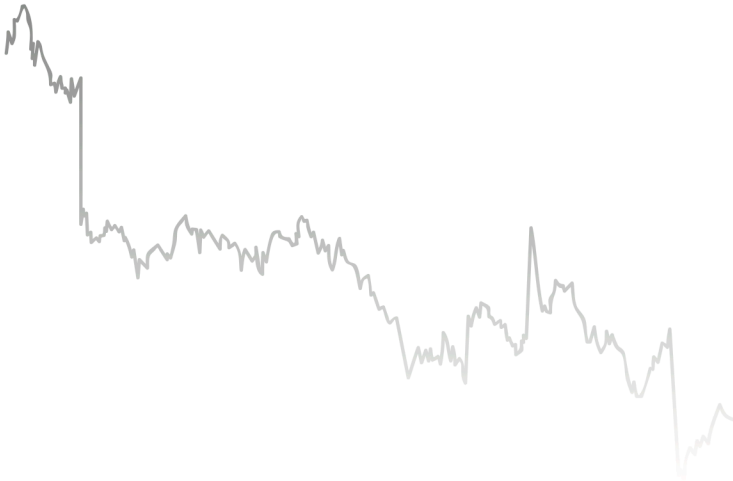


# Temp To Perm



ADAM HUMPHREYS

## ABOUT

An update on the epistolary novel, *Temp to Perm* tells the story of a new hire at a declining fashion empire as he learns the ropes then rejects them, spectacularly, in a political game that takes the organization and its management to a logical breaking point.

## SHORT SUMMARY

Samuel Mae, the most iconic of American brands, is falling apart. Sales are declining, the stock is in free fall, and nine layers of management can't figure out why. Adam Humphreys, the new "Manager of Video Post Production and Distribution," sees himself as someone who can help. He g-chats his work-days away, trying to make sense of the company's stifling, deferential culture, until Samuel Mae, the founder and figurehead of the company, steps down as CEO. In his place is Johan Franzen, a young outsider keen on the language of "disruption." Bolstered by Franzen's rhetoric, and the company's poor performance, Adam embarks on a quest to replace his position with a computer, which leads to an escalating series of confrontations with the old guard.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

*Temp to Perm* should resonate with anyone who dreams of going rogue, but especially millennials working in large institutions. It's another entry in the popular genre of workplace comedies (from *Bartleby* to *The Devil Wears Prada*) that speaks to a new set of anxieties surrounding technology, institutional resilience, and a generational shift in attitudes towards work.

## STYLE

*Temp to Perm* is told entirely through screenshots and correspondence. Fonts and colors for major social media sites have been painstakingly reproduced. The tone shifts depending on who is being addressed, and on what platform. This results in a bifurcated style which adds contrast, and relatability—there is workplace Adam, and friend Adam. News articles, stock prices, Facebook posts, meeting requests, and images all reveal crucial plot information. The reader is tasked with inferring conflict within careful professional emails, and finding the signal within the noise (as in daily life). Dates are a constant part of the text. The passage of time can be important in suggesting characters' presence of mind

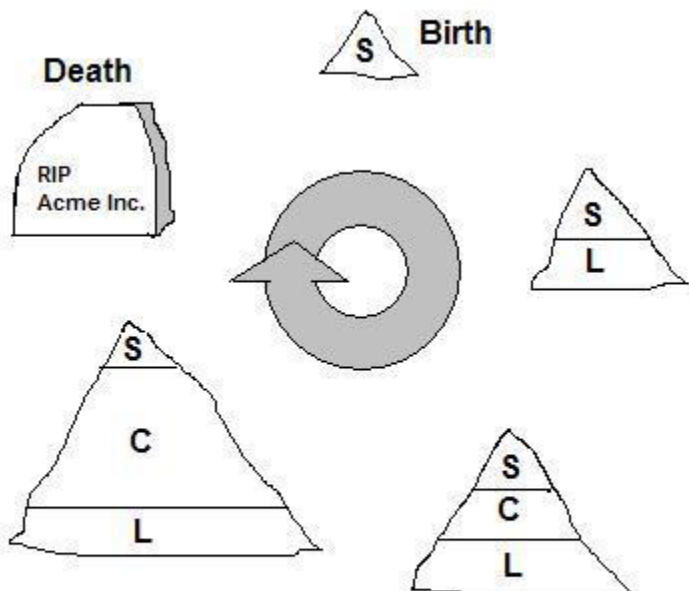
and urgency. Email font selections are characterization. Microsoft Outlook vs. Gmail has a thematic importance. Chapter headings contain stock prices which galvanize the character. “Sent from my Galaxy S7” suggests, later in the book, a transformation of the material circumstances in the protagonist’s life. Everything is there for a reason, and will reward re-reading.

