

# "Birthday Party"

by

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They were a couple in their late thirties and they looked unmistakably married. They sat on the banquette opposite us in a little narrow restaurant having dinner. The man had a round self-satisfied face, with glasses on it; the woman was fadingly pretty in a big hat. There was nothing conspicuous about them, nothing particularly noticeable, until the end of their meal, when it became suddenly obvious that this was an Occasion-in fact, the husband's birthday, and the wife had planned a little surprise for him.

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## STOP!

*Working with a partner, discuss whether you think this is a story that will end well or end badly. Highlight the evidence in the paragraph that supports your point of view (**at least three**).*

*Next, discuss just what that ending (good or bad) might be.*