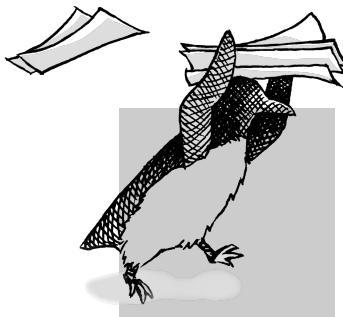




Higher State of Mind (Solution)



Zach Barnett

This puzzle consists of an obscured version of its own complete solution. Solvers are presented with a version of this very document, which, of course, explains what to do. But a checkerboard mask has been applied and crucial information is hidden behind the mask. Solvers will not necessarily be able to determine exactly which words are missing, but they may be able to determine enough of the overall meaning to determine what to do. To get started, solvers should view the Author Notes section, where two properties of the answer (one syntactic and one semantic) are partially visible.

For example, the word "anagram" is mostly visible... But which terms is the answer an anagram of? Some guesswork is surely needed, but little clues are visible—can you see that little piece of the "j" in "blackjack," for example? But solvers can also look to this very paragraph for help with the anagram, as it (indeed this very sentence) notes that the 3 terms start with the letters D, F, and H.

Semantically, one can obtain three idioms, all which roughly mean "No chance."

Finally, from this very paragraph, solvers may be able to determine that this puzzle's answer is a phonetic respelling associated closely with a region that inspired a 2009 single that sounds like this puzzle's title. This could help solvers obtain **FUHGEDDA BOUDIT**, the fourteen-letter answer to this puzzle.

Author Notes

My original plan was to build a puzzle around two properties, which are uniquely shared by the answer. First, the answer is an anagram of a term for a fatherly figure? (3 3), a term for a Bach composition (5), and a blackjack term (3). The answer is also similar in its meaning to three idiomatic phrases made up of the following words (given alphabetically): AIN'T BREATH DON'T DREAMS HOLD IN NO WAY YOUR YOUR. From these facts, it is possible (though not easy) to determine the answer, and I was glad that an even more challenging version of this final step made it into the finished product.