

Mind Games
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INT. CCTV ROOM - DAY

2 POLICEMEN (30s) in uniform stand in a small room watching a TV hanging from the ceiling. On the TV screen is a barefoot CRIMINAL (25) sitting alone in a bare cell by a table, with one of his socks on his hand. He talks to his hand. The COPS laugh.

POLICEMAN 1

Look at him talking to his sock so he looks insane. The oldest trick in the book!

POLICEMAN 2

I know! The thought that he can get away with going on an hour long, rampant joyride is hilarious!

The CRIMINAL puts his sock to his ear. He puts his other hand to his mouth and looks shocked.

POLICEMAN 1

Oh no! The sock has said something terrible!

POLICEMAN 2

What do you think it said? 'Steal more cars!'

POLICEMAN 1

Ahaha!

A PSYCHOLOGIST (60) in a white suit enters the room. The POLICEMEN face him.

POLICEMAN 1

You have to look at this, doc. That idiot joyrider has put one of his socks on his hand and is talking to it!

PSYCHOLOGIST

Let me see.

The PSYCHOLOGIST walks closer to the screen and focuses hard. The CRIMINAL talks to his sock again.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Oh no. This is bad.

POLICEMAN 1

What do you mean?

PSYCHOLOGIST

He's clearly very disturbed.

POLICEMAN 2
But he's obviously faking it!

The CRIMINAL kisses his sock.

POLICEMAN 1
What in God's name is he doing this
time?

The PSYCHOLOGIST goes white.

PSYCHOLOGIST
How long's he been doing this for?

POLICEMAN 1
About half an hour.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Let me talk to him.

The PSYCHOLOGIST leaves the room as the COPS shrug their shoulders. Soon enough, the PSYCHOLOGIST is seen on the TV. The CRIMINAL turns back to face him. The PSYCHOLOGIST scratches his head. The CRIMINAL puts the sock to his ear and makes it look like it's talking. The CRIMINAL starts to cry. The PSYCHOLOGIST rubs his chin.

POLICEMAN 2
The doctor doesn't REALLY think that
idiot believes the sock puppet is
real?...

The CRIMINAL kisses the sock again.

POLICEMAN 1
It seems the crook and the sock have
a rocky relationship.

POLICEMAN 2
Sad really.

The CRIMINAL listens to his sock again.

POLICEMAN 1
Turn the volume on, I have to hear
what these people are saying.

POLICEMAN 2 walks to the TV and presses a button. The PSYCHOLOGIST is heard talking.

PSYCHOLOGIST
What's the sock saying now?

The CRIMINAL puts his sock-wearing hand by his side.

CRIMINAL
I love you. And I love speed.

PSYCHOLOGIST
May I be frank?

CRIMINAL
Sure...

PSYCHOLOGIST
Does the sock have magical powers?

CRIMINAL
... Yes?

PSYCHOLOGIST
(serious)
Wow. What can it do?

CRIMINAL
Fly?

PSYCHOLOGIST
Can I see?

The CRIMINAL takes his sock off and throws it at the wall.

CRIMINAL
See?

The PSYCHOLOGIST nods.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Interesting.

The POLICEMEN stare at the TV in disbelief.

POLICEMAN 1
What's happening?

PSYCHOLOGIST
I'll be back in a minute.

The PSYCHOLOGIST leaves the room. When alone, the CRIMINAL chuckles. Soon enough, the PSYCHOLOGIST enters the CCTV room. He speaks to the COPS calmly.

PSYCHOLOGIST
As I said, he's clearly very ill.

POLICEMAN 1
He's tricking you! We heard him laughing as you left!

POLICEMAN 2
And it IS funny!

PSYCHOLOGIST
No, no, no. A classic case of
schizophrenia. It would be a crime to
send him to jail.

The CRIMINAL is heard laughing to himself. The three look to
the screen. The CROOK wipes a tear from his eye.

POLICEMAN 2
What do you make of that?

PSYCHOLOGIST
Laughing to yourself is often a sign
of schizophrenia.

POLICEMAN 1
Yes, but laughing at police and
psychiatrists is always a sign of
deceitfulness!!

PSYCHOLOGIST
An interesting point...

The CRIMINAL comments to himself.

CRIMINAL
Gullible fool.

POLICEMAN 1
And what do you make of that?

PSYCHOLOGIST
He was talking about the sock.

CRIMINAL
Stupid psychiatrist. He will really
believe anything.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Before you say anything...

POLICEMAN 1
Yes?

PSYCHOLOGIST
Do you know what projection means?

POLICEMAN 1
Eh?

PSYCHOLOGIST

Yes it seemed like he said that I would believe anything, BUT that's only because he believes anything. In this case that he is in a relationship with a flying, talking sock.

CRIMINAL

Complete fool with a stupid face.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Projection.

CRIMINAL

No I'm not insane, I'm faking everything.

POLICEMAN 1

Well... how can that be projection?

PSYCHOLOGIST

It's not is it?

POLICEMAN 1

No.

PSYCHOLOGIST

I've made a mistake haven't I?

POLICEMAN 2

Yes.

The PSYCHOLOGIST leaves the room. He is soon seen on the TV.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Have I said something funny?

The CRIMINAL turns to the MAN.

CRIMINAL

I'm sorry?

PSYCHOLOGIST

Do you know what 'projection' means?

CRIMINAL

No...

PSYCHOLOGIST

It means when I call you 'an asshole' it actually means that I'M the asshole.

CRIMINAL

Oh.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Watch me...

The PSYCHOLOGIST makes quote marks with his fingers.

PSYCHOLOGIST

... 'project' on you...

CRIMINAL

Ok...

PSYCHOLOGIST

You're a prick and I'm going to kill you!

CRIMINAL

You're scaring me!

PSYCHOLOGIST

Good!!!

POLICEMAN 1

This is only getting funnier.

POLICEMAN 2

Yes, it's a fine line between comedy and serious assault. And I THINK the doc is going to attack him.

The PSYCHOLOGIST is seen punching the CRIMINAL.

POLICEMAN 2

Yep, there we go.

The sock flies straight into the PSYCHOLOGIST'S mouth as he's about to speak.

CRIMINAL

Sock! You've saved me!

The PSYCHOLOGIST mumbles as he tries to get the thing out of his mouth.

POLICEMAN 1

Huh?

POLICEMAN 2

I didn't see that coming. That was really surreal.

The PSYCHOLOGIST passes out. The CRIMINAL laughs again.

POLICEMAN 1
We have to go!

The POLICEMEN run out of the room.

THE END.