

Blabber and Shut Down

An Irony

by
Matthew Linder

Matthew Linder
110 Peak Lane, Kyle TX, 78640
512-393-4909
Matthew.linder.aud@gmail.com

CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Saffron	Rambles	19	NB/GF
Mark/Darius	Straight White Male.	25	MALE
Jill/Stephanie	Friends with both of them.	20	FEMALE

Time: Thursday. Around 1 PM in the year 2023.

Place: A café.

Setting: Near a Texas College Campus.

NOTES: Cast a trans man for Mark and someone who is genderfluid or nonbinary for Saffron.

BLABBER AND SHUT DOWN

MARK and JILL sit at a table chatting with one another.

MARK

You remember that manager I told you about? Sean.

JILL

The fat white guy with the goatee?

MARK

Yeah. He went off on another racist tirade to me.

JILL

Why am I not surprised? How bad did it get?

MARK

I don't know. I kind of tuned him out.

JILL

You really shouldn't do that.

MARK

I know. I tuned back in when he switched over to trans people.

JILL

Jesus Christ Mark. You need to report him or something!

MARK

I know. I want to. But...

JILL

But what?

SAFRON enters. A power cord is attached to them and drags after.

SAFRON

Jill?!

JILL

Oh my God! Saf!

SAFRON

I have not seen you in forever! How have you been girl?!

Safron runs over and hugs Jill.

JILL

Good! Was just chatting with Mark here.

SAFRON

That's cool. Hey! In one of my classes, I worked with this guy to make some costume designs, I made these really cool Eldritch Gotham-style costumes for the Scottish play.

MARK

Oh! That's really cool. Can I-

SAFRON

And uh. My workshop partner is Darius. Do you know Darius?

JILL

Black Darius or white Darius?

SAFRON

White Darius! So like, he is my workshop partner, and his stuff is such trash! Oh shit, did I say that out loud? Like, our assignment was to combine themes, and like...God It makes me mad just to think about!

JILL

What? What did he do?

At this point, Mark stands up and separates from the scene. A power cord attaches him to his seat. He is now Darius.

SAFRON

So he is mixing eldritch and fey because we both decided to tackle it from different directions. And for his costume of Lady Macbeth, he put giant eyes where her boobs are!

JILL

Ugh! Gross!

SAFRON

I know right!

Earlier.

DARIUS

Hey Saf. Mind if I get your thoughts on this design?

He shows them the Lady Macbeth design.

SAFRON

Oh! It's...neat.

DARIUS

Neat?...Do you think I should switch up the colors or something? I know you went with a much darker theme, and I'm wondering what I can do to make it better work with your stuff.

SAFRON

Just. It's fine!

DARIUS

O...kaaay.

Darius goes back to Mark.

SAFRON

That's just like straight cis men, am I right?

JILL

Preach it!

MARK

Did you at least talk with him? What if-

SAFRON

Ugh! I shouldn't have to! That's not my job. He should know that that shit is inappropriate. Like, her eyes are up here! Not down here to give an excuse for people to oggle her tits!

MARK

Well what if he just thought it was a cool design?

JILL

Mark. You wouldn't understand.

Mark to Darius.

SAFRON

And you want to know what's worse? Across all of his drawings, you want to guess what skin color everyone had?

JILL

Don't tell me.

SAFRON

Yep! Seriously, I tried to include all ethnicities in my half of the project, and he just left all of his people paper white. Didn't even bother to give them identity!

DARIUS

Done! God....should I color in the skin? What time is it? Three AM? Ugh. Whatever. It shouldn't matter. These should look fine on anyone.

Darius to Mark.

JILL

That is just like straight white men.

SAFRON

Just like straight cis men.

MARK

Hey! I'm kind of in those categories.

JILL

We're not talking about you. You're the exception.

SAFRON

Don't take it personally. I'm just saying.

SAFRON

I should really talk with Stephanie about this. I do not want to fail because of his sexist slash racist designs.

JILL

Oh! I love Stephanie! She is great. And so hardcore!

SAFRON

Yeah! She is so cool but like, intimidating. In kind of a sexy way.

MARK

I feel that.

SAFRON

Gross.

MARK

No! To the int-

JILL

Calm down Mark.

SAFRON

But yeah. I am sure she will put Darius in his place. She's worked in this profession for years and she will absolutely not stand for this.

Jill and Mark turn to Stephanie and Darius. A power cord connects Jill to her chair.

