

already had a great idea for the next issue of *WheatBread* (to be put out on April 1st) and had Rob Mohns working on getting some necessary information out of the *Scarlet* offices. In the meantime, he was justifying a new computer in the budget (not a problem considering the shape their current computer was in). He had helped Dave Bernstein, station manager of WRCU, on the WRCU budget, which had taken a little too much time away from working on the *WheatBread* budget.

It was not coming along, so Randy decided to distract himself for a little while and logged onto the VAX. He had an e-mail, surprisingly, from a member of Student Council, informing him that they would not accept a *WheatBread* budget at that time, as they had to decide if *WheatBread* was a new organization and, if it was, it would have to go through the usual three-semester waiting period.

Randy was livid. He cursed and swore and yelled at the computer. Then, he settled down and started thinking. He knew the members of Student Council well enough to know that none of them would have thought of something so treacherous and underhanded. That did not leave many people, but Randy had a suspect.

He walked quickly across campus, afraid to use phones out of fear of listening devices on either end, and stormed into the *Scarlet* office. As expected, editor-in-chief Yazad Dalal was there. "That was clever, Yaz, putting the Judiciary committee after me, but it's not going to work. I'll find a way out of it, and then I'll get you. You hear me?"

Dalal's confusion was, in Randy's eyes, very well-acted. "I don't have any idea what you're talking about. Now, if you don't mind, we're trying to put out a paper, so if you'll excuse me..."

"Don't deny this, Yaz. No one else on campus had a reason to do it, except for you. I won't forget this. You'll pay. This whole paper will pay!" Slamming his hand on the desk for a flourish, Randy whirled around a stormed back out of the office. Rebecca Kirsznar came and stood beside Dalal.

"What was that all about?" he asked.

"Guess we'll just have to wait and see," she replied.

That night, Sundrop was walking back to her room from Grind Central with Jennifer when a person suddenly appeared, walking beside them perfectly in step. "Don't say anything," he started, "just listen. You complained about the cat, that's why he wanted to get rid of you, but you would have been gone soon anyway. There's a lot to this nobody knows. Here, read this," he said, and he handed Sundrop a folder with the word "WheatBread" written on it. Despite their lack of comprehension, Sundrop and Jennifer continued walking back to the Corner House and the figure slowed his pace and disappeared as suddenly as he had come.

Hours later, close to 2am, Spinoza was lying outside the Little Center, resting contently in the cool air. A group of party-goers passed by, pointing to the cat and laughing good-naturedly at it and its near legendary status. They did not see the solitary figure approach, but one of them did look back and notice with somewhat-drunken bewilderment that the cat was gone.

## CHAPTER 6: ALL IS REVEALED

Randy Mack did not notice anything amiss at first. He was working with Rob Mohns on the next (and greatest, he thought) *WheatBread* issue. The previous night, Rob had met with Mitch Cohen and had successfully convinced him to give them access to key *Scarlet* computer disks. Using the disks, Randy planned to produce an almost exact copy of the *Scarlet*, a parody issue for April Fool's Day. Plus, with Mitch now on their side, he could finally keep tabs on what the *Scarlet* was planning next.

Rob and Randy worked in almost complete silence until Rob pointed out that a drawer that was normally always locked (and to which Randy had the only key) had apparently been forced open. Randy immediately raced over to the drawer and saw that it was empty, the folder which was the only thing the drawer had ever contained was gone.

"What happened to it? Who took it?" He did not wait to hear Rob's answer (which was a feeble "I don't know"), but stormed out of the office and returned to his apartment. He was suddenly worried even more than he was angry. No one had been in the office to his knowledge except Dave Bernstein and Zack Ordynans, who had come down to discuss the WRCU budget. So somebody must have broken into the office and stolen the folder, which means that it was possible that the *Scarlet* had the folder and was even preparing to print the contents. If people saw what was in that folder, his entire plan would fall down around him. He had to get that folder back.

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The phone rang. On the other end, Randy heard Rob say, "You better get back here. We just got a message." Randy hurried back to the office and was greeted by an envelope which Rob handed to him with the gravest of looks. Opening it, Randy pulled out a Polaroid of Spinoza and a letter (obviously printed up on a laser or ink-jet printer) which said:

"Randy, if you ever want to see your cat alive again, you'll meet me tonight at 1 under the library."

It was, unsurprisingly, unsigned. Randy stared at the Polaroid as he crumpled the letter and let it fall to the floor. Then, he turned without a word to Rob and walked out of the office.

After he left, Rob shrugged and tried to get back to work, but the image of Spinoza haunted him. Finally, he tried just cleaning up the office a little and he found a letter which Randy had been writing to Student Council about the budget difficulties, a problem which he had not told Rob about. Rob immediately went to work finishing the letter.

It was cold that night as Randy and Rob walked toward the library.

Randy had not said one word to Rob since the afternoon and Rob was beginning to fear for his friend's mental health. As they stood directly over the time capsule buried beneath the gothic structure of the Goddard library, they heard a very quiet meowing. They both looked and saw two figures standing in the shadow, the taller one carrying a somewhat over-weight cat. Slowly they moved into the light and Randy saw that they were Jennifer Kilbane and Sundrop Carter.

