

"ALIAS CINDERELLA"

A Dick Shamus Mystery

Written by

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(Cold opening)

SHAMUS

After two weeks on stakeout, I was looking forward to a little R and R. That would be Rhonda and Rosalie. But dream was soon ended when Effie, my long suffering secretary, told me there was a member of the royal family waiting to see me.

LACKEY

Presenting his royal highness, Prince Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan Milford Anthony Phillip William... again...

SHAMUS

Was there a name this guy didn't have?

LACKEY

Albert Constantine Charming. Prince of Lyman on Twill, Hutchings on Vetch, Twicky on Guss, Ham on Rye and the answer to every woman's prayer.

SHAMUS

Ain't we all.

PRINCE

Thank you, Lumpy.

LACKEY

Lackey, sir. It's Lackey.

PRINCE

I gather by the lettering on that shabby door in that shabby hall outside this shabby office, that you are Shamus.

SHAMUS

At least, the guy could read. More than you can say for most of these inbreds.

PRINCE

I am told that you are very good at finding things.

SHAMUS

You were told right.

PRINCE

Good. I want you to find a girl.

SHAMUS

This ain't a dating service, Prince.

PRINCE

I want you to find a missing girl.

SHAMUS

This missing girl have a name?

PRINCE

I'm sure she does.

SHAMUS

But you don't know what it is. Okay, then, know where she lives?

PRINCE

No idea.

SHAMUS

A real fountain of information, ain't ya?. Can you give me anything?

PRINCE

Lindy, the shoe.

LACKEY

Lackey, sir. It's Lackey.

PRINCE

Of course it is. The shoe.

SHAMUS

A shoe? That's all you got? A shoe?

PRINCE

Not just any shoe, Mr. Shamus.

SHAMUS

The prince was right about that. It wasn't just any shoe. It was...

(dramatically)

... a glass slipper.

(Dramatic music sting followed by upbeat adventure music.)

ANNOUNCER

From the files of the Fictional Bureau of Investigation, it's "The Adventures of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective." Tonight's episode "Alias Cinderella"

(Music out)

SHAMUS

Tell you what prince, why don't you tell me the whole story. And don't leave out any details.

PRINCE

It happened the night before last. I'd thrown a big costume ball at the palace. Everyone who was anyone was there.

SHAMUS

I wasn't.

PRINCE

Yes. Like I said, everyone was anyone.

SHAMUS

Tell me more.

PRINCE

Across the room my eyes came to rest on this vision in white. She was sweet, lovely, innocent. So I did what any self respecting prince would do.

SHAMUS

I can't wait.

PRINCE

I sent Lumpy here...

LACKEY

That's Lackey, sir. Lackey.

PRINCE

I sent him over to make the introductions.

LACKEY

Presenting his royal highness Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan..

SHAMUS

I get it. I get it.

PRINCE

I asked the young lady if she would like to dance. She agreed. We talked. We danced. We smiled. We danced... We laughed. We...

SHAMUS

Can we move this along before it turns into an episode of "Dancing With The Stars?"

PRINCE

The clock began to chime out the midnight hour.

LACKEY

Bong...bong...bong...

SHAMUS

You can lose the sound effects, Lumpy.

LACKEY

Lackey. That's Lackey.

PRINCE

And then for no apparent reason I could discern she took off like a bat out of you know where.

SHAMUS

That's it?

PRINCE

That's it. When I raced after her, the only left behind was this glass slipper.

SHAMUS

That's one helluva shoe, Prince.

PRINCE

She was one helluva girl.

SHAMUS

Can you describe her? What did she look like?

PRINCE

Aside from possessing shoulders carved from the finest alabaster, a smile as fresh as a morning sunrise and a body like a brick pagoda, I couldn't say.

SHAMUS

What do you mean, you couldn't say?

PRINCE

I couldn't say. She was wearing a mask.

SHAMUS

A mask? Was she that ugly?

PRINCE

We were all wearing masks. It was a masked ball. You don't get out much, do you Mr. Shamus?

SHAMUS

You're not giving me much to go on Prince.

PRINCE

If I had anything to go on, I wouldn't need you, would I?

SHAMUS

Missing dames ain't usually my specialty.

PRINCE

I'll pay you handsomely. Lampley, the gold.

