

78 CONTINUED:

78

~~Lt. Disher types. He shakes his head.~~

LT. DISHER

No such animal.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER  
(into phone)

The check is dirty. Who wrote it?

NATALIE

The "Xanadu Corporation".

IN POLICE HQ: Stottlemeyer relays this-

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER

The Xanadu Corporation.

Lt. Disher types.

LT. DISHER  
(reading screen)

Xanadu. A division of the Orpheum  
Investment Group..

(more typing)

Which is controlled by the Blue Danube  
Foundation...

(more typing)

Which is owned by...

(stunned)

Oh my God.

IN NEVADA: Natalie listens, puzzled.

MONK

What is it?

NATALIE  
(to Monk)

Who's Dale Biederbeck?

"MONK" - DALE THE WHALE

79 INT. PRISON - DALE THE WHALE'S CELL -- LATER

79

Later that day. In Dale The Whale's jail cell. In the background: Dale's COMPUTER MONITOR is switched on.

Dale is on his bed. On his stomach, under an oversize sheet. He's getting a back massage from an attractive FEMALE NURSE.

START →

DALE THE WHALE

Not too hard... the new skin is the most tender. Mmm... that's it. Right there.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1/4

DALE

79 CONTINUED:

79

DALE THE WHALE (CONT'D)

(then)

I dreamt about you last night. Do you ever dream about me?

NURSE

Sometimes.

DALE THE WHALE

I wonder if we're having the same dream.

NURSE

I doubt it.

A PRISON GUARD steps up. Natalie is beside him.

~~PRISON GUARD~~  
Biederbeck. You have a visitor. You got ten minutes.

Dale turns. He sees Natalie. He grins.

DALE THE WHALE

The Eager Miss Teeger. We meet at last. The photos I've seen don't do you justice. What are you, a size four?

Natalie has never seen Dale The Whale... or anyone like him. She reacts, sickened.

DALE THE WHALE (CONT'D)

(to Nurse)

Althena. We'll have to continue this tomorrow. Remember where we left off.

The Nurse leaves the cell. The Guard locks the CELL DOOR. The Guard and the Nurse walk away.

Natalie is alone with Dale The Whale. She stays outside the cell. A tense, careful exchange. It's like a "Hannibal Lector" scene.

DALE THE WHALE (CONT'D)

(gesturing "move over")

Would you mind? Watching Althena walk away is the only exercise I get.

Natalie reluctantly steps aside. Dale watches the Nurse walk away.

(CONTINUED)

2/4

DALE

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79 CONTINUED: (2)

79

NATALIE

You get a massage every day?

Dale The Whale grins.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

A computer. Your own telephone. It doesn't look like you're suffering.

DALE THE WHALE

Believe me, Natalie. I suffer. Remember the day you got the news about Mitch? That's where I live.

NATALIE

How do you know- ?

DALE THE WHALE

About Mitchell? You work for Adrian Monk, Natalie. That makes you and your family my business.

Natalie notices: a GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPH of the GOVERNOR AND THE FIRST LADY, on Dale's wall.

NATALIE

Is that the Governor?

DALE THE WHALE

I'm a big fan.

NATALIE

Didn't he just refuse to commute your sentence?

DALE THE WHALE

That's true. Governor Wechsler won't release me. He doesn't feel I'm sufficiently rehabilitated. On the other hand, I do admire his position on automobile admissions.

(then)

Turn it off, please.

NATALIE

Turn what off?

DALE THE WHALE

The tape recorder in your purse. I won't be confessing to anything today, Natalie.

(CONTINUED)

3/4

DALE

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79 CONTINUED: (3)

79

Natalie sighs. She reaches into her PURSE, takes out a TINY DIGITAL RECORDER, and clicks it OFF.

DALE THE WHALE (CONT'D)

We don't have to play games. I know Adrian Monk is alive. I never believed his oldest friend, Leland Stottlemeyer, would really shoot him. Did you?

Natalie blushes.

DALE THE WHALE (CONT'D)

The truth is, I'm so relieved. I don't want Monk dead. My goal is to trade places with the man. I want him in here, in this hellhole, rotting away, slowly, slowly, slowly.

NATALIE

What about Sheriff Rollins?

DALE THE WHALE

What about him?

NATALIE

We know he's on your payroll.

DALE THE WHALE

Is he really?

NATALIE

He used to work here, as a prison guard. Is that where you met him?

Again, Dale The Whale grins.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

We know you hired Jonah Albright. You brought him back from South America. You're planning something. Whatever it is, Mr. Biederbeck, you can forget it. It's not going to work.

DALE THE WHALE

I'm afraid you're too late, Natalie. Wheels are in motion.

(chuckling)

Remember I said that. "Wheels are in motion". Ooo. I feel like the Riddler.

(MORE)

//END

4/4

(CONTINUED)