Characters:
- Jason
- Mrs. Smith
- Dennis
- Angela
- Mr. Walker
- Julia
- Mr. Hall
- Boss
- Woman
- Camera Man

Delivery Dilemmas

Scene One

(Lights are down on stage. We hear the voice of Jason singing along to the song “Murder on the Dancefloor” before we hear a sudden car sputtering sound. The music goes quiet.)

Jason: (sighs) Come on! Please work! Please, please, please cut back on!

(beat)

Jason: God dammit, no, no! (takes big sigh)

Scene Two

(Lights come up on stage. Jason enters dressed in his uniform carrying a stack of five pizzas in one arm and has his phone in the other.)

Jason: Hey, I’m really sorry. I’m just calling to let you know that my car broke down so I’m not going to be able to fulfill the 30 minute guarantee with any of these orders. I’m on Penny Parkway right now and looking at how far these houses are on maps, there’s no way I can make it in time. I’m so sorry, I have no idea what’s wrong with my car. I’ll get it fixed as soon as possible I-

(an angry strict voice interrupts him)

Boss: Jason, you know very well what our policy is at Tony’s Pizza and if we promise a 30 minute delivery guarantee then we make that happen.

Jason: Yeah, I understand it’s a “guarantee” but I really don’t think it’s realistic since now I have to-
Boss: I don’t care what the case is, you better make it realistic or I’m cutting your hours. Do you understand?

Jason: Yes sir, I do.

Boss: Good, we need you back at the store as soon as possible so get going and make it happen.

Jason: I promise I’ll do my best.

Boss: You better.
(Boss hangs up on Jason)

Jason: (sighs) Okay, I can do this. Let’s see, the first house is… not too far-ish… if I run… really really fast. Ok, guess that’s what I’m doing cause I don’t really have a choice right now.

(Jason takes a big sigh before he starts running. It’s up to the director or performer as to whether Jason runs back and forth from both sides of the stage, runs in a circle on stage, or runs through one aisle and then goes back on stage from the other aisle. It’s preferable to have Jason run down the stage, through the aisle of one side of the audience, come back up the other aisle, then go up onto stage to knock on the next door each time. He finally stops as he arrives at the first house.)

(out of breath)
Jason: Come on, come on… just gotta deliver this pizza and get out of here.
(Jason knocks on the door)

(Mrs. Smith in a robe and tin foil hat opens the door)

Mrs. Smith: Who goes there?

Jason: Good evening ma’am, I’m here with the pizza.

Mrs. Smith: Pizza you say? I knew they’d send someone sooner or later.

Jason: I’m sorry? I’m not sure what you’re talking about.

Mrs. Smith: Oh don’t play dumb with me, boy. You can drop the act.

(Jason chuckles lightly)
Jason: I’m not, I’m just here to drop this off if the order is-
Mrs. Smith: You know exactly what I’m talking about! I know all about the sorts of things evil people put in the pizzas.

Jason: I assure you, these pizzas are just normal pizzas.

Mrs. Smith: You won’t fool me, I’m smarter than that. You won’t get to spy on me today and you won’t get to spy on me ever! Unless… you’re bugged with a microphone and camera right now but just aren’t telling me!
(Mrs. Smith suddenly grabs Jason and starts grabbing and turning him while frantically looking him up and down. Jason pulls away uncomfortable.)

Jason: Please don’t touch me ma’am or I’m leaving and not giving you your food.

Mrs. Smith: Please do. I don’t want you anywhere near me, my property, or my neighborhood ever again! You should be ashamed of yourself and your trickery, you demon.

Jason: Wait a minute, I’m sorry. This is 1123 Oak St, not 1122. I must have mixed up the addresses cause you’ve made it very clear this isn’t yours.

Mrs. Smith: Of course not, I’m not an idiot! It’s probably the house over’s cause they’re not worried about the government spying and stealing their information at all. That house is full of absolutely crazy people.

Jason: (subtly sarcastic) I’m sure it is. Sorry about the mix up, have a good night.

