

MAGIC AGENCY Chapter 5: CAPTURING HENRY FONDA

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IN A CHURCH BASEMENT, IN LARGE AMERICAN CITY, IN A DYSTOPIAN-FUTURE RAVAGED BY GLOBAL CONFLICTS AND ECO-DISASTERS, THE MAGIC AGENCY TOILS IN OBSCURITY — GATHERING AND RESCUING FRAGMENTED INDIVIDUALS AS PARTY ENTERTAINMENTS.

THE MAGIC AGENCY HAS MANAGED TO MONETIZE THESE PSYCHIC EXORCISMS - LIKE AN AMWAY EVENT. THE AGENCY CATCH PHRASE IS "MAGIC, THE MOTHER OF SCIENCE."

GOUACHE IS THE VETERAN MEMBER OF THE AGENCY PRESENT, AND HAS BEEN LEFT IN CHARGE, AT THIS AGENCY OUTPOST IN AN OUTER BOROUGH OF THE CITY. GOUACHE'S STORY IS A MYSTERY. SHE'S THE ONLY MEMBER OF MAGIC AGENCY TO BE GIVEN SO MUCH POWER WHO AS NOT YET HERSELF BEEN FORCED TO WEAR THE BAG, AND GO THROUGH THE PSYCHIC DE-FRAGMENTATION PROCESS, A PROCESS DESIGNED BY THE GROUP FOUNDER, AND THE REGENERATOR OF IT'S MOST SECRET AND SHROUDED CODES, PHILLIPS BAKER. IF SHE WAS PROCESSED — IT WAS ALONE WITH PHILIPPS, AS NO ONE TALKS ABOUT IT. BITS OF INFORMATION FROM HER PAST ARE LINKED TO A PERSONALITY DISORDER SHE CLAIMS MAKES HER DISAPPEAR A BIT EACH TIME, IF SHE TALKS OF HER PAST. GOUCHE CALLS IT A CURSE. NO ONE IN THE AGENCY HAS BEEN ABLE TO COME CLOSE TO HER TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL CAPTURES. IT'S BELIEVED THAT THIS BENEFIT TO THE AGENCY HAS ENABLED HER TO AVOID DEFRAG. OTHERS SAY "GOUACHE NEVER NEEDED DEFRAG ANYWAY! GOUACHE IS FINE AS SHE IS."

EDUARDO SHANE CONDOR, UNLIKE GOUCHE, HAS WORE THE BAG LONGER THAN ANY MEMBER EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE AGENCY. NO ONE IS SURE IF HIS DEFRAG HAS EVEN BEEN COMPLETED? EDUARDO WEARING THE BAG CAN HAVE THE AFFECT OF MAKING POTENTIAL NEW CAPTURES TO THE AGENCY, FEEL AT EASE, DISPLACING THIER BEING ON THE HOT-SEAT. THEY WILL SOMETIMES LET DOWN THEIR GUARD, FEELING A VULNERABLE SYMPATHY FOR EDUARDO, SO IN THIS WAY HIS PROLONGED DEFRAGMENTATION HAS SHOWN USEFUL EFFECTS FOR THE AGENCY. EDUARDO AND GOUCHE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO MEET A QUOTA OF 3 FRESH CAPTURES BEFORE THE NEW YEAR. MOSTLY THEIR TIME TOGETHER IS ENDLESS HOURS OF WAITING, PREZ HAS STUMBLED UPON THE SIGN PLACED IN FRONT OF THE BASEMENT, AND CAN'T RESIST GOING INSIDE. HE MAKES UP A STORY ABOUT WHY IS ENTERING—A COMMON TACTIC NEWCOMERS TO THE MAGIC AGENCY FALL INTO. 'OH NO I'M JUST FILLING SOME TIME AND I THOUGHT I'D TRY ANSWERING A QUESTION I HAD ABOUT THIS PROJECT I AM WORKING ON' - ETC ETC PREZ IS A MOLE FOR AN OPPOSITIONAL SOUTH AMERICAN GOVERMENT, PLACED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OVER A DECADE AGO, WHEN THE POSSIBILITY OF REVOLUTION SEEMED HOPEFUL. AS THE REVOLUTION WAS CRUSHED, PREZ WAS ABANDONED BY HIS COUNTRY AND LEFT, LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS TO ROAM ENDLESSLY IN A AMERICA GONE TO POT. PREZ RESMEBLES AN OAKIE DURING THE GREAT MIGRATION OF THE 20'S, AND HIS FAVORITE ACTOR WAS HENRY FONDA, HE CONSTANTLY TELLS PEOPLE THAT HE IS HENRY FONDA — 'YOU CAN CALL ME H. FONDA IF YOU LIKE' - HE'LL SAY. HE CARRIES A GRAPES OF WRATH VHS TAPE AROUND WITH HIM THAT HE USES AS A PILLOW. PREZ WILL LIE ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT EVERYONE SEEMS TO LIKE HIM. HE HAS FORGOTTON WHO HE IS. PREZ IS TAILOR MADE FOR THE MAGIC AGENCY. BLACK CURTAINS CONCEAL ALL SIDE AREAS AND CORNERS THE BASMENT, LEAVING A LONG CORRIDOR

