

ONE BAD EGG

A Commentary On Social Media

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

JENNIFER	A woman who misunderstood something Humpty said
OLIVIA	A woman with ovophobia and a hatred of politicians
ASHLEY	A woman on the lookout for communists
HUMPTY	A man who is about to be mislabeled for all eternity

SETTING

Pretty much anywhere.

(Jennifer and Ashley are in the middle of a conversation.)

JENNIFER

...and then he said that I cracked him up.

(Olivia enters to hear the end of the line.)

OLIVIA

Who's cracked?

JENNIFER

Humpty. I was just saying how—

OLIVIA

I heard. That's just awful.

JENNIFER

I never did anything to him, and then he goes and blames me for this.

ASHLEY

Some people are just always looking to blame other people for their own problems.

OLIVIA

Well honestly, I used to think Humpty was a pretty solid fellow. I just don't see how I'll even be able to look at him the same way after this.

ASHLEY

I bet he was cracked a long time ago, and just wanted to blame poor Jenn for it.

JENNIFER

Can you believe that? Some people are so rude.

ASHLEY

Cruel.

OLIVIA

Heartless.

ASHLEY

I mean, what does that even mean, anyway? How could you have cracked him?

JENNIFER

It doesn't make any sense. He's so self-absorbed.

OLIVIA

Unless... You know what? I wonder if maybe he's an egg.

ASHLEY

You know what? I think Liv's onto something. I bet he's secretly an egg.

JENNIFER

It makes perfect sense. The way he's always being so... elliptical.

ASHLEY

Back a few months ago I remember thinking that he looked a little oval myself.

OLIVIA

I just hate this kind of thing.

ASHLEY

Hate what?

OLIVIA

This kind of spiteful deception. This whole time we've been treating him like a decent bloke, and he never had the basic courtesy to admit that he's an egg.

JENNIFER

A decent person would have been honest. Would have told people about it.

ASHLEY

I heard that communists lie about these kinds of things all the time.

OLIVIA

And politicians.

JENNIFER

I wonder what office he's running for.

OLIVIA

Probably something in parliament. They're always so two-faced, telling you one thing and then turning around saying something else behind your back.

ASHLEY

Showing you a sunny side when they're really just trying to scramble your brain. Whatever will get them a vote. Damn poachers. It's disgusting. Just like a commie.

JENNIFER

I just... I feel like an idiot. You know, used.

OLIVIA

Well, of course you feel used. Humpty made all these terrible demands of you, expecting you to vote for him without ever doing anything for you in return.

ASHLEY

It's disgraceful. Trying to turn you into a communist. Avoid the ovoid, I say.

JENNIFER

I mean, the least he could have done was come clean with me about being an egg. Some people, huh?

ASHLEY

And then on top of it, to blame you for injuring him when you obviously had nothing to do with it. How could we all have been so gullible?

OLIVIA

When you think about it, though, it's perfectly predictable. Eggs like Humpty are always crying about being the victim, trying to get something from you. Honestly, Jenn, you're better off without him.

ASHLEY

Liv's right, love. You're better off. Never trust a bloke with a yolk, I say. They're commies who are always trying to stir up a riot and undermine our democracy.

(Humpty enters, a perfectly normal guy strolling past.)

HUMPTY

Oh, hey there, Jenn. Liv, Ash. *(Looking at Olivia and Ashley.)* Watch out for that one. She's a riot. So funny.

(They all smile at Humpty until he exits.)

ASHLEY

Called it. Lying commie.

OLIVIA

Dirty politician.

JENNIFER

That's one bad egg.

(Lights out.)