

Screenplay

INT. JOB CENTRE, DAY, 2008.

A typical job centre with cafe like decor, limited seating, job search stations and open plan working/consulting desks. There is constant low level noise and occasional names are called. A security guard is pacing, talking on his walkie-talkie and keeping a keen eye on the waiting clients. CAROL, (early forties, female wheelchair-user with Cerebral Palsy) is completing the file on her last customer.

CAROL

Miss, Miss Nunn please?

There is no reply. Carol looks around the job centre.

CAROL

Miss, Miss Nunn please?

ELAINE NUNN, a large dowdy looking fifty-eight year old woman recognises her name being called and walks over.

NUNN

Were you calling me? I couldn't tell what you were saying..they ought to have some one to say it for you..

Carol barely notices this remark, being momentarily shocked in her recognition of Nunn, as the sadistic nurse who abused her as a child in a large hospital for disabled people.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE FROM BLACK

INT.HOSPITAL.EARLY EVENING 26 YEARS EARLIER

In a hospital ward , there are several disabled children with various impairments, sitting and doing very little. 3 nurses are sitting together at the other side of the day room. Carol, a disabled 14 year old girl is screaming. She has newspaper sticking out of her socks and shoes and the neck and sleeves of her dress.

CAROL

(Sobbing) No. Please, please!

NURSE NUNN(SHOUTING)

Shutup! We're sick of hearing your voice, the more noise you make, the worse things'll get for you. Learn your lesson stupid girl. We are

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NURSE NUNN(SHOUTING) (cont'd)
 sick and tired of you. You're very
 lucky that we have been so patient
 and put up with your behaviour for
 so long.

CAROL
 I'm sorry, it wasn't my fault I was
 late..he grabbed me and did
 horrible stuff and wouldn't let me
 come back here..please

NURSE NUNN
 Right, I'm afraid you've asked for
 this. You really leave me no choice

*Nurse Nunn gets up and walks over to her slowly, takes out
 her lighter, and ignites the newspaper tubes. Carol is
 silent in terror.*

FADE TO BLACK

FADE FROM BLACK

INT.JOB CENTRE,2008

Carol is trying to compose herself, attempting to breathe
 deeply. For a moment she considers calling for assistance to
 avoid a confrontation with NUNN, then changes her mind.

CAROL
 I'm sorry? What did you say?

NUNN
 They ought to have someone say
 it...Er, it doesn't really matter

CAROL (COMPOSING HERSELF)
 Right okay then. My name's Carol.
 I'll be dealing with your claim. I
 have your notes here, from your
 initial claim interview

NUNN
 Yeah

CAROL
 I need to go through your answers
 with you to confirm whether you are
 eligible for benefit and to make
 sure you are looking for work...

(CONTINUED)

NUNN (IRRITATED)

What! Of course I am! Can you tell me how long this'll take? I am parked in a disabled space so I'm in a hurry, and I can't afford a fine.

CAROL

It shouldn't take too long if everything is simple...

NUNN

What do you mean?

CAROL

We need to confirm your answers, check your eligibility and then we will let you know if you are entitled

NUNN(RAISED,IMPATIENT VOICE)

Of course I'm entitled! I have lost my job!

The security guard begins to move closer to them, concerned.

CAROL

Okay. Well lets crack on then, the sooner we start the sooner we'll finish

NUNN

Is there any chance of doing this with someone else?

CAROL

Why? Er, no, everyone's busy

NUNN

This is going to take FAR too long and as I said, I can't afford a fine- I need someone who works more efficiently..

CAROL (SIGHING)

Shall we just get on with it? If we can start this now, we will soon be finished

NUNN

I could come back later and see someone else?

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

You can have an appointment for later in the week with me if you like?

NUNN

With someone else?

CAROL

No. Shall we just get on with it then?

NUNN

It appears I have no choice

Carol begins to go through the checklist of personal details with NUNN , who co-operates, reluctantly for a while. MONTAGE: people waiting, in a desultory fashion; security guards, in corners, whispering about clients; a number of advisors, mostly badly dressed, consulting clients/tapping on keyboards, names being called out and low level chatter.

CAROL

I want to ask you now about your availability for work

NUNN (IRRITATED)

Yes?

CAROL

Have you been looking for work?

NUNN

Yes

CAROL

What kind of work are you looking for?

NUNN

Anything really.

CAROL

What sort of work are you interested in?

NUNN

Anything

CAROL

We need to put something down for work that you can do- the type of work you should be looking for.

