

VOICES

Written by

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An egotistical businessman does cruel imitations of his workmates until one day he can't stop talking like them.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Exterior to a 30 story skyscraper in a large city.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

A large conference room is filled with thirty people.

At the podium stands ALBERT (37) six feet, squarish head, handsome. Projected on screen in back of him is a scatter chart. He laser points where there is a sudden increase.

ALBERT

In conclusion gentlemen...and ladies, facts don't lie. Since you've implemented my...our *firms* procedures, there's been a 127% increase in profit growth.

Low-pitched mumbling of approval fills the room as they all stand, turn and talk to one another. Albert smiles arrogantly, does a Kirk Gibson fist pull and walks towards the exit. Walks by BILL (60) short, balding who smiles and pats Albert on the back as he passes him.

BILL

Great job Albert. You've made it easy for me to select the new director.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Albert enters the corridor from the boardroom. Walking towards him is PEGGY (26) an attractive, slim blonde, petite lady in a flowery long dress. She has bright red lipstick that surround perfect, readily visible teeth.

ALBERT

(smug)
Nice dress. Let's celebrate tonight. I'll let you pick the bottle of wine to buy me.

PEGGY

(Rolls eyes)
Celebrate what?

ALBERT

My promotion to Director of Sales.

PEGGY

They haven't made a selection yet.

Albert lets loose with a rakish grin.

PEGGY

Besides, shouldn't you buy under those circumstances?

ALBERT

You've got a good point. Let me check with my CPA to see if I'm max'd out on charitable contributions this year.

Peggy shakes her head and walks down the hall.

ALBERT

Better yet I'll sell raffle tickets. Winner gets to buy me a bottle.

(loud so she can hear)

I'll even give you a free ticket!

He smiles hugely until she rounds the corner then gets a serious look on his face. Stares long at the empty corner.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Albert enters a crowded cafeteria. He passes Emile (44), short, dark hair and eye brows.

EMILE

(Lisp, low gravelly voice)

Good speeth Albert

Albert shakes Emile's hand.

ALBERT

(snide smile)

Thanks.

Albert passes RON (50) squarish head, six feet, medium build.

RON

Eeep! Ah, yeah, great speech Albert

ALBERT

And the earth rotates on its axis and revolves around the sun.

Next is Karl (49) blond hair, skinny legs, glasses.

KARL

Um, ahh, that was, umm ah a very good presentation Albert.

Albert continues on to a table where sits CHIRS (55), bald, glasses, slightly bug eyed; CALVIN (48), Japanese and wrinkled; PAUL (50), completely bald, tall, slight belly.

ALBERT

Ah, if it isn't my four cronies.
 (holds hands up like Moses
 parting the Red Sea)
 Gather round and bow down to your
 leader.
 (joins them at table)

PAUL

(New York accent)
 Whatta ya think of yaw competition?

CHRIS

It's just the four of them and you
 for the Director of Sales position.

ALBERT

Are you kidding me? You wanna know
 what it would have been like with
 any of those other chumps giving
 the presentation today?

CALVIN

(almost laughing)
 Yes we do. Show us. How would Emile
 have looked?

Albert does an imitation of Emile's voice exaggerated to the point of absurdity. It sounds like Grumpy of the Seven Dwarfs with a Donald Duck lisp.

ALBERT

Well, ah, if we invetht twenty
 percthent of the provitths into
 rethurth and development we'd have
 a twenty theven perthent increath
 in groth net...

Chris, Calvin and Paul laugh uproariously.

PAUL

How about Ron?

Albert's impersonation of Ron is a mix of the "Well Nancy" Ronald Regan stereotype and Winnie The Pooh with occasional high pitched spasms of Shemp Howard of the Three Stooges.

ALBERT

Well, ah, **I**...
 (eyes roll back in head,
 high pitched whine)
 Eep! Eep!
 (eyes return to normal)
 Since my wife is a dentist, only I
 (pats self on back)
 Only **I** can determine who has a good
 dentist and who doesn't.
 (takes hand off back)
 Excuse me. I now I have to go to
 the doctor to get the hematoma
 treated on my shoulder blade.

Paul, Chris and Calvin laugh again.

CHRIS

And Karl?

Albert's impersonation of Karl is like that of the Jerry Lewis version of the Nutty Professor, Julius Kelp.

ALBERT

Well, um ahh, if you take into
 account some of the ah statistical
 analysis, er, ah that is the mean
 deviation of the um ah
 coefficient...

Paul, Chris and Calvin laugh again.

PAUL

But you've forgot ya biggest
 competition of all?

Albert's smile is replaced with a look of confusion.

ALBERT

Who could you possibly be talking
 about. I know of no such person.

CALVIN

Peggy!

Albert scowls.

