

The Bell Ringer

By

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Inspired by "Friends" Season 5 Episode 10: "The One With The  
Inappropriate Sister"

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1 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- DAY 1

JESSICA ENTERS and sits down against a blank wall.

JESSICA

Hi my name is Jessica and I am a professional Bell Ringer. What is a bell ringer? Three Words:Season. Of. Giving...

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE OF IMAGES SHOWING HER DANCING AND RINGING THE BELL.

JESSICA (O.S.)(CONT'D)

You know the people who dress up as Santa Claus and stand outside of stores... Well that's kind of my job...

BACK TO:

2 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- SAME DAY 2

JESSICA (CONT'D)

And it's a rough business to make it big...

CUT TO:

3 EXT. STREET CORNER- DAY 3

It is near Christmas season as Jessica is standing outside and ringing the bell.

JESSICA

Merry Christmas!...Give Back!...Feliz Navidad!...

As people walk by, she begins to get frustrated, eventually following one person, ringing it violently. That person ignores her and continues to walk away.

JESSICA

(after a beat)

AWWW COME ON!

BACK TO:

4 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- SAME DAY 4

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
Trust me...it's harder than it  
looks.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. STREET CORNER- DAY 5

Jessica ringing the bell.

She notices a LITTLE KID selling cookies.

LITTLE KID  
Cookies! Cookies for sale! Buy one  
to fundraise my troupe's camping  
trip!

A GIRL ends up walking by and stops at the cookie stand.

GIRL  
I would love to buy some cookies!

Hands money to little kid.

LITTLE KID  
Thank you--come again!

The girl continues walking past Jessica and EXITS.

Angry, Jessica walks up to the little kid.

JESSICA  
Really?! REALLY?! You just happened  
to be raising money for your little  
(in mocking voice)"camping trip" in  
my corner! SERIOUSLY WHAT IS WRONG  
WITH YOU! I have been standing out  
here for an hour and you've been  
here--for what--5 minutes and  
you've already stolen away my  
customers! Now pick up your  
disgusting cookies and get away  
from this corner--GOT IT?!?

Little Kid begins to get upset and runs away as Jessica is  
smiling, proud of herself.

JESSICA  
Yeah, run away and don't come  
back!...COWARD!

BACK TO:

6 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- SAME DAY 6

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
I somehow make it work though...

BACK TO:

7 EXT. STREET CORNER- DAY 7

Jessica sees her friend ANNIE walking by.

JESSICA  
Hey Annie!

ANNIE  
Hey Jessica! I can see you're at  
work--again. Here, let me help...

Annie puts a one dollar bill into the bucket.

JESSICA  
Thanks... (notices purse) By the  
way is that a new purse?

ANNIE  
Oh yeah, I just got it over the  
weekend! Isn't it pretty?!

JESSICA  
You know...some people don't have  
purses like those...

Feeling guilty, Annie sighs and puts more money into the  
bucket.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
Oh, and remember that little  
incident that happened at Nick's  
party a few weeks ago? We wouldn't  
want those pictures going all  
Twitter, now would we?

Annie groans and puts even more money into the bucket.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
Now that wasn't so hard, was it?

Annie STOMPS off.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
(happily waving)  
Have a nice day! Merry Christmas!

BACK TO:

8 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- SAME DAY 8

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
Yup, it's all about spreading  
holiday cheer!

BACK TO:

9 EXT. STREET CORNER- DAY 9

Another BELL RINGER comes into view. More people seem to be donating to the other bell ringer.

BELL RINGER  
(cheery) Give back this  
season! Spread holiday joy!  
(one person donates) Why thank  
you...  
A little jealous, Jessica decides  
to amp up her game.

JESSICA  
getting louder) Come'on folks!  
Donate here and make somebody's  
day! You can be Jewish too! We  
don't discriminate religion here!

People continue to walk by and donate to the other bell ringer, who is currently doing a little dance.

Jessica pulls out her speaker bad and the chorus of the song "All I Want For Christmas Is You" starts to play.

Jessica lip syncs while the people just stare at her. After a beat, everyone moves from the other bell ringer's stand to Jessica's stand and donates.

BACK TO:

10 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- SAME DAY 10

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
I mean, I have become so good at  
this bell ringing gig that I have  
people hiring me for their Bar  
Mitzvahs!

CUT TO:

11 INT. BUILDING LOBBY

11

Jessica is standing next to a building as people walk in, putting their gifts into the bucket. Jessica stops a BOY.

JESSICA

WOW! Twenty-five dollars! Isaac has one good friend! But did you know that in the jewish culture, it is considered lucky for people be giving money in groups of eighteen? If you were a REALLY good friend, you would be giving thirty-six dollars.

The boy pulls out more money and gives it to her. As he does:

BOY

(mumbling)

There better be a candy bar...

As boys EXITS:

JESSICA

(calls after) Oh, there is! Just through the door and to the left! Wish him a happy birthday for me!

BACK TO:

12 INT. INTERVIEW SETTING- SAME DAY

12

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I love my job! So remember, next time you see someone like me who is waving a bell around like a lunatic, please donate! Or better yet, become a bell ringer like me and help spread the cheer! Just don't be on the same street corner as me or I'll rip your head off  
(beat) Happy Holidays and Bye!

FADE TO BLACK

13 EXT. STREET CORNER- DAY

13

(This scene will be viewed during credits)

As Jessica is ringing the bell, Ms. Cathy walks by.

JESSICA

Hi, Ms. Cathy! Would you like to donate?

CATHY

Sure! Anything to help!

Puts money in bucket.

JESSICA

I just thought you would donate more because... well you know... I am one of your acting students... soooo...

CATHY

Well... okay... if you put it that way...

Puts more money in bucket.

JESSICA

Hey I have an idea! You know Demi and Selena, right? Maybe you can just call them...and see if they would like to donate...

Cathy gives Jessica a look and then walks away. After she leaves, Jessica is standing all alone.

JESSICA

(calls after) Well, at least it was worth a shot...(beat)See you in class!