LACKEY

That's Lackey, sir. Lackey.

PRINCE

Just give him the gold. I believe this will more than make up for you reticence, sir.

SHAMUS

That's a lotta lettuce.

PRINCE

She's a lotta girl. Can I count on you Mr. Shamus?

SHAMUS

I'll see what I can do.

PRINCE

And I trust I can count on your discretion? If word ever got out I was searching for a girl, every young woman in the kingdom with shoulders carved from the finest alabaster, a smile as fresh as a morning sunrise and a body like a brick pagoda, would be lining up outside the castle gate offering who knows what for a chance to fit into that shoe.

SHAMUS

And we wouldn't want that, would we Prince?

PRINCE

It's not easy being me, Mr. Shamus. Let me know the minute you find her. I'm counting on you, Mr. Shamus. I'm counting on you.

(Footsteps. Door opening, door closing. Musical transition)

SHAMUS

There was something about this case that didn't smell right. It happens that way with some cases. There are some things the client tells you and then there are things the client doesn't tell you. Usually the things they don't tell you are
(MORE)

SHAMUS (cont'd)
 more important than the things they do tell you. The only
 problem is... they didn't tell you.
 (calls out)

Effie.

PRINCE
 Yeah, boss?

SHAMUS
 You're a girl.

EFFIE
 It's been a long time since I was a "girl."

SHAMUS
 Be that as it may, what can you tell me about this shoe?

EFFIE
 It's expensive. I can tell you that.

SHAMUS
 How expensive is expensive?

EFFIE
 With what you pay me, I could live for a year on what this
 one shoe costs.

SHAMUS
 How can you tell?

EFFIE
 Like you said. I'm a "girl." Besides, this shoe was made by
 Manolo Gepetto. Says so right here. See? They don't pop
 these out like gum balls. Every one is custom made.

SHAMUS
 Do me a favor, see what you can dig up on this Gepetto
 character.

EFFIE
 What are you gonna do?

SHAMUS
 See if I can find the dame that fits this shoe.

(Musical transition)

SHAMUS
 The girl I was looking for had shoulders carved from the
 finest alabaster, a smile like a morning sunrise and a body
 like a brick pagoda. I decided to start with the brick
 pagoda. Excuse me.

WOMAN
Yes?

SHAMUS
How would you like to be princess?

MAN
Take it from me, pal. She's already a princess. C'mon Sheila.

SHAMUS
Excuse me, toots.

WOMAN #2
Yes, what is it?

SHAMUS
Would you mind trying on this shoe for me?

WOMAN #2
That's a Manolo Gepetto isn't it?

SHAMUS
Yes, it is.

WOMAN #2
I'd love to.

SHAMUS
Here let me help you slip it on.

WOMAN #2
Oh, thank you.

SHAMUS
Say, you ever dance at Big Eddie's over on the southside?

WOMAN #2
No.

SHAMUS
You sure? I never forget a great set of gams.

EFFIE
Boss. Oh, there you are. I'm glad I found you.

SHAMUS
Hold on a sec. I'm busy here.

EFFIE
Busy or just tryin' to get busy.

SHAMUS

Okay, okay. Sorry honey hips, duty calls. But, if you ever decide you wanna take a trip to the moon on gossamer wings, I'm in the book under "Trips to the moon on gossamer wings".

WOMAN #2

I'll keep that in mind.

SHAMUS

So, what'd you find out?

EFFIE

Manolo Gepetto. Makes one of a kind women's shoes and handbags. Says here he makes women's fantasies come true.

SHAMUS

What kind of fantasies?

EFFIE

What else? One a kind shoes and handbags.

(Transitional Music)

SHAMUS

When I got to Gepetto's workshop it turned out he wasn't in. Instead, I ran into a kid who was long on attitude with a nose to match. Hey you. Cyrano.

PINNOCHIO

A wise guy. What do you want, wise guy?

SHAMUS

A little information.

PINNOCHIO

You come to the right place. I got as little as you need.

SHAMUS

I'm looking for Manolo Gepetto. Is he around?

PINNOCHIO

Who wants to know?

SHAMUS

The name's Shamus. Dick Shamus. I work for the F.B.I.

PINNOCHIO

The F.B.I.?

