

TWO METRES

Written by

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EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A MAN in a face mask (BLUE EYES) cheerfully strolls down a country road, holding a TAPE MEASURE.

A PASSERBY approaches from the other direction. Blue Eyes extends his tape measure and holds it out between him and the passerby. They keep their distance and squeeze past each other as far as they can.

Blue Eyes retracts his tape measure and turns down a narrow footpath. Suddenly from the opposite end of the path-

ANOTHER man in a mask: BROWN EYES.

The two walkers notice each other and stop in their tracks. Legs akimbo, squaring up. Blue Eyes's hand twitches, slowly reaches for his pocket.

He draws his tape measure, and extends it between either side of the path; not wide enough. He points the tape measure at Brown Eyes and indicates the path behind him: *back you go.*

Brown Eyes looks at the length of path he's already crossed and points back at him: *No, you!* Blue Eyes reacts and gestures more emphatically. Brown Eyes flips him off, turns the finger into a point and gestures him to sod off.

Blue Eyes is indignant; he draws himself up, standing his ground. Brown Eyes confidently strides towards him. Blue Eyes quickly extends his tape measure in front of him: *remember the distance!*

Brown Eyes continues to step towards him; slow, cocky, defiant. Blue Eyes twitches, his resolve weakening. As Brown Eyes slowly approaches, he reaches out a hand level with the end of the tape measure. Blue Eyes is at breaking point.

Brown Eyes's hand connects with the tape measure and presses until it warps- Blue Eyes steps back.

On Brown Eyes, triumphant; Blue Eyes, defeated. Brown Eyes takes his next step, and his next. Blue Eyes backpedals, a beaten dog. He backs towards the path's opening when-

ANOTHER WALKER emerges behind Blue Eyes. Brown Eyes hesitates- now there's two of them.

Blue Eyes slowly turns back to Brown Eyes, a new zeal and resolve in his eyes. He dramatically shakes the tape measure to extend, taking a stance with it like an anime character with a sword.

Now Brown Eyes's resolve crumbles. He backtracks, as Blue Eyes levels the tape measure like a weapon and strides forward. They cross the half way point; victory for Blue Eyes seems assured-

A letter falls out of Brown Eyes's pocket. Blue Eyes stops, looks at it. The envelope is brightly coloured, with hearts drawn on it, the lettering big and bold- easy enough for a child to read.

Blue Eyes looks back at Brown Eyes, concerned. Brown Eyes picks up the letter and looks beyond them- where the trains roll past in the distance. Blue Eyes understands, a little guilty.

He turns, and willingly retreats to the end of the narrow path. Brown Eyes is surprised, suspicious. Blue Eyes nods and beckons: *come on, hurry!*

Brown Eyes nods in appreciation-

Suddenly the OTHER WALKER pushes past both of them. They stare after him, astonished and indignant.

Blue Eyes incredulously shrugs, and lets Brown Eyes past. Brown Eyes waves his thanks as he hurries away.

Blue Eyes shakes his head in disbelief, stuff the tape measure away in his pocket, and continues on his way.