first little setback and you want to chuck it all.

- #1: What about you? Things could be worse.
- #2: Really? Let see, I've got no business, no money, no spouse, probably no mail now, no cat, I'm going to jail, and this cold sore really hurts. Suicide will be the best thing that could happen.
- #1: You know, listening to you, I guess things aren't that bad for me. (Pause) Do you really think I can find someone else?
- #2: Let me put it this way, if you jumped right now, you'd probably splatter on twenty or thirty single men/women down there.
- #1: You know, you're right!
- #2: Well hurrah for me.
- #1: No, really. He/she wasn't good enough for me. I can find someone else. Maybe a hundred times better. He/she isn't worth my life.
- #2: Yeah, yeah, I'm very happy for you, but you want to keep it down. Some of us still have business up here.
- #1: Are you sure?
- #2: Yeah, just go.
- #1: OK, but I'll never be able to thank you enough. You've saved my life.
- #2: Then shut up before I regret it.
- #1: OK, I'm going. (Starts to inch off the ledge. Then stops.) I'll never forget you.
- #2: Please do. This is not how I'd like to be remembered. Have a good life. (#1 exits. #2 turns to see if #1 is finally gone, then reaches into his/her pocket and pulls out a cellular phone and dials.) Yeah chief, he's/she's left. (Pause) Hey, I'm sorry it took long. (Pause) If you don't like it, find someone else to do this! (Pause) Yeah, OK. One last question, how do I get down from here?!

13. The Medium

(In a house. There is a MEDIUM sitting at a table. Peering into a crystal ball and dealing tarot cards.)

- MEDIUM: Please enter and feel welcome. (The CLIENT comes in and looks around.) Please, sit down. (The CLIENT sits.) I am Zolton/Madam Zolton. How can I help you?
- CLIENT: I'm not sure if you can.
- MEDIUM: Have you ever sought help from one such as me before?
- CLIENT: No I haven't. A friend of mine came to you and suggested I come.
- MEDIUM: And who is your friend?
- CLIENT: Mary Rogers.
- MEDIUM: Yes, lovely Mary. I helped her get in touch with her departed brother.
- CLIENT: I know. I was hoping you could help me too.
- MEDIUM: I can only do my best. And who do you want to reach Mr./Miss...
- CLIENT: Parker. My great-great grandmother. I've been doing some research on my family and I heard she was a fascinating woman. I'd love to see if I could get in touch with her.
- MEDIUM: We will do our best. I do have to tell you one thing.

 To get in touch with someone who passed on several
 generations ago, is much more difficult than
 communicating with someone recently departed.
- CLIENT: Why is that?
- MEDIUM: Those who are longer passed on, are more settled in the afterlife and are not always as willing to reconnect with the living world. It may take a few sessions.

CLIENT: Really? And that will cost me more, I suppose.

MEDIUM: Perhaps, but let's not delve into that until necessary.

CLIENT: OK.

MEDIUM: Now, do you happen to have an article or picture

that belonged to your great-great grandmother?

CLIENT: I have an old picture of her.

MEDIUM: Let me have it. (The CLIENT takes a picture out

and hands it to the MEDIUM. The MEDIUM does a meditation, then looks at the picture very carefully.) This was your great-great grand-

mother?

CLIENT: Yes, it was.

MEDIUM: She was a very fascinating woman.

CLIENT: You can tell that by feeling the picture?

MEDIUM: No, by looking at it. Why didn't you tell me your

great-great grandmother was a First Lady?

CLIENT: I don't...know...what...

MEDIUM: This is a picture of Mary Todd Lincoln.

CLIENT: I...see...no...

MEDIUM: You can drop the act Mr./Ms. Parker. Or should I

say... (Turns over a tarot card and drops whatever accent or voice inflection he/she has been using.)

Officer...Parker.

CLIENT: It's detective.

MEDIUM: Close enough. What do you want?

CLIENT: You in jail.

MEDIUM: Aren't you guys tired of harassing me? I know I'm

tired of it.

CLIENT: I want to see you busted. You're a fake and you

know it.

