

“No One’s In Charge”

(...from *The Institute*TM song cycle)

No one’s in charge, they say,
No one’s on top.
Nary a counsellor,
Nary a cop.

There’s no one in charge, my sweet,
Ask Personnel
(or Human Resources)
Who tolls the bell.

CHORUS:

*You’d know where you stand;
You’d know how to sit.
You’d know when a handshake was true ...
You’d know where to sit,
You’d know when to stand,
You’d know when a person could see
... and appreciate you!*

Try public Relations,
Our bridge to the world.
Try customer Service,
For spin, rinse and swirl.

Those who once boasted
Of stopping the buck,
Now say “Keep you head down,
Weave, bob and duck.”

No one in charge as yet.
No one above.
Egalitarian,
Lousy with love.

We smile and we bow, my dear,

Scribble and nod.
Fantasize travel.
Hope there's a God.

CHORUS:

*You'd know where you stand;
You'd know how to sit.
You'd know when a handshake was true ...
You'd know where to sit,
You'd know when to stand,
You'd know when a person could see
... and appreciate you!*

But where is the person
Prepared to say, Yes!
The colleague who dares to say, No!?
Instead of the maybes, however, and ifs,
The one who can say, "I don't know..."

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Sung here by Mad Love (Audrey, Linda and Wanda vanderStoop)
Arranged and played by Rohan Staton, Massive Music

“It’s A Job”

(...from *The Institute*TM song cycle)

Voice 1: It’s a job, that’s all ...

Voice 2: One way of earning a living

Voice 3: Somewhere to go in the morning.

Voice 1: Something

Voice 2: to say

Voice 3: that I do ... if I’m asked ...

I get in at nine or soon after

And take a strong coffee to start.

The weekends provide love and laughter,

Weekdays I just play a part.

I check the machine and the e-mail,

I catch up on rumour and chat.

At ten, a break for more coffee.

By noon, I’m into my coat

And my hat.

There are errands to do, and people to meet,

Got the evening to plan, got the noise of the street.

At a quarter past one, I’m back at my desk,

My head full of news ... and abuse,

A lunch-full of crime, power, sex.

Chorus:

All: *It’s a job, that’s all,*

Voice 1: A daily routine that I’m used to.

All: *A built-in clock,*

Voice 2: A cycle I’d miss when away.

All: *It covers my costs:*

Voice 1: Rent,

Voice 2: and some food ...

Voice 3: ... and a movie

All: *It’s not forever*

Voice 1: Just till we figure a way

All: **OUT!!**

The voices inside me are angry.
I force them aside while I work.
My plans were so much more ambitious
Than serving a jerk with a smirk.

My future's a void free of dreaming.
On Fridays I get my week's pay.
Maybe I should take a night course
Maybe I could get away ...

Chorus:

All: *It's a job, that's all,*

Voice 1: A daily routine that I'm used to.

All: *A built-in clock,*

Voice 2: A cycle I'd miss when away.

All: *It covers my costs:*

Voice 1: Rent,

Voice 2: and some food ...

Voice 3: ... and a movie

All: *It's not forever*

Voice 1: Just till we figure a way

All: ***OUT!!***

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“Weird Language”

(...from *The Institute*TM song cycle)

Voice 1: There's no question we're in trouble

Voice 2: There's no bound'ry to this bubble

All: *And the strange kind of weirdness that we feel...*

Voice 1: There's a special way of talking,

Voice 2: In the office where we're working

All: *That makes sure that the world remains unreal.*

It's contagious, it's outrageous

Oh, it hooks you like a fish on a line.

It's not fancy

It's not pretty

It's not blunt, and it's ... not gritty

But SO high falutin' and refined ...

Chorus:

Weird language, weird language will save you:

Embrace the roundabout word,

The elegant coinage, the indirect speech

Perfumed and absurd, perfumed and absurd.

Weird language, weird language will save you,

Just master the roundabout phrase.

Keep speaking and writing in code, dear,

And you'll conquer the corporate maze!

Voice 2: (Spoken) *Here, try a little yourself;*

All things considered ...

At the end of the day ...

Should time permit...

And the bottom line fit ...

Given the options,

If pressed to decide,

With no obligation

On anyone's side.

In view of the circumstances

Under review,

Changes in policy,

Documents due

Voice 1: (Spoken) *See, it's not so difficult ...*

Tendencies judged, my dear
Staff members scrutinized,
Rulings revised again,
Routines all re-routinized.

The meeting is called, my love,
... *Now you're in trouble*

The Minutes approved.
... *You'll have to decide something*

There's no other option:
... *A Motion is moved!*

Chorus:
*Weird language, weird language will save you
Embrace the roundabout word,
The elegant coinage, the indirect speech
Perfumed and absurd, perfumed and absurd.
Weird language, weird language will save you,
Just master the roundabout phrase.
Keep speaking and writing in code, dear,
And you'll conquer the corporate maze!*

Make a decision... Then duck!!

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