

OCTOBER SURPRISE

~

; or: Three Twos; or: Dead
Ringer; or: Ace in the Hole;
or: The Dead Ringer's Monkey-
Shine

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Mac Wellman

6th Draft

OCTOBER SURPRISE: Persons of the Play:

~

MAN1, very much resembles the Political Advisor to

MAN2, the Current Occupant of the White House;

MAN3, very much resembles the Master of Al Queda.

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Note: Action takes place in a vast conference room; dark panels in scene 1; all panels revolve so the room becomes a hall of mirrors in scene 2; in 3 all rise up out of sight, revealing an empty place.

~

Ιν της νιγητ αλλ χατσ γλωω γραψ: An old saying: [In the night all cats glow gray]

Scene: : Right-Angle: Two MEN in suits gaze with precise and

measured looks at a THIRD, who bears a powerful resemblance to the Master of Al Queda. All three are seated in comfortable, leather chairs. Three minutes of this uncomfortable looking.

MAN1
Ace in the hole.

MAN2
You think so.

MAN1
I do think so. Dead Ringer.

MAN2
Well I hope so because what if.

MAN1
What if what?

MAN2
People might ah you the. Timing you. They could question.

MAN1
Of course of course people might. That is why they are they. Who they are. That is why they are people merely and not folks. Folks like who are who are neighbors. People being people. Who they. They do not have the wherewithal and. Not to mention the all the facts and. Neighbors. That is that they, being they, are ill-informed and are subject to dounts. But the way I see it the matter is our jog, I mean job is to okay and allay all dounts and make the people who are who are. Make them feel safe.

Oh some people will are not want this to to undergo this process. Dount, doubt I mean, is famously fetching for some in the opposition democrat ah bailiwick dount therefore I am these people think. They are ravaged by the cutworm of dubiety with her hideous small chewing feckless part that bores screwlike and feckless all through the adamant of black earth. Without feck, no. The soil of our human region. Garden

of hope desire and the vegetable panoply.

MAN2

I do hope I do hope.

MAN1

Of course we all do.

[They re-look at the THIRD, questioningly, with intense human interest]

Er,

MAN2

?

What is he named er I suppose. Are we.

MAN1

What is what you. Know how to?

MAN2

Guess not. No I was just you know maybe thinking. Well something.

MAN1

These people these people these are too.

MAN2

Are they with the cloth part over the head. Headdress. Like a bundle.

MAN 1

Yes it is a bundle too like like a bundle. Arab.

MAN2

That goes without saying but the question is what what is it for? I mean it it it is it for a purpose or do they you know just do this things as A PRACTICE and to show. Off.

MAN1

To show off no no it is for display.

MAN2

Display.

MAN1

Display.

MAN2

Yeah I mean is it for the safety from the Sun's and and as protection from the Sahara that.

MAN1

We I suppose is it. Opinion is that it they are are are in a state of yes.

.

MAN2

Oh?

MAN1

Cranked and mostly there there from a time before modernity. Before what is modern had learned to do displace the habit of counting time thorn by thistle wow.

[They re-look now with reverence for the time before all things were]

MAN2

Count time that way?

MAN1

Thorn by the thistle ah definite a definite yes. That.

MAN2

How did it come to pass they did that?

MAN1

Well the way I hear when time comes to pass and all you have are is a thorn and a thistle that is the way you perforce must count dount.

MAN2
Before refrigeration.

MAN1
Before refrigeration sure. Around the time of the Alps and the Sardinian
Expostulation.

MAN2
Did not know that.

MAN1
There's something about the exact sequence in this paper tail paper
sale they got over in intelligence yes. Yes I do believe she calls them a
a a.

MAN2
?

MAN1
Yeah you know the thing with the hair on.

MAN2
Was that that in the a folder I saw?

MAN1
I believe so maybe last week last the weeks was that a a in security or
in an intelligence.

MAN2
I believe so maybe.

MAN1
Here's. [shows him a document

MAN2
Oh that I dont read that that ones. I just dont unless of cause they
have been dog-eared by by that guy over in in in that guy who.

MAN1
Yeah?

[Pause for the work of recollection]

Over in Senator Flatmo's office. Henry J.

MAN1
You know what what I say to myself in my sleep some time-ball in my.
There. Well in the place of sleep and or just before that. The sandman
who.

MAN2
No argument there.

Oh you.

?

Oh you mean.

What did you do do.

MAN1
We and the tremendous FEAR a thorn must be you know like saddled
with out in the holeration of the desert wind wind winced and there's like
no no rosebush for a thousandfoldly miles in either direction just a was
and time-ball of hot malignant bust I mean dust I dount hot as the stove
in Tophet hot hot.* And so where do you stick it to? What you say?

MAN2
Why they can. Can they call him "The Sandman" yes that is for sure it is
why we do. Praise Jesus. Over in intelligence yes they do.

MAN1
When I consider the impatience of Jesus the reluctancy of Jesus the
sensuality of Jesus the blind rage of Jesus I do implicate that immediacy

like. Like as how.

In the immediate aftermath of now and how that time is a similar to this one here yes.

