

THE AUDITION

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INT. SOUNDSTAGE - DAY

DIRECTOR is sitting in his directors chair holding a megaphone.

DIRECTOR
No, I'm sorry, that's not even close to what we're looking for.
NEXT! Who's next?

AUDITIONER enters the stage.

AUDITIONER
I think that'd be me.

DIRECTOR
Well you do look like a ewe. A young lamb that is. How old are you?

AUDITIONER
21.

DIRECTOR
Are you sure about that?

AUDITIONER
I think I know my own age.

DIRECTOR
You're not even certain? That's comforting.

AUDITIONER
Sorry, I didn't realize, but is this a French film I'm auditioning for?

DIRECTOR
No. Why would you think that?

AUDITIONER
Oh. No reason.

DIRECTOR
Right then, for this audition you just need to read the part, naturally if you can manage it and don't look at the camera.

AUDITIONER
What camera?

DIRECTOR

That one.

DIRECTOR motions to the camera with his head. AUDITIONER looks at that camera.

AUDITIONER

Where?

DIRECTOR

I said don't look at it!

AUDITIONER

Sorry! I was just trying to find it so I wouldn't. I guess I'll just look here then.

AUDITIONER looks straight into the real camera.

DIRECTOR

Start on page 2.

AUDITIONER

Excuse me, this part is dialogue with another person, should I read their parts as well?

DIRECTOR

No, just skip over them.

AUDITIONER

All right then. "Yes, but you so often give me a hard time that I thought I'd finally return the favor. I don't think I can afford to do that. Glad I have your permission, but why would I?"

DIRECTOR

Wait a moment, this isn't the right script.

AUDITIONER

It isn't?

DIRECTOR

No, the one you're supposed to be reading from is about a boy and a balloon and a girl,

AUDITIONER

Are you sure it's not a French film?

DIRECTOR
where'd you get that one? The
writing's terrible.

AUDITIONER
It was handed to me when I came in.

DIRECTOR
Gerald! Gerald, you gave this kid
the wrong script, come get him the
right one. Gerald? Where is he?
Come to think of it, where's
anyone?

AUDITIONER
Perhaps they're getting lunch.

DIRECTOR
What time is it?

AUDITIONER looks at his watch.

AUDITIONER
Quarter past twelve.

DIRECTOR
Then I'm outta here.

DIRECTOR leaves, turning off the studio lights as he goes.
AUDITIONER stands in the dark for a few moments.

AUDITIONER
Well that ending was a bit darker
than I expected.

End Card.

THE END