

REGGIE DENNISON'S HOUSE, FRONT PORCH -- LATER 16

Moments later. Natalie is at ANOTHER HOUSE.

She RINGS the bell. The door opens, revealing: REGGIE DENNISON. A lawyer. Early 30's. Handsome. With a violent temper.

REGGIE DENNISON

(warily)

Hello.

Reggie seems to recognize Natalie. He tenses.

REGGIE DENNISON (cont'd)

Can I help you?

NATALIE

I'm sorry to bother you. Is this a bad time?

(CONTINUED)

Reggie Deur: son

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16

REGGIE DENNISON
As a matter of fact, I'm sort of in the middle of something.

Reggie gestures. Natalie notices: his THUMBNAIL is BLACK AND BLUE! Natalie remembers...

17 INT. MONK'S APARTMENT -- PREVIOUS NIGHT -- <u>FLASHBACK</u> (B&W) (FB-1)

17

A QUICK BLACK & WHITE FLASHBACK. It's the previous night, at Monk's apartment. Natalie is paying for the pizza.

We FOCUS ON: the Delivery Boy's hand. He has the <u>same bruise</u> on his thumb!

RESUME-

18 EXT. DENNISON'S HOUSE -- PRESENT DAY

18

Back on the porch. Natalie gulps.

REGGIE DENNISON Why? What's all this about?

Natalie doesn't respond. She's terrified!

(a)+

END OF ACT TWO

Reggic Deunison

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ACT THREE

19 EXT. DENNISON'S HOUSE, FRONT PORCH -- CONTINUOUS

19

We pick up where we left off: the stand-off on the porch.

Natalie knows that Reggie is involved somehow. She senses danger. Reggie is also tense. He recognizes Natalie; he delivered pizza to her on the night of the murder.

It's a wary game of cat and mouse: they're both pretending not to recognize each other.

court ->

NATALIE

(nervously, inventing)
Sorry to bother you. I live a few blocks away...

REGGIE DENNISON

Yeah. I've seen you around.

NATALIE

It's... my cat. Snowflake. She ran away.

REGGIE DENNISON

(suspiciously)
Your cat? Do you have a picture?

NATALIE

No. That's the thing. She's new.
(anxious to leave)
I'll keep looking. Sorry to bother
you.

Natalie turns to go.

REGGIE DENNISON

Hold on.

Natalie stops. She gulps.

REGGIE DENNISON (cont'd)
Yeah. I <u>did</u> find a cat. This
morning. She was scratching on my
door. She's in the basement. Come
on in.

Reggie holds the door open. It's a TERRIFYING MOMENT. Natalie knows: if she goes into that house, he will kill her.

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19

NATALIE

(backing away)

It's probably not her. What color is it?

REGGIE DENNISON

White.

NATALIE

See. That's not her. Snowflake is black.

REGGIE DENNISON

"Snowflake" is black?

NATALIE

Thanks anyway. You should really put some ice on that thumb.

Natalie walks away, as fast as she can.

20

20 INT DENNISON'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- SECONDS I ATER

Reggie re-enters his house. He locks the door. He anxicusly looks out the window. He's looking for Natalie. What's she doing? Now much does she know?

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS -- SAME TIME

21

Across town, at Police HQ. The "Missing Judge" Task Force is still active. COPS and DETECTIVES are frantically working the case.

Lt. Disher is there. He's on the phone, talking to Natalie. During the following, Lt Disher is distracted. He glances at REPORTS, initials various ORDERS, etc.

LT. DISHER

He had a what?

INT. NAPALIE'S PARKED CAR -- SAME TIME -- INTERCOL

1

22

Natalie is in her car. She's parked down the street from Reggie's house.

Natalie is terrified: She's <u>whispering</u>, urgently, into her phone. We INTERCUT BETWEEN THEM AS NECESSARY...

Ruggie Demisson

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39

Reggie Dennison pulls up in his car. Natalie is in the front seat. She's his prisoner. Her mouth is DUCT-TAPED SHUT. Her hands are DUCT-TAPED TOGETHER.

The plant's MAIN ENTRANCE is a BIG SLIDING DOOR that's been chained shut. Reggie climbs out of the car with a pair of huge BOLT CUTTERS. He CUTS the chain... and slides open the door.

