

Spassky At A Safe Distance, Issue 1



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1

Before You Close the Storybook has been assaulted by Circumstance; poor thing, doctors say it might not be back on its feet for a month!

But, forever undeterred in my fictional mission, I've started this thing, Spassky At A Safe Distance, where I'll be doing what I would be doing if this doing wasn't undone by the doings of the undoing of over five million people.

Granted, my voice will sound deader than you're used to, but you'll still get your short story, I'll go on my brainless monologues, and you'll receive whatever else Before You Close the Storybook offered – you'll just have to replace your ears for eyes.

2

Who hasn't thought about ruling the world, every now and then? Good. But when we think about world-domination it's always so wearriingly theoretical, as if it couldn't be done! In fact latest statistics show that 99% of ponderers upon the subject of world-domination are either being theoretical, being hypothetical or being on drugs. This must change – for world-domination is possible!

And I know how.

It all starts with a realisation.

When you think about it, international politics is just a game of King Of the Hill, but with words – like how prisons are just hotels with unpleasant shower-arrangements. Words and politics, those are the keys! We have put our politics in a one-dimensional place: a line – which is divided into a left, a right, and a centre. Every person put themselves somewhere on this line so that they can elect other people, on adjacent positions on this line, so that stuff this section of the line feels is proper will be realised ...So, fellow thinker outside of boxes, what would happen if we went upwards? Why, a new political dimension would be born...Allowing for? Roundabout logic, and the hydraulic press for the nut-cracking of world-domination; I present: THE UP-PARTY!

If you're a member of the Up-Party, then all political ideologies are literally beneath you, because you are up, and all the others are not.

So, with this Aristotelian enlightenment in our heads, how does the domination start?

We ask for it.

When the Up-Party is established, all we have to do is to get people on our side – to win whatever election we need to win. And therein lies the genius of the Up-Party: being above all other ideologies, we can be every ideology at once. If I told you there was a bird up there somewhere, then you wouldn't know whether it flew to the left, to the right – or by some voodoo-magic – was suspended in the centre. Everyone is on our side, because we agree with everyone – we are therefore the most popular party – and through the democratic process – must be put into all power ever. Gradual – legal – world-domination.

Now, if you have your smarty-pants on, you might say "Why would anyone trust us if we always switched sides and were generally scummy people?". I would argue that we're just being politicians through general scumminess and incredibility – butalrighthaveatitthen! Here is where the proper shrewdness of our scheme introduces itself: I present: THE DOWN-PARTY.

The Down-Party is the opposite of the Up-Party, being always wrong, when we are always right. We simply pull a common politic through pronouncing anyone who disagrees with the Up-Party as a member of the Down-Party (which is a great disgrace and would make anyone swear off directions altogether).

But all world-dominating movements must start somewhere...An association might work...for keeping appearances up. Then when we've converted KG, it's then just a matter of converting Stockholm, then Sweden, and – hey! – then converting the world is barely an inconvenience!

Where does one buy a crown?

3

For this week's short story: The Lady, or the Tiger? (Frank Stockton, 1882):

[The Lady or the Tiger?](#)

(WHICH ONE IS IT, FRANK? IT'S ONLY BEEN 140 YEARS, FRANK!)

And here's your reward for sticking with it til the end:

[One of the better digital archives](#)
