

THE GREAT "DRUG" BUST



In fair weather, Sam likes to sit in the covered part of the Edgartown dock and munch a lunch with his friend Dippity Droop, who has an antique shop off Water Street in Edgartown. Although they both are jet-stream talkers, they say little because they're too busy observing the sights—kids fishing and the ferry crossing the narrow neck of the harbor to the island of Chappaquiddick.

Sam, who likes to look at antiques but never buys, went back to the shop with Dippity, whose nephew Pelvis Esley was minding the store.

Pelvis was full of excitement. "Somebody came in here," he said, "and walked straight to the back of the store, to that fifty-cent crockery sign, and then he stood there for a long time examining the stuff as if he knew what he wanted and knew it was there but had to locate it. Then he bent down and picked up a plate and studied it carefully. But instead of buying it, he put it down and stuck something underneath it."

"What?"

"I didn't look. I didn't want my fingerprints on anything because this looks like some kind of a drug deal and I don't want to get involved."

"Show me the plate," Sam said.

Pelvis pointed and Sam picked up the plate that was decorated with little angels who were shooting at each other with tiny pink bows and arrows. Then he picked up the folded piece of paper that had been underneath and unwrapped it. The gold locket that he uncovered was plain. When Sam opened it, there was a message inside that read, "Harbor View, 7 PM, #236."

Sam handed it to Dippity who examined it and said, "Locket's worth five hundred."

Sam replaced the plate and locket. "The guy say anything?"

"Oh, yes. He looked at me and said, 'What are you doing here?' Then without waiting for an answer he left. What do you think we should do?"

"Nothing," Sam said, "except wait."

The next day, according to Dippity, a tall woman lifted the plate, picked up the locket, and then bought not only the fifty-cent plate, but a Steve Lohman sculpture in wire showing a pair of lovers kissing. She bought it for \$300 and paid for it in cash.

"Gives me an idea," Sam said.

What's yours, and what would you expect to find at the Harbor View?

Questions

1. Do you think the locket was placed under the plate in the course of a treasure hunt, the kind in which the players find clues directing them from place to place?
2. Do you think the woman came to Dippity Droop's for some specific purpose?
3. Was this a love tryst?
4. If you were Sam, what could you do?

Solution on page 63.