Mrs. Smith: I see through your tricks pizza boy. Take your cheese covered contraptions and don’t come back or I’ll make sure you regret it!
(she slams the door)

Jason: (quietly) …Trust me, I will not be coming back. (looks at watch) That took longer than I expected, I gotta hurry.

(NOTE: It’s preferable to have Jason run down the stage, through the aisle of one side of the audience, come back up the other aisle, then go up onto stage to knock on the next door each time.)

Scene 3

(Jason knocks on the door and it’s opened by Dennis who steps out onto the porch not shutting the door all the way)

Jason: Hello I-

Dennis: Finally, our pizza’s here! About time.
**Jason:** I’m sorry sir, there was a bit of a mix up. I appreciate your patience. That will be-

*(Angela opens the door and steps out to respond to Dennis)*

**Angela:** Oh, of course pizza is the most important thing to you right now, isn’t it?

**Dennis:** A man’s gotta eat and I’m starving!

**Angela:** Of course you are Dennis, cause you’ve barely eaten all day, right?

**Dennis:** Yuup and now that the pizza’s here I’m gonna finally-

**Angela:** Oh don’t start now with your excuses! You caused this mess and now you’ve gotta fix it!

**Jason:** Hey, I’m really sorry but I gotta get going so if you would be able to pay I’d really-

**Dennis:** Don’t start this crap again! We both know that everything has gone downhill because of your actions, not mine!

**Angela:** You know what? Forget it, I’m done arguing with you.

**Jason:** Alright! Your total is eighteen fift-

**Dennis:** Oh you’re done now? Not surprised, how convenient.

*(Angela snickers)*

**Angela:** Of course, because everything has to revolve around your convenience, huh? Like when you conveniently forgot about our anniversary and blamed it on your “busy schedule”?

**Dennis:** I’ve apologized a million times for that, I’m sorry okay? It’s not like you remembered anyway.

**Angela:** I booked us a reservation to the place we first met and planned a whole romantic evening with you, but we didn’t get to do that, did we? Cause you were too busy building your lego city that takes up the entire basement!

**Dennis:** You bitch! You know I hate it when you don’t refer to it as it’s actual name. It’s called Legolandia, Angela! And what about you and your literal addiction to reality tv, huh? Are we not gonna talk about that?

**Angela:** Hey Survivor, 90 Day Fiance, and Drag Race have gotten me through more than you can ever imagine! Ru Paul is a mentor to me, do you not understand that? “If you can’t love yourself, how the hell you gonna love somebody else? Can I get an amen?”
Jason: Amen.

(Dennis shoots a quick dirty look at Jason for responding)

Dennis: Oh I know, I'm well aware of how important reality shows really are to you. Apparently so important that you were talking to all the other women at your book club about how you sent in a submission to try to be on the next season of the Bachelor? Your friend Sherri messaged me and told me all about it. At least I have a hobby instead of rotting my brain away.

Angela: A man like Joey, Dylan, or Tyler Cameron would treat me a million times better than you ever could. At least they know how to prioritize their time and keep their promises. They’re real men, unlike some people.

Dennis: Hey, you better be referring to this dorky looking pizza guy right here.

Jason: Um okay, thanks a lot for that comment. Is there any way you would be able to take a moment to pay so I can get going? I'm really in a rush to get to the ne-

Dennis: Can’t you see we’re in the middle of something here?

Jason: If you go ahead and pay I can get out of your way though, sir.

Angela: Just give him the money, Dennis!

Dennis: Don’t tell me what to do!

(crosses arms and stands there defiantly for a few moments, there’s an awkward silence)

Okay well, I'm gonna pay you now but… that’s because I want to!

(he begins reaching into wallet)

Not because she told me to!

(goes to hand him the money before pulling his hand back)

I want it to be very clear that this is my choice… not hers…mine. Understood?

(Dennis stares back and forth at both Jason and Angela to see if they believe him. Angela is unfazed)

Jason: Yup! I understand, completely! (nervously laughs)

Dennis: Here take it, just like Angie here took our credit card and ran our credit score into the ground on all her gambling mobile games. (Dennis hands him money. Jason gives him pizza)

Angela: I told you. I’m a lucky person, Dennis. I’m going to win it all back and more on top of that! And don’t even get me started on the amount of money you’ve put towards betting on Quidditch. What normal person bets on professional Quidditch?!

