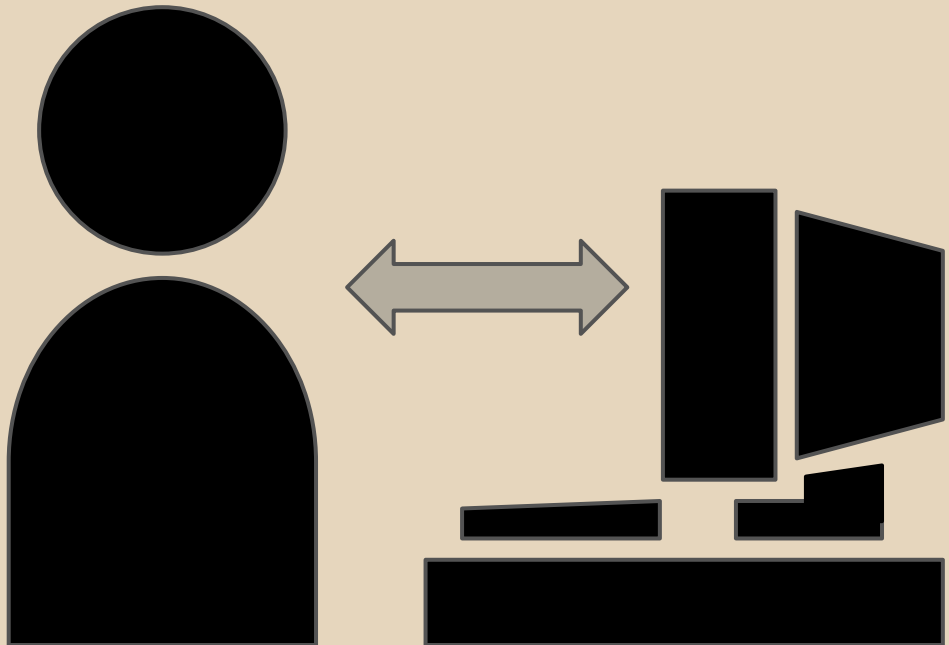
Building Player Investment

Stuff I learned from Save the Date

SAVE
THE DATE!

SPOILER WARNING

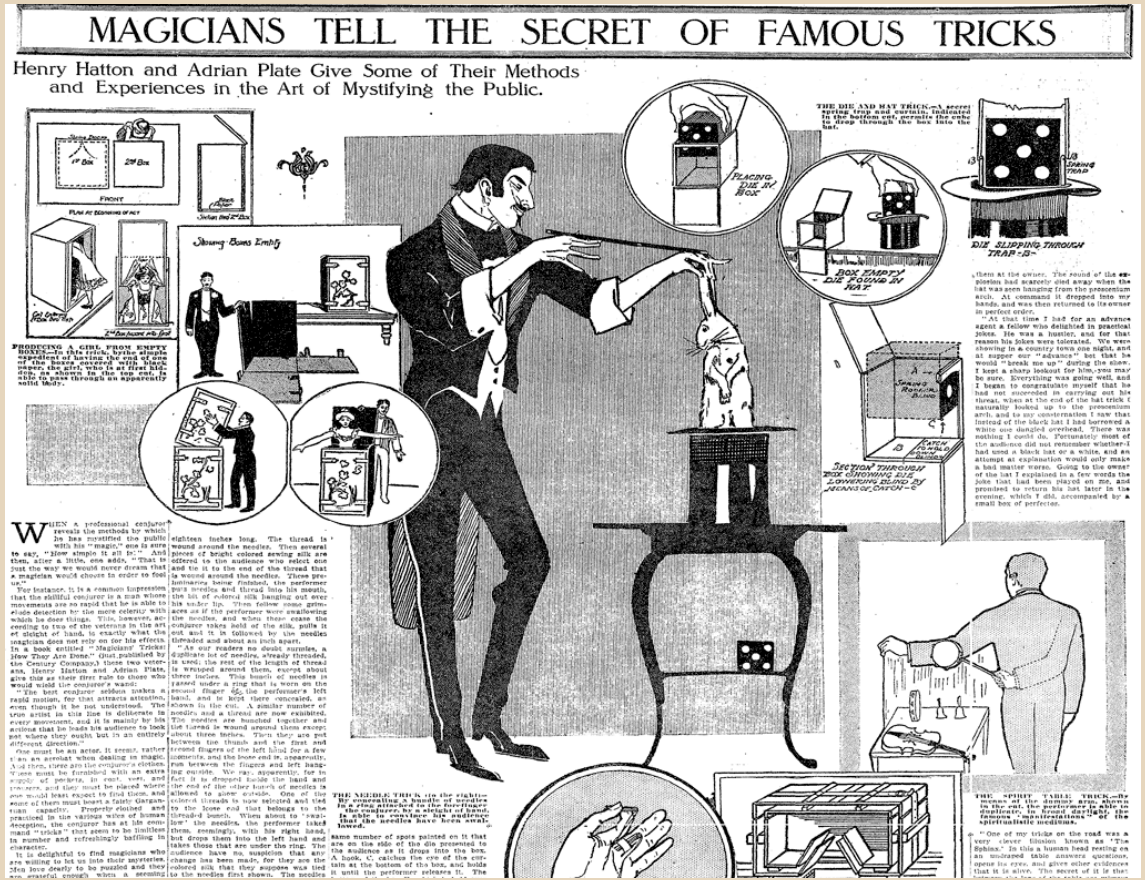
Goal: connect with players



Problem: Players don’t make it easy.

Solution: Tricks!

Problem: They know our tricks



MAGICIANS TELL THE SECRET OF FAMOUS TRICKS

Henry Hatton and Adrian Plate Give Some of Their Methods and Experiences in the Art of Mystifying the Public.

PRODUCING A GIRL FROM EMPTY BOXES.—In this trick, by the simple expedient of having the rear of one of the boxes covered with black cloth, the girl can step into the box, as shown in the top cut, and is able to pass through an apparently solid body.

Showing Bones Emptiness

THE DIE AND HAT TRICK.—A secret spring trap and curtain, indicated by the broken line at the left, permits the die to drop through the box into the hat.

PLACING DIE IN BOX

BOX EMPTY—DIE FOUND IN HAT

DIE SLIPPING THROUGH TRAP-B-

SECTION THROUGH BOX SHOWING DIE LOWERING BLIND BY MEANS OF CATCH—C

WHEN a professional conjurer reveals the methods by which he has mystified the public with his "magic," one is sure to say, "How simple it all is." And then, after a little, one adds, "That is just the way we would never dream that a magician would choose in order to fool us."

For instance, it is a common impression that the skillful conjurer is a man whose movements are so rapid that he is able to elude detection by the mere celerity with which he does things. This, however, according to two of the veterans in the art of sleight of hand, is exactly what the magician does not rely on for his effects. In a book entitled "Magicians' Tricks: How They Are Done," just published by the Century Company, these two veterans, Henry Hatton and Adrian Plate, give this as their first rule to those who would wield the conjurer's wand:

"The best conjurer seldom makes a rapid motion, for that attracts attention, even though it be not understood. The true artist in this line is deliberate in every movement, and it is mainly by his action that he leads his audience to look not where they ought, but in an entirely different direction."

