

AMERICAN SUPERSTORE

“Pilot”

Written by

Justin Spitzer

1/7/2015

COLD OPEN

INT. CLOUD 9 - VARIOUS - DAY (DAY 1)

We're in a CLOUD 9, a national chain of "big-box" retailers selling everything from groceries to electronics to discounted designer handbags. Although it's a giant store, the lighting is warm, the decor is inviting. Picture Target, not Walmart.

Under what sounds like narration, we see shots of people shopping in some of the different departments.

GARRETT (O.S.)

The American superstore. One-stop shopping for everything you could ever need or want. Do you want to be thinner?

IN SPORTING GOODS, a woman jogs on a treadmill that's on display on a second shelf.

GARRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Fatter?

IN GROCERY, a man lifts a 5-gallon tub of ice cream into his cart.

GARRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Happier?

IN TOYS, a cute child jumps excitedly at the range of choices.

GARRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Sadder?

IN COSMETICS, a goth teenager paints her lips black.

GARRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's a place where you can find conflict...

IN PETS, two dog-owners pushing carts scream at each other to move aside. Their dogs are barking at one another as well.

GARRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...and peace...

IN HOME, an elderly couple lies beside one another on one of the display mattresses, asleep and snoring.

GARRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...and friendship...

IN ENTERTAINMENT, two dorks in Keanu tee-shirts simultaneously grab for the only copy of 47 Ronin on Blu-Ray. They get to talking, excited to find a kindred spirit.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - JEWELRY COUNTER - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

CLOSE-UP: A cheap, low-quality engagement ring.

GARRETT (O.S.)
...and even love.

We reveal AMY (28, attractive and sardonic), wearing the cloud-themed vest of an employee, showing the ring to a 19-year-old cheesy, vain, Justin Bieber-type: BO.

AMY
It's actually a cubic zirconia knock-off, but you can't tell. And at \$10.88, it's a ring that says, "I want to marry you as much as two Subway footlongs."

Bo points to a SIGN: "Engagement Rings: \$8.88 - \$10.88".

BO
What about the eight-buck ones?

AMY
Those are sold out. But for two dollars more, you get the genuine aluminum setting. You may be familiar with aluminum as the packaging from some of your favorite pop drinks.

BO
Dang, I ain't the one who's gotta wear it.

Amy reacts - "what a dick". Bo thinks a moment, decides.

BO (CONT'D)
Fine. I gotta stand in line for cigarettes anyhow.

AMY
Your girlfriend's a lucky lady. She'll be wearing that for the rest of her life...

He walks off with the ring.

AMY (CONT'D)
...or until she has to pawn it for bail money.

She sighs, exhausted, as she takes off her vest, calling off:

AMY (CONT'D)
I'm taking my break!

CUT TO:

INT. PERSONAL CARE SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Amy, holding her vest bunched up in her hands, is walking through the store, wearing an expression that says, "It's been a long day and it's not going to be over any time soon."

She approaches a large toilet paper display, where someone who seems to be a customer (JONAH, 23, dynamic with a boyish charm), is reaching for a roll right from the middle.

AMY
Wait, don't--

But she's too late. The tower of toilet paper collapses on top of him. She shakes her head - more work for her to do.

AMY (CONT'D)
Smart. The best rolls are always right in the middle.

JONAH
(joking)
That's what I figured. They're the load-bearing ones.

He starts (ineptly) trying to rebuild the display. She watches him for a moment, then smiles and relents:

AMY
Need a hand?

JONAH
Nah, I've got it. I work here.

AMY
(confused)
No you don't.

JONAH
Is it that obvious? It's my first day, I was hoping to blend in. Not seem like the over-educated, spoiled New York City guy who's never had a job before.

Amy flinches, annoyed at the comment. She decides not to reveal that she's an employee there herself.

AMY
Ohhhh. You think people will just "sense" that you don't belong here.

JONAH

You spotted it right away. Is it the hands? I've always had soft skin, I don't, like, moisturize or anything.

AMY

You just seem so... cultured, compared to:

She gestures to a six-months pregnant teenage employee (CHEYENNE) working nearby.

JONAH

I'd keep your voice down. That sounds a little condescending.

AMY

(deadpan)

It does, doesn't it?

(then)

So you went to college and now you work at Cloud 9. I'm surprised they don't require a PhD.

JONAH

I just think you can't be successful at the top unless you've also worked at the bottom. And I think it'll be fun.

Jonah, intent on getting the toilet paper to balance, doesn't notice how much Amy looks like she wants to attack him.

AMY

Sure, it must be fun to work here. Otherwise, how could they get away with paying them so little?

JONAH

I just mean it's an adventure. Seeing a different world, different people. Like a safari, but with less chance of being mauled.

AMY

Oh, I wouldn't say that.

Cheyenne, the pregnant girl, walks up to Amy.

CHEYENNE

Hey, can you cover me a sec? This thing is kickin' my bladder like it owes him money.

JONAH
Sure, it's just my first day,
but--

AMY
No problem. Use the one in
front so Dina won't dock you.

Jonah gives Amy a shocked look as he realizes she works here.

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)
Thanks.

Cheyenne runs off. As Amy puts her vest back on:

AMY
Definitely keep your voice down. If any
employees in the middle of a 16-hour-
shift heard you talking like that, they'd
probably want to punch you in the face
right now. Good luck.

