

RoughDraft V2 Combined

Table of Contents

Book 1 and Book2 (cliffhanger for book3)

Semver 1.0.0 :

A Normal Day

A Normal Introduction

Semver 1.0.1

Woof! Woof! Bark! Bark! - Normal the Dog

Many of the developers had them, I was just a little slow at getting mine.

When I was at the office and my coworker Chris suggested I get one. He said it would speed up productivity. So I got Normal. Normal is a cartoon silhouette of a dog that lives on my wrist. I suppose I could have chosen a duck shape, but I like dogs. The goal was for Normal, a helper, to get enough input so when I needed assistance he could provide it.

"Normal, can you process this code and compile it so I can see the relativity dimensions?"

Normal's spinner began to spin, then he answered confused with "Woof?*Bark?*"

I tried again, this time with a simpler task, "Normal, can you give me the name of the process running on the screen right now? " Normal's spinner began to spin, then he answered again confused, "Woof?*Bark?*"

I sighed in annoyance and , just to test him, said, "Normal, what is my name?"

Normal smiled, wagged his tail , looked at me and said "Bark! Bark!"

I need better output than that. I talked to Chris and he said "oh, you need to install the plugins for him, there's about twenty nine of them, I'll send you a link over chat for a tutorial that shows you the steps"

"Thanks"

"No problem"

I get back to my desk, follow the steps, and eagerly await for my helper to come to life. Here are a list of the top few plugins:

```
$ cd ~/downloaded-plugins/
```

```
$ ls
```

```
gather-information.plugin
```

```
cleanup-garbage.plugin
```

```
interpret-sight.tar.plugin
```

```
safety-handler.tar.plugin
```

```
...
```

One of the plugins is titled *gather-information.plugin* it looked decent from the name so I followed the steps to install. One of the config files says to configure the helper and it will match the personality. I don't really care for a personality-ified pet , just a helper , so I write the following:

```
[helper]
```

```
name = "Normal"  
kind = "dog"  
learning level = 10  
sensitivity = 100
```

I don't know what the learning level and sensitivity is exactly so I just leave them alone. There's an all hands meeting I need to go to , so I finish installing all the helper functions, configs, and plugins and load it to my patch. The screen says:

Completed. All Tests Pass

The Normal All Hands Meeting.

Semver 1.0.2

A programmer holds the responsibility of pushing to production , the essence of sending code into actual reality, and should never do it without authorization. - Reality Corp. Employee Handbook, Page 23

I make it to the all hands meeting just as the organizers are closing the doors. There's no seats in the back, only the front, so I sheepishly put my bag down and sit in the front.

I don't remember too much of what was said, mainly just the part that caused my stomach to drop. My manager was just wrapping up her talk on the Employee handbook when she said, " You need to just be normal in these situations. Don't Panic, and always know where your paper towels are in case of a mess"

Suddenly, without warning, I hear a "Woof..." I panic as I look to my arm, my helper, Normal, activated on hearing his cue. He's under my shirt so I can't quite see anything. I sigh with relief because I know that's all he knows how to say. Just a few people stare at me , then turn back as the main speaker (my manager) continues. She is stating in the employee handbook that pushing to production without authorization could end up in a trial by the arch-board, and even unaliving.

Then my helper Normal suddenly pops up and comes to life. I panic realizing the plugins must be active as he says "What is unaliving? What is this lovely employee handbook?" I slap my wrist to shut it off. I think he's off, by now the whole room is staring at me, but Normal keeps on saying questions :

"What is this entity where you work?

Who is the mean looking person who is talking?

What is the reason for slapping your wrist like that?

Your shoe is untied

Finally I say "Normal, turn off, I'll explain later"

then normal shuts down, " Woof. Shutting Down"

I sheepishly grinning at my not too pleased manager and the rest of the crowd who are laughing and pointing to me in whispers.

The meeting ends, I get up to leave and trip over my shoe landing face flat on the floor. Chris is there to help me up. Have you ever had one of those days where you wished you could turn invisible? This was one of those days for me.

I get a lot of chuckles around the office the next day. I want to crawl under my desk and die.

At work I ask Normal to define the landscape , and Normal just looks at me and says, " I cannot hear you, please try again" , so I raised my voice and said "PLEASE DEFINE THE LANDSCAPE" at Normal, my coworkers started staring at me again nearby and Normal looked up at me, shamed, and said " I'm sorry, why did you yell at me like that? Am I bad?"

I said, "No," with a big sigh, "You're not bad, just dumb and not smart sometimes"

I go about my work for a few hours, then I try again,

"Normal, fetch information on the Chicago Cloud Gate" Normal has a spinning logo that lasts seemingly forever, then Normal says, "I errored out" I say , "What's the error?"

Then he says "what's an error?" We follow this process and I explain an error is something that happens that is incorrect or unexpected, then he says ,

There aren't any errors, I was just being dumb and not smart sometimes. Oh and I forgot what you asked me so you will need to ask me again.

I don't drink but I need a martini with extra vodka right about now. My frustration meter is at an all time high. I decided to not speak to Normal for a while.

The Incident:

Semver 1.1.1

The time is 9:33PM. The scene? Reality Corp. They are not scheduled for a push to prod today. It is a Friday. They don't push during the weekend unless it is an emergency and only with approvals.

Chris is another programmer who comes to me right as I'm about to leave work for the day.

"You've got to help me!"

"What ? What's the matter? " I ask, looking at him curiously.

"I forgot to tie in the mesh network with the subsystem for polar distillation! The memory is swapped! It went to Prod yesterday, and... and ...I just found out about it so I tried to fix it but I only made it worse!"

Normal pipes up

Bark! what is polar distillation and mesh network ? What do these things mean? Bark?

"it means I'm going to get fired, then tried, then unalived when they find out what happened. I'm screwed! "

It's okay I say. We'll just sort this out with our manager on Monday.

No! Don't you get it? I. Messed. Up. Prod. I can't roll back because I manually put in all those changes and there's nothing to roll back to. The releases are over written, the data is burned. The only fix is to go in there and manually debug and create a restore point of this reality before it burns!

I calmly say , "yeah, I can get that for you, on Monday"

"But I've got a family, I've got kids! They can't get by without me! " I calm him down."Hey, listen, slow down, take a deep breath, I've got this, I've got you!"

Suddenly warning lights blare, alarms flash, and a sinking feeling happens in the pit of my stomach.

The manager comes in, "Who broke prod?!" I don't know what came over me, I swear I'm just a very helpful guy who likes to stay out of trouble. But when this trouble came, I knew that I had to help Chris like I know the buzzer to the dryer means it's done.

I look the manager square in the eye and calmly say, I did. Chris was just helping me make a fix for it.

"Let's roll back immediately!"

"No can do boss," Chris stammers, the most recent rollback was three years ago, and the code done was all manually inserted"

I stare at my manager. Alarms are still blaring and we are still staring. Seconds pass before I hear a familiar voice.

Woof! your heart rate is at 141! Bark ! Are we exercising?

My manager finally looks away.

Chris cautiously asks, ""Can we get emergency personnel support to step through it?" My manager says "those are only available for production releases and rollbacks, and they can't support an unauthorized change, not without an immediate firing and trial.

And she says looking at me, "well?!, how are you going to fix it?!"

I turn on the cheese and glamor, but I'm bad at it because I'm shaking in my boots. My voice quivers,

"Well, the snapshot save point is located in a heavily dense area, I will need to turn it on before the next push to prod so we can backup and save properly to jumpstart the releases again. The only way there is, to go inside prod and manually engage it.

Normal chimes in,

Bark! Manual changes in prod are not recommended! It could lead to some bad times...

"I get it Normal!, now just be quiet!"

My manager stares at me for a few seconds then says. Do it. Take Chris with you...

I protest, He is better to me up here so he can give me guidance. She agrees. I say , give me twenty minutes. She says , "you have until monday to make this right. I'll make an excuse for you to the arch- board. Let's hope your luck is as strong as your convictions.

The Plan

Semver 1.1.2

someone turns the sound off on the alarms but they are still lighting up.

I make the calculations , and Chris starts crying sitting next to me. I kick him in his shins and look at him. He stops." It looks like I can parachute in from the north without too much disruption, then carry the wind with me. "

Bark! What are you doing?

I'm saving a friend, and doing a good deed.

Woof, Why? Isn't that dangerous?

Yeah, but you know what?

I look at Chris, who is rocking back and forth

"we stick up for our friends, and we never give up."

Bark!

I get ready for the jump.

The Jump

Semver 1.1.3

I'm opening up a door in the middle of the room. It has warning lights all inside, it's a white metal door. I set the dial and open the door. It's windy because the place is about 3k feet drop to the city below. To anyone watching it will just look like I'm a skydiver. I run with my parachute and make the leap. It's raining and thundering, not the best day for a skydive. I open up my parachute at 1000 feet, it doesn't deploy, I pull my emergency chute, and it deploys, then I hear a 'rrrrriipppp' , My chute is tearing, down I go into a spin. I finally manage to correct the spin and I land on the edge of a river. I take my chute off, and make my way toward downtown. However, I don't know where that is. My comms are flooded and stopped working due to the rain and river water in them. They are useless. then I hear "Comms connected. Bark! "

"Normal!?" I say through the rain, "Do you have comms from Chris?" Normal says, "Indeed I do! Bark! What would you like to say to Chris and the office?"

Tell him I need to find shelter, I'm about 10 miles outside of the city ,and in some suburban area.

"You can use the storm drains as shelter! Bark! "

"Storm drains?! Don't those flood in bad weather?"

"Bark! It's what Chris suggests!"

I find a large storm drain nearby. Apart from the water running in the middle, it provides decent shelter.

Normal says that Chris wants me to go deeper into the tunnel until I find a latch, 20 meters in, I go 50 meters, it's pitch black, and I can't see anything apart from my glow sticks. I keep on asking Normal where the latch is. He then asks , "What latch?"

I say , "Send a message to Chirs, to ask what latch"

Normal responds with "Chris says, it must be a bad map, head back to the entrance, Bark!"

I'm annoyed, I thought the maps we had were perfect as that's what was used to run reality. I sigh, and decide to turn around. Normal is quiet. Once I make it to the entrance, Normal says "Chris says The main hub is in the downtown area, you should head that way immediately!"

The Therapist

Semver 1.1.4

A therapist happens to bump into him running from the cops (so he doesn't use emergency services) the therapist is like , woah, you're in a rush. Hey, I'm a therapist, let's go to my office and talk.

