

THE INTERVIEW

by

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THE INTERVIEW

SUPERVISOR: Neutral gender, can be any age but preferably older than Interviewer
INTERVIEWER: Neutral gender, can be any age but preferably younger than Supervisor
ONE: Male, 20-50
TWO: Female, slight build, 20-50
THREE: Neutral gender, 20-50

SETTING: A small room with a one-way mirror up stage center. In the room are two chairs on either side of a table.

AT RISE: Lights up on INTERVIEWER and SUPERVISOR standing center stage, down stage of chairs and table.

SUPERVISOR:

I know it's your first day, but you'll be fine. Rely on your instincts, and ask whatever questions you feel are appropriate.

Interviewer nods.

SUPERVISOR (Cont.)

Ok, let's try one. Remember, I'll be right behind the one-way and I'll be able to hear and see everything that's happening.

INTERVIEWER

Ok.

Supervisor exits right. ONE enters left and Interviewer crosses to meet, extends hand, they shake hands

ONE

Hi. My name is—

INTERVIEWER

Ah, ah, no names please; we know who you are. Please, have a seat.

Interviewer indicates stage left chair. One sits in stage left chair, Interviewer sits behind table in stage right chair

ONE

Of course. Right. Thank you.

INTERVIEWER

So, why are you interested in the Murderer position?

ONE

Well, ever since I was a kid I've wanted to be an assassin. I've always been—

INTERVIEWER

I'm sorry to interrupt, but the position is Murderer, not assassin.

ONE

Oh, I'm sorry. Um, perhaps this isn't the best interview question, but, uh, what's the difference?

INTERVIEWER

Well, there are some similarities of course: at the end of the day someone gets killed and someone gets paid for it. However, an assassin is someone who kills a specific individual at the behest of a third party; our Murderers, however, select their own targets using their own criteria. We don't particularly care who you kill, or why, or even how you do it, provided you meet your quota.

ONE

I see.

INTERVIEWER

Also, whereas an assassin is normally an independent contractor, our Murderers are full-time, salaried, employees. We offer medical, dental, life, 401(k), paid vacation and sick time, and after 5 years with the company you are eligible to participate in our profit-sharing program.

ONE

Wow. Well, that all sounds perfect.

INTERVIEWER

So, describe your experience for me; how many people have you killed?

ONE

Oh ... um ... well ... I ... you know. (beat) Ok, ok, I've never actually killed anyone. I've wanted to. Came close a couple of times. But, no. never really ... you know.

INTERVIEWER

Ok, that's not necessarily a deal-breaker. How about other things? Killed or tortured small animals perhaps?

ONE (sheepishly)

No.

INTERVIEWER

Do you hunt?

One shakes head no

INTERVIEWER (cont.)

Do you fish?

One shakes head no

INTERVIEWER (cont.)

Well, I'm not sure that—

ONE

Wait! When I was a kid I burned some ants with a magnifying glass! And I pulled the wings off a fly once! Oh! Oh! And I always squash spiders, I never put them outside!

INTERVIEWER

Well, yes. It's just...

Interviewer gets up and leads One to left

INTERVIEWER (cont.)

You see we really are looking for someone with a little more experience. I'm sure you understand. Tell you what, kill a few people and then come back and see us, ok?

ONE

Ok, yes, I understand. Well, thank you very much for your time.

INTERVIEWER

Not at all. It was a pleasure to meet you.

One exits left. Supervisor enters right

SUPERVISOR

I thought you handled that perfectly. It was clear he wasn't our ideal candidate, but you made sure he left without any hard feelings.

INTERVIEWER

Thank you!

SUPERVISOR:

So, shall we bring in the next applicant?

INTERVIEWER

Absolutely.

Supervisor exits right. TWO enters left. Interviewer and Two shake hands

INTERVIEWER (indicating stage left chair.)

Please have a seat.

Two sits in stage left chair and Interviewer sits in stage right chair

INTERVIEWER (cont.)

So, tell me a bit about yourself, your experience. Have you ever killed anyone?

TWO

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER

Ok, can you elaborate a bit?

TWO

I killed my boyfriend two years ago. Lying, cheating, sack of shit. Fucker deserved it.

INTERVIEWER:

Excellent. Now we're getting somewhere. How did you do it?

TWO

Well, I'm a nurse, see. So I got my hands on some... well, I'd rather not say what. Anyway, I spiked his beer with it, and that shit knocked him out cold. Then, I smothered him with this own pillow. Fuckin' douche-canoë.

INTERVIEWER:

I see. Very good. So, did you dispose of the body?

TWO

Oh sure. I carried him downstairs and—

INTERVIEWER

Wait, you carried him?

TWO

Oh, yeah. He was a little fucker. Like, Michael J. Fox little.

INTERVIEWER

Ok, please continue.

TWO

Well, like I was saying, I carried him downstairs to the garage, propped the ass-clown up in the passenger seat, and drove out to this secluded spot off Route 116.

INTERVIEWER

Propped him in the passenger seat, that's bold, I like it. What time of day was this?

TWO

2 maybe 3 in the morning.

INTERVIEWER

And what did you do with the body once you got to this "secluded spot"?

TWO

Dropped the fucker in an eight-foot deep hole, sprinkled on some lye, tossed in the pillow, and covered him up.

INTERVIEWER

How long did it take you to dig the hole? I mean, if you got there after 3 a.m....

TWO

It took me a few hours, but I dug the hole the night before. It only took me an hour or so to cover him up.

INTERVIEWER

Shows forethought, planning, organization. I'm impressed.

Interviewer gets up and escorts Two to left

INTERVIEWER (cont.)

I think I've got what I need. We'll be in touch.

TWO

Yeah. Ok. Whatever.

Interviewer and Two shake hands; Two exits left; Supervisor enters right

SUPERVISOR

Good instincts there. She might just have what it takes. Let's bring in the next one.

INTERVIEWER

Great!

Supervisor exits right; THREE enters left; Interviewer extends hand, but Three does not shake it

INTERVIEWER

Ok. Well. Um, please have a seat.

Interviewer indicates stage left chair; Three sits in stage left chair; Interviewer sits in stage right chair; Three just stares at Interviewer during this entire exchange, not saying a word

So, tell me about yourself. What kind of experience do you have? *(Beat)* No? Not the talkative sort, eh? Well, verbal skills aren't really necessary for the job I suppose. Ok, why do you want the Murderer position? *(Beat)* Look, I know this is an unconventional job opening, but ... *(Beat)* Fine, well, if you are going to insist on acting this way, I'm afraid—

Three calmly reaches into jacket, pulls out a pistol, and interrupts Interviewer by firing two shots into Interviewer's chest, then calmly puts gun back in jacket and remains seated. Supervisor enters right

SUPERVISOR (smiling.)

Excellent! Outstanding! When can you start?

END OF PLAY