

MISGUIDED APPRECIATION

Written by
Justin Shady

EXT. CHICK-FIL-A (LINE) - DAY

A RUBE stands waiting at the end of a long line on National Chick-Fil-A Appreciation Day. He stands quietly for a beat, as a GUY walks up and joins the line behind him.

GUY
(re: the line)
Holy cow. What's going on?

RUBE
It's National Chick-Fil-A
Appreciation Day.

GUY
(confused)
What does that even mean?

RUBE
Are you serious? Do you own a TV?

GUY
Actually, I don't.

RUBE
(shocked)
Dude... you know about 9/11, right?

GUY
(pointing to head)
Never forget.

RUBE
Alright. Well, Chick-Fil-A is being
boycotted by liberals because its
CEO openly opposes gay marriage.

GUY
(conflicted)
Oh, wow.
(beat)
Is that true?

RUBE
Sure is. So we're all here today to
support Chick-Fil-A's support of
anti-gay groups. Get it?

GUY
I guess.

RUBE
You didn't show up because of it?

GUY

No. I just wanted a chicken sandwich.

RUBE

They are delicious. The pickles and all that? So good.

GUY

(conflicted)

Yeah. The pickles.

RUBE

Yep, the tide is turning. I just hope that more people I respect start coming out against gay marriage.

The Guy turns to leave the line when--

RUBE (CONT'D)

People like Elton John.

The Guy turns back around.

RUBE (CONT'D)

You like Elton John? "Candle in the Wind" and all that?

GUY

Sure.

RUBE

That's some great lovemaking music right there. The straight kind, of course.

GUY

Of course.

RUBE

If Elton John came out against gay marriage, I think that would deal a huge blow to... you know, *them*.

GUY

Huge blow. For sure.

RUBE

Or any of the folks from *Project Runway*. Heidi Klum. Tim Gunn. Michael Kors. Hell, even Christian Siriano. You know, the guy who won season four?

GUY

No.

RUBE

(ignoring)

If they took a stand on their show and said "gay marriage is wrong," well, I think we'd be living in a very different America, my friend.

The Guy just stands there nodding his head.

RUBE (CONT'D)

It would only take one. Anderson Cooper. The kid who played Doogie Howser. John Travolta. Amelia Earhart.

GUY

She's dead.

RUBE

(ignoring)

Read Fifty Shades of Grey yet?

GUY

No.

RUBE

Great book. The person who wrote that, E.L. James, they should make a stand. I'm not sure what sex they are, but they sure write like a good God-fearing conservative.

(beat)

Yep. It's about time that we all took a stand and stopped letting the gays control the universe.

The two men stand in silence for a long beat. The Guy watches on as the Rube thinks long and hard about everything he's just said. Then--

RUBE (CONT'D)

(realizing)

Fuck.

(beat)

I'm gay, aren't I?

GUY

Yeah.

Beat.

RUBE

Well, I guess I can't eat here
anymore, can I?

GUY

No.

RUBE

Say, you wanna grab a bite with me?
There's this great little place
over in West Hollywood that I go to
all the time. It's called Hamburger
Mary's. Interested?

GUY

Sure.

RUBE

Sweet. They have this cocktail
called a Strawberry Tease Me that
is to die for, man. To die for.

The two men leave the line together.

THE END