

HIS WIVES & DAUGHTERS - PILOT - 11/16/16

Det. Morton
4pgs

VOICE (O.S.) - Det Morton

Excuse me...

They turn to see an AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN coming down the aisle - it is the same man we saw at the cemetery.

We continue to hear Eddie's voice, intercut with the scene:

~~EDDIE (V.O.)~~

~~But I think the real measure of a man lies in how deeply he has loved and been loved.~~

DETECTIVE MORTON

Sorry to interrupt you all. My name is Detective Morton, I'm from the Branson police department.

(flashes his badge)

I've got a few things I need to clear up on Eddie's case.

DONNA

What case?

DETECTIVE MORTON

Well, we got some interesting news back today from the coroner's office. The autopsy results are in. Mr. Banks did not die from a heart attack.

CAROLYN

Then what was it?

DETECTIVE MORTON

The toxicology report came back positive for poison.

They all react, shocked, dumbstruck.

APRIL

Oh my God. How was he poisoned?

DETECTIVE MORTON

That's what I'm here to find out.

~~EDDIE (V.O.)~~

~~So I'd like to think my people will be the ones I leave behind...~~

TAMMY

Who would kill my sweet Eddie?

1/4

Revised
11/18/16

DETECTIVE MORTON
Well, ma'am, I'm not a betting man,
but if I were, I'd wager the killer
is right here in this room.

The others all exchange glances, suspicious that there is a
murderer among them. Could it be...

EDDIE (V.O.)
My beautiful daughters...

We see ~~Carolyn~~ and then April, both stunned.

EDDIE (V.O.)
My loyal friends...

Corny frowns, worried. Magdalena eyes him suspiciously.

EDDIE (V.O.)
And the many loves of my life.

We pan across Lorna... Donna... Tammy. Somebody here is
hiding something.

DAVE (O.S.)
Um, so, am I done here, or-

ANGLE ON DAVE -- still on stage, waiting for instruction.

DAVE
(off the lack of response)
Tell you what, I'm just gonna leave
this headshot.

He sets the headshot down and backs slowly off the stage.

END OF SHOW

*

STOP

2/4

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - AA MEETING

People wander in, mingle and raid the snack table. APRIL pours herself a cup of coffee and grabs a donut, then takes a seat.

After a beat DETECTIVE MORTON sits next to her. He acts surprised.

DETECTIVE MORTON

Well look who it is.

APRIL

I appreciate your commitment to your job, but don't you think following someone to a meeting is a little much?

DETECTIVE MORTON

I'm just here looking for help like everyone else.

(sotto)

Though if you ask me, I'd say half these people are in the bag as we speak.

APRIL

You're in the program?

DETECTIVE MORTON

Ten years now. But I take it one day at a time, because you know what they say, 'sobriety is the leading cause of relapse.'

APRIL

Funny, I wouldn't have pegged you for a drunk.

DETECTIVE MORTON

Well, I was an equal opportunity abuser. Mostly it was whisky. If your drinking interferes with your job you've got a problem, but if your job interferes with your drinking, you're an alcoholic.

APRIL

And you know all the cliches! Impressive. What's your plan here anyway, hope that I get up and spill the beans? Hello, I'm April, I'm an alcoholic and I killed my father.

DETECTIVE MORTON

Of course not. This is a safe environment. No judgments in these rooms. Though that would definitely make my job easier.

APRIL

In case you've forgotten, I have an airtight alibi. My sober companion wouldn't let me out of his sight from the moment I left Promises. Believe me, I tried.

DETECTIVE MORTON

You know, I wanted to tell you how inspired I was by your book. Especially chapter twelve where you realize that brutal honesty was the only way to happiness.

(then)

And the three-way with Leif Garret and Dana Plato was interesting, too.

APRIL

I'll sign a copy for you. Now if you don't mind, get the hell out of here.

DETECTIVE MORTON

But the meeting is starting. I think I'll stick around.

AA WOMAN

Good evening everyone and welcome. As always, please silence your cell phones. Now please join me in welcoming tonight's speaker, Alex M.

People clap as Detective Morton stands to go to the podium. Pauses briefly.

DETECTIVE MORTON

Oh, hey -- one quick question. That sober companion, what was his name?

APRIL

Ethan. Why?

DETECTIVE MORTON

We called Promises. They've never heard of him.

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