

MARY HARTMAN

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EPISODE #177

by

Tom Eyan

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY . . . . .	LOUISE LASSER
LORETTA . . . . .	MARY KAY PLACE
MARTHA . . . . .	DODY GOODMAN
ANNIE WYLIE (TIPPYTOES) . . . . .	GLORIA DeHAVEN
JODY TROXEL . . . . .	DAVID HINTON
DETECTIVE JOHNSON . . . . .	RON FEINBERG
WANDA RITTENHOUSE . . . . .	MARIAN MERCER
BIG HONEY'S VOICE . . . . .	IRIS KORN

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MARY'S KITCHEN, AFTERNOON  
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ACT ONETIPPYTOES TRAILER, MORNING (NEW DAY)

TIPPY (ANNIE) IS BAKING HONEY BREAD  
IN SMALL KITCHEN. SHE SINGS AS SHE  
BEATS BREAD INTO BREAD PAN.

ANNIE

"A LITTLE ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC  
AND IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING IT'S TERRIFIC.  
I'VE GOT THE SUN TO TAN ME, PALMS TO FAN ME.  
AND ----- AN OCCASIONAL MAN".

(SHE CLOSES OVEN AS SXF: DOOR KNOCKS) Coming!

(FIXES HAIR QUICKLY AND OPENS DOOR) Martha!

(MARTHA COMES IN A STATE OF SHOCK) What is  
it? Is something wrong?

MARTHA

Oh no, Annie, honey - nothing's wrong. I mean,  
can't a neighbor just pay a nice friendly visit  
without everyone thinking something's wrong.

ANNIE

Well, I suppose. It's just that it's so early.

MARTHA

Is it? Since George left or is gone, I  
always get up before the alarm so I won't  
be reminded he isn't going in to work at the  
plant.

ANNIE

But it's six a.m. and ya look like you've been up for hours.

MARTHA

(BEAT) Then I guess something's wrong. Oh now I remember! I couldn't sleep all night and you know why? Because we have AC-DC trouble right here in this driveway! I hope it hasn't caused you any trouble.

ANNIE

(STUNNED) AC-DC trouble?

MARTHA

Yes - Mary came over late last night and warned me she had found out we had AC-DC trouble in this driveway; And, I couldn't sleep a wink! --- I worry over any electrical problems. I once put my finger in a socket when I was eight and I can't tell you -

ANNIE

Martha, Mary wasn't referring to electrical problems.

MARTHA

She wasn't!? I was so afraid there might be an explosion.

ANNIE

It all depends on what kind of explosion you mean.

MARTHA

The kind you get when you have a short in your wires -- or touch a plug with a screw driver --

ANNIE

Yes, that can be dangerous too, if you don't know what you're doing, -- but you see, I was just trying to explain to Mary, to broaden her experience --

BIG HONEY'S HOT VOICE

Breaker one ten. Breaker one ten. Come in.

ANNIE

Excuse me, I forgot to put a squelch on my C.B. (SHE GOES TO C.B.)

MARTHA

I get so confused with all these initials! A.C., D.C., C.B. and of course there's H.V. my beau. It's very hard to keep everything straight!

BIG HONEY'S VOICE

This is BIG HONEY in a JAM! Over and under -- and I mean Under the sheets. Big Honey is Hot. Big Honey is ready. Big Honey is yours for the words that Bill Cullen made famous! Her twenty is ---

ANNIE

(CLICKS OFF) She's been calling for help all day.

MARTHA

Is she in trouble too? Is her boiler overheated or something. I just can't understand C.B. Lingo!

ANNIE

All I know is her name is BIG Honey and she comes on to every male voice within range.

MARTHA

Well there are some women who just can't communicate with other women -- and then there are some who communicate too well. (ANNIE STARES AT MARTHA FOR A POSSIBLE DOUBLE MEANING, OF COURSE MARTHA HAS NONE AND IS SOON INTO SOMETHING ELSE) Hummm that smells so good what is it?

