

A Fool's Errand

By

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INT. CALL CENTRE - DAY

ANDY, early twenties, nervous, answers the phone.

ANDY
Hello and welcome to Bills Building
Merchants. How may we help you
today?

MICHAEL, late thirties, his voice has been affected by a
cold.

MICHAEL
(Rough voice)
Hello, I'd like to place an order.

ANDY
Please hold on sir, I'm new and
learning the ropes?

MICHAEL
New?

ANDY
First day on the job unassisted.

MICHAEL
Let me know when you're ready.

A few taps of the keyboard later.

ANDY
Ready.

MICHAEL
I'd like to order tartan paint.

ANDY
Tartan paint, no problem sir. The
computer is just conducting a
search.

MICHAEL
I'll wait.

ANDY
No results sir. We don't offer
tartan paint.

MICHAEL
Are you sure? I ordered two tins
last week.

ANDY
I'll ask my supervisor.

MICHAEL
Hold on, I've got a list. Ask your supervisor at the end.

ANDY
As you wish. What else would you like to purchase?

MICHAEL
I need a left-handed screwdriver and a replacement bubble for my spirit level. One of each please.

Andy speaks as if in autopilot.

ANDY
(Slowly)
Left-handed screwdriver. Sir, I'm only getting ordinary screwdrivers.

MICHAEL
Ordinary eh. What about my replacement?

ANDY
Pulling up spirit levels, one moment.

MICHAEL
Take your time, I've got all day.

ANDY
Am I getting punked? Or pranked?

MICHAEL
No, why do you ask?

ANDY
The spirit levels have come up. I now realise that bubble is air. Sir, do you need to buy anything today or not?

MICHAEL
Alright kid, you got me. Thought I'd pull your leg as it's your first day. What I really wanted was rubber nails.

ANDY

Oh I see. Have a good day.

Hangs up.

THE END.