

# Authorship and Subjectivity in *The Beginner's Guide*. Games as self-confrontation

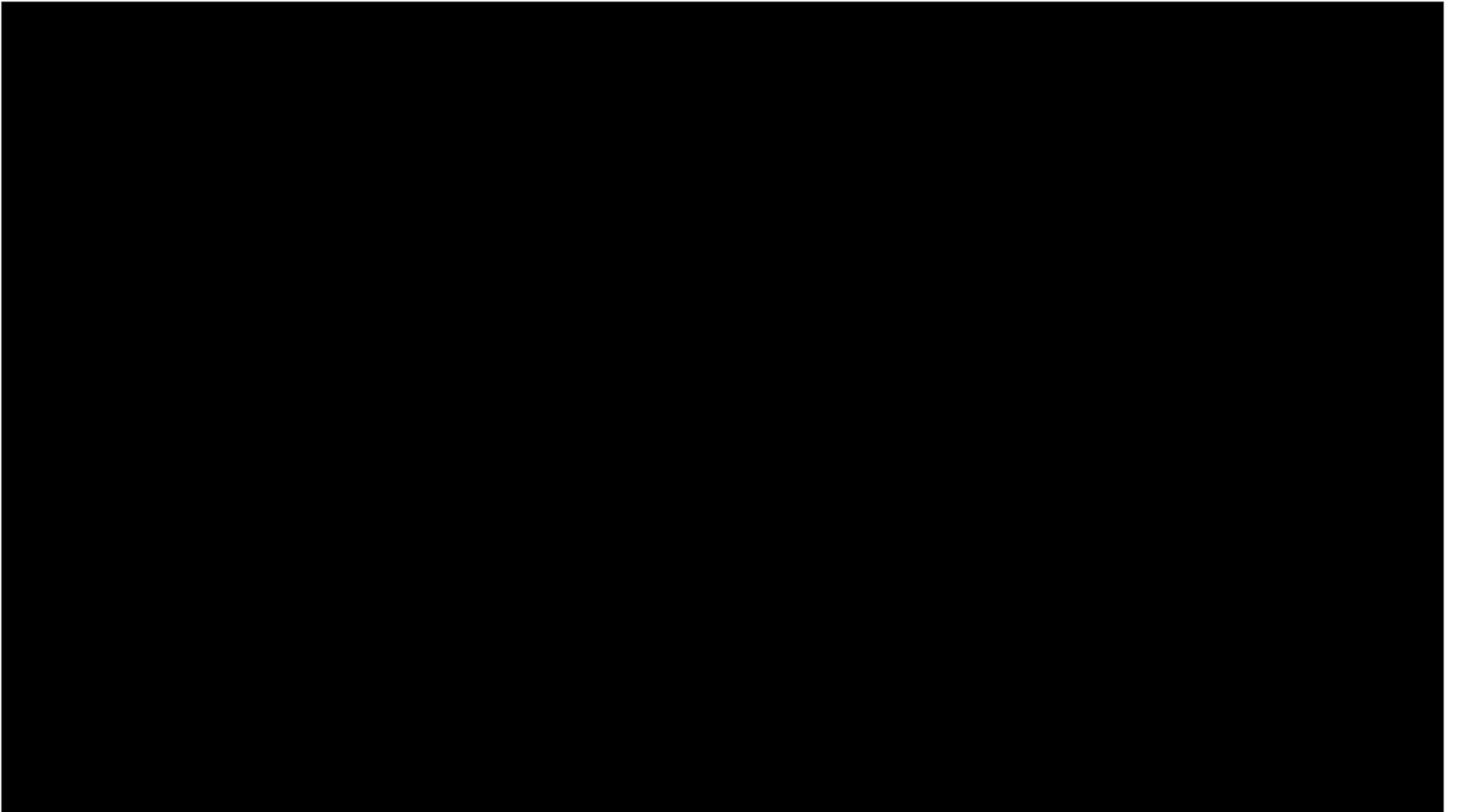
