10

9 CONTINUED: (2)

MONK (sighs)

I knew I was right about shaking hands.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO -- DAY (DAY

The next day. In a plush, state-of-the-art RECORDING STUDIO.

A YOUNG RAPPER (this should be a <u>real</u> rapper, using his own name) is in a RECORDING BOOTH, singing one of his songs.

YOUNG RAPPER

(singing) SONG TO COME]

We hear a verse. Maybe two. Maybe three

INF. MIXING BOOTH -- SAME TIME

In the MIXING BOOTH. A PRODUCER is at the mixing board, listening, loving it, adjusting dials.

Behind him: Monk and Natalie are standing with the two mismatched owners of Fresh Rhymes Records- ELVIN HODGES, a Tony Soprano-type, and WADDY MITCHELL, a bookish accountant.

The RAP SONG continues. It ROCKS THE BOOTH! Elvin Hodges turns to Monk and Natalie.

START

ELVIN HODGES

What do you think?

هـ ا

10

NATALIE

I love it!

ELVIN HODGES

Mr. Monk?

Monk- surprisingly- is smiling. He's bopping along to the beat. He nods, and gives Hodges a big "thumbs up".

Hodges and Waddy look away. Natalie steps up to Monk and removes TWO EARPLUGS from his ears.

So now- for the first time- Monk can actually <u>hear</u> the music. He winces. He recoils! He hates it!

Behind the others, unnoticed: Monk tries to grab the earplugs back! Natalie won't return them. They silently scuffle and tussle around the mixing booth.

1/6

"MR. MONK AND THE RAPPER" - Prod/Network Draft - 4/24/07 22.

### 11 CONTINUED:

11

The song ends.

PRODUCER

(into intercom

Sounded kiekin' to me. Let's reset and do one more.

The Producer gets ready for the next take, as...

NATALIE

It's nice of you to see us, Mr. Hodges...

ELVIN HODGES

Please. Call me Elvin.

- WADDI

I'm Waddy

GOLD and PLATINUM RECORDS line the wall. On the covers: HIP-HOP ARTISTS are scowling, posing. Some are pointing guns.

NATALIE

I've never been in a real recording studio. Look at all these gold records.

ELVIN HODGES

(indicating a cover)

That was our first hit. Fourteen years ago.

MONK

What are they so mad about?

ELVIN HODGES

About everything. Cops. Women. Money. Thank God. Their anger is putting my kids through college.

Natalie indicates one cover, which features EXTRA LARGE.

NATALIE

There he is. I'm so sorry about what happened.

manifoldes

So were we. He was a big talent. With a big heart.

ELLIN HODGES

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

ELVIN HODGES (CONT'D)

At least, that was the plan. Waddy and I spent every nickel we had to sign him.

(indicates Young Rapper)
Now we have to start over, with kids
like (Young Rapper) here. He's still
years away from paying the rent.

(impatiently, to Producer)

Hey maestro. Are we gonna do this or not?

PRODUCER

You want it fast ar you want it good

BLVIN HODGES

L'1 V L7 L7 L7 L7

Fact. Cood

WADDY

(explaining)

My partner doesn't understand the music business. You've got to spend money to make money

MONK

Where were you when you heard that Extra Large had been murdered?

ELVIN HODGES

Where was I? If I live to be a hundred, I'll never forget. I was in my hotel room. With Waddy. We were having breakfast.

(cm to ->)

MADDY

<u>We</u> were not having breakfast. <u>You</u> were having breakfast.

\(explaining)

We have breakfast together, every Sunday, to try to figure at where all the money's going. Last Sunday morning I show up- he's halfway through his eggs benedict. Not ever a place setting for me.

LIVIN HODGES

(shrug@ing)

I forgot I forgot to order you room service.

"MR. MONK AND THE RAPPER" - Prod/Network Draft - 4724/07 24

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

#### WZYDDY

After fourteen years? You coddenly

Pick-up ->

ELVIN HODGES

It turned out to be the worst day of our lives. When E. L. was killed, our whole business went down the crapper. Independent bit breakfast

MEND SU.

