

How Much Would It Take

By

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INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SERGIO, a young go-getter, takes stock of the store's inventory. GARY, an older, slovenly dressed man, enters. He fumbles with an apron.

SERGIO

You're late, Gary. When your shift begins at seven I expect you to be on the floor, ready to go by seven.

GARY

Sorry, Sergio.

SERGIO

Don't put that on out here. Arrive early, do that on your own time.

GARY

I promise it won't happen again. Okay, I'm ready.

SERGIO

See that box? Inside it are all the breakfast items - scones, Danish, baguette, bagels, muffins, etc. Arrange and price them in the pastry case and do it quickly. The morning rush's gonna start soon.

Gary stares at the box.

SERGIO

Come on! Get cracking.

GARY

That's a lot of food.

SERGIO

And a lot of people are coming to buy it. Hurry up!

GARY

Could you eat everything in this box in one sitting?

SERGIO

Do your job, Gary, please.

GARY

How much would it take for you to try it?

SERGIO

I don't know and I don't care. Get to work.

GARY

You'd have to factor in the costs of going to the hospital in case you got sick.

SERGIO

Gary, I'm telling you as your shift supervisor, get to work right now.

GARY

Yes sir.

He starts slowly stocking the pastry case.

GARY

These scones sure look good, filling too. There's no way anyone could eat more than seven of these in one sitting, even if they were starving. Wow, these are heavy! I had no idea a scone weighed so much.

SERGIO

How's it coming, Gary? Gonna be ready for the customers? They're going to be here any minute now.

GARY

I'll be ready, Sergio, don't worry. Do you think you could use a scone as a raft? What if you were on the Titanic and since there weren't enough lifeboats and all you had was a scone. Do you think you could stay afloat?

SERGIO

(not paying attention)

I don't know.

GARY

Or what if you were dropped from a helicopter into the ocean with only a maple scone strapped to your back as a life jacket?

SERGIO

I don't know, Gary.

GARY

How much would it take for you to try that, Sergio?

SERGIO

What?

GARY

How much would it take for you jump into the ocean from a helicopter with a maple scone strapped to your back?

SERGIO

That's a stupid question. Get your job done.

GARY

I bet you could wear a scone as a hat they're so heavy. Or better yet, you could probably use a scone as a replacement arm or leg. If it were possible, how much would it take for you to go around for a year with scones as legs?

SERGIO

That's dumb.

(He ponders for a moment)

Two scones could never support the weight of a person. Uh, now get back to work.

GARY

(excited)

How about if you just had your left arm replaced with a scone? You would still have the use of one good hand. How much would it take for you to do that?

SERGIO

A lot, Gary.

GARY

This baguette is pretty sturdy! I bet you could use it as a walking stick or a pole vault or something.

SERGIO
I don't think so.

 GARY
Sure you could, Sergio. How much would it take for you to walk everywhere with a six foot piece of baguette as your walking stick?

 SERGIO
Oh, not nearly as much as the thing with the scone.

 GARY
How much would it take for you to use a six foot piece of baguette to pole vault over a pit of snakes?

 SERGIO
 (amused)
I don't know, Gary, how about for you?

 GARY
At least a million dollars! I'm assuming the snakes are poisonous. What about these Danish? I'm sure you could use one as a snowboard. If it were big enough, how much would it take for you to snowboard down Mt. Kilimanjaro?

 SERGIO
Would I be able to stop or turn? What if I fell off? Would I have to stay on it for a certain amount of time?

 GARY
You would have to stay on the Danish at least 10 minutes without falling, and you had to stay straight!

 SERGIO
A million bucks and I'd do it. What about those muffins? How much would it take for you to wear blueberry muffins as shoes for a day?

 GARY
Oh, I'd do that for a hundred bucks. How about you?

SERGIO

I would need at least a thousand for that.

GARY

What if this muffin were 10 feet tall and 10 feet wide, how much would it take for to be stuck inside of it, with only your head peeping out of the top for a week?

SERGIO

Would I be fed? Could I sleep?

GARY

Sure.

SERGIO

Since I'm claustrophobic, I'm going to say at least \$250,000.

GARY

I'd do for \$500 easy. I wouldn't have to work, someone would feed me, I don't mind going without a shower for a week, and I would stay nice and warm with blueberry muffin all around me.

SERGIO

Alright, Gary, that's enough. Let's keep our minds on the job.

GARY

How much would it take for you to live in a house made out of cinnamon raisin bagels?

SERGIO

Back to work, Gary.

GARY

(yelling enthusiastically)
The bagels would be like bricks and cream cheese would be like the mortar. Here's the thing, the house would be in the North Pole, and you wouldn't have any other food other than your house. You would slowly have to eat your home. And the more you eat, the colder you get!

SERGIO

I said that's enough.

GARY

Or what if you were a bagel and for the rest of your life you were constantly chewed and swallowed?

SERGIO

Get back to work this second!

GARY

What if you were the guy who put out the bagels for people to eat, only you still had the feeling that you were constantly being chewed and swallowed? How much would it take for you to become that person?

Long pause.

FADE OUT