

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

MONK
 (sighs)
 I knew I was right about shaking hands.

10 INT. RECORDING STUDIO -- DAY (DAY 2) 10

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

A YOUNG RAPPER (this should be a real 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.

11 INT. MIXING BOOTH -- SAME TIME 11

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 →
Sc. 1

ELVIN HODGES
What do you think?

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 hear 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.

"MONK" - ELVIN HODGES

(CONTINUED)

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11 CONTINUED:

11

The song ends.

~~PRODUCER~~
~~(into intercom)~~
~~Sounded kickin' 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.

~~WADDY~~
~~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.

~~ELVIN HODGES~~ **ELVIN HODGES**
So were we. He was a big talent.
With a big heart.

~~ELVIN HODGES~~
And a big profit margin.
(MORE)

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 or you want it good?~~

~~ELVIN HODGES~~

~~WADDY~~

~~Fast, Good.~~

~~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.

(WT TO →)

~~WADDY~~

~~We were not having breakfast. You were having breakfast.~~

~~(explaining)~~

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

~~ELVIN HODGES~~

~~(shrugging)~~

~~I forgot. I forgot to order you room service.~~

Pick-up
here →

~~WADDY~~

~~After fourteen years? You suddenly
forget?~~

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. ~~and he's still bitchin'
about his breakfast.~~

// END
SC.1

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'm 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.
(to the others)
What do you think?

Everyone else- except Monk- has an opinion.

NATALIE, HODGES AND WADDY

(overlapping)

I say Def... Fly... I think Def...

YOUNG RAPPER

So it's two to two.
(to Monk)
Yo. Honey. It's down to you.

MONK

Me? 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

ELVIN HODGES

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25 CONTINUED:

25

Snake da assassin emerges from the club.

SNAKE DA ASSASSIN

(excitedly, to
Murderuss)

Hey Dog. Get in here! He's talking
about you!

26 INT. CLUB - ON STAGE -- SAME TIME

26

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

START
SC. 2 →

ELVIN HODGES

I feel like I lost a brother on Sunday
morning. I think we all 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!

~~REST OF CROWD~~

~~Murderuss!... 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-

ANGRY PEOPLE IN CROWD

What are you doing here?...
You killed him!...
Eye for an eye!

(CONTINUED)

5/6

26 CONTINUED:

26

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. Word. Everyone. Word.

The CROWD quiets down. They turn, and listen.

MONK (CONT'D)
~~People. Brothers. Let me give 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'clock 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)
The timing device was a twelve hour clock, like this. The bomb went off at 8 in the morning. So it had to be set after 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 family to me. We were gonna make each other rich. Why would I want to hurt him?

~~MONK
That's what I couldn't figure out. The motive. Then I realized-~~

// END SC. 2

6/6