

## LYING IN WAIT

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"No, you don't understand. I'm the paragon of objectivity!"

"I don't believe that. Look, you said 'I,' which definitely means you're not objective."

"You're wrong, 'cause I'm the paragon of objectivity! I ought to know, since I'm the paragon of objectivity."

"Maybe of subjectivity."

"No."

"Okay, let's play a game. I'll tell you a statement, and, since you're the paragon of objectivity, you'll be able to tell me whether it's true or false, right? Does that sound reasonable to you?"

"Yeah, sure."

"Okay, cool. The statement is, 'this statement is false.' "

"Oh, come on! That's cheating!"

"Well, you agreed to the rules. I guess it was a bit unfair, though. Let's play a different game, Miss Paragon of Objectivity: what if I gave you two statements?"

"Sure, I guess... what are they?"

"Okay, Statement *A* is, 'Statement *B* is true,' and Statement *B* is, 'Statement *A* is false.' What do you think?"

"No, no, no, that's cheating too! You know, how about I make a game this time? We'll play like this. I'll ask you five questions, and your goal is to lie when answering all five. Do you think you can do that?"

Well, that was the first question, and this game might be difficult. "Yeah, I guess so."

"Okay, so, for example, if I ask you what your name is, as in, 'what's your name?' "

"Jeff."

"...you would have to answer 'Billy Bob' or something. Okay, sounds like we're good."

All right, first off, what are we doing right now?"

"Uh... eating." We're not eating, so I'm three for three.

"Okay, cool, one point. Do you think you'll be able to handle this game?"

Are you kidding? I'm four questions in and she thinks this is the second. She won't have enough time to do anything tricky. "No, uh, this is pretty hard."

"Hah, so there! Wait... how many questions do I have left?"

"You're out; that was the last one!"

Wait.

... damn."