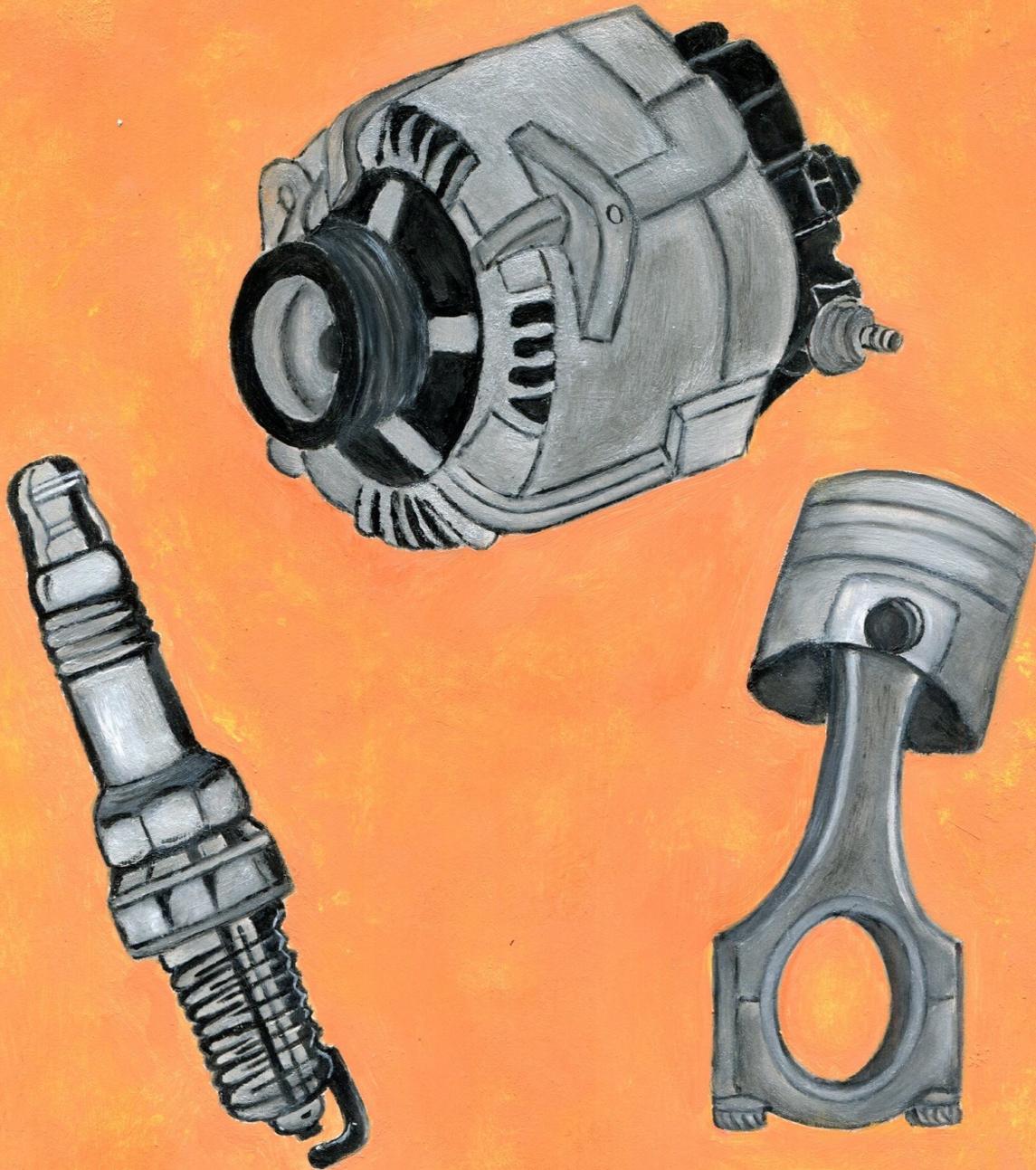


*Marco Ciaramella*

*THE FIRST DAY*



## CAST:

**Vin:** Owner of the car dealership

**Aldous:** Warehouse worker of the car dealership

**Upton:** Aspiring warehouse worker

**Alphonzo:** Mechanic of the car dealership

**Franz:** Vin's brother

**Sefton Taylor:** Customer of the car dealership

**Seward Cox:** Customer of the car dealership

**Vernon:** Customer of the car dealership

**Raphael:** Customer of the car dealership

**Bruno:** Customer of the car dealership

*The scene takes place in a car dealership warehouse.*

*On stage there is Aldous intent on writing at the counter. Behind him you can see the door that gives access to the spare parts warehouse. To his left the door that communicates with the workshop and to his right the one through which customers enter.*

