

MARY HARTMAN  
MARY HARTMAN

EPISODE #273

by

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PRODUCTION

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| MARY . . . . .       | LOUISE LASSER  |
| TOM . . . . .        | GREG MULLAVEY  |
| LORETTA . . . . .    | MARY KAY PLACE |
| CHARLIE . . . . .    | GRAHAM JARVIS  |
| GRANDPA . . . . .    | VICTOR KILIAN  |
| GEORGE . . . . .     | PHIL BRUNS     |
| WANDA . . . . .      | MARIAN MERCER  |
| MAC . . . . .        | DENNIS BURKLEY |
| VERNON . . . . .     | DAVID BYRD     |
| TEXAS . . . . .      | SID HAIG       |
| TINY . . . . .       | HUGH GILLIN    |
| WILD CHILD . . . . . |                |

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ACT ONEHAGGERS LIVING ROOM - DAY

EMPTY. LORETTA ENTERS FROM KITCHEN, CARRYING A TRAY LOADED WITH MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLES.

LORETTA

(CALLS) Charlie? I got a whopping heap of food out. You about ready?

SHE SETS THE TRAY ON THE COFFEE TABLE. CHARLIE ENTERS FROM INNER ROOM, LOOKING DAMP, A DAMP TOWEL OVER HIS SHOULDER, LEADING WILD BOY BY THE HAND. W.B., WEARING THE LETTER SWEATER, HIS MANNER ANIMAL-LIKE, IS WARY, SUSPICIOUS, RESTLESS.

CHARLIE

I'm ready, but what I more am is wet. I give the boy here his bath, but he sure don't take kindly to soap and water.

LORETTA

The poor chile's probably just nervous over being in a strange place. (TO BOY) You look right fine, all washed up and scrubbed.

NO REACTION FROM BOY WHOSE EYES DART AROUND THE ROOM AS IF LOOKING FOR AN ESCAPE ROUTE.

LORETTA (CONT'D)

He don't seem to hear me. You know something, Charlie? I got a feeling there's a possibility this poor dear sweet chile's stone-cold deaf.

CHARLIE

You could be right. Hold on whilst I try a little experiment. (GOES BEHIND BOY. LOUD:) Hey, feller, how about if you and me go up to Cleveland and watch the Cavaliers play some basketball?

NO REACTION FROM BOY WHO CONTINUES TO ACT ANIMAL-LIKE.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And afterward we can toss around the ball ourselves!

STILL NO REACTION.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Why, he's deafer'n a brick chimney.

LORETTA

Oh, the poor little thing.

SFX: DOG BARKS -- OFF

BOY REACTS INSTANTLY, SCOTS TO WINDOW, EMITTING CANINE WHINES, SCRATCHES WINDOW PANE, SNIFFS EDGES OF WINDOW.

CHARLIE

Well, he sure ain't deef. He's got ears sharper'n a box of tacks.

LORETTA

Well, now, this is a mystery. A poor child which he showed up on our doorsteps in the middle of the night, wearing that sweater, gnawing on a bone, not saying a blessed word. Now we find out he don't like water, and he...

CHARLIE

(INTERRUPTS) Well, hold on, honey. I didn't say he don't like water. I said he don't take kindly to washing. But when I filled up that tub, he lapped that water like a... well, I don't like to say this about a child type human being, but he was acting like a dog.

LORETTA

What he probable is from wandering around all lost and all is powerful thirsty and hungry. I got a mess of food lined up here. Let's stoke the poor darling up.

(SPOONS OUT SOME CEREAL WHICH SHE PROFFERS TO HIM AS TO A BABY) Here, honey child. Sugar Smacks. Yum-yum.

LORETTA BRINGS SPOON TO BOY'S MOUTH AND SNEAKS IT IN. THE BOY PULLS SPOON OUT, SNIFFS AT THE SPOON AND THEN BITES IT. WHEN NOTHING HAPPENS HE THROWS IT AWAY.

CHARLIE

Off hand, I'd say he ain't exact a fan of Sugar Smacks.

LORETTA

Showed a sort of fondness for the spoon,  
though.

BOY GOES TO THE TRAY, SNIFFS EACH  
ITEM, FINDS NOTHING THAT APPEALS TO  
HIM, RAISES HIS FACE, CONTINUING TO  
SNIFF LIKE AN ANIMAL ON THE SCENT  
OF SOMETHING. LORETTA AND CHARLIE  
WATCH HIM, FASCINATED, AS HE FOLLOWS  
HIS NOSE TOWARD THE KITCHEN, LORETTA  
FOLLOWS AFTER HIM BUT STOPS AS:

CHARLIE

(QUIETLY) Honey, let him be.

