Cat & Mouse

Ву

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Cat & Mouse		Jeremy Storey
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INT. LONDON, BLACK CAB - MORNING

Harry, mid-thirties, athletic,ruggedly handsome, and dressed in a suit, sits in the back of a BLACK CAB glances out at the streets of London.

The Cabby, wears a NEW YORK YANKEES cap, and tinted glasses.

CABBY Business or pleasure, sir?

HARRY Come again?

CABBY Are you visiting for business or pleasure?

HARRY

Business.

CABBY First time in the UK?

HARRY

No. (Looks out the window) I grew up here.

EXT. THE LANGHAM HOTEL - LATE MORNING

Harry, stands outside THE LANGHAM -- an upscale, old-fashioned hotel -- holds a briefcase in one hand and a small duffel in the other.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATE MORNING

Harry places both his bags on the bed. The room is a generous-sized suite. Harry walks over to the windows, opens the curtains. He looks out at the city, smiles.

Harry unpacks his bag. He takes out his toiletry kit and walks it over to the bathroom. Places it over the sink. He slightly closes the bathroom door, and sees a SUIT BAG, hung on a hook. He unzips the bag halfway down to reveal a well-crafted suit jacket. He nods knowingly and zips-up the bag. INT. LANGHAM HOTEL RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Harry enters the hotel restaurant and sits at a table with DONOVAN. A heavy-set man in his late-forties with salt-and-pepper hair and a devilish grin. Donovan nurses a scotch.

DONOVAN You look beat, Boy-o.

HARRY Been globetrotting, Old Fart.

DONOVAN You'd think corporate only had one closer.

HARRY What can I say? I'm good at my job.

DONOVAN Well, you had a top-notch mentor.

HARRY

If he may say so himself.

Donovan laughs, then reaches over to a bag next to his chair and pulls out an SD card, hands it over to Harry. Harry takes his phone out and places the SD card in and then looks back at the information on the phone.

> DONOVAN Should be a cake walk.

HARRY Other players?

DONOVAN Chinese. Nigerians too. So make haste.

HARRY Is the client aware of our interest?

DONOVAN

Negative.

HARRY Do I have power of attorney?

DONOVAN If you can't outbid the competition, liquidate our

relationship with the client.

HARRY Just the client? What about the IP?

Donovan taps his head and gives Harry a wink.

DONOVAN It's all up in here.

Harry nods. Looks down at an image on his phone. His brow furrows.

DONOVAN Something wrong?

HARRY (*Hesitates*) It's a small world.

Harry hands his phone over to Donovan.

DONOVAN You know the client?

HARRY We went to college together.

DONOVAN (*Disgruntled sigh*) Shit. Better call upstairs.

Harry takes phone back. Looks back at Don.

HARRY (*Firmly*) I got this.

Donovan takes a moment to study Harry. Sips his Scotch.

DONOVAN Good. I'd hate to call in the redundancy.

Donovan gives Harry a knowing wink. Harry smiles.

HARRY Better not fuck it up then.

DONOVAN From your lips to God's ears.

Donovan downs his drink, as Harry gets up to leave.

DONOVAN Watch your six, Boy-o.

HARRY Always do, Old Fart. Always do.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Trendy coffee shop with couches and small wooden tables. Harry sips a cappuccino, sits on a couch closest to the door. He looks at his phone, not really paying attention to the hustle-and-bustle.

A pretty, bespectacled woman in her mid-thirties (LUCY) pays for coffee at the cashier. She's dressed smartly. Clearly on her way to work. She grabs her LATTE and starts to head out.

Lucy notices Harry on the couch and pauses, looks closer. Harry is oblivious.

> LUCY Harry? Harry Robinson?

Harry looks up from his phone momentarily confused. Then recognition kicks-in.

HARRY

Lucy?

Harry stands up. They pause and then hug awkwardly.

LUCY Bloody hell! How long has it been?

HARRY Crazy! Oh man, dunno. Last time we spoke... (Voice trails off) Years.

Lucy looks Harry up and down, smiles.

LUCY Yeah. Years. Um... how are you? I mean... who are you, and what are you doing here?

HARRY Jeez! Uh... where do I begin?

LUCY Well, let's start with the accent!

