The Interview – Episode 2: Reversed

<After the greeting formalities>

INT: So your CV looks quite impressive. We were wondering –

<CAN interrupts>

CAN: Have you worked here for long?

INT: Well… We’re a start-up so…

<Interrupts again>

CAN: No wonder. Is the CEO a man or a woman?

INT: You can get that information from our website, but… Does it matter?

CAN: To me it does. From my experience, in today’s corporate world, it is much more difficult for women to command respect than it is for men. It’s sad, but it’s the current reality. I would find it difficult working for a woman because I don’t want to work for someone that can’t get others to acknowledge her influence in the industry, no matter how skilled or competent she might be.

INT: Those… look like a bunch of hasty conclusions.

CAN: To you, certainly. I, however, simply know it to be the truth.

INT: Anyways-

CAN: What’s the average age range for the staff?

INT: Sir, how is that relevant?

CAN: You look quite young. I’m guessing the rest of the staff is as well. It’s not ideal, but I can work with that. What I’m really wondering, though, is the age of the CEO or the Director. That would reveal a lot about the company.

INT: <Looking irritated> We don’t have that information, sir. Perhaps you’ll get the chance to ask them directly.

<CAN nods, repeatedly>

CAN: Yes, that might be best. Okay, next I would like to know what sorts of bonuses and incentives I get if I decide to work with you guys?

INT: If you decide to work with us?

CAN: Yes, obviously. Slavery was abolished centuries ago. Surely you don’t believe that my will has no influence on the decision, do you?

INT: It’s just that… from our perspective, our will holds a bit more weight than yours in the whole decision making process.

CAN: I’ll pretend I didn’t just hear that. If I decided to walk out of here right now, no amount of money would be able to make me change my mind and decide to work for you. Don’t forget that you guys are the ones that need something from me, which is my talent.

INT: And you need a job from us.

CAN: I don’t.

INT: What?

CAN: I don’t need a job from you guys. I’m actually currently working somewhere else. It’s right there in my CV. I decided to apply to other places because I needed a new challenge and because others would benefit from my presence, obviously.

INT: We don’t-

CAN: But let’s leave that aside for now. What is your vision? Where do you guys see yourselves in a few years? What are you aiming to achieve with this company? Do you at least know the answers to those questions?

INT: We do. We aim at raising the industry’s standards in a radical way, by providing-

<The second interviewer interrupts>

INT: Why are you answering him? We’re the ones asking questions here, remember?

CAN: What could you possibly need to know about me? My CV clearly shows how qualified I am. You said so yourself. So we can skip the pretense. I know you want me to work with you. The real question, at this point, is if *I* want to work with *YOU*.

INT: We-

CAN: In any case, I’ll be expecting your call. Although the business is a bit young, it seems to have potential, so I wouldn’t mind giving it a try. We can finalize the other details later. It was a pleasure meeting you.

<He gets up and walks out>

INT: Why does it feel like the situation was the reverse of what it was meant to be?

<The other interviewer doesn’t seem to be paying attention to him/hr and says under his/her breath>:

INT: I hope he doesn’t change his mind…

<The other interviewer hears this and shakes his/her head>

End