BOY FOLLOWS HIS NOSE INTO THE KITCHEN.

CHARLIE

Looks like he smelled out something he  
likes in the kitchen. Let's see what he  
comes up with.

LORETTA

Okay. I hope he takes to something. The  
poor child can't go on without some  
proper type nourishment.

CHARLIE

(FONDLY) You got a beautiful mother type  
heart, Loretta.

LORETTA

Thanks, hon.

THEY REACT TO:

SFX: POTS AND PANS BEING RATTLED  
-- OFF

CHARLIE

Sounds like the boy's found something to  
his liking.

BOY ENTERS FROM KITCHEN CARRYING A  
PIECE OF RAW MEAT IN HIS TEETH.  
BOY GETS DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND,  
ANIMAL-LIKE, RIPS AT THE MEAT AND  
BEGINS DEVOURING IT.

LORETTA

Something about that dear sweat boy ain't  
exactly normal, Charlie. What I think we  
ought to do is take him to see a doctor.

CHARLIE

(PAUSE AS HE WATCHES BOY DEVOUR THE RAW  
MEAT) What I think is called for here is  
a special type doctor.

LORETTA

What type?

CHARLIE

A veterinarian???

FADE OUT.

ACT TWOPLANT LOUNGE - DAY

GEORGE AND CHARLIE SITTING TOGETHER  
TOWARD THE BACK OF THE ROOM. VERNON  
AND TEXAS IN FRONT. ALL IN THEIR  
MU-MUS. GGG REGALIA.

VERNON

We'll start the meeting as soon as Mac  
gets here.

CHARLIE AND GEORGE NOD THEIR  
SOBER UNDERSTANDING. THEY BEGIN  
TO TALK QUIETLY TOGETHER AS:  
ANGLE ON VERNON AND TEXAS, WHO  
TALK QUIETLY.

TEXAS

Maybe I'm stupid, Vernon... but isn't it  
wrong for us to want to help Tom Hartman?

VERNON

Yes, Texas, you are stupid. I'll try to  
explain this as if to a fetus: Tom is  
accusing you and me of setting fire to  
that shack where Dewey burned to death...

TEXAS

(EVIL SMILE) Yeah, lotta good it's doin'  
him... what with me bein' police chief.

VERNON

And he's also pointing a finger at the GGG. Right? Now if we point a finger back at him, what does that buy us?

TEXAS

What?

VERNON

I wouldn't expect you to know... it buys us nothing. Nothing. It's just one GGG member accusing other GGG members of murder. We all wind up looking bad. Murder is no good for the organization's All-American image.

TEXAS

So what do we do?

VERNON

We go public. Like the Muslims. Out in the open where all the news coverage is. We make it look like the GGG is doing everything it can to help Tom. Our angle is that he's a temporarily insane member, and the organization is coming to his assistance. That makes us look good. Brotherly. Fraternal. Humanitarian. No one can blame us for one bad apple. Get it?

TEXAS

(NODDING YES) No.

VERNON

Fine, why don't you just let me handle things... you imbecile.

ANGLE ON CHARLIE AND GEORGE.

CHARLIE

I tell you, George, it's weird having that kid around the house. There ain't nobody loves kids more than I do -- except maybe Loretta on account of she's got a mother's heart which I ain't equipped by nature to have. But the thing is, it gives me a spooky feeling... Now, you tell me how you'd feel about living alongside a child-type little boy which he'd rather eat Alpo than cheeseburgers.

GEORGE

Sounds like you ought to get him a rabies shot and a dog license.

WIDER ANGLE

MAC, ON CRUTCHES, FOOT IN CAST,  
ENTERS.

MAC

Hi, guys. Sorry if I kept you waiting. I gotta drive in low gear with this bum tire. (JOINS CHARLIE AND GEORGE) How's it going, Brothers?

GEORGE

(NOT FRIENDLY) We may be brothers in the GGG, but there ain't nothing in the by-laws about you seeing more of my wife than I do.

MAC

(APPEASING, FRIENDLY) Aw, hey, George. There ain't nothing going on between me and her. I don't fool around with married women, at least those who remember they're married.

GEORGE

That does it! I tried to work this out in an adult way... but if you can't be civilized... okay, let's fight!

