

MORE Therapy :S
by
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INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Everything is grey in this small room, apart from a Christmas tree on the left with chocolates on the branches. Also on the left is a metal sink and toilet. On the right is a mattress. At the back is a tiny window. A PRISONER dressed in red (40) is chained to a wall by his feet, as he sits on a chair, fixed to the ground. A sitting, female PSYCHIATRIST (35) faces him, at a safe distance.

PSYCHIATRIST

Hello. I understand you're having a hard time dealing with solitary confinement? First of all, would you like to explain why you're here?

PRISONER

I'm REALLY aggressive.

PSYCHIATRIST

Uh-huh?

PRISONER

No, that's the reason.

PSYCHIATRIST

What did you do that's aggressive?

PRISONER

What DIDN'T I do? My word.

The PSYCHIATRIST coughs nervously.

PSYCHIATRIST

Ok, I'll move on. How do you pass the time in this room?

PRISONER

Obviously I prefer hitting people, but hitting walls is pretty good, too.

PSYCHIATRIST

And what happens when you hit people?

PRISONER

I almost always get a negative reaction, but there was one person who has stuck with me. I'd punch him in the face, and he'd be like 'you're powning me? I'll pown YOU!' He just kept going on about powning people. It was like a catchphrase for him...

PSYCHIATRIST

I see. Have you tried meditating?

PRISONER

Nope.

PSYCHIATRIST

Do you have ANY appropriate coping mechanisms? Maybe reading?

PRISONER

I try, but yeah, the time goes by so slowly. The days seem like years...

The PSYCHIATRIST gives a double thumbs up.

PSYCHIATRIST

Aha! I'm glad you said that!

PRISONER

Why?

PSYCHIATRIST

Isn't that great?

The PRISONER scratches his head.

PRISONER

No...

PSYCHIATRIST

What I'm trying to say is, in the end you'll feel like your life will last 1,000 years! Lucky you!

PRISONER

Are you sure?

PSYCHIATRIST

Yes! There are some people who have such perfect lives, their life seems to go by in a day. Just a single day. And then you're dead. Is that what you want?

PRISONER

I guess not...

The PSYCHIATRIST smiles.

PRISONER

So you'd like to be in my position?

PSYCHIATRIST

(expletive) off!

PRISONER
I'm sorry??

PSYCHIATRIST
I'm so sorry. I mean 'sure'.

The PSYCHIATRIST smiles warmly.

PRISONER
I feel better already.

PSYCHIATRIST
There we go.

PRISONER
I'm immortal?

PSYCHIATRIST
In a way, yeah! Why not. Relatively immortal.

PRISONER
You're a good psychiatrist.

PSYCHIATRIST
Thanks. I've dealt with all sorts of people, even pigeons. I've REALLY had to deal with a lot of people who are fed up with pigeons. Well one pigeon in particular.

PRISONER
I heard James is a pigeon, now?

PSYCHIATRIST
That's who I was referring to.

PRISONER
I remember him, he was the guy who kept powning people.

PSYCHIATRIST
I know.

PRISONER
He kept buying me chocolates all the time.

PSYCHIATRIST
Did you eat them?

PRISONER
Sure did.

PSYCHIATRIST

Oh my God... Then what happened?

PRISONER

He kept telling me to beat the other prisoners up!

PSYCHIATRIST

And did you?

PRISONER

No! I hit him!

PSYCHIATRIST

Good. He co-hosts podcast now, showing quite literally anyone can turn their lives around...

PRISONER

He CO-HOSTS one?

The PSYCHIATRIST coughs.

PSYCHIATRIST

Yip.

PRISONER

But no one can stand him...

PSYCHIATRIST

Err...

PRISONER

What are you hiding from me?

PSYCHIATRIST

I'll be frank... Him antagonising people is good for ratings. But YOU should be nice to people.

PRISONER

One rule for James, one rule for me?

PSYCHIATRIST

Yeah, basically. Unless YOU host a podcast, maybe?

PRISONER

And how will I do that?

PSYCHIATRIST

You could host an imaginary podcast?

PRISONER

About what it feels like to live to a thousand?

The PSYCHIATRIST rubs her hands.

