

James's Party (The Prequel)

by

Simon Wiedemann

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EXT. JAMES'S FRONT GARDEN - DAY

It is a beautiful sunny day. A group of 20 ADULTS of both sexes and in their 30s stand in a large front garden with an unoccupied swimming pool in the centre. They chat amongst themselves. On the garden's left and right are a few detached houses with similar gardens but no pools. A peaceful road is in front of the area, and a forest is beyond that. A pressure washer is on the ground as are huge bags with 'salt' written on them. JAMES is seen in the distance approaching on an electric scooter with a silly and blank facial expression, riding one-handed. He is wearing a Hawaiian shirt and shorts and has a loudspeaker in his free hand. Everyone turns to him. Soon enough, he reaches his home's grass, lays the scooter down and speaks through the loudspeaker.

JAMES
(very loud)
Hello, friends! I have brought you
all here today to celebrate James
style!

Everyone cheers as they put their fingers in their ears.

JAMES
Today I will proving once and for all
that whilst water may THINK it's
tough and indestructible, it can be
absorbed very easily by one common
household item: Salt! We are here to
celebrate man's dominance over mother
nature!

A WOMAN speaks with her fingers in her ears.

WOMAN 1
Oh. The invitation cards said we'd be
here to celebrate your mother's
birthday...

JAMES
No, that was a mistake by the card
company I contacted. Completely
understandable as there are NO
parties like this one. We are all
here in a one of a kind event!

A MAN speaks, fingers in ears.

MAN 1
Isn't there like... a hosepipe ban
today?

JAMES
Do you see any hoses?

MAN 1
Yes, on the grass...

JAMES
That's a pressure washer, my friend!

MAN 1
Oh.

JAMES
Now friends, do you see the bags of salt? I want you to all pour them into the swimming pool!

In a daze, the GUESTS take their fingers out of their ears and fill the pool with salt. JAMES drops the loudspeaker on the ground.

JAMES retrieves a mobile phone from his pocket. He dials a number and speaks into it.

JAMES
Hello, you have the truck filled with salt?... You're right by the lake right now? Great, fill it up.

JAMES ends the call and enters his house as another MAN and WOMAN chat to each other whilst filling the pool.

MAN 2
There's something very funny about James. I mean I get what he's trying to say, but I feel odd.

WOMAN 2
Oh thank God! I thought it was just me... With all the cheering and all..
.

MAN 2
They weren't ordinary cheers. Something about them, I don't know, it seemed they weren't genuine...

WOMAN 2
Yes, exactly!

JAMES re-enters the garden with three large water pistols under each arm.

JAMES
Super soakers! Filled with salt!

MAN 2

James, I really do think that what you're doing is refreshing and brave but it's very illegal... I'm fairly certain you're not allowed pressure washers in hosepipe bans... And the swimming pool and water pistols? That's messed up...

JAMES

No, I'll tell you what's messed up, water thinking it will last forever. When you freeze it, it turns to ice, but when you warm it up it turns back to water? Oh woowow. Wow, very clever, I think not!

JAMES shouts to the CROWD in his garden.

JAMES

Friends, please take a super soaker, fire them and then pour salt all over the water, it will be SO funny! Payback!

A police siren is heard getting nearer. Everyone turns to the direction of the noise. Soon enough a cop car is seen, pulling up outside the garden. A POLICEMAN (30) leaves the car and approaches JAMES.

POLICEMAN

What's this?

JAMES

It's a party. Celebrating man's dominance over nature. Care to join in?

POLICEMAN

There's a hosepipe ban... I can't even begin to describe THIS situation, though...

JAMES

No hoses here, pal.

POLICEMAN

Apart from the pressure washer?

JAMES

Oh. Pressure washers are hoses then?

POLICEMAN

Actually they're worse...

JAMES
But not different?

POLICEMAN
You're going to have to go to jail...

JAMES
Ah. But I've just made a rule where
people called James Ziegler - that's
me - can host water and salt parties.
Like this.

POLICEMAN
Sorry for wasting your time. Bye.

The POLICEMAN goes back in his car and drives away.

JAMES
(to everyone)
Who's dominant now? Nature or me?

An ultra-fancy limo is seen approaching the garden. It stops and the driver door gets opened from the inside by a BUTLER (50) in a black suit. He leaves the car and opens a door in the middle to reveal the DOMINANT EGG who also exits the vehicle. He hovers to the garden. The BUTLER gets back in and drives away.

DOMINANT EGG
(coolly)
Did I just hear someone mention
dominance?

JAMES
Hello, Charlie. Your hearing is very
impressive, I have to say...

DOMINANT EGG
Never mind that, who's here to party?
??

JAMES
I think we all are! However, this
party is a little different... Grab
the salt...