

The Case of the Disappearing Plants

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An 80-year-old detective experiences ageism on a daily basis. But with age come experience, wisdom, and a feisty attitude.

Someone was purloining indoor plants at Whispering Love Assisted Living Center. Joey knew it was up to her to find the culprit. She had her suspicions.

Myrna was not allowing visitors into her room lately. Was she hoarding the plants in there?

The security guard, Stan, had a cousin with a garden center. Was he pilfering to add free inventory?

Mrs. Taper, who served in the dining room, had become a vegan, whatever that meant. Perhaps she was eating the plants?

Joey convinced her friend Eleanor to let her borrow the prized aloe vera that her granddaughter had grown for her. A trap needed to be set. Joey placed the plant on the windowsill at the end of a hallway near a fire emergency exit.

She settled herself on the other side of the exit door, making sure it was open a slit. Her pockets were lined with root beer barrels, cough drops, a bottle of water, and an AARP magazine to keep her satiated during surveillance.

Soon Joey heard a noise. Peeking through the crack, she saw an approaching wheelchair. Hands then reached for the aloe and deftly hid it under a voluminous caftan.

Astoundingly, it was Joey's friend Julia! As Julia escaped down the hall, Joey followed until the culprit entered an elevator.

Courageously, Joey entered as well. Confronting the suspect, Joey demanded, "Why are you taking the plants?"

Julia calmly replied, "I'm just borrowing them to use as background for my new video podcast called *Julia Dishes the Dirt*. Podcasts are a great way for self-promotion these days, Joey."

Joey thought a podcast on how to be a great detective sounded better. Case closed.