

"FUNKY FUN FORKS"

BY

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FADE IN:

INT. FUNKY FUN FORKS FOCUS ROOM- DAY

Five people sit around a square table in a fluorescent-lit room. There are a variety of personalities in the room.

Sitting at the head of the table is STEVE. STEVE is a middle-aged bald man with glasses and a button-down t-shirt. He is shaking his legs intensely underneath the table.

STEVE

Hi there. I'm Steve. Steve Smith.
So glad to be here. I just stumbled
in here after seeing a poster ad.
What are your guy's names and
affiliations with this company?

Across from Steve is HARMONY. HARMONY has long messy blonde hair that covers her green and maroon drug rug pullover. She seems to be in her mid-twenties.

HARMONY

Hi Steve, I'm Harmony. I'm not sure
we're allowed to talk yet man.

Chad snickers while Steve turns slightly red. His leg shaking even more.

STEVE

Oh, I'm sorry.

Harmony whispers.

HARMONY

You're okay! Don't be embarrassed.
I'm here because they are paying
and I'm a college student who
cannot afford her books.

STEVE

Oh, I'm so sorry!

GEOFF, a muscly older man with a Roman Reign's T-shirt on, sits in the chair closest to the door. He barely fits in the folding chair making it look like it was made for a toddler.

GEOFF

A man never apologizes Steve. Let
alone twice.

HARMONY

Uhhh a real man isn't afraid to apologize.

Next to Geoff is TINA. TINA is a young woman who looks around fifteen or sixteen. She is wearing dark eyeliner to match her black clothing and boots. She hasn't looked up from her phone once.

GEOFF

What would you know about what real men do? You're just a woman.

HARMONY

Just a what now???

Staring at Harmony is CHAD. He is wearing a polo t-shirt and khakis accompanied by his Rolex watch.

CHAD

I think what this guy is trying to say, sweetheart, is how would you know what real men are like when you've never experienced being one.

Harmony's eyebrows furrow and she begins to get red.

HARMONY

Thank you for explaining. My feeble woman brain was not even close to understanding.

GEOFF

There's absolutely no need for sarcasm.

HARMONY

Do you know what there is a need for? To put ignorant, cocky, misogynistic men like y-

MABEL enters the focus room. She has a bright smile on her face.

MABEL

Alright! How's everyone doing today?! I hope we are feeling hungry!

STEVE

I could eat. Could you explain exactly what we are eating and the company manufactured products correlated?

MABEL

Uh, well... We don't particularly like to inform the subjects before they test the products.

STEVE

Oh okay.

MABEL

So, today we are going to bring you out a product that our company "Funky Fun Utilities" has recently manufactured. All you guys have to do is use the product and then tell us what you think about it. Easy enough right?

CHAD

Pshtt light work.

MABEL

Ok great. Bring out the products!!!

Mabel turns around and looks at the two-way mirror. Suddenly five people wearing "Funky Fun Utilities" shirts enter through the door carrying silver forks with red buttons on the bottom.

Five more employees enter the room carrying large plates of pasta. They place the forks and pasta in front of each group member.

MABEL (CONT'D)

So to keep an unbiased experiment, I'm not allowed to tell you how to use the product. But I'm sure you guys will figure it out. Enjoy the "Funky Fun Forks" experience!

Mabel exits the room and sits on the other side of the two-way mirror ready to observe the subjects.

GEOFF

Thank god. I'm starving.

Without hesitation, Geoff grabs his fork with a fist and starts shoveling the pasta in his mouth.

Everyone stares at him disgusted besides Tina who is still looking down at her phone.

HARMONY

I think the point of this is that
we have to use the product
correctly...

Geoff grunts into his pasta and continues to shovel the food
into his mouth.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Or not.

Steve is turning the fork around observing it meticulously.
He starts mumbling to himself.

STEVE

This is fascinating. It appears
they are using a stainless steel
medium. Now I could see how this
would prevent rust for a more
efficient use but how does it
affect the velocity of the twirl...

CHAD

What was that Steve? Couldn't quite
make out what you were saying.

STEVE

Oh, nothing. Nothing.

CHAD

Mmkay. Hey blondie, have you
figured out how to use the fork
yet?

HARMONY

Oh, your asking for help? But I'm a
woman... anything I tell you
clearly doesn't have any validity.

CHAD

Oh my god. We are still on this?

HARMONY

Hey, you and muscle man over here
said it, not me.

GEOFF

Just shut up and eat your pasta
woman.

HARMONY

EXCUSE ME?

CHAD

I'd like the record to state, I did not say that. So target this anger over there.

Chad waves his hand in Geoff's general direction and slightly scoots his chair away from him.

Tina is still looking down at her phone not saying a word.

HARMONY

Here guys. Let me show you the correct way to use the fork.