(CONTINUED)

NUNN

I told you, I'll do anything, but
I'm not fit enough for heavy work
any more

CAROL

Where did you work last? Perhaps we
could put that down?

NUNN

I was a support worker.

*Carol types keywords 'support worker' and waits a few
moments. NUNN lowers her head and starts shuffling.*

CAROL (SMILING)

Ooh, it looks like you're in luck!

NUNN looks up, surprised.

CAROL

You have come in just at the right
time. They have just announced a
number of jobs at the local meat
packing factory, 'Pigs 'r' us'.

NUNN (LOUDLY)

WHAT!!!

Two security guards put their walkie -talkies to their mouth
and begin to move forward.

CAROL

The pay is pretty good- you start
on 50p over minimum wage which may
go up after 6 months...

NUNN(SLOWLY IN DISBELIEF)

A...meat...packing...factory.

Carol taps away away on the keyboard, disregarding her.

CAROL

Right. I can get you in to see them
this afternoon. How does, two..

NUNN (LOUDLY)

I do not want to go! I said support
work, not meat packing

Security guards move closer again

CAROL

It IS support work- that's how I found it- see here look (*points at the screen and reads out*): General meat packing and support work duties

NUNN (LESS LOUDLY, BUT SNARLING)

That's not support work! I meant with people!

CAROL(SMILING)

Why? (voice raising) You want to work with people? Why's that then? But you said you'd take anything?

NUNN(VERY IRRITATED)

I meant, I meant, anything that I COULD do

CAROL

But why people?

NUNN

Because I have always worked with people

CAROL

Sorry- I didn't quite get that

NUNN (VERY IRRITATED)

I have always looked after people

CAROL(SIGHING, MURMURING TO HERSELF)

You sure have..

NUNN (VERY IRRITATED)

Pardon! What did you say?

CAROL (CHEERFULLY)

Here, it tells me on the screen that you have always worked with people

NUNN

Oh.

CAROL(GRINNING)

Anyway, you will be working with people at the factory. But packing meat- which I'm sure you'll be very good at...

(CONTINUED)

NUNN(DISTRESSED)

But I don't want to do that! I DO
want to look after people!

CAROL

Well there definitely aren't any
jobs like that any more..

NUNN

What do you mean?

CAROL

Anyway, from what you say, you are
no longer fit enough to support
people.

Nunn opens her mouth and shuts it again.

CAROL

Why aren't you fit enough??

NUNN (UNEASY)

Well,... erm, I could support some
people, perhaps people with no
physical problems, y'know some of
those with learning difficulties.

CAROL

Hmm, I'm not sure about that..

NUNN (IRRITATED)

Anyway, I can't do meat packing
either. It'll wreck my back. I'm
not well..

CAROL(LOOKING PUZZLED)

What do you mean? There's nothing
actually written here that says
anything about illness?

NUNN

I can't do as as much as I used to
do..erm , that's why I left my last
job..

CAROL

Oh, it says here that your contract
came to an end?

NUNN

Well, it did, sort of, but doing
the job was crippling me, so I
think I should be avoiding any work
that's too physical..

(CONTINUED)

CAROL (SIGHING)
Hmm.I don't know about this.

Stops and looks at the screen again. NUNN shuffles.

CAROL (CHEERFULLY)
Well, I can't guarantee anything,
but you'll be pleased to know that
there's nothing written here about
heavy lifting or hard physical work

Nunn looks crestfallen

CAROL (CHEERFULLY)
So, we'll get them on , shall we.
I'll get them on the phone and you
can arrange the interview for this
afternoon...

MONTAGE: Carol passes the phone to Nunn and she begins the
conversation. Carol idly presses some keys and waits.
Clients names are called in the background and a baby cries.

CUT TO:

INT: JOB CENTRE, DAY. AT CAROL'S DESK, AFTER THE PHONE CALL

CAROL.
Right, thats that then. We need to
work out if you are entitled to
benefits as I need some more
information about what you earned
and why you left your last job.

NUNN
Okay

CAROL
First, we have incomplete details
about your last employer, so I need
to get them off you now

NUNN(BECOMING FLUSTERED)
Why?

CAROL
In order to process your claim we
need to make sure that the details
you gave us are true, so we know
what you are entitled to.

(CONTINUED)

NUNN(IRRITATED)

I have no money and I have no job,
of course I am entitled!

CAROL (SIGHING)

Actually, you are claiming Job
Seeker's Allowance, which means you
should be looking for work.

