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You Can Never Be Too Careful

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YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL

Richard Muegge

here's what that stranger might
come over here and whisper in your ear
once he senses you're willing to listen

“by now most people know, you know,
that baking soda works as well
as toothpaste and is cheaper,

but y'know, they don't know what I know
and I know that I will soon market
for adolescent acne an extract of mayonnaise
twice as effective as Clearasil or Mudd

oh, I like your honest face, my friend,
and your good complexion, but we
have a problem now because you know my plans;

so I may just have to take you
to my place in Idaho where you can lay low
for five years or so, so to speak, you know?”

oh yes, a polite nod to someone odd
can lead to who knows what all,
and just all kinds of trouble.