

The Applicant

By Brent Holland

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

© 2025 by *Brent Holland*

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/the-applicant>

DEDICATION

If I were to find myself one day as Dr. Kellas, in charge of a powerful agency, my first act would be to hire Fred Streszoff as my right hand. My friend since high school, his sage advice has kept me from looking like a doofus over and over again.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The best and brightest young adults and college students are invited to apply for their dream job. Applicants for this government job are tasked with seemingly simple games in order to advance to the next round. But they soon find out failure has severe consequences. Dr. Kellas explains what is being asked of them and the large reward that awaits the lucky one. What will each applicant do in order to secure their promising future? This show requires very little set, few costumes, and is entirely gender flexible. It is perfect for one-act competitions. About 35 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(12 Actors)

JAMIE RUNNELS: An applicant for a position at the agency. College sophomore and strong-willed.
BLAKE: An applicant for a position at the agency. Idealistic.
ROWAN: An applicant for a position at the agency. Argumentative and suspicious.
AGENT DANIELS: An agency employee. Follows orders.
AGENT TAYLOR: Another agency employee. Physically imposing.
JORDAN: An employee that is applying for a different position at the agency.
DR. KELLAS: The supervisor of the hiring process. A high-ranking agency official.
DREW: An applicant with familial attachments.
CAMERON: An applicant and semifinalist for the position at the agency.
BAILEY: An applicant and semifinalist for the position at the agency.
ALEX: An applicant and finalist for the position at the agency.
HARPER: An applicant and finalist for the position at the agency.

Note: All roles are flexible. Change pronouns as necessary. Blake and Rowan could double as candidates in Scene 2.

The Applicant

- 4 -

SETTING / STAGING

Two rooms in a government agency field office with several chairs, two tables, and a desk. **Special note:** While some violent actions are inherent in this play, they can be mitigated with proper staging.

TIME

The present.

The Applicant

(AT RISE: The LIGHTS come up on a room with a table and two chairs. On the table is a Connect 4 board. JAMIE RUNNELS is standing, looking around the room. After a few moments, BLAKE enters.)

BLAKE: Is this room 204?

JAMIE: That's what it says on the door.

BLAKE: Right.

JAMIE: *(After a beat.)* You here for the interview?

BLAKE: Yeah. Are you?

JAMIE: Yeah.

(A moment passes.)

BLAKE: What did you think of that questionnaire they had us fill out?

JAMIE: That was weird.

BLAKE: It was intense. Then the way the person at the desk scrutinized it? There were ten people working on it in my room but after filling out the paperwork, eight of them were sent home. It was crazy.

JAMIE: Your room had ten people in it too?

BLAKE: Yeah, it did. Yours did too?

JAMIE: It did. And only three of us moved on.

BLAKE: I wonder how many positions they have.

JAMIE: The email didn't say.

BLAKE: I asked the girl at the desk, but she didn't know. I was just happy I moved on from the questionnaire. I've always wanted to work for the agency. This is a chance of a lifetime.

(A moment passes.)

JAMIE: There're instructions on the table.

BLAKE: *(Crossing to the table.)* There are?

JAMIE: It says that the two of us are supposed to play a game of Connect 4.

BLAKE: *(Looking.)* Really?

JAMIE: That's what it says.

BLAKE: *(Picking up the card and reading.)* Candidates are to play one game of Connect 4. If a candidate does not understand the rules of the game, the rules are included in the game box.

JAMIE: Do you know how to play?

BLAKE: Yeah, of course.

JAMIE: Then let's get to it. *(HE sits at the table.)*

BLAKE: Why do you think they want us to play Connect 4?

JAMIE: No clue. But after some of the questions they asked us on that form, it doesn't really surprise me too much.

BLAKE: Is every job interview for the agency like this?

JAMIE: Your guess is as good as mine.

BLAKE: *(Sitting.)* So we just have to play one game?

JAMIE: That's what it says.

BLAKE: You want to be red or black?

JAMIE: I'll be red.

BLAKE: *(Looking at the board.)* Who goes first?

JAMIE: Go ahead.

BLAKE: You sure? *(A beat.)* Ok. *(He places a piece. Through the next few lines of dialogue, the two continue playing.)* So what do you do?

JAMIE: Huh?

BLAKE: For a living? What do you do?

JAMIE: I'm a sophomore at State.

BLAKE: I graduated last year. I've been working for Bayside Software Engineering.

JAMIE: Ok.

BLAKE: *(After a moment.)* What's your major?

JAMIE: Pre-med.

BLAKE: Going to be a doctor?

JAMIE: That's the plan.

BLAKE: Weird. I would have thought you needed a degree to apply for this job.

JAMIE: The email I got said that if I were offered, they would work around my school schedule.

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/the-applicant>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!