

Goldberg/Rabkin
June 30, 1994

DIAGNOSIS MURDER

"The Last Laugh"

Rough Outline

- 1 HOSPITAL – DAY A bunch of surfers come into hospital, they've been tossed around by the big waves. In midst of dealing with all these surfer dudes, our heroes are talking about the big Medical Convention in Marina Del Rey, where Mark's friend DR. ELIOTT CRAIG, plastic surgeon to the stars, is going to be honored as Surgeon of the Year (Mark is delivering the award). Mark loves to needle Craig, who has always been a tight ass. In medical school, he was forever playing practical jokes on Craig to get him to crack a smile.

Jack is looking forward to the convention because EVE LURIE, 20s, his old med school flame is going to be there. She was the first, great love of his life. She left him because he wasn't "responsible." He's going to show her just how responsible he's become.

Amanda, meanwhile, is reuniting with some old friends, too, taking them out to an expensive dinner. They were all rich kids, and formed something of a clique. She's going to be a grand hostess while they are in her city.
- 2 HOTEL – CONVENTION – DAY Mark arrives for a cocktail party honoring DR. ELIOTT CRAIG, the pompous "Michaelangelo of Flesh." He makes some disparaging remarks about his daughter Rita, who gave up medical school for a career in holistic medicine, which Craig views as one step removed from being a witch doctor. We meet also meet BONNIE, 30s, Craig's second wife, and a former game show model, who wishes her husband would go easier on Rita, his daughter from his first marriage. Bonnie is wearing a DISTINCTIVE RED JACKET.

We learn that she and Craig have taken a room at the hotel since they will be spending so much time there. We also meet LLOYD LARGO, 30s, a slick plastic surgeon who accuses Craig of stealing his patients. Jack and Lloyd know each other, and there is no love lost between them. And we meet Craig's Nurse, KIMI MADISON, 20s, who is the ideal most women strive for when they have plastic surgery. Craig leaves party, he has meeting at his clinic.

- 3 HOTEL – POOL – DAY Jack comes out, looking unusually conservative in a jacket and tie, and scans

poolside, immediately spotting a drop-dead gorgeous woman in a string bikini. This is EVE, just arrived from back east (she couldn't wait to get her clothes off and get a little sun on her skin). She's surprised to see Jack -- especially looking so "responsible." He asks her to dinner, and after some hedging, she agrees.

- 4 HOTEL – RESTAURANT – NIGHT No expense is spared. Amanda and her friends are in a private room, eating and drinking and enjoying a private band. When the bill comes, Amanda grandly whips out a credit card. The waiter returns, the credit card is snipped in half. She gives him another. That one comes back snipped. She asks if they take checks. No yours, he says. Everyone ends up having to chip in. Amanda is humiliated. She runs into Jack and Eve as she's leaving. After Amanda's gone, Jack picks up half her credit card from the floor. Hmmm.

5 CRAIG'S OFFICE – DAY Dr. Craig is at his clinic early. He scans a photograph of a PATIENT into the computer, then sits down in front of the screen. He uses the computer to MORPH the face with a new nose, slight adjustment of eyes, etc. (We notice his desk has cut roses in a flower pot). While he does this, SOMEONE outside in the rose bushes opens a canister of nitrous oxide, which feeds into the air conditioner. He begins to giggle to himself, making outrageous changes to the Patient's body and face on computer, laughing himself silly. But soon his laughter becomes more extreme, he's suffocating... he's laughing himself to death.

ACT TWO

6 HOSPITAL – DAY Amanda is informed by Delores that her car is being towed. Amanda runs outside and is told her last two car payments bounced, so they are repossessing the car. They are towing it away as Jack drives up. He asks what's wrong, she says nothing, just a little car trouble. Jack says that's what you get for buying an expensive car. Never have a problem with mine. So, he asks, how was dinner last night. She marches off in a huff. He looks after her, curious.