HARRY I guess...uh, lot of time in the States. And then... all over the place. LUCY International man of mystery, yeah? 5.

HARRY Hardly. Just a sales man who spends too much time in airport lounges and cheap hotels.

LUCY

Give over. You're just being modest.

HARRY So... uh... what do you do?

LUCY (*Embarrassed*) I'm an epidemeologist for Zutrex Pharmaceuticals.

HARRY

Really? Lucy Howard, working for the man?

LUCY (Shrugs sheepishly) I sold out.

HARRY

Don't sweat it. We all do eventually. (A beat) Uh, you look... amazing.

LUCY

(Self-conscious) I look tired and haggard.

HARRY

Well, if this is tired and haggard, I'd love to see you alert and energized!

LUCY

Ah... there's the Harry I remember. Always making me feel like a princess.

HARRY

(Awkward) Right... speaking of which, is there a, uh... prince to your princess?

LUCY (Shaking her head) Does my grumpy old cat Whiskey, count? HARRY Ah. LUCY So... what about you... betrothed? Significantly othered? HARRY None of the above. LUCY Not even a friend with benefits? HARRY Does my job count? LUCY (Sympathetic) Ouch... sounds intense. HARRY Can be. LUCY I'd love to hear about it. I'd love to hear about... everything. (Disbelief) Shit, man! I can't believe it's you. My mind is totally blown! HARRY Could your 'blown mind' handle dinner tonight? LUCY I believe it could handle that! Do you know 'Portella'? It's a tapas bar in Soho. HARRY I don't, but sure I can find it. LUCY Eight?

HARRY Would'nt miss it for the world.

Lucy shakes her head in disbelief and gives Harry a kiss on the cheek.

LUCY Harry-fucking-Robinson. What are the chances?

HARRY

Infinitesimal.

Lucy grins, goes to leave and looks back at Harry.

LUCY Eight. Don't leave me high and dry, Sunshine.

HARRY Cross my heart.

Lucy, beams, exits the coffee shop. Harry smiles back. Once out of sight, his smile morphs into a worried frown.

> HARRY (*Sarcastic*) Yeah Harry... you got this.

INT. LANGHAM HOTEL ROOM / APARTMENT BEDROOM - EVENING

SERIES OF SHOTS - Of Harry and Lucy preparing to go out. Harry is in his hotel room. Lucy, in her apartment.

-HARRY, stands in his underwear, with clothes laid out on the bed. Evaluates what to wear. Polo shirt with jeans, or T-shirt?

-LUCY, in her underwear stands in front of a full-length mirror, holds up different dresses against her body. A radio plays in the background. On the bed behind her is a mountain of discarded clothes. She frustratedly THROWS another dress on the pile.

-HARRY, chooses a plain black t-shirt, with blue jeans. Something's missing...

-LUCY, tries a sweater. Discards it. A song on the radio catches her attention, it's PARADISE CITY by 'Guns N Roses'. This gives her an idea. She goes back into her closet, pulls out an old pair of faded, tatty jeans, and finds a t-shirt rolled up in the corner. It's a black shirt with the logo from a 'Guns N Roses' album: APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION.

She holds it up against herself and smiles. She places the t-shirt on a chair with the jeans, next to her purse. But... something is not quite right.

-HARRY, goes back into the bathroom, and closes the door. He re-emerges with the SUIT BAG. He opens it up and pulls out the jacket and lays it on the bed next to the jeans. -LUCY, walks into her bathroom. The sound of a glass cabinet opening and closing.

-HARRY, pulls on the jacket. Looks in the mirror. He then slightly opens the jacket and looks inside, left and right. He nods, contented. He's ready.

-LUCY, emerges from her bathroom, she holds a small RED VIAL of perfume. She places it in her purse. She nods, satisfied. She's ready.

EXT. TORTELLA RESTAURANT - EVENING

Harry stands outside the restaurant, holds a large, plastic bag from: MARKS & SPENCERS.

Lucy pulls up in a BLACK CAB -- she looks radiant in her blue jeans, leather jacket, sunglasses, and 'Guns N Roses' T-shirt. She hops out and gives Harry a hug.

> LUCY (*Gestures to the bag*) What's this?

