

SFX: OPENING TANGO MUSIC, THEN -

The QuarantTeam presents Mansfield Mysteries: 'Murder at Xanadu' - Chapter One.

SCENE ONE:

SFX: WINDOWS UP. INTERIOR CAR SOUNDS.

DORINDA (putting on lipstick): Thank you for driving, dear. I would never be able to find this place. (smacks her lips) There isn't a landmark to be found, unless you counted cacti and tumbleweeds.

SFX: DORINDA FLIPS UP THE MIRRORED VISOR.

STACEY: You are right about how remote the spa is. God, we're hours outside of Albuquerque.

DORINDA: Well, it's very exclusive. But I do think our sojourn to Xanadu will restore your spirits in no time.

STACEY: I'm not so sure about that. I haven't felt this rotten in years.

DORINDA: But it was your decision, no? To break it off with Adonis?

STACEY: Well, yes, but that doesn't mean I'm not heartbroken.

DORINDA: Of course not, dear, but it's always better to be the dumper than the dumpee.

SFX: LONE CAR PASSING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD.

STACEY: Yeah? Why's that?

DORINDA: Because, though it might be your fault - technically - you're not the one with faults. If he wasn't smart enough to choose you over being a boat boy -

STACEY: OH - Chief Stew!

DORINDA: - Well then he isn't smart enough for you.

STACEY: Well, you know, I thought we were meant to be.

DORINDA: Relationships require sacrifice, time, and attention. Love flourishes due to care, not fate.

STACEY: I have never heard you talk about this stuff before, even when dad was alive.

DORINDA: Your father and I had a lovely marriage for many years. I know a thing or two about romance, and I know you'll bounce back from your breakup stronger and better for the right one, when he comes along.

STACEY: Well, thanks for that, Mom. And I'm just so touched you arranged this getaway for us. There are so many luxurious treatments, so many cool spiritual encounters. I, I don't know what to sign up for first!

DORINDA: Well, first we'll need to decompress from this horrid drive.

SFX: ANOTHER LONE CAR PASSING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD.

DORINDA (loudly): Alexa, how long until we arrive?

STACEY: Oh, no. Um, Alexa is what I have in my apartment, Mom. This is just Google maps. Here, just check my phone. What does it say?

DORINDA: Oh, darling, I can't read without my glasses. Face ID? (PHONE BEEPS) It's not recognizing me.

STACEY: That's because it's not your phone.

DORINDA: And a passcode?! If this phone is so smart, why all these hoops to jump through?

STACEY: The passcode is your birthday, Mom. So, eleven, fourteen

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DORINDA: Yes, yes. I know my date of birth. It is quite sweet that I'm your passcode. But now, what is this?! I don't understand this technology.

STACEY: OK, just hold it up for me to see.

SFX: DORINDA SCOFFS AT THE POTENTIAL BAD DRIVING.

STACEY: It's not like I'm going to veer into oncoming traffic. (a pause) Hit that button that says "maps."

SFX: A THIRD LONE CAR PASSING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD.

STACEY: Looks like just a few minutes. Maybe at the base of that mountain?

DORINDA: What time do you suppose it is?

STACEY: Hold up the phone again.

SFX: A FINAL LONE CAR PASSING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD, THIS TIME HONKING AS STACEY ABSENTMINDEDLY SWERVES OVER THE LINE.

ANGRY DRIVER (quietly/passing by): WATCH THE ROAD!

STACEY (not noticing): It's close to two.

DORINDA: Then it's close to five in Berkshire Bay! Cocktail hour.

STACEY: Just make sure you drink plenty of water with those martinis, hmm? The altitude will dehydrate you.

DORINDA: Yes, yes. Then I must have two.

STACEY: No, Mom, it's the opposite -

DORINDA: Oh! That must be it! It looks like a sandcastle.

STACEY: It's adobe. Oh my God, it's gorgeous!

DORINDA: Gorgeous might be overselling it a bit. It's a tad post-apocalyptic, wouldn't you say?

STACEY: It's minimalist and it fits the environment. It's serene.

DORINDA: If you think so, darling. Oh, good lord. The woman awaiting us at the entry is wearing a white toga. It does not bring me serenity. It makes me think I'm being called to the great beyond.

