

The Interview

David Body

Department Head: Female

Interviewer: Male - Charlie

Interviewee (unseen): Neutral Voice, can't tell male or female

Female Department Head

Listen up Charlie, I've been given the resume of a very important interview you'll be conducting in a minute. Now here's the thing, higher ups really need this person to help us avoid a certain, oh, potentially embarrassing to the company, situation. But as good as this person looks, (*Holds up resume.*) some critical information is missing.

Male Interviewer

Like what?

Female Department Head

Like details vital to the very conservative culture of this company. Things like black or white, male or female, ethnic background, religion. You know, basic stuff. Some obvious, some you'll have to ask.

Male Interviewer

You know those are questions I'm not supposed to ask.

Female Department Head

Your problem. You like your job? Get the answers. The right answers. Make the hire

Oh, by the way. It's on Skype. I'm told the interviewee on the screen now. Right behind that door.

Male Interviewer

(Interviewer opens up door walks up to to a desk, puts resume down and looks at screen that we can't see, off stage.)

Hello. This screen seems to be blank. Are you there?

Interviewee

I'm here, off camera.

Male Interviewer

Right. Well, do I get to see you?

Interviewee

You've seen my resume, isn't that enough?

Male Interviewer

Of course, that's why we called you in the first place. But even on skype, we like our interviews to be oh, rather friendly and sociable, one on one, give and take, if you see what I mean?

Interviewee

Oh, I see what you mean all right. And I prefer for you to just see my resume. And that's all, for now.

Male Interviewer

Well that's fine, naturally. So, I have your resume right here in front of me. And a fine one it is, too. Except that you don't seem to have finished filling it out.

Interviewee

Oh, and just what part is missing?

Male Interviewer

Well, there is this part here that asks you to check male or female. Do you want me to fill out that part for you?

Interviewee

No. I don't.

Male Interviewer

I see. Ok. Then there's also this part that asks you to check Caucasian, Hispanic, or African American. I don't suppose you want me to fill out that part either?

Interviewee

You suppose right.

Male Interviewer

And that's just fine with us. Of course. So you prefer to be secretive about certain, well things. *(He looks closer and around, as if he could see around a blank screen.)*

Interviewee

You have my resume. I think you'll find that I'm uniquely qualified for the job at hand. It's all there in black and white.

Male Interviewer

Well, my point exactly. Are you black or..that is to say that's not what I meant. I meant to say I can't see you. I really need to see you in order to...

Interviewee

In order to what?

Male Interviewer

In order to see you. The rules say I need to see you.

Interviewee

No, the rules don't say that at all.

Male Interviewer

And am I to assume you've seen the rules.

Interviewee

Assume.

Male Interviewer

I was afraid of that.

Interviewee

And can we continue with my job interview?

Male Interviewer

Uh, well of course we can, of course, just as soon as I get my act, that is, my thoughts on the matter together. So then, you are applying for the job?

Interviewee

That's why I'm here.

Male Interviewer

Yes of course. It's just that.

Interviewee

Sir why don't you ask me a question about my professional background and how that background qualifies me for the job at hand?

Male Interviewer

No no, that's not necessary. We've reviewed your resume, and frankly we're in desperate need of someone with your exact, no, no, not what I meant to say. What I mean to say is, that we might be able to use someone with your background. But we don't know some of the basics. For example the male or female part.

Interviewee

And does that make a difference?

Male Interviewer

Well no. Of course not. It's just that we usually see the persuasion of the person in question just as soon as he or she walks in. I mean, would we know your persuasion as soon as you, or would we not exactly know? What I'm saying here is, it certainly isn't important to know anything like that. But would I know? On the other hand it's not really important is it? In the total scheme of, well, things. That's what I meant to say. It's just that.

Interviewee

Exactly. Have I answered your question? And what is the next one?

Male Interviewer

Okey dokey, let's see here. So do you observe Ramadan, Passover or Christmas...just kidding, just kidding. Now how about some general, usual interview stuff. Do you like the video game "Grand Theft Auto?"

Interviewee

Sir.

Male Interviewer

Of course. Now let's start from square one and do a regular interview with regular interview questions. We all have to eat. Your preferences?

Interviewee

Well, I like chocolate.

Male Interviewer

That's good. But let's say you were entertaining a client at home, what might you cook? Italian? Chinese? Greek? Pork Ribs? Collard Greens?

Interviewee

Shall I ignore.?

Male Interviewer

Hey, it's just a question. I like collard greens. Some of my best friends like...never mind.

Interviewee

Next?

Male Interviewer

Right, what might be next on my trusty list? Let's just say we sent you away on a business trip to, oh I don't know, to someplace in the Caribbean, in the heart of summer. Now, you would, of course, be on an expense account. And might your expenses include say, sun block? And would that bloc be 80, or would you need only a 10, or perhaps you wouldn't need any block at all because you're already.

Interviewee

I don't think.

Male Interviewer

No, I don't either. But I'm only trying to conduct a normal interview under conditions that aren't exactly, well whatever. I'm only trying to be regular here, if you get my drift.

Interviewee

Oh I get your drift. And I think I'd be too busy to get out in the sun to need any. I'd be busy working indoors all the time.

Male Interviewer

Of course you would.

Interviewee

Moving right along.

Male Interviewer

Yes. Let's move right along here. Now I'm a religious man. And when I go to church, I kneel on a little bench. So, when you go to church, assuming you go, and that's entirely up to you, naturally. But if you did, why would you be kneeling on a bench, or would your ass be sticking up with your whole head plopped down on the floor.

Interviewee

I'm about plopped out with this interview.

Male Interviewer

So how much would it take for you to peek into the camera?

Interviewee

Like the charge card. It's priceless.

Male Interviewer

Of course, and if we did hire you, would you be there for all to see?

Interviewee

How badly do you need me?

Male Interviewer

I, that is we, that is our company really needs your, I mean needs someone to step in and kind of save the day. There I said it. And I'll sign this paper. Which means you're hired. (*Signs and holds up paper.*) Now call me a racist, but please, please step up to the camera. (*Pause. Interviewer looks surprised.*) **Oh no, you're not!**

Interviewee (Not seen by audience.)

Oh yes I am!

THE END