

Getting the job, truthfully

“As cliché as it sounds, success has a lot to do with just being yourself”

We are material people living in a material world. We ignore our image at our own risk.

I'm not going to lie, not to you my cherished readers. I'd love to sit here and tell you that it's what's on the *inside* that really matters. But I'd be lying, and every wise man knows, you only lie to your parents and the government.

People *do* judge books by their covers. Getting a good job has everything to do with presentation and preparation, so be prepared. It's about marketing yourself. In this respect it's very similar to that slightly more sophisticated game of kiss-chasey that we like to play with our opposing sex. In both cases you want the person to fall for you as quickly as possible. You want them to lay awake at night with only one thing on their minds, the image of you fulfilling their desired position.

Confidence — As cliché as it sounds, success has a lot to do with just being yourself. I guess the assumption here is that we're all unique snow flakes. If we only open the metaphysical window into our inner self, everyone will love us. I'm sorry if you were pinning your hopes of future happiness/employment on this principle because it just isn't true, you still need to be selective. An interview is essentially a first date or a first date is essentially an interview, either way it's far too early to divulge the fact that you're addicted to historically accurate re-enactments of the gold rush, have three nipples or used to do voice-overs for porn films.

It's not lying. If anyone ever asks you directly, "Have you ever done voice-overs for porn films?" I strongly suggest you answer truthfully. Unless you are being asked by your parents, or the government.

Rejection — Life, just like love, will be sure to throw a few cutting one-liners your way. You need to




accept it, and be capable of taking the hit, getting up and moving on. At the end of the interview remember, there are plenty more employers in the sea.

The call-back or 'follow-up' — I'll be the first to admit, we're not all capable of sealing the deal after a single showing. In these circumstances a solid call-back strategy can mean the difference between success and failure. You will need to confront and conquer those feelings of insecurity and trepidation and just make the call. Seriously though, what's the worst that could happen? They could laugh at you. They could not remember who you are, what position you applied for or when you applied for it. Or they could deliver a pretty mundane explanation that bruises your ego but in all likelihood is probably true (See 'Rejection').

Get the job, and then decide if you want it. Sound parental styled advice right there, I mean that shit is water-tight. Accepting a promotion or a new job is not always an easy or simple choice. But undergoing the interview process is always a valuable experience. The offer really isn't on the table for you to accept or reject until it's actually on the table. You gain more time to consider your options and gain valuable experience along the way.

Networking — As much as I agree with the Joker's views on morality and society, he's wrong on one footing at least, when he said, "If you're good at something never do it for free." WRONG. If you're good at something *do it for free*. Experience counts. Do you think I write these articles because I care about you, or because I care about myself?

What are my qualifications? Good question. The power of the written word. You need to remember, people don't listen to Dr Phil because he has a PhD in clinical psychology from North Texas State University with a dual emphasis in clinical and behavioural medicine; they listen to him because he's on TV.

Is it better to burn out than to fade away? Well to do either you need to be on fire in the first place. Put that in your haiku pipe and smoke it. My personal philosophy is all about making the most of the opportunities that come my way. I'd rather crash and burn knowing I tried to fly than spend my life grounded at the airport. Unless I was a member of the Qantas Club, because well, they have bars and shit. 

Tom Cummins