She walks off, leaving Jonah at a loss for words. After a
beat, the toilet paper tower he's built collapses on him
again.

GARRETT (O.S.)
The superstore is a melting pot...

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

We reveal that the voice belongs to GARRETT (early 30s):
charismatic, confident, good-looking, and in a wheelchair. He
waxes philosophically over the store intercom.

GARRETT
...a place where all types of people from
all walks of life are free to go after
what they want. Basically, the superstore
is America. And in America, is there
anything we don't want?
(he pauses, then adds)
Cloud 9-brand condoms, on sale now. Cloud
9 Condoms: When Savings Are Worth A
Little Risk.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. A DIFFERENT, GENERIC CLOUD 9 - DAY

A manager, played by CHRISTOPHER LLOYD, helps bandage a YOUNG EMPLOYEE'S hand.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

When opening boxes, always cut away from your body. Remember: "Don't be hasty when it comes to your safety."

YOUNG EMPLOYEE

I got distracted by a union rep who was trying to recruit me.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

The union?! Great Scott! The union doesn't care about you. You don't need to be from the future...

(he turns and winks to camera)

...to know that.

WE WIDEN OUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - DAY (DAY 1)

A large back room filled with tables, used for breaks and staff meetings. Right now, a number of the employees are watching a corporate video. GLENN (50s), the fatherly-but-not-very-bright Manager, stands at the front beside the monitor.

GLENN

So what can we learn from this?

MATEO (30s), another new hire, wearing a shirt-and-tie, stands and reads from his copious notes.

MATEO

I learned that we shouldn't be hasty when it comes to our safety.

GLENN

Very good, that's exactly right.

DINA (30s), the strong, militant, occasionally frightening Assistant Manager.

DINA

What if she cut herself on purpose to get disability? I think the lesson is: always check the surveillance tapes.

GARRETT

I also sensed a subtle anti-union message.

ON SCREEN: Christopher Lloyd addresses camera.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

Workplace safety begins with YOU. And if you or someone you know is considering joining a union, call: 1-800-UNION-BAD.

The number chyrons on screen. Glenn turns off the monitor.

GLENN

A few other items. Today is the first day of our Back-To-School sale. That means a sale on Back-To-School items, not *Back To School* the movie, which is regular price.

As Glenn continues, Jonah leans over to Amy, whispers:

JONAH

Why didn't you tell me you worked here?

AMY

I thought it was obvious from the dull look in my eyes and monosyllabic speech patterns.

GLENN

...When handing a customer a receipt, you say, "Have a Heavenly Day." Not, "See you in Heaven."

CHEYENNE

I understand that Glenn, and I explained to that lady that I didn't know she had cancer, but judging from the language she used, honestly, I don't think I will be seeing her in heaven after all.

JONAH

(still whispering to Amy)

I think you misunderstood what I was saying before. I'm not an elitist.

AMY

"Elitist"? What's that?

JONAH

Like someone who thinks they're better than--

(realizing)

You know what elitist means.

AMY

Oh yeah, they learnt that to us back in home school.

GLENN

We have two new employees starting today. Out of all the applications we received, these two were the best and the brightest of the ones who passed the urine test. Would you like to introduce yourselves?

JONAH

Sure. Hey everyone, I'm Jonah. I'm really excited to be working with you.

He gives a little wave. Then Mateo stands.

MATEO

My name is Mateo Hernandez. I grew up here in St. Louis. I have eleven brothers and sisters, several of which are presently incarcerated at this point in time for alleged criminalities which I am not at liberty to discuss if they are guilty. I've made some mistakes in my life as well, but now I'm here to make something of myself, spread my wings, and see how far I can fly. Thank you.

There's a beat as people look back to Jonah. He stands again.

JONAH

I have one brother. Dentist. Married to another dentist, actually, so... two-dentist family.

GARRETT

(sarcastically amazed)
Get out of town!!

Glenn takes out a small black quote book.

GLENN

Now I used to end these meetings with some wisdom from the good book, but then somebody...

(looking to Dina)
reported me to corporate.

DINA

I'm a Christian too, but within these walls, my god is the Employee Code of Conduct.

GLENN

And we all thank you for it. So in honor of your first day at Cloud 9, we'll turn to the secular for inspiration:

(leafs through book, muttering)

Let's see: clouds, clouds... ah!

(reads)

"There will always be some uncertainty about how quickly Saddam can acquire nuclear weapons. But we don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom... cloud."

He closes the book meaningfully. Then, with all the grandeur of Richard Attenborough introducing *Jurassic Park*:

GLENN (CONT'D)

Welcome. Welcome to Cloud 9!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - PATIO SECTION - DAY

SFX: The theme from *Jurassic Park*, faint and tinny, piped in over the store speakers.

But instead of brachiosauruses, we cut to a group of extremely elderly shoppers, slowly driving their motorized shopping carts, herd-like, across the Patio section.

CUT TO:

INT. BABY AISLE - LATER

A LOST CUSTOMER walks up to Jonah.

LOST CUSTOMER

Excuse me? Which aisle is Books in?

JONAH

I have no idea. Which aisle is Home Appliances in?

LOST CUSTOMER

(confused)

Um... I think that's aisle twelve.

JONAH

Twelve? That's this way? Great, thanks.

