James's Ideas

by

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In the centre of this area are dozens of plastic tables and chairs fixed to the floor. On the tables are plastic trays and cutlery. Sitting by them are MEN of all ages wearing either orange or red overalls. On the outskirts of the area are two floors of prison cells. JAMES is alone on the second floor with a megaphone in his hands.

JAMES

(speaking into megaphone)

Hello, prisoners! After a series of administrative errors, I am now your prison warden and will be until everything is sorted out. It's just a legal technicality enforced by a very wacky new Prime Minister subscribers of Wiedemanncomedy will hear about later... I was supposed to be SENT to jail after crashing my coworker's car, but again, there were some cockups. Anyway, long story short, my fellow, let's face it - lesser members of staff asked my advice on how to deal with the problem of prison violence, and I THINK I've come up with some pretty good ideas.

The PRISONERS facepalm and mumble unintelligible words.

JAMES

So here goes: I've noticed how the tougher prisoners boast about being maximum security level. It's apparently respectable if you're as badass as possible, so now the maximum security wing will be called the cupcake wing. Not so clever, now. Similarly, medium security prisoners will be called 'the buttercups' and low security offenders will be called 'the sweet little girls'. Chefs will now be called 'the adorable food fairies' and all will be given wands that must be carried. So. What do you think?

A PRISONER IN RED yells abuse.

JAMES

Do you have a problem cupcake?

PRISONER IN RED YOU SHOULD BE IN JAIL!

JAMES

Again, an administrative error. So now I'm in charge of you. And indeed all of you. I love saying that.

The PRISONERS shout in disgust.

JAMES

So my ideas haven't worked? Do I need to make them more extreme? Fluffy kittens, I demand your respect!

A PRISONER IN ORANGE screams.

PRISONER IN ORANGE

When you get sent to prison you're a dead man!

JAMES

I've told you, I'm not going to jail. I'm not saying this isn't a strange situation, of course it is, but it's the rules and we all have to respect that.

The PRISONERS bash their tables.

PRISONER IN RED

Well! When I finally get out of this place, I'm going to plant minimum speed limit signs saying you can't drive slower than 500 mph! All the people who don't obey the sign will be sent here! Payback!

JAMES looks thoughtful.

JAMES

That's genuinely a very good idea. Please don't do that.

PRISONER IN RED

I don't have a right to my opinion when it comes to the rules of the road?

JAMES

Of course you do, but...

PRISONER IN RED

But what?? This country doesn't make any kind of sense anymore!

JAMES

It makes perfect sense. I know exactly what's going on, so respect me now, puppies. Oh, and you'll need to wear pink dresses.

PRISONER IN RED

This has gone to far!!

All the other PRISONER agree and throw their food in the direction of JAMES. But he's too far away.

JAMES

I'm too far away, ladies.

ANOTHER PRISONER in red shouts to JAMES.

ANOTHER PRISONER

Give me the paperwork so I can get out of jail, now!!!

JAMES

(to himself)

Oh no. He's asked something of me. That means I need to consider it... At least I think that's how it works. Yes, I think that IS how it works!

ANOTHER PRISONER

I know my rights!

JAMES

(to himself again)

The person leading this country is clearly mentally ill, some of the rules he's made are just SO bizarre. Even so, I must respect him.

ANOTHER PRISONER

Give me the paperwork!!

JAMES

(into his megaphone)

What would be the pros and cons of me doing so?

ANOTHER PRISONER

A pro is that you won't die!

JAMES

That's a good pro. What's your name?

ANOTHER PRISONER

Karl.

JAMES takes a piece of paper from his pocket, turns it into a paper airplane and throws it at KARL. He catches it.

JAMES

Get a pen and write why else you think you should be released, then sign your name. Then it will be official.

KARL

It's that easy?

JAMES

It's THAT easy. The new guy in charge of this great country certainly has his critics, but now that I think of it? I think I get him.

KARL unravels the plane, gets a pen from his pocket and writes on the paper as everyone stares at him in disbelief. He turns the paper in a plane again and throws it at JAMES. JAMES reads the note as he speaks into his megaphone again.

JAMES

Karl should be released from jail because he's only robbed three houses?

KARL

What do you think?

JAMES

Ok, you can go. But no one else can, because that would be ridiculous.

KARL

Who is in charge of this great country? I've only heard rumours. It's hard to follow the news when you're not allowed a TV because of how violent you are...

JAMES

Prime Minister Sexy Moon Bazooka.

KARL

Wow, Prime Minister Sexy Moon Bazooka. He sounds like a man who can get things done!

JAMES

He does have a cool name.

The other PRISONERS shout things such as 'Can WE Go?!' JAMES shrugs his shoulders and speaks into his megaphone again.

JAMES

Sure.