Irony in “Lamb to the Slaughter”

VERBAL IRONY: When a character says one thing, but means another.	**SITUATIONAL IRONY:** When the reader expects something to happen, but the opposite, or unexpected happens instead.	**DRAMATIC IRONY:** When the reader knows something that the character does not know.

Below, in the left hand column, is a list of events from the story, “Lamb to the Slaughter.” In the middle column, write a V, S, or D to describe the type of irony in the example. In the right hand column write an explanation describing why you think it is that type of irony.

EXAMPLE	TYPE OF IRONY	EXPLANATION
Because Mary is happily waiting for her husband, we expect them to get along very well when he arrives; however, they do not.	**S**	This is situational irony because we *expect* them to get along, but what actually happens is a surprise to the reader. They do not get along and he tells her he wants to leave his wife.
Mary hits her husband over the head with a leg of lamb.	S	This is situational irony because we expect they are beatific, but Mary killed Patrick.
Mary seems totally normal and happy to the store clerk, but her husband is lying dead at home.	D	This is dramatic irony because we all know Mary go to the store is to create an alibi. And in that time her husband is already dead.
The policemen assume a burglar entered the home and killed Patrick with a large wrench.	D	This is dramatic irony because the policeman thought is a burglar entered the home and killer Patrick with a large wrench, but we know is his wife killed Patrick with a large freeze lamb.
Mary says, “It’d be a favor to me if you’d eat it up.”	V&S	This is verbal irony because we know the lamb is murder weapon and Mary ask the policemen to

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(She is referring to the lamb.)		help her to destroy the weapon. This is also dramatic irony because we all know the lamb is weapon.
The police officer says, “Probably right under our very noses. What you think Jack?” (He is referring to the weapon while eating the lamb.	D&V	This is dramatic irony because we know the lamp is the murder weapon. This is also verbal irony because the police is joking with Jack what they are eating is the murder weapon. They ate the lamb.

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