(Christopher Lukman //

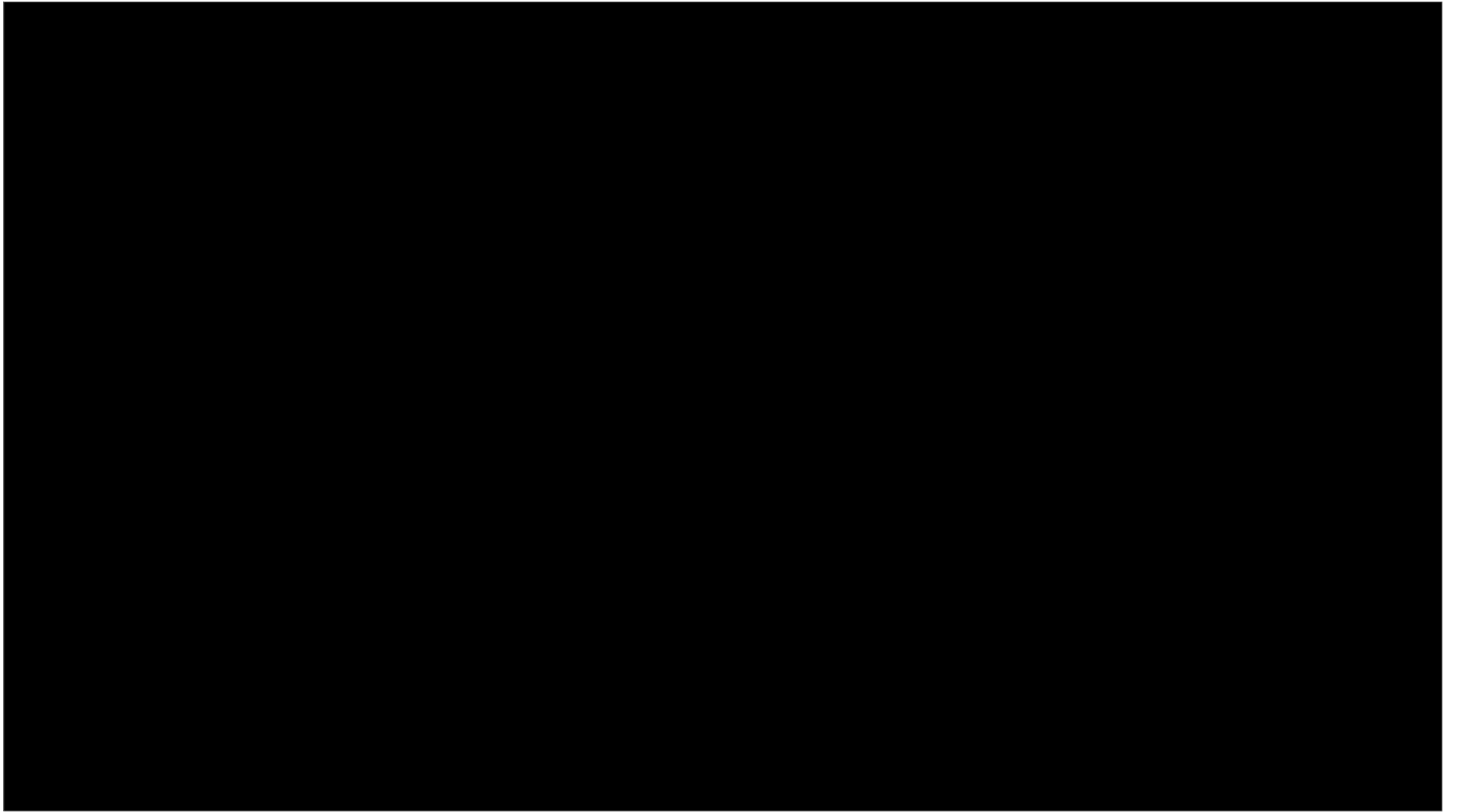
M.A. Cultural Poetics of Literature and Media //