STACEY: Yeah, well, don't be so sure your spirit guide would be wearing white.

DORINDA: What's that supposed to mean?

STACEY (giggles): Just be nice.

SFX: CAR PULLS UP ON GRAVEL AND THE MOTOR TURNS OFF.

SCENE TWO:

SFX: CAR DOORS OPENING AND CLOSING.

SFX: WIND BLOWS SOFTLY IN THE DESERT LANDSCAPE. MULTIPLE WIND CHIMES RANDOMLY RING NEARBY AND IN THE DISTANCE.

SFX: THE OCCASIONAL BIRD SQUACKS OVERHEAD.

STACEY: Good afternoon. We're the Mansfield party.

XANTHIA: Yes, Ms. Mansfield. And Mrs. Mansfield. Welcome to Xanadu! The gateway to nirvana! (opens a paper fan and begins rapidly waving it into her face) My name is Xanthia. I am the proprietress and head priestess.

DORINDA: Priestess? We're not doing confessionals, I hope.

XANTHIA: Confessionals? (closes the paper fan quickly) No. Spiritual awakenings: most certainly. ("Thwoorps" open fan again and begins rapidly waving it) Xanadu will call your soul to a higher consciousness.



DORINDA: Is this a microdosing cult? I've been hearing a lot about this microdosing.

STACEY: She's kidding. So nice to meet you, Xanthia. I'm Stacey Mansfield, and this is my mom, Dorinda.

SFX: XANTHIA'S FAN SNAPS CLOSED AGAIN.

DORINDA: I must say, Xanthia, you have the most beautiful skin I've ever seen. Pale, lineless. If this spa can do that for us, it's worth every penny.

XANTHIA: Well, (fan "thwoorps" and rapidly waves) I've been raised on Xanadu's renowned mineral mud baths since I was a child. But you'll learn all about our mud's magical effects over the next few days. As for now, I'm sure you must want to meet up with the rest of your party. They arrived last night.

STACEY: Ahhh... What do you mean: "rest of our party"?

DORINDA: Did I forget to mention that Alice and Joy would be joining us this weekend?

STACEY: I thought this was a girls' trip.

DORINDA: It is!

STACEY: No, I mean, just us.

DORINDA: Oh, darling, it was meant to be, but Joy was the one who knew about Xanadu, and Alice happened to be there when we discussed me wanting to take you away to cure your broken heart... I couldn't not invite them.

STACEY: No. Of course not. Who would you drink martinis with if I were your only companion?

DORINDA: Stacey, you know very well I'd make friends at the bar. I thought you'd enjoy having the girls along. They're excellent distractions! Alice is simply relishing life since finalizing her divorce, and Joy -

STACEY (agitated): Whatever, Mom.

SFX: XANTHIA'S FAN "THWOORPS" & THEN SLOWLY WAVES.

XANTHIA: Oh, there's no alcohol served at Xanadu. It's very dehydrating and interferes with sleep -

DORINDA: You can't be serious.

SFX: THE FAN GENTLY STOPS MOVING.

XANTHIA (after a pause): Well, as I explained to your friends last night, (fan flaps speed up) we do make exceptions. (paper fan slaps closed) For a price.

DORINDA: Name it.

XANTHIA: We can add surcharges accordingly. (opens fan and waves rapidly again) Oh, my two assistants are approaching. They will escort you to the chakra rooms so you can begin your first treatment.

DORINDA: Ooohhh, Stacey. Our first treatment! That'll be fun. What do you have in store for us, Xanthia?

XANTHIA: Your first treatment is a classic hot stone massage. It will release all of the tensions taking up room in your bodies. By the time your 80 minutes are complete, you will have a full release of every stress, every ounce of negativity that is plaguing your shoulders, your neck, your mind...

STACEY: Hmm, yeah. We'll see about that.

XANTHIA: Ah, here they are.

SFX: DORINDA SHOUTS IN SURPRISE.

XANTHIA: May I introduce my two trusted assistants, my two flowers of the wind: Calypso and Celestia.

DORINDA: Goodness gracious, they look identical! (to STACEY) What kind of cult are they running here?