Harmony takes the plate of pasta in front of her, disregards the fork, and dumps the plate of Geoff's head. She shrugs.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Oops, I guess I don't know how to use it. Must be the woman in me.

Pasta head Geoff slowly gets out of his chair. His body is twice the size of Harmony's and his head almost reaches the ceiling.

Tina glances up from her phone for a second. Then uninterested returns to texting.

GEOFF

Now you just severely fucked up young lady.

Harmony gets up from her chair seemingly unafraid.

HARMONY

Oh, yeah? What are you going to do about it?

Outside the two-way glass, Mabel is still observing. One of her employees is fidgeting next to her.

EMPLOYEE #1

Should we put a stop to this ma'am?

MABEL

No. This is all a part of the process.

Harmony and Geoff are now extremely close starring each other down.

CHAD

Sweetheart, I think it's better if you sit down. I don't think you're going to win this fight.

HARMONY

Oh, I'm fine "sweetheart". Go play with your fork I'll handle this.

Chad's face turns red. Tina scoffs in amusement, still staring at her phone.

GEOFF

You're so lucky I would never lay my hands on a woman.

Harmony rolls her eyes.

HARMONY

So your saying, if I was a man you would have hit me by now.

GEOFF

If you were a man you wouldn't be conscious right now.

HARMONY

Then do it. Hit me.

GEOFF

What?

HARMONY

Hit me. I've dealt with men like you my entire life. You grow up with your fathers telling you any vulnerability that you have makes you weak. So you compress all those emotions deep down and take it out on the female species through misogyny and blatant disrespect. So hit me. I know you want to. Let out all those emotions you buried deep down right on my face. Do it.

Geoff stares down at her. He is breathing heavily. His eyes are squinted and his brows are deeply furrowed.

Steve is scratching down information on a little notepad, staring intensely at the fork.

Geoff clenches his fists and opens his mouth to say something but immediately starts bawling his eyes out. Harmony is frozen with confusion.

GEOFF

W-w-why would you say that to meee.
I-I- that's n-n-not trueeeeeee.

CHAD

Something tells me it's not
completely off-base bud.

Geoff collapses in his chair almost hyperventilating as he is crying. Harmony slowly sits down in her chair still stunned.

HARMONY

Listen. I didn't mean to make you
start crying. I was just trying to
stand up for myself.

Geoff is unable to respond because of all the crying. Harmony starts to speak in a nicer tone.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Hey, maybe we should test out this
product now. That could be fun.

CHAD

You can share my pasta if you want
babe.

HARMONY

I'm good. Steve, do you mind
sharing some of your pasta with me?

Steve is caught off guard and frantically shoves his notepad into his pants.

STEVE

What??? No. Nothing!!!

CHAD

Steve, you give off some real weird
vibes man.

Steve looks in Geoff's direction.

STEVE

Why is he crying?

CHAD

Harmony basically castrated him.

HARMONY

I did not!

CHAD

I'm not saying its a bad thing
sweetheart. Its kind of hot. You
got a boyfriend?

HARMONY

Girlfriend. And even If I didn't, I
would not even remotely consider
going out with you.

CHAD

Whatever you're not that hot
anyway.

Chad starts using the funky fun fork as if it were a normal
fork and begins eating the pasta.

CHAD (CONT'D)

This pasta is trash.

HARMONY

Were not supposed to be reviewing
the pasta dumbass.

CHAD

You know what? What exactly is your
problem.

HARMONY

Assholes like you.

Geoff begins to calm down. His tears start to dry on his
face.

CHAD

You're the most annoying bitch I
have ever met. Just cause you have
tits doesn't mean you can be such a
cun-

Cutting Chad off his Geoffs fist in his face. Brad falls out
of his chair whimpering to the ground.

CHAD (CONT'D)

What the FUCK man!

GEOFF

I know you weren't just about to
call this young lady a "cunt".

Harmony has a big smile on her face.

On the other side of the two-way mirror, Mabel is taking
detailed notes.

EMPLOYEE #1

I really think we should interject
ma'am. People are now getting hurt.

MABEL

When I say the experiment is over,
then it will be over. Until then
shut up and takes notes.

Back in the room, Steve is now holding a bloody nose Chad
back from trying to attack Geoff. Geoff looks unconcerned.

Tina is now glancing periodically up from her phone.

CHAD

Do you think you're better than me
man? Because only five minutes ago
you were the sexist asshole who was
sobbing in a corner.

GEOFF

I know. And I'm sorry for that.

Geoff looks directly at Harmony, ignoring Chad's intense
attempt to swing at him.

GEOFF (CONT'D)

What you said to me hurt. But it
also came from so much truth. So
when I heard it, it was as if all
those emotions I stuffed deep down
came out. In a way, I don't think I
will ever be the same.

Geoff starts to choke up again.

