

FADE IN:

INT./EXT. CAFE DAY

Two friends, MARK and STEPHAN are sitting at a table and having a conversation. Mark is eating a salad and indulging Stephan's dramatic ramblings.

Stephan is waving his hands while he speaks and leans into Mark's space a lot.

STEPHAN

That's just how I am, bro. I don't see the point in not being straight up with people. You gotta be honest and blunt. No beating around the bush, ya know?

Mark nods while shoving a fork full of greens in his mouth.

MARK

Uhh huh.

STEPHAN

That's how I prefer people were with me. Ya know? Don't waste my time. Don't be scared to give me an honest opinion. I'll tell you if I don't like your shirt.

Stephan puts his hand on his chest.

STEPHAN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I would want you to tell me if my shirt looks dumb or it's a bad color or whatever, ya know?

MARK

Yeah, man. I feel you. That's definitely how I prefer it too.

As soon as Mark opens his mouth to speak he reveals that there's spinach in his teeth. It's very obvious.

Stephan notices the food in Marks teeth. He starts fidgeting and breaking eye contact with Mark. He hesitates and pauses as he begins to speak.

STEPHAN

Yeah. Exactly.

He looks away while he's speaking now.

STEPHAN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You just gotta... Tell it like it is.

MARK

Tell it like it is. Exactly. I feel you on that.

TIGHT ON HIS MOUTH.

Stephan squirms.

STEPHAN

How's work, man?

Mark is confused by Stephan's sudden shift in mood.

MARK

Goo--

Their server appears at their table.

SERVER

How is everything?

STEPHAN

Great, great. We'll take the check. Thanks.

MARK

Everything was excellent. Salad was great. Thanks.

He looks up at her with his spinach laced smile.

SERVER

So good that you're taking some home with you?

She chuckles softly and points to her teeth.

SERVER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You got a little bit stuck in the grill, boo.

Mark turns to look at Stephan quizzically. He picks up his phone to use his selfie camera to see his mouth. He goes wide eyed at the clump up spinach. Looks at Mark and right back at the server.

MARK

Thank you so much for telling me!

SERVER

No worries, boo. I got you!

She winks at Mark.

SERVER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I wouldn't wanna walk around all day with food in my mouth neither.

MARK

Same here. Better to tell it like it is.

Stephan has a dumb, embarrassed look on his face. Mark stares at him as the server walks away. Mark's gaze is piercing Stephan in silence for a few beats. Stephan is visibly embarrassed waiting for this to pass.

MARK (CONT'D)

Seriously, bro? You sat here the whole time-

STEPHAN

I didn't see it!

Mark still hasn't taken the spinach out of his teeth and points to it.

MARK

You didn't see this?

Stephan shrugs, meekly. Mark picks the spinach out of his teeth finally.

MARK (CONT'D)

Tell it like it is, huh?

Mark shakes his head at Stephan

FADE OUT.