One must be an actor, it seems, rather than an acrobat when dealing in magic. And then, there are the conjurer's clothes. These must be furnished with an extra supply of pockets, in coat, vest, and trousers, and they must be placed where one would least expect to find them, and some of them must boast a fairly Gargantuan capacity. Properly clothed and practiced in the various wiles of human deception, the conjurer has at his command "tricks" that seem to be limitless in number and refreshingly baffling in character.

It is delightful to find magicians who are willing to let us into their mysteries. Men love dearly to be puzzled and they are grateful enough when a seeming

eighteen inches long. The thread is wound around the needles. Then several pieces of bright colored sewing silk are offered to the audience who select one and tie it to the end of the thread that is wound around the needles. These preliminaries being finished, the performer puts needles and thread into his mouth, the bit of colored silk hanging out over his under lip. Then follow some grimaces as if the performer were swallowing the needles, and when these cease the conjurer takes hold of the silk, pulls it out and it is followed by the needles threaded and about an inch apart.

"As our readers no doubt surmise, a duplicate lot of needles, already threaded, is used; the rest of the length of thread is wrapped around them, except about three inches. This bunch of needles is passed under a ring that is worn on the second finger of the left hand for a few moments, and the loose end is, apparently, run between the fingers and left hanging outside. We say, apparently, for in fact it is dropped inside the hand and the end of the other bunch of needles is allowed to show outside. One of the colored threads is now selected and tied to the loose end that belongs to the threaded bunch. When about to 'swallow' the needles, the performer takes them, seemingly, with his right hand, but drops them into the left hand and takes those that are under the ring. The audience have no suspicion that any change has been made, for they see the colored silk that they suppose was tied to the needles first shown. The needles

same number of spots painted on it that are on the side of the die presented to the audience as it drops into the box. A hook, C, catches the eye of the curtain at the bottom of the box, and holds it until the performer releases it. The

them at the owner. The sound of the explosion had scarcely died away when the hat was seen hanging from the proscenium arch. At command it dropped into my hands, and was then returned to its owner in perfect order.

"At that time I had for an advance agent a fellow who delighted in practical jokes. He was a hustler, and for that reason his jokes were tolerated. We were showing in a country town one night, and at supper our "advance" bet that he would "break me up" during the show. I kept a sharp lookout for him, you may be sure. Everything was going well, and I began to congratulate myself that he had not succeeded in carrying out his threat, when at the end of the hat trick I naturally looked up to the proscenium arch, and to my consternation I saw that instead of the black hat I had borrowed a white one dangled overhead. There was nothing I could do. Fortunately most of the audience did not remember whether I had used a black hat or a white, and an attempt at explanation would only make a bad matter worse. Going to the owner of the hat I explained in a few words the joke that had been played on me, and promised to return his hat later in the evening, which I did, accompanied by a small box of perfectos.

THE NEEDLE TRICK.—In the right—By connecting a bundle of needles to a ring attached to the fore-finger of the conjurer's right hand, he is able to convince the audience that the needles have been swallowed.

THE SPIRIT TABLE TRICK.—By means of the dumbwaiter shown in the cut, the performer is able to duplicate, in broad daylight, the mysterious performances of the spiritualistic seances.

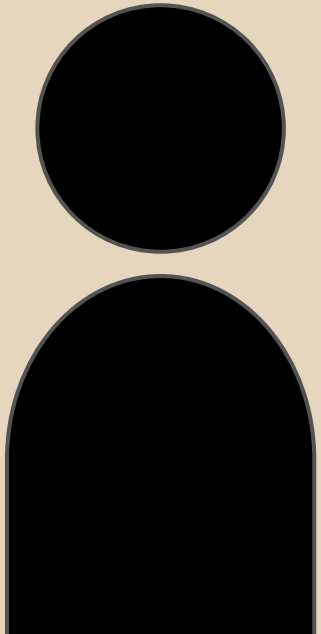
"One of my tricks on the road was a very clever illusion, known as 'The Sphinx.' In this a human head resting on an undraped table answers questions, opens its eyes, and gives other evidences that it is alive. The secret of it is that

Obvious Solution:

The biggest trick:

Change relationship between the player and the game.

What IS the relationship?

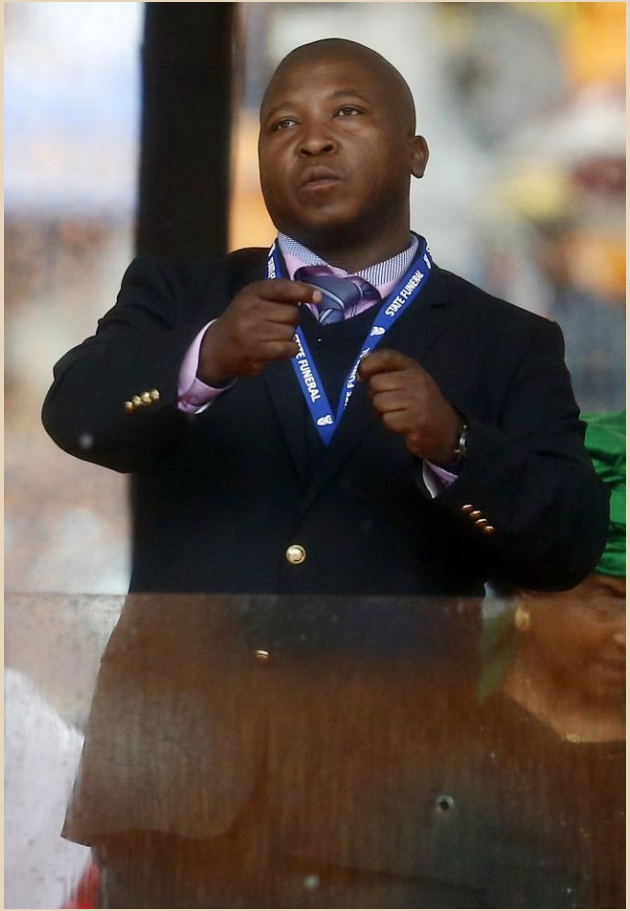


What IS the relationship?

"If a story is not about the hearer, he will not listen. And here I make a rule— a great and interesting story is about everyone or it will not last."

- John Steinbeck

How?



TOP
SECRET
MOVIE

Brains are awesome!

A few things I never showed:

Puzzles and Goals, too!

- The most effective puzzle is the one that they decide for themselves to solve.

- The best goal is the one the players set for themselves.

Buffers

… What's a buffer?

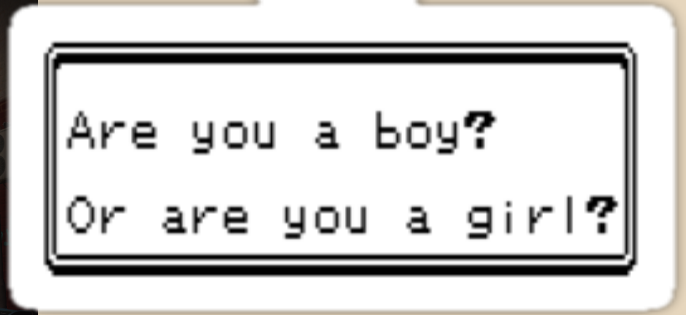
Anything that lets the player put distance between themselves and their choices.

