WHAT'S IN A NAME

Written by

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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.