

Footnotes for *Revenge of the Spellmans* by Lisa Lutz

Therapy Session #19

1 Dr. Sophia Rush—Therapist #2.

2 Dr. Ira Schwartzman—Therapist #1.

3 I've found the long pause an excellent way to pass time in therapy. Until this session, I thought it had gone unnoticed.

4 For other surefire ways to kill time in therapy, see appendix.

5 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The Philosopher's Club

1 For an incomplete dossier on Dad, see appendix.

2 Mom hired a recent graduate from the American Conservatory Theater and armed him with a tape recorder and a list of questions to casually integrate into the conversation. For example: 1) Have you ever been in therapy? 2) Is it helping you? 3) Do you plan on being a bartender forever? 4) Are you seeing anyone right now? 5) How many tattoos does he have?

3 Not true. I've done all sorts of other things, like go to movies, take strolls in the park, drink coffee, drink other stuff, eat food, sleep, etc.

4 That was an accident and he knows it.

5 These kinds of questions one should never answer. So I didn't.

6 He's laying it on thick now, working the guilt angle.

7 Finger quotes.

8 Old in the literal sense. He's eighty-four.

9 Mortimer Schilling, retired defense attorney. For more information, see appendix.

10 A San Francisco landmark. Easy to locate. Serves a mean black and white milkshake.

11 Once again, if you've failed to read the previous two documents—*The Spellman Files* and *Curse of the Spellmans* (both available in paperback!)—and you need further background information, see appendix.

12 Henry's diet veers toward extreme health consciousness. If you want any food with flavor in his house, you really must bring your own supplies.

13 For David's dossier, see appendix.

14 Indeed I do.

15 Namely, the good stuff.

16 Olivia Spellman. For brief dossier, see appendix.

17 Um, yes!

18 See appendix.

19 Namely, the PI and bartender lines.

Therapy Session #10

(Therapist #1: Dr. Ira Schwartzman)

1 This might surprise you, but I'd grown quite comfortable with these extended silences in Dr. Ira's office. A fifty-minute session is a fifty-minute session. There's no wiggle room. Long silences kill time. Silence means less work. This I have learned.

How I Ended Up in Therapy

1 *Curse of the Spellmans*—now available in paperback!

2 My dad's actual word choice.

3 I intend nothing derogatory by using the word "shrink"; it's just faster to type than the alternatives.

Therapy Session #1

1 The first few times are extremely awkward. Ride it out. It gets easier.

Where Was I?

1 Even though I'm a firm believer in not mixing booze.

2 Details to follow.

Case #0011: Chapter 1

1 This was in fact my first case as an independent contractor.

2 Linda was scheduled to leave at 11:15.

3 Mom always takes the prescription but never the pills, in some sort of sick test of her pain threshold. I've been meaning to mention this to Ex-boyfriend #9, Dr. Daniel Castillo, DDS.

4 A porcelain garden frog given to David by our eccentric Grammy Spellman.

Judas

1 In English this means "Moishe's belly button." Appetizing, huh?

Rae's War

1 David doesn't make a habit of drinking coffee out of a can, but he keeps several units on hand in case of a natural disaster.

2 Literally—my name is taped to the label. David keeps the bottle around specifically for me.

3 No. No one knows how she got the password.

4 I believe Henry was referring to a few of the individuals on my list of ex-boyfriends (see previous two documents for details, if you're curious).

No Good Deed

1 Don't get me started.

2 There is indeed a file on each of the Spellman children. I wish I could say that these resemble scrapbooks, but they're really more like official dossiers—think fingerprints, not finger paintings.

Peace Talks

1 “He was soooo guilty,” according to Maggie. Not that she didn't wage an excellent defense.

2 Yes, I asked. Apparently, Henry no longer allows marshmallows in his home since they are one of the primary ingredients in a few of Rae's favorite and messiest recipes.

The Negotiation

1 The hiding place where Maggie discovered the Halloween candy.

2 Ashleigh used to be Rae's only other friend besides Henry, but in the last year her social network has greatly expanded.

Case #001: Chapter 2

1 I was giving him a special deal. Don't think I'd charge you the same.

2 I agree, not terribly clever.

3 Consider it mentioned.

“Do NOT Throw Any Parties . . .”

1 For recipe, see appendix.

2 Lie.

3 Daniel's neurosurgeon wife.

4 End of Court-Ordered Therapy.

Case #001: Chapter 3

- 1 Specifically, teeth-sucking.
- 2 In case you were curious, rule #2: no deli meats in the car.
- 3 Morty just wanted a chance to try out PI lingo. He was not actually concerned.

The Rae/Maggie/Henry Stone Situation

- 1 Henry refuses to keep overly processed grains in his home. Refined wheat flour (aka, regular old white flour enriched with vitamins) he claims is evil. I still can't tell you what it ever did to him.
- 2 Minus *Trail of the Pink Panther* and all the loosely connected films not starring Peter Sellers.
- 3 For every hour of television watched, Henry makes Rae read for an hour. He has been known to enforce this rule on adults as well.
- 4 Spelled "Cato" in subsequent films; no explanation.

