

"On an Open Fire"

by
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1 INT. DEREK'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

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DEREK, 65, is going through his mail. There is one brightly colored envelope among the usual junk. He opens it to find a holiday card. Framed at the top is a smiling picture of a husband, wife, their son, and daughter - all in festive sweaters.

He looks at the card and grows bitter.

DEREK

(sotto voce)

Make fun of me cuz I don't have
what you do, huh?

He removes a dusty book from a shelf, opens it to a tabbed page, and mumbles an incantation while holding the card in one hand. He then drops the book to the floor and strikes a match to the card.

It burns slowly. The people in the picture come to confused life. They scream and try to get away as the fire grows closer, but they are trapped in their four-sided paper prison.

Derek smiles and drops the card into the metal barrel beside the TV, seeing the real-life fire in his mind.

FADE TO BLACK.