SHAMUS

The Fictional Bureau of Investigation. I handle the toughest, dirtiest cases in English literature.

PINNOCHIO

You mean..?

SHAMUS

That's right, I'm a fictional detective. Gepetto around?

PINNOCHIO

Never heard of him.

SHAMUS

You're lying kid. I don't know why you're lying, but you're lying. It's as plain as the nose on your face.

PINNOCHIO

Sure, sure. Okay, so you figured it out. Pin a rose on you.

SHAMUS

I had no idea what the kid was talking about.

PINNOCHIO

You think it's easy walking around with a lie detector in the middle of your face? It's a curse, man. How'd you like it if every time you told a lie, your nose grew an inch? It sucks, man.

SHAMUS

I bet.

PINNOCHIO

Especially when it comes to women.

SHAMUS

Dames can be a little "selective" when it comes to a guy's mug.

PINNOCHIO

That's not it. It's later. At first, it's all "You're so honest. So different from all the others guys I've dated." But it's always out there.

SHAMUS

The question.

PINNOCHIO

You got it, my man. The question. It's like this giant boulder that starts rolling right at you as soon as things start to get serious. And it just keeps rolling and rolling and rolling.

SHAMUS

Getting bigger and bigger.

PINNOCHIO

Every other guy in the world can fake his way through it by lying through his teeth. But not me. Not when she finally asks...

SHAMUS

The unanswerable question.

PINNOCHIO

Does this dress make me look fat?

SHAMUS

It's gotta be rough. I feel for you my friend. Nothin'll kill a relationship faster than the truth.

PINNOCHIO

Thanks for understanding. You're alright. What do you need?

SHAMUS

Recognize this shoe?

PINNOCHIO

It's one of ours. I made it myself.

SHAMUS

Who'd you make it for?

PINNOCHIO

Some woman called herself Lisa Condo came in a coupla months ago with this very hot young chick.

SHAMUS

How would you describe her?

PINNOCHIO

Like I said. Very hot.

SHAMUS

I mean the woman.

PINNOCHIO

Imagine the Wicked Witch of the West, minus the charm.

(Transitional music. Door opening)

EFFIE

Oh, hi boss.

SHAMUS

Were you able to find anything on that Lisa Condo dame?

EFFIE

Sells real estate on the West Side. Got a rap sheet as long as your... well, let's just say your arm.

SHAMUS

What kind of rap sheet?

EFFIE

You name it. Mail fraud, wire fraud, securities fraud, insurance fraud, bond fraud, check fraud, credit card fraud, medical fraud, online fraud, off line fraud, defensive line fraud and just plain old fashioned fraud fraud.

SHAMUS

Busy girl.

EFFIE

She's also got a list of aliases as long as your... Well, let's just say your arm. Ginger Snap, Helen Troy, Barbara Seville, Carrie Baggs, Isabell Ringing, Marsha Mellow, Anne Teak, May Day, and Anna Reksic.

(Dramatic music sting)

SHAMUS

Did you say Anna Reksic?

(Dramatic music sting)

EFFIE

That's what I said. Anna Reksic.

SHAMUS

That's what I thought you said.

EFFIE

Then why did you make me repeat it?

SHAMUS

Dramatic effect.

(Dramatic music sting)

EFFIE

She an old friend of yours?

SHAMUS

If you wanna call someone who once tried to put a shiv in your back, an old friend.

*(Musical transition. Doorbell.
Door opening)*

LISA

Well, well, well. If it isn't Dick Shamus, fictional dick.
How's tricks, Shamus?

SHAMUS

Can't complain. How about you Anna? Or is it Lisa, now?

LISA

Take your pick.

SHAMUS

Miss me?

LISA

The only time I missed you was when my gun jammed. So, do
what do I owe this visit?

SHAMUS

Recognize this shoe?

LISA

Should I?

SHAMUS

You ordered it. Special.

LISA

I order a lot of things. You should see my Amazon bill.

SHAMUS

You had this one custom made and another one just like it.

LISA

I ordered two right shoes? I don't think so.

SHAMUS

Well, not just like it. For the other foot.

LISA

In that case, thanks for returning it.

SHAMUS

This wasn't made for you.

LISA

What makes you say that?

SHAMUS

It's a petite. That's French for you couldn't wedge this on
your foot with a block and tackle. Where's the girl?

