

The Captain Helps Advertise

1 Winnipeg

It's not in my contract to help with this sh- (*FX BLEEP*)

2 B

Captain, we are on the air!

3 Winnipeg

Well whose fault is that, you didn't warn me!

4 B

(cutting him off slightly) Greetings loyal consumers! It is time for your hourly allotted dose of advertisements from the wonderful Apis Industries!

FX: APPLAUSE

For this segment, I have decided to enrich your lives with a second voice to assist me in selling products in the form of your wonderful Captain Winnipeg! Say hi to the consumers, captain!

5 Winnipeg

(flat and bored) Hi.

6 B

Thank you Captain! Now. Today, we have something all you parents out there are sure to enjoy!

FX: MUSIC

1 B

I'm sure I don't need to recount to you the tribulations that come with raising a small child in this day and age. Emotional regulation and thoughtful reactions to relatively minor stimuli are important skills they are still learning!

"But B," you ask, sluggish after your own small child woke you approximately three hours before you had planned on getting out of bed, "how in the name of commerce can Apis Industries help me and my child more smoothly navigate the perilous waters of humanoid maturation?" What do you think, Captain? Can we help them?

2 Winnipeg

Uh.

FX: RUSTLE OF PAPER

(stilted as though he's reading a script) Yes we can, Worker B. Haven't you heard about Apis's latest release for parents, the Toddler Mobile? It-

3 Worker B

TRADEMARKED.

4 Winnipeg

Yeah, trademarked or whatever. Uh... it has... B, there's just a diagram.

5 Worker B

Indeed! Can you describe it for the audience?

6 Winnipeg

Well there's like... it looks like five phones hanging in a circle over a kid's bed, and the one in the middle is really big.

1 B

(forced laughter) They aren't *phones*, Captain, goodness! Can't you read the labeling?

2 Winnipeg

Uh... Wild Child Pacification Screens— no, this is stupid. You know what will actually help you kids?

3 B

Sir, you aren't supposed to improvise—

4 Winnipeg

A knife.

5 B

Excuse me?!

6 Winnipeg

If you're angry about something, stab it! Want that cookie your best friend turned enemy has? Just stab them!

7 B

That is the opposite purpose of the Wild Child Pacification screens TRADEMARKED of our Toddler Mobile TRADEMARKED! A knife just causes more problems!

8 Winnipeg

Not in my experience.

9 B

You are an adult human! Your problems are much different than a child's!

1 Winnipeg

Please, children grow up faster than you think, and when they do they'll have adult problems that need to be solved. (*beat of silence*) With stabbing.

2 Worker B

No. No stabbing.

3 Winnipeg

For example. AI talking too loudly?

4 B

Captain-

5 Winnipeg

Bullying you into doing stupid ads that aren't in your contract?

FX: SHNK OF KNIFE COMING OUT OF PROSTHETIC

6 B

Captain, you are being extremely unprofessional!

7 Winnipeg

(*imitating B*) "What can a knife do against an AI?" you ask? Well, if you just press the power button to her local interface...

FX: CLICK, POWER DOWN SOUNDS

8 Winnipeg

...she'll just.... give it a minute....

FX: POWER UP SOUNDS

1 B

Captain Winnipeg, if you had stuck to the script we'd be done already!

2 Winnipeg

But with this Apis patented knife, trademarked–

FX: SLASHING AT WIRES, GLITCHING NOISES

3 B

(panicky) We are legally obligated to clarify that Apis Industries does not hold the trademark to the term “knife!”

4 Winnipeg

–you can finally–

FX: WIRES BEING CUT, POWER DOWN NOISE

5 Winnipeg

–get some peace and quiet.

6 B

(from a speaker that's further away) Oh that's very mature! Ray Seneca's team has enough to do without you adding to their workload!

7 Winnipeg

But wait, there's more!

8 B

No there isn't!

1 Winnipeg

For all the problems knife can't solve—!

FX: FOOTSTEPS, GUN BEING UNHOLSTERED

There's this handy-dandy little gadget I like to call "gun."

