

# The Interview

A 10 minute play

by

**TWO JOBS ONE GIRL...**

**ONLY ONE MAN CAN WIN**

## **CAST**

**NAT** Wanting to change job.

**BOB** Senior Recruiter.

**STEVE** Junior Recruiter.

## **SETTING**

Name of Phillip Banks Recruitment firm on wall.

3 chairs around table, facing audience.

Computer, phone and Chocolates on table.

## **PROPS**

Box of chocolates in draw.

Soft Drinks can to open.

Two Wads of Cash.

Two Tickets to Hunter Valley.

Desktop phone

3 Mobiles

Bag with suspenders

Large drawing pin

Book on table

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OPENING SCENE IN OFFICE OF PHILLIP BANKS RECRUITMENT FIRM

BOB SEATED MIDDLE SEAT. STEVE LEFT.

STEVE           What are you doing Bob?

BOB             Sticking this drawing pin into Ms. Anson's name on this email.

STEVE           When's she due?

BOB             Half an hour. Then its dicks on the table and down with the chopper.

STEVE           Do you really think she'll fire us if we don't recruit anyone?

                  [BOB RISES AND WALKS TO SIDE STAGE]

BOB             [*American Accent*] 'Anyone who doesn't recruit, by the time I get there, is out.' That's what she said.

STEVE           Women! She's only been CEO for a week.

BOB             Imagine coming up with such an idea?

STEVE           Heartless bitch. What's she look like?

BOB             Don't know. Never seen her.

STEVE           Let them out the kitchen and see what happens..

                  [STEVE PICKS UP DRAWING PIN PUTS ON MIDDLE CHAIR]

BOB             You've gotta watch your back with women Steve. They're complicitous, coniving, traitors.

STEVE           Just as well we can trust each other.

                  [BOB AND STEVE Hi-5]

                  You'll be alright, you've got someone coming in haven't you?

BOB             Yes. Secretary. My only hope. Never mind Steve, I'll help you find work.

STEVE           No. I've got someone coming in too. Booked them last night.

BOB             Really?

STEVE           Hey Bob. You seen this nurse outfit I've bought. Look suspenders.

                  [STRETCHES SUSPENDERS FROM BAG]

BOB             You'll look lovely in it.

STEVE           Its not for me. Didn't I tell you I'm taking the girlfriend away this weekend.

BOB             Only about 600 times. Do you think she'll wear them?

STEVE           Are you kidding.. she'll do anything I tell her [STEVE CLICKS HIS MOUTH]

BOB             What women say and do are two different things.

STEVE           What about yourself? Any plans.

BOB             Ah. Visiting my mothers for dinner.

STEVE           Ooo.. that sounds like fun.

STEVE           Cash your bonus?

                  [BOB TAPS POCKET]

BOB             Oh yeah. They're not getting their hands on this.

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STEVE           How much?

BOB            For hitting target: one thousand dollars.  
                  [LAYS \$1000 ON TABLE]

STEVE           A grand for target. Plus \$800 for 3 new clients.  
                  [STEVE LAYS \$1800 ON TABLE]

BOB            \$800 for 3 new clients, plus \$700 for Salesman of the Month.  
                  [BOB LAYS \$1500 ON TABLE]

STEVE           Two tickets, all expenses paid to the Hunter Valley:  
                  [STEVE WAVES TWO TICKETS INFRONT OF BOB.]  
                  Super Salesman of the Month.  
                  [STEVE'S MOIBLE RINGS. BOTH PICK UP THEIR MONEY]  
                  Never mind Bob. Maybe you'll win next month. I've got 2 weeks holiday.  
                  [STEVE ANSWERS PHONE AND EXITS LEFT]

BOB            Whatever.

STEVE           Hello.  
                  [NAT ENTERS STAGE RIGHT WITH PHONE TO EAR. CLOSSES CALL. KNOCKS  
                  ON DOOR]

BOB            Come in.  
                  [ENTER NAT]

BOB            Ah. Nat. Glad you could make it.

NAT            Hi Bob. Good to see you again.

BOB            Not working out then?

NAT            The jobs ok. But the boss..

BOB            Don't worry about it. As I told you last week. I know a really good firm.. Can I get you  
                  a drink: Tea? Coffee?

NAT            Coffee would be fine... As long as you have soy milk.

BOB            Ooow...not sure we have Soy.

NAT            In that case, just black tea... Russian Caravan or pure Assam or anything organic....  
                  I'm not fussy.

BOB            Do you like Bushells?

NAT            Maybe I'll just have water.  
                  [BOB MOVES TOWARDS EXIT LEFT]

BOB            That we've got.

NAT            Non-sparkling.

BOB            Well I can't guarantee it won't bubble out of the tap.

NAT            I don't drink tap water.

BOB            Right. I'll see what I can do. Don't go away.  
                  [ENTER STEVE LEFT LOOKS AROUND]

STEVE           Hi. Nat.

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NAT Hi. Steve. Not too early am I?

STEVE No. Take a seat.  
[NAT SITS FACING AUDIENCE]  
So. You want to change companies?

NAT Yes. You mentioned Lancom on the phone.