(the couple go back inside their home and slam the door. After Angela finishes her line, you can hear the muffled yelling of their continued argument through the door)
(to himself)

**Jason:** Well I hope they don’t charge me for the entertainment cause I can’t afford it. Especially since neither insane person I’ve had to deal with has tipped me even a cent! (sighs) Just three more houses.

**Scene 4**

**(Jason** runs to the next house and stops in front door clearly out of breath. He takes a moment to catch his breath before knocking on the door)

**(Mr. Walker** cracks the door open only partially sticking his head out)

**Mr. Walker:** Who are you? What do you want?

**Jason:** Hey, I'm from Tony's. I have a delivery for Walker.

**Mr. Walker:** Oh sorry! (opens door revealing his clothes are stained with red all over) I had completely forgotten I ordered that. Got uuh.. kinda busy (nervously laughs) You can go ahead and come right in.

**Jason:** Actually, I'll just stay right here. Don't wanna be an inconvenience.

**Mr. Walker:** Oh yeah, no that's fine. Let me just uh.. go grab my wallet from my bag. Wait here. (gives him a subtle threatening look for a moment and then switches to smiling) I'll be right back. (he goes inside and shuts the door)

**(Jason** starts breathing heavily the second the door shuts showing all of his fear he was once trying to contain. He frantically starts muttering to himself)

**Jason:** Oh my god, oh my god. I don't know what to do. I wanna run so bad but I'm scared that might make him mad-

**(Mr. Walker** opens the door pops out suddenly with a purse in his hands)

**Mr. Walker:** Got it, one second. (he rummages through the bag very obviously not knowing where anything is)

**Jason:** No problem.. And uh, nice purse.

**Mr. Walker:** Thanks it's my wife’s but uh.. She lets me borrow it sometimes.

**Jason:** Lucky you. (smirking)
Mr. Walker: Yeah, and sorry about the mess on my clothes as well. The wife and I are renovating and wanted to change up the wall color. Somehow ended up spilling half a bucket on myself. (nervously laughs) I hate always being so clumsy all the time.

Jason: Bright red is such a beautiful color for a home and hey, me too. I’m not just clumsy but I’m also super forgetful too. I forget everything, I can’t even remember what I had for breakfast this morning. (nervously laughs) In fact, I probably won’t even remember my interaction with you by the time I get to my next delivery.

Mr. Walker: Ah ha! Found it! (lifts up hand holding a wad of cash) Sorry about the hold up, I appreciate your patience.

Jason: All good! No need to apologize. I’m in no rush whatsoever.

(hands Jason cash)
Mr. Walker: Feel free to keep the change.

Jason: (hands him pizza) Thank you so much! Have a great night, sir.

(Mr. Walker goes inside and closes the door)

Jason: (sighs in relief) That was not worth the tip. I should probably call the police. (police sirens go off in the distance and grow louder) Actually, I’m gonna just get the hell out of here, sounds like it’s already taken care of.

**Scene 5**

(Jason runs to the next house. He is even more out of breath and looks disheveled)

Jason: I am not cut out for all this running. Only one more house after this one. (checks watch) I really gotta hurry up. Please, please don’t be insane this time… or at least not worse than the last guy.

(Jason knocks on the door)

(from inside yelling)
Julia: Be right there!

(Jason glances down at his watch)

Julia: Ah, greetings traveler.

Jason: Good evening ma’am. Pizza delivery for Julia?
Julia: Yes, I am Julia. (closes eyes and focuses) I am beautiful. I am wise. I am happy. I am grounded. I am a magnet to money, success, and stray cats. (takes breath in and out) I apologize, just doing my positive affirmations and realigning my energy.

Jason: No problem! It’s never a bad time to practice affirmations. (nervously laughs) You’re total is gonna be-

Julia: Stop! Wait! (pauses for a moment to sense her surroundings) You are completely surrounded with negative energy! I’m going to have to fix this immediately.

