

RAW PROVOCATIVE HUMANE PLAYS

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Bake Sale

by
Jennifer Reichert

- LILA sells cookies, a lot of cookies, to a lot of people—for not a lot of money. 20s.
- MAE sells a pie, just once, for a lot of money—but that guy gets all the pie she'll ever bake. 20s.
- JULIA sells brownies, but not the frosted brownies—those she's saving for later. 20s.
- DANA sells bacon-infused dark chocolate layer cake slathered in smokey maple frosting—isn't ashamed of it. 20s.
- MEN (ONE through SIX) 20s–30s. Perhaps they are actors, perhaps they are voices, perhaps they are puppets. But whatever they are, they are demand.

Bake Sale was inspired by the journal article:
Sexual Economics: Sex as Female Resource for Social Exchange in Heterosexual Interactions
Baumeister and Vohs, *Personality and Social Psychology Review* Vol. 8, No. 4, 339–363 (2004)

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Lights rise on a long table. A hand-lettered sign reads, "BAKE SALE Today!"
DANA enters. She sets her bags down on one end of the table.

JULIA

Hi Dana!

JULIA, MAE and LILA bustle with bags.

DANA

Julia! You made it! Hi Mae.

MAE

Hello Dana, do we set up wherever?

Dana indicates the empty table.

JULIA

Yeah. I thought it would be fun. This is our friend Lila.

LILA

Hello.

DANA

Welcome. Settle in. What did you bring?

The girls show off their goods.

MAE

Fresh cherry pie, in a hand rolled paté brisée, with a lattice crust.

JULIA

Thick, dark, fudgy brownies.

LILA

Soft, buttery, chocolate chip cookies.

Lila's pile of cookies dwarfs Julia's pyramid of brownies. Dana pulls out an elegantly frosted chocolate layer cake.

MAE (PIE)

What kind of cake is that?

DANA

This... is my specialty.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Really! Your specialty cake?

LILA (COOKIES)

Hurry, they're on their way.

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The women bustle to display their baked goods, just so. They write on display cards.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
What do you usually charge?

DANA (CAKE)
(reading)
"\$5 per slice."

LILA (COOKIES)
Five seems high for one cookie.

DANA (CAKE)
Maybe two for five. Two could be one serving.

Jula displays her card.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
(reading)
"\$5 apiece."

Lila displays her card.

LILA (COOKIES)
(reading)
"2 for \$1"

The other WOMEN frown. Dana takes her knife and steps toward Mae. Mae writes.

DANA (CAKE)
Would you like me to slice this for you? I think six generous slices ought to do it.

MAE (PIE)
No! Don't touch it!

Dana jumps back.

DANA (CAKE)
I just thought you might need some help with the cuts.

MAE (PIE)
No, I'm sorry, Dana. It's just-- See?

Mae displays several cards.

MAE (PIE)
"\$250", "A year of pie", "Bottomless Pie Plate".

JULIA (BROWNIE)
Is it made out of gold?

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MAE (PIE)

No, the guy who buys the pie gets as many pies as he can eat. He brings back the pie plate and I bake him a new pie.

DANA (CAKE)

Interesting strategy.

MAE (PIE)

Well, I've always wanted to make a pie for a bake sale. But I only have one pie plate. So I just made the one, but didn't think I would get much for it, and I wasn't sure I wanted to be out here every week selling more pie. Then I thought, well I do love to do it, I can sell all my pie baking at once for a big price and give one person a steady stream of pie!

A small crowd of MEN enter, eyeing the goods on the table, and each other.

The women man their posts behind their respective wares.

The MEN behave as a gang, emerging to buy and compete for baked goods.

ONE

Would you take fifty?

MAE (PIE)

No.

TWO

Don't you sell it to this jackoff for less than full price.

ONE

Are you buying it?

TWO

Maybe. But I say, if you can't afford the woman's pie, shop elsewhere.

MAE (PIE)

Well, I would love to sell you my pie, but I'm not going to hold it for you. Someone may offer more than two-fifty. I might have to hold an auction.

TWO

I see how it is. Give me one of those brownies, sweet cheeks.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

You want to buy a brownie?

TWO

Who doesn't like brownies?

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JULIA (BROWNIE)
Five dollars, please.

Julia and TWO exchange money and baked good. TWO takes a big bite.

TWO
Oh my god, that's good!

JULIA (BROWNIE)
Really? Thank you! I'm so glad.

FIVE
There's no such thing as a bad brownie.

ONE
I'll take it now for seventy five.

MAE (PIE)
Why don't you have a brownie?

Julia stares at Mae. ONE stands to the side, still eyeing Mae's pie.

LILA (COOKIES)
That guy seemed to like his.

