

Opinion Article

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The Roy Kent Personality: Everyman Unleashed

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Every once in a while, a television character comes along that embodies what the general public is feeling and experiencing. Everyone seems endeared by the character and understands completely what the character is thinking and feeling. There is a bit of Roy Kent in us all.

For background information, Roy Kent is a “semi-retired” “footballer in England. He apparently was a big star years ago, but the knees are somewhat frail and he continually seems to reflect on the “good old days”. He finds himself as a player-coach- manager of a football team in England, now mysteriously coached by someone from America that knows little if anything about football. (soccer in America)

Roy is baffled and befuddled by this new coach and the establishment of the R.C. Richmond football club. Roy is exasperated, frustrated and aggravated by the goings on in his country but more specifically by the antics and overwhelmingly positive attitude of Coach Ted Lasso played by Jason Sudeikis. Coach Lasso somehow was recruited by a recent divorcee people, played by Hannah Waddingham who in one episode embarrasses Roy Kent when she scream to him “get your hairy arse in my office”. Much of the show revolves around British humor and the extreme preoccupation with the various football teams competing for first place as they do not want to be “relegated” (sent to a lower league in British football).

But to get back to Roy. Roy is perplexed by the incompetence and ignorance of Coach Lasso. He observes things transpiring in the training room and locker room and all he can utter is the expletive beginning with the letter “F”.

Indeed, much of the show revolves around Roy Kent and his continual exasperation with the antics of the coach (telling his players to forget about these losses- telling them to “be a goldfish” Since goldfish have very short memories) Roy is confronted with the “shenanigans and tomfoolery of his contemporaries and all he can do is either mutter under his breath the “F” word or scream at the top of his lungs the “F” word.

Roy does what the vast majority of us would like to do- and that is straighten out the underlings and the bufoons and incompetent individuals behind the counter of the “kebob” shop.

Now why is Roy Kent so lovable? He personifies just about everything that we all go thru. And we all want to curse and swear at the traffic and the stupidity of others. We all want to scream the “F” word when we hear about some other stupid or ignorant or uninformed decision made by our superiors. And he is continually dealing with less-than-developed players who never seem to maximize their potential. Thus, he returns to “the pitch” as the British would call the playing field, to teach them all how it is done.

Roy is every man or woman dealing with bureaucracy and less than competent individuals. He arrives at the stadium one day seeking entrance. After all ---he IS Roy Kent the legend Yet at the gate he is denied entrance because he does not have a ticket- so obviously he has to run back to the bus- procure his ticket and walk back to the entryway, provide his ticket and reassure the people at the front gate that he is in fact, Roy Kent.

(Imagine this scenario--Donald Trump arrives at some event seeking entrance and they do not recognize who he is and they demand a ticket or identification from him).

Roy has to deal with underlings who question him ad nauseam. He shakes his head in despair and utters the word that has made him famous now “the F word” There are variations on the word- he is a master craftsman with words and embellished the “F” word with other “fruity” and “salty” (as the British say) verbiage.

With every frustration, every exasperation, every aggravation, we see what Roy Kent sees and that is a world of less than average intelligence engaging in less than insightful behaviors. Roy Kent is justified in being frustrated as he encounters fools (and he does not suffer fools gladly) who are basically bufoons and individuals who are less than competent.

Roy (played by Brett Goldstein) has to obviously deal with women (as any man can testify) and he is in one episode confronted by his female boss and his female girl friend as they ask him to conduct the press conference. His initial response is “F___NO “and as they stare at him- he, like any male asks “Why can’t Ted do it?” More stares from the two females and then he realizes it is futile to argue and smiles and says “I’d love to do it” But we all know that he would rather not.

Roy does have his days as he often leads his team to victory and gloats over a win over Everton who has beaten the team for about 40 years. Roy has his days as he is asked to “fillin “for coach Lasso and finds himself confronted with about 30 British reporters all yelling and screaming at him. His facial expressions and body language communicate the fact that he does not want to be there and is just tolerating the situation in order to make money and help his team. He is compliant but like so many of us he just “wants to be left along”.