LISA

What girl?

SHAMUS

The girl who goes with this shoe.

LISA

If you insist.

(calls out)

Ursulala.

URSULALA

(man faking high
female voice)

You called, stepmommy?

LISA

This is my stepdaughter, Ursulala. She's my fourth husband's fifth daughter. Or is it my fifth husband's fourth daughter? It's so hard to keep track these days.

SHAMUS

Nice try Lisa. But the girl I'm looking for possesses shoulders carved from the finest alabaster, a smile as fresh as a morning sunrise and a body like a brick pagoda. From where I stand Ursulala, here, is batting oh for three.

URSULALA

Oh mommy. That man is so mean.

LISA

It's okay, honey You can go to your room now. Stepmommy and Mr. Shamus have some business to discuss.

URSULALA

Yes, stepmommy.

SHAMUS

Okay, Lisa, what's the scam?

LISA

I'm just a hard working single mom trying to sell a little real estate. Perhaps I could interest you in a two bedroom apartment, completely refurbished, granite counter tops, fresh paint, new appliances, four tennis courts, three pools, two parking spaces and...?

SHAMUS

The only thing you're selling sweetheart is smoke and mirrors.

LISA

Oh. Then you've seen the place.

SHAMUS

You got something up your sleeve Lisa and sooner or later I'm gonna find out what it is.

LISA

If you wanna look up my sleeve Shamus, it's gonna cost you, at the very least, dinner and a movie.

(Transitional music)

SHAMUS

There were definitely two sides to this case. One was down and one was up. The downside? I was getting nowhere. The upside? I was getting there fast. But, what I didn't expect was the unexpected turn the case was about to take. That's the trouble with unexpected turns. They come when you least expect them.

(Door opening)

EFFIE

Hi boss... There's someone waiting for you.

SHAMUS

Anybody I know?

EFFIE

More like somebody you're gonna wanna know.

(Door opening)

CINDERELLA

*(sweet, syrupy
southern, girlish
accent)*

Are you Mistah Shamus?

SHAMUS

I'm Shamus. And who might you be?

CINDERELLA

I'm the girl you've been looking for.

SHAMUS

All my life or just recently?

CINDERELLA

The one the prince wants you to find.

SHAMUS

I've had a lot of applicants lately who think they can fill the shoe.

CINDERELLA

Shall we try?

SHAMUS

She extended a leg that would have gone on forever if it didn't have a foot attached to it.

CINDERELLA

Well, what do you think, Mistah Shamus?

SHAMUS

You don't want to know what I think.

CINDERELLA

I meant the shoe.

SHAMUS

Perfect fit. The prince is gonna be happy to see you again.

CINDERELLA

Oh no, Mr. Shamus. You musn't tell him. No, no, no. That's what I came to tell you. You mustn't keep lookin' for me. And you mustn't tell my wicked, wicked stepmother either.

SHAMUS

Wicked stepmother.

CINDERELLA

Wicked, wicked stepmother.

SHAMUS

Wicked, wicked stepmother?

CINDERELLA

Lisa Condo.

SHAMUS

Lisa Condo is your stepmother?

CINDERELLA

I'm her eighth husband's seventh daughter. Or her seventh husband's eighth daughter. Oh, fiddly dee, it's also so confusing for a poor little girl like me. If she found out I was talking to you, I shudder to think what she might do.

SHAMUS

Tell me everything, sweet knees.

CINDERELLA

It was all her idea. She made me do it.

SHAMUS

Made you do what?

CINDERELLA

She made me wear that form fitting ball gown by Donatella Versace. And the twenty carat, one a kind, diamond necklace with matching ear rings from Bulgari as well as the custom made shoes by Manolo Gepetto. It was awful Mr. Thyme. Just awful.

SHAMUS

I can imagine. What dame wants to go a fancy dress ball at the royal palace looking like Margot Robbie? It must have been torture. But why go to all the trouble?

CINDERELLA

She called it "baiting the hook."

SHAMUS

I'm guessing Prince Charming was the big fish she was out to land.

CINDERELLA

She said you were the cleverest man she'd ever met.

SHAMUS

For once in her life she was straight. Why'd you run away when you had the fish on the line?

