

SMELL

Written by

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INT. PENTHOUSE FLAT - NIGHT

DARIUS (40s) is lying dead, upside-down in an armchair in the centre of the spacious, expensively furnished flat. There is a large bullet hole in his neck. DETECTIVE CHIEF INSPECTOR HALE (50s, crinkled trench-coat, crinkled face) is inspecting the body.

DCI HALE

Single shot to the neck at close range. It was personal.

He is speaking to DETECTIVE INSPECTOR PRICE (30s, casually dressed gym enthusiast). She is in the adjoining kitchen looking at the two glasses of wine on the bench and a mobile phone next to them.

DI PRICE

Two glasses of wine here, chief. He was here with someone he knew. The glasses look untouched though, doubt we'll get any prints off them.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

DCI HALE

Who... Don't tell me... You didn't.

DI PRICE

I... I though he might be able to offer some valuable insight regarding-

The door bursts open to LOUIS LE NEZ a lavishly dressed man with an unnaturally large nose. He struts in.

DCI HALE

Oh, f'godsakes.

LOUIS LE NEZ

(Sniff) You know there's no shame in daubing with a little toilet tissue after urinating, Hale, it prevents drippage.

DI PRICE

Louis, it's a pleasure to finally meet you. I've heard so much.

Louis shakes her hand furiously.

LOUIS LE NEZ

You know flossing is just as important as brushing.

DI Price tries to smell her own breath. Louis leans down into the two glasses of wine.

LOUIS LE NEZ (CONT'D)  
(sniff) 2005 Bordeaux, aired at  
room temperature for 30 minutes  
before pouring.

He takes one of the glasses and drinks it all in one gulp.

DCI HALE  
Hey! That's evidence!

LOUIS LE NEZ  
No it isn't, THE OTHER ONE is the  
one with the sedative dissolved in  
it.

DCI HALE  
What?

Louis paces, sniffing the air in a large arc until he reaches the body. He kneels down and smells it. He looks around and spots a large, bushy potted plant on the far side of the room. He strides over to it, snapping on a latex glove as he moves.

LOUIS LE NEZ  
This man was planning to kill his  
wife, making it look like a  
suicide.

DCI HALE  
How the hell-

DI PRICE  
So his wife shot him in self  
defence?

LOUIS LE NEZ  
No, the wife hasn't been here in  
(sniff sniff) almost a week.

He reaches into the pot plant and pulls out a small hand gun. He walks over to the counter and places the gun down next to the mobile phone.

LOUIS LE NEZ (CONT'D)  
Mr. Paco Rabanne eau de toilette  
was standing here when his phone  
rang, probably his wife cancelling  
this evening's plans. Our man is  
nervous and in a blunder that  
proves fatal he picks up the gun  
instead of the phone.

(MORE)

LOUIS LE NEZ (CONT'D)  
When he puts it to his head it goes  
off, shooting him in the throat...

Louis starts staggering backwards, towards the arm chair.

LOUIS LE NEZ (CONT'D)  
He staggers back into the chair  
where he flips and falls, flinging  
the gun into the plant in the plant  
in the process.

DI PRICE  
Amazing.

LOUIS LE NEZ  
So in an attempt to commit a murder  
that looked like a suicide he  
managed to commit a suicide that  
looked like a murder. Poetic  
really.

DCI HALE  
Little on the nose, y'ask me.