### **CURRENT STATE**

First draft complete. 400 pages. Looking for an agent to secure contracts and editorial help on this and another (shorter) book at a similar stage of completion.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Adam Humphreys is a Canadian filmmaker and writer. He has made two documentary films and is working on a third. He is the author of *Adams Summer Purgatory, 2008 (2013)*, and *The Rise and Fall of Lucky Dragon Consultant (forthcoming)*.



S: Sociopaths; L: Losers; C: Clueless

*Excerpt*



11/24/2014  
**SM 181.32**

11/24/2014, 8:14 AM

## **Video Distribution and Post Production Manager**

Hi Peter,

Excuse my writing out of the blue. I'm wondering if the Video Distribution and Post Production manager position at Samuel Mae has been filled.

If not, I'd love to be considered.

For the past 5 years I've freelance produced internal educational and social media content for Rag & Bone and Estée Lauder, handling projects from proposal through final delivery. I've become well versed in the work flow on these kinds of projects and would be happy to apply this knowledge and experience towards making your and your teams' lives neater and easier.

I've also got a network of shooters, editors, and colorists who I've hired before and who've helped me to create beautiful videos at extremely competitive rates.

Here's a dropbox link to something I did for Estée Lauder a little while ago that I'm particularly proud of: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/e70-84e86q41wqhh/DEREK%20LAM%20FINAL.mov?dl=0>

Thanks for your time and consideration.

I hope to hear from you soon.

-Adam

12/1/2014

Hey Adam,

We've not filled the position yet, let me know if theres anytime this week that you could come by, we're located at Madison and 60th st.

Thanks

9:45 AM

Peter,

Thanks for your response.

I'm free to come by any time Wednesday or Thursday.

Either of those days work for you?

Regards,  
Adam

2:42 PM

Wednesday around 2:30?

2:49 PM

That works great.

I'm at adamhump@gmail.com if anything comes up in the meantime.

Looking forward to meeting,  
A

6:01 PM



12/3/14

**Adam Humphreys**

**Thank You**

To: amy.sugiura@samuelmae.com, peter.amos@samuelmae.com

I enjoyed meeting together today and talking to you both.

When I left it was 4:39, so I may, in fact, have beaten Amy's interview record.

I'm excited about the prospect of working with you guys.

Regards + I'll be in touch before the weekend,

A

---

12/4/14

Amos, Peter (US)

**Thank You**

To: me, Amy

Good to meet you as well, thanks for spending so much time. Although you may have beat Amy timing wise, you loose a few points for leaving behind a sweet iPad mini..... Amy wins.

Be in touch.

---

12/4/14

Sugiura, Amy (US)

**Thank You**

To: me, Peter

Good to meet you as well. More importantly though, what's my winning prize? I'm in need of an iPad mini.

---

12/4/14

**Adam Humphreys**

**Thank You**

To: Peter, Amy

Ah!

Apologies.

Amy, I might need that iPad in the future... But I COULD part with the kindle I was given for Christmas in 2007.

Best,  
A

---

12/4/14

Amos, Peter (US)

**Thank You**

To: me, Amy

He left a nice umbrella also Amy, perhaps that could be your prize

---

12/4/14

**Adam Humphreys**

**Thank You**

To: Peter, Amy

Okay, I'm embarrassed.

I must have been too focussed on making an elegant exit.

---

12/4/14

Amos, Peter (US)

**Thank You**

To: me, Amy

So smooth

---

December 5, 2014

**Slash Lovering**

how u doing

**Adam Humphreys**

good, I might be getting a job

**Slash Lovering**

cool

**Adam Humphreys**

you?

same old  
selling beer

**Adam Humphreys**

I'm reading a book about how to cash  
out directing commercials  
but it's a 2006 book  
pre big social spending  
I interviewed at Samuel Mae to manage  
their video post production

**Slash Lovering**

yeah  
i think the budget for an average tv  
commercial dropped by 75% except  
automotive

**Adam Humphreys**

which is fine

**Slash Lovering**

yeah

**Adam Humphreys**

do you look at reels?

