

LOST IN AMERICA

AGENT

So. What can we do for you?

DAVID

Well, I'm originally from Los Angeles and I'm now living here. I need a job.

AGENT

Alright.

(continuing)

What was your previous working experience?

DAVID

Well, for the last eight years I was a major executive with one of the biggest advertising agencies in the country.

AGENT

Oh, I see. And your previous salary?

DAVID

Seventy thousand dollars.

AGENT

You said seventy thousand?

DAVID

Yes.

AGENT

Over how long a period are we talking about?

DAVID

A year. Seventy thousand a year. (Pause)

What's so funny?

AGENT

Nothing. That's very good. So, what brings you around these parts? Trying to double up that income?

DAVID

No. I came here to live. I wanted to change my life.

AGENT

You couldn't change your life on seventy thousand?

DAVID

Could we just get back to what we're doing here?

AGENT

Sure. Uh, I don't think I have anything at all right now. I mean the only thing I have, you wouldn't be interested in. Why don't you check back with me in a month?

DAVID

Well, you don't know what I'd be interested in. Why don't you just tell me what you have?

AGENT

I don't think that coming from your position and your salary you'd be interested in it.

DAVID

Well, you don't know me. What is it?

AGENT

It's a crossing guard.

DAVID

A crossing guard? You mean at a school?

AGENT

Yes. Where else do you see them work?

DAVID

No, I just didn't know if there were different kinds. Well, what does that pay?

AGENT

A hundred thousand dollars.

DAVID

But, really, what does it pay?

AGENT

It pays three twenty-five an hour, plus benefits.

DAVID

Benefits meaning what?

AGENT

Benefits meaning you can get a ride to and from work if you need it.

DAVID

Well, listen, I've just started looking for work and I don't want to rule anything out but I think I probably can find something where I can use my ability a bit more. Would you have another kind of file, like an executive box or something?

AGENT

What kind of box would that be?

DAVID

You know, a box of higher-paying jobs.

AGENT

My goodness, I forgot. Sure. You mean the hundred thousand dollar box?

DAVID

Well, I'm happy I could provide you with your morning's entertainment. You can laugh at me but let me tell you something. I made a statement. You understand what I'm saying? I made a statement.

AGENT

A statement?

DAVID

Never mind. Thank you.

AGENT

Thank you. Good luck.