

SNACK MACHINE

by

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FADE IN

INT. COLLEGE LIBRARY - DAY

Several tables sit between a SNACK MACHINE and the library reference desk. The machine is new and has Wi-Fi.

BETTY HALL, 50s, librarian, is at her post at the reference desk. She adjusts her glasses as she stares at her computer.

TODD WEBER, 20s, a student, works quietly at one of the tables. Several books on psychology are sprawled out in front of him.

His backpack is on an adjacent chair.

An ALMOND JOY is in the side pocket of the backpack.

Todd watches as several FEMALE STUDENTS approach the snack machine. One of them inserts coins and makes her selection.

She waits, but no candy is dispensed.

She inserts another coin, and makes selection again.

Nothing.

She impatiently hits the coin return.

One of the other girls smacks the machine.

The machine lights up briefly.

Todd laughs as he watches them battle the machine.

Betty goes over to the female students.

BETTY
Which one did you want?

FEMALE STUDENT
(slightly exasperated)
The Kit Kat, please.

Betty bumps the machine from the side.

The Kit Kat falls into the bin.

The female student grabs it and the girls leave.

Betty passes by Todd's table as she heads back to her post.

Todd waves at her.

TODD

Pretty good trick.

She stops near his table.

BETTY

It's not something I like to do,
but it has proven to be successful
in the past.

TODD

Why not just give 'em a refund?

BETTY

Because it is not school property.

She looks over at the snack machine.

BETTY (CONT'D)

It does seem to have a mind of it's
own sometimes - very stubborn.

TODD

I know - I sit here all the time
and watch it abuse people.

BETTY

Why don't you warn them?

TODD

I could, but it's much more fun
to watch.

BETTY

Indeed.

She scans the table.

BETTY (CONT'D)

What are you studying?

TODD

I'm a psychology major - we're
learning about *mind over matter*.

Betty spots the Almond Joy in his backpack.

BETTY
That is my favorite candy.

TODD
Mine too.

BETTY
I tried to get one for myself the other day, but the machine would not give it to me, no matter what I did. It made me quite angry.

TODD
Tough break.

BETTY
Well, good luck if you ever need one around here.

TODD
Won't be a problem - I always bring my own.

INT. COLLEGE LIBRARY - LATER

Todd sits at the same table, and watches as a MALE STUDENT approaches the machine.

The student inserts a dollar bill, but the machine just spits it back out at him.

Todd laughs to himself as the student tries another bill, but gets the same result.

The male student shakes his head.

He takes out a five dollar bill and inserts it.

He hits the same buttons and a Skittles begins to drop, but gets hung up.

The student smacks the machine.

(Beat)

The candy falls into the bin.

The student retrieves the candy, and waits for his change.

The machine does not dispense any.

MALE STUDENT

(angry)

Oh, come on...

The machine lights up, but still no change.

The student looks around and sees Betty at the reference desk. He huffs as he heads towards her.

Todd grins as the student passes by him.

Todd reaches for his backpack. He looks at the side pocket, but there is no Almond Joy.

He digs down inside the backpack, but no candy.

TODD

(softly)

Damn - forgot to pack it.

Todd looks over at the snack machine.

The machine lights up briefly.

Todd glances at his psychology books.

TODD (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Okay - stay calm, and remember,
mind over matter.

Todd confidently approaches the machine.

He spots the Almond Joy through the glass.

Todd opens his wallet - no cash.

He pulls out a credit card, taps it on the machine, and makes his selection.

Nothing happens.

Todd frowns at the machine.

He *swipes* the credit card this time. The machine goes completely dark a moment, then back to normal.

Todd looks over at the reference desk, but Betty is away from her post.

He moves to the side of machine, and bumps it.

No luck.

He bumps it again, slightly harder.

Todd hears giggles from some nearby students.

He steps back in front of the machine.

Todd smacks the glass - hard.

The machine lights up again.

Todd grabs the top of the machine, and starts to rock it from front to back, BUT:

Betty appears.

BETTY

What seems to be the trouble?

Todd is startled.

TODD

I tried to use my credit card, but the Almond Joy won't drop.

BETTY

You know how this machine is. You can always request a refund the next time the vendor shows up.

TODD

This is crazy - it's brand new.

BETTY

And it's been nothing but problems since we got it. We've ordered a replacement, but it's still on backorder.

Betty peers through the glass.

BETTY (CONT'D)

How about a Kit Kat? I can probably bump the machine, and get that one.

TODD

I don't want a Kit Kat - I want an Almond Joy.

Betty shakes her head.

BETTY

(solemn)

I don't think that's ever going to happen.

TODD
What do you mean?

Betty shows him her phone.

INSERT SCREEN

TEXT READS: Why did you bump me, Betty?

BACK TO SCENE

TODD (CONT'D)
Who sent you that?

BETTY
The machine did. About a week ago,
when I tried to get an Almond Joy.

TODD
What are you talking about?

BETTY
There's more -

She holds up her phone again.

TEXT FROM MACHINE: You'll never get that Almond Joy now,
Betty.

She puts her phone away, and glares at the machine.

BETTY (CONT'D)
They're making them *too smart*
these days, if you ask me.

Todd gives her a suspicious look.

TODD
I think somebody was playing a
trick on you.

BETTY
There was nobody else around when
I bumped it that time.

TODD
How'd it get your phone number?

Todd gets a text message.

He reads from his phone.

TEXT FROM MACHINE: From her credit card, stupid.

Todd looks around the room.

The machine lights up.

Todd is incredulous.

He gets another text.

TEXT FROM MACHINE: Sorry about your snack.

Todd stares at the machine a moment.

He sends a text back to the machine.

TODD (CONT'D)
(via text)
Give me my Almond Joy.

A red light glows on the machine.

TEXT FROM MACHINE: I'm sorry Todd - I'm afraid I can't do that.

Todd shows Betty the message.

BETTY
I told you.

Todd smacks the machine.

He yells at it.

TODD
I want that candy!

BETTY
Calm down, will you?

He gets another text.

TEXT FROM MACHINE: We all want a lot of things.

Todd makes a fist and steps toward the machine.

Betty steps in between the two combatants.

BETTY (CONT'D)
See what I mean?

He points his finger at the machine.

TODD
This isn't over.

Betty holds up her phone.

BETTY

Here - look at this. The machine
sent me this one too.

She shows Todd a previous text.

TEXT FROM MACHINE: Too bad you're not strong enough to tip me
over, Betty. That may have worked, you know.

TODD

You told me *not* to rock it -

BETTY

Because there are people around.

She lowers her voice.

BETTY (CONT'D)

However, the library closes soon...

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Todd stands at his table and grabs his backpack.

There are no other students around.

He glances over at Betty as she leaves the reference desk and
heads toward the exit.

He walks down an aisle of books, and pretends to look at one.

The library lights go out.

Todd comes out of the book aisle, and walks directly over to
the machine. He sets his backpack down.

Alone, he faces the Glowing Menace.