



12 Tones of Tumult
Nicholas Syrianus Katsafanas

© 2023 Nicholas Syrianus Katsafanas

All rights reserved under international and Pan-American copyright conventions. Printed and published in the United States of America. No part of this book may be reproduced, performed or utilized in any form or by any means including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and/or retrieval system without written permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

=TEXTSPLIT(A2," ",".",TRUE,1," ")

Canto I

Honestly? Maybe Bumble? Yeah dad
Maybe try Bumble? You believe this Alcibiades? Fuckin
Match dot com
I signed up for it right? Now you pay for that? Match
dot com? Yeah
Yeah
Me personally? I paid a buck twenty five for three
months
So it's like a bulk pricing thing
But there's really nobody local on it for him
To me that's the problem! But I don't have any problem
driving an hour for a beautiful woman Bahira
Right
Dana
She was in what
Jersey or some shit? Jersey?! No she was from Jersey
She lived in California! Exactly
even more to my point
So an hour drive
That's nothing to you! No
The real problem is my dad doesn't know how to talk to
women
He'll say the exact thing any woman does not want to
hear
And it'll be the first thing he says! I've been really
attracted to black women of late
Oh really? I don't know
Just maybe the last three months or so
I've just

Maybe I've just started coming across more beautiful
black women
It's mysterious to me really
I just really wanna have sex with a black girl
But you know
Like an attractive one! Let me ask around
Ryan told me Silver Foxes is for an older crowd
That's an app too
But even Bumble you can set the age thing to like
Something like 50-65
Which would probably be right up your alley
That's what I have my Match set to right now! See?
That's perfect! That's serendipitous! Yeah
I mean
The thing with Match is sure
Paying for an app hypothetically weeds out a certain
demographic
In theory at least
Maybe the riffraff or what not
They get filtered out
I get that
But when there are a dozen other free dating apps
I just wonder if there aren't enough people using Match
To make it actually worth it
maybe you actually want the riffraff! plus
In terms of actual riffraff quote-unquote
I mean how many 50 plus women are just looking to
fuck? Acting like total little whooirs? Who are you
really weeding out? I feel like most of them
These old ladies
They probably want fuckin real companionship

No? They want a man to wine and dine them
You're not just totally hoe-ing out post menopause and
shit
Right? Oh no
I totally agree! What the fuck is this guy
Over there
Fuck is this guy doing over there? Who? Over there?
This guy
Fuckin guy over there
He's been texting like a
Whole damn paragraph to his mom
At least the message window is addressed to quote
unquote mom
That's what it says
He's been typing for like ten minutes
Oh I see him
Alcibiades
He looks like he's about to pass out
He looks like he has about three brain cells
Look at this one? She just replied to me
She looks good
Wait a little bit before you reply back
And don't say anything too offensive! Yeah
I won't ask if she has a clit ring until a few messages in
That's funny Jake
It's all fun and games until you haven't been laid in three
years
That's literally driven people to become mass murderers
Jake
Like public shooters and shit
That's what's in your future potentially

Keep joking about this clit ring shit and see what
happens to you
Alcibiades
Have you checked your MUFON email lately? Not since
last night
I don't think? Hold on
Let me check this shit
Real quick
Oh shit
The fuck is this Bahira? What am I looking at? A new
case file right? You two
You guys really believe in that shit?! Aliens? Like from
outer space? It's complicated
But basically yeah
That's the gist of it
But even that
That's an oversimplification
You know? Because the phenomena takes many different
forms
It expresses itself in a deep multitude of ways
It can't just be reduced simply to
Oh aliens and shit
From frickin like
Uhhhh
outerspace? That's a gross simplification
Really
In my opinion
You have to go back to the origins of Neoplatonism
And how it gapped in a way that was hardly even
noticeable to most
Right into Islam

If we're speaking in the purely monadic sense
Of jinn and the henads of Proclus and shit
What
Like terrorism you mean? Does any of this have to do
with The War on Terror? But Alcibiades
The email! Oh right
Of course
Yeah
So what are we looking at here? Piano teacher in
What the fuck? Burrillville? Ugh
Are we gonna have to drive all the way up there? Finish
reading please! So he thinks his piano is
experiencing paranormal activity? That's
A little peculiar no? Yet a welcome divergence from yet
another jackass who has footage of a faint light in
the sky that he thinks might be a flying saucer

Canto II

Well it all started
I guess it began when I was playing my piano last
Tuesday
Then all of the sudden
I don't know
It seemed out of tune all of the sudden
Now is that
Not at all
This is a purely digital piano
In theory it should never be out of tune
In theory it should be physically impossible for it to be
out of tune
It should always correlate to the twelve tone standard
The twelve tone equal temperament
An octave divided into 1200 cents
And each semitone residing exactly 100 cents apart
Are you familiar with music theory at all detectives?
We're actually from MUFON
We're not technically
No but we are technically
Technically we're considered detectives Bahira
Don't sell us short
And yes Mr Wolpe
I'm generally familiar with the concept of microtonality
Yes
The particular frequencies that are correlated to physical
pitch
Excellent detective! So then you are familiar
Okay

but let's not get bogged down in the details too deep to start? Mr Wolpe

What exactly is occurring that moved you to reach out to an organization like MUFON? Like for example

Middle C occurs at 261 63 hertz

while Middle A

In the fourth octave

Occurs at exactly 440 hertz

Yet in theory there are 900 quote-unquote cents between them

Exactly detective! But to your point

Bahira

Is it? What moved me

The reason I gave your organization a call was because

Well it was for two reasons

For one

Again

What's happening to my piano should be physically impossible

This piano is

According to its manufacturer

And I've verified this

It's physically incapable of producing microtones

Yet that's exactly what it's been doing! And not only any microtones

It's not simply irrationally out of tune

I calculated the exact microtonalities that this piano is producing and they correlate almost exactly with certain

How should I phrase it? Ancient microtonal scales?

