

GET SMART 2023 - AUDITION PASSAGE

MAX & 99

99 (*pleading with telephone*) Come in, Max – hear my call – oh, please, it’s important – come in, come in, wherever you are - -

SMART (*imitating voice of female telephone operator*) What number are you calling, please?

99 (*urgently*) The number I’m calling? I’m trying to reach – well – 86.

SMART That number has been temporarily – Who’s trying to reach 86?

99 This is 99.

SMART (*his own voice*) This is 86.

99 Max! (*Faintly indignant as she collects herself*) What took you so long to answer?

SMART Did you ever try taking off a shoe inside a trash can?

99 Trash can? You think you have to hide from the Chief in a trash can?

SMART Who’s hiding? I’m still on the job.

99 But a trash can – (*shrugs. Who knows?*) Have you come up with anything 86?

SMART Most college students are going to die of lung cancer. There’s at least four inches of cigarette butts on the bottom of this –

99 (*impatiently*) Anything else? Something I could mention to the Chief? I’ll be seeing him in a few minutes.

SMART I’ll be seeing him pretty quick myself.

99 (*delighted*) You *have* to come up with something!

SMART Actually – the only other thing is a fortune cookie.

99 (*decidedly let down, but making the best of it*) Well, see what it says – maybe it’s good luck.

SMART Some Chinese place putting out recipes.

99 (*back to business*) Listen, 86. I’m doing something a little crazy, and I have to tell you. What it is – I want to show the Chief – I mean, *prove* that – that *anyone* can make a mistake.

SMART You can tell me about it later.

99 I better tell you right now –

SMART Right now I have company.

99 In a trash can? (*Takes a breath, uneasy at situation*) Then I have to go ahead without telling you. Good luck, 86. (*She goes back off R*)