STACEY: Ah, nice to meet you. I'm Stacey, and this is my mother. Feel free to call her Dorinda.

CALYPSO: You have come at just the right time.

DORINDA: I'm sorry, which one are you? And what do you mean by "the right time"?

CALYPSO: I am Calypso, and everyone who comes to Xanadu arrives when they are ready to be here.

CELESTIA: And I'm Celestia. Allow me to take your suitcase.

STACEY: Thank you, Celestia. But I can carry my own bags.

CELESTIA: You are carrying enough. Let me relieve you from this burden.

SFX: STACEY AND CELESTIA WALK TO THE CAR AND OPEN THE TRUNK.

STACEY (walking back to the group): So, we just follow Celestia?

SFX: CELESTIA STRUGGLES TO LIFT THE HEAVY ROLLING SUITCASES FROM THE TRUNK.

XANTHIA: No. (fans herself again) Calypso will escort you to the chakra rooms.

SFX: ONE BY ONE CELESTIA DROPS THE SUITCASE TO THE GROUND.

CELESTIA (exhausted/to herself): Uh... Heavy.

XANTHIA: Celestia will make sure your things are brought to your suite, and I will see you again after the hot stone massages. You'll feel differently then.

SFX: THE FANNING STOPS.

DORINDA: And where will I find the rest of my party?

XANTHIA: They'll be in the chakra rooms shortly. They had their massages yesterday. They're in the sauna now, (fanning begins again) and this morning they had their gastropod facials.

DORINDA: Their what?!

XANTHIA (fan "thwoorps" closed): Snail facials. The collagen stimulation... it's like nothing you've ever seen.

STACEY: I'll try it!

DORINDA: Stacey, they could be carrying diseases!

XANTHIA: You'll love everything. I promise. (fan opens and starts waving) Xanadu has been a mysterious gem for decades because we offer not only results, but solutions. You will leave here a new woman. (claps fan into her palm three times) Calypso!

STACEY: That's just what I need.

DORINDA: I quite like the woman I am.

XANTHIA: We don't know what we don't know, that is all. I will see you both shortly. Follow Calypso to the chakra rooms. You are in excellent hands.

SFX: TANGO MUSIC TRANSITION, THEN -

SCENE THREE:

SFX: FOOTSTEPS AND VOICES ECHO AS THEY WALK THROUGH A CAVE HALLWAY.

STACEY: So, Calypso, how long have you been at Xanadu?

CALYPSO: It's hard to say. Time functions differently here.

DORINDA: But there is a cocktail hour, yes?

CALYPSO: You will receive everything you need as you need it.

DORINDA: This place feels a bit like a James Bond movie, like we're in the villain's lair of brightly lit caves.

STACEY: The spa seems to be built into the mountain. Is that right, Calypso?

CALYPSO: We are one with the earth, yes. The most beautiful lotus flowers emerge from the deepest mud. Ah, here we are.

SFX: DOOR OPENS.

SFX: CALMING CHAKRA FREQUENCIES SPILL OUT AND SWELL AS THEY ALL ENTER A LOUNGE BEFORE THE CHANGING ROOMS.

CALYPSO: Ms. Mansfield, to me you are living in your heart chakra. That means you are assigned changing room number four. Here is your key.

STACEY: Thank you.

DORINDA: And what chakra am I?

CALYPSO: The third eye. Room six. Here you go.

DORINDA: Thank you.

CALYPSO: I will be back to retrieve you once you have changed into your robes.

DORINDA: Toodle-loo... Eeh, you.

SFX: CALYPSO EXITS AND THE DOOR CLOSSES.

STACEY: I've only seen places like this in magazines.

DORINDA: Oh, darling, what kinds of magazines are you reading? Is their interior designer a monk?

STACEY: Oh, Mom, it's Zen. No, it's beautiful in its simplicity.

DORINDA: This would never fly in Berkshire Bay.

SFX: THE DOOR OPENS WITH A CREAK, AND SWISHING SOUNDS FOLLOW. LOTS OF SWISHING SOUNDS.

JOY (loudly): Did I hear someone say Berkshire Bay?

