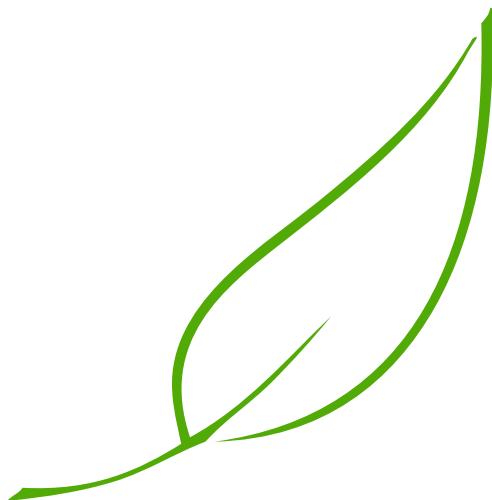


SINGLE JEOPARDY

by Robert L. Crowe



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HOST: (*standing as GUEST enters*) Hello, I'm _____.

GUEST: Hi, My name is _____.

HOST: So, _____. You'd like to be a contestant on Single Jeopardy.

GUEST: Oh, yes. I've been waiting a long time.

HOST: Sorry about the wait. We're running about 30 minutes late.

GUEST: No, I mean I've been waiting years to get on this program. Does this mean I'm going to be a contestant?

HOST: I'm afraid it's not that easy. Have a seat. (*They do.*) We first have this interview, then if you pass, we trace your life history. We start by questioning the nurses at the hospital where you were born.

GUEST: I don't know who they were. They all wore masks.

HOST: Never mind about that now. You say you are familiar with the program format?

GUEST: Oh, yeah. A faithful watcher ... viewer ... type person.

HOST: Even though you know the procedure, I am required to explain the mechanics of the program.

GUEST: I don't remember seeing any mechanics.

HOST: (*has done this routine many times*) You will be the only contestant on stage. On the big board there will be 48 choices arranged in six columns and eight rows. You will make a choice by saying, for example, "One – six." Meaning row one, column six. An answer will open and you have to give the correct question. You will have four minutes to correctly answer as many as you can. The other contestants on the show will do the same procedure. Most correct responses wins. Got it?

GUEST: Yes.

HOST: This interview is to get acquainted and pose a few trial questions. Any questions?

GUEST: Uhhhhh ...

HOST: Very good. Let's proceed. Let me give you a hint. We're looking for personalities. Someone different and interesting ... has done exotic things ... lived life.

GUEST: Oh, that's me to the tee. I've lived life. Lived every day since I was held hostage in that hospital with the nurse outlaws.

HOST: Tell me about your most interesting experience.

GUEST: (*thinking*) Interesting ... most interesting ... hmmmmmm ... something to get on the show ... Well, I was in South America, in the Amazon River basin. I was taking a bath in the basin when an alligator ... or maybe a crocodile, they look a lot alike ... came after me. I threw a box of soap and the gator ate it and I was saved.

HOST: How so?

GUEST: The gator went out with the Tide. Then I caught a case of yellow fever. I'm not sure who threw it but it was a whole case. I got infected by osteoporosis

HOST: Osmosis?

GUEST: Whatever. I'm over it now but I still can't stand to wear anything yellow.

HOST: Is that a true story?

GUEST: Yes. It is truly a story. Do they have to be true?

HOST: No. Most of them aren't. They only have to be interesting. Let's try a few questions now. This is to test your response time. The challenge is to reply as quickly as possible. Ready?

GUEST: (*as quickly as possible*) Yes!

HOST: I'll give the answer. You provide the question. Here we go. (*pause*) Joan of Arc.

GUEST: Who was Noah's daughter?

HOST: (*pause, thinking it over*) Next item ... The answer is the word suspicion.

GUEST: What is ... When you pay cash, they want some identification.

HOST: OK. Next ... On the chemical periodic table, the symbol is AL.

GUEST: What is Alimony?

HOST: No,

GUEST: Where is Alaska?

HOST: No

GUEST: Alabama?

HOST: No.

GUEST: Who is Albert?

HOST: No. Let's move on.

GUEST: What is Atlas Van Lines?

HOST: Atlas Van Lines?

GUEST: Yes. For moving ... on.

HOST: (*big sigh*) Maybe I over-emphasized the speed of the reply. We'll do more questions after a small break.

GUEST: What is my left arm?

HOST: Left arm?

GUEST: When I was small I had a break. Left arm. That's a great test item. You have really done a great job screening me.

HOST: Apparently not.

GUEST: Can I ask you a question?

HOST: Maybe.

GUEST: I've always wanted to be around show business. Tell me about your job. What is your background and how did you get this job with Single Jeopardy?

HOST: It's a long story and not very interesting.

GUEST: It might be interesting to me. Start at the beginning.

HOST: At the beginning Well, I had trouble in grade school.

GUEST: What was the trouble?

HOST: Grades. I had a lack-luster high school career but I was chosen "Most likely to exceed the speed limit." After that, I tried to sell liability insurance. Turned out that I was the liability. Then I was fired from an ice cream shop ... the Happy Bear Frozen Treats. They weren't happy with my work. Afterwards I tried a couple of things I didn't like. Then I ended up here.

GUEST: That's quite a resume. What qualifications did they see to hire you for this job?

HOST: My mother owns the company.

GUEST: Oh, the ultimate qualification.



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