He walks on. Garrett, holding a couple boxes on his lap, wheels up alongside Jonah, having witnessed the interaction.

GARRETT

If a customer asks you something you don't know, make it up.

JONAH

What if I send him to the wrong place?

GARRETT

When customers look at us, all they see is a blue vest. So they never complain because they're never sure who they were talking to. It's like a racism that works out really well for us. I'm Garrett.

JONAH

(shaking his hand)

Jonah. Don't we get some kind of training? I've just been walking from one department to another so it looks like I have a purpose.

GARRETT

It works better if you carry a box around.

He tosses him one of his boxes, which is obviously empty.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

See? You'll learn as you go. Just be here on time, don't steal, and stay on the floor supervisor's good side.

JONAH

Who's the floor supervisor?

Garrett points across the store to... Amy. Jonah's face falls.

CUT TO:

INT. SEASONAL ITEMS - MOMENTS LATER

The section is set up for the Back-To-School sale. Amy is scanning items with a PDA. Jonah walks up, pointing to his vest.

JONAH

I never thought of myself as a "vest guy", but now I think I might be a vest guy.

(she smiles a little)

I didn't mean to offend you earlier.

AMY

It's fine. I think hearing the job I've had for ten years described as a "fun adventure" just rubbed me the wrong way.

JONAH

Can we start over? I'm Jonah. And you are:
(reading her name tag)
"Georgiana?"

AMY

Oh, that's not mine. I just don't like random strangers using my name as if we're buddies. Like how hookers don't kiss on the lips.

JONAH

So what's your real name?

AMY

(considers him, then)

We can start over, we're not friends yet.

(re: Back-To-School items)

Okay, this stuff is supposed to be 25 percent off, but the POS system is down so we need to discount it all manually. So scan each barcode...

(she scans an item)

then hit "Enter", "Reassign", "Override", code "96315", "Enter", "Reduce", 25 percent so "Point-two-five", "Enter", "Confirm". Got that?

He stares at her blankly.

AMY (CONT'D)

And they say college doesn't prepare you for the real world.

JONAH

It did in some ways. This job requires a comprehensive knowledge of the plays of Henrik Ibsen, right?

She laughs.

JONAH (CONT'D)

That's my point. My dad wanted me to come work at his firm after I graduated, but I don't want to be some sheltered corporate drone with no experience in the real world.

AMY

I guess I can, weirdly, respect that.

JONAH

Plus, I've been in school my entire life. It'll be nice to have a break from using my brain for a while.

(realizing how bad that sounds)

I didn't mean-- Can we start over again?

But before she can respond, Amy spots Bo, the kid she sold the ring to earlier, approaching Cheyenne and getting down on one knee. She shoves the PDA into Jonah's hands.

AMY

Take over.

Jonah starts to protest, but she's already gone.

CUT TO:

INT. CASH REGISTER - CONTINUOUS

Amy speedwalks over to where Bo is proposing. An ELDERLY LADY catches up to her, holding several bottles of pills.

ELDERLY LADY

Excuse me, miss, what's the difference between a stool softener and a laxative?

AMY

Be right with you. Cheyenne, what's going on?

CHEYENNE

My boyfriend asked me to marry him!

BO

Babe, I told you not to call me your boyfriend. We're just having fun.

ELDERLY LADY

I don't want it soft, I want it out of me.

AMY

I didn't realize before that Cheyenne was the lucky girl you'd be proposing to.

BO

Yeah, well, I knocked her up. So my dad said I had to.

CHEYENNE

Aaaahhhh!!!

AMY

I know, so romantic!

ELDERLY LADY

(reading bottle)

"Bulking agent". That sounds like just about the last thing I need.

AMY

You didn't say yes, did you?

CHEYENNE

Why shouldn't I say yes?

Cheyenne gives her a wary look, like, "What are you implying about Bo?" Amy takes her aside and talks to her quietly.

AMY

Look, I know it's easy to get swept up in...

(looks around at surroundings)
...the romance of the moment. But try to be a little practical and think this through. Don't do something you'll regret for the rest of your life.

The elderly lady, hearing this, takes it to heart as she considers her pill options.

ELDERLY LADY

Yeah, okay, I'll sleep on it.

CUT TO:

INT. SEASONAL ITEMS / RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Jonah looks across the store at Amy. He holds up the PDA triumphantly and waves.

JONAH

I figured it out!

In the store's FAST FOOD RESTAURANT behind her, Dina is on a break, eating a slice of pizza. She looks up from her Guns & Ammo to see Jonah smiling and waving. She checks behind her - there's no one there - and concludes he must be waving at her. She wipes the grease off her mouth and bashfully waves back.

Mateo, pushing a cart nearby, sees Jonah smiling proudly.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Big victory for me.

MATEO

No offense, but it's a dog-eat-dog world and you're my competition. So I take no joy in your accomplishments. In all honesty, I root for your failures.

Jonah reacts as Mateo moves on.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSING SECTION - DAY

A tired, pasty employee sets out suitcases as he stares wistfully at a standup ad of tan models on a tropical beach.

CUT TO:

INT. LIQUOR AISLE - DAY

An exhausted children's party performer, still partially dressed as Elsa (or something clearable) stocks up on vodka. A little girl nearby watches her in disillusionment.