STEVE Yes. I'll need to test your typing speed, Is that ok?

NAT I'm a bit nervous.

STEVE [OPENS BOOK ON TABLE. STEVE ZEROS HIS WATCH]  
Don't worry. Just type as fast as you can for 2 minutes. OK?... Go!  
[NAT BEGINS TYPING.]  
[BOB ENTERS WITH SOFT DRINK CAN]

BOB My you're keen. Typing already. I shall have to tell them you're a self starter.  
[PULLS RINGPULL ON CAN AND PLACES BEOFRE NAT.] There you go.

NAT I don't drink from cans.

BOB Don't you? I've got some Eucalyptus leaves you could chew on.

STEVE This is Nat.

BOB I know. I recruited her last year. She's come for an interview.

STEVE Yes. A PA role for Lancom.

BOB No. She's come for my Secretary job.

NAT Oh. That's it! I was so confused, with both of you calling me.

BOB Oh yes.

NAT So there are two jobs on offer?

BOB It appears that way. Don't it Steve?Phone her last night did you? Saw her name on the appointment schedule did you?

STEVE No, no. Its just a coincidence.

BOB What a blinder.

STEVE The PA role pays \$48,000.

BOB Alright. Break the ice why don't you. So does the Secretary job.

STEVE The PA gets a \$4,000 salary increase, when promoted from Junior to Senior PA.

BOB Which may never happen. So you could be the junior PA - beneath everyone. Or Secretary to the Managing Director.

STEVE If you take the PA role, they'll offer you a weekend away for two, as a welcome gift.

NAT Where to?

BOB Let me guess... the Hunter Valley.

NAT Oh that sounds good.

STEVE Yes. In a 5 star hotel.  
[STEVE PLACES TWO TICKETS ON TABLE]

NAT I wouldn't stay anywhere less.

BOB Sounds good, doesn't it Steve? Bet you'd like to go to the Hunter Valley and stay

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in a 5 star hotel? Especially with that new girlfriend of yours.

NAT You have a new girlfriend Steve?

STEVE No, no. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

BOB He's always got a new girlfriend. He's a right playboy.

NAT Oh is he?

STEVE Don't listen to him. He's talking rubbish.

NAT I wonder what your old girlfriend would do if she found out you had a new girlfriend?

BOB I wasn't going to mention this, but whoever becomes Secretary – will have to endure some overseas travel. With the MD.

NAT Travel? Where to?

BOB Oh, Paris, Toyko, Los Angeles.

STEVE Parramatta.

NAT Wow. Sounds interesting.

BOB And! If she performs well, she'll be promoted to Office Manager.

NAT Performs well?

STEVE Is that the MD who was having an affair with his secretary?

BOB No.

STEVE Sexual harrassment claim wasn't it?

NAT I'm not that sort of secretary.

BOB No, no, no, its not like that.

NAT Can't a woman get a job without her sexuality being involved?

[STEVE AND BOB LOOK AT EACH OTHER]

BOB Then your looking at cleaning jobs,

STEVE Libraries.

BOB Childcare.

STEVE Low pay.

BOB That kind of thing...

STEVE Careerwise, PA would be the better move. I mean secretary. Thats the lowest of the low.

[NAT STANDS UP]

NAT I'm a secretary!

STEVE What I meant...

[STEVE PLACES HAND ON NAT'S SHOULDER TO MAKE HER SIT]

BOB Yes, what did you mean Steve?

NAT I'm not the lowest of the low.

BOB Of course you're not Nat. You're special.

[BOB OFFERS HIS HANDKERCHIEF]

NAT Why is it that men always think what they do is so much more important.

[NAT BLOWS HEAVILY INTO HANDKERCHIEF THEN RETURNS IT TO BOB.]

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NAT I've a good mind to leave right now!  
[NAT STANDS UP]

STEVE Don't!  
[BOB PLACES HAND ON HER SHOULDER TO MAKE HER SIT]

BOB No please don't go.

NAT Its the sort of ignorant comment that really makes me mad.  
[SHE SNIFFLES. BOB SLOWLY KNEADS HER SHOULDERS]

BOB Now look what you've done.

STEVE I didn't mean it that way OK.

NAT Some people can be so nasty. To secretaries.

BOB He's nasty.

NAT That's why. Maybe I shouldn't be a secretary anymore.  
[BOB RELEASES NAT]

STEVE Wise decision. You don't want to be a secretary forever.

NAT No..... I'd like to be married.

BOB And who wouldn't be proud to have you as their wife. Hey Steve?

STEVE Erm.. I guess.  
[NAT GLARES AT STEVE]

STEVE Before you decide, let me tell you about the bonus.

NAT What bonus?

STEVE The PA role comes with a bonus of \$500 dollars. Cash: upfront.  
[STEVE PLACES \$500 CASH ON TABLE]

BOB Actually, Nat, as you are such an exceptional candidate. There is a discretionary bonus of \$1000. If you take the Secretary job.  
[BOB PLACES \$1000 CASH ON TOP OF TICKETS ON TABLE.]

STEVE Because the candidate is exceptional. LANCOM are prepared to offer \$1800.  
[STEVE PRODUCES MORE CASH]  
[BOB MOVES UP CLOSE TO NAT]

BOB Nat. Life's not all about money you know.

