



A Promising Young Employee

Humor, by Curtis Jerry Smothers

Thomas seemed to be a promising new employee. He was punctual, dependable, and picked up the supermarket routine quickly. He began as a stock clerk in the storage area and worked his way up as custodian of the fresh vegetable area.

His manager, Bill, was quickly pleased with Thomas's meticulous organization and relentless cleanliness of his working area. Everything from avocados to zucchini was stocked, stored, and kept neat for an appetizing display.

One day, while fussily attending to the cabbage display, an elderly customer asked him, "Can I buy half a head of cabbage?"

Flustered and somewhat annoyed, Thomas replied, "Sir, I'll have to check with my manager. We don't normally sell half-portions of vegetables."

Bill was touring the vegetable area, when Thomas approached him.

"Sir, some idiot wants me to cut a head of cabbage in half, and sell it to him."

The manager, pointed over Thomas's shoulder to indicate that the old gentleman had followed him and heard every word.

Thomas, without hesitating added cheerfully, "And this gentleman wants to buy the other half."

Impressed, the manager escorted the customer to the checkout and made sure he was charged half-price for the cabbage.

Later, Bill asked Thomas to step into his office.

“Thomas,” he said, “I was pleased how you handled that faux pas with the elderly customer. I think you have a bright future with this organization.”

“Thank you sir. I hope to work up to your level one day and manage my own market.”

“Actually, Thomas, there is an assistant manager spot coming up in one of our markets up north.”

“Really! I’d be happy to move. Where is it?”

” It’s in Toronto, Canada,” replied the manager.

“Oh,” said Bill, disappointed. “I’m not interested in going to Canada. All they have up there are goofy Canucks, prostitutes, and hockey players.”

“Hold on, Thomas.,” said the annoyed manger, “My mother is from Canada.”

Again, cheerfully, Thomas replied, “Really? What position does she play?”