

The Grateful Dead or Dead Men Don't Pay Taxes
INSTALLMENT 2

Generic City, 1974.

The nearly empty offices of the Underpaid/Overdue Agency. Chief Agent Yu is closing up shop when he notices one UO agent still hard at work.

YU

Mee?

MEE

Yu...

YU

Burning the midnight oil, I see. Go home, Mee. It's 7:00 on a Friday night.

MEE

I was about to, sir. I was just at the culmination of my work, a particularly abstruse case that, as you know, I have been engaged in for nigh a fortnight.

YU

You know, Mee, not one agent in this office understands a word you say... Including me.

MEE

Yes sir. I only meant to say that I have completed the audit.

YU

Well done, Mee! And good timing. A new case came in today that we could use you on. It's a doozy.

MEE

Sir?

YU

Uh... it's abstruse.

MEE

I see.

YU

Yes, and you're just the man for the job. (Taking file out of his briefcase) A Mr. and Mrs. Danforth Ellington III. He's recently deceased--the whole thing's quite a mess. Are you game?

MEE

If you mean, sir, am I prepared to undertake the challenge of the case should you convey it to my purview, then the answer is unequivocally affirmative.

YU

So, yes?

MEE

Absolutely, sir. In fact, I eagerly anticipate the joust that lies ahead.

YU

That's fine, Mee. Here's the folder. Now go home.

Yu exits the office, bumping into Mimi Mee, Earnest's tidy and precise mother, on his way out.

YU

Ah, if it isn't the lovely Mimi Mee. How pleasant to see you! Here to give Earnest his ride home I assume?

MIMI MEE

Yes, Agent Yu, but not if I am intruding. Earnest would not like that. You know how punctilious he is.

YU

Punctilious... yes. That's just the word I would use. Not intruding at all. Good night. (He exits.)

MIMI MEE

(Entering her son's office) Earnest, we need to talk...

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Across town, Miranda Davis, still grieving from Danforth's demise, is unaware of the shark-infested waters she is about to be pulled into. Snuggling into a beanbag chair, her only plans for the weekend are to soothe herself with a glass of Chablis, a copy of *Valley of the Dolls*, and a basin of cool water in the event of nasty, unexpected hot flashes.