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She's Got an Atomic Bomb: Anecdotes

"The World of the Bomb"

The original story was called 'An Atomic Bomb on Voorhies Avenue', inspired by the neighborhood of Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn. Written in 1995 when the director was struck by the strong odor that permeated out from the sewage treatment plant and onto the quiet streets as he worked as a delivery boy for a local drugstore. Accepted as a part of the landscape, residents of Sheepshead had long tolerated the smell which made its way into their schools, businesses, homes and lungs. The old folks he delivered to all seemed to share similar afflictions. During initial location scouting, it was discovered that many of the older residents were afflicted with some form of dementia or other neurological degenerative condition, especially those living in the immediate area of the plant.

The first location, Truffis house, was owned by one man in particular who was convinced that the date was 1955. He seemed unable to understand that the crew would use his house for the film but his constant need to know the time and who we were within minutes of telling him peaked curiosities in regards to his mental health. Soon after, the director was contacted by his in-house nurse who informed us we could not use the location because the man in fact had dementia.

In the end, Truffi's house was discovered on the same street where her Dodge Dart was found. Under construction, it was perfect for the house of a femme fatale on the verge of insanity who was recently given notice of eviction and who was building an explosive device.

"Truffi's Car"

The 1964 Dodge Dart seen in the latter portions of the film belonged to a pair of older sisters who were known as the "Nuns" because of their devout Protestant preachings and daily church rounds. In exchange for use of the vehicle the Director replaced the dead battery and fixed the engine. Although, when shooting began the car never started. Only the nuns were able to start it by a system they devised of prayer, waiting, and gas pumping. Because of time constraints and the crew's ignorance of the Nun's system, shots where the car was moving had to be shot using a substitute car, a 74 Coup De Ville. A completely different looking car but still vintage.

Two statues of Saint Andrew can be seen on the dashboard of interior Dart shots. Incidentally, the script had called for these statues and the fact the car belonged to Nuns who already had them in place was miraculous. Although, the car never moved in the film (in one scene we actually had to cheat and push it) it was one of those little gifts that just worked out either way.