The most common buffer:

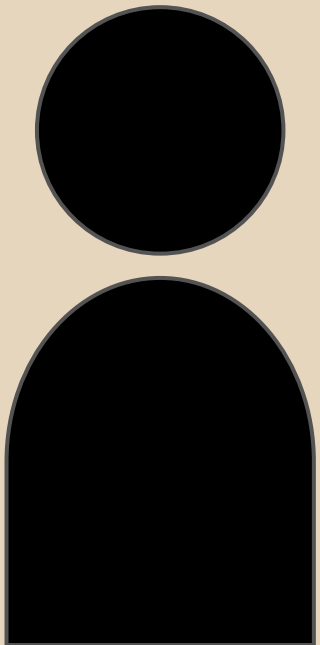
Solution is obvious:

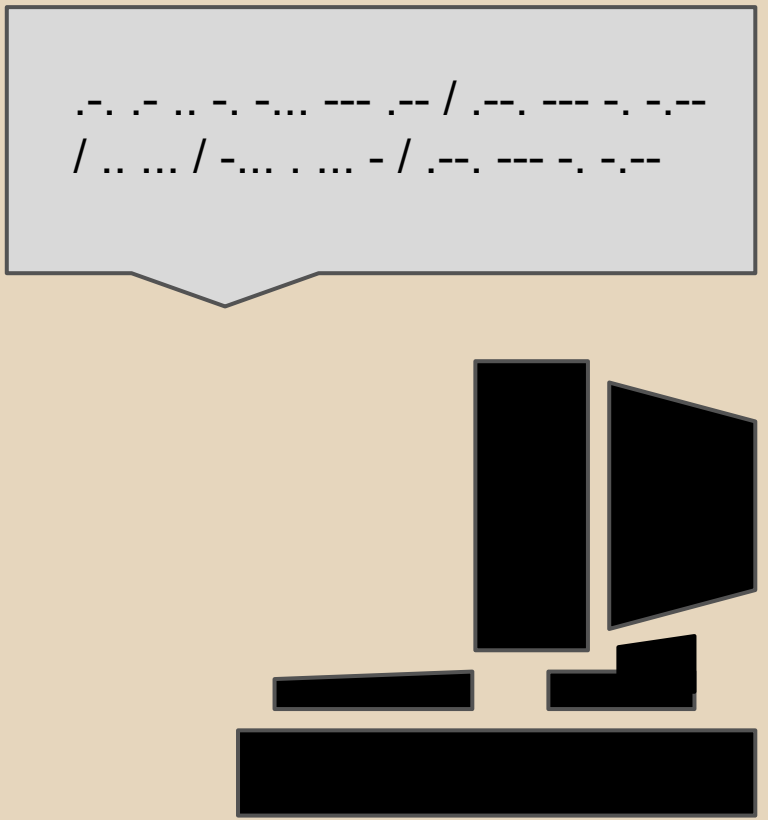
Avatar Avoidance:

>NAME?



Do: Talk to them directly





Do: Talk to them directly

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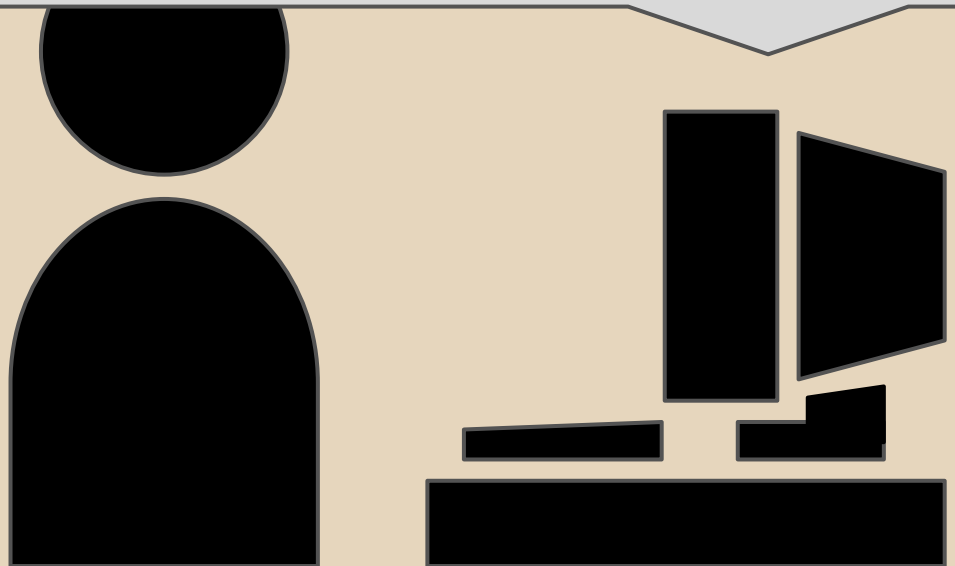
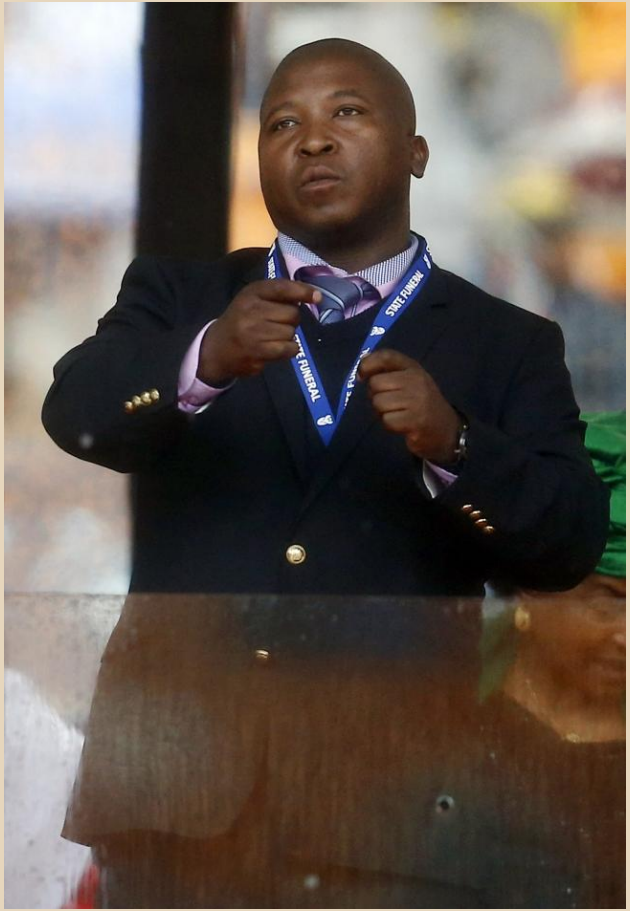
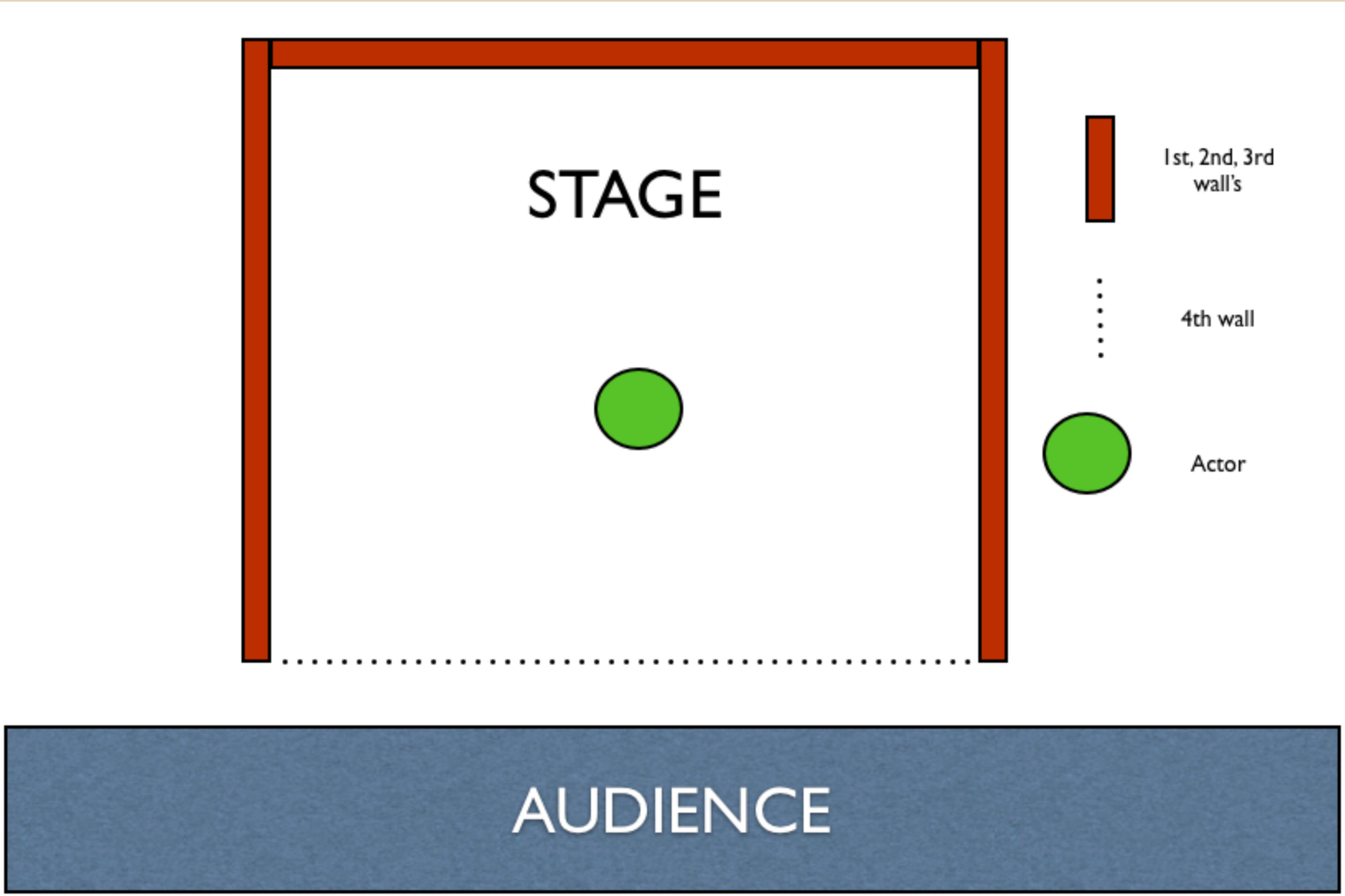