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTING GOODS - LATER

As Amy walks through the store, she notices several customers pushing carts overflowing with high-priced Back-To-School items - everything from computers and iPads to dorm fridges and Aeron chairs. She approaches Glenn, who is talking to Mateo.

MATEO

Think of me as your protégé. I want to learn everything you know about business.

GLENN

I'd be honored. Let's see what we have here: business, business, business...

He leafs through his quote book as Amy approaches.

AMY

Glenn, why is there suddenly a run on Back-To-School items?

GLENN

Must be those commercials.
(a la Christopher Lloyd)
Great Scott, Marty, you've got to go back! Back to School!

But Amy's unsure. She glances towards where Jonah is repricing items, and customers are frantically grabbing them off the shelves, as she starts to wonder what's going on...

CUT TO:

INT. CASH REGISTER - SAME TIME

A SOCCER MOM looks on excitedly as Cheyenne scans a giant stack of LAPTOPS, each one coming out to 25¢.

CHEYENNE

Wow, good sale this year.

The soccer mom nods, trying to contain her excitement.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SEASONAL ITEMS - MOMENTS LATER

Amy walks quickly through a throng of customers, all of them with carts full of high-priced items. She approaches Jonah.

JONAH

I'm killing it over here. I think that merits you telling me your name.

AMY

And you're only discounting everything 25 percent, right?

JONAH

(demonstrating)

Yep. Scan, Enter, Reassign, Override, 96315, Enter, Reprice, Point-two-five--

AMY

Reduce.

JONAH

Huh?

AMY

Reduce point-two-five. Reprice point-two-five would change the price to 25 cents.

They look around at the frenzy of customers grabbing items off the shelves.

JONAH

Maybe just give me the first letter and I'll try to guess--

Amy turns and sprints off to the front.

AMY

SHUT IT DOWN! SHUT IT ALL DOWN!

CUT TO:

INT. CASH REGISTERS / ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Cheyenne is checking out a customer, who's buying a top-of-the-line multifunction laser printer, MSRP: \$2799.

CHEYENNE

If you sign up for our Heavenly Shoppers Program, you'll get 15 percent off today's purchase, which would drop your price to 22 cents.

AMY
(screaming to the cashiers)
STOP SELLING ALL BACK-TO-SCHOOL ITEMS!

She runs past the cashiers and out to the parking lot, passing the MEEK SECURITY GUARD (FRANK) at the front door.

AMY (CONT'D)
Nobody leaves, Frank!

Frank turns to face the throng of approaching customers, a look of fear in his eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The soccer mom, her minivan packed to the brim with merchandise, is trying to get away before anyone realizes what happened. Amy runs out to stop her.

AMY
Ma'am?! I need to recheck those items.

SOCCER MOM
I paid, I've got a receipt!

She tries to shut the door, but Amy grabs it.

AMY
Ma'am, wait--

The mom throws a laptop at her. It smashes on the pavement.

SOCCER MOM
Move! I paid my twelve dollars!

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

Garrett wheels up to the intercom.

GARRETT
Attention shoppers: There's been a pricing error on Back-To-School items. For more, let's go to Too-Good-To-Be-True Stu.
(doing a voice of stupid person)
"Well, I thought it made sense that a \$2,000 computer was on sale for 25 cents."
(back to Garrett)
No Stu, that was obviously a mistake. You're an idiot.

CUT TO:

INT. SEASONAL ITEMS - CONTINUOUS

Jonah is trying to explain what's going on to a man with a very full cart who doesn't speak any English. He unconsciously falls into that thing where you speak stilted English to a foreigner, as if that will help them understand.

JONAH
No, what I'm saying is, these aren't 25 cents. No two-five cent. So if you buy thinking "I pay one quarter", you be sad. These no sale, I push wrong button, feel very bad.

FOREIGN MAN
[*continuous string of a different language*]

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Amy's trying to avoid the laptops, tablets, and phones that the soccer mom is hurling at her.

SOCCER MOM
Move! Move! Move! Move! Move! Move!

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTING GOODS - CONTINUOUS

Glenn, oblivious to the chaos, is reading quotes to Mateo.

GLENN
"I was told to avoid the business because of the rejection." -Jennifer Aniston.
"Having haters is just a part of the business." -Nick Jonas.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTRANCE AREA - CONTINUOUS

Customers are swarming to leave. Frank is pleading:

FRANK
Please, I'm not allowed to let you through. Please, please, please...

He's about to be overpowered. Then Dina steps up with a shotgun and fires it in the air. Everyone steps back.

DINA
SALE'S OVER!!

CUT TO:

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Our employees are being forced to watch another corporate video, this one about employee error.

ON SCREEN: Christopher Lloyd is kneeling beside the Young Employee at a spill in the aisle.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

Your one little mistake could have a ripple effect on the whole future!

(looks to camera)

Always be precise, whether you're selling sticks of chewing gum or flux capacitors.

GARRETT

I don't understand why he doesn't travel back in time and warn her about these things before-hand. I think he just likes being the "I told you so" guy.

Jonah looks at Glenn, who stands beside the monitor.

JONAH

Do you really need to make everyone watch this? I'm the one who--

GLENN

Bup bup bup! There's no need to embarrass whoever it is whose fault this was.

Besides, we can all learn a lesson here.

MATEO

Would that lesson be not letting Jonah reprice inventory in the future?