Which we can address at a later time I suppose

Details being placed on hold momentarily
For two
It's my personal belief
Due to the nature of sound itself
That pitch is an actual physical phenomena
That the movement of sound must necessarily be of a
 physical nature
So ipso facto then
If this piano is producing microtonal scales it's incapable
 of in theory producing
Then there must be a physical force behind it
A physical force with at least a modicum of intelligence
Because if these microtones are in fact correlating to
 historical human scales then I think it's no leap in
 logic to assume that this physical force must be of a
 certain intelligent nature
So there's an intelligence operating in your digital piano
 basically? As I said
To me it's no leap in logic to presume so! As crazy as
 that may sound
No pun intended
Interesting
Okay
so this is intriguing
Maybe it is time we
Um
Delve into some detail? I just wanted to make sure
Ugh
You see
The thing is

I actually have a student coming over in about five minutes? I'm actually using this opportunity to teach a few lessons in microtonal piano? I've been able to double my hourly rate by doing so! Would it be possible to come back later tonight? Or I could even meet you two if that's easier

Yeah

if you could do that then uh

That would be great

Bahira why don't we go grab a bite

Then Mr Wolpe can meet us after

Let's plan for Parkside around 8

I'll make sure we have a table by the window

Canto III

So this really is an interesting one isn't it? I don't know
This guy could be a bit of a loon
Don't you think? That's just
Honestly? It's probably
With all due respect
Because you don't understand music theory Bahira
Really Alcibiades? That's what you think? I think it's
 potentially a contributing factor
Personally
I don't need to know music theory to know when a
 person isn't all there
When there's maybe a screw loose
Here or there
And this guy? This isn't UAP-related Alcibiades
I think this guy could just be taking advantage of a glitch
 in his digital piano
Then using it jack up his hourly rate
Then using us to either corroborate his story
Or get some free press
Or both
I'm usually all ears for a guy trying to scam people
That's my wheelhouse generally speaking
I think the majority of human beings
They're essentially skills
But this guy? Eh
I don't know
There's something about this guy
That vibes legit
That vibes he could be telling us the truth

Because sound
Like he said
Is in fact a physical process
It takes place in space
A lot of people don't really get that
They think oh fuckin quarter notes and mellifluous
melodies and power chords
All existing in air
Like gaseous bullshit
Gas is a physical thing too
But you know what I mean
Like physically solid shit
So you think a physical entity is actually manipulating
the whatever you call them
Scales
The scales on this guy's piano
Something is manipulating that? I think it's a possibility
I'm not saying I believe him
I'm just saying I don't explicitly disbelieve
At this point
I mean
I'd be interested to see what exactly he comes back with
RE: these so-called ancient scales
Which scales is he talking about specifically
Can he name one? Because I actually have decent
familiarity with maqam music
I'll know at that point if he's bullshitting us
If comes at us with some nonsensical scale
When we start talking scales and shit
If he's trying to fuckin play us I'll call his ass out on the
spot

Well here he comes
Mr Wolpe! Great to see you again
Detective uhhh
I uh
Alcibiades
It's all good
It's a mouthful
Right! Alcibiades
And uhhh
Bahira
Great to see you both again
Long time no see
Would you care for a beverage? Hmmm
Let's see here
I'll take a
Ummmm
The chianti sounds good
How about that? I'll flag down the waiter in a second
So
How did your lesson go? It can be challenging
While sure
I have some experience with microtonality
It's not exactly my forte
In fact after we're done here I plan on giving myself
some further lessons
Brushing up my skills
So the necessary distance remains between myself and
my students
Especially if you're charging them double
Of course! Haha
I love learning new music though

So perhaps it's a blessing in disguise
So
Alcibiades and I
Like we told you earlier
We're both intrigued by your case
And we were hoping that you could
Possibly illuminate us as to what scales exactly you
believe are being programmed into your piano? By
potentially a supernatural entity
I think that's where we left off
Right? Something about ancient scales? Well they're
technically
I believe
Called Echoes
Oh
The Octoechos
Yes
They're of Byzantine extraction actually
They're microtonal scales of course
Traditional nomenclature refers to them
As Echoes
I'm actually familiar with them
Believe it or not
Quite familiar
They're adjacent to the Arabic maqams I believe? That's
actually exactly correct
In fact
Funny enough
The particular scale my piano is stuck in is the sixth
echo
Which is almost identical to the maqam known as

Hijazkiar
Exactly! And on the digital portion of the piano
Right above the keys
A curious word was left printed last night
I forgot to mention that earlier
Oh really
What was the word
Yeah
What was it
The word? I actually don't even know for certain
That it was even a word
Specifically it was the letters t-z-e-l-e-p-e-s
Tzelepes
T-z-e-l-e-p-e-s? Tzelepes
Is that how you say it? Correct
And this was left
It was above the keys
On the digital portion of the piano
In the little screen area
Now
Is that something that would usually have a message?
No
Actually that's another unorthodox aspect here
That particular portion of the piano
It usually only displays the various sorts of piano the
instrumental is capable of producing
Harpsichord
Grand piano
Electric piano
And so on
Right right

Typical
Very typical
Except for the fact it's now displaying a series of letters
that might be
What? A name? Right
Of course
That aspect is quite atypical
Do either of you
Have any ideas? We'll have to do some research on our
end
This is quite mysterious Mr Wolpe
I have to say
Yes
Quite so
But yes
Mr Wolpe
We'll have to do some research on this for sure! You
liked that chianti huh? I do enjoy my wines! Don't
we all
But okay
So great
So maybe I'll hear from you in the next
Few days? We're going to make this a priority
Yes
If not tomorrow then certainly within a week

Canto IV

Fuckkkkkkk

You know

Now that I think of it? We've been drinking

Like all fucking day haven't we? I'm actually

Like super fucked up Alcibiades! And you never get
drunk! God

I'm so damn proud of you! I really am Bahira

Really Alcibiades? No

I really am

I'm actually ecstatic right now

Just because you're actually extremely drunk

That you're finally getting totally wrecked on a
weeknight with me

For no good reason at all

Getting senselessly drunk

Just like indulging in

You know

Occasional alcoholism

This is great

This is a great step for you

I keep thinking about that fucking Wolpe case! Fucking
Wolpe case? Yeah! Tzelepes