CINDERELLA

That was part of the plan. Just engaging the prince for a night wasn't enough. It's just so embarrassing to even think about it.

SHAMUS

Please, go on.

CINDERELLA

Lisa wanted to pull him in deeper. Reel him into the boat, I think is how she put it. That's why I ran, Mr. Shamus, so he'd follow me and rescue me and marry me and...

SHAMUS

You'd both live happily ever after.

CINDERELLA

Oh, no, Mr. Shamus. Marry me, yes. But just so my wicked, wicked stepmother could move into the palace and drain the treasury dry. She was the one who was going to live happily ever after. She's wicked my stepmother. Wicked. She treats me mean terrible, Mr. Shamus. You should definitely do something about her before she makes some other poor, innocent girl do terrible, terrible things.

SHAMUS

Count on it. What are you going to do?

CINDERELLA

I am leaving Mr. Shamus. Leavin' for good. Goin' far, far away where no one will ever see me again.

SHAMUS

I could talk to the Prince. He seemed mighty interested.

CINDERELLA

Oh, no, Mr. Shamus. That wouldn't be fair to the Prince. Me not bein' who he thinks I am.

SHAMUS

Take it from me. He wouldn't care if you told him you we're Tilly from Hoboken. And he's still a prince.

CINDERELLA

Rich or poor, it doesn't matter. I just want a man to love me for who I am. Just a sweet, innocent girl with shoulders carved from the finest alabaster, a smile like a morning sunrise and a body like a brick pagoda.

SHAMUS

Where will you go?

CINDERELLA

Where I can be free. Free from wearin' rags, and scrubbin' floors and goin' to bed without my supper. As God is my witness, Mr. Shamus, I will nevah be hungry again.

SHAMUS

At least tell me your name.

CINDERELLA

O'Hara... Katie Cinderella O'Hara.

(Door closing)

SHAMUS

And with that she was gone. Gone with the wind. It was time to break the news to the Prince. Or so I thought. But unexpected turns have ways of turning up unexpectedly and this turn was really unexpected which would explain why I didn't expect it.

MAN

(struggling to speak)

Sham... Shamus...

(Body falling with a thud)

EFFIE

Boss, are you alright? He just pushed his way past me. I couldn't stop him.

SHAMUS
It's okay.

EFFIE
He's dead, isn't he?

SHAMUS
Either that or he's really good at holding his breath.

EFFIE
Murdered.

SHAMUS
What makes you think that?

EFFIE
For one thing, the knife in his back. Who is he?

SHAMUS
Ursulala.

EFFIE
Who?

SHAMUS
Lisa Condo's ugly stepdaughter.

EFFIE
I'll give you ugly. But that's no stepdaughter.

SHAMUS
I know this guy. He's part time muscle, sometime enforcer and full time Arthur Murray dance instructor.

EFFIE
Sounds versatile.

SHAMUS
Goes by the name of Vinny "The Mug" Bingbang. Also known as Vinny "The Slug", Vinny "The Bug" and once in a while Hobart J. Percywhistle. You'd better call the coroner. Tell 'em we got a stiff for pickup.

(Phone dialing)

EFFIE
Coroner's office? This is Effie in Dick Shamus's office. We got a stiff here for pickup. Got a knife in his back. Hold on. Boss...

SHAMUS
Yeah?

EFFIE

They said the earliest they could be here was tomorrow between twelve and four.

SHAMUS

In that case, when they get here, have 'em fix my cable. In the meantime, let's prop him up in the waiting room. If anyone comes in they'll just think he's a client.

EFFIE

With a knife in his back?

SHAMUS

Especially with a knife in his back.

(Music transition)

SHAMUS

It was time for another chat with Lisa Condo.

LISA

You didn't have to send the gendarmes, Shamus. You know me, a dinner and a movie and I would have told you everything.

SHAMUS

Everything?

Well, most everything.

SHAMUS

Don't get cute.

LISA

I can't help it. I'm adorable.

SHAMUS

Tell me what you know about a slug named Vinny "The Mug."

LISA

Never heard of him.

SHAMUS

Then tell me what you know about a mug named Vinny "The Slug."

LISA

Doesn't ring a bell.

SHAMUS

Okay. What about a slug named Vinny "The Bug?"