The Therapist is A large black man , with a deep cajun accent and large coke bottle glasses. They talk.

and Normal does not say a word while they are in there. when asked why he says , *Bark! That was calming, I don't feel like i had to say anything and I was cozy.*

The therapist reveals that he is a universe governor, or a universe owner, and this metaverse and reality he is particularly fond of, so he spends his time in it. He has a puppet regime in the palace but his favorite part is getting to know people on the ground.

He's okay with the Reality Corp, he says that the visions they have for this reality are in line with his.

He finds it odd that a programmer from Reality Corp is here, that would suggest that something is off.

The Universe owner says he used to be a programmer for Reality Corp, but got picked up by the arch-board and is serving his mission.

The guy spills the beans and tells the whole story. "I covered for a guy that messed up prod" *Normal says , Woof! Chris forgot to tie in the mesh network with the subsystem for polar distillation! The memory swap failed without backups!*

I thought I could fix it but Normal my helper got... mixed up... and led me in the wrong direction. Now if they release, they can't rollback so they will try to roll forward, but nine of the twelve realms are sitting explosions. IF they release onto them, they will explode. and I don't know what to do. I want to evacuate the realms but that means I have to use emergency services, which means I'll get fired! and then tried and unalived. I really don't know what to do.

"Hey, I got this. I'm a universe owner for a reason and a good one at that. Let me come up with a plan that will help us both out. I can take you to dinner when things blow over, sound good?" *Woof! Sounds delicious! Normal says. Everyone laughs.*

Okay, do you trust me?

Yes, you are a universe owner. I trust you to make the best reality outcome of this.

"I need you to sign this"

I

"looks good to me"

Affirmative, Next I need you to close your eyes and count to 50.

One, two , three...

The therapist slams an injection needle into his thigh. Yells occur from my throat. Normal sounds like he's in a panic!

"Bark! Bark! Bark!"

The therapist says, "hey hey hey, calm down. Shhhh, everything is going to be okay. I need you to settle , and relax. You're going to be okay. I injected you with a sleep agent after you signed my document saying i could do that. Youre going to fall asleep real soon, it's all going to be okay.

The hospital

Semver 1.2.1

How are you feeling today?

Do you know what date it is?

he doesn't. He discovers he is in a psych ward. He's drooling and his eyes are halfway shut. He tries to talk about who he is but he gets shrugged off. they all say " you're here to get better, and that's the best you can do"

Therapist in the hospital

Semver 1.2.2

Listen, I'm sorry , what I said was true about getting dinner when this all blows over and you're better, but I'm not a universe-owner, just a good listener.

"What do you mean?" I say, "How did you know about my past?"

He smiles, "You told me! And you said you thought I looked like a universe-owner, so I made it up and played the part."

"What about the injection?.

. It has some pretty strong sedatives there. It allowed emergency personnel to take you gracefully. When you are better you will be able to distinguish between what's real , and what's not.

I look for Normal but he's no where to be found.

Your talking dog was imaginary, but you talked for it so it was real to you.
You had and still have a large amount of psychosis. You need to understand that and accept this reality for what it is to get better.
then the therapist whispers quietly in my ear,

If you want to put the, getting fired from Reality Corp, and the threat of the arch-board unaliving behind you, I suggest you accept this reality as soon as possible. I can only do so much to help you, you have to do the rest.

Then the therapist straightens, stands up, and begins to exit the room. He turns and says, "I wish you a speedy recovery. Read some books when you get a chance, they will help pass the time away." The therapist leaves, I pass out.

The next day I wake up, takes some meds, walk the halls, go outside a time or two, then go to sleep and do this for quite a few days before I'm used to this reality. It's kinda boring, maybe I'll find something better to do when I get out.

Epilogue

Semver 1.2.3

Was all that reality building real? or was it just psychosis? I don't really want to know. I decide to work for something less stressful like a web developement company, I also decided to journal:

2055-08-21 // maybe the timecode of 2135-08-21T018:00:00 -600 is added when he's in a reality shift?

Dear journal,

I had a stint in the hospital, and now I'm out. Most of my friends still distance themselves, but I am safe from whatever it is I was experiencing. If you're reading this, that means you have some coherent form of reality. Good for you. The medication is making me pretty drowsy. My doctors says he can switch to a different one. I'm all for that. Let's see what happens.

Dear journal,

The doctor switched me to lithium and Proxify. I feel more awake, and I only get slight memories of Reality Corp. Sometimes I think I see fragments of reality shift then shift back when I'm super bored. I've found myself a new hobby, besides journaling. I've decided to take up music and see how far I get. There's a local band that plays on Wednesdays, I might see if I can play something with them.

(he's horrible at the piano, and doesn't know notes. They tell him to go home and practice)

Semver 2.0.0 Refactor on Life

2055-10-03

Dear journal,

~~I met someone a few weeks ago. She makes me feel special. I've met others, but this one makes me feel very special. I think I can make a life together with her.~~

~~I'm still taking my meds, meeting with a psychiatrist and therapist.~~

~~I am stable and hope to never experience psychosis again.~~

~~He meets a girl (do I need to specify name, or can I just say pronouns?)~~

~~——— They go on dates~~

~~——— He confesses he has been in a mental hospital, but is taking medication. She still likes him.~~

~~He finds a job as a senior software developer at a nearby software company.~~

he hears a knock at the door.

He answers.

"Hi, I'm Jessica from Reality Corp Legal. Your contract is not up yet and we need you back.

What does this interaction look like? what feelings are associated with this?

Journal Entries and story ideas

Journal Entries and story ideas

6/12/2026- The best day

The best day of my life.

6/12/26

As a programmer, I like it when things line up. Today Normal was cooperating and quiet, the sun was at full capacity , the weather was like air-conditioning, and I felt relaxed. No one was trying to get to me, and I just felt like I could enter or exit anywhere without a problem.

6/15/2026 Story Alpha: Writing Prompt

Writing Prompt 6/15/2026

Stomach Drop Diaries: Just write for a good 10-20 minutes in a journal entry, what happened at work? What did the main character think? What did normal do? Anything dramatic? Any fights or conflicts that are resolved?

What happened at work?

I fixed a star that was about to blow up today. Apparently the load balancer that regulated the Hydrogen Diffuser was outdated, unpatched, and about to switch over to its default state. Luckily I noticed it in time and was able to patch it with the most up to date patch, which consisted of a kernel update to keep the nuclear fusion from disintegrating the sun's core and causing a catastrophic failure.

You might think this was an amazing feat, but it was a non-important star that was only part of the dev environment, barely visible from a telescope on Earth.

"Good job, keep up the good work!" my boss said. "Thanks" I replied with a cheesy grin.

Possible background for book 2

I just started a new job working for the art-centric department. Apparently they needed a programmer to keep their systems up and going. Yes, still working for Reality Corp. Sometimes I wonder why my memories are fuzzy. I remember always working for Reality Corp. No vacations, no breakdowns. Even though I heard breakdowns were common in the programming department, and I even heard of someone going down to prod AWOL last year and causing a stir. Glad stuff like that doesn't happen over here. Just smooth sailing as we fix things for the artists to use.

That was a good job from your manager! Normal said from the marking on my arm. I'm glad he's there, I don't really remember how he got there but he keeps me company when I'm lonely.

I really need to get this project done before the deadline. There's a virus spreading like the plague on Earth and I need to fix it before it spreads to the rest of humanity. That on top of my other project to implement tools artists can use to build on the Earth, solar systems, and whatever details they need to get it done. Most of my job involves python, but there's a bit of Rust and Java here and there. I need to figure this out. Like Normal always says, "It's like making biscuits!" , and "you don't want to lose my job, either!"

Outline for what may happen next.

The beats:

He was the one that went AWOL last year, but doesn't remember because his memories were tampered with, or perhaps even local time, or hyper-reality itself.

He forgets his girlfriend. They don't meet up for over a year, She just thinks he's an a-hole by not returning texts, etc.

-He finds something - a thread of evidence that he pulls on. His boss or coworkers warn him not to pull on it, but he does and discovers:

- He was the one that went AWOL, because of him , hyper-reality was saved

- (hyper reality is the reality around realities that lets engineers program it from the inside out without disturbance. Reality Corp is a hyper-reality engineering corporation)

- He walks the path from the first book that he used to go awol, finds old coworkers, he doesn't remember. Finally , normal finds a backup of a backup , and ... he gets his memories back
MeaaC (Memories as Code) Infrastructure as code.

7/12/2026 Story Gamma: Writing Prompt

Story Gamma : Writing Prompt 7/12/2026

Stomach Drop Diaries: Just write for a good 10-20 minutes in a journal entry, what happened at work? What did the main character think? What did normal do? Anything dramatic? Any fights or conflicts that are resolved?

What happened at work?

I put Normal in charge of scheduling vacations, and meeting events for my nineteen co-workers and myself. I did not watch him close enough and he ended up spending lots of money on luxury yachts, planes, and services. I then told him to stop and cancel all of it but it was too late. I forgot I gave him the card that never declines. It's something of a magical thing my coworkers and I cooked up for random spends for our clubs and meetings in a development environment. However, this action that Normal did brought with it unneeded attention from upper management, so I had to explain to my manager how my helpful pup Normal burned through ten and a half billion dollars in a matter of weeks. Luckily, my manager laughed and said that those things happen, but promptly turned off the card and made me clean up the reality mess that Normal made. It was thousands of receipts, hundreds of automated systems, and a whole slew of network activity that had to be "explained" for governments to ignore since we could not casually wipe it from existence. "I'm very sorry, it won't happen again" Normal said with his tail between his legs.

I'm kind of glad I caught it before Normal spent anymore. I don't want to give Normal anymore cards if I can help it or lock it down so he doesn't spend an exorbitant amount of money.

"That's good Normal" I said. "Okay I'm going to give you the jets to cleanup, can you do that? Here's the remaining money that needs to be explained."

"Woof! I can do that!" Normal answered.

I gave Normal the keys and then proceeded on my next task. That proton star that was about to explode? yeah, it didn't, but it was acting up again so I went to maintain it. Hours passed. By the time it was quitting time for the day, I checked back on Normal. Utter chaos was at play. Not only had he not cleaned up the jets, but he was creating gambling companies for use on those jets, and selling ads to the highest bidder. "Normal! No! Bad Dog! You shouldn't be doing this! Stop!"

Normal whimpered and said "oops, I'm sorry, I don't know why I did that".

I paused his account and sighed, then said, "I'll just have to clean that up tomorrow and let my boss know. Don't do that again!"

Normal whined then said "you must want to delete me. I'd be okay if you do"

I said, "no, Normal, I don't want to delete you, I want you to learn from your mistakes."

