

# TRY AGAIN, PLEASE

by Ken Bradbury



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*(Mik sits at his/her desk.)*

**MIK:** Next!

**LARS:** *(entering, hesitantly)* Uh ... I'm not next. I think I'm first.

**MIK:** *(shouting)* First!

**LARS:** Actually, I'm the only one.

**MIK:** *(shouting)* Only!

**LARS:** Is this where I ...

**MIK:** Next!

**LARS:** But I'm not done.

**MIK:** Then have a seat.

**LARS:** Which one?

**MIK:** There would be good. It's the only seat.

**LARS:** Ah.

**MIK:** Ah.

**LARS:** So ... I mean, what do I do?

**MIK:** When?

**LARS:** Now. What do I do now?

**MIK:** Now?

**LARS:** Now.

**MIK:** Oh.

**LARS:** *(a pause, then)* Well, what do I do?

**MIK:** You mean ...?

**LARS:** Now. Am supposed to do something?

**MIK:** Thank you. *(he slaps the desk)* Please try again. *(Lars quickly rises, exits, turns then enters)* Next!

**LARS:** Me. I'm next.

**MIK:** Take a seat. There's only one.

**LARS:** *(sits)* Thank you.

**MIK:** Don't mention it.

**LARS:** I appreciate that.

**MIK:** I said "Don't mention it."

**LARS:** Oh.

**MIK:** Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again. (*Lars again stands, exits, turns, and enters*) Next!

**LARS:** I'd like a seat.

**MIK:** Take that one.

**LARS:** Thank you. It's the only one.

**MIK:** I know.

**LARS:** What do I do now?

**MIK:** You mean ...?

**LARS:** Now.

**MIK:** Oh.

**LARS:** Isn't there something ... ?

**MIK:** Stand up!

**LARS:** (*jumping up to his feet*) Oh! I'm sorry.

**MIK:** Quite alright. Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again. (*Lars does the exit/entrance bit*)

**LARS:** May I sit?

**MIK:** Why not? (*Lars sits*) Stand up!

**LARS:** Sorry.

**MIK:** Natural mistake.

**LARS:** Yes.

**MIK:** Could happen to anyone.

**LARS:** Yes.

**MIK:** Did it once myself. That's how I got mine.

**LARS:** Yes. So ... (*a long pause*)

**MIK:** So ...

**LARS:** Is there anything ... ?

**MIK:** Don't ask that!

**LARS:** Sorry!

**MIK:** Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again. (*out and in*)

**LARS:** Is this the ...

**MIK:** Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again. (*out and in*)

**LARS:** My name is ...

**MIK:** Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again. (*out and in*)

**LARS:** Perhaps if I tried ...

**MIK:** Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again. (*out and in*)

**LARS:** (*shouting*) I am getting very tired!

**MIK:** (*shouting*) Then don't be such a ninny! Sit down!

**LARS:** (*shouting*) Thank you!

**MIK:** (*shouting*) You're welcome!

**LARS:** (*shouting*) At last!

**MIK:** (*shouting*) Thank you. (*slaps desk*) Please try again.  
(*out and in*)

**LARS:** (*simply stares at Mik ... a very long pause as Mik works away at something at his desk ... Finally Mik looks up and sees Lars.*)

**MIK:** (*the soul of graciousness*) I'm sorry. I didn't see you standing there.

**LARS:** (*equally polite*) I should have said something.

**MIK:** No. No, not at all. My fault entirely. Mea culpa.  
Excusimente. Pablo Casals. Please. Sit.

**LARS:** I really can't ...

**MIK:** I insist.

**LARS:** But if I sit ...

**MIK:** Sit! (*Lars sits quickly then Mik immediately opens his mouth to shout and Lars jumps up again*)

**LARS:** I'll stand!

**MIK:** But ...

**LARS:** I prefer to stand! Thank you very much!

**MIK:** You're welcome.

**LARS:** Now is there something you'd like me ... (*Mik raises his hand to slap the desk, opens his mouth and Lars quickly grabs his hand*) I mean should I be ... (*again Mik raises his hand and starts to speak*) ... Is there something I can do to ... (*although Lars moves to stop him, Mik says nothing and does not raise a hand ...Lars must be onto something here*)...(carefully) Is there something I can do to ... to ... (*Mik begins to slowly raise his hand*) ... (*desperately*) to ... to ... do what you want me to do! (*a terse silence as they eye each other ...was this the right response ... finally, Lars sighs in relief and repeats what must be the proper phrase*) Is there anything I can do to do what you want me to do?  
(*sits, greatly relieved*)

**MIK:** Sorry. Caught me napping. Thank you. (*slaps desk*)  
Please try again. (*out and in*)



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