

Episode 3: You're Killing Me

By

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EPISODE 3: YOU'RE KILLING ME

SOUND: MUSIC: SOFT, INSTRUMENTAL, ELEVATOR TYPE OF MUSIC.
THE KIND OF SONG YOU MIGHT FALL ASLEEP TO. REPETATIVE, BUT
NOT OBNOXIOUS.

SOUND: AN UNCOMFORTABLE MAN TAKES A SEAT.

SAM

Hi... I'm here for--

KAREN

Hello, Mr. Plinkett! Take a seat, take a seat! My name is Karen, I'll be taking care of your order today. May I call you Sam or Sammy?

SAM

Usually I go by-- (defeated)

KAREN

I like to feel that my clients and I have a special, personal bond, you know? It helps with the process and really just makes this whole thing so much more pleasant for everyone. Otherwise, I feel like a used car salesman or something, you know?

SAM

Well, I guess I--

KAREN

So, what can I do for you, Sammy?

SAM

Uh... You know... I'm here for...uh--

KAREN

Have you had a look through our catalog?

SAM

Not exactly. I kinda thought that I could--

KAREN

Oh. That's perfectly fine, Sammy. Here you go, take your time.

SAM

I don't think I need it.

KAREN

I certainly hope you aren't reconsidering. We here at One Small Step pride ourselves on the fact that we have something for everyone.

SAM

No, it's just, I mean, it's a huge catalog and--

KAREN

I understand that we offer quite the variety and, given the importance of such a decision, many of our clients feel overwhelmed, at first, but I assure you I am here to walk you through each and every step to see to it that you feel comfortable and satisfied with your purchase.

SAM

No, I mean, I already know what I want. I don't need--

KAREN

Oh Sammy, I am so happy to hear that! To be honest, I've lost a few clients recently, sticker shock and what-have-you, and my boss isn't exactly happy about it. Between the two of us, I'm not sure how much longer I'll be here if things keep going this way--

SAM

You mean?

KAREN

They'll fire me.

SAM

Oh...

KAREN

Or, "let me go". You know the drill.

SAM

I thought you meant--

KAREN

But, this is fantastic! I'm glad you were able to find something. So, which will it be?

SAM

What?

KAREN

Which package have you decided on?

SAM

Package?

KAREN

Yes. I need to confirm your selection, and input the package information into our database to ensure that your order is processed as efficiently as possible. We wouldn't want any confusion upon delivery, you understand.

SAM

Right.

KAREN

So. What is the package number?

SAM

I just want a brownie. A single brownie, nothing fancy on top, nothing in the middle. Just a brownie. And I want to hear the song... Um... What's it called? The one from Ghost? Have you seen that movie?

KAREN

No.

SAM

Unchained Melody! That's what it was. Unchained Melody. I would like a brownie and Unchained Melody please. That's it.

KAREN

I apologize, Sammy, but I've only been with the company for a short while now, so I don't exactly have all of the packages memorized. There are over 7000 choices, you understand. So, if it isn't too much trouble, would you mind telling me which number that is?

SAM

I don't know.

KAREN

What do you mean?

SAM

I just want a brownie and Unchained Melody.

KAREN

I am more than happy to oblige, I just need to know what number to type into the system so we can move forward with your order.

SAM
It's just a brownie and a song. Can you, like, type that in or something?

KAREN
Okay, no worries, let's see if we can find your selection in the catalog. Thankfully, there's a glossary.

SOUND: KAREN FLIPS THROUGH THE CATALOG

SAM
Okay.

KAREN
Hm. Magic show. No. Mermaid Musical. No. Mustard Gas... Too far. A-ha! Here we are! Number 4815! A fudge swirl brownie accompanied by the song I Feel Good. Alright, Sam, I will get that started for you, right away.

SAM
Wait. What did you just say?

KAREN
Is there a problem?

SAM
I said I wanted Unchained Melody.

KAREN
I see. Hm. Are you sure?

SAM
Yes, I'm sure!

KAREN
I don't want to split hairs here, Sammy, but I'm almost positive you said, "I Feel Good".

SAM
I didn't.

KAREN
Well, unfortunately there are no substitutions.

SAM
What about another package? There has to be something you can do.

