

# Airhead!

The diary of an air conditioning apprentice...



## FRIDAY

Bit of a shock today. It's been 3 months since I started as Max's apprentice at *Al-Cool* - but I never knew it was a trial period! "Time to assess your work", he said this morning, looking stern. "What have you learned and achieved?"

"Well, I -"

"I wasn't asking, I'm about to tell you. You've hardly learned anything and you've achieved sod-all, that's what!"

"That's hardly fair, I -"

"Fair? I'll decide what's fair - I'm the one who pays you! So far, all you've learned is how to stand at the bottom of a ladder while I do all the work. And you're clumsy - you've dropped and damaged three air-con

units in the last month. Lucky I managed to install them without the clients noticing."

"That's 'cos I distracted them for you by talking about the movies... I told you my degree in *The History of Film Studies* would be useful. You never take my qualifications seriously - not forgetting my beginner's course in *Feng Shui*."

"And what bloody good's that been? You told one client that air-con 'can cause bad karma'; and you advised another that solar panels 'should face east to the rising sun'. Are you an idiot?"

"Well what exactly have you taught me in 3 months? How to pull the wool over clients' eyes? How to cut corners, under-spec and over-price? No wonder the

people at Penguin annoy you so much, with their emphasis on cost-efficiency and reputation for service."

"Penguin, eh? Ah, I see... Well, why don't you go and work for them?"

"Er... I tried, but they weren't interested. They only want people with qualifications."

"You mean they weren't interested in *Film Studies* and *Feng Shui*? What a surprise! Looks like you'd best stick with me then, sunshine. I'll give you another 3 months trial period."

"Any chance of a pay rise?"

"Not an ice-cube's chance in hell."

"OK, deal."

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