

PART TIMERS

Written by

Samantha Dicke

VOICE O.C.

Ellen!

MR. MIDGE, a balding, slightly heavy-set man storms around the corner.

MR. MIDGE

Ellen! You're late, again!

ELLIE

(muttering)

Not my name, but whatever.

MR. MIDGE

As your store manager, I must
implore you to be more punctual!
But as a dude who's "down with the
kids", hehe, I'm just happy you
clocked in at all.

Liam groans. Mr. Midge squints.

MR. MIDGE (CONT'D)

Hey, wasn't your hair green a few
days ago?

LIAM

Wasn't your bald spot smaller?

MR. MIDGE

Touché. Well, I'll be in my office.
If you need me, no you don't.

As Mr. Midge leaves, a disturbingly yellow school bus pulls into the parking lot. A frazzled middle-aged teacher throws open the door, leaning against it heavily.

TEACHER

Oh, good. You're open.

A rumbling grows louder behind her. The woman's eyes fill with tears.

TEACHER

I'm sorry, we were on a field trip
and they got hungry. You know how
they get when they're hungry...

LIAM

Oh no...

The teacher is shoved aside as a horde of elementary school kids flood the shop. Ellie and Liam share a nervous look as the counter is surrounded.

The kids practically destroy the self-serve machines, mixing every flavor imaginable into less than appetizing combinations: peanut butter and bubblegum, banana and root beer, butterscotch and... goldfish crackers?

ELLIE

Well, this is... fine? I guess?

LIAM

There's literally nothing fine about this, *Ellen*.

ELLIE

How dare you. Traitor.

A boy start throwing brownie bits at the ceiling fan. One bounces off the blades and splatters back into the boy's face. He starts crying. Liam snaps a picture, snickering.

Ellie takes a wad of ones from the freckle-faced SUSIE and cringes.

ELLIE

Uh, sweetie? Why is this wet?

Susie shrugs, smiling sinisterly. Ellie shudders.

Liam snatches an overflowing bowl of fro-yo from the short but portly DAVIS.

LIAM

Oh no, I just checked you out kid!
There's no way you ate *that* fast.

DAVIS

Yeah-huh.

LIAM

Nuh-uh.

Suddenly: a shuddering of machinery.

Ellie and Liam freeze, looking to the dispensing machines as they groan metallically... before shutting down one by one.

ELLIE

What. Just. Happened?

LIAM

Ellie, I think the machines are down...

TO BE CONTINUED...