

THE INTERVIEWER

Inclusively Written by

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Inspired by a true event.

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INT. OUTSIDE ELEVATOR. DAY

An established professional man exits the elevator of a high rise law firm. His name is THOMAS HOWELL (35 years old) dressed in a black suit, white shirt and grey tie. He composes himself before entering the foyer.

INT. OFFICE FOYER . DAY

Thomas approaches a well groomed SECRETARY (23 -30 years old).

THOMAS HOWELL:

Hi, Thomas Howell, I'm here for the interview with Mr. Dexter.

SECRETARY

Sure thing, take a seat he'll be out in a minute.

He looks around the foyer and takes a seat. While he waits he nervously checks over his RESUME. As he leafs through pages of credentials, he sees another sharply dressed PROFESSIONAL MAN sitting opposite, putting earphones in his ears, it's relaxation music to help him calm his nervous energy.

VOICE RECORDING (V.O.)

Imagine a white light, that's leading you to peace and calm. It's your special place.

Thomas notices the man getting heavily into this meditation.

VOICE RECORDING (V.O.)

You can have anything you like in there. Reach out now and touch something in your special place.

Thomas sees the man reach his hand out like he's touching something. Thomas raises an eyebrow and resumes concentrating on his resume. After a moment he looks up and notices JAMES DEXTER (26 years old) sharply dressed in a blue suit with a patterned tie (yellow, red or pink) wearing Armarni glasses, walking his way. He looks down and ignores James while feeling his approach. Suddenly James is right in front of him, he tries hard to not make eye contact.

Around Jame's neck is an ID card reading "JAMES DEXTER". He smiles warmly at Thomas and extends his hand for a handshake.

JAMES:

Hi, Mr. Howell is it?

Thomas takes his hand, James shakes it vigorously.

THOMAS HOWELL:

Yes.

JAMES:

Great, I'm James. Please come with me for your interview.

Thomas appears confused. He's not sure that he should go with James. James checks a file in his hand and the alarm on his watch goes off.

JAMES: (CONT'D)

9am. You have the interview at 9 am, is it?

James shows Thomas 9:00 on his watch.

THOMAS HOWELL:

Ah yes.

He checks his file.

JAMES:

Great. Come with me for your interview.

Thomas nervously looks around the room. He glances at the secretary for reassurance. She's focused on her work. Thomas looks over at his competition across the room. The man is still listening to his IPOD with closed eyes. Thomas resolves to follow James.

INT. OUTSIDE INTERVIEW ROOM. DAY

James stands at the door of the room, he lets him go in first.

JAMES:

After you.

They enter the room and the door closes, a MAKE SHIFT SIGN reading; JAMES DEXTER is on the front of the door.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM. DAY

James walks inside with Thomas.

JAMES:

You sit here, and I sit here, as your boss.

He takes a seat and so does Thomas. They face opposite each other. There are all different types of NICK KNACKS on the desk; figurines, DVD's all things that James likes including a NAME CARD. James gets out his documents and smiles warmly at Thomas.

JAMES: (CONT'D)
Nervous?

THOMAS HOWELL:
Oh -

JAMES:
It can be scary going for a new
job. Water or coke?

THOMAS HOWELL:
Water thanks.

JAMES:
Are you sure? Coke's better.

THOMAS HOWELL:
Water's fine.

James approaches a COFFEE CART and takes a water for Thomas and a coke for himself.

JAMES:
So you like movies?

THOMAS HOWELL:
Yeah.

JAMES:
Star Wars? You like Star Wars?

THOMAS HOWELL:
Big fan of Star Wars.

JAMES:
Harry Potter?

THOMAS HOWELL:
Not as much, no.

JAMES:
What about Voldermort? I love
Voldermort.

James begins to act out VOLDERMORT from HARRY POTTER. Thomas feels a bit awkward.

JAMES: (CONT'D)
Harry Potter is dead! (As GINNY
WEASILY) No No No! (As VOLDERMORT)
Silence! Stupid girl. Harry Potter
is dead, from this day forth... you
put your faith in me -

THOMAS HOWELL:
I'm not into it.

