

Ellie Adder: Covid Eye

By

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TITLE "ELLIE ADDER: COVID-EYE"

A Black and white journey into the detective world of film noir in the pandemic era.

INT. NIGHT: THE LIVING ROOM

Ellie is sitting in her chair observing a client through a glass of red wine in her hand. She has her mask on. Sitting opposite her is Susan, also holding a glass of wine, and wearing a mask. Camera starts on Ellie and slowly tracks across to reveal Susan.

ELLIE (VOICE OVER)

It was one of those lazy rainy nights after a lonely, rainy day that tempts you to sleep... but not tonight.

I'm a private investigator. During these days of pandemic, I'm the Covid Eye. (chuckles)

I have a new client and we were socially distancing in my living room.

Voice over is about 19 seconds long

Susan breaks the silence.

SUSAN

I have gone to great lengths to get here un-noticed so I hope you understand the seriousness... and private state of this matter?

ELLIE

Of course. We girls have to stick together, right?

SUSAN

I'm being blackmailed. I tried to ignore it, but I just don't...

Ellie interrupts at "but."

ELLIE

Time is our only weapon here, Susan. How long have you been ignoring it?

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Here are the letters I've gotten to date. I've not replied at all.

Susan tosses a packet of envelopes into Ellie's lap. Looking a bit apprehensive, Ellie puts on a pair of examination gloves, opens one of the envelopes and inspects the latest letter. Some photos fall out.

SUSAN

(sniffles)

I just can't imagine anyone wanting to do this... to me. I just don't understand.

Ellie stands to reach for a box of tissues and tosses it at the almost emotional Susan. Susan grabs a tissue. Ellie sits down again.

SUSAN

I MEAN... WHY!?!

Susan begins to be very emotional. Hiding her tears in the tissue. Ellie crosses to the desk and retrieves a small trash can. Sensing that Ellie might throw that at her too, Susan points to a place on her left where she can put the trash can down. Susan tosses her tissue into the can and gets another.

SUSAN

I just need to know what I can do.
(Sob) I'm a good person!

Suddenly they are both distracted by the door opening. Alan bursts through the door at "what" and Susan lets her sentence trail to a stop.

Bursting onto the entry hall in front of the door, and moving into the room, enters Alan, waving a letter. He has not seen Susan, and barks at Ellie.

ALAN

Another one!! I got another one this morning!! Well!?! Well!?! Do you know who is doing this?

Looking left he realizes he has entered a situation. Ellie stands.

ELLIE

I have an appointment, as you can now so plainly see.

(CONTINUED)

Susan stands, steps forward, sees Alan and instinctively backs up a couple of steps.

SUSAN

Alan!

ALAN

Susan! You're here?

Susan composes herself, wipes her nose and tosses her tissue into the trash can. Ellie takes charge of the situation.

ELLIE

If I may? Alan? Please sit down. Over there.

She motions to the far chair. Alan and Susan sit. Once seated, the situation relaxes. Ellie thinks and looks at each one in turn.

Alan leans forward offering the letter to Ellie. Ellie waves him off. Avoiding germs.

ELLIE

Germs! I have an earlier letter over here.

Instead, Ellie goes to the desk and gets another letter in a plastic sleeve.

ELLIE

Alan. This is the blackmail letter you got earlier and gave to me last week.

Alan nods. Ellie picks up one of Susan's letters.

ELLIE

Susan. This is one of the letters you just gave me.

Susan nods.

Holding both letters in her hands, Ellie sits. She compares the two letters.

ELLIE

These both were typed on a Kronotype Model 873. One of the very last of the electric typewriters. It is unique as it has a computer age zero with the slash through the middle. The odds of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Susan and Alan exchange the following dialog underneath Ellie's monologue.

SUSAN

We even betray each other the same way.

ALAN

I'd pay not to lose you.

They both look embarrassed because of their mutual plots against each other.

SUSAN

This is funny you know.

ALAN

And kinda sexy too

They both giggle. Ellie giggles. Their giggles align with Ellie's giggle.

ELLIE

Wait... what?

Susan and Alan get up and throwing all caution to the wind, rush to each other, embrace, and then leave. The camera slowly tracks to Ellie. During her monologue, she removes her mask and drinks her wine. All of it.

ELLIE (VOICE OVER)

I guess Susan thought Alan paid me.
Or is it that Alan thought Susan
paid me... since she was here
first? The Kronotype 873. Where do
I come up with these
things? (Giggle)

Voice over is 16 seconds.

Ellie giggles and rises from her chair, grabs her now empty wine glass, and walks out of the scene (walk SL then DS).

END CREDITS