That's how you say it? Tzelepes

And the sixth echo

Hmm

This is interesting Bahira

This is actually intriguing

This is confounding in a way that's quite fucking
peculiar

It's even more peculiar when you're uhhhh
Inebriated
How so? I feel like you're holding back on me Alcibiades
I've felt this holding back since this afternoon
Like you're not telling me something
You know I've lived in this building for ten years now
Really? Ten fucking years
It's a shithole isn't it? Kind of
I mean it has a kind of
Charm to it? A shitty charm
Sure
I was driving by it the other day
This building
I went right to the bank
I took a right
To make a deposit
Then I had to come back and pass this building
On my left
To head downtown
And I thought to myself
You know what I thought? I honestly have no idea
Alcibiades
Haha! I asked myself
How many times do you think you've jacked off in that
building? Over ten years
That's what came into my head witnessing this building
A decade of beating your meat
Ww! Alcibiades I'm not jacking you off tonight! Is that
what you think this is? Is that why you're so pumped
I'm like
Drunk? Because don't even think about it! First of all

This is a purely philosophical discussion I'm having
Bahira
My penis has nothing to do with this conversation
Like at all
Right now
Second of all
I would never ask you to jack me off
Truly
That's the last thing on my mind right now
Ejaculating
Because technically that's date rape
Not if I asked you to masturbate me and you acquiesced
But I'm not acquiescing! And I'm not asking! I just want
us to be clear
Because I can't be giving you handjobs then working on
MUFON investigations with you
As detectives
As equals
But when I asked myself this question
Honestly? I had no idea where to even begin
I would hope not
But I'm getting to a real fucking point here
Okay
Are you? Listen
I know I jack off
You obviously flick your bean
That goes without saying
That's axiomatic
And I know
Obviously
I've lived here ten years

But to quantify history? On even a projected
An estimated level
Of whacking off
It seemed totally beyond my capabilities Bahira
Even one hundred percent sober it did! I don't know
You might think it's silly
But I actually found it
Quite profound at the time
You're an idiot Alcibiades
What did you end up doing downtown anyway? After
philosophically contemplating
How much semen you've expelled in this building
I met up with you and your dad! This was earlier today
Ohhhh! I didn't realize
That it was literally a few hours ago? Right
But tzelepes
Do you
I feel like you have some idea Alcibiades
What this could be
I mean
I'm familiar with the hijazkiar maqam
And tzelepes
Yeah
That does sound kind of familiar
Hmm
But I don't know
Granted
Sure
I'm inebriated
Fuckin talking about accumulated whack-offs over a
decade long timespan? Ugh

Canto V

Did you see that sign
Right as we turned right? Smile you're beautiful? By the
stop sign right? Literally pasted
Or glued
To it? Yeah
The one that said smile you're beautiful? Yeah
Exactly
I know that guy
Guy who's always out there
You mean like personally? Well no
Not personally
But it's always the same guy
Well at least the last two times I've driven by
Which maybe that's a small sample size
Homeless guy? Yeah
It looked like he has his own makeshift little spot out
there
Little home away from
Well I guess he probably doesn't have a home
Two chairs
Some bags behind them maybe? Yeah
I think I saw that
Honestly? That's all I really need
If it really came down to it
Couple chairs
A few personal belongings
Few fuckin trinkets
Maybe a mini-fridge? I supposed I'd prefer
If possible

To have a roof
Some sort of structure on the top of me I guess? Just in
case it rains and stuff
But even that
To me that's even negotiable
I could never
I need all my stuuffff
I like to have my appliancess
And a closet
You don't use a closet Alcibiades? It's like the older I get
I feel like the less I want things like homes
Personal belongings
Interpersonal relationships
Things of that nature
You don't even want to just like
I don't know
Settle down Alcibiades? Find a nice girl and
What? Toss a bun in the oven? The way the world is
Bahira? You kidding me? Piano teachers being
forced to learn microtonal scales
Fuckin governments operating in essentially shadow
capacities
Do you have any idea
How long have you been associated with MUFON?
Ummmm
I'd say maybe six months now? And how steeped were
you
I was pretty into UFOs and stuff Alcibiades
This isn't like a hobby to me
Okay? I actually had a sighting myself

Did you know that? That's what initially got me into the
whole field
Of Ufology? I was tagging along with my uncle on a golf
course in Florida
It was a clear blue sky
He was letting me ride along with him in the little golf
car
The cart
Whatever
Yeah
Those are fun to drive! Yeah
And all of the sudden
Right in the middle of the clear blue sky
We saw a huge ship! Just sitting there in the air
And all of us looked up at it
My uncle was a fisherman so he didn't know what to
even think of it
He wasn't a UFO guy
Like
At all
But to the day he died he never denied seeing it
And what happened? After I don't know
Maybe a minute or so
It just flew off
Like so fast Alcibiades! Just like all the accounts
It was like
Just like a blur in the sky
And then it was gone
Can we help you sir? Are you
Um
Alcibiades? I'm just a guy waiting for an espresso

Who's asking? Ronnie Colombo
Providence Homicide
My name is perhaps legally Alcibiades
Yeah
That's correct
And this is Bahira
Alcibiades! Oh okay
Great
I was looking for you too
Wait
Really? Me? What did I do? Are either of you familiar
with a
Uhhhh
Stefan Wolpe? Piano teacher out in Burrillville? Kind of
whacked out composer type? We were just with him
last night
He filed a case with MUFON
We're both actually MUFON detectives ourselves
MUFON? And what is that? Like Mufongol? Is it an
Italian thing? Are you telling me to go fuck myself?
What is that like Italian? Mufongol? That's the
Italian language? Yeah
I'm a hundred percent Italian
You speak it? What? Italian? Yeah
The Italian language
you speak it? What are we
In Italy? Not to the best of my knowledge
You just said you were Italian
So how long did you know Mr Wolpe
We just met him yesterday afternoon

