

# WHO KNOWS?

The most important skill for succeeding with Agile?



NO FAIRIES®



NO FAIRIES<sup>®</sup>



1. WHAT WE'RE NOT TELLING EXECUTIVES
2. WHAT WE ARE TELLING EXECUTIVES
3. REFLECTION/DISCUSSION - LESS

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# THE EXECUTIVE STORY: *Agile Transformations ...*



sed

s/princess/company

s/love/SAFe

s/dragon/culture

s/knights/consultants

NO FAIRIES

# SUPPOSEDLY AGILE TRANSFORMATION SUCCESS



The screenshot shows the SAFe website header with navigation links: Home, About, Blog, Community, Resources, Glossary, Implementing, Customer Stories, SAFe Training, and a search icon. Below the header is a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area features a case study titled "CASE STUDY: LEGO Digital Solutions". The text reads: "LEGO® applies its own approach of 'systematic creativity' to adopting SAFe". To the right of the text is an image of a LEGO Star Wars set box and several loose LEGO bricks. Below the image is a button that says "Download LEGO Case Study Update". At the bottom of the case study, there is a quote: "... this has improved the motivation of the team members. Going to work is more fun when there's less confusion and less waste. And motivated people do better work, so it's a positive cycle! Another impact we've seen is that other parts of LEGO visit the meeting, get super inspired, and start exploring how to implement some of these principles and practices in their own department. In fact, agile is spreading like a virus within the company, and the highly visible nature of the PI planning event is like a catalyst." —Henrik Kniberg and Eik Thyrsted

**2015:** "This has been the best year ever for the Lego Group," Jørgen Vig Knudstorp, CEO.

**2014:** LEGO Digital Solutions turned to SAFe to improve their collaboration model and seek out what they like to refer to as the "Land of Awesome."

**2017:** Lego fired 8% of employees.

"In fact, we have made our organization more complex, which makes our growth more difficult", Jørgen Vig Knudstorp, *former* CEO.

NO FAIRIES



Q: WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE ... ?



NO FAIRIES



## FAIRYTALE 1:

# WHY EXECUTIVES WANT AGILE TRANSFORMATIONS

## THE FAIRYTALES

Happy customers

Happy workplace!

More successful products

Purpose-driven business

...

## THE REAL REASONS

Cost saving opportunities

Employer branding

Makes me look good

Makes me feel good, less guilt

Others are doing it, don't want to miss out

We have to do *something* or else...

## FAIRYTALE 2:

# AGILE WILL CONFIRM WHAT WE 'KNOW' ALREADY

Reliable planning & delivery

Faster implementation of our (many) strategies

No disruption of Business As Usual

...

Which brings us to...