LISA

Are these gentlemen related, somehow?

SHAMUS

What makes you say that?

LISA

For one thing, they're all named Vinny.

SHAMUS

And they got one other name in common.

LISA

What's that?

SHAMUS

Ursulala. You're very ugly stepdaughter.

LISA

I admit Ursulala wasn't going to be crowned Miss Universe, but there's no reason to be cruel.

SHAMUS

Whatever you want to call him, Ursulala just bought the farm.

LISA

I'm surprised.

SHAMUS

Why's that?

LISA

He never expressed an interest in animal husbandry.

SHAMUS

Bought the farm as in pushing up daisies, achieving room temperature, checked into the wooden Waldorf, on a permanent vacation, rang down the curtain, no longer eligible for the census.

LISA

You mean he's dead?

SHAMUS

You could say that. It just wouldn't be as colorful.

LISA

How'd he die?

SHAMUS

The knife in his back may have had something to do with it.

LISA
How did a knife get in his back?

SHAMUS
We think somebody may have put it there.

Who?

SHAMUS
I thought you could tell us.

LISA
Me? Why me?

SHAMUS
When a mug like Vinny goes around in a dress pretending to be somebody's stepdaughter, it raises suspicions.

LISA
You don't think I killed Hobart.

SHAMUS
Is that what you called him?

LISA
He told me his name was Hobart J. Percywhistle

SHAMUS
Did you bump him off?

LISA
Why would I want to kill Hobart? He was teaching me to cha cha.

SHAMUS
Maybe he knew too much about your operation. Maybe he wanted in on the action. Maybe you didn't want to let him in on the action. Maybe he pushed a little too hard to get in on the action. Maybe you pushed back just as hard to keep him from getting in on the action. Maybe he pushed back even harder to get back in on the action. Maybe you pushed back even...

(Sound of a face being slapped)

SHAMUS
Hey, you slugged me. What was that all about?

LISA
You were being ambivalent.

SHAMUS

Maybe I was and maybe I wasn't.

LISA

Don't make me slug you again.

SHAMUS

Keep stallin' dimple hips and I might have to get rough.

LISA

Promises. Promises.

SHAMUS

Come on. Spill or I'll have to book you on a 902.

LISA

Does that come with dinner and a movie?

SHAMUS

I know all about you and the Cinderella girl. About how you used her to get to Prince Charming.

LISA

I don't know any Cinderella girl.

SHAMUS

She knows you. Say you're her wicked stepmother. Says you set up the scam to sink your hooks into Prince Whatshisname. So, why don't you make it easy on yourself. Tell me what you know.

LISA

All I know is a couple of months ago, some guy came to see me.

SHAMUS

What guy?

LISA

Never told me his name

SHAMUS

And you didn't ask.

LISA

The pouch full of gold coins said all I needed to know.

SHAMUS

What was the cabbage for?

LISA

Rent. For an apartment for his girlfriend.

SHAMUS
What did this mysterious renter look like?

LISA
Mousy.

SHAMUS
The girl?

LISA
No, she was young, sweet, innocent with shoulders carved from the finest alabaster, a smile as fresh as a morning sunrise and a body like a brick pagoda.

SHAMUS
Did she have a name?

LISA
Everybody's got a name.

SHAMUS
Some people more than one. What was hers?

LISA
Never said.

SHAMUS
So you rented an apartment to a girl with no name paid for by a guy with no name. What else?

LISA
I took her shoe shopping.

SHAMUS
Is this one of the shoes.

LISA
Looks like it.

SHAMUS
Where does Vinny fit in?

LISA
I told you I don't know any Vinny.

SHAMUS
Hobart then.

LISA
He said the guy who rented the apartment heard you'd be snooping around. The plan was for Hobart to pretend to be my stepdaughter so you'd think I'd bought the shoe for her... Him... Whatever.

SHAMUS
But the shoe didn't fit.

LISA
I didn't say it was a good plan.

EFFIE
Hey boss.

LISA
What is it?

EFFIE
There's something in the newspaper you oughta see.

LISA
Don't go anywhere, apricot ears. I'm still not buying your story. I'm sure we're gonna find your prints all over the knife they took out of Vinny.

EFFIE
They already identified the prints.

SHAMUS
I knew it.

