MIDWEEK CHECK IN - JLO'S IN TIGHT PANTS, LESTER PLAYS COWARD IN FARGO

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Let's check in to see what happened on TV at the beginning of the week (Monday and Tuesday). Here we go:

Monday

Masterchef (FOX)

"Top 20 Compete"

For the first team challenge, the cooks are brought out into the desert into the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. Not soon after they reach, there are army helicopters, tanks and trucks coming towards them in the distance. The judges emerge from one of the trucks. Since Francis B won the last challenge, he's a team leader and gets to pick his team. Whoever was left behind formed the Blue team. Daniel was chosen as the team captain.

The teams are tasked to cook for 500 hungry soldiers, double the biggest challenge they've ever had in Masterchef history. The Red Team immediately knows what they're cooking – pork. The Blue Team on the other hand is having a little trouble with what to cook. Everybody except one wants to cook chicken (the lone cook wanted to cook steak, because it would have been better to cook than the chicken). They have problems with the chicken. They're not cooking all the way through. Meanwhile, the Red Team is having problems with their mac and cheese. Not only that, they've been serving raw pork. Back to the drawing board (with hundreds of hungry, waiting soldiers).



The cooks cook for 500 soldiers, the biggest challenge in the history of the show. (zap2it.com)

With the suggestion of Ramsay to butterfly the pork chops, the Red team is somewhat redeemed. I said somewhat because they missed some plates/votes that were waiting and couldn't wait any longer. So they decided to just go with the Blue Team. But how were they redeemed? Whoever got the modified pork loved it, and that solidified the win for the team. Now the Blue Team has to go into the pressure test. But three had the chance to sit it out: Christian, Gordon, and Dan. The Challenge? Baking a phenomenal blueberry pie.

Safe: Courtney, Leslie, Jaimee, Daniel, and Jordan

Bottom Two: Elise and Stephani

Eliminated: Stephani

24: Live Another Day (FOX)

"Day 9: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm"

Simone is not dead and the police are on the scene. They quickly learn from Farah's daughter, Yasmin, that Simone killed her mother. Meanwhile Jack is trying to find anything useful in the warehouse in the aftermath. Chloe tells him about Simone's status, that she's on her way to the hospital and the police are involved. But during the call, Chloe realizes the police are on their way into her building. She has to go. Jack calls Heller to tell

him the development and wants full access to Simone once he gets to the hospital. Heller is not pleased with Prime Minister Davies' interference with the operation. Davies makes him know that he only interfered because he couldn't trust in Heller's deteriorating health, but Heller makes it clear that if his health is going to jeopardize someone's life, he'll resign immediately. Margot has a man in the hospital who will try to find out if Simone took care of Farah and Yasmin, and if anybody knows who she is.

Navarro gets a call from the mysterious boss who warns him that Jordan is still looking into the missing information from Kate's husband's case. The boss is none other than Adrian Cross, Chloe's hacker partner. Surprise, surprise. The plot thickens. He tells Navarro to deal with the situation. "You're being well paid." He sends Jordan into the field to "pick up a package".



Navarro send Jordan to pick up a "package". (edna.cz)

Kate finds out from little Yasmin that Simone killed her mother, but not before warning them to get out of London. She also shows Kate the connection between her and Margot – Simone is Naveed's wife. Yasmin is not very forgiving. She tells Kate she hopes Simone dies. Kareem overhears the conversation and calls Margot with the

information, telling her that Simone was warning Farah to leave. Margot, being mother of the year, decides to blow up the hospital with Simone in it using one of the drones.

"She betrayed me once. I won't let her do it again."

Jack is face to face with Simone asking her about Margot's whereabouts. Simone won't give up the information, but Jack being, well...Jack, squeezes the stub where her little finger use to be and she passes out. That's always been my pet peeve with Jack. How are you going to get the info you need if you kill your perps? Huh Jack? Huh? Anyway, he sees the suspicious Kareem in the hallway and realizes right away that he's not right. A shoot out in the hospital ends up with Kareem being shot dead by the police before jack could get anything from him. Margot and lan are on point with the drone that's zoned in on the hospital, and send a missile straight into the building. Her plan is thwarted, however, when the hospital is evacuated in time (although there are people who lost limbs), but they have their sights set on Simone, Jack and Kate, and attempt to blow up the car they're going into. They miss, but get ready to try again.



Margot and Ian try to zero in on Simone. (FOX)

Jack is now on frantically trying to dodge the missiles...bobbing and weaving through traffic, while the missiles miss their target. Margot and Ian miss them again and are only down to one missile. They have to make the best choice possible. Jack commandeers a car (by punching the poor driver halfway to hell) and they get a little

reprieve under a bridge. They get another car and Jack lets the empty car (the previous one) drive off into Margot and Ian's view. They're fooled and Ian shoots off a missile into it. When Margo inspects the video again, they realize that it was empty. Another plan foiled.

Jordan gets to the package "drop site" and is shot, by an assassin who looks like it's his first day on the job. Did they get him from Craigslist? 'Cause Jordan didn't die. And he's looking kinda unsure.