**Slash Lovering**

we don't do real tv commercials only  
DRTV

**Adam Humphreys**

what's DRTV

**Slash Lovering**

stuff with a phone number on the screen  
100% of the time

**Adam Humphreys**

nice, that's cool

**Slash Lovering**

lol

no. it's not.

**Adam Humphreys**

how do agencies do social videos  
Samuel Mae doesn't even hire directors

**Slash Lovering**

shoot them in house  
hire people under 30 who can shoot and  
edit

**Adam Humphreys**

what are those budgets like

**Slash Lovering**

under 50  
the real money is in getting people to  
watch the videos  
seeding and influencer distribution  
i really miss working on video stuff

**Adam Humphreys**

we should do a spec perfume commercial  
with your copy / poetry voiceover

**Slash Lovering**

i'd be very interested in that

**Adam Humphreys**

I've also thought about like... spec, semi-  
ironic commercials for Prosciutto  
really traditional "Italy" "Lifestyle" ads  
and the slogan is, like: "ask your grocer  
about prosciutto"

**Slash Lovering**

field of wheat / a woman in a modest dress  
/ a small town / a warmly lit kitchen table

**Adam Humphreys**

"grandma... did you forget the prosciutto?"  
"no baba"  
warm, warm smiles all around as she

removes the prosciutto from her rustic shopping satchel

### **Slash Lovering**

child wandering the streets asking very politely for prosciutto

### **Adam Humphreys**

but it's for US market

### **Slash Lovering**

right hmm

### **Adam Humphreys**

it wants to educate the US market about prosciutto as if it is some very elegant italian thing  
the new oyster

### **Slash Lovering**

elevating the brand  
taking a luxury, craft angle

### **Adam Humphreys**

what about Prosciutto To Go  
like, individual packages to be snacked on at the office  
a little heavenly trip to Italy on your lunch break

### **Slash Lovering**

Prosciutto mobile

### **Adam Humphreys**

a woman in pencil skirt is "lost in reverie" at lunch, then is "comically brought back to reality"  
she can't wait to eat more prosciutto, is the thing

### **Slash Lovering**

if we want to do this tradition way we write a few concepts, pick one, write a

few treatments, pick one traditional\* but we don't have to obviously

### **Adam Humphreys 3:21 PM**

what kind of asshole doesn't like prosciutto

### **Slash Lovering**

LOL

### **Adam Humphreys**

how could I take my prosciutto commercial and put it next to beauty stuff  
food and beauty, not so hot together

### **Slash Lovering**

put like jewelry with food  
jewelry served on a platter of meat or like  
make up applied to something unusual

### **Adam Humphreys**

prosciutto for your skin

### **Slash Lovering 3:28 PM**

NOW THAT'S ITALIAN TM

### **Adam Humphreys**

prosciutto  
is like koons  
prosciutto is balloon dog, IMO  
its dense surface refracts the viewer no depth, just... thick  
solid meaning

### **Adam Humphreys 5:08 PM**

either I get this job at Samuel Mae or I run out of money pronto

12/5/14

Adam Humphreys  
**Interview follow-up**

To: Peter

Hi Peter,

I've given it some thought, weighed the pros and cons, and decided working with you guys would be an excellent opportunity to learn and challenge myself in a new way.

If you are interested in taking me on, I'd like to take the next step and talk with HR.

(I could also come and pick up everything I left behind).

Hope the end of year video review went well,

Adam

---

12/8/14

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**

To: me

Hey Adam,

Good to here. First step is getting you to speak with HR, so I'll pass along your info and they'll reach out and set something up. Let me know when that happens and, I'd like to have you come back and chat with a few people, hopefully we could do both at the same time.

Sound good?

---

12/8/14

Adam Humphreys  
**Interview follow-up**

To: Peter

Peter,

That sounds great. Please pass along my info. I'll let you know when they get in touch so we can schedule another meeting.

Thanks,  
Adam

---

12/15/14

Adam Humphreys  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

Hi Peter,

Just a heads up I haven't heard from HR yet. I'll be leaving town Friday through the 28th; would be great to meet before then if possible. If not, happy holidays to you and Amy.

Best,  
Adam

---

12/15/14

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: me

Just followed up with HR, we'll let you know ASAP

Thanks

---

12/27/14

Adam Humphreys  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

Hi Peter,

Hope your holidays are going well. I'm meeting with HR on the 5th of January at 4:00pm.

