

The Guitar Salesman (Not Based on a True Story)

by

Simon Wiedemann

© 2019

INT: ANDY'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Here is messy area. Pizza boxes and beer cans are on the floor. Sitting at the table is ANDY (18), a spotty and scruffy punk with blue spiked hair. His self-assured, well-postured friend LUKE (19) is in casual clothes but has a tidy, gelled haircut. On the table is a pizza for each person. Out of the windows, a sunlit garden is seen.

ANDY

Anyway, enough eating pizza, there's a bigger reason I invited you over...

LUKE

What?

ANDY

I have a job interview coming up tomorrow and I don't know what to say. .. I don't know big words and all that... You studied English in school right?

LUKE

Didn't you?

ANDY looks down in shame for a moment.

ANDY

Na, I kind of just doodled all the time...

LUKE steeples his hands together.

LUKE

Never mind. I think I can help you. There's a cool language trick that I invented myself.

ANDY'S eyes light up.

ANDY

Yes?

LUKE

Think about this... If you add the letters 'tation' to the end of the word, you add two syllables, without being hard to understand...

ANDY

What do you mean?

LUKE

Well, do you find the following made up words confusing?: I had a great day-tation yesterday. I had an amazing curry-tation.

ANDY

I had a great day yesterday. I had an amazing curry?

LUKE nods with enthusiasm.

LUKE

Exactly! You sound more intelligent with no extra effort. You sound polysyllabic as they say. If you want to be really impressive, you can add 'tation-bation' after a word...

ANDY

As in that's a great idea-tation-bation?

LUKE

Exactly! Seven syllables. A real whopper!

ANDY

Oh my God, I'm going to ace my interview!

ANDY relaxes in his chair.

LUKE

Good luck, man.

INT: GUITAR SHOP - THE NEXT DAY

In the front of this area is a counter, occupied by a STAFF MEMBER (21) in a suit and the BOSS (35) also in a suit. Dozens of guitars hang on the walls and many customers gaze at them. ANDY, now in a suit as well, waves at the BOSS.

ANDY

Hello sir, I'm here for the job interview...

The BOSS strolls to the YOUNG MAN and shakes his hand.

BOSS

Hi, Andy. Let's take a tour of this shop and see your costumer service skills... I want you to try and sell me an instrument...

ANDY furrows his brows in thought.

ANDY
That's fine-tation.

BOSS
I'm sorry?

ANDY
I understand/comprehend/whatever.

BOSS
Ok. Let's take a tour then.

The two ramble past the guitars. With one hand, the BOSS picks up a Les Paul guitar with a £1,000 price tag on it, and thrusts it in ANDY'S face.

BOSS
Make this thing sound great...

ANDY
See those humbuckers? They'll stop any kind of unwanted noise-tation.

The BOSS adjusts his tie with his free hand.

BOSS
Noise-tation?

ANDY
Noise-tation-bation-tation?

BOSS
What does that mean?

ANDY
Noise. Just a more intellectual word for noise.

A COSTUMER wanders past the two, whilst looking at the products and giggling. ANDY greets him. (Or tries to).

ANDY
Hope you're having a great day-tation-bation-pation-kation!

The CUSTOMER walks off quickly, without making eye contact.

BOSS
Are you on drugs?

ANDY
Do I seem extra focused to you?

The BOSS hangs the guitar up.

BOSS

Andy, you're speaking gibberish. And you're freaking out the customers.

ANDY looks around the room, seeming lost.

ANDY

Would you like to know about my qualifications?

BOSS

Yes, I am quite curious.

ANDY

I got a B in GCSE Music!

BOSS

Is that all?

ANDY straightens his posture with pride.

ANDY

Yes, none of the other subjects interested me, so I didn't bother taking the exams! Nothing interests me like music!

BOSS

Can you play guitar?

ANDY

Yes, I can sing at the same time, too. As in 'Don't look back in anger-tation I heard you say...'

BOSS

I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to end this interview. Thanks for your time, Andy.

The BOSS shakes ANDY'S hand again, and the latter leaves with a spring in his step.

EXT: OUTSIDE THE SHOP - IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS

Heavy traffic zooms past the store and a number of others. PEDESTRIANS are numerous. ANDY pulls a mobile from his pocket and dials a number.

ANDY

(loudly over the traffic)

Yo, Luke I owned the interview! It went so well it was over in seconds! I totally went OTT and said 'day-tation-bation-pation-kation!'

The BOSS now red-faced exits the building and confronts ANDY.

BOSS
Get away from my establishment you
freak!

ANDY
I don't understand-pation-lation-
tation-dation-nation-waytion-fation-
vation-mation!

BOSS
Get outta here!!

Starting to cry, ANDY runs away.

INT: ANDY'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

ANDY is sitting with LUKE again. Red-eyed, the once hopeful TEENAGER has a snotty tissue in front of him. LUKE clearly has lost some of his confidence as well, as he slumps his back. Rain is seen pouring down in the blackness, out the window.

ANDY
I don't understand what went wrong. I
said a word with 26 syllables! You
don't think I came across as over-
qualified do you?

LUKE sighs.

LUKE
26?? You applied for a job as a
salesman, not a university lecturer...

ANDY
It's funny you said that, because I
have applied for work as a lecturer...

LUKE
You know what you have to say...

ANDY'S eyes light up once more.

ANDY
Thanks for your help!