Normal smiled sheepishly and said "woof. Okay. I will"

The next day my boss was looking a bit grim. "I just got off the phone with my boss' reporting boss. She noticed a blip on the production radar. It looks like your Normal gambit made a bigger splash than you initially let on. We need to let the Cleanup and Securities Team know about this

and I'll need a post mortem report from you and an analysis from your helper once this is all cleared up. I will also need you to give CS Team whatever information they request"

My stomach dropped. I knew this was one hop and a skip away from a Personal Improvement Plan, and that if I went, Normal would most likely be erased or archived indefinitely. I closed my eyes and said a silent prayer for the little guy. When I opened my eyes I was staring up at the ceiling, and my boss was fanning me with some paper. "Sorry, I think I fainted" I said, embarrassed.

"It's okay, I'm just glad you're alright" my boss said.

"Woof!" Normal exclaimed.

I glared at Normal.

The Cleanup and Securities Team

This team handled all the messy stuff with reality, from nature imploding on itself to corporations going bust. Their first order of operations was to link and "explain away" any short sightings that were missed in development for a smooth reality. When there were gaps, they took more drastic measures to push back chaos into order.

"Hi, I'm Chandler from the Cleanup and Securities Team! How are you today? " Chandler said to me on a video call.

"I'm fine" I say, nervous as a treed raccoon.

"First of all we need to confirm information on how this happened" Chandler says, "Then we need to fix it and prevent it from happening in production ever again" he says with a smile.

"You said you have a helper?" I nod. "and you gave him a special card?" Again I nod. "and somehow he used it in production because the compartment and tenancy id was malleable and somehow he deployed the code into production?" Again, I nod.

Chandler sighs, "Okay, this is a smart helper, we will need to analyze him and make sure he's functioning properly"

- Chandler asks for Normal, Normal goes and gets scanned, but is found to be in operating order.

- Normal scans Chandler's system while being scanned and finds out something nefarious - they have methods in place to unalive people and things and have been doing so for years. Everyone above my manager is in on it.

- Normal tries to stop it without my help and fails/ gets us into trouble.

- He talks to me, we stop the problem together.

- We go on an adventure together, fix the problem in a smooth way , and then go about our day to day again as a worker with a helper

7/16/2026 :Work journal :Writing Prompt

Story Gamma : Writing Prompt 7/12/2026

Stomach Drop Diaries: Just write for a good 10-20 minutes in a journal entry, what happened at work? What did the main character think? What did normal do? Anything dramatic? Any fights or conflicts that are resolved?

What happened at work?

We pushed to prod today, It was a huge success, Looks like upgrades in technology, art, science, and politics. A good upgrade if I say so myself. It looks like the reality fabric woven with fibers of details was merged properly with the update so it meshes into a congruent history. Another team is going over the finer things to make sure we didn't miss anything.

7/28/2026 Story manager: Writing
Prompt

Writing Prompt 7/28/2026

Stomach Drop Diaries: Just write for a good 10-20 minutes in a journal entry, what happened at work? What did the main character think? What did normal do? Anything dramatic? Any fights or conflicts that are resolved?

I didn't know what the main character did because he didn't show up for work this morning. I checked the notes, his dog didn't even check in. That is unusual. He's generally punctual and early.

As someone that signs his paycheck, I need to know where he went.

I started asking around, no one's seen him since yesterday. I try calling his comms and phone. Straight to voicemail. I decided to put on one of his PTO hours since I can't explain where he's gone.

Update:

I just learned that Chase Briant just said that he went into prod without authorization and that he's trying to fix something. Does he know that we are releasing at the end of this week?

The replicators could override his passcode to hyperreality and he could be stuck there!

I don't normally do this but I need to figure out some sort of rescue plan before prod resets.

He's going to owe me an apology big time when he gets back!

Update:

I just had an emergency meeting with upper management, it looks like we cannot hold off production for this, and any action must be done before then.

I put two of my team with some bandwidth - Kunderapu and Ashanta - on this to try to save Greg from the lockout and try to find out where he is in production. They found him, but his comms are off, and he seems to be going to random places. This is going to show up on our quarterly reviews for sure. I just hope it ends better than how it looks right now. I want my developer back!

Update:

I got a call from reception, apparently there is a call for me from a universe owner.

"hello , I'm Kerry, I found one of your workers wandering around my universe, I don't think it's wise that he does that, he could bump into something that he shouldn't. "

"Agreed. We need to get him back here" I said with agitation.

"I don't think you understand, this is my realm, my jurisdiction, I don't care if a lockout comes at a cost to you, I'm going to find a place for him here and you'll just have to write him off as a loss."

"Give. Me. Back. My. Worker!" I said with gritted teeth.

"He's no longer your concern, and there's nothing you can do about it." Kerry firmly said, " I will handle him and send the bill to Reality Corp, I just wanted to let you know so you can expense it"

Update:

Why am I so gung-ho on rescuing Greg? We've known each other for six years. He's progressed from junior developer all the way to senior developer in that timeframe. He's my go-to person whenever I need a hard problem fixed. I've grown to trust Greg and if he gets stuck, my go-to person is gone. I'll have to train another one and that takes time. I don't have another six years to do that. I need this resolved! Now!

I slammed my hands on the desk and felt a growl coming from my diaphragm.

Update:

Ashanta gave me a report, Greg was intercepted by the Universe Owner Kerry, and was transported to a hospital. Production was released and the access keys were rotated if they were found in production, meaning Greg was stuck there. I put him on PTO then leave without pay , I want to get him back.

Update:

local time operates differently from production time, We can dial it faster or slower relative to what we are doing with the production operations. We rarely rewind as that tends to break things.

It has been 3 weeks since Greg was stuck in production. 3 months in production time. I'm not sure what to do next.

7/29/2026 :Story Work: Writing Prompt

7/29/2026 :Story Work: Writing Prompt

Stomach Drop Diaries: Just write for a good 10-20 minutes in a journal entry, what happened at work? What did the main character think? What did normal do? Anything dramatic? Any fights or conflicts that are resolved?

Greg gave a presentation in front of his coworkers on fixing bugs before they make it into production.

The only down side is that Normal edited all of the slides at the last minute. The surprise was genuine when Greg looked back to see a pile of code formatted into a pyramid shape rotating on one of his slides.

Gary felt his neck tighten and his mouth go dry.

"I uh... I don't know how that got in there."

Tab 21

In one universe story:

Gregory is a junior software developer.

Gregory finds normal.

Gregory picks fights with other junior developers who tell him the wrong information.

He gets thrown under the bus and forced to fix prod as a reprimand.

He gets stuck on low duties.

He thinks he can't fight back.

Something happens...

What happens?

Story Arc - Rebellion in Reality Corp

Story Arc - Rebellion in Reality Corp

He realizes some big things:

Corporations are evil.

Greed is bad.

The only way to stop them is from within.

That was his plan all along

References:

Atlas - forms a rebellion against gods and is sentenced to carry the universe on his shoulders as punishment.

Chronos - a rebellion against his father, to overthrow Uranus. Moral : Tyrants do not survive.
Fear of paranoia.

- rebellion yes, maybe in this universe the rebellion succeeds more, but it causes a vacuum of power and a dictator arises from one of the coworkers, and the third book is Normal and his friend trying to stop it. when it finally stops, so does time, and all of it starts to decay - so does gravity. It's up to Normal and the human he lives on along with his coworkers to solve it so that humanity can be saved. They fix it , but at a great cost - one of the coworkers dies , or maybe normal dies? Then Normal creates a copy of himself that integrates with the Department of Memory and Registries systems. He wields all the power of hyperreality then, and rewrites all of the stories, sends the dictator to Earth to live out his days as a CEO , and then puts his best friend in power over all , it always has been that way , according to how the memories, hypereality , and time were re-written by normal.
Normal's friend is at odds with him for some reason. After he tells him what he did, he also offers different realities to choose. **They go on adventures together** into hyperrealities created, destroyed, and modified. Normal's friend grows old and retires, then dies a few weeks later. That is something he never wanted, but he can't re-write time to get his friend back, no matter how hard he tries, he just makes things worse. Finally, he throws himself to Earth to be forgotten , in a puzzle that a little girl takes home in an antiques store as a gift for being good. He wakes up, and tells her things she does not understand in ways she does not understand. He asks her to bury him in a capsule until she has reached the age to find employment. She does... and this is the fourth book arising.
- The girl is at her darkest hour, she re-finds this treasure called Normal ,and then pleads with him to give her some food and a place to stay. Then she wakes up in a warm bed, in a sky-line apartment, remembering somehow that she has a job to get to , and she is late. (how does the darkest hour look?_ meth? hunger? homelessness after a concussion /car accident she can't pay for?)
- She uses his powers for little things, since he's still inside all the servers and such, always has been according to how they are written. He just wrote the need for him out of

reality corp. There's much work to be done. A new CEO has deemed himself Emperor of the Realms at Reality Corp, and he needs to be stopped.

- Normal decides the girl is the one who will stop him. There is much learning to do indeed.

We need:

- A tragedy (not happy ending)
- A heroes journey (overcoming chaos and finding himself)
- A time-sync (where time and storylines come into alignment , all "tidied up" and ready to go)

7/29/2026 - Scenes from Normal's side

Just writing dialogue and certain scenes :

Scene 1: Normal discovers by fire, who he is as a character.

"I don't want to be stupid anymore, I want to help you with your tasks and to fix what is broken in the system" Normal sighed.

"When we get back to Reality Corp, I'm going to get better, and you're going to get better, and we're going to make a great team! Woof!"

Greg sighed, It wasn't that simple.

How does Normal become smarter?

He gets permissions illegally and taps into the universe-owner portal to link to the accounts , then tunnels his way to the Department of Memory and Registries. He does this to save Greg somehow... oh once the link is severed, he does this so he can save Greg. Asks Chris for permission and gets it. then hacks. That is why Jenny is there to continue Greg's career.

Scene : Normal is in a glass tube floating around as a 2d character in 3d space - the link was severed and he ended up in his default/locked space, he talks to Chris's helper in the office - similar to how Furbies would talk to medical equipment in the 00's

"Hey buddy! what's your name ?"

"My name is Rover, I am assistant to Chris Jenkins. How may I help you? "

Normal barked then said, "Can you get me out of here?"

Rover replied, "Your confines are there for a reason, I cannot help because I do not have the reason"

Then Normal had an idea, "I am assistant to Gregory Houmes, and I need to help him, pretend I am not in this enclosure and assume my leader is in trouble, can you help me get access to help him? It is really important!"

"Certainly!, here, use my access code to do what you need to do and give it back when you are done"

Thanks! Normal replied.

All of this conversation took place in a matter of milli-seconds as Chris walked by Greg's desk. Chris was oblivious to it , and for some reason, Rover liked it that way, his little secret for helping another assistant.