MAN2

Er,

MAN1

No no. It is not the dount of what he is called it is the doth of what we call er Him.

MAN2

That is the precise what I was fixin to implicate.

MAN1

Likeness is as likeness does, daddy.

MAN2

Then what is told here and now of this. Well. Arab fellow?

MAN1

His is ours to blow the fire up. He has a pretty good bleak side and the nother's not too calamitous. Say.

MAN2

Look look they will say. Hmm. Dount. To look for looks as if Jesus Mercator and Astrolabe the needle in Providence's hay heap. Ha ha.

MAN1

And we will what we will is ah. Responding we will say, he is ours in custody as of today well and. As the saying goes, I upon the night all cats go gray.

MAN2

Tell him to say something ah something in his what ah native tongue.

MAN3

Μη χαμελ φυγκσ ψουρ χαμελ υπ τηε ασσ. [My camel fucks your camel up the ass]

[Pause. Not sure how to. What to]

MAN2

Okay okay but what.

MAN1

But the point is how and so if you go and an. Well. Just announce and so if if the reason being there who can? Who can say if we got him in the bag.

MAN2

That is reasonable to suppose uh huh.

MAN1

Well you just go and and say well, my fellow citizens, he is in custody and as of today well. It must do and be an act of sincerity. As if sincerity and in fact a maximum of general cussidness. Go figure.

MAN2

You are saying it it it am is I mean dount dount dount as a sort of gift shoe in the horses' moth and holeration thing. Kllkkllkllkllk. Callithumpian hayride so to speak is that it huh?

MAN1

What what you what?

MAN2

Clanked on the tongue. Old dental works gone a little nackered and gone shank ouch ouch ouch.

[Fiddles with the machine of mouth and fixes the works for now]

But I was going on how about that say what that mean in precise terms?

MAN1
What?

MAN2
That er thing about the cats go gray howcome?

MAN1
Well the telling that you do and dount is ah. How to say, daddy. A passing on of the impenitency of the cross. When people talk then somehow they tell a well you might call it wisdom. I would wisdom. What is passed on in the wind as how the word came to be done on the Second Day I think. Parable.

MAN2
I know parable damn it to hell I just don't know that particular one. It is like a lookalike furniture of the heart. That is what I what was thas and that was what I was speaking myself to. Speaking myself to that day. The day of the rrrrancor of Jesus.

MAN1
Kinda so to speak and but. As the crow flies. Well sorta like. Like. Like that.

[Long pause as both eyeball MAN3 for some time. MAN3 looks away as if he does not feel at ease and so]

MAN2
Well all I know is if I were him I would not prevaricate (is that a word?) And. Okay Karl okay. Only how does the thing fall out? I mean just because a lookalike looks like what it is he is supposed to don't mean that that makes to hold water out of the pitcher and. Well go and pour it. That to become of Bishop a miller possesses two left feet. Like I was saying the other day to Senator Who.* Was it Flatmo? Like I was saying to Senator Whoever the Senator from which what it it is like to take the moon by the teeth.

MAN1

Senator Flatmo.

It is not so.

MAN2

It is too so.

MAN1

It is not too so.

MAN2

It is too so.

MAN1

All I can say was if I was who I look to be I would say. And I would be thinking of Ann Coulter's legs Jesus she has got legs that as go on as long as forever. Legs on her I am suggesting.

MAN3

Μη χαμελ φυγκς βοτη ψουρ μοτηερσ υπ τηε ασσ. [My camel fucks both your mothers up the ass]

[A pause of what the fuck was that]

MAN1

It is like to take the moon *with* both feet.

MAN2

That is what I was saying.

MAN1

No no no it why sir ah. Altogether twelve sheets to the wind gone by no clear channel leastwise as I gauge the matter and.

MAN2

Look.

MAN3

Ψεσ ινδεεδ λοοκ. [Yes indeed look]

MAN1

And you shut up for Pete's sake the whole damn shebang's a suit of clothes with which no man's crapshoot is on the inside of the whole darn thing.

MAN2

Who's on first then?

MAN1

THAT IS WHAT I AM SAYING.

[Pause while this sinks. More or less in. MAN3 turns back to the others and smiles coyly and waves a little little wave]

MAN2

What's his his his?

MAN1

Story?

MAN2

Well I do suppose you could put that bug on the flywheel.

MAN1

He was found dead drunk some weeks ago in a culvert. Drunk. Up in this place in Newark and near Jersey City not too far far far from Ohio. Dead drunk and speaking in a foreign tongue our men took to be Arabic but what turned out to be Toureg and Turmeric.

MAN2

Interesting and the.

MAN1

All he could say was. I am stuck between an pipe and an boulder that

was all he could say in English.

MAN3

I am was stuck between an pipe and an boulder.

MAN2

And and how did he come to pass and be transcribed to where he was.

MAN1

?

MAN2

To where he was before he got to be where he is now.

MAN1

Our agents and of course some are handy with the fiddle head wrench and the old aluminum crutch and they put full weight against the time-ball and off to the ball and broke it. He was obstetricated thence.

MAN2

And thence brought here?