The Young Rapper enters the mixing booth. (NOTE: The following exchange will change, depending on the Young Rapper and the song he's recording...)

PRODUCER

You ready?

YOUNG RAPPER

I'n still working these lyrics.
What do you like better?
"Girl I wanna date ya- then I wanna
mate ya- 'cause your booty's so fly?"
or "Cause you're booty's so Def?

PRODUCER

I like Fly N

(to the others) What do you think?

Everyone else- except Mon has an opinion.

NATALIX, HODGES AND WADDY

(overlapping,

I say Def... Fl... think Def...

YOUNG RAPPER

So it's two to two.

(to Monk)

Yo. Homey. It's down to you.

MONK

M🎤 Oh. Ah...

YOUNG RAPPER

Def or Fly?

MONK

Ah. Def or Fly? Def or Fly? Um.

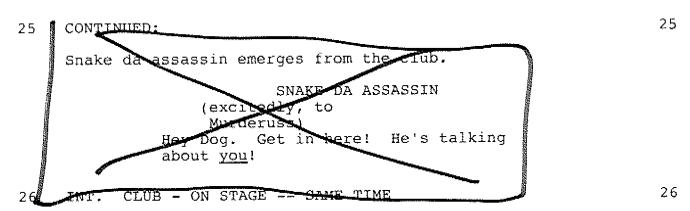
Ah. First off, thank you for asking

Def or Fly? What does Def mean again?

4/6

# EWIN HONES

"MR. MONK AND THE RAPPER" - Prod/Network Draft - 4/24/07 43.



Inside. Elvin hodges is onstage, addressing the CROWD...

START ->

ELVIN HODGES

I feel like I lost a brother on Sunday morning. I think we <u>all</u> feel that way...

During this, Murderous and his crew- followed by Monk, Natalie, Stottlemeyer and Disher- enter the club. They stand in the back, behind the crowd, inconspicuously.

ELVIN HODGES (CONT'D)
We all know the police have a suspect.
You know who I'm talking about. I
don't have to say his name.

ANGRY MAN IN CROWD

MURDERUSS!

urdoruse: ... Murderuss: ...

ELVIN HODGES

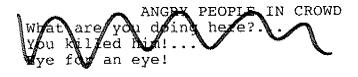
Let's stay cool. If Large were here, I know he'd be telling us to increase the peace. Let's let the cops do their job... for once.

Then Hodges notices Murderuss, in the crowd.

ELVIN HODGES (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil. Look who's here. You have a lot of nerve, I'll give you that.

The CROWD sees Murderuss. They get angry. They taunt him-



"MR. MONK AND THE RAPPER" - Prod/Network Draft - 4/24707 44.

### 26 CONTINUED:

The ANGRY CROWD surrounds Murderuss. Murderuss backs up. He's genuinely frightened.

ON STAGE -- SAME TIME

Monk to the rescue! Monk steps onto the stage. He picks up a microphone, and ADDRESSES THE CROWD, awkwardly... haltingly...

MONK

(low, flatly, into microphone)

Word. Word. Word. Everyone. Word.

The CROWD quiets down. They turn, and listen.

## MONK (CONT'D)

People. Purthers to two just you the 4-1-1 That means information.

(then)

Murderuss didn't kill anybody.

(indicates Hodges)

Elvin Hodges wanted us- he wanted everyone- to think Murderuss planted that bomb. He said he saw Murderuss in the parking lot at 7 o'glash the night before. But that's impossible.

The CROWD starts to BOO and HISS. Monk continues. He holds up his own WRISTWATCH...

MONK (CONT'D)

i.e timing device was a twelve hour clock, like this. The bomb went off at 8 in the mouning. So it had to be set ofter 8 o'clock the night before...

Hodges is still onstage. He addresses the CROWD-

ELVIN HODGES

Let me get this straight. Are you accusing me?

(indicates Large's

portrait)

This man was <u>family</u> to me. We were gonna make each other rich. Why would I want to hurt him?

That's what I could figure t. The prive. The I relied 11 END Sc.7

(CONTINUED)

26