

HOLD UP

By Alexis Turrentine

Man with a bandanna as a face mask walks into a Trader Joe's.

MASKED MAN
(muffled because of the mask)
Hey, uh...give me...

CASHIER
SIR! Please remain six feet back!
It's for the safety of everyone AND
it's store policy.

The masked man backs up a couple feet and now he has to talk a little louder because he has the mask on and he's even further away from the cashier.

MASKED MAN
(still muffled)
This is a hold up.

CASHIER
What? Oh, no sir. You're not holding things up. Everything is just happening at a slower pace these days. You know, besides the threat of a deadly virus, it's not so bad. I kind of like it. We're taking time to smell the roses, which are on sale, by the way.

MASKED MAN
Just hurry up and give me the money.

CASHIER
You must be from the South, calling me honey like that. So cute. Hey, where are your groceries? Don't tell me you stood in line just to buy some mints. You must really like our mints.

MASKED MAN
I'm serious!

CASHIER
You're serious about mints. I get it. Fresh breath IS important, especially if you have a mask on
(MORE)

CASHIER (cont'd)
and you're breathing in your own
breath. Now, which ones do you
want?

MASKED MAN
I want all the cash in the
register.

CASHIER
You want ALL of the mints? I'm
sorry, sir, we have a 2 item
maximum policy. We don't want
people hoarding stuff.

The masked man pulls out a gun and lifts up his
bandanna, yelling at the cashier.

MASKED MAN
I SAID, "GIVE ME ALL THE CASH IN
THE REGISTER!"

Everyone in the store gasps.

CASHIER
Um...uh...ok. Well, first of all,
please put your mask back on. It's
really dangerous for your face to
be uncovered.

MASKED MAN
Ugh, these things are so hot.

The masked man reluctantly pulls his bandanna back down.

CASHIER
Thank you. We all need to do our
part. Secondly, I don't actually
have a lot of cash in my drawer.
We're mostly on a cashless credit
system, these days.

MASKED MAN
Just give me whatever. I lost my
job. I need the money.

CASHIER
We're actually hiring right now. We
need a lot of help at the moment.
Busier than ever!

MASKED MAN

I don't want to work here! Too many germs!

CASHIER

I totally get it. But, Trader Joe's really cares about its workers. Listen, the most valuable thing in our store, besides toilet paper and hand sanitizer, which we're currently out of, is compassion. We all care about each other; as coworkers, as shoppers, as people. If we could just take a moment to look around and see that we're all in this together, we would have peace and solidarity and we'd get through this uncertain time so much quicker.

MASKED MAN

Ugh! You're useless.

Everyone in the store boos the masked man.

CASHIER

SIR, I am a frontline hero according to a memo from our CEO and a Dunkin' Donuts commercial!

Shamed, he storms out and everyone applauds.

CASHIER (cont'd)

Next!....Ma'am, back up! Please remain six feet back!

END