

FANS SPEAK TO . . . DEBRA FRANK

It's time, once again, for the fans to speak. This time, we are directing our gratitude to one half of a great writing team who weren't afraid to see things in *Black and White*.

Dear Ms. Frank,

Thank you for doing the wonderful interview for the fanzine. It was a pleasure for me to participate in it. All the episodes that you wrote for *Moonlighting* were fantastic because they explored Maddie and David's relationship so well. I loved how *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice* used dreams to let the fans see them do things they never would have done in their real relationship and still keep the "tease" going between them. I also loved how Maddie's dream in *It's A Wonderful Job* allowed her to see that she might have deeper feelings for David than she realized. And in *Sleep Talkin' Guy*, I think they both came away appreciating each other more. I don't want to forget *North by North DiPesto* because, not only is it a sweet episode about Agnes, it also has one of my favorite David and Maddie scenes from any Agnes episode when David says that going to the banquet will "give us a chance to fight in public." What a great line! I've enjoyed all your episodes over the years. Thank you so much for the great interview.

Pam Hardin
Herndon, VA

Dear Debra Frank,

I'd like to thank you for taking time out to talk to the *Moonlighting Reunion Campaign* staff. It's wonderful to hear what a writer of *Moonlighting* has to say. I have to say, I absolutely love your work and I thank you for sharing it and your time with us *Moonlighting* fans.

Sincerely,
Heather Clemens

Dear Debra Frank,

One of my favorite *Moonlighting* episodes you wrote is *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice*, which highlights the exceptional acting capabilities of Cybill Shepherd and Bruce Willis. Your idea for a *Moonlighting* Reunion is simple and brilliant at the same time – to my mind, you found the perfect continuation for Maddie and David and should forward it to Glenn Caron as soon as possible. Keep on entertaining us with your interesting stories!

Monika

Well, *Dream Sequence...* is my all-

time favorite episode, so this is an easy episode. Years ago, I had never seen anything like it on TV. And as I've gotten older, I see the nuances that made it brilliant. In this episode, I see the fate of Maddie and David, even though they never kill each other. Through their immense attraction towards one another, they can't get passed their insecurities. They both think they will be used and seduced by the other. I think David is a far better man than Zach, and Maddie is a far better woman than Rita, but still, they are both a combination of the characters in the first and second dreams.

Having said that, I always loved *Sleep Talkin' Guy* because I felt it was about Bruce's new fame and how he slowly slipped passed Cybill. I also thought it was a strong episode about friendship and how the character of David was never the sex-crazed womanizer he pretended to be. David Addison, in my opinion, was never the sexist that the media painted him to be...

North By North DiPesto is a great episode, not just a great Agnes episode. It's really funny and allows the audience to finally fall in love with Agnes. It didn't feel

like a filler episode...

As for *It's A Wonderful Job*, a very good episode, but not one of my favorites. I thought it was one of the first episodes to really make Maddie look unkind. She was a workaholic, but a kind person. I thought when McGillicuddy quits, she was just painted too harsh and the episode never redeems her. Why not an episode showing where David would be without Maddie? And does anyone apologize to Maddie when they find out her aunt died???

Anyway, those are my thoughts. What a great group of episodes to be under someone's belt!

Darla

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I love *It's A Wonderful Job*. I started a tradition last year that I watch this episode on Christmas. It is a very big episode for Maddie. After this, selling the agency, being without her friends, neglecting family, and not pursuing David is not an option. She realizes how much of an effect she has on people's lives. They may have become successful without her, but they were definitely not happy. My favorite part was the whole Christmas party scene. I can't even put it into words how much that scene means to me. I love Maddie's face when she realizes that it's Cheryl Tiegs and not her that will marry David. I also love David and Richie's talk outside with Maddie looking at David as he talked about her. Wow, I could go on forever about this episode. Debra and Carl did a

magnificent job!