NO FAIRIES



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2. WHAT WE ARE TELLING EXECUTIVES
3. REFLECTION/DISCUSSION - LESS





MANAGEMENT IS NOT A FAIRYTALE

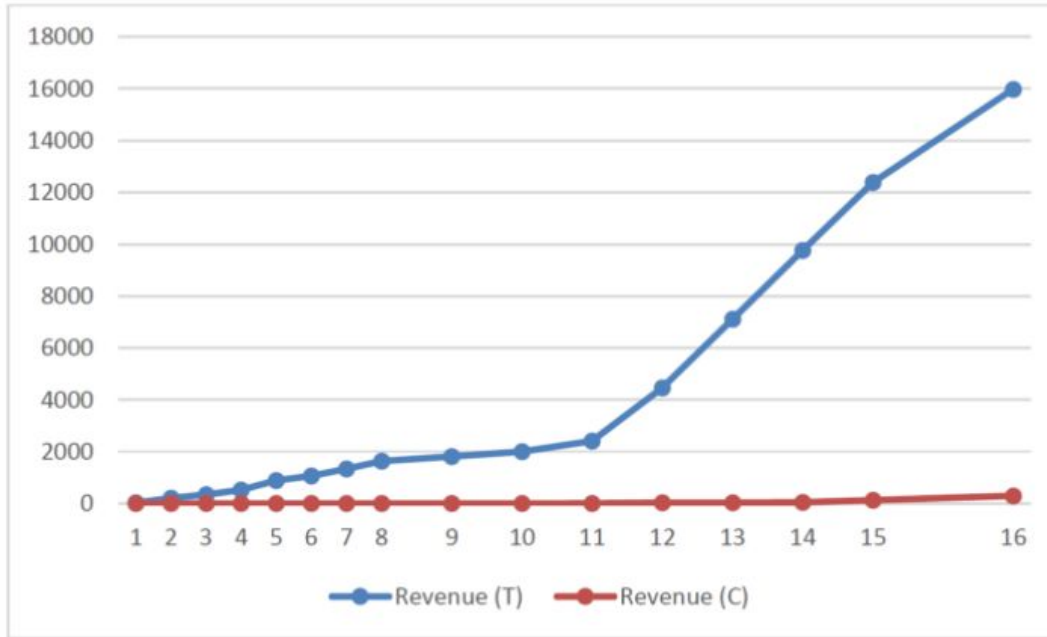


NO FAIRIES



NO FAIRIES<sup>®</sup>

**Figure 2:** Average revenue over time (euros), treated and control startups



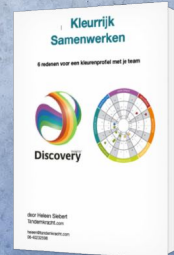
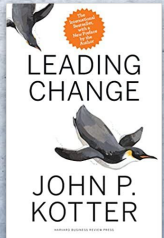
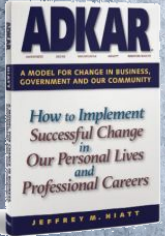
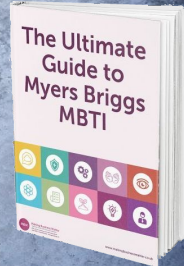
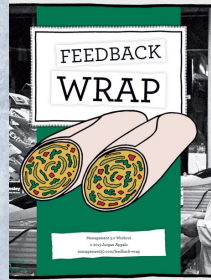
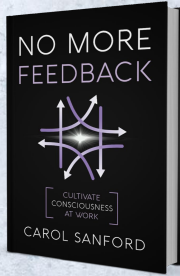
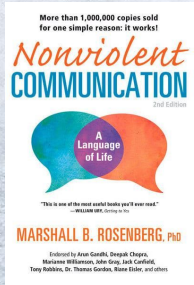
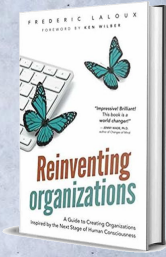
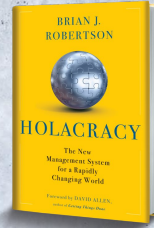
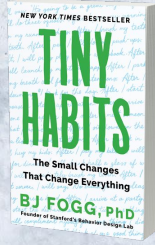
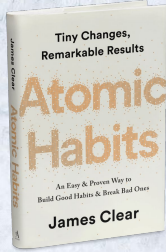
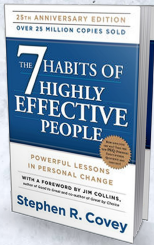
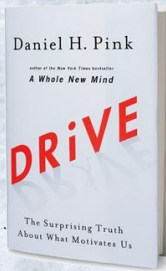
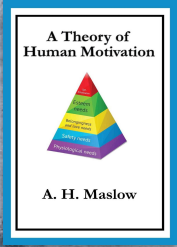
Believe in their fairytales,  
and do something about it.

Believe in their fairytales.

A. Camuffo, A. Cordova, A. Gambardella: *A scientific approach to entrepreneurial decision-making: evidence from a randomized control trial.* Discussion Paper - CEPR, 2017.

