

SOLVED

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Characters:**STEVEN:** man, pretentious, stressed, cares a lot about winning (maybe too much)**ART:** man, slightly less pretentious, also stressed, really into his own nameSetting:

The events center of a four star hotel. A fold out table sits center stage. On the table, under some type of cloth to disguise them and on either end, two Rubik's Cubes.

(Lights up as STEVEN and ART enter from opposite sides. They each approach the table. They shake hands over the table.)

STEVEN

Steven

ART

Art

STEVEN

Your name is art?

ART

What yes

STEVEN

Weird

ART

Your methods of intimidation are not going to work on me. I've been training for this moment.

STEVEN

I'm not trying to intimidate you, I just think your name is weird.

ART

My name is not weird. My parents are creative. Your name is weird.

STEVEN

Steven is a real name. Art is a noun.

ART

This is bullying. You are 100% bullying me right now.

STEVEN

You're annoying.

ART

I am not.

STEVEN

Wait when do we start?

ART

When the buzzer buzzes.

STEVEN

Did they tell you there was gonna be a buzzer?

ART

I think so.

STEVEN

I wasn't told anything. I was just told it was my turn.

ART

Should we ask?

STEVEN

No we can't just ask. That will make us look dumb.

ART

So should we just wait for the buzzer?

STEVEN

Well if there isn't a buzzer, then no.

ART

Ok so then what do you want to do?

STEVEN

How sure are you about there being a buzzer?

ART

I don't know, like 70% sure.

STEVEN

Those are terrible odds.

ART

Let's just ask.

STEVEN

NO we will look dumb.

ART

There are people working the event ok, they expect us to ask them questions. Let's just flag one down.

STEVEN

I swear to god if you flag somebody down, I'm gonna lose it.

ART

Ok well do you have a better idea?

STEVEN

Look around, others have already started. We're behind. We should just start.

(ART takes a look around the room.)

ART

Not everyone has started. And I don't want to break the rules if we aren't meant to start yet.

STEVEN

It's fine. Let's just start.

ART

Ok so you're fine with breaking the rules but not with asking for help. NEWSFLASH both of these will make us look dumb.

STEVEN

Did you just say "newsflash" at me?

ART

I'm just gonna ask for help.

(ART raises his hand and attempts to pull the attention of somebody, STEVEN crosses to ART'S side of the table and puts his hand down.)

STEVEN

NO, we'll look dumb.

ART

HEY don't touch me! Also you are breaking a rule, you can't be on my side of the table. Get back on your side!

STEVEN

(returning to his side of the table)

What is your problem???

ART

MY problem??? I don't have a problem. You have a problem. A serious problem.

STEVEN

I do not! Let's just start.

ART

I don't think we are meant to start yet.

STEVEN

(mimicking ART)

"I don't think we are meant to start yet" you sound like a dork.

ART
Bullying! You are bullying me!

STEVEN
I am not bullying you.

ART
Ok well I feel like you're bullying me.

STEVEN
Ok well I feel like you're being a little bitch.

ART
HEY

STEVEN
Look man, you started it.

ART
I didn't start anything!

STEVEN
I beg your pardon??

ART
You're just mad I have a better name than you.

STEVEN
AM NOT

ART
OH YOU SO ARE

STEVEN
Is this what you do?? Do you just show up to these things and confuse your opponent?

ART
What? I'm not the one being confusing.

STEVEN

I bet Art isn't even your real name.

ART

I KNEW YOU HAD A PROBLEM WITH MY NAME!

STEVEN

I DO NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR NAME! I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOU!

ART

Why?? I haven't done anything.

STEVEN

Yes you have! You have been tormenting me ever since we got here.

ART

We shouldn't even still be here! Let's just ask for help!

STEVEN

NO

ART

UGH

STEVEN

Let's just start!

ART

I don't think we are meant to!

STEVEN

IT'S THE WHOLE REASON WE'RE HERE

ART

The buzzer hasn't buzzed!

STEVEN

We don't even know if there is a buzzer!

ART

I have a hunch there is a buzzer.

STEVEN

You *have* a poor memory and for some reason, can't remember if they told you there was a buzzer or not.

ART

Bullying!

STEVEN

GAH

ART

It is not my fault you didn't offer up any helpful information.

STEVEN

W h a t

ART

I offered up information about the buzzer, you offered up nothing.

STEVEN

They didn't tell me anything! They told you something and then you immediately forgot what they told you. You absolute fish!

ART

Fish? I am not a fish!

STEVEN

You are! Goes around the fish bowl once and then it's gone.

ART

(gasp)

Are you insulting my intellect?

STEVEN

(mimicking)

“Are you insulting my—” YES I AM INSULTING YOUR INTELLECT

ART
Bullying!

STEVEN
Oh shut up

ART
You shut up!

STEVEN
This is so stupid, let's just start so I can win and move on already.

ART
OH someone's cocky.

STEVEN
I am not cocky, I just know my capabilities.

ART
Steven Cocky

STEVEN
What

ART
Steven Cocky

STEVEN
What is that? What are you saying to me right now?

ART
That's you. Steven Cocky

STEVEN
My last name is Mills.

ART
Not anymore son.

STEVEN

Son?

ART

You're Steven Cocky: the boy who couldn't be humble.

STEVEN

Boy? I'm 24

ART

And yet, you're acting like a child.

STEVEN

YOU are the one acting like a child!

ART

I beg to differ.

STEVEN

You're the one who's resorted to name calling!

ART

You're the one who has a problem with my god-given name!

STEVEN

I
Hate you

ART

(sarcastically)

Oh I'm soooo hurt that you hate me. Whatever will I do without the approval of Steven Cocky?

STEVEN

MY NAME IS STEVEN MILLS

ART

NOT ANYMORE SON

STEVEN

Quit calling me son!

ART

Quit bullying me!

STEVEN

Nobody is bullying you! You're just being weird.

ART

Well you're being unkind!

STEVEN

(sarcastically)

Oh I'M SORRY, I didn't realize I needed to be kind to my OPPONENT.

ART

YOU COULD AT LEAST TRY BEING NICE TO ME

STEVEN

OH YOU ARE SUCH A BABY

(A loud buzzer goes off. The two men freeze, look at each other for a second, then pull the cloth from the table off revealing a Rubik's Cube sitting in front of each of them. They each aggressively begin solving their cube as the lights fade.)

END OF PLAY