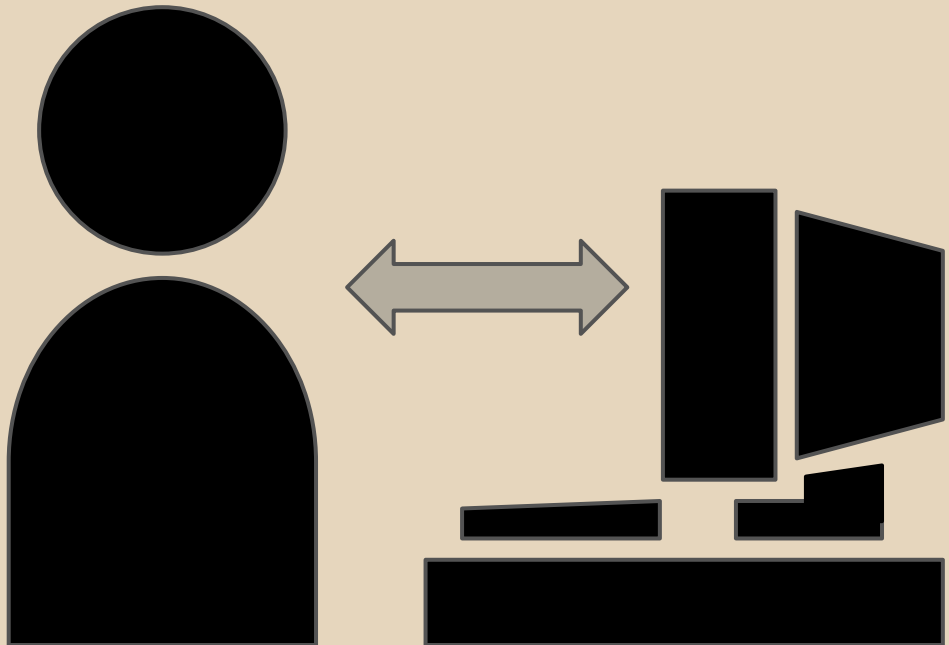
Building Player Investment

Stuff I learned from Save the Date

SAVE
THE DATE!

SPOILER WARNING

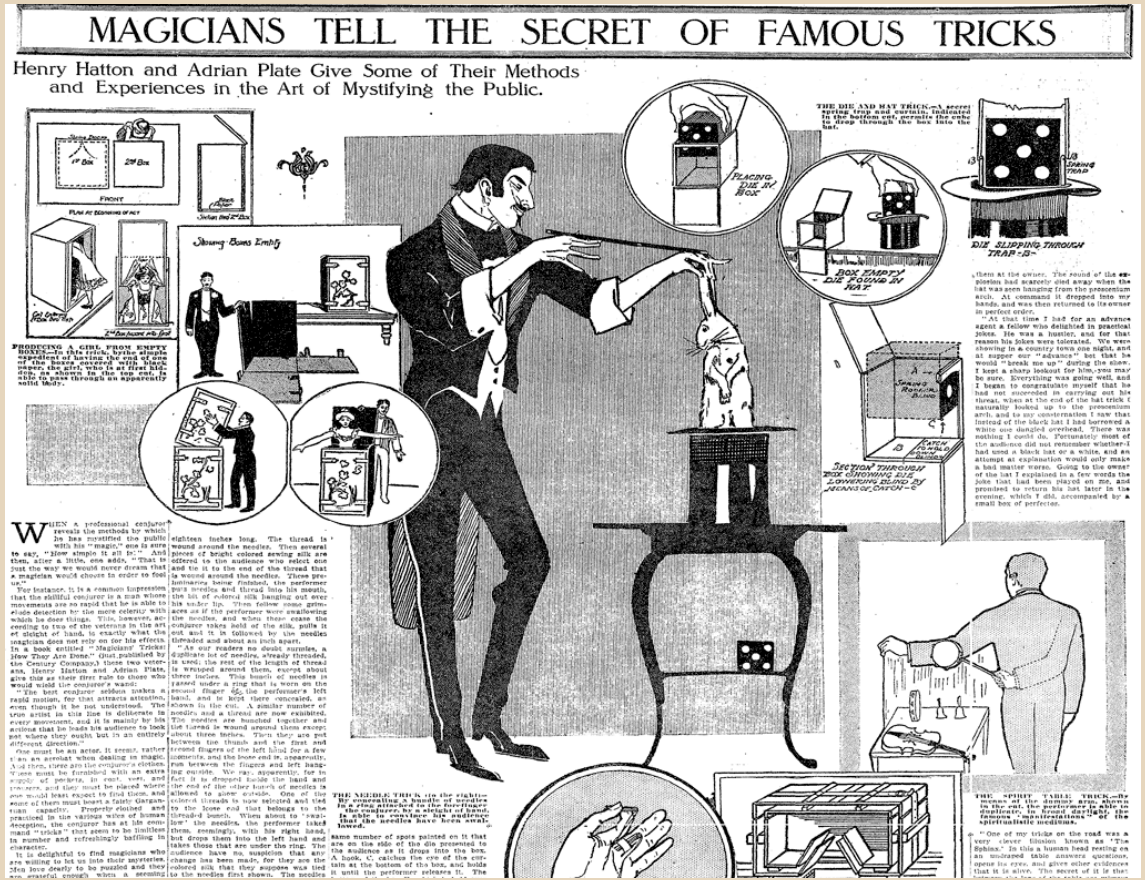
Goal: connect with players



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 end of one of the boxes covered with black paper, the girl, who is at first hidden, as shown in the top cut, is able to pass through an apparently solid body.

THE DIE AND HAT TRICK.—A secret spring trap and curtain, indicated in the bottom cut, permits the cube to drop through the box into the hat.

DIE SLIPPING THROUGH TRAP-B-

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

THE NEEDLE TRICK (to the right).—By concealing a bundle of needles in a ring attached to the forefinger of the conjurer, by a sleight of hand, is able to convince his audience that the needles have been swallowed.

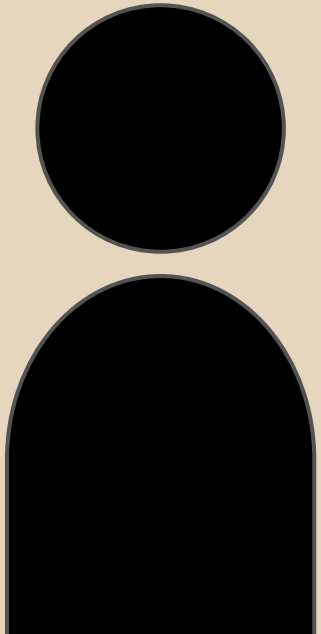
THE SPIRIT TABLE TRICK.—By means of the dummy arm, shown in the cut, the performer is able to duplicate, in broad daylight, the famous "manifestations" of the spiritualistic mediums.

