

# DIALOGUE: HAVE A SEAT, SON

INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED B2+

**Setting:** The Fulminster Rovers manager's office at the club's training ground. Boss Harry sits behind his desk, looking glum at some performance stats on his computer. Dave, the club's star striker, knocks and enters.



**HARRY**

Dave, come in. Shut the door.



**DAVE**

Gaffer. Everything alright?



**HARRY**

Have a seat, son. Look, Dave, there's no easy way to say this, so I'm just going to be straight. We need to talk about your form.



**DAVE (SHIFTING IN HIS SEAT)**

I know, . It's been a tough run. The ball's just not falling for me. It happens.



**HARRY**

It does. But it's been eight games now, son. Eight games without a goal in this league. Your xG is almost the worst in the team. We need more goals, and you're our number nine. The pressure is building, on you and on me.



**DAVE**

I'll get one soon, boss, I promise. I just need one to go in off my knee, off my backside, anything. It'll come back. You know it will.



**HARRY**

I do. But I can't wait forever. I'm going to take you out of the firing line. I'm putting you on the sub's bench for the next three games.



**DAVE (STUNNED)**

The bench - For three games? Please, say that you're joking!?



**HARRY**

I'm not. It'll take the pressure off you. Let you reset. And... I'm going to give young Jamie a run. The kid's been terrific in training, and you know as well as I do that the fans are screaming for him to get a chance.



**DAVE**

The fans? So that's what this is about? You're dropping your top scorer from the last five seasons because of some noise on the radio? Because of a 16-year-old kid who's never kicked a ball in a professional match? I've given everything for this club!



**HARRY**

Listen up, this isn't about loyalty, Dave; it's about what's best for the team. And right now, a change is needed.



**DAVE (STANDING UP, HIS VOICE RISING)**

This is unbelievable. Utterly disrespectful. If you don't want me, fine. I want a transfer. Get my agent on the phone; I'm done.



**HARRY**

Don't be such a drama queen. Relax. Sit down. You're not going anywhere. I'm the manager, and you've still got two years left on your contract, and you're a massive part of this club's future. This is a short-term measure to help you regain your spark.



**DAVE**

Help me? You're humiliating me. You're siding with the fans over your senior player. I won't sit on the bench and watch a kid take my spot. If I'm not playing, I'm leaving.



**HARRY**

That's not your decision to make. You're in the squad for Saturday. You'll be on the bench. That's final.



**DAVE (WALKS AWAY)**

We'll see about that. You've just made a big mistake, gaffer.



**(DAVE SLAMS THE DOOR, LEAVING HARRY STARING AFTER HIM, RUBBING HIS TEMPLES.)**

## VOCABULARY

- **Glum** = looking or feeling dejected or upset
- **Given everything** = putting in maximum effort, commitment, and energy to win.
- **Drama queen** = a person who often responds to situations in a dramatic way.
- **Gaffer** = a boss, manager, leader
- **Squad** = a small group of people having a particular task.
- **Humiliating** = causing someone to feel foolish by injuring their self-respect.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the primary reason Harry calls Dave into his office?
2. How is Harry titled by Dave other than by his name?
3. For how many matches does Harry intend to put Dave on the bench?
4. Who does Harry plan to start as the striker instead of Dave?
5. How does Dave react emotionally to the decision?
6. What demand does Dave make after being told he'll be dropped?
7. According to Harry, what external group has been demanding a change in the team?
8. How does Harry respond to Dave's transfer request, and what reason does he give?
9. How long has it been since Dave last scored a goal?
10. Why does Dave feel Harry's decision is "disrespectful"?
11. Describe how the conversation between the two men concludes.
12. What would you do if you were in Dave's shoes? (idiomatic expression)



## ANSWERS

1. Harry calls Dave in to discuss his poor form and his failure to score a goal in eight games.
2. Dave calls Harry "gaffer" and "boss".
3. Harry plans to put him on the substitute's bench for the next three games.
4. He plans to give "young Jamie" a chance to play.
5. He is initially stunned, but his emotions quickly turn to anger and a feeling of betrayal. He feels the decision is unbelievable and disrespectful.
6. He demands a transfer to another club.
7. Harry says the fans have been "screaming" for Jamie to get a chance to play.
8. Harry rejects the request, telling Dave he isn't going anywhere because he still has a two-year contract and is a massive part of the club's future.
9. It has been eight games.
10. He feels his loyalty and past success ("top scorer from the last five seasons") are being ignored in favour of pressure from the fans and an inexperienced 16-year-old player.
11. It ends in a tense standoff. Harry insists his decision is final, and Dave storms out of the office, slamming the door and warning Harry that he has "made a big mistake".
12. Being "in someone's shoes" means being in their situation. While being angry is understandable, a more professional approach would be to accept the manager's decision, work hard in training to prove my value, and support my replacement to show I'm a team player. Fighting the manager rarely ends well for the player.

