

International Gilchrist
Headquarters.

Wednesday, May
13, 1987. 11am.



World Trade Center.
Thursday, May 14th,
1987, 10am.

I'm 50 feet
underground
in the garage
beneath the
Trade Center.

exit turn left
LEVEL 6

SIR?
MR. MILLS SIR?
YOU TOLD ME TO
WAKE YOU UP
AT TEN.

I sleep
here a lot.

TAP
TAP

What the
[redacted]!

I got here at
5am. Slipped my
man Domingo a
hundred to wake
me up.

YOU OKAY,
MR. MILLS?
COFFEE?

It's closer to the
office than my
apartment. Just
a few blocks' walk.

NO COFFEE,
DOMINGO,
THANKS. YOU GOT
AN ICE-COLD COKE?

Where is the...

WHAT'S WRONG,
MR. MILLS? YOU
LOSE YOUR
KEYS?

...Stunted Growth
Contract.

NO,
SOMETHING I
WORKED VERY HARD
FOR LAST NIGHT.
THERE IT IS!

I could use a shower,
but no time. I'll kill a
Coke and a smoke on
the way to the office,
change clothes, then
shoot uptown to get
Business Affairs to
sign off on the
contract.

I forgot.

[redacted] Melch is
probably there
already.

Oh [redacted]

Five minutes later, I'm at my office. Most beautiful building in New York city.

The label I work for, S&C Global, is uptown in the 50s. But I have an "imprint."

HEY, LOUISE.

MORNING, MR. MILLS.

An imprint is what they give talent scouts (A&R guys) who have a burst of extraordinary success.

It implies a false air of autonomy, but an "imprint" is usually a tiny division, nothing more than a cubicle at the parent label's office.



The imprint uses the parent label's money and power to promote and distribute its acts. The A&R guy gets the "prestige" of his own "label" and a bigger contract than most. But the parent owns everything.

Same [redacted] different name.

My imprint is different. My contribution to the company is considerable, allowing me to call the shots. My office is 70 blocks from bosses and bean counters.

To my "superiors" on the Upper West Side, I might as well be on Jupiter.

Those guys don't live and breathe music, they ruin it. When I got this place, they didn't even know this building was THEIR original office.

[redacted] idiots have no respect.

Today's checklist:

1. GET STUNTED GROWTH DEAL TRANSLATED TO LAWYER-SPEAK
2. GET THE BAND TO SIGN IT BEFORE TONIGHT'S 616!
3. TAUNT THE COMPETITION!!
4. CELEBRATE!

My assistant Joan. Sitrep normal: stressed out.

MR. MILLS! DID YOU SIGN THE BAND?

IT GOT A LITTLE DICEY, BUT THEY CAME AROUND.

THAT'S GREAT!

BUT HE'S IN THERE, I'M SO SORRY.