



# **LayoutInflater**

## **A dive in**

# Who am I?

- CTO of @OWLR
- Android Engineer 6+ years
  - Met Office
  - Yoyo Wallet
- Social Stuff:
  - Web: <http://chrisjenx.com>
  - Twitter: @chrisjenx

# **Whats the Story?**

## **物語は何ですか?**

# **Winter 2013**

# I wanted to do this:

```
<TextView  
    font="RobotoBold.ttf"  
/>
```

# And this:

```
<style name="MyTheme">  
  <!-- Default Font -->  
  <item name="font">Roboto-Regular.ttf</item>  
</style>
```

# Stuck with this:

```
<com.myapp.RobotoBoldTextView />
```

```
public class RobotoBoldTextView extends TextView {  
    public RobotoTextView(Context context, @Nullable AttributeSet attrs) {  
        super(context, attrs);  
        setTypeface(Typeface.createFromFile("assets/fonts/Roboto-Bold.ttf"));  
    }  
}
```



# Problems?

- Difficult to extend (Now can't extend AppCompatActivity !extend RobotoTextView)
- Definitely not composable
- Difficult to change/update
- Mixing design with implementation detail.

# Custom Attributes?

```
<declare-styleable name="CustomTextView">
    <attr name="font" format="string" />
</declare-styleable>
```

```
public class CustomTextView extends TextView {
    public CustomTextView(Context context,
        @Nullable AttributeSet attrs, int defStyle) {
        super(context, attrs);
        TypedArray a = context.obtainStyledAttributes(
            attrs, R.styleable.CustomTextView, defStyle, 0);
        setTypeface(Typeface.createFromFile(
            a.getString(R.styleable.CustomTextView_font)));
        a.recycle();
    }
}
```

# Same Problems

- Difficult to extend (Still can't extend.  
AppCompatActivity !extend CustomTextView)
- Still not composable

# Is this possible?

```
<AnyTextView  
  font="RobotoBold.ttf"  
>
```

**Calligraphy was born.**

# ***LayoutInflation Injection***

# **What? 何!**

# Layout Inflation

- First, How do we use it.



# Layout Inflation

- ~~First, How do we use it.~~
- First, How do we use it, **correctly**.
- How does it work? どのように機能するのですか?
- Lets "ViewPump" - えっ?!

# Using the LayoutInflater, correctly!

The **only** way to get the LayoutInflater:

```
LayoutInflater inflater =  
    LayoutInflater.from(Context context);
```

# Using the LayoutInflater, correctly!

The ~~only~~ **safest** way to get an instance:

```
LayoutInflater inflater =  
    LayoutInflater.from(Context context);
```

# Using the LayoutInflater, correctly!

The ~~only~~ **safest** way to get an instance:

```
LayoutInflater inflater =  
    LayoutInflater.from(Context context);
```

It does this:

```
(LayoutInflater) context  
    .getSystemService(Context.LAYOUT_INFLATER_SERVICE);
```

# Let's be clear!

Unsafe: getActivity() or  
getLayoutInflater().

```
public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ViewGroup container,  
    Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
    return getActivity().getLayoutInflater()  
        .inflate(fragment_order_list, container, false);  
}
```

Correct:

```
public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ViewGroup container,  
    Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
    return inflater  
        .inflate(fragment_order_list, container, false);  
}
```

# But, You just said!

Use:

```
LayoutInflater.from(Context context);
```

Correct, this is the only known exception.

```
Fragment::onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater, ...)
```

# Examples

## MyListAdapter.java

```
@Override
public View getView(int position, View convertView,
    ViewGroup parent) {
    // Use context directly above us. i.e "Parent"
    LayoutInflater inflater =
        LayoutInflater.from(parent.getContext());
    //...
    View view = inflater
        .inflate(R.layout.my_list_item, parent, false);
    return view;
}
```

# Examples Cont.

## RecyclerView.MyAdapter.java

@Override

```
public MyAdapter.ViewHolder onCreateViewHolder(  
    ViewGroup parent, int viewType) {  
    // Use context directly above us. i.e. "Parent"  
    View v = LayoutInflater.from(parent.getContext())  
        .inflate(R.layout.my_text_view, parent, false);  
    //...  
    return new ViewHolder(v);  
}
```



# Examples Cont.

MyView.java

```
public MyView(Context context) {  
    LayoutInflater.from(context, this, true);  
}
```

# Why is this important?

Two examples:

```
class MyApplication extends Application {  
    public void onCreate() {  
        // Application LayoutInflater  
        LayoutInflater.from(MyApplication.this)  
    }  
}
```

```
class MyFirstActivity extends Activity {  
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
        // Activity LayoutInflater  
        LayoutInflater.from(MyFirstActivity.this)  
    }  
}
```

# Application Context and Theme

```
class MyApplication extends Application {  
    public void onCreate() {  
        // Application LayoutInflater  
        LayoutInflater.from(MyApplication.this)  
    }  
}
```

Uses:

```
<manifest>  
<application  
    android:theme="@android:style/Theme.DeviceDefault.Light"  
>  
</manifest>
```

# Vs. Activity

```
class MyDialogActivity extends Activity {  
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
        LayoutInflater.from(MyDialogActivity.this) // Activity LayoutInflater  
    }  
}
```

Uses:

```
<manifest>  
    <activity  
        android:theme="@android:style/Theme.DeviceDefault.Dialog" />  
</manifest>
```

LayoutInflater.from(application) will use  
Theme.DeviceDefault.Light!

**But, I use the same theme.**

**But, I use the same theme.**

**You do now, but future proof.**

# We can also extend Contexts

```
<FrameLayout
    xmlns:android="..."
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    android:theme="@style/Theme.DeviceDefault.Overlay">
    <TextView
        android:layout_width="wrap_content"
        android:layout_height="wrap_content"/>
</FrameLayout>
```

# Extend Context **not** Theme?

Everything is a ContextWrapper!

