

BETWEEN FAILURES



I guess this is how life is.
You get up, go to work,
then come home.

Sleep noise...
Sleep noise...

I mean, how else can a person live?
You have to have money.
A person has to eat...

I don't claim to know the point of it all.
Honestly, I don't think anybody does.

Not really.

Meh?

It would be nice, you know,
if there was a point to it all.

I don't know. I'm getting away from myself.

All that REALLY matters now
is that it's time for me to go to work.
I have to begin the work day
with my traditional declaration.

FUCK!

Let me start over...

My name is
Thomas Blackwell

Years ago, I wanted
to be a lot of things.

Thing is,

I'm a mediocre artist,
and not much better
a writer.

Besides,
these aren't
things people
are successful at.

Not people
like me,
anyway...

Did college for a while.

Turned out to be a waste of time...

I think there are some professions
where you either have it,
or you don't.

I spent a lot of time
coming to terms with
the fact that I don't.

So...

I'm a clerk,
in a store that
can't decide
what to focus on.

I don't know...

I guess hope is something
for other people.

As far as I can see,
life is just what happens

**Between
Failures.**





Hey, newb,
ready for your
first day?

I suppose...

I've never
been picked up
for the first day of
work before...

I was concerned
you'd get frightened
and run away

I had visions
of you dashing
through the
streets,
screaming,
and wagging
your arms,
like a
Muppet.

Seriously?

Kind of...

The culture
shock gets
some people.

Figured I'd
keep an
eye on
you.

Well, thanks
for getting me
the job.

I really
needed a
new one.

Hold off
on thanking me
till after you've
worked a
day.

That
could be
a deal
breaker...



Damn dude...

What part of need a new job evaded your understanding?

Easy Knack, I'm just fucking with you.

Retail is going to eat you alive if that's all the thicker your skin is.

What game is in it?

Fire Emblem 3.

Dude, weak...

Weak? You were the one who told me it was awesome!

Which it is...

The thing is, you've failed to consider "workplace playability."

It's important to have a game with a quick save feature.

Alternately, a game with no real point is a sound choice. Tetris, Pokemon, Metroid Pinball, all good workplace titles.

You need a game you can easily recall if a rush hits.

Tactical fights take too long. You forget your strategy if you're away too long.

You've thought about this.

Yes... Yes, I have.

So, you've got a whole philosophy about screwing around then?



Don't get me wrong. You should always get your work done first.



As a matter of fact, you should get it done as quickly, and correctly, as possible.

That way no one can give you crap about goofing off.

That sounds simple enough.

I know, but it's a fine line.

You don't want to do things so well that it looks easy.

As soon as you do that then they expect it of you all the time.



Then, next thing you know, you're doing everyone else's work too.



Without a pay raise.

In retail, you can work harder than anyone else, but, at the end of the day, the machine still won't know your name.

You need to find a balance between being really good at your job, yet not so good that you have to do a lot of extra work.





I certainly appreciate your,

for lack of a better word,

advice...



but I think I'll stick to working hard, and doing my best.



Alright.

You do that...





but I want you to remember something.



Which is?



This moment!

I want you to burn it into your memory.



Etch it alongside the fading memory of the first kiss you ever planted on a willing female.

That way.

when I'm proven right.

you'll know what the score is.



You can't tell me you seriously believe that crap you just tried to sell me.



I know you think honest work, for honest pay, will fly on a sales floor, but I know better.

Deceit is the coin of the realm in my world, and I'm prepared to give you the tools to fill your purse.

You're a bad, bad, man.

Just remember this moment, Ed.



What the Hell was that about?

An entrance like that puts fear in the hearts of the weak willed...

Psychological warfare should always begin at the door.



Hello, slacker.

Decided to wander in after all, huh?

If you can't read this clerk is obligated to hate you.

It feels more like the universe has conspired to bring me here.

Like it's penance for some misdeed, perhaps from a past life...



How 'bout you, Harry Potter?

God sent this crazy bastard after me.



Carol Graves.

A large speech bubble containing the name "Carol Graves." in bold, black, sans-serif font. The bubble has a jagged, downward-pointing tail.







Is she always like that?



Since the day I got her the job.

Wait, what?



Why would you recommend someone like that for a position over you?



Any group of people, that works toward a common goal, needs members who are unreasonably focused on said goal.



So... you got her the job so she would keep everyone on task?



Myep...



Apart from her boobs, that was my reasoning.

Fair enough...

Cheer up, buttercup.

You've got nuthin' to be pissed about. Everybody endures the 10 second clock.

Did you?

