

THE LISTING

GUIDE SERVICE MANAGER

An exciting job at the world's sixth largest web portal. Must be a good writer and editor, be self-motivated and work well with a variety of independent freelancers.

Open mind and fun attitude a plus.

Health insurance and 401K.

Salary commiserates with experience.

MY MOST MEMORABLE INTERVIEW

There are two of them, two men,
and they are both laughing at my jokes.
Everything is going great.

The office is clean, bustling
with young people. My heart
glitters in my nervous chest:
I could work here.

Then the older one clears his throat,
says, *Now about the job. I'm not sure
if we have been 100% clear
about what it will entail. You will be
working in our "adult interest section."
Do you know what that means?*

This is only my fourth interview
in the five months I've been looking.
I have worn the same outfit
to all my interviews. It is black
and it smells like spilled coffee
and failure.

I'd give anything to know
the right answer to his question.
I'd give anything to have this job.
Instead, I knit my fingers together
and wait for him to explain.

*"Adult Interest" means erotica.
We have erotic sites that aren't
really linked to our main homepage,
but we do manage them. They are
our sites. Do you understand so far?*

I nod.

*Now we use the word “erotica”
because it’s nice. But make no mistake:
This is porn.*

*Now is this something
you are comfortable with?*

For the last four months,
I have eaten nothing but frozen pierogies
and day-old pastries scored for free
from my friend Patrick’s café.

My savings have been consumed
by NYC rent and resumé paper.

At this point I would be comfortable
with *anything*. So I turn to these men,
these two men who are interviewing me
for a real honest-to-goodness job,
and I say, *Bring on the blow jobs!*

Thank God: they laugh.

The little guy turns to the big guy
and goes, *Well, let’s leave her alone
with the laptop and see how she feels.*

Alone in the conference room,
I sip free coffee, soak
in the air conditioning.

I want it.
I want this job.
Bad.

PORN

has nothing to do with love,
in regards to me at least,
except that I love boys
and boys love porn.

SOCKS

A friend of mine told me
that she always wears socks
whenever she has sex,
so that when she finally
does fall in love,
the sex with that guy
will be special.

This is modern life,
and this is why
I am a virgin.