

MARTA

(to Jane)

My tennis instructor.

Beat.

WILTON

We're on the side of a mountain covered with three feet of snow. You're probably not going to get in a lot of tennis.

Jane shoos Wilton off SR.

JANE

Wilton you go back to checking the windows, will you?

WILTON

Why I could do that --

JANE

Right now, if you please.

Wilton exits.

JANE (Continued)

So you are ... ?

TODD

Todd Monroe. I'm also Miss Dunhill's friend. We've been seeing each other since her divorce.

(to Marta)

I'm sorry to surprise you, honey, but after I saw you off at the airport, I thought to myself this might be more to cope with than you expected. I took the next flight after yours to Boston and then a twelve-seat commuter plane to the local airport here.

JANE

Well I'll only be needing Miss Dunhill for a little while longer.

MARTA

Remember, Jane, I'm here to help, however I can.

JANE

Then if you'll both excuse me, I'll get my fingerprint kit from the car. It's down at the foot of the drive. I shouldn't be more than a couple of minutes.

She leaves. Todd looks alarmed.

START-----

TODD

She wants to fingerprint you?

MARTA

It's not what you think. But we do have a problem.

TODD

What.

MARTA

She doesn't believe Tom Thumb killed Freddie.

Todd takes this badly.

TODD

She doesn't -- what do you mean she doesn't believe--

MARTA

I can't explain now, I've got three minutes to turn this around. There's something we've missed ... something to do with the letters L.B.J. or L.A.X. or --

(instantly sweet voice)

Wilton?

TODD

Who's this Wilton?

MARTA

(to Todd)

He's a congenial congenital idiot.

Wilton enters.

WILTON

Yes Ma'am?

MARTA

(phony charming)

Wilton, as a fan of mine, you'll be pleased to know I've been asked to host a TV documentary all about these Tom Thumb murders. This, by the way, is my executive producer.

She nods at Todd.

TODD

Hi. I'm an executive producer.

WILTON

I thought you were a tennis instructor.

TODD

I instruct executives on how to produce shows about tennis.

MARTA

("explains" to Todd)

Wilton here has been part of the investigation since the very first murder. He even found Freddie's body.

TODD

(joking to Wilton)

Sounds to me like you should be a suspect!

WILTON

(upset)

I knew I did it!

MARTA

(to Wilton)

No, darling, no, listen to me, you've been such a big part of this story, I want to interview you for my documentary. Shall we practice?

Instantly Marta is in a TV interviewer mode, perhaps using some prop as a mock microphone. She brings Wilton DSC and talks directly to a non-existent "TV CAMERA." Todd watches from the side with curiosity.

MARTA (Continued)

We're here in Barnstock, Vermont with Mister Wilton ...? I'm sorry, your full name is ...?

Wilton looks out toward the same "camera," a bit shyly.

WILTON

(shy muffled rendition of "Dekes")

Wilton Dekes.

MARTA

You'll have to speak up a bit. Don't be shy.

WILTON

(to "camera")

Wilton Dekes.

MARTA

And Mister Dekes, how long have you been living in Barnstock?

Beat. A toughie.

WILTON

Could I come back to that question later?

MARTA

Feeling a few butterflies, eh? Well, is it true you've been helping the Sheriff with her investigation?

WILTON

(to "Camera")

Yes, I have.

MARTA

You've been to all the crime scenes?

WILTON

(to "Camera")

Yes indeed.

MARTA

And do you have any personal theories about all this?

WILTON

(to "Camera")

Well, I think that -- I'm inclined to think that --

(to Marta -- very bewildered)

Are we on television right now?

MARTA

No, this is what we call a dry tech. And Todd, wouldn't you say Wilton is doing wonderfully?

TODD

Call me crazy, right now I'm thinking "spin-off" -- "Good Morning Barnstock with Wilton and Friends."

MARTA

How about *that*, Wilton!

WILTON

I was thinking the very same thing.

MARTA

Back to topic A: we understand there's some sort of message or trademark that Tom Thumb leaves at the scene of his crimes ... and we believe we heard you say something before about certain letters, something like "L.B.J." ...?

WILTON

Oh, no, no, I can't tell that. It's a secret. No one is supposed to know.

MARTA

(laughs as if to a child)

Wilton-Wilton-precious! We're not *really* on TV yet, there's no camera ...

(waves her hand as if to block the camera's imaging)

See? Nobody's watching.

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