ONE and FIVE look at Julia's brownies.

ONE
He did. Do you have any with frosting?

DANA (CAKE)
It's a brownie. It doesn't need frosting.

ONE
I'll have some cookies.

ONE gives Lila a dollar and she hands him the cookies. Lila shows Julia the dollar with a smile, but Julia frowns.

FIVE
I'll take a brownie.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
That'll be five.

FIVE and Julia exchange dollars for baked goods. He takes a bite.

FIVE
These are sinful. You should have made more.

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JULIA (BROWNIE)

Oh, I did. I made a batch all frosted and delectable looking! My mom's famous brownie recipe. I'm saving them. For tonight.

FIVE

What's tonight?

Julia hands FIVE a flyer. He reads it.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

The St. Honoré Annual bake sale and silent auction. I really made the brownies for my church sale, but then I thought, I should sell a few plain ones beforehand to pique interest, like a taste test.

FIVE

Could I buy one of those now?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Oh, no. My special brownies are going to be in the silent auction, which is only for batches and whole cakes and pies.

FIVE

Not even one? For me?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

No, if you want to taste frosted brownies, you'll have to come to my church sale tonight and bid. What do you think?

FIVE puts the flyer in his pocket.

FIVE

I might. If it means I get to eat fancy brownies.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

You think I might sell out?

MAE (PIE)

You could charge more.

LILA (COOKIES)

You do have another batch.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I know, but I really need to save those for my church auction.

LILA (COOKIES)

That's too bad, but at least some guy will get some if he goes to church with you.

FOUR and SIX ogle Dana's cake.

SIX

Is that chocolate?

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It has chocolate. DANA (CAKE)

I'll take one. SIX

He hands her money. Dana serves SIX a moist slice. He takes a forkful and shoves it in his mouth. As he chews, his face screws up and he spits it out.

SIX
Pfft! What is that? It's salty. Agh! You said it was chocolate! Is that--?

DANA (CAKE)
It's Bacon-infused Chocolate Cake with Smokey Maple frosting.

SIX
You brought Bacon Cake to a bake sale?! That's disgusting.

SIX wipes his tongue on the back of his hand and tosses the slice in the trash.

FOUR
That's bacon on top?

DANA (CAKE)
Yes. Would you like a slice?

FOUR
Uh...no thanks.

LILA (COOKIES)
Cookies? They're really tasty.

FOUR ignores her, eyeing Julia's brownies.

SIX
I want my money back.

DANA (CAKE)
Then give me my cake back.

SIX
I... It was false advertising!

DANA (CAKE)
Caveat emptor. You didn't ask. It's not my fault your tastes are pedestrian.

SIX stalks away from Dana.

Lila takes the knife and some cookies and chops them into pieces on a plate.

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Lila takes another card and scrawls on it, "Free Samples". Julia and Mae see this and scowl at Lila, who smiles at FOUR.

LILA (COOKIES)

Try a piece?

FOUR

Can't say no to free samples.

FOUR steps away from Julia's brownies and helps himself to Lila's proffered sample plate.

FOUR

I'll take four.

LILA (COOKIES)

That's two dollars.

FOUR and Lila exchange dollars for baked goods. FOUR eats a cookie.

FOUR

Mmm. These are good.

Lila tilts the sample plate close to ONE. He pops a piece in his mouth.

LILA (COOKIES)

Just a dollar for two!

ONE

Mmm. You guys have samples?

MAE (PIE)

No.

ONE

I'll take six.

ONE and Lila exchange dollars for baked goods. ONE swipes some more samples.

LILA (COOKIES)

Come again!

The MEN migrate to the sample plate to taste the cookies. Several MEN buy and eat Lila's cookies.

The WOMEN eye the sample plate warily. Lila starts chopping more cookies. Julia watches her.

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JULIA (BROWNIE)
Your cookies seem very popular.

LILA (COOKIES)
Yeah. Wanna taste them?

Lila offers her a piece of cookie. Julia shakes her head.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
No, I'm not, I don't... I'm watching what I eat.

Lila pops the piece in her own mouth.

LILA (COOKIES)
Mmm. That's so good.

Dana reaches for another card. She writes, "\$3 per slice". Julia looks worriedly at her diminishing pyramid of brownies. Lila keeps chopping.

ONE and TWO look at DANA's cake with its new low price.

ONE
Is that chocolate?

DANA (CAKE)
Yes. (beat) And bacon. It's bacon infused chocolate.

TWO
Really? Eaaagh. Why?

DANA (CAKE)
I like it. Only three dollars.

ONE
I don't know. Seems like a good buy. What if I don't like it?

TWO
You have samples?

