

(2 men or 2 women)

Interviewer: *(A knock at the door)* I'm sorry... Didn't hear that! *(Another knock, a little louder)* Sorry not quite loud enough, thank you. *(A very loud frantic knock)* Ah... I think there could be someone at the door. *(Shouts)* If there is somebody at the door don't knock. *(Listens)* Very good. If there is nobody at the door knock five times at regular intervals thank you. *(Listens... Nothing. Shouts)* Are you deaf?!

Parker: *(The door opens slowly. Timidly shows his head)* Pardon?

Interviewer: I said are you deaf?

Parker: No... You said if nobody is at the door knock five times.

Interviewer: No, I didn't.

Parker: Yes, you did, I distinctly_

Interviewer: Shut up! Shut the door! *(Points to the exit)* Get out!

Parker: But_

Interviewer: *(Shouting)* I want you to vacate the premises... disappear... *(Mimes)* in a puff of blue smoke, Sky blue, pink, with just a hint... a soupçon of orange *(French accent)* would be preferable.

Parker: Excuse me... Are you French?

Interviewer: Why do I look French? *(Sticks a French baguette under arm)* En suite...

Parker: En suite?

Interviewer: *(Looks up)* God! Next, *(Smiles)* I want you to knock on the door five times at regular intervals. Have you seized what I am saying? Or do I have to draw you a picture? *(Parker goes out. Shuts the door. Knocks five times)* Enter.

Parker: *(Enters)* Good morning... My name's Parker...

Interviewer: Parker? *(Looks at his dossier)* Ah, yes...

Parker: Yes, I've come here for a_

Interviewer: Toe? *(Shows a toe and smiles)*

Parker: I'm sorry I don't know what you are saying... Is this some sort of test?

Interviewer: Could be... Or not. What do you think?

Parker: Well...

Interviewer: Knee? *(Shows a knee. Smiles)*

Parker: Look... This is my first time... You want me to show you, my knee?

Interviewer: Why? Do you want to? (*Grins*)

Parker: Well... no I don't.

Interviewer: (*Shaking head. Mimes*) Toe? knee? ... (*Looking at watch*) Have to hurry you...

Parker: (*Uncomfortable*) No, I, I'm sorry...

Interviewer: Any connection?

Parker: Pardon?

Interviewer: (*Mimes throwing a basketball*) Hup! (*Waits*) And hup! ... into the...? (*Waits*) And hup! ... into the...?

Parker: Er... Bag?

Interviewer: (*Shakes head*) No! No! No!

Parker: (*Very uneasy*) No?

Interviewer: What?

Parker: It's not bag...

Interviewer: No, no, no.

Parker: No, no, no... Oh right... Er... (*Defeatist*) well, I suppose you might as well throw my file in the basket.

Interviewer: (*Jumps up mimes*) Basket!! (*Grins*)

Parker: (*Surprised*) Oh yes... Look, I, I know what you are thinking.

Interviewer: No, you don't...

Parker: No, I mean, you must think I'm stupid.

Interviewer: Oh, so you do know what I'm thinking. (*Grins*)

Parker: (*Panicky*) I'm hopeless at this sort of thing.

Interviewer: What sort of thing?

Parker: This sort of thing.

Interviewer: Ah... You want a clue, do you?

Parker: (*Hopeful*) Well... yes. Can I?

Interviewer: (*Mimes throwing a basketball*) Parker... Parker... Parker! (*Smiles*)

Parker: What...? Oh ... you mean Tony Parker. (*Laughing uneasily*) Very funny.

Interviewer: Thank God for that. Take a seat.

Parker: Thank you. (*Sits*) I've come here for_

Interviewer: A sit down?

Parker: No.

Interviewer: A stand up? (*Stands*)

Parker: (*Stands*) No I'm here for...

Interviewer: An argument? Sit down. (*Sits*)

Parker: (*Sits down*) No, I_

Interviewer: No? (*Stands*)

Parker: (*Stands*) No... You don't understand.

Interviewer: I can give you one. Sit down. (*Sits*)

Parker: (*Sits*) But I don't want an argument.

Interviewer: Yes, you do.

Parker: No, I don't.

Interviewer: I think you do.

Parker: No, I have come here for an interview.

Interviewer: Misconstrue?

Parker: No, I said_

Interviewer: Misconceive?

Parker: What?

Interviewer: Misunderstood perhaps? No, I much prefer a good argument.

