

14 CONTINUED:

14

In a corner; the theater critic, John Hannigan, is at his desk. He's with DIANA PHELPS, his fiancée. Mid-40s. Polished. A socialite. She's wearing a diamond ring- the same ring the killer offered to Callie.

They're admiring their own WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT in the paper.

START →

DIANA

It's the biggest engagement picture the paper's ever run.

JOHN HANNIGAN

I'm surprised your father didn't put in on the front page.

DIANA

He wanted to. I think Daddy's more excited about this wedding than you are.

JOHN HANNIGAN

That's not possible.

(cut to →)

They kiss, a little stiffly. During this, Natalie steps up. She clears her throat. Ahem. Hannigan and Diana turn.

NATALIE

John Hannigan?

JOHN HANNIGAN

That all depends.

NATALIE

My name is Natalie Teeger. My daughter Julie Teeger was in the play you reviewed last night.

JOHN HANNIGAN

(wearily)

In that case, I am not John Hannigan. If you'll excuse me, I'm kissing my luscious fiancée.

NATALIE

She sang "Away". Remember? The ballad? You called her completely forgettable.

JOHN HANNIGAN

Did I? I'm sorry, Miss Teeger. I'd be happy to print a retraction. Would that make you happy?

"MONK"

DIANA

(CONTINUED)

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DIANA

"MR. MONK AND THE CRITIC" - Prod/Network Draft - 3/24/09 25.

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NATALIE

(stunned)
retraction? That would be... yes,
that would be great...

JOHN HANNIGAN

Your daughter is not forgettable.
What I meant to say was: I wish I
could forget her. ~~But alas the~~
~~banality of that tune she tried to~~
~~sing is seared indelibly in my brain.~~
~~Is that better?~~

Even his fiancée is shocked.

DIANA

Jonathan! That's not funny.

JOHN HANNIGAN

Sure it is.

NATALIE

She's only seventeen. A review like
this could destroy her.

JOHN HANNIGAN

Then I have done the theater-going
world a great service.

(then)

Let me guess. You're a single mother.
A working man. She's your only child.
You feel guilty. You weren't there
for her enough. Am I close?

DIANA

(to Hannigan, gently)

Sweetheart. Maybe you didn't have a
good seat...

JOHN HANNIGAN

Right as always, darling. I had a
terrible seat. It faced the stage.

DIANA

(to Natalie,
embarrassed)

It's nothing personal. This is just
his way.

NATALIE

It is personal. You know who you
are, Mr. Hannigan? You're a bully.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

//END
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