

TRIGGER HAPPY

SAMPLE

Written by

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Characters

Frank (40-50) Department Chair of English and Literature.

Jerry (40-50) Professor of Literature.

Setting

All action takes place in FRANK'S office. A college Department Chair style office. Moderately nice and very cluttered.

Time

Set in present time. All action is in real time as well.

SCENE ONE

OFFICE OF FRANK SUMMERS

JERRY stands in the office reading a book. There is a desk with two chairs in front. The walls are bookshelves over filled with texts and papers.

FRANK enters the office in a hurry and moves to his desk and sits. He notices JERRY reading.

FRANK

Be careful. That book will change your life.

JERRY

Is that right?

FRANK

Absolutely. It took me over two years to write the damn thing. I'd say it's my best work to date.

JERRY

I'd say, it's your only work to date, Frank.

FRANK

Well, I guess that puts me one ahead of you.

JERRY

Congratulations. Is it any good?

FRANK

I think it's VERY good. I wrote it from my heart. No bullshit.

JERRY

Is that right?

FRANK

The first two sentences capture the whole theme of the book.

JERRY

(reading from the book)

Being a teacher is both an honor and a major responsibility. However, it can best be described as the nourishment of my soul.

FRANK

See? Not bad.

JERRY

Nourishment? Really?

FRANK

Yes.

JERRY

Sounds like you eat the kids.

FRANK

No. I create a bond with the students.

JERRY

Come on. That's a little cliché don't you think?

FRANK

It's true. I feed them. I literally feed them information. And I'll tell you what, these kids devour it up, and then they grow.

JERRY

So you're like a big mother pig, laying on her side?

FRANK

What?

JERRY

You've got a bunch of little piglets sucking on your educational teats?

FRANK

Right. Yes. You could say that. Only in my lecture hall, I have over 300 piglets twice a day.

JERRY

That's a lot of teats, Frank.

FRANK

It requires a lot of milk, Jerry. They come to me ignorant, hungry and ready to learn. Then I get to watch them become intellectual adults. It's the best healing my soul could ever have.

JERRY

Wow. I mean... Wow.

FRANK

It's pretty cool. Remember this. There's no better feeling in the world, than making a difference in a student's life. I want to be that difference.

JERRY

That's amazing.

FRANK

Right?

JERRY

Totally. But, I had no idea you were such a pussy.

JERRY slides the book back into
it's space on the bookshelf.

FRANK

Pussy?

JERRY

Yes. Pussy.

FRANK

What the fuck man? Jesus.

JERRY

What?

FRANK

Why do you talk like that?

JERRY

Talk like what?

FRANK

I mean, you're a professor for god sake. You sound like a child. Come on.

JERRY

I AM a child. I refuse to grow up.

FRANK

Well, you need to.

JERRY

Why? Apparently growing up turns you into an uptight grump. Relax, Frank. Life is good.

FRANK

It's just that some of the things you say...

JERRY

What?

FRANK

Well, honestly they're offensive and sexist. You should know better. You've got to be careful.

JERRY

Sexist?

FRANK

I knew you never read the memos I send you.

JERRY

We get MEMOS?

FRANK

The memos are very important, Jerry. You should start reading them.

JERRY

I'm still trying to understand how calling you a pussy, is sexist.

FRANK

Well, it is. Trust me.

JERRY

I can understand it being considered mean or hurtful. Watching you cry like a little girl just now, bears that out. But sexist? Come on. That's a stretch.

FRANK

You were inferring that I was weak, by calling me a pussy.

JERRY

True. You're very weak. Been that way since we were kids.

FRANK

Pussy is slang for vagina.

JERRY

I can see that. Yes. Go on.

FRANK

Women possess vaginas. Thus, you're equating femininity, with being weak. Sexist. Got it?

JERRY

My god. That's even more stupid than your book.

FRANK

Hurtful. Wow.

JERRY

Come on. Don't get your panties in a bunch.

FRANK

I think I'm finding the root of your problems.

JERRY

So, now I have problems?

FRANK

Words mean things Jerry, and sometimes they can hurt.

JERRY

Stop it. You need to toughen up. Seriously.