CHARLIE

(HOLDING GEORGE BACK; INTERMEDIARY) Don't take it personal, Mac. When a man's wife moves out on him, it has a way of making him think nobody likes him. And then he starts acting in such a way that nobody does.

ANOTHER ANGLE

VERNON

All right, fellas. Let's get the meeting started. This is a special meeting of the GGG to determine, by democratic means, the best way we can help our brother, Tom Hartman.

CHARLIE

You know, Vernon, it's partly our fault.

VERNON

How do you mean, Brother Hagers?

CHARLIE

Well, we should of seen this coming and done something to stop him.

GEORGE

Charlie's got a point. We should of known Tom was cracking up. You know how he's been acting. Carrying a chip on his shoulder. And a gun on his hip.

MAC

Yeah, you remember what he said at our last meeting about how if he ever found the guy that almost killed his wife, he'd make him sorry he was ever born.

VERNON

Well, fellas, we're not going to accomplish anything by sitting around blaming ourselves. What's done is done. Right?

TEXAS

Right.

CHARLIE

So what should we do now?

VERNON

That's not for me to say. This is a democratic organization and it's up to the majority. All I'm here for is to lay out the facts. Well, one fact is that we want to help poor Tom Hartman.

(MORE)

VERNON (CONT'D)

Another fact is that poor Brother Hartman was deranged at the time he committed that murder... and he is still deranged.

TEXAS

Yeah, he's saying Vernon and me fricasseed that Dewey feller. And that's about as deranged as you can get.

GEORGE

Well, it seems to me the first thing we ought to do is get the guy a good lawyer.

VERNON

An excellent suggestion, Brother Shumway. The only trouble is that good lawyers cost money.

CHARLIE

What about if we use some of the money we raised from the telethon?

VERNON AND TEXAS EXCHANGE QUICK  
GLANCES.

VERNON

Well, yeah, that's a possibility. It sure is great to see how all of you are solidly behind our unfortunate brother. Because, after all, it's up to us in the GGG to take care of him. I think what we ought to have is a coordinating committee. I nominate George Shumway to be the chairman.

MAC

Second the motion.

VERNON

All in favor...

ALL

Aye.

VERNON

The vote is unanimous. Congratulations, George. I have the honor of naming you Grand Mysto. In token whereof, I present you with this symbol of office. (SLIPS FANCY SEAL ON A RIBBON AROUND GEORGE'S NECK)

GEORGE

Well, all I can say is I'm humble and proud and ready to take on this responsibility... (BEAT)... What's a Grand Mysto?

VERNON

You.

GEORGE

(REASSURED)... Oh.

VERNON

I'm sure you'll do your best, I'm sure we'll all do our best, to show the people of Fernwood what a fraternal organization we are. All for one and one for all. Am I right?

ALL SHOUT AGREEMENT.

VERNON (CONT'D)

And who are we?

ALL

The Glorious Guardians of Good!

VERNON

Who?

ALL

The Glorious Guardians of Good!

VERNON

Again!

ALL

The Glorious Guardians of Good!

VERNON

This meeting is now adjourned.

GEORGE, MAC AND CHARLIE FILE OUT,  
AD LIBBING GOODNIGHTS WITH THE  
OTHERS.

TEXAS

(GRUMPY) You sure you know what you're  
doing? Hell, you make it sound like Tom's  
gonna get sprung out of jail tomorrow.

VERNON

(CALM) That's possible. I want to see  
Tom Hartman out of that crackerbox jail  
and in a real prison. Up the river. Way  
up the river. A long, long way from here  
for a long, long, long, long time.

FADE OUT.

ACT THREETOM'S JAIL CELL - DAY

TOM IS SITTING DESPONDENTLY ON THE EDGE OF HIS COT. MOMENT. TEXAS AND MARY ENTER SHOT, COMING DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO THE CELL. MARY WEARS HER NEW FUR COAT.

TEXAS

(BLASE CHEER) Nice surprise for you, Tom.  
Company.

TEXAS SMILES AT TOM WHO GLARES AT HIM. TEXAS UNLOCKS CELL DOOR, "GRACIOUSLY" WAVES MARY IN.

MARY

Thank you, Texas.

TEXAS

My pleasure. That's a beautiful coat.  
Would you like me to hang it up for you?

TOM

(SNAPS) No, she would not like you to hang up for her. Just get outta here!

TEXAS

(CASUALLY PUNCHING SET OF BRASS KNUCKLES INTO HIS PALM; "PLEASANTLY") My mama taught me manners, is all. Maybe the new guy around here won't be so polite.

LOCKS CELL DOOR AND EXITS SHOT.