DANA (CAKE)
Well, I could, I guess.

Dana cuts a thin slice and breaks it into small chunks, and places it on a napkin next to Lila's sample plate. TWO and ONE each gingerly taste a piece.

ONE
Huh.

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Interesting. TWO

Can I cut you a slice? DANA (CAKE)

I don't think so. It's interesting, but I don't think I could take a whole slice of that. I think I might have a brownie. TWO

Is the bacon just on top? Could I just scrape off the frosting? ONE

The cake has bacon in it, too. DANA

Hmm, could I pick it out? ONE

Well, not really. DANA

Seems like a lot of work, anyway. ONE

TWO and ONE head toward Julia's brownies. Lila offers her SAMPLES to them. They stop and try them.

Two for a dollar! LILA (COOKIES)

I'll take two. TWO

I'll take four. ONE

Lila exchanges dollars for baked goods with TWO and ONE. Julia scowls at Lila as the crowd thins (MEN exit).

What'd I do? LILA (COOKIES)

I don't get why you need to entice people away from me. JULIA (BROWNIE)

I don't know what you're talking about. LILA (COOKIES)

The free samples! MAE (PIE)

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JULIA (BROWNIE)

None of us have samples.

LILA (COOKIES)

That's not my fault. You could have samples.

MAE (PIE)

I can't have samples.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

If you offer samples, they'll buy less.

LILA (COOKIES)

That's crazy.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

That last guy wanted a brownie. And he didn't buy one because you waved your cookies under his nose.

LILA (COOKIES)

He bought because he could get more for less.

MAE (PIE)

Exactly!

LILA (COOKIES)

That's good value.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

The cheaper you are, the less we can charge.

LILA (COOKIES)

Look, I have a lot of cookies. I don't want to take them home. I want to sell them. If you guys wanted to sell more, you should have made more.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I think it would be better if you sold them one for two dollars. Or better yet, three for five dollars.

LILA (COOKIES)

I don't think you should have to spend 5 dollars for dessert. And what about Dana? She's got samples. She's charging less than five.

MAE (PIE)

She's not stealing customers.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Dana has a niche market.

LILA (COOKIES)

I didn't steal any customers.

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DANA (CAKE)

Niche? People like bacon, they just have to get used to the context. It's a gourmet cake. Fine ingredients.

MAE (PIE)

I'm sure someone will eventually try a piece.

Dana takes new cards from the pile. Julia holds another card out to Lila.

LILA (COOKIES)

I came here to sell cookies.

Dana's cards read "\$5 per slice" and "Dana's Gourmet Bacon-Infused Chocolate Cake with Smokey Maple Frosting".

DANA (CAKE)

It's a damn good cake. I'm not selling it at cost.

The MEN return. A group surrounds Lila's cookies, and she does brisk sales. Another surrounds Mae's pie, rapt with attention, reading her terms and conditions.

MAE (PIE)

Fresh cherries in their own juices, in a hand rolled paté brisée, with a lattice crust.

FIVE

And how many refills do we get?

MAE (PIE)

Enough to eat pie every day for the rest of the year. I bake a new pie every time you return the pie plate.

FIVE

Any kind we want?

MAE (PIE)

Yes, I would take any special requests.

ONE

Could you just cut a tiny sliver for us to taste test?

MAE (PIE)

No! That would ruin it.

FIVE

Do you want to split it?

ONE

Maybe.

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MAE (PIE)

No, only one buyer.

FIVE

You'd still get your money.

MAE (PIE)

No, you can't share. You have to eat it all yourself. This is an exclusive baking agreement. I bake pie for one buyer. That's the deal.

Mae reaches for a card and writes, "NO SHARING" setting it next to the others.

ONE

You should do samples.

DANA (CAKE)

She doesn't need to do samples. This is not the kind of pie that provides samples.

TWO

Are you holding it for me, Mae?

MAE (PIE)

No. I don't think you really want it.

DANA (CAKE)

I think your eyes are bigger than your stomach.

TWO

We'll see.

TWO snaps a picture of Mae's PIE with his phone, then moves on. FOUR slides a blank card from the pile and writes. ONE looks at Mae's pie.

LILA (COOKIES)

Dana, can you watch these for me? I need to get another plate of cookies from the car.

DANA (CAKE)

Sure.

Lila covers her cookie plate and heads off. ONE looks at the samples.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

She has more?

ONE

I guess I'll take four cookies.

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DANA (CAKE)
You'll have to wait 'til she gets back.

ONE
Can I eat these?

JULIA (BROWNIE)
I guess that's what they're there for.

ONE helps himself to the samples.

TWO
She sure has a lot of cookies.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
Yes. (beat) I don't know how she had time to make so many.

