ROD & TERRY

A 30-Minute 3-Part Web Series

(10 Minutes per Episode)

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FADE IN:

PART 1

INT. ROD & TERRY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The large open space doubles as living room and "dining area".

A couch and a love seat on the right. A table with four chairs on the left.

A counter adjacent the table divides the space from the kitchen, which is partially visible.

TERRY CHRISTENSEN (Caucasian, 34-years-old) rushes out of the kitchen holding a large elaborate BOUQUET OF FLOWERS in a fancy GLASS VASE.

He sits it on the coffee table in front of the couch, twists it this way and that and adjusts the flowers just so.

Satisfied, he stands and takes a deep breath while he smooths down the designer apron covering his designer button-down shirt and slacks.

He looks around the room searching for a task.

TERRY

Dust!

He scurries around the couch to a wall behind it where a waist-high storage bench sits beneath a large Andy Warhol picture.

Terry removes a large Ostrich feather duster and begins dusting furniture.

DING! A BELL rings.

Terry rushes into the kitchen as the Front Door Entrance on the right-side wall opens.

In walks ROD MANGOLD (Black [or Any Ethnicity], 30-years-old). He's a six-foot manly man with a muscular frame and a hipster beard. He drops his daybag by the door.

He moves to the couch and plops down on it.

ROD

Hey Terry, bring me a beer on your way back.

Rod kicks off his shoes and puts his feet up on the coffee table next to the flowers.

TERRY (O.S.)

(shouting from the

kitchen)

Okay, but don't put your feet on the coffee table.

Terry comes from the kitchen holding an opened bottle of beer as if he had anticipated the request. His step quickens.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Hey, hey! What are you doing?

ROD

I'm neutralizing my man-scent.

Terry hands Rod the beer, scoops up the flowers and takes them to the storage bench behind the couch.

TERRY

You can neutralize by putting your shoes back on.

ROD

It's working. Just needs a moment.

TERRY

You're withering my tulips. They'll look better back here beneath the Warhol anyway.

ROD

Is this a light beer?

TERRY

That's all we have left.

ROD

Light beer is not permitted on these premises.

Terry lets out a little scream.

TERRY

Rod! How many times do I have to tell you not to leave your daybag by the door?

ROD

Why should I bother when I know you're going to move it for me?

Terry puts the bag in a coat closet near a hallway on the far right side of the back wall.

TERRY

Tonight, the place has to be immaculate.

ROD

As if it's not always.

TERRY

Yes, but tonight in particular.

ROD

Oh, right! That's what all the fuss is about. Big night tonight, huh? Hot date. Sam, was it?

TERRY

Yes, Sam...Saaammm...

Terry is suddenly lost in revelry.

ROD

You say it like it's a song.

TERRY

Sam is a song. The song of Sam.

ROD

Now it sounds like a poem, like green eggs and ham.

TERRY

That's a good idea! I'll write Sam a sonnet.

ROD

All right, all right hold on there fella. Give me the rundown.

TERRY

Think towering sophistication. Confidence. A perfect blend of panache and nonchalance.

ROD

Are you writing the sonnet right now?

TERRY

And let's not forget about sexy. Sam is so sexy!

Wow. Can't wait to meet this one.

Rod sniffs suddenly.

ROD (CONT'D)

Do I smell blueberry chicken?

TERRY

You do.

ROD

You didn't.

TERRY

I did.

ROD

I asked you to make me your blueberry chicken for my birthday, but no, you had to go to a floral convention at the Mystic Garden University.

TERRY

It was my class reunion. I couldn't miss that.

ROD

I never understood why you got a degree for that anyway. I mean how hard can it be to cut a rose? You just hold it up and snip.

TERRY

It is a specific art form that takes years to master.

ROD

That's supposed to make me feel better?

TERRY

I don't expect a man like you to understand. Just drink your beer and grow your beard.

ROD

It looks good now, doesn't it?

TERRY

Did you use that new beard balm I bought you? The one with the all-natural botanicals?

Yeah, it made my beard look like a bundle of begonias.

TERRY

I'm surprised you even know what those are.

The front door bursts opens. JILL & HOWARD CHRISTENSEN (Terry's Parents) enter without knocking.

ROD

Jill, Howard, How the heck are ya?