Kelli

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North by North... is my fave. A great ep, even though Maddie and David are hardly in it! I love this episode because it has such a Cinderella feel to it. Agnes never has any excitement. Working day in, day out at the office and then she gets to dress up and meets the man of her dreams! I love how Maddie plays fairy godmother; the scary part where someone's chasing Agnes; the scene where she's at the ball and Barry Manilow's *Could It Be Magic* is playing; the scene at the hotel with the blond guy and the truth serum; the last scene with the laundry bags. I love the whole ep! *Sleep Talkin' Guy* is my second choice for how it shows us David's ego.

Gena

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Just read the preview of this interview. . . . I think her ideas for a reunion episode are fantastic! I hope GGC gets to take a gander at that one. . . . that would be the best way to handle a potential reunion and a refreshing change from the way other shows try to handle it. Of all your episodes, it's way too difficult to pick a favorite, they're all good and each one has some quality about it that I love, but I will rank them instead:

#1) Of course, this is easy: *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice* because it is so unique and clever. There are so many layers of

wonderful things happening in this episode that it HAS to be #1. The battle of the sexes as played by Maddie and David, which develop into the battle being played out from each character's perspective in a dream . . . but not just any dream . . . a highly stylized, musical, period piece that humorously satirizes relationships, the film noir detective genre, MGM musicals, and the eternal battle of the sexes....all centered cleverly on a 40 year old, unsolved mystery. Brilliant!!

#2) *Sleep Talkin' Guy*. This episode gets overlooked many times, but it is one of my guilty pleasures. It is definitely a send-up of Bruce's growing celebrity at the time, but more importantly, it's a wonderful episode for the development of David's character. . . . and in some ways, Maddie too. The audience gets to see that there is more to David than the glib, trash-talking, wolfhound exterior that he presents to the world. We also see Maddie privately reconsider her attitudes towards David . . . but we all know, that humorously changes in the end and unfortunately, for our heroes, neither one gets to see those private moments that might change their heart . . . but that's all part of the plan anyway.

#3) *It's A Wonderful Job*. Although this film has been parodied to death by every two-bit series that needed to come up with a holiday episode, I believe *Moonlighting* did a fairly decent job on this one. Maddie's character grows by leaps and bounds in this one with the assistance of her guardian angel. It's too

bad that there was never an opportunity to continue that direction with her character. Great humor and a good holiday treat.

#4) *North by North DiPesto*. This one is fun and I love to see Maddie and Agnes dropping their employer/employee facades and enjoying some girl-time while Maddie helps Agnes get gussied up for the ball. Although "Cinderella" doesn't keep her prince in this one, it's nice to see Agnes, the girl with the rose-colored gray matter, out from behind the reception desk. I love her innocence and cock-eyed perspective of the world.

Thanks to Debra and Carl for creating these wonderful stories.

-Vicki :0)

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Dear Debra,

Thank you so much for sharing with the fans some surprising details that went into writing some of the most acclaimed episodes of *Moonlighting*. My two favorites are *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice* and *Sleep Talkin' Guy*.

I never would have guessed that you and Carl Sautter would have had so much resistance pitching the premise of *Dream Sequence . . .* to various other television shows. But as we all now know, it was fate that you and Carl were supposed to write it for Glenn and *Moonlighting*. The episode received much critical praise and became a classic. So much for all those industry "experts."

I thought *Sleep Talkin' Guy* was one of the funniest episodes of the series. Just to name one of the funnier moments . . . I just loved how David comes into Maddie's office singing "Happy Anniversary" in celebration of working together for one year. He's all happy, breaking out the champagne, turning on the Addison charm – all a prelude for asking for a raise. When they each write down on a piece of paper what each think is the appropriate increase, they totally disagree (what a surprise).

I must also add that I do love the opening of *Somewhere Under the Rainbow* where Maddie and David discuss art. When she announces that she is going to the museum to see an exhibit on Gaugin, David replies "Gaugin? He's the guy who duked it out with Godzilla, right?" The other priceless line is "Nudes, right, nakes (naked) have staples in them."

