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The Issue of the Law-Enforcer's Capturing Happiness in His Private Life

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Abstract

A police job has a peculiarity. It is appealing to the policeman; but it may exert psychological hazards, especially detrimental to private life. Marriages may suffer, accordingly. Those professionals who are happy in their homes actually appear to be just an auspicious minority.

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1. Introduction

The typical security-employee; exposed to incidents in a multiple, intensified manner and continuously aware of the bad side of the life; tends to develop strange moods. Soon, his whole internal world begins to move in a pessimistic direction.

Along with this development; a strong in-group understanding and solidarity formation occurs; while everything outside is regarded with fear and suspicion.

Cohesiveness is said to represent the affinity of group members for one another and for the whole group as a unit (Pennigton, 1986). A suspicious person can never give up the already trusted ones; because it is difficult to nourish trustful feelings towards a new person (Çadırcı, 1977). (Similar psychological situations hold true for prison guards ,also).

Eventually; such common traits picked up in the profession; invariably affect and manipulate the private life.

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2. An Irregular Bachelor's Life

An irregular bachelor's life appears to be prevalent among policemen all over the world. This reality constitutes a morally inappropriate dead-end (*cul de sac*). Even though police groupies (women who are fans of uniformed men) look alluring in the beginning; the end story is usually frustration involving trouble, bitterness, separation, venereal diseases etc.

Wambaugh (1978) refers to such a character in his novel: One cop is waiting in the office for the return of his partner from his 'private job'. The private job is a woman on the verge of divorce, who has not started the legal procedure, yet. Besides, she has three offspring capable of causing trouble easily, once the romance is over. An extramarital affair itself officially deserves at least a temporary suspension penalty of some time. His partner enters the room with a smile and a lipstick stain on his shirt.

3. Some Lucky Few, Who are Happy in their Homes

It is known that in the U.S. among police force, suicides as well as divorces followed by further wedlock are common. Full integration with spouses is difficult due to sheer nature of the job.

On the other hand; the most serene weddings appear to be those of Hispanic cops, thanks to the conservatism of the Catholic Sect. Sergeant Cruz; an auxiliary character in another Wambaugh novel, is a demonstrative example. His English had just sufficed to win the Police School at the time.

His wife knows the best Mexican culinary ways. Children are of every size within the family. Cruz is thin, pious man. In his childhood, the first student to master English spelling in his class, he was given a Catholic rosary by the teacher. He still carries it as a talisman in his pocket. He sometimes invites his half-a-century-old colleague, widower-Morgan, to his house for a dinner and urges him to a new wedding. He should quickly formalize his affair with that good-looking female French teacher (*passim*).

However, unexpected unfortunate things do happen: (Morgan is secretly preparing himself for retirement and) Cruze goes into a shop to get him a farewell present. A robber, panicked at the sight of the official dress, shoots the sergeant dead at the spot. Morgan arrives at the site. While he is taking the rosary concealed in a leather bag from the pocket of his dead-friend, a lieutenant warns him. Touching the evidence is a prerogative of the forensic team now. Morgan explains the significance of the object in a mumbling voice. He says he thinks they shouldn't know that he used to carry around a religious relic like a nun [the overwhelming majority of America are Protestants]. The lieutenant grants him the exception (Wambaugh, 1983).

4. Maybe One Finds his Need, in the Person of the Opposite-Sexed Colleague?

Still another realistic novel of Wambaugh has its plot derailed in California in 1978. Detective Walnikow and his female partner Natalie are assigned together to investigate the case of a stolen house dog.

The Mutual work brings them nearer. Both are divorcees of quarantaine-years-old. The former has a son in college while the latter is the mother of a girl.

Walnikow is the descendant of anti-communist white-Russians, who had escaped into America after the October Revolution, via Vladivostok harbor. His family still commemorates the reminiscences of good old Tsarist Russia. Their tiny orthodox-Christian community have their own church (In fact, on a Christmas day the sacristan-boy saw the hand-cuffs hanging from the belt of that alcohol-stinking middle-aged man and thought perplexed:

—What? So he is a plain-clothes cop? He?).

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