*Vin and Upton enter the scene.*

**Vin:** He is Aldous and he will show you what the job is all about. If you follow his advice, you will learn quickly.

**Upton:** Hi Aldous! My name is Upton.

**Aldo:** Hi Upton! Welcome to this madhouse. They told me you've never done this job, so if you like, I'd start explaining something to you right away.

**Vin:** Then I go. I recommend Aldous: make sure that he takes passion for this job.

**Aldous:** Your every wish is an order! *(After Vin leaves the scene)* In the meantime, start taking a look at these catalogs.

**Upton:** *(After observing them for a few moments)* Maybe it will be that I don't understand anything about mechanics, but for me this is Arabic.

**Aldous:** In these catalogs there are the spare parts of the cars, that's all.

**Upton:** But how do I find them? I assume that each car needs its own spare parts.

**Aldous:** Well said! I see you are sharp. That's it .

**Upton:** But if you don't explain to me how to distinguish them, there is little to be sharp!

**Aldous:** What a hurry! You just arrived. A moment of patience! I'm going to have breakfast now. If someone comes, you write he wants and then, when I get back, we order it.

**Upton:** But if we already have it, why do we have to make people wait in vain?

**Aldous:** You must never do today what you can do tomorrow! You listen to me and you will see that you will be well.

**Upton:** If you say so! Anyway, what exactly do I have to write?

**Aldous:** The spare part that the customer asks for, the car model and the year of registration.

**Upton:** Okay!

**Aldous:** Ah, I forgot! Do you see the door on the right? That door communicates with the workshop, from there some mechanic could come in and ask you something. Even then, you write what he wants and then I'll take care of it when I return.

**Upton:** Out of curiosity, where do we keep the spare parts we already have available?

**Aldous:** In the warehouse of course! Do you see this door behind us? It is from there that it is accessed.

**Upton:** I get it! But you hurry, please!

**Aldous:** Try to stay calm! Anyway five minutes and I'll be back. Write everything and you will see that there will be no problems. *(And he leaves the scene)*

*A mechanic enters through the door communicating with the workshop.*

**Alphonzo:** Hi! Who are you?

**Upton:** I'm the new warehouse worker, tell me everything! But I warn you, I write what you need and when Aldous comes back...

**Alphonzo:** You don't have to write, you have to give me the spare parts! I have to deliver the car in less than an hour.

**Upton:** You're right! But Aldous told me to do in this way.

**Alphonzo:** Where did that slacker go?

**Upton:** He went for breakfast.

**Alphonzo:** Then for half an hour he won't be back for sure! Come on, serve me and give me the distributor of the Volkswagen Polo diesel.

**Upton:** The distributor? And what would it be?

**Alphonzo:** You start badly if you don't even know the power distributor!

**Upton:** I know the distributor to fill up with petrol, not the power one.

**Alphonzo:** I get it! I'll be back later when Aldous is there. *(And he leaves the scene. At the same time another mechanic enters, with a strong German accent)*

**Franz:** To want K70 oil filter.

**Upton:** What do you want?

**Franz:** Oil filter K70.

**Upton:** All I understand is that you want an oil filter. What would this K70 be?

**Franz:** Spare part code, to find it quickly.

**Upton:** Thank you but I don't know where to find it. Surely it's over there in the warehouse somewhere, but I don't even try to look for it.