7 HOSPITAL – DAY Bonnie comes in to see Mark, who is just finishing up with yet another surfer dude. The seasonal high tide is bringing all the surf enthusiasts to the beach and wiping them out. Bonnie was also at the beach. In fact, she's complaining about a bad skin rash that suddenly appeared while she was walking along the shore. Mark asks her if she put on any sunscreen. She says yes, she gets so little sun. He guesses it was a common allergic reaction, and gives her a shot of cortizone. Mark is paged. He leaves Bonnie for a moment and gets the phone. It's Steve, with some bad news....

8 CRAIG'S OFFICE – DAY Bonnie is comforted by her

step daughter RITA, 20s. Mark talks to Steve, who says the nitrous oxide came from Craig's own office. Nurse Kimi says canister, which they use for minor operations, was in the operating room yesterday afternoon, so it had to have been taken and placed out here sometime last night. They also found a bit of fabric in the thorny rose bushes. Mark says it's the same red as a jacket Bonnie wore last night. Steve turns to Mark, asks him to poke around, since this is Mark's "world" and not his own. Mark gladly agrees. Steve asks Mark to meet him at Craig's house later this afternoon.

- 9 HOSPITAL – DAY Jack is on top of the world. His dinner with Eve went great last night. Really impressed her with how responsible he is. Responsible car. Responsible apartment. Responsible kisser. Mark asks Jack to poke around convention, see what he can find out about Craig. Jack says I'll start by poking around his room at the hotel. Mark asks where Amanda is, Delores said she had to handle some personal business.
- 10 CRAIG HOUSE – DAY Mark and Steve show up. Ask Bonnie if she feels up for a few questions. Steve asks where her red jacket is, and she says it's hanging in my closet, you're welcome to take a look. He sends an officer up to look for it, then asks her some more questions. Where were you this morning, at the time of the murder? She says she was taking a walk on the beach, as Mark knows. Anyone see you? She says she took a picture for some tourist. Do you know where I can find him? She says no, all I remember was that he had an expensive camera and wore a jersey that didn't fit him. She adds that sunscreen gave her a rash, so she went to see Mark. Unfortunately, that is not an alibi. That's when officer returns with news that there is no red jacket upstairs. Mark leaves house, notices gardener trimming juniper hedge. We notice there are no roses on the property.

11 HOTEL – DAY Mark goes up to Lloyd's room. Lloyd opens the door, thinking it's room service, and Mark intrudes. Lloyd tries to shoo him out of room. Common knowledge that Lloyd hated Craig. Lloyd says professional rivalry, that's all. Mark asks what he was doing this morning? That's when RITA CRAIG walks out of his bathroom in a bathrobe and says he was screwing my brains out, that's what.

Rita tells Mark she knows how it must look -- like she was sleeping with Lloyd just to piss her father off. Fact is, she and her father haven't got along since she decided to drop out of medical school and explore holistic medicine. She says her father had no regard for other people's feelings. He never once set foot in her holistic health store in Venice. She had to borrow money to open it from Bonnie. Sweet lady my father used like some kind of glob of clay, practicing his plastic surgery techniques. We get backstory about Bonnie.

12 KILLEBREW'S OFFICE – DAY Amanda confronts Killebrew, her trust fund manager, about her credit cards and her car (first she has him pay off her cab driver, since she has no cash -- her automated teller machine ate her card). He shrugs it off as an unfortunate computer misshap that won't happen again. The person responsible has been fired. We learn he is an avid collector of an artist called Darabont, and owns two pieces of a three-piece set. He counsels Amanda to relax, her car will be back in her garage tomorrow and her credit cards are in the mail. She feels much better. Would he, ah, mind dropping her off at the hospital?

13 HOTEL ROOM – NIGHT Jack breaks into Craig's room at the hotel. Walks in on Lloyd and Nurse Kimi (Kimi figured why let a good hotel room go to waste?). Lloyd decks Jack, then tumble into hall, followed by nearly-naked Kimi, just as Eve comes out of elevator. It's a mess. ("I see you haven't changed," Eve says, or something like that). Eve runs off, Lloyd wants explanation, so does Jack. Turns out Lloyd was also

screwing Nurse Kimi (he will do anything to get back at Dr. Craig, short of murder). Kimi was also having an affair with Dr. Craig, who preferred "natural" beauty to his wife, who he referred to his "Frankenstein" monster. Did Bonnie know about the affair? Sure, she found Kimi and Craig together a few weeks ago.

