

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.