Parker: (*A little annoyed*) But I don't want an argument thank you very much!

Interviewer: Could be... advantageous. (*Grins*)

Parker: Could it?

Interviewer: Yes, it could... In case.

Parker: In case of what?

Interviewer: Interview. (*Smiles and winks*)

Parker: (*Confused but hopeful*) Oh right... So, this is all part of the assessment.

Interviewer: (*Smiles and winks*) How do you respond to orders?

Parker: (*Sits up straight*) Well... I think I respond very well...

Interviewer: Expatiate?

Parker: Pardon?

Interviewer: (*Shouts*) Latin... Exspatiatus, past participle of exspatiari? (*Looks at watch*) Have to hurry you...

Parker: (*Ill at ease*) No I'm sorry.

Interviewer: (*Shakes head. Makes notes*) Elaborate?

Parker: (*Lights up*) Ah! You mean explain... (*Smiles*) Well, I_

Interviewer: Too late. (*Observes Parker*) I want you to go over there. (*Indicates*) and sing "I'm a little teapot short and stout etc, etc, with gestural movement.

Parker: You mean...

Interviewer: Thank you... (*Grins*)

Parker: I, I feel a little silly.

Interviewer: Yes.

Parker: (*Stands up slowly and walks to the centre of the room and sings*) I'm a little teapot short and stout, see my handle and see my spout. When you see me steaming... (*A man enters with a cup and saucer. Stops singing... Looks at the interviewer*) What do I do now? (*The interviewer smiles. Then shakes head*) Er... (*Parker looks at the man*) Would you like a cup of tea? (*The man nods his head. He mimes pouring into his cup. The man smiles, puts cup on bureau*)

Interviewer: Thank you George... (*Stands... sips tea*) Excellent! (*Places teacup on bureau*) Which reminds me. (*Looking at watch*) You can show yourself out.

Parker: But what do I do now?

Interviewer: I think you know. (*Goes back to bureau. Sits*)

Parker: Do I?

Interviewer: I think so yes.... (*Smiles. Parker leaves*)

Interviewer: (*A knock on the door*) I'm sorry... Didn't hear that! (*Another knock a little louder*) Sorry not quite loud enough, thank you. (*A very loud frantic knock*) Ah... I think there could be someone at the door. (*Shouts*) If there is somebody at the door don't_

Parker: (**Enters**) Excuse me? We have done this before.

Interviewer: No, we haven't.

Parker: Yes, we have, I distinctly remember you_

Interviewer: Shut the door. Get out!

Parker: This is silly.

Interviewer: Is it?

Parker: I think it is.

Interviewer: Right. (**Puts on a red nose**) How silly?

Parker: (**Surprised**) Well...

Interviewer: Would you say it's A: A little bit? B: A little bit more? C: A little bit more than a little bit more? Or D: Slip me £20 and we'll have no more of this tomfoolery.

Parker: Um...I would say C.

Interviewer: Yes? And would you say that I was a psychotic, raving, rabid, round the bend nonsensical loony? With an ever so slight gay abandon? (**Stands up. Flaps arms. Makes a noise like a crow. Sits down. Takes off the red nose. Looks at watch. Observes Parker**) Have to hurry you...

Parker: (**Not really knowing how to react**) Oh dear... Hum...Yes, I would.

Interviewer: (**Beaming smile**) Excellent! Tiptop! Top notch! Meritoriously Notable! Canis Testis Familiaris! (**Making notes**)

Parker: Canis... What?

Interviewer: Canis Testis Familiaris! (**Pause**) Woof! Woof!

Parker: (**Relieved He sits**) Oh... I'm doing well then. (**Smiles. Pause**) But perhaps not rabid.

Interviewer: (**Stops writing**) What did you say?

Parker: Perhaps not rabid... Rabid is a bit too exaggerated, I think.

Interviewer: (**Holds head in hands**) No, no, no! (**Crossing out notes**)

Parker: (**Disappointed**) Look here I'm trying my best.

Interviewer: (**Sits back in chair closely observing Parker**) You've got a big nose!

Parker: (**Touches nose**) No I haven't.

Interviewer: Yes, you have.

Parker: No, I haven't!

Interviewer: I think you have.

Parker: Think what you want! I know I haven't.

Interviewer: You could smoke under the shower with a conk like that?

Parker: That's not true!

Interviewer: We will see about that.

Parker: Yes, we'll see.