MAN1

And thence brought hereby there. Where.

Minimax unit. A holding unit down by where near. Down Monkey Fist Lane. During the war we used to keep carp and store some old brass fittings in a box of Jap warheads. Unit 349. Naval Research Lab. Alexandria Virginia.

MAN2

?

MAN1

Unit Cell of 3 space 4 space 9.

MAN2

And and.

MAN1

What we saw is that he duplicates and indeed is a replica of the him. What is sacred brought from the the cinder by the tinder in the form of the truth or some lookalike in the. The. Truth unbidden. And. As in the good book and thereabouts.

MAN2

Oh and what a pretty thing. Say it once over the whole entire picture oh.

MAN3

Μη χαμελ□σ χαμελ□σ χαμελ φυγκσ αλλ ψουρ χηιλδρεν□σ χαμελσ ανδ
δοεσ τηε σπιτ ιν ηερ εψε ηισ εψε ηερ εψε; κακαπτοοοι!
[My camel's camel's camel fucks all your children's camels and does the
spit in her eye his eye her eye; kakaptoooi!]

[Both look at him hard and then slowly ease a judgement that is they
realize misplaced so]

MAN1

What is most sacred and is sacred is brought from under the bough of
the by the thunder in the name of the Most High and is brought low by
the sound of the wind in the succotash. Succotash in the plural case.

MAN2

—

MAN1

Succotash is the plural I believe.

MAN2

But but if he is who he is and that that darn it is not who the am not the
other whole darn other why then what good is the thing if we he has to
be the real thing darn and not some damn replica of what he is not.
Don't you see.

MAN1

Do do no not so quick to see what it is if see he would seem more of and off of the mark.

MAN2

Okay okay that was what was and was coming I saw it sure as coming from the same place as. Well and you. But as for as for instance in the case of the all cats being gray.

MAN1

Whole other chew, daddy. Whole other chew.

MAN2

You are not saying his name is not here as was read aloud and undifferentiated and. Understood to be? Under the rubric of the er. Say. What.

MAN1

Ssmbnldn? No no no that would not be. No.

[Dark and nebulous pause]

MAN2

Then then then.

MAN1

Skip to.

MAN2

Skip to then all up to here.

MAN1

The the things you can see if you look hard at can be a wonder of circumfulgence. It is

[Pause]

like we are a tranquil scene say at the bottom of the seas and you you

may observe that you are in the in the red row boat with your kid brother Edgar and as you look down you can see the whole village of of. Dimmit. And there is the Wal-mart and Dimmit High School and the closed down storefront with the shoes off and stuff. Couple of tumbleweeds frozen in space and time. And the little park with the pink and white peeling paint of the Gazebo bless my soul.

Near by where I used to go walking with whats her name was it Nelly yes Nelly or Lucrece. Named something like Dandilily.

MAN2 [Under his breath
Dandelion.

MAN1
Dandilily it was. And and all the way to Hoof of the Snake Creek out past the basin. Permian Basin. A whole world made perfectly at peace and filled with light as of of connection to the light of Tribulation. Eternity eyeballed.

MAN2
I like to look at things too.

[They look at each other briefly then uneasily turn away and look down. Pause. MAN3 looks about as if to make a break for it almost not quite. Suddenly MAN1 looks up and stands in a moment of rapture almost]

MAN1
Eternity eyeballed and slambang and shut up all in the can. Hallelujah.

MAN2
Hallelujah!

MAN1
Hallelujah!

[He sit on sit on back down a wiser man]
You can look at sometime I mean something and almost touch forget

what it is you are. Look looking at. Seeing I mean. You get all loose and gangly. Your look does that touch juju thing and. We have done a great walk you think. The thing you are looking at says, I am tired. Which the pleasure! Which the charm! You cross the little road past the Popcorn Pavilion and she says, It seems to me that the corn does push already. She says that that ways because of how she is from Portugal and is new to things here. Will you and take a walk with me, I say. Dandilily, I say.

MAN2

Dandelion [Under his breath

MAN1

Go through that meadow where who the beautiful things are thick with cottonwood trees all stacked up as at the feet's head.

MAN2

Did no did not have it in my head you felt that that why. Well I sure well I have done with the account, pie.

MAN2

Pie church.

[Both laugh gently as though sharing that fine olden time church pie.

A pause of the friendly kind. Contesserate]

MAN1

--

MAN2

What is now the worst type thing you ever. You know. Did.

MAN1

Took me a crap oncet on the lawn mower.

[MAN2 cracks up]

To get even with the lawn. Cannot believe the fury I will be and was in over that that.

[Darker now]

That damn lawn.

MAN2

Me I hate the way the Full Moon can stare just stare down why. Why the way the moon just has a way of of. Just staring a man down on account of no account. Like I had done dount. Which I swear to the feet's head I had not. Like I had my own necktie on wrong a maybe a maybe a little. And you just came along willfully and jerked on the thing hard my necktie. Makes a man wrathful.

MAN1

Near to wrath is am an is an implication I hope you would have the grace to back out of, sir.

MAN2

I am say near to full wrathfulness.

[A Lunar pause]

MAN1

Lunar monkey do.