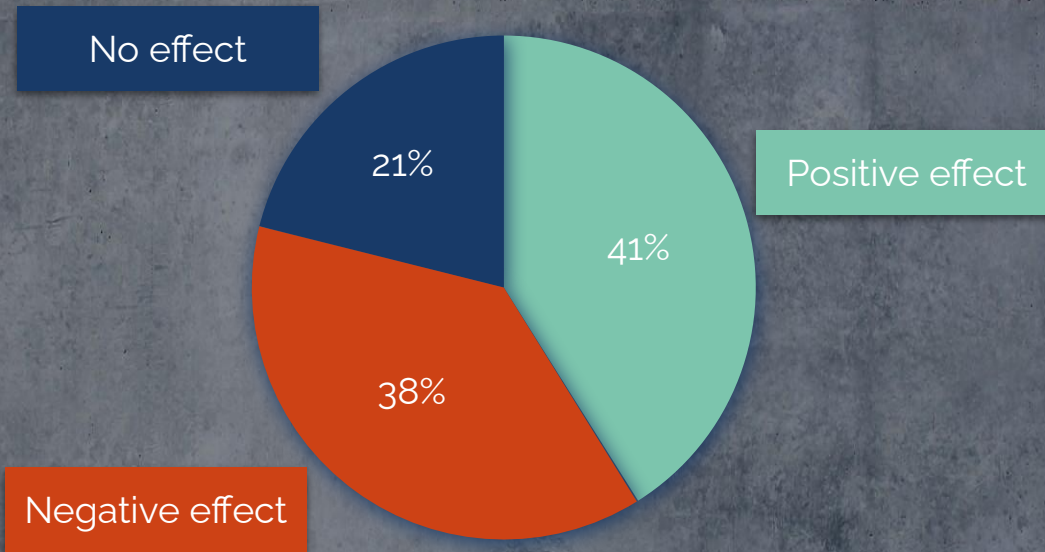
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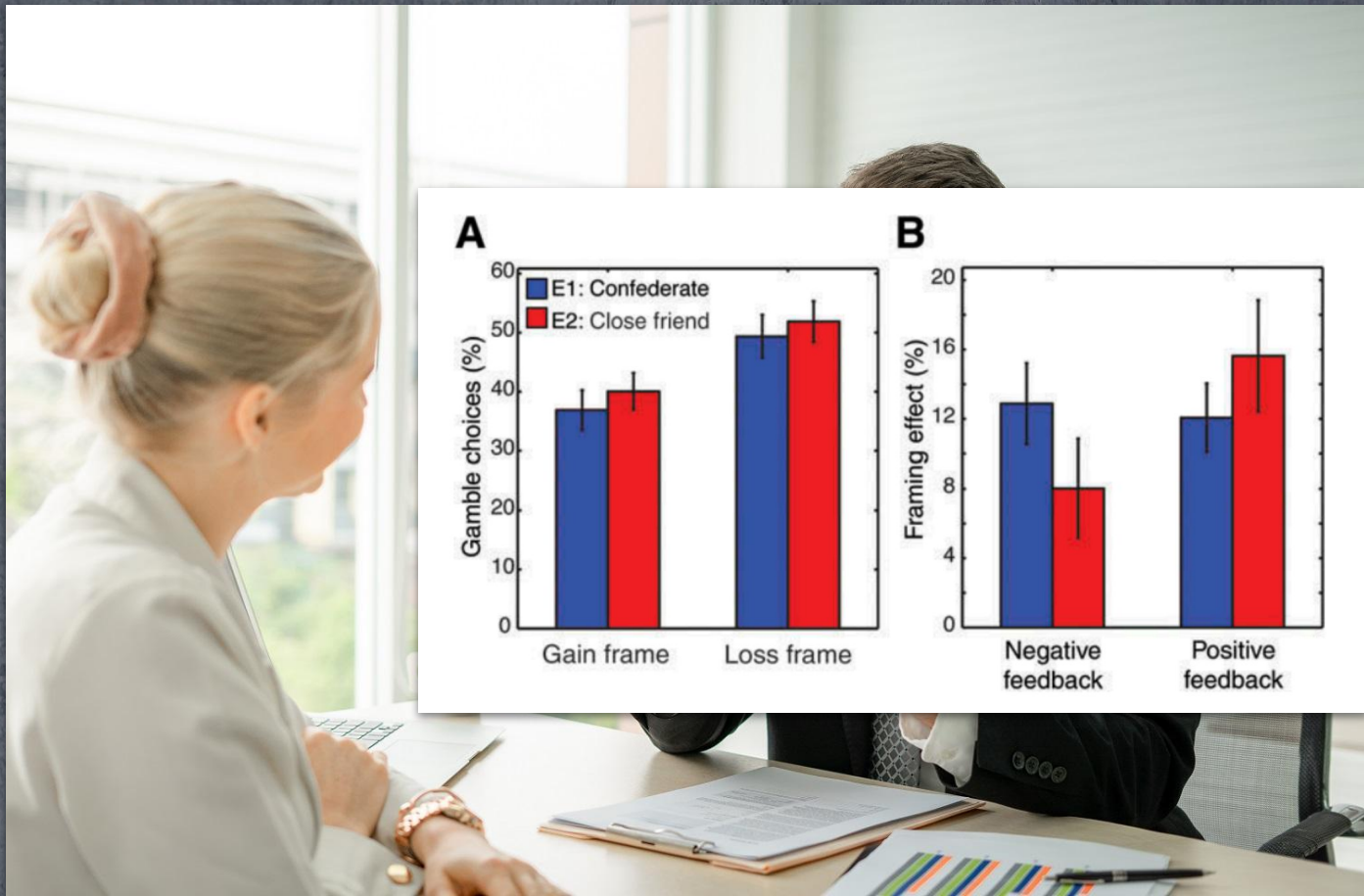
NO FAIRIES