Interviewer: *(Produces a packet of cigarettes)* Cigarette?

Parker: I don't smoke.

Interviewer: Suit yourself. *(Calls)* George?! *(George arrives at the interviewer's side side)* Hands and knees George! *(George gets down on his hands and knees. The interviewer stands up, puts on a cowboy hat and sits on George like a horse. Speaks with a cowboy accent)* Let's just mosey on round that God darned bureau! Yee ha! *(They arrive in front of Parker)*

Parker: *(Very ill at ease)* I haven't got a big nose. *(Touching nose reassuringly)*

Interviewer: Woah! Steady George! *(Takes out a hand mirror Leans forward thrusts it in front of Parker)* Mirror, mirror in my hand who has the biggest nose in the land. *(Grins)*

Parker: *(Looks in the mirror. Shocked)* That's a trick mirror.

Interviewer: *(Stands)* You can go George. *(Goes back to chair. George gets up and leaves. The interviewer takes notes)*

Parker: Was that good?

Interviewer: *(George comes back and stands next to the interviewer and opens his mouth)* Oh, sorry George. *(Takes out a carrot from a drawer and thrusts it into George's mouth)* There you are George. *(George leaves)*

Parker: I said, was that good?

Interviewer: Pardon? *(Takes out a water pistol and squirts him, then puts it back in the drawer)*

Parker: Agghh! Why did you do that?

Interviewer: Do what? *(Smiles)*

Parker: *(Not sure how to react)* Er...Nothing.

Interviewer: Ah ha...! *(Makes notes)*

Parker: Is this going to last much longer?

Interviewer: That depends.

Parker: Oh...

Interviewer: Are you sure you don't want a cigarette? (*Takes out a water pistol and squirts Parker, then puts it back*)

Parker: You did it again! (*Stands. Becomes hysterical*) That's it... I've had enough of this... this stupidity! This isn't an interview for a job. It's a farce! You try to make me feel so small... you insult my intelligence! (*The interviewer starts to snore*) Hey! Are you listening to me?

Interviewer: (*Wakes up*) What? Ah ha! (*Makes notes*)

Parker: You didn't hear a word I said, did you? Did you!?

Interviewer: Yes, I did.

Parker: No, you bloody well did not!

Interviewer: (*Smiles*) I did.

Parker: You are not listening!

Interviewer: Yes, I am.

Parker: Alright then, what did I just say?

Interviewer: You are not listening.

Parker: (*Furious*) Right! I'm out of here! (*Goes towards the door*)

Interviewer: Stop! Right, times up! (*Looks at watch*) Now let me just tot up these figures... Oh yes... most encouraging. (*Large smile*)

Parker: (*Sits back down again*) You mean I'm doing well?

Interviewer: Much better than I expected... There is just one other thing.

Parker: One other thing?

Interviewer: Yes. How do you react under stress?

Parker: Stress? (*Laughing*) Don't you think that I have been subjected to enough stress since I've been in this_

Interviewer: (*Jumps up from the chair*) Shut up! You cretinous clot!! What do you know about stress!! I get bombarded by stress everyday! (*Parker tries to stand*) Sit down!! I haven't finished with you, you half wit! Dead from the neck up! I know what you are thinking!

Parker: (*Cowering*) No you don't.

Interviewer: (*Leaning over Parker threateningly with 2 water pistols*) Don't interrupt me! You think I'm potty! Loopy! half baked! About as interesting as a toilet brush with only two bristles!!

Parker: (*Cowering*) No I don't.

Interviewer: I'm a crackpot! A pointless prat! Say it!! Go on say it! Go on! Go on! Go on!

Parker: **(Jumps up)** Yes! Yes! Yes! You are! **(The interviewer quickly sits and starts making notes)** You are! Pointless! Immature! You are way off the bloody Richter scale!

Interviewer: Good... very good! Well, I'm jolly well glad that's all over. Yes... I have wonderful news for you. You have got the job. **(Huge grin)** What have you got to say for yourself?

Parker:**(Stunned. Sits)** You mean I've got the job?

Interviewer: Yes admirable! Awesome! **(Puts on red nose)** Isn't this exciting? Here, this is for you. **(Gives him a red nose)** We had a bit of trouble finding one big enough. **(Puts it on. They both stand)** I'd like to shake you by the nose... Oops! **(Laughs)** I mean hand. **(They shake hands)** Welcome to her Majesty's government. Ministry of communications.