

Things shop-assistant Farnan is no longer allowed to do in a charity store.

1. No matter how funny I find them, no tributes to “Things Skippy is no longer allowed to do in the US army” or “Things Mr Welch is no longer allowed to do in a RPG.”
2. No building a Voltaic stack from the change in the till, no matter how bored I get.
3. Even if “the customer is always right”, that does not mean that engineering scenarios where the customers say I’m the Regional Manager results in legally-binding promotion.
4. ...Nor does it let me set the dress code or working hours.
5. ...Nor does it let me use the customers to set the foreign policy of major world powers, nor change the endings to films I don’t like.
6. The customer is NOT always right.
7. Even if he IS the greatest American musical talent of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Tom Lehrer songs have no place in the office, and the store’s official anthem is NOT “The Masochism Tango.”
8. Nor is it any song from *The Lion King*
9. Nor is it any song I heard on *Animanicas*
10. Nor *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*
11. When the “Progressive” regional HR head calls us all together so we can, as a team, discuss how to “deal with” absenteeism, I am not allowed to suggest any of the following: Tasers, live ammunition, tigers, live eels, exploding “Battle Royale” collars, Extraordinary Rendition, spiking their tea with acid and forcing them Clockwork-Orange-style to watch “*Watership Down*” or the air vent scene from “*Secret of Nimh*”, painting any part of anyone’s anatomy with Dave’s Insanity Sauce, hanging, drawing and quartering, or anything whatsoever involving Ferrets.
12. The Shops PA system is to be used only for official announcements. This especially applies in conjunction with rules 7, 8, 9, 10, 24, 25 or 35.
13. I cannot sell copies of *The Karma Sutra*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Lost Girls*, *Duncton Wood*, any *Henti* or source books for *F.A.T.A.L* to under fourteens, even if there is no official age-of-sale regulation on books.
14. I am not to recommend books to customers just to entertain myself when I picture their looks of horror when they discover they were not what they expected.
15. I am not to recommend books to customers.
16. No lying to people just to test their credulousness and see what I can get them to believe. This applied both to Customers, Co-Workers and The Management.
17. When I offer to make co-workers tea, I am to serve it to them in *cups*.
18. Just because I read something when I was twelve, does not make it suitable for the children’s books shelves: what happened to me was a one-off and society as a whole does not want to see it repeated. Illustrated copies of Manson’s *Tropical Diseases*, if it goes on the shelves at all, goes under healthcare.
19. In this charity shop, we speak to our customers in English.
20. “English” being defined as “A language of the Germanic Branch of the Indo-European family, spoken as the *Lingua Franca* of Britain, the United States and other Countries” and not as “Any language Invented by an Englishman.” Quenya, Sindarin, Nadsat, Kad’k and Newspeak do not count. Lapine is WAY out.
21. Early Modern, Middle and Old English do not count, nor does modern English.

22. Nor does Victorian Thieves cant, pig-Latin, l33t, the 'Strine or Cockney Rhyming Slang. Polari is not even to be considered, me bona cove.
23. I am not High-priest of Eris, not the Emeritus Professor of Non-Euclidian R'lyehian temple archaeology at Miskatonic University, nor am I emperor of anything or an Avatar of Chaos and so I will remove any and all claims to be so from my CV in a timely manner.
24. The PA system is not to be used to make soviet-style propaganda announcements, even if it is "worker-satisfaction week".
25. Nor am I to tell Duke of Edinburgh's Volunteers it's a karaoke system.
26. Control over the ceiling fans and heaters are a privilege, not a right.
27. No building a little fort out of boxes of donated clothing and inviting co-workers to play cowboys and Indians with me.
28. No fancy dress with said donated clothing.
29. I am not to demand anyone kiss my ring before I relinquish control of my set of keys to them.
30. If permitted to sit in the Bosses char in her absence, I am not to demand all other volunteers refer to it as "The Throne of Skulls" nor am I to engage in maniacal laughter every time I sit on it.
31. Nor am I to set up my own smaller chair next to it and declare myself "High Steward of Gondor".
32. The store room is not my fortress of solitude.
33. Suggesting a "causal Friday" dress scheme to raise moral is one thing, suggesting "Cos-play Mondays" or "naked Wednesdays" is another matter altogether.
34. When training others to use the till system, I am not to teach them to offer libations or virgin sacrifice to it, not tell them that they have to do some ridiculous and pointless set of actions between pressing the "Sub Total" button and entering the amount tendered if they want the draw to open, no matter how fun it is watching hold their eye to the imaginary "security retinal scanner", pull their ear, hop on one leg or similar.
35. If a customer asks me a question, I am not to answer in limerick, Haiku, riddle, or Broadway song.
36. No speculation on how well hung various cartoon characters are within working hours.
37. If issued with "My name is" badges, I am not to fill mine in "lñigo Montoya: you killed my father, prepare to die."
38. Nor am I to state that I Don't Need No Stinking Badges.
39. I am not to suggest to the regional manager that we need ID badges just to initiate the above.
40. I do NOT know kung Fu.
41. Erotic Cos-Play has no place in the modern workplace, especially when the Furry fandom is involved.
42. No references to *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* at work.
43. Just because there's no rule against it, doesn't mean I can get away with it
44. Elderly and easily confused customers are not my personal playthings, even if afterwards they always stop to tell the manger "what I nice young man" I am and give me top marks in the customer satisfaction forms I trick them into filling in.
45. I am not the Headman of the Surrey Hundred of the Anglish Moot, and I am not to stop speaking words of Latin root just because I feel like it, nor can I demand Blood-money from

those who keep using Latin words: Fear the English Moot, the Changetime will not be Settledomish!

