

Last Flight of the Mercenary
JULES monologue and scene with Martin (reader)

JULES

(talking to the semi-unconscious Blake who has just crawled in from the sea)

I wouldn't mind a bit of something to wet the whistle. *(takes out a flask)* In my experience there's nothing like a nip to stop the nip. There you go. Can't over do it on a day like today. *(raising the flask into the air)*in sickness and in health, till death do me apart. Tear me apart. Rip me limb from limb.

He drinks and passes the bottle to Blake who is slow with it in his grasp.

Quite a shocking thing – getting married. *(regarding the flask)* It doesn't work by looking at it. Drink it up. *(Blake does)* Eh. That put some color into your cheeks. Whatcha name, kid? *(taking the marriage license from his pocket)* Jesse Loyals. Well, I don't blame you one bit for being scared to death for what I'm gonna do to you. Quite a thing. Quite something all right. In fact chills or no chills, you're going to be numb for a good many days after this, wondering what the hell you've done. And this may not be the best B&B in British Columbia, but Kate and Martin are certainly the best people. Martin Wells is the best chef around and before that he was one hell of a furniture maker. I have one of his tables in my dining room. But he and I first made our acquaintance when he ran a brewery. Now that is the kind of career a man should aspire to. Speaking of which – I hope you don't mind if I lift 'em high and drain 'em dry.

JULES scene with Martin (reader)

JULES

(calling from within) Martin!

MARTIN

(calling) I'm out here, Jules.

Jules crosses to the patio

JULES

Is the ceremony on the patio tonight? Brave souls. The winds have been coming in strong.

MARTIN

Give me a hand will you, my man? *(re lifting the man from the cliff)*

JULES

Ahh - nice lanterns. I don't go in much for that raw fish, but I have a weakness for far eastern décor. Shui feng is what they call it. Smart way to deal with that starless night problem you have around here. They give off a nice glow. *(re the man half-hoisted over the edge)* Hmm.

MARTIN

How's your back?

JULES

It's my backside that's the problem. Most people don't realize that the bench is really a bench. I'm flat as a pancake.

MARTIN

Can you lift?

JULES

I don't see why not. If you get the right side, I'm okay here with the left.

The men guide Blake into the living room..

JULES

The fellow's a burly one. He must spend time at the gym.

MARTIN

Good thing or he wouldn't have made it up the cliff.

JULES

That's quite a climb.

They dump the man on the couch, both obviously out of shape. Martin brushes off the legs of his trousers.

MARTIN

I must say, the best part of hosting these weddings is seeing the likes of you.

JULES

Good to see you too Martin.

Jules pulls handcuffs from his pocket and jiggles them

JULES

You know I also do arraignments.

MARTIN

Then I should get arrested every once in awhile.

The two men shake hands. The cuffs are returned.

JULES

Might have to. After that 109 year old man slipped into your pond and drowned, the weddings here went on hiatus.

MARTIN

Ahh. Yes. I should have mentioned that one.

JULES

Did you know the mounted police had been on his tail for years. He was famous. Crashed weddings and funerals so he could hop into bed with a bridesmaid or a widow or a guest. He broke many hearts along the way. I believe there's even a film based on him . . .

MARTIN

You're saying the man who died in this house at the Schumaker wedding was famous?

JULES

Isn't it ironic? After all those adventures, he finally decides to take on the responsibility of marriage and at 109, when he is finally ready to settle down. . .

MARTIN

He dies. See what I mean.

Martin looks at the man on the couch.

MARTIN

What do you think?

JULES

His lips are blue.

MARTIN

I'll get something to warm him.

JULES

That should do the trick if it's one of your hazelnut brews and a slice of your Bavarian torte.