

Friendly Pest  
by  
Simon Wiedemann

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EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY

Fancy three-storey buildings are on both sides of the road. The traffic is moderate. Dozens of PEDESTRIANS are on the pavements. One speaks with a Belgian accent as he strolls with his mobile phone. He is 20 and dressed in casual clothes. A STRANGE MAN (40) with a traffic cone on his head is walking ten metres behind the FOREIGNER.

BELGIAN

I'll meet you in ten minutes... I'm sorry I'm talking so loud, it's just so busy round here... Ok, bye!

The STRANGE MAN jogs to the BELGIAN and taps him on the shoulder. The BELGIAN turns to face him.

STRANGE MAN

Hey man! I know that accent! You're from Belgium right?

BELGIAN

Yes. Bye.

The BELGIAN continues with his journey. The STRANGE MAN walks by his side. He speaks with a threatening voice.

STRANGE MAN

So... Nice chocolates in Belgium. I bet you like them.

The STRANGE MAN rubs his stomach.

BELGIAN

I do, actually.

STRANGE MAN

Nice weather, too. And don't get me started on the Belgian flower carpet. I bet you love flower carpets.

BELGIAN

Yes, that's a good one. Bye.

STRANGE MAN

New York City was founded by a Belgian.

A neighbouring PEDESTRIAN nods as if to say 'Yes, that's true.' He continues walking.

BELGIAN

Are you trying to intimidate me?

STRANGE MAN

Ye... No. Just being friendly, that's all. I honestly think Belgium has the very best chocolates.

BELGIAN

Have I done something to upset you? Why are you following me around like this? I have to be honest, you're really weird.

Another PEDESTRIAN shuffles forward quickly.

STRANGE MAN

It's the hat, isn't it?

BELGIAN

No... Well, I'm not su...

STRANGE MAN

(interrupting)

I point out interesting facts like your country is known for producing steel and chemicals, and that's wrong somehow?

The BELGIAN shrugs his shoulders.

BELGIAN

Maybe say hello?

STRANGE MAN

Hello...

BELGIAN

After getting to know me?

STRANGE MAN

I do know you. I also know Belgium holds the world record for the longest time without a government.

The STRANGE MAN growls.

STRANGE MAN

Very impressive. Do you know if England is famous for anything?

BELGIAN

Fish and chips?

STRANGE MAN

Do you like fish and chips?

The BELGIAN licks his lips.

BELGIAN

I love fish and chips. And I have plenty of facts about England, too. Did you know the London Eye was actually built by the queen?

STRANGE MAN

Of course I do.

BELGIAN

And stone henge was designed by a 5 year old, which is why it looks so rubbish?

STRANGE MAN

Of course.

BELGIAN

See. I can be creepy, too.

The STRANGE MAN sighs.

STRANGE MAN

For the last time, I'm simply curious about you. Would it make you feel better if I'm mean to you instead? You don't really get Belgian waffles in Belgium! That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard! Belgium is famous for jazz, though.

BELGIAN

Look, I don't know what's going on, now go away!

STRANGE MAN

Belgium invented spas.

A PEDESTRIAN laughs then strolls away.

BELGIAN

You really want to be my friend?

The STRANGE MAN'S eyes light up.

STRANGE MAN

Sure!

BELGIAN

Well, the thing is, I've spent time in jail. For hitting stupid Londoners.

STRANGE MAN

I don't believe you.

BELGIAN

Oh very much so. I did ten years.

STRANGE MAN

But you look so young...

BELGIAN

That's what prison does for you. Lots of time to rest. It's good for the skin.

STRANGE MAN

How old are you, then?

BELGIAN

50.

STRANGE MAN

No...

BELGIAN

It's true.

Some PEOPLE cross the road, nervously.

STRANGE MAN

Well, you can't hit ME, but we can still be friends.

BELGIAN

What's your idea of friendship?

STRANGE MAN

Talking! Like we are now!

BELGIAN

Ah. Well my idea of friendship is hitting Londoners and destroying the evidence.

STRANGE MAN

Friendship is about giving, too. Would you like my traffic cone?

BELGIAN

I was going to ask you about that. And no I don't.

STRANGE MAN

Why not?

BELGIAN

To be honest, I'm not sure of the exact reason.

STRANGE MAN  
It's just a hat.

BELGIAN  
Where did you get it from?

STRANGE MAN  
I can't remember. I just woke up  
wearing it. There was blood  
everywhere.

Now PEOPLE really start to cross the road.

BELGIAN  
Oooooook. So, friendship is all about  
boundaries, so go away. Forever.

STRANGE MAN  
Like pen pals?

BELGIAN  
Yes, like pen pals! But more extreme!

STRANGE MAN  
What's more extreme than a pan pal?

BELGIAN  
In Belgium, pen pals never write to  
each other, as you know.

STRANGE MAN  
That was actually one of the facts I  
was going to give you earlier.

BELGIAN  
Ex-actly. So... Bye...

A Frenchman (30) is heard talking on his mobile phone ten  
metres in front of the two.

FRENCHMAN  
You would not BELIEVE the  
conversation I've just heard!

The STRANGE MAN jogs to the FRENCHMAN.

STRANGE MAN  
Ah, a Frenchman, I see...

The FRENCHMAN starts running.

STRANGE MAN  
Hey! Where are you going?! I want to  
talk to you about baguettes, Mont  
Blanc and accordions!

FRENCHMAN

No!

The STRANGE MAN chases the FRENCHMAN.

STRANGE MAN

Hey come back! I love garlic and that  
band, Trust! L'elite? Excellent wah  
solo!