Obvious Solution:

The biggest trick:

Change relationship between the player and the game.

What IS the relationship?

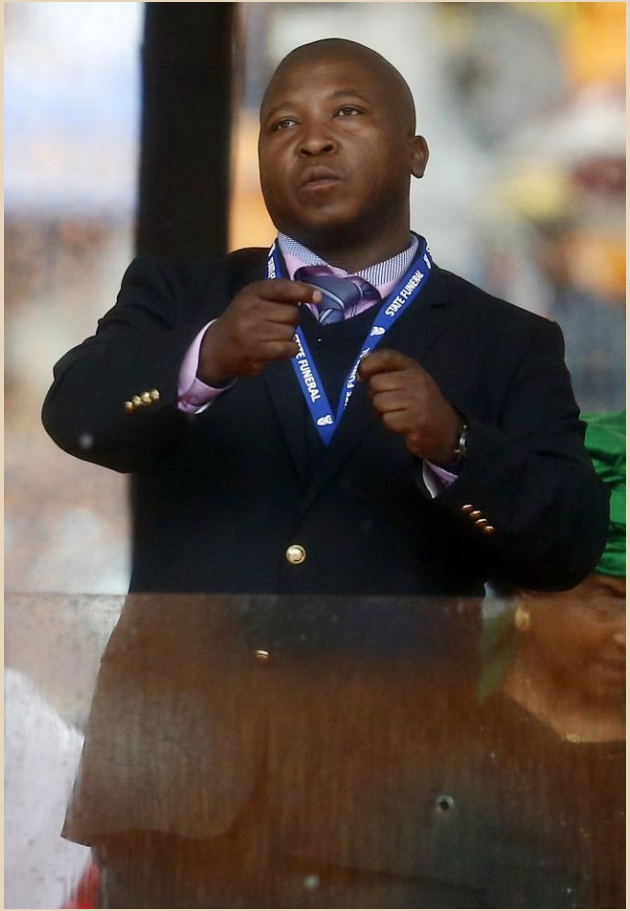


What IS the relationship?

"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?

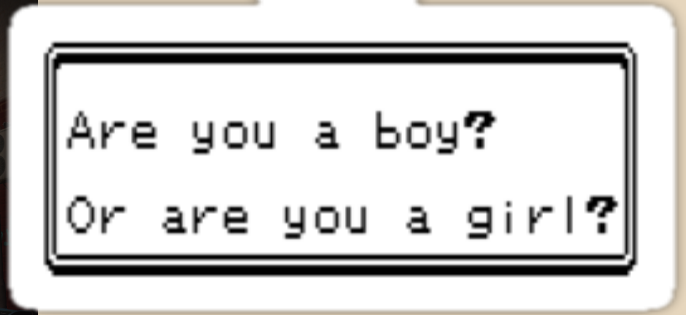
Anything that lets the player put distance between themselves and their choices.

The most common buffer:

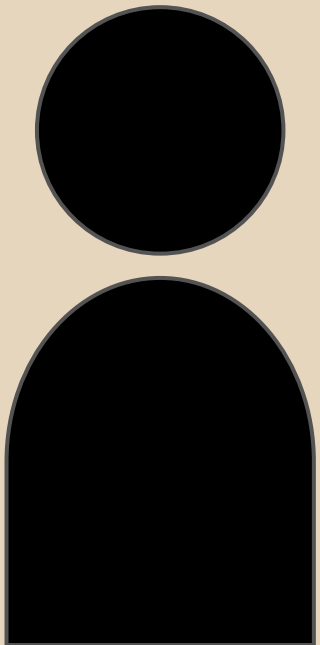
Solution is obvious:

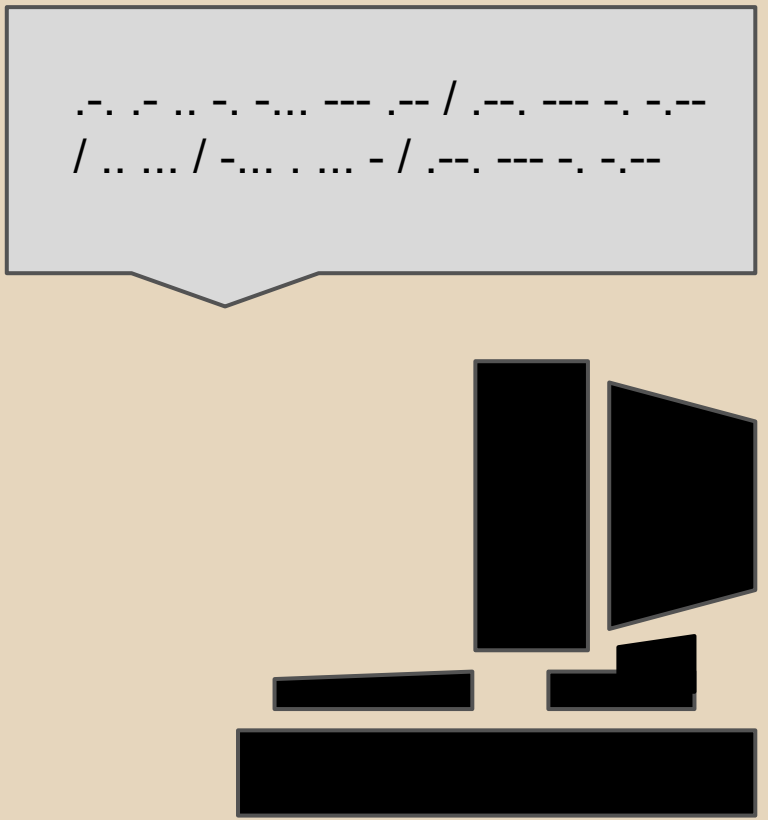
Avatar Avoidance:

>NAME?



