

BURN AFTER READING

OSBOURNE Bow tie loosened, he stands at a kitchen counter. His shoulders twist as he does something below frame: we hear the crackle of ice cubes wrenching loose from a tray.

Behind him we see the apartment door opening. Katie, an attractive middle-aged woman, enters, taking her key out of the door, but stops, surprised to see Osbourne.

KATIE

You're home.

Osbourne continues making himself a drink.

OSBOURNE

Hang on to your hat, honey. I have some news. I—

KATIE

Did you pick up the cheeses?

OSBOURNE

Huh?

KATIE

Were they ready? I didn't know you were coming home this early.

OSBOURNE

(blank)
The cheeses.

Katie rolls her eyes.

KATIE

I left a message for you to stop at Todaro's. The Magruders and the Pfarrers are coming over.

OSBOURNE

The Pfarrers? Ugh. I—what did Kathleen say?

KATIE

What?

OSBOURNE

When you left the message?

KATIE

She said. She would give you. The message.

OSBOURNE

Well she, I don't know, I guess we had bigger news today. My day didn't revolve arou—

KATIE

So you didn't get the cheeses.

OSBOURNE

Well, since I didn't get the message, no, I didn't get the cheeses. But hang on to your hat, I—

KATIE

Oh for fuck's sake, Ozzie, you mean I have to go out again? All right, well, you better get dressed.

OSBOURNE

Honey, we have to talk.

KATIE

Not right now. They'll be here in, what, less than an hour.

OSBOURNE

I quit my job!!!

KATIE

You quit?!

OSBOURNE

Uh-huh.

KATIE

Well—Thank you for letting me know!

OSBOURNE

I've tried telling you

KATIE

You tried? You tried? And then— what, the aphasia kicked in?

OSBOURNE

Our guests are coming We need to get the cheeses--

KATIE

Why?! For fuck's sake, Ozzie!

OSBOURNE

I'm just—I don't know. I got so tired.

KATIE

You're tired.

OSBOURNE

Tired of swimming against the current.

KATIE

Uh-huh.

OSBOURNE

Independent thought is not only not valued there, they resist it, they fight it, the bureaucracy is positively—

KATIE

Did you get a pension, or severance or something, or—

OSBOURNE

I didn't retire you know, I, I quit. I don't want their benefits.

KATIE

But I suppose my benefits are all right, I suppose you can live with those, is that the idea?

OSBOURNE

It's not like that's the only way to make money.

KATIE

Yes? Yes? What're you gonna do?

OSBOURNE

I'll do some consulting.

KATIE

Consulting.

OSBOURNE

Yes, to help while I—I've always wanted to write.

KATIE

Write. Write what.

OSBOURNE

I've been thinking about it. A book, a sort of, sort of memoir.

Katie stares at him in the mirror.

A beat.

She bursts into laughter.