

GRIMSLY

By Maggie Smith

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CAST

Lillian - a widow, 30s

Samantha - a receptionist, 30s

Grimsly - a mortician, Immortal?

(A funeral home.)

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry, ma'am, but there's no way that we can allow you to see the state of the body until our mortician is finished working with it.

LILLIAN

All I need to know is how much longer it'll take for you to finish so I can plan the funeral.

SAMANTHA

There's no way for me to know that. I only work at the front desk. If you want any information on the body, you'll have to ask Grimsly.

LILLIAN

Who's Grimsly?

SAMANTHA

Grimsly! Grimsly, come here!

(Grimsly appears. He looks somehow both incredibly old and also newborn.)

SAMANTHA

Grimsly is the mortician. He's a Taurus with a double Virgo, and he loves eating Ritz Crackers.

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

He also wants you to know that he's trained to help you through the five stages of grief. Now, what was it you wanted to ask Grimsly?

LILLIAN

I wanted to ask him when he thought-

SAMANTHA

No. Don't ask me. Ask Grimsly.

(Grimsly makes an inhuman noise.)

LILLIAN

When do you think-

SAMANTHA

Address him by name.

LILLIAN

Grimsly, when do you think that the body will be ready for the funeral?

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

He wants you to be patient.

LILLIAN

Why won't you make him talk directly to me?

SAMANTHA

Grimsly speaks exclusively in an ancient dead language that only he speaks and only I can understand.

LILLIAN

But how does he understand me?

SAMANTHA

Oh, he understands English. He just refuses to speak it.

LILLIAN

Can he at least give me a window where he thinks the body will be ready?

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

He says he's positive that the body will be able to fit through the window.

LILLIAN

Is Grimsly qualified to be working here?

SAMANTHA

He's been working here as long as he's been alive.

LILLIAN

How long has that been?

SAMANTHA

He'll never tell. But Grimsly's seen it all. He can give you that advice on the five stages of grief, if you're interested?

LILLIAN

No. How do I even know that Grimsly is working with my husband's body?

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

Your husband has the blondest hair that Grimsly's ever seen.

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

He's clearly left-handed, which makes him statistically five times more likely to get into a car accident.

LILLIAN

That's how he died.

SAMANTHA

We're aware. And...

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear. Samantha gasps.)

SAMANTHA

Grimsly!

LILLIAN

What? What did he say?

SAMANTHA

Your husband wasn't wearing his wedding ring at the time of death.

LILLIAN

We separated just before he died.

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

Grimsly says he would have treated you right. He also says he has a gift for you.

LILLIAN

What is it?

(Grimsly places an item in Lillian's hand.)

SAMANTHA

It's your husband's finger. And look! He's cut out all of the little veins and used them to make a little heart around the finger!

LILLIAN

You know what? I think I'll take my service elsewhere.

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

Grimsly says wait!

LILLIAN

This entire time it's been "Grimsly says this" and "Grimsly says that" and I'm tired of it! I just want to plan my husband's funeral, and you two are making it downright impossible! I am trying to mourn, and I'm finding it very difficult to make my way through the "five stages of grief" or whatever you keep going on about with Grimsly whispering secrets in your ear and tearing apart my husband's corpse!

(Grimsly whispers into Samantha's ear.)

SAMANTHA

Grimsly says that the five stages of grief have been proven by psychologists to be a myth.

(Blackout.)