Do: Talk to them directly





Do: Talk to them directly

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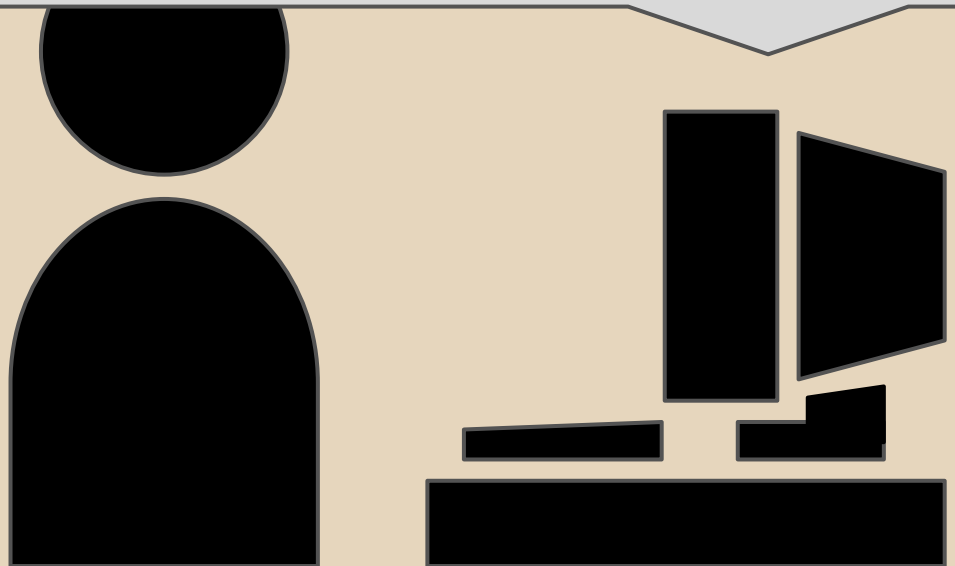
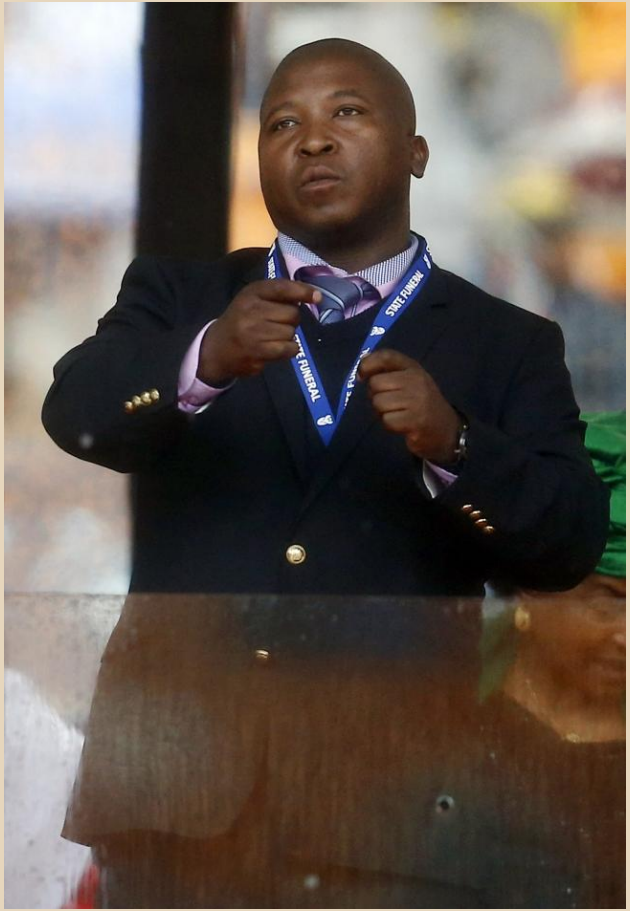
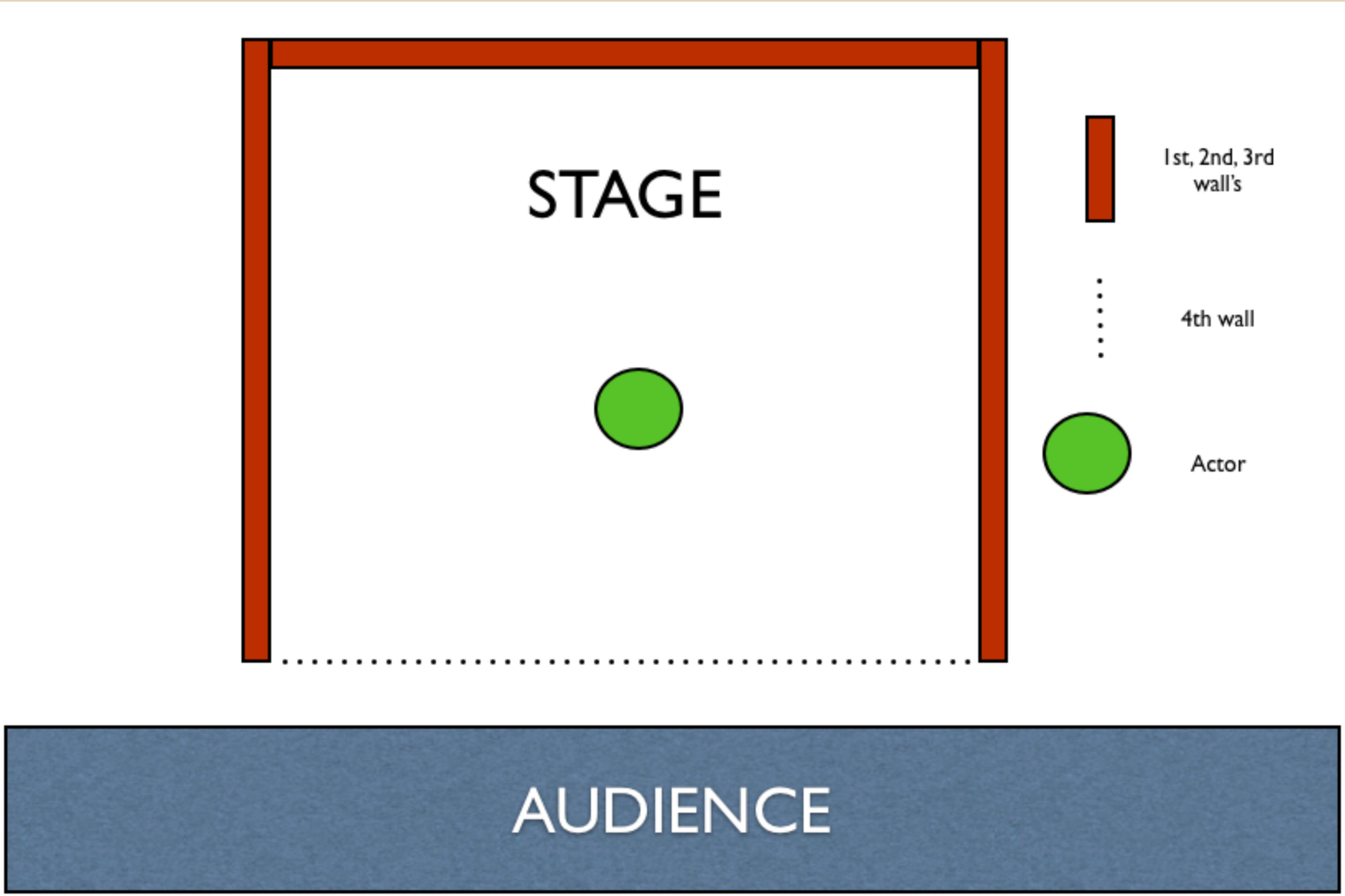