TERRY

Hi mom. Hi dad. What are you doing here?

JILL

We came to wish you luck with your dinner date.

HOWARD

We were in the neighborhood.

TERRY

That's sweet, but my guest will be here soon.

HOWARD

Hey, Rod, how 'bout them Chargers?

ROD

Char-GERS!

Rod and Howard square off and air-punch each other, followed by a synchronized Touchdown victory dance and a leaping chest bump. They've done this before.

(DIALOGUE OVER THE RITUAL)

TERRY

Oh no, don't...

JILL

Howard, you're going to throw your back out, dear.

TERRY

Rod, don't encourage this.

Rod and Howard laugh with elation and high-five.

JILL

Are you baking blueberry chicken?

ROD

Not for Rod.

JILL

It needs more tarragon.

TERRY

Okay, you two have to go.

HOWARD

We can't stay anyway. We have couples yoga tonight.

Terry starts ushering them to the door.

Jill stops.

JILL

Oh, your sister, Molly, called. She's flying in next Tuesday. She wanted to stay with us but I told her she could stay here.

TERRY

Mom, we don't have space for her.

HOWARD

The couch pulls out.

TERRY

She has her old room at your place.

JILL

Your dad and I have taken up Tantric sex. We converted your sister's room into a shrine with a swing set.

ROD

Whoa!

TERRY

I don't want to hear any more of this for the rest of life.

 $_{
m JILL}$

You might find it interesting. I'll send you a link.

TERRY

Okay. Gotta go now.

Terry opens the front door and firmly guides them through it.

JILL

We love you, son.

ROD

Bye guys.

HOWARD

See-ya Rod.

TERRY

Have maintenance take a look at that swing set, make sure it's secure.

JILL

Yeah, it's getting a lot of use.

TERRY

Mom, please...

He closes the door behind them and takes a deep sigh of relief.

ROD

I love those two.

TERRY

They can be a lot of work.

ROD

You inherited that gene.

Sudden panic!

TERRY

Did you hear a bell?

ROD

This a trick question?

TERRY

I forgot to set the timer!

Terry runs into the kitchen.

WE HEAR A TEXT ALERT. Rod takes his cell phone from his pocket and checks his messages.

ROD

The crew is meeting up at Chips tonight.

Terry SCREAMS in the kitchen. He comes running into the living room holding an oven pan filled with baked chicken.

TERRY

Oh my God, I overcooked it! It's ruined!

Rod meets him behind the couch.

ROD

Wait, let me look at it.

TERRY

What am I going to do?

ROD

It's fine.

TERRY

It's burnt around the edges.

ROD

It's not burned, it's brown. That's how it's supposed to be.

TERRY

Sam's going to hate it!

Terry turns in a frenzy and knocks over the flower vase.

He screams in horror.

ROD

Hey! Hey! Okay, give me that. Give it to me.

Rod takes the pan and sits it on the table while Terry shutters in a dramatic panic attack.

Rod grabs him by the shoulders to steady him.

ROD (CONT'D)

Listen, Terry, you got to calm down. I know this date is important to you, but if you don't get a hold of yourself, you're gonna botch the whole thing up.

TERRY

I know. I need something for my nerves.

ROD

Okay, let's breathe.

Rod leads him.

ROD (CONT'D)

Deep breath.

Terry inhales.

ROD (CONT'D)

That's it. Hold it. Now let it out.

Terry deflates.

ROD (CONT'D)

Good. One more.

Terry complies.

ROD (CONT'D)

Now let it go. That's it. There we go.

Terry is starting to relax.

ROD (CONT'D)

See. We okay?

TERRY

Yes, thank you.

ROD

You're okay. Everything's going to be fine.

TERRY

Yes. You're right.

Terry picks up the flowers and begins rearranging them back into the vase.

ROD

All right. I gotta go get ready. Some of the guys down at the station are meeting up for a beer later.

Some of the panic returns.

TERRY

But you'll be here when Sam arrives, right? Please! I just need a bit of support for like the first ten minutes.

Rod is torn.

I...we'll see. I can't promise. I'm gonna go get ready.

Rod moves towards the hallway by the coat closet.

The doorbell RINGS.

They both freeze. Terry looks absolutely terrified.