HARRY (Opens the bag) Let's see... two prawn cocktail sandwiches, a side of mini sausage roles, extra large Twix, and some watered-down lager.

LUCY You're joking! (*Peeks inside bag*) Can't believe you remember all that!

HARRY You have a unique palette, my friend.

LUCY If by 'unique', you mean I eat and drink like a sailor, then yes... very.

HARRY We all have our foibles.

They laugh.

LUCY So, what's the deal? Picnic? HARRY I was thinking... under our tree?

LUCY (Remembering) Primrose Hill... Last time I... (Voice trails off) Are you sure? It's not very swank.

HARRY Right, like we're 'fine dining'? (*Grabs her hand*) C'mon, it'll be fun.

Lucy thinks about it, smiles, nods in agreement.

INT. LANGHAM HOTEL BAR - EVENING

Donovan anxiously sips a coffee sitting at the bar, intensely listens to someone on the phone.

DONOVAN Are you 100%? (Listens) How did you...? Wait. You know what? I don't fucking care. We need to pull him out before this turns into even more of a shit show. (Listens, frustrated) Yes, I tried calling. It's going straight to voice mail. So I need you to ping his phone and give me a location. Now! (Listens) Got it. I'm going to intercept and try to unfuck this mess.

Donovan hangs up the phone, hurriedly grabs his coat and rushes out of the bar to the entrance of the hotel, where a BLACK CAB awaits him.

EXT. PRIMROSE HILL PARK - SUNSET

Harry and Lucy eat, drink, and laugh while sitting under a tree. The sun sets over their shoulders.

LUCY So, after five years of 'radical environmentalism' which amounted to no more than a series of freezing cold protests and an addiction to 'Top Ramen', I felt it was time to start acting like an adult. LUCY

Exactly. Been there ten years. Mostly in the lab concocting inoculations and antidotes for infectious diseases and deadly poisons.

HARRY Saving the world.

LUCY Just like you used to tell me... 'make the change from the inside'.

HARRY Was I right?

LUCY (*Demure*) You always were.

HARRY (*Teasing*) Finally!

They laugh.

Behind Harry's back, at the corner of the park, a BLACK CAB pulls up.

CUT TO:

INT. BLACK CAB - CONTINUOUS

Donovan is in the back of the BLACK CAB that has just pulled up to Primrose Hill park. He looks out of the window, and one hundred yards away he can see Harry and Lucy sat under a tree. Their backs are turned to him.

Donovan, agitated, reaches into his pocket to grab his wallet.

The Cabby, wearing a NEW YORK YANKEES CAP, and tinted sunglasses, turns to face him.

CABBY Meeting someone for a romantic night under the stars, sir?

DONOVAN (Looks into his wallet) Do I look like I wanna make small talk, buddy? CABBY No, mate. You look like a dead man.

Donovan stops what he's doing to look up at the Cabby. The Cabby HOLDS A GUN with a silencer pointed at him.

DONOVAN

Wait-

CUT TO:

EXT. PRIMROSE HILL PARK - CONTINUOUS

Behind the back of Harry and Lucy, two MUZZLE FLASHES go off in the cab parked by the entrance. Neither of them notice. The cab drives away.

LUCY Okay... I have a confession to make. (Sheepish) I've been cyber-stalking you.

HARRY Find anything?

LUCY You're totally off the grid, matey. Why is that?

HARRY

'Cos of my job. See, discretion's key. Our clients want negotiators to be tough, but autonomous.

LUCY (*Laughing*) You? A tough negotiator?

HARRY Why's that so funny?

LUCY 'Mr. I'll do whatever you wanna do'.

HARRY That was the old me.

LUCY Well the 'old you', would agree the Pope was a Jew if I insisted. HARRY

In my defense, I always had a hard time disagreeing with you.

Lucy bows her head, feeling awkward. She stands up and puts her hands on the trunk of the tree.

LUCY I took advantage of your trust.

HARRY And I played on your wariness of the world.

Harry goes over to Lucy. They stand on either side of the tree trunk.

LUCY Why could'nt we remove our heads from our collective arses?

HARRY Because two negatives don't make a positive.

LUCY I guess. With us, it was always a game of cat and mouse. One would move in, the other would back away. And around and around we went, until-

HARRY

Until James.

