

Jascha's Revenge



At the beginning of his career, Jascha Heifetz had to play his violin in the shadow of his cellist sister, Hedda, who his parents considered to be the superior musician. For years, it was Hedda this and bloody Hedda that, until a secretly fuming Jascha hatched a plan of revenge. It began with extensive training of his canine companion, Bowser, and ended one Sunday afternoon in May when Hedda was performing Dinklaker's Etude Bruté for Solo Cello at Carnegie Hall. She was so engrossed in the piece's thorny intricacies that she didn't hear the horrified screams from the audience as Bowser made off with her left leg. No longer able to bow properly, a crestfallen Hedda soon thereafter retired from the performance stage, finally allowing her younger brother to grab the limelight he so desperately sought.