

ANTIQUES

By

Michael Whisenant

Mwhisenant5@gmail.com

407-538-1111

ANTIQUES

FADE IN

EXT. BED N BREAKFAST - FRONT PORCH - DAY

BERT AND SHIRLEY CARTER, 50s are on their front porch of their Virginia home as a sedan pulls into the driveway.

Shirley is slightly taller than her husband.

SHIRLEY
That must be her.

BERT
I heard that her brother hung himself in prison - used part of the bed frame.

SHIRLEY
People can be so ingenious.

They watch as the occupant gets out and pops the trunk.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
I bet that's why she left DC.

BERT
What if it runs in the family?

SHIRLEY
Well, that would certainly make things get interesting.

Shirley smiles at Bert.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
Aren't you going to help her?

Bert nods, and makes his way to the car.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

DETECTIVE JANET SUAREZ, 30s, is at her trunk.

She lifts up her sunglasses, and starts to pull out some luggage.

A dog comes over and wags his tail.

She looks at the dog as Bert approaches.

BERT

Looks like he's taken with you.

Suarez pets the dog.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ

I like dogs -

BERT

First time we've had a policeman staying with us.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ

Actually, I'm a detective.

Shirley joins them.

SHIRLEY

So they finally brought someone in to help that idiot sheriff with all the murders.

Bert studies her sunglasses.

BERT

I like your glasses - kind of funky.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ

Thanks. They were a gift... from my brother.

Bert picks up the heaviest pieces of luggage.

He heads towards the porch.

Shirley frowns.

SHIRLEY

Oh dear, I forgot to set out the snacks.

Suarez watches Shirley as she heads back to the house.

She turns back to her trunk and is startled by a BOY ON BIKE.

He is BILLY JAMES, 16.

He looks her up and down, and glances at the badge on her belt.

BILLY
You really a cop?

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Actually, I'm a...yes...I'm a cop.
And who might you be?

Bert comes back out of the house.

Billy sees him approach.

BILLY
Catch you later.

Suarez laughs.

Billy leaves on his bike.

BERT
That was Billy. Good kid. He does
yardwork for us from time to time.

INT. BED N BREAKFAST - LIVING ROOM

Suarez and Bert set her luggage down.

Shirley brings out a tray of salted caramel chocolate pretzels, and places them on the coffee table, in between a book on serial killers and one on gardening.

Suarez looks around the room.

One wall has a rather menacing picture of Eagle's great Chuck Bednarik, in between framed pictures of hockey fights.

Suarez looks over at the mantel, which has pictures of their grown children.

SHIRLEY
Don't worry - they don't live here.
All grown, and moved away.

Bert moves over to a Colt 45 that sits on the mantel.

He proudly shows off the pistol.

BERT
The *peacemaker*.

He hands Suarez the gun.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Does it still work?

BERT
Of course it still works.

SHIRLEY
(sarcastic)
It will protect you in case you're
ever attacked on a stagecoach.

Suarez checks out the gun, then looks for bullets.

There are none.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Just checking.

She sets it back on the mantel.

SHIRLEY
If you'll follow me, I'll take you
to your guest room.

Shirley leads them down the hall.

INT. GUEST ROOM

The three of them stand in the guest room, which has a bed,
dresser, walk-in closet, and bathroom.

There is a rocking chair and nightstand in one corner.

A Bible sits out on the nightstand.

Bert motions at the chair.

BERT
We just got the rocker a few weeks
ago, from that antique store on the
outskirts of town.

SHIRLEY
Bert can move that if it gets in
your way. We haven't figured out
where to put it quite yet.

Suarez sits in the chair, and rocks it.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Ooh, this is nice. You can leave it
right here.

SHIRLEY

We only have one other tenant at the moment. A college student named Elizabeth.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ

What's she like?

BERT

She's a little...different. But fun.

SHIRLEY

She's harmless. She just wants attention. We'll leave now, so you can get settled.

Bert leaves the room.

Shirley stops at the door, and looks at Suarez.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Please remember my number one rule.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ

Which was?

SHIRLEY

No male visitors.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ

No problem there.

Shirley leaves.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS, VIRGINIA - DAY

The leaves are beginning to change on the cherry and hickory trees around the campus, as students hustle to make their next class at the local college.

Two students stand outside a building made of limestone and retrofitted with wireless.