JAMES:
Not finished yet....Harry Potter is
dead!

THOMAS HOWELL:
Like I said I'm... Just not into
it.

JAMES:
Nor is my dad, you know what I say?
Both of you are what I
call..."water men." A little
boring, but still endearing.

James takes a big sip of Coke as Thomas goes to sip his water
but thinks twice..

THOMAS HOWELL:
So's the interview in here?

JAMES:
Yes correct.

THOMAS HOWELL:
It's just that it's ten past.

JAMES:
Great we'll get straight into it.

THOMAS HOWELL:
(trying to be as polite as
possible)
Isn't there going to be someone
else joining us? Someone to
interview me?

JAMES:
Just me. I noticed you're dressed
very conservatively.

THOMAS HOWELL:
It's an interview...

James flicks his brightly colored tie.

JAMES:
Needs a bit of color.

Thomas smooths his hair and begins to get frustrated, he
checks the time on his watch again.

JAMES: (CONT'D)
I read through your resume.

Thomas gives James a strained smile.

JAMES: (CONT'D)
You're applying for a solicitor
role.

THOMAS HOWELL:
Yeah.

JAMES:
Why not senior associate?

This question catches Thomas's attention.

THOMAS HOWELL:
Sorry?

James smiles cheekily.

JAMES:
See that painting?

Thomas looks at where James is pointing; it's an abstract
style of painting, there's a couple of them hanging up.

JAMES: (CONT'D)
Like it?

THOMAS HOWELL:
It's nice.

JAMES:
That's an original Dexter. I have a
few of them hanging around the
joint.

Thomas nods, then he freezes for a moment and spots James' ID
tag around his neck and reads "DEXTER". Thomas has a moment
of utter confusion, but nonetheless, straightens up.

JAMES: (CONT'D)
So you've come from Lemont across
the road. They're a great firm.
What made you want to change?

Thomas clears his throat and sits upright.

THOMAS HOWELL:
I didn't think the direction of the
company was somewhere I'd want to
stay in the long run.

JAMES:
More detail.

THOMAS HOWELL:
I didn't feel like they were doing
much for the community, just a
money making machine.

JAMES:

We make a lot of money here too.

THOMAS HOWELL:

Your pro bono department has an amazing reputation. Particularly with start ups. At Lemont they rejected a lot of great looking not-for-profits because they only work with more established organisations.

JAMES:

I like that answer. You're the first person who's answer I've liked.

He hands Thomas his card, Thomas nods and smiles.

JAMES: (CONT'D)

You do know there's a Partner position going here?

THOMAS HOWELL:

I didn't -

JAMES:

Was only announced yesterday - you're the type to make it there, I can tell. I've seen so many over the years. You know how long I've been here?

Thomas shakes his head.

JAMES: (CONT'D)

Almost eleven years. I started when I was sixteen.

THOMAS HOWELL:

I have a lot to learn from you.

JAMES:

Including your taste in film.

Thomas laughs, when suddenly the door flies open. A distinguished gentleman looks at both Thomas and James. His name is PAUL DEXTER (between 50 and 70 years).

PAUL:

James! Again?

James smiles and nods.

PAUL: (CONT'D)

Those his files? I need them.

James reluctantly hands them to Paul, he has a quick flick through.

PAUL: (CONT'D)
(to Thomas - he extends
his hand and they shake)
Paul Dexter, sorry about this.

THOMAS HOWELL:
(light chuckle)
Not at all. James is-

PAUL:
James, you can't keep taking these
files from my desk. I have been
looking for these everywhere, this
isn't a game.

JAMES:
You'll be glad I did take them.

PAUL:
See that coffee cart? Do you see
it?

Paul points to the cart in the corner of the room. James appears downcast.

PAUL: (CONT'D)
James?

JAMES:
Yes.

PAUL:
(angry)
That's what you're supposed to be
doing, giving out coffee and making
photocopies. Not role playing with
my interviewees!

All eyes are on the coffee cart. James angrily gets up, walks over to the cart and begins preparing it. He's sorrowful with his movements it's obvious how upset he is.