Still acting like it’s true

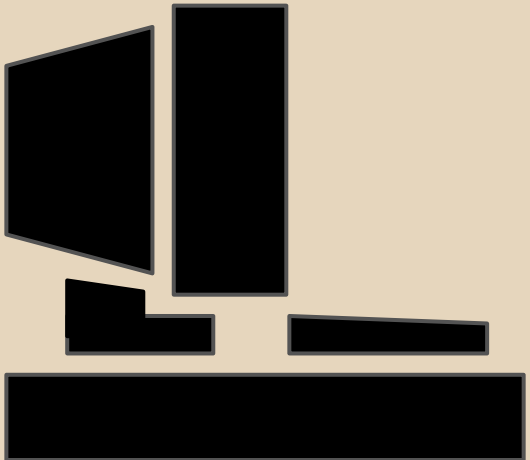


Break the 4th wall

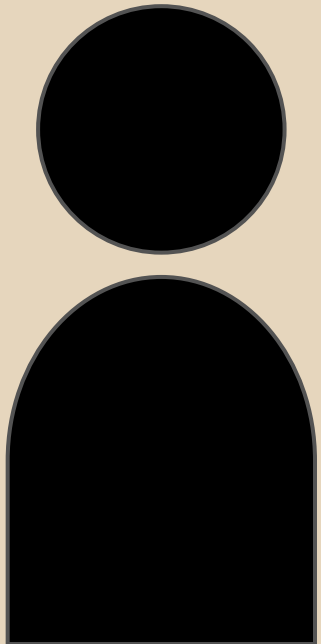
Yes I am talking to YOU.