ANNIE

Honey cake with almonds! I'm making it for Heather.

MARTHA

What's the recipe.

ANNIE

It's just a pound cake made with honey instead of sugar. Too much sugar can kill!

MARTHA

So can honey. It's the same thing, only one is sticky -- they both wreck your little islets of hungerhans. I read that in some material from weight-watchers.

BIG HONEY'S VOICE

Breaker one ten. This is Big Honey in a delicious jam that needs licked off!

MARTHA

Oh, that woman should stop that! She's making me so hungry!

ANNIE

She's extending a sexy-come-on-down to a trucker.

MARTHA

Well, isn't that fascinating! I wonder what she looks like? Probably around 35 with big breasts and gloves! She sounds like she wears white gloves -- a little soiled.

ANNIE

Do you want me to ask her?

MARTHA

Yes. Ask her where she lives. Maybe she's a neighbor.

ANNIE

(ON C.B.) Breaker to one ten, What's your twenty.

MARTHA

Ask her address. Not her age, that's so rude!

ANNIE

That's the C.B. code for location.

MARTHA

Oh dear. After all these years I was just getting the knack of how to talk with people -- and now they go and change the whole dictionary!

## BIG HONEY'S VOICE

Breaker one ten -- on! Who am I jaw  
jacking with --- Go-Go Girls?

MARTHA

She thinks we're Go-Go girls!

ANNIE

That's the code word for Pigs!

MARTHA

Pigs! Now I may not be all that tidy. You  
give me that microphone! (GRABS IT) Now  
listen here Smart Honey or whatever your  
name is -

ANNIE

Handle.

MARTHA

We are not GO-GO-Pigs! I am Martha Shumway,  
a decent citizen of my community and I am --

ANNIE

(CUTTING IN) No! Don't give your real  
name! That's the purpose of a C.B. handle.  
Freedom! Let the public know the name you  
feel you are!

MARTHA

Oh, you mean use a name I feel best describes  
myself!

ANNIE

That's the idea. I'm Tippytoes because  
I always wanted to be a Ballerina which  
I could have been if I studied but I  
didn't and that's a whole nother story.

MARTHA ( STILL THINKING)

A name that describes me? I got it!  
Breaker one-ten. Breaker one-ten. Come  
in Big Honey. This is Little Funny Bunny.

BIG HONEY'S VOICE

-- and this is the Big Honey washing her  
pot and saying four ten, ten-four.

MARTHA

(GETING RIGHT IN) and this is Little Funny  
Bunny saying four ten, ten four right back  
to you. (TO ANNIE) Am I saying anything  
dirty?

ANNIE

Big Honey just signed off. Four-Ten, Ten-  
four means. Good-bye.

MARTHA

Oh why? and -- we were getting along so well.

ANNIE

Well, it could have something to do with  
your handle.

MARTHA

Do you like it? I just made it up.  
'Little Funny Bunny'. It's in tribute to  
Walt Disney.

ANNIE

It's a lovely handle -- it's just what  
it means in C.B. lingo. --- (MARTHA  
LOOKS AT ANNIE) "Police in disguise".

MARTHA

Oh dear! A.C.-D.C.-C.B. Funny Bunny.

Nothing is what it seems anymore. (BEAT)

(INTENSE LOOK TO ANNIE) I wonder what

Big Honey has against the police?!

A BIG

FADE OUT

ACT TWOSCENE ONE: HAGGER'S LIVING ROOM, (AFTERNOON)

JODY AND LORETTA PACKING THE XMAS TREES FOR  
CONDOS FOR CHRIST (FROM LAST YEAR).

LORETTA

It's real sweet-like of you to help me pack  
all these Xmas Trees I made for the Condos  
for Christ --- to donate to the Salvation  
Army. Some needy family will benefit from  
their sales -- which the Salvation Army  
says they will sell right in front of  
Fernwood's one and only J.C. Penny.

