

**RAM by Gary Young** ©2006 Gary Young

Psychologist is pacing, looking at client, looking away. Client is looking straight ahead without affect.

Psychologist is crazy, but able to help others, with is decidedly unorthodox take on things.

Psyc

Lusus naturae. (*Pause*) Lusus naturae. (Looking at CLIENT, crossing to full-size Meriam Webster dictionary)  
Lusus...(Opening book and finding the dictionary listing). A sport or freak of nature. (Closing dictionary with a pop) Did I pronounce it correctly?

CLIENT shrugs. PSYC holds the book, sighs, bends over to get a better look at the CLIENT, from the back. Crashes the book to the floor. CLIENT jumps, still looking ahead.

CLIENT

You're trying to give me...

PSYC

(yells) Freak of nature.

CLIENT

That what I see...

PSYC

Freak of nature...That's weak. That's...

CLIENT

You were the one who looked it up. You could have just let it pass, and then...

PSYC

That could be a good thing, you know?

CLIENT

How so?

PSYC

Obviously, *vive la difference*. Look it up.

CLIENT

Yeah, yeah...

PSYC

(*Crossing to directly in front of CLIENT, in his face*) You are a freak! (*Makes a strange face and freaky noise.*)

*He then begins to dance, with the face and using the noise as rhythm. CLIENT tries to look away, but PSYC moves in front of wherever CLIENT looks.)*

CLIENT  
I get it.

PSYC  
No you don't.

CLIENT  
I get it!

PSYC  
(stops dancing) No you do-on't. (resumes dancing)

CLIENT  
Yeah. Okay! (gets up and starts dancing, with the same face and sound as the PSYC)

PSYC  
(Stops, causing CLIENT to stop. THEY stand, looking at each other. Then they both abruptly sit, the PSYC in his chair, and the CLIENT back in his) And..

CLIENT  
And...

PSYC  
And...

CLIENT  
I've run out of dictionary words, and you probably broke your dictionary.

PSYC  
Yes, I probably need therapy. So no more big, big words to play stump the psyc. What about verisimilitude? What about a little more of that and less Boulderdash? And...

CLIENT  
I'm all talked out today.

PSYC  
You've said seventeen words.

CLIENT  
And whose rule is this, the number of words in a session?

PSYC  
Mine, bunky.

CLIENT

Your rule. Okay. How about...why don't you ask me more than "and."

PSYC

I'm not paid enough to say more than "and." If I said more syllables, your fee would have to go up incrementally.

CLIENT

Well...and, huh? Let's see. And. It's a pretty big subject. Do I have to stick with reality today or can I delve into what I seem to think and feel. Are you going to turn every little fantasy of mine into a reality...thing? Like always?

PSYC

You don't like reality. I know that. I'm not overly fond of it myself. Maybe we can dispense with reality altogether. After all, there is no reality. Just perception. I read that on a box of cereal once. I think you can learn a lot from cereal.

CLIENT

Cocoa Puffs for me.

PSYC

You'll get cavities from that one. Try a nice pooppy cereal like raisin bran, any brand. Any bran brand. It's hard to say that three times fast, as easy as it seems. Try it.

CLIENT

No. Listen. I need...damn. I don't know what I need.

PSYC

You never do. No one ever does. Not really. Not really...how can I use the word "really" after deciding that there is no "really?" Well, You know what I mean.

CLIENT

We're circling the issue here. Whatever that is.

PSYC

I'm trying to help you. Oh boy, if I only could. I'm just a man, after all. (Picking up balloon and beginning to blow it up). It's the girl. It's always the girl.

CLIENT

Of course it is. But I don't know anything. I don't know if she loves me, if I love her, if I deserve her, if she deserves me, if, if if.

PSYC

(still blowing) What do you feel now.

CLIENT

Now?

PSYC

What do you feel this second. (lets out a little air, with a balloon squeal)

CLIENT

(pause) Floating.

PSYC

Like a balloon.

CLIENT

More like an unclear, unformed thought, like one of those thought dialog balloons that hover above people in cartoons.

PSYC

(holding up balloon, over head) Like this. (ties balloon)

CLIENT

A few more (makes gesture) lumps, in the cartoons, the thought balloon.

PSYC

(batting the balloon to Client) Freak of nature, Lusus naturae. A living cartoon character. Well, sure. We all are.