

MS. PARKER^{7.}

SHAQ

Hey, don't limit yourself buddy.

EXT. KENT SIDEWALK - DAY

Highston and Flea walk along the downtown business district in this old suburban town, looking around.

FLEA

Let's see, you could sell antiques... Or antiques... Oh here's something -- no, that's antiques.

They stop in front of an unmarked office with a "Help Wanted" sign.

HIGHSTON

"Help Wanted." That sounds good.

Flea looks skeptically at the building.

INT. COLLECTION AGENCY - DAY

Flea looks around suspiciously at the threadbare offices. A miserable looking woman is on the phone in the corner. The very serious MS. PARKER, 35, is sizing Highston up from across a metal desk.

← START

MS. PARKER

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

Highston thinks.

HIGHSTON

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

FLEA

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.

SHAQ

Sounds like a wonderful childhood.

1/5

Highston smiles as he turns to see Shaq come in. As Ms. Parker goes to a file cabinet Shaq wanders around, horrified, especially by the miserable woman in back on the phone. He goes to her and does a few dance steps, gives it a "ta da" ending. He shakes his head as she drones into the phone.

SHAQ (CONT'D)

Nothing.

Ms. Parker returns to her desk.

MS. PARKER

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.

FLEA

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

Highston picks up the phone and pauses.

FLEA (CONT'D)

I thought we were here to give you advice.

Highston turns from Ms. Parker, tries to whisper.

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. Shaq comes back, leans toward Ms. Parker.

SHAQ

She smells like camels. Not the cigarettes.

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

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

HIGHSTON (CONT'D)
This is Shaquille O'Neal --

SHAQ MS. PARKER
Don't use my name! Shaquille O'Neal?!

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.

FLEA
This isn't you, Highston.

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.

FLEA
Well done! 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?

FLEA
She said to run away.

MS. PARKER
Tell him to pay! No excuses!
Highston nods and talks into the phone.

3/5

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.

SHAQ

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?

FLEA

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 take a walk or meet some friends for coffee or something...

FLEA

Or buy an album.

SHAQ

Or go to a game.

MS. PARKER

Why don't you just tell him to take a drive in his truck?!

Highston points excitedly at Ms. Parker, who rolls her eyes.

HIGHSTON

Oh yeah, or just take a drive in your truck!

4/5

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.

MS. PARKER

Okay, that's enough! Give me the phone!

She grabs for the phone but Highston turns so she can't reach it.

HIGHSTON

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

MS. PARKER

What are you doing?!

FLEA

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?!

SHAQ

That was kind of weird, man.

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

FLEA

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. Shaq and Flea run after him.

← END

5/5