He was experiencing some atypical activity in his digital
piano
That's why he called us
Why
Is he okay? Is everything alright with him? He's dead
Oh my god! So what time was your meeting about
What
His digital piano
What time did that conclude? He's dead?! As in
physically deceased? Yeah
In that sense
That's why they called me
Because he's a corpse now
So you met him yesterday afternoon
Where? We went over his house
Per his request
But it was a brief meeting
He said he had a lesson coming up
Did he say with who? I don't believe so
It was a student
Sounded pretty impromptu
So you went over there
What maybe fifteen twenty minutes
Talked to him about his digital piano
By the way what are you guys
Like instrument repair people
MUFON actually stands for Mutual UFO Network
It's an independent body cataloging as well as
investigating UAP related phenomena? UAP?
Unidentified Aerial Phenomena
Like UFOs

Like flying saucers and aliens and shit? That's it
So you're the alien police? That's one way to put it
So what? There was a fuckin flying saucer in this guy's
piano? Are you familiar with microtonality? I'm
gonna have to ask you to stop saying words I don't
know the meaning of
Or else we might actually have a real problem here
Well about Mr Wolpe
Without mentioning the word microtonality any further
He was actually experiencing some issues
With regard to his piano reprogramming itself
Okay
How is that UFO-related? I was getting to that Mr
Colombo
The manner in which the piano was reprogramming
itself
Shifting its uhhh
Fuckin tones in ways the piano mechanically should
have been incapable of doing
It was doing it in a deliberate way
This digital piano
Programming itself to certain scales that made Mr
Wolpe believe there was an intelligence behind the
reprogramming
That it went beyond a simple software malfunction
Given that non-human intelligence of an unidentified
nature generally falls under our purview in MUFON
Mr Wolpe reported it to us
Even though said intelligence seemed to be confined to a
digital piano
So you saw him that afternoon

And that was it? Kaput? Well we did ask him to meet us
later
To discuss in detail the particular scales the piano was
being reprogrammed to
I had reason to believe
Because I actually am familiar with microtonality
With the specifics of his piano
I thought if he could give us some additional
information on that front? Then I could
cross-reference on my end
And did that help? That information? Were you able to
what is it
Cross-reference? Is that the phrase? Like you said
Well after he left I actually tied a few on
Got fairly inebriated
Detective? Is that the appropriate
Detective Colombo
Yeah that's fine
That's actually accurate in my case
Right
We're just two detectives discussing a case aren't we?
Well Detective Colombo
I actually got fairly shitfaced last night
After Mr Wolpe left
As detectives are occasionally apt to do
So I haven't had a chance to cross-reference any of the
details of this gentleman's case quite yet
But I plan to this morning
Right after I get my espresso here at New Harvest
Am I delaying you? Do you drink Detective

Colombo? Is this part of your investigation now? My
drinking habits? Not particularly
Yet in our line of work you never know what could be
relevant I suppose
Reason I ask is
If you ever get fucked up
If that's something you indulge in from time to time
Then you probably know the next morning's Jo is always
essential
So no
You're not delaying me
I'm happy to answer your questions
Yet
Okay then
I have just one more for you two
Then I'll let you both be on your way
Mr Wolpe
Last night? Was he skittish at all? Was there anything in
his demeanor that would lead you to believe he was
in danger
Or that he believed himself to be in danger
Hard to say detective
Honestly
Like I said
I barely fuckin knew the guy
Well
He did chug his chianti really fast! I did notice that
And did he seem intoxicated? Not to me
He said he had to go home
To prep for the next day's lessons
Yeah

He said
Since these new scales
With all due respect detective? Enough about scales
This isn't a fish market
So Wolpe
He met up with you two
Told you some additional details
Chugged a chianti and went home to allegedly practice
 his piano more
And
Where was this? Where you met
Parkside
Over on South Main
Oh I love it over there
Yeah I've had kind of a mixed experience myself
Oh I've never had a bad meal there! Right
Yeah
I know plenty of people who say the same
I don't know
It's not like I necessarily dislike it
I wouldn't say I have any ill-will against the place
I just maybe diverge from the universally positive stance
 on it
I like it there
I had the chicken rotisserie a few years ago
It was pretty good
I like the steak tips
It wasn't a horrible meal
Kind of ho-hum in my opinion though
Yet you went there last night? For a drink sure
We didn't eat

We went to Plant City before
You know what your issue is? Detective
I'd love to find out
You gotta get the pork rotisserie at Parkside
The chicken? That's what you got? No
Fuck that
Never get the chicken
Never get chicken period
If you're paying for a meal out? Never order the chicken
It's a shitty animal
It's an inconsequential bird
Good to know
I didn't realize there was such animosity toward fowl in
 this city
Anyway
Yeah
The pork is really what you wanna go with over there
Duly noted
Maybe I'll get the steak tips if I ever eat there again
Now
If you don't mind? I'm gonna order a doubleshot? If you
 want anything?

Canto VI

But before you start your spiel

Alcibiades

Look at this

This email

Okay

Let me see

It's

Another piano teacher

Shit

What does that say? The subject line? Atypical piano
malfunctions

May be indicative of some sort of intelligence? Okay

Let's go? At least he's local right? Right near Ogie's over
there on Westminster? This is giving me major
creep vibes now

We're dealing with 12 tones of tumult now Bahira

Buckle up

Canto VII

So

Mr Cowell

Can you explain to us

Maybe just a little more in depth what's been going on
with your piano here? That you believe it would fall
under the purview of MUFON? Well initially I
wouldn't have

In fact I wasn't even aware of your organization until I
was conversing with a peer

Explaining the curious events that had been going on
with my Nord-5

Which

If you're unfamiliar with stage pianos? That's in my
opinion one of the best on the market

If not the best

Okay

So this was going on for quite some time then? Oh it's
been months! It's been terrible