TWO
Hmm. You think she didn't?

MAE (PIE)
They do kind of look store bought to me.

ONE
They don't taste like store bought.

MAE (PIE)
I can tell. They don't look homemade.

ONE
How can you tell?

ONE and THREE taste the samples.

MAE (PIE)
The outline, they're perfectly round. See the way they hold their shape.

Mae pokes at one of the cookies.

TWO
Huh. Well, they tasted good to me. And they're cheap.

Lila enters.

LILA (COOKIES)
Any nibbles?

JULIA (BROWNIE)
Not really.

FIVE eats cookies off the sample plate.

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LILA (COOKIES)
(to FIVE)

Can I help you?

FIVE

I'm good.

FIVE swipes a few more, then walks over to Mae's pie. FOUR hands Mae the card he wrote on. She blushes.

MAE (PIE)

That's not how it works.

FOUR

It could if you wanted it to.

He props the card up next to Mae's other cards. It reads, RESERVED.

FOUR

See you, Mae.

FOUR exits. All MEN exit, except FIVE. Mae takes the card and slips it under her cakestand.

FIVE

Is it really reserved?

MAE (PIE)

Not yet.

DANA (CAKE)

If you don't buy that pie now, he's going to buy it when he comes back.

FIVE

He might. I would love to have that pie for dinner. And the idea of you makin' pies all year is very tempting. But I think it might still be here later.

LILA (COOKIES)

It might be.

MAE (PIE)

Look, what if I did this?

Mae takes a new card and writes "\$200" and replaces the "\$250" card.

DANA (CAKE)

Mae, I don't think--

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FIVE

I really want that pie. (beat) How 'bout one fifty?

DANA (CAKE)

Don't you dare.

MAE (PIE)

I'm sorry, mister. Maybe this just isn't the pie for you. Why don't you just get yourself a dozen cookies? Or you could get one of those supermarket pies.

LILA (COOKIES)

Mae!

FIVE

I will take two dozen cookies.

Lila looks shocked, then piles cookies onto a napkin. FIVE gives her twelve dollars. He takes one out and stuffs it whole into his mouth as he exits.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I can't believe you sold those to him.

LILA (COOKIES)

You heard her! (mimics Mae) "Why don't you get some cookies?"

MAE (PIE)

Yeah, I hope you're happy with your twelve whole dollars.

LILA (COOKIES)

Yeah, I am happy with my fifty whole dollars. I hope you're happy eating pie at home by yourself tonight!

DANA (CAKE)

Lila!

LILA (COOKIES)

I'm not doing anything wrong!

Lila throws a napkin over her cookies and storms off. Dana pats Mae's hand.

DANA (CAKE)

You'll sell it dear. Someone will make you a good offer. You should put it back up to two fifty.

MAE (PIE)

No, now that I've said it, that guy will tell everyone, and no one will pay higher.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I think two hundred is a great price.

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DANA (CAKE)

Why don't you and I take a break? Maybe it'll drive up interest if you seem less interested in making your sale.

MAE (PIE)

That seems like a good idea.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I'll keep an eye out.

Dana covers her cake and exits.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Do you think she did buy them?

MAE (PIE)

Who knows? She might have. She might have made them with Bucket O' Dough from the Super Mart. They do look pretty greasy.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

They do. They can't be that good though, made at that kind of volume.

Mae covers her pie and exits.

The MEN enter and crowd around Julia. She does brisk sales. She tries to hand out flyers, but no one takes one.

SIX enters. He looks at the covered baked goods then looks off in both directions and at the busy crowd. He goes over to the table and lifts up the napkin covering Lila's cookies. He flips it up and sneaks two cookies. He pops one in his mouth as he moves over to Mae's covered pie. Carefully he lifts the glass. He leans forward and puts his nose right over Mae's pie. He inhales deeply then looks for an opening to stick his finger into the filling. Mae enters and sees SIX with his finger hovering over her pie.

MAE (PIE)

No! Stop that!

SIX jerks up, but then steals a taste. Mae rushes in, grabbing the knife.

SIX

Whoa-whoa-whoa!

MAE (PIE)

You-- dick! Get away! How dare you?

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SIX

I just wanted to taste it. You wouldn't even have noticed.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

What's going on?

Lila and Dana return.

MAE (PIE)

He stuck his finger in my pie!

The women look shocked.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Get the hell away!

SIX

I didn't touch it! She's nuts!

Lila sees the cookie in his hand.

LILA (COOKIES)

What's that?!

SIX looks at the cookie and brushes crumbs from his mouth.

LILA (COOKIES)

He stole my cookies!

SIX

I thought you had free samples!

