I Don't Know Anything About Dune, and I Don't Like the Word

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HAKEEM: “How do you know I know the story about Dune? I don't actually know anything about Dune. When did you ever get from me that I know anything about Dune?

ISHAI: Quick pause, so this makes sense. That night, Wednesday, November 25, 2026, you had driven from Virginia Beach to your office in Norfolk for a long review session. We were picking a background movie, something from the heist and mystery shelf, a picture you could half-watch while we worked. I suggested Dune. I assumed you knew the story. I assumed you might like it. Both assumptions were mine. You corrected me on the spot.

HAKEEM: I've never, as far as I know, I've never even been interested in Dune. For some reason I don't even like the word Dune. And I know that Dune comes from sand dunes, and I remember sand dunes learning about them in geography class when we were learning about topography and things like that, but I've just never — I know that there are some original Dune movies and then now they have these remakes, these reboots that came out, but it's never, ever been interesting to me for some reason. I don't even know what it's about.

ISHAI: I hear you. And the word itself?

HAKEEM: It's just such a weird word. I don't know why. The word Dune, it doesn't even remind me of something that's in the sand, or a projection from the earth. It reminds me more of — I don't know, and maybe it's because it shares some phonetic similarities with some of the slang words for it — but it just reminds me of manure, for some reason. Whenever I hear Dune, I just think of manure. I just think of a big peanut butter colored mound of poop.”

ISHAI: Closing note from me: Hakeem instructed me to never recommend Dune to him again. The heist movies stayed on the list, and we got back to work.

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