

The Merry Singer Show

by

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INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

On a stage, JAMES and JANINE sit next to each other on comfy chairs, whilst the smartly dressed TV PRESENTER 'THE MERRY SINGER' stands in-between the two. An out of sight AUDIENCE is heard cheering 'Merry, Merry!' over and over again.

MERRY SINGER

Hello, viewers! On today's show are boyfriend and girlfriend James and Janine. Would you like to explain why you've brought him here with you?

JANINE

It's just... Whenever I meet him, he doesn't even recognise me! I leave the room for a couple of minutes, I come back and he just stares at me, blankly!

The AUDIENCE groan.

JAMES

Who the hell are you?

JANINE

See, this is what I mean! He must KNOW who I am, as I just said!!

JAMES

Force of habit... Look, the reason I didn't recognise you a few minutes later was because you put a hat on. It would fool anyone.

JANINE

He can't spell my name, either.

JAMES

Oh come on, it's (expletive) impossible!

THE MERRY SINGER

Now, now, James. Let's not use that kind of language.

JAMES

Sorry.

JANINE

Not just my surname, but my first name!

JAMES

That's what I meant.

JANINE
Try and spell my name, now...

JAMES
J...

JANINE
Good so far...

JAMES
A... N... E... E... P...

JANINE
P??? Where did the P come from???

JAMES
D?

JANINE
So, we have either Janeep or Janeed.

JAMES
It's the second one.

JANINE
Now spell my surname.

JAMES
I don't know what it is...

JANINE
Georgopoulos.

JAMES
Oh (expletive) off.

JANINE
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

JAMES
You have GOT to be joking.

JANINE
Spell it now.

JAMES
J... E... E... P?

JANINE
Janeed Jeep?!

JAMES
A damn fine car.

JANINE
You think I'm a car?!

JAMES
No! The name of a car! It's a good name. Very reliable across all terrains. I'd love a Janeed Jeep! I mean that, really, I do!

JAMES smiles nervously.

JANINE
There's no hope for you. No hope at all.

The AUDIENCE groan again.

THE MERRY SINGER
This is clearly a very complex situation, which is why I'll be bringing another guest on the show to try and help things out. Let's all welcome James' only friend, Mental Matt!

The AUDIENCE chant 'Mental!' over and over again.

MENTAL MATT walks onto the stage and sits on the floor, next to JAMES.

THE MERRY SINGER
Would you like a chair?

MENTAL MATT
No thanks. I'm mental.

THE MERRY SINGER
Ok. Matt, I understand your company promotes James' podcast. Maybe you'd like to pay him now, as an incentive for him to recognise Janine?

JAMES
I've told you, it's too hard!

MENTAL MATT
And I don't have any money.

JANINE
You shouldn't need any!!

THE MERRY SINGER

Ok, so you don't have any money. How about reassuringly chanting 'recognise Janine' to help him out. Come on. You can do this.

MENTAL MATT

Ok, I will.

MENTAL MATT breathes in with effort.

MENTAL MATT

Ok. Recognise Janine. Recognise Janine.

JAMES looks confused. JANINE looks hopeful.

MENTAL MATT

Recognise Janine...

JAMES stares hard at JANINE.

JAMES

Hello, Jabeeb Jabeen... Jaboo. Wahey, wahoo?

JANINE

Oh screw this, I'm going!

JANINE storms out of the room.

JAMES

May I ask you a question?

THE MERRY SINGER

Of course.

JAMES

What if she comes back on stage? Will someone let me know it's her, please?

THE MERRY SINGER

I'll bear that in mind.

JANINE runs back on stage, slaps JAMES and runs away again.

JAMES

But at least she came back, right?... Whoever she was.

THE MERRY SINGER

Yes! Exactly! Now that I've brought you two closer together, I will now sing merrily.

The AUDIENCE cheer.