

Accents, Nice & Fake

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I am happy to die. Well, not really. I am happy today. If you did not get the hint you should know that to British ears, Australians pronounce "day" as "die" and "lay" as "lie" so that "today" becomes "to die". While your pronunciation is your ability to pronounce words in a way that makes them understandable to others, your accent includes things like your tone and rhythm of speech. So accent is anything that makes you sound foreign and it can stir up a lot of debates in our day-to-day lives.

One language might be spoken in many different accents but the classic 'accent trap' is pronouncing things like you would in your mother tongue, rather than actually listening to the way they are pronounced in the language you are learning, and imitating it. Broadly speaking, accents fall under two categories, regional and foreign. Regional differences in accents mostly arise due to the geographical distances. For example, people who are from Noakhali often sound different from people who are from Barisal.

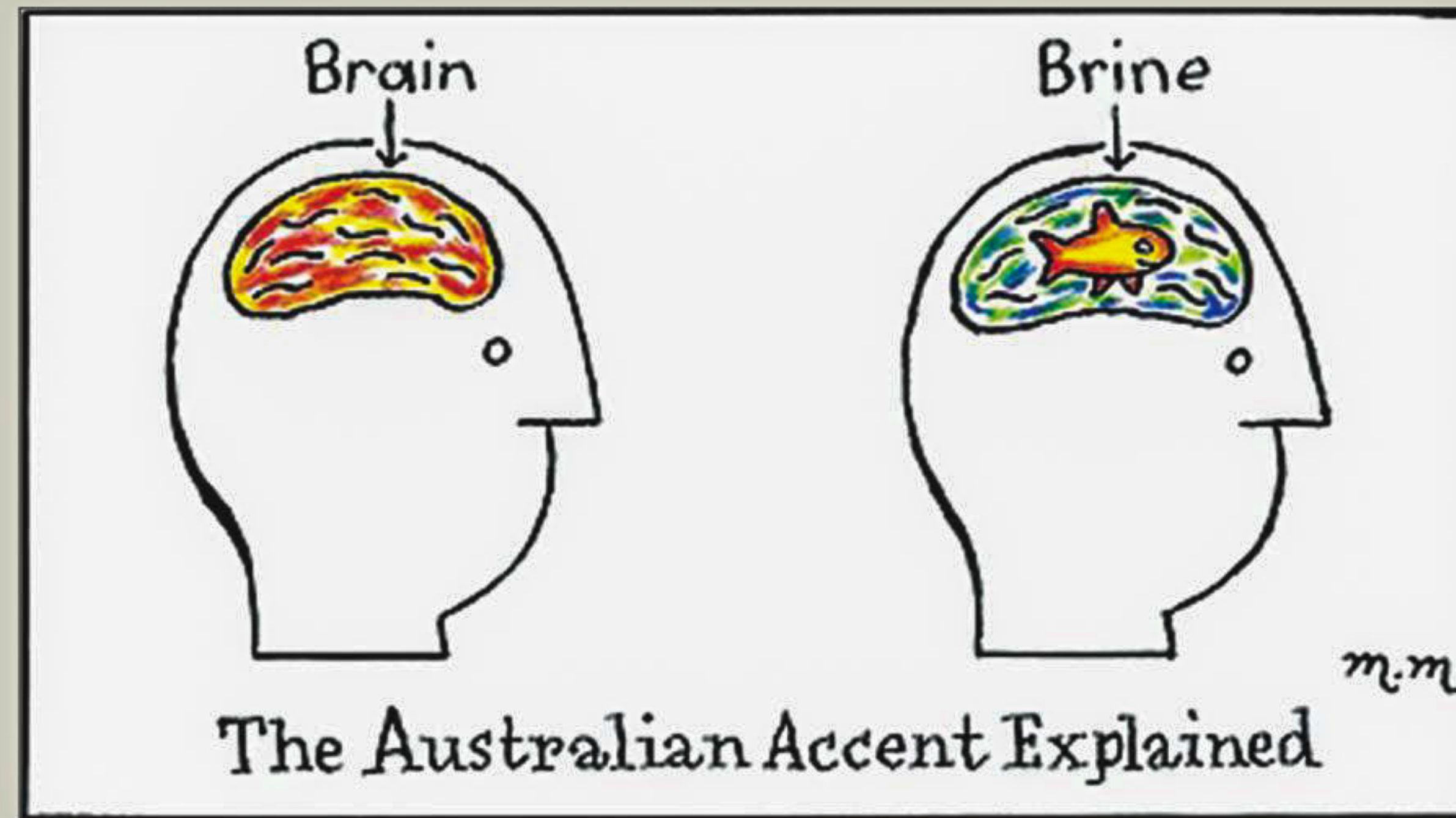
In some situations, having an accent

can give you an edge over others. It's a daunting task to speak a second-language perfectly with zero flaws. If your accent is native-like, then you may

instances when having a decent accent is crucial for the job. Call centres and diplomats are required to have stronger grasps of accents because a large part of

stronger accents are judged even harsher and native speakers who have difficulty understanding accented speech may grow negative feelings toward non-native speakers for refusing to learn to speak the language properly but it is essential to realise that in some cases it is more important what people say rather than how they are going about it linguistically. In case of your music instructor or maths teacher, the emphasis is definitely on what they are talking about and not how they are doing that.

