

The Pursuit Of Happiness: Job Interview



How are you?

What were you doing before you were arrested?

And you want to learn this business?

How many times have you seen Chris?

Has he ever dressed like this?

First in your class, school? High school?

How many in the class?

What would you say if a guy walked in for an interview without a shirt on and I hired him?

You'll let me know Jay? What do you mean?

Do you know what I'll look like to the partners?

The Pursuit of Happiness – The Interview - Transcript

Chris Gardner is a San Francisco salesman who's struggling to make ends meet. When his girlfriend walks out Chris is left to raise their five-year old son on his own. Chris's determination to succeed leads him to land an interview for an internship program with Dean Witter, a stock brokerage firm. The day before the interview Chris takes a break from decorating his apartment to go to the police station to pay some parking fines. However, the police insist on keeping him in jail until his check can be cleared the next day at 9h30. The interview is at 10h15.

Scene begins: 39.23

Assistant: Mr Gardner. This way. It'll be right over there.

Broker: What is the one like that one?

Assistant: Chris Gardner.

Chris: Chris Gardner. How are you? Good morning. Chris Garner. Chris Gardner. Good to see you again. Chris Gardner, pleasure. I've been sitting out there for the last half-hour trying to come up with a story that would explain my being here dressed like this. And I wanted to come up with a story that would demonstrate qualities that I'm sure you all admire here, like earnestness or diligence or team-playing, something. And I couldn't think of anything. So the truth is I was arrested for failure to pay parking tickets.

Interviewer 1: Parking tickets?

Chris: And I ran all the way here from the Polk Station, the police station.

Interviewer 2: What were you doing before you were arrested?

Chris: I was painting my apartment.

Interviewer 2: Is it dry now?

Chris: I hope so.

Interviewer 2: Jay says you're pretty determined.

Interviewer 1: He's been waiting outside the front of the building with some 40-pound gizmo for over a month.

Interviewer 2: He said you're smart.

Chris: Well, I like to think so.

Interviewer 2: And you want to learn this business?

Chris: Yes, sir, I wanna learn this business.

Interviewer 2: Have you already started learning on your own?

Chris: Absolutely.

Interviewer 2: Jay?

Interviewer 1: Yes, sir.

Interviewer 2: How many times have you seen Chris?

Interviewer 1: Oh, I don't know. One too many, apparently.

Interviewer 2: Was he ever dressed like this?

Interviewer 1: No, no. Jacket and tie.

Interviewer 2: First in your class in school? High school?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Interviewer 2: How many in the class?

Chris: Twelve. It was a small town.

Interviewer 2: I'll say.

Chris: But I was also first in my radar class in the Navy, and that was a class of twenty. Can I say something? I'm the type of person, if you ask me a question, and I don't know the answer, I'm gonna tell you that I don't know. But I bet you what. I know how to find the answer, and I will find the answer. Is that fair enough?

Interviewer 2: Chris. What would you say if a guy walked in for an interview without a shirt on and I hired him? What would you say?

Chris: He must've had on some really nice pants.

Jay: Chris, I don't know how you did it dressed as a garbage man but you really pulled it off in there.

Chris: Thank you very much Mr Twistle.

Jay: Hey, now you can call me Jay. We'll talk to you soon.

Chris: All right, so I'll let you know, Jay.

Jay: "You'll let me know, Jay". What do you mean?

Chris: Yeah, I'll give you a call tomorrow sometime.

Jay: What are you talking about? You hounded me for this. You stood here.

Chris: Listen, there's no salary.

Jay: No.

Chris: I was not aware of that. My circumstances have changed some and I need to be certain that I'll be...

Jay: OK. Tonight. I swear I will fill your spot. I promise. You know what I'll look like, if you back out, you know what I'll look like to the partners?

Chris: Yes, an ass – A-hole.

Jay: Yes, an ass A-hole, all the way. You are a piece of work. Tonight.

Chris (Voiceover): There was no salary. Not even a reasonable promise of a job. One intern was hired at the end of the programme from a pool of twenty, and if you weren't that guy, you couldn't even apply the six months' training to another brokerage. The only resource I would have for six months would be my six scanners, which I could still try to sell. If I sold them all, maybe we might get by.

Scene ends: 45.37

