

Clock Shop
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INT. CLOCK SHOP - DAY

Dozens of circular antique clocks hang on all walls from top to bottom. A ladder is by one wall. At the back of the shop is a desk with a cash machine and phone on it, manned by a 60 year old male SHOP KEEPER. He is suited and wears thick round glasses. A SALESWOMAN (18) dusts the items that are on sale.

SHOP KEEPER
So, your first day of work, huh?

SALESWOMAN
Uh-huh. Lots of fun.

SHOP KEEPER
Is there anything you notice about all of the clocks?

SALESWOMAN
They're all old?

SHOP KEEPER
Yes, but what else?

SALESWOMAN
They all suck?

The SHOP KEEPER stares at the SALESWOMAN blankly.

SHOP KEEPER
No... And what do you mean?

SALESWOMAN
They're all stuck on the same wrong time. They seem pretty rubbish to me.
..

SHOP KEEPER
That's exactly what I wanted you to point out. Do you know why they're all fixed on the time 10 past 10? And don't say because they suck, again.

SALESWOMAN
Because they look like happy faces?

The SHOP KEEPER'S eyes light up.

SHOP KEEPER
Right!

SALESWOMAN
Really?? I was joking...

SHOP KEEPER

No joke whatsoever. People like happy clocks.

SALESWOMAN

They can't like happy clocks that much... I mean, I haven't seen a customer since starting work...

SHOP KEEPER

Patience, patience.

The phone rings and the SHOP KEEPER answers it.

SHOP KEEPER

Hello?... You're super rich and want to buy loads and loads of my clocks?.. .. How many is loads?... 50? Wow. That is a lot... There's just one thing you want to tell me? Go on... You're a goth?... Well that was random, but I look forward to seeing you! Bye!

The SHOP KEEPER hangs up.

SHOP KEEPER

Do you know what a goth is??

SALESWOMAN

Sure. Someone who dresses all in black and likes to be depressed...

The SHOP KEEPER freezes.

SHOP KEEPER

Oh no.

SALESWOMAN

What?

SHOP KEEPER

They like being depressed?

SALESWOMAN

That's right...

SHOP KEEPER

We have to change the clocks.

SALESWOMAN

To twenty to five?

SHOP KEEPER

Bingo.

SALESWOMAN

But there are so many clocks to get through...

SHOP KEEPER

Where there's a will, there's a way.

A 30 year old CUSTOMER in colourful clothes enters the shop.

CUSTOMER

Wow. There are some really happy clocks here... I don't why they look happy to me, but subconsciously they do.

SALESWOMAN

It's because the hands look like happy faces...

CUSTOMER

Ohhh yeah. I thought I was going weird.

SALESWOMAN

Oh not at all.

SHOP KEEPER

Are you going to buy something or are you just browsing?

CUSTOMER

Just browsing. Is that a problem?

SHOP KEEPER

No. No problem.

The SHOP KEEPER changes the clock hands that are nearest to him to 20 to 5, one by one.

CUSTOMER

What are you doing?

SHOP KEEPER

Don't worry about that, just keep browsing.

CUSTOMER

You're making frowny faces... May I ask why?

SHOP KEEPER

Er...

CUSTOMER

You started changing the clocks after I said they look happy. Are you doing it to annoy me?

The SHOP KEEPER changes more clocks.

SHOP KEEPER

Yes. Now unless you're willing to dress in black and be unhappy, I'd like you to leave.

The CUSTOMER does so.

SALESWOMAN

Let me help you...

The SALESWOMAN climbs the ladder and helps with the time adjusting.

SHOP KEEPER

What else do you know about goths?

SALESWOMAN

Like what?

SHOP KEEPER

Why the hell do they want to be unhappy?

SALESWOMAN

I have to be honest, I have no idea.

About 15 clocks have been changed. There are a lot to get through.

A male GOTH (30) dressed in black enters the shop.

GOTH

Wow, an interesting range of clocks here...

The SHOP KEEPER smiles.

SHOP KEEPER

Yes! I understand you want about 50?

GOTH

Well I did. For some reason, I only want 15 now.

The SALESWOMAN changes another clock.

GOTH

Make that 16.

SHOP KEEPER
 Would you like to come back later?
 It's just that we're really busy
 right now...

GOTH
 I'm the only customer here...

SHOP KEEPER
 Oh yeah. What I meant was all the
 clocks are broken. Let me fix them
 for you.

GOTH
 How long will that take?

SHOP KEEPER
 Half an hour maybe...

The GOTH looks genuinely impressed.

GOTH
 To fix all of them???

SHOP KEEPER
 Yip. They call me the biggest clock
 expert there is.

GOTH
 Wow. Is there a reason they're all
 showing the same two times? And is
 there a reason I only want to buy the
 ones at 20 to 5?

The SALESWOMAN is poker faced.

SALESWOMAN
 Nope.

GOTH
 Huh. Can I watch you fix them? It
 sounds incredible!

SHOP KEEPER
 No!

GOTH
 Why not?

SHOP KEEPER
 Er. I don't want you stealing my
 secrets.

GOTH

What secrets? How to fix about a hundred clocks in just half an hour?

SHOP KEEPER

Yeah.

The SALESWOMAN corrects another clock.

GOTH

Look, just let me buy 17 clocks and I'll get out of your hair.

SHOP KEEPER

So, you like being sad, eh? Do you like it when people are angry at you too?

GOTH

What's that mean?

SHOP KEEPER

JUST BUY THE 50 CLOCKS LIKE YOU SAID YOU SAID YOU WOULD!!! HAPPY NOW?!?!?

GOTH

Oh my word...

The SALESWOMAN changes another clock.

GOTH

No, I'm not going to buy 50 clocks if you're like that to me.

SHOP KEEPER

But you like it though!

GOTH

No. Be happy I'm buying 18. Good day.

SHOP KEEPER

I'll be sad if you leave...

The GOTH turns to the door.

GOTH

Lucky you.

SHOP KEEPER

That didn't work then. I guess I'll be happy if you leave? Will that make you stay?

GOTH

How dare you.

SHOP KEEPER

There really is no winning with you
is there? Just stay in my shop and
buy 50 clocks now!

GOTH

No!

SALESWOMAN

How about if you go and come back and
buy everything in 11 minutes and 6
seconds?

GOTH

Sure! Bye!

The GOTH leaves the shop.

SHOP KEEPER

How did you do that??

SALESWOMAN

Don't you see? That's 666 seconds!

SHOP KEEPER

Ohhh yeah.