

Serving Man

Vocabulary

circuitous: roundabout, indirect.

dive: slang term for a cheap, disreputable restaurant or bar.

Doors: a rock band popular since the 1960s.

double unhappiness: this is a word play on “double happiness”, the name of a popular Chinese dish.

East Village: a district in New York City.

flush: having sufficient money (slang).

just a tad: colloquial expression for “a small amount”.

living on the edge: having a precarious existence.

lotta: colloquial pronunciation of “a lot of”.

panhandling: begging.

roadies: crew members who accompany a traveling show.

scallions: a kind of onion.

seethe: to be agitated or disturbed.

shanghaied: to make someone do something by force; to kidnap. From Shanghai, a city in China

snazzy: stylish, flashy, elegant (slang).

subway grate: a grating covering one of the ducts used to ventilate New York’s subway system. The discharged air is much warmer than the outside air in winter.

Talmudic scholar: someone who studies the Jewish sacred writings, particularly the laws and commentaries.

truck’n: shortened form of *trucking* from “Keep on trucking”, a popular saying in the 1960s. It is based on a colloquial meaning of *truck*: “to have dealings” and means to *persevere*—to keep coping with life’s challenges or simply to keep on going.

walk-up: an apartment house with no elevator.