CINDY, 20s, wears a distinctive shawl which is somewhat faded, and has the symbol for infinity woven into the pattern.

She stands with ELIZABETH, 18, who wears a distinctive brooch that is over a hundred years old.

She dresses GOTH, completely in black, almost campy right down to her pentagram tattoo.

Cindy appears distraught.

CINDY

I can't find my stupid earrings. I think I lost them at the party.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, you were pretty wasted. Still shocked that you even went, *Miss Goody Two-Shoes*.

CINDY

They were a gift from my parents for making the Dean's List. They were *expensive*.

ELIZABETH

What did your dad say?

CINDY

Nothing yet. They're still overseas.

Cindy checks out another student as he walks past.

Elizabeth glances at her phone as she receives a text.

She lowers her voice, and speaks overly dramatic.

ELIZABETH

It's a message from my *secret lover*. Gotta go.

CINDY

Doesn't it bother you that he's got a wife?

ELIZABETH

Not really - she's kinda hot. She can always join in if she wants to.

INT. BED N BREAKFAST - GUEST ROOM

Suarez sets one of her bags next to the dresser, and pulls out two pictures.

She sets both on the dresser.

The first is fairly recent and shows her younger brother Enrique, along with his wife, small son and infant daughter.

Enrique smiles as he holds the baby, and there is a crib in the background.

The other picture shows her with Enrique when they were kids.

Suarez stares at the family picture a moment, then reaches out and touches it.

She gets a FLASHBACK:

Enrique's wife sits at their dinner table, and feeds the daughter in her high chair.

The little boy sits across the table.

Enrique enters the room.

The little boy is excited, and runs to him.

He latches onto his leg.

"Daddy, Daddy!"

Suddenly, Enrique raises a gun and shoots his wife.

The impact knocks her out of the chair.

The boy is startled.

Enrique pushes his child away, and aims the gun at him.

His wife pulls herself up, and screams "No!"

Enrique shoots his son.

His wife makes her way to the high chair, and attempts to shield their infant daughter.

Enrique shoots them both.

END OF FLASHBACK.

Suarez releases the picture, and starts to cry.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - DAY

SHERIFF BALLINGER, 40s, stands with Suarez just inside the door of the precinct.

She has her badge on her belt, and carries a pistol, two-way radio and mace.

There are two offices, and several desks out on the floor.

He holds her transfer paperwork as he shows her around.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Where's my office?

The sheriff points to one of the desks on the floor.

SHERIFF BALLINGER
You'll have to talk to the City
Manager about that. Guess he didn't
think that far ahead.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Guess I'll have to.

SHERIFF BALLINGER
You can work here for now.

She tosses her purse on the desk.

SHERIFF BALLINGER (CONT'D)
C'mon with me. I'll introduce you
to my deputy.

She follows him over to the second office.

They go inside.

INT. DEPUTY'S OFFICE

DEPUTY BRANDON JONES, late 20s, works at his desk.

SHERIFF BALLINGER
Brandon, this is the new detective
from DC.

The deputy looks up.

DEPUTY JONES
I assumed the new man would be, you
know -

He hesitates.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
A man?

Deputy Jones recovers.

DEPUTY JONES
Welcome aboard.

The sheriff glances over her paperwork.

SHERIFF BALLINGER
It says you're known for figuring
out the criminal mind.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
I had a pretty good system...

She looks down for a moment.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ (CONT'D)
Most of the time.

SHERIFF BALLINGER
Good luck around here. We've
definitely seen an uptick lately.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Any theories?

DEPUTY JONES
I think it's drug related.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Heroin?

DEPUTY
No - prescription stuff.
Painkillers.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
Yeah, we saw that in DC.

Suarez looks at the sheriff.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ (CONT'D)
What do you think it is?

SHERIFF BALLINGER
Not sure - it could be drug
related. Hell, it could be
anything. Some of the townspeople
are talking about a cult.

The deputy laughs, and glances at Suarez.

DEPUTY JONES
You know, *devil worshipers*.

SHERIFF BALLINGER
There are other types of cults,
bonehead. I'm just saying we
shouldn't rule anything out.

Suarez turns to the deputy.

DETECTIVE SUAREZ
You don't think that's possible?

DEPUTY JONES

When people are scared, they'll
come up with just about anything.

SHERIFF BALLINGER

Regardless of what's behind it -
people are just goin' nuts.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

It's a typical cool evening, and several people are out
walking their dogs.