- Application extends ContextWrapper
- Activity extends ContextThemeWrapper
- ContextThemeWrapper extends ContextWrapper



# Creating ContextThemeWrappers

```
<FrameLayout  
    android:theme="@style/Theme.DeviceDefault.Overlay">
```

Simple equivalent:

```
Context context = parent.getContext();  
if(hasThemeAttr) {  
    int themeRes = attrs.getResourceId(THEME_ATTR, 0);  
    context = new ContextThemeWrapper(parent, themeRes);  
}  
view = new FrameLayout(context, attrs);
```

FrameLayout and children will now get styled attributes from Theme.DeviceDefault.Overlay

# Overkill?

Last week:

*This issue depends on the Context used to get the LayoutInflater instance. In My PagerAdapter I was injecting Context via Dagger2 which was ApplicationContext', and I instantiated LayoutInflater in constructor using thatContext' and Calligraphy had no impact there.*



# **LayoutInflater**

## **attachToRoot / parent**

```
inflate(layoutResource,  
parent, attachToRoot)
```

# parent

*@parent A view group that will be the parent. Used to properly inflate the layout\_\* parameters.*

# parent

```
<LinearLayout android:layout_width="match_parent"
               android:layout_height="match_parent"
               android:orientation="vertical">
    <TextView android:layout_width="wrap_content"
              android:layout_height="wrap_content"
              android:weight="1"/>
</LinearLayout>
```

```
inflater.inflate(layoutRes, parent, false);
// Does this:
viewGroup = createView(activity.context, ...); // FrameLayout
view = createView(viewGroup.context, ...) // TextView
// Attrs only available at inflation time!
params = viewGroup.generateLayoutParams(viewAttrs);
// Can now tell parent how to be laid out.
view.setLayoutParams(params);
```

# attachToRoot

```
inflater.inflate(R.layout.activity, parent, true);

// Does this:

// FrameLayout
viewGroup = createView(activity.context, ...);
// TextView
view = createView(viewGroup.context, ...)
// Attrs only available at inflation time!
params = viewGroup.generateLayoutParams(viewAttrs);
// Add to parent and layout.
parent.addView(view, params);
```



# How to use attachToRoot

```
// ListViewAdapter.java
```

```
public View getView(int position, View convertView,
    ViewGroup parent) {
    LayoutInflater inflater = LayoutInflater.from(convertView)
    // Inflate Row, parent == convertView (ListView), do not attach.
    View rowView = inflater
        .inflate(R.layout.rowlayout, parent, false);
    //..
    return rowView;
}
```

# How to use attachToRoot

```
// CustomLayout.java
```

```
public class CustomLayout extends FrameLayout {  
    public CustomLayout(Context context,  
        AttributeSet attrs, int defStyle) {  
        super(context, attrs);  
        // inflate inner layout, parent == this, attach == true.  
        LayoutInflater.from(context)  
            .inflate(R.layout.custom_layout_include, this, true);  
    }  
}
```

# How to use attachToRoot

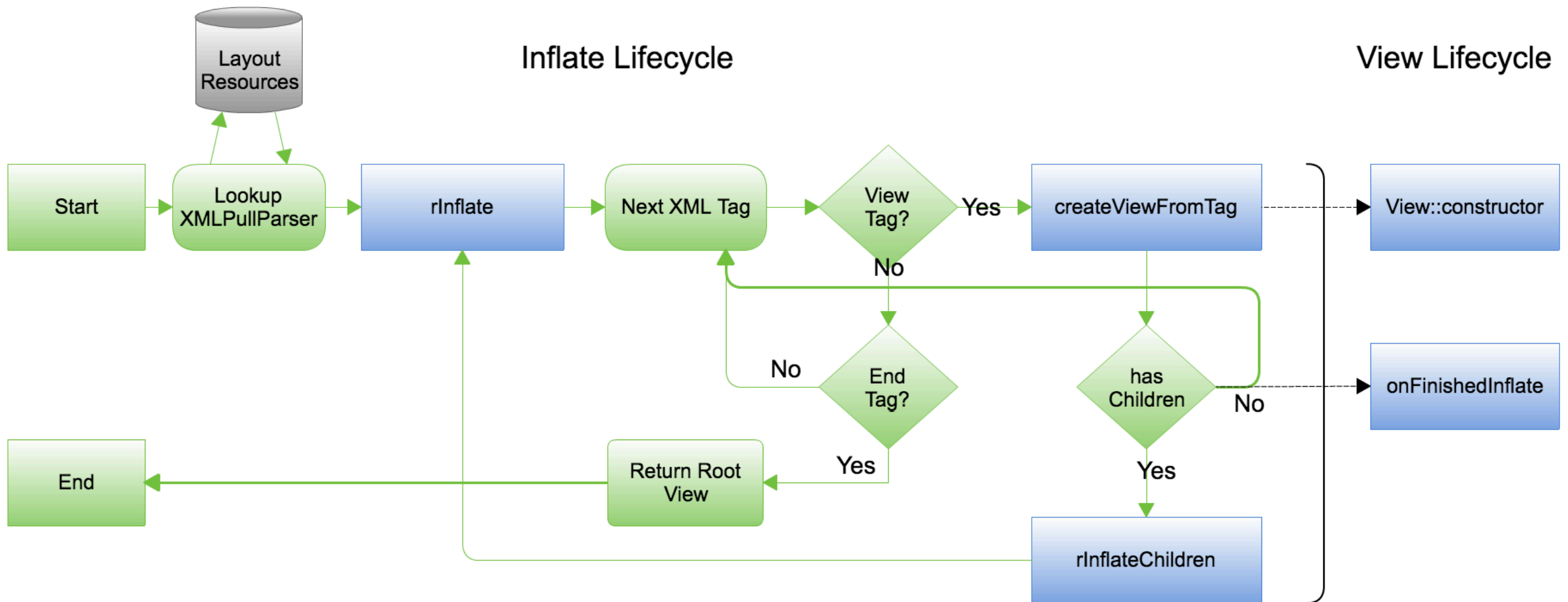
```
// MyFragment.java:  
public View onCreateView(LayoutInflater inflater,  
    ViewGroup container, Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
  
    // Inflate the layout for this fragment, don't attach  
    return inflater  
        .inflate(R.layout.article_view, container, false);  
}
```

