

# **An Abnormal Vacancy**

by

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SCENE 1, INT, DAY, RECEPTION

In a quiet reception room sits JACOB, he is wearing a suit that is not neatly dressed and is sweating on his face. With sweat dripping down his face, he looks around to see if the receptionist is looking at him. Reaching into his pocket he pulls out a packet of proxacs and swallows a couple. Becoming more relaxed, he decides to swallow more.

JACOB  
(Stares at the packet)  
We got this.

RECEPTIONIST  
(Picking up phone)  
<MMMZHERBLITZ>

Jacob quickly turns his head to look at the receptionist alarmed and confused. He shrugs it off and takes more pills.

RECEPTIONIST  
Mr Stevens will see you now.

Jacob quickly hides the packet. He thanks the receptionist and walks to the interview room. Jacob takes a deep breath before opening the door.

SCENE 2, INT, DAY, INTERVIEW ROOM

The room is large, dark, empty and unfurnished. In middle of the room sits a woman at a table. She is busy writing on a clipboard.

JACOB  
Miss Stevens?

MISS STEVENS  
Oh hello! Nice to meet you. Please take a seat.

Jacob sits down on a chair.

MISS STEVENS  
Now we're just going to ask a series a questions that will allow us to understand your mentallity as a leader. Okay?

JACOB  
No problem. Ask me anything, I'm not worried.

MISS STEVENS  
Confidence! We like that. But just a simple question first. What would be your favourite hobby?

JACOB  
Golf. Yeah I love it. Could spend the rest of my life doing it if I could.

MISS STEVENS

Really? So...say if you mostly did that for the next 5 years with us. That wouldn't bother you?

Jacob appears slightly confused by the question but shrugs it off and continues smiling.

JACOB

Certainly. Who wouldn't want that? Give me a ticket for that train.  
(mimicks train horn)  
Choo Choo!

Mr Stevens is slightly distracted by Jacob's impression but he keeps writing. Jacob looks embarrassed but refrains his smile.

MISS STEVENS

Joking aside. You are aware that we have big plans for this planet? And we need a leader in place that can achieve our goals to our satisfaction. You do understand the job requirements?

JACOB

Of course I do. I mean yes.

MISS STEVENS

Perfect! So within the next month the Kritchen empire will have conquered this planet. Meaning we need a democratically elected leader to run the newest world to join our glorious empire. Can you be that leader?

Beat

Jacob looks at Mr Stevens and laughs but stops when he does not laugh back. Jacob looks around the room confused.

JACOB

Sorry. This is the temporary role?

MISS STEVENS

(Looks through notes)  
Yep. Five years. That's usually how democracy works.

JACOB

Sorry. Could I use the toilet for 2 minutes?

SCENE 3, INT, DAY, TOILET

Jacob is splashing his face with water. He stares into the mirror with confusement. Suddenly, realisation appears on

his face, as he pulls out the packet of proxacs. It reads on the label "EXP: 20/05/21"

JACOB

Shit!

He puts the packet back into his pocket with frustration. Jacob calms himself down and tightens up his tie.

JACOB

You got this.

In the corner of the room sits a camera.

SCENE 4, INT, DAY, INTERVIEW ROOM

Miss Stevens is on the phone.

MISS STEVENS

Of course he did. He will again in a minute.

JACOB

(walks into room)

So sorry about that. I was feeling a little light headed then.

MISS STEVENS

(puts down phone)

No worries, please have a drink. Now according to your cv, you were a local councillor in St David's is that correct?

JACOB

(pouring himself a drink)

Yes and it was an amazing five years. Being a voice for the people was an incredible and inspiring role.

MISS STEVENS

Is it true that with a population of 1,600 only 50 voted?

JACOB

(stops pouring)

Yes. But it's not about the quantity. I was still voted in.

MISS STEVENS

Oh no, dont misunderstand me it is still impressive. It just says here that the majority of people who did not vote said you were, 'corrupt' and 'powerless'.

JACOB  
(fake laughs)  
Thats not true I'm clean and I got  
alot done.

MISS STEVENS  
Says here that you used donations  
to 'go on holiday' is that true?

JACOB  
No! And I reject that accusation.

MISS STEVENS  
Your donations were from a number  
of coporations. Quite clear why you  
did not increase funding for many  
public services.

JACOB  
That doesn't prove anything. I  
improved transport for the people.

MISS STEVENS  
Says here that you re-painted a  
train station. Isn't that something  
any council member could do?

JACOB  
No I got a lot done and I'm clean.

MISS STEVENS  
Says here...

JACOB  
(stands up and raises  
voice)  
I don't care what it says there! I  
am important and I always do what  
I'm told.

Beat

Miss Stevens eeirly smiles at Jacob. Jacob sits back in his  
chair and calms himself down.

MISS STEVENS  
Please take a drink Mr Green.

JACOB  
(drinks water)  
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have gotten  
upset. But my reputation is very  
important to me.

MISS STEVENS  
That's quite clear.

Miss Stevens writes on his notepad with glee. Checking if  
Miss Stevens is looking, Jacob turns around to pull out his

proxac packet.

MISS STEVENS

I wouldn't take anymore of those if  
I were you. Your addiction to them  
is quite unfortunate. For you.

Jacob turns around to look at Miss Stevens with shock.

JACOB

I...this is not real!

MISS STEVENS

It's not an hallucination Jacob.  
Your not overdosing, you just don't  
understand what your in for.

JACOB

Is this some kind of prank? I don't  
find it funny!

MISS STEVENS

Your not supposed to. Now before  
you run off, please let me explain  
myself.

JACOB

You better! But stop pretending  
your some kind of alien.

MISS STEVENS

I won't lie to you. I know that you  
don't believe me yet but you are  
the perfect candidate for this job.

JACOB

What 'president of earth' is that  
it? What makes me 'perfect'?

MISS STEVENS

A few things. You did not read the  
job description which tells me that  
you have no idea what your doing.  
Your obsession with gaining power  
without putting any work in is  
telling. Also, your addiction to  
proxac tells me that you cannot  
handle stress.

Beat

MISS STEVENS

Wouldn't you like a stress free  
life? Make a few public appearances  
and let us handle the heavy  
lifting. Mr Green. You've got this.

Jacob begins to leave the room but stops to think. He looks  
like he is considering it but then scoffs and turns around.

JACOB

(laughing)

You know what? You almost had me going there. Even if this was real, I wouldn't accept it .

MISS STEVENS

Its not about whether you accept it or not. You've been chosen.

JACOB

Yeah okay space invader. See you later.

Jacob begins to leave the room but he chokes and falls on his knees. Miss Stevens stands up and picks up the glass of water.

MISS STEVENS

(stands over Jacob)

Humans are so predictable. You'll warm up to us once you get settled.

(pulls out phone)

Our president is ready. Roll out the red carpet.

Miss Stevens looks down at Jacob with glee. Jacob looks up at him still choking but falls asleep.