

The Revolutionary and the Temp

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Setting: A corporate office.

Characters: CHRIS, a revolutionary leader, wearing a business suit and a beret or some such combination of business and revolutionary attire; WHITNEY, a temp, dressed for business.

WHITNEY

So what do you want me to do? It really doesn't matter to me. I'm real good with computers. I can write, edit, do HTML, PHP. I'm awesome with PHP. You can do anything with PHP. I know MySQL, if you need any database stuff

CHRIS

Silence!

WHITNEY

I beg your pardon?

CHRIS

The People's Revolutionary Front has no use for idle prattle!

WHITNEY

Hey, you're not paying me enough to...

CHRIS

You will not be paid! Serving the revolution is its own reward! Are you trying to reproduce bourgeois labor relations right here in our mountain stronghold?

WHITNEY

Mountain stronghold? Well, I mean, we're on the 34th floor, I don't know if that's, I mean, whatever, erm, could we go back to that part about not getting paid?

CHRIS

What are you doing here? Who sent you?

WHITNEY

Labor-Pro Temp Agency.

CHRIS
You're not CIA?

WHITNEY
No.

CHRIS
NSA?

WHITNEY
No.

CHRIS
FBI?

WHITNEY
No.

CHRIS
Do you swear?

WHITNEY
Yes.

CHRIS
I'll be able to tell if you're lying. I can always tell.
Now I will ask you again. Are you CIA?

WHITNEY
Yes.

CHRIS
I knew it!

WHITNEY
Ha! I was lying! Of course I'm not CIA. I'm a
temp!

CHRIS
I knew that, I knew that. I could tell that, I could
easily tell. I was kidding. It was a joke.

WHITNEY
OK. So what do you want me to do?

CHRIS
I want you to be in charge of revolutionary
discipline. The movement is growing and I can no

longer do everything myself. I've got battle plans to form, platoons to organize, anger to foment. I'd like you to focus on shooting deserters.

WHITNEY

Ooh, I don't know. You mean really shoot real deserters?

CHRIS

Of course.

WHITNEY

Isn't there any typing I could do?

CHRIS

You must understand the only punishment for betraying the revolution is death.

WHITNEY

Is there a warning system at all? Written reprimand? Employee file? Three strikes you're out?

CHRIS

No no. You're out right away, on strike one. Boom. Death.

WHITNEY

Harsh.

CHRIS

It's the revolutionary code.

WHITNEY

Sounds a little unfair.

CHRIS

Silence! It's fair. It is beyond fair. It's the fairest system there is.

WHITNEY

The fairest of them all?

CHRIS

Beg your pardon?

WHITNEY

You know, mirror mirror on the wall?

CHRIS

You lost me.

WHITNEY

Never mind.

CHRIS

Whatever.

WHITNEY

So anyway, you have these deserters and you want me to, uhhh...

CHRIS

Shoot them.

WHITNEY

Wow.

CHRIS

Yes.

WHITNEY

I've actually never, erm, never done that.

CHRIS

We do train.

WHITNEY

Good. Thank you. But it's not really my...I mean, don't you guys have a website or anything? I could build you one. Interactive site? Connect with your membership? Track your user base?

CHRIS

No, I really just need a shooter.

WHITNEY

Get your message out? Snappy domain name? I think, you know, a revolution these days is going to need a web presence.

CHRIS

We're not about that dot com shit. Are you going to shoot him or not?

WHITNEY

Shoot whom?

CHRIS

Him. Over there. In the corner.

WHITNEY

What, under that blanket?

CHRIS

Yes, he's tied up there. We brought him back this morning.

WHITNEY

I don't know...

CHRIS

God, these temp agencies are useless...

WHITNEY

Look, I may be a mercenary, but, I mean, I have my limits. I am not going to just shoot somebody, without pay, without even knowing why.

CHRIS

For betraying the revolution!

WHITNEY

What revolution?!

CHRIS

The people's revolution to overthrow this war-mongering corporate oligarchy!

WHITNEY

You mean like bust through all this consumer-culture crap?

CHRIS

Yes! And liberate the true potential of the human spirit!

WHITNEY

End the tyranny of fear?

CHRIS

Yes! Exactly! Recognize our common interests and give full expression to the power of love in human affairs!

WHITNEY

What about using peaceful democratic processes?

CHRIS

Did you not just see this election?

WHITNEY

Good point. Still...

CHRIS

What is it?

WHITNEY

I just think, you know, a database-driven website, with a registered member base and customized news feeds, I mean, you're not using all available tools here...

Chris pauses before answering.

CHRIS

Could we have an e-newsletter?

WHITNEY

Easy.

CHRIS

Real-time news about government atrocities in an attractive animated display?

WHITNEY

A little javascript and XML dude. Not a problem.

CHRIS

And you'll shoot the deserters?

WHITNEY

Reactionary dogs.

CHRIS

Well, good, good. So. Well. Here's the gun, there's the deserter.

WHITNEY

So there's just this pay issue.

CHRIS

No pay! It is an honor to serve the revolution!

There are plenty of beans, there is rice, we have many tents, quite a few cubicles...

WHITNEY

Yeah but, the agency, there are rules you know.

CHRIS

Seven dollars an hour.

WHITNEY

Eleven fifty.

CHRIS

Silence!

WHITNEY

Eleven fifty, it's not negotiable, that's the agency's rate.

CHRIS

Fine, eleven fifty, but you disgust me.

WHITNEY

All righty then. Here goes nothing! *[She picks up the gun and aims at the deserter.]* 1...2...3...

-- LIGHTS OUT --