

Excerpt from short story in progress: Epi and the affair

‘I think my wife is having an affair with Kevin Costner.’

I reached for my pen and yellow legal pad, carefully wrote down the date, time and client’s name. This gave me time to think and frame a suitable response without insulting a prospective week’s income.

‘I find that hard to believe Mr Wilson, for a number of reasons.’

I wondered how Wilson had made it past my receptionist with his wild, darting eyes, then I recalled she was not in this Monday. Another crazy weekend and what I deserved for hiring a relative for a PA.

‘Mr Costner is a world-famous actor and businessman based in Hollywood USA. Your wife is a middle-aged woman living in Melbourne. With the best will in the world I can’t see how they would ever get together.’

‘I know what I know Mr Anglekikas.’

‘Please call me Epi, it’s easier on both of us. Continue.’

“I know she’s seeing someone and she’s been besotted with Costner for years. God, the number of times I had to sit through ‘the Bodyguard’. Maybe he’s shooting a movie here. Maybe he looks like him. She’s thrown him in my face for years and I want you to find out what’s going on. I can pay your fees. By the way, what are they?”

Wilson worked as an accountant for a large firm and my fees were modest these days. Recessions affect even my business. It seems there had been ongoing rows. The more demanding he became the more she would play the part of the straying woman. I could see this was going to be a case where I had to tread very carefully. Wilson did not seem to be packing a full set of circuits.

I took notes and promised I would look into it. He was one of those obsessive types and demanded a daily report on his mobile. I could live with that.

2

I turned up outside their home at 7 am and parked where I could see their drive. I was in a nondescript car with tinted windows. He left at

(The original story of about 5,000 words was lost in the Kinglake fires in 2009. GE is trying to rewrite it based on recollections)