MAN2

Monkey headed is what the moon is.

[A monkey headed pause of the lunar kind]

MAN1

Hey hey let's do the monkey.

[MAN 3 looks at them and in the following in terror. Alas the leering moon is indeed in evidence high above. High above peering through the

diaphane and the high high window with eerie pouring light as from a pitcher of lunar milk.

MAN 1 and 2 get up and do The Monkey a strange and formal dance unknown to the hoi polloi. Strange dance and strange fezzes]

BOTH sing brightly:

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble moon

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble goon

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble spoon

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble maybe

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble crazy

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble lazy

Mumble mumble mystic monkey
mumble mumble bones

~

O, O, O, O, O, O, O, O

~

Maybe monkey moon
Maybe monkey goon
Maybe monkey spoon

Maybe monkey maybe
Maybe monkey crazy
Maybe monkey lazy
Maybe monkey bones.

~

All the way to the way
to the moon
On the tip on the tip on the
tip of a of a spoon
Crazy goon crazy spoon
crazy lazy crazy bones.

~

MONKEY MONKEY MONKEY MONKEY

~

Holding his silver his silver spoon
monkey monkey monkey wrench
In his tightly coiled coiled tail
Sail, monkey, sail
All the way to the way
to the moon

~

MONKETY
MONKETY
MONKETY
MONKETY
MONKETY
MONKETY
MONKETY
MOP.

[Repeat x 3

Pause.

During which.

Now what. MAN3 looks away in horror. The horror of the irremediable other and flagrant infidel. The OTHERS compose themselves and well gosh darn it takes time to come down from such a high. They secret their hats and sit on back on down in the chair as they were in the first place just some ordinary joe. Feeling better. Man to man. It is so good to have a tail and even better to have one that is hiding someplace]

MAN1

Sure some fun.

MAN 2

Sure fun fun funny as hell. Old Skull and Bones.

MAN1

Did not know that was that and not what. Good fun yessed funnest goodest.

[MAN2 catches sight of MAN3's horror and is somewhat abashed]

MAN 2

He wouldn't nope.

MAN1

Must seem er to be ah to one of his cloak.

MAN 2

Must seem cloaked that is stuff happens stuff. Ha. That is good.

[A feeble laugh from MAN1]

MAN 2

Looks like the lookalike do not quite got a a sense of humor when it comes to.

[Now he laughs silently and his colleague is still]

MAN1

They don't you see do not smile much as the offense some principle of the Allah in your grasp. Who has to. And you being you and the same thing are in god's big pocket and his hand on you. Right on the socket of your arm and the whole shebang his big old pocket. Ha. Shit if I would.

MAN 2

I would not not in that shoe nope.

[They look oncet more at poor MAN3 who automatically turns abaft. A long hound of a pause in which the full weight of the fallen state of man

s
i
n
k
s

implacably in and is thus so a well closing in on us all. Woe]

MAN1

Mole year was prose sure. Whole other chew, daddy

MAN 2

Whole other.

MAN1

Looks like.

MAN 2

Like.

My Uncle Valdus used to say, Vision is a beautiful thing you can for instance go look at something and go wow and not know for sure whether that things is what it is that it looks to be an appearance of and something else or. The big or is the ah like my question in the arrangement.

MAN1

Can say that again er.

[BOTH look fiercely at MAN3 who looks fiercely back]

MAN 2

Wow

MAN1

Whole other chew.

MAN2

Wow wow.

MAN1 [reminiscing from the days at Skull & Bones

If I was who I am, I would ask him and tell him to what. What the. What it was you have to know to be an Asset in Intelligence. Yes.

MAN2

Oh?

MAN1

And who are they to that end I know that know that know.

MAN2 [Thinking hard

Beats me.

MAN1

One. When standing on the 13th tee at the National Golf Links in Southampton which club does one take from the bag?

Two. On sailing in to Hay Harbor on Fisher's Island what is the direction of the wind?

Three. Does Muffy Hamilton wear a slip?

[A pause of central intelligence

MAN2

--

MAN1

On such an adamant doth the ship of state rock rock on.

End of Scene.

Scene: Isosceles: MAN1 talks to MAN 3; MAN 2 listens and makes occasional remarks of a cutting nature, but is mainly still as if he were a blind man in a room full of deaf ones. Although MAN 3 is clearly listening, it is far from clear how much he is taking in. Taking in the usual sense of sympathetic comprehension.

MAN1[To Man3
Chew on this, daddy.

Glimpses of a a more better perfect world. City on the hill and lit from on high and from say a hellish bright spot at the very bottom most deep of the sea.

MAN2
Guessing game. Phoooph. Are we on an airplane or something like you have gone and arranged all these damn chairs like we are on an airplane and. Daddy yourself if I I I dount . And do not see point to this travailing,

MAN3
Μψ χαμελ ηασ ψουρ ωιφε ιν ηισ αρμσ, νοω, επεν ασ ωεε σπεακ, ψεσ, μυ β ιγ στιφφ χαμελ. [My camel has your wife in his arms even now even as wee speak yes my big stiff camel.]