Of course...

She started it to mess with me.

Seriously?

What did you do?

Looked her in the eye, and said: I'm Thomas, fucking, Blackwell.

Then I marched away.

And that somehow proves you aren't a moron?

It's not about proof, Ed.

Do you really think that she expects anyone to validate thier existence in 10 seconds?

No, the clock is a way of finding out what kind of person you are: how you react under pressure.

Awesome...

She's a bitchy psychoanalyst.



Hello, Carol...

Hey, Nina.

Who was that with Thomas?

The new guy. Ed's his name.

Oh, that's cool.



So...

Were you nice to him?



I wasn't mean, if that's what you're asking.

I was nervous at worst, but, in my defense, he was charmingly timid.

Is he cute?



Well, like I said, he was charmingly timid, short too, but not sexy, or anything.



Unless you want Harry Potter to nail you.



I want him to ride me like his quidditch broom.





What, exactly, do we do all day?



Well, in addition to register, stocking, and customer service, we have a lot of nothing to do.



I try to get as much of the rest done first, so I can focus on the nothing, for the better part of the day.



You already know how to run register, right?

John trained me yesterday, after the interview.



Well, alright! I was afraid we'd have to do that first.

We can go right to getting nothing done now.



Awesome...

We're up on the day.



What do you want?

I came to ask you to go easy on Ed.

Maybe I don't wanna.

Listen, I like him, he's a good kid.

Maybe you'd like him if you gave him a chance.

Sure...

but I have to ask...

What makes you like him so much?

It's the sideburns isn't it?

Quiet you!

They're coming back!

We're bringing them back!

Okay, here's the deal...

You stock that cart of books,

and I'll pull it back a tad.

Oh, come on...

That's Nina's job. Why can't she do it?

I wanted to, but she said she wanted you to do it...

because you hate it, and it makes you crave a quick death.

...

What?

That's pretty much what I said.

Fine...

but I'll be plotting against you all the while....

Oh, yes...

Such plotting shall I do.



Wait a sec', TI!

You're not gonna plot against me, huh?



I might plot with you, or for you, but not against you, Nina.

Good. I was afraid you thought I was a doody-head too.

Rest assured, I don't think you're a "doody-head".



Hey dude, do you think Eddie Murphy will ever go back to being one shitty character in his movies...

as opposed to every shitty character in his movies?

Whatever happened to "Hello, John, how are you doing today?"

When did that stop being okay?

That might mislead you into thinking that I care about your well being.



Do you want to go see Ghost Rider?



I've always wanted to see Nick Cage's head burst into flame...

As long as you don't pull anything like last time...



**DOWN WITH THE
WAYANS
BROTHERS!**



In my defense, rebellion is the natural, human, response to their films.

Anyway, how's
it goin' over here
today, children?

Bad.

Why bad?

I've had 3
just lookings,

4 ignore mes,

and 1 I wish you fuckers
would just leave me alone
while I try to buy an
overpriced, used, game.

In addition to this, I'm
supposed to get no less than
3 preorders by day's end.

Dinger...

Yeah...

I'm about a
bastard away from
workplace violence.

So, you're saying
I'm in danger here?



Well, if you ever really decide to shoot this place up,

I want you to remember: I have been, and ever shall be, your friend...



Your death will be swift, and painless.

How's that?

Good, good...

I was afraid our friendship meant nothing to you.

Perish the thought.





Would you feel less like killing everyone if I preordered some games?

I might...

Okay, then I want the new *Mega Man*.

I don't think there is one.

Dude, what?

There's been a new *Mega Man* every two weeks since I was, like, ten.

Touche, salesman...



Hey, brother!

Jason?
What are you
doing here?



Really, I came to
see how your new job
is going.

but really I want
you to buy me
a CD.

Well, I love
you too.

Whatever, at
least I care enough
not to hide my true
intentions.

Indeed...
You are a
fantastic
kid!



What album is it that you desire so ardently?

The newest Justin Timberlake!

Yes...
Yes...

Don't give me any guff, brother.

He's like a younger, whiter, Michael Jackson.

Well...
I'm not, at any rate.

Yes, understand, I'll be buying this from people I will see (and) every day now, right?

Of course, and I shall erect monuments in your honor.

Just bring me
the CD later, okay?
I want to look at
the game side.

Hey, would
this be the part
where you give
me the money,
sis?

Don't be silly,
brother.



If I had money
I wouldn't have
asked you to
buy it for me.

LOSER, BRO!



Oh,
I officially apologize
for whatever I did to
ruin today's events.





