

INT. TRAILER

An office trailer at a construction site: jackhammers, crane sounds off.

JAKE, CHUCK and BULL enter, dirty and sweaty. Jake is shirtless. During the following they put their helmets on a shelf and wipe off with towels; Bull takes down a basketball.

JAKE

Man, it's brutal out there.

CHUCK

You said it.

BULL

You hear about Carl?

JAKE

What?

BULL

Caught a bolt in his neck.

CHUCK

It happens.

JAKE

What can you do.

BULL

You take the bolt out. Carl was moanin' and cryin', 'I'm gonna die, I can't breathe, lookit all this blood...'

JAKE

Cut him some slack, his whole family was just buried in an avalanche.

BULL

Yeah but c'mon, a bolt?

CHUCK

Hey, what's with this new guy?

BULL

Johnson?

CHUCK

Yeah, what's his story?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAKE  
Dunno. You talk to him?

Chuck and Bull shake "No"; Jake glances out the window.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
He's comin'. Maybe we should ask  
him to lunch or somethin'.

BENNY enters; his shirt is buttoned to the top and he wears a tie and slacks. He puts his helmet on the shelf.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
Say, you're, uh, Benny Johnson,  
right?

BENNY  
Yes.

JAKE  
I'm Jake Morton.

He holds out his hand; Benny nods, smiling, but doesn't take it.

BENNY  
Nice to know you.

JAKE  
Uh, yeah.

CHUCK  
I'm Chuck Kondrat.

BULL  
Bull Sievers.

Benny gives a one-finger "salute"; they nod back.

JAKE  
You, uh, wanta go out to lunch?

Benny stops and looks at them with a knowing smile.

BENNY  
I... don't think so. I'm straight.

JAKE  
What?

BENNY  
I'm straight. I think I'll just  
have lunch by myself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHUCK

What do you mean you're straight?

BENNY

I'm not a homosexual.

("explaining")

I don't go out to 'lunch' with other guys.

JAKE

You sayin' eating lunch with guys makes you gay?

BENNY

(patronizing)

No, of course not.

JAKE

You sayin' we're gay?

Benny gives a cutesy "Let's not be naive" look.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Why you stinkin' piece of ---

He starts for Benny; Chuck and Bull hold him back.

BENNY

No, you're not gay, you just like holding onto each other.

Chuck, Jake and Bull instantly let go.

BULL

(ominous)

Johnson... we're not gay.

BENNY

Oh-kay. I see you have a basketball.

BULL

We shoot hoops after lunch, what about it?

BENNY

Running around in shorts, slapping each other's buttocks -- a very nice game. For certain kinds of men.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BULL

Hey, you wanta play me a little one-on-one, I'll show you who's a man.

BENNY

'One-on-one' with you, Bull?  
Thanks but no thanks.

BULL

Aaarrrggghh!!!

He leaps at Benny and pummels him to the floor. (During the struggle, Benny's shirt is ripped.)

BENNY

Get off me! Get off me! I'm not  
into it! Get off!

Chuck and Jake pull Bull away. Benny gets to his feet, brushing himself off.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Okay, Bull, I see how it is. But understand this -- from now on if you get the urge to roll around on the floor with me, you just gotta remember... I'm straight.

BULL

AAARRRGGGHHH!!!

He lunges for Benny but Chuck and Jake pull him out the door.

CHUCK

(to Benny)

You're crazy, man! You're nuts!

BENNY

Being straight may seem odd to you but it's not 'nuts'. I just like women more than men.

BULL

AAARRRGGGHHH!!!

The door shuts, then opens again as Sam, the foreman, enters.

SAM

What the hell is going on here?!

BENNY

I'm sorry, Sam. I can't talk about it. It wouldn't be right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SAM

Bull says he's gonna kill you!

BENNY

What Bull feels about me is... very strong.

SAM

Can I give you some advice? You don't want Bull for an enemy, so ---

He starts to put a friendly arm on Benny's shoulder; Benny backs away, holding up and shaking a cautioning finger.

SAM (CONT'D)

What?

BENNY

I'm sorry, Sam -- I'm straight.

SAM

You're straight.

BENNY

Yes.

SAM

So what?

BENNY

So I don't let other men put their arms around me.

SAM

I wasn't putting my arms around you. I was putting one arm on your shoulder.

BENNY

Okay Sam, you were just putting an arm on my shoulder. But I don't want your arm on my shoulder, okay?

SAM

(cold)  
Get out of here.

BENNY

All right.

Benny starts to walk out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SAM

Hey, you can't go out like that.

He pulls a shirt off the shelf.

SAM (CONT'D)

You can borrow this.

He tosses it to Benny, who never moves as it drops to the floor.

SAM (CONT'D)

(pissed)

Why'd you do that?

BENNY

Sam -- I don't want to wear your shirt.

SAM

Wearing another man's shirt doesn't make you gay.

BENNY

Oh-kay.

SAM

Johnson, you're about two seconds from getting fired.

BENNY

Reverse discrimination, Pam? I mean, 'Sam'.

SAM

Take your damn break before I kick your butt.

BENNY

'Kick' my butt, Sam? Freudian slip?

SAM

Get the hell out of here!

BENNY

If you don't watch that temper you'll never find Mr. Right.

He starts to leave, then notices a dress in a dry-cleaning bag hanging by the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BENNY (CONT'D)

Sam, is this yours?

SAM

It's my wife's, you moron!

BENNY

Can I wear it?

SAM

You wanta wear my wife's dress?

BENNY

Unlike some people, I'm secure in my masculinity. You have to remember, Sam -- I'm straight.

SAM

Sure. Go ahead.

Benny takes the dress down, pulls open the bag, starts to take off his shirt, then notices Sam and gives him a "tsk-tsk" look. Sam shakes his head incredulously and turns away. During the following, Benny takes off his shirt, puts on the dress and takes off his pants.

BENNY

What is this, cotton?

SAM

I don't know.

BENNY

Hm. It's very light. Okay.

Sam turns and looks at him.

BENNY (CONT'D)

What is it?

SAM

Nothing.

BENNY

Sam, I know you can't help looking at me but any remarks you're considering could well qualify as sexual harrassment.

SAM

I'll keep that in mind, Johnson. You're on break.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

BENNY

Right. Oh Sam, where's a good place to eat around here?

SAM

Well, there's 'The Pit' -- burgers, ribs, salads. Most of the guys eat there.

BENNY

'The Pit'. 'The guys' eat there. Salads. I don't think so, Sam. I wouldn't fit in. You see... I'm straight.

He walks out.

THE END