Spellman Troubles

- 1 She pronounces them "Pssats."

Case #001: Chapter 4

- 1 For your own free online ordination, visit www.themonastery.org.

Killing Time

- 1 His bed is way better than the one in the guest room.

The PSAT Problem

- 1 His lucky shirt. Which she then held for ransom.
- 2 Okay, so she was doing it to help the vice squad, but no one asked her to.

The Discovery

1 I would need to return it to its appropriate place once I made a copy.

Squatting 101

1 *Curse of the Spellmans*—now available in paperback!

2 Don't worry, the secret apartment was equipped with a coffeemaker. Oh, but I need filters. Thanks for reminding me.

3 White Night. An all-night festival in Rome, the second Saturday of September, just before David's visit.

4 Labor strikes are a fact of life in Italy. There are more strikes in Italy than in any other country. It's good to check before you travel.

5 Celebrated on September 12 in Verona.

6 He had something, but not jet lag.

Case #001: Chapter 5

1 The phone was on vibrate, don't worry.

New David

1 One of Rae's PSAT words. I helped her study.

Hello, Dr. Rush: Therapy Session #13

1 At this point in the game, I didn't find the pause in any way awkward.

Lunch with Dad

1 It seriously has no name.

More Maggie

1 If I were Maggie, here's how I'd see it: He's doing the cleaning and I'm not. Who cares about motivation?

2 Note to self: Mention this credit to your character in therapy.

The Yiddish Patient

1 He doesn't know. That's what I was counting on.

Gabe "Date" #2

1 Translation: Can we speak freely? (pig Latin).

2 Sliced fruit. Rae would argue: not dessert.

Job Interview #1

1 There are two job interviews I mentioned here and then my meeting at a temp agency, which is more like a medical intake than a job interview.

2 One of our neighbors at the time kept getting our name wrong. David and I started calling our mom and dad Mr. and Mrs. Melman when we were in the mood to annoy.

3 I am well aware that this is an incredibly old joke.

Job Interview #2

1 I tend to be extra sensitive when I'm tired.

David's Secret

1 In my defense, I don't usually cry when I discover there's no coffee. Well, only once before.

2 This was a guess. But the missing camping gear made it an educated one.

3 Mid-life freak-out. But David used the term "existential crisis" instead. Tomato/tomato.

Maggie's Second Mystery

1 So far my record in David's place.

The Ransom: Part I

1 Not his real name.

2 Rae has left a distinctive pattern of blackmail in her wake. See original document, *The Spellman Files*, for details.

Invisible Isabel

1 See, I am evolving. These drugs are legal.

Therapy Session #15

1 Right here I decided to change the subject. I trusted doctor-patient confidentiality, but I didn't trust the doctor to keep her opinion about the new living arrangement to herself.

2 Actually, it's not so long. During the three-month stretch at the age of twelve when I was forced to take ballet, I committed a series of pranks in which I took great pride. My crowning achievement, and the cause for my expulsion, was when I mopped the studio floor with vegetable oil right before class.

3 Had a nice twenty-minute nap.

The Ransom: Part II

1 Petra is the only person who refuses to identify herself in voice mail messages.

2 Milo calling.

3 I refused to give Connor the satisfaction of ordering it by name, so I said, "Pour me a cup of coffee and put some whiskey in it."

4 I couldn't help thinking he meant "gorgeous" ironically.

5 The implication that the communication rift extended beyond my sister was intriguing.

Case #001: Chapter 8

1 Bravo, Petra. Bravo. For a partial transcript of their conversation, see appendix.

2 Wouldn't it be simpler to call the restaurant directly?

Close Windows Before Washing

1 Note to self: Do not refer to it as “our residence” in David’s company.

2 See appendix.

Man Trouble

1 Yes, a lie.

2 If you’ve read the second document (*Curse of the Spellmans*—now available in paperback!), maybe you’re thinking that I can’t really vouch for her. But my theory is this: David made Petra feel too much like a grown-up. Gabe will always live in a state of boyishness. Petra, too, needs to pretend she can stay young forever. That’s my theory and I’m sticking to it.

Somewhere Else

1 In the Spellman household, “disappearance” means “vacation.” It can also be used in its usual sense. (For full explanation, see appendix.)

The Ransom: Part III

1 I will have you know that I did not once mock his use of the modern matchmaker.

2 Of course, it could be that self-involved thing at work again.

The Ransom and Other Stuff

1 I always wait until at least noon.

Case #001: Chapter 9

1 Ernie was cooking dinner that night. Tuna casserole. He got the recipe from a women's magazine that he picked up at the doctor's office.

2 Not a president, Ernie.

3 *Diabolique* (1996), starring Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani. A remake, of course.