LUCY James. Or as you dubbed him; 'the eco-terrorist'.

HARRY You were infatuated.

LUCY He was manipulative and dangerous with megalomaniac tendencies.

HARRY When did you realize?

LUCY Sadly, after four years.

HARRY What was the trigger? LUCY He wanted me to help infiltrate the World Bank and burn it to the ground. And that... that's when I realized he was a crazy fucker. So, I jumped ship.

HARRY

Like you said... 'crazy fucker'.

Lucy gives Harry a playful, loving punch on the shoulder.

LUCY (*Lamenting*) Is that why you left?

HARRY It helped push me in a direction I was already heading.

LUCY To do what?

HARRY Travel the world and the seven seas.

LUCY Wish I'd taken that adventure with you.

HARRY (*Stares intently*) You did.

Lucy takes Harry's hand. They look up together, a few inches over their heads on the tree trunk. Carved into the bark, is a faded, heart shape with initials in the middle:

'H & L'

Lucy pats it with her hand.

LUCY Glad to see this stood the test of time better than we did.

HARRY Speak for yourself, 'O Haggard One!

LUCY You cheeky bastard!

They both chuckle as Lucy half-heartedly chases Harry around the tree. She catches him and they embrace momentarily. This seems to catch Harry off guard, he quickly steps back. HARRY It's late. We should get you home.

Lucy nods uncomfortably, slightly perplexed by Harry's change in decorum.

INT. TUBE STATION PLATFORM - NIGHT

Harry and Lucy walk down a set of stairs that lead to a deserted LONDON UNDERGROUND PLATFORM. Lucy wraps an arm around Harry's. They're silent.

LUCY Why so quiet? HARRY Thinking about work.

LUCY How long you staying?

HARRY As long as it takes.

LUCY So, we can play again?

> HARRY (*Grins*)

Wild horses.

LUCY (*Winks*) Couldn't drag me away either.

They arrive at a bench in the middle of the platform and sit down. As they do, Harry looks around and notices two WELL-DRESSED ASIAN MEN in the early-thirties standing on either side of the platform. Both look in Harry's direction at Lucy.

Harry tenses. His hands BALL UP into fists. Lucy notices.

LUCY

You okay?

Harry anxiously scans the platform again, and then faces Lucy.

HARRY You've made some dangerous people very upset. LUCY (*Taken aback*) What are you talking about?

HARRY I need you to level with me. (Voice lowers) Why would someone want you dead?

LUCY Dead? Have you lost the plot?

HARRY Look at me. What have you done?

LUCY This isn't funny, Harry. You're scaring me.

Lucy gets up to leave. Harry HOLDS HER WRISTS to sit back down. He looks around again and sees the two Asian men approach.

> HARRY You wanna get off this platform alive?

LUCY Oh my God! You're a psycho, aren't you?

HARRY I'm not. Well, for the most part I'm not. I'll explain. But right now, I gotta do something you might not like.

LUCY (Scared) Are you going to h-, h-, hurt me?

HARRY (*Tender*) I could never hurt you...

Harry reaches over and pulls Lucy's sunglasses down over her eyes. Takes another look around as the men approach.

> HARRY ... 'Cos I love you.

Harry leans in and kisses Lucy, but keeps both eyes open, using the reflection from the mirrored sunglasses to keep an eye on the man coming from behind. At the same time, he looks past Lucy at the other man who approaches from the front. He reaches around Lucy's back into the inside of his suit jacket pockets. Both men reach into their coats, DRAW GUNS. As they start to take aim-

Two simultaneous LOUD POOFS. The back of Harry and Lucy's respective jackets briefly billow with air.

Both Asian men DROP TO THE GROUND. Each with a BULLET HOLE in their head.

Lucy PUSHES Harry back and sees that he holds two guns with silencers -- both slightly smoking. She then sees the two dead man flanking the bench, each ten feet away. She freaks out.

LUCY Jesus bloody wept! What did you do?

HARRY They were going to kill you.

LUCY

Kill me? Why? Who are they?

Lucy falls into a shocked silence. Unsure of what to say.

A TRAIN PULLS INTO THE PLATFORM.

Harry takes Lucy's hand.

HARRY

We gotta go.