14 HOSPITAL – NEXT DAY Jack reports what he knows to Mark. Steve shows up, and Jack makes a crack about Steve's floral tie. Steve tells Mark that a witness saw a "woman in a red jacket" leaving Craig's office last night. Steve also tells Mark that Craig had talked to his lawyer about divorce and amending his will. He died before got around to it. Now Bonnie gets \$5 million dollars. Mark takes a closer look at Steve's tie. Steve begs him not to make another crack. The tie came from a girlfriend and...

Mark picks up the phone. Steve asks what he's doing. Jack says he's calling the fashion police. Mark says I'm ordering flowers.

15 CRAIG'S HOUSE – Mark is asking her questions. Doorbell rings. Flowers arrive for Dr. Craig, congratulating him. Obviously, someone who didn't know he was dead. She takes them to flower pot. She starts to itch. Mark pulls up her sleeve. Hives. You didn't get rash from the sunscreen -- you got it from the roses. You're allergic to them -- that's why there are no roses on the property, only at his office. She says that's ridiculous. There's a knock at the door, it's Steve with two uniformed officers. You're under arrest. But I'm innocent, she proclaims. Yeah, right. Brilliant Mark Sloan has done it again. The congratulatory flowers were for himself.

ACT THREE

16 COURTROOM – DAY Rita on stand, admits she and her father had rough time, and that she needed money. Didn't you ask to borrow money? Didn't he say no? She admits this. Defense attorney insinuates she has no

money problems now, and with Bonnie in jail, will get all of it. Mark on stand, his testimony about flowers and sunscreen is a killer. Afterwards, Steve thanks his father for his help. Says there's talk of getting a promotion out of this for speedy wrap-up.

- 17 HOTEL – DAY Jack and Eve meet, he explains to her what happened in hotel hall. He may have looked irresponsible when, in fact, he was being very responsible and was instrumental in solving the crime. She accepts his explanation, they agree to go out again the following night.
- 18 HOSPITAL – DAY . Mark gets a call from Bonnie. She wants to see him. Meanwhile, Norman asks to see Amanda. Norman tells Amanda that her landlord has garnished her wages. She is shocked. Norman asks if there is anything he can do? Yes, I want to borrow your car for an hour.
- 19 JAIL – DAY Mark and Bonnie meet. She pleads with Mark to help her. She is innocent. It was sunscreen. Her only alibi is the tourist. But how to find him? She gives him some description, same she gave police and her attorney. Guy with expensive running shoes and a fancy, electronic camera, had me take a picture of him, then he had it automatically take one of us together -- he recognized me from my days on The Price is Right (or whatever the gameshow is called). He wore a red jersey with the yellow #11 on it, but it was too small for him, and it was in bad shape.
Can Mark at least look into it for her? What possible harm could it do? Mark says he'll think about it.
- 20 AMANDA'S HOUSE – DAY She arrives to find the landlord is moving her stuff out, under authority of baliff of court. Her trust fund manager hasn't paid rent in months, despite numerous warnings. So landlord got a court judgement against her...she's out and she's furious. And she has no where to go.

21 HOSPITAL – DAY Mark and Jack are discussing the tourist. Mark does some deductions: The tourist was wearing a rotten jersey that was too small for him, yet he had a very expensive shoes and camera. Which means he's not poor, so that's not why he's wearing a jersey that's too small. Which means the jersey has meaning. And why else would he be wearing an uncomfortable garment if not to share that meaning with others who might understand?

Jack guesses: You think he was going to a reunion. Perhaps even at a nearby hotel that afternoon -- or why else would he be wearing the jersey on the beach that morning? Jack will check it out.

