

Bluto was a true sociopath, to his very core, and an executive, President of one of the hardware businesses. The things that made Bluto really unique were his crudeness and general slovenly appearance and behavior. He and the CEO had been roommates in college, and on the wrestling team together, so I understood why he was an executive, but was consistently surprised by what a nut he was. He was completely out of control, never left the locker-room type of guy.

I was sent to the business unit to help out in a transition of US Production to the new Mexican plant coincidentally run by my old friend, the Show Pony. Part of the logic was that I had dealt with him before and “knew” him. But I digress, let us get back to my first day and Bluto.

I come in and start to set up when the General Manger comes and gets me. We go back to his office, he picks up the phone on his desk, and says “Someone wants to talk to you”. He had a sort of odd look on his face as he handed me the phone.

I say “Ok” and take the phone and say “Hello, this is Eric”.

And through the receiver comes this loud, garrulous voice. “Eric! This is BLUTO, and I HOPE you are having a GREAT DAY, because you sure are FUCKING MINE UP”. I swear, I started looking for Ashton Kurcher. I almost hung up the phone, but was not quite sure so I mumbled through the call.

“I’ll be up THERE TOMORROW and I want to meet you, so get things straightened out.” And then he hangs up.

I look at Alex and before I can say anything he just says “That was Bluto” and turns back to work on his computer.

So Bluto shows up the next morning and we proceed to go back and forth with him grilling me on why things are taking so long to improve (it is day 2 now of my assignment). He gets rather coarse as things go along. Lunch is brought in and we start some small talk. Alex talks about the cubs, then I talk about the Red Sox and mention that I learned to hit from Carl Yasztremski’s hitting book, which I had when I was a kid and still had. Bluto looks up from his food, mustard on his chin and lettuce shreds strewn through out his consumption splash zone and then jumps up charges over and starts to vigorously shake my hand up and down and says “HEY, so did FUCKING I! That’s the book I had and I STILL GOT IT TOO”!

It was at that moment Bluto bonded with me. I was a student of Carl, and we were now simpatico. I was a “made man” and everything was cool.

With the pressure off me, it had to now go somewhere else. After some interrogations after lunch, Bluto decided it was Jose, the manufacturing manager who was the problem, and he has him summoned.

Jose comes into the room, and sees all the managers around the room and does not know at all what is going on. He gets that look where the eyes sweep around the room looking for some clues as to the context of the summons.

Bluto gets up, and smiles broadly. He comes around the table and shakes his hand and gently takes his shoulder as he guides Jose to a seat.

“So how are you today Jose”?

“Fine sir”

“Family fine? Having a good summer”?

“Yes sir, thank you for asking”.

Bluto then runs to the rest of us and while making the time out signals says “Time out everyone, TIME OUT! Did you just SEE WHAT I DID? I made him feel comfortable, I made him feel embraced!”

None of us knew what to say, and we assume Jose must have been invisible for a moment or that Bluto had somehow frozen time so only we could hear him, because it would be too weird otherwise. And Jose was definitely not moving at all, just staring like he was frozen in time.

Bluto then shouted “TIME IN!” and I guess the space time continuum must have started back up again.

“So Jose, got any kids”

“Yes sir”

“Well how do you think they will feel if you have to go home and tell THEM you got FIRED TODAY from our company”.

Jose thought for a moment and then said “I don’t think my children will think less of me if can’t work here anymore – we are a very close family”.

Bluto shouts at him about some other more specific stuff, and then starts making the time out signal again and shouts “TIME OUT EVERYONE” and he swings around on his swivel chair, which is what I am guessing he uses to stop time with, sort of like when Superman flies around the Earth at super speed to travel through time, and says to us “Now did you just see what I did? I motivated him! I FUCKING MOTIVATED HIM to go out and work harder”.

He then shouts “TIME IN” and swivels around really fast, restarting time and says “ok JOSE, I AM GOING TO LET YOU COME BACK TO WORK TOMORROW, BUT I WANT RESULTS”.

And Jose is sent back to the floor, fully embraced and motivated.