

## Reality Check

Francis, 64                    The shop owner  
Black, 26  
Red, 26

*A convenience shop in Dalton, London. Black enters, he's 26 and wears a baseball cap, a leather jacket, ripped jeans and converses. Underneath the jacket he wears a white t-shirt with a black horizontal stripe. Upon entering the shop he drops his wallet. He goes straight up to the desk. Behind the desk is Francis, he's 64, bald, wears glasses and has a moustache. He is kept warm with his cardigan and baggy trousers, he is reading a newspaper.*

Black                        Alright mate can I get some Amber Leaf baccy please?

*Francis lifts his attention from the newspaper and turns around, he opens up the cigarette case and removes the product.*

Francis                        Anything else?  
Black                            Lighter.

*Francis grabs a lighter from under the box and places both products on the counter.*

Francis                        That's £6.10 altogether.  
Black                            Sure.

*Black reaches into his pockets and searches for his wallet, he can't find it, he keeps searching. At this moment Red walks into the shop, he's 26 and wears a baseball cap, a leather jacket, ripped jeans and converses. Underneath the jacket he wears a white t-shirt with a red horizontal stripe. He has the exact same facial features as Black. He picks up a wallet he found on the floor.*

Francis                        I can hold these for you.  
Black                            Yeah no, hold on I must've dropped it on my way in.  
Red                             Is this yours?

*Black turns to face the owner of the voice. They double take.*

Black/Red                    What the fuck? What the fuck! Shit fuck!

*Red and Black both back away. Francis cannot believe his eyes.*

Black                            Who are/you?  
Red                             /Who are you?  
Black                            I asked first.  
Red                             Dan, my name is Dan.  
Black                            My name is Dan.  
Red                             Nice to meet you.  
Black                            Fuck off.  
Red/Black                     Holy fuck.

*There are moments Francis wants to speak but he can't find the words.*

Red/Black                    What are you doing here? What? What did you say?  
Francis                        Let this one speak first, take it in turns. (Francis is pointing at Black)

*Black and Red both look at Francis perplexed.*

Black Okay, okay calm down.  
Red Okay, I'm trying.  
Francis Me too.  
Black Okay, I'll go first, is that okay?  
Red Yes that's fine there's an order I'm happy with that.  
Black/Red Right.  
Black Who are you?  
Red Who the fuck are you?  
Black I'm Dan Higgins  
Red So am I! I was born in-  
Black/Red -Sheffield  
Black Fuck. Okay, I'm here to buy some tobacco.  
Red Me too Amber Leaf.  
Francis Oh my god. (*Francis holds up the Amber Leaf packet*)  
Black Right okay, so we're both here.  
Red Yeah I mean, I can see you.  
Francis Touch each other, see if he's really real.

*Red and Black both look at Francis like he's sick.*

Not like that, a poke, poke him.

*Black cautiously goes over to Red and pokes him. Black recoils.*

Black/Red Fuck!  
Francis Oh lord he's real?  
Black Hold on a second, hold on. Did Craig put you up to this?  
Red No Craig didn't, I ran out of baccy and here I am.  
Black No that's what I'm doing here.  
Red So we both look identical  
Black And we're both here for tobacco.  
Red Oh no, wait I needed a lighter as well. Haha!  
Francis (*Holding up the lighter*) He asked for that too.  
Red Shit.  
Black Okay, but we don't look the same. Our tops are different.  
Francis That's right, yeah, your stripe is red and yours is black!  
Red Yeah you've got the t-shirt wrong, you find this anywhere else it's red.  
Black Are you serious? I picked this up last week in topman, and it was black.  
Red Topman, last week, red.  
Black So there's some sort of difference between us. I mean we're-  
Red -Not exactly the same no.  
Francis Do either of you own the other t-shirt?  
Black What do you mean?  
Francis (*To Black*) Do you own a white t-shirt with a red stripe?  
Black Umm... (*Looking at Red, he is unsure*)  
Red (*To Black*) I have a black striped one.  
Black Yeah, and I do have a red striped.  
Francis So you must've put on the other t-shirt by mistake?