PSYCHIATRIST

Maybe you'd like to give the podcast a go, now? So we really get to know each other?

The PRISONER rolls his eyes.

PRISONER

Hi, I'm a prisoner, sitting with a therapist who says happy people only live a day...

PSYCHIATRIST

You're twisting my words.

PRISONER

No, that's what you said. And I'm supposed to be happy stuck in a cell all day with only a Christmas tree to look at. And something tells me I was given it as a joke.

PSYCHIATRIST

You're paranoid. Doesn't the tree cheer you up?

PRISONER

No!

PSYCHIATRIST

It's cheering me up.

PRISONER

Have the (expletive) tree, then.

PSYCHIATRIST

Oh my word!

PRISONER

What?

PSYCHIATRIST

You can't host a podcast like that! You're worse than James!

PRISONER

Oh, I'm worse than James? In that case... Fancy a chocolate?

The PSYCHIATRIST freezes for a moment and widens her eyes.

PSYCHIATRIST
What do you want from me?

PRISONER
I want you to get me out of this Hell hole.

PSYCHIATRIST
By giving me a chocolate?

PRISONER
Well... I'm worse than James.

PSYCHIATRIST
I'm sorry. I take that back.

PRISONER
Do you see me pecking people? Do you see me stealing other bird's seeds?

PSYCHIATRIST
You heard about that?

PRISONER
Yeah!

PSYCHIATRIST
Ok, ok, ok. I apologise. Again.

PRISONER
Why does everything have to revolve around James?

PSYCHIATRIST
I'm not sure...

PRISONER
Great.

The PSYCHIATRIST checks her pocket.

PSYCHIATRIST
Oh yes, I've been recording this interview with a recorder in my pocket. Do you mind if I publish it on James' site?

PRISONER
Why?

PSYCHIATRIST
Our conversation has just been wacky.
(MORE)

PSYCHIATRIST (cont'd)
 Not as crazy as some of the others
 I've had with you know who, but it's
 pretty out there.

PRISONER
 What's his site then?

PSYCHIATRIST
 He calls it 'Wiedemann Comedy.com'.

PRISONER
 Why?

PSYCHIATRIST
 It's his pseudonym.

PRISONER
 Why does he have a pseudonym?

PSYCHIATRIST
 He just does. I guess who'd ever
 listen to a pigeon?

PRISONER
 I guess you have permission...

PSYCHIATRIST
 Great. He's actually written some
 joke psychiatric sketches, I'm sure
 he'd like a real one. The funny thing
 is, this one's in a similar style.

PRISONER
 How about that?

PSYCHIATRIST
 Yeah, it's SO similar, readers or
 listeners may think this is filler
 material.

PRISONER
 No, no, no. Don't be so hard on
 yourself...

PSYCHIATRIST
 Ok. I won't.

The PRISONER rubs his chin.

PRISONER
 Do you want me to try and be extra
 wacky? Maybe I could say I'm turning
 into a flamingo?

PSYCHIATRIST
Yeah... Sure...

The PRISONER waves his arms dramatically.

PRISONER
Woaaaaah!!! What's happening??

PSYCHIATRIST
Wow!

PRISONER
Look at me! I've turned pink!

PSYCHIATRIST
No way!!!

PRISONER
THIS is wacky!

PSYCHIATRIST
Ok, that will do. Have a good day!

PRISONER
Why so soon?

PSYCHIATRIST
It'll just do.

PRISONER
Oh.

PSYCHIATRIST
(awkwardly)
Ahem...

PRISONER
I can be more dramatic if you want.
Why am I so pink?! The other
prisoners will laugh at me!

PSYCHIATRIST
It's an embarrassing colour...

PRISONER
Ahem.

The PSYCHIATRIST twiddles her thumbs then stands up.

PSYCHIATRIST
Bye.

PRISONER
Have I done something to upset you?

PSYCHIATRIST
I've just remembered...

PRISONER
What?

PSYCHIATRIST
I have to speak to James now...

PSYCHIATRIST
Oh. Wow.

PSYCHIATRIST
I know.

PRISONER
How could you forget something like
that?

PSYCHIATRIST
Actually, I've been trying to forget
him...

The PRISONER nods. The PSYCHIATRIST walks away.