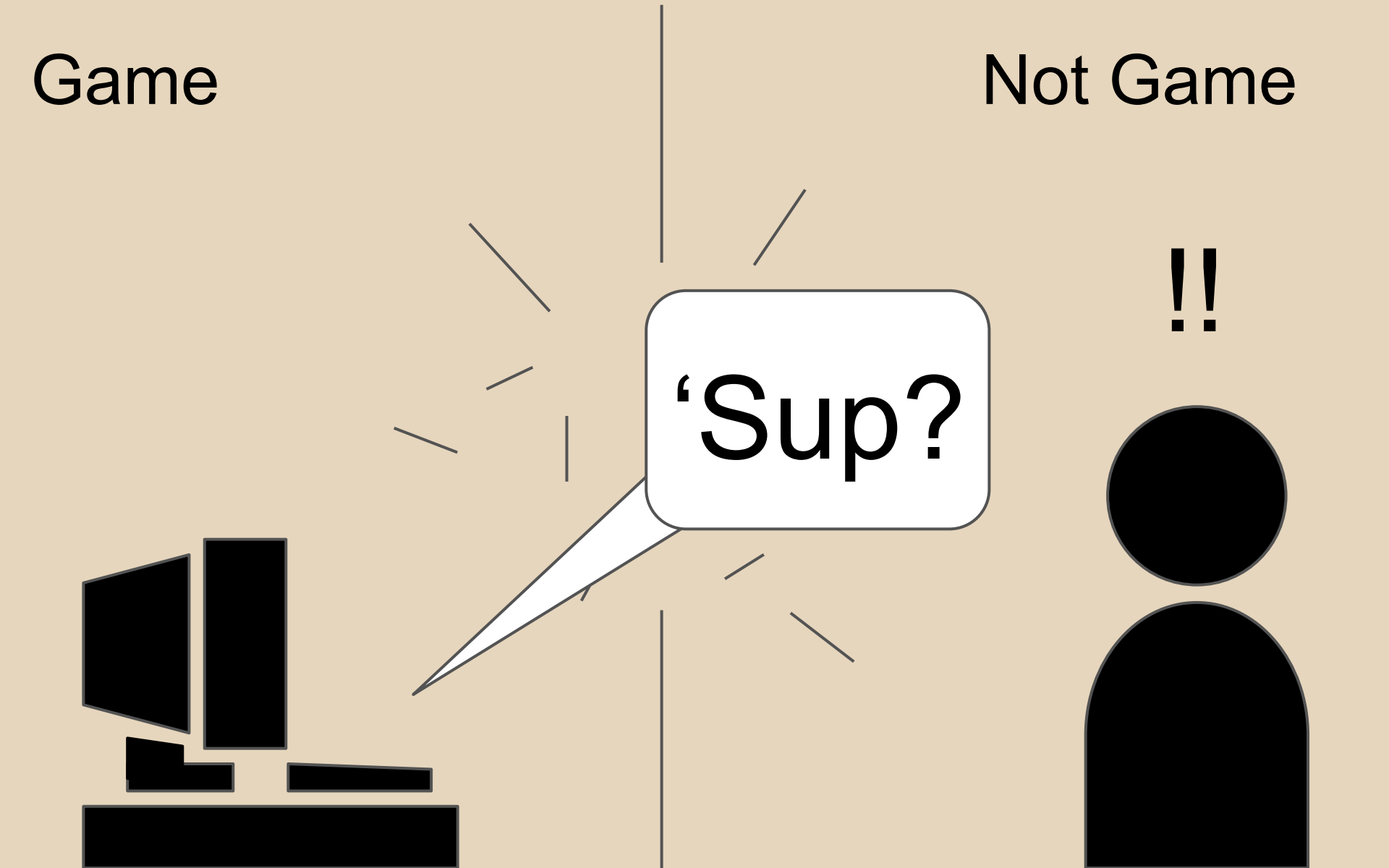

STAGE
1st, 2nd, 3rd wall's
4th wall
Actor
AUDIENCE

Game



Not Game

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‘Sup?
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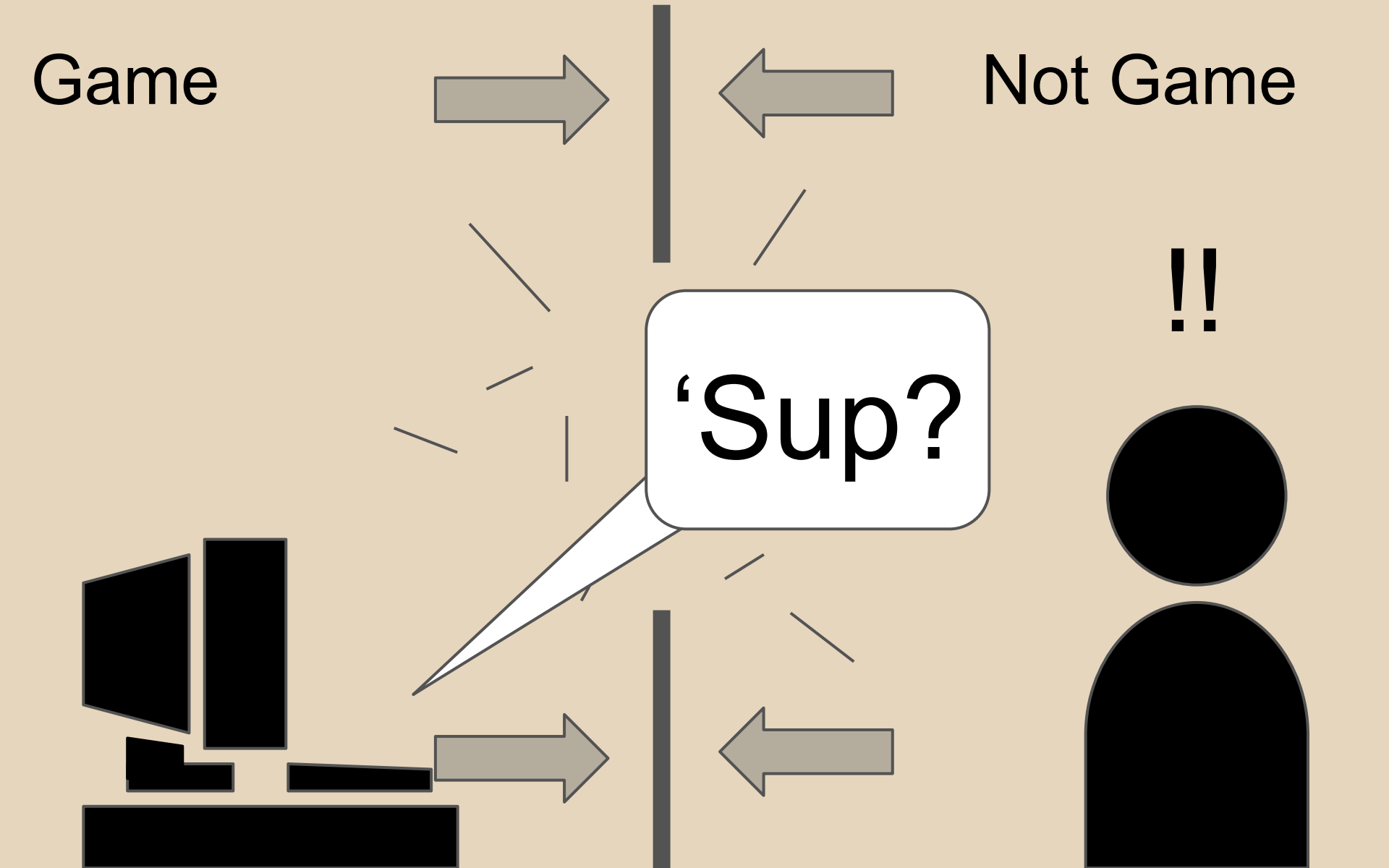
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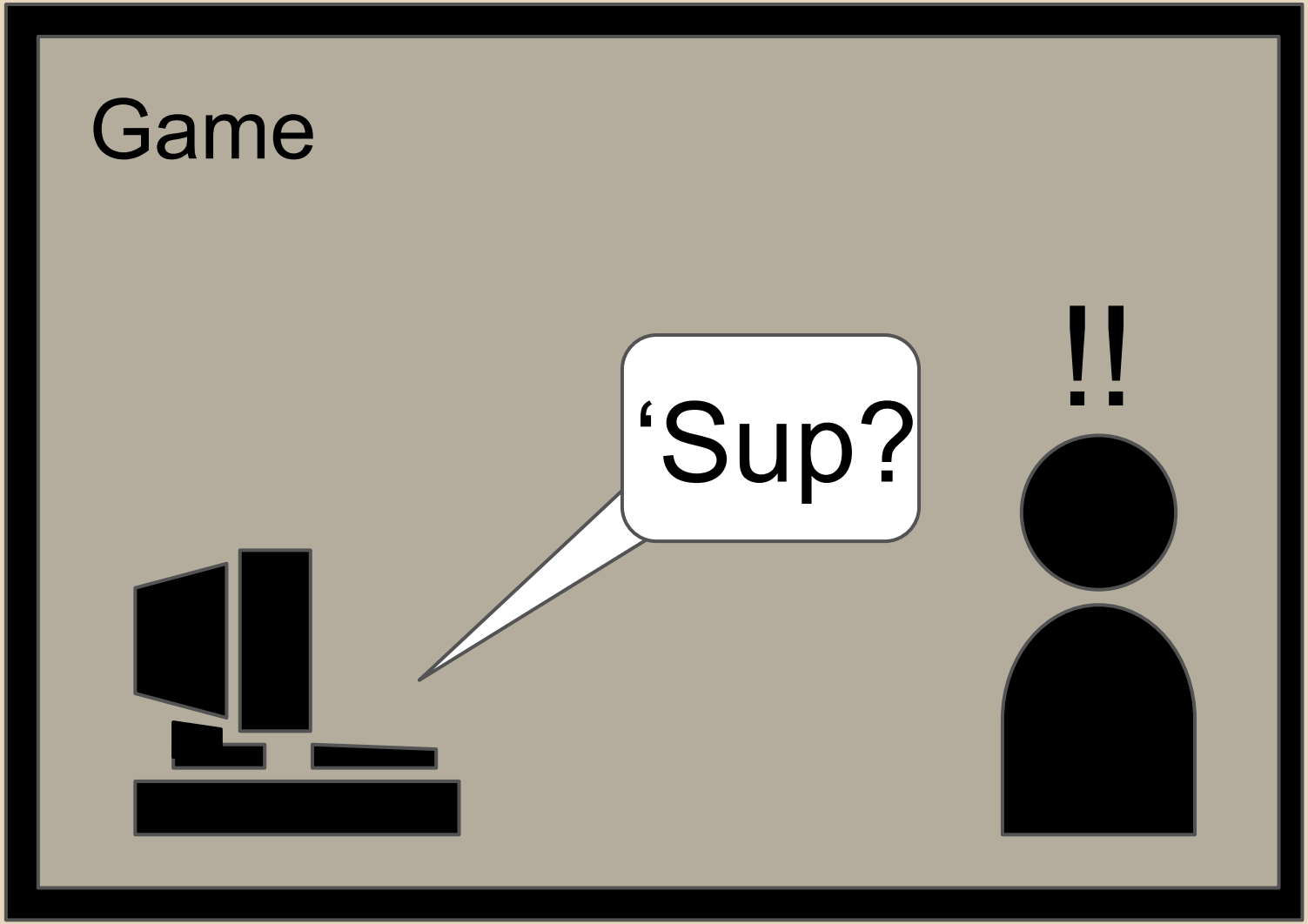
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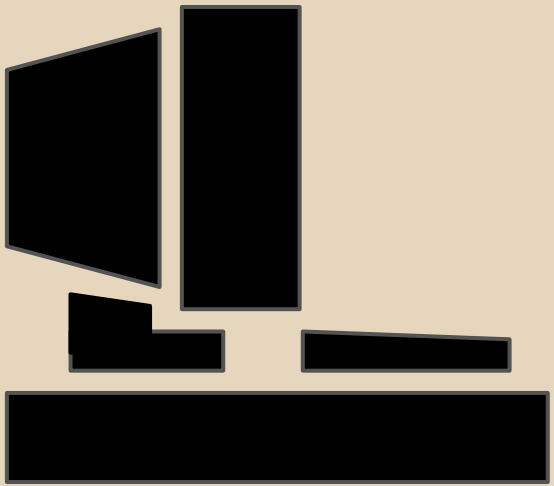
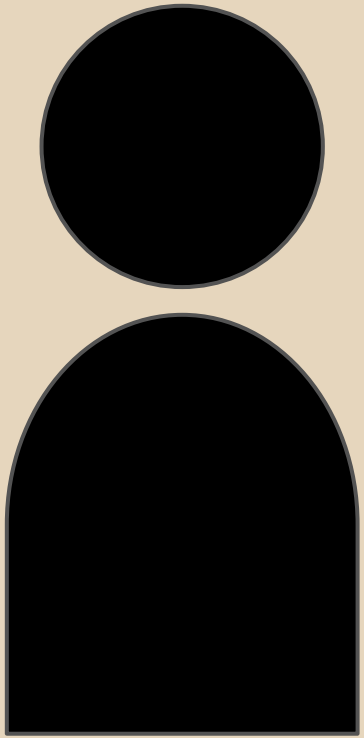