*Pause*

Red Dan. Can I ask you a question?  
Black Yeah go ahead.  
Red I need to know you're really me.  
Black Ask me anything.  
Red Who is your secret crush, right now?

*Pause*

Black It's Mark Newt.  
Red Yeah it is. Fuck. I can't believe it.  
Black No one knows I'm gay.  
Red Except me.  
Black And me.  
Red Holy shit!  
Black This is really fucked up.  
Red Right, hold on mate. Hold a second, look. I think I know what's happened, last night-  
Black With the lightning?  
Red Yeah exactly. Something's happened.  
Black We got split, or we got put into two maybe?  
Francis What?  
Red Last night I was hit by lightning.  
Black I was hit by lightning last night.  
Francis And you're still alive?  
Black/Red Two-fold.  
Francis Oh my god. Do you, want me to call an ambulance?  
Black/Red What?! No!  
Red We can sort this out ourselves.  
Black We just need to work out who the original is.  
Red The original, yeah.

*Black and Red stare at each other.*

I know-  
Black Before you even start mate, I can tell you that I'm the original. I've lived a full life, right?  
Red So have I? I went to University, I shagged around a bit, got my first taste/ of  
Black /But I was here first! All right mate? I don't give a shit if you sucked your first dick in uni,  
that's my story, okay? I was in the shop first, I'm ahead of you. You came later. I don't know  
what the fuck has happened, but you're behind.  
Red I was behind. But, maybe you're just early? You skipped something, something you should've  
done and now we're on two separate paths.  
Black No fucking way, I'm on the right path, my path.  
Red Oh grow up mate, we're the same person!  
Black This reality is mine, and this is my path, my real t-shirt, my smoking addiction - you're the  
fucking imposter.  
Red You knew where I was going to be, you sick fuck. You're trying to oust me out of my own  
reality.  
Black Yours? Fuck off back to your own alternate reality you twisted fuck.  
Red I am not twisted.  
Black You queer cunt!  
Red You're gay too what kind of insult is that?  
Black Fuck you!  
Red Fuck you!

*Black and Red begin to fight, they push each other around the shop wrecking it in the process, Red manages to fling Black over the counter, Francis runs out of the room. Black gets up and hits the cash til, Red goes over to him and closes the door Francis just left through. Black stashes his pockets, and grabs the tobacco. He runs out of the shop, Red begins to dash out but grabs some chocolate bars on his way out.*

Red Hey, come back here!

*Francis slowly opens the door.*

Francis H-Hello?

*He emerges out of the room and looks around.*

Where? (Realising) What has happened to my shop?

*Suddenly the stage rotates, to reveal the outside of the shop. In the alley next to it, Red and Black are counting up the money.*

Red 200, 220, 240, 260-  
Black About 280 mate.

*They high five and embrace.*

Red Mate you were on fire in that one.  
Black Shit did you see his face? He was terrified.  
Red You were right about that gay thing as well, works like a charm.  
Black Didn't I say so? It's emotive right? And works well for that whole "Oh shit there's really two of them" moment.  
Red Went a bit far with the dick sucking but it was all right.

*Red and Black take off their caps, one is blonde and the other brown.*

Red Where we going next Tom?  
Black Spar shop over in Haggerston.  
Red Fair shout.  
Black Mikey mate, are you going to dye your hair soon?  
Red I figured not mate, why should I change it.  
Black Because you're supposed to look like me!  
Red Why can't we look like me?  
Black Fuck off, because it was my idea.  
Red Was it your idea to bring the wrong fucking t-shirt?  
Black Yeah all right my bad I've already apologised.  
Red You did well to cover it though.  
Black Yeah it actually works better with it.

*Francis emerges from the shop.*

Francis Oi, where have you gone? You criminals!  
Red Shit run!

*Red and Black hop over the back wall and leave the scene, Francis prowls around for the guys.*

-End-