



A SMALL STEP FOR ENGLAND!

BY PETER HALE

EXCERPT

A SMITH SCRIPT

This script is protected by copyright laws.
No performance of this script – IN ANY MEDIA – may be undertaken without payment of the
appropriate fee and obtaining a licence.

For further information, please contact SMITH SCRIPTS at info@smithscripts.co.uk

A SMALL STEP FOR ENGLAND!

**A Play
by
Peter Hale**

CHARACTERS

CLIVE ENGLISH: English, thirties-fifties, in a suit, a bit unprepossessing

IVAN: Eastern European, strong accent

LAUREN BELACOSTA: American, power dressing woman, very much in charge, but a small-town girl at heart

FARIZA: In traditional face-covering Muslim dress

IVAN: Lauren is not here at the present. She will not be long coming. But tell me, you are English?

CLIVE: Yes, I'm Clive English

IVAN: No, not your name, you from England?

CLIVE: Yes..

IVAN: Look at this, here is wonderful view of your London city. You see for kilometres. All sorts, East, West, hills, glorious 03 Millennium dome, Olympic Stadium, London Eye, all traditional London. But here, look, they build another bloody great tower, block my view. Soon your London look like Manhattan, yes?

CLIVE: Yes, but that is what firms like ours want, isn't it?

IVAN: If I want wonderful view of next door skyscraper, I have no need to come to London. You English, you are so stupid.

[During this, Enter LAUREN. She sits at the desk, lights come up]

IVAN: *[turning]* Now, look, this is Lauren Belacosta

[Focus of action shifts to the chair and the desk. IVAN and FARIZA exit. CLIVE goes over to the desk

CLIVE: Lauren Belacosta?

LAUREN: Yes? And you are?

CLIVE: Oh, I'm Clive English

LAUREN: *[slightly hesitant, then remembering]* Ah yes! Clyde English - do sit down

CLIVE: You wanted to see me

LAUREN: Yes, yes, well, thank you for coming up

CLIVE: That's all right. What can I do

LAUREN: Yes, well. English, that's your name isn't it

CLIVE: Yes..

LAUREN: Then it's what we can do for you

CLIVE: Oh? Right....?

LAUREN: You're English

CLIVE: That's my name, yes

LAUREN: No, you're English, From England

CLIVE: Yes, I live here, yes

LAUREN: But you're English

CLIVE: I was born here, yes

LAUREN: So you're English, Mr English!

CLIVE: Well, my parents were from Scotland

LAUREN: No, you're English. We have you down as English. That's your name, so you're English

CLIVE: Well, actually, English is a Scottish surname. Otherwise everybody from England would be called English

LAUREN: *[patronising]* So, they are called English because they're from Scotland?

CLIVE: Yes

LAUREN: But why did the Scottish call them English, huh?

CLIVE: Well....

LAUREN: Because they're from England. Right, you are English, and that's what we need

CLIVE: You need somebody English?

LAUREN: Clyde, you have been on the diversity training course?

CLIVE: Yes

LAUREN: Listen Clyde, I'll be open with you, though that's not what the English are good at, is it. Look, you will have noticed that this company employs a lot of people who are not from England

CLIVE: Yes...

LAUREN: And that's fine, and good and it promotes diversity. But we have had a new directive - you see where this is going?

CLIVE: Yes.. no...

LAUREN: Look I'm American. My name is Belacosta. It's Spanish, It means Beautiful Coast. My parents were from Nicaragua. But I don't count twice. But that's OK in New York, because nobody's really from America

CLIVE: Except the Indians

LAUREN: People of Asian origin are recent arrivals.. Oh. You mean Native Americans. You sure you went on those diversity courses? Oh right, you went on the European ones, right?

CLIVE: Yes..

LAUREN: Hey, did you see the announcement about Won Ton Soaring Eagle?

CLIVE: The new Deputy Global head of Essential Communication Solutions?

LAUREN: That's diversity! He's Chinese Native American

CLIVE: He certainly has a big budget for his paper clips

LAUREN: Yes. Diversity. We've all gotta try harder at diversity! And that's why you're here. The latest stats show we're light on English around here. We're not celebrating you English folks enough. And that's pretty bad here in London Town, eh?

CLIVE: Well..

LAUREN: We do Brits, yes, we do Brits, but we've just been told Brits ain't English. Or English ain't Brits, or something like that. . And now you sure ain't European.

CLIVE: Well..

LAUREN: Look, you are English. You want to be independent from those Scotch?

CLIVE: I think it's the other way round...

LAUREN: You don't want to be held responsible for that office Burns Night fiasco, do you?

CLIVE: Ah yes, not a lot of people realised the joke about the haggis hunt

LAUREN: How Security missed that Kalashnikov we'll never know, but it was a red warning on the old dashboard for Health and Safety, I can tell you. As for those Welsh!

CLIVE: Those inflatable leeks didn't go down too well on St David's Day, I hear

LAUREN: Jeez, coping with sexual harassment while defending cultural diversity makes this one of the toughest jobs in this company, you know that?

CLIVE: I can imagine...

LAUREN: I gotta value and respect every individual's unique contribution to this company and seek to ensure that no one group or individual is disadvantaged. So, listen, Clyde, you know why I have called you up here, why I asked for you? I've been through the records and you know what, you have just the talent I'm looking for. It's a creative opportunity to embrace, respond to and be relevant