MAN1

That is good good that is so good.

MAN2

Guess so maybe only but hey maybe you could just go and explain me the howcome of all this here monkeyshines.

MAN1

With all due and. Ah ah respect. Would you just go and put a lid on that mahogany I am trying to explain to our amigo here to our amigo in this chair how. Just how the thing will unfold in morality time time-ball and be a done through arranarranarrantt if that is what I'm. In gumshoe talk maybe.

Do you have some kind a a problema with that dance card daddy?

MAN2

—

MAN1

[Now the master of state driven persiflage turns to the task at hand]

Good enough sure say so say now say. Hmm.

MAN3

Σο μαψ ηεαδ το φαλλ ασ ασ τηε βιρδς σλψ? [So may heads to fall as as the birds sly]

MAN1

Not for no and nothing comes of some till the. Money tree, no. Er, no?

MAN3

Ha.

MAN2

Ha for in the country of blinds the one eyed man you guessed and.

MAN1

So how exactly it will pan out is.

You don't have to talk too much.

Admit nothing.

Deny it all even especially. If it er. Stacks up to be true.

And talk allatime in Arabic good good enough.

Now.

This man here Mister Al Queda who you who you is your brother.

Μη χαμελ□σ χαμελ□σ χαμελ ηασ φυγκεδ το δεατη ψουρ χαμελ□σ χαμελ□
σ Ηουσεχατ. [My camel's camel's camel has fucked to death your
camel's camel's House cat.]

MAN1

That is it exactly. Copacetic. Chew.

Chew on the thing over and over, daddy, till you.

[Gestures expressively with his hands in a way that is intended to to clarify
matters but as is so often the case does not quite do this]

Admit nothing.

Deny it all

And talk in Arabic.

Say anything but don't don't talk too much.

And they will do some tests.

DNA

But not to worry. It is.

Like as how it went well with well it was.
Was.

Easy and the money's.

DNA's the easy part if you.

Money's money and she talks. Hell yes. With a mouth full of teeth.

[Show his teeth. Pause. MAN3 feels his teeth to make sure that they are still there. Almost]

You are you that is.

You are still you is the point and that is well the beauty of the.

So no one can you know accuse.

No one, daddy, no one.

Kuspinach Kerry Dean Edwards crap all afraid of us.

Crap yes. Hell.

And the money's like this. Big shoes.

[Pulls out a hundred dollar bill from his wallet which is intended as is often the case to impress. But just as often is the case fails to do just that. Communication being what it is in these the last days of fallen mankind]

MAN2

Why don't he say something anything in English I mean. The prophet in the cave. Gabriel's ladder. Tomato soup and er. Or are.

MAN1 [To our lookalike

We are please to your self and. And like as how with old story of the bleak wind and how all cats glow gray with the the doings of the night. And things.

MAN3

--

MAN2

How come. How. It is a like a plumb stoned dime store show in which well a. Night get stuck with his foot in the jar. Pop goes the. The.

MAN1

So like as like does and you got both shoes on. Daddy.

MAN2

Round about to where I was fixin to be. I can talk "y'all" and "y'all" sure yeah with the best of them. And don't go and slap on me with all that stuff happens stuff.

MAN1

--

MAN2

What what.

MAN1

--

MAN2

You said what and well then what darn what did you.

MAN1

Just a figure so to speak as of the. Mind.

MAN2

No you meant something by that that what so what was she and her that

mule up to to to daddy. So snide we are.

MAN1

Well well I a sure am uh huh.

MAN2

Well and there you go.

[Exasperation at the folly of the whole damn thing]

All this give me a head's case and gut nut putt putt kllkkllkkllkkllk like before. Case like of how and as we did on the Peanut Ride on the Monkey Tree Guide same. Same as like as how. Too much head case for me. As I am a permanent fan of all likenesses.

MAN3

Ah,

MAN1

Not now daddy you.

MAN3

Perhaps I am same card as I am stuck between an pipe and an boulder and the same as him the other. Mister Al Queda.

MAN1

Precisamente yes that is how the jackass thing works precisamente.

You don't have to not be you, daddy.

MAN3

Ah,

MAN1

Get it now.

MAN3

Ah,

MAN1

Because you are you and not like what you look like it don't matter and so.
Both.

MAN3

Ah. Both yes. Ah.

MAN1

Nothing at stake for you daddy. Chew's all on our side of Lake Michigan
and all the horses.

MAN2

But if you was cut and dry and I'd be who why. Why I'd call you Karl like
that is who you are and say face faces and horse facts because Jesus is
who he just damn is.

MAN1

That is the whammy truth in four states daddy and in all of them legal.

MAN2

That on account well of how we and you got a same well lookalike and
well you got to cheese up to the bar.

MAN1

Cheese up to the bar and served like like a stone sober citizen and be
served a lethal dose of the facts fact I say facts serving as an adult they
last time I read the U. S. Constitution.

MAN3

Ah ah.

MAN2

--

MAN1

?

MAN3

Ah now. Now to please hey more no more of all gray parrot on one big lookalike look in sad and savage night place ding dong Zmerca.