Still acting like it’s true

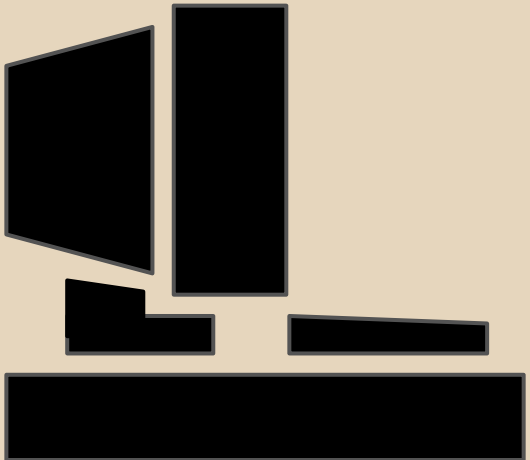


Break the 4th wall

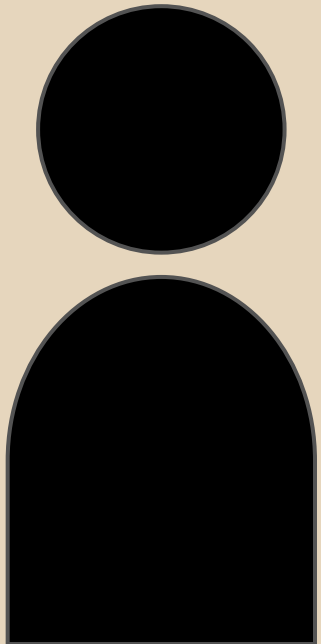
Yes I am talking to YOU.