40 INT. RECYCLING CENTER - WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

40

Reggie leads Natalie inside. Her mouth and hands are still taped. He finds a CIRCUIT BOX on a wall, and throws a switch.

The overhead lights CLICK ON. It's an AMAZING SIGHT. The place is filled with BUNDLES of PAPER and MAGAZINES and CARDBOARD. A mountain of it. No- not a mountain. A mountain range.

Reggie RIPS the duct tape from Natalie's mouth. She's scared to death.

SCAPT

NATALIE

I have a daughter.

REGGIE DENNISON
Help me find it, maybe you'll see her again.

NATALIE

Find what?

REGGIE DENNISON

The box! The pizza box! With my prints on it! What was it in? A carton, a bag, or what?

NATALIE

My boss recycled it.

(babbling, anxiously)

He separates everything into piles,
exactly 20 inches high, then puts
each pile into a green, 10-gallon
reinforced double-ply trash bag which
he double-tapes shut, then he puts
that has into smether has which he
wrang with thing four times-

end twice, once...

Reggic Dennison

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40 CONTINUED:

REGGIE DENNISON

(interrupting)

ARE YOU SCREWING WITH ME?!

NATALIE

No! I swear! He's very persnickety!

REGGIE DENNISON

(thinking)

All right. He said they picked it up this morning. We'll start over there.

41 EXT. RECYCLING CENTER - WAREHOUSE -- SAME TIME

41

40

Meanwhile, out front. A TAXI pulls up. Monk gets out. He's come straight from his sick bed! He's wearing a BATHROBE and SLIPPERS!

He sees Reggie's empty parked car. And he sees the security chain that's been cut. Monk looks around. Should he wait for the police? No. He can't wait. He enters the warehouse...

42 INT. RECYCLING CENTER - WAREHOUSE -- SAME TIME

42

Meanwhile, inside: Reggie is leading Natalie past huge mounds of PAPER and RECYCLING BAGS. They're near a BIG COMPACTOR PIT, where the bundles are compressed.

REGGIE DENNISON

Keep looking.

NEARBY- WITH MONK

Nearby: Monk is sneaking up on them! He's trying to A- be <u>perfectly silent</u>, and B- avoid touching the dirty bundles of paper.

Then- he freezes. He looks down. He's standing in a PUDDLE OF SCUMMY LIQUID! He's horrified! Monk opens his mouthwide- and SCREAMS, silently! No sound at all. Like a silent movie.

NEARBY- WITH REGGIE DENNISON & NATALIE

Meanwhile, Reggie is unraveling. He takes out his KNIFE, and approaches Natalie!

NATALIE

I don't see it.

Reggie Deunson

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42 CONTINUED:

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43

44

REGGIE DENNISON You're stalling!

Not I sweet to God!

PALIE CO.

Suddenly, Monk appears! He LEAPS on top of Reggie! Together,

43 EXT. RECYCLING CENTER - WAREHOUSE -- SAME TIME

Meanwhile, out front. Capt. Stottlemeyer's SEDAN comes SCREECHING UP... followed by TWO SQUAD CARS. Their sirels are BLARING.

RESUME-

44

INT. RECYCLING CENTER - PIT -- SAME TIME

Inside. The fight continues.

The PIT is disgusting. It's filled with GARBAGE and GODEY MULCHED PAPER. Monk and Reggie exchange sloppy but powerful punches! Within seconds, they're both covered in trash!

Monk falls backward! Regie takes out his KNIFE, and noves in for the kill! Monk backs away. He gulps.

Then-Reggie HEARS something. He looks up. A huge TWO-TON WALL PILE OF BUNDLED PAPER is CRASHING DOWN on him! An avalanche of paper. Reggie is buried under it!

We now reveal: it was Natalie! She's managed to untape her hands, and started a FORKLIFT... Which she used to push the PAPER-MOUNTAIN onto Reggie!

Capt. Stottlemeyer and Lt. Disher appear, followed by TWO UNIFORM COPS. Stottlemeyer and Disher leap into the COMPACTOR PIT. They yank Reggie to his feet.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER WHERE'S MONK? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HIM?

Monk is standing right there. They don't notice him because he's covered with paper mulch! He looks like a PAPER MACHE STATUE!

Monk, the Paper Mache Man, has the flu. He SNEEZES.