

I SENSE SOMETHING WRONG

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Made in Highland

"I SENSE SOMETHING WRONG"

CHARACTERS:

- HELEN: brown curly hair; blue eyes:
- CARL: gray hair; blue eyes; 53 years; father of DAFFY; rich

PLOT: HELEN annoyed with life at the moment; wishes to see change in the world..

LOCATIONS:

- VIVI: fictional city; trams everywhere; cars everywhere..

INT. LIVING ROOM - HELEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT
TIME

(FADE IN the LIVING ROOM at HELEN'S APARTMENT. THE TELEVISION is on; as she watches the nightly news; with which plays an interview with billionaire CARL..)

INTERVIEWER

(to CARL) Well hello MR CARL... well it is most clear and apparent to everyone that you are a multi-millionaire in the city of VIVI.. most nationally regarded even..

(CARL interrupts the INTERVIEWER)

CARL

(corrects INTERVIEWER) Um.... billionaire please.. I'm a billionaire....

(INTERVIEWER chuckles at her misspoken language..)

INTERVIEWER

(chuckles to CARL) Oh sorry MR CARL... well uh.. your national conglomerate MR CARL; with its major stakehold in motels is bring in a mass of fortune... and that's great..

(A PAUSE)

INTERVIEWER

(TO CARL) BUT FOR THE MODERN PERSON... THE AVERAGE PERSON SORRY.... THEY ARE STRUGGLING,... WITH THE RENTAL CRISIS; WITH EMPLOYMENT DECLINE; THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.. NOW YOU ARE DOING WELL FOR YOURSELF AND YOU ARE MOST SUCCESSFUL... WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING IN LIFE AT THE MOMENT? WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THEM?

(CARL smiles and answers the question)

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) Well I think it is also important to note that I know what it's like to be poor... to struggle... and I would also like to disperse the rumours that I had a sugar daddy.

(CARL AND THE INTERVIEWER LAUGHS)

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) because I didn't... I was living on \$400.00 a fortnight.... unemployment benefits is not substantial enough for the basic cost of living... the government and I are in constant contact.. about making it better..

INTERVIEWER

(questions CARL) is there an end in sight? Have the government heed your calls?

CARL

(shakes head to INTERVIEWER) Not at the moment.. but maybe at the next budget.. we shall see.... we shall see.

INTERVIEWER

(questions CARL) Now a serious question... many people... many average people denounce your statements..

(CARL GIGGLES THOUGH CONTINUES TO LISTEN)

INTERVIEWER

(cont'd to CARL) and... some people sit there and think you only think of yourself..

(CARL interrupts the INTERVIEWER)

CARL

(interrupts INTERVIEWER) Oh bull crap... I say utter bull crap to that..

INTERVIEWER

(shocked to CARL) Utter bull crap... may you add why?

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) Well it is quite evident that if you are doing well.. no one likes it... if you're successful; media conglomerates; and the average person wants to destroy you.. which I think in my sense... is laughable may I add.

(CARL giggles and continues)

CARL

(cont'd to INTERVIEWER) The thing... is... if you want to be rich.. like me.... you've got to work your ass off.. I mean.

(A PAUSE)

CARL

(cont'd to INTERVIEWER) I mean sure it's hard work at times... but mate... life is hard.. obstacles come and it's a mental battle in your mind to fight those battles and challenges... most give up and that is why they don't succeed...

(CARL chuckles and continues)

CARL

(cont'd to INTERVIEWER) So I say to people... if you want to be successful like me... WORK HARD.. get off YOUR ASS..

(THE INTERVIEWER smiles and changes the subject..)

INTERVIEWER

(to CARL) So uh... what about your family... your daughter... does your DAUGHTER DAFFY wish to continue to pursue your hotel management firm...

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) Yes... she does...

(CARL laughs and continues..)

CARL

(chuckles to INTERVIEWER) yes.. she does... quite a shock really... but yes.. but she also has other interests.. like playing the guitar.

INTERVIEWER

(smiles to CARL) Oh really.. a music star in the family... well damn... amazing... good on her..

CARL

(to INTERVIEWER) Yes she is quite good... she is.. a star soul is within her... DAFFY is great..

INTERVIEWER

(smiles to CARL) Well... uh... she'll have to play a concert soon..

(THE INTERVIEWER & CARL both
laugh)

INTERVIEWER

(to CARL) So uh... to conclude this
interview... any closing statements... you
wish to make...

(CARL smiles and concludes;
looking hard at the camera)

CARL

(to CAMERA) People... work hard and you can
be where I am..

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) Sure... work as hard as
I am... and you can get somewhere... sure...
whatever.