JODY

(PACKING) Loretta, we got to do something  
about Charlie.

LORETTA

(PACKING FRANTICALLY) I know, Jody. I  
know! Why do you think I am packing the  
Xmas Trees so frantic? To forget. Jody!  
To forget about the pain for just one teensy  
minute. (PULLS OUT A SMASHED XMAS TREE) Oh dear  
it looks like I packed this one too hard!

JODY

But what are we going to do? We both need  
Charlie!

LORETTA

I hear you Jody, but what can you do when  
a man you thought you really knew -- Calls  
you and says he's never coming home again?  
I do have a thing called pride, Jody.

(CRYING INTO XMAS TREE) Oh Charlie! Charlie  
come home! (CRUSHES TREE ACCIDENTALLY. SHE  
STOPS CRYING AND LOOKS AT IT) It sure is  
hard to cry and pack at the same time!

JODY

I got it! We'll take the winnings I have  
left from the Big Race and go find him!

LORETTA

(COMING ALIVE) What?!

JODY

My pa always said when you want someone --  
'don't write them, don't call them -- go get  
em!"

LORETTA

Oh Jody whhheeeee-eee! That's real clear  
thinkin'! Just like Charlie would do when he  
was in predicaments! Oh Jody! (THEY JUMP  
UP AND DOWN LIKE TWO KIDS AND HUG AND KISS)

JODY

New Jersey here we come --- Whaaooooooooo Weeeeeeee!  
(THEY COME DOWN FROM JUMPING AND HUGGING  
AND FIND THEMSELVES IN A VERY TIGHT EMBRACE.  
MOOD CHANGES SUDDENLY FROM TWO KIDS TO TWO  
VERY HOT SEX SYMBOLS. A LONG HOT LOOK THEN)

JODY

Loretta, kiss me like you love me.

LORETTA

Well, of course I love you! Like a little brother. (ALMOST HYPNOTIZED, SHE BEGINS TO DO AS HE SAYS) But I am so (BREAKS POSITION) --- Worried! About Charlie!

JODY

I don't feel like a little brother. (EMBARRASSED) But I'll -- go get the car ready for tomorrow.

LORETTA

-- and I'll go and pack.

JODY

(ONE MORE STRATEGY) Look, Loretta, (LOOKS AT CLOCK) it's too late to do anything now --- so how's about we leave first thing in the morning? We could sleep here and start out real bright and early?

LORETTA

No, Jody -- we'd better leave tonight! You know tomorrow might be too late.

JODY

But I need some -- sleep.

LORETTA

We can do it in the car.

JODY

(EXCITED) You mean that? Hey, that's a great idea! I always like it better in a car.

LORETTA

(CORRECTING WITHOUT KNOWING IT) Like when we was kids comin' home from Xmas dinner at Granmaw's, all tucked up in the back seat with Nipper, who was this mutt 'till he got run over by a beer truck. I'll drive and you'll sleep -- then you'll drive and I'll sleep.

A LOOK OF DISAPPOINTMENT WASHES  
JODY'S FACE AS WE

CUT TO:

SCENE II

TIPPYTOE'S TRAILER: AFTERNOON

TIPPYTOES DOING BREAST EXERCISES  
ISOMETRIC FIRING ONES.

ANNIE

one-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-  
none-ten.

(SXF: DOOR KNOCKS) Doors open! Fourteen-  
fifteen-sixteen-seventeen-eighteen.

DET. JOHNSON

(ENTERS) Hello, ma'am -- I'm Detective Johnson  
of the Fernwood Police, do you mind if I pay  
a little visit?

ANNIE

Be with you after thirty, twenty-one, twenty-  
two, twenty-three -

DET. JOHNSON

Mind if I have a look around?

ANNIE

You can see the whole thing from one spot.  
twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine  
thirty! Whew! (FEELS BREASTS) Not bad  
for a grandmother. (DET. JOHNSON STARES  
AT HER BREASTS. BEAT) Why are you so  
interested in my R.V.?