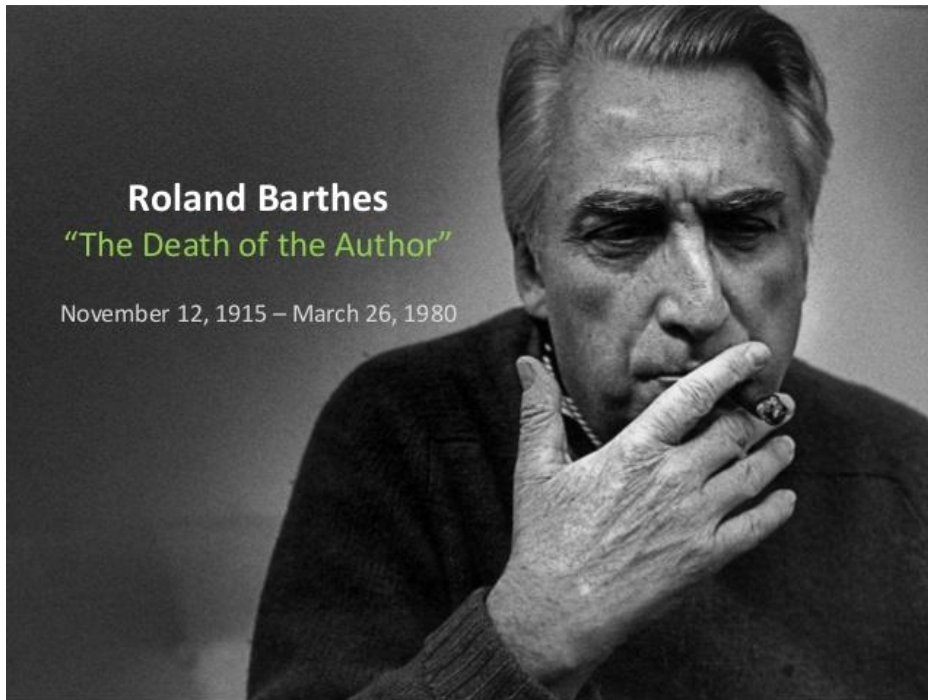
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**Roland Barthes**

*"The Death of the Author"*

November 12, 1915 – March 26, 1980



DE GRUYTER

*Fotis Jannidis (Ed.) et al.*  
**RÜCKKEHR DES  
AUTORS**

STUDIEN UND TEXTE ZUR SOZIALGESCHICHTE DER  
LITERATUR

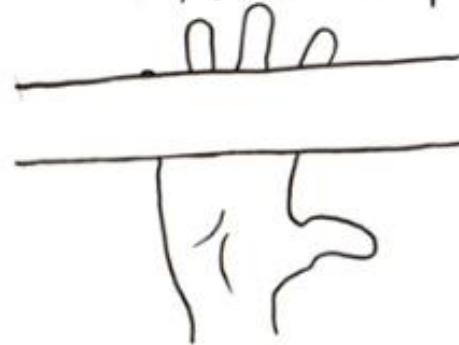
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G

Since Stanley Parable launched I've felt kind of unhinged,  
floating between two emotional states:

On the one hand,  
a sense of ownership  
over this thing I've worked  
on for four years.



On the other,  
the loss of having turned  
that ownership over to  
hundreds of thousands of people.



Adrift in this gap, I am desperate for something to latch onto,  
any form of validation that will give my work and my life  
meaning again.



# Authors of *The Beginner's Guide*

'real' Davey [ narrator Davey  
Coda [ • ...  
• ...  
• ...





Chapter 15, *The Machine*





Chapter 15, *The Machine*



**Keep going.**  
I will be saved by my work.  
**Incredible.**  
**That's it.**  
**I'm free.**

Chapter 14, *Island*



Chapter 14, *Island*



Chapter 15, *The Machine*



**Keep going.**  
I will be saved by my work.  
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**That's it.**  
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Chapter 14, *Island*



Chapter 14, *Island*

„... but if the future is  
always behind her,  
how can she find the  
strength to confront  
it?“

Chapter 2, *Backwards*



Chapter 15, *The Machine*



**Keep going.**  
I will be saved by my work.  
**Incredible.**  
**That's it.**  
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Chapter 14, *Island*



Chapter 14, *Island*

„... but if the future is always behind her, how can she find the strength to confront it?“

Chapter 2, *Backwards*



Chapter 8, *Escape*

From Chapter 8, *Escape*:

Current Self: „But don't you feel excited about getting out? The promise of freedom?“

Former Self: „Excited? It [The promise of freedom] is the only thing that matters to me! It's the only thing keeping me going! 'Excited' doesn't really do it justice.“

///

Former Self: But this is the worst, most desperate thing I've ever been through!

Current Self: You don't ever forget it, you just stop identifying with it.

know who you are right now.

Wait, if you're me, then did you get  
a call from another version of you when  
you were trapped?

No, I think I'm the first person  
to call back.

Then can you tell me how to get out?

Maybe I can come find you!

What do I have to do?

1. To get out, all you have to do is be sincere.
2. To get out, you need to tell me how you feel right now.
3. To get out, just talk with me for a bit.

...what?

That will free me?

How does that work?

Just talk to me.

Okay...I can talk.

Let's just talk for a bit.

Will you be here?

I will be here for as long as you  
need.

Everything Unlimited Ltd.: *The Beginner's Guide* 2015.

# Bibliography

All images and videos from:

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