(HELEN'S hatred of the billionaire
CARL shows in her face)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) What hogwash... they
lie.. they lie..

(HELEN paces the living room
floor)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) I've been working hard
for years... for years... to get out of my
shitty corporate job.... to pursue my
dreams.. I'm motivated.. but..

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) I seriously think
motivation is a killer sometimes.. it... it
is not as easy as they say it is... it's all
FUCKIN BULLSHIT... luck... is... like a
lucky draw..... i've always sucked at them..

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) Damn... luck comes to
those who find it well... it's so
annoying...

(THE SCENE CLOSES...)

(FADE OUT: END OF SCENE)

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THE NEXT DAY

INT. OFFICES - VIVI LIFE CONSULTING

(FADE INSIDE the OFFICERS at VIVI LIFE CONSULTING. CUT TO HELEN working in her cubicle... she speaks to herself quietly)

HELEN

(Annoyed to herself) This cubicle... this jail cell... this call centre I am in... seems so dull and so unsatisfactorily to a life.. for anyone's life...

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) However... I am confused... they tell us all to work hard.. to study a degree... and to get higher in this corporate underbody we've all been taught to be a part of... I call a change...

(SUDDENLY the MANAGER approaches her and worries of her talking to herself. THE MANAGER speaks her mind)

MANAGER

(Worried to HELEN) Helen... are you? Are you..

(HELEN looks quickly to the MANAGER)

MANAGER

(worried to HELEN) Do you need employment counselling?

(HELEN is offended)

HELEN

(offended to MANAGER) What.. what NO... No I do not.

MANAGER

(worried to HELEN) Sorry HELEN.... sorry.... I was just expressing my concern on your mental wellbeing... I'm not sure if you were aware.... you were just TALKING to yourself... I uh..;

HELEN

(annoyed to MANAGER) Okay... I just talk to myself out loud when I'm working... it helps me concentrate..

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MANAGER
(worried to HELEN) it does??

HELEN
(assures MANAGER) Yes..

MANAGER
(firm to HELEN) Well it didn't sound like
work vocabulary to me... it sounded like I
hate the world for this.. for this.

(HELEN becomes annoyed with her
MANAGER and speaks up..)

HELEN
(annoyed to MANAGER) Oh my god... don't
pretend to care about my personal
circumstances.... you only care if I make
you money... aren't I right?

(THE MANAGER looks worried and
offended; and stays silent..)

HELEN
(annoyed to MANAGER) Yeah.... i thought
so...

(A PAUSE)

HELEN
(annoyed to MANAGER) What KPIS have I not
been reaching now?

MANAGER
(Firm to HELEN) Low data entry input... not
enough customer interaction via email..
customers seem to have a disloyal trust with
us... send more emails... encourage customer
loyalty...

HELEN
(annoyed to MANAGER) Okay BOSS... okay... UP
TO IT..

(MANAGER hands HELEN a clipboard
of all daily tasks to be done for
the day. HELEN looks and gets to
work; the MANAGER speaks)

MANAGER
(worried to HELEN) look... if you need
employee counselling... I can organise
it..

(HELEN swiftly responds in annoyance)

HELEN

(Annoyed to MANAGER) No... no... SORRY... I just want.. and I need to get to work..

MANAGER

(Stunned to HELEN) Okay... okay.. I'll let you be..

(THE MANAGER leaves the scene.... the SCENE CLOSES with HELEN working...)

(FADE OUT; END OF SCENE)

HOURS PASS

INT. LIVING ROOM - HELEN'S APARTMENT - HOURS

(FADE IN the LIVING ROOM at HELEN'S APARTMENT... HELEN walks in annoyed with her workday; closing the door behind her. She turns the TV on; the nighttime news runs again)

NEWS PRESENTER

(on TV) Good evening listeners... to REPORT - CARL the businessman has announced the government and his hotel BUSINESS are coming up with plans to defuse the RENTAL CRISIS....., and many average people are pleased...

(THE NEWS PRESENTER Smiles. CUT TO CARL on the TV SCREEN; with him standing outside his brick MANSION. THE INTERVIEWER interviews CARL yet again)

INTERVIEWER

(to CARL) Well CARL.... the people are happy... the interview last night... the following days.. you did make plans... the people THANK you... WELL MOST DONE..

(CARL smiles..)

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) Yes... yes... most thank you... thank you.., the government heeded my advice... and wa-la... thank you.

INTERVIEWER

(smiles to CARL) No thank you... from me...
and the people on our screens...

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) Thank you..

