

How to... - Pilot

INT. MEN'S ROOM IN AN OFFICE BUILDING (COLD OPEN)

Two doors to near booths. We see back of the shoes of a standing MAN IN PANTS and in another booth we see shoes of a sitting MAN WITHOUT PANTS. They do nothing for some time.

MAN WITHOUT PANTS

Oh, s\*\*t! I can't believe it! It's not happening! No! Gosh! Are you kidding me? No TP? No TP! It's just my luck, yeah. Of course I need to go before this damn interview... Of course there is no damn TP! S\*\*t...

MAN IN PANTS reaches beneath the booth's wall and gives to the MAN WITHOUT PANTS some tTOILET PAPER from his booth.

MAN WITHOUT PANTS

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! There are kindness in this world after all! Thank you! Man, you've just saved my ass! Hell, you've just saved my life! You hear me? You've saved my freaking life! Thank you!

MAN IN PANTS gets out of his booth and we see that it is main character JIM in the fancy suit and tie. JIM is smiling.

JIM

You're welcome. No problem.

FADE OUT AND TITLES

INT. SOME FANCY HR OFFICE

Empty chair in front of a desk, there is a door behind the chair. We can hear papers rustle.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

In order to change your life you have to be desperate. You have to really suffer before you really do something. Nothing motivates changes better than lack of choice. Cornered gazelle becomes a tiger... Or a lion or something... Kent, what was it: tiger or lion? What? We're live? Oh, s\*\*t!

INT. SOME FANCY HR OFFICE

JIM knocks on the door.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Come in!

JIM opens the door.

JIM

Hello!

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Hello. Please, sit down.

JIM

Thank you.

JIM walks through the door and sits in a chair at the desk. He straightens his tie, clears his throat.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Well, tell me about yourself.

JIM

Why? You can't read? My resume is right in front of you. You know, I've spent a lot of time putting it together. I've worked on phrasing, I've worked on style, I've worked on everything. It was three in the morning, when I finally finished it and thought it was good. And now you want me to do it all over again, only this time live in front of you? You want me to tell you about myself? OK! I'm Jim. I am 6 ft tall. Blonde, blue eyes. I hate oranges, backpacks on adults and long meaningless conversations. I love my mother, my friends, my late dog Tambo, may he rest in peace... Oh, and I wet my bed 'till I was 9.

FADE (OR REWIND)

INT. SOME FANCY HR OFFICE

JIM is sitting at the desk with tense polite smile on his face.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Tell me about yourself.

JIM

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Gladly. My name is Jim Stanton. I am 24 years old. I received my bachelor degree from Stanford University this June, majoring in Math & Computational Science and Symbolic Systems. I am quite proactive, great team player, hard worker. I want to make a difference and aim big.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Impressive! Where do you see yourself in five years?

JIM stops smiling and changes his tone to sarcastic.

JIM

Right here. In front of you. Telling you: "Remember, five years ago I told you I'll be here? Ta-da!" I don't know, where will I be in five years. I'm not applying for a fortune teller position, am I? I see myself in five years hopefully being far, far away from people asking me where I see myself in five years. That much I can tell you.

FADE (OR REWIND)

INT. SOME FANCY HR OFFICE

JIM is sitting at the desk with tense polite smile on his face.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Where do you see yourself in five years?

JIM

Great question. Let me start by saying that I'm really excited about the position we are discussing and my number one goal is to do the best job I can at this role. Having said that, if down the line there's an opportunity for advancement and I've proven that I have the skills and experience needed to take on this next level of responsibility, then of course I would be interested.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Well said! Tell me, why should we hire you?

JIM

Because I know how to discharge a bomb. "What bomb?" you're thinking to yourself. Well, tell you what: may be there is a bomb in this building, maybe there isn't. But you should ask yourself this: do you feel lucky? Do you, punk?

FADE (OR REWIND)

INT. SOME FANCY HR OFFICE

JIM sits at the desk with tense polite smile on his face.

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Tell me, why should we hire you?

JIM

I'll be happy to. I'm a very motivated worker and... And a fast learner and... Although I have no real experience, my passion... Um... For the industry and... The job I do... Drives me to deliver... To deliver...

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Jim?... Jim! Jim, are you alright?

JIM

What the hell am I doing here?

JIM storms out of the office.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF AN OFFICE BUILDING

JIM walks fast on the street. Working day, busy time. JIM loosens his tie, that chokes him up, then takes it off and puts it in the pocket. Strangers on the street start to talk to JIM.

ELDERLY WOMAN

You are nothing but a disappointment to your mother!

YOUNG GIRL

(to her giggling girlfriends)

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But he looks so handsome in that suit...

WOMAN 1

I heard his mother got him that job interview in a big international company and he blew it!

WOMAN 2

Well, his mother should know her own son better. I`m sure he knows what he is doing.

BUM

You`ve turned down a paying job? Great! I`ll save you a place by the dumpster!

JIM`s PHONE rings. He pulls it out of his pocket, looks at the screen.

BUM

What? Is that your mother? What are you going to say to her? You let her down real hard...

PHONE rings.

WOMAN 2

Pick up that phone, boy! She`ll understand.

PHONE rings.

WOMAN 1

Yeah! She will understand. She will understand that she raised a disgraceful piece of...

PHONE rings.

YOUNG GIRL

Look! Handsome guy is about to have it!

PHONE rings.

ELDERLY WOMAN

You are nothing but a disappointment to your mother!

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JIM answers the PHONE.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF AN OFFICE BUILDING

JIM stands on a busy street with the PHONE.