CHRIS

Everyone knows you've got a huge
 crush on her.

ALBERT

(shakes head)
 Are you kidding? Exactly opposite.

PAUL
So ya afraid to impersonate ha?

ALBERT
(smiles)
Not at all!

Sticks teeth out until he looks like a cross between a beaver and Bugs Bunny when he dressed up like a woman. Talks with a frequency of Porky Pig with out the stutters.

ALBERT
Chriiiiiiiis! You need to stop trying to take my job...when I give them that phony plastic smile and that "I'm so good lookin' won't you do anything I say" expression I'll be a shoe in for the job.

Paul, Chris and Calvin laugh but this time with a sinister undertone. They continue to laugh much longer than the other impressions. Alberts looks curiously at them. Calvin, still laughing, points behind Albert. Albert turns around to see Peggy standing directly behind him with a tray of food in her hands. Albert's eyes open as big as saucers.

PEGGY
Careful! You may get stuck talking in one of those voices.

Peggy walks away and sits at a table with three other people.

CHRIS
You blew it.

ALBERT
(false bravado)
I never blow anything! It's called playing hard to get. You all should take notes. She'll come back. They all do.

PAUL
All of them?

ALBERT
(serious, looks distantly)
That was a long time ago...

Albert looks back at the boys then glances at Peggy.

CALVIN
Yeah, well good luck. Tomorrow's the big day.

CHRIS

The one that does the best may very well be the new director.

PAUL

Accordin' to hah, she'll have an advantage by...
 (points at Peggy)
 channeling the source of all power.

Albert looks at Peggy to see her reading from the Bible to coworkers at the table.

ALBERT

The source of all my power is Grimm's Fairy Tales? The source of all *my* power is right here mate!

Smile returns to Albert's face. He pounds chest, glances at Peggy.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

The auditorium is filled with a 30 people. Peggy leaves the podium to crowd approval.

CHRIS

Emile, Karl, Ron and Peggy all hit a thousand. It's impossible to hit over a thousand.

ALBERT

Watch some impossible!

Albert walks up to the podium with a smile of confidence. The crowd goes silent. Albert adjusts the mic.

ALBERT

Ah hello everybody. My name is Albert. Today's forecast shows...
 (clears throat)
 I mean, the rethurth and development forecast shows..

Albert has a look of horror on his face. Half the auditorium laughs, the other leave.

ALBERT

Ladeth and thentlmen.
 (holds hands up)
 Pleath! Pleath!

Chris, Paul and Calvin laugh.

Albert's boss Bill looks concerned. CUSTOMER (61), horn rim glasses with "Customer" badge is angry and runs out the exit.

Albert meets Peggy's eyes. She impassively looks back.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Albert looks at himself in the mirror in his pajamas. He gulps, takes a deep breath, opens his mouth and speaks.

ALBERT

Goth I hope my voth ith back to normal?

(buries head in hands)

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

INT. OFFICE DOOR IN A CORRIDOR - DAY

Plaque on door says "David Gehret, MD. Psychiatrist"

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - DAY

Albert lays on a couch.

DAVID GEHERT sits at a desk with an iPad.

DAVID GEHERT

So when did this all start?

ALBERT

Well thir, it all thtarded lastht Tuethday when I wath giving a prethentathion jutht after I thtarded thpeaking...

DAVID GEHERT

Excuse me please Mr Bartulis.

Dr Gehret stands up walks into the bathroom. Soon after the door closes, uproarious laughter is heard.

After 20 seconds. It abruptly stops, the door opens and Dr Gehret returns to his chair.

DAVID GEHERT

Sorry. I have a really bad sinus condition.

Albert glumly rolls his eyes.

DAVID GEHERT

You appear to have subconscious
guilt over the way you make fun of
people. Try not talking for 24
hours. That may do a master reset.

Albert stands up from the couch, and walks towards the door,
grabs the knob.

DAVID GEHERT

You can pay billing on the way out.
We take VISA, master card...

INT. HALL - DAY

Albert exits Dr Gehret's office. As soon as the door closes,
he once again hears uproarious laughter.

Albert shakes his head and walks down the corridor.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Albert looks at himself in the mirror in his pajamas. He
gulps, takes a deep breath, opens his mouth and speaks.

ALBERT

Please! Please!

Hearing everything is okay/checks out, Albert smiles
confidently.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

The boardroom is filled with 30 people.

Albert stands behind the podium, charts in back of him.

Chris, Paul and Calvin sit next to each other in the room.

CHRIS

I never thought they'd let him
speak again.

PAUL

He's such a top performer that they
gave him one last chance.

Albert clears his throat, swallows and takes a deep breath.