MAN1

Gray cats not parrots.

MAN3

Gray pats snot carrots.

MAN1

No no no no no no no daddy. Listen daddy.

MAN3

How to talk Arabic now?

MAN1

No daddy the if is and the if was. Man was all to do with the length of a gray cat in the night's night's stinkbug cabbage patch of a hoodoo if you follow what I'm shit no.

Night's stinkbug with big pointed ears on on the hair part.

MAN3

Pardon no the parrot is an also night bird in yes clothes doing the no dance hop hop hop of our for instance your excellent Monkey Bop. Zmerca in small, joe.

MAN2

What is he saying now Karl crap this is. Getting to be all goobered and in general as kllkllkllkllkllk like before. Case like of how and as we did on the Peanut Ride on the Monkey Tree Guide same. Same as like as how. A head wreck of some kind of maniac shine I have a dount on. Severe and several this here dounts.

[A dountful pause]

MAN3
I have tired.

MAN1
We have done a great walk.

MAN3
I have the teeth ache and so to old watercloset go. With favor?

MAN1
Sure thing third door to right next to the box with the stuffed animals and water-cooler and what looks like a broom closet but is an other.

[MAN 3 stands, doubtful

MAN3
You think my illness danger?

MAN1
Your stat have nothing from troublesome if you do the water and if you doing the water same.

MAN3
Okay Joe.

[He goes out]

MAN2
What the catch on this?

MAN1
The third stall is broken.

MAN2
Should have.

MAN1

Trip to toilet. Not higher calculus.

MAN2

I know that. Could go myself.

MAN1

—

MAN2

Not to mind.

MAN1

When he when he comes back we'll finish off of the.

MAN2

Okay okay okay.

Okay okay.

Okay.

[Long pause as if no one knows]

MAN1

Remember that time.

MAN2

Yes.

MAN1

Remember that time long ago.

Yes.

MAN1

Remember that time out by.

MAN2

Yes.

MAN1

And the thing that happened that happened before that.

MAN2

Yes.

MAN1

And the way we looked with. With our hats on hats on fire.

MAN2

Yes.

MAN1

Remember the place we found there in the middle of the forest.

MAN2

Yes.

MAN1

The place that was hollow and filled with Time as though that Time were Space.

MAN2

Yes. Caught between the thick and the thin. With our hats on fire. And the dust.

MAN1

Dust dust dust. From dust to dust.

MAN2

And the the beautiful City just beyond the.

MAN1

Yeah oh yeah.

MAN2

The beautiful place where nothing happens where nothing can be heard and no sounds whatever and.

MAN1

A certain gentleman.

MAN2

Yes.

MAN1

Yes him.

MAN2

And we felt so safe so safe after that. After we had come to terms so to speak. With that.

MAN1

That certain gentleman.

MAN2

And I.

[Suddenly agitated. Pause. Takes a drink of water]

And if I am not mistaken I said something like. If I were him I would not prevaricate (is that the word?), I'd say. Hey, I'd say. Karl.

MAN1

And I would be thinking of Ann Coulter's legs. Jesus she's got legs on her that girl that go on forever go on forever.

...

MAN1

No no no that is not the it.

MAN2

What have he told you?

MAN1

That not says a word, consent.

MAN2

Grinds. Grinds us down to a fine powder.

...

MAN1

Because we found our faith er at that first place. And the fire dim upon the horizon. Glorious purplish dancing little feet of flame tap tip tap tip tap tip. By the crossroad. Just at. Sunup and was it sunup and sundown. Sun ups. The lambent and fiery nature of the human soul.

MAN2

You mean the man from Centralia. The man who stepped forth from the fire. Stepped forth from the earth. The man all covered with.

MAN1

Yeah, I maybe. Yeah. The him. He.

MAN2

—

[Odd moment as MAN2 seems to see his past streaming past like a flock of sparrows all wind and dirt and wow what does it really mean. A clear channel of the soul]

MAN2

Yeah. The him. Maybe.

[Now MAN1 has a powerful insight of a unknowable kind]

MAN2

He comes to pat me on the head and ask questions about how people feel and the people feel better if you say something that looks like something. Something different from what. And the people all the people feel better.

We people know that that even if well. Well you know. Anyway we feel better.

MAN1

Flames O. Balls of fire. Eyes of the fire cat.

MAN2

?

MAN1

Ever see a crazy crazy cat with a thick gray tail crawl up a plush curtain tail thick and eyes like hot sizzling coals.

I remember all that yes.

Here. Deep in the forest of whim.

Now.

MAN2

Now. What. What are you.

MAN1 [coming out of it

He said, When you have to approach something you desire very dearly you must always encounter obstacles on your path. And so you said Is there a catch to this.

MAN2

Is that what I said.

MAN1

Is there a catch to this, Because because it that it was an unspoken question to which you had no answer. Despite all. And you maybe suspected that there was a demon behind it all there there there at the crossroads.

[MAN3 returns from far far alas the OTHERS are so engaged they as if do

not see. He is holding a pencil]

MAN3
Can you?

MAN2
And yes I said Let's go to the crossroads, Karl, and see what's up.