FRANK

And you need to get onboard with this, and soon. Seriously.

JERRY
Onboard with what?

FRANK
You know exactly, what.

JERRY
I really don't.

FRANK
Fine. Play it that way. See where it goes.

JERRY
Onboard with what? Come on.

FRANK
Always a fighter. Constantly looking for a fight. That's you. It's who you are. It's who you've always been. I love you Jerry, but that shit's going to destroy you.

JERRY
You're wrong my friend. I don't look for fights. I fight ignorance... And let me tell you Frank. It's everywhere I look.

FRANK
I understand. Feels like I'm looking at it, right now.

JERRY
Wow. You're sassy today. Julie have you taking those testosterone shots again?

FRANK
That's none of your business.

JERRY
She is isn't she?

FRANK
No, and I only did that once.

JERRY
How did it go?

FRANK

Not well. I started growing hair in odd places. It was disgusting. Made me uncomfortable.

JERRY

Pussy.

FRANK

Read the memos, Jerry. Live the memos. Be the memos.

JERRY

Maybe instead, I'll just be a man.

FRANK

There you go again. Sexist statement. They just come one after another with you.

JERRY

You know what? I say the next time you sit down to write a book, you should drink a big tall glass of that testosterone.

FRANK

And why is that?

JERRY

That way your book won't make everybody menstruate.

FRANK

You have so many fucking issues.

JERRY

I agree. But they're my issues, and they took a long time for me to develop. That's why I love them. They're who I am.

FRANK

Keep laughing.

JERRY

I'm not laughing.

FRANK

You're your own worst enemy, Jerry.

JERRY

I beg to differ.

FRANK

That's why beggars can't be choosers.

JERRY

I like to think of myself as my biggest advocate.

FRANK

That's because no one else agrees with you.

JERRY

That's not true. Millions of people agree with me. We all just have to lay low. That way "bleeding hearts" like you won't know we're there, until it's too late.

FRANK

I agree that people like you are as low as it gets. But don't think for a moment that we don't know you're out there.

JERRY

Lucky for us, you guys are soft.

FRANK

We're not soft.

JERRY

Come on. All we have to do, is frighten you and you'll run to your safe room and hide.

FRANK

You have no idea.

JERRY

Or is it a crying room now? I get them all confused.

FRANK

Crying room?

JERRY

A student told me yesterday that if I ever felt sad or depressed, the school had a room set aside for people to cry.

FRANK

That's awesome.

JERRY

They even have puppies there that you can hug.

FRANK
That's brilliant.

JERRY
Is it?

FRANK
College can be stressful for all of us. Not just the kids. There are days here, where I feel like crying. Sounds nice to have a space where you can let your emotions out. Not to mention hold a puppy.

JERRY
And I'm the one with issues? Seriously?

FRANK
Could you cut the macho shit?

JERRY
Macho?

FRANK
You know what I mean.

JERRY
Yes. I just didn't know you were stuck in the 70's.

FRANK
I'm not the one living in the past, Jerry.

JERRY
Well, forgive me but it's a little ridiculous to have a puppy room, to cry in.

FRANK
You ever held a puppy?

JERRY
Yes.

FRANK
It's a wonderful feeling, isn't it?

JERRY
Sure. They're fucking cute as hell.

FRANK

They're adorable, and they love you unconditionally.

JERRY

I understand that.

FRANK

That means even a total asshole like you, could hold a puppy, and it would love you. That sweet little puppy would look past your conservative minded bullshit and just love you. Love you for the pig that you are.

JERRY

Remember what you said, words hurt.

(a beat)

So the school would understand if I took a paid sabbatical to go play and cuddle with puppies?

FRANK

You're missing the point.

JERRY

And the point is what?

FRANK

That the world would be better off, if humans where more like puppies.

JERRY

Sure. We could sleep all day and shit wherever we want. Sounds like the American dream to me.

FRANK

Also, we would love each other unconditionally. No matter who the person was. No matter what that person believed. No matter anything at all... Pure. Unconditional. Love.

JERRY

That's because their brains are the size of walnuts.

FRANK

At least they use their walnut for love.