DORINDA: Joy Wakefield! My goodness! What is that you're wearing?

JOY: It's a sauna suit. I'm releasing toxins as we speak.

DORINDA: You look like you've come from outer space.

JOY: Out of body is more like it, Dorinda. This place is simply transformative!

DORINDA: Are you sure this isn't some sort of mystical...

JOY: Cult?

DORINDA: Yes.

JOY: If it is, sign me up. Just make sure someone attractive plays me in the Netflix documentary. Anyhoo, (unzips a pocket in the sauna suit) I'm just popping in to have a ciggie before they make me walk up this godforsaken mountain.

SFX: JOY FLICKS A LIGHTER AND TAKES A DRAG FROM HER CIGARETTE.

DORINDA: There's no way you're allowed to smoke here, much less indoors.

JOY (exhaling): Oh, Dorinda. It's just another surcharge to my room. You can do anything you want at Xanadu, for the right price. (inhaling and exhaling, then) Oh, Stacey. I'm so sorry to hear about your breakup. But honestly, sometimes a good love affair is best left in the rearview mirror. When you're my age, you'll look back at your Australian romance as a great adventure.

SFX: THE DOOR OPENS AGAIN TOWARDS THE END OF JOY'S SENTENCE. MORE SAUNA SUIT SWISHING FADES IN.

STACEY: I, I hope so...



ALICE: Did someone mention romance?

DORINDA: Alice! You look remarkable!

ALICE: Yes... And yet completely natural, don't you think? Nothing against Dr. Margosian, but there's something special about Xanadu. The air, the mud...

JOY: The sweating! This sauna suit has taken five pounds off me since lunch.

SFX: A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND THEN DOOR OPENING

CALYPSO (to ALICE and JOY): Ladies, it's time to peel off those suits and head towards the cold plunge. Ugh, Mrs. Wakefield, what have I told you about partaking in that poisonous habit?!

JOY: How else is one supposed to relax around here?

SFX: A FEW MORE PUFFS AND EXHALES.

CALYPSO: And Mrs. and Ms. Mansfield, once you've changed into your robes, Celestia and I will be on the other side of this door ready for your hot stone massages.

STACEY: Oh, thank you.

SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES.

DORINDA: So, you're this refreshed from a little mountain air and a mud bath?

JOY: Alice has left out a bonus treatment that only she has received.

SFX: JOY LIGHTS ANOTHER CIGARETTE AND INHALES.

ALICE: The panacea of invigoration.

DORINDA: Are there men here?

ALICE: Two, to be exact.

JOY: Two of the most boring men I've ever met. Dressed in suits, too. As if they were in court, not at a spa. One went on and on about minerals, and the other didn't say a single word.

ALICE: Yes, they were tedious conversationalists.

DORINDA: Good. Then there won't be any romantic interludes.

ALICE: Oh, I still slept with the mineral enthusiast. That's not all he's enthusiastic about.

DORINDA: I thought this was a girls' trip!

STACEY: Yeah! I know the feeling.

ALICE: It is! But you cannot ignore the medicinal properties of -

DORINDA: All right, all right. None of us need the specifics -

JOY: Well, I'm game to hear a few details.

STACEY: Ooh! Me, too.

DORINDA: Stacey Mansfield! Go to your heart chakra room and change into a robe. There are stones being heated for us as we speak.

STACEY: So, what? I'm not even one of the girls?

SFX: JOY AND ALICE REACT ("Ooh...").

STACEY: Fine, Mom.

SFX: STACEY GOES TO HER CHANGING ROOM, DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING IT BEHIND HER.

JOY: Oooh, Dorinda...

DORINDA: Listen. Stacey thought it was just going to be the two of us, so she's in a bit of a snit, but I did think this was going to be a weekend of female empowerment, not girls gone wild.

ALICE: Oh, don't worry. I'll save my extracurriculars for the wee hours of the night.

DORINDA: Thank you.

ALICE: The quiet one is handsome, though.

JOY: True. And Alice and I did get to talking about you, Dorinda, and that it might be time to -

DORINDA: To?

ALICE: You know. Get back in the saddle.

JOY: Take a little ride!

