

A JURY SELECTION WAITING ROOM. The set is incredibly simple. A couple benches and that's it.

Two men sit on a bench. GREGORY (52, wears a suit) reads a newspaper and DAN (early 20's, polo shirt and jeans) plays on his cell phone. AMBER (early 20's, blouse and slacks) paces back and forth in front of them.

AMBER

Can't they let us go home already? I mean, we did our civic duty. We've sat in this boring assed room all day and nobody needs us.

GREGORY

It's only 4:30. Court gets out at 5.

AMBER

I'm so frigging bored!

GREGORY

I've finished with most of the paper, if you're interested.

AMBER

I am not. Uch, the American justice system is lame.

GREGORY

Do you know how many soldiers died so you can sit in this room?

AMBER

Not enough, obviously.

GREGORY

And what if you were on the other side? What if you were being tried for a crime? Would you rather have a judge who couldn't give two craps about you or would you rather have a jury of your peers eager to set things right?

DAN

I have no peers. Who would judge me? Nobody. They'd have to let me go free.

AMBER

Thanks for chiming in.

DAN

I had something funny to say.

GREGORY

I am terrified knowing you two represent our youth. It's selfish attitudes like yours that are ruining our country.

DAN

Well Jesus, look who's got a bald eagle up his butt.

AMBER

Don't tell me I'm un-American. I could have just stayed home. But no, I showed up. I'm here to do my jury whatever.

GREGORY

Because they sent you a scary letter.

AMBER

Only partially.

DAN

I'm unemployed. The \$15 bucks I'd be getting on a jury are better than what I'm getting playing Xbox back at my place.

GREGORY

Good lord.

The CLERK enters the room.

CLERK

Looks like we're going to need one of you to sit on a civil case. I'll be back to let you know which one it'll be.

The Clerk exits.

AMBER

A civil case? Is that a divorce?

GREGORY

Two people or companies seeking a monetary settlement.

DAN

Waste of our time.

GREGORY

That's not for you to decide. If they want a jury, they get a jury. It is carved in the constitution.

DAN

Two people, or worse two businesses, trying to sue each other into oblivion? I dare them to pick me. I'll be, like, throw this all out. Throw them all in jail. Tell them to settle it like men.

GREGORY

Because your time is more important than justice? This is not how you'd chose to earn your \$15?

DAN

Because everyone's time is more important than listening to some rich people complain through their lawyers.

GREGORY

I happen to think a civil trial is just as honorable as a criminal one. There's nobility in helping settle disputes.

AMBER

Well, I'm not worried because they're never going to pick me. I'm terrible with business things and numbers. Really bad. I almost failed algebra, twice.

DAN

My cat can do algebra.

AMBER

It can not.

DAN

No, I don't even have a cat. I have a dog. I have no idea why I went with cat for the joke.

AMBER

Hope those lawyers like explaining things seven or eight times.

GREGORY

Some lawyers prefer that so they can lead you down the path of numbers step by step. Ignorance of math will not get you out of service.

DAN

Plus those jack-holes get paid by the hour. The only thing that will get you out is extreme prejudices. I think civil trials are a load of bull. I think... what's it called when you're suing for money even though you didn't actually lose anything?

GREGORY

Punitive damages.

DAN

Hogwash. Waste of our tax dollars.

AMBER

What do tax dollars have to do with anything?

DAN

Who's paying for these BS trials? We are. The American people will not stand idly by while the courts are overrun with money. This is not what Douglas Adams had in mind when he wrote the Declaration of Independence! Justice does not only belong to the rich! Justice for all! Attica Attica Attica!

GREGORY

The judge will see right through your little game. You'll be on the jury for sure. They love making brats like you sit around and watch a trial take place. Teach you how the real world operates.

AMBER

Ha. Brat.

GREGORY

There is only one way out of service, proving yourself to be smarter and more legally knowledgeable than the lawyers. They hate that more than anything. That's why I know to keep my mouth shut when asked questions. I don't want to be excluded because of my background.

DAN

You must be some kind of fancy pants high priced lawyer.

GREGORY

Well, no. I'm not a lawyer myself. I'm just very interested in law.

AMBER

Did you go to law school?

GREGORY

No, I just read law books, legal journals, reviews. Things like that. It's a hobby of mine.

AMBER

That is the worst hobby I've ever heard of.

GREGORY

I find it fascinating. The whole judicial system amuses me.

DAN

What do you do, since you're obviously too smart to be a lawyer.

GREGORY

I am an aspiring novelist.

DAN

That is awesome, you're unemployed. Just like me.

GREGORY

I am not unemployed. I am aspiring. I've almost had two of my tomes published.

AMBER

What are you, 60?

GREGORY

I'm 52. There is nothing wrong with taking a few years to get started.

DAN

Maybe there's something wrong with your cruddy books.

GREGORY

My stories happen to be both beautiful and skillful. They cut through social fabric like a knife. The words float and dance on the page revealing the truth within.

AMBER

But nobody likes them.

GREGORY

People will like them once they read them. I speak for the intellectual masses.

DAN

The unemployed intellectual masses. Huge target market there.

GREGORY

I am not unemployed, I am aspiring. There is a difference.

AMBER

In your weekly pay check?

GREGORY

In honor.

DAN

Get yourself an XBox. Learn how to be unemployed for real.

AMBER

So this is your hobby, trying to get on juries?

GREGORY

It is one of the ways I pass my time, yes. I see no shame in volunteering to be a part of our system.

DAN

That is so sad. Someone who does jury duty for fun.

GREGORY

It is a beautiful thing. You will appreciate it one day. Every year I get a letter in my mailbox asking me to be an active citizen of this country, if I don't I write until they send me one. To touch the life of someone or someones and hand them justice. It is a gift few receive.

DAN

While you're waiting for publishers to call you back.

GREGORY

You are terrible people. And I say this as someone who's sat on three murder trials.

The Clerk re-enters.

CLERK

Gregory Pottunk? You're on.

GREGORY

Yes!

AMBER

Thank goodness.

DAN

Seriously.

Gregory jumps up, gathers his things. Salutes Amber and Dan and exits with the clerk.

Amber and Dan dwell in silence for a few beats.

DAN

So, you want to make out or something?

AMBER

No.

DAN

That's cool. Just floating it out there.

AMBER

So gross.

Silence again.

AMBER

Only 20 more minutes.

BLACKOUT.