

*Dear Reader,*

Grueling is a word meant to convey how difficult something is, in a way which makes you weary and tired just thinking about it. If you have ever been exposed to grueling work conditions, you know they cause you to feel things like misery, fatigue, hatred of lumber mills, and a wish to be anywhere else.

To avoid exposing you to the details of a very grueling situation, I advise you to set this clue down and not pick it back up. By doing so, you avoid learning about miserable happenings including an unlicensed optometrist, altered states of consciousness, a ruthless man named Sir, a tactile means of communication, and sawdust that is coarse, rough, and irritating.

I have committed to report on the manner of difficult things related to this treacherous Get A Clue plot. You, on the other hand, are here at will, meaning you may walk away from this disastrous work location at any time, for any reason for something more fulfilling, including for a mandated break, for lunch, for a doctor's visit, or forever.

*With all due respect,*

*Lemony Snicket*

Lemony Snicket





Disgruntled employees at this particular mill have a particular way of passing secret messages to each other in the blank spaces of their timecards. As I consider sending a particularly nasty one concerning the foreman about this particularly miserable shift to my contact across the mill, I find myself interrupted.

Before I had to run, a body shambled strangely towards me, and not in the usual exhausted-from-long-hours kind of way. As they got closer, I noticed that they appeared to be hypnotized! The zombie-like, a word here which means "in desperate need of your help", form extended a hand and gave me this punch card.

From my extensive experience observing this kind of behavior from underneath the shed behind the back lumber yard, in order to help this person you will need to figure out what the release word is. Regrettably I have no time, as I must flee this place at once.

L. S.

