

## REASONS WHY I DON'T GET PAID ENOUGH

ELIZABETH DE LA GARZA

#1. The customer gets mad, because they think I price these items! And omg they swear that they can haggle prices, I'm sorry but what!! This isn't The Rose Bowl flea market. They'll find any reason to get a discount. One time this guy who wanted this perfectly fine Herschel backpack! He pointed out a speck on the bottom of the bag and asked if he could get a discount because it was "damaged".

#2. Everyday is the same. I slip the store lanyard over my head and walk out pushing the heavy metal door wearing somewhat of a smile. I nearly knocked this lady out with my eagerness to get on the sales floor. Not even phased she greets me, "You work here right? How much is it?" Keep in mind I haven't clocked in yet.

#3. The music is too loud for me too. Trust me I feel you when you complain about the loud music. It makes my job seem a lot more stressful when this one manager keeps putting on the Lady Gaga playlist. Which has been on repeat since we've gotten it. I'm overwhelmed because Lady Gaga is practically yelling at me "I'm on the right track baby I was born this way." Oh shut up.

#4. The lady with the "I want to speak to your manager" haircut. Customers like her always test my patience. Subconsciously I'm thinking, yes lady, I can find your item but I can sense you're in a hurry and it's stressing me out!! Also let me just magically remember the item name then curate a price to your liking. In the corner of my eye, I can see her peering at me to see if I found anything.

#5. Almost everytime I tell the customer I have to find the SKU they joke, "Oh then it's free right? Hah." I just laugh and give them that "oh you silly customer" look! They'll also be like, "Can't you just ring up this?" First of all, the items aren't even similar. That's a sale item, whereas what you want is full price. Sometimes I feel like they'd only be happy if I said, "Sure! I'd love to ring up this item without any sort of tag. Better yet let me just give it to you for free." I go out of my way finding or doing something for my customer and

#6. They don't even buy it or don't even appreciate that I went out of my way to help them! But I guess it's just people. And I guess that's my job and I'm getting paid for it! I know I say I love my job but that's just crazy. It's just retail for Christ sake.

## HOW TO EAT A MANGO

BRYAN ANGEL

Instructions:

- 1) Run A Hot Shower: Let warm water wash away dirt from under fingernails, let steam open pores, wash away makeup -- clear faced now, nude & shivering as you were in birth.
- 2) Remain Nude: At least for now. Examine skin for freckles, pimples, dark bruises above the wrist where you refused to let go so hard, your quiet off balance.
- 3) Locate Your Birthmark: The moon shaped etching above your hip, it means nothing now despite what your horoscope says.
- 4) Run to Your Local Grocery Store: In all your nudeness run through traffic, through crowds of children walking home from school, they'll ignore you as will the autumn leaves as they drop around you, you inside your disappearing nudeness.
- 5) Enter Grocery Store, Produce Section: Follow the cool air, manufactured moisture that harvests the sweetness that eludes you. Clear space around the mango baskets, clean the floor so your body can splay in its nudity digesting new fruit, free to grow fat from sugar & pulp
- 6) If You Don't Know: A mango looks much like a heart, not a caricature of a heart -- cupid's mythos but the medical heart, the deep beating muscle churning blood, clogging with bacon fat & grease.
- 7) Consumption: Your mango must be ripe! This is important. Massage two fingers into your mango's skin. Test each mango, how long do your imprints last? The mango with the greatest remembrance is the thief of your mango virginity. With your thumbnail, run a seam down your mango's spine & peel back its imperfect skin. In this moment forget what your parents told you of table manners, public decency or class, sink your teeth deep into its tropical surface, don't stop moving your mouth, pierce its core, get it stuck between your teeth, let your gums bleed, let the nectar flow down your breasts, down your navel, allow it to soak in, unable to wash it out -- never again will you be able to wash it out.
- 8) Locate Your Birth Mark.