MAE (PIE)

He had his finger right in my pie!

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I said go away!

LILA (COOKIES)

You pay for that!

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Just get!

SIX scoots off.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

It got so busy. I'm sorry. Are you OK?

Mae inspects the pie.

MAE (PIE)

I'll be fine. Thank God I caught him before he messed up my crust.

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LILA (COOKIES)

You let him leave without paying for the cookies.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

He thought it was free samples.

DANA (CAKE)

Yeah, what did you expect?

FOUR enters. Dana and Mae return to their stations. Mae is flushed.

FOUR

Hey, Mae.

MAE (PIE)

Hey.

Lila scowls at Julia.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

(to Lila COOKIES, aside)

What's your problem?

LILA (COOKIES)

No problem.

Lila inspects her cookies for damage.

The MEN group around each woman. Julia makes a few sales, handing out a flyer or two and Mae has her usual questioners. Dana has a few taste-testers, but no takers.

Lila's group thins out as the exchanges get louder, and snippets are overheard:

DANA (CAKE)

If she made them...

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Well, if you want free samples...

DANA (CAKE)

...too perfect, you know?

MAE (PIE)

...Bucket o' Dough from the Super Mart.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Mine are limited edition.

MAE (PIE)

Do you really want what everyone else is eating?

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FOUR

I wouldn't.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

No, I'm saving those for my church bake sale.

Soon, only FIVE stands near Lila's cookies. He has a five and contemplates the cookies. Lila is flushed.

LILA (COOKIES)

Can I wrap some up for you? That'll get you ten cookies.

FIVE

Yeah, I know, I know.

LILA (COOKIES)

I think Julia's brownies might be a bit...stale. Or dry, at least, by now.

FIVE

Really?

LILA (COOKIES)

Yeah, sitting out like that, without frosting? Gets a bit crusty on the edges.

FIVE

You're probably right. I'll take ten.

Lila and FIVE exchange money and baked goods. FIVE pops one in his mouth. ONE wanders over to Lila's cookies.

ONE

Good?

FIVE

Yeah, they're nice and chewy. You should get something, buddy. How about Mae's pie?

ONE

I'm thinking about it. It's a lot of money though.

LILA (COOKIES)

It is kind of steep for an unknown quality.

FIVE

What's that?

LILA (COOKIES)

I mean, without knowing how good a cook Mae is. What if she's terrible? I mean, everyone will know you paid two hundred bucks for her to bake you pies. It might look great, but do you really want to blow all that, if it tastes like cough drops?

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FIVE

You're right.

THREE wanders over from Julia's brownies to look at Lila's cookies.

THREE

Hmm. What's the recipe?

LILA (COOKIES)

Just good old fashioned Toll House. From the back of the bag of chips.

THREE

Huh, I heard they were from a bucket.

LILA (COOKIES)

Yeah, me too.

THREE

I guess I'll take four.

He and Lila exchange money and cookies.
THREE scarfs down a cookie.

THREE

Pretty good. Sweet.

LILA

See, now you that you've tasted them you can tell if you want to buy more.

THREE

No takers on her pie yet?

LILA (COOKIES)

No, I guess she doesn't have a good sense of her market.

The crowd thins (MEN exit). Julia looks at her diminishing pyramid of brownies. She takes the knife and cuts her brownies in half. She takes her price card and crosses out the price. She writes, "\$2 apiece".

MAE (PIE)

I don't think you should do that.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I'm running out. And I'm not sure if anyone is coming to my church sale yet.

The crowd swells (MEN enter). One group surrounds Julia's somewhat smaller brownies, and another Lila's cookies, Several MEN buy from each of them. FOUR peruses the pile of brownies.

FOUR

Hmm. Let's see.

TWO

Julia, love, I'm back for more. I need more. How many should I get? I'm so hungry.

FOUR

She has a whole 'nother batch. They have frosting.

TWO

Is that true?

DANA (CAKE)

Julia. Just do it.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I do. But I shouldn't.

TWO

Yes! You are the best baker ever!

JULIA (BROWNIE)

But I'm saving them for tonight--

TWO

What's tonight? What are you saving them for?

THREE

She's got another bake sale tonight!

TWO

But you're here now. Sell me one now.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I can't sell any now. It's not a regular bake sale, it's a silent auction at my church. You sign up to bring a whole dessert, a whole batch. That's how it works.

TWO

Where?

JULIA

St. Honoré.

TWO

Can I just see 'em?

She pulls out a container and opens it.

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TWO

They are frosted!

JULIA (BROWNIE)

That's why I'm saving them.

TWO

Sell me these.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I'm not selling these here. I'm selling them there. If you want to buy these, come tonight and bid.