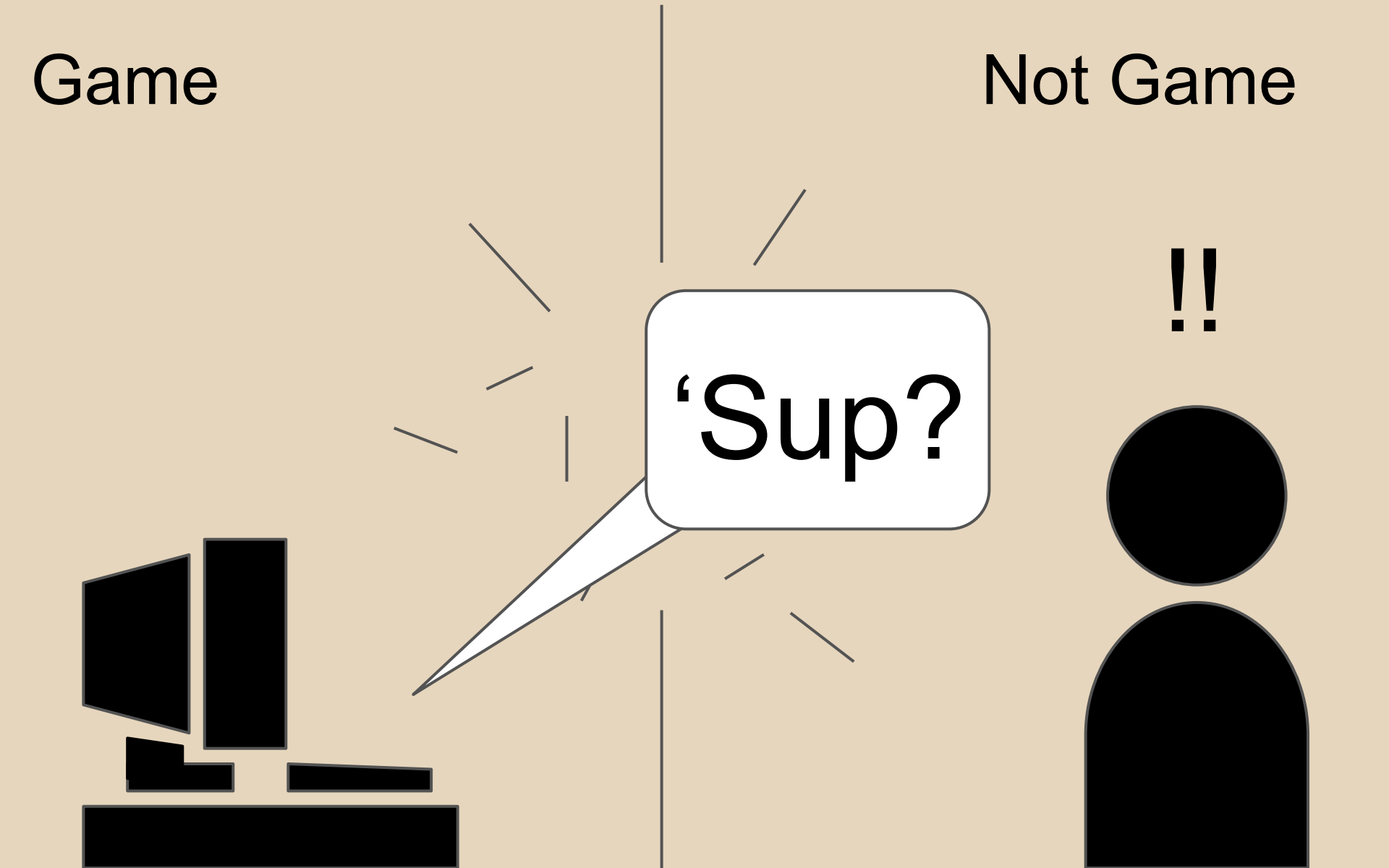

STAGE
1st, 2nd, 3rd wall's
4th wall
Actor
AUDIENCE

Game



Not Game




Game
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‘Sup?
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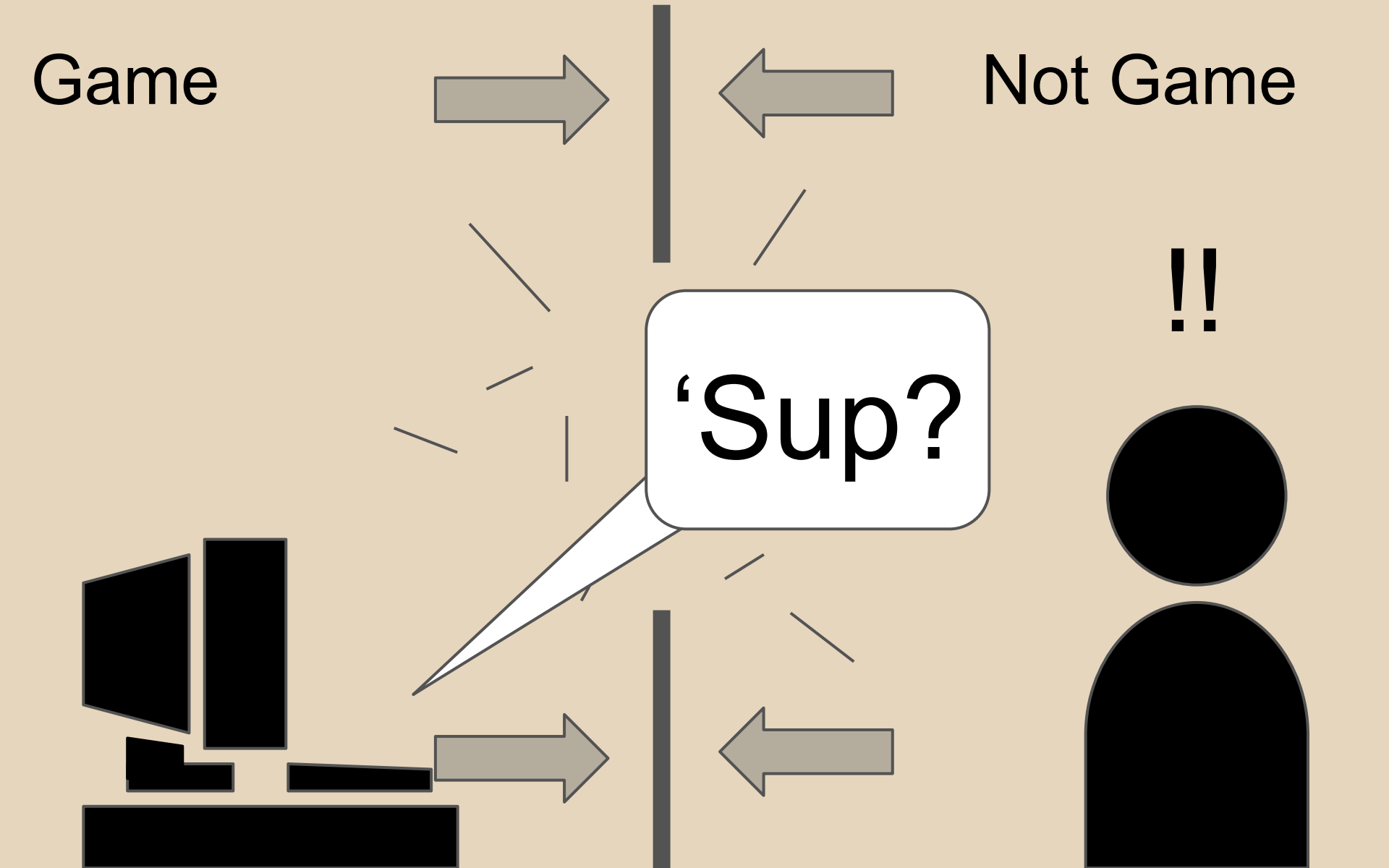
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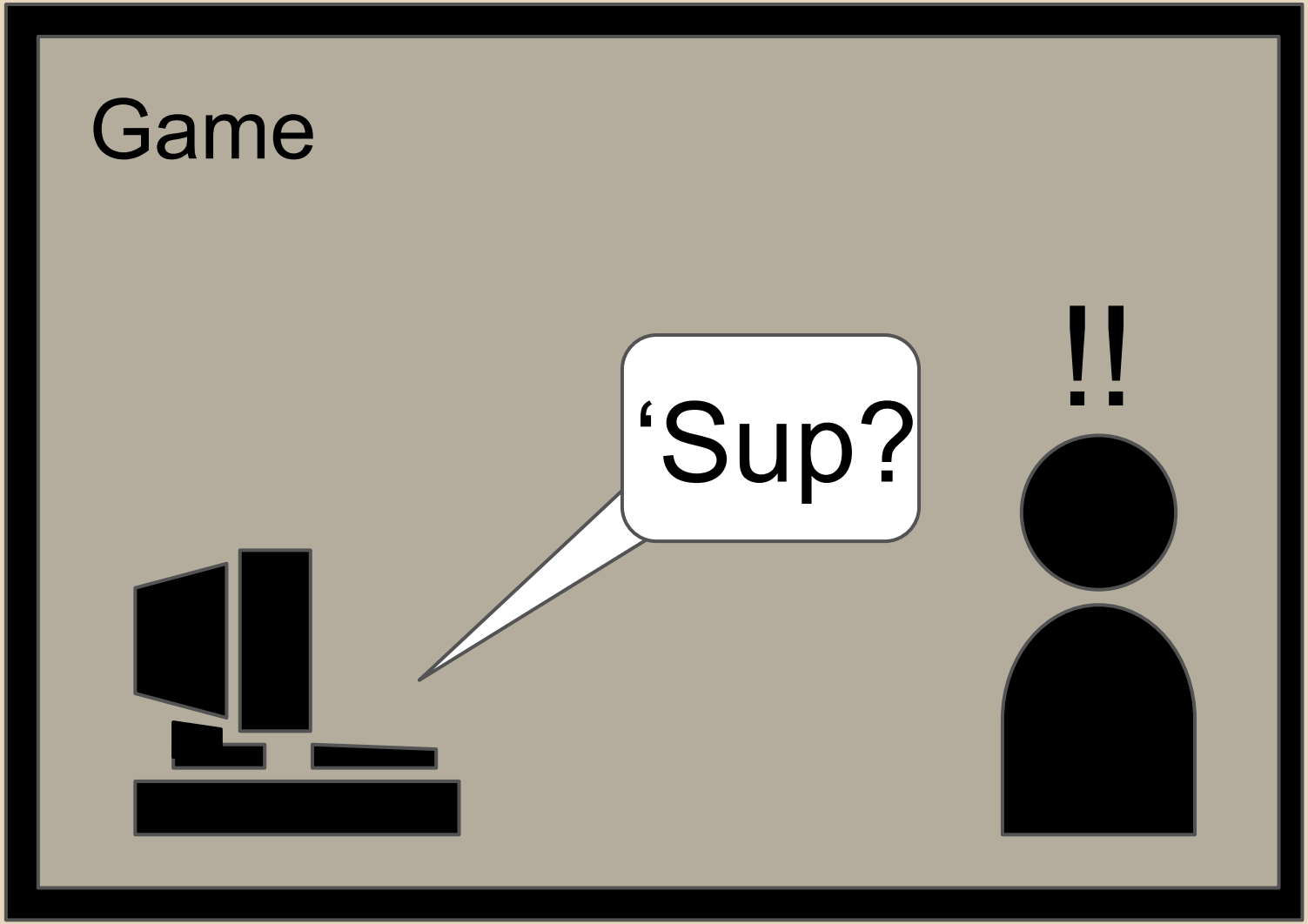
Game
‘Sup?
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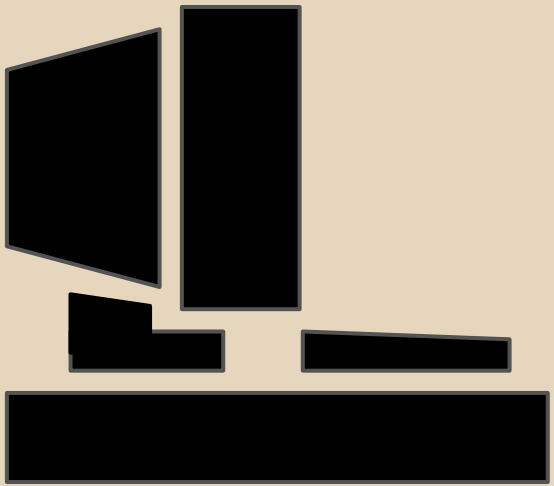
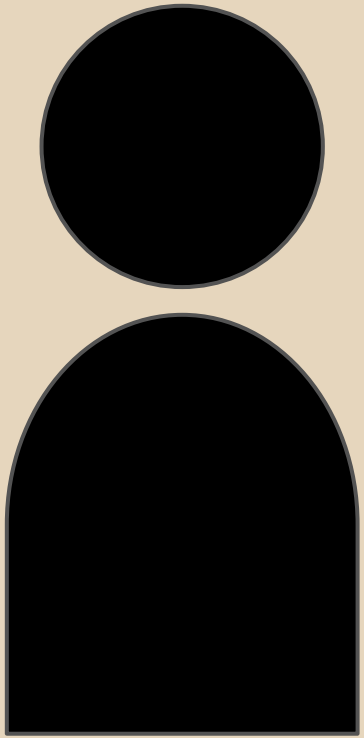




