

Broken

A Monologue by Rob Brower

*MAN IS STANDING IN A QUEUE HOLDING A PACKAGE AND A SMALL TICKET.
HE IS WAITING PATIENTLY WHEN HE "HEARS" HIS TICKET NUMBER CALLED.*

MAN: (*APPROACHING "COUNTER" DSC*) Number 99? Did you call number 99? That's me! Finally. Boy, it seems like I was in that line forever, I mean look how long it is! Now, I've waited in some long lines before but this one takes the cake. Remember when Call of War 5 came out for X-Station? I actually camped out in that line for 48 hours but at least I had a sleeping bag. But this... this was not expected at all. Let me ask you something... Is it always like this? No? Just the time of year I guess.

What? Oh sorry. I almost forgot. Yes. Yes, you can help me.

You see, I got this (*PLACES PACKAGE ON COUNTER*). Actually, it was given to me just last week and I was hoping to get it fixed. Why? Because it's broken, of course. Where? (*POINTING TO POINT INSIDE PACKAGE*) Right there. If you look closely you can see. I mean, it's a small break but it's broken all the same so I'd just like to have it repaired.

No, I didn't break it! Of course not! As far as I can tell, it was broken long before I received it. Like I said earlier, I've only had it for a week. Surely, it's under some sort of guarantee. No?!? There's no guarantee on these huh? Wow. That's surprising considering how valuable they can be.

Fine, what's it going to take to get it fixed? (*REMOVING WALLET*) Just give me a figure. I'll pay.

What do you mean you can't repair them? Am I in the wrong place? Is there somewhere else I need to go? (*GATHERING PACKAGE*) If you'd be so kind to point me in the right direction—Oh, I see. (*SETTING PACKAGE DOWN*) They're not repairable at all.

(GETTING AGITATED) No. No I don't want another one. This. This is the one I wanted. This was very special to me. The person that gave it to me, they mean a lot to me and I just wanted to have it fixed.

Look, is there someone else I can talk to? Because I'd like to file a complaint. You see this is actually the second one given to me this week. The first one broke so they gave me this one.

You know, I remember getting these as a kid and some of them would wind up broken but for the most part they'd stay intact. It seems like they were made differently back then.

But now... You know what I think it is. It's the fact that people just don't care anymore. These are supposed to be special. They're supposed to mean something but when you just make millions of them like you're trying to flood the world with them, they become sort of meaningless and trivial. And if they can be broken this easily what's the point. Why would I want that?

Listen, I'm sorry I know it's not your fault and I apologize if I've taken anything out on you. You didn't deserve that.

So what are my options again? Right. It can't be fixed.

I can get another one but that wouldn't come with any sort of guarantee either, right? So we'd be right back at square one. *(SIGH)*

Well, I guess there's not much I can do. *(LEAVING)* Thanks for your time. Sorry for all the trouble.

(TURNING BACK TOWARD DSC) No. I tell you what. Why don't you just keep it... I mean, what am I going to do with another broken promise?

LIGHTS OUT