NO PRE-SHOW MUSIC. HOUSELIGHTS ON AS AUDIENCE ENTERS.

PART ONE

[BLACKOUT]

[EDUARDO AND GOUACHE ENTER AND SIT UP-CENTER AT A SMALL ROUND TABLE] [AN OLD TELEPHONE FROM THE 1980'S SITS ON TABLE]

[RED CURTAIN OPENS 1/2 WAY, ENOUGH SO THAT PERFORMERS CAN BE SEEN BY ALL SEATS]

[***MAGIC AGENCY OVERTURE PLAYS WASHING THE SPACE WITH SOUND. UP TO 3 MINUTES***]

[SILENCE]

[CURTAIN OPENS COMPLETELY]

EDUARDO: how many times you done this GOUACHE?

GOUACHE: that's not how we talk at the MAGIC AGENCY. each time is the first time. MAGIC makes each time new.

EDUARDO; but it's just me and you here GOUACHE. we don't always have to be so by the AGENCY book do we?

GOUACHE: [PAUSE]
just ... not now okay EDUARDO. i know. the waiting makes anyone a crazy. but that's what we've been asked to do. so let's do it. let's just wait. someone will come. someone will walk in.

EDUARDO: you're stupid. you're stupid.

GOUACHE: it's not me EDUARDO saying that

[PAUSE]

EDUARDO: could you please. i have an itch. middle of my back.
[GOUACHE STANDS TO ASSIST, TRYING TO LOCATE THE SPOT]
that's it. harder please
not so hard please
just like that thank you
could you take a more circular pattern if you don't mind
uh huh uh huh

GOUACHE: how's that EDUARDO?

EDUARDO: uh huh
[PAUSE]

i'm a double agent GOUACHE

GOUACHE: stop saying that

EDUARDO: i'm a double agent GOUACHE

GOUACHE: say who you are EDUARDO. who are you EDUARDO? we want to know.
MAGIC AGENCY demands this of each of us. these are the tenets

EDUARDO: i'm a double agent
i've said it as clear as i am able
everything i am is right there
do you see that? ME out there

GOUACHE: you're a double agent? what does that mean?

EDUARDO: it means i work for both sides. everyone knows what a double agent is
GOUACHE

GOUACHE: did you ever hear someone say i don't want kids i'm too fucked up. i
don't want to pass it on. that's me. father he'd take us on skiing
vacations. we'd eat shell fish. shell fish and snow he would say.
[PAUSE]
a double agent must know things. have access to things

EDUARDO: know thy enemy

GOUACHE: how do you know the enemy when the enemy is not visible?

EDUARDO: you need to become invisible. you have to learn to live in the
invisible place. and your father GOUACHE. that's the weirdest
story ever. shell fish n' snow.

GOUACHE; you can't simply wear the clothes KING EDUARDO. it's an indoctrination.
it's in-cultured

EDUARDO: like yogurt? or genetics ?

GOUACHE: [UNDER HER BREATH]
ya like yogurt EDUARDO. like genetics

EDUARDO: [UNDER HIS BREATH]
i'll put that to memory GOUACHE. i've got yogurt on my genitals.

GOUACHE: [STANDS GRABS EDUARDO THROUGH THE HOOD BY THE JAW]
it's like the ol'jaw structure of a rabbit

i'm sick of this bag EDUARDO. i feel like just ripping it off you right now. your stupid fucking bag. your party trick. i've never even had to wear it, you know that don't you?

EDUARDO: [WHILE SHE HAS HER HANDS CLAMPED ON HIS FACE]
you have a personality disorder that benefits that AGENCY
so they let you off the hook. it's because you're so damaged that we
even have you around GOUACHE. you're a tool

GOUACHE: [PAUSE]
let's just get through this. we need three by the new year or we are
going to be facing being dumped back onto the belt. out there
we need to get one to get off this bad luck that's making us act this
way.
[GOUACHE LETS GO OF EDUARDO'S JAW AND RETURNS TO HER SEAT]

[TIME PASSES]

EDUARDO: i'm a pig

GOUACHE: i'm a perverted pig pervert

EDUARDO: i wanna fucking perv out all the time

GOUACHE: i pretend to be serious i'm not. i'm a pig

EDUARDO: i'm a pig pig pig. right(?)