DORINDA: Alice Breckenridge and Joy Wakefield, I will hear no talk of saddles or rides or anything else you two are cooking up. I am perfectly content with my life the way -

SFX: STACEY'S DOOR OPENS.

STACEY: Come on, Mom. Calypso and Celestia are waiting for us.

DORINDA: Yes, yes. I'll change and be right there, darling daughter. I'm ready to release and relax.

SFX: STACEY'S DOOR CLOSSES AGAIN

ALICE: That's the jist of what Joy and I were saying.

DORINDA: Enough! Go take a cold shower.

JOY: It's a cold plunge, Dorinda. Very good for the circulation, inflammation, metabolism... (a pause) Oh, I get it. Message received!

ALICE: He'll be at dinner tonight. Make up your own mind.

DORINDA: I'm not seeing you until dinner?

ALICE: We have a sound bath meditation at the top of the mountain after the cold plunge.

JOY: There's a hike... to a yurt! (giggle) And then there are a series of gongs and bowls of some sort... It's supposed to be fabulous!

DORINDA: You can tell me all about it at dinner. There are hot rocks calling my name...

SFX: JOY LAUGHS.

ALICE: And a martini after that!

SCENE FOUR:

SFX: LOUD WHALE SONGS LOWER TO MIX WITH CALMING MUSIC THAT PLAYS FROM SPEAKERS IN THE BACKGROUND.

SFX: RELAXED MOANS COMES FROM STACEY WHILE DORINDA'S SOUND A BIT MORE PAINED.

CELESTIA: How's the pressure?

STACEY: Mmmmm... perfect.

CELESTIA: And is the lavender oil everything I promised?

STACEY: Absolutely!

CALYPSO: And your pressure, Mrs. Mansfield?

DORINDA (groaning): Actually, it's a little firm for my liking.

CALYPSO: Mmm. How about now?

DORINDA: That's better, thank you.

CALYPSO: And the sandalwood scent is to your liking?

DORINDA: Very calming. (a pause) Stacey, darling?

STACEY: Yeah, Mom?

DORINDA: I want to apologize for not telling you Alice and Joy were coming to Xanadu. I do want the two of us to have our mother/daughter bonding time.

STACEY: It's fine.

DORINDA: You don't sound fine.

STACEY: I'm trying to relax, Mom. You're supposed to stay quiet during a massage.

DORINDA (short pause): So: Calypso, Celestia, how did you two end up working at Xanadu?

CALYPSO: Umm, well, I was raised here.

DORINDA: How can that possibly be?

CALYPSO: My parents worked for Xanthia's parents, and I was brought up in this spiritual paradise. It's hard to leave.

DORINDA: Your parents were groundskeepers, staff?

CALYPSO (a bit too forceful): Healers!

SFX: DORINDA EEEKS IN PAIN.

CALYPSO (cont'd): But we do it all. We're the only staff here.

DORINDA: Could you be a little gentle with that shoulder? Hmm? Tennis injury.

CALYPSO: Of course.

DORINDA: And what about you, Celestia?

CELESTIA: Same story. Started as communal bliss...

DORINDA: Started. What changed?

CELESTIA: Though some might say capitalist bliss is more like it since -

CALYPSO (in a commanding tone): Celestia, I think we should focus on the guests. Mrs. and Ms. Mansfield, it is time to apply the first hot stones. (stones are placed in wooden plates) Do not fear: these will not burn your skin, but you will need to adjust to your body's internal response. If you feel any discomfort after the first ten seconds or so, please let us know.

CELESTIA: Do you have any questions?

DORINDA (overlapping): Discomfort?

CALYPSO: I just explained the process thoroughly, Celestia. Why would they have questions?

STACEY: No. No questions.

CELESTIA: All right, Ms. Mansfield, I will begin by placing stones along each side of your spine.

STACEY: Ooohh. Yes. I can feel the heat, but it's more like the stones are sucking out tension.

CELESTIA: Exactly.

CALYPSO: And Mrs. Mansfield, I will be doing a slightly superior arrangement. Your stones will go directly down your spine.

DORINDA: Why is mine different?

CALYPSO: Different ages, different needs.

DORINDA: I'll say.