ALBERT

(Winnie the poo voice)
 Well, ahh, *I* did a lot of
 research on this
 (starts patting back)
 And *I*
 (eyes roll back in head)
 Eep! Eep! Eee bee bee bee bee!
 (smacks back of neck)
 Tut! Tut!

Half the crowds laughs, Chris, Paul and Calvin more than the rest. The other half leave Albert's boss Bill is mad. Customer storms out again. Albert meets Peggy's eyes. She shakes her head.

EXT. SMALL BUILDING - DAY

A sign outside says "Isabell Hayes, Hypnotist"

INT. HYPNOTIST OFFICE - DAY

Albert sits upright in a chair. A hypnotist watch moves like a pendulum in front of his face.

ISABEL HAYES

I think have you cured. Repeat
 after me one last time: I am Albert
 P. Bartulis, salesman
 extraordinaire.

ALBERT

(nutty professor voice)
 Well, ahh that is, er ah, ah,
 Hello. My name is um ah, Albert
 Bartulis and ah, with some ah, root
 sum square and some ah, least
 squares fit analysis projections ah

Isabel puts here hand over her mouth to stifle a laugh.

ISABEL HAYES

I think we've made as much progress
 today as we can. We got you to stop
 talking in one voice. See how you
 are tomorrow morning.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Albert sits on a wood bench near a fire. He has numerous chicken feathers attached to his clothes, A Caucasian man dressed up like a witchdoctor dances around him, chants and throws a bucket of red paint in his face.

EXT. SMALL BUILDING - DAY

Albert exits the hypnotist's office, closes the door closes and hears laughter. He shakes head and walks down the street.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Sign on door says "Albert P Bartulis. Sr Sales Executive"
Chris, Paul and Calvin enter Albert's cubicle.

CHRIS

Hey Albert. Did you hear? Peggy got the new Director of Sales position.

Albert pulls his gums back exposing big beaver teeth.

ALBERT

(porky pig shrill voice)
That shoulda been my job. You guys, you gotta help me. I've tried everything. Even a speech therapist and a witch doctor.

Chris, Calvin and Paul laugh.

CALVIN

What do you mean? We haven't laughed this much in our lives! Why spoil the fun?
(puts hand on Albert's back)
Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

The three men leave Albert's cubicle.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Plaque on door says "Albert P Bartulis. Sales Development Associate" Hand written note below says "Bad cold. Can't talk. Email only" Peggy enters the cubicle.

PEGGY

Hey Albert. Sorry to hear about your problem. Sounds like the boys are giving you a hard time.

Albert tries to speak but his gums go back exposing beaver teeth. Peggy holds her hand up.

PEGGY

I heard about the things you tried.
 Maybe your problem is spiritual.
 Maybe God's trying to reprove you.
 Have you considered prayer?

Peggy holds Bible up.

PEGGY

He's the source of all power.

Albert rolls eyes and writes something on paper then hands it Peggy. It says "Grimm's Fairy Tales." Peggy raises her eye brows and writes something on the paper.

PEGGY

Well. Here's the address.
 (puts paper on desk.)
 7 PM Sunday night.

Peggy leaves Albert's cubicle.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

An old church with sign "Community Bible Church."

A full church with organ music playing. Everyone is standing. PASTOR ANDREW (31), medium height, beard in casual jeans and shirt stands at the front of the church. Peggy stands in the front row.

PASTOR ANDREW

If anyone is in special need of
 prayer, please come to the front of
 the church now.

Pastor Andrew looks from front to back of the church. No one comes forward. From the back of the church Albert enters and walks up to Peggy. She points hand towards Pastor Andrew and guides him there. Albert pulls his gums back exposing beaver teeth. Peggy holds her hand up.

From the vantage point of the rear of the church, Peggy puts her hand on Albert's back. Several nearby members of the congregation step forth and put their hands on his back too. Andrew starts talking.

EXT. OFFCIE BUILDING - DAY

Exterior to a 30 story skyscraper in a large city.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Paul, Chris and Calvin sit at a table. Albert enters the room. They see him and laugh.

CALVIN

Which voice is it today? Winnie The
Poo or Shemp Howard?

CHRIS

Yeah, how's The Associate feeling
today?

ALBERT

(to Chris, normal voice)
Never felt better.

Albert walks past the boys and sits with the Bible study group opposite Peggy. The boys are shocked.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE WALL - DAY

Plaque on door says "Albert P Bartulis. Sales Development Associate"

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE WALL - DAY

Albert sits at his desk behind his computer.

PEGGY (O.S.)

Hey?

Albert turns around to see a smiling Peggy in his cubicle.

PEGGY

I was wondering if I can celebrate
my promotion with you by buying you
your favorite bottle of wine at
dinner.

ALBERT

(huge genuine smile)
Under these circumstances,
shouldn't I buy you your favorite
bottle of wine?

