

# Mr Carrington's New Clothes

*Based on Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Emperor's new clothes'*

## **SCENE 1**

**NARRATOR:** Once upon a time there lived a vain Multimillionaire whose only true worry in life was to dress in fashion designers' clothes. He changed clothes almost every hour and loved to show them off to his family, friends, employees and business partners.

Word of the Multimillionaire's refined habits spread over the entire nation and beyond. Two tricksters who had heard of HIS extravagant taste and vanity decided to take advantage of it. They introduced themselves at the reception desk of his corporate headquarters with a scheme in mind.

## **SCENE 2**

**RECEPTIONIST:** Good morning, how may I help you?

**TRICKSTER 1:** We represent one of the most popular fashion house in Italy, Sbagliato & Ladroni (he hands her in their business card), and after many years of research we have invented an extraordinary method to weave a cloth so light and fine that it looks invisible.

**TRICKSTER 2:** As a matter of fact it is invisible to anyone who is too stupid and incompetent to appreciate its quality."

**RECEPTIONIST** (to herself): Invisible? How is that possible?

**TRICKSTER 1** (turning to TRICKSTER 2): Oh, he hasn't heard of INVISIBILIZATION, it's invisible for those who have no fashion sense! Typical!

**TRICKSTER 2:** Oh, it doesn't surprise me, look how he's dressed.

**RECEPTIONIST:** (takes a quick and embarrassed look at her clothes) OK, I'll let you speak to Mr. Carrington.

### ***SCENE 3***

**RECEPTIONIST** (calling Secretary 1): Hello? This is Suzie from the Reception, Listen, there is a team of two designers, (reading from the business card) Sbagliato & Ladroni who are the exclusive producers of the latest craze – invisible cloth

**SECRETARY 1:** Invisible? How is that possible?

**RECEPTIONIST** (proud of her recent knowledge): Well, you haven't heard of INVISIBILIZATION, it's invisible only for those who don't understand true fashion, typical!

**SECRETARY 1:** (embarrassed at her lack of fashion knowledge) OK, I'll tell Mr Carrington about their offer.

### ***SCENE 4***

(SECRETARY 1 is telling SECRETARY 2 the strange story)

**SECRETARY 1:** There are two fashion designers downstairs who'd like to see Mr Carrington and present their latest fashion product, invisible cloth.

**SECRETARY 2:** Invisible? How is that possible?

**SECRETARY 1:** What? You still haven't heard of INVISIBILIZATION? You're fashion ignorant; it's invisible for those who are stupid and incompetent, Typical! How did you manage to get this job?

**SECRETARY 2** (embarrassed): I'll talk to Mr Carrington's Secretary. (She hangs up and dials Secretary 3's phone number)

### ***SCENE 5***

**SECRETARY 2:** Hello, Dorothy speaking, I've just got informed that there are two fashion designers waiting to see Mr Carrington and present their latest invention, invisible cloth.

**SECRETARY 3** (extremely surprised): Invisible? How is that possible?

**SECRETARY 2:** Come on! Don't tell me that you haven't heard about INVISIBILIZATION? Can't believe it... (ironic) Typical!

**SECRETARY 3** (very embarrassed): I'll tell Mr Carrington's PA.

## ***SCENE 6***

(Secretary 3 is calling Mr Carrington's Personal Assistant)

**SECRETARY 3:** Hello, this is Monica speaking, Two fashion designers, Sbagliato & Ladroni, would like to see Mr Carrington and show him their latest invention, invisible cloth! When could he see them?

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** Invisible? How is that possible?

**SECRETARY 3:** Don't tell me you haven't heard of INVISIBILIZATION, everyone knows it! It's invisible as long as you have no fashion sense!

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT** (a bit embarrassed): Well, tell them that Mr Carrington is just about to go for lunch, so he's got a free minute or two.

(**A short scene:** SECRETARY 3 is calling SECRETARY 2, SECRETARY 2 is calling SECRETARY 1, SECRETARY 1 is calling RECEPTIONIST, RECEPTIONIST informs the TRICKSTERS that Mr Carrington would like to see them. Music playing in the background)

**RECEPTIONIST:** Alright, Mr Carrington is waiting for you in his office, floor 13!

(TRICKSTERS disappear in the lift)

## ***SCENE 7***

(Mr Carrington is trying on a new tie, there are some fashion magazines scattered around the place, some models walking around the office, clothes hanging so in fact it looks like a fashion designer's studio)

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** Mr Carrington, I'd like to present to you the latest invention that is all the craze now, no doubt about that, the invisible cloth!

**MR CARRINGTON:** Invisible? How is that possible?

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** Well, it is the final effect of the INVISIBILIZATION process, and only those who are fashion sensitive can appreciate its uniqueness.

### ***SCENE 8***

(TRICKSTERS enter the room and describe their product)

**TRICKSTER 1:** Besides being invisible, sir, this cloth will be woven in colours and patterns created especially for you, and it will be labelled with your name. Just think of that! Your own fashion line!