KAREN
Alright. Let's take another look. Unchained... Mel- O-- Okay, here we go, I think you'll like this one, number 1623. Unchained Melody, a canonball, and a piece of chocolate cake.

SAM

Is this a joke?

KAREN

I beg your pardon?

SAM

I want a brownie not a piece of cake.

KAREN

I hear you, but, to be fair, what is a brownie if not just an overcooked piece of cake?

SAM

It's a brownie!

KAREN

I suppose you could say it's an undercooked cookie, but that might be considered a stretch.

SAM

Okay, I'm leaving.

KAREN

Please don't give up on us! I just know we can find something that will work for you.

SAM

I thought this was supposed to be a respectable place. I come here looking for-- I just want to be taken seriously for once in my life. I just wanted a simple song and a friggin brownie is that really too much to ask?

KAREN

I'm doing all I can, Sammy. If there was something more I could do, please know that I'd do it. I understand how personal and serious this decision is, and I sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, apologize for offering you cake.

SAM

Forget it, I'll just go buy a gun somewhere.

KAREN

Please don't say that.

SAM

Why? What does it matter?

KAREN

We offer upwards of 400 different packages with a variety of firearms.

SAM

Oh.

KAREN

And, at least 4 of them come with a brownie.

SAM

I don't want a gun!

KAREN

The gun is hardly the selling point here, Sammy.

SAM

Stop calling me Sammy! My name is Sam. Just call me Sam.

KAREN

Whoa, Sam. I apologize if I've offended you. I was just trying to be personable, I promise.

SAM

I don't want you to be personable, I didn't come here to make friends. I came here-- My god.

KAREN

Sam, I want to help you, and you know I'm pretty desperate for a sale, right now, so let's just be honest with each other, okay? You could easily find a bakery somewhere that would fill your mouth with all the overcooked cake your heart desires. You could pull out your phone and type in literally any song and hear it in a matter of seconds.

SAM

That's not the point.

KAREN

Exactly. So, why are you really here?

SAM

I... I hate my job. I hate the people I work with. My boss is an idiot. Every time he opens his mouth, I want to rip out my eyes so I have something to shove in my ears, just so I don't have to listen to his stupid ideas. I hate the customers. It's everything. I hate everything and I hate it. I hate that I hate these people. I don't want to be this person. I don't want to feel these things anymore but I can't--

KAREN

As much as I dislike losing a sale, it kind of sounds like what you really need is a new job.

SAM

What's the difference? It's the same everywhere.

KAREN

Well, it sounds like you don't like being told what to do.

SAM

Does anyone?

KAREN

Maybe you're just the kind of person who belongs in management?

SAM

I've tried. The company I work for doesn't promote from within, and everywhere I've applied only wants to hire new managers with management experience.

KAREN

How are you supposed to get the experience if they never hire you as a manager?

SAM

Exactly.

KAREN

I understand. You seem like a decent guy, I hate to hear you like this. I wish there was something I could do.

SAM

Are you guys hiring?

KAREN

Managers? Unfortunately, no....

SAM

Oh.

KAREN

But, we do offer a lovely managerial package.

SAM

You do?

KAREN

Yeah, let me see... Yeah. Here we go. Number 4200. It comes with an office, an assistant, and... look at that, the breakroom is stocked with brownies, donuts, and coffee.

SAM

That's perfect. What about the song?

KAREN

It doesn't specify, but since you'd be the boss, and the room comes with a computer I'm sure we could work something out.

SAM

Wow, thank you Karen. That sounds...

KAREN

My pleasure, Sam.

SAM

So, the manager's office?

KAREN

It's all yours. Executive nameplate and all.

SAM

What about the assistant? What am I supposed to--

KAREN

The assistant will listen to your every command. You can have whatever you want while you have the room.

SAM

That's fantastic. I'll take it.

KAREN

I am so happy to hear that, Sam. I knew we could find something that would make you happy. I will put that order in for you, right away. Do you have any further questions or concerns before we finalize this thing?

SAM

The brownies, they're--

KAREN

Full of poison, yes.

SAM

But, is there any chocolate fudge on top?

KAREN

Nope, just a regular, plain chocolate brownie.

SAM

Perfect.