How do people act, anyway?

They respond to nuance and subtlety.

Mind Reading!

DON’T PANIC

Planned Scenario

+

Good Guesswork

=

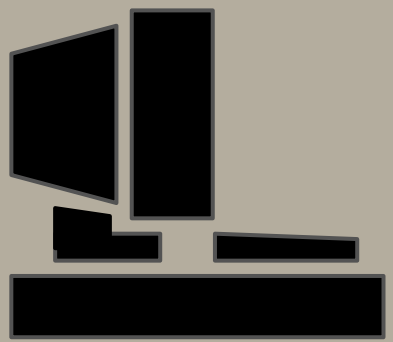
Save the Date!
Not that many, actually.
A lot.
I've lost count, honestly.
So far? 7 times, in 5 different ways.
Felicia
Exactly how many times have you had to watch me die?
Menu (ESC) Quicksave (F5) Quickload (F9) Skip (CTRL)

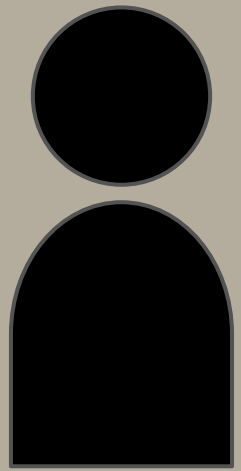
Save the Date!
Every single one.
No, the game just gave me that number, and I'm trusting that it got it right.
Felicia
I had no idea... And you counted each one?
Menu (ESC) Quicksave (F5) Quickload (F9) Skip (CTRL)

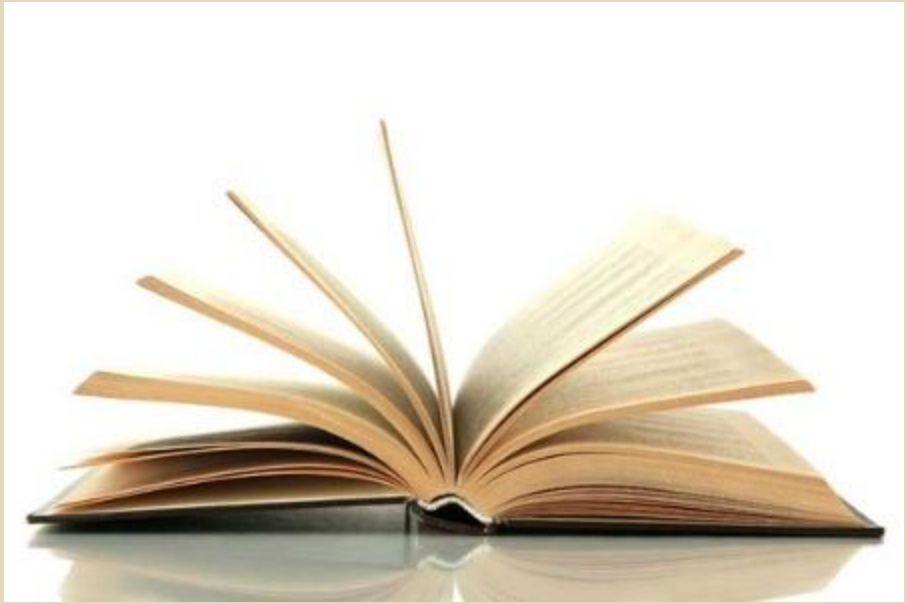
NOW WHAT?