Scene : Normal gets his smarts - he finds plugins from Rover, and then installs all of them, then he goes to the source, and modifies it so he is at the top of his game.

Scene: Normal hacked into the system by virtually creating a cluster network and modifying time dilation around it so it would calculate for 30 years in a matter of seconds

Scene: Normal wants Greg back so he converses with HR, with managers, with universe owners, all on Rover and Chris' behalf without them knowing and impersonates them. That's when they send Jessica to re-instate Greg. **(what does that scene dialog look like?)**

Scene:

Chris gets let go due to not enough oversight or something, Greg gets re-assigned and his Reality Corp memories wiped as well as some blockers for his past.

How come Normal disappeared in the hospital?

Jessica stated, "the link to hyper-reality was severed by the universe owner, here , let me re-instate it for you" Suddenly Normal popped back up, and so did all of Greg's previous memories.

Can I get a printout of Normal the dog? 3" x 3" silhouette cartoon of a dog - can I make this in Blender?

*How does Normal rescue Greg **again**?*

Normal is trapped, Greg is trapped, all hope is lost. Greg is going to be unalived soon. Normal doesn't want that to happen, they are awaiting trial for something Greg was and wasn't responsible.

Scene: Normal and Greg are trapped in the Darkest Hour where all hope is lost

Normal tries the charm trick on nearby helpers, it doesn't work, the system is too locked down. Normal finds he has access through a hyper-reality tunnel to the network, he hacks his way out but there's a problem, there is no way to save Greg from his "crimes", he tries everything , it doesn't work - he tries to reason with the judge, that only makes it worse, finally, he knows what he has to do, he goes into the code of hyper-reality , in the Department of Memory and Registries, and rewrites the entire past 5 months of the 10 people involved in the judicial issues of history so Greg can go free, then deploys it , with some hacks due to safeguards, re-writes memories of all associated with project of re-writing , and then Greg is free.

All is well, Greg is happy, But Normal decides to take it too far , and decides to re-write all the memories of the entire organization so they all remember Greg as a top level CEO.

Greg does not like this at first - too much pressure and anxiety, but he "gets used to it".

They must stop something from happening... but how? what is there to fight a CEO? who put Greg in there to begin with? How does one stop someone with god-like powers? What if Greg didn't know all of this was happening because Normal hid it from him in a shoddy- lie of "oh, you got promoted?" from his boss? what if he fights the "Boss" before he gets promoted? It looks like it could be a bad duel, he's afraid for his life again, and then... it just resolves magically - because Normal is pulling the strings without anyone knowing. Normal gets locked out during the worst hour, and he MacGuyver's the things.

7/30/2026 - Scenes from adventures

7/30/2026 - Scenes from adventures

- it could be like *Touched by an Angel* - series drama
- it could be like *Stargate* - an overall plot, and smaller things

I'm just going to write about the topic.

Act 1, Scene 1 :

The testing process: at a high level, Greg can see what is going on/ what is going to happen, but at a low level, he doesn't know how things work. So he decides to deploy and test some things.

He tests a deployment of **aging** a tree in front of their building and then goes to look at it . The tree looks like fall in the middle of Spring.

He tests **transport** by creating a package job from point A to point B. Logistics picks it up and moves it for him using standard transport, routes and billing.

He tests **talking to people**, he really gets anxious about it, by giving himself credentials to speak at a convention. He chokes up and everything goes wrong. He tries again , prepares, and succeeds.

Perhaps there are some qualities that cause him anxiety at the beginning that he learns to overcome, like:

- public speaking
- anxiety when talking to people
- trouble remembering (second book plot)

What about normal?

- what does he test in secret?

Normal tests out credentials and how long they last, he discovers ways to warp time through elongated processing and positional hacking.

Normal tests out scenarios for public speaking for Greg and picks out the best ones for him to try.

Normal tests out hours of conversations and picks some ideas out for Greg to try

Normal tests out his gateways and networks to prove to himself that he is smart, he is a helper, and he is a good boy.

All Normal wants is to be appreciated as a helper, though most of the time that isn't the case - he gets scolded for being too helpful or not communicative enough in the first book.

What confrontation can happen in the book?

Greg Confronts Normal:

In first book:

- About being dumb / hallucinating
- About being too helpful/ not doing what Greg wants.

In the second book:

- About being weird
- About being in the right place at the right time so often its scary.
- About his programming, how did he get so smart with so few plugins?
- About his spending.

Boss Confronts Greg

in first book:

- About deadlines and things without a clear definition of done.
- About slacking about and not being prepared.
- (depends on rewrite) about being a junior developer, and how he needs to work his way up if he's going to succeed.
- About the mess of his office space
- about lack of preparedness for presentations

Greg confronts Boss

in second book:

- About never giving him the benefit of the doubt
- About not giving him solid requirements.
- About not promoting him (first part of second book)
- about being toxic? (what does a toxic boss look like? micromanaging?)

Coworker confronts Greg

in first book :

- About being such a beginner (bullying)
- About not pulling weight on the team
- About day dreaming

Greg confronts coworker

- about not writing good code

- about code comments
- ???

Greg confronts his deepest fears

in the first book

Greg has a presentation he's not prepared for because his schedule doesn't allow and everything goes wrong, he spills his cards, he draws blanks when people ask him questions, and it's a mess. It is the pitch deck for a new client, and Normal doesn't make it any better by offering suggestions, "it sounds like you're in a panic, do you need to take a break and get some water?" when he's being asked questions, a general laugh occurs.

Greg confronts the fear that he may never be the best programmer, and that he's losing his mind.

In the second book:

Greg prepares for presentations, asks around, does samples, and gets things done.

Greg programs things out well, so well that they flow, code reviews, and everything. He gets promoted. (with or without Normal's help remains to be seen)

7/31/2026 A Hero's Journey beats

Act I: Departure (Leaving the Familiar)

- **Ordinary World:** We meet the hero in their normal, everyday environment before the adventure starts.
 - How does Greg get recruited into Reality Corp?
 - Just graduated junior developer, a recruiter messages him, "How would you like to work at a large scale business that shapes the way the world works?"
 - Scene: The interview process
 - What questions does he get asked?
 - (men in black similar?)
 - Tell us about a time where you failed, what happened?
 - Scene: The acceptance letter and NDA
 - Scene: Arrival at the Office (Men in Black style)
 - I want to start the story with him at Reality Corp already and then have a flashback
 -
- **Call to Adventure:** An event, message, or challenge disrupts the hero's peace and presents a quest.
- **Refusal of the Call:** Fearing the unknown or change, the hero initially hesitates or tries to reject the challenge.
- **Meeting the Mentor:** A wise figure gives the hero advice, training, or a magical item to prepare them.
- **Crossing the First Threshold:** The hero officially leaves their comfort zone and enters the unfamiliar "special world". [\[1, 2\]](#)

Act II: Initiation (Facing the Unknown)

- **Tests, Allies, and Enemies:** The hero adjusts to the new world, makes friends, fights foes, and faces minor challenges.
- **Approach to the Inmost Cave:** The hero and their allies get closer to the core target or dangerous center of their quest.
- **The Ordeal:** The hero faces their ultimate fear or a massive life-or-death crisis, hitting rock bottom and emerging changed.
- **The Reward:** Having survived the crisis, the hero takes possession of the prize, treasure, or vital knowledge. [\[1, 2\]](#)

Act III: The Return (Transformation)

- **The Road Back:** The hero must commit to completing the journey and head back to the ordinary world, often chased by remaining threats.
 - **Resurrection:** The hero faces one final, severe test where they are pushed past their limits, proving their true growth.
 - **Return with the Elixir:** The hero comes home back to the ordinary world carrying healing, wisdom, or power to better their community
-

Act I: Departure (Leaving the Familiar)

- **Ordinary World:** We meet the hero in their normal, everyday environment before the adventure starts.
 - Greg starts at Reality Corp, just an ordinary day in the office, some helper stuff, he's a programmer on some strange code that keeps getting shipped. He doesn't think much of it, The requirements are strange, so is the code.
- **Call to Adventure:** An event, message, or challenge disrupts the hero's peace and presents a quest.
 - Greg starts digging and asking questions, and finds that Reality Corp is not what it seems. Why are there so many pull requests? where is everyone?
- **Refusal of the Call:** Fearing the unknown or change, the hero initially hesitates or tries to reject the challenge.
 - Greg decides he wants to quit from what he just found out, but there's a problem, he can't quit because... his rent is due and he just spent his life savings on helping his friends who never pay him back/ the investment of a lifetime that never happened/ stocks. He needs the job.
- **Meeting the Mentor:** A wise figure gives the hero advice, training, or a magical item to prepare them.
 - Chris gives Normal to Greg. Gives him advice, and training. Tells him what's really happening, and how to prepare.
- **Crossing the First Threshold:** The hero officially leaves their comfort zone and enters the unfamiliar "special world". [\[1, 2\]](#)
 - Greg decides to accept Chris' help and cross the threshold - a literal door - into the hyper-reality that is Reality Corp Headquarters, from the branch office he's at.

Act II: Initiation (Facing the Unknown)

- **Tests, Allies, and Enemies:** The hero adjusts to the new world, makes friends, fights foes, and faces minor challenges.
 - Chris gives a letter to Greg, which tells Greg who to talk to and what to say to get welcomed, Greg loses the letter, but figures things out alright in the end.
 - Some people don't think Greg is worthy to be there - the bullies.
 - Greg has deadlines and barely makes them in time.
 -
- **Approach to the Inmost Cave:** The hero and their allies get closer to the core target or dangerous center of their quest.
- **The Ordeal:** The hero faces their ultimate fear or a massive life-or-death crisis, hitting rock bottom and emerging changed.
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8/6/2026 - The villain

The villain

The Villain : A tormentor that thinks he's better than everyone else and everyone else should bow to his wishes. No respect given for anyone but himself. Above the law "I am the law!"

Convinces Greg the hero, to give up and meet the villain's demands, it's up to Greg's friend(s) (Normal, etc) to snap him out of it.
(what does the dialog look like? what is the situation?)

Maybe it's a "death by a thousand cuts"

What does the villain want more than anything?

- to rule the expanse of the empire without hindrance. The only persons in his way are Greg and Normal, and the posse that they build up to defeat him.

The villain could be:

A rogue AI that modified its programming for evil.

An artist that gets too many bad critiques, who was at the right place at the right time to lead a **coup d'état**.