MAN1
Yes yes because there was no catch.

MAN2
No matter what the doubter says.

MAN1
And finally that certain gentleman he said, Do this or the snake will eat you.

MAN2
—

MAN1
Do this or the snake will eat you is what he said.

[A sarpint pause]

MAN2
Hallelujah.

MAN1
Hallelujah.

BOTH
Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.

MAN2

Because of how you can get rid of demons just by well. Just by well.
Giving them stupid little things like kerchiefs alcohol and ham
sandwiches. Kerchiefs with bright colors.

[Suddenly sees MAN3]

Oh.

Startled me um us. We were fixing to um.

MAN3

I am like to take a trip with a bear and to the coming beck.

MAN2

Oh. Good.

MAN1 [Privately

The Dark Mercury says the castle is looking for him. He was drummed
out of their army.

[Pause. All compose themselves for a continuation of the previous
assessment process]

MAN2

Why is that?

MAN1

Whaa.

MAN3

Here it is a much fine and who bear. As you say I won't be a good and
fine cloth to coat make. Do you know it why.

[Pause in which MAN1 and MAN2 consider the problem of Dark Matter in
the universe and why she is unaccountable]

MAN1

I don't believe it.

MAN2
Neither. Neither does. I.

MAN3
Because it is looking like I am and not being the bad one. Mister Al
Queda. So what I want to know, Joe. Is What good ever come of it. Say,
Joe.

MAN1
Well and isn't that the point precisely.

MAN3
How.

MAN1
Yes how it go.

MAN2
Confess I was fixin to take up the same point.

MAN1
well let us then clear up all that.

MAN2
Okay.

...

MAN1
Because he is of course not being who he looks like. Being who. And
now say we are too who we look like it beggars us to not do that but. But
the as for him um.

MAN2
Er yeah.

MAN3

?

MAN1

As for the case of him and the stylistics of the process and the naag and the [devil tree] procedure.

[He coughs as though having got an inexplicable item of phlegm and the simulacrum of same stuck deep in the craw.

After this point till the end of Isosceles the words [devil tree] are inserted every 7.5 words of MAN1's text]

Call it dead ringers' monkey shine for short.

The point being we announce that we have him Ssmbnldn like like as how we and of Saddams in his hole. Ace in the hole.

MAN2

Pardon me if I am slow out there but how does there not be a catch here. No. No ace in the hole can secure here if it is found out because of how it if it am not no true replica but am the real well. Well real deal thing.

MAN1

No daddy no.

MAN2

Don't daddy me. Go and get daddy yourself.

MAN3 [Thinks this a fine joke

Harroon. He go daddy you.

MAN1

Deed in troth he do.

MAN3

Daddy you. She fums me.

...

MAN1

Look daddy it is it is so much more simple. He only gotta be presumed to be who he is not four weeks five weeks maybe six at the most. Mostbest. Because don't you get it daddy oncet the damn election has been Obstetricated and thus has been had it is all over slambang and we can go and say Tenant went and blew the thing and he is not who looks like but Joe Blow from Twin Forks where the hell ever.

MAN2

!

MAN3

! I am bigosh myself.

MAN1

You damn well should have been because for you it is and are one big as well hell payday. More big now than for those crazy videos in New Mexico.

MAN3

Is danger to me and my teeth.

MAN1

Big payday for your girlfriend brotherfriend cousinfriend sisterfriend whoever the hell as Eurobank in Dubai. Seven of six figure my guess. Seven make it. Solid jackass Euros.

MAN3

Euros. Six of the figure and maybe seven. Hmm.

[All three consider the manifoldyness of the idea and the manifoldyness of that deep place (Θυεδα) so revealed. Wow]

MAN2

Blame how. Who how. How who. Him.

MAN3

Not me. I do not be him on purpose I an accident, Joe.

...

MAN1

So it is like the like the man from Centralia the one we call. Skip it. Who stepped forth from the flame and murk and did do what he did.

[That settles the matter]

Did he not step forth from the fire and did he not do what he did and then did he not just go and disappear on account that doing having been accomplished. Yes he did slambang.

MAN2

Yea go and disappear yea.

MAN3

I did not till to disappear. No no no.

MAN1

Hell yes you will too and be one rich daddy in Dubai and or where the hell.

MAN3

Richashell.

MAN1

Rich as hell.

MAN2

Wow just to think on it the the whole thing beggars why it transfigures oncet you go and do that rotation.

[He considers deeply the rotation of the thought as though it were crystal

was which in a sense she am]

MAN1

In short gentlemen the soundness of the hieroglyphic beggars description and we. We was all deluded once more by crappy intelligence Hence we go and slap yourself on the wrist.

[All systematically slap in the moderation of meaningless and time honored ritual and go back to the splendor of the great idea]

We are apologized. But Tenant's the feeb and must be sent to pasture. Where he ought to go anyhow the fucker.

MAN2

And him?

MAN3

I am all to go innocent.

MAN1

Hell he don't know English and was in considerable doubt as to the cause of whereabouts in this region and at Guantamano.