If anybody here is trying to fake a British accent to impress your crush or friends, you are sadly quite out of luck. It is pretty easy to catch anybody with a fake accent and might lead to more ridicule. But you know what? 'Fake it till you make it' rule surely applies here. For example, if you are trying to strengthen your grip over American accent, watching US TV shows could help. It is however unwise to stress too much on your accent. Eventually, it is something you would possibly want to work on, however you are better off investing that time at speaking the foreign language better.



seem dim-witted when you make those inevitable mistakes, whereas, if you have a slight accent, but speak incredibly well, you are likely to portray the opposite image. Given that you speak the language accurately, a charming accent can open many doors. There are

their job requires them to communicate extremely proficiently.

Accents might also be linked with an array of negative stereotypes and attitudes. Native speakers can find non-native speakers less competent and unpleasant to listen to. People with

Falling out of Love with your favourite author

MAHEJABEEN HOSSAIN NIDHI

It starts off with the promise of a fairy tale romance – reader meets writer's work and they live happily ever after. However, there come certain phases of life that are very difficult on a reader. One such traumatic experience is no longer being able to call the person, who kept you up night after night just turning the pages, your favourite author. What makes it all the more devastating is that books aren't like movies; they usually demand more commitment as they take more time, attention and a call for your imagination. The recovery from such a blow takes time. After all, it is a grieving process. It can happen to us readers anytime and so I present to you the monologue of a hurt and broken certain someone who recently lost a favourite author.

