

"THE EXTRAORDINARY, GARGANTUAN, INDEFATIGABLE, UNRULY DISHWASHER . . .

Patent Pending"

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by Rebecca Enney

So, there is some good news for Francis! He has a job!! Today is his first day as the dishwasher operator at the Retirement Center where Mrs. Potato Head lives!

Walter The Cat is his boss. And, because he is a cat, Walter often talks about . . . fish! So, Walter explained to Francis all about this huge dishwasher. "It is a wonderful machine. It washes and dries the dishes and puts them away! But it has one small drawback, sometimes it loses spoons down in the bottom and you will need to fish for spoons!" And he showed Francis how to run this huge machine: You turn this to ON, quickly stand back and count to five, (ding) step forward and turn it to OFF! The dishes are now washed, dried and stacked away in their cupboards! And Walter showed Francis how to carefully fish for lost spoons in the back here.

After Francis finished his first shift, Walter came over and said "Good job man! And you fished well for the lost spoons. But working here you will find that spoons are not the only things that get lost. Sometimes the residents who live here get confused or lost or sad. You may consider visiting with a resident when you finish your shift at **"THE EXTRAORDINARY, GARGANTUAN, INDEFATIGABLE, UNRULY DISHWASHER . . . Patent Pending"**.

And Walter put this over Francis's head. See, it is a fishing weight with a little fish painted on it. "To remind you to fish for those who are sad and confused and lost."



As Francis got ready to go home he looked at his "fish" and thought that he should go visit Mrs. Potato Head, as long as he is here. So, he found her apartment, number 208, put on his best face and knocked on her door.

"Hello Mrs. Potato Head."

"Why Barabas, you look older!"

"No, no, I am Francis!"

"Disco dances!?!"

Is she confused?

"Barabas is my nephew, nephew."

"Oh dear, God Bless You!"

She thought he sneezed!

After a few more misunderstandings, they figured that Mrs. Potato Head is NOT confused, she just needs a new battery in her hearing aid!

“Well, it is certainly nice to see you again Francis!” she said once she got her hearing aid all situated!
“Where have you been all these years!”

And Francis told her about his life and how he is trying to get back on the right track and take his medicines and see his therapist and NOW, he has a job at **“THE EXTRAORDINARY GARGANTUAN INDEFATIGABLE UNRULY DISHWASHER . . Patent Pending”** here at the Retirement Center. And he showed her the necklace that his boss, Walter The Cat had given him.

And you know, it was like Mrs. Potato Head and Francis both had fished for each other, if that makes sense. They were both a bit lost and now, because of an act of kindness, they are not so sad and lost!
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