

MR. MONK SAVES RASH NATALIE

Brief Synopsis

Natalie comes down with a strange fever and rash. After passing out she is rushed to the hospital. Soon after, the hospital reports that foul play is suspected in the recent deaths of several patients. Monk, Stottlemeyer and Disher visit the widow of one of the patients. When checking the dead man's car, Monk notices an air freshener in the shape of a dog having a terrible odor. The lab reports that the air freshener is laden with toxins. Disher learns that the wealthy female victim was the owner of a chain of pet stores and that the widow of the male victim is a dog trainer at one of the stores. The detectives discover that Natalie and Julie were given a “pet goody bag” by a volunteer at the pet store when taking their parrot there recently. The bag contained a pet air freshener that Natalie complained smelled awful. The detectives know they're on to something.

Following a few missteps and stumbles, as usual, Monk figures it all out. He is able to expose the guilty party when the killer returns to the hospital where Natalie is confined to try to finish the job. Monk eventually figures out that the perpetrator is an animal activist gone off the reservation and more than a little mad. This is one of Monk's most difficult cases because it involves elements that on contact can be deadly. With Monk's OCD condition, Monk is forced to push his psychological issues aside so he can save Natalie his colleague and friend.

In the end Monk doesn't disappoint but he is so overcome with his fears that in the end, he passes out and is admitted to the hospital. Natalie and Julie visit Monk in the hospital who is enjoying his stay, breathing in the pure oxygen from his oxygen mask. Natalie was given an antidote for her allergic reaction and is fine. Natalie and Julie can't thank Mr. Monk enough who, in true Monk fashion, asks for an extended stay at the hospital.