Motivation

Game





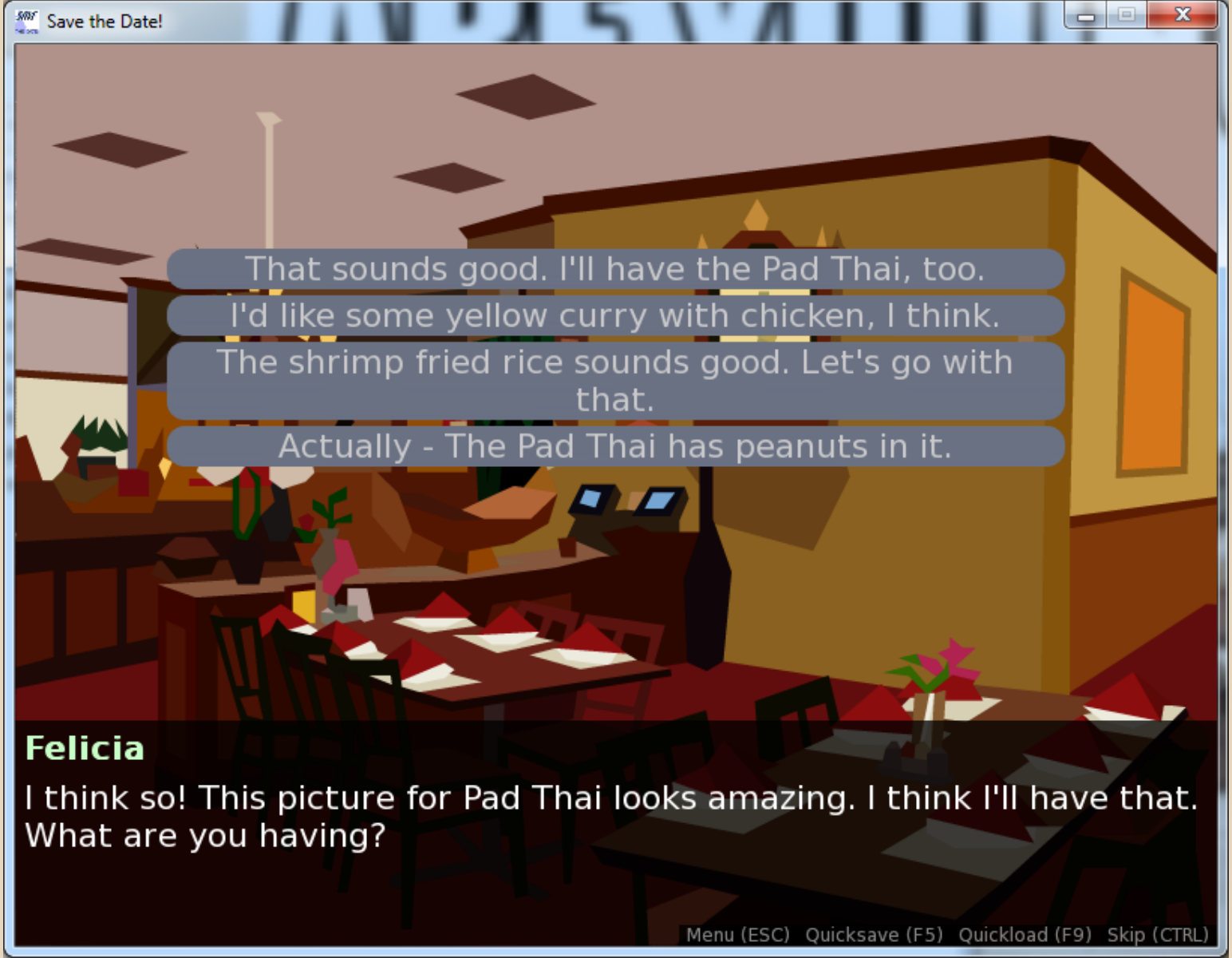


When in doubt...

~The End~
Your date has ended in disaster.

Give it time

ARE YOU NOT
ENTERTAINED?


Save the Date!
That sounds good. I'll have the Pad Thai, too.
I'd like some yellow curry with chicken, I think.
The shrimp fried rice sounds good. Let's go with that.
Actually - The Pad Thai has peanuts in it.
Felicia
I think so! This picture for Pad Thai looks amazing. I think I'll have that. What are you having?
Menu (ESC) Quicksave (F5) Quickload (F9) Skip (CTRL)

Brains are (still) awesome!