**Franz:** You young people of today, all slackers.

**Upton:** I'm not a slacker, I just don't know where to look. Anyway, as soon as Aldous arrives, we'll look for it.

**Franz:** If you can't do better...

**Upton:** Let's do it this way: I'll bring it directly to you as soon as Aldous returns.

**Franz:** I rely on you. *(And he leaves the scene)*

*Aldous enter the scene.*

**Aldous:** Has anyone come?

**Upton:** Yes, two mechanics came and they also had some urgency.

**Aldous:** You will soon learn that mechanics are always in a hurry. They just put you in a hurry to finish the job early and then go do their thing.

**Upton:** It seemed to me that they really needed to deliver the cars.

**Aldous:** How much experience you need to get! Anyway, what did they want?

**Upton:** The first mechanic who came wanted the distributor of the diesel Polo and the other a K70 filter.

**Aldous:** You are really green for this job! Don't you know that diesel engines don't have a distributor?

**Upton:** So what did he want?

**Aldous:** He wanted to take the piss out of you, that's for sure!

**Upton:** And the mechanic who wanted the K70 filter?

**Aldous:** He also wanted to make fun of you. The K70 is a vintage car, not a filter code.

**Upton:** Good heavens, what a poor figure I made!

**Aldous:** Unfortunately for you, it will definitely not be the last.

**Upton:** How do I understand when people want to make fun of me and when they talk seriously?

**Aldous:** Intuition, my dear rookie! You just have to hope that helps you. But now I have to go away again, I need to drink. *(And he goes out again)*

**Upton:** *(Leafing through the catalogs)* These catalogs are so complicated! If Aldous doesn't explain to me the criterion by which to search, I really don't know how to do it.

*A customer enters the scene.*

**Upton:** Good morning! What do you want?

**Sefton:** Good morning! My name is Sefton Taylor and I would like to collect a spare part that I ordered yesterday.

**Upton:** What is it?

**Sefton:** You should know, since you ordered it.

**Upton:** You're right! Unfortunately, however, I am here from today...

**Sefton:** This doesn't interest me! I want my spare, pay and go. I'm in a hurry, otherwise I'll miss the train to go home.

**Upton:** What I can do is look for it in the warehouse. Maybe if your name is written on it, I might even be able to find it.

**Sefton:** Actually I was hoping to find him directly on the counter with the bill ready, as his colleague promised me yesterday, but if not...

**Upton:** If you are referring to who I think, I highly doubt that he has already prepared everything for you.

**Sefton:** Where is he today? Is he sick?

**Upton:** In my opinion not only today! Anyway forget it! Wait a minute, I'll be right back! *(He opens the door behind him and leaves the stage, while Aldous returns)*

**Aldous:** Good morning!

**Sefton:** Good morning not at all! Where is my part?

**Aldous:** We ordered it, but it will arrive in a few days.

**Sefton:** I need it now, not in a few days!

**Aldous:** I'm sorry, but it's not up to me.

**Sefton:** I'll go buy it somewhere else.

**Aldous:** As you wish!

**Sefton:** I will never go back to buy anything here, rather go on foot for the rest of my life! *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Aldous:** Go pain in the ass!

*Upton enter the scene.*

**Upton:** Ah, thank goodness you're back! I searched everywhere, but I couldn't find any boxes with it written on it the name Sefton Taylor.

**Aldous:** Didn't you see it was here on the counter?

**Upton:** Sorry, but I just hadn't seen it!

**Aldous:** Don't worry, I gave it to him. Anyway, look better next time.

**Upton:** I promise you I'll pay more attention!

**Aldous:** Now I smoke a cigarette and have a coffee. You stand guard over the fort! *(And he goes out again)*

**Upton:** What a poor figure... I had it in front of my eyes and I didn't see it. Let's hope he doesn't report it to the owner, otherwise my trial period will end today.

*Franz enter the scene.*

**Franz:** I would like a watertight coil applique for a 2012 Clio.

**Upton:** *(Looking at him to see if he's kidding him again)* How do I recognize it?

**Franz:** Simple: to look at the first shelf on the right inside the spare parts room, in the third shelf starting from the bottom.

**Upton:** *(He goes to see and after a few moments comes back with a hairdryer in his hand)* Where you say there is this and it doesn't seem to me what you are asking.