GLENN

It might be, yes.

Jonah shakes his head in humiliation. He looks around the room, finally making eye contact with Amy. She shakes her head with a little smile that makes Jonah feel better.

Then Jonah leans over to Garrett, who is sitting beside him, eating from a bag of microwave popcorn as if they're watching a real movie and not a corporate video. He whispers:

JONAH

What's the deal with dating between staff and supervisors? Is that frowned on?

GARRETT

I don't know, why?

JONAH

Just curious.

Dina, sitting in back of them, overhears this and thinks he's talking about him and her. She blushes nervously and beams.

BACK ONSCREEN:

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

Errors can hurt a company, much like a union. If you hear any discussion of unions, call 1-800-UNION-BAD.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - GENERAL

A dad pushes a stroller, onto which he's loaded a bunch of (lightweight) products. Beneath the products, we see the legs of his daughter poking out.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 RESTAURANT - DAY

Glenn sits at a table in the restaurant, working on a jigsaw puzzle. He pounds two pieces together that aren't meant to fit. Cheyenne takes a seat across from him.

CHEYENNE

Glenn, you've been married a long time.

GLENN

Thirty-five wonderful years.

He shows her the puzzle - a hodgepodge of disjointed jigsaw pieces that shouldn't be together.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Paris. Weird city.

CHEYENNE

Do you ever regret it?

GLENN

What, getting married? Never. It takes work, sure, but it's worth it.

CHEYENNE

Thanks. That's a relief to hear.

GLENN

Three words: Life's Works Megachurch.
(off Cheyenne's reaction)

(MORE)

GLENN (CONT'D)

Every Sunday. And then Pastor Steve works with Ingrid one-on-one anytime, day or night. Whenever Ingrid and I are going through a rough patch, call up Pastor Steve, Ingrid pays him a visit, and bingo, she comes back happy and glowing.

Cheyenne realizes what's going on, but Glenn's oblivious.

CHEYENNE

He sounds like a wonderful man.

GLENN

The best. They're on a retreat together as we speak.

CUT TO:

INT. PERSONAL CARE SECTION - LATER

The tired, pasty employee who we saw earlier (picture a human Droopy Dog) slowly stocks items on a shelf. On the other side of the aisle, Mateo is energetically stocking at breakneck speed as if it's an Olympic event. The pasty employee gives him a tired, deadpan look.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY AISLE - SAME TIME

Jonah is stocking cans, although we don't yet reveal how he's stacking them. Garrett is talking to him.

GARRETT

It's close to work. You'd have your own bedroom. Plus, wide hallways, nice ramps, and have you ever seen a wheelchair-accessible shower? It's like a palace.

Jonah contemplates it. Then he notices Amy approaching and calls out to her:

JONAH

Hey. What do you think?

He points to the shelves, and we reveal that rather than stock the cans in order, he's created an impressive -- and attractive -- mural of Amy's face.

AMY

I think that no one's going to be able to find what they're looking for. Plus, in the time it took you to do this, you could have stocked five times as much, so it's made more work for the rest of us.

JONAH

...But, like, as a work of art.

AMY

You got my eyes wrong. Come with me,
Jonah.

She walks off. He hurries after her.

JONAH

Okay, coming... this would be easier if I
had a name to call you.

After he runs off, Garrett judges the mural.

GARRETT

Yeah, the eyes are screwy.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - WALK-AND-TALK - CONTINUOUS

JONAH

I was just having a little fun--

AMY

I know this is a "life experience" for
you, but most of us are here because they
give us a paycheck. Then we cash that
paycheck for money, and we use that money
for extravagances like food and rent.

JONAH

I was an econ major, we covered a lot of
this.

AMY

This doesn't need to be fun. If it were,
they wouldn't have to pay us to do it. So
let's just be practical and do our jobs so
we can go home and enjoy our lives, okay?

JONAH

I get that we have a job to do, I'm not
naive. But does that mean we can't ever, I
don't know, find moments of beauty in it?

AMY

"Moments of beauty"? Are you really that
cheesy?

JONAH

Or fun or joy or... okay, yeah, it sounds
cheesy, but: beauty. Like... remember in
that movie?

As they're passing the check-out aisle, Jonah grabs a plastic bag from a bagger and tosses it up into the air, hoping for an *American Beauty*-like transcendent moment.

They all watch as the bag drifts down to the floor, bit by bit, in a totally mundane, non-transcendent way.

Beat. The bagger slowly picks up the bag and starts putting items in it again. Jonah looks embarrassed.

AMY
(deadpan)
That just blew my mind right there.

Jonah walks quickly out the front doors. As Amy follows:

AMY (CONT'D)
How did you do that? I have goose bumps.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

She points to the parking lot, which is full of shopping carts customers have abandoned.

AMY
I want you to gather up all the shopping carts and put them in the return corral.

JONAH
Don't they have people for that?

AMY
They do. You're one of them. Be careful about touching the metal - on a day like this, it's heated up like a steam iron. And you'll need to fight the occasional homeless man for possession.

A HOMELESS MAN clutches his cart possessively.

AMY (CONT'D)
Thanks Jonah.

She pats him on the back and leaves him to it.

JONAH
You're welcome... buddy.

