

Recycler Rich

By

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INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

A guy with multi-colored plastic bags hanging off of him approaches another person's table.

RECYCLER RICH

Hey, hi. I didn't mean to interrupt your lunch.

LEN

I don't have any money!

RECYCLER RICH

Oh, no. Don't get me wrong here.

LEN

Look, can't a working man eat a hamburger in peace?

RECYCLER RICH

I only wanted to pass along a bit of information.

LEN

Yeah, what's that?

RECYCLER RICH

Plastic straws take 400 years to decompose.

LEN

Thanks for that useful knowledge nugget. Bye, bye.

RECYCLER RICH

So how bout it?

LEN

How bout what?

RECYCLER RICH

Hand over the straw chief.

LEN

Get away from me.

RECYCLER RICH

You ever see a pigeon try to digest a straw?

LEN

I'm eating!

RECYCLER RICH

That's more than I can say for the pigeon.

LEN

Guess what? I work at PetSmart, so I don't have a lot of cash to eat out often with. So I don't want to be bothered by the likes of you!

RECYCLER RICH

Oh, PetSmart. Do you sell birds?

LEN

Yes, but sorry, we don't sell crazy birds!

RECYCLER RICH

(pause)

Hand over a fry.

LEN

What?

RECYCLER RICH

Help me out with a fry.

LEN

No way, no how, bub!

RECYCLER RICH

Saving the environment makes me hungry.

LEN

Talking to you drives me insane!

RECYCLER RICH

I should introduce myself. My name is Recycler Rich.

LEN

Convenient that your first name is Rich then!

RECYCLER RICH

My given name is Todd.

LEN

Well, Recycler Todd, I'd like to get back to my hamburger which is ice-cold now thanks to you!

RECYCLER RICH

See this pouch? That's for plastic.
Toss the straw in, dude, and hand
over a fry.

LEN

My god! I have only minutes left on
my lunch breather.

A man in a nearby booth turns around.

WALLY

Give 'em a fry.

LEN

You give this wackjob a fry.

WALLY

I'm having salad, sport. Tryin' to
put more green in the diet and I'm
about to get to a wedding and you
know how those wedding buffets can
be. Rich foods spread out like the
Great Plains.

LEN

Why are you eating now if you have
a wedding to go to?

WALLY

I eat nine meals a day. It's the
new planetary diet. You know, nine
planets.

LEN

Then give him a crouton!

WALLY

I'll do one better. Here are two
croutons, my straw, and the plastic
lid to my drink.

RECYCLER RICH

I and the many pigeons of the world
thank you.

WALLY

Come on, give 'em a fry and your
straw.

LEN

Fine! Here's one French fry and my
straw, you loon!

RECYCLER RICH
Don't skimp.

LEN
You asked for one fry.

RECYCLER RICH
No need to pass along the smallest
one, dude.

WALLY
Give 'em a bigger fry.

LEN
Who asked you anyway, Sir
Interfere-a-Lot?

WALLY
Wally's the name and I help people.
Here's my biggest crouton. I was
gonna pocket it for later, you
know, in case the wedding dragged
on and I needed to crunch on
something. But you're doing good
things, you need it.

RECYCLER RICH
Thank you for helping to fund my
important work.

LEN
What work is that, lunacy!

RECYCLER RICH
How about helping this big blue
marble we are all residents of.

LEN
Sounds easy in comparison to
PetSmart.

WALLY
I'm in retail too. I work at the
City.

LEN
What?

WALLY
Oh, (smiles) I mean Circuit City.

LEN

How do you enjoy that, you nuisance?

WALLY

Well, I get fulfillment out of helping people in general. For example, a buddy of mine, the father of the bride in this wedding, I recommended he hire a couple of go-getters at the City who moonlight at DJs. He's gonna be real happy.

LEN

Well aren't you a real Friendly Freddy.

WALLY

With God's help, I am (points up), with God's help.

LEN

Tell me this much clowns, would you enjoy listening to puppies yelping all day?

WALLY

Pups are cute.

RECYCLER RICH

I like pigeons and big fries.

LEN

I like peace and quiet! But oh no, I have to get back to the store. Thanks for ruining my day!

RECYCLER RICH

Thanks for saving a pigeon and filling my tummy.

WALLY

Keep it in the road, fella. (To Rich) You know, I like helping the environment too. I reuse Kleenex all the time. I mean even if it's balled up and in the trash, I'll still try and milk it a bit. I reuse Q-tips, even if they're good and yellow. I drink milk past the expiration date. I can go for days before flushing the toilet, you

(MORE)

WALLY (cont'd)
know. Huh? Maybe I should change my
name to Recycler Wally.

RECYCLER RICH
Hand over another crouton.