Serge and Yvan Audition Duologue

*Context: Serge has showed Marc the Antrios and gotten the opposite reaction he’d hoped for. Marc has forewarned Yvan that Serge has the Antrios and his pretentions have reached a dangerous peak. Yvan said that he’d get Serge to acknowledge the ridiculousness of what he has done. Yvan is at Serge’s house and after some small talk and a brief discussion of how Marc is, Serge has just offered to show Yvan his latest acquisition.*

*Serge exits and returns with the Antrios, which he turns around and sets down in front of Yvan. Yvan looks at the painting and strangely enough doesn't manage the hearty laugh he’d predicted. A long pause, while Yvan studies the painting and Serge studies Yvan.*

Yvan Oh, yes. Yes. Yes.

Serge Antrios.

Yvan Yes, yes.

Serge It’s a seventies Antrios. Worth mentioning. He's going through a similar phase now, but this one’s from the seventies.

Yvan Yes, yes.

Expensive?

Serge In absolute terms, yes? In fact, no.

You like it?

Yvan Oh, yes, yes, yes.

Serge Plain.

Yvan Plain, yes… Yes… An at the same time…

Serge Magnetic.

Yvan Mm… yes…

Serge You don't really get the resonance just at the moment.

Yvan Well, a bit…

Serge No, you don't. You have to come back in the middle of the day. That resonance you get from something monochromatic, it doesn't really happen under artificial light.

Yvan Mm hm.

Serge Not that it is actually monochromatic.

Yvan No! …

How much was it?

Serge Two hundred thousand.

Yvan Very reasonable.

Serge Very.

*Silence. Suddenly surge bursts out laughing, immediately followed by Yvan.*

Crazy, or what?

Yvan Crazy!

Serge Two hundred grand!

*Hearty laughter.*

Serge You know Marc’s seen the painting.

Yvan Oh?

Serge Devastated.

Yvan Oh?

Serge He told me it was shit. A completely inappropriate description.

Yvan Absolutely.

Serge You can't call this shit.

Yvan No.

Serge You can say, I don't get it, I can't grasp it, you can't say ‘it's shit’.

Yvan You've seen his place.

Serge Nothing to see. It's like yours, it’s… What I mean is, you couldn't care less.

Yvan His taste is classical, he likes things classical, what do you expect…

Serge He started in with this sardonic laugh… Not a trace of charm… Not a trace of humour.

Yvan You know Marc is moody, there's nothing new about that…

Serge He has no sense of humour. With you, I can laugh. With him, I'm like a block of ice.

Yvan It's true he’s a bit gloomy at the moment.

Serge I don't blame him for not responding to this painting, he hasn't the training, there's a whole apprenticeship you have to go through, which he hasn't, either because he's never wanted to or because he has no particular instinct for it, none of that matters, no, what I blame him for is his tone of voice, his complacency, his tactlessness. I blame him for his insensitivity. I don't blame him for not being interested in modern Art, I couldn't give a toss about that I like him for other reasons…

Yvan And he likes you!

Serge No, no, no, no, I felt it the other day, a kind of… a kind of condescension… contempt with a really bitter edge…

Yvan No surely not!

Serge Oh, yes! Don't keep trying to smooth things over. Where d’you get this urge to be the great reconciler of the human race? Why don't you admit that Marc is atrophying? If he hasn't already atrophied.

*Silence.*