(HELEN looks annoyed)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) Oh that rich prick
CARL... that look on him... he says he
struggles... but he gives off a sociopathic
nature... like he wants something for
nothing... that damn look...

(A SECOND LATER: HELEN receives a
TEXT MESSAGE. She looks at the
phone; and is shocked to see a
TEXT from her MANAGER; the TEXT
READS

"HAVE BOOKED EMPLOYEE COUNSELLING
FOR YOU.. your behaviour worried
me this workday... I sense you
need support... to cover my butt
and the FAIR WORK FACILITY on my
back; I have booked employee
consulting for you at 11am
tomorrow... hope this helps..."

(HELEN looks annoyed... shouting
at herself in annoyance)

HELEN

(shouts to herself) OH THAT MOTHERFUCKIN
BITCH... she's a socipath... she's got to
be... UH... I hate that woman....

(THE SCENE ENDS....)

(FADE OUT; END OF SCENE)

THE NEXT DAY

INT. COUNSEL ROOM - VIVI LIFE CONSULTING

(FADE IN the COUNSEL ROOM at VIVI
LIFE CONSULTING at 11am sharp..
the annoyed HELEN waits for the
EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR. THE EMPLOYEE
COUNSELLOR arrives later; and
takes a seat opposite the annoyed
HELEN...)

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(worried to HELEN) Well I sense you are unhappy... the facial expression you are giving me.... is proof of job dissatisfaction and/or life happiness.. but which?

HELEN

(annoyed to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) I didn't ask for this... I just can't believe my GODDAMN MANAGER asked this... to book this when I deliberately said no... it's just.

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(to HELEN) I'm sorry MISS HELEN... but sometimes... it's good to have someone book these things.. MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS.. especially with the way the world is going at the moment... it's crazy....

(HELEN is shocked to hear the EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR is awake..)

HELEN

(shocked to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) Well damn... you are awake... well damn... that's good to hear...

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(annoyed to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) at least I'm not the only person who can see the world we live in today is a shithole... and I get really sick and tired of seeing people just live in their holes; unawake.... with no knowledge on how shit the world is..

(HELEN laughs)

HELEN

(annoyed to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) Well I mean... I guess that is what happens... when the majority of civilians embrace ignorance; whilst only a quarter embrace freedom...

(HELEN continues to speak her mind)

HELEN

(Annoyed to EMPLOYEE CONSULTING) We are in so much trouble....

(THE EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR seeks more information from HELEN regarding her thinking)

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(Worried to HELEN) I understand your concern for the world... but... no matter how hard times get... we can't let it get in the way of our work.

HELEN

(Annoyed to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) So what... we just sit and ignore it... and leave it to the next generations to solve.. because our generation was too darn lazy to do anything.

(HELEN is annoyed)

HELEN

(annoyed to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) That's not right... if things get really bad; they will look to us; and be angry at us for their ignorance..

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(worried to HELEN) I understand... i understand HELEN.. I... but please... work will fall behind... look... the way I look at it... now it may be pessimistic but..

(A PAUSE)

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(to HELEN) If we're all going to die; then we're all going to die.. that's the way I look at it..

(HELEN looks at EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR; with a concerned expression on her face)

HELEN

(Concerned to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) I don't want to die... but you're right... but still.

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) if I'm going to die; i want to die with integrity - dying knowing I'm doing ther right there where no one is watching... and hopefully aspring others.

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(Worried to HELEN) I understand... maybe do what you want to do in your spare time.. don't let it stop your work though..

HELEN

(Smiles to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) Thank you.. thanks.

(THE EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR stands up. HELEN speaks)

HELEN

(Smiles to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) You know.... I wasn't looking forward to speaking with you... but I must admit...

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(Smiles to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) I do feel better talking to you... thank you...

EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR

(Smiles to HELEN) No worries.. just.... just take care..

HELEN

(Smiles to EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR) I will.. thanks..

(THE EMPLOYEE COUNSELLOR leaves and exits the scene. The camera pans out on HELEN's smile...)

(FADE OUT; END OF SCENE)

HOURS PASS

INT. LIVING ROOM - HELEN'S APARTMENT

(FADE IN THE LIVING ROOM. HELEN watches the nightly news once again; with CARL having another interview for the third night in a row... the INTERVIEWER begins speaking to CARL.

INTERVIEWER

(worried to CARL) Carl... the people thank you and the government for your financial help during this tough economic period in our lives.. but..

(A PAUSE)

INTERVIEWER

(worried to CARL) I.... I have noticed that social media users have spread their distaste that the financial help is not supplemental enough for their needs.

