

PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

Look at a husband like an investment

MIRANDA was sitting with her niece Christi at a coffee shop on Palo Alto's Ramona Street, on a sunny Tuesday afternoon.

Miranda had grown up in Palo Alto, decades earlier, when it was a sleepy little university town. She had gone to Stanford as an undergrad, then NYU law school, and spent most of her adult life in New York working as an attorney.

She was now back in town to try and sell her parents little California bungalow, the one she had grown up in and that her parents had purchased in 1958 for \$22,000. The real estate agent said that if she played her cards right, she could sell it for more than \$3 million.

The numbers made Miranda's head swim. She had done well in her career; and was now approaching retirement.

This is part 14 of a 24-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

She had worked all her adult life, and had some money, but \$3 million was nothing to sniff at.



CHRISTI

Her plan was to spend some time in Palo Alto, living in her parents' old house in the Southgate neighborhood, perhaps fixing it up a bit, while she figured out her plan.

Reconnecting with old friends had been both happy and sad. She was surprised to find that so many people living in Palo Alto today were under

such stress; and how they reacted to it in different ways.

Her niece Christi, for example, had shocked her. A recent Stanford grad, and herself a lifelong Palo Alto resident, Christi had confided in Miranda, who had always been a close friend and mentor to her, that she was planning to marry a very wealthy tech start-up guy, rather famous in the world, whom Christi admitted to Miranda that she did not love.



MIRANDA

Of course Miranda recommended against the idea, but Christi was adamant.

Miranda had read a quote recently from a prominent Silicon Valley venture capitalist that the top people

to invest in financially these days were semi-autistic young men, who lived in front of their computer screens; with no social skills and no sex life; who had dropped out of Stanford or Harvard to create a start-up.

This VC said that when he saw such a profile, he always invested in that person. That they were the people with the chances to make huge amounts of money. Miranda mentioned this to her niece.

"That's exactly right," said Christie. "That's what a marriageable young woman from Palo Alto should look for. If you can find someone like that, you're set for life, Aunt Miranda. For life! Imagine that!"

The discussion depressed Miranda.

More tomorrow.