

Your Chicken Is Fine

Int Restaurant.

Barry and Don are having lunch together.

Barry

It's great to see you.

Don

Yeah, been too long.

Barry

Seriously. I'm sorry I've been so busy.

Don

Hey, I understand. New house, new kid, it's all good stuff!

Barry

Well, I gotta make more time for things like this.

Waiter enters. Looks somewhat concerned.

Waiter

Ok, so the salad?

Don

That's me.

Waiter

Great (hands over salad, Don starts eating hungrily). And that means you... got the chicken. Which is here. And it is fine. Here. (He hands over a normal plate.)

Barry

...Thanks.

Waiter (with a very stilted intonation)

NO PROBLEM

Barry

Is everything-

Waiter

Your chicken is fine.

Waiter leaves quickly.

Barry

Was that really weird?

Don (eating)

What?

Barry

He seemed strange about my food.

Don

Oh, sorry, didn't notice. I'm on this salad diet and I'm starving.

Barry

It was strange.

Don

Weird. Oh, I'm out of water. I have to eat this thing with water. I hate this diet. (to Waiter, off)
Excuse me?

Waiter (entering)

Yes. Your chicken is fine.

Don

Could I have some more water?

Waiter

Of course. (he stares at Barry for a long moment). Chick... en. Is fine. I'll be right back.

He exits.

Barry

That was-

Waiter re-enters with a jug of water.

Waiter

Your water. (he pours, locking eyes on the chicken dish).

Barry

I'm sorry, is there something I should know?

Waiter

Your chicken (long pause) IT IS FINE

Waiter leaves quickly.

Don

I mean, it looks fine. It looks delicious, honestly.

Barry

Yeah, but now I don't know if I want it.

Don

He's only told you that it's fine.

Barry

I know, but, by insisting...

Don

Yeah. I mean, I'd try it, I'll try anything. But... my diet. I can't eat protein.

Barry

No, I hear you. It's fine, right? It's probably totally fine.

Don

Oh, sure.

Barry

I should just eat it. I'm gonna eat it.

Don

Good. How's having a kid?

Barry

Oh, man. Incredible. It's such a cliché, but what a rollercoaster. I've never been so in love with anything in my life. I never really understood-

Waiter enters.

Waiter

I have bought breadsticks to your table. They will go well with your chicken, which is fine.

Don

Oh, I can't eat wheat. My diet.

Barry

Yeah, that's ok, thank you though.

Waiter

Your chicken is fine.

Barry

Can I ask you something?

Waiter yelps.

Barry

Is everything ok here?

Waiter

Everything is more than ok. It is fine.

Waiter exits

Barry

I don't know if I should eat this.

Don

Well, should we ask someone... something?

Barry

Well, who? The busboy? The maitre d?

Don

Maybe there's a manager?

Barry

Oh, good id- (Waiter has suddenly appeared next to him) –aaaa!

Waiter

You haven't eaten your chicken.

Barry

Oh, I was telling my-

Waiter

Your chicken is fine!

Barry

Ok. Can I talk to the manager for a sec?

Waiter

About the chicken?

Barry

Just get the manager, would you?

Waiter

I will. Your chicken is fine.

Waiter leaves.

Barry

I'm sorry, Don.

Don

It's ok.

Barry

I'm not trying to make a scene. Am I making a scene?

Don

No, he was being weird.

Manager enters. He has chicken feathers and matted blood on his face.

Manager

My waiter informed me that you wished to speak to me. Your chicken is fine.

Barry

There's something on your face.

Manager (taking out a handkerchief and mashing the feathers and whatnot around a bit with no particular effect)

How embarrassing. Your chicken is fine. Now, what did my waiter do?

Barry

He... He acted strangely.

Manager

I'm very sorry to hear that. Can I ask what he said? Your chicken is fine.

Barry

He told me that my chicken was fine.

Manager

Your chicken is fine.

Barry

Is it?

Manager

I assure you. Your chicken is fine.

Barry

Stop saying that!

Don

It probably is.

Barry

Look at his face!

Manager

Have you ever prepared a chicken before?

Barry

No.

Manager

Neither had we. (he grips Barry by the wrist) Neither had we.

Barry

Ow.

Manager

Your chicken. Is fine.

Blackout

Lights up on the kitchen of the restaurant. A chicken, wielding a cleaver chops a human arm.

Waiter enters.

Waiter

We have another order for... chicken.

Chicken laughs maniacally.

Fin.