

CONTINUED: (8)

3

3

MONK  
(numb, trouble forming words)  
Nokay. Nokay.

NATALIE  
(explaining)  
He's trying to say "okay". That's as close as he's ever going to get.

MONK  
Nokay. Nokay.

4

INT. TV STUDIO -- NEXT NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

The next night. Back in the studio. It's Natalie's big debut!

Natalie is all dolled up. New dress. New hairstyle. She looks stunning... stunning and anxious.

A MAKE-UP PERSON is fussing with her hair and face.

NATALIE  
Is it too much?

MAKE-UP PERSON  
You look great.

Nearby: a young SOUND ENGINEER is adjusting the BOOM MIKE and locking it in place directly above the PLEXI-GLASS TUMBLER MACHINE. His name is BILLY LOGAN. A bit scruffy. Quick-tempered. He's wearing a CREW CAP from a previous movie job; it says "Bay City Blues".

BILLY LOGAN  
Excuse me. New Girl. New Girl. You're off your mark.

NATALIE  
My mark...?

BILLY LOGAN  
(impatiently)  
The big X on the floor. Look where I'm pointing.

STAGE MANAGER  
NINETY SECONDS!

NATALIE  
Ninety seconds?  
(MORE)

"MONK" - STAGE MANAGER

SM →

(LOT TO →)

(CONTINUED)

1/2

7 CONTINUED:

7

(pide-up) →

STAGE MANAGER  
AND- WE'RE OUT.

As soon as she's off, Natalie's smile vanishes. We realize: she's not only a star. She's become a bit of a diva. Full of herself. I'm trying not to say "asshole".

NATALIE  
(sharply, to DIRECTOR)  
Eddie, you did it again. Please don't cue the music until I'm waving goodbye.

DIRECTOR'S VOICE  
Sorry.

NATALIE  
It's not rocket science.

Mr. Lawrence walks by. Natalie stops him.

NATALIE (CONT'D)  
There you are. Stan. Did you get my email?

MR. LAWRENCE  
About...?

NATALIE  
My suggestion. About all the fan letters I've been getting. I thought I could read a few of them on the air.

MR. LAWRENCE  
(politely)  
Well. I don't really think we have time...

NATALIE  
Sure we do. I'll just do the lotto numbers faster.

MR. LAWRENCE  
Well, you see, Natalie... the show is about the numbers. That's why people are watching. It's not really about you.

NATALIE  
Really? Is that what you're hearing? Because that's not what I'm hearing.

(CONTINUED)

2/2