

HASHTAGGED

Faced with a co-worker's mistreatment of a female employee, a young man struggles to find the balance between being "one of the guys" and doing the right thing.

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FADE IN:

RIDE OPERATORS scurry on the platform, quickly lifting the safety bars on roller coaster cars and unloading guests.

ADAM (early 20s) is one of the ride operators. He wears a fresh park uniform - khakis, black tucked polo, black shoes.

The other ride operators are older, with tanned, wrinkled skin and disheveled uniforms - wrinkled khakis, faded black polo shirts half-tucked, scuffed black shoes.

Among the older operators are BERNIE (40s) and leadman RAY (60s).

RAY calls out to the guests in line to load the cars.

RAY
Next. Next. Next!

CAROLINE (age 18) rushes onto the platform over to Ray. She has a blonde ponytail and wears a tidy park uniform - ironed khakis, black belt, dark black polo, shiny black loafers.

CAROLINE
I'm so sorry I'm late. There was a wreck or something.

RAY
Uh huh.

CAROLINE
Where do you want me?

RAY
Cover the line.

As Caroline starts to walk across the platform toward the guest line, Bernie notices her and pokes Adam.

BERNIE
Hey Adam, there's your hottie girlfriend. Bet you want to tap that ass.

Adam laughs.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
What are you waiting for? You're not one of them sissies, are you?

ADAM
No. She's just not my type.

BERNIE
She got titties, ain't she?

ADAM
I dunno. She's all fancy. She's from one of those families that eats fish eggs. Mine eats Spam.

BERNIE
Fish eggs? You mean caviar?

ADAM
Yeah, that.

BERNIE
You oughtta fish her eggs with that pole of yours. Give it some use. You know she wants it.

As Adam laughs, Bernie calls out to Caroline.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
Hey, Caviar. You like Adam here?

CAROLINE
What? He's fine.

Bernie turns to Adam.

BERNIE
Yeah, she wants it.

EXT. ROLLER COASTER PLATFORM - DAY

Bernie and Adam are placing their lunch bags in lockers on the side of the platform. Bernie hands a small bag to Adam.

ADAM
What's this?

BERNIE
A present. Open it.

Adam opens the bag, pulls out a jar of caviar and laughs.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
Figured you could use you a taste of sweet caviar.

Adam laughs, closes his locker, and walks off. Caroline then walks up to the lockers and opens hers.

BERNIE (CONT'D)
G'morning, Caviar.

CAROLINE
Why do you call me that?

BERNIE
Cuz that's what my boy Adam calls you.

CAROLINE
Why?

BERNIE
He says you're fish eggs, and he wants
to poke your eggs with his little pole.

CAROLINE
That's disgusting.

BERNIE
Well, he said it. Not me.

INT. HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE - DAY

Human Resources Manager REBECCA (40s) sits behind her dark wood desk, with Adam in a chair on the other side.

REBECCA
We have received a report that you have
referred to a co-worker as caviar.

ADAM
What? Caroline? No. Well, someone else
said that.

REBECCA
Who said that?

ADAM
Oh, no one. Never mind.

REBECCA
What does that mean - caviar?

ADAM
I don't know, really.

REBECCA
You don't know what caviar is?

ADAM
Well yeah, those little fish eggs.

REBECCA
And why would you call Caroline something
to do with fish eggs?

ADAM
I didn't really.

REBECCA

You've never had a discussion where you've called her caviar?

ADAM

Well yeah, I said it, but, well.

REBECCA

Have you ever said that you want to - and I quote - poke her eggs with your pole?

ADAM

No, no. I didn't say that.

REBECCA

You were never in a conversation with Bernie where that was discussed?

ADAM

Well, yeah, I was, I guess.

REBECCA

Do you have an explanation you'd care to share?

ADAM

I dunno.

REBECCA

I'm going to have to ask you to empty your locker.

ADAM

What?

REBECCA

We have a zero tolerance policy for harassment in the workplace. We're going to have to let you go.

ADAM

But, but --

REBECCA

I will have security escort you to the platform to get your things.

EXT. ROLLER COASTER PLATFORM - DAY

Adam walks toward his locker on the platform, with the security guard a few steps behind. Ray approaches.

RAY

What's going on, Adam?

ADAM
I just got canned.

RAY
What'd you do?

ADAM
Bernie told me I should bang Caroline.
And then I guess he told her about it.
But now they say I'm the one who said it.

RAY
He told you that? What did you say?

ADAM
I didn't say nothing. I just laughed.

RAY
Well, son, you just got hashtagged.

ADAM
Hashtagged?

RAY
Y'know, that hashtag me too thing.

ADAM
But I didn't even do anything.

RAY
Did you laugh?

ADAM
Well, yeah.

RAY
Say something bad or go along with it.
Either way they'll get ya.

ADAM
But I didn't even --

RAY
You did even, son. You did. Now pack your
things.

ADAM
But what now?

RAY
You learn, son. You learn.

FADE OUT.