TERRY

Oh my God! Oh my God, that's Sam!

ROD

All right, calm down, don't panic.

TERRY

But it's too early. I haven't baked the cake yet!

ROD

It's too late for cake. Sam is here. Open the door.

TERRY

No.

ROD

Open the door!

TERRY

I can't! My nerves.

ROD

All right, I'll get it. But you! Breathe. Deep breaths.

Terry starts to hyperventilate and runs in the kitchen.

Rod goes to the door and opens it.

In walks A STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!

SAM SMITHERS (Caucasian, mid 30's) is tall and slender with striking facial features.

She struts in with authority and stands center of the room.

END PART 1

PART 2

Sam struts in with authority and stands center of the room.

ROD

You must be Sam.

SAM

Sam, I am. It's short for Samantha. You must be Rod. The man-god.

Playing along.

ROD

Rod, I be... Yes, that's me.

SAM

I've heard so much about you.

She looks him over lasciviously.

SAM (CONT'D)

Apparently not all of it.

Sam looks like she owns the place. She sees Terry cowering near the kitchen.

SAM (CONT'D)

Terry. Darling.

TERRY

Hi, Sam.

She opens her arms, enticing him.

SAM

Come here, darling. Come on. Come give us a hug.

Terry walks toward Sam all shy-like. It takes him a minute.

He stumbles on the way.

When he arrives at her, Sam enfolds him in her arms like a mother.

A head taller than him, she lays his head on her bosom and gives it a tender pat.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hello, darling.

Terry melts into her like a baby.

Sam pulls him back.

SAM (CONT'D)

Let me look at you. What a lovely apron.

Terry smooths it down.

TERRY

You like it?

SAM

You wear it well.

She looks at Rod.

SAM (CONT'D)

My coat.

She juts her arms back for him to remove her DESIGNER COAT.

SAM (CONT'D)

Terry, be a dear and fetch us a drink.

TERRY

Of course, how rude of me. I'll be right back.

Terry hurries into the kitchen.

SAM

So... Rod.

ROD

No one has ever said my name that way.

SAM

It's such a manly name. So befitting of your frame. How apropos.

ROD

You speak French?

SAM

Voulez voo. I do with you.

ROD

There is an unusual amount of rhyming occurring tonight.

SAM

I'm sure you've inspired a plethora of poems and paintings.

ROD

Yeah, that's me. A regular Mona Lisa. I'll put your coat away.

SAM

Thank you. You're staying tonight for dinner.

Terry returns with a tray of drinks.

Rod looks beyond Sam at Terry who silently pleads for him to say yes.

TERRY

Sure. I guess I'll hang for a while.

Sam turns around and sees Terry with the tray of drinks.

SAM

Darling, I asked for a Vieux Carre with a touch of lime.

TERRY

I thought you just said bring us a drink.

SAM

Ah! Must I specify everything? Chop chop, darling, I'm parched.

INT. ROD & TERRY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Rod, Terry, and Sam are seated at the dining table. Terry sits across from Sam hanging on to every word she says. Rod sits at the head of the table between them.

SAM

And he says to me, all this time I thought I was seeing a camel and it turns out to be a kangaroo.

Sam bursts into dramatic laughter. Terry laughs along with a gut buster.

Rod's like, "Mmm-hmm" forcing a chuckle.

SAM (CONT'D)

I told him, darling, nothing is ever as it appears to be.

TERRY

You said that to him?

SAM

I most certainly did.

TERRY

Oh, Sam. That's such a great story.

SAM

I know.

ROD

So, how did you two meet?

TERRY

We met at a...

SAM

Terry is my new business partner.

ROD

(surprised)

Really?

TERRY

Well, we're more than that.

SAM

We share a certain similar discriminating aesthetic.

TERRY

We think exactly alike.

ROD

(lying)

I can see that.

SAM

Terry will be investing in my start-up of a new graphic design company.

TERRY

It's kind of like floral design, but with pictures.

ROD

Right.

SAM

He'll do the funding. I'll run the business. We'll split the profits seventy-thirty.

ROD

Seventy percent? Don't you think that's a little steep, buddy? You should at least give her half.

Sam laughs.

SAM

No darling, I'll be getting the seventy percent. Not Terry.

ROD

Oh.