HARMONY

Wow that is truly amazing. I'm
proud of you man.

CHAD

Oh, COME ON. THIS IS BULLSHIT. You
all are a bunch of sissies.

Steve is still struggling to hold Chad back, his notebook
left wide open on the table.

Tina looks up from her phone and grabs the notebook without
anyone noticing. She begins to read it.

STEVE

Chad, you're going to need to calm
down.

CHAD

Why should I?

STEVE

I was a young man like you once. A cocky little piece of shit. But I grew up. I found a beautiful wife, had children, and a well-paying job. Eventually, you grow up and learn to have priorities and morals.

TINA

Ha.

Everyone looks at Tina, stunned that she talked.

STEVE

What's so funny?

TINA

It's just interesting that your going on and on about morals when the sole reason you're here is to get intel for "Funky Fun Utilities" main competitor " Groovy Glamorous Glassware".

The entire group gasps. Steve stands eyes wide open.

STEVE

H-how do you know this?

Tina rolls her eyes and shows them Steve's notebook.

TINA

I read all your notes idiot.

GEOFF

That is not cool man.

HARMONY

Steve, that is evil.

CHAD

I gotta say I'm with sensitive macho man and blondie on this one.

Harmony glares at Chad.

STEVE

Okay. Okay. Fine yes, I work for "Groovy Glamorous Glassware".

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Our company is currently making a groovy glamorous grater. So, I came here under the instruction to gain intel on Funky Fun Utilities' new upcoming product so we could study the competition before our release date. But-but I don't WANT to do that anymore. After being here with you guys, and observing the intense passion this funky fun fork seems to inspire, I simply can't return to my old job. It wouldn't feel right.

CHAD

So what, you're just going to quit? And you expect us to believe this?

STEVE

I don't expect you guys to do anything. And yes, I'm going to quit.

Geoff starts to cry and he grabs Steve's face.

GEOFF

Your moral code inspires me and makes me want to be a better man.

STEVE

T-thanks.

GEOFF

You are not your father.

STEVE

What?

HARMONY

Steve, I don't care whether you quit or not. I'm more curious why you Tina, got the urge to go through his notebook?

TINA

I don't know. It could have been boredom. Or it could be my need to live life with no regrets because at the end of the day we all die, so our life is summed up by the small minuscule decisions we make. And sometimes those decisions should be inspired by curiosity.

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)

Like my desire to find out why
Steve was so interested in this
product when he supposedly
"stumbled" upon this focus group.
But who knows. It was probably just
boredom.

CHAD

Goddam.

Tina puts her phone down and looks at her fork and pasta. She presses the red button on the bottom of the fork and the top begins to twirl. She puts the fork in her pasta and immediately the pasta starts to swirl around the fork. She takes a triumphant bite.

TINA

Mmmm

The room is in awe. Mabel enters the room slowly clapping.

MABEL

Wow. This experiment has gone
better than I could have ever
hoped.

HARMONY

What do you mean? I dumped pasta on
a man's head, Chad got punched in
the face, and we discovered a spy
in the group.

MABEL

This is true. However, Geoff also
learned how to feel again and be
vulnerable. You stood up for
yourself and simultaneously the
women's feminist movement. Steve re-
examined his morals and made a
major career decision. Tina finally
got off her phone, and was inspired
to include herself in the
narrative. You all learned and grew
so much. And that's thanks to the
"Funky Fun Fork" experience.

CHAD

What about me?

MABEL

Your just an asshole.

HARMONY

Ha!

MABEL

I'm glad you guys could come in for this experiment. It has been enlightening, to say the least. You are free to leave. Oh, and Harmony? Funky Fun Utilities decided to pay off your college book debt as payment for your time.

HARMONY

Oh my god! Thank you so much! You don't know how much this means to me.

The entire group stands out of their chairs. Tina looks at her phone and then decides to put it in her pocket and leave. Harmony grabs a sobbing Geoff's arm and they walk out together. Chad follows closely behind them mumbling angry words to himself.

MABEL

Hey Steve? Before you leave. I'd like to offer you a job here at "Funky Fun Utilities". The passion you seem to have for your work combined with your strong moral code would make you a perfect fit at this company.

STEVE

Wow what an honor. I would love to! Thank you so much! I can't wait to tell my wife. See you!

Steve runs out of the room leaving Mabel by herself chuckling.

Employee #1 enters the room.

EMPLOYEE #1

Wow. That was an amazing experience. How did you know it would all be okay in the end?

MABEL

We have done this focus group around ten different times. And about 9/10 times this exact thing has happened. I don't know what it is. But I do know the one constant has been the "Fun Funky Fork". It's incredible. You're fired by the way. Pack your stuff on the way out.

Mabel leaves the room whistling the "Funk Fun Utilities" theme song. Employee #1 stands alone in the room stunned.

FADE OUT.