

Footnotes for *The Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz

THE INTERROGATION ROOM

1 Petra, having a way with scissors—even the garden-variety kind—created a topiary that resembled a hand with an extended middle finger.

2 Paid homeless man to buy beer.

DO NOT DISTURB

1 This list does not include one-night stands. That is a separate list, which will not be included in this document.

ONE YEAR AND EIGHT MONTHS AGO

1 I asked Petra what she wanted to do for her twenty-first birthday and she said, “Get high and go to the San Francisco Zoo.”

CAMP WINNEMANCHA

1 This is true: Shortly before my fifteenth birthday, Petra and I decided to teach ourselves how to hotwire a car. We checked out a book from the library called Preventing Car Theft (which, surprisingly, detailed exactly how to steal a car) and roamed the neighborhood (book in hand) for a car with a cracked window or unlocked door. We were caught shortly after midnight when the owner of the vehicle looked out his window, noticed the glow of a flashlight (reading light) coming from inside his car, and called the cops.

THE RA(E/Y) WARS

1 Aka Secret Agent 86.

2 Called “Satan Place.”

3 The International Organization of Evil (pronounced “chaos”).

4 Sock garter phone.

THE TENNIS WAR (TENNIS 101)

- 1 Big Brothers of America–sanctioned activities.
- 2 Same assorted males.
- 3 Cannot establish a trend.
- 4 Or woman with whom he shares a resemblance and appears to be his mother.
- 5 Cannot establish a trend.
- 6 Petra (must not mention her in case he remembers Staged Dental Appointment #1).
- 7 get high and
- 8 Untrue.
- 9 A top-secret counterespionage organization (the good guys).
- 10 The International Organization of Evil.

THE SKIRT WARS

- 1 Statistically speaking, there are far more women than men working in education, so this was not an entirely reckless assumption.

THE BAR WAR

- 1 The International Organization of Evil.
- 2 For instance, if you ask Hymie to “give you a hand,” he starts unscrewing his hand.
- 3 Named after the father of the evil scientist who created him.
- 4 Hymie looks human.

THE SNOW CASE (CHAPTER 2)

- 1 The International Organization of Evil.

THE SNOW CASE (CHAPTER 3)

1 The International Organization of Evil.

THE DRUG DEAL

1 Baking powder looks more authentic but is much harder to snort.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1 I know you cannot say the same for me, and I'm okay with that.

2 And, yes, I kind of know what that feels like.

3 Example of aforementioned inside joke.

4 0% loans only will be mentioned.

5 Has lent me a lot of money and read perhaps more than anyone, including my supercrappy early screenplays.

6 Morgan's husband and therefore money-lending applies to him as well.

7 She is only four, therefore, I have not borrowed money from her.

8 I don't recall borrowing money from Julie, but she has bought me many drinks and employed me a few times.

9 Lent money, but didn't read all that many drafts. Will need to step up if she wants mentioning in second book's acknowledgments.

10 No, I will not buy you a car.

11 Lent money, read lots of drafts, and bought lots of drinks.

12 Read lots and lots of drafts, lent money, and has given me large household appliances and furniture.

13 Any potential muggers who happen to be reading this should note this fact.

14 This would, in fact, have been a reasonable thing to do—all things considered.

15 For the record, Uncle Ray was not modeled after either one of my uncles.

16 Ibid.

17 Rent free!

18 Except Mike Joffe. I'm not acknowledging him.

19 Seriously, this book is not about you.

Excerpt from *Curse of the Spellmans* by Lisa Lutz

ARREST #2 (OR #4)1

1 Depends on whether you count #2 and #3—I don't.

2 “Old” refers to the age of the friend, not the length of our friendship.

3 “Disappearance” means “vacation” in the Spellman household. I will explain the origin of this later.

4 Temporary restraining order.

5 Morty likes to Yiddishify my name.

THE “LAW OFFICES” OF MORT SCHILLING

1 Notice the case number. The only other case Morty had this year was his nephew's traffic violation.

2 Morty and I have a standing lunch date every week. I will explain how we met and the nature of our relationship in due time.

SUBJECT MOVES INTO 1797 CLAY STREET . . .

1 In case you're wondering, I know when to give up the shtick.

2 Inspector Henry Stone. I'll explain all about him later.

3 In this instance, the word “vacation” is being used in its traditional sense.