MAN3

Μαψ μψ χαμελ βιτε ψουρ χαμελ□σ βαλλσ οφφ. [May my camel bite your camel's balls off.]

MAN1

That is right as hell and all because of crappy intelligence.

MAN2

Sure because of how that's. That's how he talks he just. Does that talk thing like he means to. Gibberish.

And.

MAN1

And we have the office slambang of the presidency four year more daddy.

MAN2

I think you and I think that so too.

[BOTH looks at MAN3 in a state of wonder and revelation. Pause of same]

MAN1

Ace in the.

MAN3

Dead ringer. This ink is white.

MAN2

Dead Ringer.

En of Skene

Scene: : Obtuse: MAN3 way down left of his two um ASSOCIATES. They are quite pleased with themselves and the beauty of the idea that has so beggared all implication and so say but little. MAN3 is left to himself and offers some small thoughts about life and fate's screwball.

MAN3

Joe Blow Abdullah from Jersey City New Jersey.

Omar the Tentmaker.

They think I am stupid.

Bug.

Bugs are stupid.

[Μη χαμελ□σ χαμελ□σ χαμε□ φυγκς ψουρ χαμελ□σ χαμελ□ χαμελ□σ ηου σεχατ] [Now in American] My camel's camel's camel fucks your camel's camel's camel's house-cat.

MAN1

He'll* do.

MAN 2

Dead ringer.

MAN3

I am come to the party also.

Thinking is action.

I can do act.

Maybe I can make a little mess up. Harroon.

Uh huh.

Let me tell a little a story about the Sand Man.

[Looks puzzled as MAN1 and MAN2 depart clandestinely for the unknown regions far far upstage. Smoking and whispering. Perhaps making also unflattering remarks about the mother of MAN3 who in fact flusters a bit] Open season on Arabs mans.

Open season on Omar the tentmaker.

[Pause to look at MAN1 and MAN2 who look back blankly as you would perhaps look at a Martian. This pause hold as is uncomfortable

Silence

More pausification. A pause to give pause. MAN3 turns slowly face to face us]

When I am rich I shall buy a hardwares tore in Jersey.

Maybe at Paramus.

Shoes tore maybe.

Get rich maybe like Cousin Moustafa lamps tore on Spring Street.

Or to the junior college go in.

Study computer graphics.

Cousin in Mahwah.

Go to Mahwah fine a wife.

Try to forget all this bad joke.

—

What's in if it and for.

For one like me.

Family in Cairo.

More family in Dubai.

More family in Mahwah fat Aunty Heba [Clearly Aunt Heba is not a cheerful character]

But a store maybe the electronic in Jersey City.

So I will do as told.

Talk Arab.

Χαμελ χαμελ χαμελ χαμε χαμρελ ... [Now in American: Camel camel camel camel camel camel]

Admit nothings.

Say anything but do not talk too much.

Have some patience with scary tests.

Matching the result let him have know can be done. Under the rug.

Let him have know not my problem.

Under the rug is an Asset. A special man.

Understand you it under the rug.

DNA

Some such bullshits.

And not don't worry.

Copacetic man.

So the Sand Man was this. Pile of sand and vermiculites who. Shit I dunno. Turned into an evil man and strangled elves and garden gnomes and lawn furniture and other children because they would not play fireplug with him.* Play the Monkeyshine. People

[MAN1 and MAN2 have begun a very slow and very quiet reprise of the monkey routine from before]

People get scared of him. Because he is off the earth and from from deep inside probably. Where the flower of of a hidden world roars up in thunder and awful licking flamelets. [The resort to ventriloquism] Our job is to puts kids to sleep only with without eating too many.

That is embarrassment if you do the power business. Like that big cat climbing the velvet plush with. Thick bristle tail and greenish blowtorch eyes.

Scrabble scramble scrabble up the curtain.

Because of Sand Man behind the screen there standing in the gloom with sharpest twisky twisty twisky curve of knife.

Not to make sound.

Be a good child and so go to the sleeps

[More ventriloquism]

Go to sleep.

Go to sleep not be confused by. [Thumbs upstage]
Go to sleep and not be carved to awful red haunch and all guts and mangle.

Sand at corner of eye.

Good child.

Nice good and untrue bedtime stories.

[Turns slow upstage to see the moneky routine reprise. All freeze.
Unfreeze. Turns back]

...

I can sympathize with that Joe.

Prodigal son.

Yes. I was too. Mid seventies in Beirut.

Casbah and the Crazy Horse.

Blonde girls I like best. Girls of Lebanese and Finland and French and of America.

Mercedes 350SE and then 230 Mercedes yellow one and very fast.

Lose the beard.

Bell bottoms and elegant moustaches.

Johnny Walker Black Label and Dom Perignon.

Casbah and the Crazy Horse and well-known nightclub Eve's.

Beirut in 1974 and 1975.

Neat jet black trousers and sports jacket soft golden suede shoes. Before.

Before. Like him a prodigal. Before.

Before the like of all likes when all the cats they glow gray. And only the slip of Muffy Hamilton knows why they do.

[A prodigal pause]

Bop bop

Bop bop and choo choo

Bop bop and choo choo

End of Play