TERRY

She's doing all the work.

ROD

For sure.

TERRY

We thought we could also do graphic designs of some of my floral designs. kinda merge the two paradigms.

ROD

(still lying)
That's a good idea.

TERRY

That was Sam's idea.

Terry looks at Sam lovingly when he says this.

Terry reaches for Sam's hand just as Rod pokes his fork into Sam's plate.

The hand Terry intended to touch grabs Rod's fork and takes it from him.

SAM

Let me get that for you.

She cuts a piece of chicken from her plate that's nearly full, eyeing Rod the whole time.

I hope you don't mind. You barely touched your chicken.

SAM

You certainly ravaged yours quite ferociously.

TERRY

That's his favorite.

SAM

Open wide.

Rod grimaces like a reluctant baby before allowing himself to be fork-fed.

TERRY

Did you like the chicken, Sam?

SAM

I'm not very hungry tonight, darling.

TERRY

But you did try it.

SAM

Yes. Something's missing. Tarragon perhaps.

TERRY

Mom always says that, too.

SAM

But your Vieux Carres are simply divine.

ROD

What's in that drink anyway?

SAM

Well, it's...why don't you tell him, darling.

TERRY

You start with three equal parts of rye whiskey, cognac, and sweet vermouth. Add a double dash of Peychaud's bitter and a double dash of Angostura aromatic bitter. Mix in a barspoon of Benedictine Liqueur.

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)

Top it off with a cherry for garnish and a slice of lime for added taste.

Sam applauds him.

SAM

Splendid!

ROD

You stocked up on all of that, and all I got was a diet beer?

SAM

Terry is a mint at mixing ingredients.

TERRY

It's kind of like mixing flowers. But with alcohol.

Rod forks another bite of Sam's chicken.

ROD

Yeah, I guess I'd have to agree with you on that. Who would have thought that blueberries go so well with baked chicken?

TERRY

And Tarragon. But the real secret ingredient is dates.

ROD

Why don't you call it blueberry dates chicken?

SAM

You make it sound like they're having an affair.

Terry bursts into fits of laughter with Sam.

TERRY

You're so clever, Sam.

SAM

I know.

ROD

(not laughing)
That was a good one.

SAM

(to Rod)

You've got a bit of blueberry sauce on your lips.

Sam reaches out and starts wiping it away with her thumb, but it takes a little too long and starts to get creepy.

When she licks her thumb and reaches again, Rod deflects her hand and wipes with a napkin.

ROD

It's okay, I got it.

Sam backs away from the table and stands.

SAM

Will you boys excuse me? I have to go to the little girl's room and powder my nose.

Terry half stands. Rod remains seated.

TERRY

Of course.

SAM

Point the way.

TERRY

Just down the hall.

SAM

I shall return. Ta ta.

She turns and walks down the hallway.

Rod waits until she's out of earshot.

ROD

Ta ta? Where did you find this woman?

TERRY

I know. Isn't she amazing?

Terry starts clearing dishes from the table and putting them on the counter that divides the room from the kitchen.

ROD

Ah, yeah, listen, buddy, I don't know how to say this. Are you sure about her?

TERRY

What do you mean?

ROD

Well for starters, when did you change your name to darling?

TERRY

She says that to everyone. I love it when she calls me darling. It floats off of her tongue like daisy petals in the wind.

ROD

Oh my God, are you hearing yourself? Don't you think this is a bit excessive and all of a sudden?

TERRY

No. We're going slow.

ROD

And the way she talks to you. Like you flunked the fifth grade.

TERRY

You're jealous.

ROD

I am not.

TERRY

Yes, you are!

ROD

Hello! Look at me. Are you forgetting who you're talking to? I'm not jealous.

TERRY

You're just so used to getting all the attention.

ROD

I'm still getting all the attention. That's the point! I thought she was going to detach my bottom lip.

TERRY

She's nurturing. That's one of the things I find so endearing about her.

And what's this about investing in her startup?

TERRY

It's a solid business plan.

ROD

You barely know her.

TERRY

But we gel so well.

ROD

Remember the last time you rushed into an investment with a woman you barely knew? You lost one of your floral shops and she ran off with the lead rose cutter!

TERRY

That was different. Sam is different.