**MR CARRINGTON:** Just tell us what you need to get started and I'll give it to you.

**TRICKSTER 2:** Well, let's start with £500,000.

(The multimillionaire writes a cheque for the materials to open a production line)

### ***SCENE 9***

**NARRATOR:** A few days later, Mr Carrington called his PERSONAL ASSISTANT, who was considered by everyone as a true fashion follower.

**MR CARRINGTON:** Go and see how the work is proceeding, and come back to let me know.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** Of course! I'll go to see them later this afternoon.

### ***SCENE 10***

(The PERSONAL ASSISTANT is welcomed by the two TRICKSTERS in their fashion studio)

**TRICKSTER 2:** We're almost finished, but we need a lot more gold thread. Here, sir! Admire the colours, feel the softness!"

(The PERSONAL ASSISTANT bends over the loom and tries to see the fabric that is not there. He is a bit uncertain but reminds himself that it is INVISIBLE)

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT** (to himself): I can't see anything, of course, but if I saw something, that would mean I cannot appreciate the latest fashion, and they would think I'm incompetent! If I admitted that it's rubbish somebody else could get my position.

**TRICKSTER 1:** And how do you find it!

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** What a marvellous fabric! It's going to be the next fashion show craze, I'll certainly tell Mr Carrington.

(The two TRICKSTERS rub their hands gleefully)

**TRICKSTER 2:** Well, it would speed up the production line if we bought new INVISIBILZATION machine that would be like £500,000.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT:** I'll send you the cheque as soon as possible!

## ***SCENE 11***

**NARRATOR:** Finally, the MR CARRINGTON received the announcement that the two designers had come to take all the measurements needed to sew his new suit.

**MR CARRINGTON:** Come in!

(The TRICKSTERS pretend to be holding a large roll of fabric)

**TRICKSTER 1:** Here it is sir, the result of our labour

**TRICKSTER 2:** We have worked night and day but, at last, the most beautiful fabric in the world is ready for you. Look at the colours and feel how fine it is.

**NARRATOR:** Of course MR CARRINGTON did not see any colours and could not feel any cloth between his fingers. He panicked and felt like fainting. But he reminded himself that in fact it is invisible! And that is the thing all about, to be first to wear invisible clothes! He felt better. Be first, be original! He liked the thought.

(The farce continues as the two tricksters started to take measurements, they begin cutting the air with scissors while sewing with their needles an invisible cloth)

**TRICKSTER 1:** MR CARRINGTON, you'll have to take off your clothes to try on your new ones.

(The two TRICKSTERS drape the new clothes on him and then hold up a mirror. MR CARRINGTON feels a bit embarrassed but since none of his employees are there, he feels relieved)

**MR CARRINGTON:** Yes, this is a beautiful suit and it looks very good on me (MR CARRINGTON is trying to look comfortable) You've done a fine job.

## ***SCENE 12***

**PERSONAL ASSIATANT:** Sir, we have a request for you. The people have found out about this extraordinary fabric and they are anxious to see you in your new suit.

**NARRATOR:** MR CARRINGTON was doubtful showing himself naked to the employees, but then he abandoned his fears. After all, he was going to be the FIRST to wear such a piece! Anyone who is ignorant and incompetent would not appreciate this fashion masterpiece!

**MR CARRINGTON:** All right, I will grant my employees this privilege.

## ***SCENE 13 + SCENE 14***

(He opens the door of his office and walks through the open office. His PERSONAL ASSISTANT and SECRETARIES walk behind him and anxiously scrutinize the faces of the other employees.)

**EMPLOYEE 1:** Look at his new clothes. They're beautiful! I haven't seen anything like that in my entire life!

**EMPLOYEE 2:** What a marvellous design! I'm sure there is nothing more fashionable at the moment that a man could get! Just one word to describe it: FANTASTIC!

**EMPLOYEE 3:** And the colours! The colours of that beautiful fabric! Marvellous! Wish I could afford it one day!

**NARRATOR:** They all tried to conceal their disappointment at not being able to see the clothes, and since nobody was willing to admit his own 'incompetence and lack of fashion knowledge', they all behaved as the two TRICKSTERS had predicted.

### ***SCENE 15***

**NARRATOR:** MR CARRINGTON encouraged by the enthusiastic reception of his new invisible clothes decided to leave the office And go for his next business meeting in his 'new clothes'. However, as soon as he left the office he bumped into a father and child. The child saw things as they were.

**CHILD:** This man is naked!

**CHILD'S FATHER:** "Fool!", "Don't talk nonsense!"

(He grabbed his child's hand and dragged him away. But the boy's remark, which had been heard by other passer-bys, was repeated over and over again.)

**BYSTANDERS:** The boy is right! This man is naked! It's true!"

### ***SCENE 16***

(Mr CARRINGTON realizes that the people are right but doesn't want to admit to that and continues walking down the street)

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