**Franz:** Nein, that's your colleague's. He is very obsessed with those two hairs that he finds himself on his head, but don't be watertight coil applique.

**Upton:** I only found this. If you don't believe me, go check it out for yourself.

**Franz:** I don't have authorization to enter the warehouse, only you warehouse workers can do it.

**Upton:** If so, you'll have to wait again for the boss to come back. Maybe I'll bring it to you with the K70. As you can see, I haven't forgotten what you asked me earlier.

**Franz:** Congratulations! A good memory makes a good warehouse worker! *(And leave the scene)*

**Upton:** *(While he is intent on reading the catalogs someone enters. Not having seen which door he is entering, when he raises his head ...)* Good morning, what do you want?

**Seward:** My name is Seward Cox and I would like to order a Seat Marbella clutch.

**Upton:** Marbella? *(Thinking it's yet another joke)* And maybe we put it together with the K70, the watertight coil applique and the distributor of diesel engines.

**Seward:** I don't understand what you're saying.

**Upton:** I'm dumb, but up to a certain point! So let's stop with the jokes!

**Seward:** I'm not here to have fun. So, be serious and give me what I asked for.

**Upton:** Do you know that you are very convincing? If I hadn't arrived after the other two, I would have believed you.

**Seward:** Are you kidding or are you serious? Because, if so, I'll have to go directly to the dealer owner to complain.

**Upton:** Wait a moment! You, which door did you enter?

**Seward:** From the only one from which you access, from the one there. (*Pointing to the door through which customers enter*)

**Upton:** Holy shit, sorry for the misunderstanding! It's just that the model of your car had fooled me.

**Seward:** I think you get fooled easily! However, I warn you not to make inappropriate jokes about my car otherwise...

**Upton:** Far from me that thought! Now I write everything and when the warehouse manager comes back we order his spare part.

**Seward:** So when will I be able to pick it up?

**Upton:** Leave me your phone number and as soon as the spare part arrives we will let you know.

**Seward:** I don't have a landline phone.

**Upton:** So leave me your cell phone number.

**Seward:** I don't even have a cell phone.

**Upton:** In that case we can warn you with smoke signals.

**Seward:** Are you starting to sarcasm again? I read in your externalization the belief that, in today's world, if a person does not have a cell phone, he must be one who lives on the margins of society.

**Upton:** You misunderstood me! I was only marking the concept that, without a means of communication, we can't warn you, that's all.

**Seward:** Just to be clear, even though I have a cheap car and I don't have a phone, I'm a judge, so I suggest you suggest you be careful how you talk, otherwise I will make you stop being witty.

**Upton:** I am truly mortified and I assure you that there was no malice in my words.

**Seward:** I believe you and pretend that nothing has happened. However, if I don't find the spare part tomorrow when I get back, you will regret not supplying it to me.

**Upton:** Don't doubt, tomorrow you will have your clutch!

*Seward leaves the scene and after a moment Aldous returns.*

**Aldous:** It's all OK?

**Upton:** We have to urgently order the clutch of a Seat Marbella, otherwise I'm in trouble.

**Aldous:** Why?

**Upton:** Because if that clutch doesn't come tomorrow, I'll be fired.

**Aldous:** Since you haven't been hired yet, it wouldn't be a real discharge...

**Upton:** Anyway, I promised a very important customer that his clutch will be here tomorrow. So please order it!

**Aldous:** I can't do that.

**Upton:** Why can't you do it? I just told you I risk being fired.

**Aldous:** Because without the chassis number, we cannot order it, as there are two types.

**Upton:** Why didn't you tell me to write that too?

**Aldous:** Because it is in the vehicle registration document and the customers who come here never bring it with them and, moreover, they are very reluctant to go and get it inside the car.

**Upton:** Then let's order both of these clutches.

**Aldous:** And with what is not needed we make jam? The Marbella is not a commercial car and the risk of it being left unsold is too high.

**Upton:** Can't we return it?

**Aldous:** We're not on Postal market! This is a spare parts warehouse. So now you call that customer and ask him to give you the chassis number, otherwise no parts for tomorrow.

