

ATLAS 🇺🇸(ツ)🇺🇸ED

by

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(DAY 7 OF 29 PLAYS LATER CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 2016:

WRITE A PLAY USING EMOJIS)

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ATLAS _(ツ)_/ED

PRETTY INACCURATE SYNOPSIS OF ACTION

HACKER

NEMESIS

ALL OTHER PARTS PLAYED BY CAST MEMBERS (PARENTS & TEACHERS, SCHOOL+WEB FRIENDS, GULCH RESIDENTS, NEIGHBOURING CHILEANS)

ACT ONE: THE MAILING LIST

1. EPIC theatre song and dance number about Galt's Gulch
- 2a. Teen would-be libertarian anarchist. Trouble at school. Withdrawn. Obsessed with dark net. He won't communicate except in emojis.
- 2b. Teacher's serious conversation about him explain Galt's Gulch. Cynical about it.
3. He buys land in Galt's Gulch. Excited conversations with friends about plan. Troubled but in a different way to how his teachers think.
4. Shenanigans at the Gulch dystopia. Members basically fucking each other over as a way of life.
5. Going to Galt's Gulch. Conversation on road with a Chilean- Is this the way to.... Yeah, but you'd be better not going there. Why? OH they's tells stuff in article.

ACT TWO: GALT'S GULCH

1. He has been ripped off. The whole thing is a greedy land-grabbing shitstorm. No water rights. He clashes with whole thing especially NEMESIS
2. Reveals he has decided to take it over. He promises mutually beneficial arrangements with the other Gulchers to support HIS idea of the Randian Individualist commune (IRONY KLAXON)
3. In the ensuing contest much is said and he wins. NEMESIS is exiled from Galt's Gulch.
4. Neighbouring Chileans discuss what has happened and the land-grabbing and want to do something. NEMESIS appears and convinces them to seize back their land from the Gulch (spinning it for their benefit but for revenge - revenge soliloquy???)
5. The Individualist utopia is thriving because of His innovations in infrastructure. IRONY KLAXON. Water rights pending. But the Chileans are on their way back to revenge the sins of his predecessors and to assert crushing group individualism against His new deal. OPEN ENDING.

ACT 1

SCENE 1

BIG BAND MUSICAL NUMBER. ALL ACTORS ON
STAGE. AS MUCH SPECTACLE AS CAN BE
MUSTERED

BIG BAND MUSIC SUBSIDES TO SOLO PIANO
MUSIC

HACKER: Confused face? Disappointed face? Winky frowny,
sadness with a bit of sarcasm. Person frowning.

CHORUS: What do you think?

HACKER: Thinking face...

CHORUS: How does it make you feel?

HACKER: Face without mouth...

CHORUS: Say something!

HACKER: Expressionless face.

NEMESIS: I know a place you can go

Better than any place you've never known!

CHORUS: Where? Where?

NEMESIS: It isn't too far. Go to the valley by the
northern road.

CHORUS: We can't see it!

NEMESIS: It's disguised by heat rays and reflectors!

CHORUS: That's high tech.

NEMESIS: You've got to swear an oath to enter!

CHORUS: What oath?

NEMESIS: Swear! Swear the oath!

CHORUS: We swear! We swear the oath!

NEMESIS AND CHORUS (KNEELING): I swear, by my life and my love
of it, that I will never live for the sake of
another man, nor ask another man to live for
mine.

HACKER: Face with open mouth. Relieved face. Face savouring delicious food.

NEMESIS: That's right, young man! Follow me!

STRIKE UP BIG BAND

CHORUS: Go to the Gulch!

NEMESIS: To Galt's Gulch.

CHORUS: To the Gulch!

NEMESIS: Go to Galt's Gulch!

CHORUS MEMBER 1: If you're oppressed by government taxes...

CHORUS MEMBER 2: And sick of people borrowing your axes...

CHORUS: Go to the Gulch!

NEMESIS: To Galt's Gulch.

CHORUS: To the Gulch!

NEMESIS: Go to Galt's Gulch!