Sure

I'm aware of certain microtonal varieties of music

But I'm essentially classically trained detective

I don't know how deep either of your knowledge bases
go into tonality? But I'm almost exclusively twelve
tone in my playing

I'm somewhat familiar

In any case

I was sitting down having a late lunch with my friend
He's actually a detective in the homicide division of the
city police

Great guy! And I was explaining to him my imbroglia
How my piano kept diverting from the traditional
European intonation
How I'd brought it to almost every piano repair shop in
New England and none of them could find anything
actually wrong with the instrument
Which was
What was the detective's name? If you don't mind
Oh
My old friend Ron
He's a great man
Italian fellow
A real meatball! In any case
My imbroglia
As I relayed it to my friend
Was that if nothing was wrong with my piano I could
never qualify for a replacement from Nord
Yet there certainly is something wrong with my piano
And I simply can't afford to buy a second Nord at the
rates I currently charge my students! So as you can
imagine
This is catastrophic from a commercial standpoint for
you
It's actually a travesty
Now
Is anything else out of sorts
With your piano? Now what do you mean by that
exactly? I think what Bahira is alluding to
Is that this isn't our first case
Regarding inexplicable microtonality occurring in
digital pianos

Oh really? Now was the detective's
Your friend
Is his last name Colombo by any chance? How many
other cases have you encountered
That's actually
Quite disconcerting? Well technically you're only
number two
But in our previous case the piano was malfunctioning
in other ways as well
Now you said you're not super familiar with microtonal
scales
I didn't say I'm unfamiliar detective
I simply said it's not my forte
And your friend's last name is Colombo? I don't see how
that's particularly relevant to the case but yes
Why? Do you know him? No
Never met him
Just making an ill-advised Colombo joke I guess
You know
Like the TV show? I agree
It is somewhat ill-advised
So then you would recognize
Microtonally speaking
If these deviations on your piano
If they were consistently occurring
If they were
I mean
Not totally random deviations? But actually
If they were actual microtonal scales that these
deviations were moving my piano into? Yes of course

And they were! That was the particular detail of my anecdote that moved my colleague to suggest I contact you

And he said verbatim contact us

MUFON

Yes detective

He said contact the Mutual UFO Network

MUFON

That is your organization

Correct? Oh yes! Oh

We are who we say we are

Have no doubt about that

That's good

It just seems

I don't know

Like you're unusually preoccupied with my friend referring me to you

And that you're not as much concerned with my actual piano? So you recognize the scale then? Which one? You said the deviations are recurring? So I'd assume that there's a particular microtonal scale your piano continues to revert to? To be frank? I haven't cross-referenced the particular frequencies

But melodically it's certainly recognizable

It's certainly of an eastern origin I'd say

Now I don't know the particular nomenclature

Could you find out? Well

I do have the particular cent-locations the piano often reverts to

If that would be of any use to you? You said you were somewhat

Familiar with microtonal scales? Yeah
I have some experience with maqam musics
Oh excellent! So you may actually be able to help me
after all! Excellent
I have the information stored on my personal laptop
Would it be okay if I emailed it to
Alcibiades at MUFON dot org
Please by all means send it my way
Do you need me to spell it? It's spelled like the Athenian
statesman? That Socrates molested? You got it Mr
Cowell
And there's nothing beyond the deviation in tone that
you've experienced
Absolutely nothing
I promise you that!

Canto VIII

I hate this bar
Has he emailed you yet? The tones? The scale? No not
yet
I'll bet you my left nut its the sixth echo again
You can actually have my left testicle if it isn't Bahira
One hundred percent equity
How does that sound? I'll pass
With that said I do hope that he emails you soon
Like before we finish this drink soon
By the way
What the hell is going on with that guy Colombo? What
do you mean? MUFON
What do you mean mufongol? he says
He says that
Yet apparently the cunt was telling Cowell yesterday
afternoon to contact us about his piano? And um
yesterday afternoon
Wolpe was still alive yesterday afternoon
Talking to us! Unless it's a different
Ron Colombo? In Providence Homicide? How many
Ron Colombos could there possibly be?! Did he say
homicide? That he worked in homicide? I'm almost
positive he did
Really? Still though
To be fair
There are a lot of Italian guys in the Providence Police
Two Ron Colombos though Bahira? Seriously??? Maybe
we can ask someone
Call a directory or something

Yeah maybe
My buddy Bobby Pesto went to high school with a
Providence cop
I could ask him
But for now
What if we operated under the more logical assumption
that Mr Cowell's Ron Colombo is our Ron Colombo
That they're one and the same
Guy's holding a match to my asshole about MUFON this
morning
Accusing me of speaking Italian
Yet the previous afternoon he's directing a piano teacher
to contact MUFON? Then that night a homicide just
happens to occur
That's a little too cute for me
It's too cute to believe there's nothing cunty underneath
that story
You know what I mean? Well once we confirm the scale
data I say we go back to Cowell again
And ask him a few more questions
See what he has to say as a follow-up

Canto IX

Well well well

Look who it is! Al body-adi

Adi

Detective Colombo

What brings you to my

To my parking lot

Is it your lot? When you live above a fucking cobbler?

Detective? In a manner of speaking perhaps

But you know what? I was actually hoping I'd bump into
you Ron

I can call you Ron right? Oh

You were looking for me? Why? You want me to teach
you how to munch box?! What do you

Are you talking about performing oral sex? Detective?

