

From The Adventures of Celery King And Mickie Mint. . .

Part One of the Tufftown Trilogy

THE DARK LETTER

An Original Screenplay

by

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THIRD DRAFT-REVISED

"THE DARK LETTER"

**SCRIPT EXCERPT BEGINS ON THE  
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(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MICKIE

Because of the letter murders.

JAKE

Not exactly. Elwood here mistook  
Mrs. O's children for doughnuts and  
almost ate one of them.

CELERY AND MICKIE

Oh.

ELWOOD

How was I supposed to know?

MICKIE

We'll take care of it.

Celery walks away.

JAKE

Thanks, Minnie.

MICKIE

My name is Mickie.

She walks away. Elwood holds a box of doughnuts, looking at  
it suspiciously. Jake snatches it and marches him away.

INT. CELERY AND MICKIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mickie closes the door in Jake and Elwood's faces as Celery  
walks toward the desk, where MRS. O and the siamese U TWINS  
pace to one side. The letters rush to Celery. Mickie sits  
nearby.

MRS. O AND U TWINS

(overlapping)

Oh, good, you're here. Celery!  
Celery! You've gotta help us!

CELERY

Everything's going to be okay.

MRS. O

What are we going to do? This town  
just isn't safe anymore.

U TWIN #1

Like it was ever safe, lady.

U TWIN #2

You be quiet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

U TWIN #1  
No, you be quiet.

U TWINS  
(back and forth)  
You be quiet! You be quiet! You!  
You! You! You!

CELERY  
All right, you guys!

The vowels quiet down. Celery squats beside them.

CELERY (cont'd)  
We'll bring this killer to justice.  
You have my word on it.

MRS. O  
We know you'll come through for us,  
Celery. You always have.  
(to U Twins)  
Let's go, boys. See ya', Celery.  
Bye, Minnie.

Mickie opens the door as the letters leave. The Clues Brothers stand outside.

U TWINS  
(in unison)  
Bye, Minnie.

MICKIE  
(to the Clues Brothers,  
seething)  
Boys. Take these letters home. And  
I want you to find Miss I.

ELWOOD  
We're on it, Minnie...

Jake slaps his hand over Elwood's mouth...too late. Mickie stares coldly as they close the door. As she turns, we see (against the door's glass) Jake's shadow smacking Elwood's upside the head.

MICKIE  
The next person to call me  
Minnie...  
(to Celery)  
I think Miss I's the next victim.

She walks to a kindergarten display of the alphabet on a nearby wall. The "A" is crossed out. She crosses out the "E".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CELERY  
But who's the killer?

MICKIE  
Good question. Who has the most to  
gain by killing off vowels?

CELERY  
Why?

MICKIE  
What did you say?

CELERY  
Why? Why would anyone want to  
kill...vowels?

Mickie looks at the display...then Celery...then the display  
again.

MICKIE  
Celery. How many vowels are there?

CELERY  
Huh? That's the stupidest question  
I ever heard in my life. Mickie.  
Five. A, E, I, O, and U. Wait a  
minute. And sometimes...

It dawns on him. Mickie nods, knowing.

CELERY AND MICKIE  
...And sometimes...Y!

MICKIE  
Looks like we've been forgetting  
someone. Only an occasional  
vowel...

CELERY  
...And next to last in a long line  
of letters. Our killer?

MICKIE  
And I think I know the motive. If  
only we could find Miss...

Elwood Clues bursts in with a newspaper.

ELWOOD  
We found her. Miss I's a singer  
down at the Club Ditz. She's there  
now. Look!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Celery grabs the paper. The entertainment page displays a picture ad of MISS DOTTIE I singing at the Club Ditz.

CELERY  
Let's book!

EXT. CLUB DITZ NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The marquee of the Club Ditz proclaims, "Miss Dottie I--LIVE TONIGHT ONLY". A SINGING WOMAN'S VOICE comes from inside.

A car screeches to a halt in front of the club. Celery and Mickie hop out and race inside.

INT. CLUB DITZ NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Celery and Mickie rush into the spacious club. Patrons fill the room. Some sit in front of the stage where MISS I stands singing. Waiters go from table to table.

Celery and Mickie scan the crowd. Mickie spots MR. Y on the other side of the club near a doorway. She grabs Celery and points. They push forward.

The door opens and a uniformed police officer exits. The "Y" stops...and turns around. Celery and Mickie rush up, showing their badges.

CELERY  
Detectives King and Mint, Tufftown  
Police. We'd like to ask you a few  
questions.

Y  
Why?

MICKIE  
Would you mind coming with us?

Y  
Why not?

The "Y" runs for it, bowling over Celery and Mickie. In an instant, he's out the nearest door. Celery and Mickie hurry off in pursuit.