

The following is an excerpt from the script for a short radio play:

SCENE 1 INTERIOR, BARE ROOM WITH TABLE AND TWO CHAIRS

FX: ALL SOUNDS INSIDE THE ROOM PRODUCE A SLIGHT ECHO,
INCLUDING VOICES. THERE IS A CONSTANT, LOW HUM
FROM A MINI REFRIGERATOR. KNOCK ON DOOR.
INTERVIEWER RISING FROM CHAIR. FOOTSTEPS. DOOR
OPENS. LOBBY MUSIC FILTERS IN.

INTERVIEWER: (Annoyed) There you are. I was about to give up
on you.

SUBJECT: Thank you for waiting. I'm so sorry for the
inconvenience.

FX: FOOTSTEPS AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE TABLE.

INTERVIEWER: You don't create the best impression.

FX: REFRIGERATOR OPENS. FAINT SOUND OF WATER BOTTLES
BEING GRASPED IN HAND. REFRIGERATOR CLOSES AGAIN.

INTERVIEWER: Would you like a bottle of water?

SUBJECT: Yes, thank you.

INTERVIEWER: Please, have a seat.

FX: FOOTSTEPS AS THE INTERVIEWER WALKS BACK TO HIS
DESK. CHAIRS MOVE AS THEY SIT DOWN. WATER BOTTLES
PLACED ON THE TABLE. WATER BOTTLES BEING OPENED,
SET DOWN, AND UNINTENTIONAL CRUSHING OF THE
PLASTIC CONTAINERS.

INTERVIEWER: When you are late, you make me late. When you make me late, you make everyone late. Do you understand?

SUBJECT: Yes, I'm sorry. It won't happen again.

INTERVIEWER: My own mother was late for my birth. Can you imagine what that was like?

SUBJECT: You mean she was late getting to the hospital?

INTERVIEWER: No, to my birth. The rest of my family was very upset. What kind of impression do you think she made on me? It's followed me all my life.

SUBJECT: I don't understand. How could she...?

INTERVIEWER: Let's begin.

FX: BUTTON BEING PRESSED ON SOME OLD FASHIONED ELECTRONIC DEVICE. SOUNDS OF BIRDS, A SPRING, EMANATING FROM A TINNY SPEAKER.

SUBJECT: Oh, that's nice. What is that?

INTERVIEWER: It's my Mood Validator. You see, it has quite a variety of selections. You determine your mood, then press the button that corresponds.

SUBJECT: It makes you feel better.

INTERVIEWER: Nothing can do that. No, this enhances my mood, reinforces it.

SUBJECT: (beat) And right now you're feeling...serene?

INTERVIEWER: Quite the opposite. How do you feel?

SUBJECT: To be honest? A bit uneasy.

INTERVIEWER: We have that.

FX: BUTTON PRESSED. THE BIRDS AND THE SPRING ARE CUT
OFF AND REPLACED BY HORRIBLY UNSETTLING MUSIC,
LIKE SOMETHING BY LIGETI.

INTERVIEWER: There. How's that?

SUBJECT: It's...awful.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Now, let's proceed.

FX: PAPERS RUFFLING.

INTERVIEWER: You were born here.

SUBJECT: Born here all my life.

INTERVIEWER: What does that mean?

SUBJECT: It's just an expression.

INTERVIEWER: Is it? I don't think so. Have you ever been convicted of any crimes?

SUBJECT: No.

INTERVIEWER: If you were to be convicted of a crime, what would it be?

SUBJECT: You mean what crime would I commit?

INTERVIEWER: No. I mean, if you were to be convicted of a crime you have already committed, what would it be?

SUBJECT: I haven't been.

INTERVIEWER: Are you having trouble understanding the question? I want to know what crimes you've committed. What have you done, but not been caught for?

SUBJECT: I haven't committed any crimes.

INTERVIEWER: (beat) You believe that?

SUBJECT: Yes. You think I'm lying?

INTERVIEWER: I think that most people have committed some crime, even if they don't believe they should be punished for it. Ever stolen a magazine from a doctor's office?

SUBJECT: Why would I do that? They never have anything good.

INTERVIEWER: If they did, would you take one?

SUBJECT: Is this about my integrity? You want to be sure I'm honest?

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever hidden vegetables inside of a napkin?

SUBJECT: You think someone is going to be convicted for not eating their green beans?

INTERVIEWER: It is a small deception.