GOUACHE: [PAUSE]
that's hardly pleasurable anymore

EDUARDO: tell us the story. say they actual story and don't worry about what it
means. let it lay as it is. something to help us pass the time. all
this waiting

GOUACHE; cradle and socks
fizz—machine
poodle-gum-soup
some other stuff i don't wanna even mention

EDUARDO: tooth-germs greedy gum-ball
senora toner bled from an apricot
bled at once. she'd like to talk to you

GOUACHE: i'm a poo machine

grace is in the heart
80% of the human ear is bone

EDUARDO: 80% of a deer fawn's ear is bone

GOUACHE: i can't hear as well as a fawn
because i don't got enough bone in my ear

EDUARDO: more bone = better ears

EDUARDO/GOUACHE: [SINGING]
i want more bone leave me alone
i want more bone so i can hear the tone
i want more bone get off the telephone
i want more bone

[TIME PASSES]

EDUARDO: i haven't seen you in 8 years. has my face changed?

GOUACHE: i thought about you and i don't know that when i saw you everyday
if i knew you anymore more clearly than i do from not seeing
you. both seem mere products of my imagination. and when i ask you to
tell me who you are you go silent
[EXTENDED SILENT CHOREOGRAPHY — GOUACHE AND EDUARDO. EDUARDO FOLLOWS,
WITH HIS HANDS BOUND AND UNDER THE HOOD, AS BEST HE CAN]

EDUARDO: pockets of tenderness through something
change or something
we are someplace beyond something
needing to know and then that passes
and we want to know

GOUACHE: put your gripes in a box
put your gripes in your socks
put your gripes under MAGIC locks
[WHISTLES] [WHISTLES]

EDUARDO: another me is running around (whistle twice)
my feet not touching the ground
careful i'm calling him down
together we're committing sin
MAGIC AGENCY let us in

GOUACHE: i know by my knocking their letting us in
and if you want to go i'll whistle again
ahh - uhhh ahh - uhhh

the MAGIC AGENCY version of peek-a-boo
 ahh - uuuh ahh - uuuh
 [STILLNESS]

EDUARDO: one time when i was in here i saw snakes slither on the floor

GOUACHE said

GOUACHE: EDUARDO i've never seen that

EDUARDO: check me if you want
 200 years that building was snakes
 they over there in that [POINTING]
 thank you for coming here and not there

GOUACHE: i can talk to that face. the one always sitting in a tree
 doing ... face me [SHE GRABS EDUARDO'S FACE TO HER THROUGH HOOD]
 the one sitting in a tree

EDUARDO: i want to sit Gouache
 lets not touch each other behinds our backs
 i see the tracks

GOUACHE: i see the tracks

EDUARDO: is that how you found me
 you're such a handsome little man
 up close you know i really really am
 up close up close up close i mean i really really am
 you're such a handsome little man
 you wanna talk to the little man
 you know you can
 just say hello little man
 you want me to say it straight?
 in this snake-trap-structure
 the Bowery before all the derelicts were snakes and Chinese
 snakes were there first go ask the Chinese
 you turn your head quick one eye-cocked you might see for yourself
 your other you across the floor trying to make way to the door
 [SINGING]
 once there was a man
 he lived in this land
 on top of snakes he made his bed
 upon their scales he laid his head
 he was my brother... so help me GOD
 he was my brother... so help me GOD

GOUACHE: that's the Bread Crumb Eraser EDUARDO. this is the wrong moment for that. this is after that. we'll go back to that again but now we're here EDUARDO waiting and someone is coming. this isn't about that

EDUARDO: have you read about the HAITIANS in Harlem uptown from the BOWERY that was a church too. A CHURCH! more love when derelicts were there. the BOWERY everyone knows that. the derelicts are out and the snakes are in

EDUARDO/GOUACHE: ask the Chinese

EDUARDO: you can imagine such a bed as brother had under his head

GOUACHE: i lay my head head on a bed of snakes
upon this bed no one wakes
into the night do my dreams go
[SINGING]
everything moves in my bed baby
everything moves in my bed baby
stomping it's feet
looking to the sky
snakes raining down
falling from the sky
[SCREAMS, SHRIEKS, CHANTES, EXTENDED SNAKE CALL DANCE]

EDUARDO: can you hand me something to wear?
don't look at my ass when i walk over there

GOUACHE: wrong story. sit down. stop circling back
we've got to go forward now before we go back

EDUARDO: [AN ASIDE]
bye and bye
i won't lie
i must speak with you
before i die

GOUACHE: you like to play the role of the invisible one but here that don't work. you are gonna have to put up with being seen. gocked at. put to some questions. okay? it's the MAGIC AGENCY way. you signed up for it

EDUARDO: okay. but i don't like being gocked at.

