

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERS

DR. ROY FLEMMING: A polished, urbane New York psychiatrist in his forties. Highly civilized, pragmatic, at all times gives the impression of a cold, functioning intelligence. He wears conservative, artfully-tailored suits.

CLAIRE FLEMMING: A brittle, sardonic product of New York's East Side. She is in her early forties and shows the strain of a loveless marriage. Her clothes, like her apartment, are ultra chic, and in one scene she wears a negligee.

SUSAN HUDSON: Young and extremely attractive, with a hint of latent sensuality. She is not particularly complicated, but as the play progresses she shows the burden of increasing tension. She dresses with the stylish taste of an actress.

LIEUTENANT COLUMBO: A rumpled police official of indeterminate age. He seems to be bumbling and vague, with an overly apologetic, almost deferential manner. This masks an innate shrewdness, however, a foxy knowledge of human nature. He wears an undistinguished brown suit, an old topcoat, and a battered felt hat throughout the play.

DAVE GORDON: A smooth, boyish lawyer with his eye on a political future. Wears the accepted Ivy League uniform.

MISS PETRIE: A pleasant, efficient woman in her fifties with a genuine liking for people. She wears sensible office attire.

DELIVERY BOY: Early twenties. Either wears nondescript street clothes or a jacket with **MADISON CLEANERS** lettered on its back.