

## A Taxing Experience.

Theme: The sheep and Goats.

### *Characters:*

Max or Maxine Maximillion: Rich business tycoon.

Chris or Christine Lovitt: The poor person.

Mr Kingsway: The tax inspector.

### *Scene:*

Table with 3 chairs. 1 behind facing the audience, 1 either side.

Sign saying: Inland revenue. Tax shouldn't be Taxing!

(Max enters carrying large pile of files. .)

Max: Oh I do hope this won't take too long. I really haven't got the time to spare. With a business empire like mine time is money you know, and money is my business, Lots and lots of money.

(Sits down at the side of the table and drops files with a loud bang.)

(Enter Chris.)

Chris: (Hesitantly) Err ... is this the right place?

Max: (Ignores Chris and starts to open the top file)

Chris: Err... Hem ... excuse me, is this the right place?

Max: (Looks up) Are you talking to me?

Chris: (Looks round) Err... well there ain't no one else here? So I suppose I must be. I said, is this ...

Max: The right place. Yes I can hear you know.

(Silence.)

Chris: Well, err.... is it?

Max: (bangs papers on table). The right place for what? Karate lessons? Buying shoes? Having your nails done? Getting a sandwich?

Chris: Err.. no ... I meant is this the right place to see the Tax Inspector?

Max: Well in that case, yes it is, but no one seems to be here yet.

Chris: Oh right, ... right well I'll wait then.

(Chris sits down and there is a few moments silence.)

Chris: I don't know why I'm here really. I mean, I haven't really got much, I don't really earn much, I've got no savings or nothing. I haven't really got anything to Tax, It's all a bit of a mystery to me really, a bit of a mystery.

Max: Well is that so, my heart bleeds. You're obviously a complete waster then, a total layabout.

Chris: Well I wouldn't say ....

Max: Well I would say. I on the other hand,, I have got six cars, including a Porsche and a Lamborghini. I own 4 companies with an annual turn over of three million pounds.

I have a twelve bedroomed house in the country and a flat in town, and I did it all by myself, so stick that in your pipe and ...

(Enter Mrs Kingsway..)

KW: (talking behind) Well I'll do them both together then it'll be quicker, and if she isn't here yet there's nothing else we can do is there. (Bustles to center chair and sits down. Now good morning, who do we have here then?)

Chris: Err.. I'm Chris Lovitt, but I don't really know why....

KW: (Looking at Max) and you.

Max: Miss Maximillion, Maxine Maximillion.

(KW Pulls out two files.)

KW: Ah yes, here we are. Now I'm sorry but we are very short staffed this morning so I will have to deal with you both together, is that alright?

Max: What? And have him hear all about my business?

KW: Well if we don't do this today I won't be able to see you until next April, take it or leave it.

Max: Next April! but that's ... that's ... Huh ... Oh all right!

KW: Good, now lets get on. Earnings:

Chris: (Taking a folded piece of paper from his pocket). You mean everything I earned?

KW: Well earnings are usually earned.

Chris: That'll be err.. six thousand pounds.

KW: (Writing) Thank you. ... Miss Maximillion?

Max: (Taking paper from file) Eight hundred and ninety five.

Chris: Ha! I thought you said you were rich.

Max: Eight hundred and ninety five thousand pounds!

KW: Thank you.

Chris: (Gulp and surprised look).

KW: Now allowances, lets see. Food to start with.

Max: Seventeen thousand, four hundred and fifty pounds spent on breakfasts, lunches, teas and dinners while travelling between my very successful companies

KW: And who ate these Breakfasts, Lunches, teas and dinners?

Max: Well me of course, who else?

KW: Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dear, that'll never do. You see I meant what food have you bought for other people, not yourself.

Max: But I haven't..

KW: I'll take that as zero then. So using the schedule 106b multiplier, seventeen thousand four hundred and fifty pounds spent on food for yourself, that means (punches calculator) You owe me seven thousand pounds.

Max: What!?

Kw: Mr Lovitt?

Chris: Well I buy old Jimmy a cup of tea now and again, he lives in the hostel on bridge street, and I get old Mrs Jones' shopping sometimes and I often don't take the money for it, and there's. ....