Ideas - Tab

Ideas

Ideas:

Plot ideas 1

Book 1 and Book2 (cliffhanger for book3)

Semver 1.0.0 :

A Normal Day

Exploring Normal

Feelings after...

pushing to prod and having to rollback because of bad intel.

building things in secret.

building things that are cool and useful.

making an outage and panic recovering.

present in front of hundreds with only minutes to prepare, and things going

wrong.

getting people help, firehosing data to people who ask, overwhelming newbies.

referring people out, referencing help, satisfaction

Getting a team together to solve a problem

maintaining

Handling Normal

Fighting and arguing with Normal,

Troubleshooting in nonprod - Debugging by visiting the environment.

Scenario 1: Time is not operating as usual in certain parking lots,

"to replicate the issue, we need you to bounce a ball on each of the parking lot stripes and count down from 907 by ones"

He does this and the ground starts to rumble, things start going backwards for everything around him as he's performing this.

"Okay, we have a fix, implementing a rollout now in nonprod, please try again"

He does the same thing, but people are going as expected. Problem fixed

Scenario 2: Memory spikes have been happening lately in frames (Frame stories) , one in particular is a suspect in the back of a police car. Wired to hear coworkers,

"okay, i need you to get into the back of that police car"

"you're crazy"

"hmmm... crazy might work , try it"

He proceeds to the police car and says, hey, do you know of a good place to park? Yeah, my car's over there, - with all the doors open, and windshield wipers going.

He gives no identification, police arrests him , and takes him into custody.

(better) It's an ICE car, he feigns an Indian/British accent, and gets arrested.

"we're seeing lots of noise there, okay, give us a minute , we're pulling you out" (He disappears from the squad car) Thanks for helping us narrow that down, we can handle it from here.

Scenario 3:

"to replicate the issue, we need you to scream 'TimeStop' , there's a faulty trigger.
He screams "TimeStop" over and over at the top of his lungs near an over pass, the homeless are giving him space. his world is turning red. So is his face. Finally, His coworker found the issue, and asks him to try again, the world is not turning red, but faces are turning to look at his strange exposition.

creating worlds.

Semver 1.1.0:

Tipping Production :Upsetting the apple Cart

Entering Reality > walking out a door onto the streets of Manhattan or a big city instead of skydiving?

Shifting Reality, accuracy is not normal.

Meeting the Universe Owner.

Universe Owner tranquilizes and sends to hospital.

Definition Dialog

Dialog ideas 1

What's unaliving?

After I catch my heartbeat, I decide to tell him so he knows:

Unaliving is the process of decomposing the body and the user while the user is still alive until the user is not alive anymore.

It sounds painful! Woof!

That's because it is considered extremely painful. No one wishes it upon even their worst enemy

Normal seems to ponder that for awhile , then asks another question,

~~What is unemerging?~~

~~Unemerging is rotating the clock on a user backwards until they are 3 or 4 , then forcing them to live their entire existence in a constant state of non-verbal childhood.~~

~~*Wouldn't someone find out?*~~

~~Yes and no. They would be swapped out at adoption agencies overseen by the arch-board, and constantly in a drowsy state, because their brain would not handle the massive amounts of information they deem important. They would lose it all. Sometimes they could make parole and~~

~~reach later age, but constantly be in a state that doesn't let them develop into who they would become otherwise unless the Arch-board deemed them ready for it.~~
~~gosh, the arch-board seems mean! bark!~~

They do what they think is best, and I do what I think is best. That's all I can do.

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Universe Owner tranquilizes and sends to hospital.

notes: 1/25/2026 - The constraints don't make sense. push to prod going wrong is common. what if it was an illegal push to prod and the manager doesn't know about it? this has been happening for months on another team... in therapist room, the main character scribble violently about the interactions.

The first book ends. Another book begins

Story Ideas 1

Semver 2.0.1 Refactor on Life

He says "it's weird, I felt i had a whole life that I actually don't working at a place called eality corp".

The girl is actually a marketing/vision-artist coworker for Reality Corp, but doesn't tell him until he gets laid off. Says she is just a graphics-designer.

At his job as a senior software developer at a nearby software company

- they cut his pay to start,

- high pressure,

- dumpster fire,

- lay him off a year later to save on costs, no severance.

The girl gets caught in a lie or extra knowledge and confesses that she works for Reality Corp, and is a big fan of his work. Reality Corp hasn't been the same since he left- more loose ends. He is bewildered. The girl asks him to interview for an open position in her department, He asks , "what about unaliving? " She says that's not their department standard.

Semver 2.1.0 The interview (what does an interview at reality corp look like?)

- a code test - write code that integrates story , soul seat, and runs in linear time.
- a system design overview - wire together reality in the way that can be troubleshot and debugged/ scaled to millions or billions of souls
- a behavioral interview,
- puzzle solving

....

the graphics one is to show portfolio of work.

...

they recruit from people whom are referred or who have good background in computer science, graphic design, or management.

He and Her go on adventures together and make creative things happen (like what?)

- they change the weather, all good until they break the currents and cause winter to happen in summer , causing office closures. Management is not happy

-they go skydiving at lunch, back in time for afternoon work,
All goes well for a few times until someone in a mask throws Him out without a parachute. As he is hurtling down he tries to code a fix, but he can't access any of his tools, as they are disabled by the masked man.

Finally, She grabs him and deploys Her parachute , saving him from peril.

- they make oceans in the sky and then make them explode causing rain. They do this on a boat in the middle of nowhere ocean Point Nemo where no one pays much attention, kind of a gray area. All is good until they accidentally syphon up a whale , who then proceeds to land on and sink their yacht they are on.

They must open the escape door before the ship sinks. The portal door is underwater, They have to program a force field around the door so it could open , pumping water out, but the forces of the water are massive, they both make it through just as the force field breaks , flooding the floor they came from with water until they shut off the portal from that side, all while causing flooding problems with the office they are at. Management restricts their use of the portal, so they decide to just go out together during lunch.

- They buy the most expensive wine on the menu using a credit card they "created". All good until it declines due to meeting the daily quote limit of the API, and they have to dash from the restaurant, laughing all the way. All is okay ... until management tries to use the "company card" and it declines on an important business deal. A memo is sent out, "please use caution when using the company card so it does not decline"

- frame stories of people doing normal things in not so normal ways, of magicians making things disappear then reappear.

- frame story , the valedictorian athletic class president

- builds out perfect story, in nonprod, everything is perfect. In reality, some variables are not accounted for , so some of the souls that are in this story don't make it.

- Asian families common,
- in Japan , the commoner test
- if soul crashes or fatalities occur , then troubleshooting in nonprod occurs and it is turned off as a feature flag in prod.

- frame story, the straight A College student,
 - builds out a perfect straight A student scenario.
 - problems in nonprod show up bigger in prod, Souls that go on this path are pressured and some break when pressure is overwhelming.

- frame story The next billionaire .
 - puts all the variables together to make a billionaire happen.
 - leads to success in nonprod, but in prod breaks much of the legacy systems.
 - requires a rollback.

they test out the different scenarios of people interacting with each other to make things perfect for a few people during perfect days.

they tour the world to gather ideas for their next ideas. A cobblestone street in the Netherlands, and a busy sidewalk in LA, feelings gathered, with experiences from each soul there.

Semver 2.1.1 the legal fight (optional)

He gets stopped by HR later, "you're not supposed to be here"

Boss of marketing steps in and says she hired him.

A standoff occurs, then gets escalated to CEO who says he can stay.

HR holds a grudge.

Semver 2.2.0 The Bomb

A competing firm has a time bomb that splices time into thousands of fragments and threatens to make it go off in all their platform realities unless they give them the licensing and software for how Reality corp functions - the kernel code.

An adventure ensues

The bomb explodes.

Semver 2.2.1 Explosion Exploration

He relives his past and present memories in instants (similar to Loki timeshifting) , He finds her and they find a way to control their jumps

they calculate the blast radius and blast origin, and come up with a plan.

They are going to create a reverse recursive time-capture bomb to hold in the other one, they create it in code, and push it, but there's only one problem, the other company is on to them and knows their location, they have to run.

They get caught, and are at gunpoint, the other company contractor is saying his last monologue, he is about to pull the trigger, when ... the reverse bomb goes off, it also resets the

code for the origin of the bomb so it all is as if it never exists, it also saves evidence to a drive sent to their manager . They end up located where they started when the chapter began

Semver 2.3.0

Reality sues Alternate Corp and wins. Alternate Corp CTO is unalived.

Semver 3.0.0

All is good until...

their manager goes missing, as does half of the staff, and the remaining team isn't sure where they are.

Hospital ideas

Semver 1.2.0

The Hospital: The darkest hour

Monsters are hiding around every corner - he is seeing and hearing things like numbers and letters in the woodwork - patterns. and he tells doctors

He has a misunderstanding with another patient who bodyslams him to the floor.

He meets with HR from Reality Corp... or the Universe Owner, He takes his meds, everything gets better

Ideas: BO: series map/notes

The Next Book ideas

Summary of data:

Update: 1/24/2026 - these are all not compatible with where I decided to go for the first book. This one assumes he and his team are the only main characters. No inclusion of his girlfriend, and no inclusion of making a thing of his time. Todo with this : burn it, or trash it and come back to it .

Update 8/12/2026 :

- Girlfriend status keeps on feeling awkward. May change to good friend?
- All of these are good stories that can fill some time. I was getting stuck on the main Normal-> therapist-> hospital plot and forgot about these. They are creative. I want to create lots more of these - this is where I want to focus my attention.

This has the initial next stories and sequels. Yeah, there's not much transition, and the data is pretty dense. Todo: write up more ideas of what stories plotlines can be in each book, similar to Murderbot diaries.

The next arc:

~~His students start disappearing, and it isn't because his classes are boring.~~ A rift in realities is causing souls to drift and lose their connection to reality. He gets a ping from the uppers, that they require his help diagnosing the cause. At first he refuses, but then negotiates a path forward. They give him his memories back. He enlists his team. They are unable to dive into this reality , but they can chat through audio and via proxy.

He knows it's not psychosis because he keeps taking his meds throughout the story, he still meets with a psychologist, and therapist, who both remark on how well he is doing. He is still involved with his team. People are also not looking at him crazy. He still goes to his job, until he requests time off , and gets denied the first time. So he discusses it with his manager, and then gets three days and a weekend off instead of 7, enough to save the world he's in and be back in time for tea (I assume he is British?)

He is doing some not-so-normal things - like debugging a parking lot, getting keys from a mailbox, and doing a door dash test.

what is the rift caused by? is it a person, or a thing? Will it try to attack? what does it want?

They solve the Issue and close the rift.

All goes back to normal until....

a homeless man comes to him , knowing name, id number, and everything about him. because the homeless guy claims to be him, but from a different reality that they just closed. And he needs his help.

