## Alan Sondheim / from NEGATIVE DIASPORA

## United States Postal Service

i

What should make me suspect a piece of mail?

It's unexpected from someone you don't know. IT CAME FROM JENNIFER.

It's addressed to someone no longer at your address. IT CAME TO ME.

It's handwritten and has no return address or bears one that you can't confirm as legitimate.

IT CAME FROM JENNIFER'S ADDRESS.

It's lopsided or lumpy in appearance. IT WAS A THIN ENVELOPE.

It's sealed with excessive amounts of tape. IT WAS LICKED SHUT.

It's marked with restrictive endorsements such as "Personal" or "Confidential."

IT HAD NOTHING WRITTEN ON IT.

It has excessive postage.
THE POSTAGE WAS CORRECT.

What should I do with a suspicious piece of mail?

Don't handle a letter or package that you suspect is contaminated. I PICKED IT UP AND PRESSED IT TO MY FACE.

Don't shake it, bump it, or sniff it.

I RUBBED IT ON MY LIPS AND BREATHED ITS FRAGRANCE.

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. I SUCKED MY FINGERTIPS.

Notify local law enforcement authorities. I KEPT IT TO MYSELF.

ii

What should make me suspect a piece of mail?

It's unexpected or from someone you don't know. IT CAME FROM AN UNKNOWN TWIN WITH THE SAME NAME AS MYSELF.

It's addressed to someone no longer at your address. IT WAS ADDRESSED TO AN UNKNOWN TWIN WITH THE SAME NAME AS MYSELF.

It's handwritten and has no return address or bears one that you can't confirm is legitimate.

IT WAS HANDWRITTEN IN BLOCK LETTERS WITH NO RETURN ADDRESS.

It's lopsided or lumpy in appearance.
IT BULGED AT THE BOTTOM AND SEEMED UNNECESSARILY WADDED.

It's sealed with excessive amounts of tape. I COULD HARDLY READ THE ADDRESS WITH ALL THE TAPE AND STRING.

It's marked with restrictive endorsements such as "Personal" or "Confidential"

IT SAID "JUST FOR YOU" ON THE ENVELOPE.

It has excessive postage.

IT WEIGHED HALF A POUND AND HAD TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF STAMPS.

What should I do with a suspicious piece of mail?

Don't handle a letter or package that you suspect is contaminated. I PICKED IT UP AND PRESSED IT SOFTLY TO MY FACE.

Don't shake it, bump it, or sniff it. I RUBBED IT ON MY LIPS AND BREATHED ITS PECULIAR FRAGRANCE.

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. I SUCKED MY FINGERTIPS THOROUGHLY AND WIPED MY EYES.

Notify local law enforcement authorities. I KEPT IT TO MYSELF, MY WIFE, AND DAUGHTER.