Did you ever wonder how Princess Peach became the ruler of The Mushroom Kingdom?

I mean, there's only, like, six humans in the whole country.

What differences does that make?

The citizens of Mushroom Kingdom are a proud people.

I don't think they'd submit to foreign rule.

Which respect?

The Princess has to be respected.

Who would the
most likely adopt
a child at all?

Let alone
a human
girl...

They'd been
honored thanks
from generations
of interesting...

A human
female was
adopted to
help with in-a
special
program.

Everybody knows
that human females
are the most beautiful in
the universe,
which also explains
why aliens like them
so much, by
the way...

The royal family
must have understood
that by dressing a human
girl it would make it
easier for the
modern people
to accept the
new heir.

Unfortunately they
didn't count on all the
criticism getting their
assumptions. A turn
of events that led,
eventually, to a feisty
princess ruling at
the beginning of
Modern
In Time.

And there
you have the
dark secret
of the modern
kingdom, that has
been kept from
the public for
so long.





Oh fuck...
Sorry...

I couldn't help
overhearing...

...because
I've been over
there, listening to
you, the whole
time.

Oh, hey.

It's weird, but I should have been paying attention.

It's been a slow day, but I thought the store was clear.

Can we help you with something?



Well, I had a goal when I came over here, but now my mind is blank with questions...



Well, it just so happens that I have an answer!

The... uh...

uh... uh...



Quiet, yes.

The
grounded
are talking
now.



Minotaur Power
has a comic where
Mario and Mario
were portrayed
as childhood
friends.

Mario,
apparently, hit
that Mario-bullied
him. That began
their rivalry.

Mario Land 2
celebrated his
first ten-billion
anniversary.

Presumably, Mario
is being hit from the same
place. Of course, where
exactly that is remains
unknown.





well,

I didn't know
it went that
far back.

Now I want
to go research
Hells Brothers
love writing.

The public
needs to know
the whole
story.



well, I'm afraid you
won't find much else.
There just isn't a
lot out there.



Michael
looks a pretty
tight fit on.

WAAAAA

SUBTITLE





What are
you going to do
with her if you
graduate?

You don't
do any of the
things normal
people do!

I've never
even seen a girl that
could live up to your
expectations.



There's no one but,
but you're turning this
into a contest!

And, as you
are well aware,
I can't resist
competition.



She's a
little young
for you.



Thirty
fighter
years.



hello?

Every
country
exists?

Did you
also?



It's
back
back.

No, we're
fine.



We
wanted
to make
out.

but,
unfortunately
I don't swing
that way.

Thank you,
Justin Timberlake...

once again
you please my
existence.

from I
wishes your
work.

And now,
I must leave
the room on
behalf of it.



Let's
review.

I got a
"world's best
brother" coffee
mug from Jess
last year.

My bank
continues
due to
them.

The last of
my wish is going
to find an artist
I adore.

A friend
is the only
person near
a register.





I need to buy this.



What have we here, Mr. Penny?

Juste... (unclear)



It's for my sister.

Of course it is...



Filled with
fail...

Alright.

Message
received.

I don't know
what your
problem is.

Nor do I
care.

But if you
wanted to make
an enemy of
me...

I offer you my
congratulations.

Mission.

Fucking.

Accomplished.

Hey, what an idiot!

Don't get all bent
over a shape...

I was just
laughing!

Kidding??

Kidding??

Well, if that's
laughing then
you're doing
it wrong!

Because
I should be
laughing
too!

Kid, listen, I'm sorry. We all kinda abuse each other here. I didn't...

You don't get to backpeddle out of this.

No.

I may be new, and I respect that you outrank me, but you don't get to treat me like dirt without consequence.



You. Me.
Not friends.

NOT
FOR ME.



Meanwhile, John continues to regret engaging my competitive nature.

As far as goes flying out of the plane, nothing.

He swore that I can't get him to tell me what he was.

Oh, come on.

That's not how it was.

You're right. I must be mad that you need your own line.

Well, you need for your own for at least an hour.

You better I did not!

Alright, that's all I can stand, and I can't stand no more.



I call for

THUNDERDOME!



(Thunderdome?)

It's how we solve disputes in Bartertown.

Two men enter, one man leaves.



with his dignity.

Mostly.



file contest for
the contact information
of this female.

In accordance
with section 3 of the
Shadow Proclamation
the challenger chooses
the instruments
of battle.

Do you
accept?



Alright,
I accept.

Yes...

wait a
second





You two are
fighting over
me?



You're gonna...

Is that
a protest?



Hope.
I'm good.

