

Fire

By

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1 INT. JOHNSON HOUSE DINING ROOM 1945 - NIGHT

The Johnson house is a stereotypical suburban house. It is neatly organized and the table is set with a beautifully cooked roast and various side dishes. CATHERINE (30s) is watching her husband Henry(30s)eat contentedly.

HENRY

Swell roast pumpkin.

CATHERINE

Only the best for my man

Catherine smiles as she watches Henry continue to eat.

2 INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM -DAY

Catherine is sitting with the same smile on her face she takes a drag from her lit cigarette. She is sitting across from a rotund detective, O'RILEY(50s)

CATHERINE

This is really so silly. I don't know why you need to talk to me.

O'RILEY

I'm sorry for the inconvenience mam, especially after..

CATHERINE

My husband burning to death? Yes everyone really is so sorry. I have more casseroles then I could ever eat.

O'RILEY

Yes you've mentioned that...

CATHERINE

Do you like tuna? I can bring you a tuna casserole later, I imagine you don't get home cooked meals too often since your wife left you.

O'RILEY

How did you know my wife left?

CATHERINE

Well your shirt isn't ironed, and you keep fidgeting with your ring like your afraid it wont be there for long. I notice things, people

(MORE)

CATHERINE (cont'd)
tend to find it annoying, lord
knows Henry hated it.

O'RILEY
Oh.. sounds like your a real
Sherlock Holmes.

CATHERINE
No, not really. Do you love her?

O'RILEY
My wife?

CATHERINE
Yes.

O'RILEY
I do.

CATHERINE
Then why did you make her unhappy
enough she left you? Isn't the
whole point of being in love to be
happy?

O'RILEY
I don't know miss. I think maybe
sometimes we get wrapped up in the
day to day so much its easy to
forget what matters.

CATHERINE
I guess your right. The day to day
can be.... We all do our best.

O'RILEY
Well, the arson investigation is
still underway, but at this time I
can safely tell you that this
wasn't an accident. Tell me, did
your husband have enemies? Anyone
that might want to do harm to him?

CATHERINE
Oh everyone loves Henry, he's
always so friendly, helping people
get on their feet.

3 EXT. STREET - DAY

Catherine is in her car wearing a kerchief over her head and dark sunglasses. She looks like she doesn't want to be recognized.

She watches Henry kissing a young blond woman tenderly before hailing a taxi. The woman is heavily pregnant.

4 INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Catherine takes a long drag on her cigarette before blowing smoke up to the ceiling. Detective O'Reily is taking notes on a small pad.

CATHERINE

No Henry didn't have an enemy in the world, though he tells me so little about his work I suppose its possible something might have happened there.

O'RILEY

Your husband he worked as...

CATHERINE

He was a fireman. I suppose I always knew I might lose him in a fire but I just never thought it would be like this.

O'RILEY

And remind me why you weren't in the house at the time the fire was set?

5 INT. JOHNSON HOUSE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Catherine watches Henry leave the table and go upstairs. The sound of the shower starting is heard.

Catherine lights a cigarette and sits at the table for a moment.

Catherine gets up from the table and leaves the room. There is a sloshing sound and a moment later she comes back into the dining room, carrying a gas can, she is methodically pouring gasoline over the floor.

Catherine stops at the stairs and pours a generous amount over the bottom step.

Taking a final drag on her cigarette she flicks it at the gas trail.

The flames spark from the cigarette as Catherine calmly leaves the house.

6 EXT. CURBSIDE OF THE JOHNSON HOUSE - NIGHT

Catherine watches the house quickly become a raging blaze, and she smiles.

7 INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

O'RILEY

Mrs. Johnson?

CATHERINE

Oh I'm sorry, I had gone next door to get a cup of sugar from my neighbor Suzie. The fire must have started while we were chatting. You know how we women can be.

O'RILEY

Yes, yes. Well thank you Mrs. Johnson I think that will be all for today.

CATHERINE

Catherine please, now I'm going to bring you that casserole later, and you call your wife. You're still alive so she can't be too mad.

O'RILEY

Thank you Catherine, are you going to be OK? You have somewhere to stay?

CATHERINE

Oh yes. I think for the first time in a long time, I'll be just fine.

Detective O'Riley opens the door for Catherine and she exits the room. she is greeted by a beautiful young woman who looks excited to see her. Cathrine kisses her on the cheek and they leave

As the detective watches them leave, he pulls out a cigarette and lights it as he considers Catherine.

The last of Catherine's cigarette, still just barely lit in the table's ashtray, is smoldering and turning to ash.

A man in uniform moves into the doorway.

O'RILEY

OK, bring in his girlfriend.

The End