NUNN (VERY IRRITATED)

I am looking for work!! I'm here
aren't I?!

One security guard starts walking over.

CAROL

Well, as well as showing us that
you are actively looking for work
we also need to check why your
previous job ended. We need to know
that you haven't left your work
voluntarily or been sacked, as that
is likely delay your entitlement
for some time. It should be fine-
just a formality. After you have
give us the details, we will check
with your last employer. What's her
full name? It says here, MrEASYs
Stroyer?. What's her first name?

NUNN (UNEASY)

Diana. But, but, what if she gets
things wrong?

CAROL(BEWILDERED)

What do you mean?

NUNN(QUIETLY)

Well, she wasn't very happy when I
left..erm.. I , erm, think she may
say something to get back at me..

CAROL

I'm sorry, I don't know what you
mean

Nunn leans in closer.

NUNN(QUIETLY)

Well, between you and me, I , erm,
think she put me on a short
contract because she doesn't know
how to manage her money properly

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NUNN(QUIETLY) (cont'd)
and she likes spending it on going
to the pub instead of paying me..

CAROL
I see

NUNN(LEANING BACK)
So, erm,I think she's likely to
make things up, y'know to get me in
it, y'know?

CAROL
Like what?

NUNN
Well, I don't know. She could say,
that erm, it was my fault..

CAROL
What was?

NUNN
Er, I don't know. She could accuse
me of all sorts, anything really..

CAROL
Why would she do that and why would
she tell us?

NUNN
To make me suffer of course. She
might say, for example, that I
stole from her, or something..

CAROL
But that's got nothing to do with
us.

NUNN(FLUSTERED)
But she could even say she sacked
me..

CAROL (SIGHING)
Oh, I see. Excuse me a moment.

Carol wheels herself away from her desk and goes to consult
a colleague two desks away, just out of earshot. Nunn,
buries her head in her hands. Carol and her colleague begin
to laugh and then Carol wheels herself back. Nunn is a
little agitated.

CUT TO:

INT: JOB CENTRE, DAY. AT CAROL'S DESK, AFTER SHE HAS SPOKEN TO HER COLLEAGUE

CAROL

Right. I've discussed this with my colleague. We will have to have her details to check that you worked for her. But if you have a copy of your contract, we can check that your contract has finished. So you should have no need to worry. Okay?

Nunn begins to sob. The security guard gets closer again

NUNN(SOBBING)

I haven't got one

CAROL (CHEERFULLY)

That's okay. You can bring it in later today or later in the week...

NUNN(VERY LOUDLY, ARMS WAVING)

I haven't got one!!! I just told you! Are you stupid? Of course you are!. If people like you weren't in jobs like this, giving hard-working people grief, things would run a damn sight more efficiently! You, sitting there, earning money for nothing, and me without a job! This is completely the wrong way round!

The security guard walks over to the desk, Carol wheels herself back a little.

SECURITY GUARD

Madam we are going to have to ask you to leave. We are sick and tired of your behaviour. You're very lucky that you we have been so patient and that we have put up with your behaviour for so long.

NUNN (PLEADING)

I'm sorry, it wasn't my fault. I am parking in the wrong place, I'm in a hurry, and she is making me late, this woman, er (looking at Carol's name plate)Mrs Stone, is making things very hard for me...please, let me sort this out , I have nothing! What am I going to live on?! I need to get the money I'm entitled to!

(CONTINUED)

SECURITY GUARD(TO CAROL)
Would you like me to escort her
from the premises or shall I stay
while you finish?

CAROL(ADDRESSED TO THE SECURITY GUARD)
No, let her stay, I haven't
finished with her yet. I shan't be
a moment.

CAROL(TURNING/SPEAKING TO NUNN)
Okay, Ms Nunn. Good luck with your
interview this afternoon. In the
meantime we will write to your
employer if you can give me an
address please? If you find your
contract in the meantime, by all
means send it to us. When we have
the necessary documents a decision
will be made about your entitlement
to benefit.

NUNN(SHOUTING AND WAVING HER ARMS)
I have no money! How dare you treat
me like this you condescending cow!
Do you have no mercy?!

CAROL(SIGHING, AND ROLLING HER LEFT
SLEEVE UP TO REVEAL A BURN SCAR)
Right, I'm afraid you've asked for
this. You really leave me no
choice.

Carol nods to the security guard, who gestures to Nunn that
she has to leave. Nunn's mouth drops open in horror. Finally
she has realised Carol's identity.

FADE OUT

S