

Pedestrian 5

Mercedes Frank had trouble finding a parking spot at the North Toronto mall, which appeared to be a conglomerate of several malls.

They rarely drove to this northern end of the metropolis but today they had been obliged to visit an uncle who had recently slipped on black ice and required a hip replacement. Mercedes did not like this uncle very much. But they visited Uncle Donald as a favour to their mother.

They found a parking spot as a car was about to leave one for them. And then Mercedes suddenly braked. The driver of the exiting car was none other than Lewis Taylor.

What the hell was Lewis doing way up in North York? Well, maybe Lewis also had obligatory relatives or something. Lewis had always seemed strange to them. He hadn't attended Diana's soiree and Mercedes hadn't missed him. Lewis was chronically sullen and anti-social, a brooder without an ongoing project to justify his general surliness. Anti-social people were tolerable if they had some ongoing project that necessitated solitude. Lewis didn't seem to have anything on the go...not that they had ever talked to him at any great length.

Mercedes made sure Lewis didn't see them and then parked in the spot that Lewis had vacated. If only Raymond had come to the party? If only Raymond were alive.