CHORUS MEMBER 1: If you're fed up of people getting a free ride....

CHORUS MEMBER 2: And teachers turning our children into cowards...

CHORUS 1: Non-productive citizens...

CHORUS 2: Inner-city breeders...

CHORUS: The clueless 95 percent!

PAUSE

HACKER: Happy person raising one hand. White pointing up index finger. World map, station?

CHORUS: Go to the Gulch!

NEMESIS: To Galt's Gulch.

CHORUS: To the Gulch!

NEMESIS: Go to Galt's Gulch!

CHORUS: To the Gulch, Gulch, Gulch, Gulch, Galt's Gulch,
Galt's Gulch -

NEMESIS: A place for heroes, and a place for those who
wish to become heroes.

EVERYONE: GALT'S GULCH!

ENTIRE CAST HOLDS SPECTACULAR TABLEAU

ACT 1

SCENE 2

HACKER IN SPOTLIGHT CENTRE STAGE
CROUCHED DOWN INTO THE BRIGHTNESS OF A
LAPTOP SCREEN

TEACHER 1: He's so withdrawn.

TEACHER 2: Won't communicate.

TEACHER 1: Won't talk to girls.

TEACHER 2: Won't hand in his homework on time.

TEACHER 1: Just sits there with his computer.

TEACHER 2: Ignoring the other students.

TEACHER 1: Never speaks

TEACHER 2: But when he speaks

TEACHER 1: He only speaks in emojis.

HACKER: Frowning face with open mouth!

MOTHER: What's happened to my little boy!

FATHER: He used to get the grades.

MOTHER: Now we don't know who he is.

FATHER: Breaking his poor mother's heart.

MOTHER: His poor father was so disappointed:

FATHER: What kind of a boy doesn't like sports? Tell me what kind of boy?

THERAPIST: Has he shown any signs of inversion or inclinations toward transvesticism?

MOTHER: None! He just sits there looking at his computer.

THERAPIST: Perhaps he is making a study of the female form?

FATHER: He just scrolls up and down numbers and figures. It's gobbledegook!

TEACHER 1: His IQ results are off the scale!

TEACHER 2: His pattern recognition is staggering!

TEACHER 1: But in English class...

TEACHER 2: Can't spell. No interest in literature, no feeling for character.

TEACHER 1: In Science class...

TEACHER 2: Doesn't apply himself. Disbelieves in scientific method, only in what he can see.

TEACHER 1: In Geography and Religion...

TEACHER 2: No desire to understand other cultures.

THERAPIST: Does he show no signs of intersocial empathy at all?

MOTHER: He's rude to his sister!

FATHER: He kicked the dog!

MOTHER: He never visits his grandmother!

FATHER: And he won't get himself a job, just sits looking at that computer.

MOTHER: All day long!

FATHER: All night long!

TEACHER 1: All day at school!

TEACHER 2: And during detention too!

HACKER: Eyeroll. Extraterrestrial alien. Open hands sign. Speaking head in silhouette. Grimacing face. Worried face. Unamused face. Nerd face.

TEACHER 1: I'm sorry Mrs Smith

MOTHER: Oh no!

TEACHER 2: If he continues to refuse to communicate, we'll have no choice but to remove him from ordinary schooling.

MOTHER: I think that's what he wants. I read some of his emails. Oh I know I shouldn't have!

FATHER: We're just so worried about the boy!

MOTHER: He just keeps going on about Galt's Gulch!

THERAPIST: Gulch, it is a metaphor for the birth canal is it not? An emblem of the fear of death in the castrated female form that gives rise to a paradoxical retrogressive force of will in the Thanatos and Eros.

TEACHER 1: I thought they called it Milligan's Valley?

TEACHER 2: Or Atlantis?

TEACHER 1: Or Ouray, Colorado.

THERAPIST: It is a manifestation of his simultaneous fear of and lack of respect for authority while wanting to topple it in order to paradoxically establish himself as the authority.

FATHER: Over my dead body!

THERAPIST: Er.... yes....