You may
begin.



Sshhhhh...

The price shouldn't
talk, honey.

It
kinda
ruled it
for me.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of a character with large, pointed ears and a dark patch on their forehead. They have a thoughtful or slightly sad expression, with their hand near their chin. The background is a simple outdoor setting with trees and a mountain.

Blackwell!

A black and white comic panel showing two characters in a forest. The character from the previous panel is on the right, looking towards the other character on the left. The second character is wearing a plaid shirt and has a more neutral expression.

You can't hold
forever...

I would
imagine.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of the character's face. They have a wide, toothy grin and are looking upwards. The background consists of diagonal hatching lines.

Colin's
board!





Trys.



now he's deciding who gets to go out with me with Trys?



well, what do you think you were gonna do?



Didn't you, or something?

That's also, and I hate him, but he's still my friend.

Yeah, we're not going to kill each other till we can find a less pleasant for our dinner's final list to.



Okay, so...

Each little guy
is all its own.

These can be on
fire, wood, or
water bases.

Fire burns wood,
wood burns water,
and water boils
fire...

Hold on...



This is just
paper, pencil,
scissors.

Why didn't
you just do
that?



Where
the hell's the
point in
this?

Yeah, if we
were going to that
we might just as well
have played *Jeopardy!*
like a couple of
seconds ago.

Definitely
the same model
I found in a
net!

That's just
okay.

Yeah, yeah,
but a model!



Yeah, because

you can
have four
models.

That's

I didn't want it
in the first place.

You told it.
All I wanted was
the coin.



Wesley, she looks
too much like her
brother.

I'm not
secure enough
in my methods
for that.



Wesley...
what?

After all that
you're sure.



Wesley, that girl
looks like
you.

She
looks like
you.



Wesley, I'm
secure enough
in my methods
to...

Forget it.



Second place
in Energy balls for
first issue.





Was a
God damn
minute!

Get back
here!



What the
hell was that
little about?

I'm not good
enough to go
out with!



I just don't
think that we'd be
a good match.

Neither
personal...

Nothing
personal?

What the
hell?

I'm not
worth having
plus I look
like my
brother!

Well,
that's
personal!



Just, how old are you? 18? 19?

You DON'T even know who you are yet!



I could give that journey with you, but in the end, you'd realize I'm not the right job!

What? 18?!

Really? Not one more year?

Your brother has abandoned you. I don't want to end like that. That's all you can do!

That's not!



Comparing you to him isn't an insult!

Just, the fact remains that you are his sister, and I'll always see his face reflected in yours.

and that gives me the power.

Okay, yeah... I do.

Yes, I understand.



How, now, do I trust my star?

You're an important family.

There are people over the line of you.



Someday, you'll find someone as devoted as me...

Right?



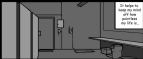
Now, if you'll excuse me, there's still something I must attend to.



Honestly, I wonder how people tolerate me sometimes...



I mean, I really do love being a bastard.



Dr helps to keep my mind off how pointless my life is...



Oh, Dr. Kaplan?

Have you ever danced with that doctor in the pale moon light?



Mostly people usually enjoy the shit I do to keep myself from going insane...





Hello, Duke



Thanks,
turn the lights
back on your
side of a
barb



You know I can't
do that, Duke

I mean, it was
you who called for
Thunderdome

So, I have to
ask you...



Who runs
Bartertown?



...Duke



Thomas
Blackwell
runs
Bartertown



THINK!

Lawyer



Oh, you first!

What do you need the FBI for?

What do you need?

Thomas Blackwell runs Barbertown!



Embargo over!

Kubertown



HAN AHHAHAHAHA

AAAAAA

HAHAHAHA

Well, that was fun, now what shall we do?

None to add. I should probably stop referring to myself as a group.

David:

Nothing could you come to the office, please?

Just thing, right?

Alright...

problem solved.



So, he made his little speech by saying that we're not friends.



I'm not surprised.

It sounds like you really hurt his feelings.



Well, it's not like I'll tell my boss.

I just thought that if Thomas got him the job then he'd be at least a little like Thomas.

I don't see how that's not all your fault.



Well, Thomas really
seemed like he meant
the plan.

and all the
other stuff came in
later after
that.

That.

He
told
you.



Well, that's
different.



I'm supposed
to act that
way.

For the
customer service
messages.



So... being a manager means you're supposed to be bitchy?



I am not bitchy! I'm competent!



Okay, I am bitchy...

but that's not the point.

I have to be this way to maintain order.

I can't be anyone's friend, or they'll never do anything.

