

COLLEGE APPLICANT FROM MARS

By Deborah Karczewski

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CAST: one female

(TASSY NITRATE HARBORSCHMIDT can be played according to a vast variety of interpretations as long as SHE is a true caricature.)

Yes, Sir. It's a pleasure to meet you, too. I'm wildly excited about applying to Centerton College. I've dreamed about your ivy-laden campus ever since I was a little girl. Actually, if I touch any ivy, I break out in red splotches. They spread so quickly that within an hour, they cover the entirety of my body inhibiting any movement whatsoever! But not to worry! I carry the *Scouts Guide to Hazardous Plant Life* with me wherever I go, as well as a vial of very strong antihistamines. ***(The actress should develop an odd laugh to be used here and throughout the monologue.)***

(Listens to the interviewer) Have a seat? Oh, why thank you. You have a lovely décor, Mr. Jacobs. I particularly admire the dragons carved into the arms of these chairs. Are you aware that in some Asian cultures the dragon is not such a formidable monster? Often it's considered to be a symbol of good luck and AHHHH! ***(Because SHE has been chatting absentmindedly, TASSY misses her attempt to sit in the chair and falls comically to the floor.)***

Oh no-no-no, don't get up. I'm quite all right. ***(stands and brushes off)*** I'm well versed in the proper ways to tumble. ***(odd laugh)*** You see, when mother realized that I am prone to mishaps, she enrolled me in a gymnastics safety course at the YWCA.

Did you know that you should make an effort to land on the more corpulent portions of the body like the thighs or buttocks? Well, let's try this again, shall we? ***(Ceremoniously sits in the chair)*** There! That was a cakewalk! Did you know that the word cakewalk originated from African

American entertainment offering cake as a prize for the most impressive steps?

(Listens, then answers Mr. Jacobs' question) Oh yes indeed! I pride myself on knowing a wide range of trivia, especially facts about America's many cultures. After all, we are a melting pot, you know, a place of multi-cultural amalgamation. That's one reason why I'm so fascinated by Centerton College. Your brochure suggests a wide diversity in your student body. Mother, bless her heart, has kept me rather secluded, you know. I would so enjoy meeting all types of people, the more different the better.

(Listens) You sense that I, too, am different? Why, Mr. Jacobs! I see that you are an extremely discerning man. How insightful of you to catch a glimpse of my true character, and after we have known each other for such a comparatively short time! You know, I felt some trepidation prior to the start of this interview. I know you'll find this difficult to believe, but occasionally, people who don't know me, find me ... well...puzzling. Sometimes, that which you, Sir, have already found to be *unique* about my personality, seems *bewildering* to those who are less intuitive. If you are a symbol of Centerton College, Mr. Jacobs, then this is the place for me! **(odd laugh)** **(Listens)** Oh yes, certainly. I realize that you have a list of compulsory questions that you must ask each candidate. Go ahead, ask away. Wait! Would you mind if I found my center, first? I promised my meditation guru that I would take a moment to center myself before tackling any difficult decisions or questions. You see, mother noticed that I try to contemplate a vast array of concepts at once. She enrolled me in a meditation course to keep me focused and concentrated. May I tell you a secret in deepest confidence, Sir? **(stage whisper)** Sometimes, I can be a bit scattered. Yes, it's true! So, if you don't mind, I'll just stand for a moment **(stands)**, shut my eyes **(shuts them)**, breathe in **(breathes)**, breathe out **(exhales)**, relax my muscles **(shakes all over)**, push my breathing down into my diaphragm **(shows a downward movement with her hands)** and... **(eyes suddenly pop open with a new thought)** Hey! Isn't it strange that the word diaphragm has so many different meanings? **(rests her hand on the chair back)** It can be the large muscle in the abdomen, **(leans her weight on the back**

of the chair) or it can be the device around a camera lens, or (*odd laugh*)- but I digress. There. All centered. Oooops! (*Having leaned too hard on the back of the chair, TASSY topples it over, and SHE falls once again. SHE immediately hops up and bumblingly attempts to right the chair.*) I'm fine! Made a point to land on fatty tissue! (*laughs*)

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