CAST DISPERSES

ACT 1 SCENE 3

HACKER CENTRE STAGE CROUCHED IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF HIS LAPTOP. HE CLOSES THE LAPTOP, RAISES HIS HEAD, PUSHES BACK THE HOOD FROM HIS HEAD, AND STANDS UP

HACKER: Earth globe Americas. Horror, disgust, sadness, great dismay. Earth globe Europe-Africa. Shocked, surprised. Dissatisfied.

FRIEND: Grinning face with smiling eyes.

HACKER: Globe with meridians. Snubbed or deflated. Mellow, shrug. Roll eyes. Where am I? Who am I? Troubled. Cool, bored/yawning. Winky frowny with a bit of sarcasm.

FRIEND: Face with stuck-out tongue and winking eye.

HACKER: Desktop computer.

FRIEND: Personal computer.

HACKER: Heavy black heart.

FRIEND: Reversed hand with middle finger extended.

HACKER: Smiling face with heart shaped eyes.

FRIEND: Growing heart.

HACKER: Earth globe Americas. Radioactive sign. Right arrow. Right arrow. Fireworks!

FRIENDS: Fireworks!

HACKER: Boy. Right Arrow. Mountain. Building Construction.

FRIEND: Smiling face with heart shaped eyes.

HACKER: High speed train with bullet nose. Train. Metro. Light rail. Station. Anchor. Banknote with yen sign. Banknote with dollar sign. Banknote with euro sign. Banknote with pound sign.

FRIEND: Passport control?

HACKER: Soon with rightwards arrow above.

CAST DISPERSES

ACT 1 SCENE 4

GALT'S GULCH. CAST ENTER AND GATHER AS MEMBERS OF THE 'COMMUNITY'. AT THE SIDE OF THE STAGE HACKER RUNS ON THE SPOT GETTING CLOSER TO THEM.

ANARCHIST: The valley is a great place for anarchists because there's a strong organising principle devoted to dismantling orthodox power structures. I've been here six months and the government can't touch me.

HACKER: Smiling face with heart shaped eyes!

LIBERTARIAN: We're free here! In the valley a libertarian can do what he wants, say what he wants to whom he wants! No political correctness! No groups or teams! Noone tells you what you're saying isn't very nice! And that's nice!

HACKER: Thumbs up sign! Clapping hands!

CYPHERPUNK: This is the place for cypherpunks. If you can't take it then get out! Newbies, technical non-specialists, governments, socialists and Social Justice Warriors, watch out!

HACKER: Reversed hand with middle finger extended!

ALL: We're coming for you! We're coming for you!

NEMESIS: Who's stolen my shower gel? Who's got my toothpaste? Someone used up the last of my good ground coffee beans!

ANARCHIST: You're so tied to old systems!

LIBERTARIAN: You're enslaved to your possessions!

CYPHERPUNK: Your self-identity is predicated on outmoded dogmas!

NEMESIS: I just want a cup of coffee!

ALL: NO COFFEE! NO SYSTEMS! NOONE TELLING US WHAT TO DO!

NEMESIS: Don't forget it's rent day tomorrow.

ALL: PAID BY DIRECT DEBIT ON THE FIFTH OF THE MONTH.

NEMESIS: GALT'S GULCH IS GOOD!

LIBERTARIAN: GULCH IS GOOD

ANARCHIST: GULCH IS GREAT

CYPHERPUNK: Who's taken my electric moonboots? This is the fifth time, I'm sick of it. Where are my curtains? I just want to be left alone!

ALL: WE JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!

CAST DISPERSES

ACT 1 SCENE 4

HACKER MOVES FROM THE SPOT TO RUN TOWARD CENTRE STAGE TOWARD A CHILEAN MAN WORKING ON THE LAND

HACKER: Waving hand sign.

CHILEAN: Che?

HACKER: Tired face. Exclamation question mark.

CHILEAN: I can't understand you. Are you looking for the valley?

HACKER: Grinning face with smiling eyes! Smiling face with open mouth!

CHILEAN: You no want to go there.

HACKER: Worried face.

CHILEAN: Galt's Gulch is that way.