Jason: I really appreciate the offer but I really don’t have the time to stop and do this.

Julia: No, absolutely I insist! Plus I don’t feel comfortable accepting the pizza until the horrible energies surrounding you and the pizza have been officially cleansed.

Jason: If you really won’t accept the pizza until you do so then it’s fine but please make it quick. I really need to get going.

Julia: Of course, but to begin I’m going to need you to take one big breath in and one out. Do it with me, in (they both breathe in)... and out (they breathe out). Now close your eyes.

Jason: Ok but remember I really gotta get go-

Julia: (shushes him). Now I’m going to take these crystals and clear away any bad vibes. Visualize a glowing bright vibrant light and feel it embracing you with love and positivity. (she is waving crystals all around him while he continues to stand with his eyes closed).

Jason: Okay, I’m visualizing it.

Julia: See it get brighter now. Become engulfed completely in the positive radiance of the beautiful light.

Jason: You know, this actually is kinda nice-

(Julia interrupts Jason by making weird noises and doing weird dances all around him which startles him and causes him to open his eyes. She continues for a few moments as he stares at her confused and slightly scared. She pulls out a tambourine and ramps up her dancing and noises.)

Julia: Join in!

Jason: I’d really rather-

Julia: Do it!
(Jason joins in uncomfortably doing his best to follow along with her.)

Julia: Stop! (Jason freezes as fast as he can) It has been completed. You should feel much lighter and positive right now.

Jason: Yeah, I definitely feel.. Something. Thank you for that.

Julia: Of course, always more than happy to help the fellow spirits I meet along the way in this journey of life. I can tell you have a good heart and soul. It was destiny that you would visit me tonight, I can feel it. I know it. You have good things coming your way.

Jason: Well I uh, appreciate your help with the bad vibes light energy stuff but I probably need to get going if you’d be able to pay now. It’s gonna be $18.88.

Julia: 888 means prosperity and abundance! It’s a sign! It has to be. Just let me get my wallet real quick. You stay here and bask in the positive energy.

(to himself)

Jason: I hope it means abundance in the tip i get for putting up with everything. I didn’t sign up for all this, I can’t take it. What is up with everyone today?

Julia: Found it. Got it right here for you. (hands him money)

Jason: Thank you ma’am, I really appreciate it and all your help. (hands her pizza)

Julia: No problem at all. Thank you for being open to letting me cleanse you and the pizza. Bad vibes always make the pizza taste so awful that I can’t stand to eat it. It was fate that we ran into each other tonight. Stay safe on your journey and don’t forget to protect your energy.

Jason: I’ll do my best. Have a uh.. positively radiant evening.

Julia: Thanks, night.

(says very casual and quick, she goes inside and closes the door)

Jason: (sarcastically) And of course I don’t deserve a tip for putting up with that. I don’t know why I ever thought I would. Just one more house left. I can make it in time if I run with every ounce of energy I have left in me. I’ve come this far, I gotta make it! I can’t give up now.

Scene 6
(Jason admires the mansion he’s going up to while more tired and out of breath than ever before)

**Jason:** Damn, this last place is absolutely massive. I wanna live here.

(knocks on door which is opened by **Mr. Hall**) Hello, pizza delivery for Mr. Hall?

**Mr. Hall:** Ah yes, welcome! You’ve come just in time. I’ve been craving the delectable taste of your extravagant pizzas.

**Jason:** Glad I can drop this off for you then. Your total for that is that going to be $24.32.

**Mr. Hall:** Perfect, before I get that for you I actually have a question to ask you.

**Jason:** (takes a breath scared of what he will ask) Sure, sir. What’s your question?

**Mr. Hall:** I wanted to ask if you wanted to play a game.

**Jason:** A game? What kind of game.

**Mr. Hall:** I’m just gonna ask you some questions and you can try to answer to win some tip money.

**Jason:** Sure I-

**Mr. Hall:** Alrighty then! Congratulations then sir, you are now a contestant on Slice of Knowledge.

(music starts playing and **Jason** gets startled and jumps. A **Camera Man** and **Woman** in a red dress holding giant question cards flipped so they can’t be seen come out while a bunch of set pieces for the show start to be rolled out)

The game show where pizza delivery drivers get the chance to answer questions and win some dough!