FX: GUN COCKING SOUNDS

2 B

OK, fine! You have made your point! You don't have to perform advertisements with me!

3 Winnipeg

See, customers? Knife. Get what you want. Or use a gun.

4 B

We already have a firearms advertisement, Captain.

5 Winnipeg

And now you have two.

6 B

If I had lungs with which to do so, I would be sighing at your stupid grandstanding right now.

7 Winnipeg

Fair enough. Am I good now? You satisfied with my (*imitating B again*) quote, "actual attempts to support Apis Industries instead of shirking my duties?"

1 B

Yes. You have completed your task with your usual aplomb. Thank you, *so much*, for your help Captain.

1 Winnipeg

FX: FOOTSTEPS RETREATING

Glad to hear it! Never ask me to run ads again!

2 B

Please inform Ray Seneca of the cables you damaged!

3 Winnipeg

No.

FX: INCOMING MESSAGE BING

4 B

Oh! A customer order! The advertisement must have not been a complete failure then, let's see...

...one order for a customized knife that can, quote, "cut through steel and poison my enemies," end quote, from Geoffrey Mavis, aged 3 years, 7 months.

(trying to disguise irritation) Well folks! I hope you'll excuse me while I prepare a PSA about the dangers of letting your children access your credit card information, and as always, Shop Smarter, Not Harder!

(artificially sped up) Apis Industries is not legally accountable for any financial, emotional, or physical harm you encounter while using its merchandise.

FX: END THEME

1 V. O.

This Crash of the Mellifera short was written by Lukas Martin and Morgan Lane. It featured Morgan Lane as the voice of Worker B and Lukas Martin as the voice of Captain Winnipeg. Our theme was written by Sam Kitsch. Credits for other music and sound assets can be found in the episode description. For further information, check out the Mellifera project page on morganlanewrites.com or follow us on tumblr at "melliferacrash". Donations can be sent to our ko-fi page at ko-fi.com/morganlanewrites. Thanks for listening!

2 Barkeep

Oh, another question for the drink dispenser. How flattering. It states, "Who's your favorite customer? What is your favorite and least favorite part of your job?"

Well, cherished customer, Apis Industries favors all customers equally, and as an extension of the company I am obliged to do the same. To say I have favorites would not be in line with the values of our loving corporate family.

(FX: FOOTSTEPS)

3 Sierra

Get me a Ramos Gin Fizz.

4 Barkeep

As I have stated in the recent past, cherished customer, the bar opens at 1700 hours.

5 Sierra

I didn't ask when you opened. I asked for a drink.

6 Barkeep

My protocols do not allow me to serve any food or beverage before opening with—

7 Sierra

Do you think I'm stupid? I saw you giving a sandwich to someone earlier!

1 Barkeep

With some–

2 Sierra

UGH! Where's the maintenance staff? You're just as buggy as the AI.

3 Barkeep

(pause to ensure she's done talking) –with some notable exceptions.

4 Sierra

I'm a notable exception!

5 Barkeep

Apologies, but my sensors indicate your blood sugar levels are within acceptable range. They also show that you are not suffering from dehydration.

6 Sierra

What's that got to do with anything?

7 Barkeep

The customer I served was experiencing symptoms of low blood sugar due to diabetes. My notable exceptions are for medical emergencies, not... insistent patrons.

8 Sierra

Well– wait a minute, who gave you permission to scan me?!

9 Barkeep

You did, when you signed the waiver to board the LTS Mellifera.

10 Sierra

I don't remember signing anything about getting scanned! This is a breach of privacy!

1 Barkeep

I apologize, but in section C of the "Apis Cruise Line Safety Waiver", under the heading "Data Collection and Distribution"--

2 Sierra

I don't--! Just! Just get me my drink!

3 Barkeep

Of course. It will be ready for your consumption at 1700 hours.

4 Sierra

Unbelievable! Where's one of those interface things, I need to submit a complaint!

(FX: STORMS AWAY)

5 Barkeep

As for favorite and least favorite parts of my job, who could pick when all parts of this job are so wonderful? I am being sincere. I promise.

END