

The New Waitress

Julie balanced the food precariously in her hands. She was new but she was expected to work as efficiently as her colleagues. In her right hand, she carried a bowl of soup. In her left was a basket of garlic bread and two glasses of water. The basket was slanted at such an angle that it looked as though the bread would fall out any minute.

Julie heaved a sigh of relief when she reached the table without spilling anything. However, when she set down the bowl of soup, the entire basket of bread fell out of her grasp and turned upside down on the striped tablecloth. Julie was so startled by what had happened that she forgot she was holding two glasses of water. She released her grip on the two glasses and grabbed the overturned basket. Both glasses crashed on the table, toppled over and water surged out from the glasses. Before the customers could move out of the way, large drops of water had splattered on their clothes.

The female customer shrieked in fright. She pushed back her chair, almost toppling it over and began hurling abuse at the waitress. Her companion signalled the manager and in a gruff voice demanded an explanation for such poor service. The manager hurriedly apologized to the man and his companion. He chastised the waitress in front of them and ordered her to clean up the mess. The flustered girl rushed into the kitchen to get a cloth and dashed back to the table, ready to wipe up the water. However, she was so intent on reaching the table that she did not notice a waiter crossing her path with a plate of spaghetti. She almost crashed into him. To break her fall, she grabbed his arm, which was the only thing around to steady herself. Her actions caused the plate of spaghetti to fly off the tray with such force that it landed on the lap of the female customer she had offended earlier.

The lady screeched in anger and lunged at the waitress. The terrified waitress hid behind her manager, who tried in vain to apologize to the lady. He offered them a complimentary meal. However, they were too incensed to stay in the restaurant. Without another word, they stalked out of the place. The new waitress spent the rest of the night cleaning up the mess.