1. DENIAL

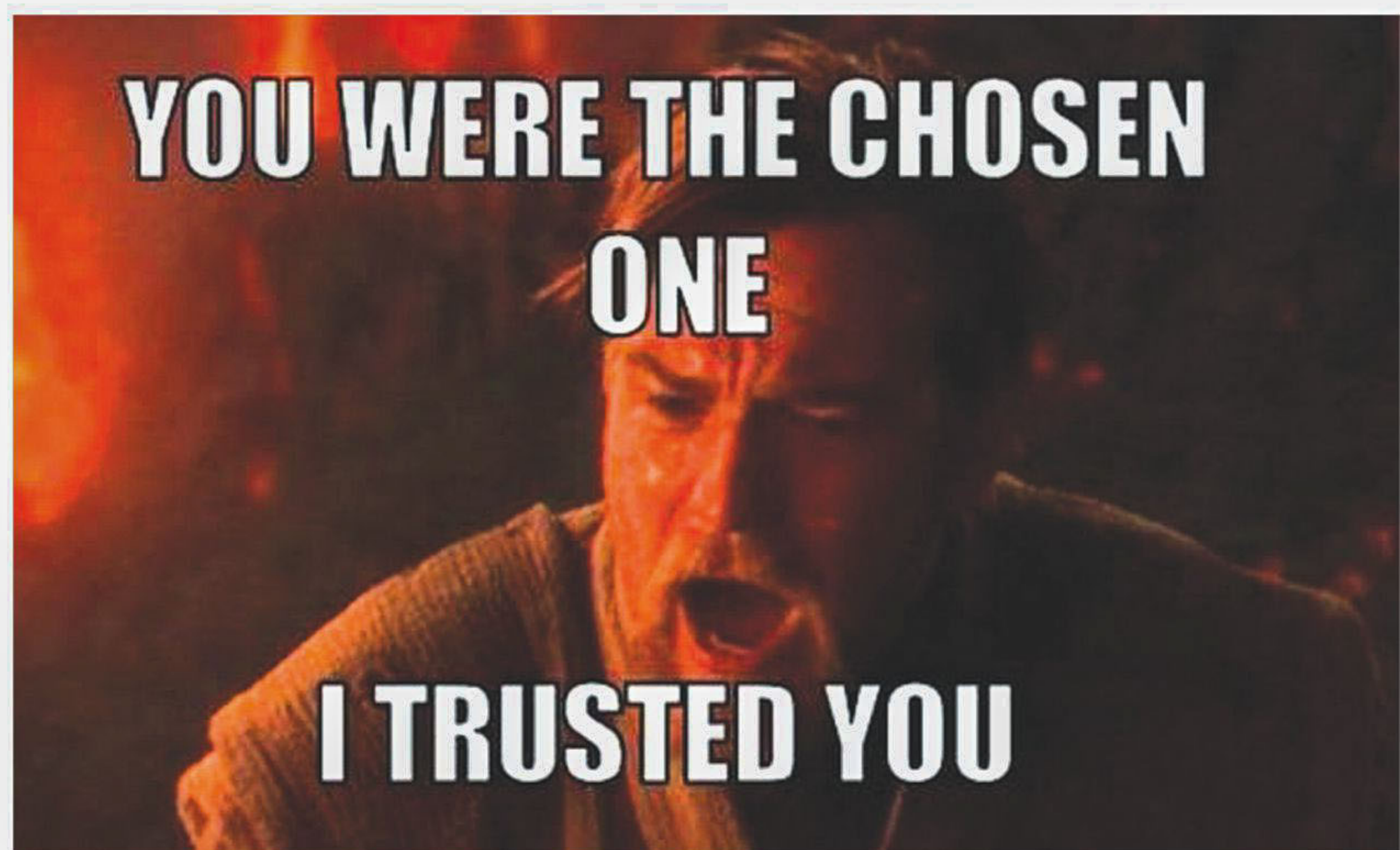
No. This can't possibly be true. This, this right here, it must be a rough patch and nothing more. What I just read, it probably isn't even as bad as I think it was. Maybe it was me; maybe I'm the one who didn't get it. It must have gone completely over my head. But, we could work it out, couldn't we? Remember how we planned it all out? How I was supposed to devote hours and days of my life to all your works? Please tell me that it's still happening.

2. ANGER

All I can think of are those assignments that I blatantly ignored, all of my favourite sitcoms that I missed, just so I could finish one more chapter and prove to myself that you were as good as I initially thought. If only! What has become of all your fancy titles of best-seller and award-winner? It's just really hard for me to believe that you, of all the people, turned out to have flaws. How could you?

3. BARGAINING

Maybe it's not as bad as it seems. Book B might be significantly worse than Book A, but so what? That must



have been a learning curve – a stepping stone to something brilliant. Then again that makes me think of the brilliantly bad Book C which should have never seen the light of day (that's alright; C could be our dirty little secret). Book A was so good – now to sell that propaganda.

4. DEPRESSION

It is definitely as bad as it seems. Everything we had together is turning bitter as the words grow more banal

and clichéd. I know I should let go – the feelings I have (or at least had) for you. If only it were that easy. The easier option now is just to block it all out. Ignore everyone I so eagerly and foolishly introduced you to. Shy away from all those people to whom I raved about reading your poetic prose. I suppose my misguided love for you makes me deserving of this distress.

5. ACCEPTANCE

There is no acceptance.