

15 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM -- LATER THAT DAY 15

Moments later. In a LOCAL DOCTOR'S OFFICE. The EXAMINATION ROOM has been turned into a make-shift morgue. There are children's health charts on the walls.

The DEAD HIKER'S BODY is on a table, under a sheet.

Monk, Natalie and Sheriff Fletcher are there, with DR. EDWARD GARCIA, a small-town MD.

SHERIFF FLETCHER

Edward Garcia, Adrian Monk, Natalie Teeger.

(explaining)

Doctor Garcia and I are sort of in uncharted waters here. We want to get this right.

Sheriff Fletcher removes a sheet, revealing the dead hiker. Of course, we never see the body. But- apparently- it's disgusting. Half-decomposed. And it stinks.

Natalie recoils. She averts her eyes.

~~NATALIE
Oh my God. Oh no. The poor thing~~

~~MONK
The missing woman?~~

~~SHERIFF FLETCHER
(nodding)
I owe Dolly a big apology. This is- or was- Marge Lempkin.~~

NATALIE
Where's her face?

DR. GARCIA
Coyotes, probably. She's been five days- maybe six- in the sun.

MONK
She was a hiker?

SHERIFF FLETCHER
Marge? Marge was a little bit of everything. She came into some money five years ago, after her parents died. So she dabbled- in pretty much everything. Yoga, spelunking, trout farming...

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"MONK" - DR. GARCIA

DR. GARCIA

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DR. GARCIA
And- apparently- hiking.

NATALIE
~~Where's her face?~~

MONK
~~We've already talked about the face.
(resuming)
Where did they find her?~~

SHERIFF FLETCHER
~~A couple of those UFO aficionados
found her in the foothills, about
five miles west. Just a lucky break.
They were all out there, looking for
E.T. She would've been out there
forever.~~

DR. GARCIA
I figure she was hiking along the
ridge. She fell, somehow. Hit her
head and died instantly. The coyotes
dragged the body a mile, maybe two,
into the desert.

Sheriff Fletcher holds up an OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.

SHERIFF FLETCHER
~~Dr. Garcia has written "accidental
death" on this certificate. At my
request, he's written it in pencil.
I wanted a second opinion.~~

MONK
Why?

SHERIFF FLETCHER
~~This is a small town. Marge Lempton
was the closest thing we had to an
important person. Like I said, I
want to get it right.~~

Monk goes into his "Zen Monk" mode. He examines the body.
Everyone watches. Everyone waits.

MONK
Head trauma?

DR. GARCIA
(nodding)
She fell face first.

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Dr. Garcia

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Monk examines the dead woman's hands.

MONK

(puzzled)

No defensive wounds. No scratches.
She didn't put her hands out.

Everyone exchanges concerned looks. Monk continues...

MONK (CONT'D)

These clothes are new.

SHERIFF FLETCHER

Yes sir.

The dead woman is wearing a VEST. Monk tries to button it.
But he can't. It's too small.

MONK

It's too small.

Next, Monk focuses on the dead woman's boots. They're new,
too. Shiny. Unmarked.

MONK (CONT'D)

The boots are new, too. Not a scratch
on them.

Monk carefully removes one boot. There's something rattling
in it. Monk reaches in, and takes out a marble-sized pebble.

NATALIE

What is it?

MONK

A pebble.

SHERIFF FLETCHER

She couldn't have been hiking. Not
with that in her shoe.

DR. GARCIA

What does it mean?

MONK

It means somebody dressed her. After
she was dead. After he killed her.

END OF ACT TWO

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pick-up →