GOUACHE: nobody does
[PAUSE] let'em gock. never killed no one. just talk

you never let yourself be seen. why?

EDUARDO: why? [PAUSE] you hide from me behind my back
that's your experience of me
we have two completely different visions of reality

GOUACHE: i am energy. i am right in front of your face
in this life i have no place. you look at me
you pretend not to see me

EDUARDO: you're ashamed of me GOUACHE

GOUACHE: that's not how i feel. give up that ghost

EDUARDO: if i do that Gouache i'd just die

PART 2

[ENTERING FROM STREET]

PREZ: ...i'm looking for the rivet in the stone
so the glass walls can be placed upright...
as a clear wall on one side of the dipping tank
the open side where people look into the tank
and they'll see in fact from this view
that the body does in fact go under
the body goes completely under

GOUACHE: [STANDING]
told you so EDUARDO
can't ask wrong EDUARDO
when they want to EDUARDO
[TO MAN ENTERING]
come here come here
come on come here
can't ask right when they don't
[AN ASIDE. LOST IN THOUGHT]
come here come here i really like you yo beautiful come here beautiful
yo yo come here

PRES: is she talking to me ?

EDUARDO: probably

GOUACHE: [SINGING]

life just keeps getting better...in every way
life just keeps getting better...let me show you the way
hay-hay hay-hay

EDUARDO: sometimes groups dream together

GOUACHE: [SINGING] [EDUARDO CHIMES IN WITH GOUACHE MOSTLY UNDER HIS BREATH]
this is where we stay
this is where we stay
this is where we stay
until you have your guts ripped out. i mean really ripped out
there is no way you can know who you are

EDUARDO: MAGIC AGENCY takes care of all that

GOUACHE: it sure does
[WHISPERING BARELY AUDIBLE] chicken dinner

EDUARDO: [WHISPERING BARELY AUDIBLE] chicken dinner

EDUARDO/GOUACHE: [CHORAL] MAGIC giveth & MAGIC taketh
you come in with nothing & you leave with nothing

GOUACHE: hear that PREZ what's all this 'my shit'
who is she? why is she here?

EDUARDO: who is she? why is she here?

GOUACHE: shut the fuck up. EDUARDO?

EDUARDO: yes?

GOUACHE: go into the other room

[EDUARDO LEAVES]

EDUARDO: [AS HE EXITS]mommy and daddy sent me here
did you see the rabbit run through the room

GOUACHE: we can talk sensibly

EDUARDO: we could talk sensibly

GOUACHE: EDUARDO

EDUARDO: we could

GOUACHE: we could

[EDUARDO EXITS FINALLY OUT OF SIGHT]

PREZ: 4 fingers and 5 fucking eyes
devil made me do it
ya-ways-devil-did it. not me
you can call me HF or HENRY FONDA
that's my name not PREZ

PREZ was my name before
i'm Henry Fonda though
[TABLE. SITTING. OPEN CURTAIN]

GOUACHE: [TELEPHONE THAT SITS ON THE TABLE RINGS*** GOUACHE ANSWERS]
[FOR A TIME SHE SAYS NOTHING]
...ok ok...
i just stumbled
i just stumbled for goodness sake! [SHE SCREAMS. LIKE SHE'S DYING]
i just stumbled
[SHE HANGS UP PHONE VIOLENTLY]
[GOUACHE BENDS SLIGHTLY LEANS IN TO PREZ SPEAKS DIRECTLY IN HIS EAR]
remember the 'other things' H.F.? not so smart now those ...
ol'faithful ...
[PAUSE]
i prefer to dial anyway. because you got to put your finger in the hole
interpret that however you want
[PAUSE]
everything's been getting doctored up for everybody
you can be safe now. the harm is past us

PREZ: thank you GOUACHE

GOUACHE: [SPEAKING OUT TO AN UNSEEN EDUARDO]
EDUARDO HENRY FONDA is here

EDUARDO: [APPEARING]

[PAUSE]

HENRY FONDA? i thought he was PREZ?