Excusing them
and I do stuff

Okay, that's fine.
You do get all your
work done.

So do John
and Andrea

Right.

Actually I
think Thomas
already did
everything he
was supposed
to do.

Okay... You're
missing the
point.

Oh??

Thought
you were doing
really good.

Well, Thomas hasn't finished those books he said he would.

But honestly said he'd do it if you were interested.

So that doesn't count does it?

Well you were wrong again.



Oh yes.

Examples
sometimes this
is Thomas's
book.

Why
didn't you
ask first?



A little nervous
How you want it to
be? It's about...



What do you really
just don't want to feel
if you're wrong.



Well...
Thank...



Are you...
want me to
go with you?



It's...
about...



Good girl,
let's go to
school.

Okay.

I should never have quit my other job...

I should have known I'd end up finding it here.



Of course, I hated that job too...

and the one before that.



Now that I think on it, I've never had a job I liked.

I guess I...



What the hell is that going to do?

It's coming from this direction.



ooooooooooooo!

Not the face!
Not the face!



She said you looked like a little Harry Potter man... and you did!

U...
Engorgio!



Hi!
I'm Nina
Gravel

I work
over in the
books!









Anyway...

I wasn't thinking. It's your first day, in a new place. I shouldn't've made a snap judgment about you, without getting to know you first.

I sincerely apologize...

Yeah, I probably overreacted...

I mean, I have a quiet nature...

I just...

Well, I read this job, and haven't had good experiences in the past.

Sorry no.

I mean, yeah, I'm sorry too.





How about the
newly known Carol
and I will.

What's she
doing with her
father's money?

Oh, she
doesn't hate
him.

They're
actually best
friends.

Really?

Are you sure
you know what those
words mean?

You're throwing
them around more
casually than I think
you should.

No, really,
they like each
other very
much.

They
just have
funny ways of
showing it.



Harold is
a pretty funny
way to show
affection.





No, look, it's like Thomas and John.

They and the
they hate each other,
confronts over dumb stuff,
humiliate each other,
and question each
other's sexuality.



What's wrong?



I just noticed that
but not presenting a
easy wild case.





You know how when you're little you'd leave the person you liked for dead?

Yeah, I'd
leave 'em. Cause you didn't know how to handle feelings!

Yeah.



Card and Thomas are like that. They care for one another, but don't know how to be affectionate right.

That's kind of an odd thing to bring into adulthood.

Some people are emotionally crippled and fall back on old behaviors if they can't find ways to cope.



Wait

No, what you're implying is that Carol and Thomas...

are attracted to each other?



I guess there's something wrong with me then.

Wait, it is pretty obvious

Because, for me, they seem like enemies.



It would make a lot of sense.

More obvious...

subject



Thomas

I understand this isn't the first time you've had "thunder-bone"

Edward Hernandez, age 54
Your orange, corporate, look
I don't like being called "Mike"

He used to have
a mustache in Texas
Smile one, as they say

He still buys into
the degree that the
head-of-his-pot is apt



It's not a bad job,
all things considered

I don't want
to have to write
you up over
this.

Can you explain to
my wife though? That
was unacceptable
behavior?

But here we are,
you seem to be an
affectionate father.



I told his wife "sorry"
Six months is all the
time they have left.

Corporate sends them
to our place so they
can build a case
for termination.

Of course
it.

I'll tell you that,
if I ever need to
crush his spirit.

Knowing a few buzzwords
is the fastest way to
confuse, weak-minded,
members of management.



I've been trying out
the "copy method".

Oh manager,
I'm sure you're
familiar with
it.

Of course...

It's a... uh...

a new
theory for
increasing
sales...

right?



Exactly, sir.

I figured
you'd know
of it.

Capture their interest.
Appeal to their petting.
Before their enthusiasm, I
fly with them.

I was involving
our guests in our
stepful service.

With the store's
best interests in my
heart, of course.



well, I can hardly thank you for trying to improve performance,

just, maybe, try a few facts next time, okay?

Of course, sir.

Always accept. Always improve.



Why? Return to the store?

Yeah, yeah, get back out there and exploit some core competencies.



Will do, Mike.



Exploitation is my destination.

Will not copy.



Oh, wait!
I almost forgot.

I, unfortunately,
and friend, another
person for the
floor.



What?

One of a party.

If I could my
puppet has
broken a
few things.



It's name's
we're used
for you
love it!

Unfortunately



He's one of the
best known thinkers
in town.

What?

Why didn't
you tell me about
him first?



Well, he was
really well
deceased.