Steve barges in, confronts his father. He's heard Mark visited Bonnie in jail. Mark says he's helping her find the tourist. Steve is furious. How can he do this? Jeopardizing case. it's a blatant ploy to compromise the DA's best witness against her. Mark says what if she's innocent? Steve says you proved she's not. Mark says it's a circumstantial case. Steve says see, she already has you doubting. It's starting already. Steve says you could be letting guilty woman out and causing me terrible professional embarrassment. Mark says it's something he has to do.

22 BEACHFRONT HOTEL – DAY Jack is on his fifth hotel, goes into some scam about being sad about having missed the reunion. Turns out their colors are red and yellow. He looks up number 11 in yearbook and gets a name: DAVE McDONNELL. He asks hostess if she knows where he can find his old friend these days. Sure, he's returned to Seattle. Jack calls Mark, who tells him to take the next flight up.

23 KILLEBREW'S OFFICE – DAY Amanda shows up at Killebrew's office. It's empty. Everything is gone. Amanda is horrified.

ACT FOUR

24 SEATTLE – DAY Jack finds the tourist, Dave McDonnell. He has photo, not only of himself, but one

he took of himself with Bonnie. This proves her alibi. Jack asks if he'd like an all-expense paid trip back to Los Angeles. That's when Jack realizes he stood up Eve. Damn!

25 TRIAL – NEXT DAY The jury is about to return with their verdict. Mark runs in, interrupts everything. He has evidence. He drags in the tourist, the photos, everything. Judge drops all charges against Bonnie. DA gives Steve a withering look, dresses him down for gross incompetence. Bonnie gives Mark a big hug. She's so grateful.

26 HOSPITAL – DAY Jack comes into doctor's lounge. It looks like Amanda has moved in. She says she's staying there for a night or two while they do some work on her condo. besides, she is taking some long shifts, she'll be spending her nights here anyway. She puts up brave front, but finally she breaks down and tells him everything. She says we'll never find him. Killebrew is probably out there spending my trust fund on another Darabont painting. Jack suddenly smiles. Don't worry, he says, we won't have to find him. He'll come to us.

27 ELSEWHERE IN HOSPITAL – Mark is on call. Accident at beach. The surfer dudes are back, having been knocked around again by the fearsome high tide. Mark comes to sudden realization. He rushes back to office and looks at the photo. It's low tide. It should have been HIGH TIDE. Oh my god... she was guilty.

END OF PART ONE
PART TWO

ACT FIVE

28 CRAIG HOUSE – DAY Mark and Bonnie meet. Bonnie is sunning herself, slapping on that sunscreen. She readily admits to murdering her husband and thanks Mark for all his help. Mark vows to make sure she

never sees a dime of the insurance money. He may not be able to send her to prison for murder, but he will do everything he can to gather enough evidence for insurance company to prevail in a civil action. Mark finds his way out through house, stumbles into kitchen, where Dave McDonnell is making himself a veggie/protein shake. He thanks Mark for the free ticket to LA. Mark storms out.

29 HOTEL – Jack finds Lloyd Largo flirting with Eve. Jack chases Lloyd away, then apologizes to Eve and tries to explain why he inadvertently stood her up. This is his third strike. One more and they are finished. She's trying hard to believe he's changed, but Jack isn't making it easy.

30 HOSPITAL – DAY Jack tells Amanda that the third painting in the Darabont trio (the one Killebrew doesn't have) was stolen from the Boston Museum two years ago and has not surfaced. Well, it just has. He shows her the painting. She says where did you get this? Jack says he had a "friend of the family" forge it. He also put the word out that he was the thief, and that he was willing to sell the painting for the right price, and that he could be reached at the hotel. She says what makes you think Killebrew will get the word? Jack says, he will.

31 POLICE STATION – DAY Mark tells Steve that Bonnie is guilty. Steve says make up your mind, not that it matters anymore. I've been officially reprimanded for arresting Bonnie, but he thinks he's at least partially made up for it by finding the real killer: Rita, Craig's daughter.

