

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Written by

Richard F. Russell

Wordmstr007@gmail.com
9102853321
Copyright 2018

FADE IN:

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Five young, white men sit around the table--RON, BARRY, WILL, NATE, and SEAN. In shirts and ties, they're typical white collar workers.

Ron is on his phone. Barry is on his iPad. Will doodles. Nate is on his laptop. Sean sleeps.

The door opens, and into the room comes NAVATA, 20s, black female with her laptop. She spots the group and surprise widens her face.

NAVATA

I'm sorry. I thought this was--

RON

Come in, come in, you're almost on time.

NAVATA

This is the diversity meeting?

BARRY

That's right. Have a seat.

She looks at all the white, male faces, and she's hardly sure.

NAVATA

Is this come kind of punk? Are you guys punking me?

SEAN

Let's get this going. I have real work to do.

WILL

I'll start the recorder when everyone is ready.

NAVATA

Look, I know what a diversity meeting looks like, and this isn't it.

NATE

I think we have everything covered.

NAVATA

You guys got nothing covered but
cis-gendered, white males.

NATE

I think Will is that. Will?

WILL

Got it.

NATE

And obviously, you represent the
black female cadre.

NAVATA

You got one right, but nothing
else.

RON

Are you lesbian too?

NAVATA

Do I look lesbian?

RON

We couldn't be sure from your name.
Sean?

SEAN

I got it. Lesbian.

WILL

I thought Nate was supposed to
cover Lesbian.

NAVATA

I don't see a lesbian here.

BARRY

She has a point. Let's make sure
we've covered the water front. Who
has the list?

NATE

I have it.

Nate scrolls through his laptop.

NATE (CONT'D)

Cis-white, no problem. Black
female, check. Lesbian?

SEAN

That's me.

NATE
Check. Gay?

BARRY
Here.

NATE
Handicapped?

RON
Got it.

NATE
Bisexual?

RON
That too.

NATE
I'm transgender. Queer?

SEAN
Yo.

NATE
Asexual?

BARRY
Unfortunately, it's true.

They laugh, except for Navata.

NATE
Asexual, not celibate.

They laugh again.

NATE (CONT'D)
Pansexual?

SEAN
Got it.

NATE
Poly?

BARRY
Isn't that the same as pan?

SEAN
I don't think so, but even if it
is, it won't hurt to cover it.

NAVATA

What the hell is going on? You people can't possibly be all those things.

NATE

If you'll hold your questions till we're finished, we'll be happy to answer them. Now, who is skoliosexual?

SEAN

What?

NATE

You heard me. Oh, wait, that's me. Sorry. And questioning?

The men look at each other.

RON

I'll take it.

NATE

That's it.

RON

Can't be. I took age, remember?

NATE

Right, right, I'll add that.

SEAN

And don't forget, I'm Asian female.

BARRY

Black male.

RON

Asian male.

WILL

Native American and Hispanic.

NATE

Eskimo.

WILL

That's Aleutian.

NATE

What's in a name?

They laugh.

RON
Polynesian.

SEAN
Not polayamorous?

RON
Only with you.

NATE
Let's keep this real, people. Is
that it?

BARRY
I think so.

NATE
(to Navata)
OK, now, what's your question?

WILL
Wait, who has other?

NATE
Other?

WILL
There's always an 'other' category.

SEAN
Mine, all mine.

NATE
Bingo.

NAVATA
What is going on? You people are
not even close to what you claim to
be. This is a sham.

NATE
Will, want to tackle that?

WILL
According to the latest guidance
from human resources, all employees
can self-identify into various and
sundry categories. And this can be
changed on a daily basis. So,
according to the guidance, we can
identify as we choose. That
fulfills our mandate to have a
diversity meeting.

Navata is stunned.

NATE

It's true. OK, topic one. All restrooms should be relabeled as "ANY". Discussion?

SEAN

As a straight Asian female, I'm not sure I'm comfortable sharing a bathroom with a transgender like Nate.

NAVATA

Are you people crazy?! I can't take this farce!

She jumps up, grabs her laptop, and storms out.

RON

That's rather rude.

NATE

And inconvenient. OK, who wants to be black female?

They look at each other.

RON

OK, OK, it's me.

NATE

Terrific. Discussion?

FADE OUT.