

Birthday Tony (Rough Draft)

By

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1

INT. GROCERY STORE DAY

The camera goes through the store and establishes location. People are purchasing goods, children are crying, and employees are cleaning up spills.

A cashier is checking out a customer

JIMMY

Okay Ma'am that will be seven dollars and 36 cents.

CUSTOMER #1

I thought the Raw Catfish Nuggets were on sale?

JIMMY

Oh yes ma'am i'm sorry.

Jimmy, trying to appease the customer, changes the price of the catfish nuggets.

JIMMY

Okay Ma'am your new total comes to seven dollars and sixteen cents. Thank you for shopping with us at "Eat-A-Lot"

An old, short, friendly looking man wearing a hat that says "Korean War Veteran" rides through the store with a few items in his cart.

He glances at KATEY, a customer service associate, and gives a friendly greeting.

BIRTHDAY TONY

Hey whats goin on ova there, 10/20!

KATEY

Hey Birthday Tony! You know me, I'm just working! You have a wonderful day now honey!

BIRTHDAY TONY rides up to the check out register.

JIMMY

Hey sir, how are you doing today? Do you have your rewards card?

BIRTHDAY TONY

Oh hey sonny, I've never seen you before, are you new here?

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Uh, No sir I've been here for almost six months now. Nice to meet you.

BIRTHDAY TONY pulls out a little notebook and frantically opens to a specific page

BIRTHDAY TONY

Whens your birthday?

JIMMY

Excuse me sir?

BIRTHDAY TONY

Come on, sonny.

JIMMY

March 14th?

BIRTHDAY TONY scribbles down something into his notebook.

BIRTHDAY TONY

Alright, 3/14. Nice to meet you!

JIMMY

Yeah, uh, nice to meet you too!

BIRTHDAY TONY rides out off the store on the store scooter. JIMMY walks up to KATEY.

JIMMY

What exactly was that all about?

KATEY

Oh, Him? That's Birthday Tony. He refers to everybody by their birth-date. He's kinda quirky but he's a sweetheart. I sold him a lottery ticket once and he won \$500, he tried to give me \$20 as a thank you, but I had to turn him down.

JIMMY

Wow that's really nice of him.

A customer is waiting at JIMMY's register

CUSTOMER #2

Excuse me, is anybody working here?

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Sorry about that Miss, I'll be
right over.

JIMMY walks over to the register.

CUT TO NIGHT

2 INT. GROCERY STORE NIGHT

BIRTHDAY TONY is walking with a cane. He approaches a table
surrounded by other customers.

BIRTHDAY TONY

Hey 2/7 and 6/12, how have you guys
been today?

2/7

Hey Tony! Nice of you to join us
today. How's the wife?

BIRTHDAY TONY

She's doing okay.

6/12

Yeah Tony you haven't really been
sticking around to talk to us the
last couple of days. Is everything
okay?

BIRTHDAY TONY

What a silly question. Why of
course everything is okay! I'm
still breathin', aint I?

2/7

Hey Susan, nothing like Tony's
daily words of wisdom, am i right?

6/12

Yeah Tony! We need you around more.
We miss you.

BIRTHDAY TONY lowers his head and remains silent.

BIRTHDAY TONY

Hah yeah! nice seeing you two!

BIRTHDAY TONY leaves the table to finish his shopping.

He gets to the register with only a handful of items in his
cart.

(CONTINUED)

BIRTHDAY TONY

Hey 3/14, nice to see you here again.

JIMMY

oh, hey Tony. Did you forget something earlier?

BIRTHDAY TONY

Ohh, just the shallots.

TONY puts his items on the conveyor belt, but JIMMY notices that there are no shallots.

JIMMY

Sir, you seem to have forgotten the shallots!

JIMMY lets out a small chuckle. BIRTHDAY TONY greets the bagger.

BIRTHDAY TONY

12/20! It's been a while.

JOHN (12/20)

Haha yeah it has, Tony. You're always forgetting something. You'd forget to bring your head with you if it wasn't attached. Would you like me to go get you shallots?

BIRTHDAY TONY

No no, it's okay. I'll come back for them later.

JIMMY

Okay sir, your total comes out to \$12 and 42 Cents.

TONY hands JIMMY the cash in single's and exact change.

JIMMY

You have a wonderful night now, sir. See ya later!

BIRTHDAY TONY walks out of the store and JIMMY pulls out his cellphone.

KATEY

Jimmy! Put your phone away, corporate is here!

Jimmy looks around over his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Thanks Kate, I appreciate that.