NO FAIRIES

A. N. Kluger, A. DeNisi: *The effects of feedback interventions on performance: a historical review, a meta-analysis, and a preliminary feedback intervention theory.* Psychological Bulletin, 1996.



K. E. Sip et al.: *Social closeness and feedback modulate susceptibility to the framing effect.* Social Neuroscience, 2014.



WHY?



NO FAIRIES



NO FAIRIES<sup>®</sup>





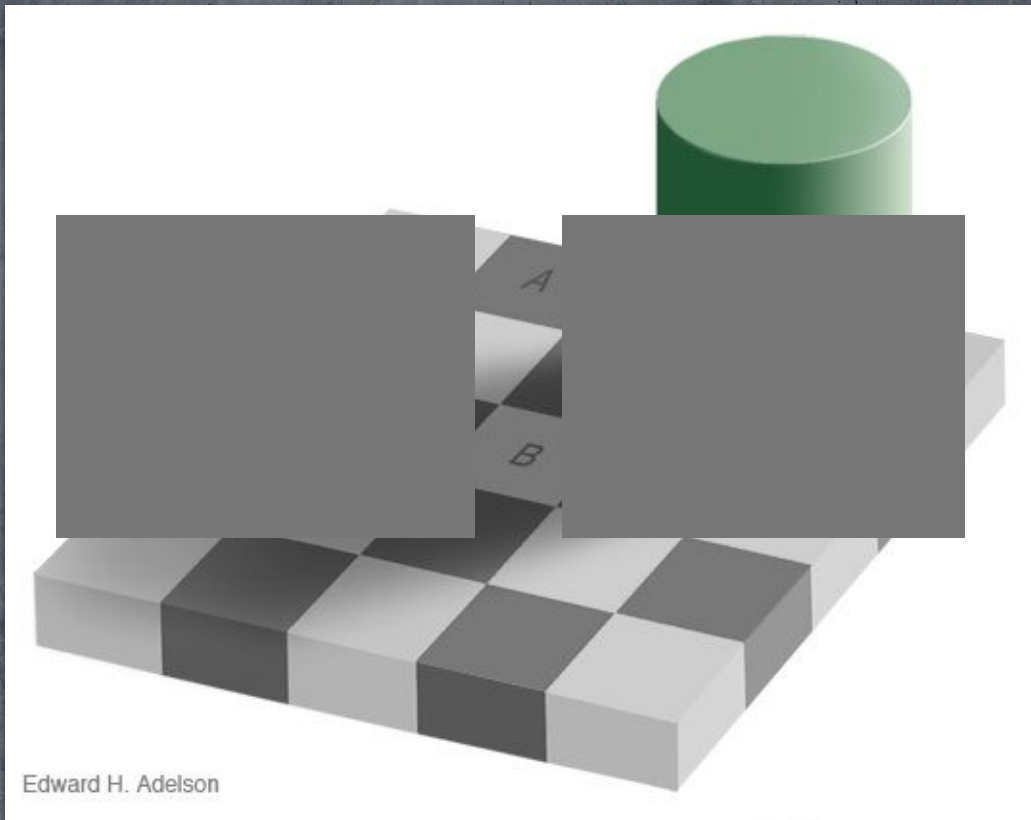
NO FAIRIES

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<https://www.sciencealert.com/word-jumble-meme-first-last-letters-cambridge-typoglycaemia>, 2018

NO FAIRIES





Edward H. Adelson

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NO FAIRIES

WE BELIEVE THAT WE  
EXPERIENCE REALITY,

BUT WE EXPERIENCE  
WHAT WE BELIEVE.



BRAINSTORM



GREEN NEEDLE



NO FAIRIES



I DON'T BELIEVE I'M  
ALWAYS RIGHT.

BUT I DO ALWAYS  
BELIEVE I'M RIGHT.



MANAGEMENT IS NOT A FAIRYTALE



# OUR STARTING POINTS

We all believe  
in Fairytales

Our unknown  
is infinite



NO FAIRIES



NO FAIRIES



WHEN A WISE PERSON  
SAYS/DOES SOMETHING  
'STUPID',

YOU'RE ABOUT TO  
GET WISER.

# GET ORGANISED!

**1. Visualise**

**2. Challenge**

**3. Verify**





VISUALISE

NO FAIRIES



CHALLENGE

NO FAIRIES





VERIFY

NO FAIRIES<sup>®</sup>



NOT KNOWING

NO FAIRIES



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**Adam Grant** ✓

@AdamMGrant

