

SELF-CHECKOUT

Written by

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CHARACTERS:

DYLAN - man in a rush to get home from the grocery store

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE - a sassy machine who yearns for love

CHERYL - nerdy know-it-all grocery store manager

INT. - GROCERY STORE - DAY

DYLAN is rushing around with a grocery basket full of goods while talking on his cell phone.

DYLAN
(talking on the phone)
Yes, Robin, I got the plates.
(listens)
Mmmhmm and the olives.
(listens)
I'm trying to hurry home Robin! I'm
just about to check out now.

Dylan looks around the store in frustration.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Ughhh all of the lines are too
long.

Dylan notices an empty SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Ohh, wait the self-checkout is
empty! I'm gonna let you go. I'll
be home as soon as I can.

Dylan hangs up the phone and puts it in his pocket. He approaches the self-checkout.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE
Welcome to Munson Mart! Please scan
your first item and place it in the
bag.

Dylan begins scanning a few items.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE (CONT'D)
Paper plates... \$3.99. Napkins...
\$2.99. Your sense of fashion... 10
out of 10.

Dylan stops and looks very shocked.

DYLAN
Um, excuse me.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE
Please scan your next item.

Dylan shakes his head in confusion and continues scanning his items.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE (CONT'D)
Guacamole... \$3.99. If you fix your sleeve your outfit would be absolutely perfect. I've been watching your wrinkly sleeve go over the scanner too many times.

Dylan fixes his sleeve with a confused look on his face.

DYLAN
(in shock)
Now I'm hearing things. I must've really not slept well last night.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE
You don't look tired. You don't have any bags under those gorgeous eyes. Speaking of which, you should purchase one of our Munson Mart reusable bags for only \$0.99.

Dylan gasps and backs away from the self-checkout machine.
CHERYL enters from stage left.

DYLAN
Excuse me, ma'am!

CHERYL
Yes sir how can I help you?

DYLAN
You're not going to believe this but your self-checkout machine is talking to me.

The two look at the machine waiting for it to talk again.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE
Please scan your next item.

CHERYL
(confused)
Sir, it's meant to do that.

DYLAN

No no no, like it's complimenting my appearance. It's literally checking me out.

CHERYL

Are you sure you're not just mistaking what it's saying? I know it can be a bit difficult to understand with that robot voice it has.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE

At least my robot voice sounds better than the stupid whiny way you talk. No wonder no one can take you seriously as their manager Cheryl.

CHERYL

Hey listen, I've been working on my voice for the past...

Cheryl pauses realizing that a self-checkout machine just insulted her. She looks over to Dylan with a crazed look on her face.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

(in shock)

Oh my gosh, you weren't lying.

DYLAN

Can you just fix it? I'm trying to get back home in time for my house party.

Cheryl begins hitting the machine with various objects in various different places to try and fix it. Dylan's phone BEEPS.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Speaking of which this is my girlfriend texting me now. Ugh, she's so impatient.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE

You could do so much better.

CHERYL

You're a self-checkout machine! What do you know about love?

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE

Day after day I watch couples walk in and out of this grocery store. I watch as they scan their groceries hand in hand, lovingly gazing into each other's eyes. It feels like a bolt of lightning pulsing through me every time I feel the loving touch of a man's hand running his card through my card reader but perhaps that's just a short in my wires. I dream of walking down the aisle one day, the grocery aisle that is. I will see my beautiful groom at the other end where we will be wed near the produce section and then live out the rest of our lives together. We'll start a family and grow old and rusty together. But alas, this is all but a dream.

Dylan and Cheryl stand in shock staring at the self-checkout machine.

CHERYL

(in frustration)

This gosh darn machine has more game than me.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE

It's easy to have more game than someone who has no game at all Cheryl. Speaking of which, board games are 50% off this week.

Cheryl gets angry but then begins to diligently work on fixing the machine again.

DYLAN

That was actually kinda beautiful. I'm sure you'll find someone someday self-checkout machine.

Dylan pats the self-checkout machine on the screen.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE

Please, call me Rob, Rob Ot.

DYLAN

Rob, that's a nice name!

Cheryl makes some loud clunking noises on the self-checkout machine.

CHERYL

Just reconnect this cable here and tighten this screw and there, it should be all fixed!

DYLAN

I really appreciate you fixing it but I have to say I'll almost miss Rob.

CHERYL

(patting Dylan on the shoulder)

Don't get so attached to a machine. Why don't you try scanning something so we can make sure this is working correctly again?

Dylan pulls out a jar of olives from his basket and scans them.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE

Olives... \$3.99.

Cheryl smiles with confidence and brushes off her hands as she begins to walk away.

SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINE (CONT'D)

Just like the way olive you Dylan!

Cheryl turns around in frustration and lets out a grunt.

DYLAN

You know what Rob...

Dylan pulls out his phone and puts it to his ear.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Hey Robin. Yeah, we're done, I've found someone new.

Dylan hangs up the phone and puts it in his pocket.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Let's go start our life together.

Cheryl watches in shock as Dylan and Rob the self-checkout machine skip away hand in mechanical hand to start their lives together.