

Wacky Ice Cream Parlor Employee

by Colin Fisher

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR

STEVE walks up to the counter, looking at the different flavors behind the glass. MARIE comes out of the back. Her apron is tied on backwards and her little paper hat is askew.

MARIE

Welcome to Baskin Robbins! Would you like to sample any of our flavors today?

STEVE

Hi, yeah, I was wondering if I could try the birthday cake flavor?

MARIE

Sure! That's one of my favorites.

She gets a little wooden spoon out and moves to scoop up the ice cream, then pauses.

MARIE

Wait, is it that one or that one?

She dips the spoon into one tub, tastes it.

MARIE

Right, it's that one.

She dips the same spoon back in, then hands it to Steve.

STEVE

Uh, could I get a clean spoon?

MARIE

Oh god, duh Marie! I'm sorry. Here you go.

She dips a fresh spoon in and starts to hand it to him, then sneezes on it.

MARIE

Oh jeez, sorry!

Marie grabs a napkin and dabs at the ice cream on the spoon, then hands the spoon to Steve.

STEVE

I don't think that kills the germs, actually. And you just sneezed on all those tubs.

MARIE

Wow, I guess I did huh? Maybe they should put glass on this side of the counter too!

STEVE

Then no one could reach the...nevermind. Let's see what you have down here.

He moves down the counter, to the ice cream that was out of range of Marie's sneeze.

STEVE

OK, I'll just take two scoops of mint chocolate chip.

MARIE

Coming right up!

Marie gets out a bowl and starts scooping ice cream into it. She goes to put a third scoop in the bowl.

STEVE

Just two scoops, please.

She continues dumping scoops of ice cream onto the bowl during this.

MARIE

What's that now?

STEVE

Two! Just two scoops!

MARIE

No, this is way more than two scoops.

STEVE

Good lord stop scooping! I just want two!

MARIE

Oh, you just wanted two? In here?

STEVE

Yes!

MARIE

Well that makes a lot more sense! I was thinking “gee, how’s he going to carry all this ice cream home with him?”

She shoves all the extra ice cream back into the tub and goes to the register.

MARIE

Your total today will be \$13.50.

STEVE

For two scoops?

MARIE

Marie, get in the game! I’m so sorry. I rang it up for all that ice cream I scooped out. OK, \$3.50.

STEVE

Are you OK?

MARIE

I’m great. How are you?

STEVE

Fine. I’m worried about you though. This is a really simple job. Like, idiot children do this job just fine. You’re a grown woman and that was...not good.

MARIE

Oh, I know. I’m just a wacky ice cream parlor worker who’s really bad at her job for some reason.

STEVE

So you’re aware?

MARIE

Absolutely! I’m no idiot, trust me. This just helps pay bills while I pursue my Ph.D in neurobiology at Columbia.

STEVE

Holy shit, really?

MARIE

Yeah. It’s going great. But I just can’t get a handle on this job. I do things backwards, I get into all sorts of crazy mix-ups, I can’t complete the simplest tasks. But they won’t fire me.

STEVE
That's...bizarre.

MARIE
I know, right? I actually haven't seen my boss since I started working here.

STEVE
Huh, weird. Listen, I'm sorry if I came off sort of harsh.

MARIE
No need to apologize! Trust me, you're not the first person to say something.

STEVE
OK. Would you like to grab coffee or something?

MARIE
Right now?

STEVE
Sure, why not?

MARIE
Yeah. Yeah, that'd be nice. Let me just grab my purse.

Marie goes into the back for a beat. She runs back out, and smoke and flames are suddenly visible through the doorway.

MARIE
We should hurry.

They run out the front door together.

END