DARIUS

Hey Ms. Steph. Mind if I get some feedback?

STEPHANIE

Hi Darius! Sure. What about?

DARIUS

Well, I got these designs for my project, and would love your thoughts.

STEPHANIE

Sure. (Looking through them.) Oh! I like this one.

DARIUS

Yeah. I wanted to make Lady Macbeth like...a queen of the fey and leaned hard into the eldritch. I just wanted to know if you can give me some thoughts on how I can darken the colors.

STEPHANIE

Why would you want to do that? I love the colors.

DARIUS

Yeah, but Saf went with more of a Gotham kind of look, and I'm trying to match her-er. Sorry. Theirs style.

STEPHANIE

That's more something you should be working with Saf about.

DARIUS

I know, but...I don't think they really like me.

STEPHANIE

Really?

DARIUS

Yeah. They just gave me one word responses. Didn't really help me to improve myself, you know?

STEPHANIE

I see. Well, I'll see about having a talk with her later. If this continues, let me know and I will grade you separately from her.

DARIUS

Ok. Thanks Ms. Steph.

Back to Mark and Jill.

JILL

You absolutely should talk with her. You should not have to suffer because you got paired up with an ignorant cishet.

SAFRON

I should!

MARK

This feels very assumptive.

JILL

What do you mean?

MARK

I mean, I've met Darius. He seems like a perfectly cool guy.

JILL

Yeah. He would to you.

MARK

I'm sorry. What the fuck?

JILL

Are you offended?

MARK

Yeah. Quite a bit actually!

JILL

Mark. You are a straight white-

SAFRON

Cis!

JILL

Cis man. There is a lot of nuance in this world you can't understand.

MARK

I am feeling really hurt by this.

JILL

Why? All I did was describe you Mark.

MARK

I-it's not about the descriptors, it's about the dismissive part.

SAFRON

Well I think you are just fine despite your descriptors. You know Mark, we don't really talk with each other. I have no idea what you have been up to. How have you been?

MARK

...I...don't see why you would care, we are hardly acquainted. I wouldn't exactly call us friends, you know?

SAFRON

Ha ha. Yeah...

Safron yanks the power cord out of their body and shuts down. It has a male to female adapter on it.

JILL

Jeeze Mark. That was rude.

MARK

What? I have no interest in pursuing a friendship with them.

JILL

Saf is cool A.F. dude.

MARK

They just went off talking shit about a guy we hardly know.

JILL

Why is it so important to you to defend this guy you don't even know?

MARK

Why do you feel the need to attack him behind his back?

JILL

Because he is just another straight white man.

MARK

I'm a straight white man.

JILL

Yeah. You are.

Jill yanks her power cord. Shut Down. The Male side was connected to her.

Mark yells out and stands. He looks at the twisted mass of cables on the ground before picking up Saf and Jill's plug.

MARK

I get it, you know? You don't think I do, but I do. Straight. White. Cis. All "descriptive words." If their just descriptors though, why do you put so much emphasis on them? It's not out of hatred. It never is. It's always "no offense, I'm just saying," or "you're the exception! Haha." But when all those words apply to me, are you not including me? When you say white, you include me. When you say straight, you include me. When you say cis...well...that's the word that separates me. But you guys don't know that. It's never come up. And I don't want you to know. You shouldn't have to know. So when you say cis...you include me. You shouldn't have to know what is between my legs to not talk shit behind my back or exclude me from your passive aggressive bullshit!...Apparently because I pass, I now have privilege. A barrier that makes it impossible for me to see the societal problems with the world. You asked me why didn't I report my manager. It's not that I'm passive. It's not that I am like him, I just...I don't want people to see me differently... Not again. So yeah, I get it...Historically, women have been second-class humans until around 1975 when they could get a credit card and open bank accounts without bias. Only 45 years ago. Black people were segregated until about 1965. 55 years ago. Asians and Hispanic people were barred from citizenry and voting until 1952, and then still had to struggle until 1965. Again, 55 years ago. Gay people only got the right to marry each other in 2015. About 5 years ago...Trans people are still struggling...when was I born?...25 years ago. When were you two born? 20 years ago. So yeah. I get it. I'll shut up because I get it. And I won't say anything because then you'll treat me differently and I hate it. I just...wish that you knew when you talk shit about straight men, or white men, or cis men, or straight white cis men, I'm tossed into that bunch too.

Mark pulls his plug and shuts down. It is the male side.

END OF PLAY