

Footnotes for *Curse of the Spellmans* by Lisa Lutz

ARREST #2 (OR #4)

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.

THE “LAW OFFICES” OF MORT SCHILLING

1 Generally I'm opposed to the use of finger quotes. There are rare exceptions.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ME

1 Who happened to be my partner in crime during most of my delinquent years.

2 I'll get to him in five pages or so.

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL

1 Will explain the chronic tape-recording later.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HENRY AND RAE

1 Will briefly explain Rae's negotiation habit shortly.

HOW I BECAME HENRY STONE'S "FIANCÉE"

1 Bureaucracy, she claims, is the natural precursor to a fascist state.

2 Rae would later express bafflement over this request.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORTS

1 Aunt Grace was on my father's side. The Spellmans are notorious micromanagers; even bequests must be used according to the deceased person's bidding.

2 Word used in its traditional sense.

3 Her revisionist definition.

THE "LAW OFFICES" OF MORT SCHILLING

1 mensch *or* mensh (me˘nsh) *n: pl.* mensch•es *or* mensch•en (me˘n'sh n) *Informal* A person having admirable characteristics, such as fortitude and firmness of purpose.

THE DAY BERNIE PETERSON MOVED IN WITH ME

1 Yes, a stage name.

2 In San Francisco this is an unbelievable deal.

3 I said it before I realized how it sounded.

4 Huh?

5 *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

6 Ex-boyfriend #9—Daniel Castillo, DDS.

THE STONE AND SPELLMAN SHOW—EPISODE 32: “ENGLISH AS A FIRST LANGUAGE”

1 Only two flights, but need I remind you again how exhausted I was?

SUBJECT IS OBSERVED DIGGING A HOLE . . .

1 Can't wear Mom's clothes; she's a size 2.

2 There is absolutely *no* logical reason why this exit should be used exclusively in case of fire.

3 Score! The only thing on the Spellman menu that morning was lower-Dad's-cholesterol oatmeal.

4 Based on one anecdotal piece of evidence. See previous document—*The Spellman Files* (now available in paperback!)—for a full explanation.

5 The temperature in San Francisco in winter rarely dips below freezing. While I'm on the subject of San Francisco weather, anyone with the urge to quote Mark Twain should think twice (see appendix).

CRIMES AGAINST MRS. CHANDLER

1 To her friends; I was not her friend, so I always called her Mrs. Chandler.

2 While it is true that Petra's and my academic interests were limited at best, we always perked up in history class when Mr. Jackson went on tangents regarding the many crimes of our founding fathers.

3 Ironically, Petra and I performed actual library research to determine our alterations to Mrs. Chandler's lawn. In fact, we probably learned more history from our attempts at sabotage than we ever did in school.

4 And, some might argue, historically accurate.

5 And we drank every last one of them.

6 There was also the drug-reference subtext.

7 Years later, my father would say that this one was his favorite because of its "sheer simplicity."

8 Petra's boyfriend at the time.

MILFOS AND REAFOS

1 A bit late for a mid-life crisis to begin, but he makes up for it, as you will see.

2 No matter how many times I asked, Dad always failed to come up with a plausible explanation for how this happened.

3 Note: this was not a comedy.

4 *His guilt would come in handy for years to come*, I thought to myself.

EX-BOYFRIEND #9

1 Just a figure of speech. I never arrive at anything sharp. It was around 3:15 P.M.

2 Thirty-three pages ago, Dad said Mom was at the dentist. Remember?

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORTS #4 AND #5

1 Albeit a flawed quarter-carat diamond.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #6

1 Place of birth makes collecting background information much easier.

2 The entire series is now available in a box set from Time Life!

3 An international spy organization—the good guys.

4 Maxwell Smart, Agent 86.

5 The international organization of evil.

6 Best known for his role on *The Love Boat*.

7 Max's girlfriend. Her name is never revealed.

8 He's actually a very good agent, but he has a crying problem.

9 There is an amusing lack of follow-through in the defecting agent's story. She is shot but still alive, and yet Max never seems to call an ambulance for her.

10 If you are unfamiliar with the old patty-cake trick: This is where two men (usually) pretend to play patty-cake and then surprise their would-be attackers by punching them.

11 *Yes*, I offered to help, but he said no.

