

15 CONTINUED:

15

IN THE BACK OF THE CROWD: Monk, Natalie, Stottlemeyer and Disher are watching. Monk is enthralled.

MONK

A self-cleaning vacuum.

(to Natalie)

~~Do I wake or do I dream?~~

NATALIE

I don't know, Mr. Monk.

16 INT. BANQUET HALL -- MOMENTS LATER

16

Later. The after-party. A CASUAL RECEPTION. Everyone is mingling. There's an OPEN BAR. COCKTAILS.

Disher is questioning Richard Meckler. Meckler is standing with his WIFE. Meckler has a bad habit: he chews on ballpoint pens. He's chewing on one now.

RICHARD MECKLER

Last night? I was working late. I got home around what- twelve-thirty?

Mrs. Meckler nods, confirming this. Disher starts to jot this down, but his pen doesn't work.

RICHARD MECKLER (CONT'D)

Here. You can use mine.

Meckler offers Disher his chewed-up pen.

LT. DISHER

No thanks.

RICHARD MECKLER

Yeah. I know. It's a bad habit.

Disher takes out a back-up pen, and resumes-

LT. DISHER

Did you notice anything unusual? Any strangers in the building?

RICHARD MECKLER

No sir.

MRS. MECKLER

What's all this about?

LT. DISHER

Do you know Bradley Foster?

(CONTINUED)

MONK - MRS. MECKLER

START →

1/5

MRS. Meckler

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16 CONTINUED:

16

RICHARD MECKLER  
the janitor.

(cont) →

LT. DISHER  
He was murdered last night. We found  
him in the basement.

MRS. MECKLER  
Oh my God.

(END SC. 1

ACROSS THE ROOM: Stottlemeyer has noticed an attractive woman.  
40's. Sharp. Bemused. Her PRESS PASS says: T.K. JOHANSON-  
CONSUMER CURRENTS MAGAZINE.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
Consumer Currents? You write for  
them?

MS. JOHANSON  
Indeed I do.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
I bought my motorcycle last year  
because you guys recommended it.  
You gave it five stars.

MS. JOHANSON  
How is it?

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
It's five stars. I love it. So-  
thank you.

MS. JOHANSON  
Choppers aren't my department. I  
don't get to do the fun stuff. I'm  
household appliances. Blenders and  
vacuums. If you're in the market  
for a three-cycle full-capacity multi-  
rack dishwasher, I'm your gal.

Stottlemeyer smiles. He likes her. He's smitten.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
T.K.? What's the T stand for?

MS. JOHANSON  
It stands for my first name.

ACROSS THE ROOM: Kurt Pressman- the inventor- is moving  
through the crowd, carrying TWO IDENTICAL GLASSES OF SODA.

Monk is following him, like an eager puppy.

(CONTINUED)

2/5

Mrs. Meckler

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16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

MONK

I don't understand. How does it work? Where does all the dust go?

KURT PRESSMAN

It has a high-voltage electronic filter. The dust is disintegrated.

MONK

It's disintegrated?

KURT PRESSMAN

It's all in the brochure.

MONK

I didn't get a brochure. I'm here with the police.

KURT PRESSMAN

The police?

MONK

We're here about something else. It's completely unrelated. But I think the work you're doing- it's historic. A self-cleaning vacuum? I think it's right up there with the wheel or Windex.

(then)

Where can I get one? No- two. I'll take two!

KURT PRESSMAN

There's a waiting list. We'll make sure you're on it, Mister....

MONK

Monk.

KURT PRESSMAN

Mr. Monk. Excuse me.

Pressman walks away. We follow him. He crosses to Richard Meckler, who is still talking to his wife and Disher. As before, Meckler is chewing on a ballpoint pen.

KURT PRESSMAN (CONT'D)

Sorry it took so long. You had the diet, right?

Pressman hesitates. He doesn't know which glass is the diet. He sips from one.

(CONTINUED)

3/5

START  
SC. 2

*Mrs. Meckler*

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. MONK" - Prod/Network Draft - 7/23/09 14.

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

KURT PRESSMAN (CONT'D)  
Is this diet? I can't tell.

Pressman hands the glass to Mrs. Meckler. She sips it too.

MRS. MECKLER  
Diet. Definitely.

*(cut to ->)*

She hands the diet soda to Meckler. Meckler drinks from it,  
as...

KURT PRESSMAN  
Pretty good turnout, huh?

RICHARD MECKLER  
I told you, partner. If you build a  
better mousetrap.  
(then, introducing)  
This is Lt. Disher. He's with the  
San Francisco police.

KURT PRESSMAN  
Oh yes. I heard the police were  
here.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE ROOM: Stottlemeyer is still flirting  
with Ms. Johanson. He's trying to guess her name.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
Trina? Teresa?

MS. JOHANSON  
Why do you care?

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
It'll make it slightly easier for me  
to track you down.

NEAR THE STAGE: the new VACUUM CLEANER is on display. Monk  
and Natalie are admiring it. Monk treats it like the holy  
grail.

MONK  
What are you doing? You can't touch  
it!

NATALIE  
It's just a vacuum cleaner, Mr. Monk.

ACROSS THE ROOM: Disher, Pressman, Meckler and Meckler's  
wife are still talking. Meckler is still drinking his soda.

Suddenly- Meckler stops. He gasps for air!

(CONTINUED)

*4/5*

Mrs Meckler

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. MONK" - Prod/Network Draft - 7/23/09 15.

16 CONTINUED: (4)

16

MRS. MECKLER

Richard- ?

Meckler can't breathe! It's a heart attack! His knees buckle. He collapses! Disher snaps into action.

LT. DISHER

It's a heart attack. Give him room!  
Stay back!

MRS. MECKLER

Oh my God!

LT. DISHER

CAPTAIN! WE NEED AN AMBULANCE!

Everyone- including Monk and Natalie- gather around. Lt. Disher administers CPR, but it's no use. Meckler stiffens. He's dead.

Meckler's wife cradles her husband.

MRS. MECKLER

(sobbing)

Richard?! Richard!

END OF ACT ONE

// END SC. 2

5/5