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PREZ: hi

GOUACHE: baby's that smile

PREZ: all baby's smile

GOUACHE: baby's that cry

PREZ: all baby's cry

[PAUSE]

GOUACHE: remind you of anyone?

EDUARDO: GAUL comes to mind

GOUACHE: no. [PAUSE] GAUL is none of your business EDUARDO. she'll be back but until then you don't need to talk about her

[PAUSE]

how bout this PREZ

baby's that come when you say come

come baby come

[***PHONE RINGS]

EDUARDO: you gonna answer the phone...baby...?

[GOUACHE ANSWERS AND PUTS RECEIVER TO EDUARDO'S EAR]

[AS THOUGH HE IS REPEATING INSTRUCTIONS OR READING A LIST]

a cold wet dream

i hear robots in the distance

GOUACHE: that's your imagination kiddo. how many days we been in here now?

EDUARDO: [WITH RECIEVER TO HIS EAR] cut loose all of that. remember MAGIC AGENCY has introduced us to a new way of thinking

PREZ: PREZ my names PREZ

GOUACHE: [STILL WITH RECIEVER TO EDUARDO'S EAR] press?

PREZ: PREZ

GOUACHE: press

PREZ: PREZ

GOUACHE: oh...okay. i'm GOUACHE
 [GOUACHE HANDS RECIEVER TO PREZ INDICATING THAT HE KEEP IT HELD TO
 EDUARDO'S EAR AND WALKS AWAY DOWN CENTER]
 [EDUARDO REMAINS, BOUND AND HOODED, SEATED AT TABLE WHILE PREZ HOLDS
 TELEPHONE RECIEVER TO HIS EAR]
 loose mind. a happy mind
 PREZ aka HENRY FONDA
 [MAKING A GESTURE]
 has lived his life as a cancer and a degenerate. they called MAN RAY a
 degenerate too. those things have no power here in the MAGIC AGENCY

PREZ: what's the bag about?
 [GOUACHE WALKS BACK TO TABLE]
 [PAUSE]
 [EDUARDO TIPS BACKWARDS IN HIS CHAIR]
 [PAUSE]
 [TIME PASSES]

PREZ: i'd love a cocktail. some butter-scotch CO-CO

GOUACHE: [GOES TO KITCHEN AND RETURNS WITH DRINKS]
 [GOUACHE AND PREZ SIT AT TABLE. EDUARDO REMAINS ON THE FLOOR]
 [TIME PASSES]
 [GOUACHE TAKES EDUARDO UPSTAGE TO AUDIENCE]
 [LOSES CURTAIN BEHIND THEM]
 impossible dream. PREZ has an impossible dream
 [LEAVING EDUARDO GOUACHE EXITS THROUGH SLIT IN CURTAIN, RETURNS TO PREZ
 SEATED AT TABLE]
 at this point PREZ we need to ask a few questions
 let us get a good look at you

PREZ: please call me HENRY
 [GOUACHE REMOVES PREZ'S SHOES, SOCKS, HAT, SHIRT]
 [PAUSE]

GOUACHE: okay HENRY. this isn't what you think it is

PREZ: i saw the sign and i came in
 [BOTH LOOK TO FRONT DOOR OF BASEMENT THAT LEADS TO STREET]

PART 3

GOUACHE: i'm gonna have to ask you to lay down MR. FONDA
 [PREZ LAYS DOWN]

[GOUACHE RETURNS TO EDUARDO AND TAKES HIM THROUGH CURTAIN UPSTAGE TO TABLE WHERE PREZ LAYS ON THE FLOOR]

[GOUACHE TAKES EDUARDOS PANTS OFF AND LAYS HIM DOWN, BOUND AND HOODED, NEXT TO PREZ]

[PAUSE]

[GOUACHE GOES UPSTAGE CLOSES CURTAIN BEHIND HER]

i was just fabric. compressed air
hence the GOUACHE. first fabric then GOUACHE
you'll understand ...

