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## The Giant Panda, a Case Study in Black-and-White Thinking

Our story ends in December 2023, when the giant pandas leave the National Zoo. Or maybe it ends sometime later, with the last animal pacing in a Chinese zoo. Alone. (Aside from the cameras and the throngs of visitors, of course.)

- The pandas died because they forgot how to fuck, and the panda porn didn't help.

Young pandas are adorable. Have you seen the videos? Watch Tai Shan hang on a branch! Laugh as Bao Bao topples down the snowy hillside! (Go watch some panda porn too, you know you want to.)

- The pandas died because they refused to mate, and the instructional videos failed to change their minds.

They could have lived in their hilly, glass-lined cages forever. The National Zoo would have kept them until the end of time. Washington, DC loved pandas! Local residents grew bamboo for them. We spent millions of dollars on their enclosures and developed an international breeding program. Their demise isn't our fault.

- The pandas died because they only had sex for 30 seconds, once a year. Except for that marathon session in 2015—a record breaking 8 minutes!

These beautiful animals arrived in Washington, DC in 1972. They should have stayed here, symbols of peace and hope. That same year, an old man went to China and achieved what only he could.

- The pandas died because—oh, fuck it. No one wants to talk about politics and deforestation and environmental justice. This is all fiction anyway. Anthropomorphism and lies. Or maybe it's all true.

Either way, I'm going to miss them.