

Bob peeks out from the back room of the diner.

BOB
You OK Solomon?

SOLOMON
I'm sorry, was I talking to you? I don't appreciate you eavesdropping on my conversations, Bob. I'm pretty sure that's a violation of my employee rights. Don't make me look into it.

Bob withdraws apologetically.

BOB
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to intrude.

SOLOMON
Well you did. And now I'm feeling a little unsafe and attacked so back off.

A HOMELESS WOMAN and her YOUNG DAUGHTER finish their meal.

HOMELESS WOMAN #2
Thank you so much for your kindness, Mr. Crandall! Please, won't you let me pay you something?

BOB
I won't hear of it, Mary Sue. It is my sincerest pleasure, and I wish you and Tina a very merry Christmas!

HOMELESS DAUGHTER
Thank you, Mr. Bob! That soup was the best soup I ever tasted!

BOB
You are most welcome, Miss Tina.

Bob smiles and waves as these two last customers exit.

Scrooge enters as they leave.

Solomon shakes his head in disgust. Mumbles to himself.

SOLOMON
If it's that good, pay for it.

Solomon throws his towel on the table as he turns to Bob.

SOLOMON

What kind of business lets people choose whether or not to pay?

BOB

Owning a business is about more than making money. And it's just for now, until we get through these tough times.

SOLOMON

If you want to give people free food, that's your flaw, but they still need to tip.

Bob smiles kindly.

BOB

She doesn't have money, Solomon.

SOLOMON

Yeah, well, I don't work for free. I work for cash. And I need to see a little more of it, or I'm outta here.

BOB

You didn't wait on them. I did. I also prepared their food. You've been playing Candy Explosion on your phone all night.

SOLOMON

You should just be glad I'm here! I'm about the only employee left in town who actually comes to work.

Bob nods, wanting to keep the peace. He pulls out some cash, and puts it in Solomon's shirt pocket.

BOB

OK, I appreciate your loyalty. Here. Consider it a tip from them.

Solomon takes out the cash and counts it. He's impressed.

SOLOMON

Nice. Time to go spendy-spendy!

BOB

Wait, aren't you going to finish your shift? Tomorrow is the big community Christmas dinner.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

There is a lot of work to be done,
and I could really use your help.

SOLOMON

Nah, I'm not really feeling it.
And I won't be here tomorrow,
either. I don't celebrate
Christmas - never got anything I
wanted - so I'm taking the day off.

BOB

Isn't that technically celebrating
Christmas?

***Please send a clip of yourself singing as well.**