MARY

Tom, I'm not an expert on how a person is supposed to act in jail, but I really think you ought to be nicer to Texas. I mean, after all, he is the Chief of Police and that entitles him to some respect.

TOM

(COULDN'T AGREE LESS) Respect?

MARY

And he's also the Grand Lizard of the GGG. I'm not exactly sure what that means, but I'm sure it's an important job in the GGG. And the GGG is taking care of your legal defense.

TOM

The hell the GGG is taking care of my legal defense! I'm taking care of my legal defense! I don't want to have anything to do with the GGG! I don't want to have anything to do with Texas. Or Vernon. For God's sake, Mary, they framed me! They killed Dewey and they're trying to pin it on me! Don't you understand that??! What the hell's the matter with you??!

MARY

(HURT) Tom, I came here to see you because I love you, and the first thing you do is holler at me.

TOM

(REMORSE) I'm sorry, Mary. I really am. Forgive me. It's just that I'm under such... stress...

MARY

I know, Tom. I am, too. Emotional stress. I miss you so much. Not living with you is so different from living with you.

THEY STARE AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT.

TOM

It's so strange... Here we are -- together. I've been thinking about this moment, wanting you, since I woke up. Now... what're we supposed to do?

SHE PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM, GIVES HIM A REAL KISS AND THEY SINK DOWN ONTO THE COT.

MARY

(SIGNIFICANTLY) Texas said he'd leave us alone for a while.

TOM

(WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE MEANS) What d'you mean?

MARY

It's the latest thing.

TOM

What?

MARY

Conjugal visits for prisoners. That means visits from their wives. Statistics show that relieving sexual pressures makes prisoners much less tense. And I guess we're both pretty tense.

TOM

We... we couldn't untense ourselves...  
here.

MARY

Why not? I remember when you tried to corner me in a 1949 Chevrolet. (SMILES)

SHE KISSES HIM, THEY RECLINE, ARE SEXY. TEXAS ENTERS SHOT, COMING DOWN THE CORRIDOR, SORTING THROUGH SOME ENVELOPES.

TEXAS

("CHEERY") Mail call.

TOM SITS UP QUICKLY. TEXAS STOPS OUTSIDE THE CELL, LOOKING THROUGH THE ENVELOPES.

TEXAS

Nothing for you... No need to be shy with me -- we're all friends. But in the future, watch it. The new cop might get embarrassed by you animals. (EXITS SHOT)

MARY REACHES FOR TOM, APPARENTLY MEANING TO TAKE UP WHERE THEY WERE FORCED TO LEAVE OFF, BUT TOM RISES AND STARTS PACING.

TOM

Hell, Mary, I can't be sexy under these conditions.

MARY

Don't you need me as much as I need you?

TOM

Of course I need you... I need you almost as much as I need to feel like a man again ... instead of that... (BEAT) ... What he said.

MARY

I don't feel like an animal, Tom. It isn't even sex that I need. I just need to feel close to you. I need to know that some things are still the same with us!

TOM

But they're not! Not as long as I'm being framed for a murder I had nothing to do with. Doesn't that mean anything to you??? Doesn't it matter to you??? Haven't you got any feelings???

MARY

Of course it matters to me. And I've got lots of feelings. That's what I'm talking about.

TOM

But here? Under these conditions?

MARY

I'd much rather be home with you in our own bed. That would be much nicer. But I need you more at this moment than I ever needed you in our bedroom. With so many awful things around us, don't we both need to feel good about something???

TOM

(SOFTENING) Yeah... and loving you is the best thing in my life, Mary.

MARY

And it's the one thing we can be sure of... no matter what happens.

TOM

There's one other thing we can be sure of.

MARY

What?

TOM

Texas.

MARY

Tom, he was just delivering the mail. He was doing his duty. He won't be back. He promised.

TOM

He promised!? You really trust that guy? He's a murderer! He's the one who should be locked up.

MARY

I know, Tom. And he will be.

TOM

What makes you so sure?

MARY

Because that's the law.

TOM

(SCOFFS) The law.

MARY

Yes. Have faith in the law, Tom. It's the most important thing there is. The law is the foundation of our country.

TOM

Right now, Texas is the law.

MARY

Then forget the law... Just think about me.

TOM

(MELTING) Oh, Mary.

HE SITS BY HER, STROKES HER FACE,  
LOVING AND GENTLE.

MARY

I guess I shouldn't have suggested that conjugal thing. We'll just wait until you're home again and we can be in our own nice, warm, clean bed, with comfy quilts and pillows and no interruptions except maybe Heather coming in once in a while.