DET. JOHNSON

Oh, thought maybe I'd be buying one someday.  
Nice exercises.

ANNIE

Saves you the cost of an overhaul.

JOHNSON

Look, ma'am, I know you're a close friend  
to Martha Shumway who I respect greatly  
but it's my duty to inform you you're  
violating city ordinance 6432 by sleeping  
in a vehicle permanently parked in a  
residential driveway within three blocks  
of a public school.

ANNIE

What? Are you kidding? How old is that law?

JOHNSON

-- (SHEEPISHLY) 1916.

ANNIE

And, you came here to cite me? I don't  
understand.

JOHNSON

Well actually, I just came to discuss the  
violation. And some other things.

ANNIE

(PLEASANTLY) What other things?

JOHNSON

Well, first off, how long do you plan on staying in Fernwood, Mrs. Wylie?

ANNIE

Depends. Why?

JOHNSON

On what? On business?

ANNIE

On business? I don't have any business.

JOHNSON

Then can I ask how you support yourself?  
Mrs.... -- or should I call you Tippytoes?

ANNIE

Whichever. And just for the record, this sounds like an interrogation.

JOHNSON

A talk. How do you support yourself?

ANNIE

I don't suppose I have to answer but,  
I've saved from my previous life.

JOHNSON

(GETTING TOUCH) A life you left when you purchased this R.V.

ANNIE

Hunh?

JOHNSON

Or "The Life", as it's known.

ANNIE

I'm a widow, Detective Johnson! My husband left me his insurance. And I sold our house --

JOHNSON

No roots, a life that floats from town to town or man to man -- FOR A PRICE! Is that what you're saying?

ANNIE

Detective Johnson -- are you insinuating I'm a --- HOW DARE YOU! Is every woman in this country who sleeps with a man out of wedlock still considered a WHORE?!

JOHNSON

It's my job, ma'am.

ANNIE

To check out mobile homes for hookers?

JOHNSON

There's a prostitution ring working out of Fernwood and I'm going to crack it.

ANNIE

Sure you are -- you'll spend all your time -- that we pay for -- busting a victimless crime -- while murderers and thieves and big business swindlers who rob us and kill us, all run free!

Oh Detective Johnson, you could be making so much better use of your time. Don't lock up those that love, stop those that don't!

JOHNSON

(TRYING TO LEAVE AS GRACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE)

I meant no offense, Mrs. Tippy-Annie.

It was just a routine call. Good day,

ma'am. (AND HE EXITS.)

BIG HONEY'S VOICE

Breaker one-ten. This is Big Honey in need of

help. My twenty is The Blue Grotto Bar

and the action is buzzing! Need more girls to

help with the suckers. Come on down the

weather's fine.

ANNIE SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

FADE OUT

ACT THREEMARY'S KITCHEN: AFTERNOON

MARY GOING THROUGH HER FAMOUS COLLECTION OF CANNED FOODS. SHE THROWS OUT PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN RECALLED FOR SAFETY REASONS. SHE HAS A LIST FROM FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THAT SHE CHECKS WITH.

MARY

(READING CAN) Water, sugar, sodium pangamate (CHECKS LIST) Ahhhhhh! Sodium pengamate -- an unsafe food additive! (THROWS CAN INTO PILE) Out! Out damn spot. (SFX: DOOR: KNOCKS) (MARY IGNORES IT OR DOESN'T HEAR IT) I wonder if this Soy Flour is good? Of course Soy Flour is always good (CHECKS LIST) But just in case --- (IN SHOCK FROM WHAT SHE READS ON FDA LIST) Ahhhhhhhhh!!

WANDA

(wanders in to see Mary screaming) Mary, the door was unlocked so I -- are you alright -- are you having a relapse? Mary!