How do people act, anyway?

They respond to nuance and subtlety.

Mind Reading!

DON’T PANIC

Planned Scenario

+

Good Guesswork

=

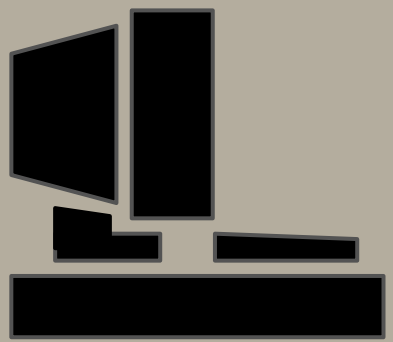
Save the Date!
Not that many, actually.
A lot.
I've lost count, honestly.
So far? 7 times, in 5 different ways.
Felicia
Exactly how many times have you had to watch me die?
Menu (ESC) Quicksave (F5) Quickload (F9) Skip (CTRL)

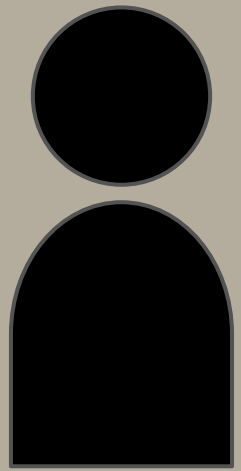
Save the Date!
Every single one.
No, the game just gave me that number, and I'm trusting that it got it right.
Felicia
I had no idea... And you counted each one?
Menu (ESC) Quicksave (F5) Quickload (F9) Skip (CTRL)

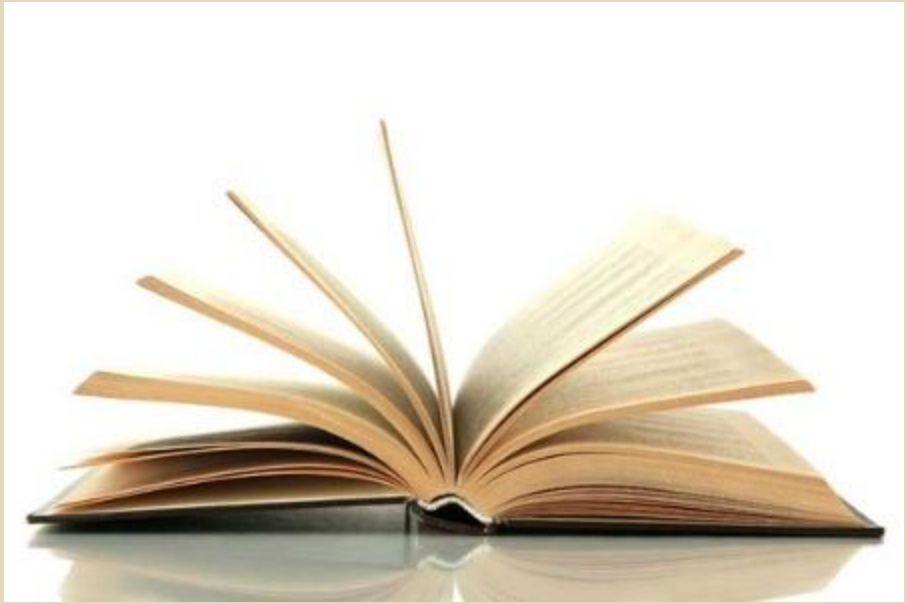
NOW WHAT?

