

**Why are you like this?!**  
by Richard Ampeh

Carl (black, 27) is sat at a table opposite a female of a similar age. As she gets up and leaves, Carl is visibly annoyed after another terrible speed date. Carl berates himself loud enough for the man at the neighbouring table to hear.

Luckily for Carl, the man sat next to him is not just any man, it's Jimmy (white, 30s), a self-proclaimed speed dating aficionado. Jimmy confidently leans over to Carl and makes him aware of the fact that he's seen Carl struggle over the last few rounds and that he could give him a quick coaching session before the next round. Caught off guard and not wanting to be rude Carl takes Jimmy up on his offer. Jimmy's eyes light up at the opportunity to dispense some of his dating tips.

The impromptu speed dating coaching session begins with Jimmy getting Carl a drink to loosen up, a rum and coke without asking, a simple mistake (one might say) and something Carl overlooks. Jimmy's coaching takes a turn though and begins to focus on Carl's race and the plight of black people. Carl doesn't understand what race has to do with anything but according to Jimmy it's everything. Jimmy's tips start off seeming innocuous but as the coaching progresses, they become increasingly tone deaf.

Carl tries to interject but Jimmy, oblivious, doubles down and continues to offer what he believes is profound advice. Carl somehow refrains from beating ten bells out of Jimmy and eventually hears the words "you've got this right?". Carl sarcastically replies "thanks Jimmy, that was helpful". Jimmy missing the sarcasm blissfully returns to his table unaware of the real impact he has made on Carl.

The bell for the next dating round goes off, Carl takes a deep breath, looks at Jimmy (who is visibly encouraging him via a variety of hand gestures) and then he looks towards his date who is approaching.