Lucy stops and momentarily stares, bewildered at the bodies.

HARRY

Lucy.

LUCY (*Dazed, looks at Harry*) You love me?

HARRY

(Agog) I... What?

Harry puts his arm around Lucy, guides her on to the train.

HARRY

C'mon.

Harry sits Lucy down. The doors shut and the train departs. Two dead men lay silently on the platform, staring into the ether.

INT. TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Harry and Lucy are alone in the train carriage. Lucy is in shock. Harry continues to look around vigilantly.

LUCY

Who are you?

HARRY

I'm Harry.

LUCY

No, you're not. Harry was a sweet boy who'd spend hours reading poetry and playing guitar. You... are you some kind of 'hitman'?

HARRY

Never really put a label on it before.

LUCY

Try.

HARRY

Okay... that's fair.

(Finding the right words) I work for an organization that specializes in protecting targets and neutralizing threats. Not many know of our existence, and those that do, are usually very powerful.

LUCY Are you here to protect me...

or... neutralize?

HARRY

Protect.

LUCY

Why would I be a target?

HARRY

That's a good question. Our typical clients are morally pernicious.

LUCY

Bad guys?

HARRY

By and large.

LUCY I don't understand. I'm a nobody. I can't think of any... (Voice trails off) ER-18. HARRY What's that? LUCY It was meant to be a vaccine for nullifying sexually transmitted diseases. HARRY Meant to be? LUCY We accidentally developed something else. A grotesque aberration that we destroyed. HARRY That doesn't sound good. LUCY It's not. In fact, it could the world's most powerful chemical WMD. You see, this strain we were working on mutated into a virulent pathogen that essentially ... (Takes deep breath) ... eliminates both sexes ability to reproduce. HARRY Sterility. LUCY If applied pervasively, it could freeze the birth rate of an entire nation. (Lost in thought) And I'm the one who created it. HARRY But it's destroyed, right?

LUCY It is. And there's only one person in the world who could replicate the formula.

HARRY (*Remembering*) Right. The IP is up here. Harry gently taps Lucy's forehead with his index finger. She nods.

HARRY You're the WMD. (*Thinking*) Let's get you back to my hotel. It'll be more secure there.

LUCY

Will it?

HARRY

I can handle anything they throw at us. It's what I was trained to do, and I've been doing it for a very long time.

LUCY Yeah, about that...

HARRY

When we have more time I'll tell you the whole story. Right now, let's just say I sort of... fell into it.

LUCY Fell into it, yeah? One minute you're an aspiring musician, and the next you're Jason Bourne?

HARRY Best to think of it as a job.

LUCY Does it pay well?

HARRY Health benefits are good.

Lucy just looks dumbfounded at Harry, shakes her head.

HARRY

It's going to be okay. Trust me.

LUCY Okay? None of this is okay, Harry. None of it.

Harry puts an arm around Lucy. She STIFFENS at first, but then let's herself fall into his embrace.

Lucy sits on the bed, shivering. Harry drapes a blanket over her shoulders. He then kneels in front of her and holds her hands.

> LUCY (Hollow) I feel like I'm tumbling down the rabbit hole.

HARRY We're gonna get through this. I promise.

LUCY Not without alcohol.

HARRY (A relieved smile) What's your poison?

LUCY

Got vodka?

Harry goes over to the mini-fridge under the desk. He grabs a glass and pours a shot.

LUCY Misery loves company.

Harry nods. He pours himself a shot too. He brings them over.

HARRY Still hate drinking alone?

LUCY Some habits die hard.

They both down their drinks in one go. Harry takes off his jacket places it on the bed.

HARRY

I have to make a call.

He reaches into his jeans and pulls out a phone. He stares at it for a moment, confused. Meanwhile, Lucy gets up and makes them two more shots. Lucy notices Harry's reaction to his phone.

> LUCY Something wrong?

HARRY My phone's off. HARRY It was fully charged. Weird.

LUCY

All things being equal, matey... I think that might be the least weirdest thing that's happened tonight.

Lucy hands Harry another shot.

LUCY One more for the road.

Harry nods, and they both down their shots again. Harry goes into the bathroom and shuts the door.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Harry turns his phone on and sees he has a text message from Donovan.

