

DINGUS DAVE

Written by

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INT. OFFICE- DAY

Dingus (middle age, full clown costuming) sits in a chair. He holds a balloon and scrolls through his phone.

The office door opens. Claire (40s, in a suit) enters. He stands to greet her. They shake hands.

CLAIRE

Hi Dingus, sorry about that- a lot of fires to put out today.

As she speaks, she makes her way to her desk and settles.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

So, I'm to understand you wanted to chat...?

DINGUS

Your secretary Bonnie- well she set up a sort of check-in, but I also needed to talk about a something.

The phone rings suddenly, they both let it ring fully before resuming their meeting.

CLAIRE

Sorry about that. Well- would you like to get the check-in portion out of the way?

DINGUS

Sure.

She goes through a file on her desk.

CLAIRE

Ah, yes. Ok. Dingus. I noticed you weren't at the retreat last month.

DINGUS

That's in my file?

She nods.

DINGUS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, my wife was sick so I had to be on Daddy duty, I thought it was good sort of a serendipitous thing it didn't interfere with real work-

CLAIRE

Let me sneak in there Dingus- I can appreciate your mindset here and while I'm sorry your wife was ill...

(clicks her tongue)

It's just... well, the retreats are real work.

DINGUS

Oh, I wasn't-

CLAIRE

It's about gelling as a team. A gelled team is a well-oiled machine. A chain that's stronger than any single link, when one link is broken, the rest of the chain picks up slack.

DINGUS

I fully agree I just--

CLAIRE

Well Dingus, can I be frank?

Beat.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

The team doesn't really *know* you. And it *does* make it hard for them to well connect.

DINGUS

Oh, I wasn't aware this was a problem. I mean... what does the team want to know about me? I'm happy to share...? I'm just a bit introverted is all.

CLAIRE

Maybe you could start by sharing something with just me. Anything about you I might not know...

Dingus thinks for a second.

DINGUS

I'm interested in retro-games?

CLAIRE

Good! That's something! Anything else?

He sighs as he thinks longer... he shrugs.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Hey, that's ok! I put you on the spot- try asking your coworkers about themselves and maybe you'll be surprised they share some of your interests.

DINGUS

(smiling)

Ok. You're right. Thanks Claire. That felt good to share.

CLAIRE

Great! Now- what was it you wanted to chat about?

DINGUS

Oh nothing, I just need to be taken off the carpool list. I got a new car.

CLAIRE

Oh ok. Great. Dingus- you know you can always talk to me about anything. We love having you, so I want you to know that.

DINGUS

Yes Ma'am. Thank you. I appreciate it.

She stands to walk him out. He exits, Bonnie gets up and sidles to Claire.

BONNIE

Did he say anything?

CLAIRE

Nope.

(frustrated and to herself)

Why are you a clown now, Dave...

Dingus grabs a coffee and starts chatting with a group of coworkers, dressed normally. He gives Claire a thumbs up.

BONNIE

What a weirdo.

CUT TO BLACK.