[PAUSE]

but for now be still your loving hearts

let the MAGIC do the work

you can close your eyes

hum to yourself low and steady

[GOUACHE DEMONSTRATES]

hummm

hummm

[GOUACHE BEGINS A TAP DANCE LOW AND STEADY]

first the fabric, then the GOUACHE

a MAGIC image, set GOUACHE loose

[GOUACHE OPENS CURTAIN REVEALING EDUARDO AND PREZ LYING ON THE FLOOR NEAR TABLE. EDUARDO IS NAKED BELOW THE WAIST. PREZ WEARS ONLY PANTS] [GOUACHE WALK UPSTAGE TO TABLE]

[GOUACHE REMOVES HER TOP AND BRA]

ladies and gentlemen

there is no bridge

that's what we tell children when we don't know what else to say

one two

one

one two

one

the future's better

i still got backup

ready in a moments notice to generate my ideas

by me talking i'm disappearing

this gives you pleasure

me EDUARDO and HENRY FONDA

flesh and blood

[SILENTLY]

one two

one

i've got two

one two

one

let what you're looking at be like a drift painting

EDUARDO? tell me in the future what the MAGIC will do?
 [GOUACHE EXITS OUT OF SIGHT]

EDUARDO: [PAUSE]
 in the moment we are in now
 i can't spell it or rather i can't name it
 a BEE flew into ME the very last BEE on earth flew inside ME
 into my belly. i can hear it buzzing
 i let a BEE in. inside out outside in
 BEE regenerates inside ME
 it's MAGIC GOUACHE! GOUACHE it's MAGIC!
 i'm not the only ME here
 there's at minimum one point five million-meez
 up inside flew the bees
 MAGIC made the multiplication work
 MAGIC makes having no BEES work
 BEES flew up inside MEES
 [GOUACHE RETURNS]
 GOUACHE BEES PEES in places there used to be MEES

GOUACHE: thank you EDUARDO

[PAUSE]

PREZ: tell me GOUACHE about the fabric? your past...
 how did you find the MAGIC AGENCY inside that dimension?

GOUACHE: you said something to him EDUARDO? really?
 each time i tell the story PREZ

PREZ: please call me HENRY FONDA

GOUACHE: every time i tell the story HENRY i disappear a little
 EDUARDO knows this. you still want me to tell it HF?

PREZ: i do GOUACHE, i'm sorry but i do

GOUACHE: talking about it speeds up the process. but maybe by you knowing
 it HENRY you can help someone else? come with me.
 [PREZ STANDS AND FOLLOWS GOUACHE THROUGH CURTAIN UPSTAGE]
 lay down and close your eyes
 [PREZ LAYS DOWN AND CLOSES HIS EYES]
 EDUARDO come in here and lay down next to HENRY FONDA
 [EDUARDO ENTERS and lays next to PREZ]
 Mr. Fonda, i'm sorry, will you please go retrieve my shirt and bra and

bring them to me? thank you
[PREZ GOES AND RETURNS WITH GOUACHE'S CLOTHES]
thank you HENRY. would you please retrieve EDUARDO'S pants and shoes
and socks. [PREZ DOES]

PREZ: can i put my shirt and shoes back on? and my hat?

GOUACHE: no [PAUSE] but do please put EDUARDO'S pants on him
and his shoes and socks. and lay down next to him please
thank you H.F.

[PAUSE]

HENRY how do you feel? don't answer that
i can't tell you why we're doing this
there's no words for blood and flesh
HENRY wants me to say EDUARDO
so should i say?
even though if i do
each time
a small part of me will go away

PREZ: there is nothing the MAGIC AGENCY can do to prevent this from happening
GOUACHE?

GOUACHE: [COMFORTING PREZ SHE BENDS DOWN ABOVE HIM]
just lay there on the floor Mr. Fonda next to EDUARDO.
i'll be right back
[GOUACHE LEAVES THROUGH CURTAIN OUT OF SIGHT INTO BATHROOM. THE DOOR
SHUTS] [TIME PASSES]

PREZ: is she going to come back?
[TIME PASSES]
[EDUARDO SAYS NOTHING]
EDUARDO help me please say something
[TIME PASSES]
all my time i've said PREZ gotta dance
so i leaped to my feet give it a chance
we love you PREZ when you're on your feet
shaka shaka shaka
PREZ got the beat
[PREZ HOPS UP INTO HIS STANCE. PREZ DOES HIS DANCE]
[WHILE DANCING]
PREZZZZ
PREZ says hello
PREZ says goddammit
GOD fucking dammit

what the fuck am i doing [PREZ BENDS DOWN OVER EDUARDO. HE REMOVES BAG REVEALING MASK AND WIG THAT EDUARDO IS WEARING]

help me EDUARDO

we all want help man

GOUACHE said she was coming back

GOUACHE said stay here

all we can do is wait

EDUARDO don't let the thing get loose

EDUARDO: are you PREZ or are you HENRY FONDA?

PREZ: how could i be HENRY FONDA?
i just said that to her

EDUARDO: why?

