

The Alien
by
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INT. AREA 51 INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Everything is white in this 10 by 10 metre, cuboid room. A 7 foot tall, green and fat ALIEN with 8 arms and 4 legs and with eyes and mouths all over his body is chained to the back wall by all his limbs. He growls. A SCIENTIST (40) dressed in white from head to toe and wearing a helmet carries a clipboard and a pen. He is at a safe distance, as is the BOSS, 60 wearing a suit and tie.

SCIENTIST

I'm so glad you could make it, Sir.
This alien here is the most
fascinating find the world has ever
seen.

BOSS

Yes, I can see.

The ALIEN quite literally spits out a strange language from one of its mouths.

ALIEN

Scirp foab rooy!

The BOSS wipes his eyes.

BOSS

What's he saying?

The ALIEN speaks more dramatically and tries to break free.

ALIEN

Stawt foab rooy!

The SCIENTIST smiles.

SCIENTIST

Ahem. It's quite simple, really...

BOSS

Yes?

SCIENTIST

Well. First he said 'You're both
pricks' then he said 'You're both
twats'...

BOSS

How do you know?

SCIENTIST

He's just speaking English backwards.

BOSS
Ohhh yeah. Why's he doing that?

SCIENTIST
We don't know.

The BOSS folds his arms.

BOSS
Huh. Has he said anything more interesting than abuse?

The ALIEN tries to break free again.

ALIEN
Ooy wercs...

BOSS
Screw you?

SCIENTIST
Now you're getting it!

BOSS
Again, has he actually said a single thing that is super natural?

SCIENTIST
Not yet, but he's understandably very angry. Maybe he'll start talking sense when we're a little nicer to him.

The BOSS smiles warmly.

BOSS
Of course. Alien, why are you talking like that? Be honest, and I'll get you a chocolatey treat.

The ALIEN speaks, defeated.

ALIEN
Woon tnod I.

SCIENTIST
He doesn't know...

BOSS
I see.

SCIENTIST
Maybe you'd like to offer him something a bit more attractive?

BOSS
An offer he can't refuse, you mean?

SCIENTIST
No, don't threaten to kill him!

The ALIEN widens all its eyes.

BOSS
I wasn't going to! I always thought that was a harmless phrase until I watched The Godfather...

SCIENTIST
Me too. But it's not.

The ALIEN relaxes.

ALIEN
Weef.

SCIENTIST
Phew.

BOSS
Alien, what's your name?

ALIEN
Neb.

BOSS
Ben...

ALIEN
(interrupting)
No, Neb.

BOSS
Oh ok. Neb, what do you want most in the world?

ALIEN
First, I want you to set me free.

The SCIENTIST shakes his head.

SCIENTIST
We both know that's not possible. You can't just hijack an electric scooter and go on a rampage. You've knocked countless bins over and caused all sorts of destruction. People couldn't believe their eyes.

ALIEN

Hahaha.

The SCIENTIST clenches his fists.

SCIENTIST

You think that's funny??

ALIEN

No one died.

SCIENTIST

Oh no one died? The E scooter company has taken a massive blow now it's associated with small scale violence.

ALIEN

(laughing)

That's great!

SCIENTIST

(sighing)

What ELSE do you want? Be realistic.

The ALIEN pauses in contemplation.

ALIEN

A pet hamster.

BOSS

That could work...

SCIENTIST

What to eat?

ALIEN

No! To stroke and pat its head! And to cuddle. And sing silly songs to.

SCIENTIST

Ok, sure. You'll get your hamster. Now how did your spaceship get here?

ALIEN

It's powered by mushy thoughts.

The SCIENTIST face palms.

SCIENTIST

What's THAT mean??

ALIEN

You move it through thoughts such as 'aw'.

BOSS

Wait, is that why you want a hamster?

The SCIENTIST nods.

SCIENTIST

Well spotted, boss.

ALIEN

Tnemmoc on.

BOSS

Not this again...

SCIENTIST

'No comment'. This is pathetic.

BOSS

How do you know about hamsters?

ALIEN

My planet has been observing them for a while. We have a number of hamster farms.

BOSS

Why?

ALIEN

They're so sweet... And of course, we need them for travel. Whoops. I've said too much. Actually, oh who cares.

BOSS

You don't find human history far more interesting?

ALIEN

Sorry, no.

BOSS

But you must have studied people? At least this language?

The ALIEN rolls all its eyes.

ALIEN

English people are crackpots. No one pays attention to them.

The BOSS looks embarrassed.

BOSS

Simon Wiedemann, you mean?

ALIEN

Yes.

BOSS

I wouldn't pay attention to that strange bird, either. There are other writers out there.

The SCIENTIST smiles.

SCIENTIST

Wow, how did you think of Simon Wiedemann so quickly?

BOSS

I didn't become your boss without a keen sense of intuition.

SCIENTIST

That was very impressive, Sir.

BOSS

Thank you. Neb, I want you to be honest. If we got you a hamster or anything else adorable...

ALIEN

(interrupting)

Like a panda?

BOSS

... like a panda, would you be able to use it to escape this room somehow?

The ALIEN looks up in thought.

ALIEN

Ummm...

BOSS

In your own time.

ALIEN

Ahem. Tough one...

BOSS

I'll take that as a yes.

ALIEN

Dammit!

SCIENTIST

How could you possibly escape with it??

ALIEN

Tnemmoc on.

A mobile phone is heard ringing from the BOSS'S pocket. He answers it.

BOSS

Hello?... There is a special delivery of hamsters at the gates of the complex?... Who's delivering it?... A strange man with lots of arms?

SCIENTIST

Has that got anything to do with you, Neb?

ALIEN

Errrr...

The BOSS looks up in bewilderment.

BOSS

(still on the phone)

Don't you think such a person would actually be an alien?... You'll ask him?... He's speaking a load of gibberish? Are you sure it's not just English in reverse?... It does sound like English in reverse?... Well capture him and bring him over here!

ALIEN

Harm my nan and I'll kill you.

SCIENTIST

How many aliens like you are on Earth?

ALIEN

Just us two...

SCIENTIST

And how do I know if you're telling the truth?

BOSS

Easy, when he lies he keeps going 'Ummmm...'

ALIEN

Damn!

The BOSS twiddles his thumbs.

BOSS
This is going to be a long day.

ALIEN
I'll never talk! Again, I mean.

BOSS
Don't worry. We have ways of making
aliens talk.

ALIEN
How??

BOSS
Chocolates!

ALIEN
Ha! I don't even like chocolates!

BOSS
Waterboarding, then.

The ALIEN looks down.

ALIEN
Oh (expletive).