

Day 5

Filter

by

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Airport lobby. Two men in suits, roller suitcases at their feet. One is in his mid-50's (Grant), the other is in his early 20's (Dave). Grant is sipping black coffee.

GRANT

Piss. Scalding hot piss.

DAVE

That good?

GRANT

Didn't have time to make my own.

DAVE

You wouldn't have gotten it through security.

GRANT

True. Security. Jesus.

He sips more.

GRANT

I don't think I can finish it. It's like they burned it on purpose. They wanted to do a social experiment to see how many people would drink it. And we're all desperate enough to drink.

DAVE

There's a place I know of in town, where they brew one cup at a time. You order and he places a little filter above a single cup and swirls in some hot water. The perfect cup.

GRANT

Did he measure the water?

DAVE

Hm?

GRANT

Did you see him measure the amount of water or coffee grounds?

DAVE

No, but I'm sure he did. It was very artistic the way he did it, round and round, a very smooth motion. Practiced.

GRANT

Fibonacci sequence?

DAVE

Maybe?

GRANT

Coffee, like most things, boils down to mathematics. There is a perfect ratio between water to coffee. You weigh the water first, then do the math: 17.42 to 1. There you have the coffee.

DAVE

What units?

GRANT

Of weight? Ounces. Pounds if you're a giant. Or if it's Monday. The world is determined by ratios. The Golden Ratio all the way back to the Greeks, built buildings, the Parthenon all based on these ratios, these hidden beauties.

DAVE

How many of us are there?

GRANT

In the whole program? 40? 50? Our team is 7. You met Mark already.

DAVE

And Susan.

GRANT

Not on our team.

DAVE

She said she was.

GRANT

She's on the

(Air quotes)

"Team," but not our team.

(Off of Dave's reaction)

She's the head. The top.

DAVE

The top?

GRANT

Number one.

DAVE

She's young.

GRANT

Not that young. She looks young. Looks. And she uses that. Did she flirt with you?

DAVE

No.

GRANT

The new, young ones are usually her targets. She was even like that when she came in. I'm not saying that she didn't deserve moving up, but it didn't feel right.

DAVE

She seemed nice.

Overhead speaker: "Ladies and gentlemen. In just a moment, we're going to be boarding flight 27-41 with service to St. Louis."

GRANT

She does seem nice. Wait until you meet the rest of her.

Grant downs the rest of his coffee with a frustrated growl.

GRANT

17.42 to 1. I'm telling you, it's perfect.