



Fanthorpe was an active feminist poet who wrote a lot of poems questioning authority and other people's compassion towards their peers. This particular poem exposes the desire that exists in our society to erase the line between ones professional life and their personal life.

Although it is not clear, the most likely protagonist of this poem is probably Fanthorpe herself, she portrays herself as a woman of the 20th century who is more ambitious in her professional life than to sit at home and do housework, instead she tries to access the world of work consequently finding the point of entry more difficult than she previously envisioned.

You Will Be Hearing From Us Shortly

U A Fanthorpe

Even the title highlights what she feels are the flaws in modern society, using the word "shortly" highlights the time driven ruthlessly efficient society we currently live in, and one which Fanthorpe detests. Fanthorpe actively expresses her distaste at how people can overlook her professional life purely based on personal factors, in this case the way they disagree with her personal choices.

The poem is written in an interview format and tries to portray the thought process that occurs in a wholly negative light, instead of focusing on any positives the interviewer jumps straight in to try and trip her up. It focuses on the psychological domination performed by people instigated in positions of power to make people lower in the hierarchy feel worse, thus serving to boost their own self-esteem.

You should aim to make links between this poem and other poems that focus on men in **power and control** over women. You can also use ideas from this poem when making connections to the way Capulet is presented both as a father but also as a man in a patriarchal society.

The poet challenges fundamental concepts of interviewing and reveals it in a dialogic form. An interesting theory would be to understand that though it is presented in a dialogue form nowhere in the entire poem do we hear the interviewee's voice although both their mind-sets and personalities are revealed to some extent.

	D/E grade	B/C grade	A*/A grade
1	What is the poem basically about?	What questions are asked and what impact does each question have?	What is the interview a metaphor for? How do we know this?
2	What does the interviewer ask?	How is the theme of power and control presented in this poem?	How successfully does Fanthorpe create allusions to people with power and authority?
3	What techniques are used in this poem?	What effect do these poetic techniques have on the reader?	How effectively does the poet engage with his reader through his use of poetic techniques and vocabulary?

You will be hearing from us shortly

You feel adequate to the demands of this position?

What qualities do you feel you

Personally have to offer?

Ah

Let us consider your application form.

Your qualifications, though impressive, are

Not, we must admit, precisely what

We had in mind. Would you care

To defend their relevance?

Indeed

Now your age. Perhaps you feel able

To make your own comment about that,

Too? We are conscious ourselves

Of the need for a candidate with precisely

The right degree of immaturity.

So glad we agree

And now a delicate matter: your looks.

You do appreciate this work involves

Contact with the actual public? Might they,

Perhaps, find your appearance

Disturbing?

Quite so

And your accent. That is the way

You have always spoken is it? What

Of your education? Were

You educated? We mean, of course,

Where were you educated?

And how

Much of a handicap is that to you.

Would you say?

Married, children,

We see. The usual dubious

Desire to perpetuate what had better

Not have happened at all. We do not

Ask what domestic disasters shimmer

Behind that vaguely unsuitable address.

And you were born —?

Yes. Pity.

So glad we agree.

U A Fanthorpe

You feel adequate to the demands of this position?

What qualities do you feel you

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Ah.

The first verse is relatively short compared to the rest of the poem, and sets the scene for the reader. It establishes the interviewer as an implausibly harsh and pompous analyser of her CV. It is written in dialogue format, much like the rest of the poem, and focuses on the standard interviewing procedure.

The questions such as "What qualities do you feel you/Personally have to offer?" are very similar to questions you may get in a real interview. However, the way it is laid out on the page places incredible emphasis on the words "Personally", perhaps undermining her thread of argument. When read aloud, because of the emphasis on "Personally" it feels like the interviewer is launching an attack on the persona's own view of themselves rather than focusing on the qualities that they could perhaps bring to the job.

After each stanza there is a small input from the interviewer that interacts with the interviewee, as throughout the poem we are presented with a lack of response. In this verse, the "Ah." is incredibly scathing and serves to cut into any response she could hope to offer.

Let us consider your application form.
Your qualifications, though impressive, are
Not, we must admit, precisely what
We had in mind. Would you care
To defend their relevance?

Indeed.

In this verse there is more of a feel that they are judging her not by the content of her character or by her set of qualifications, but more by how able she is to defend herself. In the first line they "consider" her application, although in reality they may have already dismissed her on the grounds of her sex. They place her immediately on the back foot by asking her to "defend" her qualifications. This is almost like battle imagery of her having to defend herself from an onslaught of attack from potential employers. Again the stanza ends with a manipulative phrase, almost making her agree with them about her inferiority.

Now your age. Perhaps you feel able
To make your own comment about that,
Too? We are conscious ourselves
Of the need for a candidate with precisely
The right degree of immaturity.

So glad we agree.

In the third stanza there's an excellent example of the negativity that runs throughout the poem, as they focus on her lack of immaturity, rather than trying to find someone with levels of maturity. The comment here is "so glad we agree", again the interviewer is manipulating the interviewee to agree with their views on how they are inadequate for the job.

And now a delicate matter: your looks.
You do appreciate this work involves
Contact with the actual public? Might they,
Perhaps, find your appearance
Disturbing?

Quite so."

In this stanza they concentrate on the superficial image of work. They want to know whether she even realises that she'd have to appeal to the outside world as well as her employers. They concentrate on the fact that she will need to be seen by "the actual public?" this hurtful accusation targets her supposed naivety for even applying for a job.

And your accent. That is the way
You have always spoken, is it? What
Of your education? We mean, of course,
Where were you educated?

And how
Much of a handicap is that to you,
Would you say?

The last two Stanza's seem to have been merged together to form a longer more indistinguishable stanza. Something that the poet was particularly outspoken about was how education should not be outdated. For instance, an education from 1961 is just as good as one from 2001, and it is this that's targeted in the first part of the verse. This explains how they can think that her education is a handicap rather than a boost to her application. Later on in the same verse, the interviewer appears to judge her based on her socio-economic class and the postcode that she is defined by.

Married, children,
We see. The usual dubious
Desire to perpetuate what had better
Not have happened at all. We do not
Ask what domestic desires shimmer
Behind that vaguely unsuitable address.

And you were born--?

Yes. Pity.

So glad we agree.

They also consider things such as her personal life and whether she's married and has children, which perhaps are questions that would not be asked to a male interviewee, highlighting the underlying theme of sexism throughout the poem. By the end of the poem the pressure of the situation that the interviewer faces goes as far as to make her regret even applying for a job. The poem itself shouldn't be taken too literally as the poet isn't directly criticising the world of interviews, but more societies views on work, education and women's roles within everyday life. Fanthorpe presents herself as a woman who is prepared to stand up and be counted, and uses this poem to portray the criticism she receives.

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