A two story Victorian style house sits on a large lot within
a residential subdivision.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Cindy sits quietly on the couch, with her shawl.

Two small children watch a cartoon on the TV.

The LITTLE GIRL,3 lies on the ground and props up her head
with the palms of her hands.

Her brother EDDIE,5 sits upright on the floor next to her.

Cindy watches a movie on her cell phone.

A wooden baseball bat lies next to the couch.

She gets a slight chill and tugs on her shawl.

Her movie is interrupted by an incoming text. Cindy talks to
herself in a sarcastic tone as she texts back a reply.

CINDY

Yes, parental units. The kids are
fine. Just like every other time.
LOL. Now relax and enjoy the movie.

She glances at the two children.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Your parents drive me crazy.

The children ignore her and continue to watch the cartoon.

Cindy returns to her movie.

She hears a voice from outside and looks up from her phone.

She goes to the front door and turns on the porch light.

Cindy looks out through the peephole.

Eddie watches her.

EDDIE

What are you looking at?

She ignores him and hears the voice again. It is a man's voice, deep and muffled.

She can't make out the words.

CINDY

Who's there?

No response.

She goes over to the window and slowly opens the blinds.

She peeks out into the front yard.

Nobody around.

Cindy hears the man's voice again, louder this time.

She grabs the baseball bat and returns to the front door.

She crouches down, grips the bat and puts her body right up against the door.

EDDIE

(frightened)

Is somebody out there?

She motions at the boy to stay where he is.

Cindy yells through the door.

CINDY

Go away or I'll call the police!

Cindy looks out the peephole again.

All quiet.

She checks to make sure the door is locked and turns off the porch light.

She returns to her seat and sets the bat down next to her.

EDDIE

Is everything all right?

Cindy forces a smile.

CINDY
Yes sweetie. Go ahead and watch
your cartoon.

She glances at her phone, but does not start the movie.

She hears the man's voice from upstairs, angrier than before.

CINDY (CONT'D)
There's that noise again.

EDDIE
I don't hear anything.

Cindy motions at Eddie.

CINDY
I'm going upstairs a minute. You
stay here with your sister.

EDDIE
Is someone trying to hurt us?

The little girl pulls closer to her brother.

Cindy grabs the bat.

CINDY
Don't worry - I won't let them.

Cindy heads up the stairs.

UPSTAIRS

Cindy enters one of the darkened bedrooms and hears the voice just outside the window.

She turns on the light.

CINDY (CONT'D)
(loudly)
I have a weapon.

She grips the bat, raises it up and approaches the window. A loud thump startles her, and she backs up a step.

She strains to see a blurred image through the window.

She presses her face up against the window and squints as she tries to see what is outside. A shadowy figure moves at her.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Get away from me!

Cindy smashes the window with the bat. Shards of glass fly in every direction.

She steps back from the window and nervously looks at the opening. The bat trembles in her hand.

She steps closer and only sees a tree branch as it sways back and forth in the wind.

She takes a few deep breaths, turns off the light and leaves the room.

DOWNSTAIRS

Cindy sits back down and lays the bat in her lap.

Eddie hugs his sister as they huddle on the floor.

EDDIE
What... happened?

She looks at the children and speaks calmly.

CINDY
I accidentally broke the window.
I'm sorry if it scared you.

EDDIE
I wasn't scared. I'm a big boy.

Cindy looks at the clock on the wall.

CINDY
Good - your parents will be home soon. And don't worry - I'll pay them for the window.

The children turn around and start watching the TV.

Eddie whispers to his sister.

EDDIE
Dad's really gonna be mad.

Cindy clutches her shawl, tighter this time.

CINDY
(barely audible)
Kill kid... Kill kid.

The little girl turns around.

LITTLE GIRL

Huh?

Cindy sits expressionless on the couch.

The girl looks at her a moment, turns back to her cartoon, and rests her head on her hands again.

Cindy looks at the bat.

CINDY

Kill kid...

Cindy slowly rises, picks up the baseball bat.

The little girl hears a thud as the bat strikes her brother.

She sees him slump over out of corner of her eye.

The little girl sits up now.

She watches as the bat strikes him several more times.

LITTLE GIRL

Stop it. You're hurting him!

The bat stops a moment.

The little girl looks up as Cindy turns towards her, and swings the bat straight down on her.