

There He Is

by

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Cast of Characters

PETE: 20's

TODD: 20's

ANDREW: 20's

Place
City Cafe

Time
12:30 PM

Setting: A city cafe on a busy street.

At Rise: Pete and Todd eat their sandwiches at a table outside a city cafe.

PETE sits at an outside cafe during his lunch break from work. He meets with a longtime buddy named TODD who works at a different computer company nearby.

PETE: My co-worker is the most annoying guy in the world. I wish to God I wasn't so nice to him when I first started working at my new job. I should have wondered why he was so overly nice at the start. I thought it was just good manners but it was purely desperation. You see, the guy is a douchebag, alright? There, I said it. All the other co-workers round on him like he's diseased and now I'm stuck with him and don't know how to get rid of him. I don't mean to sound mean and I know I probably do but you don't understand.

For example, every morning when I get to the office, I go into the break room for my morning cup of coffee, this is my moment, the moment I take before dealing with my loser of a manager and all the other dipshits I have to smile at and report to. It's this one little coffee moment, by myself, in the quiet of my tortured life, that I work up all the strength and courage I need to walk down that pathetic hallway, to my desk. But noooo, I have fantastic Andrew popping in now because he knows, he knows I'm all alone, so he jumps at the opportunity to speak to me with his cheese and fart breath, about whatever it is he did the night before, which is absolutely nothing all that interesting, whatsoever. (imitates Andrew) "I leveled up in my game man, I leveled up!" Who-gives-a-fly-ing-shit-man?

It's gotten to the point where I'm getting short. I'm cutting off his sentences now and have a growing attitude in my voice when I respond to his stupid asinine questions of absolutely no importance to mankind. You know the kind of questions that are just asked to keep a useless conversation going?? Those questions.

And now the poor bastard flipped it on me because he looked at me in the break room this morning and with the saddest puppy dog eyes I have ever seen on a grown man, said, "You're starting to become just like them now..." and he sloped his arms over and walked out like a lonely cartoon and part of me was elated that he was finally starting to get the hint but...then the other part of me feels bad because I'm really the kind of guy who likes to be friendly with everyone and now he's guiltig me hard.

It's just that he's over the damn top and I don't know how to get him to have a normal barometer on the whole co-work friend thing.

TODD: Dude, sometimes it's better that way.

PETE: But you know me man, I'm not trying to hurt this guy's feelings.

TODD: Whatever man, he's been all up in your grill, it's lame, if you need to get nasty, get nasty but it sounds like he's taking the hint, right?

PETE: Yeah...

TODD: Are you seriously feeling bad about this loser?

PETE: I don't know, I hate to admit it but there's a piece of me that I don't want to say likes the guy but rather gets the guy. I get him. He reminds me of a cousin I have, could be his twin in terms of personality type.

TODD: So, that's why you feel bad for this douche. You have a soft spot for him cause of your cousin. That sucks.

PETE: Yeah but, I think now he's gotten the message but it's like blood was spilt and I feel bad. I can't even believe I'm talking about this, I feel so stupid.

TODD: You sound a bit stupid.

PETE: Thanks.

Todd laughs.

TODD: Whatever bro, just let it be, if he's gonna leave you alone now than you got what you wanted.

PETE: Yeah but I didn't want to completely isolate the guy and make things awkward.

TODD: You're not responsible for his isolation or his awkwardness . You're not his mother.

PETE: It's like I gave the guy some hope, you know, to sort of feel like he was fitting in or something.

TODD: What the hell are you talking about, Pete?

PETE: You know, all the other people at work treat him like shit, I see it, they poke fun at him all the time and he takes it and I see how miserable he looks and it's wrong.

TODD: But that's not your problem.

PETE: But I feel bad. I don't like seeing that sort of thing. It's not like they are bullying him, cause they tease him in like a friendly way but maybe it's a form of indirect adult bullying and it's hard to call them out on it. Andrew just smiles and nods his head, he lets them treat him like that.

TODD: He needs to stand up for himself if it bothers him so much. It's not your job.

PETE: It bothers me, the whole situation aggravates me.

TODD: You have a good heart man cause I wouldn't even think about it. Just focus on your job and do what you're being paid to do.

PETE: Yeah.

TODD: I need to breakout cause I'm almost finished with this new software installation and I'll finally not have to stress over it.

PETE: Is that the checkout section you were telling me about?

TODD: Yeah. I think a few more hours and I'll have it complete. Gonna run tests all day tomorrow.

PETE: When you guys launching?

TODD: Hopefully, next week but I'm waiting for my co-workerto wrap up some loose ends.

PETE: Dude!

TODD: What?

PETE: There's Andrew!

TODD: What? Where?

PETE: Oh, man, he just saw me.

TODD: Ha, ha, ha, looks like your best buddy wants to meet for lunch. I'm out.