JIM

Hi, mom. Yes, the interview is over.  
Yeah, a bit short... How was it? Well,  
hard to say, you know, how those  
things are... No, I did not get a  
chance to meet Mr. Jennings. Because I  
left a little earlier. Earlier than  
interview was over. I felt sick.  
Because when I thought, that I might  
spend the rest of my life in that  
office, I almost threw up. I've told  
you, that's not for me. I don't know,  
what am I going to do yet... It will  
come to me. I don't know when. Lets  
talk about it at home, OK? Yeah, see  
you at home. Bye, mom.

(to himself)

It all will come to me... I hope...

JIM looks around and everybody, who talked to him minds their own business. ELDERLY WOMAN crosses the street, YOUNG GIRL giggles with her friends, WOMAN 1 and WOMAN 2 talk to each other, BUM looking for something. JIM walks on the street.

EXT. PARK

Sun is shining brightly, children are laughing, people are smiling. JIM walks pass taken park benches.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Another thing you need in order to  
change your life is some kind of  
catalyst. Like every engine needs a  
spark to start, you need some event to  
start the process. Of course, not  
every engine... Sometimes we have  
compression-ignition engines and they  
don't need sparks... Well, whatever.  
You do!

While NARRATOR is speaking, JIM walks by a bench with kissing teenagers, bench with old-aged men playing chess. Then JIM sits down on an empty BENCH. Suddenly lightweight BALL hits him in the head, bounces off his head and fall on the ground. He picks it up. 4-year-old girl LILLY comes to JIM.

LILLY  
This is my ball.

JIM  
Is that so? Me and that ball, we  
become very closely acquainted, when  
it hit me in the head.

LILLY  
What?

JIM  
I said, the ball hit me in the head,  
it chose me. I think, he wants to be  
mine.

LILLY  
Do you think, you can hit me in the  
head with it?

JIM  
No, here is your ball.

Young woman JENNA rushes to JIM and LILLY.

JENNA  
Lilly, what do you need to say?

LILLY  
Thank you.

LILLY runs away.

JIM  
You`re welcome.

JENNA  
I`m so sorry. She is like a shuttle  
sometimes. Did it hurt?

JIM  
I`ll live.

JENNA  
Do you mind if I sit here?

JIM  
Of course, not.

JENNA sits down on a bench near JIM.

EXT. BENCH IN THE PARK

JIM and JENNA sit on a BENCH in the park. JENNA sometimes watches her daughter playing in a distance off screen. JIM is tense.

JENNA

I`m Jenna.

JIM

I`m Jim.

JENNA

Nice to meet you. You know, Jim, it's confusing to have a child. It's really hard. Books on parenting make it seem so easy: if this, do that and stuff like that. But it's not that simple. I don't know the problem those authors have, but they are wrong most of the time...

JIM

Most of them never had children.

JENNA

You're kidding!

JIM

No. A friend of my mother's published three of them. Hates kids. Never spoke to me till I was 15.

JENNA

Who is she?

JIM

Oh, sorry, she made all of us to take an oath of silence about her name. But I can tell you about her curly blonde hair and glasses.

JENNA

Thank you! It's awful... I love those popular psychology books. They're so inspiring, they make me feel like I can do whatever I want! And now you will tell me, that all books about marriages are written by bachelors and all books about success wrote losers...



JIM

Well, not all of them...

JIM is not looking at JENNA.

JENNA

Common, drop it!

(yells to LILLY)

Drop it!

JIM turns to JENNA.

JIM

What?

JENNA

Drop it, Lilly!

(to Jim)

Sorry about that... So those success books, they are no good?

JIM

I wouldn't say they are no good, but I most certainly never heard someone successful says: "The secret of my success is simple: I read that book..."

EXT. BENCH IN THE PARK

JIM and JENNA sit on a BENCH. LILLY'S BALL falls on the FLOWER near the bench. LILLY comes for her BALL.

JIM

Your aim is a little off, this time. You've missed me.

LILLY

(about to start crying)

I've killed a flower...

JENNA

Honey, no, it's gonna be fine.

JIM

Sure, look at me: I survived the hit. Tell you what: lets fix it. Bring me some straight stick, alright?

LILLY starts to look for a STICK. JIM stands up. LILLY brings the STICK to JIM. JIM takes the STICK, puts it in the ground near the FLOWER, pull out the TIE from his pocket and ties

the TIE around straightened FLOWER and the STICK.

JIM

That should do it. You can check on the flower later.

LILLY

Great! You have saved the flower! Mommy, he saved the flower!

JENNA

Yes, I saw that, it was wonderful. Thank you again. Thank Jim, Lilly.

LILLY

Thank you, Jim.

JIM

(bows)

At your service, miss.

LILLY takes the BALL and runs away. JIM sits on the BENCH again.

EXT. BENCH IN THE PARK

JIM and JENNA sit on a BENCH.

JENNA

It was really amazing! But what about your tie, Jim? It looks expansive...

JIM

Don't worry. I won't need it any time soon...

JENNA

I envy you... You were so focused, so fast. I'm not like that. I got lost in those little catastrophes all the time. I got confused with my husband, with my daughter, with myself... I used to draw and write, and create but I don't remember the last time I felt creative... I'm lost. I'm thinking about finding some guidance, maybe hiring a life coach... Do you think you know one?

JIM

Sorry, no...

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SHOT FREEZES.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

And the last ingredient in the recipe for changing your life is bravery. Embrace opportunity, be so out of your comfort zone, that the zone is a dot to you. Set a trap for your a chance, handcuff your fate to a radiator in the basement, kidnap your luck and torture it until... Well, you got me point.

FADE (OR REWIND)

JENNA

I'm thinking about finding some guidance, may be even hiring a life coach... Do you think you know one?

JIM

Well, you're in luck. I am one.

FADE OUT

**-- THE END OF THE PREVIEW --**

For the full script email me at  
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