He goes thru life correcting the idiocies of others (particularly the British press) and finds himself unable to control his language when he blurts out “What a stupid F---ing question) But the question was in fact extremely insensitive and stupid but Roy Kent, being Roy Kent takes it upon himself to correct the stupidity of others.

Now the problem is---you and I and most of the civilized world are dealing with inexperienced ill-educated individuals. And we hold our tongues and do not utter the words of Roy Kent “(that was a stupid F----ing question).

Roy Kent and Anger

Roy Kent (played brilliantly by Brett Goldstein) is chronically or habitually angry. He is angry at the fact that he is getting old, he is angry at the fact that he is being coached by an American coach with all his “yee haw bullshit” and he is chronically angry about the state of the world (as many of us are) and his peers seem to accept him as is and comprehend his anger at the world and the state of his aging knees. Yet Roy Kent always seems to rise to the occasion to “get er done”. He is able to channel his energy to score the only goal to beat Everton- a team they have never beaten for years! He is allowed his anger and rage as he minds his own business (most of the time) and keeps it under control (like most of us do) when he is visiting his niece and buying her ice cream.

In this day and age of “social-emotional intelligence,” it is probably socially and emotionally intelligent not to be angry at anything or anyone. However, we all recognize that there is plenty to be angry about in the world as we see our tax dollars being frivolously spent on illegals,

Roy Kent and Frustration

Roy is tolerant of his less talented peers and basically tolerates the new up and coming superstar on the team and indeed later befriends him. But Roy is frustrated by the fact that he is simply getting older and is dealing with “the younger generation” and their set of values. Indeed, in one episode he awakens another player at 4:00 am for practice and learns that this is not exactly what the other player wanted or requested.

Roy Kent is a Curmudgeon.

Roy Kent plays the role of the slightly older mentor slash curmudgeon on this Ted Lasso series. He ambles around the locker room, sometimes upending chairs and tables in a fit of anger and often staring down his compatriots. He is kind of a watcher- keeping watch on what is going on (but not taking notes unlike the British reporter turned novelist Trent Crimm). He is like Scrooge in The Christmas Carol- mumbling and muttering “Christmas Bah Humbug “under his breath but Roy Kent is a bit more direct with the words “Shit” and “F___”.

Roy Kent sends a message to all who view the show and that message is that there IS plenty to be angry about and there are things that we should be frustrated and exasperated about and

that there are a lot of numbskulls and neer do wells out there mucking up the proverbial works. He sends a clear message that it is okay to be angry and curse and swear on occasion (although he overdoes it for comic effect)

Roy Kent and Relationships

Roy has some difficulty dealing with authority. Roy has some difficulty coping with his girl friend who is quite intelligent and ambitious but well endowed and attractive. This combination causes him to be perplexed at times and on occasion, he is verbal about his perceptions of the world, again using the F word to describe his feelings and perspectives on things. He verbalizes that he is no good at this “emotional shit” and seeks the help of his younger girl friend.

Personality

There are books on personality and Roy Kent does not fit neatly into any one category. Indeed, I have searched through Robinson’s texts and there is not as yet a mnemonic for the Roy Kent personality [1-4]. Probably because Roy Kent embodies a bit of all of us- those who are frustrated, exasperated and annoyed and would like to curse and swear but being good socially and emotionally oriented we defer using the F word and hold our anger and frustration in and shake our heads at what is transpiring in the world.

Summary

If you have experienced exasperation, aggravation and frustration Roy Kent tells you that you are not alone and that you probably should be “pissed off” or angry at the shallowness of others and the difficulties that human relationship present.

Thus, the reader can understand my frustration and exaggeration when I am asked to support the above review with empirical evidence that has been conducted with fidelity and integrity.

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