**Upton:** I can't do that. He doesn't have a phone. How do I do now? That man will come back tomorrow convinced he will find the clutch.

**Aldous:** He will resign himself to having to come back a second time.

**Upton:** Okay, I get it! Order both clutches, I'll pay for one.

**Aldous:** You may not know, but it costs five hundred pounds.

**Upton:** Dismissal would cost more.

**Aldous:** Okay! Before proceeding, however, give me the money.

**Upton:** (*Giving him the money*) But hurry up, otherwise we won't be able to get them to arrive by tomorrow.

**Aldous:** Take away a curiosity: do you always have all this cash in your wallet?

**Upton:** No, it's just a coincidence, before I came here I went to make a withdrawal at the ATM.

**Aldous:** *(After dialing a phone number)* Hello? Harris spare parts? ... Will you send me the two types of clutch of the Seat Marbella for tomorrow? Please, I need it before eleven. ... Yes, carriage on delivery, as always. Thanks..

**Upton:** You did everything?

**Aldous:** Yes, relax! If you do this on your first day of work, what will happen to you in forty years? I remind you that you will have to spend years in here to get to retirement, my dear!

**Upton:** It is better not to think about it!

**Aldous:** You will see that in the next few days things will improve. But now I have to go there, I think I saw the courier arrive, I'm going to sign the transport documents.

**Upton:** Please hurry! Whenever you leave, a big mess happens here.

**Aldous:** Don't worry, I'll be quick as always! *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Upton:** If you say so, then I worry!

*Alphonzo enter the scene.*

**Alphonzo:** But is Aldous never there? Give me four funeral transport candles soon.

**Upton:** Funeral transport candles?

**Alphonzo:** Yes, they are for a hearse that's broken down. Above is a dead man who needs to be buried and the graveyard closes at a certain time so we need to get the vehicle started again as soon as possible.

**Upton:** I have no idea what kind of candles they are.

**Alphonzo:** Being for a hearse, they are coffin-shaped. How else do you want them to be?

**Upton:** What a fool I am! Sometimes I don't think about the most basic things. I'm going to take a look in the warehouse. *(He leaves the scene while Alphonzo laughs out loud when he comes back...)* I can't find them, I've seen many types, but the ones you ask me aren't there.

**Alphonzo:** How is it possible? The other day I mounted four and Aldous assured me that there were as many. We must not run out of spare parts, otherwise how do we repair the cars?

**Upton:** When Aldous arrives I make him look for them and, in case they are finished, I will tell him to order them.

**Alphonzo:** Then tell him to order at least sixteen.

**Upton:** Why so many?

**Alphonzo:** In case there were many funerals they could be useful.

**Upton:** Well said!

**Alphonzo:** Now I'm going over there to wait, when that idler comes back, tell him to bring them to me immediately, he can also pass them through the back little window.

**Upton:** I assure you that I will not forget it! *(After Alphonzo has left, Upton sees another customer enter with Aldous)* Aldous you have to take some funeral transport candles to the workshop immediately.

**Aldous:** Who asked you? The mechanic who speaks German?

**Upton:** No, the other.

**Aldous:** Now I serve this customer and then I satisfy him too. Now pay attention, observe and learn!

**Vernon:** I have a Vosvagen and I need the rear "sfroiler", the one on the glass.

**Aldous:** So you have a Volkswagen and want the rear spoiler, the one above the rear window?

**Vernon:** Yes, just that.

**Aldous:** Could you also tell me the model?

**Vernon:** It's a Niù blitus.

**Aldous:** Maybe is it a New Beetle?

**Vernon:** Yes.

**Aldous:** I would need the registration document to see the chassis number of the car.

**Vernon:** Damn, is it so complicated to order these "sfroilen"? Aren't they all the same?

**Aldous:** No, otherwise I wouldn't bother you.

**Vernon:** But first can't you tell me how much it costs?

**Aldous:** The cost depends on the model.

**Vernon:** I just need to know the approximate price, ten pounds more, ten pounds less...

**Aldous:** This is exactly the point! The differences are not as small as you think.

**Vernon:** Okay, I'm going to get it, otherwise you'll make me stay here all day. Ah! Come to think of it, I have it in my pocket. I needed it first for the overhaul of the car. *(Handing him the registration document)*

**Aldous:** *(After looking on the computer)* So the spoiler for your car costs three hundred pounds plus VAT.

**Vernon:** Why? Is it golden?

**Aldous:** Furthermore, in addition to this price, we will also have to add the cost of painting and assembly, so the total cost will be around five hundred pounds.

