

LIGHT LUNCH

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOOD MARKET - ESTABLISHING - DAY

An upscale grocery store à la Whole Foods.

INT. FOOD MARKET - CONTINUOUS

A bustling lunch crowd. A CUSTOMER at the checkout line hands a small box to a CASHIER. The cashier places the box on a scale.

CASHIER

Twenty-three, forty-six.

The customer peels off some cash, hands it to the cashier.

An unassuming MAN enters, looks around. His stomach GROWLS. He meanders over to the:

SALAD BAR

The man peruses the abundant selection. He grabs a small box, looks inside, scoffs. He puts it back, grabs a larger box - "*much better!*"

He begins loading it up with an assortment of veggies. He adds premium protein - hard boiled eggs, falafels, chicken. He tops it off with nuts and dressing, places it on the scale. The scale reads: "2 lbs, 8 ounces."

The man looks at a sign, which reads: "\$8.95 / pound." He whips out his cell phone calculator, does the math. "*Holy shit!*" He reaches into his pocket, pulls out some crumpled dollar bills. Disappointment as his stomach GROWLS again.

He looks over to the:

FLORAL DEPARTMENT

An EMPLOYEE attaches mylar balloons to some floral arrangements.

BACK TO SALAD BAR

A light bulb goes off in the man's head. He tears off a clear plastic produce bag, heads to the:

FLORAL DEPARTMENT

The man cautiously looks around, makes sure nobody is watching. He dumps his salad into the clear bag and shuffles over to a helium tank. He proceeds to pump helium into his makeshift salad balloon. He ties a knot, heads back to the:

SALAD BAR

The man struggles to squeeze the bag into the box. He grabs another box and sandwiches the inflated bag between the two boxes. He then fastens the boxes together with a mound of rubber bands. Success!

The man lifts the box up and down - light as a feather! He beams with pride.

CHECKOUT LINE

The man hands his bulging box to the cashier. She glares at him, then places the box on the scale. The moment of truth has arrived!

The cashier takes her hand off the box and turns to greet a co-worker. The box levitates! The man's eyes widen. He quickly applies gentle pressure to the box to give the scale a reading.

The cashier reads the price on the screen: "\$2.32." She is taken aback considering the size of the box.

CASHIER

Uhhh... two, thirty two.

The man grabs the box and tucks it under his arm. He gives the cashier exact change and heads for the exit -- completely in awe of his great accomplishment!

EXT. FOOD MARKET - CONTINUOUS

The man does a happy dance as he exits the store -- "*look out!*" He trips over an apple crate and tumbles to the ground. He looks up to see his glorious salad balloon floating away into the open sky. Defeated, he buries his face in his hands.

FADE OUT.