



Real English Video Transcripts

Real English # 70 - Distraught Laurie

Superimposed text: We met Laurie one morning in Manhattan. All of Real English is not cheerful... Laurie was at the top of her profession for 15 years, and has now lost everything... This interview begins in the middle of a sentence: a month ago, she was waiting in an office for a job interview, and...

Laurie: (I was waiting in an office for an interview) and I smoked a cigarette in there, and I didn't know that you weren't supposed to, so the police arrested me.

Interviewer: You were arrested this morning?

Laurie: No, this was about a month ago, and I got two warrants, one for crying – disorderly conduct - and the other one for smoking a cigarette, which I didn't know that you shouldn't do.

Interviewer: You can...

Laurie: \$300 fine for New York City, so it was a nice innocent thing for the police to occupy themselves with.

Interviewer: You received a warrant for crying?

Laurie: Disorderly conduct. For crying. Being very upset about the whole thing.

Interviewer: That's a pretty raw deal.

Laurie: It's New York. They're like trying to make money from people, and the least offensive ways that they can find – parking tickets – picking people up for smoking cigarettes in the wrong places – anything but getting involved with the crime,

Interviewer: Oh boy.

Laurie: which is really what's going on here.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Laurie: They need a... the cities really needs (sic) a lot of money, and they fine people; the fines are exorbitant. You could park on the wrong side of the street for like 10 minutes, and come out and have a \$200 fine.

Interviewer: Oh boy.

Laurie: So...

Interviewer: What are you doing now?

Laurie: Well, I'm contemplating leaving New York.

Interviewer: Ah. Keep heart. Keep heart.

Laurie: It's getting really difficult here and it's not panning out. It's very scary. I had a very big business here for about 15 years. So...

Interviewer: What business was that?

Laurie: Fashion.

Interviewer: Ooh.

Laurie: And it went out of business when the retail industry started going under with the imports and I couldn't compete. I was a domestic manufacturer.

Superimposed text: The interviewer attempts to ask the normal "questions of the day..."

Interviewer: What are you wearing?

Laurie: I'm wearing a little jean skirt and... a cotton top, and a coat.

Interviewer: Okay. What are you going to do this evening?

Laurie: I'm, nothing so far. Maybe pack. It's really hard. I can't believe this happened.

Interviewer: What's your name?

Laurie: Laurie.

Interviewer: Laurie what?

Laurie: Paillet. It's French.

Interviewer: Could you spell that?

Laurie: P – A – I – L – E – T.

Interviewer: What's your astrological sign?

Laurie: Capricorn.

Interviewer: What are Capricorns like?

Laurie: Very good in business, and very determined.

Interviewer: What do you like to do for fun?

Laurie: Uhm, a lot of athletic things, lots of sports.

Interviewer: Where do you live?

Laurie: In Chelsea.

Interviewer: What do you do for a living?

Laurie: I'm unemployed. And it's getting worse and worse. Because I went to everybody in my industry, and now, since it's been six months, I'm becoming dated. It's like, you know,

Interviewer: Take heart. Take heart.

Laurie: It's like I haven't been in the business for a long time, six months,

Interviewer: Oh boy.

Laurie: So, it's just getting... that I can't deal with it anymore. I'm, I'm getting too disgusted, and, uhm, I have to really take a step down in my career if... if that's the case, I'm certainly not going to do it in New York City, in a place where I used to be kind of famous.

Interviewer: Where are you going to move to?

Laurie: I was thinking of either Seattle or Los Angeles, however Los Angeles frightens me. It's just that I have relatives there ... in the entertainment industry, and I might be able to get into the entertainment business somehow, assisting someone, working with someone.

Interviewer: Seattle's a great city, as long as you can take the rain.

Laurie: The rain? I just really need to get out because I want to go back to school in the evenings... and I don't want to be around all this ferocity. You know, I really want to be an artist. That's what I started out being, and I can't even concentrate on my art at all, and I'm sure that's what's destroying me. I can't even concentrate on my art here. I mean, you have no idea, everything is just so expensive. Canvas is \$50 a yard, paints are \$12 a tube. Everything's just geared up for the, you know, a certain... There's a lot of trust fund people here that are leading interesting lives, doing all these interesting things in Soho, and it's really very vacant. None of them really support themselves on it, only a teeny-weeny handful, and the teeny-weeny handful that do, are like , it's the same with the garment center. You have to know the dealers, and the buyers, and it's just so unmythical, really. It's really, there is no mystique. It's just a big... if, if you know how ugly the garment center is, absolutely every industry in New York is another version of the garment center, only in a different manner. Wall Street's (a) more educated garment center, the art world is an elite garment center, they're all the same thing. It's really, just very, ruthless, and there's no etiquette, and the communities here, except for the banking community, is very tight, and you have to be very careful in that community, but everything else, people just get away with murder. It's really hard. Where are you from?

Interviewer: I'm from Washington D.C.

Laurie: Well D.C.'s hard also.

Interviewer: Yeah, well I've been here for 12 years. I'm, I'm in the movie business.

Laurie: Oh, you are. Doing what?

Interviewer: I'm a stuntman.

Laurie: There's so many people here. And I've been everywhere, even to museums to work for \$10 an hour, and, it's like people, every, you know, they just, you know, somebody said to me you have to have like 40 resumés here. If you want to get ahead, you have to have all these fake resumés, and just say that you've been doing all these different things, just to try to get somewhere. There's just so many experienced people that are dislocated. Some people are in more comfortable situations than I am, but I mean, I made, my career disappeared, you know, it disappeared...

Interviewer: Evaporated.

Laurie: Yeah, it really did, I was sitting there in a loft, \$30,000 a month worth of expenses, hadn't written an order in 6 months, I finally decided to close. I mean, I couldn't keep on spending all my money for a pipe dream that maybe somebody would walk in and order some merchandise from me. It's too expensive just to stay in business and not do any business.

Interviewer: Hm mm.

Laurie: That's why I had to close. You know?

Interviewer: Hm mm.

Laurie: And now, it's, uh, I'm just upset and I'm really frantic, and I don't know what to do. You know, I mean, waitressing's stressful! And I'm old! I'm 37 years old, I'm not in my twenties, I don't know if I want to...

Interviewer: You look like you're in your 20s.

Laurie: Yeah, but I mean you know, it's like I have all this business experience. I really went through a lot. Do I have to go down to labor? You know? It's very upsetting.

Interviewer: Hang in there. You'll be, You'll be, all right. Hang in there, all right?

Laurie: Okay, Bye, thank you

Interviewer: Thanks for taking time, take care.

Laurie: Is it better in Europe?

Interviewer: Is it better in Europe? We'll have to ask our... Same recession, worldwide.

Laurie: Okay, thank you.

Interviewer: Hang tough, all right? You'll be... Come on, you'll come out. You'll come out of it.

Laurie: ...(indistinguishable) something. I need to work. I cant...

Interviewer: I know, its... I know. I just had a kid. I'm ...

Laurie: Oh my God. Okay, thank you.

Interviewer: Hang in there, all right? See ya'.