



'FRAMED FOR MURDER: A FIXER-UPPER MYSTERY'

Synopsis

Shannon Hughes (Jewel Murray) has just finished her latest renovation, a B & B for her best friend, Jennifer (Erin Karpluk) whose uncle Jesse (Ken Tremblett) lives across the street from Shannon and is one of her dad's best friends. Seems everybody in Lighthouse Cove knows one another and are lifelong friends, although Shannon's next-door neighbor Ned (Bill Dow) is currently not speaking with Jesse. That's nothing new, though; Ned and Jesse go through their periods of not talking, and since Jesse started getting serious with the new yoga instructor in town, Althea (Laura Soltis), who Ned also apparently had his eye on, this has been one of their "not talking" periods.

After initially brushing off a stranger at the Hennessy Inn grand opening, Shannon learns that the handsome man is Macintyre Sullivan (Colin Ferguson), a famous crime reporter and author of a best-selling book. Having just purchased the old Craddock house, Sullivan was checking out Shannon's work on The Hennessy with an eye towards hiring her. When she assists him in changing a flat tire the next day, they put their initial meeting behind them and make an appointment for her to come and survey the job and give him an estimate. The next morning, when Shannon goes across the street to return something to Jesse, and there is no answer, calls to Jennifer reveal she has not been able to reach him either. And with his car parked in the driveway, Shannon's suspicions are raised and she agrees to use the spare key to let herself in and make sure he is alright.

Far from alright, Shannon discovers Jesse lying in the den, dead. After breaking the news to Jennifer, they tell Althea together. Making matters worse, Jennifer discovers an engagement ring in a box next to Jesse's bed; he was planning to propose to Althea. The police declare the death an accidental fall, but Shannon's not so sure. Plus, when she learns that Ned called her father to go fishing at 5:00 am, just hours after Jesse died, she can't help wondering if the conflict between Ned and Jesse had something to do with Jesse's demise.

Shannon gets her crew started on Mac's renovation, and offers her guest house as accommodation while they remove all the lead-based paint from the Craddock place. Mac notices Shannon's preoccupation and, when she tells him what happened and her suspicion of foul play, Mac begins helping her look for clues. When Althea's car is broken into, and a suspicious stranger in a blue hatchback is seen parked on the street,

Mac and Shannon heighten their investigation. Jesse was a sunken treasure hunter; most of his recovered treasures, in fact, were donated to Lighthouse's Cove's Maritime Museum. Ned had accompanied him on some of his dives, but when Shannon attempts to get Ned to open up about whether or not Jesse might have had something valuable in his possession that someone who knew he had it might kill in order to get it, Ned cuts her off and shuts down, making Mac and Shannon certain he is hiding something.

Jesse had always told tall tales of his exploits, including one about finding a bejeweled necklace belonging to a Spanish princess. But nobody had ever seen the necklace, and whenever Jesse recovered something in a dive, he was always careful to go through the proper legal channels to gain the rights; that is how, in fact, he obtained the rights from Spain to the lost sextant from the San Mateo, a ship which sank a couple hundred years ago off the coast of Florida. Spain kept everything from the salvage, except the sextant, which they allowed Jesse to keep as payment for his work.

However, when Shannon's dad Pete (Ron Lea) reminds her that it was not a Spanish princess, but a Portuguese princess whose necklace Jesse claims to have found, Mac and Shannon look at the crime from a completely different point of view, and turn to the law firm Jesse used to authenticate and negotiate his claims for what he recovered from the wreck of the San Mateo. But when they discover that the "recently deceased" lawyer that had handled Jesse's claim with Spain is very much alive and is the same man who was parked outside Jesse's house the day after his death, Mac and Shannon realize who murdered Jesse. But apprehending the killer will require setting a trap, if they can find the Portuguese princess' priceless jewels to use as bait before the murderer strikes again.

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