

Randina

The customer is always right

Mr. Hedgehog entered the barber's shop with a frown. Mr. Bunny, the barber, stepped forward, eager to take care of him.

"Wash, cut and finish? What can I do for you?" he asked politely.

"Everything," replied Mr. Hedgehog abruptly.

"Everything? You mean...?" the barber asked hesitantly.

"Look, I want you to fix my hair, to make it soft and nice, not a mass of needles that pricks anyone who touches it, got it?"

"Got it," said Mr. Bunny and he set about his task.

He used shampoo, he applied various creams, he massaged Mr. Hedgehog's scalp until his fingers bled. In short, he used all his skills. In vain. Mr. Hedgehog's hair was still as sharp as needles.

"What do you think?" asked Mr. Bunny timidly, holding up a mirror in front of Mr. Hedgehog's face.

"What do I think? It's still as sharp as needles! And that's a great shame for your reputation. You're a useless barber. A complete failure of a barber! You ought to close your business down!"

Mr. Hedgehog shouted these last words very loudly; so loudly, in fact, that all the other customers turned towards him in surprise.

Mr. Bunny was so upset that his face turned a deep red.

"I shall never set foot in your shop again," said Mr. Hedgehog in a very angry voice and he left without paying.

"Did you see that?" said Mr. Bunny who was terribly upset. "And then they tell you that the customer is always right! What was I supposed to do with Mr. Hedgehog's hair? No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't change it."

That night, Mr. Hedgehog went out. He had a date with Miss Turtle. He took her to a romantic spot near the lake and they sat down.

"Oooh, your hair looks lovely," said Miss Turtle.

"Lovely? It pricks like thorns," complained Mr. Hedgehog.

"Pricks? No, it doesn't," said Miss Turtle, resting her shell on Mr. Hedgehog's hair. "I like it because it's hard and strong... like you," she added shyly. "Who's your barber?"

The next day, Mr. Hedgehog went back to Mr. Bunny's barber's shop.

"Wash, cut and finish, massage and all the rest," he said.

"We're closed," said Mr. Bunny icily.

"How can you be closed?" asked Mr. Hedgehog. "The place is full of customers."

"For difficult customers we're closed," repeated Mr. Bunny obstinately.

"Just a moment, just one moment, you are absolutely right," said Mr. Hedgehog.

"I owe you for yesterday. Here, is that enough?"

"It's too much," said Mr. Bunny. "Half of that is enough."

"Keep the change for your trouble. Today I would like you do exactly the same to my hair as you did yesterday. It's so hard to find a decent barber. You are the best in the whole area. And I shall be saying so everywhere I go, everywhere!"