Does it work with you to show me around a bit before or after that time? If not I'm happy to adjust or come in at a more convenient time for you.

Regards from Canada,

Adam

---

Wendy Laettner

+ New Message



**You're friends on facebook**

Poet at Poems and Technical Writer at A Tall-Ass Building  
Lives in Chicago, Illinois

Conversation started December 28, 2014



**Wendy Laettner**



12/28, 2:49pm

1/3/15

Amos, Peter (US)

**Interview follow-up**

To: me

We'll make that work. Let do after.

Thanks

1/20/15

**Adam Humphreys**  
**greetings**

To: Peter

Hi Peter,

Happy (post) MLK day.

It's been a couple of weeks since our last meeting, and I'm wondering if you've had the chance to mull over in greater detail the possibility of adding me to the team.

I remain convinced this would be a worthy next step in my life and career, and am eager to work with you guys.

Let me know if you'd like to chat more or meet again.

Thanks,  
Adam

---

1/21/15

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: me

Hang in there, just catching up. I'll be in touch by the end of the week!

---

1/27/15

**Adam Humphreys**  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

Hi Peter,

Sounds good.

I'm a little disappointed that the snow isn't deeper.

Hope you're getting a nice day off with fam.

Regards,  
Adam

---

1/28/15

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: me

Hey there,

I'll call you tomorrow!

---

1/29/15

**Adam Humphreys**  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

Peter,

Sounds good.



I'll be available any time save 230 to 430ish.

Talk soon,  
A

---

1/29/15

Adam Humphreys  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

Hey there, I'm free now when you get the chance.

347-623-1258

Regards,  
A

---

1/29/15

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: me

Sorry man, hate to keep putting you off, but I need to call tomorrow. For real!

---

1/29/15

Adam Humphreys  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

What time works for you?

I'll be available whenever you need.

---

1/29/15

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: me

Thanks Adam, endif day, I have a scout and a bunch of meeting and I'm back in the of-  
fice around 5:30

---

1/29/15

**Adam Humphreys**  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: Peter

Sounds good. I'll standby for 530.

Let me know if anything comes up.

Just a heads up I'll be out of town next week.  
A

1/29/15

Amos, Peter (US)  
**Interview follow-up**  
To: me

Will do thanks!

● **Wendy Laettner**

January 30



**Wendy Laettner** 1/30, 3:07pm

I am removing your comment for  
spoil sportsmanship



**Adam Humphreys** 1/30, 3:07pm

I guess it's pretty cynical I would see it  
as a potential ploy link me to this link  
doctoring app



**Wendy Laettner** 1/30, 3:07pm

you're gonna have to pay

I just bought young thug tickets and  
I'm low on skrill



**Adam Humphreys** 1/30, 3:08pm

I think you should give it to me cuz I'll  
use it well



**Wendy Laettner** 1/30, 3:08pm

are you calling yourself an A+ content  
creator



**Adam Humphreys** 1/30, 3:09pm

I'm saying

I want to troll someone

before this becomes ubiquitous?  
or is it already



**Wendy Laettner** 1/30, 3:17pm

lol you can just do it on Facebook

It's not brush I'm on the cutting edge



**Adam Humphreys** 1/30, 3:18pm

oh damn  
glad I did not pay



**Wendy Laettner** 1/30, 3:18pm

me too

# Samuel Mae's stock suffers biggest ever one-day drop

By Tomi Kilgore

Published: Feb 4, 2015 4:51 p.m. ET

Samuel Mae Corp.'s stock suffered its biggest one-day plunge in its history on Wednesday, after the apparel company blindsided investors--but not Maxim analyst Rick Snyder--with a disappointing fiscal third-quarter report and outlook.

The stock SM, -1.61% plummeted 18.22% to the lowest closing level since July 12, 2012. The previous worst one-day performance occurred on Nov. 5, 1998, when it tumbled 15.707% in the wake of disappointing quarterly results.

The stock has now lost 15% since the company's fiscal second-quarter ended on Sept. 30, compared with an 11% rise in the SPDR S&P Retail exchange-traded fund XRT, -0.79% and a 3.5% gain in the S&P 500 SPX, +0.56% Meanwhile, the ICE U.S. dollar index DXY, -0.98% which tracks the greenback against a basket of major currencies, has run up 9.9% over the same time.