CALYPSO: Just relax and let the stones do the work.

DORINDA: So you were saying something about capitalist bliss?



CALYPSO: Keep breathing, Mrs. Mansfield. In through your nose, out through your mouth.

DORINDA (incorporating breathing techniques as she speaks): It sounds as if money disrupted your little utopia. They do say it is the root of all evil.

CELESTIA: I'll say!

DORINDA: What happened?

CELESTIA: Well, there was this professor couple - a man and a woman celebrating their retirement -

CALYPSO: Celestia, the guests are meant to relax and let the stones do the work. (a brief pause) I'm going to step out and retrieve some hot towels for your feet. Please, relax... in silence.

SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES.

DORINDA: This guest relaxes best when conversing. Go on, Celestia.

CELESTIA: Well, it sounds a little crazy, but this retired couple came as guests - one was a doctor of chemistry and the other studied geology - and within the first few hours of their time here claimed to discover magical properties in our mud. Some oxide or dioxide or zinc something. I don't remember. I was only a girl.

DORINDA: So, these magical properties?

CELESTIA: They were so enthralled by whatever it was they found that they asked Xanthia's parents, the founders of Xanadu, if they could research the properties of the mud -

DORINDA: Which, of course, they agreed to.

CELESTIA: Yes, and then suddenly, after months of the professors' work, they vanished.

DORINDA: You mean, they didn't return to Xanadu?

CELESTIA: No, they disappeared. Off the face of the earth. Never heard from again.

SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES AS CALYPSO REENTERS.

CALYPSO: How are those stones feeling, ladies?

STACEY: Mmmm, it's heaven!

DORINDA: Sheer pleasure. Anyway, back to these missing -

CELESTIA: Oh, if there's anything missing, please let me know. You should have everything you want at Xanadu.

CALYPSO: Missing?

CELESTIA: Nothing's missing. Isn't that right, Mrs. Mansfield?

DORINDA: That's right.

CALYPSO: Let's focus on our breathing.

CELESTIA: Could you hand me two hot towels, Calypso? (softly, to DORINDA) It made the news, the disappearance.

CALYPSO: Two hot towels.

DORINDA (whispering): But I don't understand how that changed Xanadu.

CALYPSO: What we must change now is the vibrational energy in this room. As we end this session, I insist that you two breathe. In through your nose, out through your mouth.

SFX: DORINDA AND STACEY BREATHE IN UNISON AS THE MUSIC FADES OUT. THEN BLOW DEEP BREATHS OUT.

SCENE FIVE:

SFX: DORINDA AND STACEY'S FLIP FLOP FOOTSTEPS WALK DOWN A CARPETED HALLWAY.

DORINDA: That was absolutely marvelous! I've never felt so loose.

STACEY: Not without the help of a martini, anyway.

DORINDA: Stacey, dear, one never mentions a woman's -

STACEY: I know! I know the list: age, financial worth, weight -

DORINDA: Or how many drinks she's had. And speaking of drinks, a martini would hit the spot right about now. Is that our room?

STACEY: Whale Song. Yeah. That's us!

DORINDA: I can't wait to shower this oil off me. It's rather pungent.

STACEY: That's sandalwood, Mom. It's so nice.

DORINDA: They're both saturated in their signature scents.

SFX: BEEP OF A KEY CARD, DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING, FOOTSTEPS INTO ROOM.

SFX: AN AIR CONDITIONING UNIT IS GOING FULL BLAST.

DORINDA: Hmmm, more minimalism, I see.

STACEY: It's a nice room, Mom.

DORINDA: They've unpacked our bags anyway, and there's a charcuterie board, a bottle of champagne. It's like we're on our honeymoon.

STACEY: How long before dinner?

DORINDA: Over an hour.

STACEY: Well, then shall we?

SFX: STACEY EATS A CRACKER.

DORINDA: We shall! But look! There's a martini shaker and Bombay Sapphire on the bar cart. My darling daughter, could you possibly fix your mother -

STACEY: On it.

SFX: ICE, POURING GIN, SHAKING.

DORINDA: So, Stacey, what did you make of that story about the missing professors?

STACEY: Pretty mysterious.

