

CONTROLLING INTEREST

AUTHOR REQUESTED RE-WRITES

In an ongoing effort to make *Controlling Interest* better I have recently done some re-writes to a few lines and jokes in the play—one specifically is Steven’s reaction to Jack’s proposal of “liking girls”— I have decided that I would like to remove the word “fag” from the script. While I think it is very obvious that this joke is squarely on Stephen and his uneducated and immature explosion, I think the play is improved without that particular word so I’ve written an updated scene that I think is much funnier and speaks more effectively to Steven’s fear of that which he does not yet understand. I hope you will agree and make the following changes to your production. All page numbers reference the Playscripts, Inc. edition, *Great Short Comedies: Volume 2*.

Page 23:

After JACK’s first line of the page:

JACK. I know. Yes. It was. That’s why I asked you guys to come over to play today. I’ve been thinking- I’ve been thinking about this and... I want to discuss the possibility of... Of Us... Liking girls.

Please replace with the following:

(STEVEN jumps up and points an accusing finger at JACK.)

STEVEN. GAY! That’s GAY! You are gay! You are a gay person for saying that!

(Uncomfortable pause.)

JACK. I don’t think you are using that term correctly, Steven.

STEVEN. Yes I am!

JACK. Do you even know what “gay” means?

STEVEN. It means I’m uncomfortable. That I’m feeling discomfort. Anything that takes me out of my immediate comfort zone is gay.

JACK. No. That— That isn’t correct.

STEVEN. David?

DAVID. What?

STEVEN. Back me up on this.

DAVID. I’m sorry, I’m kind of in the weeds here...

BRAD. Gentlemen, please— I think we should stick to the issue on the table, namely Jack’s proposal that—what I’m hearing you say

Jack, is that we somehow stop hating girls and begin, what? Liking them?

JACK. Yes, Brad, thank you.

DAVID. Okay, um, I don't know if I'm gay? But I am definitely uncomfortable with this and I'll tell you why. Number one, there is the whole size thing, I mean, they are just bigger than we are, physically taller, and that, that's new, okay, that's a recent thing and it frightens me and number two— They seem to be... what's the word? Smarter. Than we are. More advanced somehow—

Resume script with Steven's next line.

Page 24:

After BRAD's Line:

BRAD. It's true David. Her boobies make her a girl.

Insert:

STEVEN. Also gay.

Resume with David's line.

DAVID. (*Cornered:*) What's your point, Jack?

Further down p. 24— Replace STEVEN's line:

STEVEN. You're setting us up.

With:

STEVEN. What, are we going to kiss them? On the MOUTH? Is that—what exactly do you think is going to happen?

Page 25:

After ASHLEY's line:

ASH. (*Standing:*) Very good. Have a nice day Gentlemen.

Replace with the following:

JACK. Wait! Hold on. Steven! Please!

STEVEN. What!

JACK. Don't pull her hair!

STEVEN. Don't pull her hair? I'm confused.

JACK. (*To ASHLEY:*) Um, please let's not step off on the wrong foot here. That won't happen again. Will it? Please. Don't go. We would like to talk.

(ASHLEY *looks at* BETHANY. BETHANY *nods.*)

Resume with ASHLEY's next line.

Page 28:

Replace STEVEN's line:

STEVEN. This is out of control, man, this is out of control!

With:

STEVEN. (*Like a robot malfunctioning:*) Gay gay gay gay gaygaygay-gaygay...

JACK. Stephen!

Resume with BRAD's next line.

That is all. Thank you!

—Wayne Rawley