

# WONDER WIPES

by Ken Bradbury



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*A scene for four actors of either gender: Kellen, Petit, Saxon, and Haven. Haven is the casting agent for a TV commercial firm. Kellen is a trained Shakespearean actor. Petit is a well-meaning but totally inexperienced young performer and Saxon comes from a brief and unsuccessful career in soap operas.*

*It's the office of Haven who sits working at his desk. Three chairs are lined up on the other side of the room.*

**KELLEN:** *(entering)* Excuse me?

**HAVEN:** Yes?

**KELLEN:** Is this the casting agency?

**HAVEN:** According to the sign on the door. Have a seat. You here for the audition?

**KELLEN:** As a matter of fact I am. Perhaps you'd like to see my resume.

**HAVEN:** No. In show biz all that counts is what you can show me today. Just have a seat. *(Kellen sits.)*

**KELLEN:** It's quite a good resume.

**HAVEN:** That's nice.

**KELLEN:** You don't want to even ...

**HAVEN:** No. Just wait a moment.

**PETIT:** *(entering)* Hello?

**HAVEN:** Here for the audition?

**PETIT:** Yes.

**HAVEN:** Have a seat. I'll be right with you.

**PETIT:** Anywhere?

**HAVEN:** A chair would be appropriate.

**PETIT:** *(sitting)* Of course. *(to Kellen)* You here for the tryout?

**KELLEN:** We call it "the audition."

**PETIT:** Oh. *(a long, uncomfortable pause, then)* Same thing isn't it?

**KELLEN:** It's a matter of perspective.

**PETIT:** Oh.

**KELLEN:** Training.

**PETIT:** Oh.

**KELLEN:** Experience.

**PETIT:** Gotcha. I think I'll just try out ... sounds easier.

**SAXON:** (*blasting into the room*) I am here! (*The other three slowly turn to look at Saxon.*)

**HAVEN:** Good for you.

**SAXON:** I'm serious!

**HAVEN:** I can see you are.

**SAXON:** So give me the script!

**HAVEN:** Have a seat.

**SAXON:** But ...

**HAVEN:** Sit. (*Saxon sits ... dramatically*)

**PETIT:** So ... you guys ever done anything like this before?

**KELLEN:** Like what?

**PETIT:** This TV stuff. Pretty exciting. You ever done any acting?

**KELLEN:** You must be joking. I was three years with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**PETIT:** Cool! What did they make?

**KELLEN:** Make?

**PETIT:** What did your company make?

**KELLEN:** My dear boy/girl. We made art! We made beauty! We made the hopes and dreams of all mankind come alive!

**PETIT:** Wow. They sell that stuff at Wal-Mart?

**KELLEN:** (*groaning*) Oh, dear.

**PETIT:** (*to Saxon*) How 'bout you? You ever done this TV commercial stuff?

**SAXON:** You don't recognize me?

**PETIT:** (*looking at Saxon carefully and closely, then*) Nope. You're not my cousin are you?

**SAXON:** I most certainly am not. I'm Morgan Saxon! Of the daytime soap operas!

**PETIT:** Wow. Soap. He makes art and you make soap. We got ourselves one ritzy crew here.

**SAXON:** Soap operas! TV drama! Perhaps you saw me in “The Young and the Hopeless”?

**PETIT:** Uh ... no.

**SAXON:** “All My Brazilians?”

**PETIT:** Nope. Don’t sound familiar. I’m more of a cartoon guy. You ever watch Sponge Bob?

**SAXON:** Unbelievable.

**HAVEN:** Okay ... let’s get on with this. Here’s the deal, folks: I’m looking for a spokesperson for Wonder Wipes.

**PETIT:** Do what?

**HAVEN:** Wonder Wipes. They’re tissues.

**PETIT:** Funny name.

**HAVEN:** They’re the sponsor ... and they are not funny. They’re looking for a face and a personality to make Wonder Wipes the biggest-selling tissue in the country.

**PETIT:** I’ll be darned. (*to Kellen*) I’ll bet they sell them things at Wal-Mart.

**HAVEN:** There’s no script, but ...

**KELLEN:** What?!

**HAVEN:** No script. It’s gotta be natural. Ad-libbed.

**KELLEN:** I always work with a script! I’ve memorized the entire works of Shakespeare using scripts! How am I to act without a script?

**HAVEN:** Naturally, I hope. I want each of you to just talk about why people should buy Wonder Wipes.

**SAXON:** And you say they’re ...?

**HAVEN:** Tissues. (*grabbing a handful from his desk and passing them out*) Here. Have a Wonder Wipe. It’s not complicated.

**SAXON:** So we must make ...

**HAVEN:** You gotta make people want to have a Wonder Wipe. Like they can’t live unless they rush out and buy some.

**KELLEN:** (*staring at his imaginary tissue*) I have it.

**PETIT:** You got what?

**KELLEN:** The inspiration! (*standing, dramatically*) “Oh, thou most noble of tissues! Oh, blessed gift from heaven! Would’st thou but gently caress the tender bridge of my nose! Would’st thou breathe thy angelic fragrance gently into my



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