HE GIVES HER A LITTLE KISS.

MARY (CONT'D)

Thanks. (GIVES HIM A LITTLE KISS)

HE STROKES HER THROAT GENTLY.

MARY (CONT'D)

(GETTING SEXY) I like that.

TOM

(SEXY) I like doing it.

MARY

Do it some more.

HE DOES IT SOME MORE. SHE LAUGHS  
SEXILY.

TOM

(SEXY) You really like that, huh?

MARY

Mmmmmmm.

SHE PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM. BIG  
KISS. THEY RECLINE. GET SEXY.

TOM

(HOLDING HER) Maybe that conjugal stuff  
isn't such a bad idea.

THEY SEX AROUND. THEY SPRING APART  
AS TEXAS SUDDENLY ENTERS SHOT, COMING  
DOWN THE CORRIDOR.

TEXAS

("CHEERY") Dinner'll be served in a  
half an hour. Just thought you'd like  
to know.

TEXAS "POLITELY" TIPS HIS CAP AND  
EXITS SHOT. TOM POUNDS THE COT  
ANGRILY. MARY SIGHS.

FADE OUT.

ACT FOURPLANT LOUNGE - DAY

MARY, WEARING A BLACK ARMBAND, IS ARRANGING FOLDING CHAIRS IN NEAT ROWS FACING TABLE AT FRONT OF ROOM. ON TABLE IS PHOTO OF DEWEY SURROUNDED BY A FEW FLOWERS, ALSO A CANDLE. IN FRONT OF TABLE IS BUCKET AND MOP, A BLACK RIBBON ADORNING THE MOP HANDLE. FINISHED WITH THE CHAIR ARRANGEMENT, MARY MAKES A FEW ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ITEMS ON AND AROUND THE TABLE. GRANDPA ENTERS.

MARY

Hello, Grandpa. I'm glad you could come.

GRANDPA

Oh, I like memorial services. They cheer me up because going to them proves I'm not dead yet.

MARY

Well, holding a memorial service for Dewey is the least I can do for him.

GRANDPA

I can't help thinking Dewey would've enjoyed it more if he was still alive.

WANDA ENTERS.

MARY

Hello, Wanda. Thank you for coming.

WANDA

Merle s sorry he couldn't make it. He has a meeting with the sewer commission. But he wanted me to represent him here.

GEORGE AND TINY, CARRYING THEIR LUNCHPAILS, ENTER.

GEORGE

... and she never could find her hot water bottle.

GEORGE AND TINY LAUGH. GEORGE CUTS OFF LAUGHING AS HE TAKES IN THE ROOM.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on here???

MARY

It's a memorial service for Dewey.

GEORGE

Are you out of your mind??? Your husband is in jail for murdering the guy.

MARY

Well, you can't hold that against Dewey! And it's just a mistake. The trial will prove that. So if you'll sit down, we can have the service.

GEORGE

You can have the service. I'm going to have my lunch.

GEORGE AND TINY SIT AND PROCEED TO EAT.

MARY

(AT TABLE) We have gathered here to honor the memory of a fine man. Dewey. I'm sorry I don't know his last name, but you all know who I'm talking about. A person isn't remembered by his name... but by the love he left us. Dewey was a beautiful human being, and his death is really very tragic.

GEORGE

(TO TINY) You got any salt?

TINY HANDS GEORGE A CONTAINER  
FROM HIS LUNCHPAIL.

MARY

Some people have accused Dewey of terrible things. But Dewey was a nice person and one thing I've learned in life is that nice people don't throw bombs or strangle people. He was very kind and always ready to lend a helping hand. He believed in live and let live, which I like a lot myself.

GEORGE

(FINDING HIS SANDWICH DISTASTEFUL) THIS  
ISN'T SALT. It's pepper.

TINY

Oh, sorry, George. (GIVES GEORGE SALT)

MARY

The world would be a better place if there were more people like Dewey. He will be missed by those who knew him... and those who didn't... well, I'm sure you know what you missed. Now everybody please bow your head and observe a moment of respectful silence.

PAUSE. GEORGE SNEEZES.

GEORGE

That damn pepper.

MARY

That's the end of this service for a good, gentle, nice, wise, lovely man. Dewey. I'm sorry I don't know his last name, but I think I got in all the important things.

TINY

He sounds like he was quite a guy. I hope they nail the rat that killed him.

EVERYONE REACTS.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE #273