

Buck's Big Secret

INT: Break room. Lunch time. KEVIN and Jack sit eating their lunch. They are co-workers and obviously friends. JACK steals KEVIN'S pudding cup.

KEVIN:

Twenty years. I've never had a pudding cup

JACK:

Good point. You'd think you'd learn to sit with someone else.

That reminds me; are you coming over for my parent's anniversary party this weekend? You never said for sure.

KEVIN:

Well, Buck is back from school. I may not make it.

JACK:

How's that a problem? Bring him along. My parents love Buck. We've all missed him since he went to school.

KEVIN:

I just don't know for sure if he'd fit in, is all. I mean, this is a family event. A big one.

JACK:

Wait. Are we talking about another Buck? One that I haven't met?

KEVIN:

Not exactly.

JACK:

What's "not exactly" mean? Either this is your little brother Buck or this isn't your little brother Buck. Seems pretty simple to me.

KEVIN:

It's him. The thing is, he handed me some news that I think might make people a little uncomfortable. I don't know for sure they'd want him at a family event.

JACK (intrigued):

Really? What is it?

KEVIN:

Dude, it's personal.

JACK:

I've known you both my whole life. You guys know more about me than my sister does. Fess up. What is it?

KEVIN:

Honest, I don't think you could handle this. I barely can.

JACK:

All the more reason to dump it. If it has you so messed up that you're thinking about missing the party and hurting my parents- who love you both more than they love me, by the way- you owe me the courtesy of at least telling me why. If we can't fix it, I'll come up with a good excuse for you not being there.

KEVIN:

No one can fix this. You have to keep it to yourself, okay?

JACK:

I'll take it to the grave. In code. In a vault. That I will hide in a lower bicuspid. That secret.

KEVIN (Whispering):

My little brother is gay.

(Beat)

JACK:

And...?

KEVIN:

He's gay. He told me last night. He's always been gay.

JACK:

And...?

KEVIN:

Look, I'm not kidding. He came all the way back from school and just dropped this on me out of the blue. He just said it over dinner. No warning. (JACK laughs)

Hey! This isn't a joke. He really told me this. I'm not making it up.

JACK:

I'm sorry for laughing. It's just... hard to believe. I mean nearly impossible.

KEVIN:

Well, it's true.

JACK:

It's not hard to believe he's gay. It's hard to believe this is somehow news to you. Do you live under a rock?

KEVIN:

This isn't a joking matter, man!

JACK:

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. When did he tell you?

KEVIN:

Last night, man!

JACK:

Uh-huh. (pause) And you *knew* what the word "gay" meant *before* last night, right?

KEVIN:

Oh, come on!

JACK:

Look, it's a logical question. I mean, I've met Buck. My family has met Buck. Wait! Had *you* met Buck prior to last night? That could explain your shock and awe at this discovery.

That could be it! You somehow grew up with him in the same house without ever actually meeting. Then when you met him last night for the first time he told you he was gay. Right?

KEVIN:

This isn't funny, Jack. I just told you my brother has hidden this from me my whole life.

JACK:

That was the worst job of hiding anything ever or you are profoundly unobservant. My money is on a combination of both.

KEVIN:

He's been in the closet his whole life.

JACK:

Dude. That closet had a big glass door on it. And it was filled with rainbow flags. And spotlights on the rainbow flags. Halogen.

KEVIN:

You are honestly telling me this is no surprise to you. That this won't shock your parents even slightly.

JACK:

I am honestly telling you that the level of denial you have been living in is the only shock my parents would have. It might cause a coronary. Please don't tell them you never suspected. I love them and want them to live. Be my friend. Don't kill my folks.

KEVIN (defeated):

What time should we be there?

JACK:

Eight. (Something suddenly occurs to him) And have Buck wear something nice. My sister has a friend that's coming stag for the occasion. I think Buck will like him. This is gonna be so cool. See ya! (JACK leaves the table and KEVIN sits there, his head buried in his hands)

END