

CHECK IT OUT

by
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INT. LIBRARY

PRETTY FEMALE CLERK 18, works the check-out station.

MALE CLERK, 20, works the check-in station, next to her.

As the male clerk speaks, addressing all his conversation exclusively to the female clerk, a STEADY STREAM OF PATRONS steps forward with books to be checked out and in.

MALE CLERK

Do you believe in love at first sight?
Because I do. I believe that love
is the most important of emotions,
and that when you know someone is
right for you, you just know it.

A WOMAN drops off a huge stack of Harlequin romances at the check-in counter. The clerk pulls cards from the books, and then puts them on a cart to be reshelved.

MALE CLERK (cont'd)

Do you know what the most common
kind of book is? Romances. That's
a fact. Romances. Because love is
the most important thing in the
universe. That's what everyone is
looking for, you know. Love.
Everybody is looking for love. Songs
about it, books about it, movies
about it. Everybody is looking for
love. And you are no exception.

There is a lull in the work at the check-in counter; the male clerk leans in close to the woman.

MALE CLERK (cont'd)

'Do you believe in love at first
sight?' 'Because if you don't, I'll
walk by again.' 'Your lips look kind
of wrinkled... Do you mind if I press
them?' 'If I said you had a beautiful
body, would you hold it against me?'
Great pick up lines, right? But why
do people need them? Why? Because
everybody is looking for love. That's
the simple truth.

The check-in clerk goes back to work.

A YOUNG MAN steps up with six books to check out. He slides the first book toward the woman. He stops it with his hand for a moment so the title is right in front of her eyes.

The book is MY NAME IS ARAM, by William Saroyan.

The woman looks up. The young man smiles at her.
She smiles back.

MALE CLERK (cont'd)

And yet you come in here every day,
all stuck up and full of yourself,
thinking you're better than everybody,
and the truth is, you're just a clerk
in a liberry, same as me, the only
difference is you check OUT the books,
and I check IN the books. Your think
your job is more important... well,
I got news for you, baby. If I didn't
check IN the books, there wouldn't
be any books for you to check OUT.

The female clerk checks out MY NAME IS ARAM. The young man
slides a second book across the counter, again making sure
the girl sees the title, WHAT COLOR ARE YOUR EYES? (By Hale
Chatfield.) The woman starts to check it out, but the man
holds the book for a moment while he slides a second title
next to it, THEY'RE AMAZING (by Kiley Smithstone.) The woman,
flushing happily at the compliment, checks out the books. *

MALE CLERK (cont'd)

So why won't you go out with me? It
isn't like I'm not good looking; I
could have my pick of any of the
ladies here... So tell me, why do I
bother with you? You wanna know?
It's because I know that we're right
for each other. I just feel it.
It's that love at first sight thing
I was talking about. I mean, it's
like... what's the play by...

The male clerk refers to a 'cheat sheet.'

MALE CLERK (cont'd)

Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet.
See, I'm educated! It's like we're
starkist lovers, like ... like
the tuna, I guess. No, that can't
be right.

The male clerk checks his cheat sheet.

The man has three more books to check out. He slides the
first one across, WOULD YOU RATHER by Doug Fields. The man
covers the word RATHER and he slides a second book across,
SIMA7 : JOIN ME by Lorna Williams and covers the first part,
so it now shows WOULD YOU JOIN ME. The man slides a third
book across, FOR LIFE, LOVE, RELIGION, FANTASY AND A CUP OF
COFFEE by Michael B. Lovell.

He manages to use hands, arm, chin to keep the first two books covered and still hide part of the third, yielding :

WOULD YOU /JOIN ME/ FOR... A CUP OF COFFEE.

He looks up and smiles. Adorable. She smiles back -- and nods.

MALE CLERK (cont'd)
Star crossed lovers, not starkist.
Star crossed. We're star-crossed,
lovers, baby, and ...

The female clerk points to a sign that says SILENCE PLEASE.

MALE CLERK (cont'd)
Damn.

The female clerk winks at the man as she slides his books toward him.

He simultaneously slides a business card toward her. She slips it into her pocket.

The man slides his entire pile of books across the counter to the check-in clerk.

Then he exits the library, whistling.