

Extra Work
by
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INT. MUSIC SHOP - DAY

A tall MAN in his early 60s, with short gray hair and a gray beard only covering his chin, stands behind a desk and a cash machine. In front of him are many shelves with CDs on them. A lone male CUSTOMER (20), carrying a CD puts the item on the counter.

CUSTOMER
Hello, how much is that?

CASHIER
That would be £9.99.

CUSTOMER
Grea... Hang on...

The CUSTOMER rubs his eyes.

CASHIER
Yes?

CUSTOMER
Are you... James Hatfield?

CASHIER
Yes that's me, but keep it down. I don't want to attract any more attention.

CUSTOMER
I knew it! Why are you working here??

CASHIER
Napster, they've taken SO many sales away from me...

CUSTOMER
How much?

CASHIER
About 125 million albums... Or 125 less than that. Needless to say I'm very poor.

CUSTOMER
I don't believe you.

CASHIER
Well, I surfed the internet the other day and came across a video saying me and my band have only sold 125 albums.

(MORE)

CASHIER (cont'd)

I know for a fact I'm more famous than that, I actually thought I sold around 125 MILLION albums, so that means Napster have 'sold' all the other albums and kept the money.

The CUSTOMER rolls his eyes.

CUSTOMER

Do you think it's possible the guy on the internet meant to say '125 million' and made a mistake? Or maybe you misheard. How's your hearing, I bet it's very bad.

The CASHIER looks thoughtful.

CASHIER

I guess it does seem unlikely that I've only sold 125 albums with my mansions and super cars and all.

CUSTOMER

There you go, a harmless mistake.

The CASHIER goes red.

CASHIER

Oh no. Me working extra time in a music shop... You must think I'm SO greedy.

CUSTOMER

You saw a video on Youtube about you apparently only selling 125 albums and then panicked and applied for a job, here?

CASHIER

When I leave the shop, I walk across my village and pick up litter. Look at this bag...

The CASHIER picks a plastic bag from his pocket and shows it to the customer.

CUSTOMER

I'm so sorry...

CASHIER

I know what people will be saying about me if they see me, you can't tell anyone.

CUSTOMER

James Hatfield, metal's meanest man.

CASHIER
Yeah, stupid, too.

The CASHIER starts to sweat and taps his fingers.

CUSTOMER
I'm trying to think of something I
can say to make you feel better, but
if I was in your position I'd be
worried about Alzheimer's.

CASHIER
Yeah. I would like to say I keep my
mind busy and healthy, but all I do
is stand here as other people take
pictures and say how tight I am. Now
I understand why.

CUSTOMER
You could say you've been doing
charity work. Well, just helping out
at least. No one needs to know this
place is paying you...

CASHIER
No, I've been asking people if they
could spare some change...

CUSTOMER
Wow. THAT'S mean. It's even mean
coming from an ordinary shop worker,
but YOU?

CASHIER
I've honestly never felt so low.

CUSTOMER
I guess be happy you're still rich?

The CASHIER sheds a tear.

CASHIER
I guess. But my fellow band mates...
I told them there's no point playing
anymore and that we should split up.

CUSTOMER
You split up so you could work in a
music shop? Don't tell anyone that,
or people will assume you really hate
your band members...

CASHIER
I know!

CUSTOMER
I guess quit your job?

CASHIER
Oh if only it was that easy. It's
much harder than stopping my street
begging habit.

CUSTOMER
Did anyone take pictures of you when
you were begging?

CASHIER
Yes.

CUSTOMER
Well, I'm sorry but there is simply
nothing I can think of at the moment
to say to you that won't offend you
in some way. Other than it was nice
meeting you, have a nice day!

The CUSTOMER walks away. The CASHIER retrieves a mobile from
his pocket and makes a call.

CASHIER
Hello, Kirk Spammit? I've made a
horrible mistake. I watched a guy on
Youtube say I only sold 125 albums
and I panicked, so I applied for work
in a CD shop... You watched the video
as well?... You're working in a pet
store?... Oh never mind that, it's
all a misunderstanding, let's get
back together!... Great, bye!

The CASHIER skips with joy. Another CUSTOMER walks into the
shop and points at the CASHIER.

CUSTOMER 2
Wow, look it's James Hatfield working
in a shop to get extra money. What a
tightwad!

CASHIER
NO!