Motivation

Game





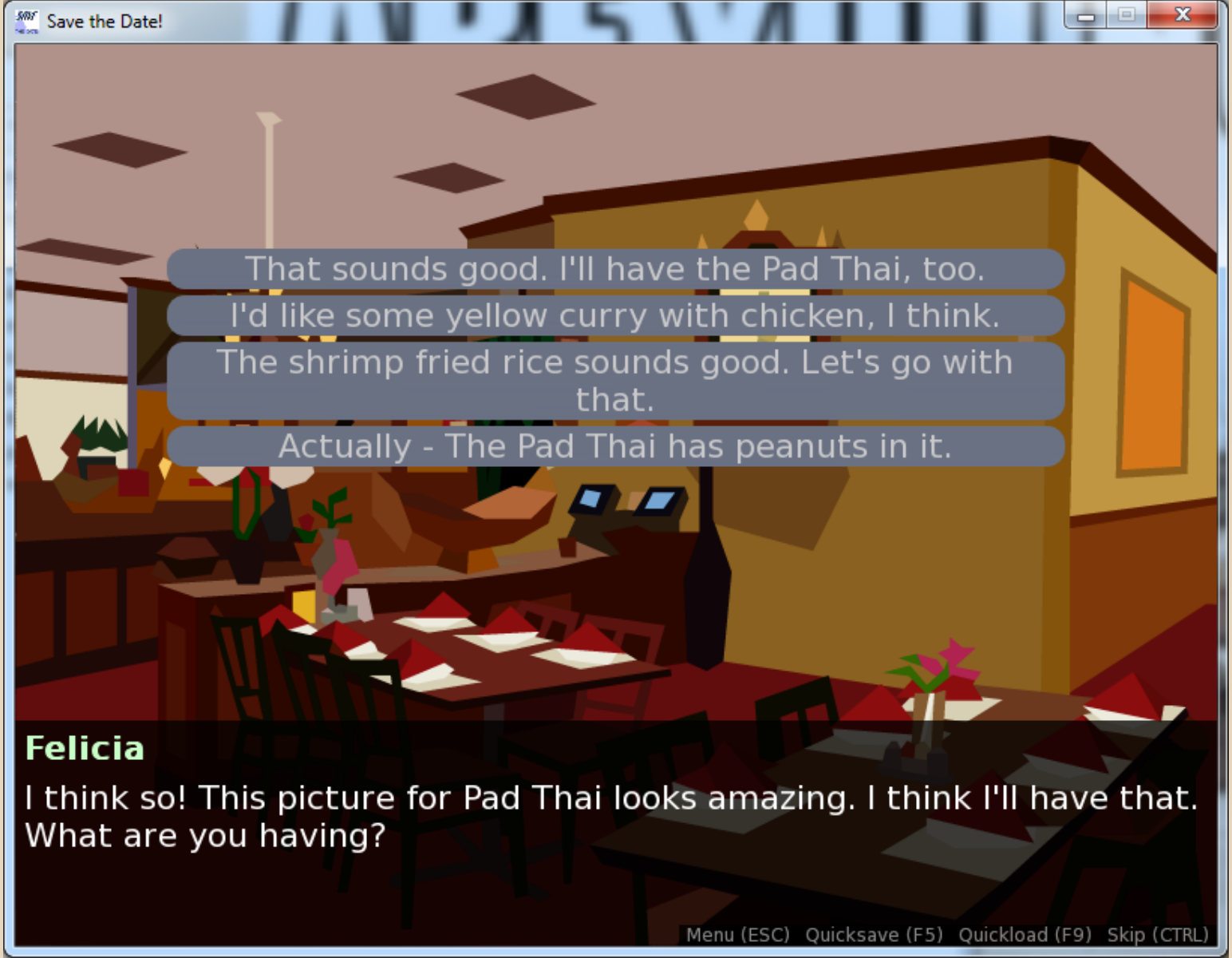


When in doubt...

~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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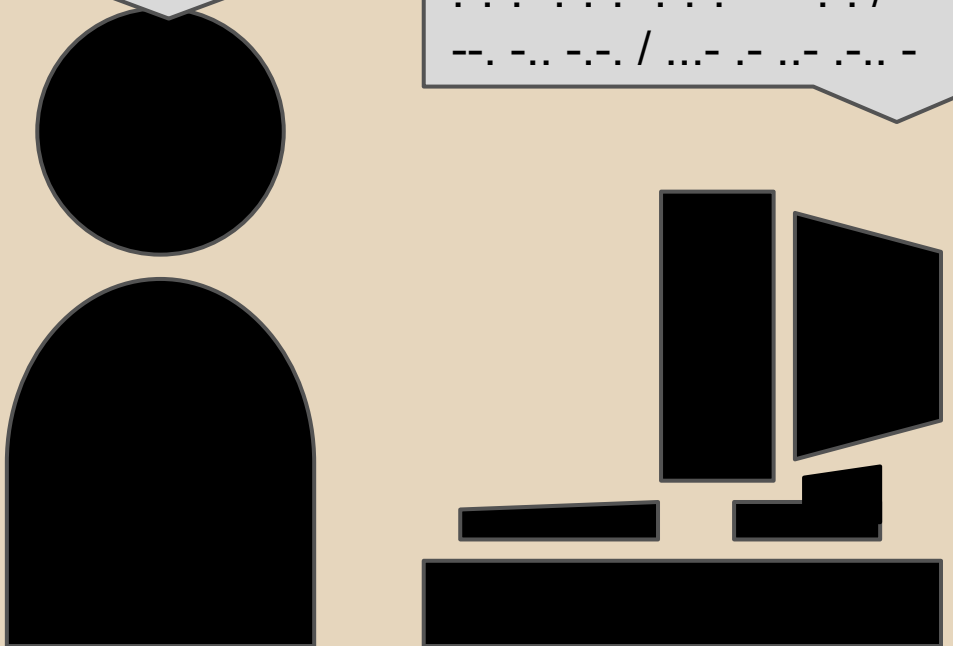
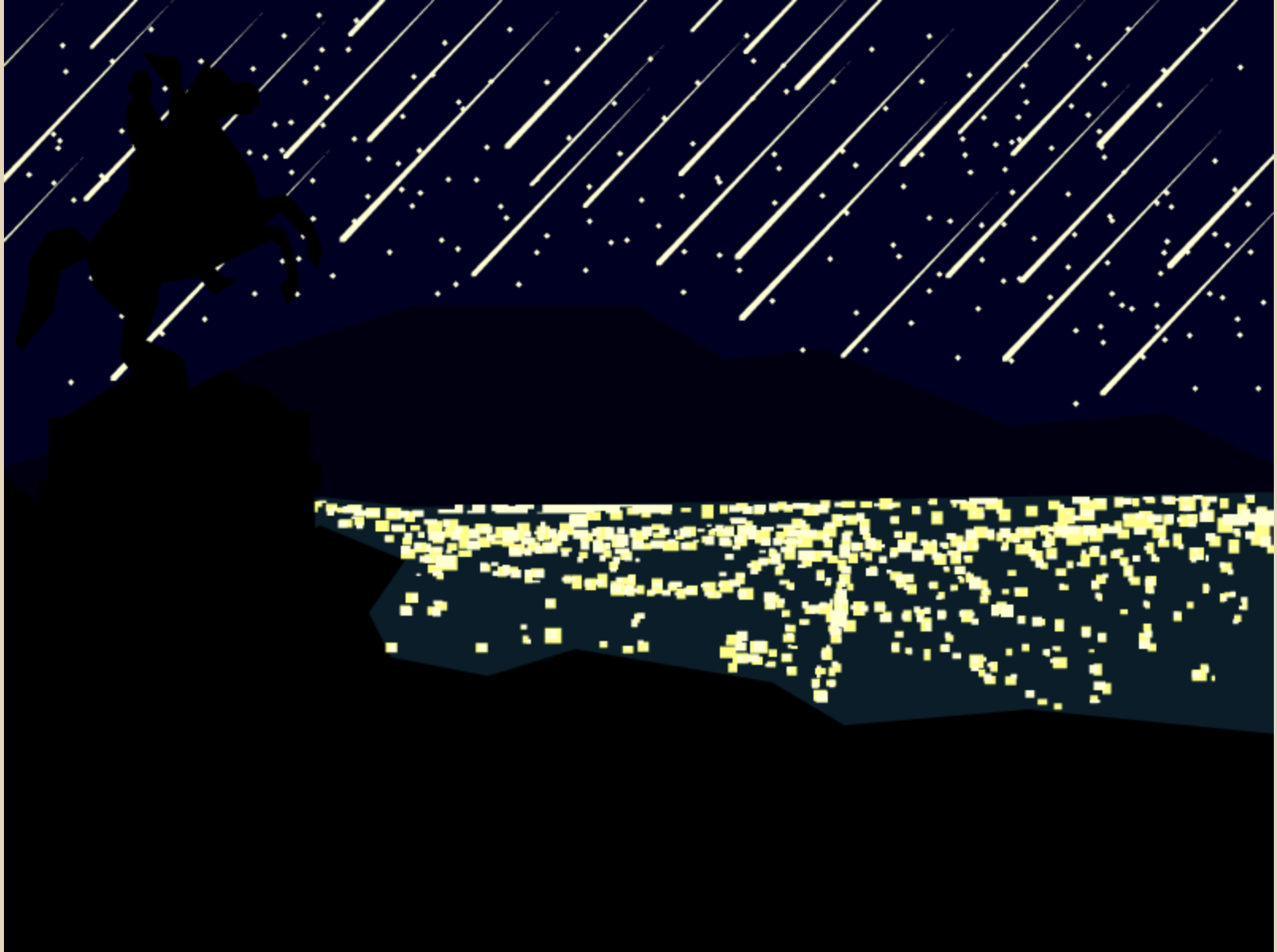


