23 CONTINUED:

23

NATALLE

There's a park just up the street. Maybe we should start there...

While Natalie is distracted, Monk scans the neighborhood. He notices a BUILDING. There's a sign on the door: ROOMS FOR RENT. One of the window sills has some FLOWER POTS: an array of bright Gardenias.

MONK

Gardenias!

The FRONT DOOR spens. An older woman emerges. It's LEYLA'S MOTHER. Mid-60's Weary, but still beautiful.

Monk and Natalie ster up.

MONK (CONT'D)

Mrs. Zlatavich

Mrs. Zlatavich tenses. She's scared to death.

MRS. ZLATAVICH

Policija?!

MONK & NATALIE Besturing, reassuring)

No, No. No police. We just want to

MONK

I'm a <u>former</u> policeman. I was diven a psychological discharge. A discharge. Do you understand? (consulting his

DICTIONARY)

Natalie has brought Leyla's purse. She reaches in, and takes out a PHOTO of Leyla.

STRUT

NATALIE

Mrs. Zlatavich. We are friends of Leyla's.

This gets Mrs. Zlatavich's attention.

MRS. ZLATAVICH

(concerned)

Leyla?

(CONTINUED)

SIATE/

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23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

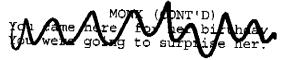
NATALYE Ma'am, your daughter is 'n trouble. She'l in jail.

Monk shows her the INTERPOL WANTED POSTER, featuring a PHOTO of The Butcher.

MONK

We know you killed this man. Your daughter is in jail. She is protecting you.

Mrs. Zlatavich is shaken. She clutches Natalie for support.



 ${\tt Mrs.}$ Zlatavich can barely understand them, but she understands enough.

MRS. ZLATAVICH

(pleading) Alekski chasto bu taynu!

NATALIE

You were bringing her a gift. A bracelet. A charm bracelet, yes?

Monk shows her the MISADDRESSED ENVELOPE

MONK
You landed at the airport, and got
into a taxi. But you had the wrong
address.

(indicates ENVELOPE)
Algonquin Avenue. That's her old
address. You didn't know she movel.

NATALIE
That's how you ended up on that
street

Mrs. Zlatavich nods. She begins to explain... in <u>fluent Russian</u>. We don't have to subtitle this- <u>the visuals</u> will tell the whole story...

(NOTE- We'll have to find a bilingual actress, or a quick learner. The following is just phony Russian- gibberish.)

24 INT/EXT. TAXI CAB - MOVING - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (B&W) (FB-2) 24
We begin a special, foreign-language FLASHBACK SEQUENCE...

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

24

It's the night of the murder. Mrs. Zlatavich is in a MOVING TAXI,

She's smiling, looking forward to surprising her daughter. She is holding her gift: the charm bracelet.

MRS. ZLATAVICH (V.O.)

Barak-ta sha... dorma gerund frashecka...

INT/EXT. TAXI - DOWNTOWN - CRIME SCENE - MOMENTS LATER -25 25 FLASHBACK (B&W) (FB-3)

Moments later. The TAXI reaches its destination, and stops. This, of course, is where it was parked in our teaser.

MRS. ZLATAVICH (V.O.)

A steen k'varskin. Nasherer botker,

a harts ken benkin...

The driver turns around. Mrs. Zlatavich recognizes him! My God! It's him!! It's the Butcher Of Zemenia!

> MRS. ZLATAVICH (V.O.) (CONT'D) Venim vu harshkin trem! Steen k'varskin! De Budja Zemenia!

Mrs. Zlatavich explodes! She takes out her HAIRPIN and brutally STABS THE DRIVER through the neck!

26 TAXI - STREET - CRIME SCENE - SECONDS LATER - NIGHT -EXT. FLASHBACK (B&W) (FB-4)

Seconds later. Mrs. Zlatavich staggers from the taxi. in shock. She runs away... down the street... into the night.

Bu alekski dormfa taynu.

MRS. ZLATAVICH (V.O.)

EXT. LEMEMIAN NEIGHBORHOOD - RESUME PRESENT DAY 27

Our FLASHBACKS END. Mrs. Zlatavich is weeping She's clearly confused and frightened.

Natalie glances of She tenses.

NATALIE

Mr. Monk.

Monk turns. Karl Budjik- the Sutcher's Hand- is there! He's walking toward them, menacingly, clutching his serrated <u>knife!</u>

(CONTINUED)