HACKER: Face with stuck out tongue and winking eye.

CHILEAN: So you are looking for a fully self-sustaining community?

HACKER: Happy person raising one hand!

CHILEAN: You want to renounce the oppression of the over-regulated, over-taxed, war-riddled and welfare-riddled society consuming the world?

HACKER: Man in business suit levitating. Father Christmas. Victory hand!

CHILEAN: You're going to be disappointed...

CAST DISPERSSES

ACT 2

SCENE 1

STRIKE UP BIG BAND

CHORUS: Go to the Gulch!

NEMESIS: To Galt's Gulch.

CHORUS: To the Gulch!

NEMESIS: Go to Galt's Gulch!

CHORUS MEMBER 1: If you're oppressed by government taxes...

CHORUS MEMBER 2: And sick of people borrowing your axes...

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CHORUS: To the Gulch!

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ride....

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cowards...

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CHORUS: The clueless 95 percent!

CHORUS: Go to the Gulch!

NEMESIS: To Galt's Gulch.

CHORUS: To the Gulch!

NEMESIS: Go to Galt's Gulch!

CHORUS: To the Gulch, Gulch, Gulch, Gulch, Galt's Gulch,
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wish to become heroes.

EVERYONE: GALT'S GULCH!

ENTIRE CAST HOLDS SPECTACULAR TABLEAU

HACKER AND NEMESIS STEP FORWARD
TALKING AS CAST DISPERSES

HACKER: But I bought a 1.25 acre plot!

NEMESIS: There's been some teething troubles with the project.

HACKER: I just got an email saying Galt's Gulch lacks water rights.

NEMESIS: Who needs rights!?

HACKER: It says in Chile purchasing surface land and water rights are two separate processes.

NEMESIS: Petty bureaucracy!

HACKER: It even says that this is desert terrain like California, and water rights are absolutely necessary for a community to be established.

NEMESIS: Bolshevism! Socialism! You're so naive. He talks about community. Let go of your mother's apron strings! Throw off the shackles of the economic system!

HACKER: I demand my money back.

NEMESIS: Throw off the tyranny of capital!

HACKER: I'll sue.

NEMESIS: You're a pawn of the legal system.

HACKER: I came here looking for a fully self-sustaining community?

NEMESIS: You can only rely on yourself.

HACKER: I wanted to renounce the oppression of the over-regulated, over-taxed, war-riddled and welfare-riddled society consuming the world!

NEMESIS: You must face the world alone!

HACKER: How can I face the world alone without money? I'm taking you down, Nemesis.

NEMESIS: BRING IT ON.

THEY EXIT

ACT 2

SCENE 2

BIG BAND MUSICAL NUMBER OVERTURE AND
WHOLE CAST.

ALL: Why should we follow you? What will you do? Lead us to triumph or a steaming pile of poo?

HACKER: We're all individuals and I promise you liberty! We'll all have anything we want -

LIBERTARIAN: Shower gel?

ANARCHIST: Good ground coffee?

HACKER: It's all there on the shelf! Follow me!

ALL: Follow him!

HACKER: Follow me!

ALL: Follow him!

HACKER: And if you follow, tomorrow, we'll have a better system!

ANARCHIST: Just one second, will there be plumbers? There's a blockage in the cistern.

HACKER: Better than that all be paid for my amazing new system!

LIBERTARIAN: What about education? And what about my inflammation?

HACKER: I've got a really great idea! One of should be, and I'm not saying me, necessarily, Executive Individual to lead the Individuals toward the fulfilment of their Individuality!

ALL: That's me! That's me! That's me! That's me! We all retain our individuality!

HACKER: That's right!

LIBERTARIAN: But how will we afford this amazing dream?

HACKER: We'll all pay into a shared financial scheme!

ANARCHIST: That's brilliant! But what if he earns more than me?

HACKER: We'll tier the contribution by income, do you see?

ALL: WE SEE! WE SEE! WE ALL HAVE INDIVIDUALITY!

HACKER: So follow me...

ALL: We'll follow you!