PREZ: i like when people say i'm HENRY FONDA
[PAUSE]

EDUARDO: you're safe here Mr. Fonda
it's an AGENCY thing
all this is necessary
i'm scared HENRY. so is GOUACHE

PREZ: things are tutelar
people are in the foundry with grime
saw my sister NANNETTE FONDA screaming on the belt
the soaped-up conveyor last i'd seen
oh-man this world is very very mean

EDUARDO: let the MAGIC AGENCY PREZ flip it
can i open the curtain Mr. Fonda?

PREZ; sure open the goddamn curtain man. will GOUACHE care?

EDUARDO: probably
[OPENING CURTAIN]
flip it. bank it. inside out. MAGIC
[PREZ AND EDUARDO BEGIN FLIPPING AND THROWING THEIR BODIES AROUND THE ROOM, 1/2 TRANCE, 1/2 ADOLESCENT BOYS ALONE. IN THE PROCESS THE BLACK CURTAINS ARE TORE DOWN REVEALING THE CLUTTER OF THE CHURCH BASEMENT]

PART 4

[ROOM IS TRANSFORMED. STARK LIGHT. NO CURTAINS. ALL IS EXPOSED. THE CLUTTER AND MESS OF THE BASEMENT IS SEEN BY ALL] [GOUACHE ENTERS – WALKS TO EDUARDO WHO IS SPLAYED OUT ON THE FLOOR. SHE BENDS OVER EDUARDO LIKE WOUNDED SOLDIER ON A BATTLEFIELD]

GOUACHE: are you being effective? are we any closer to capturing...truly capturing HENRY FONDA than we were 3 minutes ago or 2 weeks or 65 years ago? EDUARDO...

PREZ: [STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM]
i'd like to conquer great pastures
i'd like to conquer great humiliated people in the act
of all different races and creeds within innumerable time pockets
real and imagined people and send them all in a time machine
back to Vietnam to the same meadow Jane fucked that GOOK on TV
can you hear what i am playing
do you know that now you are going to listen to me
today is not the day you are capturing HENRY FONDA GOUACHE
today MAGIC stops

GOUACHE: just let him talk ... follow my lead EDUARDO

[EDUARDO NODS]

GOUACHE: PREZ?

PREZ: HENRY

GOUACHE: PREZ? spread out EDUARDO
today MAGIC AGENCY is more like a spider web
you came here hopeful MAGIC will fix your problems
problem is your problems get entrenched inside the very fabric of
your personality. they become inseparable from your identity
it's really the same principal as 'careful – don't keep making your
face that way or you'll get stuck' except it's ... it's different
everyone knows this ...
right guys? nod your heads if i'm making sense
MAGIC AGENCY fuses YOU with YOU
YOU become YOU
YOU get hooked on YOU so much so that you're unable to remove yourself
from YOU
see? what is needed is some understanding that-

PREZ: [CUTTING GOAUCHE OFF]
MAGIC AGENCY is part n parcel with the gone to POT dead dream AMERICA
we all live in!

GOUACHE: sit down MR. FONDA. please sit down HENRY and this will become very easy for you

PREZ: can't the three of us just talk for a minute? get some balance here i saw the sign and i walked in. sure i heard about you guys lots of weird shit

EDUARDO: what was the stuff about the glass dipping tank you spouting off when you walked in about then?

PREZ: i was nearly killed being held under water in the the church baptismal when i was a kid by a lunatic who'd wandered into the church. and it was in the basement too! they just let the lunatic wander in. he said he was thirsty so the good christian woman gave him a glass of water.
[PAUSE]
i've changed my mind i don't want to join your group any longer

GOUACHE: this isn't make believe PREZ ... i mean HENRY. HF. you're really here. and so are we. all we got in this room is flesh and blood and light.

EDUARDO: that's why we love you HENRY FONDA!

PREZ: if you loved me for real EDUARDO you'd honor my wishes and let me walk outta here

GOUACHE: go ahead MR. FONDA. we don't want you. rule #1 don't ever try and shove it down someones throat. won't work. they've gotta want it. and what most people know is that that's a problem too, cause MAGIC don't like people that want it

EDUARDO: stop paying attention to any of your feelings PREZ

PREZ: [BARKING] HENRY!

