

THE TRANSFER

Middle School Cafeteria, Chicago, Day.

PETER is walking around trying to find a table to sit in. He sees a group of boys a start making his way towards them. CARL sees a kid walking towards his table nudges his head to the other kids in the table and gives look with a smile.

Peter arrives at the table with his tray of food.

PETER

Hi, Can I sit here with guys?

CARL

Sure, go ahead. Make some for this man...you are the new kid, right?

The kids sitting at the table move to make room for him.

PETER

Yeah, I just came and today's my second day! My name is Peter. Nice to meet you!

CARL

Likewise. My name's Carl. And where you from?

PETER

Oh, I transferred here from the Philippines. This is first time being in a school like this. It's so much bigger than my school back home.

CARL

Where is that? I never heard of it.

PETER

It's in Asia, right by the Pacific Ocean. It's close to Japan and China.

CARL

Is it true that Asians eat dogs and cats? (*Peter is silent.*) Do you eat dogs?

PETER

Um...No I have never eaten a dog or cats, and would never think of it.

CARL

Come on man, you don't have to lie! I know your people eat dogs and cats! I mean you're Asian, right!?

PETER

I'm not lying, I don't eat dogs! Or cat!

Other kids at the table start laughing.

CARL

What kind of stew did you make? (*Looking at his friends*) You probably should get this kid away from your pets. (*In a mock Chinese voice, while pulling his eyelids to resemble Asian eyes*) YOU DISHONOR THIS FAMERY!

KID #1

CHING-CHONG CHING SHANG WHONG, did you understand that?

PETER

(*Upset, his eyes tearing up*) No...I... What did I do to you?

CARL

What? Bitch boy going to cry?

Carl slaps Peter in the face.

Stunned, Peter picks up his bookbag and leaves.

CARL

Sayonara! Bring me back some sushi! (laughing)

Peter, visibly upset, tears falling from his cheeks, opens the backdoor of the cafeteria and walks down the empty hallway. He leans against the wall and falls down on his knees. He looks up at the light above him.

PETER

I don't want to be here anymore. I... I wish I was white...

A few moments pass. A look of determination appears on Peter's face. He stands, and returns to the cafeteria, where Carl is sitting, alone. Peter walks up to Carl. Perhaps this is really happening... and perhaps Peter is imagining this.

PETER (*speaking to Carl*)

I just sat here to make friends with you!

Pause.

I was so filled with hope, I thought things could change for me.

Pause.

You seemed like a nice guy, I even wondered if I could ask you to hang out later.

Pause.

Do you know how difficult moving is, even with your parents telling you it's going to be okay?

Pause.

When you asked about if I ate cats and dogs, I thought it must be a misunderstanding. "He's just joking." Right?

Pause.

I don't understand why you would try and hurt me... I asked myself at that moment, "Why am I always the target?" I got bullied in the Philippines, too.

Pause.

I just wanted friends...That is all I ever wanted. But I think no matter where I go. I'm always the different one. I didn't fit in the Philippines and not here either. I now know this is how it's always going to be.

Pause.

I don't want to be myself anymore. I want to be like all of you!

Transition.

We see CARL sitting in a dark room at a desk. From the depths of the darkness, the Ghost appears.

Carl begins to freak out, and tries to leave.

CARL

What's going on? Where am I? I CAN'T MOVE

GHOST

Carl, you are here for a reason.

Carl frantically answers

CARL

Who the hell are you? HELP! I NEED HELP!

GHOST

Calm down, I am here to help you.

Carl is still frantic

CARL

What do you mean? I don't need your help! I need to get out of here!

GHOST

I heard you were bullying another student based off his looks, ethnicity, and for being the new kid.

CARL

So what! What does that have to do with anything!

GHOST

I am here to tell you that you aren't right for what you said. Also, I am here to share with you why you're acting the way you are.

Carl is yelling

CARL

I DON'T CARE! LET ME GO

GHOST

Shut up and listen!

The GHOST ties a bandana around CARL's mouth. The GHOST opens up the laptop that is on the desk.

GHOST

There was a time where you were watching video full of Asian stereotypes, one of them being that they eat cats and dogs.

GHOST plays video

CARL is barely able to talk with the bandana in his mouth

CARL

They do eat dogs and cats! That's my proof!

GHOST

Carl, you cannot base your judgements off of one ignorant video! The origin of Asian people eating cats and dogs is a huge stereotype that is not true at all.

CARL

What the hell is a stereotype?

GHOST

A stereotype is a widely held but fixed and overgeneralized image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

CARL

Hmm okay.

GHOST

Next, one of the first movies you saw with Asian representation was The Hangover. There are very negative representations in that movie. Such as the way the main character speaks, acts, looks and more. These is very stereotypical behavior that has been unfortunately reflected in Asian culture. When you mocked this young man by squinting your eyes and speaking in an Asian accent, this behavior was derived from this movie.

CARL

Man whatever. I get it I get it.

GHOST

Next, sushi is Japanese food, not Filipino.

CARL

ITS ALL THE SAME

GHOST

That's where you are wrong. It's important to understand that there are different ethnic backgrounds that reside in Asia, not just Chinese and Japanese.

CARL

Oh, I didn't realize that.

GHOST

Also, something to keep in mind is that you were the new student at one point. You were bullied for the way you dressed, and looked because you didn't fit in with everyone else. You changed your whole wardrobe, attitude, and 'look', to fit in. Therefore, you should understand what this young man is going through.

CARL

I guess I understand. Is that it? What else do you need to say.

GHOST

I have one more thing to say before I let you on your way. When you were a child, you and your father had a bad relationship. He emotionally, mentally, and physically abused you. Hence why you felt you had to take it out on the young man by calling him a bitch, This is something you used to hate being called as a child.

CARL begins to tear up

Why would you want to inflict this pain onto someone else? Well, now you know what lead up to this point and why you said the things you said.

CARL looks up at the GHOST and is sniffing from crying.

Next time, think about things before you say them. Think about how what your hurtful words may impact someone's experience in a new school. Learn to turn your trauma into a way help others not feel the things you went through.

CARL

Still crying

OKAY! I understand now. IM SORRY OK I AM SORRY