

MIA
~~Nativity rehearsal. I guess it's up
 to us now, unless...I'm sure you
 have a busy day, so...~~

MICHAEL
~~Oh, I am on a mission now--we are
 going to find these Golden Gliders.~~

Start

As they speak, JAMES, 50s, the energetic aproned owner, looks up from behind the counter, does a double-take, and puts his tray of freshly made fudge to the side.

JAMES
 (to himself, recognizing
 him)
 Is that...?

He makes his way through the crowd, reaches Michael and shakes his hand vigorously.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 Welcome to Parkside Candies--4
 generations strong!

MICHAEL
 I can't believe I've never been
 here before--seems like everyone
 else in Buffalo knows this is the
 place to be.

JAMES
 Actually, that feature you did last
 month saved us! We were weeks away
 from closing, and now look at this
 place--lines out the door everyday!

He gestures proudly to the bustling shop.

MICHAEL
 That's incredible. I'm so glad it
 helped.

JAMES
 Boy, did it. So, what brings you
 guys in today?

MIA
 We're actually working together on
 a Wishes Tree list for a little boy
 who had candy at the top of his
 list.

MICHAEL
 Along with some other items that
 are proving...surprisingly
 difficult to find.

JAMES
 (immediately)
 Say no more! Candy canes, fudge,
 truffles--choose anything you need.
 It's on the house! Consider it my
 way of paying forward what you did
 for us.

MICHAEL
 That's so kind--you really don't
 have to do that.

JAMES
 I insist! Sample everything...I'll
 grab a big box and you can fill it
 with anything you like.

MIA
 Thank you!

end

~~James hands them a large empty chocolate box and Michael and
 Mia turn their attention to the samples. Mia opens her
 planner to today's date, decorated with whimsical doodles
 including a sketch of Michael hosting.~~

MIA (CONT'D)
~~So, I can write down the ones we
 like, and then we can decide--~~

~~Mia quickly turns the page but Michael notices the doodle.~~

MICHAEL
~~Wait--can you turn the page back? I
 thought I saw...did I see a doodle
 of me?~~

MIA
 (realizing, blushing)
~~No, I mean, yes, I, um--I doodle
 while I plan, and our interview
 with you was at the top of today's
 agenda--hence the doodle.~~

MICHAEL
~~So it's more of a to-doodle list!~~

MIA
 (laughing)
~~You could say that.~~