4 Which remained purely a "cheating incident" in the eyes of her unmoved guidance counselor.

5 If I had a dime for every time that banana incident was mentioned to me . . .

Disappearance #4 (The Wine Country)

1 For a list of Rae's past culinary experiments, see appendix.

2 It's basically a bunch of outtakes from previous films, but it's the last Pink Panther film starring Peter Sellers.

3 Sometimes it's best not to ask. So I didn't.

Case #001: Chapter 10

1 Yes, I really did think she'd let one week slide. Some people are very inflexible.

2 No, not the actual license plate.

3 Yeah, I used finger quotes.

4 We should probably update this phrase. I vote for: "Sorry, it won't happen again."

The Guy at the Bar

1 Of course, I argued the mathematical impossibility of that statement.

2 The ex-cop kind.

3 Note to self: Consider getting a hobby . . . or your own apartment.

4 I remember burying his wand in a flower box, hoping that would end the nightly performances. I sadly discovered that a chopstick works just as well.

5 I found it at a garage sale. It had a giant backgammon board beneath the glass.

6 I'm soooo going to mention this in therapy.

7 "Why don't you buy a new one?"

8 Bad news for me. I would have to be on constant guard.

9 Here's what you need to know about Grammy Spellman: She and my Dad barely speak. But she's pretty good at sending a birthday card and a check to her grandchildren. She's the kind of grammy who would open a brokerage account for her granddaughter and keep it from her son.

10 About three years ago, we learned that David had been giving Rae at least twenty dollars a week for no reason at all, other than to stay in her good graces.

11 Please, no letters from the Jack Daniel's corporation!

The Last Lunch (with Morty)

1 A high-end but casual restaurant in the Mission named in honor of the quasi-official utensil of the Kentucky Fried Chicken that used to reside in its place.

2 During the time it took Morty to make the life-changing decision of what to have for lunch, I read the menu from top to bottom—three times—and learned that Spork recycles their cooking oil as diesel fuel.

3 Yes, he actually wrote out "hoo-ha."

The Philosopher's Club

1 Twizzlers.

2 Milo took over the rent-controlled apartment that I took over from Bernie, after Bernie took it over from me—but changed his mind. See previous document, *Curse of the Spellmans* (now available in paperback!), for details.

Culture 101

1 I paid for his ticket, since it was my blackmail.

2 See, I was learning something.

3 (1953.) Yes, that's really what it is. Rauschenberg erased de Kooning's drawing. The museum guard explained it to me. That's the kind of art I can get behind.

Therapy Session #19 (Revisited)

1 If you've found something that works, why quit?

Case #001: Chapter11

1 A website dedicated to uniting people with their painful past.

2 Could it be there were 610 fairydusts before her?

3 Just that one time, but it seemed worth mentioning. I wonder what Jake Hand is up to these days.

4 Including all twelve Dr. Ira sessions.

5 David was, in fact, referring to the 1960s' original boy band. His disdain for this group is both legend and incredibly tiresome.

6 I went to her MySpace page hoping for some explanation for her name, Lavae. Apparently, her father named her after an ex-girlfriend, only the ex-girlfriend's name was Ravae. Thanks, that clears things up.

7 I should admit that I learned the word while Henry was quizzing Rae for her PSATs six months ago.

Mom's Confession

1 The 1944 film, starring Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, and, most importantly, Joseph Cotten, in which a husband drives his wife mad by altering her environment.

2 Yes, there are bylaws.

Stung

1 You'll soon learn why.

2 These aren't instructions. Don't, like, try this at home. That would really annoy me.

Rae Arrest #1

1 A legal term, basically saying that the defendant (Rae) deprived the plaintiff (me) of the use of my property. Punishable at the very least with compensatory measures.

Hello, Bed

1 David informed his clients of this fact, but to keep the news quiet from his family, David had the main receptionist tell callers that he was out.

Two Car Chases and a Buddhist Temple

1 For years I'd encouraged Petra to lose the wig collection—I think it sends a bad message to customers. I've quieted on this matter since discovering I can make some use of the collection.

2 Spellmans do, of course. After my first surveillance, at age twelve, I generally assumed it was possible I was being followed.

3 Of all the activities she could pursue on a whim, this had to be among the least perilous for everyone concerned.

4 Sorry, I've actually lost my long-term count. But it's only the second one of the day, if that clears anything up for you.

Are You My Blackmailer?

1 Translation: randomly swapping them around.

Case #001: Chapter 12

1 See previous document, *Curse of the Spellmans*—now available in paperback!

Case Closed

- 1 Not something I make a habit of.
- 2 Remember, the political consultant who tried to bribe me?

Loose Threads

- 1 I would later learn that it was.
- 2 Yes, I was aware that I couldn't make such a promise.

Appendix

- 1 Actually, not true.
- 2 Apparently a Texan delicacy and not Rae's original recipe, as she had claimed.
- 3 If it's a holiday party, use only red and green.

Acknowledgments

- 1 I think you know why.
- 2 Also Jason Fuller!
- 3 Now located in Santa Monica, not Beverly Hills (sheesh, I'm going to start charging for ad space, Dan).
- 4 This usually involves a half-hour conversation in which he retells the story in his own words to prove that he's read it. It's quite amusing and an excellent refresher.
- 5 The mastermind behind Rae's unfortunate recipes.
- 6 No, there's no team. But I'm not entirely opposed to the idea.