

# Plane Of Existence extract

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NICK Well, I think...

ANDRE No you don't Nick. That's why we need some guidelines. And first is a code.

NICK Ah! That sounds like fun!

ANDRE It's not fun Nick. It's deadly serious. When talking about the deal, I want you to say the opposite of what you mean and then wink, okay, so that I'll know what you actually mean. Do you understand?

NICK Yes. [*He winks*]

ANDRE Great.

*Pause.*

NEVILLE No - but he winked - so it means the opposite...

ANDRE No, that only applies when talking about the deal.

NICK Does it?

ANDRE Yes of course... Hang on, surely you grasped that.

NICK No.

ANDRE Then why did you wink.

NICK Because I don't understand...

ANDRE But you must! - because you winked to show you were saying the opposite and yet you can't understand because you used it in the wrong context.

NICK I don't understand.

NEVILLE I don't think you're explaining it very well.

ANDRE I'm explaining it fine thank-you.

NEVILLE Would you like me to explain it Nick?

NICK Yes. [*Wink*]

ANDRE So you actually mean no.

NICK No.

ANDRE Then why did you wink?

NICK I've got something in my eye.

ANDRE *Oh for God's sake!* I've never known two people manage to make something so much more complicated than it actually is. All I'm trying to do is make it possible for us to communicate without people knowing what we're talking about.

NEVILLE Well I think we've achieved that.

NICK Yeah. I've no idea what you're talking about!

NEVILLE I don't feel we're really getting anywhere.

ANDRE Oh don't you start!

NEVILLE And what's your problem now?

ANDRE I'll just say that taking pains to be secretive is a bit of a waste of time if you are going to spill all our secrets to any floozy who comes along.

NEVILLE Just because the pretty girl who serves us drinks has taken a fancy to me can hardly be held against me. Are you saying you don't you trust me?

NICK Yes.

ANDRE & NEVILLE What?

NICK You don't trust him. You think he's going to share that money with the Air Hostess. That was why you got us reseated wasn't it?

ANDRE Yes but we were keeping that a secret!

NICK Were we?

NEVILLE Were you?!

ANDRE Well okay, yes. I thought it might be better to have someone else look after the money. Or perhaps we could take it in turns.

NEVILLE Oh I see!

ANDRE Good.

NEVILLE [*Dramatic*] No, I understand!

ANDRE [*Confused*] Good.

NEVILLE Take the money. [*He pushes it over.*]

NICK That went rather well didn't it.

NEVILLE You want to be careful Nick - he might turn on you next.

ANDRE I'm not turning on anybody!

NICK No. You're not turning *me* on.

*Pause.*

NEVILLE We'll just sit here then.

ANDRE Yes.

*Pause.*

NICK I don't have to go to the toilet.

ANDRE [*Confused*] Okay.

*Pause.*

NICK Sorry - I don't have to go to the toilet [*Wink*]

NEVILLE Why do you have to lie about that?!

NICK Andre said to always say the opposite.

ANDRE Only if the thing you were saying could be sensitive information.

NICK Well... I might need to go to the toilet to discuss our stolen money.

ANDRE Nick!

*And at each mention of the 'stolen money' they panic and look around them.*

NICK Sorry! I might *not* need to go to the toilet to discuss our stolen money.  
[Wink]

ANDRE Will you please stop mentioning the stolen money!

NICK Yes. I mean no! I mean no! [Wink]

ANDRE What?!

NICK I won't stop talking about the stolen money. [Wink]

ANDRE Why not?

NICK Oh no. I will *really*. I'm just saying I won't 'cause we're supposed to speak in opposites so people don't know about the stolen money. I don't *really* mean I won't stop talking about the stolen money - that's why I'm winking. Of course, actually, I *will* stop talking about the stolen money.

ANDRE *Well go on then!!*

NICK Yes, I will not. [Wink]

*Pause.*

NEVILLE I thought you needed the toilet.

NICK No.

*Pause - ANDRE watches him closely.*

ANDRE You don't need to toilet [Wink]?

NICK Yes...

ANDRE You know what. It really isn't worth it. I couldn't care much either way.

NEVILLE [To ANDRE] I don't see what your problem is.

ANDRE What *my* problem is?!

NICK Would you prefer it if we dropped the whole thing?

ANDRE Yes!

*NICK watches him very closely, to the confusion of ANDRE. Eventually this becomes a staring match. NICK wins.*

NICK Ahh...

ANDRE What do you mean 'Ahh...'?

NICK You actually meant 'no'.

ANDRE No I didn't.

NICK But you blinked.

ANDRE Well of course I bloody did! I can't keep my eyes open for that long! Besides, I said a *wink* not a blink.

NICK Well... one eye did close slightly before the other...

ANDRE I don't believe this! Is this real?

NEVILLE Maybe we could make a rule whereby we wait ten seconds and if the person hasn't winked -

NICK - Or blinked.

NEVILLE - Or blinked, after that, then we know it's true.  
ANDRE [*Shouting around him*] Hello? Hello! Will someone let me out?!  
NEVILLE [*Leaning forward to talk to Nick*] I don't think he understands.  
NICK No.

*Both put their hands comfortingly on his shoulders. He leans forward, head in hands, crying. Music starts.*

NEVILLE Do you think we ought to leave him alone?  
NICK I think so.

*They exit leaving Andre who cries for a few seconds before collecting a microphone. AH and the chorus enter..*

**Song 2 - 'Be The Bigger Man'**  
**ANDRE WITH NICK, NEVILLE, AH AND CHORUS**

**ANDRE**  
*On the day that I was born, the first thing that I saw  
Was my father fighting with the doctor*

**CHORUS**  
*(And trying to calm his wife)*

**ANDRE**  
*And since that first day he has always been  
A big factor in my life  
He didn't exactly tower over me  
In fact he was barely 5 foot 3  
But he taught me all I knew  
And how to hold my head up high*

**AH**  
*Andre, you've gotta rise above it all  
Get rid of the pride that comes before a fall  
Any fool can see it's you  
That's gotta do what a man's gotta do*

**ALL**  
*Bigger Man (etc.)*

**ANDRE**  
*And now I'm stuck here with these two fools*

*I forget what I was taught and I'm angry*

**CHORUS**

*(He really is non-plussed)*

**ANDRE**

*And the guy who's looking after the money  
Is a man I cannot trust  
And I feel I lose the strength you see  
The strength I need if I wanna be  
To be what I know I can  
To be the bigger man*

*Nick and Neville enter and dance along.*

**AH**

*Andre, you've gotta rise above it all  
Get rid of the pride that comes before a fall  
Any fool can see it's you  
That's gotta do what a man's gotta do*

*Andre concedes and hands the briefcase over to Neville.*

**ALL**

*Bigger Man (etc.)*

**NEVILLE**

*Hit it Nick!*

*Smarter than Heidegger  
Bouncier than a Tigger  
With lots of lovely vigor  
And a strong but shapely figure*

**NICK**

*Neville 'Devil' - yo' on da' level!*

**NEVILLE**

*Stronger than a digger  
His finger's on the trigger  
But with just a little rigour  
And he could be so much bigger*

*Repeat verse ad lib.*