CUT TO:

INT. CHILDREN'S APPAREL - DAY

An ANGRY MOM is screaming at someone hiding in a circular clothing rack.

ANGRY MOM

Timmy, you get out of there right now! I am not kidding around, I'm gonna give you to five. One...two...three...

A sheepish middle-aged man - her husband - crawls out from the rack.

ANGRY MOM (CONT'D)

You know we have plans with my mom! I am very upset mister!

CUT TO:

INT. COSMETICS COUNTER - DAY

Cheyenne is giving a make-over to Dina, who obviously never wears make-up. She struggles as Cheyenne does her eyes.

DINA

I don't usually wear eyeliner. Sharpie, occasionally.

CHEYENNE

So... what's he like?
(off Dina's look)
The special fellow you're doing this for. Tell me about him.

DINA

Male. Caucasian. Five foot ten. Approximately 23 years old, clean shaven, no discernible scars or tattoos.

CHEYENNE

(reacts - "that's it?")
Sounds dreamy.

Amy approaches Cheyenne, taking off her vest.

AMY

I'm finally out of here. Call me later if you feel like talking about this Bo stuff, I'll just be in a series of successively hotter baths.

DINA

Randy called in sick.

AMY

("why are you telling me?")
Uh-huh. Well, I sure hope he feels better.

DINA

You need to work his shift.

AMY

Aw, I would, but I've been here since opening. Plus I did a double yesterday.

(Dina stares at her, unblinking)

Seriously, I've started to dream I'm still at work. The other night I tried watching one of those Freddy movies before bed, but it didn't do any good.

(Dina just stares at her)

I can't do it. You'll have to find someone else. I just can't.

(still, the stare)

Fine!

She turns and storms off, agitated. Dina turns to Cheyenne.

DINA

Tell me when it's okay to blink.

CUT TO:

INT. WOMEN'S APPAREL - MOMENTS LATER

Amy is walking angrily through the store, putting her vest back on. Mateo catches up to her.

MATEO

I hung up everything that was in the dressing rooms, organized by style, color, and size. Would you also like me to subdivide it by relevance of designer?

She looks around at the insanely meticulous job he's done.

AMY

No, that's fine, good job.

MATEO

I enjoy hard work. I don't think I could be happy fooling around in the parking lot like the other new guy.

AMY

What?

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Mateo leads Amy outside, where Jonah and Garrett (sans wheelchair) are sitting in shopping carts, using kayak oars to propel themselves through an impromptu obstacle course.

JONAH

Slow down, you've had more experience maneuvering on wheels than me.

GARRETT

Your disability is not my concern.

AMY

HEY! The only thing I asked you to do was put away the carts.

Jonah and Garrett look up at her, caught.

JONAH

Which is what I'm doing. Just, in a somewhat circuitous manner.

GARRETT

Around the dumpster, slalom through the Priuses, loop-de-loop around the birds eating the dead squirrel...

AMY

Can you take anything here seriously?! Do I need to go to Glenn about this?!

GLENN (O.S.)

COMING THRUUUUUU...!!!

She jumps out of the way as Glenn flies past in his own cart. He coasts into the return corral, breaking a finish line made of Dora the Explorer streamers.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Yes! In your faces!!

Jonah smirks. Amy looks irritated. She reaches for his oar.

AMY

Hey, is that one of our kayak paddles?

JONAH

(handing it over)
Yeah, why?

As soon as he hands it to her, she shoves his cart careening into the parking lot. Jonah, now with no way to brake or steer, screams, as we hear an offscreen CRASH.

CUT TO:

INT. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - LATER

Once again, the employees are being forced to watch a video. Amy and Jonah (who is a little bruised up) sit on opposite sides of the room, annoyed with each other.

ONSCREEN: Christopher Lloyd, in a Delorean, addresses camera.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

There is never an excuse for violence in the workplace. A lesson we're about to witness personally as we travel back to 1886, where a union riot in Haymarket Square causes the deaths of seven police officers.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SEASONAL ITEMS - DAY

Jonah is angrily stocking Back-To-School items. Amy walks up contritely. She points to a bandage slipping off his arm.

AMY

Your band-aid's falling off.

JONAH

Cloud 9 brand. Not the best adhesive.

We see a shot of the floor by his feet, where a bunch of low-quality bandages have fallen off in a heap.

AMY

I'm sorry. I've been having kind of a long day. Ten years of long days, actually.

He doesn't respond. Amy picks up one of the items he's stocking - a giant box of glow-in-the-dark stars.

AMY (CONT'D)

I stock these glow stars every year for the Back-To-School sale. And then I take them down and put up the Halloween inventory. And then Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, President's Day Sale, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation, Summer, Fourth of July, and then Back-To-School again.

JONAH

That sounds incredibly practical and dull. I see why you love it here.

AMY

Look, it's a good job, okay? But tomorrow is going to be the same as today. And I know that because today is the same as yesterday. So sometimes, it's just tough to find those "moments of beauty."

She smiles glumly as she hands him the box of stars and walks off. Jonah looks at the box, thinking.

CUT TO:

INT. PERIODICALS - LATER

Cheyenne is racking magazines. She reacts as she notices the front pages:

COSMOPOLITAN: "11 Marriage Horror Stories!"

TIME: "Why Spouses Kill!" over photos of Robert Blake and O.J. Simpson.