DORINDA: And was it just me, or did you feel a bit of tension between Cassiopeia and Calliope?

STACEY: Celestia and Calypso. Yes, I felt it.

DORINDA: Those girls could stand to do a few breathing exercises themselves.

SFX: A FINAL MARTINI SHAKE AND THEN POURING INTO GLASS.

DORINDA: I'll take that. (a pause as she takes a sip) Stacey! Mhmm!

STACEY: Easy there, Mom. Remember the altitude.

SFX: HURRIED KNOCKING COMES FROM THEIR DOOR.

STACEY: Got it!

SFX: THE DOOR OPENS AS JOY AND ALICE BURST IN.

JOY (out of breath): Oh, Dorinda, thank Goddess you're here.

ALICE (similarly breathless): I didn't think we'd ever make it back!

DORINDA: You ladies are certainly practicing your breathwork.

JOY: This is no time for jokes, Dorinda. We've been trapped in the wild for the last two hours!

ALICE (suddenly NOT out-of-breath): Do I see martini fixings?

STACEY: Yes, I'll make you one, but you have to drink some water first. (she pops open two water bottles and hands them over) You two look really startled.

DORINDA: I agree. What on earth is the matter?

SFX: MARTINI PREPARATIONS BEGIN AGAIN. SHAKING AND POURING OFF AND ON DURING THE FOLLOWING.

JOY: You'll never guess what happened on the mountain!

DORINDA: Some sort of epiphany?

ALICE: No!

DORINDA: What then?

JOY: Well, we had our cold plunge -

ALICE: Highly overrated, I think.

JOY: And then began our ascent up the mountain pass toward the sound bath.

DORINDA: Yes, yes.

ALICE: But when we got to a particularly treacherous spot on the gravel path... (to STACEY) Oh, and blue cheese olives, please, if there are some.

STACEY: Sure thing.

DORINDA: So back to the path.

JOY: It seemed there had been a bit of a struggle.

ALICE: The small boulders between us and the drop-off had tumbled over the mountain, and when we looked over the edge --

JOY: The path was a mess, gravel was everywhere - it seems as if -

ALICE: Not seems; it happened.

STACEY: Here's your martini, Alice.

ALICE: Oh, thank you. (a pause, she sips) Mmm. This is wonderful. Very cold. Just how I like it.

DORINDA (frustrated): What happened?

JOY: Xanthia had fallen down the mountain. Her toga-ed body was lifeless at the bottom of the ravine! It looked like a grotesque Dali painting!

DORINDA: Did you tell someone?

JOY: Of course! The men were at the yurt awaiting the sound bath. We told them.

ALICE: And then the four of us descended in near darkness and alerted Celestia and... Uh, the other one.

JOY: Caligula.

DORINDA: It's Copernicus.

STACEY: No, it's Calypso.

DORINDA: Anyway, why on earth would Xanthia, who grew up on this very property, fall off a path she knew so well?

JOY: Just a terrible, terrible tragedy.

ALICE: And so many spiritual activities we won't be able to complete in her absence.



JOY: Truly horrible.

DORINDA: Stacey, dear, remember what that Marxist was saying about the capitalist overthrow of this spa?

STACEY: Yeah, that's not quite what she said, Ma.

DORINDA: In spirit, in spirit. Anyway, it makes one wonder if money is at the root of this evil.

STACEY: Evil? What do you mean?

DORINDA: It makes me wonder if it was money that led to Xanthia's murder.

SFX: THE LADIES GASP IN SHOCK.

STACEY: Oh no, not again!

SFX: CLINK

Mansfield Mysteries

Featuring:

Melissa Hughes Ernest as Dorinda Mansfield

And

Melissa Zeien as Stacey Mansfield

With:

Kristin Althoff as Celestia

Mona Goss Lewis as Alice Breckenridge

Tina Paukstelis as Joy Wakefield and Xanthia

and

Joan Roehre as Calypso

Produced by Nicholas Hoyt and Paul Reese

Written by Amy Hanson and Michael L Johnson

Sound Design by Paul Reese

Directed by Nicholas Hoyt

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You've just enjoyed a QuarantTeam Production.

