

## **“CHARACTER REFERENCE” by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2024)**

*JOHN pokes his head through the open office door of his supervisor DARREN.*

**JOHN:** Darren? Got a minute?

**DARREN:** ‘course I do. Come on in.

*JOHN closes the door and sits down.*

**JOHN:** This is, um, odd, but I got a call from a recruiting agency this morning.

**DARREN:** A recruiting agency?

**JOHN:** Yeah, uh- Yes. The call was about you.

**DARREN:** Right. Yes, I meant to tell you about that. Sorry, John-

**JOHN:** It’s fine. I had a nice chat with them, said nice things.

**DARREN:** Thank you for that. I appreciate you telling me that.

**JOHN:** So you’re moving on?

**DARREN:** *(A big sigh.)* Possibly. Probably. Officially, no. But we’re friends, I like to think, and the door’s closed, so...

**JOHN:** Should I be looking for work?

**DARREN:** You work here.

**JOHN:** So do you. *(Pause.)* Is there something I don’t know?

**DARREN:** Possibly. Probably.

**JOHN:** Should I be looking for work?

**DARREN:** I can’t tell you ... anything. Things are fluid. Things are always fluid.

**JOHN:** Would it be wise for me to look around?

**DARREN:** I wouldn’t advise that. I wouldn’t be able to. Even if things were ...

**JOHN:** ...fluid.