12 This was yet another bullet point in my suspicious behavior report on Subject.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #7

1 While it had been previously established that Rae now had friends, witnessing it still seemed out of the ordinary and worthy of a report.

DISAPPEARANCE DISPATCH #1

1 This was a question with an anticipated answer of “no.” Asked just to be sure.

2 Until eighteen months prior, Rae’s weekly visits—a.k.a. shakedowns—with David had resulted in an income of almost \$100 a month. My parents put the kibosh on that when they found a hollowed-out algebra book with almost two grand inside.

OPERATION LOCKED DOOR

1 Dad’s long-lived undercover name.

2 A dummy business name that our firm uses for cases that don’t require an extra element of privacy.

OPERATION: DOB

1 pas•ta (päs-ta) n: 1. Unleavened dough, made of wheat flour, water, and sometimes eggs, that is molded into any of a variety of shapes and boiled. 2. A prepared dish containing pasta as its main ingredient. 3. SpaghettiOs, RavioliOs, or any other canned dish containing a semolina flour product and red sauce.

2 My mother had left one dining rule upon her departure: no pizza. Rae was apparently losing interest in all other main courses and my mother wanted to cut her off cold turkey. She even went so far as to call most of the regular pizzerias in the neighborhood and convince them to refuse us service in her absence.

3 I’ve discovered that astrology talk is really the best way to get a DOB out of someone. Unfortunately I know very little on the subject. However, I know much more than my sister.

4 Ten days away from Henry and she’s off the wagon.

5 Rae was choking. I told her to study the zodiac, but she didn’t think it was necessary.

6 Yes, Rae was very disappointing in this charade. If this were her own investigation, I guarantee she would have prepared better.

SUBJECT HELPS DAD WITH LUGGAGE . . .

1 Which had grown quite full from our habit of stuffing them.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #8

1 Which has a 75-percent accuracy rate.

SUBJECT ARRIVES AT THE PHILOSOPHER’S CLUB . . .

1 I made that suggestion so he could have more time to memorize the details.

2 For a partial list of Mom’s criteria for men, see appendix.

THE VALENTINE’S DAY MASSACRE

1 I played early-riser, hoping to get more information. This almost killed me.

ASHBY COMMUNITY GARDEN

1 Another detail that went into my report on Subject.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #9

1 By me. Have not yet established whether this is a universal stance.

2 Spellman definition applies here: disappearance.

THE STONE AND SPELLMAN SHOW—EPISODE 18: “SAT-PREP”

1 My parents’ rule is that Rae can eat junk food on the weekends only.

2 The subtext of this glance was “If you ruin this, I will make your life a living hell.”

3 There was, indeed, a memo (see appendix).

THE “LAW OFFICES” OF MORT SCHILLING

1 Morty was trying to drag this out as long as he could, I realized.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #10

1 As a former cop, Dad’s use of the f-word was loose and frequent. But as a father he discovered that by moderating its use, he could use it as a warning sign to his children.

THE CHANDLER JOB: CHAPTER 2

1 The investigator will bring in anywhere from \$15 up. My going rate is \$25/hr on surveillance; \$20/hr for investigative work; \$15/hr for administrative (which I try to keep to a minimum).

2 The last four thinking about how badly I wanted to pee.

3 Henry explained that if we engaged her in conversation, the time would pass. The goal was for time to feel endless.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #12

1 That is, unless I decide to fight dirty. Stay tuned—sibling brawl to come.

HOME ALONE: CHAPTER 2

1 90 percent of which was based on my own behavior.

2 Do not try this at home.

EX-BOYFRIEND #10

1 See previous document if you would like all the details—*The Spellman Files*, now in paperback!

2 Sorry, had to give up that one detail.

3 Notice how I am being vague and not offering any further details on Subject's and my relationship.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S CLUB

1 You think I wouldn't know the details of a sport called 'hurling'?

THE CHANDLER JOB: CHAPTER 3

1 Notice the swapping of "you" and "for."

GARBOLOGY 101

1 If you are not privy to our sibling ESP, we both decided at the same time that we needed Subject's trash.

2 Garbology on security-savvy (i.e., shred-happy) people is always a painfully dull chore.

HOME ALONE: CHAPTER 4

1 I know. Not wise.

THE MORNING AFTER

1 Not a true statistic, but probably in that ballpark.

2 The man knew how to make coffee.

THE STONE AND SPELLMAN SHOW—EPISODE 33: “DON'T EAT THE PANCAKES AND BINGE-DRINKING CONFESSION”

1 She said this while scratching her nose and avoiding eye contact. According to basic body language interpretation, this was most definitely a lie.

