

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

BLACK, WHITE, & RED ALL OVER

Written by

Daniel Prillaman

2020

1315 S Lake Wilmer Dr. Apt 202
Sandusky, OH. 44870
434-981-0043

*The following play is copyrighted material, the sole owner of which is the author, Daniel Prillaman. If you enjoy it, please feel free to share it with whomever you like or leave a recommendation on NPX. For performance/royalty rights, please contact me at danielprillaman@gmail.com, through the New Play Exchange, or through www.danielprillaman.com.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(All roles are and may be played by any ethnicity and any gender)

TERRENCE: Penguin.

LING-LING: Panda.

ZOOKEEPER: Human.

SETTING:

Panda Palace.

TIME:

April, 2020.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 1.

Panda Palace.

TERRENCE stares at LING-LING.

*And LING-LING stares at
TERRENCE, transfixed, jaw
perhaps slightly ajar.*

*TERRENCE is visibly
uncomfortable.*

A VERY. AWKWARD. SILENCE.

This can last a fair bit.

*If it feels too long, it
isn't.*

TERRENCE

I said, can you help me?

If you're too busy, I understand.

Are--are you okay?

Sir? Ma'am? I don't know which.

Are you okay?

I don't mean to be rude, but...you're kind of scaring me? A
lot? A little bit?

You're not--saying anything? You're just--

Staring at me.

Are you okay?

LING-LING

What?

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

What?

Are?

You?

Beat.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 2.

What?
TERRENCE

What are you?!
LING-LING

Like...
TERRENCE

Physically?
LING-LING

You're not supposed to be here.
TERRENCE

I know, I'm kind of lost.
LING-LING

What are you? Because you're--
SMALL!

And you're not Charlie's kid, who is supposed to be small but they still haven't brought him out from the wherever-the-heck-it-is-they-let-us-birth. So you can't be him. And he can't be you. Unless they DID bring out Charlie's kid?! Then you COULD be him! And he could be you! Are you Charlie's kid?
TERRENCE

No.
LING-LING

Are you sure? Because if you were just born, you might not be sure.
TERRENCE

No, my father's name is Terrence.
LING-LING

You're sure?
TERRENCE

Yes?
LING-LING

What if he was lying to you?
TERRENCE

What?
LING-LING

Parents lie to their kids all the time.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 3.

TERRENCE

Um--

LING-LING

For instance, one time I was eating this stick because we ran out of bamboo shoots? Just to try it. Like, I wasn't being weird or anything. I just wanted to try it. But I was trying it? And my dad told me not to try it because he said, "Sticks. Are not. Healthy."

And we all know that that was a lie, because sticks taste great and are actually super helpful for digestion.

Beat.

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

So they could be lying to you.

TERRENCE

I don't--think they were.

LING-LING

So you're not Charlie's kid?

TERRENCE

No.

LING-LING

Then what ARE you?!

TERRENCE

I'm--

LING-LING

Because you don't look like a panda. I mean, you sorta do, but you don't. Your fur is weird. You. Look. Different. Like a cub, but...different.

TERRENCE

I'm a penguin.

LING-LING

A what?

TERRENCE

I'm a penguin.

Beat.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 4.

A what? LING-LING

Clearly, you have never seen one before. TERRENCE

I have not. LING-LING

Sorry. TERRENCE

Why are you sorry? LING-LING

I don't know. TERRENCE

Have you seen a panda before? LING-LING

What? TERRENCE

Have you ever seen a panda before? LING-LING

Uh, I have not. TERRENCE

Well? LING-LING

What? TERRENCE

Well? LING-LING

Well what? TERRENCE

Is it everything you've ever dreamed of? Is it more? LING-LING

I've never dreamed about meeting anybody. TERRENCE

Beat.

That's sad. LING-LING

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 5.

TERRENCE

Is it?

LING-LING

Did you say you were lost?

TERRENCE

Uh, yeah, sorta. I guess. I don't know.

LING-LING

You don't know?

TERRENCE

No.

LING-LING

Do you know where you are?

TERRENCE

Well...

LING-LING

Are you aware you are where you are?

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?

TERRENCE

NO! I DO NOT!

LING-LING

No?

TERRENCE

No.

LING-LING

Wait, you don't "know?" Or you don't, "no?"

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

Like, know, K-N-O-W or no, N-O?

TERRENCE

No. I don't know.

LING-LING

Neither do I.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 6.

TERRENCE

I do not know where I am.

LING-LING

I know.

TERRENCE

You know?

LING-LING

Know what?

TERRENCE

No!

What?

LING-LING

If you don't know where you are. You're probably lost!

Unless you don't know where you are metaphorically. But then, I suppose you're metaphorically lost. Do you know where you are metaphorically?

TERRENCE

Uh...

LING-LING

You're right, it's probably a loaded question, let's move past that. You do not know where you are physically. Correct?

TERRENCE

No.

LING-LING

No, that's not correct?

TERRENCE

No! That is correct. I do not know. Where I am.

LING-LING

N-O, no?

TERRENCE

Yes.

Beat.

LING-LING

Right.

Well! I don't know where you're trying to get to, but I can
(MORE)

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 7.

LING-LING (cont'd)
tell you where you are!

Welcome, Mr. Pangoon! TO PANDA PALACE!

LING LING holds for applause.

TERRENCE
I'm a penguin.

LING-LING
Is that not what I said?

TERRENCE
Just call me Terrence.

Beat.

LING-LING
Isn't that your dad's name?

TERRENCE
Well, it's--my name, too.

LING-LING
Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh, I bet there's a story there.

TERRENCE
Yes.

We don't--have time to get into that.

LING-LING
Ah, shoots. But okay! Hi, Terrence! My name's Ling-Ling.