# **How does it work?**

# Compile

**Layout XML -> AAPT -> Optimised Layout  
xml -> .apk**

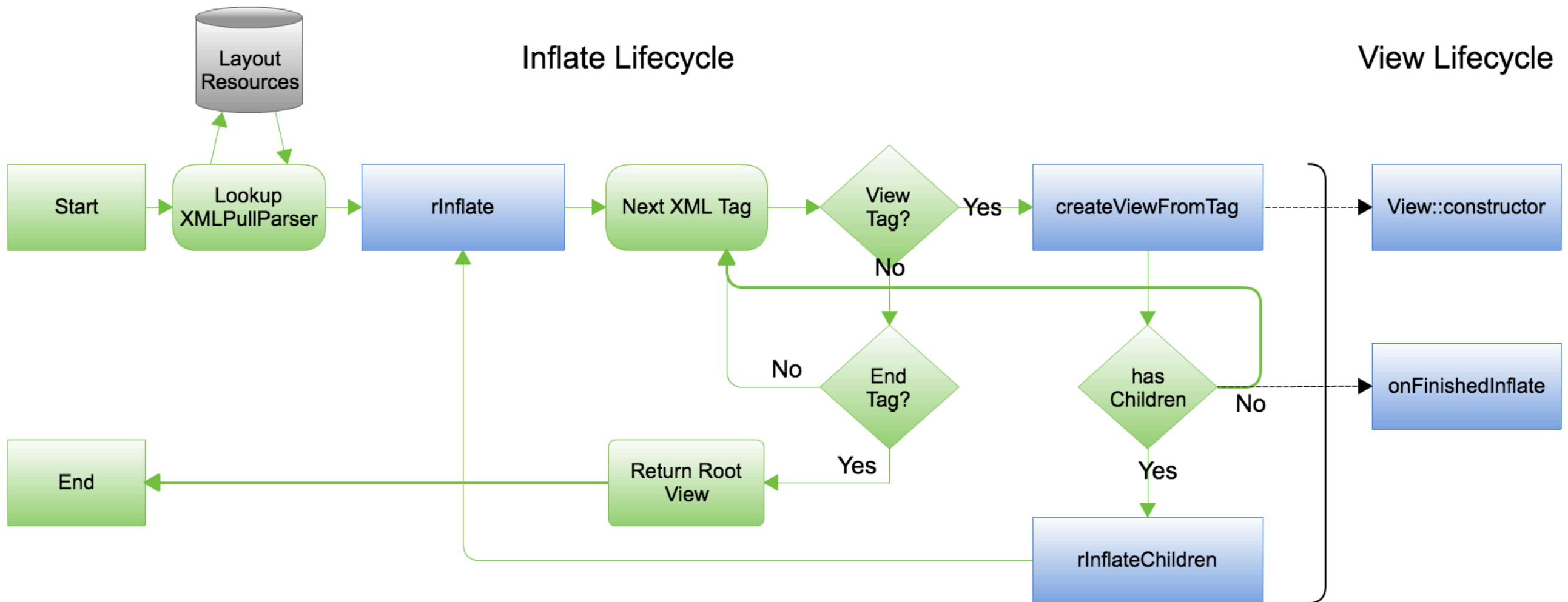
*Layout files can not be read by a custom  
XMLPullParser at runtime.*



# Example Inflation Flow

```
<FrameLayout>  
  <TextView />  
  <ImageView />  
</FrameLayout>
```

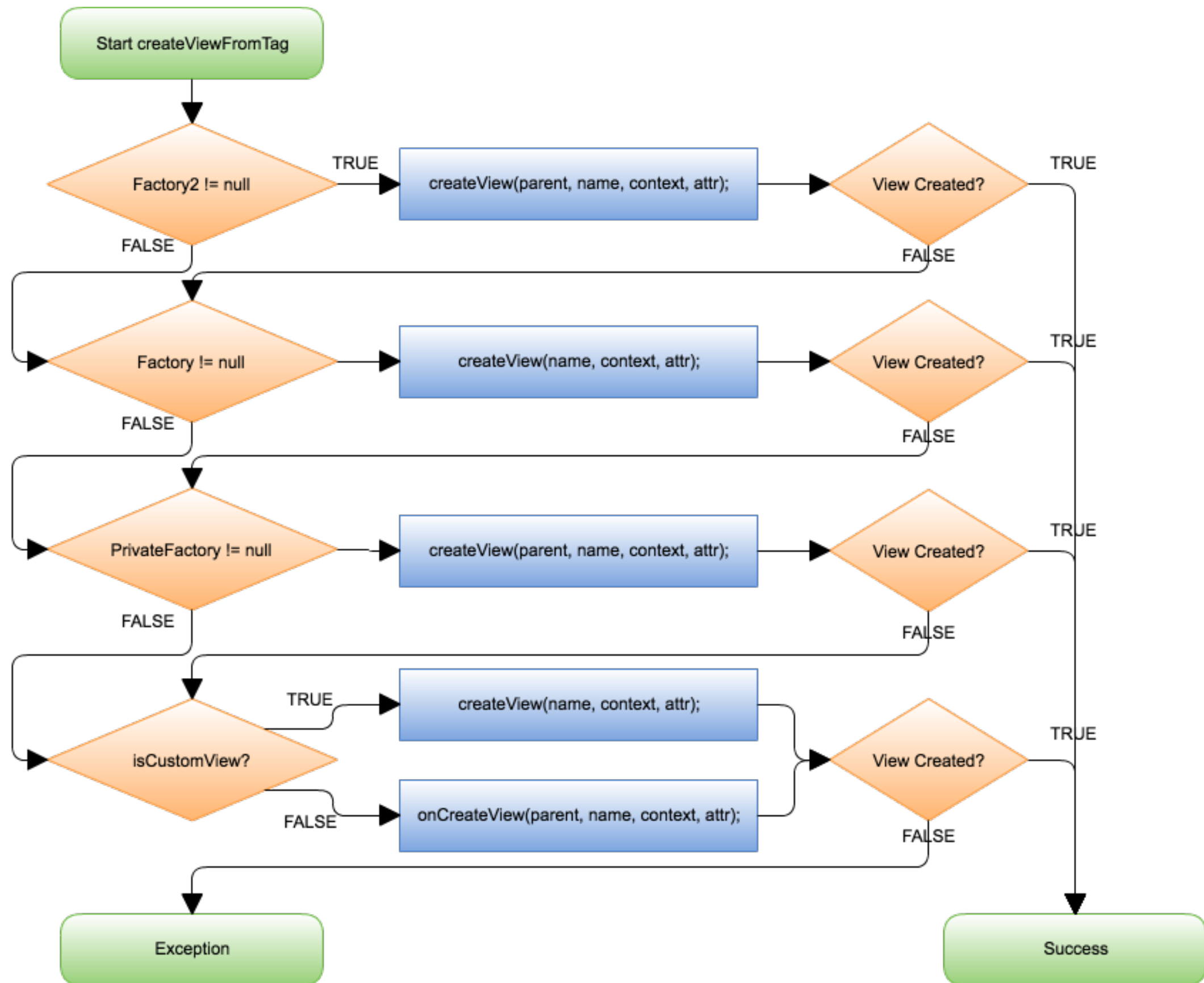
```
//1. Inflates root view  
root = new FrameLayout(...);  
//2. look for children  
view = new TextView(...);  
//3. has children?  
view.onFinishedInflate();  
//4. next tag  
view = new ImageView(...);  
//5. has children?  
view.onFinishedInflate();  
//6. next tag? end? step out of recursion.  
root.onFinishedInflate();  
// next tag? end? return  
return root;
```