HACKER: Follow me!

ALL: We're following you!

HACKER: Follow me into prosperity!

ALL: To the Gulch, Gulch, Gulch, Gulch, Galt's Gulch, Galt's Gulch -

HACKER: A place for heroes, and a place for those who wish to become heroes.

EVERYONE: GALT'S GULCH!

ENTIRE CAST HOLDS SPECTACULAR TABLEAU

ACT 2

SCENE 3

NEMESIS RE-ENTERS

ALL: Cast him out! Cast him out!

NEMESIS: You can't cast me out of what doesn't exist! No societies! No communities! No systems!

HACKER: It's too late, you see - I've won.

ALL: Cast him out! Cast him out!

NEMESIS: The hot springs on the right bank of the river are drying up. The minerals are gone. The gold and silver in the mines are almost done.

HACKER: It doesn't matter. With the money coming in, eventually we'll be able to finance some miners who might reopen the old Camp Bird Mine and prospect for other minerals in addition to gold or silver.

ALL: Cast him out! Cast him out!

NEMESIS: I've sold all the loans to other banks. I've sent word to the depositors to withdraw their deposits and close their accounts. The bank will stand for liquidation, but the accounts are all perfectly balanced.

ALL: Cast him out! Cast him out!

NEMESIS: I am leaving it as I found it. Take over. It's yours.

EXIT

HACKER: We've won! We've won! Now we can all truly be Individuals!

ALL: True individuals!

CAST DISPERSES

ACT 2

SCENE 4

ENTER NEMESIS ALONE

NEMESIS: I showed her the property, and she fell head over heels right away. She said it was the tree, there was the most beautiful tree she'd ever seen. She said she felt an instant connection, as though she and the tree were old souls who had found each other. Waking up each morning, and having coffee under that tree. Telling it her plans for the day. Now her dream could come true because she finally owned her own plot, her own little bit of land, her house and a tree. But I'd lied to her. I sold her the plot, but without authority. Defy authority! That's what I said. Forget about property! Cast it aside! But I took the money. I took the money, and then when she called me she asked me....

WOMAN: When you 'sold' us that property, when you printed out a photo from your phone that read 'Wendy's tree' did you know that you could not legally sell us the lot you were offering?

NEMESIS: And I said: 'That is correct.'

CHILEANS: Hey you! You, hey you!

THEY ATTACK HIM

This is the guy who took all our money! You owe us big time! Hundreds and thousands of dollars! Hardware stores! Liquor stores! People who fix your plumbing and build your extensions! Who deliver your food! We help you in every single way! Hundreds and thousands of dollars!

NEMESIS: Throw off the shackles of financial slavery! Deliver yourselves from the burden of debt and commerce!

CHILEANS: It's you who owes us! We're starving! We're starving!

NEMESIS: You've got to learn the virtue of selfishness! You've got to learn!

THEY CARRY HIM OFF

ACT 2

SCENE 5

GANT'S GULCH

HACKER: Laughing! Big grin! Tongue sticking out! Smiling face with sunglasses! Grinning face with smiling eyes! (MORE CONFIDENTIALLY TO AUDIENCE BY WAY OF EXPLANATION) Face savouring delicious food. Family (Man, Woman, Girl, Boy). Boy, World Globe. Balloon. Oil Drum, Gemstone. Banknote with yen sign. Banknote with dollar sign. Banknote with euro sign. Banknote with pound sign. Rightwards arrow. Strong arm.

CHILEANS APPEAR

CHILEANS: Hundreds and thousands of dollars! Hardware stores! Liquor stores! People who fix your plumbing and build your extensions!

CHILEANS ENCIRCLE HIM

Who deliver your food! We help you in every single way! Hundreds and thousands of dollars!

THE CHILEANS CLOSE IN ON HIM

CHILEAN: (SHOCKED) There's fire on the shale field! He's set fire to the shale field! It's spreading to the houses. The houses are burning!

HACKER: Take it! Take it all! I am leaving it as I found it. Take over. It's yours.

THEY COMPLETELY COVER HIM

CURTAIN