

Cast of Characters

Customer:

Can't believe that a bar would sell used beer -- and is exasperated that the bartender is trying to sell him one.

Barkeep:

Plays it straight -- as if it's perfectly natural to sell used beer at a bar.

Dipshit:

Ends the sketch by insisting on watching Hannity & Colmes.

Scene

A bartender finds it perfectly natural to sell used beer to a disbelieving customer.

SETTING: A bar.

AT RISE: Customer approaches the bartender.

CUSTOMER
Hi. I'll take a beer please.

BARKEEP
Yes sir. New or used?

CUSTOMER
Excuse me?

BARKEEP
New or used?

(The confused customer looks around.)

CUSTOMER
New or used what?

BARKEEP
Your beer. New or used?

CUSTOMER
New.

BARKEEP
Oh, I'd quite recommend the used, sir.

CUSTOMER
You're recommending used beer.

BARKEEP
Absolutely. Our selection's right over there, sir.

(Customer looks to the end of the bar and, sure enough, there are pints with some beer in them.)

CUSTOMER
That's ... used beer.

BARKEEP
We've got Rolling Rock on the end, sir. The pale lagers tend to translate well from new to used. Would you like to try some for three dollars? It's quite good.

CUSTOMER
(staring in utter disbelief)
Did you just say that pale lagers translate well from new to used?

BARKEEP

I can put it in the cooler for you for an extra dollar. It's a hell of a deal.

CUSTOMER

Four dollars for used Rolling Rock.

BARKEEP

Best deal in town, sir.

CUSTOMER

It's used beer!

BARKEEP

Quite good used beer, sir.

CUSTOMER

Really. Would you drink it?

BARKEEP

(beat)

I have cancer.

CUSTOMER

I see. What? What does that have to do --

BARKEEP

Tell you what. Because I like you, I'll put it in the cooler for 30 seconds, it'll be nice and cold and I'll still charge only three dollars.

CUSTOMER

It's that good, huh?

BARKEEP

I swear by it, sir.

CUSTOMER

I want to see you drink it.

BARKEEP

(Is there a way out of this?)

Fine.

(The barkeep reaches below the bar, pulls out a bottle and opens it.)

CUSTOMER

The used beer.

BARKEEP

Excuse me?

CUSTOMER

Show me that you're willing to drink the used beer.

(The barkeep grabs one of the glasses of used beer ... Looks at the customer, who awaits ... Barkeep delays as much as possible ... Inches the glass to the lips ... Customer on edge, dying to see her drink it ... Barkeep is oh-so-close to drinking it ... Barkeep dumps the beer into another glass on the bar, wipes her mouth, smacks her lips as if she just drank it.)

BARKEEP

That hit the spot!

CUSTOMER

The beer never touched your lips!

BARKEEP

Full-bodied, with just the right bite.

CUSTOMER

You dumped it in that glass!

BARKEEP

No I didn't.

CUSTOMER

This is insane. I've never been to a place like this in my life!

DIPSHIT

(enters, talks to barkeep)

Excuse me. I know most people are here to watch the game but I was hoping you could switch that corner TV to "Hannity & Colmes."

(Customer and barkeep find me in the audience and hand me their skits.)

CUSTOMER

Oh, for Christ's sake.
That's just too silly.

BARKEEP

That does it. I'm leaving.
New material, please.

(Dipshit looks at the used beer. Approaches. Looks around. Nobody's claiming them. He grabs them and leaves.)