DIFFERENT

Written by
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Pages: 2

Characters:
Troy, high school age
Andrew, high school age

Synopsis:
Troy tries to express his sympathy over what happened to Andrew's friend, but his presumptions get in the way.

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INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

ANDREW enters the cafeteria with his bag lunch and a couple books. He finds a single table and sits alone; his mood is somber.

TROY enters, but doesn’t see Andrew right away, and when he does, he decides to join him.

TROY
You mind if I join you?

ANDREW
It’s a free country.

TROY
I don’t know if you remember me, we were both in Mr. Hammond’s biology class. Last semester?

ANDREW
Yeah, I remember.

Andrew opens his soda and tries to ignore Troy.

TROY
I just wanted to say...

ANDREW
You wanted to say what?

TROY
I didn’t know Steven, but I’m sorry about what happened.

ANDREW
Yeah, well, what’s done is done. (pause) Excuse me, I need to study.

Andrew opens a book and pretends to read, still trying to ignore Troy.

TROY
It wasn’t right.

ANDREW
I know.

TROY
I can’t imagine what I would do if someone did that to my girlfriend. It’s got to be harder when you’re...
ANDREW  
(agitated)  
When you’re what?

TROY  
You know.

ANDREW  
When you’re what?

TROY  
You know, different.

ANDREW  
(loudly)  
You mean gay?  
(grows angry)  
You can’t even say the word, can you?

Troy looks around the room to see who is listening.

ANDREW (CONT’D)  
Oh, sorry. I didn’t mean to embarrass you.

TROY  
Look, I was trying to say I’m sorry about what happened to your boyfriend.

ANDREW  
He wasn’t my boyfriend. He was my best friend. We grew up together.

TROY  
Sorry, I thought...

ANDREW  
What, because we hung out together we both must be gay?

Troy gets up to leave.

TROY  
I was trying to say... Never mind.

Troy leaves. Andrew tries to go back to his book, but when he sees everyone staring he turns and shouts...

ANDREW  
What are you looking at?!

END