

Machinations behind a murder

TV

CHOICE

TRY getting up and rescuing the burnt chops or wrapping up the Christmas presents during **Murder of a Moderate Man: Out of the Shadows** tonight. With its tricky plot it calls for no less than full attention.

An impressive opening sequence which makes use of an unusual mixture of colour and black and white triggers off a series of strange incidents – a hired killer murders a moderate, democratic politician in the Middle East, a revolution follows, extremists take over and people go into hiding or disappear. There appears to be more to the incident than the British are prepared to divulge and the plot rings a little too true to be just entertainment.

Starring leading English actors, Denis Quilley as the Interpol operator, Morgan Hunter-Brown (a.k.a. "Railway Joe") and Susan Fleetwood as Laleh Colraine, an American interpreter who becomes embroiled in this very fishy situation. The

Murder of a Moderate Man: ABC, 8.30pm
Shorts: ABC, 10.10pm

Times and programs may vary

plot centers on a political prisoner, Parviz, played by Raad Rawi.

The suspects and intrigue stack up but why has the wife of an American diplomat been assigned to the proceedings as interpreter when Parviz speaks perfect English? And why do all the major European newspapers seem to have the news of Parviz's arrival when it is supposed to be a secret? Is Parviz being used as bait? Why has he been plucked out of a concentration camp and brought to England which sells arms to his jailers?

Parviz becomes a toy tossed between American and Russian diplomatic circles as the search for the identity of the killers moves from England to Italy in this thriller written by John Howlett.

With its graphic meat shots, vegetarians

and those with weak stomachs would be wise to stay away from **Shorts: The Butcher's Son** which stars Glenn Keenan, Melissa Jaffer and Peter Whitford. Written and directed by Norman Neeson it shows what happens to sausages when a confused and would-be surgeon, Tom, realises his ambition to conduct a little self-taught surgery at the back of the butcher shop.

It all begins innocently with the occasional chop or kidney but it soon moves along with Tom addressing himself to whole legs of lamb and other prime cuts.

Some would perhaps see this as a perfectly natural and quite helpful way for a surgeon to embark upon a career.

Perhaps Tom's macabre interest in dead flesh could be an expression of his being deprived the warm living thing but who knows. Suddenly Tom is called upon to do a little more than patchwork jobs and after that sausages never taste quite the same.

— BERWYN LEWIS



Laleh (Susan Fleetwood) caught in a fishy situation