(CARL laughs... the INTERVIEWER looks worried)

INTERVIEWER

(worried to CARL) Um.... CARL... are you okay?

CARL

(calm to INTERVIEWER) I mean... you can't make anyone happy... there's always someone got to complain... and may I ask... what do they spend their money on? I'd really like to know..

(A PAUSE)

CARL

(Calm to INTERVIEWER) Let me guess... grog... so they can get drunk every night... what else.. drugs to fuel their drug habit... uh..

(THE INTERVIEWER interrupts CARL)

INTERVIEWER

(calm to CARL) Um... may I add... not everyone spends their money on bad habits... some financially manage their money well..

CARL

(calm to INTERVIEWER) Well sure there is the minority that do spend it on junk... look.. I still think people need to finance and manage their money better... I say for the government to make everyone on the digitalised government website 1TWO; to enter a mini-online course on proper financial management..

INTERVIEWER

(calm to CARL) I see... I see.. and you think will this help?

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) Yes... I think very much so... we... and by we... the government... will have much more money for the budget... if people managed their money better.. but anyway.... that's up to the people... but...

(A PAUSE)

CARL

(smiles to INTERVIEWER) I do call for a mandatory activity to put on the government website 1TWO for all government welfare recipients and the general public on a short-course for PROPER BUDGET MANAGEMENT... that is what I call for..

INTERVIEWER

(to CARL) I understand... okay CARL...
okay..

(AN ANNOYED HELEN TURNS THE TV
OFF... AND LOOKS ANNOYED; SPEAKING
HER ANNOYANCE)

HELEN

(annoyed to herself) That man is so full of
himself... I swear.... I must...

(A PAUSE)

HELEN

(serious to herself) Something has to
change... it has to change...

(THE SCENE ENDS... FADE OUT: END
OF SCENE)

THE NEXT MORNING -
INT. STREETS - VIVI CBD

(FADE IN THE STREETS of VIVI CBD.
HELEN walks her way to work; and
notices a large protest of protest
signs stating "WE KNOW HOW TO
BUDGET....," "CARL GET STUFFED,"
"NO TO MANDATORY BUDGET ACTIVITY."
HELEN smiles as she joins the
protest...."

HOURS PASS - THAT NIGHT
INT. LIVING ROOM - HELEN'S APARTMENT

(FADE IN; CUT TO HELEN. SHE
SWITCHES THE TV ON; WATCHING THE
NIGHTLY NEWS; AND NOTICES ANOTHER
YET INTERVIEW WITH THE INTERVIEWER
& CARL on the TV)

INTERVIEWER

(to CARL) So CARL.... you wished to do this
interview... why... uh..

(A SCARED, worried CARL quickly
speaks)

CARL

(Worried to INTERVIEWER) That... that
protest... that protest this morning...
it... it shocked me..

INTERVIEWER
(questions CARL) Shocked you...

CARL
(worried to INTERVIEWER) Yes... yes... the numbers... it... it makes me question about what I said... and I... i have come to tell everyone I denounce what I had said...

(A PAUSE. CARL breathes)

CARL
(breathes to INTERVIEWER) I... I have told the government to cancel that MANDATORY COURSE on budget management... the people... the people..

(A PAUSE)

CARL
(Breathes to INTERVIEWER) I have spoken to the government about cancelling the said MANDATORY BUDGET MANAGEMENT short course that all recipients of 1TWO had to do... I... I misspoke... and I apologise.

(THE INTERVIEWER notices CARL's fear in his face)

INTERVIEWER
(Shocked to CARL) Well... well CARL... woah... that... that crowd sure did worry you... DAMN...

CARL
(breathes to INTERVIEWER) Yes... yes it did..

(CARL breathes again)

CARL
(Breathes to INTERVIEWER) It reminded me the power of the people... it's strong... stronger than me or the government and...

(A PAUSE)

CARL
(to INTERVIEWER) I have also made the government.. and I have chipped in to help increase the payments of all 1TWO welfare participants....

INTERVIEWER
(to CARL) okay... okay... the recipients of the 1TWO payments should be happy about that..

(CARL breathes and looks at the
INTERVIEWER)

CARL

(To INTERVIEWER) yes... yes... and I must
say.... that the poor are in a terrible
financial time... and I will do my bit...
with my wealth... to help them..

(CARL breathes)

CARL

(breathes to INTERVIEWER) I will... I
will..s

(HELEN switches the TV OFF and
smiles to herself)

HELEN

(smiles to herself) Good.... good... run off
scared... you know what can happen if you
upset the poor...

(THE CAMERA PANS OUT on the
smiling HELEN...)

(FADE OUT; END OF SCENE & STORY)