PETE: Don't leave me alone with him man, come on.

TODD: Sorry bro, I am not catching any of that cling juice.

PETE: You suck.

TODD: Peace.

Todd leaves.

Andrew enters.

ANDREW: Oh, hey, Pete, who was that, I didn't recognize him from work?

PETE: Oh, that was an old college buddy of mine who works nearby. We sometimes meet up for lunch.

Andrew sits down.

ANDREW: Cool. I'll eat here with you then. I have homemade sandwiches. Chicken cutlets...want to try one?

PETE: Uh, no, that's alright, I just had a chicken sandwich, actually.

ANDREW: Great minds think alike.

PETE: I'm actually looking to get back to the office.

ANDREW: Oh yeah? (checks his watch) Still have a whole half hour left.

PETE: I know but I'm trying to get this line of code worked out, it's driving me crazy.

ANDREW: Maybe I could help.

PETE: It's real tricky but I think I've almost got it...I kind of like the challenge.

ANDREW: I'm the same way. Sometimes I don't like team support cause I feel like I failed.

PETE: Exactly.

ANDREW: You know they don't pay you for working on your lunchbreak, right?

PETE: I know. Plus, I have to call my girlfriend, and---

ANDREW: You have a girlfriend?

PETE: Yeah---

ANDREW: But I'm in love with you, PETE.

PETE: What?!

ANDREW: I'm joking. Ha, ha, ha. I'm just messing with you. How long you been dating?

PETE: Oh, um, uh, almost one year.

ANDREW: Anniversary around the corner, eh?

PETE: Almost.

ANDREW: Cool. I won't hold you up.

PETE: Thanks, man, sorry I'm---

ANDREW: Pete, listen, I know I can be obnoxious and annoying.

PETE: What? Who? You?

ANDREW: You don't have to bullshit me. I know first hand how much of a pain in the ass I can be. I even annoy myself at times. I just think you're a good guy and thought we could be friends but if I'm not your type of friend, it's cool.

PETE: No! Hey! Uh, no, it's just that, you know, you tend to sort of hover, you know, like you kind of come into my space at the wrong time, I don't want to---

ANDREW: How do I hover?

PETER: Hover, like some mornings when I get my coffee and you're there or if I go outside for a smoke, you're there...just popping up, like now, almost like you're stalking me even though I'm not saying you're stalking me.

ANDREW: But I am stalking you and I'm going to kill you, Pete.

PETE: What?!

ANDREW: I'm joking again! Relax! You need to take it easy.

PETE: You see that? Your humor, it's intense, like, it's really believable.

ANDREW: So, maybe I shouldn't joke around as much. People say I have a dry sense of humor. Maybe I shouldn't be so dry.

PETE: Yeah, less dry, I guess, however that works.

ANDREW: And less in your face.

PETE: Right!

ANDREW: No more random pop ups.

PETE: Well, yeah, I---

ANDREW: They are somewhat coincidental. I see you leave the office for a smoke break and I figure I'd just join you to chat but if that's too much for you, I won't bother.

PETE: It's hard to explain.

ANDREW: And I'll leave you alone during morning coffee private time.

PETE: Oh, you know I like my private time?

ANDREW: Who doesn't?

PETE: Thanks. I'm sort of relieved cause, you're a nice guy and I don't want to give off the wrong impression that I'm being an asshole to you or anything. I'm still relatively new at this job and figuring things out.

ANDREW: But we can be friends, right?

PETE: Friends, yeah, you know, co-worker friends.

Andrew stares at Pete.

ANDREW: Oh.

PETE: What?

ANDREW: I'm the friend in the box, aren't I? You only take me out when you need me.

PETE: I don't understand.

ANDREW: When you first came on to your position, remember that I was the one who gave you the tour, introduced you to everybody, showed you the ropes and even bought you a box of dunkin' donuts, remember?

PETE: That was appreciated.

ANDREW: And I even got you up to speed with the program we've been using in the company, didn't I?

PETE: Yeah.

ANDREW: And now you don't need me. I see you rubbing elbows with the other staff and I got news for you, they're creeps. I know all their secrets and they aren't good.

PETE: Secrets? What secrets?

ANDREWS: And some day I will learn all of your secrets, too!

Pete stands up in fear.

Andrew starts cracking up laughing and pointing at Pete.

I'm just playing with you, Pete. No harm, no foul.

PETE: You're joking?

ANDREW: Get you every time!

PETE: Right, you got me that time.

ANDREW: Every time! Ha!

PETE: Okay, well, I gotta get back to the office.

ANDREW: Suit yourself. (beat) Pete, hey, listen, I get what you were trying to tell me, okay?

PETE: You do?

ANDREW: Yeah, we're good. No worries.

PETE: Okay, thanks.

ANDREW: No need to thank me.

PETE: See you at work.

ANDREW: I'll be seeing you...

END OF PLAY