PAUL: (CONT'D)
Thomas let's get this interview
underway-

Thomas nervously cuts Paul off.

THOMAS HOWELL:
Ah, James you were asking me about
why I left Lemont?

Thomas makes eye contact with Paul as he questions James.

JAMES:

I was.

James is taking out all the coffee cups, setting them up ready for his duties.

THOMAS HOWELL:

James, why did you ask me about that?

JAMES:

(saddened - continues taking out coffee cups)

Because your resume said: senior associate, and you're going for a lesser role here.

(Pause.)

It didn't make sense.

(Pause.)

I thought you might have been fired.

Paul, though impatient - observes with interest.

THOMAS HOWELL:

So, what did you think of my answer when I told you?

JAMES:

I liked it.

(said with passion and vigor).

You're willing to get paid less here, so you can help people.

You're not in it for the money, you want more than just money.

(To Paul)

He's genuine, you know, he'll be loyal to this place. (Said soulfully).

Paul becomes ashamed of his outburst he notices a SHEET OF QUESTIONS that James has prepared, he peers over them and sees fantastic questions such as:

"WHY DID YOU LEAVE LEMONT?"

"WHY BE A SOLICITOR WHEN YOU'VE BEEN A SENIOR ASSOCIATE?"

"WHAT CAN YOU BRING TO THE JOB OTHERS CAN'T?"

JAMES: (CONT'D)

(angry)

I could tell he's not trying to be a big shot!

PAUL:

James, stop it.

(CONT'D)

JAMES:

(angry)
 Why? This...
 (Points to coffee cart)
 Is ALL I'm good for - right?

Paul takes a seat beside James' seat - James takes note of this gesture.

PAUL:

I want you continue to.
 (refers to the questions)
 Ask Mr Howell the rest of your
 questions. Show me how it's done.

JAMES:

(Long pause, he's figuring
 his dad out)
 You mean that? (Spoken gently with
 keen interest.)

PAUL

Hmmm.

* Note for Gerard; look at Thomas, then back at Paul, then count 4 bananas before taking a seat besides Paul.

James can't believe the change of heart. He looks at Thomas who is by the doorway and gives him a thankful nod, he proudly looks at his father, then slowly takes a seat.

He adjusts his notes and SMILES at Thomas

JAMES:

(to Thomas - spoken gently
 with gratitude towards
 Thomas)
 The next question I had was; where
 do you see yourself in ten years...

Thomas smiles at Paul, who humbly smiles back at Thomas, behind his gruff exterior emotion bubbles up. Thomas takes a breath and begins answering the question.

THOMAS HOWELL:

Well, I believe in commitment...
 I'd want to see myself still here
 managing cases in the pro bono
 department, that's my goal.

James beams and arranges his notes.

INT. OFFICE FOYER . ANOTHER DAY

A professional man in a smart suit is waiting in the foyer, he's looking through his resume, his name is MR JOEL WHITE. Suddenly James appears in front of him.

JAMES:
Mr Joel White?

Joel looks up for a moment he's startled by James and not sure what to make of him. James wears a YELLOW TIE.

JOEL WHITE
That's me.

James extends his hand for a shake.

JAMES:
James Dexter. Would you please come with me for your interview.

Joel, looks around the office to find reassurance. No one blinks an eye. Although he's unsure, he gathers his things and follows James.

INT. OUTSIDE INTERVIEW ROOM. DAY

James leads Joel inside an interview room and begins introducing him to who is there.

JAMES:
Mr White, this is Thomas Howell one of our partners who'll be interviewing with me today.

Joel moves inside the room, James stays at the door. Thomas greets Joel with a wide smile, he wears a BRIGHT RED TIE.

THOMAS HOWELL:
Pleased to meet you.

JOEL
Likewise.

THOMAS HOWELL:
Take a seat. Can I get you a water or coke-

JOEL:
Water thanks.

JAMES:
Joel, You know how long I've been here?

JOEL:

How long?

JAMES:

Coming up to fifteen years,
needless to say, I know a thing or
two.

James closes the door.

END.