

Housewife on the spot

There's one more funny side in this job, and it's the phone calls.

How do people react to the standard set of questions?

In the most varied and often desperate ways.

It is all in the first ten seconds of the call. It's in that very short lapse of time that the housewife decides whether you can keep bothering her or not. That's why those are the seconds when phrases such as this is no sale, you don't need to invite anyone over, you are under no obligation to buy anything, are constantly repeated... and when the phantomatic free cleaning is offered.

Here goes the standard call with the offer of the fake voucher and the most common responses.

"Hello, this is Kirby in Duckburg, I'm Camilla. Mrs Minnie? Hello, we do not know each other, let me explain the reason why I'm calling you".

Usually, it's a no-pause-for-breath sentence: the woman must not have the time to say anything in turn, except for a yes, it's me, just to make sure you are talking to the right person and not with her teen daughter waiting for a phone call from her boyfriend. By then, the most savvy housewives already start groaning, as if to say "no, we don't know each other, but I know what you are all about".

"You were selected to be offered a free sanitization of your sofa, your carpet or even your mattress, you just choose. We only ask that you give us your personal opinion on the machine we are going to show you".

Housewives will never be fooled into thinking that someone is going to give away something for free.

The less mundane say something like: "Not interested". But then that's when you go with the ready-made answer: "What is it exactly you're not interested in, Madam?".

"The thing that you're offering me".

"And what am I offering you?".

"A cleaning machine!" (housewives are no fool).

"Oh, no, Madam, I'm so sorry I did not make myself clear! We are not selling anything! The machine you'll see has just arrived from America. It's absolutely new and none in your town has ever seen it before. This is just a promotion, we are really only interested in your opinion, which is more than enough as an award to us. Or do you think your opinion is worthless to us?" (To force the woman to say that what she thinks is worthless is sheer evil genius).

"Of course not, but... if this is not a sale, then what is it?".

"It's just a way to help us youngsters to get a job, we are paid only to show the

machine and gather the opinion of the mistress, you don't need to invite anyone over and your opinion doesn't need to be written up. One hour, one hour and a half to the utmost, and we are out. Would tomorrow at 3 a.m. suit you, or you prefer Saturday night at 11 p.m.?"

"You see, I don't own any of the pieces of furniture you mentioned. I don't have carpets, no sofas..."

"Do you have a waterbed, Madam?".

"No, I just have a normal mattress".

"Then you see? You do have something we can sanitize. Shall we come tomorrow at 7 p.m. or the day after tomorrow at 7,30 a.m.?"

"Well, I... I've already seen this thing you're talking about. They came over already".

"Really Madam? I can't believe this, it's fantastic that you already know our machine! Can you remember what colour it was? Green?"

"Exactly, it was just green!"

"Oh. Then it was not our machine. It's not green, you must have seen some other equipment. This one is brand new and it's American. It can perform seventy different tasks and it can replace ten appliances! It's faster to show it to you than talking about it. When do you want us to come to show it to you, Madam? Next Thursday at 1 or Friday at midnight?"

"I'm leaving. I wouldn't be home anyway, I'm packing".

"And where are you going? Holiday? You're lucky, Madam... and say, when do you think you'll be back?"

"In three months". (Typical).

"I see. Look, I'll call you back in three months when your holiday's over. You were very kind, Madam, have a good time".

This is the typical phone call. The day after the woman is called again and obviously she's still at home. This part is fantastic.

"Oh, Madam, it's you! I'm sorry, I forgot I'd called you yesterday! But I thought I wouldn't find anyone home! You didn't leave then?"

"Uhm... no, I mean, yes, I'm leaving, I just had to put it off a couple of days, since..."

"I see. Then I bet now you *have* a spare hour for us, to let us work. Do you prefer tomorrow in the morning or in the evening?"

The woman is mortified and accepts.

Why don't people realize that confronted with all of this they may as well say "fuck you"?

Good manners are Kirby's best weapon.