

Gender, Sexuality, and Identity

Case Example: Trading Places

Matt:

And I agree! He completely understood the expectations of the job, but -

Jane:

Yeah - I thought it was great. But what?

Matt:

You know. You know what I mean.

Jane:

No - I don't know. I thought it was a great interview and he presented really well.

Matt:

Well yeah, but - maybe a little bit too well, you know? Perhaps he was just a bit too - fastidious for my taste.

Jane:

Matt, really - what's going on?

Matt:

Well no! I'm just - I'm not sure about the fit here. You know what I mean.

Jane:

Yeah - I sort of get it. It's cause he's gay, right?

Matt:

I didn't say that! Hey, and you know that your being gay is no big deal for me whatsoever. You know that.

Jane:

Okay, but somehow this guy is a threat. Why is it you heterosexuals always have to seduce everybody into your lifestyle?

Matt:

What?!

Jane:

Okay, hang on - just work with me here. These are questions that you've never asked, but always wanted to know. Basically, it's my life every day. Here, let me show you. I'm going to turn around the questions that I've been asked at least a thousand times since I came out.

Matt:

What questions.

Jane:

Okay - are you ready? Question one: What do you think caused your heterosexuality? Okay, okay; no pressure; take your time, but while you're thinking about it? Question two: When did you decide you were heterosexual? How did you know?

Matt:

Okay. I get it.

Jane:

So, so, do you think your heterosexuality is just a phase you're going to grow out of?

Matt:

Look, I -

Jane:

Hey hey hey! Do your parents know that you're straight? What about your friends? Your roommate? How did they react?

Matt:

Jane, as usual, message received. I get it.

Jane:

So - if you've never slept with a person of the same sex, it's possible that all you need is a good gay lover.

Matt:

Oh boy. You must just think I'm the most enormous homophobic idiot right now, huh.

Jane:

Nope. Just a giant work in progress.