"Sundrop? What are doing with Spinoza?" Randy managed to ask.

"I know all about you now, Randy. I took your cat to get your attention, now I'm going to make you stop." There was a fire in Sundrop's eyes that Randy had never seen before. He could not guess what it meant.

"What are you talking about?"

"We're talking about this," Jennifer said as she held up a folder with the word "WheatBread" written on it. Randy's mouth dropped open.

"Does Rob know about this?" Sundrop asked. "Does he know Spinoza's real name? I'd guess that he doesn't."

Rob stood silent and confused as Randy continued, "How did you get that? Who gave it to you?"

"I did," said a voice from behind them. Randy turned around and saw Zack Ordynans walking toward them. "I wanted someone else to know about what you were planning. You were so worried about the *Scarlet*, but they didn't care about that folder. They asked me to bug your office, so I did. They asked me to make sure certain questions were asked at the debate, so I did. But they never asked for the folder, so I gave it to Sunny as soon as I heard about what happened to her." He was standing just inches from Randy now. "So go on, tell Rob about your plan."

Randy was silent, so Sundrop decided to tell the story herself. "Spinoza is not this cat's real name. It had to be changed because it's wanted in several states for various illegal activities, including three for sexual harassment. His real name is 'WheatBread', named after Randy's favorite sandwich bread. This magazine of his, which used to be the *Progressive*, is part of a plan to clear WheatBread's name."

"It all starts with this one college magazine," Jennifer

continued, sensing her roommate was getting too worked up. "Then, move on to a bigger publication, then a bigger one. Undermine all integrity and spread chaos through mass media. The final goal, as lunatic as it is, is to cause the downfall of civilization as we know it. The short term goal is to bring anarchy so no one will be looking for his cat."

"That's crazy," Rob managed to sputter.

"Why do you think he got rid of me? He cares more about this cat than anyone or anything. Right, Randy?" Randy did not move or reply. "I even seduced Yaz so you could blackmail him, but you kicked me out the first chance you get!"

So saying, she raised Spinoza (born WheatBread) high above her head as if to throw him. Randy let out a scream and rush toward her. In surprise, she dropped Spinoza, who fell into Randy's arms, who ran off blindly, cuddling his feline-companion close to him.

Rob, having seen all he need to see, turned and walked slowly away.

Sundrop stood there for a long while, her hands still in the air, until Jennifer took one of her arms and led her back to their room. Zack was the last to leave, content that Randy's vision for *WheatBread* would now never come to pass.

## EPILOGUE

The next day, things on campus seemed to return to normal, though in fact they would never be normal again (if indeed they ever were normal). In the *Scarlet* office, Yazad Dalal had not slept in days. Ever since Randy Mack had stormed into his office and accused him a something that he had not done, Dalal had known that there was someone else out there, scheming and plotting behind closed doors. Rebecca Kirsznar walked into the office and stood, arms crossed, in front of Dalal.

"What do you want?" he snapped.

"Your job," she answered. He did not register her words for a minute, but when he did, all confusion left his face. "That's right. I'm the one who suggested to the Council that they should cut funding to *WheatBread*. It won't stop them from printing, they've already got money and Student Council will probably just waffle anyway, but I did something that you could never do, Yaz: I actually shook up the invincible Randy Mack."

"So you think that makes you a better editor than I am?"

"No, I think that gives me the support of almost all of the staff. Now either get out of that chair, or we'll throw you out. Your time as chief is gone, Yaz. It's my time, now."

Dalal did not move for a long time, but finally, reluctantly, he rose from the chair and walked out of the office, leaving the chair to Rebecca.

Elsewhere, Rob Mohns finished the letter appealing to Student Council for more funds and walked over to the U.C. to deliver it. Along the way, he saw Zack Ordynans and stopped him right next to the flagpole in Red Square. Rob still had not figured out why Zack had been working for the *Scarlet*, and so he asked him.

"Well, at first," Zack began, "it was because I wanted

to be the head of ROC-U. I figured the *Scarlet* could make that happen once *WheatBread* was gone. But later, I didn't want Dave's job anymore. Too much work. I just wanted Randy Mack gone." His explanation finished, Zack continued walking, leaving Rob to fill in the many unanswered questions on his own.

As for Randy Mack, himself, Rob quickly replaced him as head of *WheatBread*, a move which Randy did not dispute. In fact, Randy did not even notice. The episode with Spinoza (as Randy continued to call him) had shaken him, and he spent most of his time now talking to his life-time feline companion, asking to be forgiven for all he had done.

In the end, Rob locked Randy away in an unused room somewhere in Sanford with a computer so Randy could pass the time with his cat emailing people about the latest issue of *WheatBread* and post endlessly in Bulletin, even creating a whole folder for just that purpose. "Randy Mack" was credited in the *Scarlet* parody by *WheatBread*, but all those pieces were written jointly by the staff.

Or, so I've been told...