

LENNY

From *Before Oz* by Lauren Grove

Sweet but simple Lenny, late teens - early 20s, messes up at work yet again.

LENNY: I sure don't understand it, Mr. Baum. I know I placed an order for more stove polish, I just know it. I remember it clearly, Mr. Baum. On Tuesday last you says to me, you says, "Lenny, I need you to order twenty-four more cans of stove polish cause they is flying off the shelves. But only get two more cans of the hair grease cause theys isn't selling as well." And then I says, "Will do, Mr. Baum!" Then I remember you told me three more times cause you were worryin' I'd mess it up. But I didn't mess it up this time, Mr. Baum! Not this time! I swears it! I try to concentrate real hard when you says something to me, cause I respect you an awful lot.

Look! Here it is, Mr. Baum! A copy of the order form I filled out! It says right here, twenty-four more cans of hair grease and just two cans of stove polish... Oh... Oh, no. I reckon I did mess it up after all! Aww, shucks... I'm awful sorry, Mr. Baum. Please don't fire me! I love working at this here general store. I don't know what I would do without this job. I promise to try harder, I do. I don't know what's wrong with me. It's like my head is full or straw or somethin'.