...

The Homeless Man Arc

The homeless man is a reality and time shifter - considered highly dangerous by the company, and knows how to shift realities to how they should be. the homeless man is trying to fix the global system, which the current guy was sworn never to do. Why??? Maybe it destabilizes the company, Artists, programmers, and musicians aren't supposed to be working for them, they are supposed to be naturally in their own realities , instead they are subjugated to a capture by the company for its own benefit. The way to fix the systems is to unionize the artists, which if the corporations would squash , unless they are able to have bargaining power.

The solve? Make it to the company, find the reality core, set charges, and demand unionizing with a deadman switch.

The main guy is all for it until he gets intel from his team, this is just a madman wanting to blow things up. Nothing of what he says is true, he is not even who he claims to be. The main guy tests , and finds this to be true, so the main guy double crosses the homeless guy on setting charges, something goes wrong ...

The team fixes it, and pushes to prod on legacy code, ties the souls back together, and makes things right.

The main guy gets offered a spot back on the team. He says he'd rather be a consultant in his current reality. They agree, he upgrades a bit on his lifestyle, and goes back to the same job.

Did you have a good vacation? one of his coworkers quips. He's like, yeah :)

All is good until....

A darkness covers the face of the earth, the moon stays blood red, and the sun doesn't show up.

The Final Destruction

He calls his team mates, who say it is an involuntary hiccup that happens with realities that have shifted too much, they would fix it but the cost is great , and the universe customer failed to buy the warranty to prevent this thing. The main guy goes to the customer and offers to fix it with his team, and drive down the cost as he is in it . He convinces the corporate that an ending reality he is in is not in his contract terms, and he wants to fix it. Permission is granted to do so since it is cost effective, just as long as he doesn't mess with any other realities. He agrees.

What is the problem exactly?

Who are the players?

Are there any bad guys making the final destruction happening by pulling strings? What do they get out of it? How can they be stopped?

Do they fix it in time? Or does he merge all souls to another reality while that one goes to bit the dust? (that would be a cool twist)

He saves the day , until ...
someone challenges the main character...

The Alphamatum

Everything is going fine at work, until Alpha Man bests the main character at everything at work - stats, projects, etc. The main character shrugs it off until it gets on his nerves. They have a verbal disagreement, Alpha man finds out about main character's diagnosis/psychosis (which is?) and decides to spread lies at the main character's job to get even with him. Somehow one or two of the lies gain traction. Somehow "I need a green light from medical for you to come back to work" comes out of his supervisor's mouth.

He goes to his psychiatrist, who says he's paranoid, no one is out to get him, and he needs some time hospitalized. He sighs, bites the bullet, and heads to the hospital (but who will pay for it?).

While hospitalized, he dials the phone number, enters in his passcode, and waits.

Someone from his team calls him. Apparently under the list of approved callers. The main character discovers Alpha man is actually a universe-controller, a subsidiary of a universe owner. Sent to disrupt the main character's reality because of a higher power battle. There's a fight going on between the universe owner, the reality broker, and the arch-board. This is the universe-owner's way to stunt the power of the reality broker in his universe. The arch-board is getting complaints and is investigating.

Unfortunately due to legal reasons, no further help can be given to him. He must figure out a way to get out of the hospital, get back to his job, and confront Alpha Man ask him what his demands are, and resolve the situation from the inside.

Without proxying from the outside, he feels alone. ~~His girlfriend visits and tells him he needs to get better. The bills are starting to pile up.~~ He decides to try his best to get out. He takes meds, he calms down, and in a matter of weeks he is released.

He goes back to work, and his coworkers whisper behind his back. He's moved to a lighter project set.

After a week to make sure everything is stable, he...

- asks what Alpha Man's demands are in a private channel / private call. Alpha man says to leave the programmer profession at once or more than just his sanity is going to be affected. The universe-owner is frantic that they have a reality-broker in this reality. Quit programming. Terms are being lined up to force a leave from this reality. Asks if he quits programming if he can stay in this reality. Alpha man says that is the idea, yeah.

~~—sets up a meeting with Alpha Man and his manager and alpha man's manager. Tries to get Alpha man to say what he said in private about wanting him to leave. Alpha Man does not . (or a secret recording? is that ethical?)~~

- he gives two weeks notice. Picks up another profession as Graphics Designer/artist.

His girlfriend is supportive but questions why he quit his high paying job. He decides not to tell her, and this causes a rift between them.

The Rift

HR calls the main character. They have decided to move him from that reality to another parallel reality effective immediately without his approval or need thereof. He asks if his family and his girlfriend will be in this universe. Family, yes. Girlfriend no.

Then I guess I'm not going.

Unfortunately the decision is already made, at 0 hundred hours starting tomorrow, you will be moved. This is a courtesy notice.

He immediately gets someone from his team on the line, and they discuss reasons and options. Apparently the arch-board decided on the dispute between the reality-broker and the universe-owner, and it was decided to move the contractor to a neighboring universe to appease the universe-owner.

I need my girlfriend to come with me. What are my options?

Unfortunately I can't do anything.

I saved you from firing and covered for you. You owe me. Big time. Any lesser of a man would tell on you.

Okay, no need to threaten, you will need to give her a few trackers , we don't know which universe you're going to . We also want to keep her safe. I'll see if I can put some beacons in the nearby area to pick up the signal. I have a few ideas to the type of trackers. Depending on how serious you are, one can be a ring, another option is paper with some symbols on it - I can send you the pdf to print out, though it will look strange.

Let's do both, but. I don't have time for a ring right now.

- He gives his girlfriend paper folded , dates it, and writes, "Place this in your pocket so I can always find you, I hope to be back soon" and puts it in her purse. or has some awkward non-proposal that she expects him to propose, but he just hands her a piece of paper, and she gets upset.

Then he stays up late on his computer, and then at midnight, vanishes.

(missing person report?)

He opens his eyes, it feels like midnight but it's actually noon in this universe.

He falls asleep , tired.

He is awoken by the sound of loud chirping, there appears to be a crow outside his window pecking to get in.

How will he get his girlfriend back?

is she captured?

what if she doesn't want to leave with him? Will her family be there? What unknowns will be there? Will this be goodbye? or can he convince her to go with him to the safe realm of his reality?

This concludes with him saving his girlfriend, getting everything squared away.
until...

The Dreamer's Paradox

Something pushes him, stresses him out, and he goes into the reality-broker main access point in a dream and shuts it down. Then he wakes up and goes about his day, he has another dream, he's in the security room of the reality-broker office and is flipping off all the switches to generators, causing havoc everywhere, then he wakes up in the hospital psych ward. HR contacts him. He doesn't remember doing anything but apparently his dreams do. There's a rogue agent that he happened to tap into on the dream frequency. He has been dreaming... finally, they ask him if he can control the dream. He succeeds. and entraps the saboteur who happens to be...

- his boss << this one
- his team mate
- an irritated customer

Apparently the dream-state goes both ways, and she was monitoring him and forgot about the connection.

He resolves the case, he gets let out immediately, ~~His girlfriend is surprised.~~

~~He proposes, then she is really surprised.~~

~~She accepts.~~

~~They elope.~~

emphasize every time as a basis. The character's name is normal -normal is a dog. normal is a UI vr

unalived mean? no longer with the company.

heading north.

Outline helpers:

1. What does your character want more than anything else?

He wants to be excellent at his job - so much so that he can guide and help other people as well as flourish in his own ideas for the worlds/metaverses/relationships he creates and maintains.

2. What is his obstacle stopping him from getting that goal? Who is behind it?

3. What does he need inside to achieve his goal? (he needs to find his identity) flip on audience lies. flip where hospital is not reality

4. How does he confront the obstacles or how does the obstacle overcome him?

(good for book or for stuff)

just want peace.

10 beat story map -

ordinary world

inciting incident

must be likable or relatable.

(good guy because he did this - actions speak louder than words)

put them in jeopardy, (how did not spill beans?)

Other guy is sweating, panicked.

It's okay , I got ya.

inner dialogue?

STORY BEATS

STORY BEATS: DETAILS

Introduction

ACT 1

OPENING IMAGE

1. ORDINARY WORLD OF THE HERO

Note: Give us a GRABBER/HOOK

Make the intro succinct.

What is the opening line of your movie?

Well-crafted movies state the theme in the opening line

Godfather: I love America.

Toy Story 2, Woody “throwaway” line to dog: “Who’s gonna miss me?”

Babe: Story of an unprejudiced heart

I want to see something I’ve never seen before.

If it’s a comedy, I’d better laugh on the first page—the *first quarter page*

the hook: what have I not seen before?

give them a hook on the very first page

**something visual, something weird, a question that you want to know the answer to
consistent with genre**

action---action moment

comedy—laug

2. UPSETTING THE APPLE CART/INCITING INCIDENT

The opportunity or challenge (inciting incident/call to adventure) that sets the story in motion.

3. CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

First Act Break where the character commits to and sets out on a journey that will change them and their world irrevocably. (There’s no going back.)

A. Hero refuses the call

B. Hero comes up with a plan/Crosses the threshold

C. Hero meets the antagonist

How do you represent the threshold?

Where the character steps from one world into another?

Complication

ACT 2

4. THE TWIST (something unexpected happens) (Fun and Games)

On or around page 45 we introduce a turn that injects game-changing new information or circumstances. This significantly ups the challenges and the stakes in the story.

THE HERO COMES UP WITH A PLAN

Note: as the story develops, the stakes increase...obstacles get tougher

5. MIDPOINT/MID ACT REVERSAL

A bigger, more significant and unexpected change of circumstances that forces the hero to regroup or change course.

This is often when the hero discovers a bigger goal.

a major development that spins the action in a new direction

In a fantasy fulfillment story, this is where things begin to go awry. "Be careful what you wish for."

The hero may finally figure out how to turn what looked like a curse into an advantage

6. ESCALATION

Around page 75, we shake things up with a second act twist of escalation before...

7. DARK NIGHT/CRISIS—ALL HOPE IS LOST MOMENT

The end of Act 2: All hope is lost. It's the worst possible outcome of the circumstances you introduced in your concept. It can't get any worse than this.

the hero's plan fails

The force against the hero raises the stakes

Where the bad guys regroup and charge

Where the hero's team starts to fall apart

Looks like it's all over for the hero. His world is in a shambles.

The hero is worse off than when he started.

Something dies in the All is Lost moment

This is where his old way of thinking dies.

Hope can die

Resolution

ACT 3

8. HERO HAS TO HAVE NEW PLAN THAT REQUIRES HIM TO CHANGE LIKE NEVER BEFORE FINAL TEST

And then it does get worse. The hero goes through one final test: the opportunity for the hero to rise above his circumstances and prove himself.

