BUT YOU’RE WHITE

A short play

by

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BUT YOU’RE WHITE

CHARACTERS:

ADAM, Interviewer.

WALTER, Job Candidate.

DAN, Interviewer.

Time:
Now.

Location:
An Office Conference Room.
(At Rise: ADAM sits at a conference room table with papers in front of him. WALTER enters. Adam stands to shake hands with Walter.)

ADAM

( shocked)

You’re white.

WALTER

Can you say that?

(Adam sits. So does Walter. Adam thumbs through the papers on his desk.)

ADAM

For self identification on your application you checked African-American.

Correct.

WALTER

You’re white.

ADAM

On the website it said that you guys are an equal opportunity employer.

WALTER

You selected African-American.

ADAM

Yes.

WALTER

Where were you born?

ADAM

South Carolina.

WALTER

Can I ask why you chose African-American?

ADAM

I don’t think you can.

WALTER

You’re not black.

ADAM

No.
ADAM
But you’re African-American?

WALTER
Yes.

ADAM
Are you doing some kind conservative protest thing here?

WALTER
(confused)
I’m not sure what you’re asking.

ADAM
I don’t think you thought this all the way through Walter. I mean...do you really want this position or are you doing something else here.

WALTER
I need a job...after reading the description of the position, I think that I would be a great match.

(Adam looks at the papers again.)

ADAM
But you selected African-American.

WALTER
Yes.

(Adam picks up his cell phone.)

ADAM
One minute.

WALTER
Ok.

(Adam speaks to the person on the other end of the call.)

ADAM
Dan, yeah it’s Adam can you come to conference room 203...I’m interviewing our African-American candidate...OK great.

(Adam puts his cell phone down.)

(Pause)

(DAN enters the scene.)

DAN
Where is our African-American candidate?
ADAM
Dan meet Walter…he’s the African-American candidate.

(Walter stands to shake hands with Dan.)

DAN
He’s white.

ADAM and WALTER
Yes.

(Walter sits back down.)

DAN
(to Adam)
He selected African-American...though he is white.

Correct.

WALTER
South Carolina.

DAN
(To Walter)
Is this some kind of weird political protest stunt?

I really need this job.

DAN
It’s against the law to lie on your job application. We can’t hire you.

I didn’t lie.

DAN
You obviously lied to get this interview. We cannot offer the position to you.

I didn’t lie.

WALTER
You’re white.

Yes.

DAN
You chose African-American.
Correct.

There is nothing more to say.

WALTER

DAN

END OF PLAY