NAT What else would I work for?  
[BOB OFFERS NAT A CHOCOLATE FROM TABLE]

BOB Can I tempt you with a chocolate?

NAT I don't eat chocolate. So if I take the PA job I get \$1800 cash?

STEVE Yes. In that case...

BOB Two thousand five hundred dollars! If[!] you take the Secretary job.  
[BOB SLAPS ENTIRE MONEY ON TOP OF TICKETS.]

NAT I'll take it.

BOB Good.  
[NAT COLLECTS CASH AND TICKETS STEVE PICKS UP HIS MONEY]

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NAT Thank you Bob. You know one day, someone should take you to the Hunter Valley.

BOB I'll need to get some paperwork.  
[EXIT BOB LEFT.]

STEVE Well that went well. He doesn't suspect a thing. Here something for later.  
[STEVE GIVES NAT THE NURSE OUTFIT]  
And we've got another \$2500 for the Hunter Valley.

NAT New girlfriend? Playboy are you?.

STEVE What! That's Bob talking rubbish.

NAT I don't trust you Stephen Hopewell.  
[STEVE HOLDS NAT]

STEVE Wait til I get you in that 5 star bedroom.

NAT You're getting nothing.  
[NAT PUSHES STEVE AWAY]

STEVE What?

NAT And this is all mine.  
[WAVING MONEY \$2500 IN AIR]

STEVE It was my plan.

NAT Here he comes.  
[BOB ENTERS]

BOB Sign here please.  
[NAT SIGNS]

NAT Well I'll be going. Thank you Bob.  
[NAT GIVES BOB A KISS ON CHEEK]

BOB Oo! Thank you.

NAT Bye Steve. [*Tersely*]

STEVE Nat. [*Vehemently*]

BOB Bye Nat.  
[NAT EXITS.]

BOB Don't take it too hard Steve.

STEVE That's alright. The best man won.

BOB Only way to see it.

STEVE Probably the wisest \$2500 you ever spent.

BOB Show me a man who thinks he can win a girl without money, and I'll show you a loser.  
[PHONE RINGS. BOB PICKS UP. NAT SEEN TO SIDE OF STAGE ON MOBILE]

BOB Bob Hachett, Phillip Banks.

NAT [*American accent*] Its Ms. Anson here.

BOB Ah! Ms. Anson, we're expecting you.

NAT [*American accent*] Change of plan. I won't be coming today.

BOB Oh. I've succeeded in recruiting someone. But I'm afraid Steve hasn't.

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NAT *[American accent]* You can keep Steve on anyway. We'll overlook today.

BOB Very generous of you.

NAT *[American accent]* Goodbye Bob.  
[PHONE GOES DEAD. BOB REPLACES PHONE]

STEVE Well, what did she say?

BOB She's not coming. And you're a jammy bastard. Despite your failure, she said you can keep your job.

STEVE Oh really. Well god bless Ms. Anson. Lady Luck has really shinned on me today.  
[STEVE'S MOBILE GOES..]

STEVE Steve Hopewell.

NAT I've decided to take my sister to the Hunter Valley instead of you.

STEVE What?

NAT Playboy!

STEVE But..  
[NAT ENDS CALL. THEN TAKES TWO TICKETS FROM HER POCKET]

BOB Something wrong?

STEVE Arh..

BOB Quit worrying. You've still got a job.

STEVE Yeah...  
[STEVE WANDERS DISTRACTED]

BOB And its Friday afternoon. You'll be away on your dirty weekend. With that kinky girlfriend of yours.  
[COMPANY PHONE GOES]

BOB Bob Hachett, Phillip Banks. ...  
[NAT STAND STAGE RIGHT. ON PHONE TO BOB. WAVES TWO TICKETS]

NAT I've got the tickets.  
[WAVES TICKETS]

BOB Good. I'll join you after work.

NAT Then we'll head straight for the Hunter Valley.

BOB Sounds great....see you later.

NAT I'll be bringing the nurses outfit for you.

BOB Oh. That sounds lovely.

NAT Bye lover. You naughty boy.  
[NAT EXITS STAGE RIGHT. BOB REPLACES HANDSET]

BOB My Mother.

STEVE You'll be eating over at hers will you.

BOB Yes. I think she'll put on a good spread. But nothing like you're weekend. With that nymphomaniac. Hey? Imagine the things you'll be getting up to.

STEVE Yes. It'll be great...

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BOB           Well. 5 oclock. End of another week. Bit stressful. But entirely out of our hands.

STEVE        Yeah. That's life. Out of our control.

BOB           That's the word Steve. Control. Remember what Wellington said of Napoleon. Never underestimate your enemy. Goodnight Steve. Lady Luck has certainly shinned on you today. Hasn't she?

STEVE        Yeah.

BOB           [CLICKING OF MOUTH] What I wouldn't give to be in your shoes.

STEVE        See you Bob.

               [EXIT BOB]

STEVE        [STEVE SLUMPS IN CHAIR]

               [LIGHT GO OUT]

STEVE        Arrrgggg....

THE END...