Correct, indeed.

Maybe if you were
dead, there'd be one
left?



I can't take it back now. I already sent the paperwork to the home office.

What should we do?



We?



Why is it that when I talk something up it's my fault.

But when you do it from behind some other's effort?

well, I mean, my
mom's cooking up
and...



You know
what?

It's fine,
I don't even
care.

You've been
pretty cool to
me since you
got here.

I'm
going to make
sure he doesn't
screw over
the store.

but now, you
owe me...



Check it out, Cars.

Game transfer into, wanna try game?

This how to connect?



A drink with the number three printed on it doesn't smell confidence (to me).

I'm confused



Well, what do you mean?

Glart

It's like thinking beyond fail.





Did I like
something to make
you happy?



Yes, but
I needed a
moment.

I was waiting
on you enjoying the
view, so I wouldn't
lose your breath.



You should
start running
now.



That job.
I'm gonna get
some books.

Maybe I
can write him some
drinking tea, or
something?



Oh, hey.

Where
are they?

AAAAAA!



Of course, I'm sure I am... (he's thinking about something)

I can't



What's with this guy?

He's like a creepy, creepy Professor Snape.

Does he always look at people like this?



Did you like movie?



Yes.

Yes?



Sorry if
Saturday is
harder' a shame
in town.

I'm
totally
like their
friend, and
you!

I could
get you to
the free.

If you
wanted, you
know, in
like, see
them.



S
L
A
M!









What's that
supposed to
mean?

She
got her
number?

Yes.

She said
she'd see
somebody.



That's better
looking.

I know
what she's
looking
for.



Yeah.

You got
down, the
back, off.



Push your
over.

She
will be
mine.



What timing
stuck.

I mean,
the fact that
he passed all 3
courses.

She:

The only
issue is the
negative aggressive
stance portion
of Cardiole,
right?



Oh, yes.

It's beautiful
there, in the summer
you know.

Oh, yes.









Hey, Thomas, try this new soda we've got.

I don't know.



I've never encountered a broader drink that I liked.

I think they just pull the flavor out of your mouth near the great of Dr. Pepper.

This wasn't enough place for hot, before he hit on the way that is Dr. Pepper.

Just drink the same thing already.



You should
not do this
anymore.

But
should you've
come out and
said it?



I DON'T
HAVE
COOTIES!





All right,
all right,
I'll drink it
ya' happy?

Yeah,
yeah!



What do you
mean, drinking it?

As opposed to
your country?



Shit!

It's like
algebra! It must
be stuck in
my mouth!



See how hard?

Proof!

You fell into
my glorious trap
for provagel!

What you're
tasting right now is
the bitter taste of
provagel defeat!



FRANCOIS

Does that mean what I think it means?

FRANCOIS



Save up for things you want? Done yet?

It's very important



I want to know if you would do that job, too.

Getting that work done isn't a problem.

Feeling like you're wasting your life is.



Do you just spend all your time thinking of new stuff?

When do you work?





What, Ed?

Leave up!

You nearly
scared Brookeley
to death.

I wasn't
sorry?



What
scared
me?

Looking
up at me like
a froggy
ghost.

Well, what
do

I am
crazy
though.

That you are
underestimating
the monster
in.







NOO DADDY

That wasn't even one that people always say...

How about Jerry's girlfriend?



Your primitive reaction wouldn't understand things with irony, & sarcasm.

A thing with...

...abstract structures.



Not played, but I think it's kind of real this.

Correct.



I guess you say that's all of mystery & intrigue.

Not to worry, & trust yourself.



Impressive...

How impressive?

How funny?



My message will be done, & repeated.

I will have you inside out, even if you're being polite of this.

Amazing...

...all right, this is it.

Get this one and you've got the spines of movies!

The Adventures Of Buckaroo Bancai Across The 8th Dimension!



May I present my congratulations for your great, interdimensional breakthrough.

I am sure, as the milestone owner of the Earth,

you will be duly rewarded!



I am severely defeated.

Yes, but the upside is that you've found a new way to pass time.

and I should mention that our words are a lot!

Get the rest!





Alright, champs,
prepare for some
hustlin'!

It's time to
answer to my
kissables and
just ice...



Queen Card, I
didn't think it was
that bad.

Listen,
we kinda being
where you think
about it,
huh?



Yeah, there's been
talk of the cops
being in on us
apparently.



You've almost
been killed. But
I'll be here for you.
-John-

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I just want
you to know that
I make this
about every
day.

Get with
them,
brother!

BETRAYAL!



BANN!







I mean, if this is how I'm meant to behave...