**Vernon:** Then forget it, the car works even without that contraption.

**Aldous:** As you wish! However, if you change your mind, we also have our trusted bodywork to direct you to do the job.

**Vernon:** Thanks, but the five hundred pounds looks better in my wallet. Bye!

**Upton:** You are good when you want.

**Aldous:** What do you mean?

**Upton:** It was just a compliment.

*Vin enter the scene.*

**Vin:** Upton, I saw a customer coming to the warehouse, why don't you try serving him?

**Upton:** I'll try. Although I am realizing that it takes a lot of experience to be able to do this job.

**Vin:** Don't worry, with Aldous by your side you will learn soon! *(Vin leaves the scene and the customer enters)*

**Bruno:** Good morning! I need the muffler of the 1998 Ford Transit diesel van, the very last piece, the one from which the exhaust comes out.

**Upton:** *(Turning to Aldous)* Do we have it?

**Aldous:** No, it has to be ordered, write everything as I told you and ask for a deposit, I have to absent myself for a moment.

**Upton:** Can you give me the registration document?

**Bruno:** Of course! I know this spare part costs a thousand pounds, so I'll give you a down payment of three hundred if you could give me the change. *(The man gives Upton a simple sheet of paper with a thousand pounds written on it. Upton looks at him in amazement...)*

**Upton:** Sorry, but what is this?

**Bruno:** Don't you see it? It's a thousand pounds, but I'd like to leave three hundred pounds down payment, so you should give me seven hundred pounds in change. Then, when the spare part arrives, I will pay the balance.

**Upton:** *(Even more puzzled, not knowing what to do...)* His reasoning is correct, but I've never seen a thousand pounds like that.

**Bruno:** But which planet are you from? In spare parts warehouses it is customary to pay with this system.

**Upton:** Unfortunately, however, my colleague has the cash box with the money, so we should wait for him for the change. Ah, it's coming back!

**Aldous:** Why haven't you served this gentleman yet?

**Upton:** Because this gentleman would the change to this. *(Showing him the sheet)*

**Aldous:** Please excuse him, but the boy is still inexperienced! Tell me: how much do you want to leave?

**Bruno:** Three hundred pounds.

**Aldous:** Okay! *(He takes a blank sheet of paper and writes seven hundred pounds on it in large letters. Then he shows it to the client so that the audience can see it too)* These are your seven hundred pounds, which you will bring back to me when you come to collect the muffler.

**Bruno:** *(Turning to Upton)* It wasn't difficult.

**Aldous:** I apologize for him again, but he's still a rookie.

**Bruno:** Thanks, see you tomorrow! *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Upton:** I didn't know this way of payment existed. And I don't understand what we will earn if he doesn't come back to collect the muffler.

**Aldous:** How much did you have math? A thousand minus seven hundred is three hundred. The ones we will hold back if he doesn't come back.

**Upton:** But if he didn't withdraw the muffler, where would the profit be?

**Aldous:** We could sell that to another customer.

**Upton:** And couldn't we also do it with the Marbella clutch?

**Aldous:** Of course! And when that happens, you can get your money back.

**Upton:** *(Seeing another customer enter)* Let's finish the talk later, now I want to serve this gentleman. Good morning!

**Raphael:** Hi! You should give me the pneumatic balls from the Citroen shock absorbers.

**Upton:** *(At that point explodes)* Look, I don't have those pneumatic ones but I have two big ones, if you want to put those!

