

Potato Paradox
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INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

AARON (15) in trendy clothes is sitting by a cheap plastic table, facing his friend NATHAN (15), similarly dressed. On the former's left, passed the window is a sunny park view. In front, are other occupied tables, the nearest one seating a DOCTOR (60) dressed in white and eating a burger. On the right is a checkout, occupied by a STAFF MEMBER (18) in a red uniform.

NATHAN
Hey man, good to finally see you.

AARON
You too, chum.

NATHAN
Have you been here, before?

AARON
No, you?

NATHAN
Yep. It sounds silly, but I had a very strange dream about this place, and when I woke up I thought coming here would be a good idea.

AARON
You're weird.

The DOCTOR comments to himself quietly.

DOCTOR
No... It's probably nothing.

He gets ignored.

NATHAN
(to Aaron)
Thanks.

AARON
Was it a good dream?

NATHAN
I'm not sure...

AARON
What happened in it?

NATHAN
Oh never mind. I think I've just been eating too much cheese, recently. You wouldn't understand...

AARON

I see...

NATHAN

Anyway, you HAVE to get the potato tots...

AARON

Na, I've never liked potatoes...

The DOCTOR stops eating and widens his eyes. The two carry on talking.

NATHAN

You don't like potatoes? Why?

AARON

I don't know...

The DOCTOR comments to himself again.

DOCTOR

Something's wrong...

NATHAN

Have you actually eaten a potato?

AARON

Of course!

NATHAN

What, like a jacket potato?

AARON

I don't know...

NATHAN

Do you like hash browns?

AARON

Sure!

The DOCTOR goes white and spits his food out. He raises his voice to the FRIENDS.

DOCTOR

Stop! You two, stop! You don't know what you're doing!

The two turn to face him, scratching their heads.

NATHAN

What's your problem?

DOCTOR
Don't you see??

AARON
No...

DOCTOR
You claiming not to like potatoes but actually liking them? It doesn't make sense, does it??

NATHAN
Told you!

DOCTOR
Don't you understand how serious this is?

AARON
What are you on about??

DOCTOR
This is a paradox! It's like Back to the Future, but real! Nothing makes sense anymore, and the universe must now end!

AARON
Because I didn't know I liked potatoes??

The DOCTOR leaves his seat and walks to the FRIENDS. Everyone in the restaurant stares at him.

DOCTOR
Yes! I suggest you take cover like I'm going to, right now!

The DOCTOR dives to the ground. Face down, he covers the back of his head with both hands. The STAFF MEMBER comes to his aid.

STAFF MEMBER
Er... Are you ok??

The DOCTOR remains in the same position. He is polite.

DOCTOR
Fine, thank you.

STAFF MEMBER
Should I call a doctor?

DOCTOR
No, I'm fine. Thanks again.

AARON looks concerned.

AARON
He said the world is going to end
because I like hash browns, but not
other potatoes...

DOCTOR
Call your loved ones, everybody. We
don't have much time.

AARON
Would it make you feel better if I
said I don't like hash browns?

DOCTOR
Only if you mean it!

AARON
They're not my favourite food,
though. That's something right?

The DOCTOR starts crying.

DOCTOR
Oh no!

AARON
It's ok, you know? I get you. I'm
getting therapy...

DOCTOR
(whimpering)
Is it working for you?

AARON
Sure.

DOCTOR
I'm happy for you.

AARON
Would you like me to contact someone?

DOCTOR
That... that sounds good. But you
know that dream you had?

NATHAN
Yes?

DOCTOR
(dramatically)
I have dreams, too.

NATHAN

O....k...

DOCTOR

Don't you think that's strange?

NATHAN

Nope.

AARON

Look old man, the world hasn't ended.
We're all fine.

The DOCTOR coughs and picks himself up, slowly. He faces the FRIENDS.

DOCTOR

This is very embarrassing. I'm glad we're all fine, though.

AARON

Well, fine-ish.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry I spoiled your meals, everyone. Good day.

The DOCTOR walks away and leaves the restaurant with dignity.

AARON

Was your dream anything like this, Nathan?

NATHAN

No, in it I just got the food for free.

AARON

Do you even know what a cheese dream is?

NATHAN

A strange dream.

AARON

Ok...

NATHAN

Getting free food IS strange.

A blinding white flash lights up the room. Everyone is incinerated and the furniture catches fire. Seconds later a shockwave obliterated the building.