GOUACHE: PREZ PREZ wants us to call him HENRY FONDA EDUARDO let's just honor his wishes-
[PREZ MAKES A SUDDEN DESPERATE SPRINT TO LEAVE. AFTER 4 OR 5 STEPS HIS MOMENTUM IS HALTED BY AN UNSEEN FORCE. PREZ SQUIRMS AND STRUGGLES AGAINST THIS UNSEEN FORCE WITH LOW MOANING AND CRIES OF AGONY]
[AS UNEXPECTEDLY AS IT BEGAN - PREZ DARTS OFF AGAIN ON A STRANGE DIAGNOL, ONLY TO HAVE HIS MOMENTUM HALTED ONCE MORE BY THE UNSEEN FORCE***PATTERN REPEATS FOR EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME]
[EVENTUALLY GOUACHE AND EDUARDO ARE PULLED IN - RUNNING AND HALTING ON STRANGE UNPREDICATABLE DIAGNOLS WITH PREZ]

[***MUSIC RISES***PROGRESSIONS FROM THE OVERTURE***LIGHTS DIM AND RISE***PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN COLORS APPEAR]

[ALL BECOMES STILL]

[SPOT-LIGHT ON PREZ]

[EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM HAS SOFTENED. HE IS DEFEATED. CONSIGNED]

[HE BEGINS SPEAKING - BUT IN CHILDS VOICE]

PREZ: i wanted so bad to be him when i got big but i never knew
it would be like this. that i'd be HENRY FONDA! i'm HENRY FONDA!

GOUACHE: EDUARDO it's happened. he's within the kaleidoscope. he sees now
with flies eyes EDUARDO. he's fragmented. you can go in now with
him. you must go in now with him EDUARDO and be his guide. this place
is the MAGIC place

EDUARDO: i don't wanna be a little boy GOUACHE don't make me

GOUACHE: you must go and help him as others have helped you

EDUARDO: NO! i won't

GOUACHE: it's okay baby ... remember
[SINGING]
MAGIC AGENCY is the company name
when MAGIC AGENCY comes ...
[EDUARDO JOINS IN***]
no one is ever the same
that's why we call it mother
our MAGIC mother
MAGICALLY she saves us all...
[GOUACHE CONTINUES UNDER HER BREATH HUMMING AND REPEATING THE WORDS
TO THE MAGIC AGENCY THEME SONG]
[EDUARDO MAKES HIS WAS TO PREZ BECOMING A LITTLE BOY IN THE PROCESS]

EDUARDO: hi HENRY it's EDUARDO
you wanna play with me
we can play together come on
[EDUARDO AND PREZ BEGIN PLAYING. MOVING AROUND
AND SEEING THINGS IN AIR AND ROLLING AROUND AS KIDS WILL DO.
THEY'VE BECOME CHILDREN POSSESSED BY THE MAGIC AGENCY]
[GOUACHE HAS RETRIEVED A LARGE FABRIC NETTING AND ROPE AND LAYS NETTING
OUT ACROSS THE FLOOR. PREZ AND EDUARDO DO NOT NOTICE]
come on HENRY! come on! look!
let's go play on the net
let's jump in the net and roll around

PREZ: yay! yay! let's play EDUARDO!
 this is the best day ever!
 [PREZ LEAPS INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE NETTING]
 [WITH MILITARY PRECISIONS GOUACHE AND EDUARDO
 ROLL UP PREZ IN THE NETTING AND TIE HIM SECURLY WITH A ROPE
 GOUACHE HAS ALSO BROUGHT NEAR]
 [GOUACHE BEGINES GATHERING HER THINGS]
 [EDUARDO GOES TO THE CURTAIN AND CLOSES IT HALF WAY]
 [THE TELEPHONE ON THE TABLE RINGS***]
 [GOUACHE, AFTER 3 OR 4 RINGS, GOES TO TABLE AND ANSWERS THE TELEPHONE]

GOUACHE: ...oh no that stumbling shit was just that... shit
 you should be less gullible. we got one. yes we have.
 his surface was so confused he had mined some pre-memory
 ...before the turbulence, and had began identifying with
 being HENRY FONDA. yes! and we're bringing him to you now
 [PREZ SQUIRMS AND MOANS]
 not a bit. don't mention it. you've seen a HENRY FONDA
 movie? not me. never no. yes i'd love to, i'll be there in an hour
 just let me bring the capture over to the unit, and i'll get changed,
 and freshen up and we can ... yes we can
 and yes, i'll tell you all about... CAPTURING HENRY FONDA

[GOUACHE HANGS UP PHONE]

[LIGHTS DIM]

[EDUARDO, WITH GOUACHE'S HELP, BEGINS CARRING PREZ OUT FOR TRANSPORT TO THE 'UNIT' - WHERE
CAPTURES ARE HELD FOR FURTHER PROCESSING]

[MUSIC RISES***]

[BLACKOUT]

THE END-----