

These are the Days of Our Hives

By Dennis Payton Knight

*A sky-orange dusk settled on the peak, dimming the grand living room of the lush Aspen Mountain retreat. Lucia sank deeply into her luxurious sofa. Her tycoon husband, Luke, two decades her senior, was still in Denver handling licensing and regulatory affairs related to the family's winter resort empire. The dashing Ignacio, two decades her junior, mixed the driest of martinis, and delivered it to Lucia's delicate, bejeweled hand. "Gracias, cariño," she swooned, drawing the suave Spaniard downward to a kiss.*

*Fade to commercial...*

That's the writing sample I am sending to the network. But honestly, I hope I don't get picked. Don't get me wrong, the steady work would be nice, and the missus would really appreciate the bonus of a steady supply of Snowdrift Flakes.

I just don't think I'm cut out for the soaps. Perhaps I don't watch enough to know, but do they ever actually laugh? I've heard they script in mocking guffaws when dear sweet Irene announces she will be dining alone for the night. I expect there are some more villainous snickers when Irene gets herself tied to the track with Old Number 417 bearing down on her.

That kind of writing gives me hives, but in my defense, I have done some research about the genre to see if I might be adaptable. I read of one story line on the *Days of Our Lives* where the Devil takes possession of Marlena one night after Stefano had drugged the poor dear so he could have his way with her. This left Marlena open to demonic possession, and, sure enough, she was soon levitating and threatening friends and family. Fortunately, John Black recollected, in a convenient time-out from his amnesia, that he had once been ordained a priest, and performed an exorcism. It worked. The Devil was duly written out of the series, but I am sure he came back some other week in a new haircut, new suit, and new face.

I read of another story line in *Guiding Light* where Reva was killed in a plane crash. Her husband had her cloned, but it turned out she did not die, and when she tried to return to her own life, the clone tried to kill her. It's making me itch.

If the network would let me take the Lucia, Luke, and Ignacio story a bit further I'm sure I could work something up for a comedy series. Maybe some nice pratfalls for either or both, and, in between, let the licensing authority lady put a cream pie in the old man's face. After all, it is what they deserve, and I believe the audience will quite agree, and laugh it up.

Or I might try to develop the idea as a Western or police drama. But then again, maybe not. I fear, if I wrote the script, all three would end up shooting each other, and I'd still get the hives.