

Screenplay

"Prison Guys Book Club"

INT. PRISON MEETING ROOM

A group of PRISON GUYS sit in a semi-circle, they are led by KAREN, the moderator.

KAREN

Welcome to Prison Guys Book Club,
so happy to see a few new faces in
our group today, would any of you
like to volunteer to go first?

JAMES raises his hand and stands up clutching a copy of "To Kill a Mockingbird"

JAMES

I read To Kill a Mockingbird, by
Harper Lee. I was hoping that we
could discuss how the book explores
the question of whether people are
inherently good or evil.

KAREN

Great topic. Unfortunately Marco
discussed that topic when he read
To Kill a Mockingbird.

JAMES

Well, can I talk about it too?

Karen sighs. She's sick of this shit.

KAREN

We have like five books in this
whole prison library. And everybody
wants to talk about the same stuff
over and over again. How about for
today I pick what you talk about.

JAMES

Sure, give us a topic.

KAREN

I want you to discuss how that one
guy Boo was named like how a ghost
talks.

James is confused.

JAMES

Can't I just talk about what the book meant to me?

Karen is angry now.

KAREN

Do you want me to call a guard in here and have me explain to him why you're being insubordinate?

JAMES

No, ma'am.

KAREN

Then tell me all about how confused you were when in the middle of this coming-of-age tale about a young girl finding her place in the world a bunch of ghosts kept talking at each other about who knows what!

JAMES

Well...I certainly kept getting distracted like: what are these spooky ghosts talkin' about, I don't speak ghost, I need a translator.

KAREN

Was it scary when those spirits kept trying to communicate from the after-life?

CARL

I found it quite frightening. I pulled my covers over my head, and my cellmate is known for stabbing people when they're not looking.

KAREN

Do you think Harper Lee has some kind of ghost-fetish?

JAMES

What?

KAREN

Do you think she wanted to fuck a ghost while she got yelled at in a language she didn't understand with her ears, but could translate with her body?

A beat. They all just stare at her.

KAREN
Nevermind. Who's next?

CARL stands up, he's clutching a copy of LORD OF THE FLIES.

CARL
Hi, everyone. This week I read Lord
of the Flies.

KAREN
Oh Jesus Christ, this book again.
Ok - I want you to talk about this
book but replace the little boy
Piggy with the classic Jim Henson
Muppet character Miss Piggy.

CARL
Kermit the Frog's girlfriend?

KAREN
Yes. Entertain me. Or I'll have you
all put in solitary for a week.

CARL
Every time they talked about his
asthma I pictured a statuesque
sassy lady-Pig taking hits of
albuterol.

KAREN
Perfect.

JAMES
I know the boys on that island
didn't take him seriously, perhaps
because they were also thinking
about him as that
karate-practicing-diva-Muppet
voiced by Frank Oz.

CARL
I got so sad picturing Kermit the
Frog holding his dead lifeless
girlfriend in his arms after they
crush her with that rock.

KAREN
Now I can have Kermit all to
myself!

A beat. They're all staring at her again.

KAREN

I didn't say anything, who's next?

MARCO stands up clutching a copy of The Count of Monte Cristo.

MARCO

I read The Count of Monte Cristo - a book that's actually not in our library so I think I'll -

KAREN

I think you'll talk about what it would be like to be the king of sandwiches.

MARCO

This book is about a man falsely imprisoned, spending his life to get revenge on those who wronged him. I feel a deep and personal connection to this material.

KAREN

And if you don't want to feel a deep and personal connection with the Prison Guys Punching Club - which I also moderate - you'll prance around here and pretend to be the King of Sandwiches.

A beat. Marco is furious but knows her threats are not idol. He strikes a regal pose and begins to strut around.

KAREN

(to others)

He is your King! What do you do in the presence of royalty?

The other take a knee as Marco passes by them. He whispers "I'm sorry".

KAREN

Now, make a decree to your subjects!

MARCO

I...

KAREN

Who are you?

MARCO
King of Sandwiches.

KAREN
What do you do?

MARCO
I do decree...that...a hot dog is
officially a sandwich.

KAREN
Now, make someone a knight!

Marco stops at James' and taps him on the shoulder with his book.

MARCO
You knelt as James, but you stand
as Sir James, Knight of Reuben.

KAREN
I love this! Now as King declare to
your people that it's legal to
marry a sandwich!

A beat. They stare at her again.

KAREN
Or whatever, tell me about how you
relate to the guy in this book, I
don't care.

THE END