



SUMMARY & CHARACTERS

OPENING NIGHT - Senior Play

SCENE 1: THE REHEARSAL

We are introduced to the flourish of the theatre; a detective story, a musical number, a false start... the assistant is clearly not happy; it's the night before opening night! But he's not the only one unhappy... Ciara makes it clear that she is frustrated with the production - it's meant to be a detective story, not a musical! Madison, our lead and diva, ducks out for a quick, but important, phone call and Lorcan, an old seadog and stage manager of the theatre, is sent to fetch a new feather boa for Ciara - the feathers give her hives!

SCENE 2: BACK TO BACKSTAGE

We're backstage where Ciara and Madison are getting ready for opening night. Madison is running late after having a heated discussion with the director Paul. Madison can't find her lipstick when really it's right in front of her - a hangover from the stress? Madison goes to tell Ciara something, something important before she is ushered on stage by the assistant - she promises to tell Ciara after the show.

SCENE 3: A COP OF COFFEE

The news is out: Madison Reese was found dead!! But not only that, we're introduced to our favourite clumsy cop, Michael O'Neill and he's on the case! But an important phone call from his boss, Chief Batista, tells him to get to his office NOW!

SCENE 4: THE OFFICE

In Chief Batista's office, she presents the case, somewhat reluctantly, to Michael O'Neill: the theatre, murder, Miss Madison Reese. O'Neill expresses his longing (once upon a time) for the stage, but the streets of Dublin needed him more. O'Neill is given a young recruit, Agent Rookie, to join him on the investigation.

SCENE 5: WELCOME TO THE HOTEL CONNEMARA

O'Neill heads to the Hotel Connemara, the hotel Madison Reese was supposedly staying at. After some snooping, and help from his young recruit, O'Neill finds the room in which Miss Reese was staying, along with a half-made bed, a script by Brian Kane and Madison Reese's left breakfast. A helpful bellboy, bestows a wealth of facts upon O'Neill: Madison Reese had a visitor last Monday. A man. And he appeared to have an argument with Miss Reese, at least according to the bellboy, and a name came up during the argument: Brian Kane.

SCENE 6: THE CURTAIN CALL

At the Unity Theatre, Michael O'Neill runs into the director Paul Edison - the man who also visited Madison Reese at her hotel. It's clear that Paul and Madison were 'close' but did he murder her? He was in the audience during the tragic event - anybody could testify to that. O'Neill presses Mr Edison further for more details; the only issue at the theatre that evening was that the curtain wasn't working properly but Lorcan fixed it. Paul Edison runs off to speak to the press - the theatre has been very popular since Madison's death.

SCENE 7: LONG TIME NO SEA

O'Neill grills (interrogates) the new recruit, Agent Rookie, and accidentally uncovers Ciara behind a curtain, where she becomes quite violent: she doesn't speak to journalists! She's clearly on edge, accusing O'Neill of being a weirdo fan. The young recruit manages to ask Ciara some questions: where was she when the incident took place? *On stage of course, where else would I be?* She recounts the tragic event and points a finger at Lorcan, the stage manager: he was late to open the curtain for the final act. Ciara has to run off as she's late for rehearsals, a new play already.

Lorcan, a believer of theatre superstitions, ghosts and spirits alike, is clearly very upset now that Miss Madison is dead. The new recruit asks Lorcan some questions who answers in sailor metaphors: the most important being that the sail (curtain) wouldn't go up so he had to do it himself. The inspector and his recruit follow Lorcan to the crime scene: the main stage where they find Miss Madison's hat - a key piece of evidence?

SCENE 8: CASE CLOSED

Called into Chief Batista's office; the budget for the case has exploded and Mike O'Neill believes that he's cracked the case - Miss Madison simply died from a heart attack. Agent Rookie gives O'Neill the rundown on the latest news: a poison found in Miss Madison's lipstick! However, Batista makes it clear that O'Neill is off the case and will be taking statements at the station.

SCENE 9: THE AGENT

Who walks into the station but Madison Reese's very busy Agent - constantly on the phone with celebrities. The Agent reveals that Madison was to start performing in a play directed by Brian Kane, but in doing so she would have to leave the Unity Theatre - not good for business at all. O'Neill believes to have cracked the case and calls Batista to tell her so, but is bluntly ignored and left to file evidence... but not for long.

SCENE 10: THE PERFECT CULPRIT

A journalist asks the director Paul Edison some questions, shortly followed by Inspector O'Neill. Paul reveals that he and Madison were having an affair - he didn't tell the cops because he thought it would look suspicious. O'Neill presses him further on Brian Kane. Paul reveals that he is a friend and that he asked Brian Kane to employ Madison as one of his lead actresses. However, an officer finds a stash of poison in Paul's draw. They arrest him, taking him to the station.

SCENE 11: SHAKESPEAREAN COP

In Batista's office, she congratulates O'Neill for cracking the case. Delighted, she leaves to meet the mayor and an officer comes in with some evidence back from the lab: Madison's hat and feather. O'Neill, delighted with himself and his case-solving abilities, begins to mull over the feather... the plastic feather. Something doesn't add up.

SCENE 12: THE FEATHER IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

At Madison's funeral, O'Neill finds Ciara. Words are shared, and evidence put together. The young Agent Rookie is promoted after cracking the case - Chief Inspector. And Mike O'Neill is once again our accidental hero.

MIKE O'NEILL

A recurring character in our Pickles shows. Michael O'Neill is a superintendent. He always solves a case, although often clumsy and unorthodox in his approach.

MADISON REESE

Beautiful and talented, Madison Reese is the next up-and-coming star. Although somewhat secretive, vain and egocentric, Madison gets what she wants through charm and grace before she meets a sticky end.

CIARA STONE

Another talented actress, Ciara Stone is the one to catch a dying Madison, but that's not all... Ciara is dramatic and insistent, clever and cruel and deeply jealous of her co-star. Ciara wants fame and she'll do anything to get it.

PAUL EDISON

Paul Edison is the latest director for Unity Theatre and has big plans for his career, although his last few shows had been a flop if it wasn't for Madison. Paul, hungry for fame, relishes in the newfound limelight from the death on the opening night of his latest show. He's busy, evasive and attentive to his lead actress.

CHIEF BATISTA

Mike O'Neill's boss (the chief of police) is exhausted and at her wit's end with O'Neill's shenanigans. But she sets him on the case nonetheless. Wanting to look her best and to always impress, she's frequently worried that "O'NEILL!" will make a fool out of her.

LORCAN

This old seadog is the stage manager of the show. Helpful and somewhat creepy, Lorcan moves in the shadows making sure everything runs as it should... and falls into place.

THE ASSISTANT

The assistant to the director is pedantic and stubborn, running a tight ship and keeping Ciara in line.

THE BELLBOY

Excellent at his job, and quite insistent too, the bellboy goes above and beyond.

THE AGENT

A busy woman with many stars on her books, Madison Reese being just one of them. The agent doesn't have time for anyone - a classic Hollywood-style businesswoman. Rude and entitled.

THE JOURNALIST

Trying to get to the bottom of any story, the journalist is full of questions, but not always the right ones.

NEWSPAPER SELLER

A humble family man selling his papers.

OFFICER

An officer helping in the investigation, thorough and professional.

CHARACTERS

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