# **createViewFromTag**

**Things get weird. 物事は奇妙になる**



# createView\* parameters

```
<FrameLayout android:background="@drawable/background">  
    <TextView android:text="@string/my_text"/>  
    <com.example.MyTextView android:text="@string/my_text" />  
</FrameLayout>
```

```
// Creating the FrameLayout  
createView(parent, name, context, attrs);  
// Would be equivalent to:  
createView(  
    null,  
    "FrameLayout",  
    activity.getContext(),  
    new AttributeSet(){ background = "@drawable/background" }  
)
```

# createView\* parameters

```
<FrameLayout android:background="@drawable/background">  
    <TextView android:text="@string/my_text"/>  
    <com.example.MyTextView android:text="@string/my_text" />  
</FrameLayout>
```

// Creating the TextView

```
createView(parent, name, context, attrs);
```

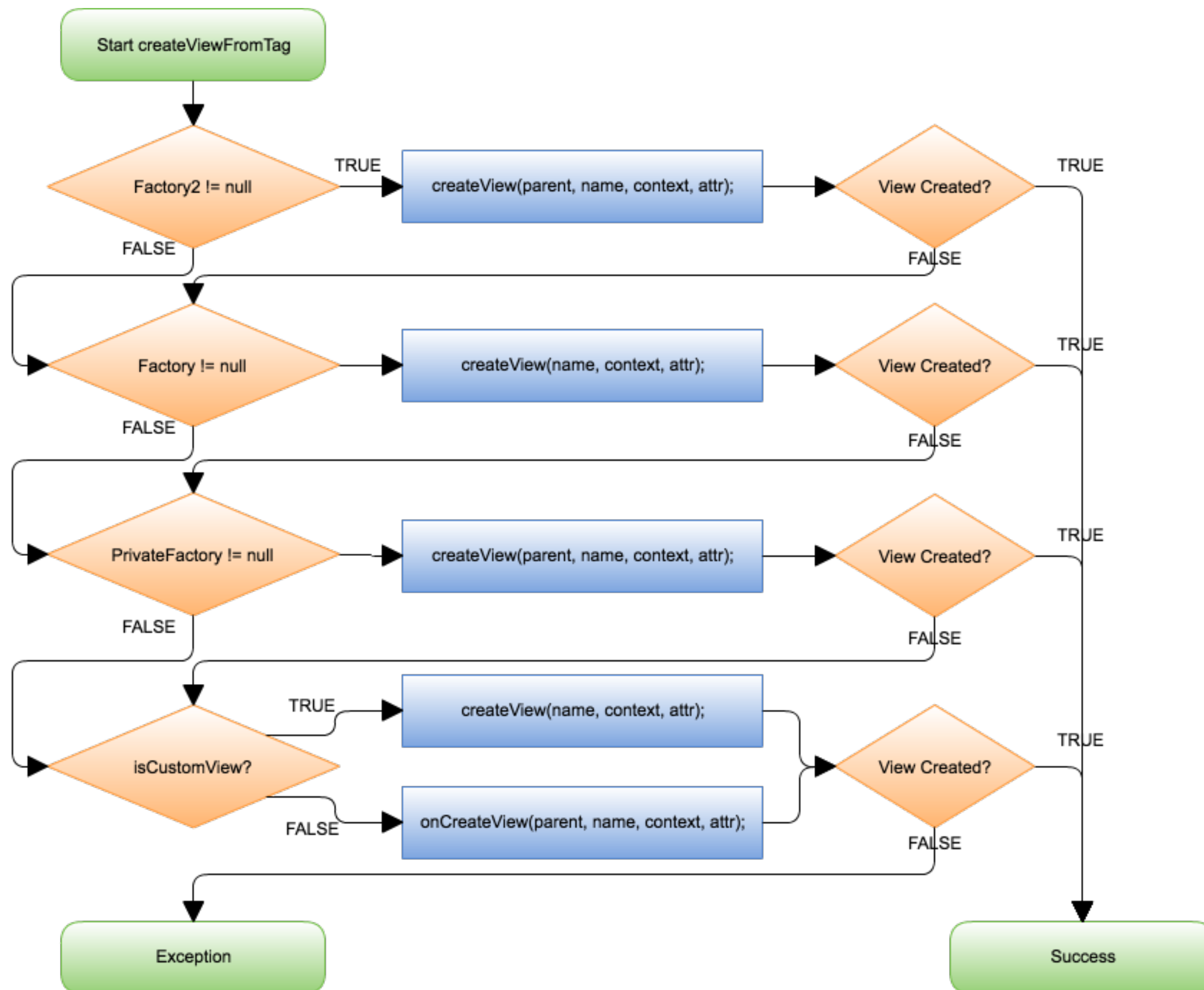
// Would be equivalent to:

```
createView(  
    FrameLayout::this,  
    "TextView",  
    FrameLayout::getContext(),  
    new AttributeSet(){ text = "@string/my_text" }  
)
```

# createView\* parameters

```
<FrameLayout android:background="@drawable/background">  
    <TextView android:text="@string/my_text"/>  
    <com.example.MyTextView android:text="@string/my_text" />  
</FrameLayout>
```

```
// Creating the com.example.MyTextView  
createView(parent, name, context, attrs);  
// Would be equivalent to:  
createView(  
    FrameLayout::this,  
    "com.example.MyTextView",  
    FrameLayout::getContext(),  
    new AttributeSet(){ text = "@string/my_text" }  
)
```



# What are the Factories?

*Hook you can supply that is called when inflating from a LayoutInflater.*

*You can use this to customize the tag names available in your XML layout files.*

# "Customize the tag names?"

*Hook you can supply that is called when inflating from a LayoutInflater.*

*You can use this to customize the tag names available in your XML layout files.*

- This is misleading. 誤解を招く



# Means this?

```
public String createView(name) {  
    return "com.chrisjenx." + name;  
}
```

**No. いいえ**

# Factory definition.

*A hook into the LayoutInflater that intercepts tag names from your layout files.*

*Then return null or a View you have created for that Tag Name.*

# Factory2

```
// MyActivity.java:
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    LayoutInflater inflater = LayoutInflater.from(this);
    inflater.setFactory2(new LayoutInflater.Factory2() {
        @Override
        public View onCreateView(View parent, String name,
            Context context, AttributeSet attrs) {
            if("FrameLayout".equals(name))
                return new FrameLayout(context);
            return null;
        }
        @Override public View onCreateView(String name, Context context,
            AttributeSet attrs) {
            if("FrameLayout".equals(name))
                return new FrameLayout(context);
            return null;
        }
    });
}
```

