

## **Mystery Month #2 - 2024**

### **A DEADLY MARRIAGE**

By Barbara Fox in "Murder is Served"

Elizabeth Crandall, one of Washington's leading hostesses, invited several people to a reception in honor of Senator Dan Drewnell and his bride, Marcia. Senator Drewnell was planning to retire after serving four terms as the senator from Montana. He and Marcia met at the United States Capitol building where she worked as a tour guide; they eloped just seven weeks after that first meeting. The story was on the front pages of all the local newspapers. When Elizabeth heard about the elopement, she, as one of Senator Dan's oldest friends, insisted on a lavish party at Greenway Country Club so that she and Dan's many friends and constituents could meet the new bride.

At the party, many of the guests couldn't help commenting that they had always expected Elizabeth herself to be the bride.

"Oh, no," Elizabeth kept insisting. "Dan and I are just friends, good friends, we've been friends for years and years."

In the middle of the party, Jonathan Davies (JD), Senator Dan's faithful campaign manager, who planned to run for the Senate himself now that Senator Dan was retiring, stood up to make a toast. "I'd like to propose a toast to Senator Dan and his bride, Marcia. This marriage was quite a surprise, quite a surprise. Dan won't have as much time now to work on his pet project, the Senate bill for State Beautification. Still, I think he'll manage to get the job done in the next six years."

Senator Dan came up to the podium to thank JD, and to thank everyone for coming to the party. Then, when he had everyone's attention, he made a shocking announcement.

"You all know that I had planned to retire after this term and spend time with my lovely bride, Marcia, but I think, I really think, that I am needed in the Senate and a Drewnell never shirks his duty, never lets someone else do the job he should be doing, and so I plan to run for the Senate one more time.' Everyone applauded loudly and enthusiastically; everyone except the bride, Marcia, who jumped up so quickly that she knocked over her wine glass.

"No," she cried. "No! I don't believe it. You promised that you were going to retire. You promised that we would travel, shop, move to Hawaii! You can't run again." She ran out of the room, sobbing, wishing I'd never married you."

"Hey, Dad, way to go!" Senator Dan's son, Danny Drew, the would-be singer, and actor (and part-time waiter at the restaurant), came forward and slapped his father on the shoulder. "Listen, don't pay any attention to her. Maybe this will make you think twice about changing your will and cutting me out. Elizabeth told me all about it. Marcia doesn't deserve your money. She's nothing but a gold-digger. Hey, I better get back to work now or they'll fire me." He picked up a tray and left the room.

Elizabeth stood up quickly.

"That's wonderful news, Dan, just wonderful news," she said. "I'm going to go right out to the bar and order champagne so we can have a proper celebration."

JD interrupted with another toast. "To Senator Dan Drewnell and the next six years! I'll just go and notify the press."

"Well. Thank you all very much." Senator Dan tried to continue his speech, but he was clearly distracted.

"I'm sorry, you'll all have to excuse me for a minute, I want to go and find Marcia." He stepped out into the hallway. There were gunshots. He staggered back into the room clutching his chest. "Help me, help me, I've been shot!" He collapsed in the doorway.

The police arrived within minutes and pronounced him dead. Detective Mark Dolermain of FACE (Federal Agency for Criminal Examination) was in attendance as extra security; he offered to assist the police. He checked his notes and noticed that someone made a statement that didn't seem right, a statement that made him suspicious of one person. His suspicions were later proved to be correct.

### What made Mark Dolermain suspicious?

## Who murdered Senator Dan Drewnell?

[illegible]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_