2 The lie did not go unnoticed.

THE ETERNAL QUESTION

1 Purely a manipulative tactic to keep Henry around longer.

2 Research and reconnaissance.

GATHERING INTELLIGENCE

1 I'm good, huh?

2 Now available in paperback!

3 The #1 most popular female name, according to the same source above.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR REPORT #10.1

1 Our standing lunch date is Thursday, but I didn't want to wait, and Morty, as usual, was free.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

1 Morty likes to eat most of his meals on the early side.

OPERATION LOCKED DOOR: PART III

1 I had relaxed the "sugar only on weekends" rule since there were so many far more serious rules I had broken during my stay.

1 Another detail for the SBR: keeping large sums of cash handy.

ARREST #1: PART I

1 Planning on being late for school.

UNSTAGED DENTAL APPOINTMENT #7

1 She actually used that word.

ARREST #2

1 In fact, not a lie.

ARREST #3

1 Squinting and tapping on a bluff, and a "look of disdain" on a winning hand.

2 No, I didn't.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: PART II

1 I'm pretty sure this was a gift from my sister so she'd have some music to listen to at his place.

DOCTOR WHO?

1 Dad's one of those people who think television is interactive. We have tried to cure him of this vile habit, to no avail.

THE STONE AND SPELLMANSHOW—EPISODE 42: “THE READING RULE AND THE MUCOUS MYSTERY”

1 The first season of the new series. Technically, not the first.

2 In this episode the doctor and his sidekick, Rose, travel to the year five billion to watch the sun swallow the earth. But the real trouble is that there is a murderer amongst the aliens who have convened for the big event.

3 The doctor and his sidekick, Rose, travel back in time and meet Charles Dickens and some zombies.

4 During World War II, a spacecraft crashes on Earth, spreading matter into the air that alters human DNA and causes gas masks to adhere to people's faces, and then they roam the streets of London saying, “Are you my mommy?” Hard to explain. You should probably just watch the episode. Warning: It's surprisingly scary.

THE EXPERIMENT

1 Yes, April 1st is an unfortunate date for a birthday. I'll spare you the historical details.

LOST WEEKEND REDUX

1 Wormlike creatures that fit into human bodysuits as a disguise and are frightfully gassy.

2 Evil alien beings that resemble a cross between a bronze R2-D2 and a thimble, with a gooey squid center on the inside. They appear to pose the greatest risk of ending humanity.

3 A time-travel machine that appears from the outside like an old-fashioned police call box.

EIGHT BALL EASTER

1 *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (Review: four out of five stars—hard to keep track of all the characters.)

THE DAVID SPELLMAN PROBLEM

- 1 It had been only four weeks at this point; however, I was mostly healed.
- 2 A habit that died two years later when he read research on high-fructose corn syrup.
- 3 Only half a stick of Dentyne, because fighting dirty isn't David's style. He fought back merely to hold his ground. His heart wasn't ever really in it.

MY DAY IN COURT

- 1 For further information, please see the first document. (Now available in paperback!)

MY LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

- 1 Bring your own booze.

MY CLOSET

- 1 Unless I was running Spellman Investigations, I couldn't expect to make more than the high 30s per year. And that's a good year.

THE CARPET CAPER

- 1 Note to self: End casual mentioning of restraining order.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S CLUB

- 1 Around \$400 retail.
- 2 I only took one. Where was the other?

EPILOGUE: FOUR APOLOGIES AND A WEDDING

- 1 We realized after the fact that this would make us related, and we determined to widen the number gap if we were to do a repeat performance.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S CLUB

- 1 Although I never stopped introducing myself as his life coach.

APPENDIX

1 This time, uttered by me.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1 No, don't do that. But if you do, tell them I read your manuscript and think it's great!

2 Marysue had to pay because David wasn't sure his credit card would work.

3 Perhaps an "acting" editorial assistant does not make sense. I'm actually not in the mood to elaborate.

4 If you're in the market for one, he's located in Beverly Hills.

5 He was simply held for questioning; no arrest was ever made.

6 But not Mike Joffe.