Yeah

I was a porn distributor back in the 90s

Spent a lot of weekends in Vegas actually

Doing a whole porn thing

And they showed you what

How to lick clitoris out there? Is that what you're
insinuating? The porno girls I banged? Yeah they
did actually

They're professionals

Don't believe me? I've trained half the department

Their girlfriends send hundreds of dollars of Amazon
gift cards to me every holiday season as a thank you

No wives? Nobody eats their wife's pussy

Honestly detective

It seems like you have a bit to learn when it comes to
pleasuring women
I would just think
If the method was truly that extraordinary
That it would work even on a marital level
Early on in a relationship
In my mind? If a man goes down there
You know he doesn't necessarily have to spend half the
afternoon down there for them to appreciate it
With my methods you won't need half a minute down
there
You'll have your girl squirting in seconds! Sounds good
So whenever you get a girl
Let me know
I'll give you half off my first class
Oh sure
How about this? I'll knock the discount down to twenty
five if you give me a live demonstration next time I
bend over
How's that sound? You'd like that wouldn't you? Not as
much as you'd like doing it
Maybe I can show you on your little girlfriend partner
there
The one from earlier
You know what Ron? Fucking go for it pal
We have a strictly professional relationship
We actually take interoffice romance somewhat seriously
at the Mutual UFO Network
It's not a fucking gangbang like it is at Providence PD
Oh no
I'm sure it's real serious over there

I know
Because you work in such a serious department
Don't you? By the way
Is there a particular reason you came to my cobbler's
 parking lot
Or was it solely to try to convince me you're the Michael
 Jordan of muff diving
I actually did come by here for a particular reason
 detective
You know
I had a late lunch with my pal Henry Cowell
He's actually one of the best jazz pianists in the state
Is he? Plays the fuckin instrument with his elbows
 better than most play with their fingertips
Let me know his next show
I'm not blowing smoke up your ass either
Sure whatever
But anyway
Yeah
He told me you two were by his house earlier
We were
Apparently per your request? Yeah
He said you were asking a lot of questions about me?
 Yeah Ron
We were at your pal Cowell's house
Again
Because you suggested he contact us
MUFON
Remember? Mufongol? So I asked an appropriate
 amount of questions given the circumstances
An appropriate amount huh? What? Highly appropriate

What? I can't suggest that my friend give you some
business? I figured I'd be helping you out
Oh
I appreciate it Ron
Don't get me wrong
It actually might be a worthwhile case too
Very timely actually
But I guess I just found it
I don't know
A little curious that this morning you feigned to have no
knowledge of our organization
Yet yesterday? You're referring piano teachers to us?
Based on microtonal digressions? Anyway
It dawned on me at lunch
That maybe you two detectives do have further
questions for me
Your pal
Ronnie Colombo
And also
That I forgot to give you my card earlier
At the coffee shop
So yeah
In particular I swung by to give you this
Catch! Oh
Nice Ron
You're gonna flick your card at me now? What if I go
ahead and pick your little card up off the ground
here
Crumple it up
And shove it up my own ass! Why don't you wait a few
days

Because if I teach you how to eat box you could get any
girl in the city to do that for you! Don't hesitate to
give me a call detective! You or your little friend
Bosnia
My line's always open!

Canto X

Yeah

Bahira? What is it Alcibiades? I'm taking a nap right
now

I got the email from Cowell

And? I'm holding onto my left testicle for the afternoon
So it's a match? That was the implication of my
comment

Correct

So let's swing by his spot later tonight? Sure

But can we grab something to eat first? Where? I don't
know

Not Italian again though

Yeah I'll have to tell you something adjacent to that later

What? Colombo was the implication of my comment

He stopped by my apartment

So where then? If not Italian

Indian? Oh really? Which Indian spot though

I don't wanna do Taste of India

Not if we're sitting down at least

Well I'm not going to the one in Garden City

Fuck them

Kabob and Curry? Ugh

Their lamb is always dry as hell over there though

I've never sat down there though

You think the lamb is dry because we take it out? So
should we just not do Indian then? I'll try Kabob
sitting down I guess

But what about Chilango's? I'm amenable to that

I could pivot to Mexican

Should we make a reservation? I don't know
When are we going? Nah you're right
We probably don't need one? Well when did you wanna
go? Like six? That works
Then Cowell's after
Okay
Well if we're doing six we might wanna make a
reservation? Okay
Can you call then? Okay Alcibiades
But let me go back to sleep for a few first
I'll call after my nap

Canto XI

You know
That twat Colombo never told us a cause of death for
Wolpe
Did he? Comes over my apartment to talk my ear off
about eating pussy but doesn't even give me a damn
cause of death
No
Actually now that I think of it
He didn't
I wonder how he actually died then
Curious isn't it? Yet it must have been deemed a
homicide
Obviously right? For it to fall under his purview? Clearly
it was of a homicidal nature
It had to be
Ring the bell? You can't? If you insist! No answer? Let's
go around the back? I feel like I hear rummaging
Some fuckin ruffling and shit
You do? I don't hear a thing
Anything's possible
I don't know
I'm starting to have a weird feeling about this Alcibiades
I know I probably should have before
But
Mr Cowell? I thought we said 7:45? And you have
company? Mr Cowell? Well
The more the merrier I suppose
Did you still want to meet? And um
By the way

Who are these gentlemen? Alcibiades
What's going on here? Hi
I'm Alcibiades
MUFON senior detective
And this is my partner
Alcibiades
Why aren't any of them replying
Or speaking? Or moving? Mr Cowell? Helloooooo? Oh
Alcibiades! What are you doing here? It's fucking 7:51
Cowell
We were supposed to meet like six minutes ago
I've been talking to you for like 180 seconds straight
Who are the suits? They look
Uh
Excessively pale
Alcibiades
Oh
They're my cousins
From Worcester
Did we say 7:45? Oh
My apologies
I thought you meant 7:45 am
AM? Gee
That's a little early for me
Ass crack of dawn more or less
Ugh
Bahira
That third bean burrito
Is not sitting as well as I'd hoped
I told you not to finish mine
That I wanted to take it home as leftovers

Mr Cowell

Is there any chance we could take this indoors? Where I
could have a seat? Now is not the time

Alcibiades

Okay

Well

Bahira I don't know about you

But I'm probably going to pass on 7:45 am

Can we do maybe 10? AM? Yeah let's just do 10 then

These guys are fucking

Your cousins? As in they are your cousins

Not as in fornicating with them

Just to be clear

Now is not the time

Alcibiades

Maybe we should

Okay then

So we're confirmed for 10? 10 AM? I just don't wanna
come here tomorrow and then you're like oh I
thought you meant 10 at night

