SITE UNSEEN: AN EMMA FIELDING MYSTERY

Synopsis

Archaeology professor Emma Fielding (Courtney Thorne-Smith) is thrilled to be back in the coastal Maine village where she spent summers as a girl, conducting a dig with students on her stepmother, Pauline’s (P. Lynn Johnson), property. She is hoping to prove her late father’s theory that this was the site of the New World’s first settlement. The dig soon becomes challenged, however, when a local fisherman shows up dead in one of the dig site trenches on the same day that Emma’s department head, Tony Markham (Martin Cummins), arrives to observe Emma and her students. FBI agent Tim Conner (James Tupper) arrives to investigate the murder and, despite his distaste for “amateur detectives” like Emma, the two have an easy banter from the start.

Things get even more dangerous when Emma realizes her map of the dig site is stolen; Tony expresses concern for the safety of the students in light of the murder, and the town’s resident “bad boy” seems awfully eager to rekindle his past with Emma, to the obvious displeasure of a waitress at the local diner. And after Emma discovers that her motel room has been ransacked and her rental car’s brake line cut, it becomes clear that someone is after whatever buried treasure they think might lie beneath the surface at her excavation site, and will stop at nothing to get it. Emma convinces Conner to let her assist in his investigation, but only in an unofficial capacity.

After Emma discovers another local, Graham Tichnor (Andrew Kavadas), searching the dig site after dark, she becomes convinced that he is connected to the murder. But after she confronts him, and Tichnor is soon found dead, poisoned by a local plant about which Emma has once written a scholarly paper, Emma is suspected by some of the townspeople. But, with some clever detective work by two of her students, she is proven innocent of Tichnor’s murder, leaving Conner and her no closer to solving the mystery, though they have developed an undeniable attraction to one another.

With the dead bodies piling up rather quickly, and a fire set at her stepmother’s house, Emma and Conner must work together to sort out the true suspects from those whom coincidence have placed near the murdered men, and quickly narrow down the list before Emma becomes the killer’s next victim.

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