

The Psychiatrist 2

by

Simon Wiedemann

© 2020

INT: PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

In the corner of the room is a computer on a desk. By the sides are a small fish tank and a lava lamp. In the middle of the area is a seated PSYCHIATRIST (36) in a suit and with a pen and paper on his lap. He faces his seated PATIENT, MIKE (30) in stylish clothes and wearing an electric watch.

PSYCHIATRIST

Good afternoon, Mike. Do you know why it was recommended that you see me?

MIKE

Good afternoon? My watch says it's 11:59 AM.

PSYCHIATRIST

Is that really important?

MIKE

It is QUITE important. You're supposed to keep to a schedule aren't you?

PSYCHIATRIST

You're right. Good morning.

MIKE

Well it's afternoon, now!

MIKE checks his watch and shows it to the PSYCHIATRIST.

MIKE

See?

The PSYCHIATRIST makes some notes, using his knees as a table.

MIKE

What are you writing about me?

PSYCHIATRIST

I can't tell you that.

MIKE

Fine.

MIKE retrieves a pen and paper from his pocket.

PSYCHIATRIST

What's that?

MIKE

I'm just going to make some notes about YOU. They're secret, too.

MIKE also writes some notes, using his knees as a table. The PSYCHIATRIST squints his eyes and reads them.

PSYCHIATRIST

You think I have passive aggressive personality disorder? Look, I really can't tell you what I write. It's protocol.

MIKE ignores him and writes some more.

PSYCHIATRIST

You think I'm paranoid and have an obsessive need to understand and be in control of my surroundings? Look, of COURSE I want to know what you're writing! It's me treating you, not the other way round!

The PSYCHIATRIST makes more notes, this time. MIKE squints his eyes at them.

MIKE

You think I'm an imbecile? I CAN read that you know?

PSYCHIATRIST

You were supposed to.

MIKE makes further notes.

PSYCHIATRIST

(reading)

My psychiatrist is a fool...

MIKE edits his notes...

MIKE

No! Look! It clearly says 'my psychiatrist is a fddl'! If you can't read basic words, should you really have the job??

PSYCHIATRIST

But fddl isn't a word. Sounds like you've written complete nonsense to me. Schizo.

MIKE

No it's not nonsense actually. Fddles are very well known instruments. You clearly have alzheimer's, too.

PSYCHIATRIST

But it's spelt F I D D L E...

MIKE makes more notes.

PSYCHIATRIST
 (reading)
 My psychiatrist is condescending and
 pedantic. Most likely a narcissist.

MIKE
 How'd you like that?

The PSYCHIATRIST makes fists.

PSYCHIATRIST
 YOU'RE the narcissist!

MIKE
 Don't project on to me!

PSYCHIATRIST
 Fine. You win. As I asked earlier, do
 you know why you're here to see me?

MIKE points at the PSYCHIATRIST aggressively.

MIKE
 You don't know? Further evidence for
 dementia! See someone!

PSYCHIATRIST
 Look, I've had enough of this! It's
 because you keep on getting into
 arguments with people!

MIKE rolls his eyes.

MIKE
 Because they're all wrong!

PSYCHIATRIST
 You said that I was wrong about the
 time by a few seconds and you were
 getting angry about that. That's not
 normal.

MIKE
 Yes, I agree.

PSYCHIATRIST
 Thank you!

MIKE
 But it SHOULD be normal.

The PSYCHIATRIST composes himself for a few seconds then
 smiles politely.

PSYCHIATRIST

Ok. Well I think it's time to call it a day, now. You've made great progress.

MIKE scratches his head.

MIKE

But it's only been about three minutes.

PSYCHIATRIST

That's why I'm so impressed with you.

MIKE

I kept insulting you...

PSYCHIATRIST

Banter.

MIKE

Really??

The PSYCHIATRIST coughs.

PSYCHIATRIST

Yep. Now let's never speak again. Good day!