

PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

Lunch meeting goes terribly wrong

TAYLOR and Christi were having lunch at the hummus shop on University Avenue.

The two didn't know each other well, but Jeremy had suggested to Taylor that she schmooze with Christi, hoping that the wealthy Christi might support his 17-minute YouTube film, in which Taylor starred.

"But why would I want to support a film about people wrecking the system?" Christi asked Taylor.

Taylor was taken aback. This didn't look promising. Jeremy's sci-fi film was about rebellious Silicon Valley techies trying to "liberate the system."

"My husband has made billions from the system," said Christi. "I don't want to wreck the system. I like it."

"I just thought you might want to support Jeremy's film," said Taylor.

This is part 61 of a 72-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.



CHRISTI

"He's made a movie about a bunch of people who get fired from their Palo Alto jobs when they are too old," said Christi. "Why would I want to support a movie like that?"

"Well," said Taylor, "It's just ... it's just ... that Jeremy thought you might help us."

"So that's why you invited me to lunch?" said Christi. "To get money out of me?"

"No," Taylor lied. "I want to get to know you better."

"You're a waitress in a coffee shop," said Christi, alluding to Taylor's job at Coupa Cafe. "Why would I want to be friends with a waitress from a coffee shop? I hang out with much more important people than you," she added.

"Well," said Taylor, "I guess I didn't realize how stuck-up you are."



TAYLOR

"At least I'm not fat," said Christi, raising the stakes. "Look at your bulging midriff. How can you stand yourself?"

Wow, thought Taylor, where is this going? Then she said to Christi, "At least I don't throw up to stay thin, the way you do. I can see that a mile away. That little tremor in your hand gives you away, when you try to hold your soup spoon."

"You're just jealous of me," said

Christi, "Because I've married a successful man. What are you going to do — marry Jeremy and live with him and his mom?"

"Why would I be jealous of a psycho like you?" asked Taylor.

At that point Christi leapt up from the lunch table and took a swing at Taylor. Taylor screamed. The maitre d' from the hummus shop separated them, and threw them out on to the street.

"She attacked me," said Taylor. "She's a crazy woman."

"You don't even know what crazy is," said Christi, as she strode off down the street, in a rage.

"Gosh," Taylor thought to herself. "I guess I'm not very good at fundraising."

More tomorrow.