# Factory

// MyActivity.java:

```
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {  
    LayoutInflater inflater = LayoutInflater.from(this);  
    inflater.setFactory(new LayoutInflater.Factory() {  
        @Override public View onCreateView(String name, Context context,  
            AttributeSet attrs) {  
            if("FrameLayout".equals(name)) return new FrameLayout(context);  
            return null;  
        }  
    });  
}
```

# Which one should I use?

Use Factory2, or better:

```
// MyActivity.java
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    LayoutInflater inflater = LayoutInflater.from(this);
    LayoutInflaterCompat.setFactory(inflater,
        new LayoutInflaterFactory() {
            @Override
            public View onCreateView(View parent, String name,
                Context context, AttributeSet attrs) {
                // Wraps both depending on API Level.
                return null;
            }
        });
}
```

# PrivateFactory?

# PrivateFactory

**Implements** `LayoutInflater.Factory2`  
**interface.**



# Activity == PrivateFactory

```
class MyActivity extends Activity {  
    @Override  
    public View onCreateView(View parent, String name,  
        Context context, AttributeSet attrs) {  
        return super.onCreateView(parent, name, context, attrs);  
    }  
  
    @Override public View onCreateView(String name,  
        Context context, AttributeSet attrs) {  
        return super.onCreateView(name, context, attrs);  
    }  
}
```

# Activity == PrivateFactory

// android Activity.java source

```
public class Activity extends ContextThemeWrapper  
    implements LayoutInflater.Factory2, //...
```

LayoutInflater.from(context). Context is important!

# Fragments

```
<!-- Fragments From XML -->
<fragment
    android:id="@+id/fragment_one"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    class="com.example.fragments.MyFragmentOne" />
```

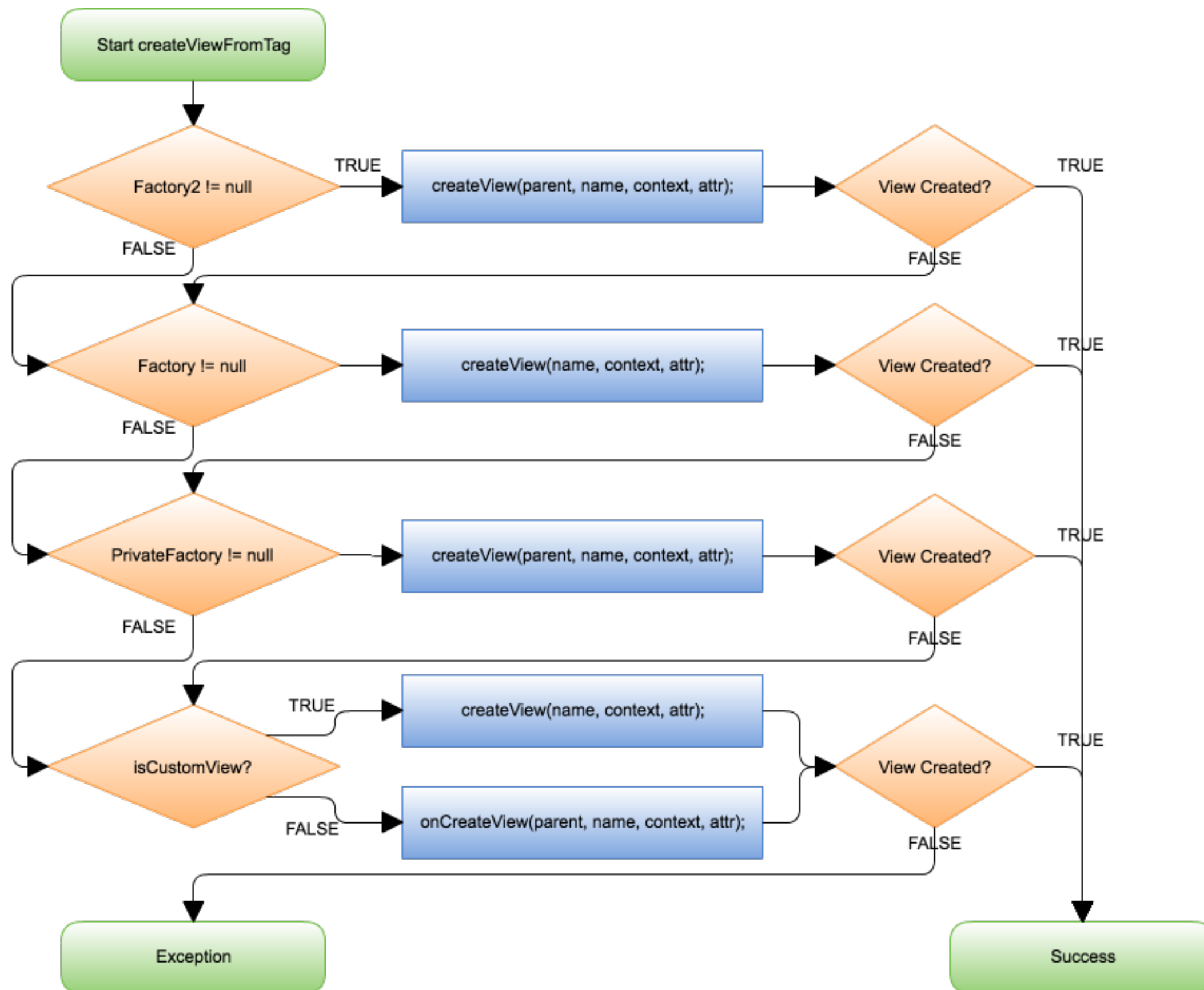
```
// FragmentActivity.java slice
abstract class FragmentActivity {
    @Override
    public View onCreateView(View parent, String name,
        Context context, AttributeSet attrs) {
        // Is this Tag a fragment?
        if (!"fragment".equals(name)) return null;
        Fragment fragment = // createFragment from attr[class]
        // Call fragment onCreateView logic
        fragment.inflate(FragmentActivity::this,
            attrs, fragment savedInstanceState);
        return fragment.mView;
    }
}
```

# **More importantly, AppCompat**

# AppCompatActivity

```
// AppCompatActivity simplified (alot).
public final View createView(View parent, final String name,
    @NonNull Context context, @NonNull AttributeSet attrs) {
    View view = null;
    switch (name) {
        case "TextView":
            view = new AppCompatActivityTextView(context, attrs);
            break;
        case "ImageView":
            view = new AppCompatActivityImageView(context, attrs);
            break;
        //... All AppCompatActivityViews
    }
    return view;
}
```







**LayoutInflater has onCreateView/createView**  
**Android Views -> onCreateView()**

e.g. `<FrameLayout />`

**Custom views -> onCreateView()**

e.g. `<com.example.CustomView />`

# To be exact

If there is a . in the class name:

```
if (-1 == name.indexOf('.')) {  
    view = onCreateView(parent, name, attrs);  
} else {  
    view = onCreateView(name, null, attrs);  
}
```

*Why?*

- I don't know.

