

A Fab Idea
by
Simon Wiedemann

© 2024

INT. JAMES'S ROOM - NIGHT

JAMES is chilling out in a straitjacket and lying on his bed in his mental home bedroom. He turns his head to watch a TV in the front of the room. On the TV, STEPHEN FRY sits behind a table with two other COMEDIANS on his left and another two on his right.

STEPHEN FRY

Did you know that if you ask people favours, it actually makes them like you more?

The AUDIENCE go 'huh?' in unison.

STEPHEN FRY

That's because they tell themselves they were being nice to you for a good reason!

The CROWD go wild, as do the other four COMICS.

JAMES

(to himself)

Well, that was interesting...

EXT. STREET - DAY

It's a rainy day. JAMES (now in more typical clothes) is walking down a busy street with shops on both his sides. Traffic is heavy. Around 20 PEDESTRIANS are in front of him, sharing the same pavement. A 70 year old man also in front of him seems to be on his mobile phone. JAMES taps the OAP on the shoulder, making him turn to face him.

OAP

Hello?

JAMES snatches the phone from the MAN.

OAP

What was that for??

JAMES smiles.

JAMES

You won't tell the police will you?
It would really mean a lot.

OAP

Errr...

JAMES

Also, can you give me some money,
please?

OAP

Errr...

JAMES

Please? For me?

Clearly nervous, the OAP gets out his wallet from his pocket and hands it to JAMES.

JAMES

We're friends now, right? Of course you won't go the police...

OAP

Oh yes, yes. Best of friends.

JAMES

(to himself)

I knew it!

JAMES

Also, how about you give me your car? When you get home? That wouldn't be too much trouble would it?

OAP

Oh not at all...

JAMES

Thanks! We're very very best friends now, right?

OAP

So close it hurts.

A POLICEMAN taps JAMES on the shoulder from behind. He turns to face the COP.

JAMES

Hello, officer...

POLICEMAN

What's going on here?

JAMES

Nothing...

JAMES pushes the COP over. He eventually stands back up and pulls out a taser which he aims at the weirdo.

POLICEMAN

What was that for??

JAMES

Just power tripping. Can I have your taser, please? It would mean a lot.

POLICEMAN

What???

JAMES

And could you give me a ride home?

POLICEMAN

You'll get a ride somewhere alright..

JAMES

I knew it! But before you take me home, I'd really like a free burger. If that's not too much of a problem I mean. The burger place is very nearby!

JAMES punches the COP. The latter is too dumbfounded to fire.

JAMES

And I'd like a new guitar.

Everyone films the scene on their mobiles.

POLICEMAN

Right, come with me to the station right now!

JAMES

To arrest me??

POLICEMAN

Well... yeah...

JAMES

But I've just made you my friend!

OAP

I'm wondering how he treats his enemies...

JAMES

I crash their cars... Oh never mind that, how about we have a party? But a party of two? I just need to make more people my friends...

JAMES shouts to everyone filming him.

JAMES

How about everyone here gives me their phones! Then it'll be the best party ever!

POLICEMAN

Come with me, James.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

JAMES lies on the bottom bunk and wears orange clothes in a small room with a toilet and sink in it. On the top bunk is a well built PRISONER (30) also in orange.

PRISONER
First day, huh?

JAMES
Nope, not really.

PRISONER
If you ever need anything from me,
just ask.

JAMES
Oh that's great news. Do you have any
crisps?

PRISONER
Sure. But first you have to do
something for me...

JAMES
Errr... But we're friends... Friends
do things for others out of kindness.
.. Not selfish reasons...

PRISONER
Yes, and YOU'RE my friend... so...
you have to do something for me.

JAMES
Oh this is ridiculous. What then?

PRISONER
Share some of the crisps with me.

JAMES
I can't stand this anymore. I'm going
to sleep, bye.