MARY

I don't believe it! Even the Soy Flour!  
I mean when you can't even trust your own  
Soy Flour! This is the Food and Drug  
Administration Enforcement Report --  
published weekly -- I just subscribed to  
it -- look Wanda! Soy Flour in Five LB.  
bags manufactured by Monroe, Inc. Toledo  
Ohio, recalled due to Salmonella contamination!  
(THROWS BAG IN PILE) My cupboards were being  
tinted by Salmonella contamination!

WANDA

They just say that to drive the certified  
milk dealers out of business. (SHE TAKES A  
MERRI-MINT FROM A 25 CENT CASE OF MERRI-  
MINT BREATH FRESHNERS FROM HER POCKET)  
(SHE OFFERS ONE TO MARY WHO REFUSES)

MARY

That's not the point. It's not the  
Salmonella that's important. It's  
the contamination. Everyone knows  
what contamination means! --- and  
Salmonella on top of it! It definitely  
sounds like it's in the family of Cholera  
or swine flu.

WANDA

Well, I'm not getting a shot for it! And  
I don't think you should either, regardless  
of your party affiliation.

MARY

America has got to get back into fresh raw foods! (STOPS) Did I say Hello? (WANDA NODS NO) HELLO Wanda.

WANDA

Hello Mary.

MARY

Help yourself to some coffee on the stove. How are you?

WANDA

(HELPING HERSELF TO COFFEE) Just fine Mary. I just found the most perfect new modern apartment on Bellview Avenue. I signed the lease this morning! It's a lovely one bedroom with two baths.

MARY

(CONTINUING TO CHECK LABELS AND THROW IN PILE) One bedroom and two baths. It's that modern?

WANDA

Very. One bedroom insures when overnight guests stay over, they don't get the wrong ideas of staying in the other bedroom. -- but they still benefit from their own bathroom!

MARY

(UNDERSTANDING) Oh you mean like keeping a double bed rather than buying a King size.

WANDA

Exactly, the closer the better!

MARY

Do you think that's why rich people who live in castles never seem as happy as poor people in bungalows?

WANDA

That's just a myth, Mary, sweetheart. Poor people are only happy when they get tickets for "The Price Is Right".

MARY

No, because I remember this movie where this very rich newspaper man married this very poor opera singer and built her a gigantic castle in California. -- They were having dinner at this enormous table -- and they hardly spoke - because he was at one end and she the other end -- which was at least a hundred feet away so it was a little difficult to talk naturally but --

WANDA

Are you talking about 'Flamingo Road' with Joan Crawford?

MARY

No, it wasn't a musical - (STOPS LOOKS AT WANDA SERIOUSLY) Wanda, We've got to talk!

WANDA

That's what I thought we were doing.

MARY

No not about movies, I mean serious talk!  
Why are you moving into a one bedroom?  
With two bathrooms and probably a sauna?

WANDA

On the roof. It's so Merle will move in with me.

MARY

As I suspected! Wanda it's my duty as your almost best friend to warn you about Merle Jeeters who is almost as attractive as Lorne Green. But he is not to be trusted!

WANDA

(INTERESTED FOR SPICY NEWS) He's not?

How can you say that? Tell me.

MARY

Well he comes on to every woman he meets!

(GOES TO DOOR AND HOLDS IT TIGHTLY

CLOSED) I am holding this door just

in case Tom should run in unexpectedly

and hear what I'm about to say. Because

Wanda -- he even came on me! Came on to

me.

WANDA

Mary, please relax. I know all about Merle's little fatal weakness. That's exactly the reason I want him to move in and share the sauna. So I can have him all to myself and feed him and care for him and let him know a house can be a home and then he won't want to go and spend nights in trailers with a woman who's 51 but firm.

MARY

Aha, 51. But do you know what kind of a woman Tippytoes is? If you did, I don't think you'd worry. (WANDA LOOKS AT MARY. BEAT) Because Tippytoes and believe me, I am not spreading gossip - is bi-sexual! I said it. She is bisexual. (SHE GOES BACK TO SORTING CANS)

WANDA

(VERY SURPRISED) You're kidding? Isn't that exciting!

