

GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

| | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CAROL | A very confused owner of a thrift store |
| JEAN | A tightly-wound donor that isn't quite in touch with, well, reality. |

SETTING

A thrift store.

SCENE

(A proprietor of a thrift store, Carol, is standing behind a counter when a “customer”, Jean, enters.)

CAROL
Hello, welcome to—

JEAN
I would like to speak to the owner.

CAROL
I’m the—

JEAN
Are you the owner?

CAROL
Ye—

JEAN
Because I don’t want to speak with just a clerk. Only the owner.

CAROL
Yes. I’m Carol. Is there a problem?

JEAN
There most certainly is.

(There’s a long, uncomfortable pause.)

CAROL
Well, I’m so glad that you stopped in to share—

JEAN
I’m very upset.

CAROL
I see that.

JEAN

As you are no doubt aware, I was in recently to make a donation, and it is now painfully clear to me that my donation, which was made in good faith and with purity of heart, has been completely disregarded.

CAROL

Disregar—

JEAN

Yes, dis... re... gar... ded. Disregarded.

CAROL

Adjective. Meaning given little to no—

JEAN

Don't sass me. I'm a customer.

CAROL

I thought you were a donor—

JEAN

I want to know why you haven't put my donation on display yet.

CAROL

I'm sorry, what was it that you donat—

JEAN

As if you didn't know! I'm sure you keep records of such things.

CAROL

We do. If you could perhaps give me—

JEAN

It was a week ago last Thursday, and I think that's more than sufficient time to have something registered and out on a table somewhere, don't you?

CAROL

Actually, that depends on what it is, miss...

JEAN

Cheer.

CAROL

Miss Cheer?

JEAN

Don't be impudent. You know very well what I'm saying. I dropped off a very sizable donation of cheer, and I can't at all understand why you haven't made it available to potential customers yet.

CAROL

I'm sorry, I don't mean to be difficult, but I'm not quite follo—

JEAN

Don't think for a moment that I don't see what you are trying to do. You clearly only make things available from the people you like.

CAROL

The people—

JEAN

This is obviously one of those establishments that cater only to a special group of donors. I bet if I were Jewish my cheer would have been advertised immediately.

CAROL

Jewish?

JEAN

Yes, Jewish. I dropped off Christmas cheer, and you have treated it like absolute rubbish. And after all I went through to make it available.

CAROL

Let me see if I've got this right. You came in two weeks ago—

JEAN

A week ago last Thursday!

CAROL

To drop off Christmas cheer?

JEAN

In good faith, and with an open heart.

CAROL

In August...

JEAN

That's right. *Some* people know that you shouldn't procrastinate on the important things.

CAROL

When you say Christmas cheer—

JEAN

Look, I'm very busy, and I'll have you know that my Christmas cheer is in great demand. Why, last year I had four visits from an attendant of the Earl of Kent.

CAROL

O-okay.

JEAN

Well?

CAROL

Well... what?

JEAN

Are you going to make this right or not?

CAROL

I don't understand—

JEAN

I don't understand! I don't understand! Do you really think I don't know what's going here? I'm not daft, Miss Carol. It's perfectly obvious that you are just trying to play me for a fool.

CAROL

I—

JEAN

And I won't have it. I simply won't.

CAROL

I—

JEAN

In fact, I would like my good cheer returned. Immediately.

CAROL

You want—

JEAN

All of it. And further, I want your complete assurance that neither you, nor any of your employees, will in any way attempt to distribute my Christmas cheer.

CAROL

Distribute your—

JEAN

You heard me. It's mine. All mine. And since you obviously can't recognize good cheer when you see it, I have no choice but to take it elsewhere.

CAROL

I see—

JEAN

So I'd like it returned immediately.

CAROL

Alright...

JEAN

And I will need you to sign this form saying that you have not *retained* any of my Christmas cheer, either in whole or in part, and further than none of your snobby employees have taken any without your knowledge.

CAROL

You want—

JEAN

I have placed lines there for each of them to sign their names, and you are to sign both on the top line and at the very bottom where it reads "I, the undersigned, do hereby attest that I have returned all Christmas cheer, and will not share any holiday joy, now or in the future, that in any way resembles the Christmas cheer of Ms. Jean T. Blunderbluss."

CAROL

You want—

JEAN

I shall return on Monday, and it had best be signed and notarized or I'll have to get nasty.

CAROL

Right. Well, we wouldn't want that, would we?

JEAN
No. We most definitely would not.

CAROL
So...

JEAN
I hope I've made myself perfectly clear.

CAROL
Perfectly.

JEAN
Good morning.

(Jean turns and huffs out.)

CAROL
(Calling after...)
Merry Christmas!

(Lights out.)