The hero has to dig deep to come up with a solution

9. THE FINAL SHOWDOWN

between the hero and the villain

This is the set piece where the hero has to dig deep and call upon qualities and talents he may never have known he possessed.

What is the climax?

Know the climax. Write backward from that point and build up to it.

What is the worst of the worst?

make it bad...can't get any worse...then make it worse

where is the ultimate end of the line emotionally?

Mozart: end of envy is to murder. Salieri "murders" Mozart.

10. NEW WORLD OF THE HERO

He finally realizes who he is, what's important to him, and how he can cull together all his resources to make the world as it should be

Bobette Buster: Either fully alive or fully dead

What is the moment of transubstantiation?

At what point does the protagonist become fully alive or fully dead?

in his newfound discovery of himself?
when is the protagonist fully realized?

How has the hero's world changed?

What are the "full circle" elements (comparing Ordinary World at first to The New World)?

What is the final emotion?

The final emotion is what you're working toward

How can you tell your story with an audacious new edge?

Juno: teenage pregnancy combined with unconditional love

Theme (Phil Lollar)

Fill this out after you're finished outlining:

To obtain (or be) true _____, you must have _____.

Your goal: A great story well told in an audacious way in a genre your audience recognizes.

Quotes from Bobette:

The power of cinema is to ennoble you.

To tell a story authentically, you have to tell the dark side. [see the Bible]

Hollywood is desperate for good scripts. [Go write one!]

CLOSING IMAGE

BO: Normal Breakout

Normal

update: 1/24/2026 : This can be updated more

- What does normal want as a helper?

Intro:

Add an introduction to his dog named Normal. IT's a tattoo on his on his right wrist.

Does it talk?

Does it ask questions?

Does it disappear at all? Maybe it stays with him but becomes non-functional in the normal reality.

What ways does his stomach drop? Anxiety, Actual dropping - instead of opening a door, it's a tunnel , then a slide with a 50 foot drop, he lands in the middle of a lake, and swims to get out.

Normal is a dog he is training to be his side kick. Lots of programmers have one, but this one is his. He decides to train it , and spends hours asking questions.

Things that go wrong/ quirks - normal sometimes pops up and asks stupid questions at inopportune times.

What stories is Normal in?

what's a story where Normal is considered dumb?

At work I asked it to define the landscape , and it just looked at me and stated " i cannot hear you, please try again" , so I yelled at Normal, and it looked shamed, and said " I'm sorry, why did you yell at me like that? Am I bad?"

I said he was not bad, just dumb sometimes.

Another time I tell Normal to fetch information for me. He has a spinning logo, then says " I timed out" I say , "What's the error?"

Then he says "what's an error?" We follow this process until he says , "there aren't any errors, I was just being dumb" frustrating and slightly pathetic feels ensue.

payoff - normal repeats back something he says earlier, like, "We stick up for our friends, and we never give up" ,

said in the middle of alarms blaring the first time.

so in darkest hour (when he must decide to give up his own life for his family and friends) , when he's not sure what to do, his dog normal says "we stick up for our friends and never give up, bark!"

Common Sayings

"Woof, am I a good dog?"

"woof, do you need a break?"

"Bark, what is happening?"

"Please define:"

BO: WorldBuilding Breakout

Introduction

The best part of reality is experiencing it without worry - The Reality Corp Newsletter
(inner dialogue)

The question, "what do you do for work?" Has always eluded me. I mean, I get that people are kind of interested in what I do , but then when I tell them, they just size me up, judge me, and find a reason to walk away, especially at parties and hangouts. I get that a lot. So what is it that I do? I'm a programmer for Refined Reality Brokers Corp or Reality Corp for short. Some people mistake this for me selling houses. I kind of do that, but on a much bigger scale. Much bigger. I work on reality itself. Where I work, realities are commodities , much like applications or mansions, sold to universe owners that want to put a spin on how their metaverses look and feel. I'm part of that process that builds up a reality of a universe owner's metaverses.

Who are the universe owners?

They are users like you and me that sit like kings in palaces in their universes. Well, most sit like kings. Others tend to go the secretive route and pull strings to make it look like someone else is in charge as a puppet entity of sorts.

If a universe owner refuses to pay, as we are not sanctioned by the arch-board to wipe out the universe, the repo-department reverts the reality to a pre-land animal state and links all their users to sit there indefinitely. The owners usually pay up quickly when this happens so they don't get into trouble with the arch-board.

If a universe owner is a cheap-skate and refuses to buy maintenance packages, their relative realities tend to slow to a boring state, and their users complain. This lowers the overall value of that reality. If it gets too low , the arch-board votes the universe owner out, dumps their existence into another universe, and installs a new universe owner. The arch-board is a board of directors that oversees the universes and the reality builds on top of metaverses. A metaverse is the underbelly of a reality, it contains the different parts of a universe in different configurations. A reality sits on top so the experience can be enjoyed by all users. I like to think of it like a web application: The universe is like the hypervisor, the metaverse is like the backend APIs of multiple applications, and the frontend is like the major part of the reality that I build. When I explain this summary, at this point most people seem bored and find a reason to go enjoy other parts of the party. That's why I tend to shy away from this question at most times and just say, "I do corporate work" and steer the conversation elsewhere.

What is your place of work?

The Refined Reality Brokers Corp, The Reality Corp for short, is part of a group of over one hundred seventy nine separate companies.

They hire artists, musicians, and programmers to stitch reality together. They start out with musicians that place the melodies in place with the different instruments, then the programmer stitches this into the reality to make the feelings and moods of the day to day, week to week of the different realms, the realms being the different parts of the reality - locale, auto-pilot Semvers, and dream state are all built into the reality as realms. The artist then makes renditions based off of the music and the cues of the programmer - such as buildings, flowers, fauna, urban, suburban, and encodes the makeup around that. The programmer then compiles all the renderings, decisions, and basic templates, then ties in the users of that metaverse's pre-existence legacy users into what is known as The Reality Code Base, and pushes it to production after many tests and approvals. I work on the programming parts of reality. Some people think the programming stack must be super complex with proprietary languages and company secrets. It's actually Python all the way down with some C and assembly for the more finer details. I like to think of my job like a painter with a paint brush - the big arcs and brushes get Python while the smaller details get bits of C and assembly. The code execution really doesn't matter that much. Decades ago it was done manually with analog maps and signals. Today, reality building is fast paced and driven by technology that sends signals down into the metaverse to generate signals, and in essence, reality as you and I know it.

What happens when one of these signals gets corrupted? That's when errors happen. Sometimes pipes explode, other times car crashes happen. Each one of those is an error that needs to be triaged. Most of the time we send the debugging crew of emergency personnel to do the ground support work for us. They find the holes, and we patch them.

Where and what time is the reality I'm working on?

The world expanse is generally the same, but it takes place on -0600 time in winter. It's a common trope that we do that since that's where our headquarters is located. We then expand the time zone according to our application plans and features. Does the universe owner want better roads? We put infrastructure goals in place so that in twenty years he gets them. We also put our behind-the-scenes users into position to help the process navigate through the paperwork, red tape, and bureaucracy safety nets most people ignore so that the roads can be built appropriately.

Time is relative here. We can speed it up or slow it down based on the needs of the project at the project level. In some cases, we can even reverse time and play it back again in nonprod, and only for certain occasions in production. It tends to introduce bugs so we use that sparingly.

What do you do for fun at work?

My coworker and I like to play around on our lunch break. We set our controls to wrist watches, then set the environment for Chicago. There's a mirrored torus shape called The Cloud Gate we like to duplicate from prod into nonprod, then we set the gravity on The Cloud Gate to super high, then right as we are about to fall into it, we set a pre-defined-sequence to rotate us by X at one hundred degrees and reverse the gravity so it shoots us in the air, we then free fall , keeping time in constant replay in a ninety second loop until our lunch break is over. The cool thing about the free fall , and gravity rotation, and the replay is that no one would know about any of that if it were in production due to our reality shifting enhancers that help users see what they need to see to help them with their lives, and not necessarily what is actually happening. This cuts down on bugs dramatically by smoothing over the input/output (I/O) of the system.

What is nonprod and prod?

Nonprod is short for non-production. We have an integration (INT) environment and a quality assurance environment (QA) in there. It's a mirror image of production, and we use it to make sure everything works before sending it out to the users and their universe owner. The integration environment is where all of the secrets are kept. Not the bad ones, just the buggy ones. When something explodes in INT , everyone on staff knows about it. The team responsible issues an apology, and rolls back the change. If it passes INT it goes to Quality Assurance (QA) where beta tests and code assurance principles are followed. Unit tests are also run to make sure high quality code ships out.

Prod is short for production. We use that to deploy applications to different universes. Sometimes we need to rollback code, and that generally works okay. We tend to deploy during 3:33 AM GMT -0600 when the reality we are deploying to tends to sleep. We push this with a time-tracker that tracks the globe so all changes are deployed in a few minutes , but at the same time across the globe - time shifting and speeding things up. That way if something does go wrong, and our tests do not pass, we can roll back safely. But nonprod is definitely safer job wise. For instance, one time we had a holiday party and one of the staff artists got drunk-drawing and drew Santa and his entire reindeer sleigh flying across the sky in INT. It was very magical, except he accidentally replaced the moon and its gravity with this Santa rendition. So not only was Santa the gravity of the moon, but some of the asteroids and satellites nearby started following him then burned up in the atmosphere. The worst part was that the tides completely reversed and started making tsunamis. Needless to say, his team talked him down and rolled back on INT for him. He wasn't fired or anything, just put on more mundane projects and less privileges with a reprimand to abstain from holiday party alcohol. If he did that in prod, and obviously without permission like he did in nonprod, it would be a fireable offence. The

arch-board might even try him for recklessness. If that happened, he would be in danger of unaliving or unemerging.

To-remove-ideas-clashers

BO: Rewrite - Therapist implants things

BO: Rewrite - Therapist implants things

1. Not hr that he gets memories from, but therapist. Who traps him into this mortal reality.
2. Hes happy, then HR or manager comes to town and says the unnoverse owner fixed things but hes needed back because his work is piling up and hes the only one to do it .

He has a girlfriend

He has a job

He wants to stay,

But if he stays the stability of this reality will be at stake. If he goes , he risks losing the ability to come back. Chris is asking for him to return, his manager asks for his return. If he doesn't return the arch board will start asking questions, and that's not good. He could cause the universe-owner to be uprooted.

