

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

Alan Ball

Scene: A wedding reception in Knoxville, TN

Serio-Comic

Georgeanne: a woman carrying a torch for an old flame, 30s

When Georgeanne sees the man with whom she had a flaming affair in college at a friend's wedding she is bombarded with memories – most of them unpleasant.

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GEORGEANNE: I was walking down the aisle, first thing I saw was the back of his head. It just jumped right out at me. I recognized that little hair pattern on the back of his neck, where his hair starts? You know where it comes to those two little points, and it's darker than the rest? I always thought that was so sexy. Then I looked at him during the ceremony, and something about the way the light hit his face . . . I swear, it just broke my heart. And then outside, I saw him talking to this total bitch in a navy blue linen dress with absolutely no back, I mean you could almost see her butt. And he was smiling at her with that smile, that same smile that used to make me feel like I really meant something to him. And then it all came back, just bang, all those times I sat waiting for his phone call, me going out of my way to make things convenient for him. Having to take a [REDACTED] taxi cab to the Women's Health Center that day because it was so cold my car wouldn't start. And later that awful, awful night I sat out in front of his apartment building staring at Tracy's burgundy Cutlass in the driveway, just wishing I was dead. You know, I started smoking cigarettes that night. And if I ever die of cancer I swear it's going to be Tommy Valentine's fault.) *(She lights a cigarette, stands and wanders around listlessly.)* God! I feel like I am going crazy! My cousin George, he's a nurse, he says I am the perfect type to get some weird disease because I'm so emotional.