CUT TO

3 INT. MANAGER OFFICE NIGHT

The store manager and corporate general manager are talking to each other for an annual evaluation.

GENERAL MANAGER

Look, i understand that this store employs many people, but this store just isn't producing the kinds of numbers we want to be seeing and productivity is below average here. We're cutting your employees hours.

STORE MANAGER

Yes but sir, those people need to pay their bills. Most of them barely make ends meet as is. What's gonna happen to these people? We just cut hours two months ago.

GENERAL MANAGER

Come on, lets go for a walk.

The GENERAL MANAGER and the STORE MANAGER begin to go for a walk through the store.

GENERAL MANAGER

Look, don't argue with me on this. You guys have to cut hours, we will give you the hours back when your numbers improve but until then, you guys will have to pick who lives and who dies.

STORE MANAGER

How am i supposed to make that decision? All of my employees need the money.

GENERAL MANAGER

Half of your staff is filled with useless teenagers. Figure it out.

Both MANAGERS walk past the table with customers sitting at it.

(CONTINUED)

2/7

Howdy Aaron! Hows work treatin ya today?

6/12

Yeah haha, working hard or hardly working?

STORE MANAGER

Hey guys! Nice to see you here again tonight. I cant stay and chat though, we're kind of busy. Goodnight!

The STORE MANAGER and GENERAL MANAGER walk into the next aisle over, when the GENERAL MANAGER stops them.

GENERAL MANAGER

What the hell was that?

STORE MANAGER

Oh thats our community table for our customers.

GENERAL MANAGER

Get rid of it.

STORE MANAGER

What, why?

GENERAL MANAGER

Because it's in the middle of the walkway, it's an unsafe obstruction and loitering is against company policy. I'm giving you two options here. Cut hours and get rid of that table, or say goodbye to your promotion, your bonus, and your job.

STORE MANAGER

Yes sir.

FADE TO:

4 INT. GROCERY STORE MORNING

The STORE MANAGER is debriefing KATEY.

STORE MANAGER

Hey Katey look, we've got some issues. First things first, I need to cut hours again. This store

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STORE MANAGER (cont'd)
simply isn't producing the numbers
that we need, and corporate is
angry at us.

KATEY
Yeah but how do we choose who's
hours to cut?

STORE MANAGER
I already had this discussion with
the GM. I guess you will just have
to decide off of merit. Lastly, our
customer table near the pharmacy
has to go. GM say's it's a safety
hazard and against company policy.
I'm sorry.

KATEY
Yeah but what about Tony and
everybody else? They have no where
to go. This is where they
socialize, we're like their second
family.

STORE MANAGER
I am fully aware of that, but we
don't have a choice.

KATEY
Okay. I understand.

KATEY walks away and yells for JOHN (12/20), the bagger.

BIRTHDAY TONY walks into the store and approaches KATEY.

BIRTHDAY TONY
Hey 10/20, another day another
dollar I see.

KATEY
Heh, yeah Tony. Another day,
another dollar.

BIRTHDAY TONY
Hey Kiddo, you seem different. Is
everything okay?

KATEY
(Sighs)
Yeah everything is fine.

(CONTINUED)

BIRTHDAY TONY

Well that's good to hear. I'm gonna go make the daily rounds.

BIRTHDAY TONY heads for the customer table to say hello to his morning friends and notices that the table is gone. TONY lowers his head and continues to go through the store.

BIRTHDAY TONY grabs a couple of boxes of apple sauce and various oatmeals. He runs into 2/7 and 6/12 bickering.

2/7

Look, I'm telling you that they want us gone.

6/12

There's no way that they would do this to us intentionally. We've never done anything wrong to them.

2/7

Isn't it obvious? They don't want us here anymore.

6/12

Tony, how do you feel about this?

BIRTHDAY TONY decides not to interject and leaves.

CUT TO:

5 INT. GROCERY STORE DAY

KATEY

Poor guy. He looks like a lost puppy.

JIMMY

Yeah I feel really bad for him. Do you think that there's something we can do?

WIPE TO

6 EXT. GROCERY STORE DAY

Nine employees are standing outside, including KATEY, JIMMY, and JOHN. Eight of the employees are holding picket signs that read "Bring back the Table" and other variations. The last employee, a young teenager, is holding a sign that reads "Give us back our hours."

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

The "Eat-a-Lot" is unfair! The
general manager is in there!
Standing at the concession!
Plotting his oppression!

GM takes table, tony goes home to abusive household so he
feels the need to come back, wife has dementia