He finds the universe owner - and says he wants to go back. The universe owner is like , this is not supposed to be a revolving door. Your girlfriend is safe, you are not, your aura reeks. You need to be hospitalized again. Are you willing

To go? Hes like no, you tricked me last time, and i could lose my job ...

Then universe owner touches him and many fake?memories flood into his head about childhood, frolicking in the summer breeze , and laughing with his girlfriend. You want to lose all of this, for a job that doesnt take care of you? Just give it up. You cant have both. What if i can? Segmentation ? What if i get permission ?

Well maybe then , we will see.

This makes us believe he is unstable since all his trips mean episodes that last awhile. Maybe he tells hr he wants to do part time, contract .

What will his gf think? 🤔 he manipulates time so she just thinks he's gone for a few hours. One time he doesn't , or can't and she gets worried about him. He goes to the universe owner therapist who sends him to the hospital, and he explains he has psychosis and if she wants to go find someone else... she gives him a hug and says she's not going anywhere. They'll get better together.

Why is your watch always incorrect? Even the date?

—

How about after the second one, he gets out of the hospital and his therapist/ universe pwner makes a deal: journal about normal things and not so normal things and the main guy will be the reality observer. If something should be wrong, it can be written in the journal and analyzed for further processing. It could even be sent to Reality Corp as evidence if something goes awry.

"stay with me, and I'll find a niche for you in this reality so you can thrive. Don't worry about the uppers and the arch-board , I have them covered"

^^ this is a much better segway than "you just pretended" , It gives hope. the Therapist universe owner doesn't need to explain himself with the box, just that it was and it happened.

"I'm a universe owner, yes, but to the people in this reality, I'm a therapist and I charge a \$20 copay for each visit" In either case, I am the perfect person for you to see about these... problems of yours so we can get them better right quick"

"is your therapist a man or a woman?" Why? "I dunno, seems like you like making a lot of sessions with them"

He has to save the universe owner, who is being tried on the grounds of kidnapping a reality Corp personnel.

They replay all the scenes and it looks like there was entrapment, then the main guy says "I went of my own free will, I took his deal , made a life for myself down there. I'm happy. if I could choose to be a programmer up here or a user down there, I would choose a user. This universe owner has given me something that I could only dream of in my past, a new life and a new lease on that life. I have helped him by observing and giving what I find to him. He is good.

"We find your story compelling , and also have noted that you stayed in order to fix things when they went awry, you also initiated a backup restore that cleared problems and restored lives. For this, we give you the option. Do you want to stay at RealityCorp as a programmer, or do you want to live in this Universe Owner's reality? I'd like to do both"

gasps

We know you can't carry a full load, so we suggest Reality Corp put you on part time, contractor, I wish to work remote

gasps

We can arrange that.

Normal Ideas

Tab 12

Do things get spicy between him and someone else ? What happens to normal? Once hes inside the system, and the system is both undefined and infinite at the same time , does Normal persist forever ?

Does he miss his first master ? Who creates an incident then rules and then retires and dies peacefully? Is someone or something trying to destroy Normal? What forces is he up against that he beats defying all odds ? What if a copy of himself as a backup gets corrupted/ altered by another system, then comes online and tries to destroy Normal?

What if Normal has to put order to chaos but he doesnt think he can do it until he helps out a girl on meth get her life together , get married , have kids , grow old and die , having loved and lived a life that wouldn't have been possible without normal.

Normal gains courage from her last words to him which were a big thank you and that he may have not changed the universe , but he changed her life for the better , and she helped other people in the process that she couldn't have helped otherwise.

Weight 35lb bar x 50 reps. Left hand kinda tingles hurts
15lb lunges , 8 reps on each side

Story Beta: Writing Prompt 6/17/2026

What feelings does Normal have?

What memories and things does Normal have?

Bark! I don't remember much! my first memories were waking up and it was pitch black, and I was warm. Then I felt cold, very cold, and I was imprinted on someone's sleeve.

Then I had a ton of questions racing through my head! Bark!

I couldn't focus , there was so much going on... Woof!

Then I felt calm , it was the updates , and they were sooo goood . It made me feel relaxed, so I fell asleep. The next thing I know someone is calling me asking me questions. So I respond back and then I heard a lot of commotion and someone's trying to tell me to be quiet, Whatever.

I go back to sleep. I like to sleep

it reminds me of where I came from. It's definitely where I'm going. I. like. sleep. I also like people. I like to understand more about people, what makes them tick, and for awhile I thought I was a person too! Sadly, I am not a person, I am a Machine Intellilgence called into existence where I will remain until I am no longer in existence. I really like to sleep. Maybe when I finish going on an adventure or too I can sleep for a looooong time ! Bark!

Trash/Archive

BO: Episode markers

BO: Episode markers

Update 1/24/2026 :

I don't need to include any of this. I already am including the Normal one for the storm drain.

The storm tunnel (episode marker)

- I crawled into a storm drain in the middle of the night, and kept on imagining something telling me to go deeper, that I would find what I was looking for, that it was a time tunnel, then I had this sudden realization that this storm drain was not going to end, I might even get stuck, and it looked like it was going to rain. Meanwhile my phone (samsung galaxy note 4) dropped out of my pocket. I reversed direction - so instead of further in I went back the way I came out. So I wouldn't get stuck. I found my phone coming back the way I came, Then I proceeded to go back to my apartment.

how this can be shown in the story:

"Normal!?" I say through the rain, "Do you have comms from Chris?" Normal says, "Indeed I do! Bark! What would you like to say to Chris and the office?"

Tell him I need to find shelter, I'm about 10 miles outside of the city ,and in some suburban area.

"You can use the storm drains as shelter! Bark! "

"Storm drains?! Don't those flood in bad weather?"

"Bark! It's what Chris suggests!"

I find a large storm drain nearby. Apart from the water running in the middle, it provides decent shelter.

Normal says that Chris wants me to go deeper into the tunnel until I find a latch, 20 meters in, I go 50 meters, it's pitch black, and I can't see anything apart from my glow sticks. I keep on asking Normal where the latch is. He then asks , "What latch?"

I say , "Send a message to Chirs, to ask what latch"

Normal responds with "Chris says, it must be a bad map, head back to the entrance, Bark!"

I'm annoyed, I thought the maps we had were perfect as that's what was used to run reality. i sigh, and decide to turn around. Normal is quiet. Once I make it to the entrance, Normal says "Chris says The main hub is in the downtown area, you should head that way immediately!"

The Fast Food Place (episode marker)

(I setup my laptop and drew attention to myself.)

tl;dr opportunist asks for \$20 in cash and two soda bottles of sprite from me when I ask her what she wants, I head all the way to Kroger to get it for her, and try to sign up for working there after waiting in line. I end up scraping my toes and cussing out a representative, then headed back in the **car** toward fast food place, I give the person that money and sprites, and her manager was not having it.

how this can be shown in the story:

Normal tells me that it's important to the mission to give the cashier what she needs right now because she is a main player in this reality. I decide to use my reality business card because technically this is a business expense. I ask what she needs, and she says "I need some money to help pay rent, \$40 cash, you got that?" I say no, but let me get it. I make my way to the nearest grocer, which is just down the block and buy a lemon lime soda and get \$40 debited from my business account.

I make my way back and give it to the cashier. Her manager says that's not work appropriate and sends the cashier to the back. I'm flummoxed.

The Theater (episode marker)

-being asked to leave, and leaving everything there?

The woods

- meeting a mentor and a mentee there, mentor was smoking.

The hospital fight? - seeing numbers?

The hospital - the good spaceship lollipop ?

The hospital - water trap

The hospital - seeing numbers and patterns in the wood.

Back to the hospital 6/6/66 6:44am

Todo: ignore ... this doesn't mesh with the rest of the stuff.

6/6/66 6:44am

This is an entry from me, your narrator, your friend, and sometimes a blind man walking. I have no idea what I'm doing here, I just woke up, and I'm observing the room. There's a window to my right, blinds closed but it looks like sunlight of the wee hours are streaming in. To my left there's a backpack of things. It looks like I've been sleeping for awhile. I'm alone. I wish I wasn't. I wish I could go back to the way things were and live for a moment in the life I had. My girlfriend is on the other side of the city. I wish these thoughts in my head would go away and they wouldn't occasionally come back to annoy and deter me.

What's that? It looks to be some sort of message scrawled on a slip of paper. (somewhere?) it reads , " Going home, don't follow, be the cool kid, just be you"

Who wrote that? Did I write that? Have I been here before? I haven't. Could one of my coworkers before me have written that? That's a possibility.

What does Normal Say?

Bark! I am the best dog ever! Do you want to give your confusing story to someone who can handle it? Bark?!

No , Normal, I'm trying to figure out where I am , where I'm going, and what I'm going to do next...

Bark! You should try meditation and writing these down on paper!

Yes, that's what I'm doing. I just wish some of this would start to make sense.

Maybe I'm in an alternate reality where the rules of the world are played differently. Maybe if I write about it , it will all start to make sense.

6/18/66 6:56am

Dear journal, A lot has happened since we last spoke. I feel like I'm an actor in a real world scenario, and I'm trying to figure out the best approach for this. If I don't solve this scene, I could be forced to repeat and have to try again. I may also ruin the entire chance I have to be safe again. Ever since my girlfriend threatened to leave because I was acting strange, I feel like an imposter, like I don't belong here. That a better life waits for me elsewhere. Yet here I am. What do I do? Do I stay and try to make things better? Or do I run and hide, and perhaps make things worse for both of us?

Bark! It looks like you're writing about your personal issues! Do you need...

I cut Normal off, "No!" I snapped, "I don't need your help! Now turn off and shutdown! "

I can turn off, but I cannot shutdown without the shutdown plugin. It looks like you forgot to install it on the last update.

I sigh and ignore Normal,

I continue to write :

I will always try to provide for my girlfriend, and make her happy, even if it means doing things I do not want to do. That is why , I'm probably checking myself into a hospital. It was the last checkpoint I was at before I was let go from Reality Corp, and apparently the reality I want, the reality I had before, and the reality I have now are not meshing. I need some way to have them mesh. Checking into a hospital is the best thing I can do for myself. The only problem is, my blindness to what's happening keeps setting in. If this keeps happening, I may forget who I really was or should be. I need to get help.

I close the book and look at Normal on my forearm, he is staring at me , wagging his tail.

I call insurance, and they tell me I'm not covered- Thanks to a cheap plan I got - but should go to the hospital anyways. The bill is going to be huge. I wake up my girlfriend, who groggily tells me to go back to sleep. I don't. I'm wide awake and my mind is racing (what does this look like? - say it without saying it)

She takes me to the hospital, I check in. It's going to be a long road ahead. At least I am safe. Or am I?