46. No acting normal just to freak people out.
47. No quoting moves. Ever. Especially not *Highlander*, *Star Wars*, *Lord of The Rings*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Monty Python's Life of Brian*, *Watership Down*, *300*, *Wayne's World* or *The Evil Dead* trilogy. Groovy.
48. Even if they are wearing a "20% cooler in Ten Seconds Flat" t-shirt, "Brohoof" is not an appropriate way to greet customers
49. Nor is "There can be only one!"
50. This shop is not a soapbox for my opinions.
51. In this shop we obey the laws of thermodynamics!
52. Just because people ignore the "No donations to be left on our doorsteps after hours, they either get vandalised or destroyed by the rain: please use donation bins in the Sainsbury's car-park" sign doesn't mean I'm allowed to chase them down the street yelling "What's the point of coming to a bookshop if you clearly can't read!" (This one actually almost happened).
53. I would NOT have gotten away with it, if it weren't for those meddling kids.
54. I am not to expose the more emotionally sensitive of my co-workers to fanfic.
55. Especially not erotic fanfic.
56. *Especially* not if I wrote it.
57. Although love and tolerance are admirable aims, I am neither to stage peaceful sit-ins when confronted with uncooperative hauliers, nor threaten difficult customers with the Orbital Friendship Cannon.
58. No threatening them with a gypsy curse, jihad or Exterminatus either.
59. No threatening customers.
60. Even if she did vanish of the face of the earth the same time it appeared, Lady Gaga's meat suit is NOT made out of Gwen Stefani and I am not to tell people it is.
61. Winter is NOT coming.
62. Internet memes have no place in the workplace, even if the manger does instruct me to clean ALL the things.
63. None of our stores official duties require me to perform them "skyklad".
64. I am not a time lord.
65. "Dibs" is NOT the official method of reserving an interesting looking book that comes in, nor is licking it "so no one else will want it."
66. No sneaking up behind customers and asking "Can I help you at all Sir?" in the creepiest voice I can.
67. The books are not my children.
68. Not even the rare ones.
69. The workplace in not the place to test social conventions.
70. As soon as the manger works out I'm imitating a TV character, I have to stop.
71. "Everybody dies eventually" is not a motivational slogan.
72. I am not the company mascot.
73. The manager does not need to role with a -2 to her persuasion score in order to get me to do things, and if I ask her to again she'll confiscate the D20.

74. Although dump-stat/useless skills in most games, “Charisma” and “Appraise” do come in useful when running a second-hand-goods shop.
75. “Chekov’s gunman” is not my superhero name, and even if it was, that has no bearing on anything work related.
76. We are not the happiest place on earth. Those lawyers will be back if we say we are.
77. “Donate Crap” is not a suitable slogan for increasing the gift-aid statistics.
78. The regional management team are not a pack of lobotomised howler monkeys, and baring photographic evidence to the contrary I am not to claim that they are.
79. Not seeking photographic evidence in work hours.
80. A “Warning: these premises patrolled 24 hours by an angry Panzerbjorn” sign isn’t going to fool any burglars, not even ones who really really like the “His Dark Materials” series.
81. I am to stop referring to the teen fiction shelf as “EMO vampire central”, at least not in the presence of customers.
82. No siding with the staff against the regional management.
83. Siding with the store manager against them is fine, however.
84. I am not to “call out” the auditors sent by Regional.
85. In the event I do and they accept, the chances of them knowing what I meant’ by “I call you out, sir” are remote in the extreme, so I am to refrain from asking them if they would prefer to nominate the field, or nominate the weapons.
86. Spies have not sapped the till.
87. The float doesn’t, so no testing it in the sink.
88. “I’m, a volunteer, so you can’t fire me Ahahahahaha!” is not a phrase we need to hear in the workplace.
89. No encouraging the D of E students to unionise.
90. Nor encouraging them to “storm the winter palace.”
91. The mangers car is not the Winter palace.
92. No “Armenian radio” jokes at work.
93. No limericks. *Ever*.
94. The D of E students are not my legion of flying monkeys. Nor are they pets, nor slaves.
95. A farmhouse did not fall of the regional manager, nor was she possessed by Nightmare Moon and banished for a thousand years by the store manager.
96. No flashbacks on company time.
97. I do not “just have to dance!”
98. No building a sofa out of unwanted books. Not even the Dan Brown’s or Jeremy Clarkson’s.
99. There’s having an informal dress code, and then there’s just taking the piss.
100. Having a pint or two to get to know your co-workers is a good idea, but should be done *after* your shift.
101. Even if this is the best –place to work in the world, And if I do love all my co-workers (even regional) we are still a business, so stop making lists and get back to work!

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Thank you Oxfam bookshops for being a genuinely great place to work and putting up with all my insanity.