

Excerpt from *The Dick Clique*
Introduction: My Dick Is Bigger Than Yours

The true translation of the phrase, “My dick is bigger than yours,” is “I’m establishing my rank.” What I learned rather quickly in the corporate world is that men have to prove that they are the best and the smartest in the room. There is a constant need to outdo each other. Most men, save a few, in the corporate world function under this premise. This behavior baffled me for a while. I didn’t understand it because as a woman I did not function in the same manner. In my mind, I was in the boardroom to attend a meeting and work as a team to address whatever was on the agenda. So, when I saw this “big dick” thing, it was hard for me to comprehend, and it made me uncomfortable, especially being the only woman in the room. So, in an effort to understand it and survive in it, I sat back and observed how they interacted. In doing so, I was able to break down their behaviors into *how they do it* and *why they do it*.

My Personal Analysis of *HOW*:

1. They will insert themselves into a conversation in which they do not contribute, but need to be heard.
2. They will brownnose the highest level of management in the room.
3. They will shame a colleague who is either present or not present.

4. They will find weakness in others and use it against them.
5. They will exhibit a constant need to one-up each other.

By this point, the penis measuring stick is out and the contest has begun. I liken this behavior to marking their territory, or ensuring that they are on the top of the food chain and clarifying to one another where they rank in their world as well.

As a woman entering this environment, you will find this behavior appalling. Their constant need to outdo each other is exhausting. I wanted to gauge a better understanding of *why* this behavior is necessary and *why* it is accepted.

My Personal Analysis of *WHY*:

1. Survival—They need to constantly be recognized within their group of peers. It is a function of the male ego to feed the need to be relevant, even in the most irrelevant, meaningless ways.
2. Acceptance—This behavior has been occurring for a long time, is accepted as the norm, and is rarely challenged. In my personal experience, it is rewarded in their own circles and tolerated by the human resources department.

I know what I speak of here may be considered harsh and raw, but it's real. After years of being exposed to this environment, it had an impact on me. So much so, that I started to engage in the same behaviors. Unconsciously at first. If I was going to succeed, make a name for myself, and make money, I had to survive in the dick clique. I became argumentative, confrontational, and started to mark my territory just like the rest. The sad thing is that this behavior bled into my personal life. I started to treat everyone and everything around me in the same manner. I became increasingly impatient, competitive, and identified the worst instead of the best in people. I developed a level of self-righteousness. My then-husband said I had begun to act "like a dude." He was right. Even my sentences started with "Dude." I started drinking like a guy and gave up almost every basic emotion. When other people were emotional or showed weakness, I didn't understand how they could let themselves fall apart. I had lost any softness, compassion, understanding, and patience. It was true. I had become unforgiving, cutthroat, and insensitive. I went through years where I could not cry or feel emotion.

I had become a DICK.