

# Just Fix It

By Michael Leathers

**CAST: 1 male, 2 females**

**Beth:** Highly competitive, late 20s to mid-30s, eager to beat her friend at bowling.

**Attendant:** Slow-witted but helpful employee at the bowling alley.

**Sandy:** Easy-going friend of Beth. Late 20s to mid-30s.

**RUN TIME: 5 minutes**

**PROPS**

- Soda can
- Plastic tray with nacho chips and cheese

**STORY**

Beth is finally poised to beat her friend, Sandy, at bowling. Eight pins to knock down in the last frame, and the game is hers. The only trouble is the ball-return machine hasn't spit out her lucky ball. She turns to an attendant for help, who's no help at all. Beth's situation is like unanswered prayer in our lives; we wait impatiently for an answer when it's been there all along.

**THEMES**

Unanswered prayer. Impatience. Jealousy. Anger.

# Just Fix It

*(We're at a bowling alley. BETH is looking straight ahead at ten upright pins at the end of a bowling lane. She holds a can of soda, impatiently tapping it. Perturbed, she has been waiting, waiting, waiting)*

BETH

*(Hitting the button on the ball-return machine. No response)*

Stupid machine. Why does this happen to me?

*(Looks for help, spots ATTENDANT working nearby)*

Young man!

ATTENDANT

Yes, ma'am?

BETH

Fix this contraption.

ATTENDANT

What's the problem?

BETH

Your machine won't give my ball back.

ATTENDANT

No worries, ma'am. I can fix that.

*(He casually presses the same button that BETH had been beating into submission. He stares down the lane to see if his efforts had any effect.*

*Turns back to BETH)*

ATTENDANT (cont'd)

It's not working.

BETH

I know it's not working. That's why I called you over here. To fix it.

ATTENDANT

You could get a new ball.

BETH

I don't want a new ball. I want that ball. It's my lucky ball.

ATTENDANT

I can give you a complimentary game.

BETH

A complimentary game?

ATTENDANT

Yeah, that means it's free.

BETH

I know what it means. You're the one who doesn't understand. I bowl here every month with my friend. She's beaten me every game ... until today. I only need eight pins with this next ball to win.

ATTENDANT

That's cool.

BETH

It would be ... if I could get my lucky ball.

ATTENDANT

What happened?

BETH

I got a spare in the tenth frame. I went to look for my friend so she could see her defeat was imminent, but I couldn't find her. So I got a soda and waited. When she didn't come back, I decided to go ahead and play. That's when I noticed my ball hadn't come back. I pressed every button I could find on that thing, but it's not doing anything. So can you fix it or not?

ATTENDANT

Yeah. ... How about a complimentary game? It's free.

BETH

I told you. I want to finish this game.

ATTENDANT

Oh, yeah. ... You want me to find you a different ball?

BETH

What's wrong with you? Aren't you listening?

ATTENDANT

You don't gotta yell.

BETH

Apparently I do. Nothing seems to be sinking in.

ATTENDANT

What do you want me to do?

BETH

Fix the machine.

ATTENDANT

I could kick it.

BETH

Does that work?

ATTENDANT

No. I usually just hurt my toes.

BETH

Then why would you do it?

**END OF SAMPLE**

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