

Highston Audition Scenes

Scene 2

INT. COLLECTION AGENCY - DAY

Neil looks around suspiciously at the threadbare offices and MS. PARKER, 35, sizing Highston up from across a metal desk.

MS. PARKER

Mr. Liggetts, tell me, why do you want to be a debt collector?

Highston thinks.

NEIL YOUNG

This place gives me the creeps. Reminds me of Dennis Hopper's pad in the 70s.

HIGHSTON

Uh, well, ever since I was a kid I always dreamed of working in collections.

NEIL YOUNG

Great answer, man. You nailed it.

HIGHSTON

My friends and I would play telephone collection agents on the playground. It was a lot of fun.

NEIL YOUNG

What a wonderful childhood that must have been.

MS. PARKER

Well, I'll tell you what.

She hands Highston a folder and turns the phone towards him.

MS. PARKER (CONT'D)

I want to see how you work. This man owes \$5000 on a truck. Call him and demand the money.

Highston cautiously opens the file and stares at the paperwork.

NEIL YOUNG

Highston, maybe we should keep looking. This doesn't feel right.

Highston picks up the phone and pauses.

NEIL YOUNG (CONT'D)

I thought I was here to give you advice.

HIGHSTON

And I appreciate that. But my parents are right. It's time

for me to grow up and do something.

MS. PARKER
Are you okay?

Highston nods, dials the number. Neil leans toward Ms. Parker.

NEIL YOUNG
She smells like camels. Not the cigarettes.

HIGHSTON (into phone)
Yes, Mr. Sanders? This is Highston Liggetts -

NEIL YOUNG / MS. PARKER
Don't tell them your real No! Use an alias! name --

HIGHSTON (CONT'D)
This is Neil Young --

NEIL YOUNG / MS. PARKER
Don't use my name! Neil Young?!

HIGHSTON (CONT'D)
This is... just a guy from Kent Collections and I'm calling to ask that you pay the \$5000 you owe for the truck please.

NEIL YOUNG
This isn't you, man.

HIGHSTON
I see. How long have you been out of work? Wow, that's a long time. Okay then, just pay it when you can.

NEIL YOUNG
Great job! Let's go home then!

MS. PARKER
Never say that! Tell him he has to pay or else!

HIGHSTON
I'm sorry, can you hold please?

He covers the phone and looks at Ms. Parker.

HIGHSTON (CONT'D)
What was that?

NEIL YOUNG
She said to run away.

MS. PARKER
Tell him to pay! No excuses!

Highston nods and talks into the phone.

HIGHSTON
Yes, I'm sorry, but can you pay us anyway? Uh huh. How long
has your wife been sick?

MS. PARKER
Don't fall for that!

HIGHSTON
What does she have? Oh, that's too bad. Is there blood? Oh
wow. I don't like blood. That has got to be hard on both of
you.

NEIL YOUNG
Good job, you've got him right where you want him.

MS. PARKER
What are you doing!?

HIGHSTON
I know, my mom was sick for a long time and all I could
think of is how sad I would be if I lost her.

MS. PARKER
Are you kidding me?

NEIL YOUNG
Shut up lady, I want to hear this.

HIGHSTON
Uh huh. The other thing is you've got to make time for
yourself, too. You can't give all day. Get out and see a
movie or meet some friends for pool or something...

MS. PARKER
Why don't you tell him to take a drive in his truck?

HIGHSTON
Oh yeah, or just take a drive in your truck.

Ms. Parker rolls her eyes.

NEIL YOUNG
Or buy an album or go to a concert.

MS. PARKER
Get him to pay something at least!

Highston looks up at her and nods.

HIGHSTON
Yeah... So, do you think that you could pay us \$100 for now?
No? No problem, that's okay.

MS. PARKER

That does it. Hang up!

HIGHSTON

Oh, I'm sorry, I have to go. You know what I could do, I've saved up a little bit of money, would it offend you if I sent you \$100?

MS. PARKER

What are you doing?!

NEIL YOUNG

That's the sweetest thing I ever heard.

HIGHSTON

No, I've got your name and address right here. You're welcome. Take care. Kiss your wife for me.

MS. PARKER

Kiss your wife for me?!

NEIL YOUNG

That was kind of weird, man.

Highston hangs up the phone, satisfied. He looks across the desk at Ms. Parker, beet red.

NEIL YOUNG (CONT'D)

I think it's time to run, Highston!

Highston bolts from the chair, stops and runs back, grabs the folder and races through the door. Neil gets up and puts a middle finger in Ms. Parker's face.

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Scene 3

Tom looks suspiciously at the doctor. Highston nods and comes in, sits by his folks, Dr. Conway opposite them.

DR. CONWAY (CONT'D)

So, Highston, how are you feeling?

HIGHSTON

I feel great, thank you for asking.

DR. CONWAY

Is there anyone with you today?

Tom sits down behind Highston. Highston turns to look at

him, back at the doctor.

HIGHSTON
Yes, Tom Petty.

His parents nod, impressed, but Dr. Conway seems unsure.

DR. CONWAY
Who is that?

Tom glares at him.

JEAN
Oh I know, he sang that song about
not backing up.

BUD
Not backing down, Mom.

DR. CONWAY
Oh sure, "I Won't Back Down," great
song.

Tom sighs, puts his head in his hands.

DR. CONWAY
I never really cared for the rest
of his music.

Highston looks back to see Tom flip Dr. Conway off, turns
and whispers to the doctor.

HIGHSTON
Tom Petty can hear you.

DR. CONWAY
Tell Mr. Petty I'm sorry.

TOM PETTY
Fuck you, you pompous brain diddling asshole.

Highston smiles.

DR. CONWAY
Did Mr. Petty say something?

HIGHSTON
He said "Apology accepted."