Dismissing ideas that you dislike isn't critical thinking. It's confirmation bias.

Critical thinking is approaching new information with a mix of curiosity and doubt.

It starts with gauging the credibility of the source, the rigor of the logic, and the validity of the evidence.



HOW DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU DON'T  
KNOW?



NO FAIRIES<sup>®</sup>

# 1

“Little's Law states:  
Reducing WIP levels will reduce average cycle time.”

FAIRYTALE?

FACT?

DISCUSS:

NO FAIRIES



# 2

“In contrast with other scaled Scrum approaches, it's possible in LeSS to effectively scale the Product Owner role with just one person because there are fewer roles and positions, and less complexity.”

FAIRYTALE?

FACT?

DISCUSS:

NO FAIRIES



# 3

“Humans have three intrinsic motivation drivers:  
Autonomy, Mastery and Purpose.”

FAIRYTALE?

FACT?

DISCUSS:

NO FAIRIES





HOW DO YOU  
KNOW?



NO FAIRIES<sup>®</sup>

BELIEVE?

1

KNOW?

“Little's Law states:  
Reducing WIP levels will reduce average cycle time.”

FAIRYTALE!

FACT!

DISCUSS:

NO FAIRIES



BELIEVE?

2

KNOW?

“In contrast with other scaled Scrum approaches, it's possible in LeSS to effectively scale the Product Owner role with just one person because there are fewer roles and positions, and less complexity.”

FAIRYTALE!

FACT!

DISCUSS:

NO FAIRIES





BELIEVE?

3

KNOW?

“Humans have three intrinsic motivation drivers:  
Autonomy, Mastery and Purpose.”

FAIRYTALE!

