

Pedestrian 11

Lewis killed time at the local Shoppers before heading back to his aunt's house with the groceries from the bakery. He found the magazine stand at Shoppers...that was where he could kill time even though the cashier was glaring at him.

He found a music magazine that was all full of the latest salvos in the war between Neil Young, Joe Rogan, and Spotify. Neil Young and other Laurel Canyon musicians had removed their songs from the streaming service in response to pod-caster Rogan's tendency to host anti-vaxx and even further right-wing guests. Lewis had some sympathy for Young and Joni Mitchell but wished that some musicians young enough to be their grandchildren would also pull out of Spotify.

But they wouldn't. They needed the money from the streaming service. Spotify, Amazon,,,,there were others. He had a friend whose son posted original music on Bandcamp but that seemed to exist in a different economic strata.

The cashier now asked Lewis to hurry up and either buy the magazine or return it to its place on the shelf. Lewis performed the second option and then exited the store. He did occasionally buy things like deodorant and toothpaste from Shoppers so he didn't want to get himself banned.

He walked toward Aunt Martha's house at a lesirely pace. Aunt Martha did enjoy her Danish Pastries and eccles cakes and who was Lewis to be judgemental about somebody else's dining habits anyway.

Aunt Martha had lived by herself since Uncle George's death. Aunt Martha made as much sense to Lewis as did anybody else in the world.

A greyish green sedan pulled up beside him. Lewis realized that the driver wanted to talk to him. The driver was the mysterious man with the buzz cut who he now remembered from the gathering for Ray Townshend.

'Lewis Mark Taylor.'

That was his name and it wasn't a question.

The man stepped out of the car and stood in front of Lewis' path.

"Lewis Mark Taylor, I wish to speak to you about the death of your colleague Raymond Edward Townshend. Please get in the car. Don't argue with me. Just get in my car. Do you understand?"

That wasn't really a question either. Yes, Lewis did understand.