

Art Therapy  
by  
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INT. MENTAL HOME - DAY

JAMES is sitting at a table with a large number of crayons and blank pieces of paper in the centre. He has a crayon in his hand and paper immediately in front of him, as does AARON, a scruffily dressed 30 year old with a burnt face. A male ART THERAPIST (30) is also seated. He is wearing a striped black and white jumper and an OTT fake mustache. He stares at JAMES'S paper.

ART THERAPIST  
Don't be shy. Draw anything that comes to mind.

JAMES  
No.

ART THERAPIST  
Why not?

JAMES  
You'll know what I'm thinking.

ART THERAPIST  
Relax. Just remember there are no right or wrong things to draw...

JAMES  
What about me drawing my friend Dan?

ART THERAPIST  
That sounds harmless enough to me...

JAMES  
Yeah, but I'm mugging him then chaining him to a tree. Is that wrong?

The ART THERAPIST is pokerfaced.

ART THERAPIST  
I'm not here to judge you.

JAMES  
SO... it wouldn't be a bad thing to draw?

AARON is cool.

AARON  
It would be controversial and all good art is controversial...

ART THERAPIST  
Yes. Exactly. But you must remember  
not to ACTUALLY mug people.

JAMES  
Or chain them?

ART THERAPIST  
Right.

AARON  
Jeez, you can't do that either?

The THERAPIST is unintentionally patronising.

ART THERAPIST  
No, Arron, no.

AARON  
Please.

ART THERAPIST  
We've been through this! Be nice to  
people!

AARON  
Everyone has a different  
interpretation of the word 'nice'  
though. Some people like the sun.  
Others like the rain. I on the other  
hand like to wear a mask, whisper  
random words into people's ears then  
run away.

ART THERAPIST  
Yes, but how would you like it if  
someone did that to you?

AARON sighs.

AARON  
James did that to me first, that's  
where I got the idea from...

ART THERAPIST  
Is that true James?

JAMES  
I really can't do anything right, can  
I?

ART THERAPIST  
Is that what you did to Dan?

JAMES  
Yes all the time, but he started it!

ART THERAPIST  
How?

JAMES  
Do you know how many seconds are in a thousand years?

ART THERAPIST  
No...

JAMES  
It's a lot. A gazillion. And Dan took a one in a gazillion event away from me by coving my eyes with his hands as I was about to watch the very first second of the new millennium.

ART THERAPIST  
And that was extremely painful for you?

JAMES  
Yes.

ART THERAPIST  
Why?

JAMES  
I don't know.

ART THERAPIST  
How would you respond if I said that was huge over reaction? And stupid?

JAMES whispers into the ART THERAPIST'S ear.

JAMES  
Cheeeese.

He sits back down.

ART THERAPIST  
What was that?

JAMES  
You heard.

ART THERAPIST  
Were you trying to freak me out?

JAMES  
Yes. And it worked.

ART THERAPIST  
I didn't like it. It wasn't nice.

JAMES  
I don't think your jumper is nice,  
you look weird.

ART THERAPIST  
It's to lighten the atmosphere.

AARON retrieves a crumbled piece of paper with a rubber band attached from his pocket. He un-crumbles it and puts it on his face. The mask is circular. It has two eye holes and it is smiling excessively. It looks like it was drawn by a five year old.

ART THERAPIST  
Not this again, Aaron!

AARON whispers in the ART THERAPIST'S ear.

AARON  
Badgers riding unicyclessssss.

AARON sits back down, takes his mask off and pockets it. He looks like a load has been lifted from his mind.

ART THERAPIST  
Do you know where you got the phrase  
'badgers riding unicycles'?

AARON  
You look like a badger.

ART THERAPIST  
I do don't I? And what about  
unicycles?

AARON  
Uni means one... And you know... It's  
hard to explain.

The THERAPIST ponders.

ART THERAPIST  
You're implying I'm a selfish person?

AARON  
Right, right.

ART THERAPIST  
And what do I do that's selfish?

AARON  
You won't let me wear my mask!

ART THERAPIST

You wearing your mask in the way you do is a felony. It's not on. What would happen if you wore it to a job interview?

AARON is wild-eyed.

AARON

Oh my God, best idea ever!

JAMES

Too good.

The THERAPIST grinds his teeth.

ART THERAPIST

It is not the best idea ever!

JAMES

What's your ideal job, Aaron?

AARON

A welder could work...

ART THERAPIST

Because of the mask?

AARON

Exactly.

The THERAPIST is overly calm.

ART THERAPIST

This is very serious. Have you ever worn that paper mask whilst welding?

AARON

All the time...

ART THERAPIST

Oh dear God. How is your eyesight?

AARON

Pretty bad.

ART THERAPIST

Did anyone see you welding with your mask on?

AARON

Yes, that was the whole point...

ART THERAPIST  
I can only imagine what that must  
have looked like...

AARON  
Then my mask caught fire and I  
carried on...

The ART THERAPIST looks serious.

ART THERAPIST  
Thank you. I needed to know that.

AARON  
Yeah. And then I removed the mask and  
my face caught fire shortly  
afterwards. It was at that point  
people were really upset, but still,  
not quite as much as me.

JAMES  
You didn't know about that already,  
teacher?

ART THERAPIST  
No, I don't know for sure why anyone  
is here. Patient confidentiality. Of  
course I know some things, especially  
the things you tell me, but not all  
things.

JAMES  
Really? So you didn't know I was here  
for being too awesome?

ART THERAPIST  
Is that a fact?

JAMES  
Yep. Too much of anything is bad,  
isn't it?

ART THERAPIST  
What's your diagnoses?

JAMES whispers in the ART THERAPIST'S ear.

JAMES  
Pigeooons.

JAMES sits back down.

ART THERAPIST  
I'm just going to ignore that.

JAMES  
Ok, I tell a lie. I'm actually here  
because I can't stop crashing  
vehicles... that kinda aren't mine...

ART THERAPIST  
Oh.

JAMES jolts.

JAMES  
Oh no, I forgot!

ART THERAPIST  
What?

JAMES  
My podcast! I'm supposed to be  
appearing as a guest on it in just a  
few minutes...

ART THERAPIST  
How?

JAMES  
Mobile phone...

ART THERAPIST  
I suppose that can be arranged...

JAMES  
And I want Aaron to appear on it,  
too. It would mean a lot.

ART THERAPIST  
Why?

JAMES  
It's not because he'd freak out Dan.

ART THERAPIST  
Oh. Ok...