SMITHSONIAN: "Wedlock: A Remnant of Tribal Life"

MODERN BRIDE: "Just Say No!"

CUT TO:

INT. PHOTOLAB - LATER

Glenn stands at a self-serve kiosk, scrolling through photos of himself and his wife posing with a handsome, muscled PASTOR STEVE. She and Steve are exchanging sly glances with each other, their fingers lightly touching, while Glenn grins goofily at the camera. Glenn, unaware of the implications of this, just smiles and presses Print.

CUT TO:

INSERT CLOSE-UP: A large, Angel-themed wall clock, the kind of thing that's meant to be cute and whimsical, but comes off as cheap and gimmicky. It reads 10:45.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM AREA - EVENING (NIGHT 1)

Garrett flips on the intercom.

GARRETT

Attention shoppers: even a big-box store has to close, and it's about that time. When Pandora closed her famous box, there was one thing left inside: Hope. What, I wonder, will be left inside this box? Could it be Grace? I hope not. If you're Grace's parents, please pick her up in front.

He turns to a young girl (Grace) and gives her a thumbs-up.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - NIGHT

Amy waits impatiently as Mateo lists his accomplishments.

MATEO

I took the initiative upon myself to reorganize the Toys section for the convenience of adult shoppers. It was feeling overly whimsical.

Jonah starts to walk over. He's stopped by a BRAINY CUSTOMER.

BRAINY CUSTOMER

Excuse me? I'm looking for a play called "Catiline" by Henrik Ibsen.

JONAH

Books, Aisle 3. If you don't see it, check under "Brynjolf Bjarme" - he wrote it under his pseudonym.

Amy reacts, a little impressed. Jonah continues on to her.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Hey, I want to show you something I've been working on.

MATEO

You were working? Where? Cause I've been working in every department, and I haven't seen you in a couple hours.

But before Jonah can respond, A MASKED GUNMAN walks into the store and jumps up onto a checkout counter.

MASKED GUNMAN

EVERYONE GET DOWN ON THE FUCKING GROUND!!

IT'S CHAOS!! People are screaming and hitting the floor. The cowardly Security Guard throws down his gun and flees the store. Dina army crawls into the back offices.

MASKED GUNMAN (CONT'D)

CALM DOWN! Do what I say, and no one gets hurt! Now I'm gonna start killing one person every minute, unless...

He takes off his mask -- it's Bo! He turns to Cheyenne.

BO

Unless you agree to marry me. Hit it.

AT THE INTERCOM AREA, a teenager pulls a shocked Garrett, in his wheelchair, away from the system and hooks up his iPhone.

GARRETT

Hey--

SFX: "Marry You" by Bruno Mars.

A bunch of the customers - fellow teens - break into a poorly choreographed, cheesy flash mob dance sequence along with Bo.

Everyone's stunned, but not in a good way. Amy shakes her head, like "you've got to be kidding me." Jonah turns to her.

JONAH

I had nothing to do with this.

AMY

No, I know.

(she sighs)

I think this is actually my fault.

As the first verse finishes, Bo breaks into a rap, and the dancing becomes oversexualized twerking and grinding.

BO

Yo yo, you say you wanna walk me down the aisle.

Your baby needs a daddy, we been datin' for a while.

Well fine, I'll pay the consequences of my actions.

Just don't try to change me, cause I'm a man of actions.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK ROOM SECURITY AREA - SAME TIME

A bank of monitors with feeds from the store's security cameras. Dina, still thinking the store is being robbed, is on the phone with 911 as she opens a HANDGUN CASE and assembles the weapon. On the monitors, she can see Bo rapping into a mic and teenagers dancing, but without sound.

DINA

The leader's giving some kinda orders.
You need to get SWAT down here now!

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)

This better not be another false alarm.

DINA

Goddamnit Susan, this is real! And last time wasn't a false alarm, it was a drill, and now you know why I do drills!

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - CONTINUOUS

Bo's rap has by this point lost any thread of being about marriage.

BO

*Yeah, Mr. President, I know you're lyin'.
Sit there smoking weed while teenagers
are dyin', I'm cryin',...*

As he continues rapping, Jonah looks to Amy.

JONAH

So this is what every day here is like?

AMY

Pretty much. You get used to it.

The last verse of the song plays while Bo finishes.

BRUNO MARS (O.S.)

*Is it the look in your eyes,
or is it this dancing juice?
Who cares baby, I think I
wanna marry you.*

BO

*When will we as a people
learn? We gonna get burned,
for waiting our turn.
This goes out to the people
of Ferguson!*

Bo drops his mic. Then he picks it up again.

BO

If you liked what you heard today, check
out my page on Kickstarter. Good night
St. Louis!

He drops the mic again and starts to leave.

CHEYENNE

Bo.

BO

What? Oh, yeah, right.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK ROOM SECURITY AREA - SAME TIME

Dina watches as Bo gets down on a knee in front of Cheyenne.

DINA

I think he's about to start killing
hostages! I'll do what I can on my end.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)

Dina, don't do anything--

But Dina hangs up. She opens a circuit breaker panel and
flips the switches.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - CONTINUOUS

The lights go out. And we're ON Amy as she audibly GASPS --

REVEAL -- the entire ceiling of this block-wide superstore has been covered in GLOW-IN-THE-DARK STARS. This is no longer where you buy your toilet paper -- it's been transformed into someplace magical, romantic and utterly spectacular. Everyone STARES quietly -- looking up in childlike wonder.

