

USERNAME D93EXGI

INT. KITCHEN. EVENING.

Wayne sits down by the kitchen table, he opens his laptop and logs onto Room (zoom). The screen says "Please wait for host to start this meeting".

Ping (Host is here) Three screens open up, one with Miss Merrick, one with Wayne and a black screen with Username D93EXGI on it.

MISS AUBREY

Good evening, my name is Angela but the kids call me Miss Aubrey, pronouns she/her.

WAYNE

Hi I'm Wayne, Tanyas father.

Silence

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Oh sorry, pronouns he/him.

MISS AUBREY

So nice to meet you Wayne.

WAYNE

Nice to meet you to.

MISS AUBREY

Great, so ...little Tanya is doing very well.

WAYNE

Oh cool.

MISS AUBREY

She is a great student, she is currently in the middle but, I think she will progress to the upper ability of the class by the end of this term. She is a good listener, can be a little bit chatty ...

WAYNE

Tell me about.

MISS AUBREY

It's normal, I think it's better than a kid being too quiet. We want a bit of interaction, it's only healthy.

WAYNE

Yeah no I get that but I will have a friendly chat to her about it.

MISS AUBREY

Great. Do you have any questions?

WAYNE

I feel like I should but she seems happy and by the sound of it she's doing good so, no I guess. Is that bad? I should have some questions right?

MISS AUBREY

No that's fine.

WAYNE

Ok then well if you're happy ...

MISS AUBREY

There is one other thing I need to bring up before we end this call.

WAYNE

Ok.

MISS AUBREY

Does Tanya have a drawing book?

WAYNE

Uhm, yea I think so. She loves drawing so she carries it with her all the time.

MISS AUBREY

Could you make sure she brings it to school tomorrow? We would like to have a look at her drawings.

WAYNE

Yeah sure.

MISS AUBREY

Great!

WAYNE

What is it for? Are you considering her for some sort of art class or something?

Silence

MISS AUBREY

No nothing like that, we just want to make sure that everything is ok.

WAYNE

I'm super confused now. What do you mean?

MISS AUBREY

It's very standard school procedure and nothing to worry about but, we've had a complaint and we just need to check that all is good which I'm sure it is.

WAYNE

Ok now I'm really confused. What complaint and what does that have to do with Tanyas drawing book?

MISS AUBREY

Once again I want to reassure you that this is standard procedure and nothing to worry about.

WAYNE

All due respect you have told me that already. I think you need to tell me about the complaint.

MISS AUBREY

Another pupil has given us spectral evidence that Tanya has been drawing racially insensitive characters in her book and we need to verify the claim.

WAYNE

Wait ...what? I don't want to seem like I am in any way stating the obvious here but clearly I am black and Tanya is too.

MISS AUBREY

Of course you are, I'm not denying that but ...the updated DOA guidelines tells us that having one non black parent now classifies Tanya as white adjacent and according to our information Mrs Roberts is registered as caucasian which means unfortunately we have to file Tanya as such.

WAYNE

As such?

MISS AUBREY

White-adjacent.

WAYNE

Isn't Tanya the only child of color in her class?

MISS AUBREY

She is and we welcome that.

WAYNE

So you are telling me that a white kid in her class has told you that the only black kid in class has done racist drawings in her little drawing book?

MISS AUBREY

I can't elaborate on where exactly the information came from. Also I would like to stress that we don't know yet if the drawings Tanya has made are racially insensitive as we have not seen them yet.

WAYNE

First of all I can tell you now that there is no fucking way in hell that my girl has drawn anything that is "racially insensitive" and secondly you will never look at her fucking drawing book.

D93EXGI

Mr Roberts I need you to calm down. We will not tolerate any abusive language towards any of our staff or allies. Doing so can have serious repercussions.

WAYNE

I'm sorry, who are you?

D93EXGI

I'm an agent for the Department Of Anti racism. He/Him.

WAYNE

I never agreed to having anyone else on this call than Tanyas teacher.

D93EXGI

In the fight against systemic injustice, current and historical to create an equitable society the DOA has full authority to investigate without clearance.

Silence

D93EXGI (CONT'D)

We need that book. Failure to comply will be seen as a direct threat to our cause.

MISS AUBREY

Look, Wayne. I think this has gotten blown out of proportion. If you just bring Tanyas book I'm sure this will all be over before we know it. Our school has won the Ibram X Kendi award three years in a row now, we really care about our children's well being, including Tanya.

WAYNE

Let me ask you this, what exactly constitutes as a racially insensitive drawing and who decides exactly what that is?

Miss Aubrey looks at someone in the room she is in as if to say I don't know how to answer this question.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Who are you looking at Miss Aubrey? Why won't he show his face. Turn the camera around so I can see him.

D93EXGI

Do not turn the camera around.

Silence.

D93EXGI (CONT'D)

We scan the images and use AI reference millions of images against the scan.

(MORE)

D93EXGI (CONT'D)

The DOA AI has a 98.8% accuracy in detecting racism or unconscious bias.

WAYNE

98.8! That sounds accurate enough for me but then again ...no thanks.

D93EXGI

This isn't up for debate.

WAYNE

Yeah it is.

D93EXGI

Failure to comply won't achieve anything Mr Roberts.

WAYNE

Comply?

D93EXGI

We are not asking you to hand over your daughters drawing book.

WAYNE

You're saying I have to?

D93EXGI

By law you have to, yes.

WAYNE

Talk me through what will happen if your 98.8% accurate AI find that my daughters drawings are problematic?

MISS AUBREY

Well I'm sure it won't come to that but if it does, and like I said that's a "big if", we have courses that are very good at eliminating unconscious bias, especially in children.

WAYNE

How long is one of these courses?

MISS AUBREY

Well we tend not to put a time limit on them. We look at the result of the treatment rather than a time frame.

WAYNE

So potentially never ending?

MISS AUBREY

Well that has never happened so I wouldn't worry about that Mr Roberts. We have camps as well and the average time for retraining in the camps are shorter than the courses.

WAYNE

Oh great and the camp, how long do they take exactly.

MISS AUBREY

Well like the courses we don't like to put a time limit on them. We feel that adds avoidable pressure on the kids.

WAYNE

So I can send my 9 year old daughter to a camp to unlearn something she hasn't done for as long as you want to?

MISS AUBREY

Well that's a very simplistic way of putting it.

WAYNE

You know what, now that I think of it. I can't seem to find my daughters drawing book. She must have lost it somewhere. I'm so sorry, I would love to help but these things happen.

D93EXGI

Your daughters drawing book is evidence. Any tampering or destruction of evidence will result in prosecution. Do you understand Mr Roberts?

WAYNE

Fuck you. Do you understand that?

Silence

D93EXGI

I need you to stay in your location Mr Roberts.

(MORE)

D93EXGI (CONT'D)

Agents are on their way to pick up your daughters book. They should be with you in the next few minutes. Do not leave your premise. Failure to comply with our agents is viewed as a direct assault on ...

Wayne shuts the laptop and runs out of the room.

He runs into the hallway and finds his daughters rucksack. He looks through it as fast as he can. He finds the pink drawing book. He goes into the toilet and locks the door. He opens the book and starts looking through it.

Cute kids drawings of little characters playing. Looks like Tanya has drawn herself and her friends. Some are brown, some aren't. Nothing racist about these drawings but what will the 98.8 % accurate AI make of them?

There's a knock on the door.

Wayne pulls out the pages and puts them in the toilet as the knocking is getting louder.

THE END.

(CONT'D)