



RADIO DRAMA REVIEWS ONLINE

Takeover by Paul Sellar

The Wire on BBC Radio 3

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In the world of big business, Harry (Allan Corduner) is king. Through a combination of keen instincts and ruthless manipulation, he has risen to the top of the tree, and now has the power to control people's destinies, as well as keep would-be tycoons such as Terry (Ben Crowe) on a tight leash.

Harry's half-brother Adam (Adam Levy) is also in business, but has sadly fallen on hard times. He offers to collaborate with Harry on a takeover bid; initially Harry agrees - so long as the price is right - but eventually cuts Adam out of the deal entirely. This represents a satisfying revenge on Harry's part for what happened long ago, when Adam's father did precisely the same thing to Harry's father, even though they were ostensibly partners in a family business.

Told as a first-person narrative by Harry himself, *Takeover* laid bare the evils of capitalism, in which every person was out for themselves. Terry was a particularly unpleasant character - although not to be trusted, he was the kind of buccaneer who could be relied upon to make a fast buck. Harry's languid, almost relaxed style of narration gave the impression that he was above such things, but this was nothing more than a facade; he relished the idea of bankrupting his half-brother and watching him suffer.

While set in contemporary Britain, Paul Sellar's play contained the kind of wanton cruelty reminiscent of Jacobean revenge tragedies - one could imagine Corduner's Harry making an effective job of playing the roles of Vindice (*The Revenger's Tragedy*) or Malevole (*The Malcontent*). He was both ruthless yet ghoulishly attractive as he revelled in his business success.

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