

There's Always One

written by

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Based upon the TV Show Dragon's Den

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FADE IN:

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Lined up are Five smartly dressed DRAGON'S, that sit in comfy chairs.

ANTHEA (42) JADE (64) CLAUDE (33) THOMAS (56) YANNIS (60).

Each has a table set beside their chair, that is stacked with FIFTY POUND NOTES.

Their POV: A lift shaft with a sliding door.

BACK TO SCENE

The lift arrives and the sliding door is drawn back before a tall, dark and handsome MAXIMILIAN (40) steps out of the lift and walks forward to present himself to the anticipation of the Dragon's.

MAXIMILION

(confidently)

Hi. My name is Maximilion, and I am looking for an investment of your soul for one year in exchange for unlimited wealth.

Groans of discontentment.

YANNIS

(irate chuckle)

Oh, what is this, a joke, or something?

MAXIMILION

No.

CLAUDE

Have you ever watched this show, Maximilion?

MAXIMILION

Yes.

CLAUDE

So you know how it works?

MAXIMILION

Yes.

JADE

(interjects)

So you know what we do here,
then?

MAXIMILION

I do.

ANTHEA

Maximilion, what are you actually
selling?

MAXIMILION

Unlimited wealth. You give me
your soul and I make you
billionaire's after the first
year.

ANTHEA

And how do you propose you'll do
that without having a product for
us to see?

MAXIMILION

You misunderstand me.

THOMAS

Do we?

MAXIMILION

Yes.

CLAUDE

Show us your product, then.

MAXIMILION

I was about to when my pitch was
interrupted.

YANNIS

(aback)

Interrupted?

MAXIMILION

Yes.

THOMAS

Maximilion, go ahead and show us
your product.

MAXIMILION

Thank you.

He pulls out a NAPKIN and holds it up for the Dragon's to see.

YANNIS

A napkin. So what?

THOMAS

(smirks)

I'm afraid the napkin market is already flooded, so it's a no from me, and I'm out.

CLAUDE

That was quick, Thomas.

Maximilian's eyes transfix upon Thomas as he gently blows onto the napkin.

JADE

(dismayed)

What is he doing?

ANTHEA

Get a grip. He's blowing the napkin.

The napkin disappears and Maximilion stands clutching a small bundle of FIFTY POUND NOTES.

The Dragon's sit in total awe and surprise at his remarkable magic.

YANNIS

How did you just do that?

MAXIMILION

(shakes head)

I cannot say.

CLAUDE

If you can make money appear from a napkin, why do you need a Dragon?

MAXIMILION

I want to purchase a Dragon's soul for one year.

ANTHEA

Why?

MAXIMILION

To prove that ultimate wealth
conquers everything.

YANNIS

And what would you do with our
soul if we agreed to take you up
on your offer?

MAXIMILION

I would teach you how to make
money appear from a napkin.

JADE

Are you saying that it takes a
whole year for you to show us how
to make this work?

MAXIMILION

Yes. It is mind over matter.

ANTHEA

And how many hours per week would
you require us to work with you?

MAXIMILION

I need you every minute of every
hour, of every single day. I'll
want your soul.

JADE

(disgustedly)

I'm sorry, but like Thomas I'm
out.

ANTHEA

Me too. I'm out, on the basis
that this is completely
ludicrous.

MAXIMILION

No problem, Anthea.

CLAUDE

This is a bit like Marlowe's Dr.
Faustus, isn't it?

Claude and Yannis look knowingly at one another as they
decide to offer their soul.

MAXIMILION

I am not the Devil. I simply have the power to make money appear and I'd like to share that with either, or both of you.

YANNIS

But you want to own our soul, don't you?

MAXIMILION

It's the price for unlimited wealth.

CLAUDE

Who are you? How come no one here has ever heard of you?

MAXIMILION

I have spent the last five years perfecting my skill set.

CLAUDE

What else can you do, in magical terms?

MAXIMILION

(shakes head)

I haven't tried anything else. Money is power, right?

CLAUDE

This sounds too good to be true. I don't like the sound of it, so I'm going to say that I'm out.

MAXIMILION

Fine.

Maximilion stares at the final Dragon and awaits his answer.

YANNIS

Max. Can I call you Max?

MAXIMILION

Of course.

YANNIS

Let me tell you where I'm at.

MAXIMILION

Go ahead.

YANNIS

As you probably know I'm a multimillionaire. I own an eighteen bedroom mansion with two-hundred acres of land. I own more cars than I care to mention. I have my own yacht moored in Juan Les Pins, and I have my own jet.

(smugly)

So why would I want to sell you my soul?

MAXIMILION

You are the only one who can make that decision, sir. I am only here to offer you a business proposition. I am not holding a gun to anyone's head.

A protracted silence as Yannis decides.

CLAUDE

(interjects)

Yannis, don't do it. You'll regret it for the rest of your life.

ANTHEA

I agree with him. Don't do it, Yannis.

THOMAS

Think about what you're doing Yannis. Don't be swayed by his magic tricks.

JADE

I agree.

YANNIS

OK. Here's what I am going to do.

(pauses)

I'll offer you my soul for six months, and if I think it's worth my while whilst I'm making billions of pounds we have a deal.

MAXIMILION

You haven't been listening. It takes one year to complete the course. You will not make a single pound, until you complete the course.

YANNIS

Is this offer open to anybody, or just a Dragon?

MAXIMILION

Just a Dragon.

YANNIS

In that case I'm in. You have a deal.

MAXIMILION -

There's always one.

Yannis grins and jumps out of his seat to shake his hand when he is struck down and suffers a fatal heart attack.

The rest of the Dragons quickly go to him and try to save his life, using chest pumps and the kiss of life.

During the furore they fail to notice the disappearance of Maximilion.

FADE OUT.

THE END