

## Review #39 : *The Clouded Yellow* (1950)

Jean Simmons and Trevor Howard

### TRAILER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRE126Zikp8>

Those who adored the sort of thrillers that Alfred Hitchcock made in England in the 1930s and those who love a good chase film should not miss *The Clouded Yellow*. This modest British film starring the beautiful Jean Simmons and Trevor Howard in the main roles, is one of those **top-drawer melodramas charged with mystery and atmosphere** — which breathes the serene authority of high-level **governmental business** with a touch of the **esoteric** thrown in.



### SYNOPSIS

**The hero is a secret service agent who goes to live in the beautiful English country with a butterfly fancier** whose pretty niece is allegedly daft. And because of his very special knowledge — not so much of butterflies as of all the underground machinery whereby spies and criminals make their escapes — he is in a superior position to match wits with the pursuing police when it comes to helping this young lady flee from a threatening murder charge.

**Needless to say, the young lady is neither daft nor guilty of the charge.** It is obvious that her aunt, the wife of the fancier, is bent upon framing her of both. But this background is merely motivation to launch the fugitives and justify the chase. It is the flight of the ex-secret agent and the girl he is helping that fills this film.

**And what a flight !** It goes first to London, then to Newcastle, then to the beautiful Lake Country and then to Liverpool, twisting in clever manoeuvres, just one jump ahead of the police. And what makes it so fascinating is that the hero's old secret service pals, who can guess at his expert planning, are masterminding the chase...

**True to the code of reviewers, I shan't tell you how it ends** — but just that it ends with as **fearful and vertiginous a climax as anyone could wish**. And that is because Miss Simmons, who makes a beautifully muddled heroine, lushly feminine in her dark distraction, is lined-up for a particularly grisly doom when — hold on here ! No more information ! The rest you will have to see +++