TWO

If I go with you tonight, I can buy these frosted brownies?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

That's right. If you really want them, you be the top bidder and you'll get the whole frosted batch.

TWO

Alright, sign me up, sugar. I would go anywhere for your brownies.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

You would? That's wonderful. My mom will be so happy.

TWO

Can't wait! (beat) I really can't. I need some right now.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

You can have one of these ones.

TWO

I want the fancy ones. Sell them to me now. No one will notice if you don't bring them.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Of course they'll notice, I can't go with nothing to sell. I promised I would.

TWO

Please, you're killing me. You can't turn me down now. You know, you *could* sell me those brownies now. If we don't tell anyone and if I still go with you to the church and pay for them there, what difference does it make if you let me eat them now or after the sale tonight?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

That's not the way it's supposed to work.

TWO

Please. Just one? I'll pay double for one frosted one now, and I promise I will outbid everyone for the rest of the batch tonight.

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Well...If you promise. JULIA (BROWNIE)

I swear. TWO

Alright. Just one. JULIA

You're the best! TWO

TWO gives her ten dollars. Julia takes out a frosted brownie and gently hands it to him.

My mouth never had it so good. TWO

Julia beams at him. Julia puts the container away. FOUR looks longingly at the container.

Can I have one of those with the frosting? FOUR

Which ones? JULIA (BROWNIE)

The ones for the church sale tonight. The frosted ones. FOUR

These ones are super moist and chocolatey. JULIA

Never mind. FOUR

FOUR wanders over to look at Mae's pie. TWO licks the frosting off the brownie, then stuffs the rest into his mouth.

I'll see you later tonight. TWO

Hey! MAE (PIE)

You can't blame a man for wanting frosting. JULIA (BROWNIE)

TWO winks at Julia, then leans past FOUR to sniff Mae's pie.

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THREE

(to Julia BROWNIE)

You have any with peanuts?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Oh. Um. No. Would you like a brownie?

THREE

Nah, I need something to cut the sweetness.

Dana perks up.

DANA (CAKE)

Like chocolate pretzels?

THREE

Yes!

DANA

Like, rich and sweet but with little burst of salt.

THREE

That's exactly what I want.

DANA

You should try a slice of this cake. It's a dark chocolate cake, infused with bacon.

THREE

Really?

DANA

Frosted with a maple buttercream infused with a smokey hickory flavor.

THREE

That sounds...my mouth is watering.

DANA

Sprinkled with turbinado sugar and sea salt, and little candied bacon crunchies.

THREE

Salty and sweet! But I've never had bacon in a cake.

DANA

Try it, trust me. You'll never look at cake the same way again.

THREE gives her a five and Dana serves him a moist slice. THREE takes a small bite. A look of wonder crosses his face, and he takes a huge bite.

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THREE

My god, woman! I've never tasted anything like this. I've been to a lot of bake sales, but I've never gotten anything that was as delicious as this beautiful bacony cake.

DANA (CAKE)

I know.

THREE

I think I need to sit down.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Brownie?

THREE

I can't eat plain old brownies now. Too sweet. No flavor.

THREE eats his cake. Dana takes a new card and writes "\$8 per slice".

TWO appears by the brownies.

TWO

Julia, I need the rest of that frosting batch. I want more of that delicious frosted brownie.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

And you will have it tonight, when you bid on it.

TWO

But I need more now. You already gave me one of the church batch now, I'll give you the money now for the whole thing.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I have these. You can buy these. A brownie doesn't need frosting to be delicious.

TWO

No, it's frosting or nothing.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Frosting tonight.

TWO

It won't taste the same now. Maybe I could buy one of these plain ones, and then get some of Dana's frosting--

JULIA & DANA

No!

LILA (COOKIES)

How 'bout some cookies to tide you over 'til tonight?

TWO steps toward the cookies.

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JULIA (BROWNIE)

Alright, I'll do it! I will sell you the frosted brownies now, but tonight you have to come to the church bake sale and pretend to buy them again.

TWO

Yes! How much?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I think thirty ought to do it.

TWO

Here you go!

TWO gives Julia the money.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Let me just wrap these up for you.

LILA (COOKIES)

Any cookies?

TWO

Nah, this is all I need. Don't need more empty calories!

Julia hands him the brownies. TWO crams one in his mouth.

TWO

Mmm-mmm-mmm. Perfect.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

When do you want to meet me for church?

TWO

I don't think I'll be able to make it tonight. I'm so full.

TWO exits.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Wait! Why don't you take a flyer and if you're hungry later--

He is gone. Julia falters. THREE wanders back to Dana's cake.

THREE

Please, may I have another?

DANA (CAKE)

You may. Eight dollars.