TERRENCE
Ling-Ling?

LING-LING
Yeah, I know, it's, like, ridonkulously racist. I was born in Philadelphia. Never even been to Asia. Like, I literally don't even know where it is. You can call me Candace!

TERRENCE
Oh, okay. Sure. Hi, Candace!

LING-LING
Heeeeey, Terrence!

So where you trying to get to? I've never left the Palace so, again, I don't know where anything else is, but I am HAPPY TO HELP!

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 8.

TERRENCE

Well...

I live near the seals? Do you know where they are?

LING-LING

I do not! What's a seal?

TERRENCE

Um...well, that's okay. Never mind. I'll just--keep wandering around.

LING-LING

Woah woah woah woah no no no. No need! Slow your roll, there, T-Doodle. We can figure this out.

TERRENCE

T-Doodle?

LING-LING

Yeah, I was trying something. It didn't work. How'd you get lost? What happened?

TERRENCE

Uh. Well...nothing? That's--why I'm confused. You know the--door? That's, like, usually closed? Locked?

LING-LING

Yep, we got those.

TERRENCE

It just--wasn't. It was open. So I walked out. A lot of us did. And we've just been wandering around. And...no one's stopped us? And I guess, I...kind of lost track of everyone else, you know?

LING-LING

Wooooooooow.

TERRENCE

So I should...probably keep looking for them, I guess.

LING-LING

Wait! What's it like?

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

The outside! What's it like? Is it fun? Is it everything you've ever dreamed?

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 9.

TERRENCE

Uh...well, it's...interesting.

LING-LING

Wooooooooow.

That's so cool.

TERRENCE

Yeah. It is kind of cool, I guess.

LING-LING

That's so cool, Terrence.

TERRENCE

I mean, it's wild.

LING-LING

Literally. You're like the coolest penguin I've ever met.

TERRENCE

I feel overwhelmed, you know?

LING-LING

I do not.

TERRENCE

There's so much stimuli, you know?

LING-LING

I do.

Hey. Are any of them out there?

TERRENCE

The Food People?

LING-LING

No, no, the other ones! The Window People.

TERRENCE

Oh.

No.

I didn't see any.

LING-LING

That's so weird. What happened to all of them? I haven't, like, seen any of them!

TERRENCE

Me neither.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 10.

LING-LING

Something must have happened. What do you think happened?

TERRENCE

I don't know.

LING-LING

Something must have happened.

It's different around here.

Without them.

TERRENCE

It is.

Heh.

Hey, maybe they're lost, too.

LING-LING

Metaphorically?

TERRENCE

Uh, I don't know--

LING-LING

You're right. It's probably a loaded question.

Beat.

TERRENCE

Well. I should...probably keep looking for my friends.

LING-LING

Ah, shoots, okay. Yeah, I understand. I'm sorry I couldn't be more helpful, Terrence!

TERRENCE

Oh, no, it's not your fault.

LING-LING

If you keep heading down that hall there, it'll take you back to the entrance.

TERRENCE

Oh, perfect. Thanks. See, that's helpful.

LING-LING

I like you, Terrence. You're cool.

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 11.

TERRENCE

Thanks.

I think you're pretty cool too. Candace.

Beat.

LING-LING

Wanna fuck?

TERRENCE

Huh?

LING-LING

'Cause like, if you can find a way in here, I am, like, totally down. I am so bored.

TERRENCE

Um, uh, well, um, maybe, another time?
(To himself, how is
that the thing I go
with?)

What?

LING-LING

Okay! Just lemme know! We don't have to, either, it was just an idea.

TERRENCE

Okay.

I should go now.

LING-LING

You should come back!

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

If your door ever gets left open again.

You know. Come say hi.

You're the Window People now!

Beat.

TERRENCE

I guess I am. Heh.

Yeah. I'll do that.

(MORE)

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 12.

TERRENCE (cont'd)

Actually, could I ask one thing--

ZOOKEEPER enters.

ZOOKEEPER

Mr. Flippers! There you are.

TERRENCE

Oh, here is a food person.

LING-LING

Did he call you Mr. Flippers?

ZOOKEEPER

(Calling off)

I found him, Jenna!

LING-LING

What is it with the casual racism in this place?

ZOOKEEPER

You enjoy your walk, little buddy? Wandered off a little too far, didn't you?

*ZOOKEEPER picks up TERRENCE
and begins to exit.*

TERRENCE

Oh. There we go. Okay. I guess I have to go now.

LING-LING

That's okay! See you around, Terrence!

TERRENCE

Bye, Candace! It was really nice to meet you!

LING-LING

You too!

*ZOOKEEPER exits, carrying
TERRENCE.*

Beat.

LING-LING

Wow.

Penguins. Are. Cool.

Well, that was fun.

What to do now what to do now what to do now what to do

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

Black, White, & Red All Over, Daniel Prillaman, 13.

noooooooooooooow?

Journal!

*LING-LING obtains some method
of note-taking (be it as
archaic as scratching a piece
of wood or as high-tech as a
tape recorder) and journals.*

LING-LING

Captivity! Day 1602. Something interesting happened today.
Met a penguin named Terrence. He was lost. Possibly
metaphorically. But he WAS cool. Here is a list of reasons
why.

END OF PLAY.

NOTE ON ALTERNATE DIALOGUE:

Obviously, LING-LING's line "Wanna fuck?" at the top of page 11 is a bit less than family-friendly.

While I adore it, it's clear that the line might prevent the piece being appropriate for younger audiences, and any production has the playwright's permission to change the line to "Wanna make out?" or something else akin to the line's spirit of an unexpected, out of the blue offer (of something TERRENCE would probably politely decline).