T

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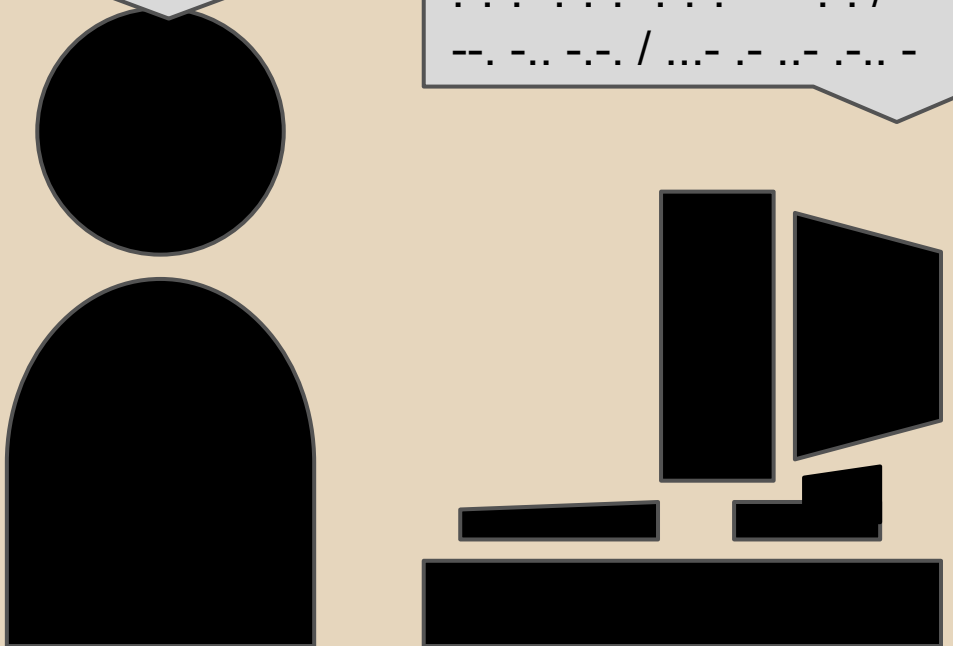
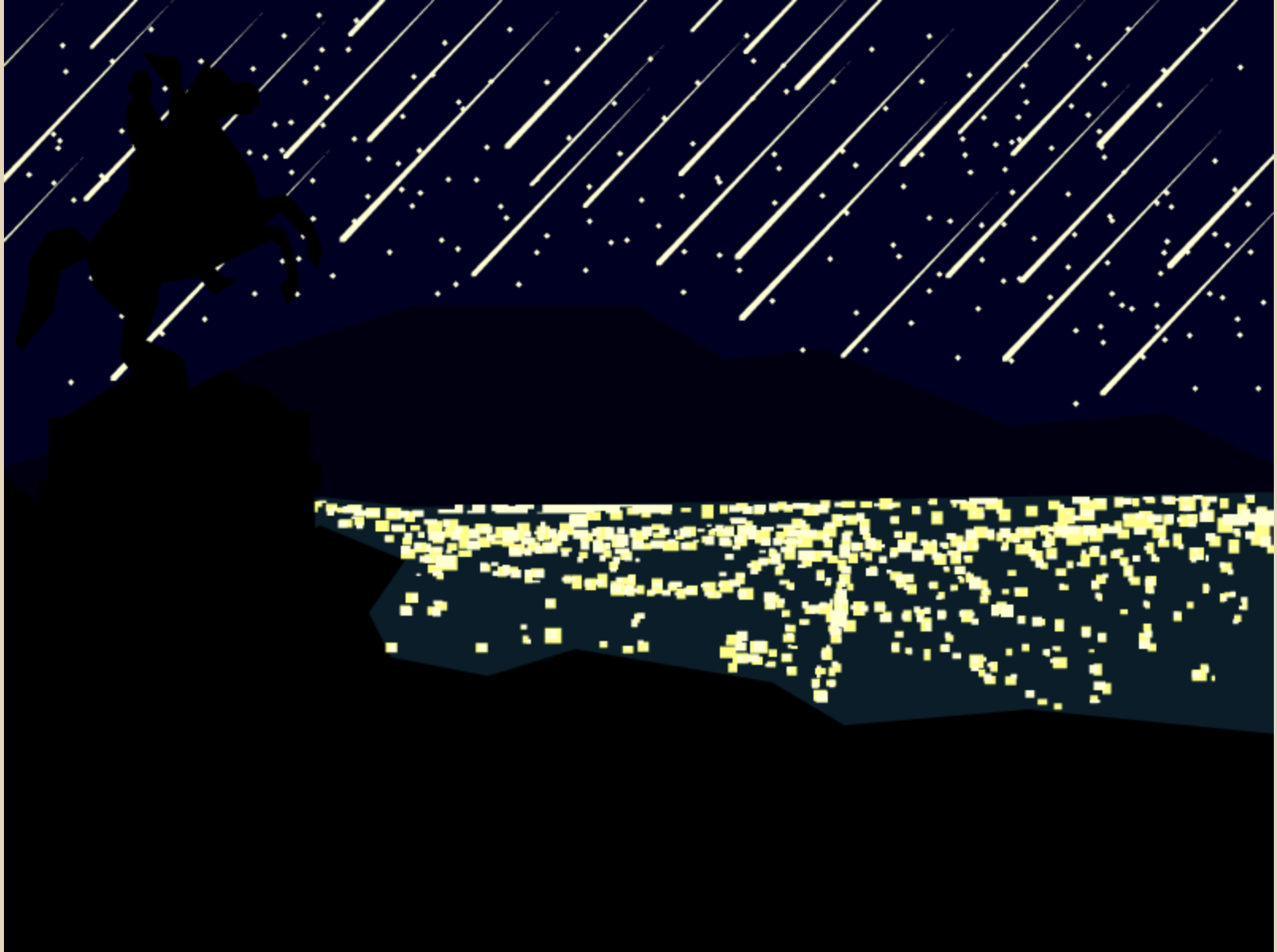


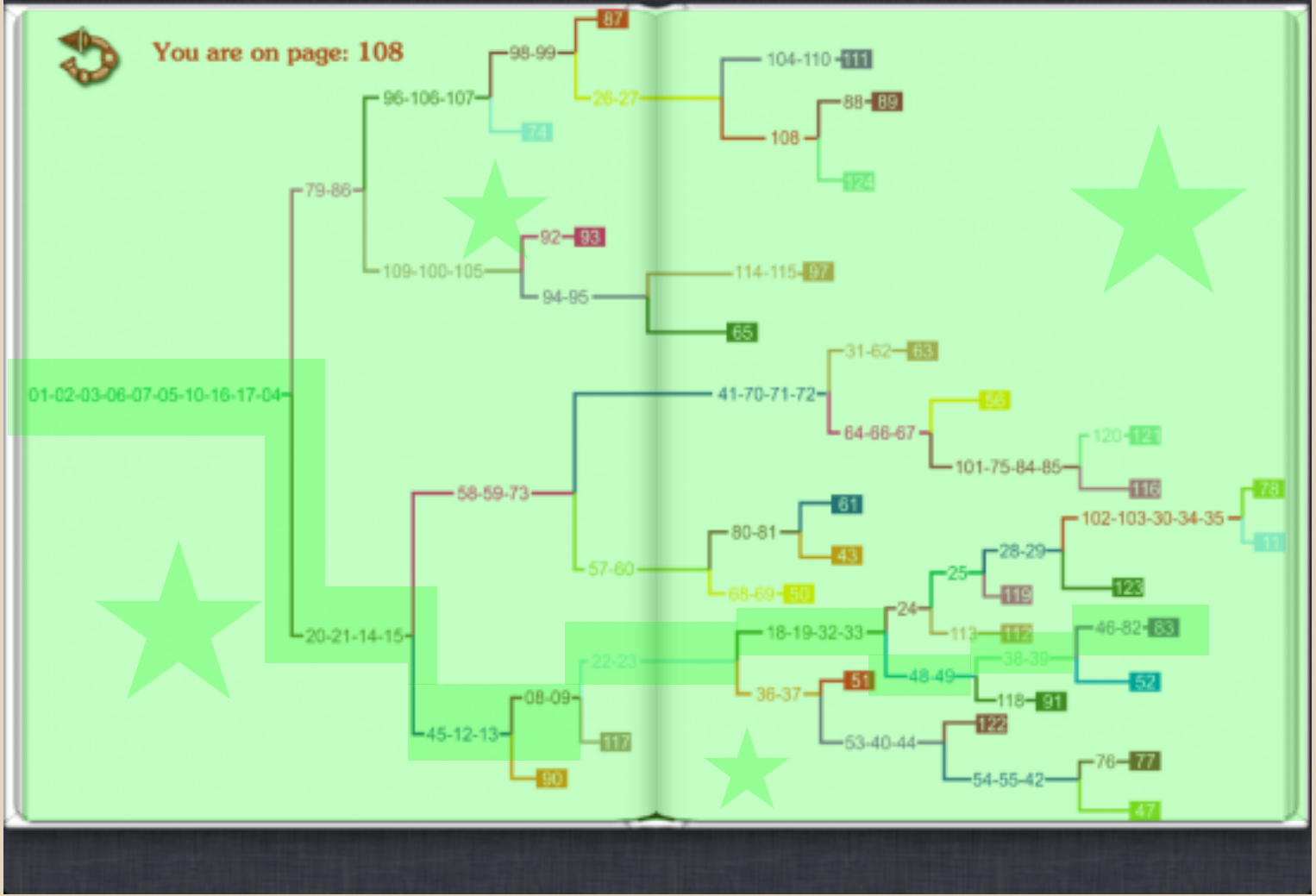
SUBTLETY IS AWESOME!



FAILED

It’s easy to say...

“Oh, sure, you can [illegible], if you are lucky enough to have a gar[illegible]at can support all of those things.”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Thanks for listening!

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