I can go on and on.

Diana Maiocco

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Dear Ms. Frank,

I want to thank you for taking the time to talk with us. I loved every moment of your interview it was so great. My favorite episodes you wrote are *It's A Wonderful Job* and *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice*. These episodes are both masterpieces and can stand by themselves. My favorite moment in *It's A Wonderful Job* is when Maddie is out on the patio of her home. She is listening to David

talk about how much she means to him even after only having spent very little time with her. I think it is one of the most romantic moments of the whole series. My favorite moment in *Dream Sequence . . .* is when Maddie is singing Blue Moon and is smiling right at David. The double meaning of the song is so brilliant and so was the rest of that magnificent episode. I loved all your other episodes as well: *Sleep Talkin' Guy*, *Somewhere under The Rainbow*, *North By North Dipesto*, and *Tracks Of My Tears*. I thank you and Mr. Sautter for these wonderful episodes you brought us and we still treasure.

Sincerely  
Joy Chodan

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Dear Debra Frank,

I want to thank you for writing some of the most memorable television episodes I've ever seen. I can still remember when I first saw Orson Welles explaining what is going to happen during the episode. When he said my TV screen will change to black and white, I couldn't wait to see it. I found it pretty interesting because black and white movies were being colorized and I was seeing an episode that's going to strip all of its color.

When Zack kissed Rita in Maddie's dream for the first time, I remember thinking, "Why couldn't this happen to them for real?" I liked David's dream the best. It's steamier and it's very funny. It really captured

his personality. It also let us see Maddie in a different way. Cybill should have won the Emmy based on this episode alone! I loved when she performed, *I Told Ya I Love Ya, Now Get Out*. Rita behaved in a way us fans wished Maddie would act, especially to David, once in a while. *Dream Sequence . . .* was a great platform to show Maddie and David's passion and fears for one another without either of them knowing about it.

Another great episode is *It's A Wonderful Job*. One of the best scenes for me is when Albert takes Maddie and they check up to see how Agnes is doing. Maddie realizes Agnes is acting like her. Then, when Maddie sees how Agnes is treating Bert, she exclaimed to Agnes that she and Bert love each other, they just don't know it yet and urges Agnes to tell Bert that she loves him. It's almost as if Maddie is

saying, "Don't make the same mistake I did with David."

Another great scene is when Albert takes Maddie to her house and finds out she sold it to David. I loved her reaction when she sees David's fiancée is Cheryl Tiegs, not her. I also loved when David told Richie how much he admired Maddie and felt she had warmth, she was very touched. It showed how much of an impact she had on him after meeting him the first time. Yes, he did go on with his plans to marry Cheryl Tiegs, but for some reason, I believe Cheryl was a substitute for the woman he really wanted, Maddie, of course.

I also enjoyed *Somewhere Under The Rainbow* very much. I thought it was great to have a story based on a person who thought she was a Leprechaun. It not the usual storyline for a television show. It was a

great way to introduce David's openness to what is unexplained and Maddie's skepticism of anything without seeing concrete evidence. This episode served as a prelude to their discussion about believing in God (*In God We Strongly Suspect*).

I truly appreciate your and Carl Sautter's ability to bring Maddie and David to life through these magnificent episodes. Thank you for helping to make *Moonlighting* great.

Sincerely,
Christie Taylor

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Dear Ms. Frank,

Thanks a lot for doing this nice interview! I love the episodes you wrote - great storylines and great writers for the best series ever!

Karin

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ML FANLISTING!**

Adina has created a Moonlighting fan listing site for everyone to enjoy. Variety truly is the spice of life and we urge people to join!

**[HTTP://MLFANS.CJB.NET](http://MLFANS.CJB.NET)**

**Read  
Moonlighting  
Strangers.**

**We don't dwell on the past.  
We create in the present  
to make things happen for  
the future.**