MEDIUM: Prove it!

CLIENT: How about Linda Folger?

MEDIUM: Oh, please. That was one person who wasn't

satisfied with her results. And, if I'm not mistaken, a court of law backed me up. But you know that,

don't you?

CLIENT: People like you make me sick. You cheat people

out of their money and you have no guilt about it.

MEDIUM: Hey, I don't promise anything, or guarantee anything. People get exactly what they come here

for and they pay me for it. You call it cheating, I

call it business.

CLIENT: You're a fake and I'm going to get you.

MEDIUM: Well, until you get some evidence, I think you know where the door is. (Pause) Also, I wouldn't be

so sure that I don't have any powers. One never

knows.

CLIENT: Sell it to someone else.

MEDIUM: That's what I'm planning. Oh, detective, your

picture.

(The MEDIUM holds out the picture to the officer. He/She grabs it, but the MEDIUM doesn't let go.

They stare at each other for a moment.)

CLIENT: What?

 ${\bf MEDIUM:} \quad {\bf Nothing.} \ ({\it The~CLIENT~takes~the~picture~and~starts~to}$

head out.) Don't worry about your dog, detective.

(The Cop freezes and turns around.)

CLIENT: What?

MEDIUM: Your dog, Max. Don't worry. The car didn't really

hurt him.

CLIENT: How did you...

MEDIUM: And you should stop worrying about your

promotion.

CLIENT: What...do you know about my promotion?

MEDIUM: Just what I felt coming from you.

(The officer walks back to the MEDIUM.)

CLIENT: What do you know about my promotion?

MEDIUM: Why are you asking me? I'm a fake, remember?

CLIENT: Shut up and tell me.

MEDIUM: It's hard to tell. I only got the vibration for a

second. Still, you've got a better shot at that than that car loan you applied for.

CLIENT: How do you know about that?!

MEDIUM: The universe is a strange place.

CLIENT: Tell me more! Tell me more!

MEDIUM: I can't. I have another appointment now.

CLIENT: When?!

MEDIUM: Later. Come back later.

(The detective starts to head out.)

CLIENT: I'm off at six. I'll be back then.

(The detective heads out. The MEDIUM says after he

leaves.)

MEDIUM: Fine. Bring money.

(The MEDIUM reaches under the table and pulls out a phone and dials.) Hey, it's me. Thanks for the info. (Pause) Yeah, the cop looked just like you said. (Pause) Your friend at the police department isn't going to tell him you were asking, will he? (Pause) Good. (Pause) Yeah, yeah, you can pick up your money at the usual time. (Pause) Nice doing business with you, too.

14. The Mistake

(In a bank. #1 is a bank manager. He/She is seated behind a desk finishing some work. #1 pushes the intercom.)

- #1: You can send in the customer now. (#2 enters. He/she seems a bit frazzled. Actually irritated would be a better word.) Please sit down. I'm sorry you had to wait.
- #2: Me, too, it's been over an hour.
- #1: Well, you know how it is. Paperwork, paperwork, paper work, makes the world go 'round.
- #2: Excuse me?
- #1: That's just a little motto we like to use here at the bank.
- #2: Really. How nice for you.
- #1: I see. You're a bit on the edge today, aren't you?
- #2: Just a tad.
- #1: Let's see if we can make life a little nicer for you,
 Mr./Ms....
- #2: Collins.
- #1: Mr./Ms. Collins, now, what seems to be the problem?
- #2: Like I told the other five people this morning, I went to use the ATM and it said to see a teller.
- #1: Did you?
- #2: Yes. She wouldn't give me any money either. From there I was sent to the sub-assistant manager. Then to the day manager, the afternoon manager, the lunch manager, the upstairs manager, and finally you.
- #1: You didn't see Ms. Bickford?
- #2: Who is she?
- #1: The lobby manager.
- #2: (Pause) No. (Pause) She was sick.
- #1: Then I guess "the buck stops here." Now, what seems to be the problem?
- #2: OK, once again, I can't get any money from this bank.