

( 2 men  
observing  
a 3<sup>rd</sup>  
unobserved )

eric w jepson

1O: He's sick. Deranged.

2P: He doesn't look deranged.

1O: No.

2P: He actually seems quite pleasant.

1O: Yes, that's actually the problem.  
The man feels no fear. Not trained  
to feel no fear, find you, but  
actually physiologically incapable of  
feeling fear.

2P: Really.

- 1O: Yes. And nearly incapable of other “negative” emotions also. He only barely touches sadness and can’t sustain anger for more than a few seconds.
- 2P: That’s amazing.
- 1O: Exactly.
- 2P: Because normally, say in a two-agent standoff, even though they both have been “trained” to feel no fear, really it is their fears that are doing battle.
- 1O: Right. And a man who feels no fear would have a distinct advantage. Even with no skills, he could still win.
- 2P: How old is he?
- 1O: Thirty-five.
- 2P: So old.
- 1O: Yes.
- 2P: What skills does he have?
- 1O: Almost none. He used to shoot guns with an uncle, but for a man who feels no fear, he has been involved shockingly little in the way of fights.

2P: Pity.

1O: Yes.

[pause]

2P: So, what do you think?

1O: He'd make a great frontman. He could do drops and deliveries and collections. His manner would terrify. He's so . . . pleasant.

2P: Yes. And we wouldn't really have to tell him anything.

1O: No. There I think you're wrong. Just because he doesn't feel fear doesn't mean he's stupid. He'll catch on to dangerous situations even if they don't raise his pulse.

2P: Hm. Does he feel pain?

1O: Pain? Yes. He does. But it doesn't bother him. The same chemicals pulse through his arteries and brain, but no emotion accompanies them. Almost like he's an outsider looking in to his own body. But again, he's not stupid. He knows pain is bad.

2P: So he'd have to know why the pain is worth it.

1O: Yes. Exactly.

2P: So he has to know what he is doing and why. Hhhh. How did you find this guy?

1O: Actually, a university medical program's been working with him for years. You look through medical journals for John X, you'll find articles on him every baby\* or so.

2P: Huh. How's he test?

1O: Good. Loyal to the country, very patriotic, so on. I think he'll do.

2P: Family?

1O: That uncle just died. He has a brother and sister, but they own an English school in Taiwan. Hasn't seen them in five years. And his parents have been dead for years. He's not close to anyone else.

2P: No girl?

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\* A nonspecific period of time, most of a year, approximately nine months. The clever lingo these guys use!

- 1O: No. I guess fear and worry are necessary to make a commitment feel real to a lady. He's only ever had one serious girlfriend and, finally, he just freaked her out.
- 2P: Ha ha! Yeah, I guess opening up and sharing secrets doesn't mean as much to a guy who wouldn't normally fear that anyway.
- 1O: Yeah, but imagine if your wife wasn't at all concerned about losing you.
- 2P: Hmm. Yeah.
- 1O: That reminds me. Where's Delly? She needs to approve this guy too.
- 2P: I don't know, but I'll talk to her. I want this guy to come in some time next week.
- 1O: Aye-aye.
- 2P: Wait. When you talk to him, find out if he enjoys spy novels.
- 1O: [grins] Sure.

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