KW: just the total please Mr Lovitt, just the total.

Chris: Err ... (looking at paper),four hundred and twenty pounds.

KW: Four hundred and twenty pounds on food for others, using the multiplier, that means (punches calculator), that ... I owe you seven thousand pounds.

Chris: Oooo!

Max: What!?

KW: Now ... clothes.

Max: Well I have to look smart all the time, image is everything in business you see, so I've spent twelve thousand five hundred pounds on clothes.

KW: And who wore these clothes?

Max: Well me of course, who else?

KW: Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dear, you're just not getting this are you. I didn't mean clothes for you, I meant clothes for others

Max: But why would I buy clothes for others? It's me that has to look smart! Other people can buy their own clothes, I mean there is plenty of Visashi around these days.

KW: Err hem ...Twelve thousand five hundred pounds on clothes for yourself, using the schedule 106 multiplier means (punches calculator) you owe me nine thousand pounds.

Max: But this is.....!

KW: Mr Lovitt.

Chris: Well I helped old Jimmy with a couple of pairs of shoes, and Mrs Jones needed a coat so I got her one, and then there was ...

KW: Just the total Mister Lovitt, just the total.

Chris: (Looking at paper) Err.... five hundred and fifty pounds.

KW: Five hundred and fifty pounds on clothes for others using the multiplier means (punches calculator) err.. I owe you, nine thousand pounds.

Chris: Oooo thank you.

Max: But this is ...

KW: Ok, transport next.

Max: I've travelled fifty thousand miles visiting my successful companies and spent fifteen thousand pounds on petrol.

KW: and who else was in the car with you?

Max: Well no one, it was just me, you don't expect me to pick up hitch hikers do you, or risk other people getting the inside of my Porsche dirty?

KW: Miss Maximillion, you really don't understand this yet do you. I mean what transport have you offered to other people.

Max: But .. But .. but I've got a Porsche.

KW: I'll take that as nothing then, OK? So let see, fifty thousand miles on your own using the schedule 106 multiplier means that (punches calculator), you owe me, fifteen thousand pounds.

Max: But that can't be, you must be wrong, this is daylight robbery.

KW: Now Mr Lovitt?

Chris: Well Old Jimmy got arrested, he had a bit too much to drink you see and made a bit of a fool of himself, so I gave him a lift to his court appearances, and I went to see him when he was in prison, and Mrs Jones, well she has to go to the doctor at least a couple of times a week, and then her hospital appointments as well, and going to see her when she had to stay in. Oh yes and then there was .....

KW: Just the miles Mr Lovitt, just the miles.

Chris: (Looking at paper), errr... one thousand four hundred.

KW: So that's one thousand four hundred miles for other people, using the multiplier means that, (punches calculator) I owe you, err... fifteen thousand pounds.

Max: But ... but.. but that's outrageous. He's a lazy good for nothing. I run four successful businesses, I'm rich, I'm important, and he ... he ... he ....

KW: And he's a very nice man if you ask me.

Chris: Oh thank you very much.

KW: Don't mention it.

Max: But ..

KW: But that concludes our interview this morning, and just to summarise. You, Miss Maximillion, selfish, self centred business woman owe me Thirty one thousand pounds, and I owe you,,n Mr Lovitt, Kind and thoughtful man, thirty one thousand pounds.

Max: But this is a scandal, I'll get my lawyer onto this, it's ....

KW: Just write a cheque Miss Maximillion, please!

Max: (Scribbles on a cheque, aggressively tears it from the book, and hands to KW)

KW: Thank you. And for you Mr Lovittt (writes on cheque, tears and hands), a cheque for thirty one thousand pounds

Chris: Well thank you very much, I'm really glad I came now.

Max: Well I've never heard anything so unfair, so outrageous, so scandalous. You haven't heard the last of this, I'll be back!

KW: (Over shoulder) Security!

Max: (snorts) Don't worry, I'm going! (picks up files and flounces out)

KW: Well Mr Lovitt, it seems to be time for lunch, would you like to join me?

Chris: Well thank you very much, but only if you let me pay.

(They exit.)

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