

CUT TO: \*

INT. KIPPSCHALTER - OFFICE - LATER

CHARLIE sits across a desk from a large, intimidating man named BERRIN. The environment is ultra clean and sterile-looking with extremely bare walls and almost nothing on the desk except for a small stack of papers that are NOT completely straightened. BERRIN is reviewing a resume from CHARLIE

BERRIN

It says here you finished university 5 years ago.

CHARLIE

That's right.

BERRIN

Yet the last position you list ended almost three years ago.

CHARLIE

Yes.

(beat)

Well, uhm, spent some time travelling.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. VAN - FLASHBACK

We see CHARLIE riding in a van. He sits in the back seat while there are two people riding in the front in white lab coats. The two people in the front seat are laughing hysterically.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. KIPPSCHALTER - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

BERRIN

I love to travel. It's how I ended up here. I'm originally from out west.

(Looks over the resume for a long beat)

What did you do during your travels, Charlie?

SHOT: CLOSE-UP OF CHARLIE LOOKING NERVOUS.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. ASYLUM ROOM - FLASHBACK

CHARLIE can be seen in a bedroom at an ASYLUM. The shots here are very disruptive and jittery. CHARLIE SCREAMS.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. KIPPSCHALTER - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

SHOT: STILL CLOSE ON CHARLIE FOR HIS FIRST LINE.

CHARLIE

I did a lot of skiing. Mostly skiing, yeah.

BERRIN

Ah, yes! I love the skiing myself. It would seem as though we have a great deal in common.

CHARLIE

That's good news I take it?

BERRIN

Actually it has no real impact on your interview here today. I will not be the person making the decision, nor do I have much influence on the person that does.

CHARLIE

That's unfortunate.

BERRIN

No worries. You will do fine.

CHARLIE

In that case, can I be frank with you?

BERRIN

Of course you may.

CHARLIE

I saw your ad in the paper, and...

BERRIN

Post or Times?

CHARLIE

Post.

BERRIN tries to play a joke on CHARLIE but it comes off as uncomfortable because the mood is so serious in the room.

BERRIN

We didn't run an ad in the post.

CHARLIE

(Looking confused.)

What?

BERRIN

I'm kidding! I love that one. Ah, the look on your face.

CHARLIE

This may seem silly to you, but I don't even know what it is you guys do here at Kipps... Kippscha...

BERRIN

Kippschalter.

CHARLIE

Right.

BERRIN

We primarily deal in what some may refer to as "non-traditional" psychological testing. And you, for instance, would be working with Dr. Fuller studying human behavior.

CHARLIE

My major was chemistry, I don't understand why you guys are giving me an interview if I don't really fit...

BERRIN

We don't always look at just the schooling, Charlie. It's important to consider many things before we recruit a new member of the team here.

CHARLIE

Well I guess someone thinks I'm right for the job.

BERRIN

We'll find out. Today we've adapted one of the tests that you will be using in your job - if you were to get hired, of course - as part of your interview.

CHARLIE

Interesting. I guess that lets me know what I'll be working on every day.

BERRIN

You must be the rat before you can be the scientist.

CHARLIE

That's one way to put it.

BERRIN

Don't worry, your time in the box will be over before you know it.

CHARLIE

Oh, I hope it's not just a box. I'm claustrophobic.

BERRIN

We know. Don't worry. It's not really a box. It has many names, but my favorite is "The Switchbox".

At this moment, the door to BERRIN'S office opens and a MAN peeks his head in.

READY MAN

They're ready, sir.

BERRIN

Just in time!