

Death by Cream Pie

By John Cospers

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CHARACTERS

Dave- A health nut

Katie- A restaurant worker

Craig and Lucy- A "smart" couple

Billy- A restaurant manager

A few tables and chairs are set up. Craig and Lucy are sitting at a table, eating cream pies. Dave walks up to a counter where Katie is waiting.

KATIE: Hi, welcome to Healthy Shack. May I help you?

DAVE: Yes, I'd like something lean and light. I'm on a diet.

KATIE: You came to the right place. Nothing but the finest health food here.

DAVE: Good. Give me a salad. Lots of greens, light on the dressing, please. And maybe a water to drink.

KATIE: Salad?

DAVE: Yes, a salad.

Katie laughs condescendingly.

KATIE: Are you some kind of nut job? Hey, folks, this guy wants to eat healthy so he ordered a salad!

Craig and Lucy laugh.

CRAIG: What an idiot!

DAVE: Okay, this is weird, but I really want a salad.

KATIE: If you want a salad, go to another restaurant. This is a health food restaurant. We sell health food.

DAVE: Okay. What kind of health food do you have?

KATIE: Pie.

DAVE: Pie??

KATIE: Cream pies. Chocolate, butterscotch, Key lime, coconut cream, peanut butter.

DAVE: You sell pies?

KATIE: And cakes. Boston cream, red velvet, German chocolate...

DAVE: That's garbage.

Craig and Lucy drop their forks loudly on their plates, appalled by what they heard.

CRAIG: Dude, what are you talking about?

LUCY: Pie is the healthiest thing you can eat! The richer the better!

CRAIG: And only second to pie is cake!

DAVE: That's not right.

KATIE: (*stern*) It is right, sir.

DAVE: Says who?

KATIE: (*cocky, self-righteous*) The management of this restaurant. And anybody else in this world who has half a brain, am I right?

LUCY: She's right!

CRAIG: (*joking*) What a wacko. I bet he still buys vegetables.

DAVE: Of course I do.

CRAIG: (*sober*) Wow. What a sad, pathetic man you are.

LUCY: Why would you torture yourself like that?

DAVE: Because I want to live a long, healthy life.

CRAIG: Sad. Just sad.

DAVE: Look, I don't know what kind of gag this is, but it's not funny. I'd like to see your manager.

KATIE: Certainly, sir. (*whistles off*) Billy! We've got a veggie-head!

Billy enters.

BILLY: What seems to be the trouble, sir?

DAVE: The trouble, sir, is I came in here expecting to buy health food and all you're selling is pie. LUCY: And cake.

DAVE: And cake!

BILLY: (*doesn't see the problem*) And?

DAVE: And?? And?? Pies and cakes are not health food!!

BILLY: Yes they are.

DAVE: No, no, no!

BILLY: Sir, I realize there was a time in this country when pies and cakes were frowned upon, and vegetables and other dirt foods were held up as sacred and healthy. But it's time to come into the 21st century. Cream pies are health food. So are cakes. And if you can't accept that, I suggest you leave.

CRAIG: Yeah, get out of here!

LUCY: I don't want to hear your lies!

DAVE: Lies? These people are the liars! Not me!

Billy pills out a pack of cigarettes.

BILLY: Look, why don't we just calm down, sir. Here, have a smoke.

DAVE: I don't want a cigarette!

BILLY: It's tobacco! It's one of the healthiest things you can put in your body! Now smoke up!

Dave looks around.

DAVE: So you're telling me everything I was ever taught about food was... wrong?

KATIE: Uh, yeah!

DAVE: And pies and cakes are... health food?

BILLY: Yes.

DAVE: I see. *(pause)* I guess, give me a chocolate cream pie then.

KATIE: *(smiles, happy to see he's seen the light)* Yes, sir. Right away.

Billy pats Dave on the back.

BILLY: I knew you were a decent fella.

Billy walks off. Rod enters.

ROD: *(smooth, like Rod Serling)* And so it was, the human race came to believe that pies and cakes were health foods. And once the whole world came around to this new, enlightened view of the food pyramid, *(in a loud, harsh tone)* they all died!!!

Everyone looks up at Rod, shocked.

ROD: Well what did you expect? You're eating pie for crying out loud!