

The Exchange

Frank Ridenour





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THE EXCHANGE

By Frank Ridenour

CAST

LURLENE ATKINS BOWLES: A self-absorbed store customer.

MAVIS: The store's returns/exchanges employee.

HENRY WIMBLEY: The store manager.

Time

The Present. Mid-afternoon.

Place

The Returns/Exchanges window at a high-end department store.

At Rise: MAVIS is positioned at the Returns/Exchanges window. LURLENE ATKINS BOWLES enters and approaches the window.

LURLINE: Good morning.

MAVIS: Good Morning. How may I help you?

LURLINE: I want to return this hair dryer and get my money back.

MAVIS: Do you have the receipt, ma'am?

LURLENE: No. Actually, I bought it at another one of your stores. The one in Evansville.

MAVIS: That is no problem. However, without a receipt, all I can do is exchange it for another, or give you a store credit. May I ask why you want to return the hair dryer?

LURLENE: I want to return the hair dryer because this hair dryer does not dry hair. The box said it would dry hair. I never read instructions but I would guess that the instructions say it would dry hair. It doesn't work.

MAVIS: *(examines the dryer)* Ma'am, the power cord has been cut off.

LURLENE: That is true. I was trying to dry my hair but the silly thing wouldn't start blowing. I had to go all day with damp and moist hair.

MAVIS: May I ask why the power cord was cut off?

LURLENE: Well, honey, the dryer was not working. I couldn't pull the plug out of the outlet. So, I cut the cord with my pinking shears. (*MAVIS looks shocked*) Well, honey, I did throw the circuit breaker. I'm not an idiot.

MAVIS: But...

LURLENE: (*removing the plug and remaining cord from her purse*) Here's the rest of it. All you have to do is splice the wires back, and the dryer is as good as new. Except it doesn't work. I don't know what happened to the box or that written stuff.

MAVIS: The instructions? Did you try the on/off switch here?

LURLENE: Whatever.

MAVIS: Ma'am, I, uh...I can't take it back like this.

LURLENE: Well, I think you can. Look, honey, I bought it from your company. The dryer doesn't work. I want my money back.

MAVIS: Let me get the manager over here. (*calls loudly*) Mr. Wimbley! Mr. Wimbley!!

WIMBLEY: (*entering*) Yes, Mavis.

MAVIS: This lady wants to return this hair dryer, but she has no receipt, and the dryer's cord is cut in two.

LURLENE: Henry? Is that you? Henry Wimbley?

WIMBLEY: Ma'am? Oh, my goodness. Lurlene Atkins?

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!