Finally, Amy rips her gaze from the ceiling and turns to Jonah, who isn't watching the stars, he's watching her. He shrugs, smiles sheepishly.

JONAH
Moment of beauty?

And as Cheyenne also looks around at the store, her breath taken away in the beauty of it all...

GLENN (PRE-LAP)
"Marriage is an amazing institution.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Glenn is reading from his book of quotes. He continues:

GLENN
Sharing your life with someone is like the greatest thing. And I loved being able to set a good example for that on television." -Jenna Elfman

Amy, Jonah, Garrett, Cheyenne, Mateo, Dina, and Glenn are celebrating in the parking lot after closing. Garrett pops the pull tap of a 16-oz can and sprays it like champagne.

GARRETT
To Cheyenne!!
(they all toast and sip)
May your marriage be as sweet and as colorful as this Cloud 9 brand caffeinated malt beverage, but without the recall for killing college students.

CHEYENNE
Thank you. On behalf of myself and Bo.

They look at Bo, who's sitting handcuffed on the curb, being questioned by police in front of a bunch of squad cars.

AMY
He made it memorable, I'll give him that. Most guys don't bother threatening to kill you when they propose. Or selling their singles after.

Reveal a bored teenager, sitting at a card table just outside the door, with Bo's singles for sale.

DINA
(to Jonah)
You were never in any danger, you know.

JONAH
Yeah, I know it wasn't a real robbery.

DINA
(holds up a bullet)
This is a 440 grain high velocity lead flat nose gas check in a boxer-primed brass casing. If he had come within ten feet of you, you'd have seen his head explode like a watermelon.

He gives her a shocked look. She winks.

DINA (CONT'D)
Pppkkkewww! Cleanup in aisle nine.

GLENN
It makes you think about what's important in life. I'm gonna call Ingrid. What time is it in Jamaica?

He takes out his cell and walks away. Cheyenne holds up her hand, proudly showing off her new engagement ring.

CHEYENNE
I wish we could wear jewelry at work.

AMY
Well, it's barely jewelry.

CHEYENNE
(to Amy, more sincerely)
I thought about what you said, about being practical and not doing anything I'd regret? But then in the moment, under the stars, it just felt right.
(to Jonah)
So I guess I have you to thank for this.

She kisses him on the cheek and walks off. Amy shakes her head. Mateo also clocks this and turns to Jonah.

MATEO
I was wrong about you. I thought you were just some lazy idiot here to mess around. But it turns out, you're a sneak, and a snake, and I'm gonna take you down.

Mateo walks away. Amy and Jonah have a semi-private moment. Jonah looks around in astonishment at it all.

JONAH

I was just planning to turn out the lights for you after everyone left. Just, make today feel different from yesterday.

AMY

Mission accomplished. But thank you.

There's a moment of connection. Then Amy gets up.

AMY (CONT'D)

Well, I should get going. See you at work tomorrow, Jonah?

JONAH

You certainly will... friend-o.

AMY

(she smiles)

Amy.

JONAH

(he smiles back)

Nice to meet you.

He watches her as she walks off. Garrett wheels up beside him.

GARRETT

C'mon, we're gonna toss old mannequin limbs in the dumpster and watch the garbagemen freak out.

JONAH

Hey, is that room still available?

GARRETT

It's all yours.

(then, joking)

Ceilings are four feet high, I hope that's cool.

ANGLE ON: Amy walking to her car, smiling about the remarkable day she's had. She puts on a piece of jewelry, jewelry they're not allowed to wear at work -- her wedding ring.

But Jonah doesn't see it. He turns and walks with Garrett back to join the rest of the group, a group of people so different from him but of which he's now a part, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. FREEZER AISLE (CUSTOMER SIDE) - THE NEXT DAY - (DAY 2)

Dina is checking inventory in one of those freezer cases with doors in front for customers and in back for employees. She suddenly pulls away. Peering back at her through the freezer is a pair of exquisitely beautiful angelic eyes.

SFX: "Kissing You" by Des'ree (the ballad from Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet*, when Romeo sees Juliet through the fish tank) comes on over the store speakers.

She looks again. There is no mistake - through a shimmering curtain of frozen peas and microwave pizzas, it's Jonah.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. STOCKROOM - SAME TIME

Jonah, stocking food in the freezer, sees Dina and gives her a polite smile, unaware of the romantic moment she's having.

SFX: On his side of the freezer, a tiny radio is tuned to a Mexican talk radio station, playing at low volume.

Dina leans in closer to the glass. The love ballad builds. We SLOWLY TRACK from Dina's profile, in through the freezer...

...and out the other side, where Jonah doesn't even know Dina is looking at him. He walks down to the ice creams section.

Dina runs down the aisle, tracking alongside him, keeping this flirtation alive. She shoves a customer aside.

CUSTOMER

Hey--!

Jonah stops to stock some Ben & Jerry's. Dina leans in, pressing her nose lightly against the glass, willing this moment to last forever.

In the stockroom, Amy walks up to Jonah.

AMY

Feel like learning how to mop toilets?

JONAH

Do I!!

Jonah follows her out. And as a very turned on Dina opens the freezer door and shoves herself inside to cool down...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW