

Don't Shoot the Messenger

Another Christmas item. Something like this really happened to me once, but not the bit about free money – that's pure fiction!

Scene: a Postal Sorting Office. People are coming to reclaim their parcels from a less-than-motivated postal worker

- C1 Shop! Shop! Come on..... let's have some service here. *(turning to C2)* This is a disgrace, you'd think they would be around to serve customers.
- C2 I'm sure so near Christmas they are busy with sorting the mail. Just give them a minute.
- C1 But I've been here 10 minutes already and I think that's long enough. Come on ... shop!
(PW appears holding a cup of coffee and looking pretty miserable)
- PW What's all this noise?
- C1 I've been waiting here for 10 minutes and I need to pick up a parcel. I suppose you've been on your five minute tea break.
- PW No – it's a coffee break and 10 minutes.
- C1 Well some of us have better things to do than hang around here waiting for you to finish your coffee. Here. I've a parcel to pick up. It's my Christmas present from my sister.
(PW disappears)
- C2 I think you were a bit harsh on him – after all their hours are very long at Christmas.
- C1 Well I've got some service now.
(PW returns with a box marked Fragile and there is the sound of broken glass inside)
- PW There you go.
- C1 Just a minute *(shaking box)* That's a set of crystal glass tumblers my sister was sending me. You idiots have smashed it to bits. I'll have you for this!
- PW That's no way to speak to a postal employee. We do have rules about harassment you know.
- C1 Don't you speak to me like that.
- PW I suggest your sister buys some bubble wrap next time as it sounds as though there is no protective padding in here at all. Things like this must be packed very carefully. I don't know. Some people have no common sense.
- C1 I think I have a right to compensation for your poor handling of this parcel
- PW It isn't registered, so tough.
- C1 How dare you treat me like this. I want to see the Manger
- PW Please yourself. *(rings)* Charlie there's a moany customer here who wants to see you ...
... yeah, right now OK then, I'll tell her. *(to C1)* He'll be about 10 minutes.
- C1 What do you mean moany customer? It's a disgrace.
- PW Then complain to Charlie when he gets here. Next please.
- C2 That's me. *(hands ticket to PW)*
- PW Item to sign for
- C3 I've got one of those too *(hands ticket to PW)*
- PW Right, I'll go and get them. *(goes away and returns almost immediately)* Here they are. I think you will be pleased with these. *(both sign and then open the letter)*
- C1 I wouldn't waste your time with it. It looks like junk mail.
- C2 Well I never, the Post Office are going to give me £1000 as part of a new promotion.
- C3 Same here.
- C1 That's not fair, why are they so special?
- PW No, everybody in town will receive one by the end of the week
- C2 Where's the catch?
- PW There's no catch, you fill in the form and return it in the envelope provided.
- C3 Seems to good to believe
- C2 Well, its worth a try.

- C1 I'm certainly not going to be returning it to the Post Office - bunch of cowboys. I don't want their money.
- PW It will pay for your broken glass
- C1 What nonsense!
(PW slips off)
- C2 This is a gift, so why not take it? After all, we all make mistakes when packing parcels. So the money will come in handy.
- C3 Yeah, go for it!
- C1 It may be alright for you but for me; I wouldn't stop so low even to suggest I might need it. Besides, it is their problem if the stuff breaks and they will be responsible.
- C2 Well I'm off. I don't have all day to wait for the manager.
- C3 Neither do I *(both leave)*
- C1 Now, where's that manager? I'll soon sort out the sloppy lot. Shop! Shop!