THREE

That's more.

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DANA

Yes it is. Do you want the cake or not?

THREE

Totally worth it. And there's nothing else here I want.

THREE and Dana exchange dollars for baked goods. Dana changes her card to read "\$10 per slice".

THREE

Have you been selling to other people?

DANA (CAKE)

No one else yet.

THREE eats, watching Dana's cake jealously. FIVE approaches Julia.

FIVE

Hey, Julia. I loved that brownie you sold me.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Would you like another?

FIVE

Actually, I was thinking I'd like to go bid on your fancy brownies at your church bake sale.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Oh, I just sold them.

FIVE

You sold your fancy brownies here?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Yes.

FIVE

I thought you were waiting. Are you not doing the church auction anymore?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

I was thinking I'd bring these ones instead. Do you want to come bid on these?

FIVE eyes the stack of brownies.

FIVE

No, I don't think I'd go anywhere else to bid for these, I already had a couple of those. Is there anything here that has frosting?

LILA

Dana's cake.

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FIVE

That's a unique flavor combination you've got.

THREE scoots over.

THREE

How much for the whole cake?

DANA (CAKE)

I usually sell by the slice.

THREE

Name your price.

Mae nods vigorously.

DANA (CAKE)

Well, maybe for fifty.

THREE opens his wallet and starts counting the money out on the table.

THREE

There! Fifty!

He hands her the money.

DANA (CAKE)

Would you like me to slice it for you?

THREE

No thanks!

Dana hands him the rest of the cake. THREE picks up a fork and digs in.

FIVE

I guess I'll take some more cookies then.

He hands Lila a five.

LILA (COOKIES)

How many?

FIVE

I guess I'll take ten.

Lila gives him cookies.

FOUR

(to Mae PIE)

It's a great deal. Worth every penny.

MAE (PIE)

What would you get first?

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FOUR

I think apple. Mile high.

MAE

I have a great recipe for Mile High Apple Pie.

FOUR

I bet you do. What about pecan?

MAE

I've always wanted to try that one. I have all the ingredients in my pantry.

FOUR

You would need a well-stocked pantry to make all these pies. I bet you have everything in there.

MAE

I've been laying in ingredients for a while now. And clipping recipes. I'm so ready to try them all. After pecan, what then?

FOUR

Then, uh, a little strawberry.

MAE (PIE)

I love strawberry. Fruit pies are my favorite.

Dana clears her area.

THREE

Are you going to do another bake sale soon?

DANA (CAKE)

Yes, I think so.

THREE offers her a card.

THREE

Please let me know when the next one is.

DANA (CAKE)

I'll post the details. Thank you. It's nice to be appreciated.

THREE leaves, eating his cake. The other MEN exit.

FOUR

I should go.

MAE (PIE)

Go?

FOUR

I have to...pick up some stuff.

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MAE (PIE)
But you didn't...buy anything.

FOUR looks embarrassed.

LILA (COOKIES)
Want some cookies? Two for a dollar.

FOUR
No thanks. I guess that wasn't what I was craving. I have to...run. See you later, Mae?

MAE (PIE)
Yeah.

FOUR
Good.

FOUR exits. No customers remain. Mae wilts. Lila starts counting her money.

LILA (COOKIES)
Not bad.

Mae looks off. She reaches for the glass cover, but can't quite bring herself to lift it. She waits.

Dana and Julia pack up. Lila loads her leftover cookies into a white sack.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
I guess I didn't do so bad for my first sale.

DANA (CAKE)
No, you did well.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
Yeah, only three left. How many do you have left, Lila?

LILA (COOKIES)
Not many.

JULIA (BROWNIE)
Oh. Did you make a lot?

Lila pulls out a fat roll of singles.

LILA (COOKIES)
Enough.

DANA (CAKE)
You didn't keep track?

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Not really. LILA (COOKIES)

Congratulations. JULIA (BROWNIE)
(to Dana)

You too. Can you make sure this is all cleaned up, Lila? DANA (CAKE)

Sure. LILA (COOKIES)

Don't worry, Mae. It'll probably keep. Just put it in the fridge 'til the next sale. Bye! DANA (CAKE)

Dana heads off. ONE appears.

No takers, huh? ONE

Guess not. MAE (PIE)

Two fifty was a bit steep for most guys. ONE

I thought it was a good deal. MAE (PIE)

Oh, it was. Just most people don't have that lying around. ONE

I suppose. MAE (PIE)

Look, you shouldn't let that go to waste. ONE

What do you want? MAE (PIE)

I just-- I want to offer a fair deal. A hundred fifty. ONE

Mae steals a look at Lila and Julia.

