

14 CONTINUED: (4)

14

MR. WAXMAN

There's a camera in the lobby. I was just checking the tape. It looks like there was only one other guy here. Meckler. Richard Meckler. He has an office on the fourth floor.

LT. DISHER

(jotting down name)

Meckler...

MR. WAXMAN

He left around midnight. But that doesn't mean anything. He works late a lot.

MONK

What does he do?

MR. WAXMAN

Mr. Meckler? He's a patent attorney. If you have an idea- like, for an invention- and you want to get rich quick, he's the guy.

15 INT. BANQUET HALL - PR EVENT -- LATER THAT DAY

15

Later. Across town. In a LARGE BANQUET ROOM. A DOZEN REPORTERS- from technological magazines and websites- are gathered.

A CORPORATE PR EVENT is in progress. There's a BANNER: INTRODUCING THE VANTAGE VACUUM- the world's first SELF CLEANING VACUUM!

RICHARD MECKLER, the patent attorney, is addressing the crowd. 40-ish. A bit of a hustler.

**START
PT. 1**



RICHARD MECKLER

My name is Richard Meckler. I'm a patent attorney. I must hear a thousand bad ideas every year. Believe me, I've met every nutjob in California. But when Kurt Pressman came into my office five months ago with this vacuum- the world's first self-cleaning vacuum- I knew I wanted to be a part of it.

// END PT. 1

Also onstage: KURT PRESSMAN, an amateur inventor. He's a large guy, heavy-set. 30-ish, bookish. He's holding a new, slick high-tech VACUUM CLEANER.

(CONTINUED)

"MONK" - RICHARD MECKLER

1/5

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.

START
PT. 2

→ 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)

2/5

16 CONTINUED:

16

RICHARD MECKLER

The janitor.

LT. DISHER

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

MRS. MECKLER

Oh my God.

//END PT. 2

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)

3/5

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.~~

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

**SMILT
PT. 3**

→
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

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
PT. 3

S/S