You know? Then I have to rearrange my whole day

Now is not the time

Alcibiades! Let's go

Please? Remember? We were supposed to meet my
brother at eight at Kabob and Curry? Kabob and
Curry again Bahira

What do you have

Equity there? Jesus

Mr Cowell

Great to see you again

We'll be in touch mid-morning tomorrow

Now is not the time

Canto XII

Really? We're really doing Kabob and Curry? For a drink

I guess it's okay

Yeah

I'll have a Taj Mahal

Yeah a pint of it

Thanks

Alcibiades

Were you not reading

the room over there? What? The backyard? With the
two men in black who looked like they had their skin
pasted on? Uh ya! And Mr Cowell repeating a
mantra-like phrase?! Yeah

I wasn't going to be intimidated Bahira

Feel like I've been waiting my entire life to stumble on a
man in black so to speak

No homo

And I wasn't gonna just let it expire without cracking it
open a bit

Without at least attempting to probe the situation a bit

I wasn't gonna just scurry away with my bracciole
between my legs so to speak

They barely looked human

Like something trying to

Dress up as human

They clearly had some kind of hold on Cowell

That's for fucking certain

I was getting like a message

Or something

from them

Repeating the same thing Mr Cowell was saying
If he ends up dead tomorrow
Well
We'll know why
And I'll be fucking pissed! I don't think he will
No? That wasn't the message I was getting
Well what message were you? Getting? This is really an
underrated beer
Taj Mahal
It was almost a benevolent type thing
Like now is not the time
Not as in now's not the time because they were going to
like
I don't know
Kill Cowell
But just as in
Maybe we shouldn't be investigating this at all right now
Agree to disagree Bahira
Do you know who Tzelepes was? Do you want to know
who he is
Finally? Well yeah
I've just been waiting all day for you to tell me
No big deal
He was the damn grandfather of the founder of the
Ottoman Empire
Some pissed off Byzantine prince who went rogue
Converted to Islam
Started a whole other lineage of sultans
According to underground channels at least
Okay

But what does that have to do with digital pianos in
America exactly? What's your theory? I think
maybe they're reaching out to me personally Bahira
That maybe the spirit of Tzelepes is trying to reach out
to me via these American digital pianos
That's my running theory at this point
And that's why I won't just quote-unquote let this go
No
I don't think so
Isn't that a bit of a leap Alcibiades? Tzelepes reaching
out to me? He's reprogramming pianos to the sixth
echo? That's one of my favorite scales! And if he is
Then I wanna know why
And more importantly
I need to know what he has to say to me
I don't know Alcibiades
That still seems a little
Narcissistic? s I was gonna say freaky
Or extreme
But that too actually
Bahira
There are other elements involved here
That I just don't want to get into this second
If that makes sense? But just trust me on this
The men in black
That prick Ronnie Colombo
They all can kiss my waxed ass as far as I'm concerned
I'm going back to see Cowell first thing tomorrow
morning
You with me?

Canto XIII

Alcibiades? Ugh
What the fuck? I'm still trying to sleep it off Bahira
I just got a message from Cowell
An email
And? He said not to
By no means can we come over his house today
Goddammit
Seriously? He said he's already put a restraining order on
 both of us after last night
Last night? He said we were materially harassing him
Materially harassing? That doesn't even make
Like grammatical sense
Is that a legal term? I didn't even wanna get into the
 grammatical aspects of his email with him
I didn't even reply
Should I reply you think? No
Don't reply yet
Let's meet at New Harvest ASAP
Get an espresso or two
Give me like another half hour though
Maybe forty five
I took a melatonin and wanna get the bang for my buck
Get maybe another twenty of pure deep sleep
In the meantime forward me the email
I'll take a look at it
Maybe we can craft a response
Okay
That's what I was thinking too! Or maybe I'll run it by
 that cunt Colombo

See what he has to say about it

Canto XIV

Due to the material harassment I experienced at the
hands of you and your partner last night
While partaking in an innocent barbecue with two of my
most prized cousins
I shall have no choice but to file a formal restraining
order against you both
It's like
Really intense huh? Fuck him
We're better off focusing on the Wolpe case
If we can ever get a decent contact in the homicide
division
Technically it's still our case
Plus he was actually murdered you know
But we still don't know a cause of death
Exactly
And he was
Wolpe was the guy who got the Tzelepes message
specifically
Right
And that's why we need to get in a room with our old pal
Detective Colombo again
And see what he has on the case
Do you think he'll be willing to even help us though? As
is
Probably not
as is
He'll probably not only not help us
But probably even try to actively hinder our
investigation into the matter

That's what I was thinking
That is
Unless we have some kind of leverage over him
Leverage? Unless we were to somehow
I don't know
Obtain a piece of information that would force him to
assist us in our endeavor
Okay
But like
How would we get that? You know he stopped by my
apartment right? Right
You said that
What was that about? Yeah
He was in my fucking parking lot the other day when I
got home
I wonder why would he do that? He probably wanted to
quote-unquote send a message
Some tough guy faux Italian bullshit you know
Typical ginzo shit
Oh like Jersey Shore
Yeah
Something like that
Yet
In doing so
Ron may have actually given us a piece of information
that we can use to leverage against him
How so? Well he was talking to me about eating pussy?
Like oral sex? How he was just so great at eating
so-called vagina

Yet do you know how he acquired said alleged skills?
Don't they have classes online now? From his days
in the porn industry Bahira

Yeah

Colombo worked distribution for some porno bullshit
Ended up blowing lines and sharing hotels with some
porn stars

By his account at least

Ew

He probably has like herpes or something
Probably! Many do
Especially in that walk of life
It's an incurable disease
But assuming he's not completely full of shit
Then it wouldn't be out of the realm of possibility that
we

You and me Bahira
That we could track down one of these porn stars
No Alcibiades
You're not going to pay a porn star to have sex with you
Are you? You think I'd want to be Eskimo brothers with
that clown?! No
We'll pay one of these porno girls a small sum to give us
details on Colombo
Then we go to Colombo and tell him
You either help us or we go straight Stormy Daniels on
you
I'm sure one of these broads probably has a dick pic at
least

