

## A PECULIAR CUSTOMER

When I was young, I used to work in a hotel bar, as a waitress.

There are many anecdotes about customers or about me being a mess, but there's only one that I will remember my entire life.

I had just started my new job and my boss told me: "You always have to serve the drinks in front of the customers". I kept that piece of advice in my mind, because my boss was so scary and I didn't want to have trouble with her.

One week later, she came to the bar with some friends. She announced that they were going to spend their holidays in our hotel and she wanted me to meet them. They were an old couple who seemed to be very rich. The woman ordered a cup of coffee and the man asked for tomato juice. I thought: "Who in the world could drink something like that?", but I went to the kitchen looking for tomato juice. I opened the fridge. I don't know if you have worked in a restaurant or a hotel, but I bet you have never seen such a dirty fridge in your entire life. I looked up and down the huge fridge but I saw nothing similar to a tomato juice. There only was orange juice, apple juice, peach juice, pear juice, banana juice, grape juice and pineapple juice. I thought I could do the juice by myself, but I was scared I would mess it up.

Finally I opened another small fridge, even dirtier than the first one (if it's possible) and right there, in a corner, there was my angel. There was a brick of tomato juice. It was all dirty and I was scared it might be rotten. I tasted some of it and it was good, well, the best a tomato juice can be, obviously. So, following the instructions my boss gave me, I went outside the kitchen with the dirty-seems-to-be-rotten brick of tomato juice. I served the juice in front of the customer and my boss was staring at me. The man said: "What's wrong with you?" And I added: "I don't know sir, I'm not the one who ordered a tomato juice".

My boss took me outside the room and shouted at me as if I had killed her hamster. As a punishment I spent six months cleaning all the hotel bathrooms. After that, I recovered my job as a waitress, but I never got to serve drinks again.

Madison