

PLAY #23 DON'T PUSH ME

by

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## CHARACTERS

REX	The big guy. In a nice suit.
JIM	The not-so-big-guy. Nice suit.
DAVE	The tall nice guy. Glasses. Suit. Bow tie.

DON'T PUSH ME

(At Rise: DAVE, JIM, and REX in a  
standoff.)

REX

Wait a minute! You're saying he pushed you?

DAVE

He pushed me!

REX

Did you push him, Jim?

JIM

It depends on what you mean by push.

DAVE

He put his hands right here and gave me a shove.

JIM

Whatever you got, you deserved.

(DAVE goes for JIM. REX stands  
between.)

REX

Come on now! There's no need to take this any further.  
Did you push him, Jim? Because if you did, you need to  
apologize to Dave.

JIM

I was telling him the way *things!* Were going to *be!*  
And I was *pointing!* Like *this!*

DAVE

Yeah! Like that!

REX

Did he touch you, Dave?

DAVE

Well...

JIM

No.

DAVE

He shoved me.

REX

He shoved you without touching you?

DAVE

Well... Define shove.

REX

Define shove? Shove means you put your hands on somebody and exert force. Like so.

(He pushes DAVE.)

DAVE

Hey!

REX

Just an example. Don't take it personally, Dave. Jim, did you do that to Dave?

JIM

No.

REX

Did you touch Dave at all?

JIM

No.

DAVE

He did so touch me. He put his *finger*... Right *here!*... And he started... *Punching* me... With his... *Words!*

REX

I'm not sure I'm getting the full... *Effect* here!... You mean like *this?! Emphasizing... Every... Word!*

JIM

Hey!

REX

I'm just making sure I've got this right.

JIM

Yeah. Whatever. That's it.

REX

Whatever?

JIM

Yeah.

REX

I think I have all the facts now.

DAVE

Then you can agree that Jim is a violent person and should be asked to leave the group.

JIM

Wait a minute! I'm no more violent than you guys are!

REX

We are a very open group, Jim. But the fact of the matter is that we cannot tolerate violence within our closely knit circle.

DAVE

That's right. Not in the family.

REX

However, in extreme cases, violence can be justified. In order to prevent the spread of more violence.

DAVE

I'm not sure if I believe that.

REX

That's a fact. Look at history.

DAVE

There are many examples in history that disprove that.

REX

Are you *disputing*...

(He shoves DAVE.)

My facts? Dave? Are you?

(He shoves DAVE more.)

JIM

Yeah! You fuckhead!

REX

Sometimes people deserve to be shoved around!  
(Shoves him again.)

JIM

That's right. To bring an end to future violence.  
(JIM pokes DAVE hard.)

DAVE

Ow!

REX

That's enough, Jimmy. This is not one of those  
circumstances.

JIM

It's not?

REX

No. This is about you.

JIM

It is?

REX

Do you remember what got between you and Dave to begin  
with?

JIM

Yeah... I was telling him how things are gonna be.

REX

You were telling him about how things were gonna be.

JIM

Yeah. That I was the one who would be taking the lead  
from now on. When we make the hits.

REX

When we make the what?

JIM

You know... When we...

REX

I know the nature of our business, Jim.

DAVE

Rex...

REX

Not now, Dave. You were telling him who was going to

do what and when they were gonna do it.

JIM

Yeah. I was. He's always trying to stand over me. But I told him I was gonna take the lead.

(REX starts pacing toward JIM, who backs up.)

REX

You were gonna take the lead. Who is the one, Jim, who usually tells people within our group what they're going to do and when they're going to do it?

JIM

That would be you, Rex.

REX

That would be me.

DAVE

Rex... Please...

REX

Don't question me here, Dave. Because let me tell you a little about the nature of violence.

(He pushes Jimmy to the ground.)

When you're gonna push somebody, Dave, you should really push them.

(REX grabs JIM and gets him in a headlock.)

Tell them how it is... That you're tired...

(REX begins to choke JIM.)

Of being poked... And shoved... And pushed... And finally stepped on... By pipsqueaks...

(He drops JIM, who falls to the ground, dead.)

That's how you handle these kinds of things.

DAVE

Rex...

REX

Are you gonna try and tell me that wasn't necessary, Dave?

DAVE

No.

REX

Because if you did... I'd say handle your own  
schoolyard squabbles next time... You ungrateful son-  
of-a-bitch! (Pause.) What are you waiting for?

DAVE

I'll go get the shovel.

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY