

SUPPLEMENT 4

the people who'd known Mary Ananias as a child were asked to comment on the factors that caused her development as a rebel and a radical nobody seemed to know who her man was an outside agitator speculated the herald-tribune brought in by the communists (filthy red bastards but you can't print that in the newspaper) to weaken the society by destroying its moral fibre the globe held that Mary was innocent but a victim of deep hypnosis by a perverted chiropractor at this the chiropractic association was outraged and filed several suits against the globe in various courts but argued the globe you can't help it if one of your members or ex-members as it were goes batty bonkers as it were the globe won the case hands down meanwhile the district courts had their hands full prosecuting Mary and her man on all the proven charges and a few more just for the hell of it since the two ignored the subpoenas a lawyer was appointed by the court

unfortunately his pleas were not eloquent enough the underground newspapers began to claim Mary and her man as the new folk heroes and martyrs especially when the sentences were made public these outlaw newspapers had time to condemn the courts mention the menace of 1984 evoke the revolutionary spirit in the hearts of all true rebels and coin a new revolutionary cry 'in the name of Mary Ananias!' before the courts clamped down on them as well this nonsense has gone too far a well-known judge was heard to say these longhaired hippie wierdo faggot freaks are ruining our youth and robbing them of their good judgement in a showdown battle just outside the now-famous Ananias House the good guys won and the last of the outlaws was jailed the same night

at home Mary Ananias and her man looked at each other with confusion afraid to put words to their thoughts they asked each other with their eyes afraid to change things they were even afraid to wish it had never happened all they had was each other now even Mary's smile was gone the tabloids had stolen it (THE TRUE STORY OF MARY ANANIAS THE WELL-SMILED GIRL ALL OTHERS ARE FAKES they screamed) Mary tacked sheets over their bedroom window to close out the staring faces and they held each other again this time not making love they were too tired by now and too disorientated by all the cruelties this time merely finding protection in the other having lost all innocence all naivete to the stares and the subpoenas and the media now clinging desperately to their love in case it too was stolen

outside several squads of police had gathered to try to get them out it's not our fault one commented to a news reporter I myself am personally in sympathy with the Ananias principle as I understand it but I have my job law and order is very important in the complex modern society added the reporter damn rights said the policeman as he threw the first tear-gas grenade

it crashed through the covered bedroom window followed by two then five others soon there was so much gas around (and the wind was blowing from the house to the street) that everyone was crying and still Mary Ananias and her man hadn't come out after many demands for surrender the police chief donned a gas mask and said heroically full-face to the television cameras I'm going in the crowd wiped its streaming eyes and gasped in horror a woman threw herself upon the police chief and begged him not to go don't be a fool woman he growled in the accepted style this for freedom god and my country step aside she fell sobbing to the ground her eyes filled with worship and gas-produced tears if I'm not back in an hour come in after me he called to his men they saluted with tears in their eyes he went in

an hour and some minutes later just as they were about to batter down the door he came out the crowd shrank back when they saw him for he had changed too much to believe he was older stooped a strange look in his eyes home was the hunter home from the sea he gave his last order

pull out! he cried in a voice that was a mere shadow of his usual firm decisiveness everybody get out of here right now leave this house alone get the hell off this street there's not use waiting for them to come out get out of here now

the police cleared the crowds away and turned to receive his next order but he was gone

some of them claimed they saw his bowed shoulders some distance and fading fast down the street others not so considerate of their chances of advancement mentioned that a familiar shadow could be seen against the sheets that were now covering all of the windows of the house however the assistant chief took over and gave decisive orders soon the street was empty

no-one was there to see whatever was going to happen next when darkness fell or the moon rose all the neighbours had long since moved away the searchlights on the tiny house had been removed

somewhere wherever he is now the police chief sighed with pain and relief he wasn't sure about anything else any more but for one minute he'd been a savior it hadn't been like he'd thought it might be but he coined a new ipigram about it in the years that followed love and pain are siamese twins he murmured it to himself in the sleepless nights

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