

GET SMART 2023 - AUDITION PASSAGE

AGENTS

SMART 44? Agent 44?

(The face of a young man emerges – both nervous and indignant)

44 You knew I was here, 86, but you didn't stop them from going ahead with the test.

SMART *(Incredulous)* Stop them?

44 Suppose Professor Dante had aimed the Inthermo too low?

SMART We're all expendable, 44. *(Considers, then amends)* That is – most of us are expendable.

44 *(desperately sorry for himself)* Actually – I'm not having a very good time on this college job. I mean – no mingling with glamorous co-eds – no comparing notes with that Professor Zalinka – no sports at all – no crazy student activities –

SMART Take it easy, 44.

44 *(Starting to cry)* I don't even get to wear a trench coat.

SMART Listen, what I have to tell you –

44 A spy can only take so much. Sneaking around these corridors. Sleeping on a zinc table in the laboratory with nothing to keep me warm but a Bunsen burner. Hiding – always hiding... *(sobbing)* 86, I'm trying to tell you this spy wants to come in from the cold.

SMART Get a grip on yourself. *(Holds handkerchief to 44's nose)* Here – blow.

44 *(After blowing)* You won't tell them about this back at Headquarters?

SMART Of course not. I know what you're going through.

44 *(Coming out from under the table and standing up)* They wouldn't like it.

SMART Sometimes it helps to have a good cry.

44 Try telling that to the Chief. He hates to have his men cry.

SMART *(With a start)* The Chief! Listen, 44 – I'm called back to headquarters. *(Rushing R)* You'll have to take over here.

44 *(To himself, grimly)* Another night on the zinc table in the lab - -

SMART *(Calling across)* Guard the Inthermo with your life.

44 *(Calling back)* I slipped a note in the pocket of your coat. It's important.

SMART *(Taking paper from the pocket of his trench coat)* Secret information?

44 *(Shaking his head)* Requisition for a rubber mattress.