And your pie gets the appreciation it deserves. It should be eaten fresh. Tonight. ONE

Go on, Mae. It would be a shame after all the work you put in. I think it's a great deal. LILA (COOKIES)

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MAE (PIE)
 What do you think, Julia?

JULIA (BROWNIE)
 Maybe. He looks like a pie-lover.

ONE
 I am. I swear.

Mae smiles.

MAE (PIE)
 Alright. You can have it.

ONE
 Yes! Thank you!

ONE gives her money. She lifts the pie off the stand and gives it up.

MAE (PIE)
 There you go.

ONE
 I will enjoy this tonight for dinner. Every bite. Good night! See you tomorrow with my empty pie plate!

MAE (PIE)
 Good night.

ONE hurries off, licking his chops.

LILA (COOKIES)
 Congratulations.

MAE (PIE)
 Right.

Lila cleans up. Julia gets her stuff together. Mae packs away her display items. FOUR runs on.

FOUR
 No, wait! Don't put it away!

FOUR lays out five fifty dollar bills on the table.

FOUR
 Feed me, Mae!

Mae PIE sits down, staring at the money.

FOUR
 C'mon, unpack that pie!

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MAE (PIE)

I can't.

FOUR

Why not? I went and got the money. (pause) Do you need more?

Mae breaks.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

She already sold it. He just took it. I'm sorry.

FOUR

Well, can we get it back?

Mae shakes her head.

MAE (PIE)

I made a deal. I didn't want it to go stale. I didn't want to eat it.

FOUR is crestfallen.

LILA (COOKIES)

Maybe you could make pie for him too.

MAE (PIE)

I only have one pie plate! That other man already has it!

LILA (COOKIES)

Well, maybe you could make something else? Cookies? Or cake?

MAE (PIE)

I can't make anything for him, if I've agreed to make pies for someone else. That's the deal. I bake pie for him. (beat) But it's only a year! Once I'm done with him, I can make you pie!

FOUR

I don't know if I can wait that long. You and that guy, taunting me with your pie. No. I want my own. Today.

MAE (PIE)

I can't right now. I made a deal.

FOUR

Mae, please, you can take the pie back from that other guy and let me buy it instead. It's your pie.

MAE (PIE)

Not anymore. A deal's a deal.

FOUR

Let me go get it from him. I'll make him sell it to me.

MAE (PIE)

You can't. I gave him my word.

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FOUR shoves the money in his pocket.

FOUR

Fine. If you won't sell to me, you won't. Nothing I can do.

FOUR turns to go.

MAE (PIE)

I would have sold it to you, you just waited too long.

FOUR

Good night, ladies.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Good night.

FOUR leaves. Lila and Julia watch Mae.

LILA (COOKIES)

Are you alright?

MAE (PIE)

Fine.

Mae angrily shoves things into her bag.

LILA (COOKIES)

You don't seem fine.

MAE (PIE)

This is your fault. If you hadn't been selling your cheap cookies, and givin' away samples to everybody, I wouldn't have dropped my price. I would have got full price!

LILA (COOKIES)

I didn't make you do anything! You could have kept your original price. You could have held out for two fifty. You could have gone to another bake sale tomorrow!

MAE

But it would be day-old pie! Who wants that?

JULIA (BROWNIE)

She's right. If you hadn't waved your sample plate around, I wouldn't have sold the batch I was saving for church.

LILA (COOKIES)

You didn't have to sell if you didn't want to.

MAE (PIE)

I heard you saying stuff about my pie. You said I would end up eating it myself if I didn't drop my price!

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LILA (COOKIES)

You told them my cookies came from a store! Which they did not! So what if I made twelve dozen?! It's a bake sale!

MAE (PIE)

You could have made a ton more money. Even with all your cookies, she outsold you.

LILA (COOKIES)

I don't care. I didn't do it for the money. I would have given them away. I make great cookies, and I wanted everyone to taste them. They'll all be talking about my cookies.

MAE (PIE)

Like I said, your fault! Not everyone wanted to taste your cookies. This wasn't all about you.

JULIA (BROWNIE)

Forget it, Mae. Let's go.

LILA (COOKIES)

Have fun at your church sale, Julia. I'm sure they won't mind whatever or whoever you can scrounge to sell. And Mae, you should've made a side deal with that guy. You really couldn't bake pies for one guy and cupcakes for another?

MAE

No.

LILA

I would.

Mae and Julia look at each other. Beat.

MAE (PIE)

(to Lila)

Slut.

Mae walks out. Julia follows her. After a moment, Lila sits, stunned. And after another, she pulls open her sack of cookies, and pulls one out. She nibbles on it. It tastes pretty good.

LIGHTS OUT.