

Game Show 2  
by  
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INT. GAME SHOW - DAY

A 40 year old GAME SHOW HOST in shiny, colourful clothes stands behind a podium. On his left and behind a smaller podium is HANK, a 20 year old CONTESTANT in casual clothes. On the HOST'S right and behind a similar podium to HANK'S, is DEBBIE, a 25 year old CONTESTANT wearing flowery clothes. Behind everyone is a massive picture of the HOST smiling broadly and stroking a cat.

HOST

Hello, everybody. The team coming up with game show questions has been fired for disrespecting my cat, Scruffy Fluff. What do we do here for the Excellent Questions for Excellent People game show? We make up our own questions. They were a bit rushed, granted, but that's not going to stop everyone having great fun. Contestant A, would you like to tell everyone your name?

HANK

Hank...

HOST

Yes, that's right! 1 point to you. Let's start light. Well I say light, once I thought I was King Arthur's best friend, Harry. It was so messed up, you wouldn't believe it. And contestant B, would you like to give everyone your name?

HANK just stares.

DEBBIE

Debbie.

HOST

Well done, you're clearly of sound mind. You do get my respect, really. But you don't get any points because you're a girl.

DEBBIE

What??

HOST

Because you're a girl. Wow, I got a question right? A point goes to me for the very first time!

DEBBIE  
You can't be serious...

HOST  
No only joking, you do get a point.  
But sadly I was joking when I gave  
Hank the point. So Hank nil, Debbie  
nil, me 1. Because I've just taken  
your point away, Debbie.

HANK  
Why are you acting like this?

HOST  
What do you think of my cat, Scruffy  
Fluff?

DEBBIE  
I love him. One of the finest cats  
around!

HOST  
It's a she, but that was a damn good  
effort so you get 10 points! I  
apologise for taking away a point  
from you. I made an assumption about  
you. I was wrong.

HANK  
Scruffy Fluff is an asshole.

The HOST walks to HANK and slaps him.

HANK  
Hey!

HOST  
Scruffy Fluff would mess you up. Now  
say sorry.

HANK  
No!

HOST  
Fine. Minus 100 points.

HANK  
What's it matter?? We all know I'm  
going to lose anyway!

HOST  
No, you don't understand, the more  
you lose, the more you pay me! Just  
another change to the program.

(MORE)

HOST (cont'd)  
 Oh yes, and it's name has been  
 changed to 'We screw Over the  
 Contestants.' I hate to say this, but  
 you owe me thousands of pounds  
 already!

The HOST strolls back behind his podium. He then gives a  
 cheesy smile.

HOST  
 Next question: What's my name?

HANK  
 Hang on, what was that about me  
 paying you?

DEBBIE  
 I know your name, it's easy. It's  
 Mega Mickey!

HOST  
 That's where you're wrong!

The HOST rips a lifelike mask off his face to reveal he is  
 in fact JAMES. HANK and DEBBIE stare in disbelief. DEBBIE  
 finally speaks.

DEBBIE  
 Ohhhhhhhhh..... Of course.

HOST  
 Yes, it is I, James!

HANK  
 Why?

HOST  
 I made just a bit of a fool of myself  
 in a previous game show a couple of  
 years ago, I'm still not over it, and  
 I decided to redeem myself. By taking  
 the power back.

DEBBIE  
 Who made the mask for you? You like  
 just like the real host!

HOST  
 My mum.

DEBBIE  
 I'm just trying to understand things.  
 Is the REAL host of this program  
 stroking the cat behind us all, or is  
 that you?

HOST

It's the 'real' host. However, I love the cat just as much as him if not more so. A damn fine animal. One of the best.

DEBBIE

What is it about her that everyone seems to like so much?

HOST

I'm not completely sure. Just a vibe.

DEBBIE

You must have some clue...

The HOST wipes a tear.

HOST

She has a kind face.

HANK

I'm not paying you a penny, you do know that don't you?

HOST

I couldn't give a flying flip about a penny, you owe me thousands.

HANK

And I'm definitely not paying you thousands.

The HOST looks mad.

HOST

Oh yes you are. Scruffy Fluff has low self-esteem because of rats like you. The money is needed for her therapy. Do you have any idea how hard it is to get therapy for depressed cats? I've had to travel up and down the country, the world, and you know what? Everyone just looked at me like I was mad. Just like you are.

DEBBIE

What did you do to the real game show host?

HOST

Contrary to what I know you've assumed, I didn't bash him on the head and replace him, he's looking for therapy right now.

(MORE)

HOST (cont'd)  
We've made an agreement.

DEBBIE  
I still don't understand...

HOST  
What's not to understand? Me and my longtime friend Mega Mickey are saving the wellbeing of Scruffy Fluff, as the rest of the team - the ones who haven't been fired for disrespecting Scruffy Fluff - try to raise money for her.

DEBBIE  
Errrrr...

HOST  
Look, forget about it. Let's just get on with the questions...

HANK  
Yes. But before that...

HANK rips off a mask to reveal he is in fact DAN.

HOST  
I KNEW there was something I didn't like about you!

DEBBIE rips off a mask to reveal she is in fact BEN.

HOST  
And I knew there was something funny about you speaking like a man!

DAN  
Me and Ben were onto you that whole time!

HOST  
How??

DAN  
The fired team told us!

HOST  
Wow. For a game show there sure have been lots of twists...

DAN  
And now you're getting arrested again. For assault! Just days after the mental home released you!

HOST  
Noooooooooooo!

DAN  
How is the program going to continue now?

HOST  
Contrary to me going 'noooo!' I'm not actually that bothered and am going to get on with the show. It's just that I've been so upset by my various circumstances for so long, I don't even care anymore. Which I think is good! So next question: How many...

A ringtone is heard from the HOST'S pocket. He takes the call.

HOST  
Hello?... Scruffy Fluff has finally been diagnosed? What of?... Depression and paranoid schizophrenia?... That's awful... You want me to sing to it to make it feel better? Ok...

The HOST coughs awkwardly then sings.

HOST  
Kitty cat, please get better...

BEN  
I know this person is on drugs, I just can't prove it.

HOST  
No I'm not no drugs. Having said that, if I don't take my meds it does feel like I am on drugs! That's what's great about being me.

BEN  
What kind of drugs?

HOST  
Class A. But then there's the comedown, I meet King Arthur again, and in general, I feel very scared. I'd just like to know what's going on.

DAN  
James, there was no one on the phone. It was all in your imagination.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)  
This show is all in your imagination,  
too.

HOST  
Another twist? This game show is like  
The Matrix...

DAN  
Have you been taking your meds?

HOST  
No...

DAN  
Do that then.

HOST  
No.

JAMES'S ART THERAPIST is heard from somewhere...

ART THERAPIST  
Jaaaames... Wake up! You've passed  
out from boredom! I didn't know you  
hated art therapy so much!