

FOXY GRANDPA



For eight years, Grandpa Kilpatrick Daniel Kibbe and his three cats—named Underfoot One, Two, and Three—lived frugally on a boat moored in the harbor near the ferry landing in Vineyard Haven, but in the ninth year, he won a three-million-dollar lottery, and his life changed. He quickly sold his boat and bought three houses.

His favorite, which he called Mixed Blessings, was one of the gingerbread houses on New York Avenue in Oak Bluffs. There, sitting on its ornately flounced porch, he loved to sketch while he watched the boats in the harbor. His neighbors kept wondering what he was drawing. If they'd managed to peek, they would have seen Mixed Blessings drawn over and over again, compulsively, and always from the same angle. He even memorialized it in the document shown here, which he called his will.

His offspring—two married sons and a married daughter, plus a gaggle of grandchildren—forgave him his eccentricities. After all, with so much money he had a right to be a little different. But when he died and left his three houses mortgaged up to their roofs, plus an overdrawn bank account and the piece of paper shown here, they felt he'd carried things a little too far.

What do you think his progeny did, or should have done?

Questions

1. Could this be a holographic will, and as such, be valid?
2. Since the numbers are obviously some kind of code, would you expect it to be a simple one?
3. Try to solve the code, on the basis that it is a simple one.
4. What do you think Grandpa Kibbe's children did, or should do?

Solution on page 64.