



ENTERTAINMENT'S BIGGEST SUCCESS STORY!

## **'MORE BITTER THAN DEATH: AN EMMA FIELDING MYSTERY'**

### **Cast Bios**

**COURTNEY THORNE-SMITH (Emma Fielding)** – One of television's most beloved talents, Courtney Thorne-Smith enjoys an enduring career on the small screen. Thorne-Smith played Jim Belushi's charismatic wife on ABC's "According to Jim" for eight seasons. Prior to that, her role as Georgia in Fox Television's Emmy Award-winning series "Ally McBeal" solidified her as a top television personality. With her portrayal of Allison Parker in the much-loved primetime drama "Melrose Place," she first gained international attention. Thorne-Smith was featured in the comedy hit "Two and a Half Men," in which she recurred opposite Jon Cryer for the last five seasons of the show.

Thorne-Smith returns to her starring role as the title character in Hallmark Movies & Mysteries' "Emma Fielding Mysteries" franchise, for this, the third movie in the series. Additional television credits include starring roles in the NBC series "Day by Day," and the series version of "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." She also played a recurring role on "LA Law," guest-starred on "Fresh Off the Boat," "Spin City," and "Anything but Love," and starred in the television films "Beauty's Revenge," "Tour of Duty," "First Flight," and "Infidelity."

Thorne-Smith is no stranger to the big screen either. After being discovered in an open casting call in her native San Francisco, she starred as Charlie Sheen's girlfriend in her first film, the much-loved *Lucas*. She then moved to Los Angeles and went on to appear in such films as *Summer School*, *Revenge of the Nerds II* and *Side Out*, among others.

She has also conquered the literary world with her first novel titled *Outside In*, published by Broadway Books. As a writer, Thorne-Smith has spoken out about core women's issues such as body image and healthy living in feature articles for *InStyle*, *Allure*, and *SELF* magazine, for which she served as a contributing editor.

Serving as a celebrity spokesperson, she has collaborated with such animal rescue organizations as Best Friends Animal Society and PAWS/LA, a group dedicated to helping HIV patients to keep and care for their pets. With her philanthropic work in women's issues and animal rights, Courtney's commitment to pro-social causes is a cornerstone of her public identity.

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**JAMES TUPPER (Jim Conner)** – James Tupper has established himself as a versatile actor, regularly bringing dynamic characters to life in a range of film and television roles. He currently stars in the new Paramount Network series "American Woman."

Tupper has starred as special agent Jim Conner in two Hallmark Movies & Mysteries' "Emma Fielding Mysteries," a role he is reprising in this, the third movie in the franchise. Tupper was seen in Jean-Marc Vallée's HBO limited-series "Big Little Lies," created by David E. Kelley and based on Liane Moriarty's book of the same name. In the series, he plays Nathan Carlson, the ex-husband to Reese Witherspoon's Madeline Martha Mackenzie, as they face the challenges of raising their teenage daughter.

Tupper starred in the SyFy post-apocalyptic thriller series "Aftermath," and in ABC's hit show "Revenge" as David Clarke, the allegedly dead father of Emily VanCamp. Other television appearances include John Wells' "American Woman," "Grey's Anatomy," "Men in Trees," "Mercy," "Resurrection" and "Samantha Who?"

On film, Tupper can recently be seen opposite Helen Hunt, Aaron Paul, Maggie Grace and Rashida Jones in *Decoding Annie Parker*, the story of the discovery of the BRCA1 hereditary breast cancer gene. Tupper can also be seen in *Playing for Keeps*, *Me and Orson Wells* and *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

# # #

**MARK VALLEY (Duncan Thatcher)** – Mark Valley is a versatile film and television actor who is known equally for his comedic, witty turns and for his dramatic, weighted performances. Valley is a familiar face to television audiences, having starred as Brad Chase for three seasons on "Boston Legal," as John Scott in "Fringe," as Tommy Sullivan in "Body of Proof," and as Oliver Richard in "Harry's Law," opposite Kathy Bates. Valley co-starred in two of Hallmark Movies & Mysteries' popular "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" movies, in 2015 and 2017. He is currently host of the podcast "The Live Drop."

Valley's additional television credits include starring roles on "Keen Eddie" and "Pasadena," and recurring roles on series such as "Once and Again," "Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce," "Hawaii Five-O," "Feud: Bette and Joan," "ER," "The 4400" and "Swingtown." Most recently, he guest-starred in an episode of the new Amazon series "The Romanoffs."

Valley has an impressive list of film credits including *Zero Dark Thirty*, John Schlesinger's *The Innocent*, *Shrek the Third*, *The Siege* with Denzel Washington; John Frankenheimer's *George Wallace*, in which he played Robert F. Kennedy, and *The Next Best Thing* with Madonna and Rupert Everett. Valley also penned and performed the one-man show entitled *Walls, Wars and Whiskey* about his experiences in the military, and the award-winning web series "Zburg." Valley graduated from West Point majoring in math and engineering and began his acting career while serving overseas in the Army. The Gulf War veteran is a native of Ogdensburg, New York.

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