# What does `createView()` do?

Reflection.

```
View createView(String name, String prefix, AttributeSet attrs) {  
    //..  
    clazz = mContext.getClassLoader()  
        .loadClass(prefix != null ? (prefix + name) : name)  
        .asSubclass(View.class);  
    //..  
    constructor = clazz.getConstructor(mConstructorSignature);  
    //..  
    return constructor.newInstance(mConstructorArgs);  
}
```



# Recap:

How do I do this?

```
<TextView  
    font="RobotoBold.ttf"  
/>
```

Is there a callback like this?

```
View onCreateView(View view, AttributeSet attrs);
```

**You can't and No.**

# **Enter Calligraphy**

# Goal, create:

- Enable font injection everywhere.
- Expose `onViewCreated(View view, AttributeSet attrs)`



# Calligraphy v1 and v2

Enabled:

```
<TextView  
    font="RobotoBold.ttf"  
/>
```

```
<style name="MyTheme">  
    <!-- Default Font -->  
    <item name="font">Roboto-Regular.ttf</item>  
</style>
```

# Calligraphy

- Stable but still flawed.
- Limited functionally, only handles fonts.
- Wanted to expose: `onViewCreated(View view, AttributeSet attrs)`

# Goal, create:

- ~~Enable font injection everywhere.~~
- Expose `onViewCreated(View view, AttributeSet attrs)`

# **ViewPump was born.**

# ViewPump & Calligraphy

- Interceptor based View Inflation. (Based on Square OKHttp Interceptors)
- James Barr, Twitter: @jbarr21
- Took Calligraphy and turned it into ViewPump
- See [InflationX/ViewPump](#)
- See [InflationX/Calligraphy](#)
- Still pre-release (1.0.0-SNAPSHOT).

# Goal, create:

- ~~Enable font injection everywhere.~~
- ~~Expose onCreateView(View view, AttributeSet attrs)~~

# ViewPump = LayoutInflation Pre/Post Hooks

```
// Post Inflation Hook
```

```
public class TextUpdatingInterceptor implements Interceptor {
    @Override
    public InflateResult intercept(Chain chain) {
        InflateResult result = chain.proceed(chain.request());
        if (result.view() instanceof TextView) {
            // Do something to result.view()
            // You have access to result.context() and result.attrs()
            TextView textView = (TextView) result.view();
            textView.setText("[Prefix] " + textView.getText());
        }
        return result;
    }
}
```

# ViewPump = LayoutInflation Pre/Post Hooks

```
// Pre Inflation Hook
public class CustomTextViewInterceptor implements Interceptor {
    private View inflateView(String name, Context context, AttributeSet attrs) {
        if(name.contains("TextView")) return new CustomTextView(context, attr);
        return null;
    }
    @Override
    public InflateResult intercept(Chain chain) {
        InflateRequest request = chain.request();
        View view = inflateView(request.name(), request.context(), request.attrs());
        if (view != null) {
            return InflateResult.builder()
                .view(view)
                .name(view.getClass().getName())
                .context(request.context())
                .attrs(request.attrs())
                .build();
        } else {
            return chain.proceed(request);
        }
    }
}
```



# ViewPump = LayoutInflation Pre/Post Hooks

```
ViewPump.init(ViewPump.builder()  
    .addInterceptor(new TextUpdatingInterceptor()) // Post Inflation  
    .addInterceptor(new CustomTextViewInterceptor()) // Pre Inflation  
    .build());
```

- Downwards for Post Inflation
- Upwards for Pre Inflation

# **How do we do that?**

# First iteration

```
class CalligraphyLayoutInflater extends LayoutInflater {
    //..
    @Override
    protected View onCreateView(String name, AttributeSet attrs)
        throws ClassNotFoundException {

        for (String prefix : sClassPrefixList) {
            try {
                View view = createView(name, prefix, attrs);
                if (view != null) {
                    interceptView(view, name, attrs);
                    return view;
                }
            } catch (ClassNotFoundException e) {
                // In this case we want to let the base class
                // take a crack at it.
            }
        }
        return super.onCreateView(name, attrs);
    }
    //..
}
```

# Worked; badly.

- Only ever intercepted non-custom views
- Would never get intercepted if the view was created by another factory. e.g. AppCompatActivity