**Raphael:** What are you saying? You are a sassy, change jobs which is better!

**Upton:** You're right! I'm not suited for this job. Let the spare parts, the customers and the mechanics go to hell, I'm leaving. Unemployed or not, I'm going home. It is better to starve than to go to an asylum! See you! And you Aldous, go fuck yourself with all your coffee and all your "cigarettes". Goodbye!

**Aldous:** *(Running after him and grabbing him by the arm)* Come here, you fool, now you can start being a warehouse worker!

**Upton:** What are you saying? I don't understand.

**Aldous:** I'll explain it to you right away, but calm down for a moment! You must know that what you just passed was a test.

**Upton:** What do you mean?

**Aldous:** Everything that has happened has been arranged to see how you cope in certain situations that might happen to you.

**Upton:** I advise you to keep explaining quickly, before my blood boils again.

**Aldous:** Let's start at the beginning: Vin asked me to take this test before making the final decision to hire you. Clearly, since you haven't had any other work experience as a warehouse worker, I could only judge your character.

**Upton:** Do you keep making fun of me?

**Aldous:** Absolutely not! Vin also asked the mechanics to make absurd requests to see your level of knowledge of cars. They took advantage of it and exaggerated a bit to have a good laugh.

**Upton:** But they knew from the start that I was inexperienced.

**Aldous:** It's true, but only a naïve would look for coffin-shaped funeral transport candles.

**Upton:** What do you mean?

**Aldous:** I mean there are no coffin-shaped candles, much less those for funeral transport. How can you only think there were of that type just why they were mounted on the engine of a hearse?

**Upton:** What a stupid I have been!

**Aldous:** I also warned you that they were making fun of you! But you continued to trust them.

**Upton:** But Mr. Taylor didn't seem like he was joking.

**Aldous:** In fact, that was a real customer! You must know that I deliberately didn't order the spare part from him.

**Upton:** So I'm not dumb, it wasn't on the counter!

**Aldous:** No. And I'll also explain why. He has a bad habit of making us order spare parts and then never comes to pick them up. A couple of times I had to scrap his spare parts, so I got smart.

**Upton:** What does it mean that you had to scrap them?

**Aldous:** It means that keeping spare parts in stock for a long time is not convenient, it costs a lot less to get rid of them. So I only made the interests of the company. Some customers are just a remittance so they better go elsewhere.

**Upton:** I was convinced you were a careless slacker, instead... And the judge, was he a real client or not?

**Aldous:** He is a colleague of ours who deals with the sale of used cars. He was so good because, as a hobby, he is a theater actor. I'll introduce him to you later with all the other employees of this dealership.

**Upton:** Does this mean that I passed the test?

**Aldous:** For me, yes, even if the final decision is up to Vin. In my opinion you have the right character to learn everything I will teach you. Certainly my opinion will be decisive, however we are waiting for the official.

**Upton:** So to become a warehouse worker you just need the right temper?

**Aldous:** In my opinion, yes, everything else can be learned over time. Unless one is stupid, and that's not your case. Naive yes, but not stupid!

**Upton:** If so, would you give me back the money for that clutch you pretended to order?

**Aldous:** How careless I am, I almost forgot! *(Giving him back the money)*

**Upton:** A few moments ago I was convinced that I had lost it, now, on the other hand, it almost seems to me that I have earned it.

**Vin:** *(Who listened to the conversation from behind a door)* Not only that you earned, the work too. You have shown that you have temper and an attachment to work. To do your job well, you were even willing to sacrifice your money. So welcome to us!

**Upton:** Thank you very much! Just out of curiosity: was the mechanic who speaks with a German accent really born in Germany?

**Vin:** Who are you referring to?

**Upton:** I am referring to the mechanic who wanted the oil filter for the K70.

**Vin:** No, he is my brother and he is a partner of the company. And I can tell you that he liked you right away. It is no coincidence that he wanted to teach you the first rule, namely that only employees can enter the warehouse.

**Upton:** I am really happy to join this group.

**Vin:** So if you want to stay with us for a long time I give you a single suggestion: whatever happens, never lose your head!

**Upton:** In the meantime, it would be enough for me not to lose my toupee! *(Taking it off just then and causing a loud general laugh)*