While a selloff of Wednesday's magnitude suggests investors were utterly surprised that Samuel Mae missed fiscal third-quarter profit expectations, and cut its outlook--the company had beat consensus earnings expectations the previous 14 straight quarters, according to FactSet--Snyder has been warning of such a black swan event for over a month. Read more about Samuel Mae's disappointing results.

On Jan. 8, he downgraded the stock to hold from buy, and cut his price target by 24% to \$155, citing worries that the stock was overvalued given risks related to the recent sharp rally in the dollar, considering about a third of the company's revenue came from overseas.

On Tuesday, Snyder reiterated his warning, writing in a note to clients that while investors can sometimes disregard currency adjustments, "moves of this magnitude and velocity are atypical," and are expected to "necessitate lowered guidance" for the rest of the fiscal year.

As negative as Snyder has been, Wednesday's stock selloff suggests he wasn't quite negative enough.

**More from MarketWatch**

2/7/15

Adam Humphreys

**greetings**

To: Peter

Hi Peter,

How are you guys making out over there?

I've had my head down on my own film for the past several weeks, and just returned from Italy where I was lucky enough to accompany my wife on a business trip.

I'm writing because still very much interested in working together. Any update on my application?

Hope you are well,

Adam

---

3/4/15

Amos, Peter (US)

**greetings**

To: me

Adam,

Let's talk tomorrow or Friday (try for tomorrow but have to leave early to go skiing :-)  
I have a proposal.

Thanks for following up !

---

3/4/15

Adam Humphreys

**greetings**

To: Peter

Intrigued.

Give me a call when you get the chance.

A

---

● Wendy Laettner

March 4,



**Wendy Laettner** 3/4, 4:00pm

I can mail u addy



**Adam Humphreys** 3/4, 4:00pm

how did you know I wanted addy?



**Wendy Laettner** 3/4, 4:00pm

I'm Austin's intern  
or he's mine



**Adam Humphreys** 3/4, 4:01pm

what do you want for it?  
wrote someone else on Facebook  
yesterday seeking addy but it was a  
private message



**Wendy Laettner** 3/4, 4:01pm

well austin is prob who they have got-  
ten it from previously

sorry if I sketched you out, lol



**Adam Humphreys** 3/4, 4:01pm

no, brad's gf, not sketchy, just wasn't  
aware you knew her



**Wendy Laettner** 3/4, 4:02pm

oh idk her



**Adam Humphreys** 3/4, 4:02pm

she has a scrip but is out  
I want adderall



**Wendy Laettner** 3/4, 4:02pm

weird lol  
it's kind of expensive idk  
im trying to see if ol gurl will cut me a  
deal in bulk  
20 mg IR



**Adam Humphreys** 3/4, 4:03pm

I'll cop \$100



**Wendy Laettner** 3/4, 4:05pm

k lemme talk to her

3/19/15

**Adam Humphreys**  
**the 30th**

To: Peter

Peter,

Just writing to let you know I talked to HR and am set to come in the morning of  
the 30th.

Hope your travel and shoots are going well and look forward to seeing you soon.

Excited,  
A

Amos, Peter (US)  
**the 30th**  
To: me

Looking forward to it! We need you.

---

March 25, 2015

**Slash Lovering**

reading an internal chick-fil-a document  
describing how their brand ambassador  
cows can be used in marketing materials

**Adam Humphreys**

nice  
assault on meaning

**Slash Lovering**

the cows are like capitalist shape shifters  
“the cows are driven by self-preserva-  
tion”  
“the cows can’t spell”

**Adam Humphreys**

jesus

**Slash Lovering**

“the cows are not on the corporate  
payroll”  
it seriously says that

**Adam Humphreys**

so they want money?

**Slash Lovering**

it seems like they are probably homeless  
or nomadic  
the cows are digital nomads  
i feel 100% certain that this shit is unethi-  
cal and i should avoid being involved  
but i can’t look away



4/1/2015

**SM 132.70**

**-26.81%**

## OUTLINE / CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1.

Adam gets the job. We meet his boss, Peter, Wendy, an internet stranger, and Slash, a poet and copywriter at a low-tier agency.

2.

Adam adapts to corporate life. He comes into conflict with his superiors for speaking his mind. He hardy works. He gchats with Benson, an early employee with equity in a content farm who is quitting, and John, who works in catering and plans to leave the city. Chapter culminates in negotiation of a full time contract.

3.