MARY

I mean, who could ever believe Fernwood would see the day it would have a bi-- did you say exciting?

WANDA

I'm surprised, but definitely not shocked. (TAKES ANOTHER MERRY MINT)

MARY

Let me see those mints. Elsie's Merri-Mints. (FINDS THEM ON LIST) Just as I suspected! These should be recalled. They have red dye #2.

WANDA

But they were so tasty!

MARY

I don't think you understand. (RIGHT BACK TO THE SUBJECT) Tippytoes likes women in the biblical sense, which is hard to believe since she was married and has two grown children!

WANDA

That has nothing to do with anything, Mary. Some of the greatest bisexuals in the world were married.

MARY

You mean, they're rating them? In terms of greatness? This is very confusing. I mean, she's so feminine and American, like Doris Day. Of course Ed and Howard weren't obvious either --- I mean --- I read about Elton John.

WANDA

Mary at some point in life everybody falls in love with a member of the same sex, don't they? It happened to me.

MARY

Wanda! Not to you!

WANDA

At summer camp. I fell madly in love with my counselor. Jo-Jo Spinelli. She was everything I wanted to be. The flip hairdoo, the sweat shirts, the gold ankle bracelet. We kissed a few times but it was harmless -- puppy love. Surely it's happened to you.

MARY

Never! Wanda. I swear on this FDA report, that is an area I have no experience in! -- and I don't know if I can face Tippytoes suspecting what I now heavily suspect!

WANDA

Oh Mary! It's not that unusual! Having sex with members of your own sex is very --- sophisticated! It was very big in the thirties.

MARY

Have you Wanda -- as an adult.

WANDA

Well -- not exactly -- but I did look up Jo-Jo Spinelli when I was in New York several years ago --- She was working as a cab driver -- a lovely woman. --- I mean I am sophisticated --- to a point.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

MARY

Excuse me, this is probably another disaster. Hello Mary Hartman. (BEAT) Mary Hartman here. Could you talk up please. Long distance? Rome?! IT'S GORE! Gore! Gore! How are you? What! You finished the introduction to my book! -- and you'll be sending it to me -- Wonderful! What? -- oh the journal. Oh it's coming along just fine! I was just writing in it as you called. Yes, it's almost finished. Oh Gore that would be lovely! I'll send it as soon as I'm finished -- very soon -- very, very soon. Bye Gore. (HANGS UP) Oh god, Wanda. I was bluffing. My journal is nowhere near finished. (BEAT) What's there to write about? Nothing ever happens in Fernwood.

WANDA

Then why not make something happen?

MARY

What do you mean?

WANDA

Take something as simple as your suspicions about Tippytoes -- explore them -- see where they lead.

MARY

What if they lead somewhere I don't want to go?

WANDA

Don't decide til you get there.

MARY

Wanda! You're suggesting I let Tippytoes make love to me just to write about it to sell a novel!

WANDA

Some of the best novels were written that way. You have to live what you write about! Hemingway lived! Scott Fitzgerald lived! Jacquelin Susann lived!

MARY

(beat) Do you really think it'll help sales?

WANDA

True life is the greatest seller.

MARY

But I don't know how to act with someone who's a bi-sexual. (THROWS OUT ANOTHER CAN)

WANDA

Just try to act natural and where-ever  
the conversation and hands take you, remember  
it can serve as important material for your  
book.

MARY

You're right (CLOSE UP TO MARY AND WANDA'S  
FACES) Do you think Gore would appreciate  
how seriously I'm taking my writing career?

WANDA

I'm sure he would.

(THE CAMERA NOW SWINGS DOWN TO THE PILE  
OF THROWN-OUT LABELED CANS AS WE HEAR MARY'S  
VOICE OVER THE CLOSE-UP OF THE PILE OF CANS  
WHOSE LABELS DECEIVED THEM)

MARY

It really makes you wonder how little we  
ever get past labels. Or warnings.

FADE OUT

End of Episode #177