EFFIE
They belonged to Vinny's wife. Seems she caught him doin' the horizontal mambo with a waitress from Burger King.

SHAMUS
Well, he was a dance instructor.

EFFIE
But if his wife was the one who checked him in to the Tombstone Towers, why would he stumble into your office?

SHAMUS
Maybe he wanted me to know he'd been shot.

EFFIE
Stabbed.

SHAMUS
Stabbed.

EFFIE
But why?

SHAMUS
I guess we'll never know.

EFFIE

This story in today's paper might help. Look at this picture.

SHAMUS

That's her. That's the dame. Only here it says her name is Sarah Bellum.

EFFIE

I ran a check on her. Seems she's got a list of aliases as long as.... well, let's say your arm. She's also known as Cara Van, Charity Case, Milly Gram, Polly Esther, Rose Bush and Sue Flay. She's wanted in six kingdoms for impersonating a damsel in distress.

SHAMUS

And according to this, in one hour she'll be taking on a another handle. Mrs. Prince Charming.

LISA

More likely, Princess Charming. That's the one I'd go with.

SHAMUS

Effie, my sweet, keep an eye on this one.

EFFIE

Where are you going?

SHAMUS

To stop a wedding.

LISA

He always was a romantic.

(Transitional wedding music)

MINISTER

Dearly beloved we are gathered here today to bring together in holy matrimony, Prince Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan Milford Anthony Philip William ... again... Albert Constantine Charming, Prince of Lyman on Twill, Hutchings on Vetch, Twicky on Guss and Jam on Toast and Miss Sarah Bellum. If the groom will repeat after me. I Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan Milford Anthony Philip William ... again... Albert Constantine Charming.

PRINCE

I, Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan Milford Anthony Philip William ... again... Albert Constantine Charming.

MINISTER

Take thee Sarah Bellum

PRINCE

Take thee Sara Bellum.

MINISTER

To be my lawfully wedded wife.

PRINCE

To be my lawfully wedded wife.

MINISTER

And now if the bride will please repeat after me. I Sarah Bellum.

CINDERELLA

I, Sarah Bellum

MINISTER

Take thee Prince Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan Milford Anthony Philip William ... again... Albert Constantine Charming.

CINDERELLA

Take thee Prince Alfonse William Robert Hastings Oxford Jonathan Milford Anthony Philip William ... again... Albert Constantine Charming for everything I can for as long as I can.

SHAMUS

Stop! Stop!

PRINCE

Mr. Shamus, what do you think you're doing?

SHAMUS

You can't marry her Prince.

PRINCE

Yes, I can.

SHAMUS

No, you can't.

PRINCE

Yes, I can.

SHAMUS

No you can't.

PRINCE

(singing)

Yes, I can, yes I can, yes I can.

SHAMUS

She's a fraud.

PRINCE

A fraud?

SHAMUS

She's not who she says she is, whatever it was she told you she was.

CINDERELLA

(syrupy southern
belle accent)

Oh fiddly dee, Princey, don't you listen to a word he's saying. The man is obviously deranged.

SHAMUS

He name isn't even Sara Bellum.

CINDERELLA

It most certainly is. I come from a long line of Bellums. There's my mother Momma Bellum. My father Daddy Bellum. My mother's brother Uncle Bellum... And my Daddy's sister...
(pause)

EVERYBODY

Auntie Bellum.

SHAMUS

She told me her name was Katie Cinderella O'Hara. Depending on the time and place she also goes by Barb Dwyer, Claire Annette Reid and Lily Pond.

CINDERELLA

Oh, fiddly dee. Can't you see he just wants to break us up? I didn't want to tell you this, honeysuckle, because I know how jealous you are when other men look at me. But, well, he's in love with me. He told me so himself.

PRINCE

Why Mr. Shamus. I'm appalled. Chagrined and appalled.. Chagrined, appalled and several other words that mean chagrined and appalled.

SHAMUS

If she's so poor and downtrodden like she says, where'd she get the dough ray me to pay for the gown, the jewels and the custom made shoes she wore to the ball?

CINDERELLA

There's a very simple explanation.

SHAMUS

Let's hear it.

CINDERELLA

Well... I have a fairy godmother.

PRINCE

There you see. She has a fairy godmother.