# Second iteration.

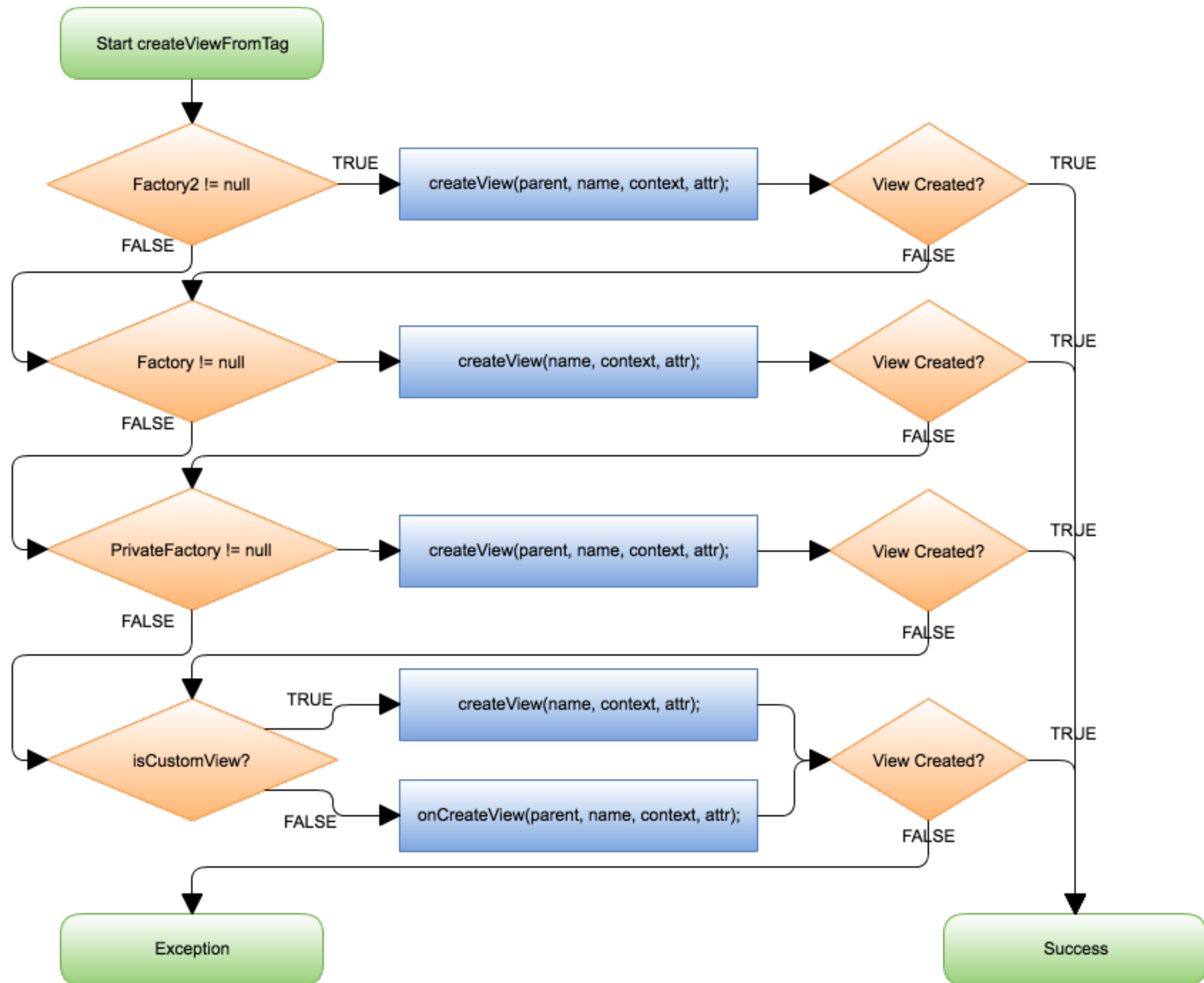
Wrap ALL the Factories:

```
class CalligraphyLayoutInflater extends LayoutInflater {
    {
        setFactory2(new CalligraphyFactory2Wrapper(getFactory2()));
        setPrivateFactory(
            new CalligraphyPrivateFactoryWrapper(getPrivateFactory()));
    }
    @Override
    protected View onCreateView(name, attrs){
        view = super.onCreateView(name, attrs);
        return mCalligraphyFactoryWrapper
            .onViewCreated(view, view.getContext(), attrs);
    }
}
```

# Works; better...

- Intercepts all factories.
- Respects factories already set.
- Still broken custom view support.

**Warning dragons ahead.**  
**警告ドラゴンズ**





**The problem is final.**

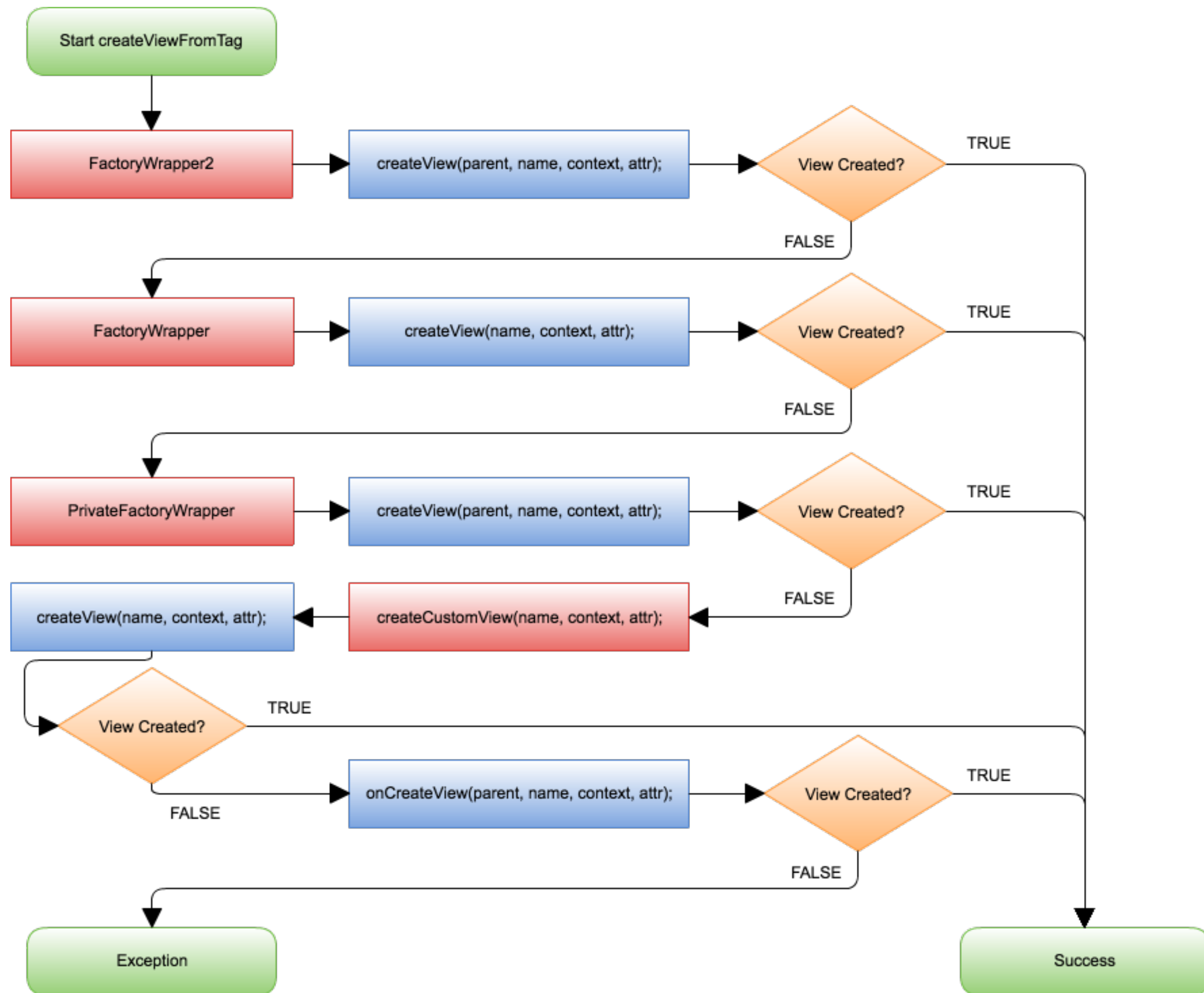
# LayoutInflater.createView()

```
if (-1 == name.indexOf('.')) {  
    view = onCreateView(parent, name, attrs);  
} else {  
    // We want to intercept this.  
    view = createView(name, null, attrs);  
}
```