ROD

How can you say that?

TERRY

Because the blueberries have to marinate with the dates at least 24 hours before you bake it with the chicken.

ROD

Ah! That must be the reason why it's just bursting with so much flavor.

Sam is returning from the hallway.

SAM

You boys are still discussing blueberries? I thought the conversation would have turned to me by now.

ROD

Nah! We never talk about people behind their back.

PART 3

Sam is returning from the hallway.

SAM

You boys are still discussing blueberries? I thought the conversation would have turned to me by now.

ROD

Nah! We never talk about people behind their back.

SAM

I do.

ROD

You, gossiping? I can't imagine.

SAM

It's not gossiping if it's personal experience. It's regaling.

Rod gets up from the table.

ROD

Gotcha. Well. I am going to go get ready for my evening out.

SAM

No dessert?

TERRY

He's having a brew with his crew.

SAM

Pity.

ROD

It was a pleasure to meet you.

SAM

Likewise, I'm sure.

ROD

(mock grand gesture)

Ta ta.

Rod goes down the hall to his room.

Sam and Terry are alone for the first time of the night.

They have an awkward silent moment before Sam finally speaks.

SAM

Are you baking a cake?

TERRY

German chocolate. I still have to make the frosting.

SAM

You know what? I think I might have left my lipstick in the bathroom. Why don't you whip up that frosting while I go retrieve it.

TERRY

Yes! Good idea. (really shy)

Ta ta.

Sam waits for him to leave first.

INT. ROD & TERRY'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - EVENING

Rod stands in front of the bathroom mirror with his shirt off. He's a fine specimen.

He sniffs his armpits and grimaces.

He opens the mirror-cabinet, takes out some deodorant, and applies it under his arms.

He replaces the deo and removes his beard balm.

He unscrews the cap and takes a whiff.

ROD

Ah yeah.

He messages a dollop between his fingers and rubs it into his beard.

ROD (CONT'D)

Break out the beard balm with the botanicals.

He does an impromptu rap with a fake DJ "air" scratch.

ROD (CONT'D)

Beard balm. Buh-Buh-botanicals.

Ric-key Ric-key!

Suddenly Sam bursts through the door and stands in the frame.

SAM

We don't have much time! Take me while Terry is frosting the German chocolate cake.

She rushes him and flings herself onto him. Rod is totally taken aback by surprise.

He tries to resist her but she's all over him, groping, kissing, grabbing his pecks and biting his neck.

SAM (CONT'D)

Rod, the man-god. Look at these pecs!

ROD

Get off me, you filthy hussy!

SAM

Oh, I love it when you talk dirty!

She drives him back into the shower curtain. It breaks and they both stumble into the bathtub with Sam on top.

ROD

My roommate, your DATE, is in the other room!

SAM

He won't mind. He doesn't even like girls.

ROD

Sure he does. He dates them all the time.

SAM

You smell like the Garden of Eden. I want a bite of that Adam's apple! Rrrrrr!

She goes in for the vampire bite but Rod straight arms her and pushes her off of him.

She tumbles out of the tub and rolls on the floor.

Rod scrambles out of the tub while Sam stands and puts her back against the closed bathroom door.

SAM (CONT'D)

You're a Ta Ta's man, I can tell.

No, but you're a Cray-Cray woman from hell.

SAM

I caught you eyeing them earlier. You called out to them before you left.

ROD

I was saying goodbye.

SAM

Well, say hello to them, darling.

She starts unbuttoning her blouse.

ROD

No wait, there's something you don't understand.

SAM

Oh, I understand. One squeeze of these magnificent salacious Ta Ta's and you'll be saying ooh-la-la.

She gets down on her knees and starts crawling towards him.

ROD

What are you doing?

SAM

Can little Toddie come out to play?

ROD

Please don't do that.

SAM

I'll bet he's a naughty little oneeyed devil.

ROD

Sam, get up. Rise woman!

SAM

Sammie's been a bad girl.

She arrives at him and starts to undo his belt.

ROD

Hands off. Stop that!

SAM

Spank me with your man whip.

TERRY (O.S.)

Sam?

They both stop and look at the door.

Terry stands in the door frame holding a frosted German chocolate cake.

Sam's on her knees holding Rod's open belt.

