

HUME GETS A PROMOTION

by

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CHARACTERS

THE BOSS

Old-fashioned, overbearing, platitude-spouting, large, loud-mouthed, wearing a suit

HUME

Deferential, smaller, perhaps balding, agile, wearing a suit

(An office)

BOSS

Hume! Come on in, Hume. Take a seat, my boy, take a seat.

HUME

Thank you, sir.

BOSS

Good news, Hume. We'd like to make you a full partner in the company.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company. We're looking for movers and shakers, Hume, and we think you're the man for the job.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

Here. Have a ballerina, Hume. Go ahead. Pick her up. Give her a twirl. (Pause) She handles like a whirligig, doesn't she, Hume?

HUME

Yes, Sir.

BOSS

Hume, we want you to be our big-boy ballerina-man.

HUME

Principal dancer, Sir.

BOSS

Whatever, Hume, whatever. Cigar, Hume?

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

You see, the difference between bacon and eggs, Hume, is that it's a day's work for a chicken, but a

lifetime commitment for a pig. Understand?

HUME

Ah . . . you want me to be your pig, Sir?

BOSS

You catch on fast, Hume. I like that. You see, we've watched you grunt your way up the ballet corps for years. But it's truffle time, Hume.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

You're a team player, Hume.

HUME

Yes, Sir.

BOSS

You see this flow chart, Hume?

HUME

Yes, Sir.

BOSS

Look it, right here. We've got Tchaikovsky coming out the yinyang – Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker – but shares are falling and year end dividends are in the crapper. It's all about the liquidity of the market – buying, selling – you following me, Hume?

HUME

Liquidity, the crapper. Yes, Sir.

BOSS

Our stockholders are restless, Hume. They want results. We think you can give them those results.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

What's The Royal Winnipeg Ballet all about, Hume?

HUME

Dance, Sir. As part of the world ballet community our

work reflects our passion, excellence and integrity.

BOSS

Wrong, Hume, wrong. It's about the bottom line.

HUME

Um, Sir, I think—

BOSS

I don't pay you to think, Hume.

HUME

It's just, I see a problem—

BOSS

Don't bring me problems, Hume. Bring me solutions.

HUME

I can't—

BOSS

Success comes in cans, Hume. Remember that.

HUME

Yes, Sir.

BOSS

Sell the sizzle, not the steak. Understand?

HUME

Uh, yes, Sir.

BOSS

You'll be working on commission, Hume, with a yearend bonus commensurate with performance.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

Heft and twirl, Hume. Heft and twirl. Even those anorexic 80-pounders won't hover and spin by themselves.

HUME

No, Sir.

BOSS

A word of advice, Hume. You've got one helluva Fouetté rond de jambe en tournant. Use it.

HUME

I will, Sir.

BOSS

Good man! You know, Hume, you remind me of a young Nijinsky. Feet for dance and a head for business.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

You leave it all on the ice.

HUME

Thank you, Sir.

BOSS

A hundred and ten percent.

HUME

I try, Sir.

BOSS

Well, that's all for now, Hume. Got a meeting with resource development. We've been drilling deep for talent—

HUME

Drilling, Sir?

BOSS

Fracking, Hume. Fracking. And now I've got David Suzuki on my ass.

HUME

Yes, Sir.

BOSS

So we'll see you Monday morning, Hume — 9 AM sharp. Muriel will help you settle in. The coffee machine's in the employee lounge, your desk's in the cubicle farm, and your tutu and slippers are in the bottom drawer.

HUME

But I—

BOSS

No buts, Hume! If you can't ride two horses at the same time you shouldn't be in the circus. Understand?

HUME

Yes, Sir.

BOSS

Excellent!