

Trading on the Floors of Catan

By

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Reception Desk

Henry, A Young Person reaches the reception with a leather folder, preparing for their job interview. The Reception desk has the logo for the Firm, Klaus & Tuber. This is a fancy office for traders. Brandon Smeltzer, the boss, comes to meet him in the hall.

SMELTZER  
Henry Winklebaum?

HENRY  
Yes that's me, Mr. Smeltzer?

SMELTZER  
Great to meet you Henry, are you a Henry or a Hank guy?

HENRY  
Only my parents call me Hank but either is fine

SMELTZER  
I'll call you Hank then, at Klaus & Tuber we're family. Family with benefits.

Smeltzer high fives the secretary.

SMELTZER  
Here, let me give you the tour!

INSIDE ELEVATOR

SMELTZER  
I'm sure it's very exciting to be inside one of the largest brokerages in all of Catan. First things first is Commodities.

COMMODITIES FLOOR

They exit the elevator to a floor of bustling business people on phones and headsets. In the center there is a monitor with a huge picture of two dice blocks with a siren next to it.

SMELTZER  
Welcome to the Bazaar aka the House of Hustle. Things move quickly here and it's these goons job to keep the resources flowing. Whole lot of activity here if you're up for it.

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SMELTZER (cont'd)

It doesn't matter where you come from so long as you'll fight to stay here. Real cast of characters here like Trap Queen.

TRAP QUEEN

Listen, you want to talk about bricks? I move ten bricks daily, I'm tryna twerk 5 mo.

SMELTZER

Good ole boy.

GOOD OLE BOY

I can offer you Amber Waves of grain. Dudn't that sound good to you? All I need in return is little lumba.

SMELTZER

And of Course Braveheart

BRAVEHEAT

Listen ya bastard, I want Stone. I have enough Sheep. I don't want your freaking SHEEP.

There is an overwhelming amount of people on cellphones crossing back and forth behind and in front of H&S

SMELTZER

It's a little overwhelming at first but they'll shut right up in a few seconds if you can believe it.

HENRY

For the roll?

SMELTZER

Exactly Hank! The holy roll calls the congregation to worship.

The screen flashes Roll Countdown and people shut up and gather behind H&S silently and watch. The screen flashes "3" with icons for Wheat and Sheep.

SMELTZER

Three! Hey now! we got a three ring circus on our hands! Time to see who's a strongman, Who's an acrobat and who's a clown.

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Clown is a doofus of a man in a bright poorly fitting shirt (too tight in the chest, too big in the sleeves)

CLOWN

I'll send you a tree and a brick  
right now, easy peasy. bang a road  
for you this turn. but I want cards  
back brother. 4 of them. don't care  
which ones but I want 4.

Henry turns to Speaking to Smeltzer

HENRY

What about Audits? Any four cards  
seems like a desperate move at this  
point in the day.

Clown overhears

CLOWN

Who the Hell are you pipsqueak? I'm  
two turns away from bringing this  
world to it's knees. In two turns  
I'll be able to buy you, your  
family and the hex you grew up in  
and burn all that shit to the  
ground. Smeltzer you gotta dump  
this nosey, crap for brains,  
cowardly little...

Dice Countdown buzzer comes on and interrupts Clown, they  
all look on as the dice roll is a 7, the robber appears.

CLOWN

Ah f- me

SMELTZER

You were saying I should Dump Hank?  
just get rid of him? clearly your  
strategy for trading is much  
better, hell we should expand it  
out to be our company manifest.

CLOWN

Look Smeltzy

Stern look from Smeltzer, Clown changes his tone to fearful  
Sir, it's not a big deal. I got a  
ton of Sheep, I'll just dump em I  
still got a few moves in play.

SMELTZER

You think dumping sheep keeps the lights on in this place?

CLOWN

No sir.

SMELTZER

I catch you with over 7 again anytime in the next week you're the one I'll dump. Hell, I got Hank here now to step in right now and do a better job but he's too good to take over your hand. I don't want to dump his talent.

CLOWN

Sir. How do you expect me to profit without any sort of leeway?

SMELTZER

I expect you to profit a heck of a lot better than you have so far.

CLOWN

Yes Sir, Understood.

SMELTZER

Lets go Hank, There is still plenty to see.

#### DEVELOPMENT

This floor is much quieter, instead of people on phones there are conference rooms with clients meeting inside

SMELTZER

Welcome to the Development floor, where you never know whats going to happen. Bring us rock, wheat and sheep and we'll set up a meeting with whoever we got. If you're lucky you get a VP like Valarie here.

VALARIE

Why hello, you must be Henry, fresh from Coastal University. Top grades in all courses and a very talented with Sousaphone

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HENRY

Yes! um how did you know all that?

VALARIE

I pay close attention to the university, it's my proudest project.

HENRY

You're Valarie Price, the designer and benefactor of Coastal U! Thank you so much for all you have done it's an honor to meet you!

VALARIE

The pleasure is all mine, I'd love to chat longer but I need to run to a meeting about a library. Toodle Oo

SMELTZER

Always nice to see val, but it's a rare sighting. If you can't get a VP you still might get the road brothers

Two dudes pass in the hallway with construction gear.

SMELTZER

or the Harvester

Guy who looks like a Giuseppe Arcimboldo painting walks by.

SMELTZER

Most people though? they get Mr. Knight.

They look in to see a meeting with a mafia guy and two goons and a couple

MR. KNIGHT

Look, you need protection. You need an army or you're going to be bullied by robbers until you're destitute. My guys? they're good guys. trustworthy guys. Plus, we wouldn't want to see anything happen to your stone supply now would we.

Cracks neck and knuckles

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MR. KNIGHT  
good. very good. sign here.

They pass by the room and move on to the final area

REAL ESTATE

A very Friendly place full of very smiley people.

SMELTZER  
So here is the main bread and  
butter for Klaus & Tuber, our Urban  
Development department. This is the  
place where we turn our clients  
into show-ers and growers.

A real Estate Agent comes by and hands him a few brochures  
entitled: Cities and Settlements: Spread them wide and  
prepare to take it all in; The Desert: Barren yet Blessed,  
Sheep Ports: how to win without Wheat!

HENRY  
This is all so incredible, what do  
I need to do to get an opportunity  
to work at Klaus & Tuber?

SMELTZER  
You just have to answer one  
question: Why do you want to  
Settle?

HENRY  
Well my whole life I've seen my  
friends give up because it was too  
hard, or too uncomfortable and it  
saddens me. I want to be an  
achiever, I want to reach for the  
stars and change the world. Explore  
the boundaries of what is possible  
for our culture and others. I want  
to Settle because giving up is too  
easy to be an interesting story.

SMELTZER  
you sound like a natural settler to  
me Hank, Welcome aboard.