Is that a good idea though Alcibiades? Isn't that
extortion or something? Providence police run on
extortion

Really? It's time for Colombo to taste some of his own
medicine Bahira

That's my two cents at least

But wait

Don't we have the CPR MUFON training at noon? Ugh
I forgot all about that

Is that idiot Roger leading it? I don't know who else
would if he isn't

Okay then

Right after the CPR training let's start digging for real
Bahira

X-videos

Pornhub

Youjizz

Let's scour porn contacts and see what we find

Let's make a break in this fuckin case once and for all

Canto XV

Now if a guy is in a puddle
Take him out of the puddle
You know what this is for? This is a towel
Wipe the guy or girl's chest off so you can put the pads
on them to
You know
Send the electrical shocks
A lot of people don't know about these machines
Now as a firefighter you would
But if you're not? Maybe not! But the thing with this
machine
It doesn't actually shock your heart back into working
It actually slows it down
That's a common misconception
Because when someone's collapsing the problem
The problem is that the heart is actually moving too fast!
We need to actually slow it down
Now what are these? Anyone recognize these? They're
scissors
Joe whispered: Do you guys know what that is? I
whispered: I have no clue
Roger! What is that? What Joe? What is the machine
called? A defibrillator
And what does it do? Just what I said
It brings people back to life
I just wanted to clarify
Give people background because a lot of people here
might not even know what a defibrillator is
Roger that: Right

That's a great point Joe! So if anyone collapses
I thought the background was given prior on this
My apologies
Now a defibrillator
It's used
Like I said
Primarily to actually slow down a person's heart-rate
If they collapse and are no longer conscious
If someone's heart is pumping over 300 beats a minute
Which it can! Then we can't even detect a pulse
Which is obviously a huge problem
Roger
Can I ask a question
Absolutely
Now
You said you can't detect a pulse if the guy's heart is
going too fast
Correct
But what if you shock his heart
And then it goes to zero
There's still no pulse
Correct
So then how do you know the guy's dead then? Because
in one case he's dead
Because he has no heartbeat
But in the other case there's no heartbeat but it's because
he heart's moving too fast! That's a great point
And that's why you want to get as much background
information as possible before using the defibrillator
Now don't worry
If you don't know how to do CPR

You're thinking

Shit

If I try to save this poor guy but maybe I break his rib or

I end up killing him

Then he's gonna sue me? Not true! There's a thing

called The Good Samaritan Law that protects you

from legal action in the event someone gets hurt as a

result of you attempting CPR on him

Despite not knowing CPR

Because you're acting with good intent you're legally in

the clear

Now if I did that? As a professionally certified CPR

professional? No

Forget it

Because I'm a trained firefighter

So if I go and give you CPR and I do it incorrectly

And I break your rib or kill you

Then you can sue me

You can take me for all I've got! But you can't be sued

If you don't have a CPR certification

Now the scissors

You're going to need to cut the clothes off

Male or female you will need to fully remove the shirt in

order to attach the wires of the defibrillator

Roger? Yes

Right

Now you've said a lot

And I respect your opinion

I have a lot of respect for you personally

But you're saying if a guy's in a puddle you have to move

him out

correct? Correct

Okay

But what if it's a rainy day? What do you do then? If it's
rainy even if you move a guy out a puddle he'll still
be wet! Because sometimes it might be a rainy day
out there

That's a great point! Now getting him out of the puddle
is the more important thing to be honest

He just can't be submerged in water

If it's drizzling

That's probably okay

Then just make sure the pecs

Or breasts

Are dried off

If it's drizzling out then like I said

That's not the biggest deal

If it's really pouring

Sure

Try and bring him inside

Or get him under a pier of some sort

If there's a canopy nearby? Or maybe a tent? Maybe a
bridge

And then once you have him there then immediately
take his clothes off

Wipe his chest

Or her chest

And then start to process the defibrillator

Also

Guys

When you start the defibrillator process

Listen

We live in interesting times
And some people do have their nipples pierced
In the event of a nipple piercing
Male or female
You're gonna want to try and avoid covering the nipple
with the defibrillator pad if possible
Ideally we don't want any metal near the defibrillator
wiring
Attached different pads! Attached different pads! Roger
what is that noise
Attached different pads! Yeah
So once you attach
Attached different pads! Once you attach the pads
It will prompt you at certain points as it's
Attached different pads! Notice
Attached different pads! As it's doing right now
Like I said
This thing will guide you through the entire
Attached different pads! The entire process
A fifth grader could do this! Not that you would want a
fifth grader to do it
I whispered: Bahira
Bahira whispered: This is
Attached different pads! I whispered: I think I've had
enough? Okay! Thank you Roger! Let's all give
Roger a round of applause please! This was very
informative
Yes
Clap please! Quite useful
Now if there are any other questions
No

I don't think
Attached different pads! Then I think we can conclude?
Thank you Mr President
Much appreciated! I'm honored to have the platform
And again
I will try and organize a CPR class for all of MUFON in
the coming months
Now
Would anyone like to help me remove the batteries?
Let's see here
Just open this guy up quick
They're actually just a little larger than a duracell double
A
That's what's actually saving your life
Take a look at these! Now how often are those changed?
I'm planning to do them monthly? Okay
That's good
I think this is a great thing
God forbid we ever have to use these things
I wouldn't want the batteries to be dead!

Canto XVI

Yes

I'm looking for a detective Ronald aka Ronnie Colombo
I believe he's a detective in your homicide division? We'd
like to meet with him if possible

As soon as possible

If possible

I'm sorry

But as of this morning detective Colombo has been
placed on an indeterminate leave

Okay

As of this morning that is? So when would he possibly
be available again? At this point? That's somewhat
indeterminate

Is there a reason you can tell me why? At this point
that's a confidential matter sir

Bahira

I don't know the fuck

I told you Alcibiades

maybe we should

I feel like I'm being led on a wild good c—