The Russian diplomat meets with Boudreau and is still demanding that he hands Jack over to the Russian government. But the diplomat is no fool, he knows that Boudreau is hesitating because he forged Heller's signature. Boudreau wants him to give him time to get things together. When Jack serves his purpose, he'll hand him over. The Russian expects him to keep his word.

Heller calls Margot without anyone knowing. He plans to turn himself in to her.

The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon (NBC)

Guests: Clint Eastwood, Jack White

Before Fallon spoke to his guests, a little tight pants competition went on between characters played by Jennifer Lopez and Fallon. Lopez was surprisingly funny in this little skit, and Fallon had to give her the "Tight Pants" crown of the town.

Clint Eastwood stopped by to talk about his latest directed movie, Jersey Boys, based on the critically acclaimed Broadway musical of the same name. They talk about the authenticity of the movie, and also about life and times in New Jersey (and New York) in the 1960's.

Jack White talks about his latest album, "Lazaretto", and mentioned the many new innovations the vinyl has.

He performs his title song, "Lazaretto".



Jennifer Lopez says she has the tightest pants in the town. (NBC)

Tuesday

Fargo (FX)

"A Fox, a Rabbit and a Cabbage"

Malvo now seems to be a dentist in Kansas City (Missouri) with a very lucrative business. A very friendly one too. And he's now in a relationship. Not only that, he's engaged. What a year. He's close to his dental practice partner as well, even talking to each other about their sexual exploits with their wives. Alrighty. But during a conversation, his associate tells him that his brother is in the witness protection program. Oh, THAT'S why he's in Missouri. Never see smoke without fire.

So now we get to Las Vegas and are brought back to the end of last week's episode. Lester foolishly goes up to Malvo while he's drinking with his fiance and friends. Malvo pretends to not know him. But he clearly does.

"Walk away."

Lester is feeling a bit invincible (and frankly a bit stupid) and follows Malvo and the rest of his party into the elevator, wanting to assert himself. Malvo asks, "Is this what you want? Yes or no." Lester, too big for his britches, forgets what kind of man Malvo is and gives a firm "Yes". Malvo, taking him up on it, pulls out his gun and kills his fiance, his associate and his associate's wife. Lester is of course flustered and when he gets the chance, hits Malvo over the head with his "Salesman of the Year" award, but Malvo doesn't go down. He runs to his room and wakes his wife, hurriedly packing clothes, telling Linda to get dressed. They leave Vegas.



"Is this what you want?" (fansided.com)

Agents Budge and Pepper are shooting the breeze in the filing room when another agent comes in asking for the file on the Syndicate massacre. They are interested (they were working on the case) and gets the person who's repeatedly calling about the case (must have been Molly). They're heading to Bemidji.

Molly and Gus are settling in nicely into their family as they're having breakfast with her father, Lou, and Greta. She gets a call about the killing in the elevator in Vegas. She's perplexed why they'd call her about a case there, but she's shocked to hear who the witness is...Lester Nygaard.

Lester is trying to convince Linda that everything is OK, and them hurrying out of Vegas is nothing to worry about. They talk about taking a trip to Acapulco. But he keeps looking over his shoulder, expecting to see Malvo pop up at any time. Paranoia levels are through the roof. He goes to the basement for a gun and was heading outside...no idea where he was planning to go. But as he's opening the door, he sees Molly standing there, wanting to ask him questions about the murders in Vegas. He's tells her he has no time, but Linda is accommodating, much to Lester's annoyance. Meanwhile, Gus is out delivering mail and glimpses Malvo in a car as it passes him by. So Malvo is in Bemidji.

He's looking for Lester and goes to his old house. He realizes Lester moved, but he doesn't leave before scaring the family with stories of the double murder in the house. For NO reason at all. Molly is questioning Lester about that night, and of course he lies through his teeth. Molly asks about his last minute flight change in the middle of the night and Linda lies for him. I guess she had a feeling that something wasn't right and wanted to protect Lester. Molly is done with the questioning for now, but tells them not to leave town. Budge and Pepper desperately want to talk to her.



Bill

(center) tries to apologize to agents Budge and Pepper for Molly's persistence, but they're impressed with her efforts. (zap2it.com)

Malvo is in Lou's diner with a kind of an eerie vibe. He asks him about Lester's whereabouts, but being a former cop, Lou kinda feels Malvo out and realizes he's up to something. There is a kind of tension between Malvo and her father. But I'm relieved when the conversation ends and Malvo walks out of the diner, JUST missing Molly who happens to walk into the diner through the back door. Timing is set up in such a way that Budge and Pepper narrowly miss Malvo as well in the parking lot. They talk to Molly a little about the case. Back at the station, the agents are thoroughly impressed by Molly's evidence and commend her. Bill is feeling a bit crunchy about the whole thing. The agents want to stay in Bemidji to investigate more.

Lester prints out information for Acapulco anyway, but he has to stop at his office first for the tickets. The coward lets his wife go into the dimly lit office for the tickets and some money, telling her he "tweaked his back". He tells her to pull her hood over her face. "I wouldn't want your pretty face to freeze." She walks in with Lester watching her from outside in his car. Just when you think she's safe, Malvo comes up behind her and shoots her in the head. He hides in the darkness in the car, and breathes a sigh of relief when Malvo doesn't see him. A sigh of relief as his wife is dead inside on the floor.

What a guy.



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