

The Book Store

Characters:

- Shop Owner
- Customer

Interior: Book Store - morning.

Shop Owner at the front counter with a stack of books.

Customer enters.

Customer Excuse me, I'm looking for...

Shop Owner **Don't tell me! (Hands him a book)**

Customer **(Reading the title)** "Become A Mind Reader In 10 Easy Steps"? No, that's not it... Does it work?

Shop Owner Apparently not **(Throwing the book over his shoulder)**

Customer Maybe I've come to the wrong place. **(He turns to leave)**

Shop Owner **(Leaping out from behind the desk)** Wait! Maybe I can.. **(he trips and falls over a stack of books on the floor)** Arrgh!

Customer Are you alright?

Shop Owner **(Holding up one of the books)** Ha! "Health and Safety at Work". Was this what you wanted?

Customer No. **(picking up a book from the stack on the counter)** Why are all these here? Are they on sale?

Shop Owner **(Laying on the floor)** What are they?

Customer "George Bush, President of the USA"

Shop Owner Oh, those. No, I couldn't decide where to put them.

Customer What are the choices?

Shop Owner Tragedy or comedy.

Customer **(Nods his head)** Definitely tragedy.

Shop Owner **(Struggles to his feet, swaying and holding his head)**

Customer **(Picks up the pile of books)** Here, let me help, where's the Tragedy section?

Shop Owner Over there, next to the Conspiracy Theories shelf.

Customer (Looks around for a few seconds) There is no Conspiracy Theory shelf.

Shop Owner Aha! That's what they want you to think!

(Silence)

Shop Owner Can you see the Alien Abduction shelf?

Customer **(Searching)** Alien... Alien... Yes! It's...wait a minute, it's empty!

Shop Owner Yeah, well, you see...

Customer Don't tell me, you were working late one night, when all of a sudden there were these bright lights in the sky. You passed out, and when you came around, all alien abduction books were gone.

Shop Owner No... I sold them all.

Customer **(Confused)** Oh.

Shop Owner To a small grey man in a silver jumpsuit...

Customer That's it! **(Slams the books back onto the counter)** I've had enough! All I wanted was a simple book and now...**(Gets angry, threatening gestures)**

Shop Owner **(Holding up a book protectively)** Try this one!

Customer **(Quickly takes it from him and reads the title)** "Anger Management"? **(He tears in in half down the spine and stands there panting heavily)**

Shop Owner Fell better?

Customer **(Surprised)** Yes, I do actually. Look, what's your bestseller this month?

Shop Owner A very popular one is "The Bluffer's Guide to Philosophy".

Customer Excellent, I'll try that one. Do you have a copy in stock?

Shop Owner Maybe we do, but then again, maybe we don't... who can tell. In a sense we have all books here and yet at the same time... nothing!

Customer **(Getting angry)** Look is this a bookshop or not?

Shop Owner **(In a mystical Zen-like way)** Well, let's consider that proposition...

Customer I came here looking for a book I can sink my teeth into...

Shop Owner Why didn't you say so sir? **(Hands over another book)**

Customer **(Reading the title)** "101 Recipes For The Home"... Hysterical! Since you are such a comic, why not find me a book to make me laugh?

Shop Owner I have just the title here sir. **(He hands over another book)**

Customer **(Reading the title)** "A Musical Genius: The Ricky Martin Story" **(He glances at his watch)** Ooohhh, look at the time, I've got to go...

Shop Owner Try this one...

Customer **(Reading the title)** "Short Stories"? Don't be silly, I haven't got the time! **(Starts heading towards the exit)**

Shop Owner **(Pursuing the customer)** Read this one then... **(Hands over a enormous book)**

Customer **(Reading the title)** "Rapid Reading"! Ha! Very funny! **(He moves to the exit)**

Shop Owner But you can't go empty handed sir! What were you really after?

Customer I... I don't know, I can't remember!

Shop Owner Then how about a book on improving your memory?

Customer Have you got on?

Shop Owner Yes it's... **(a blank look comes over his face)** ahh...um....

THE END.