

Shiners Incorporated

written by

John Stone

(c)

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE LOUNGE - DAY

Unemployed COLIN 50s sits at the table and searches job opportunities on his laptop.

His POV: Window Cleaners wanted urgently. No experience needed. 40K per annum. Apply to Shiners Incorporated.

He picks up his phone and calls his lazy son MICHAEL 20s.

INTERCUT with beady eyed Michael who lies in bed.

COLIN

(On phone)

Guess what?

MICHAEL

What?

COLIN

I've found us a job.

MICHAEL

Where?

COLIN

At Shiners Incorporated. They need window cleaners to work in the city. You know, cleaning windows of those glass office buildings.

MICHAEL

Window cleaning?!

COLIN

Yeah. 40K per annum.

MICHAEL

But I've never cleaned a window in me life, apart from our bathroom shower glass, that is. Plus you have to go up thirty foot ladders.

COLIN

Neither have I mate. But it can't be that hard though, can it? Leather and scrim. I've seen how they do it. It's a doddle. Leather first, then scrim over the glass.

MICHAEL

I've seen 'em in the city. They use a squeegee.

COLIN

What's that?

MICHAEL

It looks like a windscreen wiper, except it's gotta handle. I've got one that I use for the shower glass in the bathroom.

COLIN

OK. Come over and show me how to use it. And bring a leather and scrim with ya. We'll practice together on my windows.

MICHAEL

I haven't got a leather or scrim.

COLIN

There's a haberdashery shop near you that sells all that sort of stuff.

MICHAEL

OK.

COLIN

See you soon.

MICHAEL

See you in a bit.

INT. COLIN'S BATHROOM - DAY

With a soapy sponge, Michael covers the shower glass in soapy water, then whips the squeegee over the glass, using a back-and-forth arc motion as he does so.

COLIN

Blimey! You're a dab hand at that.

MICHAEL

Spotless.

COLIN

That looked like a doddle. Let me have a go.

Michael hands him the soapy sponge and squeegee and Colin attempts to do the same but fails miserably each time.

MICHAEL

C'mon. Let's try the leather and scrim.

He picks up the leather and scrim.

COLIN

Let's start in the kitchen. The windows are small.

MICHAEL

OK. I'll leather, you scrim.

COLIN

Cool.

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

Michael leans out the sash cord window and wipes the leather over the glass. Colin gives him the thumbs up and grins.

MICHAEL

Hand me the scrim.

He hands Colin the leather in exchange for the scrim. He cleans the pane of glass until it is completely unblemished.

COLIN

You're a natural shiner.

MICHAEL

What's that?

COLIN

An experienced window cleaner.

MICHAEL

So what's an inexperienced window
Cleaner called, then?

COLIN

Tumbler.

MICHAEL

How'd you know that?

COLIN

(knowingly)

I just know.

They chuckle as they stand at the sink unit.

MICHAEL

I'll do the lounge next, and then
the bedrooms. You can watch and
see how it's done.

COLIN

Oh, okay then.

Michael exits.

Beat.

Colin sits at the table with a hot drink and sandwich. He
looks up at a tired looking Michael as he enters.

MICHAEL

That's it. All done. Come and
have a look.

Colin gets to his feet.

COLIN

Sure.

They exit.

LOUNGE.

Colin stands in awe as he stares at the immaculately cleaned
windows. Michael stands proud of his effort.

COLIN (cont'd)

Hang on.

Colin sifts some loose change in his trouser pocket. He hands
Michael some coins.

MICHAEL

(aback)

What's this?

COLIN

Take it. It usually costs me
fifteen quid.

MICHAEL

What? But I thought we...

COLIN

I forgot to tell ya. They called
as you were on your way over.
They said the vacancies were
filled.

Michael throws the money back at him. Colin roars with
laughter.

MICHAEL

Stuff it!

COLIN

Well, at least you know how to
clean windows now.

Michael storms out in a huff. Colin continues to roar with
laughter.

THE END