Now on salary, Adam hires Ian, a friend and struggling filmmaker, to do easy work for more money than it's worth. He gets into conflict with two older women over an ad campaign. Adam and Ian get an opportunity to be creative with one project, which goes over well. Adam begins to feel like he understands corporate life. Slash teaches Adam about letting go, not rattling the cage. Benson moves to Los Angeles. Adam yearns for an opportunity to show real merit, or to help the business turn around.

4.

Samuel Mae resigns as CEO. It is "the end of an era." In his place is Johan Franzen, who wants employees to take initiative, "break down walls," "disrupt, etc. Peter gives Adam responsibility over an important project, tells him it is a test. Peter then suppresses Adam's action and prevents him from avoiding mistakes Peter made on the same job. The campaign comes out poorly. Slash loses his job when his agency loses its biggest account. An important creative resigns, and sensing he will never succeed under Peter, Adam makes a play for the vacant seat. Peter blocks him, claiming betrayal. Peter tells Adam he can only change jobs after one full year. He admits Adam would do a better job, but he doesn't want Adam to become his boss. We learn, via Wendy, that Adam's sound mixer has died of a Heroin overdose.



5.

Adam and his wife, Denise, go on vacation and discuss Adam's job predicament. Denise convinces Adam to bide his time until his year is up, then make another play for the vacant seat. Adam decides, in the meantime, he will write a computer program to accomplish his clerical tasks, so that later, when he makes a play for the open job, Peter won't be able to claim abandonment. Adam has lunches with Michelle, who he thinks looks alienated and thus can trust. Michelle wonders why Adam wants to eliminate his own job—Adam views it as an inevitability. "You can wait for someone else to do it or do it yourself." Adam spends his free time learning a programming language. Johan Franzen gives a town hall meeting urging employees to contribute at every level, and afterwards, Adam visits Peter to seek approval for his program's development. Peter says "no," precipitating a fight where Adam slams the door and calls him a bureaucrat. Adam is invited to a reception for the incoming person in the job he wanted, and trolls his instagram—he is a "basic." Ian tries to talk Adam out of quitting.

6.

Adam audiotapes himself dressing down Peter for thirty minutes before quitting. Peter asks Adam if he will stay for his two weeks, and Adam says only on the condition he can develop his program. Peter agrees. Adam writes CEO Johan Franzen a personal email and secures a meeting with him. He keeps this meeting a secret from his peers, viewing it as his ace-in-the-hole, re: program.

7.

Two Weeks Notice: Adam engages a web developer to make his virtual replacement, then calls a meeting where he first announces his resignation and presents his application. It will, he says, save thousands of hours of spreadsheet work and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Peter reprimands Adam for calling the meeting and tries to cancel the initiative, but Adam has already paid. The developer flakes, then, at the last minute, delivers a working beta. Peter begins to come around, claiming he had "always supported" the application. Adam meets with Amy, who tells him that Peter is a relative of Samuel Mae's "right hand man." She says Adam should meet Kieran Millings, the SVP of the floor. Adam meets and presents to Millings, asking for \$30,000 to develop the application. Millings is enthusiastic. Adam feels as if he has won. Millings then drags his feet.

On the morning of his meeting with the CEO, Adam attempts to strong arm Millings into signing his contract with the threat of exposing the inefficiencies in his meeting with the CEO. Millings still won't sign. Adam becomes a pariah. He can't stop crying for pride in himself, so he goes to a doctor for Xanax. On the way back to the office he gets a meeting cancellation notification from the CEO. Back at the office, Peter takes credit for Adam's application. Adam threatens to sue Peter.

8.

Adam meets with HR on his final day to discuss his legal situation, and to do an exit interview. Adam reflects on the events of the story, and the inevitability of change within the organization. He is escorted from the building. He writes Michelle, who promptly blocks him from every social network. He has dinner with Denise.

Epilogue

Three months after Adam resigns, Johan Franzen announces massive layoffs.

**ALSO**

***THE RISE AND FALL OF LUCKY DRAGON CONSULTANT***

Adam becomes an entrepreneur when he discovers a business opportunity in front of the Chinese Consulate in New York City. The immediate, overwhelming success of the business provokes a violent conflict with unsavory competitors at a nearby Burger King.

35,000 words

Fiction

Available Upon Request

# TEMP TO PERM

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[www.adamhump.com](http://www.adamhump.com)  
[adamhump@gmail.com](mailto:adamhump@gmail.com)  
929-215-0725