

WAITING

Written by

Jack Cuthbert

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION. DAY

A young man in a suit named Tim is sitting in a chair waiting for an interview.

He sits and waits nervously, fiddling with the arm of his chair.

He picks up a magazine and starts to read it as someone comes through the door. Tim quickly stands up.

The woman smiles at him and walks out of the room again.

Tim sits back down, checks his watch and lets out a big sigh.

An older man named Greg walks through the door. He walks up to the receptionist and signs in.

Greg walks over and sits opposite Tim.

GREG

Do you mind if I read that?

Greg points at the magazine

TIM

Yeah sure. Take it.

GREG

I'm Greg by the way.

They shake hands.

TIM

Tim. Nice to meet you.

GREG

Yeah you too man.

They sit for a few moments in silence.

GREG (CONT'D)

Have you read this bit? Its about a man who cheated on his wife with her sister.

Tim sort of smiles and avoids entering conversation.

Greg throws the magazine down on the table. He starts playing the drums on his knees and making clicking sounds.

GREG (CONT'D)

I hate waiting like this, sitting in silence with a complete stranger.

Tim sighs heavily.

TIM  
Yeah me too.

Greg looks slightly hurt by the comment.

TIM (CONT'D)  
I didn't mean it like that.

GREG  
No its fine. Don't worry. So are you confident about your chances then?

TIM  
Yeah I'm pretty confident. I'm not trying to be cocky but I reckon I could easily do this job.

GREG  
Oh yeah? You got much experience?

TIM  
Well I basically did the exact same job for the last 5 years at another company.

Tim looks smug.

GREG  
Well you should be confident then.

TIM  
What about you then? Do you have much experience?

GREG  
Yeah well a little less than you unfortunately but I used to manage my own company a few years ago.

TIM  
What happened there then?

GREG  
Sold the business in the end.

TIM  
Well that's good. How did you do out of the deal if you don't mind me asking?

GREG  
Well I made a small profit. Just wanted to break even so anything else was a bonus.

TIM  
Sure.

Tim checks his watch again.

GREG

Are you a football man? Or rugby?

TIM

Football, well sort of. Not much of a sports guy at all really.

GREG

Well judging by all these pictures here I'm sure someone here enjoys football.

TIM

Well I'll be saying I'm a huge football fan when I get in there. You know how it is, makes it a bit easier if you tell a little lie.

GREG

Yeah, no. That makes sense. So what are you into then?

Tim checks his watch again.

TIM

Hold on one sec.

Tim gets up and walks over to the receptionist.

GREG

No worries.

TIM

Errm just wondering how much longer it's going to be?

RECEPTIONIST

It shouldn't be too much longer now. If you would just like to take a seat please sir.

TIM

Yeah that's fine but my interview was supposed to be 20 minutes ago.

RECEPTIONIST

It wont be much longer now sir.

Tim turns around and bites his lip and walks back to his seat.

GREG

I hate it when they keep you waiting like this.

(MORE)

GREG (CONT'D)

I bet it's all part of their plan to get you all nervous so they can see just what kind of person you are.

TIM

Yeah I bet.

GREG

So anyway you never answered my question.

TIM

What was that?

GREG

You know what are you into, if not football.

TIM

Oh err well I read quite a lot.

GREG

Yeah? What kind of stuff?

TIM

Well anything really. Books magazines, newspapers. Articles and that kind of stuff.

Greg nods in appreciation.

Greg picks up the magazine again and starts flicking through the pages.

GREG

Here you go. Check this girl out.

Greg turns the magazine around to reveal a woman with large breasts.

TIM

Nice.

Tim doesn't look that impressed.

GREG

Oh let me guess your not a fan of fake breasts then? No don't tell me...

Greg clicks his fingers and points at Tim.

GREG (CONT'D)

You prefer the natural look right?

Tim looks slightly embarrassed.

TIM

Yeah I suppose.

GREG

I enjoy fake breasts. There's just something magical about the way they sit there. You know all upright and touchable.

Greg makes like he is squeezing a pair of breasts.

GREG (CONT'D)

You just don't get that with real ones. They sag and droop and they're uneven. Well unless its a girl in her early 20's but we're too old for girls of that age now aren't we?

Tim smiles nervously out of politeness.

GREG (CONT'D)

Well maybe your not actually. How old are you? 24, 25?

TIM

25.

GREG

I bet your girlfriend is younger right?

Time doesn't answer.

GREG (CONT'D)

Come on she's younger right. Like 22?

Tim looks away.

GREG (CONT'D)

Oh you dirty bugger she's younger! 21.

Greg clicks his fingers again.

GREG (CONT'D)

Yeah I bet shes 21. I'm guessing student right?

Tim checks his watch again.

GREG (CONT'D)

Am I right?

TIM

Look no offence but can we not talk about my girlfriend? Please?

GREG

Hey, sure that's cool. I'm sorry man. I just... I must be nervous. I get chatty when I'm nervous.

TIM

Its fine. Don't worry.

Tim gets up walks over to the water cooler in the corner of the room and pours himself a cup.

He walks back over to his chair and sits down.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION. DAY

10 minutes later.

Tim is talking to the receptionist again.

TIM

You said it wouldn't be long ten minutes ago.

RECEPTIONIST

Please take your seat and he will be with you shortly.

TIM

Ok. I'll just wait then.

Tim walks back to his chair muttering something to himself.

GREG

They're taking the piss now. My interview was supposed to be for 2.

TIM

What? 2?

GREG

Yeah why?

Tim lays his head back on the chair.

TIM

Oh great! Your interview is before mine!

GREG

Oh really? I just thought yours was first as you were here before me.

Tim puts his head in his hands and yawns.

Greg starts to whistle. Tim looks up at him through his hands and give him an evil look.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Sorry. The nerves again.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Oh look come on we should make the best of this. We're stuck here for god knows how long.

TIM  
What do you mean?

GREG  
Well we have an opportunity to get to know each other here right?

TIM  
And?

GREG  
Well I don't know. Maybe for a laugh we should interview each other. You know as practise or something.

TIM  
Why would I help you practise. We're going for the same job.

GREG  
Good point.

TIM  
Anyway I don't need nay practise. I came prepared for this interview.

GREG  
Well maybe you could use some practise in manners.

TIM  
What do you mean?

GREG  
Well you are being a little rude.

TIM  
I'm not being rude. You were the one asking inappropriate questions about my girlfriend.

Tim starts to grow angry now.

GREG  
I apologized for that. I told you it's just the nerves.

GREG (CONT'D)  
So do you want to practise?



TIM  
No I don't want to fucking  
practise! I just said didn't I!

Tim starts to pull at his hair a little.

TIM (CONT'D)  
Jesus!

GREG  
Look calm down I was only trying to  
help.

TIM  
Yeah? Well I don't need any fucking  
help. I'm fine.

Tim suddenly realizes the receptionist is watching him and  
tries to calm down.

TIM (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)  
Look I'm sorry I just don't need  
any help. I'm fine but thanks for  
the offer.

GREG  
You look like your sweating mate.  
Do you want some more water.

Greg gets up to get some water.

TIM  
Sit down its fine. Please. Don't  
worry about me ill be fine.

Tim sits in silence for a moment trying to calm down. He rubs  
his head with the tips of his fingers and is calm again.

Greg stands up, does up his coat and clears his throat.

GREG  
Well I think that's everything.

Tim looks up in confusion.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Thanks for your time Mr Evans.  
We'll be in touch.

Greg holds out his hand for Tim to shake.

Tim looks completely confused. Then suddenly the penny drops  
and his face turns to dread.

END