

Worst Day Ever
by
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INT. TRAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL ROOM - DAY

SIMON sits alone in a small and well-lit room with a number of levers in front of him. Computer screens showing speeding and stationary trains are behind them, and a landline phone sits on a desk on SIMON'S immediate left.

SIMON

Ah, my new job as a train traffic controller! This is so much fun! I don't think a single thing could spoil this perfect day!

The phone rings and SIMON takes the call.

SIMON

Hello?

CALLER

(trying to be calm)

Hello. I know this isn't what you want to hear, but a madman has tied me to the the rails... I can still use my mobile, though.

SIMON

Oh my word...

CALLER

Yes, and he's tied 50 children to another bit of track!

SIMON

How???? And how did you get my number?

CALLER

Never mind that. Look, the thing is I'm just about to cure cancer! I hate to say this, but technically my life has more value than the children and I want you to save me. Hell, technically it would be better if you saved me over a million children!

SIMON

I can't stop the train?

CALLER

No, it doesn't work like that. I know this is a tough decision, but I beg you to do the right thing and make the train run over the kids.

SIMON
Ok, if you're sure...

CALLER
Thank you. Goodbye.

The phone rings again.

SIMON
Hello?

CALLER 2
I hate to say this, but a madman has
tied 50 children to one part of track
and a man to another part of track! I
know this is a hard decision, but you
need to save the children!

SIMON
I'm sorry, but I'm saving the man.

CALLER 2
WHAT??? WHY???

SIMON
His life has more value...

CALLER 2
Are you (expletive) sick in the head
or something???

SIMON
It's for the best. Hell, I'd save the
man over a million children if I had
to.

CALLER 2
I'm going to kill you.

SIMON
I'm just trying to do the right
thing!

CALLER 2
Save the children right now!

SIMON
I'm sorry, but no.

CALLER 2
Do you have an emotional connection
with the man or something?

SIMON
No, I've never met him...

CALLER 2
You've talked to him online?

SIMON
Nope.

CALLER 2
I don't understand...

INT. CHAT SHOW DAY

A fashionably dressed CHAT SHOW HOST (25) sits on a comfy chair facing SIMON and CALLER 1. The latter is shown to be a man in his 70s and wearing tatty clothes. An AUDIENCE cheers.

HOST
Hello, viewers. On today's show I have Simon, a train traffic controller who killed 50 children to save one elderly man. We also have the man he saved. Simon, what we're all dying to know is... Why did you save the man exactly?

There is silence.

SIMON
Tell him! Tell everyone you're about to cure cancer!

SAVED MAN
Errr...

SIMON
You ARE going to cure cancer, right?

SAVED MAN
I'm an ex bus driver.

HOST
And why do you like bus drivers so much, Simon?

SIMON
Err...

HOST
In your own time.

SIMON
They help people who don't have cars?

HOST

And you think that's more important
than saving the lives of fifty
children?

SIMON

I don't feel well...

SAVED MAN

Thank you for saving me by the way, I
can now enjoy the rest of retirement.
However, as I have cancer I won't be
living for very long, I think that's
what the confusion was...

The AUDIENCE groans.

SIMON

Argh!

SAVED MAN

My life is completely miserable as
the pain meds aren't working anymore,
but again, thanks.

SIMON

I'm just going to ignore that. Surely
the bigger issue is what has happened
to the killer??

SAVED MAN

Oh he's a right wrong'n.

HOST

He's in jail and everyone hate him.

SIMON

Oh. Good.

HOST

But people don't like you very much
either.

SIMON

Look, I thought the man was going to
cure cancer!!

The SAVED MAN presses his hands on his chest tightly and
then falls off his chair.

SIMON

And he's just died, anyway.

HOST

Oh no! End transmission!