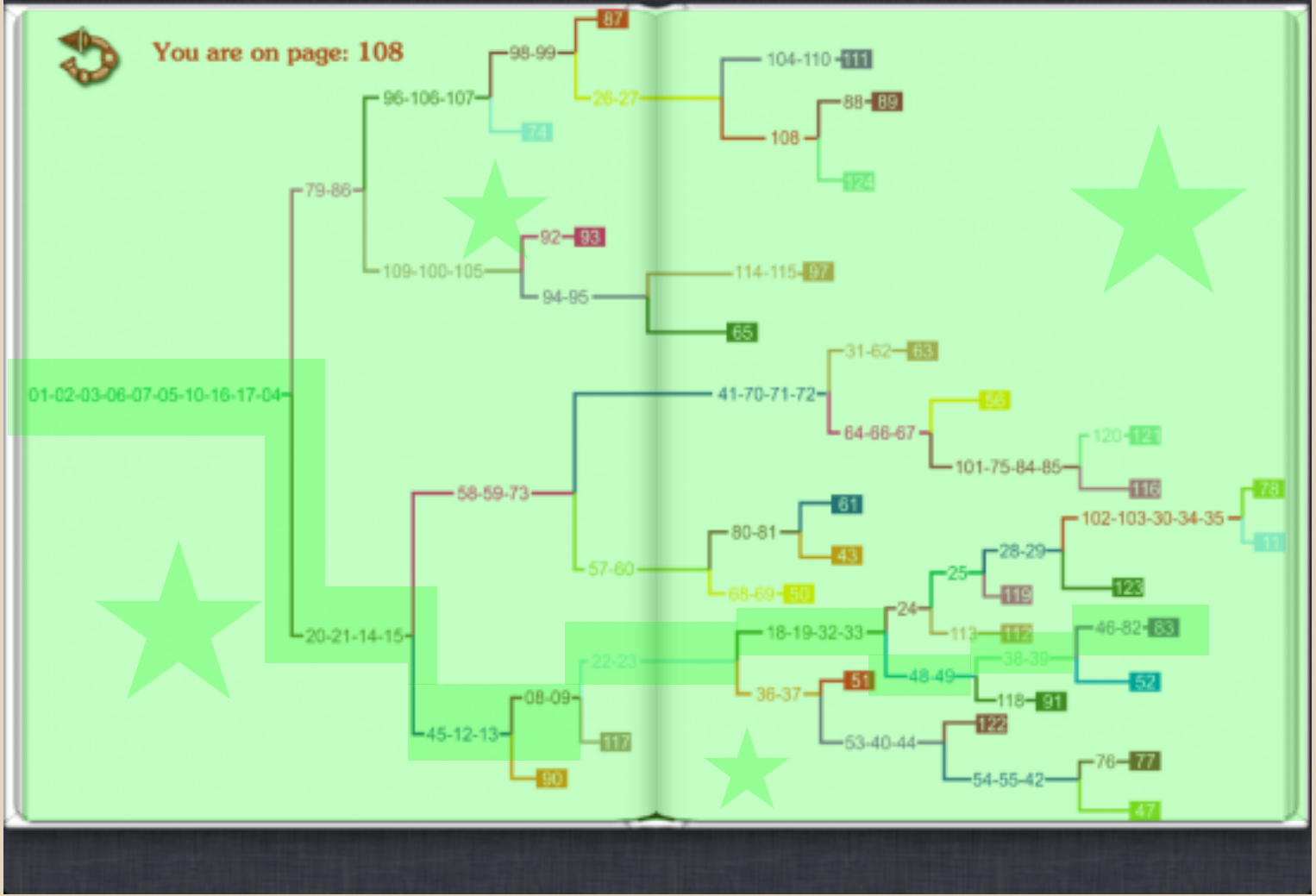
SUBTLETY IS AWESOME!



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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