Her mouth shapes an "Oh" with surprise. Terry holds her head with both hands near his crotch.

It doesn't look good.

TERRY (CONT'D)

What's going on here?

Sam suddenly stands and feigns indignation. She grabs Rod's hand and places it squarely on one of her boobs.

SAM

Take your hand off of me you filthy scoundrel!

Rod snatches his hand away - with some difficulty.

TERRY

Someone want to explain to me what's happening here?

SAM

I can explain. This groping Neanderthal flung himself upon me with the intent of debauchery.

TERRY

That can't be true.

Sam gasps!

SAM

Preposterous! Are you suggesting that I'm lying?

TERRY

I'm not suggesting it. I'm affirming it.

SAM

How dare you speak to me that way.

TERRY

There's something you don't know.

SAM

What could it possibly be to merit such blatant injustice?

ROD

I'm gay.

Sam is stunned into disbelief.

SAM

Bu... What?

She looks at Rod, then back at Terry.

TERRY

He's gay.

Still not quite convinced, she points at each one in turn.

SAM

So you're...

ROD

Gay.

SAM

And your...

TERRY

Straight.

She points at them faster.

ROD

Gay.

TERRY

Straight.

This point and speak repeats several times in haphazard order, but the boys keep up with her:

Gay. Straight. Straight. Gay. G-Straight! G...ay. Gay! Straight.

Sam squints, and then smiles with false discernment.

SAM

I see. This is trickery, isn't it? You're joking.

TERRY

No. No trickery.

It's not a joke.

TERRY

Just the truth, Sam. You, on the other hand, are a lady of lies! Do you even like me?

SAM

Of course, I do, darling. We're a perfect match.

TERRY

You see. More lies. I think you should gather your things and go.

Sam huffs like she's going to protest but then storms out of the bathroom.

INT. ROD & TERRY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam marches down the hallway into the living room followed by the two men.

Terry sits the cake on the storage bench.

SAM

My coat.

Rod get's her coat out of the coat closet by the hallway.

Sam sticks her arm out for him to help her into it. He hands her the coat and steps back.

Sam fitfully puts on her coat and moves towards the door.

She stops and turns back to them.

SAM (CONT'D)

Does this mean the start-up deal is off?

TERRY

How could I ever trust you, Sam?

Sam turns to leave again but then stops again.

SAM

Okay, I'll give you fifty percent. But that's the only offer I'm going to make.

TERRY

Sam. Go.

Sam huffs and goes to the door. She puts her hand on the handle and looks at Terry.

SAM

Your blueberry chicken stinks.

She goes out the door and slams it behind her.

There is a momentary silence.

And then Terry bursts into tears.

Rod tries to console him.

ROD

Oh, Terry, that's not true. Your blueberry chicken is amazing.

TERRY

I really liked her.

ROD

I know you did.

TERRY

She had an air of specialty about her. Like a purple rose.

ROD

No, no. No more poetry for her. She doesn't deserve your prose.

TERRY

I'll never find another woman like Sam.

More boo-hoo tears.

ROD

Oh, buddy. There are more women out there. She was all wrong for you.

TERRY

I know.

ROD

Come on, bring it in.

TERRY

Okay, but can we hug without any extra pelvic movements?

Please, you're not even my type.

TERRY

But you once said you had a crush on me.

ROD

That was a long time ago, and I was drunk. Come here.

They hug. It's sweet.

A genuine bro-love hug.

ROD (CONT'D)

Is it okay if I squeeze your bum?

Terry thinks it over.

TERRY

That would make this weird.

ROD

I was just kidding.

TERRY

I know you were...But you still would have if I had said yes.

ROD

Probably.

They pull apart.

ROD (CONT'D)

Hey, why don't you come out and have a beer with me and the boys?

TERRY

But you're going to a gay bar.

ROD

It's Tuesday night, Terry. We're going to a sports bar.

TERRY

I don't know.

ROD

You need to get out more. A little more football. a few less flowers.

TERRY

You know what, you're right. I'm going.

ROD

Good.

TERRY

Just let me cover the German chocolate cake first.

ROD

Alright, buddy.

Terry grabs the cake and runs into the kitchen.

Rod looks after his friend Terry, smiles and shakes his head.
BLACK.

THE END