SUPER ON SCREEN:

'The Client is a Player. Liquidate immediately. I'm coming to you'

END SUPER ON SCREEN

Harry sees that the text was sent at '8.32PM'. He checks the current time, it's: '1.25AM'.

Harry reads and re-reads the message again, perplexed and confused. He then tries calling Donovan, but it goes straight to voice mail.

DONOVAN (VO) You've reached The Don. You know what to do.

Harry hangs up. He puts the phone in his pocket. He puts his hand on the handle of the bathroom door, and takes a deep, bracing breath. Opens the door.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lucy sits, hunched over on the bed, still shocked and forlorn.

LUCY So, what now?

HARRY (Swallows) We wait. LUCY For what? HARRY Orders. LUCY From who? HARRY The boss.

Harry notices that Lucy has positioned herself between him and the jacket holding his guns. Lucy follows Harry's eyes.

Harry glares hard at Lucy. The mood has shifted.

Lucy reads Harry's expression and then slowly nods to herself. She straightens up and folds her legs. Her demeanor, completely transforms, from one that is scared and confused to confident and in control.

> LUCY 'Make the change from the inside', right?

Harry starts to speak, but is distracted by a SHARP PAIN IN HIS HEAD, causing him to immediately rub his temples.

LUCY So, I did. I worked the system. Made them believe I was an altruistic scientist. Which, I am... just not according to their conventional wisdom.

The room starts to spin for Harry. The peripheral of his vision is hazy. He staggers and sits down in the armchair, holds his head.

Lucy stands up and pours herself another shot.

LUCY James convinced me long ago that our Mother Earth is dying. Her life force is being systematically drained by over population. She can't replace at the rate in which we consume. So, the only way to save her, is to remove this corrosive cancer. (Drinks) LUCY And ER-18, is the cure. But a humane cure that doesn't rely on mass murder or destruction.

Lucy sighs, watching Harry struggle. She walks over and kneels in front of him, takes one of this hands and holds it against her cheek.

LUCY I'm so sorry, Harry.

HARRY (*Stuttering*) What did you do to me?

Lucy reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small, RED PERFUME VIAL.

LUCY I designed it myself. It'll be quick.

HARRY (Struggling) Why?

LUCY Because I'm a negative you could never turn into a positive. Because the cause is bigger than either of us. Because, sacrifice is the only cure for the Mother to live. (*Tearing up*) Why didn't you just stay away?

Lucy gets up, grabs her purse from the bed, takes out a lipstick and gently applies it to her lips, she goes back over to Harry. Leans over and kisses him very gently on the lips. She then walks toward the door and looks back one more time to see Harry SLIGHTLY CONVULSING. She wipes a solitary tear away from her cheek and exits the room.

Harry continues to convulse, his breathing has become sporadic and labored... until finally, he stops breathing altogether.

INT. BLACK CAB - NIGHT

Lucy gets into the back of the cab. Sitting on the seat across from her is the DEAD BODY of Donovan. He has a bullet hole in his head and one in his chest.

The cab driver wears a NEW YORK YANKEES baseball cap and tinted sun glasses. He removes both, and then turns around to look at Lucy.

LUCY Yes, James. We're good.

CABBY/JAMES (Winks) 'Attagirl.

Cabby/James starts the engine. The cab leaves the hotel.

Lucy pulls out her phone and opens up a picture...

SUPER ON SCREEN:

A 'selfie' of her and Harry, with their faces framing the carving of their initials on 'their tree' in Primrose Hill.

END SUPER ON SCREEN:

Lucy stares at the picture.

LUCY (*Under her breath*) Let the games begin.

Lucy switches off her phone and stares out at the streets of London, with a small, sheepish smile on her face.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Harry's hotel room is quiet. His inert body sits on the chair, his head stretched back, propped up against the chair back.

The alarm radio next to his bed comes to life. LIVE OR LET DIE, by Guns N Roses fills the silence of the room.

"When you were young, and your heart was an open book..."

CLOSE IN:

On Harry's lifeless face.

"But if this ever changin' worldIn which we live inMakes you give in and cry..."

Harry's eyes suddenly SPRING OPEN and he EXHALES LOUDLY.

"Say live and let die..."

END