

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

EMILY J.
Mrs. Teeger, would you hold this?

NATALIE
Sure. What is it?

EMILY J.
It's an arrowhead. Coach Hayden gave it to me.

NATALIE
It's beautiful...

EMILY J.
She brought about fifteen back from Dratch Valley.

NATALIE
(stunned)
Dratch Valley...?

EMILY J.
She went hiking up there.

NATALIE
Was she up there two weeks ago?

EMILY J.
Two weeks ago? I think so.

Emily J. dashes off, and rejoins the team. Natalie turns, excitedly, toward Monk.

"MONK" - PARK RANGER

15 EXT. DRATCH VALLEY - CAMP SITE -- DAY (DAY 4)

15

The next day. Deep in the mountains. The whole area's been DESTROYED BY A RECENT FIRE. It's a wasteland- as far as we can see. The trees are blackened and barren.

Monk and Natalie are talking to a veteran PARK RANGER. The Ranger indicates a crude fire hole, with rocks around it.

START →

PARK RANGER
It's pretty obvious what happened. This is the point of origin...

Monk- excited about his coaching gig- is wearing a COACH'S WHISTLE around his neck. He looks for any excuse to blow it. He BLOWS HIS WHISTLE.

(CONTINUED)

1/4

PARK Ranger

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15 CONTINUED:

15

MONK

TWEEEEEEEEET!

(then)

Natalie. Right here. Point of origin.

(again, whistle)

TWEEEEEEEEET!

(to Ranger)

Please. Go on.

PARK RANGER

Somebody was here, camping out, unauthorized, without a permit. Apparently the wind shifted, from east to north...

~~MONK~~

~~(whistle)~~

~~TWEEEEET! East to north. Got it.~~

~~(whistle)~~

~~TWEEEEET! Please. Continue~~

NATALIE

(explaining)

It's his first whistle.

PARK RANGER

The brush around here was bone-dry. Those branches probably caught first, and spread downwind. Once it hit the valley, there was no stopping it.

MONK

So, the fire was moving...

(whistle)

TWEEEEET- down the hill, that way?

PARK RANGER

Are you with the arson squad, Mr. Monk?

MONK

No. This is a private investigation. And call me Coach. Coach Monk.

PARK RANGER

I thought you were a detective..?

MONK

I am a detective. I also coach high school basketball.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2/4

Park Ranger

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15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

MONK (CONT'D)

The Ashton Cougars. Are you into B-ball? B stands for basketball.

PARK RANGER

Not really.

MONK

What are you doing Saturday night?

PARK RANGER

It's my parent's anniversary. Fifty years.

MONK

Aw, forget that. Come to the game. It's the league championship. ~~It's gonna be a great game. We have a zone defense which is the best kind of defense you can have. And we've got a great backcourt. We are gonna kick their rumps all over the field!~~

PARK RANGER

You mean "court".

MONK

(excitedly, to Natalie)

Hey Natalie, he might come to the game.

PARK RANGER

I didn't say that-

NATALIE

(exasperated)

Mr. Monk. Do you have any other questions? ~~About the fire. Remember the reason we're here. The reason we drove two and a half hours?~~

MONK

Yes. The fire. Let me think.

While he thinks, Monk TWEETS... softly... on the coach's whistle.

MONK (cont'd)

(absentmindedly)

Twееееett... tweet... tweeeett...

(then)

Was anybody hurt?

(CONTINUED)

3/4

Park Ranger

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15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

PARK RANGER

No sir. Just some property damage.
Five or six summer homes.

MONK

The fire spread that way. So they
probably ran down there...

Monk leads Natalie down a blackened, burnt-out TRAIL.

PARK RANGER

I'll wait by the jeep.

MONK

Okay. If we get lost, I'll blow the
whistle.

PARK RANGER

(wearily)
I'm sure you will.

//END

MONK

~~See you Saturday. Go Cougars!~~

16 EXT. THE TRAIL -- SECONDS LATER

16

Moments later. Monk and Natalie walk along the BURNT-OUT
TRAIL. Monk notices something. He blows his stupid whistle.

MONK

TWEEET!

He picks something off Natalie's jacket. It's a BURR- a
thorn- like the one he found on the coach's jacket.

NATALIE

What is it?

MONK

A burr.

Then Monk notices a PIECE OF FABRIC- ripped from a flannel
jacket- hanging on a burnt-out low-hanging tree branch.

Monk holds it. He recognizes it.

MONK (cont'd)

You were right. It's from Lynn
Hayden's jacket.

(CONTINUED)

4/4