

SFX: Island Mambo music plays.

STACEY: Mansfield Mysteries

SFX: Phone ringing, then BEEP!

STACEY (recording): You've reached the voicemail of Stacey Mansfield. Sorry, I must be away from my phone but I'll get back to you as soon as I can. I hope you're having a wonderful day.

SFX: BEEP!

DORINDA: Stacey, dear. It's your mother. Call me back as soon as you arrive home, I want to hear all about the kindergarten field trip to the aquarium. I hope that Carlson boy has stopped urinating on things while out in public. Children these days are simply not told "no."

Also, I want to let you know, I've decided not to travel to Alice Breckenridge's Palm Springs winter home next week—that gaudy piece of architecture in the middle of a godforsaken desert, not to mention all the ornate water features and turquoise and cacti around the place. It's like that old saying: wherever you go, there you are. You can take Alice out of her poorly decorated Berkshire Bay home, but you can't take the poor-decorating out of Alice. Oh, and flying has become such a bother. The amount of people who somehow feel it's acceptable to remove their shoes simply astounds me. I mean, they walk to the bathroom in their socks! Plus, the food is atrocious. I can hardly imagine what they're eating in Economy. I know Alice will hold a grudge about me not coming, but at least I won't have to listen to her complain about how the only eligible men are too old. Keep in mind: she means men her own age. Though I don't know how she'll meet anyone when all she wants to do is play tennis in the morning and spend the rest of the day lounging around her pool, in a two piece, drinking margaritas and ogling her poor pool boy. It's Palm Springs, darling. That pool boy is, how shall I say, not available. She insists that he's strictly for the view, plus she gets the cleanest pool in town. At least her friends, the Salingers, will be there to keep her company, so I don't feel the least bit of remorse. You haven't met them, I don't think. They keep a place in that horrible condominium tower in Berkshire Bay, but they jet set most of the year. Oh, and they do have a very handsome son. Ricky Salinger. Dicky Salinger. Micky Salinger... Oh well, I forget. I'll have to get you two together sometime if you don't find yourself a boyfriend. Remember, if you insist on giving me grandchildren, you should do it while your eggs are still fresh.

Sorry, dear. I don't want to take any more of your time. Remember, do call your mother as soon as you get this. I want to hear all about the aquarium and that horrible Carlson boy. Toodle-oo!

SFX: Muffled sound as her phone is placed back into her purse but has not been hung up.

DORINDA (cont'd) Linda Abbott, is that you? I heard your husband shot a hole-in-one at the Berkshire prison golf course last weekend!

SFX: Garbled response.

You'll have to tell him that Steve Wakefield will be joining him soon enough. Steve has quite the handicap, I hear.

SFX: BEEP!

SFX: Island Music into -

SFX: Phone ringing.

Dr. Margosian's Answering Service (recording): Hello! You have reached the Esthetic Clinic of Dr. Margosian, Berkshire Bay's highest-rated plastic surgeon for ten years running. The office is currently closed, but if you leave a message, someone from the staff will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for choosing the Esthetic Clinic of Dr. Margosian. And remember our motto: just because life moves forward doesn't mean your face can't stay frozen in time.

SFX: BEEP!

Alice: Hello, this is Alice Breckenridge calling with a few questions regarding the... procedures I had last month. If someone could... Oh, Estaban! I need a fresh margarita, por favor, mi amor! ... Yes, anyway, I have some questions regarding my healing process. I feel that some of the sutures... Estaban! There's a leaf in the pool. Do you see it? Yes, that's right. Now you have to reach for it. Slowly, slowly... otherwise it could float away... Back to my sutures. It seems as if they are not healing as promised. Every time I play tennis, there's a little tear, and that doesn't seem right. How am I supposed to show off the doctor's genius work if I'm covered in blood? Also, the eyework... you said the incisions would be hidden by the natural fold in my... Why Thurston and Rosie Salinger! I have been waiting all day for you two to get here! How was the flight from Panama?... Estaban! Tres margaritas, darling! Por favor! My dear, dear friends have arrived. You two go change into your bathing suits and get back out here. The sun feels so good, doesn't it? Mmmm ...Anyway, my eyelids are not closing properly, and it's keeping me awake. Is there a possibility that they were pulled too tight? That too much skin was removed? And speaking of skin, that laser you tried, the experimental one, has not improved the texture whatsoever. I am red, I am shiny. That is really unacceptable work. I don't mean to complain. I know healing takes some time, but I need reassurance that I'm going to see the other side of this... Estaban! Yes, set those two over there, under the cabana. They might not like the sun as much as I do. They probably get their share in South America. Estaban, gracias. I'll take mine right here, and then maybe you can do a little pruning around the cacti next to the Grecian fountain? You know I like to have things well-pruned... If someone could call me back when you get this. I'm usually home by one o'clock Pacific. I'd like to be perfect by the time I head back to Berkshire Bay.

SFX: BEEP!

SFX: Island music into -

SFX: Phone ringing.

DORINDA (recording): But is it recording? The light is on, but is it recording? Stacey? Oh, god. This is Dorinda Mansfield, please leave—

SFX: BEEP!

JOY: Oh, Dorinda. Your outgoing message is just horrible! You must change it. Even I know how to record those. If we get together for lunch soon, remind me. We'll fix it.

Anyhoo, I wanted to let you know my new address. I'm staying at the old Erickson place on the bay. Oh, you know the house. It's a magnificent Tudor with all original half-timbering and Jacobean carved porch brackets. It's utterly charming and has so much wall space for my artwork. You'll have to see it! I'm calling it my little cottage, oh, even though it's twice the size of our condominium. Speaking of which, Steve remains on house arrest there, awaiting trial. Oh, I tried to stick it out with him, but I simply can't. I'm not even sure I can keep the Wakefield name, now that it's tainted with a pianist's murder. I do feel sorry for him, with his ankle bracelet and a mere 3,000 square feet of space to pace around, coming to terms with what he did. Oh, and all of my lovely paintings gone, besides.

Which brings me to the real reason for my call. You absolutely must tell me when Alice returns from Palm Springs. Her augmentations should surely be healed by now, as long as she stays out of the sun and cuts back on her alcohol consumption.

(Laughs to herself, as both she and Dorinda know this isn't happening.)

That poor, poor woman. No wonder she needs to hide out in Palm Springs! Her healing process will take twice as long as the average patient. Might as well recover in style, as she always says. And Dorinda, we both know that the word "style" is a rather loose interpretation. Oh! That wallpaper alone... *(Takes a drag of her cigarette and blows out.)* Anyhoo, give me a call when you get this. The three of us must... do... lunch!

SFX: BEEP!

SFX: Island music into -

SFX: Phone rings.

Alice (recording): You have reached the inbox of Alice Breckenridge. If I gave you this phone number, you have my consent to speak freely.

SFX: Beep

Nurse: Mrs. Breckenridge, this is Nurse Celia from Dr. Margosian's office. I do have some reminders about your healing process that should help you with the challenges you are experiencing. First of all, you should avoid sunlight, and you should not be playing tennis or otherwise exerting yourself until six weeks post-op. That includes swimming, as your message included mention of a pool, or anything else that raises your heart rate or causes you to break a sweat, if you catch my drift. Also, I know Dr. Margosian mentioned several times that you must limit your drinking for a few months for the speediest recovery. Any medication, recreational or otherwise, can induce swelling or other complication –

SFX: BEEP!

SFX: "MESSAGE DELETED"

SFX: Mansfield Mysteries theme song plays out.

SFX: Martini glasses clinking.

Stacey: Mansfield Mysteries

