

EXCERPT FROM "THE CONCESSIONS CONSPIRACY"

By
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ACT 1, Scene 3

(Setting: Later in the day. The line in front of the snack detector is jam packed with angry people shouting complaints. KELLY is struggling to keep everything under control.)

CUSTOMER 1

Hey! We wanna see a movie! Why I can't I use the other line?

KELLY

I'm very sorry, but we have a problem with people sneaking food into our theatres. You can use the other lines as soon as the other snack detectors are up and running.

CUSTOMER 2

At this rate, I'm gonna be late for my movie...the midnight showing!

KELLY

Please, be patient! You will get to see your movies, but please bear with us.

(Looks at DRUGGIE)

Next in line, please.

(Druggie walks through the snack detector, walks over to the concession stand, and takes out a white powder and a tray.)

JAKE

(To Druggie)

Could you please do lines somewhere else?

DRUGGIE

(Shakes head)

Sorry, but no.

KELLY

Thank you for your patience, and enjoy your movie.

(To the next person in line)

Next, please.

(While Druggie chops up the powder in the tray and snorts it up his nose, PSYCHO, with a machine gun strapped to his back, walks through the snack detector. He walks

over to the concessions stand and starts shooting it up. Jake ducks and screams, as does anyone else who's back there.)

JAKE

(A little nervous)

Kelly! There's someone shooting up the snack bar!

KELLY

(Completely oblivious to Druggie, Terrorist, and Jake himself)

That's nice, Jake. Next please.

(Customer 1 walks through the snack detector, sirens blare, lights flash, everyone is screaming, and the entire theatre is thrown into pandemonium.)

KELLY

(Sternly to CUSTOMER 1)

What did you sneak?

CUSTOMER 1

I wasn't sneakin' nothin'!

KELLY

What did you sneak?

CUSTOMER 1

(Frantic)

It was only a Coca-Cola bottle! Real tiny! I swear!!!

KELLY

(Takes out the handheld metal detector that people use at airports)

Hold out your arms, please.

*(CUSTOMER 1 does so, and KELLY moves the detector around his body. It's beeping like crazy around the chest. KELLY reaches into the man's jacket and pulls out a **two-liter bottle of Coca-Cola!**)*

KELLY

(Annoyed)

“Real tiny”, huh? I’m gonna need to take you to the manager for questioning.

(KELLY grabs CUSTOMER 1’s arm and drags him out of the line)

KELLY

Hey, Jake! Can you keep an eye on these customers until I get back?

JAKE

But what about the snack bar?

KELLY

Keep it closed for now! Going snack-less for a little while is always better than sneaking snacks. I’ll be right back!

(Kelly leaves the stage. Jake hesitantly walks over to the line of customers, who are now waving signs that say things like, “We want movies!” or “Get back in line, or we’ll get out of the line!”)

JAKE

(Confused)

When did you make those signs? Oh, well. Next!

(Composes himself)

(FAT GUY walks through the snack detector with TWO LOVELY LADIES.)

JAKE

Hey, how’d a big guy like you get two cute girls like them?

FAT GUY

I’m not fat! I’m a hundred and fifty pounds! I just look huge ‘cause—

LOVELY LADY 1

(Elbows Fat Guy)

Harry! Calm down! You’re supposed to be fat!

FAT GUY

That doesn’t mean he can call me fat!

JAKE

(Weirded out and desperate to get rid of them)

Okay! Thanks! Enjoy the movie! You can go now!

(The threesome leaves, and CASCATA comes up. She's drop dead gorgeous.)

CASCATA

Hey.

JAKE

Um...hey.

CASCATA

(Points to the snack detector)

What's with the gun detector?

JAKE

Actually, they're snack detectors. We've been having problems with people sneaking snacks into the movies.

CASCATA

(Sarcastic)

What? Are they afraid somebody's gonna shoot down the place with Keilbashnakovs?

(Jake and Cascata both laugh a little)

JAKE

Well, through the pearly gates you go.

CASCATA

Pearly gates? If I'm already in Heaven, why do the whole judgment thing?

JAKE

Huh?

CASCATA

You know, Heaven's supposed to have pearly gates?

JAKE

Oh yeaahhh... Idiot!

(Smacks his head)

CASCATA

Well, I'd hate to hold up the line, so I'd better get going.

JAKE

Okay, then! Seeya! Thank you!

(Cascata exits the line)

CUSTOMER 2

Are we **done** playing Casanova yet?

JAKE

I wasn't playing Casanova! I have a girlfriend! **Next!**

(Everybody in line stampedes over and past Jake. He's lying on the ground, moaning in pain. Kelly's back from the office with Customer 1, talking to him.)

KELLY

(Sternly to Customer 1)

And don't do it again!

(Now kindly to Customer 1)

Enjoy your film.

(Customer 1 walks off angrily. Kelly sees what happened to Jake. And rushes over to his side)

KELLY

Jake! What happened?

JAKE

(In pain)

The line got held up...how'd things go with the sneaker?

KELLY

He actually handled it pretty well. He didn't threaten to sue.

JAKE

That's great. Could you take the post again? My spine's in horrible pain.

KELLY

I'll see if I can get some ice for your back. Stay down there and try to get comfortable.

JAKE

Like I have a choice...

KELLY

You know how much I hate to see you in pain, Jake. I'll only be a minute.

(Kelly kisses Jake, then runs off to get an ice pack. Jake lies there until the lights go out. Scene ends.)