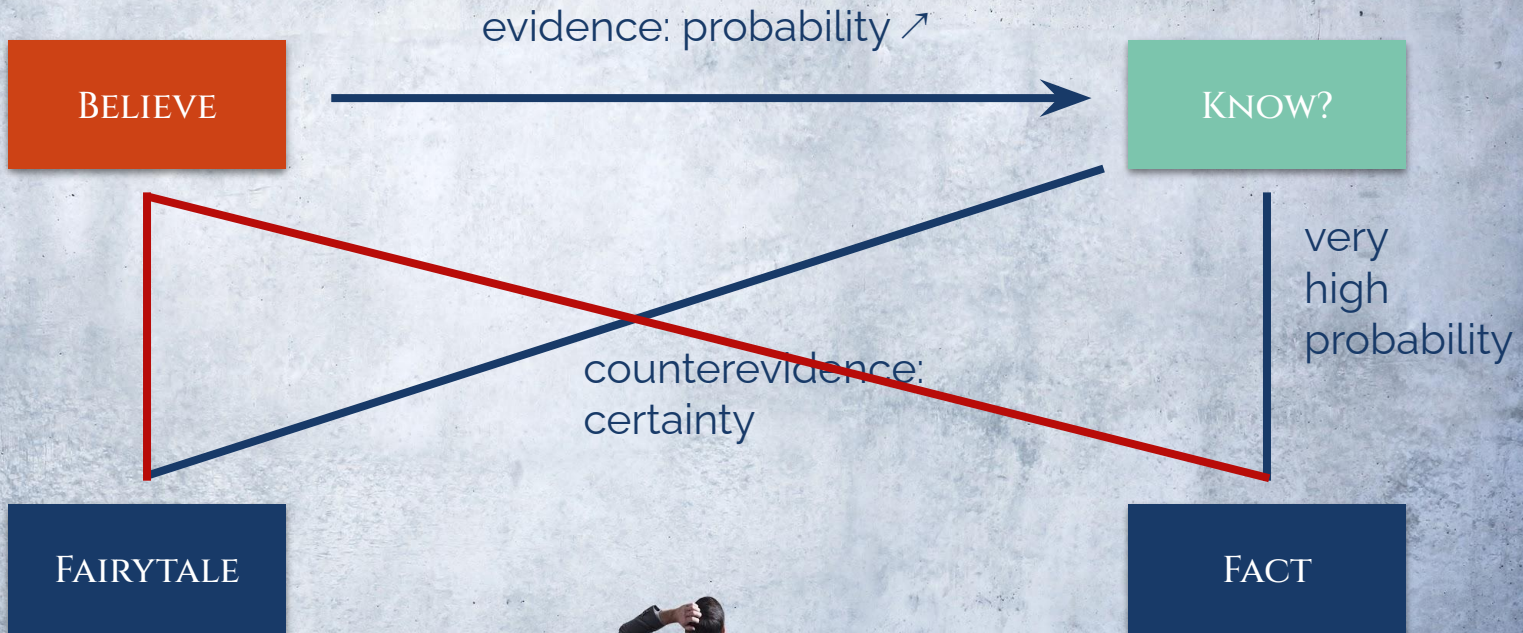
FACT!

DISCUSS:

NO FAIRIES









Scientist: my discoveries are useless if taken out of context

BELIEVE?

KNOW?



Reduc

time."

Media:

FAIRYTALE!

FACT!

Scientist claim their discoveries are useless

thatcumberguy | 29 minutes ago



SO?

NO FAIRIES



BELIEVE?

2

KNOW?

“In contrast with other scaled Scrum approaches, it's possible in LeSS to effectively scale the Product Owner role with just one person because there are fewer roles and positions, and less complexity.”

FAIRYTALE!

FACT!

SO?

NO FAIRIES

## SCARF® Research Summary

As shown in the video, a threat to your brain scans your environment for social threats or rewards (Rock, 2008). The SCARF Model maps this monitoring and its social impact across five domains.



### THE SCARF® MODEL IS BUILT UPON THREE CENTRAL IDEAS

- 1. The brain reacts to any social threats and rewards with the same intensity as physical threats and rewards. (LeDoux et al., 2008)
- 2. The capacity to make decisions, solve problems, and collaborate with others is generally reduced by a threat response and increased by a reward response. (Rock, 2008)
- 3. The threat response to these threats, more common, and often needs to be carefully managed in social interactions. (Bourgeois et al., 2010)

The SCARF® Model provides a way of bringing conscious awareness to your interactions. It helps alert you to people's core concerns (which they may not even understand themselves) and offers you how to adjust your words and actions for a more positive impact.

