

Genius Job Interview

by

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INT: JAMES'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A smart suit-wearing JAMES is alone in a darkened room with the curtains drawn. He sits on a chair as he faces his computer. On it are a list of Youcube videos. A mouse is in his hand.

JAMES
(talking to himself)
Ah, a Youcube video about intelligent people and their personality traits.. I wonder how many traits of intelligent people I have. Most likely all of them.

JAMES clicks and plays the video. It is text based and easy listening music is heard.

JAMES
(reading from the screen, aloud)
Intelligent people admit when they don't know anything?

JAMES rubs his chin in thought and talks to himself again.

JAMES
What an interesting video... I was going to do some research for my job interview tomorrow, but I think I have a better idea...

INT. JOB INTERVIEW - DAY

JAMES is wearing a t-shirt and ripped jeans. He sits on chair, by a table and facing a JOB INTERVIEWER (30) in smart clothes. A backpack is by the former's side.

INTERVIEWER
Hello, James. How are you today?

JAMES
I don't know!

JAMES smiles excessively.

INTERVIEWER
Are you sure? You look happy to me...

JAMES
Maybe I am, maybe I'm not. It's not clear.

INTERVIEWER

I see. What interests you the most about the role you applied for?

JAMES

What did I apply for, exactly?

INTERVIEWER

I'm sorry?

JAMES

I was just wondering... what work will I be doing?

INTERVIEWER

You applied to be a teacher. You can't remember?

JAMES raises his head in superiority.

JAMES

Nope. I'm very intelligent, you know?

INTERVIEWER

In your cover letter, you explained how you've had experience working in schools?

JAMES

Oh yes, now I remember. I said that, but really I broke into a school one time and pretended to be a teacher... Then I got arrested.

The INTERVIEWER backs away, nervously.

INTERVIEWER

... Why??

JAMES

To feel big. I'm sorry, I mean I don't know.

JAMES smiles again.

INTERVIEWER

May I look at your qualifications you promised to bring to this interview?

JAMES

Yes...

JAMES opens his bag and takes out some documents. He hands them to the INTERVIEWER. The latter stares at the notes hard.

INTERVIEWER
These are details of the charges you
were given by a judge...

JAMES
I didn't know that.

INTERVIEWER
What did you think they were?

JAMES
Beans.

INTERVIEWER
Beans???

JAMES
Yep.

INTERVIEWER
What does that mean??

JAMES
No idea!

INTERVIEWER
Do you know people would think of me
if I were to hire you?

JAMES
I'm not sure. Could be good, could be
bad.

The INTERVIEWER exhales deeply.

INTERVIEWER
Ohhhhhh, I know who you are. You've
applied for other jobs haven't you?
You're James Ziegler! Somewhat of an
urban legend!

JAMES
Not sure.

INTERVIEWER
You're not sure, you're not sure
about anything. Is that why you
called yourself James Smith? Or is
the real reason because you know Mr.
Ziegler could never get any work?

JAMES steeples his hands and looks thoughtful.

JAMES
I don't know.

JAMES looks smug.

INTERVIEWER

Let me look at your prison records again.

The INTERVIEWER does so.

INTERVIEWER

Ah, on closer inspection you've Tippexed out your surname and written 'Smith'. Your police records are genuinely meant to be impressive?

JAMES

Please let me be a teacher. Ok, you're on to me. I've been pretending to be ignorant so you think I'm a genius. Just give me a chance, I can't keep hosting the podcast, the Dominant Egg keeps appearing on it and I hate him.

INTERVIEWER

Come again?

JAMES

I'm just saying the Dominant Egg keeps arguing with me. I expect it from Dan, but not the egg.

INTERVIEWER

You've been arguing with an egg?

JAMES

Oh very much so.

The INTERVIEWER backs away further.

INTERVIEWER

What do you argue about?

JAMES

Pretty much everything, really.

INTERVIEWER

I see. Well if you can't even get on with an egg, how are you supposed to get along with the staff and pupils?

JAMES

I don't argue with Ben quite so much.

INTERVIEWER

Well done.

JAMES

Thank you, it means the world!... Or does it?

JAMES looks wise.

INTERVIEWER

Not this again. Look, you want my advice?

JAMES

What?

INTERVIEWER

Get therapy. Years of intense therapy. Then start applying for jobs again. But not before. Understand?

JAMES

It's funny you should say that, because I'm supposed to be in a mental home, right now...

INTERVIEWER

And how do you plan on teaching if you're supposed to be there?

JAMES

Look on the bright side, if I'm locked away at the time of teaching, I wouldn't be able to argue with anyone including the egg!

INTERVIEWER

Please leave.

JAMES

I'm left handed, you know?

INTERVIEWER

So what?

JAMES

Left handed people are often smart. They're more prone to mental illness, though.

The INTERVIEWER sighs.

INTERVIEWER

So you want me to hire a smart, mentally ill man who doesn't get along with anyone, who argues with eggs, and spends almost all of his time in a mental home?

JAMES

Yes! Bang on!

INTERVIEWER

Look, I have other people to interview. Good day.

Knocking on the door is heard.

INTERVIEWER

Come in!

The door opens to reveal the DOMINANT EGG, wearing a suit.

INTERVIEWER

What's going on now??

The EGG hovers to and sits on JAMES'S lap.

DOMINANT EGG

Charlie Baldwin, here. Also known as the Dominant Egg.

JAMES

I never knew that was your name...

DOMINANT EGG

Oh yes. Dominant Egg is more of a description.

INTERVIEWER

And why do YOU want to be a teacher?

DOMINANT EGG

Just to pass the time when I don't have anything else to do.

INTERVIEWER

See, that's not a good answer.

DOMINANT EGG

Really? I read that honesty is the best policy...

The EGG looks wise.

JAMES

I read that smart people don't know what they're talking about...

INTERVIEWER

Get out!

DOMINANT EGG
Come on. Imagine a class being taught
by an egg, the thought alone is
absolutely incredible!

INTERVIEWER
And what would you teach?

JAMES
Food tech!

JAMES grins and rubs his stomach.

DOMINANT EGG
What's that supposed to mean? Why are
you smiling like you want to eat me?

JAMES
Never mind.

Now the INTERVIEWER smiles.

INTERVIEWER
How about we reach a middle ground?
How about I teach cookery with you,
but I do so by putting you in a cake?
James on the other hand can warn
students about the dangers of drugs
and what happens when you take them.

JAMES
I'm not on drugs, actually.

INTERVIEWER
Sure you are.

DOMINANT EGG
You want to put me in a cake?

INTERVIEWER
Scram!...-bled egg.

DOMINANT EGG
Scram... bled egg?

JAMES
Oh I get it, scrambled egg.

INTERVIEWER
Yes. Mixed with go away.

DOMINANT EGG
What's a scrambled egg?

INTERVIEWER

Go!

DOMINANT EGG

Ok. I know when I'm not wanted.

JAMES

No, you really are.

INTERVIEWER

Go!

JAMES

No.

INTERVIEWER

Fine, I'll go.

JAMES

Ah, a twist. I really was expecting to be thrown out.

DOMINANT EGG

I saw that coming, though...

INTERVIEWER

I'm going, but I'll take you with me.
See that coming?

DOMINANT EGG

I guess no.

INTERVIEWER

Good. Now come with me.

The INTERVIEWER puts the EGG in his pocket and manhandles JAMES out of the room.