Well, there YOU go now I hoped it would go down okay...

You know...

as much as I'm a fan of oranges,

something, in general, really,

I'm feeling conflicted.



Is it just me, or does it seem like he's not really trying to escape?

That's what I've been saying all along.

Yeah, what were you thinking now, JACK?

I don't think he is.

Yeah...

Chris Mike took his face out of his fat cheeks, we got in trouble.

Well, I was open, it's Mike, another name?

His sister even got out to open.

While we get the standard "you too should be setting an example" rant.

Everyone else went back to what they'd been doing before.



My day will probably be spent daydreaming about Carol now.

Unless some thing takes my mind off of her.



It'd have to be pretty damn impressive...

Oh, and we have more!

Are last words?

No, I don't think so.

You still owe me for introducing my dad at work.



Isn't that all part of the thing from before?

That's not enough for a new round.

Of course, new round off me.



I am going
out for a
smoke.

Right.

You are going
to stay here, and
then MY cousin
is part of your
problem.

Correct.

Those things're
gonna kill you,
you know?

That's
fine by
me.

I wish
that'd hurry
the fuck
up.

Excuse me!

Can you tell me if my son would like this game?

I can give it a shot.

I guess.



Dear Dad,

A thousand times
I love you!

Would there's something I need to know about your son?

Is he a fan of music?





Are you
mad at
Thomas?

Should
I be?

He made
you look dumb
in front of the
jugglers!



How can
you know about
that anyway?

I know
what...



And, the
cherry donut
was like that.

Everything
is a competition
with him.

I'm not
really mad
about it.

It's just a
good excuse to
get him to make
my station.

It's good
that you still
franchise.

Even though
sometimes you look
like a fool.

I'm starting to
have a hard time
when you didn't
ask for me.





If you get bored ever in music?

There's only been one person over there since we got here,

and I ended up buying them something.



Oh yes, your first album.

It was my regular order, who is not that in deep into it.



Look,
your sister's
brother and
I are
Finnish. It's
perfect.

Oh, come on!
Why would you
even say that
to me?



Sorry, sorry.
I mean,
I could stand here,
waiting for the about your
parent party business
all day.
But what was it
you wanted?

You are
raping
my ears!



I guess you are such a bastard.

I just wanted to ask if you thought it was a bad idea to state in committee.

Well, it's against the rules, isn't it?

Strangely, strict adherence to the rules, isn't the first thing I associate with you.

No, I suppose it wasn't for me.

While I don't
agree with the
corporate
mission.

I must admit
that dating a
coworker, is
asking for
trouble.

Honestly, if it was up to me,
man-and-woman wouldn't
even work together.

Someone is always
going to be attracted
to someone else.

Then, next thing you
know, it's happy party all
over the place.

I'm surprised
you feel that
way.

Almost as
surprised as I
am that you used
'happy party' in a
sentence.

I'm bringing
it back.



20... if you're asking me this it must mean you've already fallen for someone



I'd prefer to find

well...

oh but I know it!



I feel shame whenever you talk, sorry Peter, I can't help it!

I don't look like I have a job!

Why does everyone keep associating me with that?



Cool, except it.

You look like
you belong at
Hagar's

That's real
furms,

coming from
the guy sporting
the Suburmas
haircut.

Hey man...

This style
is fashionable

Whatever
gets you through
the night, P.Y.

hey, Carol!

Yeah...

Whenever you
get going to school
you've got to count
on Thomas?



What's wrong?
The sky is your friend,
Sally-woody!

Carol:
Increasingly,
Sally's wrong!

Are there
other doors?

I find the
door should
be there.



Carol

Maybe
that's
right.

Maybe
there's
a
thing
for
him.

That's
what
all
this
time
working
with
him.

I
wonder
if
it's
just
an
ability
to
do
nothing
anymore.

That's
a
perfect
thought.

Yes,
they
completely
match
each
other.

Like
you
and
I
probably.

That's
what
I
see
and
I
understand.

That
yes.



Why do you care whether he is I date anyway?

Because you're my friend, and I want you to be happy.

Admitting your secret love would make you both happy.



Yes, but would love that secret love only be your wish?

Search your feelings, you know it to be true!



Yeah, Nina,
would I want to be
Thomas.

which I
don't.



It's still against
the rules to be
another.

Right?

Because
you're not all
about following
the rules.

Let's not
split hairs,
Tom.



Well, yeah... but I
follow those
better than
you do.



It's not
springtime,
Miss.

He said I
was a bad match.
Bad of everybody.

