

* An old friend, Roger Donaghy, just told me
the anecdote from which the title is taken.

A few names and a ~~place~~ ^{most certainly} ~~name~~ ^{name} ~~in a real place~~ ^{local}
~~and a name on the top~~ ^{of a few names} ~~and a name~~ ^{and a name}
~~place have been changed~~ ^{and a couple of houses} ~~are~~ ^{are}
~~been invented~~, as well as our
job. There is not now and
as far as I know ~~there~~ has never
been an Acting Chief of Police
in Province town. The police force
in my novel being ^{incidentally} no relation

to the real one in town. This is
in preface to remark being that
all the characters are products
of my imagination and all
the situations are fictional and
unrelated to living people ^{entirely} completely.
I'd like to acknowledge John
Updike's gracious permission to
^{to print} ~~to use~~ the excerpt for my
One's Neighbor's wife in People
One knows - long blues, 1980,
California, 1980. It's use in the novel is,
of necessity, anachronistic. ^{in addition} ~~to the~~

November 17, 2023

Below is a transcript of an index card written by Mailer shortly before the publication of Tough Guys Don't Dance (Random House, August 20, 1984), a murder mystery set in Provincetown. It includes a character, Alvin Luther Regency, who is Acting Chief of Police in the town. A slightly revised version of this note is included at the end of the published novel.

*my old friend, Roger Donoghue, who first told me the anecdote from which the title is taken.

~~A few names and places have~~ [garbled and crossed out words] While Provincetown is a real place located on Cape Cod, a few names and ~~been changed in Provincetown~~ places have been changed, and a couple of houses ~~have been~~ are invented, as well as one job. There is not now, and as far as I know, ~~there~~ never has been an Acting Chief of Police in Provincetown. The police force in my novel bears, incidentally, no relation to the real one. This is in preface to remarking that all of the characters are products of my imagination and all the situations are fictional. Any resemblance to living people is entirely coincidental.

I'd like to acknowledge John Updike's gracious permission ~~to use~~ to reprint the excerpt from "One's Neighbor's Wife" in People One's Knows, Lord John Press, California, 1980. Its use in the novel is, of necessity, anachronistic. ~~Roger Donoghue~~ In addition, I'd like to thank * [jumps to opening words above written above the line that Mailer scribed at the top of the index card]