**Jason:** Um, actually sir I didn’t drive here. My car broke down so I’ve uh well.. been running from house to house.

**Mr. Hall:** Wow! Running from house to house? Now that’s dedication! We’ve got a winner with us tonight. I can really feel it folks! I’m your host, beloved millionaire Thomas Hall. As you all know I grew tired of my boring rich life so I decided to keep myself entertained by hosting my own game show on my front porch where I make underpaid pizza drivers or.. runners answer questions correctly to win a small fraction of my wealth, or get to laugh in their faces! Now what’s your name pizza boy?

**Jason:** (overwhelmed and confused) Uh, Jason.
Mr. Hall: Well then Jason, tonight's your lucky night! See, the rules of the game are really simple, kid. All you have to do is answer a few pizza themed questions and see if you can deliver the right answers.

Jason: (nervously laughs) Okay.

Mr. Hall: Now if you’re able to rise to the crust of this challenge, you will earn a cash prize. For every question you get correct, you will win $500 dollars. Are you ready?

Jason: Uh.. I mean I guess. I’m not sure how I’ll do, I’ve had a really long day. There was this tin foil hat lady and-

Mr. Hall: Fantastic! There are three questions. You have one minute to answer them all. Let’s hope you have supreme pizza knowledge. And your time starts.. now. Question number one, (Woman flips question card to be seen) what country created the Hawaiian pizza?

Jason: Uum.. was it America?

Mr. Hall: (chuckles) Ooh, I’m sorry. It was actually Canada, eh? Question two, (Woman flips to next card) where was New York style pizza actually developed?

Jason: Uh… (very unsure) Sicily?

Mr. Hall: (laughs) It’s actually right in the name, New York is the correct answer. That’s alright, last question. What’s the Italian name for pepperoni?

Jason: Uugh I’m not sure.. Uuh.. I have no idea. Is it (in an over exaggerated Italian accent) Pepperoni? (laughs not knowing what to say)

Mr. Hall: (laughs hard) Oh I am so sorry, Jason. That was your last chance and that is incorrect. But hey, thanks for playing!

Jason: (baffled and disappointed) Yeah uh, no problem. Thanks for having me on the show, I guess. I gotta get walking back to work now so..

Mr. Hall: (laughs) Of course you do, good luck. Based on how your day has been, you’ll probably need it.

Jason: You have no idea. (he walks away defeated when something sparkly on the ground catches his eye) What is that? (he picks it up) Oh, an earring. It may belong to the game show assistant lady. (walks back towards the house) Excuse me ma’am! Are you missing an earring by any chance?

Woman: (feels ears to check) No, I'm not. Sorry!
Mr. Hall: Wait an earring? Bring it here, let me see!
(Jason brings it over and Mr. Hall examines it)
You did it! You found my wife’s missing earring! She hasn’t been able to find it in months. It’s her favorite pair that I bought her after she found out about my affair with the maid uh.. (pauses for a moment realizing the cameras are still rolling) I mean uh, after we went to the fair… in May.. but that’s besides the point. Even though you didn’t get a single question right, I’m gonna go ahead and give you a $25,000 dollar tip just for finding that and cause I’m feeling nice today.

Jason: Oh my god! Are you actually serious? This isn’t a joke? I’m calling my boss! (starts dialing) Thank you so so much! You have no idea how badly I could use that right now.

Mr. Hall: Based on those shorts you’re wearing, I can believe it actually.

Jason: (Boss picks up) Hey, I just wanted you to know that I’m sick of the way you treat me, I just won $25,000, and also I quit! (Jason hangs up immediately to start jumping up and down celebrating)

Mr. Hall: (laughs) Well Jason, here on Slice of Knowledge you’ve really stolen a “pizza” our heart here tonight. Thank you all for watching and goodnight!
(Woman walks across stage holding giant card that says “applause” and generic closing game show music starts playing, Mr. Hall gestures to cast to join him on stage and take bows)