

Limited Polygons, Part 2: The Journalist

by

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INT. OFFICE - DAY

BARRY (21) is in a smart suit. He sits at his laptop that's on a table. He types and laughs to himself. An unoccupied chair faces him. On the walls are a number of not so great paintings, signed 'Bazmaster'. Knocking is heard on the door.

BARRY

Come in...

A female BOSS (30) in a suit and carrying various documents enters and shuts the door behind her.

BOSS

May I take a seat?

BARRY nods. The BOSS does so.

BOSS

Do you know what this is about?

BARRY

No...

BOSS

Baz. There have been numerous complaints from record labels about your... strange writing that you've submitted on our online site. You're ruining metalandsuch.com's excellent reputation.

BARRY

What do you mean?

The BOSS eyes her files.

BOSS

Here's what you've said about the latest Iron Maiden concert... 'Steve Harris and the gang rocked just as hard as they did when they just formed. Not as hard Barry Bazmaster Jones, though. He once fought a gang of bears. Probably nazis.

BARRY

I kicked one of them in the ankle. I wasn't even defending myself, I did it to annoy him.

The BOSS cringes.

BOSS

Uh-huh? It's not relevant though, is it?

BARRY does some more typing and laughs once more. He then slaps himself.

BARRY
Sorry about that, I thought of something great to write, about nazi sheep. Can you imagine that? What do you mean 'not relevant'?

The BOSS sighs.

BOSS
I mean the article was supposed to be about Iron Maiden, not you.

BARRY looks superior.

BARRY
It was mostly about Iron Maiden.

The BOSS stares through BARRY for a moment.

BOSS
It should just be about them.

BARRY
What about the crowd reaction?

BOSS
That's fine, just not you.

BARRY
I was in the crowd. Should I have written about the time I...

The BOSS crosses her arms.

BOSS
No.

BARRY
... the time I mooned...

The BOSS eyes her angry arms to give BARRY a hint.

BOSS
No!

BARRY
... mooned the bass player...

The BOSS stands over BARRY.

BOSS
No!!

BARRY

... to get a funny reaction from him
as I took a photo?...

The BOSS stands over BARRY with her hands on the table. She storms off then paces around the room. She looks at her files as she talks. BARRY'S eyes follow her.

BOSS

Your writing style is pretty consistent, too. Look at this article: 'Tool's new album 'Fear Inoculum' is cool. Not as cool as Barry, though. That man has been pestered by food companies to keep their products nice and fresh'.

BARRY

THAT was a lie.

BOSS

And what about this?: 'Megadeth have released yet ANOTHER great album...'

BARRY

... 'But not as great as Barry'. Lols.

The BOSS breaks out in a sweat.

BOSS

You and I both know that wasn't what you said. What you actually said was 'Megadeth have released ANOTHER great album, and BAZ IS GREAT, BAZ IS GREAT', etc... Do you know how many times you said that?

BARRY

Ninety-nine.

BOSS

And why ninety-nine?

BARRY

People like nice, whole numbers don't they? I didn't write that a hundred times, as I wanted people to read more of me.

The BOSS stands still, looks to the floor for a moment and shakes her head.

BOSS

I'm sorry. I'm going to have to sack you. No matter how much attention you're getting.

Now BARRY breaks out in sweat. BARRY types something else then watches his EMPLOYER, again.

BARRY

Oh come on! For what?? This is the exact same unreasonable, no crazy, behaviour I got from my boss at the computer programming company!

BOSS

What happened?

BARRY

Oh, I got into trouble for giving an action hero a huge penis or something like that.

BOSS

Hm. That's strange. Your work history should have been discussed with me.

BARRY

I didn't threaten him.

The BOSS stares at BARRY in surprise.

BOSS

Hey... Are you the one who came up with the idea of 'Penis Warrior'?

BARRY'S eyes light up.

BARRY

That's me!

BOSS

That game was a huge success. Why aren't you still a programmer?

BARRY looks sad.

ALFIE

I got sacked. Again.

BOSS

Why??

BARRY

Well, you know how you can show a penis on TV, as long as it's not erect?

The BOSS sighs.

BOSS

Oh, ok. I under...

BARRY
My depiction of an erect...

BOSS
Yes, I understand.

BARRY
... penis was too HARD for them to
handle. So to speak.

BOSS
Ok. Well LONG...

The BOSS winks.

BOSS
... story short... You're sacked.
Again, again. Sorry.

BARRY
But what will I do?

The BOSS shrugs her shoulders.

BOSS
Porno?

BARRY rubs his chin.

BARRY
Hm.