

Friendly Resolution

Dear Tim:

My New Year's resolution this year is to be friendlier to everyone I meet. It seems like the world has become far less patient and a lot more surly as we've become accustomed to doing much, much more with much less time. I've found myself on too many occasions cursing under my breath at complete strangers for keeping me from getting where I'm going as quickly as I'd like to get there. So I've decided to slow down. With that in mind, I've noticed that whenever I come into your store everyone always seems to be smiling and having a good time. That's the kind of exuberance I'm looking for in my life, so, if you don't mind my asking, what's your secret?

—Happier on Haviland

Dear Happier:

It's no secret, really. We just hire friendly people and encourage them to enjoy their work and be themselves. And, for the most part, that's exactly what they do. It's been my experience that being friendly and helpful takes no more effort



**DEAR
TIM**

than being self-absorbed and difficult. So why not smile and have fun? Besides, it's contagious. The more you smile, the more you'll find that smile reflected right back at you. And that's not a bad way to go through the day in my book. Good luck with your quest, and stop in if you ever find your day is in need of a little levity.

Dear Tim:

Who's the hot blonde who used to be working back behind the meat counter? She was gone for a while, but the last few weeks I've been seeing her in the store more. She's got shorter hair,

a twinkle in her eye and a great smile. I see her talking to you quite a bit so I'm sure you know who I'm talking about. Is she single, and, if so, is there any chance you could introduce me?

—Prowling on Preston

Dear Prowling:

I think I know who you're talking about. She worked here quite a long time before taking a brief leave this fall. She's back now, and – I must agree – as fit and fetching as ever. Her name is Glenda. You could introduce yourself, but I hear she's been seeing the owner and it might be serious. And he's the jealous type, so proceed at your own risk.

Dear Tim:

Is it true that every cloud has a silver lining?

—Optimist on Oxley

Dear Optimist:

The only cloud I know is White Cloud, and the last time I checked it was lined with cardboard. You might want to see for yourself, though. Toilet tissue's in aisle 5.

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