Just
let it go,
straight!

Fine...

Face it
your way.

I want you
to consider
something
though.

One of
these days,
Thomas is going
to figure out what
he wants to do
with his life.
He'll walk
out the door. &
won't ever look
back.



Just your
word.
For the rest
of your life.
I've never
been a slud at finding
your own truth
line.



all because of
your stupid
job.

and a
stupid
rule



Should I just
ask him out?

Did you
think it's too
soon?

You are just that hard
on causing trouble for
yourself, aren't you?



She
is a golden
retriever, Amazon
princess.

Everything
about her is
intriguing.

So, excuse me
for wanting to
interact with
her sexually.



You've known her for like, ten hours.

At least consider getting to know her for a while.

You're probably right. She's just not...

...there.



And the whole knocking you to the ground and mauling you thing doesn't hurt either.

Oh.

How do you feel about that?



AND'S
IT'S BETTER
THAN I
AM.

OH MAN,
YOU'RE
REALLY
SPECTACULAR
TODAY.

BRANDON!

FOR A GUY
MY SIZE, SHE'S
ALMOST AS GOOD
AS HAVING TWO
MOTHERS.



Going with this
would be like going
to a warm, soft,
amusement
park...

where I'm
allowed on all
the rides.





You know, I really thought this job was gonna blow before I lost her.

That's like a hundred in this miserable place.

Yeah, she kinda became the end of the store after she started.

You know, Miss was the first hire I ever got to choose.

That's worked here similar as long as me.

...course.

You think there has pretty well there.

Yeah, not probably, or anything.

Well you've been through a lot over the years.

These are takes for another time, Corvid's gonna finish kicking my ass if I don't get some work done.

Watch this number till John comes back, alright?

Sure, but I wanna know something.

How many accounts get hired because of you?

All but five.

That many?

Are you some kind of retail godfather?

Don't be impressed.

It's not like I was at against the greatest minds of our time.







What're you
doin' over
here?

Thomas said
he needed to do
something.

He asked
me to show till
you got back.

Yeah,
alright.

Whatever
needs, I
got.



As long
as you're
here.

I want you
to know, I think
your order is
standing
tall.

OH,
COME
ON!





Why did Thomas get you this job?

Suppose I am not one of the chosen.

But you could still be made, right?

Sure, sure, but I was hired, a few managers ago, to replace him.

Seriously?

What happened?

At first, we were enemies. Then rivals.

He was a worthy opponent who I learned to respect.

Are we talking about the same person here?

I got
intimidated by
the guy who
killed me.

I tried to
cover his and by
throwing dirt to
the others.

Thomas
got my back,
knowing that
I was supposed
to get him
killed.

That's
something
I'll never
forget.



I know it
sounds out of
character for
Thomas...

but it's only
because you don't
know him.

Let's just
say I'm kind
of glib.

and there
are good friends
out there over
there.





It's kinda weird that that's all taken with me.

What he said is right, it's got potential BUT OF WHY...

It isn't really meant to be on

(sighs)

when I realize

There just isn't such an option



Do you like him?

I'd tell him about my observations if he gave me a chance.





You present
that information that
very interesting
any you know



I was
paraphrasing
him



You don't paraphrase
anything else. AND you
know thousands
of words from
nothing



My way
was more
fast

Adrian
was this
tough.

If I'm
older, Corbin,
then what would
you name
me?

THE TEMPLE?



Well, what's
your best?

THE BOUNCY
CASTLE



It's not like it's so easy to just avoid your feelings.

Maybe for her, but I need this job.

It's not like I have a lot of options.

Even if I do have a thing for Thomas.

I can't lose all my security for a crush.

Even if it is a four-year-old crush...

And he's the smartest guy I've ever known...

And we're totally right for each other...

and he talks to me, and not my friend...

And his eyes are as blue as my supplies...

...and doesn't...

Maybe I'll
just go with
nothing...

and if the
idea of me hanging
out sometimes comes
up then I'll usually
agree...

It probably
won't get weird,
or anything...

The party
was for them
too...



Even though
I tried to not like
a little while...



...and
I'm
fine...

Life is what happens between failures...

The folk we work with become something like a family to us, except people don't look at you as funny if you sleep with them...

Today Thomas Blackwell is adding Ed Lincoln to the family of the local Megatainment superstore.

Ed will experience the odd rituals that have grown from their familiarity, and the drama that comes with it.

While he finds his place in it all the regulars go on with their lives... Which are already pretty complicated.

Herein you'll find the first 150 pages of the epic tale told at <http://betweenfailures.com>

