

The Old Hippie and The College Graduate

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Abstract:

There was once a young man whose mother said to him when he graduated from college, "My son, now that you have finished your studies, the time is right for you to get a job! I will give you some money to help you get started and to purchase a vehicle to take you back and forth from work."

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Chapter:

*****Note: Full text of article below**

THE COLLEGE GRADUATE AND THE OLD HIPPIE



REBECCA ADAMS

There was once a young man whose mother said to him when he graduated from college, "My son, now that you have finished your studies, the time is right for you to get a job! I will give you some money to help you get started and to purchase a vehicle to take you back and forth from work."

So the College Graduate purchased a used VW minivan, tied-dyed some T-shirts, and went on the Grateful Dead's Summer Tour. After the last show of the first run, the College Graduate's minivan was one of the last vehicles in the parking lot. As he was about to drive away, he noticed a man on the pavement. The man was badly beaten, presumably by the security guards, who were known to take steroids. Being a kind and caring person, the College Graduate took the beaten man to a hospital where he subsequently died. Appalled and saddened that such a thing could have happened at a family gathering, the young man asked what would be done with the man's body. When he was told it would not be released for burial until the hospital bill was paid, the College Graduate took all the cash he had made selling T-shirts and paid the hospital bill, arranged for the man's burial, and was left with an empty fanny pack.

Fortunately, the College Graduate's minivan had a full tank of gas, which was enough to get him to the venue where the Grateful Dead was scheduled to play their next run of shows and where he could replenish his finances by selling more T-shirts. In the parking lot before the last show of that run, the College Graduate encountered a beautiful young woman who had no ticket and

could not find her tour buddies. The College Graduate miracled the Beautiful Young Woman and offered to give her a ride to the next venue after the show. Seeing his aura as kind and trustworthy, she eagerly agreed. After smoking some kind bud and dosing, they went into the show and together danced themselves into perfect union. When they returned to his minivan after the show, the College Graduate discovered that he had been robbed, not just of his money, but of all of his tie-dyed T-shirts as well. The College Graduate was crestfallen, but the Beautiful Young Woman told him not to worry because she was a fine cook and for the rest of the tour they could sell veggie burritos to earn gas money.

About the same time, the Beautiful Young Woman's parents, worried because their daughter had left home without saying a word to anyone, dispatched her wealthy boyfriend to find her. Knowing the Beautiful Woman was a hardcore Deadhead, the Wealthy Boyfriend knew she would be on tour. He arrived in the parking lot before a show and began looking for her. Sniffing the air with his regal nose, he knew that he had come to the right place, because only the Beautiful Young Woman could cook veggie burritos as aromatic as those he smelled. He found the Beautiful Young Woman and College Graduate vending on Shakedown Street, seized the Beautiful Young Woman, reminded her of her socio-economic background and the class-related expectations associated with it, then whisked her home to her father who arranged for her to enter therapy.

The College Graduate did not know the Beautiful Young Woman's name, let alone where her parents lived, so he was left on tour, heart-broken as well as broke. Just as he was about to give up and sell his minivan in exchange for enough money to pay for bus fare home, an old hippie noticed the tie-dyed T-shirt the College Graduate was wearing. "That dye is awesome, brother," said the Old Hippie. "Where can I get one of those?"

When the College Graduate told the Old Hippie that the work was his own, but that he had none left to sell, the Old Hippie suggested they become partners, sharing their talent, money, and other resources equally. So it happened that the Old Hippie bought the College Graduate T-shirts to tie-dye and together they sold out of them on every tour. The partnership was so successful that soon the College Graduate had earned enough money to go corporate.

Time passed. The College Graduate lived a good and simple life, attending one concert after another, which provided him with ample reward, both financially and spiritually. The College Graduate

could not believe his luck. Not only was theirs a successful business, but he and the Old Hippie shared many adventures and formed the nucleus of a growing tour family. Nonetheless, the College Graduate often thought about the Beautiful Young Woman and longed to dance with her again.

Then one day, while on Summer Tour on the way to a venue surrounded by corn fields, the College Graduate and the Old Hippie got lost. The only place to stop to ask directions was a big mansion. The Old Hippie stayed in the minivan while the College Graduate went to the door to ask for directions. When the door opened, the College Graduate was stunned and then delighted, because the person answering the bell was the Beautiful Young Woman. Until that moment, he had no idea she was a Trustafarian. After they hugged, marveled at the cosmic wonder of synchronicity, and felt their spirits merging once again into the perfect union they had experienced on their first encounter, she introduced the College Graduate to her parents and told them of his amazing success. Her parents realized that the College Graduate was more enterprising and creative—not to mention more interesting—than the young woman's Wealthy Boyfriend. More importantly, they could see that the College Graduate genuinely loved their daughter. They immediately encouraged her to leave the Wealthy Boyfriend, to let him live alone in his summer home, and to move in with the College Graduate.

The day after the Beautiful Young Woman and the College Graduate had moved into their very well-outfitted psychedelic school bus, the Old Hippie came to the door. "Good Old Hippie," said the College Graduate, "let us now divide things up. One half of our money is for you, and the other half is for me."

"Does the same go for your girlfriend?" asked the Old Hippie, lust glimmering in his eyes.

"Good Old Hippie," replied the College Graduate, "I know you are part of the free-love generation. But Deadheads my age are more into monogamy. I owe you big time, brother, so I will let you have all the money. But I will keep my girlfriend for myself."

"I was just kidding, brother. Please keep both, as you are kind and deserving. All of your good karma stems from that unselfish deed of yours, helping that poor beaten man whose burial you arranged." The Old Hippie gave him a hug. "I am, indeed, the soul of that beaten man." While the College Graduate stood unable to speak, the Old Hippie turned and went on the road again.

The College Graduate and the Beautiful Young Woman soon announced their engagement, and his parents gave them their blessing. The College Graduate's parents were very pleased that their misfit son had become a successful entrepreneur and planned to marry a beautiful young woman with wealthy parents. Although the young couple continued to follow the Dead and all of the bands subsequently formed by members of the Dead, they never laid eyes on the Old Hippie again.