**But** `createView(name, prefix, attrs)` **is** **final**.



**We changed the Inflation  
flow.**

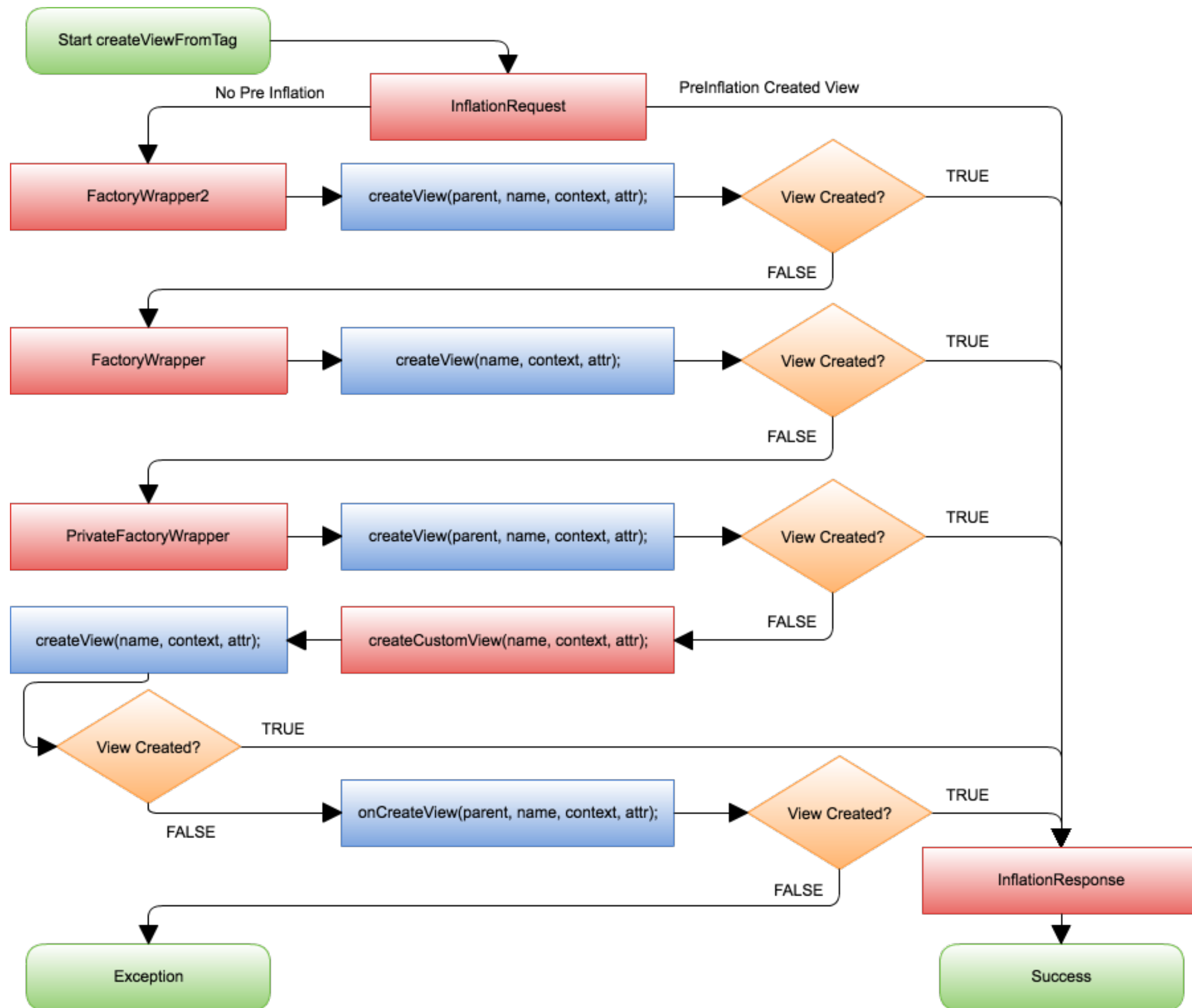


# createView

# createCustomView

```
private View createCustomView(View parent, View view, String name,
    Context viewContext, AttributeSet attrs) {
    // Is this a custom view?
    if (view == null && name.indexOf('.') > -1) {
        if (mConstructorArgs == null)
            mConstructorArgs = ReflectionUtils
                .getField(LayoutInflater.class, "mConstructorArgs");

        final Object[] mConstructorArgsArr =
            (Object[]) ReflectionUtils.getValue(mConstructorArgs, this);
        final Object lastContext = mConstructorArgsArr[0];
        // Have to set the correct context to the View constructor args, because
        // they can't be passed in.
        mConstructorArgsArr[0] = viewContext;
        ReflectionUtils.setValue(mConstructorArgs, this, mConstructorArgsArr);
        try {
            view = createView(name, null, attrs);
        } catch (ClassNotFoundException ignored) {
        } finally {
            mConstructorArgsArr[0] = lastContext;
            ReflectionUtils.setValue(mConstructorArgs, this, mConstructorArgsArr);
        }
    }
}
```





# ViewPump and Calligraphy

```
ViewPump.init(ViewPump.builder()  
    .addInterceptor(new CalligraphyInterceptor(/* .. */) )  
    .addInterceptor(new TextUpdatingInterceptor())  
    .addInterceptor(new CustomTextViewInterceptor())  
    .build());
```

# Whys?

- Respect Android Styles and Themes set in XML.
- Can still build views visually.
- PreInflation Hooks, Turn XML Tag -> View
- PostInflation Hooks, Interact with View with their attributes after inflation.
- Simpler to interact with than setFactory methods.

# Use cases:

## Replace all TextViews with ChrisTextView

```
public InflateResult intercept.Chain chain) {
    InflateRequest request = chain.request();
    View view = inflateChrisTextView(request.name(), request.context(), request.attrs());
    if (view != null) {
        return InflateResult.builder()
            .view(view)
            .name(view.getClass().getName())
            .context(request.context())
            .attrs(request.attrs())
            .build();
    } else {
        return chain.proceed(request);
    }
}
```

# Use cases:

Set views without accessibility to GONE!

```
public InflationResult intercept(Chain chain) {  
    InflationResult result = chain.proceed(request);  
    View view = result.view();  
    // Maybe a little aggressive.  
    if(view.getContentDescription().isEmpty()) {  
        view.setVisibility(View.GONE);  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

# That's all

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James Barr - @jbarr21

ViewPump - [github.com/InflationX/ViewPump](https://github.com/InflationX/ViewPump)

Calligraphy - [github.com/InflationX/](https://github.com/InflationX/)

Calligraphy

## Questions?