SHAMUS

You have a fairy godmother alright. And he's standing right next to you. Isn't that right, Looney?

LACKEY

Lackey... It's Lackey.

PRINCE

Why he looks nothing like a fairy godmother.. Fairy godmothers have wings and high, fluttery voices. Besides, he couldn't afford diamonds. I pay him peanuts. Literally, I pay him peanuts.

SHAMUS

Have you checked the petty cash lately? Ask yourself this Prince, how did Blanche Dubois here get into your party that night?

PRINCE

She was invited obviously.

SHAMUS

Really? She wasn't anyone who was anyone. She didn't even know anyone who was anyone. But she did know Lousy, here.

LACKEY

Lackey. It's Lackey.

CINDERELLA

He's making all this up.

SHAMUS

I have an eye witness who identified the kid's picture in the paper as the man who rented an apartment from her to stash his girlfriend, our little Miss Orange Blossom Special here.

PRINCE

I find this very hard to believe Mr. Shamus.

SHAMUS

Then believe this Prince. Looney here...

LACKEY

Lackey... It's Lackey.

SHAMUS

... also paid my informant to take said girlfriend shoe shopping.

PRINCE

I fail to see the relevance. Women go shoe shopping all the time. And I do mean all the time.

SHAMUS

But this was no ordinary shoe. This shoe would only fit one foot. Her foot. The foot that you would track down and marry.

PRINCE

Marry a foot, that's ridiculous.

SHAMUS

The owner of the foot who would drain the royal treasury dry and split the loot with Loony here.

LACKEY

Lackey. It's Lackey.

CINDERELLA

My, you have a very vivid imagination, sir.

PRINCE

If my little mint julep said it never happened Shamus, it never happened.

SHAMUS

Wake up Charming. Our little man here is the only one who had the means, method and motivation.

PRINCE

What motivation could he possibly have?

SHAMUS

How about hatred and revenge for starters.

PRINCE

Who could he hate that much? He doesn't have a life. I see to that.

SHAMUS

You Prince. He hates you.

PRINCE

Don't be ridiculous, Shamus. I'm Prince Charming. Everybody loves me.

SHAMUS

Okay, Prince. I didn't want to do it. But you're forcing me to do it.

PRINCE

Do what?

SHAMUS

Play my hole card.

PRINCE

Hole card? What on earth are you talking about?

SHAMUS

The kid here has to be the brains behind the whole operation because...

PRINCE

Yes? Because?

SHAMUS

Because he is the least significant character in the story, with the least amount of lines and the last one anyone would ever suspect.

PRINCE

(aghast)

Lackey!!!

LACKEY

Now, he remembers my name.

SHAMUS

Who could blame you, kid? All these years of bowing and scraping. Working twenty four seven without a day off and this preening, self involved buffoon can't even remember your name.

CINDERELLA

Are you going to just stand there Princey and let him say such awful, awful things?

LACKEY

Give it up, Miriam. He's wise to us.

PRINCE

You called her Miriam.

LACKEY

That's her real name. Miriam Webster.

PRINCE

Miriam Webster? Your real name is Miriam Webster? I don't know what to say. I'm at a loss for words.

SHAMUS

I gotta hand it to you magnolia hips. You were good. Very good. The innocent act. The downtrodden step child routine. The running away from your wicked stepmother. Top notch.

CINDERELLA

And you fell for it hook, line and shoe, didn't you flatfoot?

SHAMUS

I gotta admit. You almost got away with it. Almost. But almost only counts in horseshoes and something else where you can come close without actually hitting the target and still score a few points. Guards, take 'em away.

PRINCE

I don't know how to thank you Mr. Shamus. You saved me from making a terrible mistake.

SHAMUS

No thanks necessary Prince. It's what I do.

PRINCE

And what will I do? How will I ever find another one like her?

SHAMUS

I don't think you're gonna have any trouble.

PRINCE

How can you be so sure?

SHAMUS

Trust me. There's a world of dames out there just waiting to meet Prince Charming.

(Music up and under)

ANNOUNCER

You've been listening to "The Adventures Of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective." Be sure to tune in next week for another episode of "The Adventures Of Dick Shamus, Fictional Detective " titled "The Case Of The Very Big Dog Of The Baskervilles."

(Music out)

THE END