Steve has just arrested Rita. He found Bonnie's red coat at Rita's house. Her alibi was a fraud. She had told Mark that she was with Lloyd Largo, giving them both an alibi at the same time. Turns out, she has none -- she was alone. Lloyd went along with her because he was with a famous, married actress that morning.

Mark says you are making a terrible mistake --

she's innocent. Steve says the mistake I made was listening to you the first time. And on Mark's angst, we go to...

- 32 HOTEL – Jack arrives in a limo with Amanda. Checks in under the pseudonym JASON MILES and his assistant EUNICE (she elbows him). As soon as he walks through the lobby, he's noticed by two men, who we will come to know as DICKERSON and MAYER. Jack goes to elevator. Before door closes, a man steps inside. His name is CHARLES LANE, a representative of an interested third party who would like to buy the Darabont. Jack doesn't deal with middlemen. Tell your third party I have to meet face-to-face. Jack gets to his room, closes door in Lane's face, and then immediately catches hell from Amanda for being given a drab phony name. Jack reiterates how uncomfortable he is having her along on this -- if Killebrew sees her, the con is ruined. She says I won't be seen. Besides, he would never figure me for a con like this. They go into another room. Jack opens the closet and a MAN steps out, holding a gun.

ACT SIX

- 33 PENTHOUSE – DAY The gunman calls himself "JOHN SMITH." Fact is, he's the real thief who stole the Darabont, and wants to know what the hell Jack thinks he's doing horning in on his action. Jack says look, I'm doing you a favor. I line up the buyer, you give sell the painting. I get a 50% cut. Smith cocks the trigger. Jack says okay, 25% -- but you have to deliver the real painting. Smith goes to door, promising to keep his eye on Jack.
- 34 JAIL – DAY Mark visits Rita. Mark learns that she was indeed the woman who visited Craig the night before he was killed. She asked to borrow money, but he refused. Mark tells her that Bonnie committed the murder, admitted it to him, and that he will do everything he can to get Rita freed. Rita says you can start by having Bonnie arrested. Mark explains

double jeopardy, and if he can't get Bonnie for murder, the least he can do is amass enough evidence that the insurance company can press a civil action and never give her a dime. He vows to get Rita released somehow.

35 HOTEL – DAY – Jack calls Eve, tells her to meet him downstairs, he's rented a limo for a day of sightseeing. He meets her in lobby, they are on the way to the car, when Dickerson and Mayer, the two who were watching Jack in the lobby, pull him aside and and throw him against the wall. You're under arrest. FBI. Eve storms off.

36 HOSPITAL – DAY An orderly, clearly tourist DAVE MCDONNELL in disguise, comes up to a nurse and tells her that Dr. Sloan is needed in operating room seven immediately. She pages Sloan. Sloan, hearing the page, goes to the operating room. No sooner is he inside, than he starts to giggle. He goes to the door, it's locked. He looks out observation window, and there is Dave, waving goodbye to him. Sloan waves back, laughing. Sloan finds the nitrous oxide -- but the valve comes off in his hand. And on Sloan laughing, we FADE OUT

ACT SEVEN

37 HOSPITAL – DAY Mark is so overcome by laughing gas, he is doing all kinds of schtick. Norman sees Mark through observation glass and breaks it down (throws a chair through it). Norman was on his way to chew out Sloan for using an operating room without booking it first. For once, Norman's nitpickiness has actually made Sloan's life better... by saving it!

38 PENTHOUSE – Jack explains to FBI agents what he is trying to do. They know about his crime family past, and about the forgery he's had made up, and they don't entirely believe him. There is a knock at the door. He peeks through hole. It's Eve. He begs FBI men to hide in closet. They do. Eve storms in,

furious that she's been taken in by him again. Jack begs her to understand. The FBI agent thing was a practical joke. There's someone coming in the vent. Jack sticks Eve in the bathroom. The intruder is the thief. Wants to know what's going on. There's a knock at the door. Jack peeks out hole. It's Charles Lane, the middleman. Jack sticks thief under the bed. Lane comes in and says the buyer will be here tonight. The picture better be here, too or you'll pay dearly for the inconvenience. He leaves. Eve storms out of bathroom, slaps him, and leaves. The thief climbs back into the vent, says Jack has done good, the painting will be here. The FBI agents come out of closet. We're going to be there, too.

