

### Scene Three

Harrison, in boxy Italian, suit enters at speed.

Harrison Wait outside.

Stops. Shows his suit to the audience. He positions himself casually on the edge of his desk.

Harrison Yes.

Quiet.

Yes !

A very young looking man enters. In best corporate uniform. His corporate peaked cap is screwed up in nervous hands.

Harrison Yes. (wait) Well then?

Boy Mr Harrison

Harrison How can I help you ?

Boy Mr Harrison

Harrison You're in my office. (wait) How can I serve you ?

Boy You wanted to see me sir.

Harrison Did I ?

Quiet.

Harrison Sir ?

Boy Yes sir.

Harrison This isn't the army my friend.

Boy No sir.

Harrison Don't call me sir. You left school....how long ago ?

Boy Two weeks sir.

Quiet.

Harrison What's your name?

Boy Shark sir.

Harrison First name?

Boy Jason

Harrison There's a shark in the water is there Jason?

Quiet,

Harrison Take a seat.

Jason takes one at Harrison's desk close by.

Harrison Over there.

He points to a seat far on the other side of the stage. Jason goes to it.

**A knock at the door. Trevor, Jason's Dad enters sheepishly. He carries Jason's lunchbox.**

**Quiet.**

**Jason** Dad !  
**Trevor** Forget his head if it wasn't screwed on.  
**Harrison** Mr Shark ?

**Trevor goes to him and shakes his hand roughly.**

**Trevor** We're all very proud of him. Grown up quick. Always bin bright. Me and his mother (she's in the car, didn't like...) we'd like to thank you...for the job. Ya know.  
**Harrison** He's a fine boy, Mr Shark.  
**Trevor** He is that. (He ruffles Jason's hair)

**Quiet. Nowhere for the conversation to go.**

**Harrison** Well, we must press on.

**He turns away from Trevor. Trevor leaves.**

**Harrison** So what do you think, Jason Shark?  
**Jason** It's a big shop, Mr. Harrison.  
**Harrison** A big..... ?  
**Jason** Shop, Mr. Harrison.  
**Harrison** Shop ! Shop, Jason Shark. Audrey's knitting supplies is a shop. Look about you, Jason. Look and learn. The most sophisticated, cutting edge, total selling environment known to man and woman kind. Shop ! I see no shop. What do you see?  
**Jason** A total selling environment, Mr. Harrison.  
**Harrison** Come Jason, no need to be grandiose.

**Wait.**

**Harrison** Think you'll be happy here, Jason?  
**Jason** Yes, Mr. Harrison  
**Harrison** Course you will, Jason. We all will. Head-office and the Department of Behavioural Science, Michigan State University will see to that.

**Wait**

**Harrison** **(Fast)** Lesson One :Know your Prey : War. Redundancy. Natural disaster. Personal catastrophe. Death. Love. Stock market crash. Motorway pile up. The pain and the glory. All of these things, Jason Shark, come and go. In the flickering of a flame. The one sure-fire permanency in this world.....is the human digestive appetite.

Customer is King, Jason. He's your only "Sir" and "Miss". "Bring me your obsessive food anxiety. Your class aspiration. Your existential angst. Bring me your loveless marriage. Your jilted heart. Your wasted life. Bring it all.... to me and to loving Jason Shark, and we will give you.....pre-grated carrot, Mango and kiwi fromage frais, three lettuce Italian salad in a bag. We will give you peace."

These are the icons of the age, Jason Shark. This home of ours, this dream, this profit engine, this triumph of human scientific endeavour, this total selling environment, is now a part of you and you a part of it.....

**Quiet.**

**Harrison looks at Jason.**

**Eventually. Decisively....**

**Harrison**

Frozen yoghurts

**Jason**

Yes Mr Harrison.

**Harrison**

You'll go far. Little shark big lake. Happy swimming.

**Quiet.**

**Harrison presses an intercom on his desk. His personal assistant enters.**

**Harrison**

Thank you.

**Jason is led away.**

**Harrison smiles. He takes a battered toy car from his pocket. Raises it on a flat palm.**

**Harrison**

Worn bare with magic rubbing. I am the genie. And all the wishes mine. I'll rise like cloud above. A twitch of muscle and you will topple. Brick by brick. All those you touch I will take as I drive from your edge to your centre.

**Black.**