

stuff and Panda

by

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*RILEY's day takes an unexpected turn while waiting in line at Panda Express.*

RILEY

I'm sorry, I'm not feeling very humorous at the moment. I got in a funk today at Panda Express, and haven't been able to shake it. I've been wanting Panda for a week now, and I didn't go there expecting to have my entire day ruined! Panda is supposed to be a good thing, you know?

(Beat)

Anyway... So I'm in line trying to get my chicken and string beans, and I'm on the phone with my friend B-mac, to avoid making small talk with the people in line next to me, when I notice this cute little Father and Daughter in front of me. The Father was some kind of businessman dressed in a suit, and the Daughter looked about twelve. She was in that bratty phase where it's "like totally lame to be seen with your parents in public" because having parents is "like such a drag." It was really cute though because the Dad was having a good time just being with his Daughter, and he was loving the fact that everything he did was "totally embarrassing" her. You know how dads are... So as we're going through the line, the Dad sees these little stuffed pandas that they're selling to promote some charity. He takes one and hides it behind his back, so his daughter won't see, but she can tell he's being weird cause he's standing there all fidgety with his arms behind him. The little girl starts jumping around trying to see what her Dad is up to, and I'm so involved with these people at this point that I hang up on B-mac. I can't be distracted. I need to see how this plays out. They get to the register and when the girl isn't looking, the Dad slips the panda to the cashier, who put it in the girl's bag of food. It was really adorable. They were just this cute little Father-Daughter duo, and I don't know, it made me kind of nostalgic for a moment. So I walked out to my car to call my Dad.

(Beat)

To my surprise he answered on the first ring, and sounded really happy to hear from me. I'm like, "Hey Dad, I was just thinking about you and wanted to call and see what you are you up to?" I could hear him getting out of the car while he was telling me that he