BELIEVE?

KNOW?

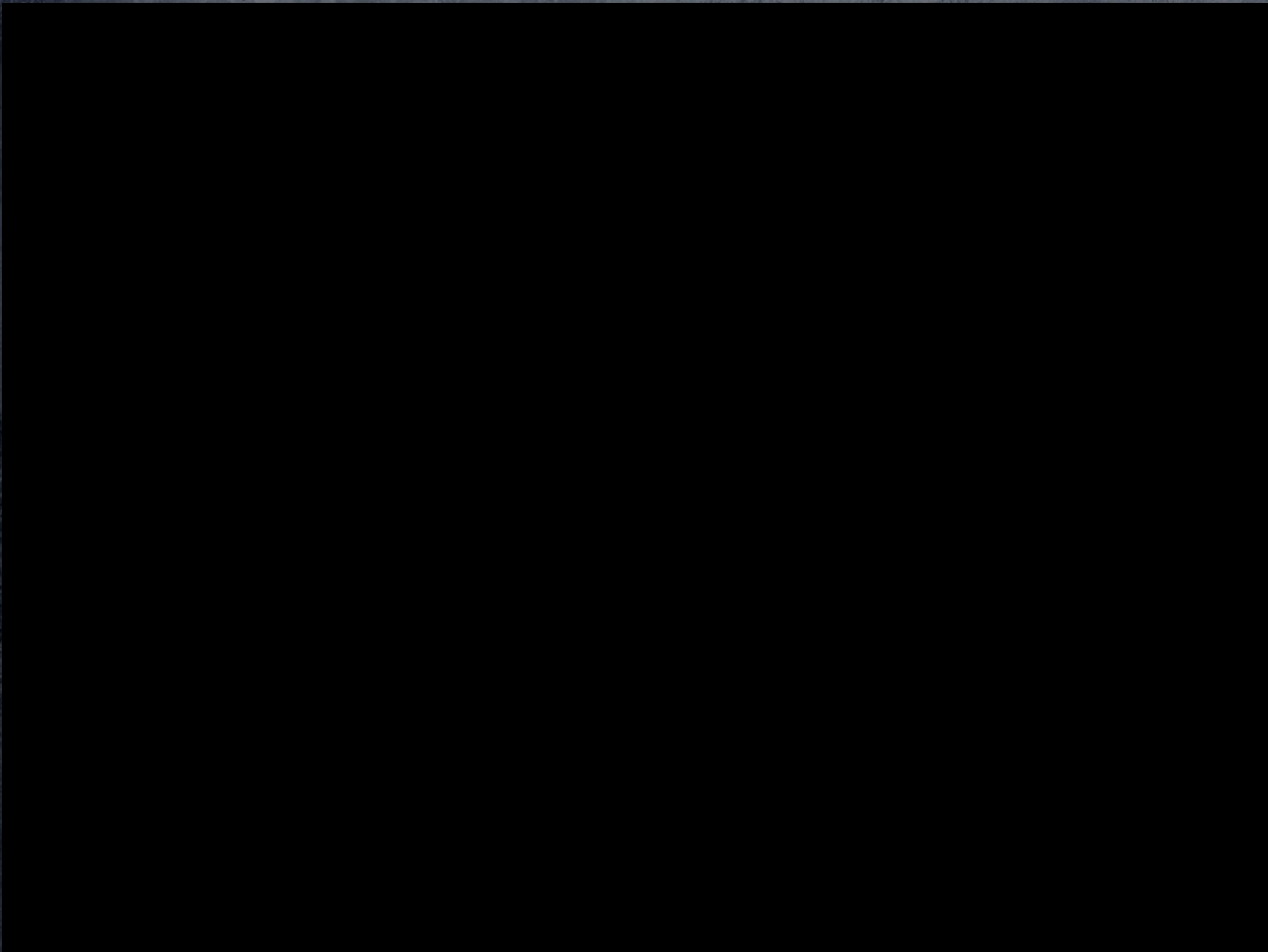
FAIRYTALE!

FACT!

SO?

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<https://nofairies.com/>

