavehandel
Danish title	Den hvide Slavehandel
International titles	The White Slave Traffic
Other titles	Den hvide Slavehandel I
Director	August Blom
Director of Photography	Axel Sørensen
Appearance	Ellen Diedrich, Lauritz Olsen, Victor Fabian, Einar Zangenberg
Production country	Denmark
Technical info	603 meter, 35 mm, 1,33:1, tinted, Silent
Danish theatrical release	02.08.1910
Cinemas	Panoptikon

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