39 CRAIG HOUSE – Mark goes to see tourist Dave McDonnell. But Bonnie says Dave has already left for the Caribbean to warm a chaise lounge for me. Mark says he tried to kill me. She says what a shame. Mark says I think Dave planted the red jacket in Rita's apartment and framed her for the crime. Bonnie would love to stand around and talk, but she has packing to do. She's going to Carribbean for a few months and work on her tan...right after Mark presents her with Dr. Craig's belated, posthumous Surgeon of the Year award tonight at the closing of the convention. Mark leaves as city trash truck comes up. He notices the jersey is in Bonnie's trash can. He takes the jersey, and amidst the other trash notices empty packets of Dave McDonnell's vitadrink mix. He swipes those, too.

40 HOSPITAL – DAY Mark meets with Steve, tells him he's convinced Bonnie has killed the tourist. Steve says just because she threw out his jersey? Mark says he did keep it all these years. Amanda comes back with tests Mark asked for -- the vitapackets Mark dug out of the trash contained traces of rat poison. Steve says it's still just a guess, you still don't have a body or any evidence. Mark says I will. Meet me with a copy of McDonnell's yearbook at Dr. Craig's office. Then I've got to swing by the house and grab

my tux. Steve says you're not seriously considering going, are you? Mark says I wouldn't miss it.

ACT EIGHT

- 41 HOTEL – Mark runs into Jack, and nearly ruins his con. Mark presents the award, and a photo to Bonnie. What's this? We see it's a security camera photo of Dave McDonnell at a phone booth. Mark says Dave McDonnell called from the road -- says Bonnie tried to poison him and that he fears for his life. Police traced the call to this 7-11, and we got the security photo. Police have an APB out for him now. Mark thinks when they catch him, he'll tell all, which should get Bonnie sent to prison for insurance fraud. She tells Mark nice try, but it will never happen. She promises to send him a postcard from Caribbean and leaves.
- 42 HOTEL – NIGHT Brilliant farce to be figured out. The long and short of it: The buy/con goes down, Killebrew shows up with the suitcase of money, and everything goes wrong. Jack's cover is blown. Killebrew runs, Jack tackles him into the pool. Eve walks by, arm and arm with Lloyd Largo -- and looks down at Jack in the pool. You'll never change Jack. He could learn a few things about being responsible from Lloyd.
- 43 MULHOLLAND – NIGHT Bonnie drives off the road into the hills. She opens her trunk, gets out a shovel and flashlight, and dashes into the trees. She finds a spot and starts to dig... and that's when she's bathed in light. Mark and Steve step out, holding flashlights. Mark says I think we know who we'll find buried here. Mark guesses Dave tried to blackmail her, so she had to kill him. Since she has no taste for blood, proved by way she killed Dr. Craig, she poisoned him and buried him up here. When Mark showed up with photo, Bonnie had to know if Dave wasn't actually dead, if somehow he had climbed out of the shallow grave.

Bonnie says but the photo? How did you get the photo?

Mark used the yearbook photo of Dave McDonnell, scanned it into Dr. Craig's computer along with a picture he took of Steve at a phone booth. He morphed Dave's face onto Steve's.

Mark says you, of all people, ought to know better than to trust pictures. Steve says the next picture Bonnie is going to see is her own mug shot.

She hands Mark the surgeon of the year award -- here, you deserve this.

44 HOSPITAL – Aftermath. Rita has been released and gets the entire insurance payoff. The FBI recovered all the money Killebrew stole, the art thief is in jail, and stolen painting has been returned to Boston Museum. All's well that ends well.