BLACK FRIDAY

ΒY

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FADE IN:

SUPER: A ROUND CLOCK WITH LARGE NUMBERS DISPLAYS THE TIME AT 11:45 PM

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - NIGHT

A huge, full parking lot.

Flood lights make it seem like day. Music blares from speakers, a festive feel like a tailgate party.

Hundreds of PEOPLE in a line that snakes around the building. They have chairs, sleeping bags, and coolers.

A sign reads, "BLACK FRIDAY MEGASALE - MIDNIGHT TO 10 PM."

TAZ (V.O.) Black Friday.

INT. BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

Well-used with long tables, stiff, plastic chairs, vending machines, odd boxes, and a row of beat up lockers.

SIXTY EMPLOYEES in attendance. An eclectic group. Some are high school drop outs. Many are half asleep. Each employee wears brown Hendricks uniforms with name tags.

Wide awake and ready, is TAZ, 30s, a skinny Asian guy with a button down shirt and tie. Taz thinks he's the smartest guy in the room. His nametag reads, "Assistant Manager," but Taz lives his dream right now, this store is finally his.

> TAZ Some people call it the worst shopping day of the year. Do you think that's right? I don't. I love Black Friday. For the next twentytwo hours-

> > WANDA

Taz!

WANDA STYLES, 40s, bursts in. She's a tall, black woman with bright eyes. This store is not Taz's store, not yet. Wanda's style of managing--more concerned with being "the nice boss," has Wanda clinging to her nametag title, "Store Manager."

Taz tries hard to mask his disappointment.

TAZ I thought maybe you overslept.

WANDA My babysitter was late.

Wanda smiles at her troops, takes her rightful place.

WANDA (CONT'D) You guys did a great job preparing for today. We're ready. Just one thing, I need to talk to you about the mystery shoppers.

INT. LOBBY - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

A SECURITY GUARD approaches, holds a set of keys.

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - NIGHT

Forgetting the line, customers bunch at the entrance as they see the Security Guard put a key into an overhead lock.

The crowd pushes closer, no more being polite.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

The Security Guard hits buttons on a panel off to the side. He scans the customers, takes a deep breath.

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - NIGHT

The doors slide open.

Before they're fully apart, customers push inside.

Mayhem as shoppers storm in. Screams mixed with excitement.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Like a buffalo stampede, customers run with no regard for decorum or each other, grab carts and shopping bags.

YOUNG GREETER GUY, 30s, ducks to save his life. He barrels into the large, decorated Christmas tree. He clings to it without regard for the shower of falling ornaments.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 12:01 AM

MONTAGE AS TIME PASSES FROM 12:01 AM TO 1:30 PM

-- Crazy customers fight over merchandise, cut in front of other customers

-- Customers grab items, fill their carts.

-- Carts ram other carts, it's the Indy 500.

-- At the checkout, employees help customers. They look exhausted, try hard to smile at each and every customer.

-- Merchandise is roughed up, broken. Items scattered on the floor, boxes dented.

-- A MALE CUSTOMER sits on the floor, back against a wall, he's asleep. The Security Guard kicks his shoe, wakes him.

STORE ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.) Attention Black Friday shoppers... Hendricks offers great merchandise, like bottom priced electronics and kids toys. And, remember, we're open all day until ten PM this evening... We hope you enjoy your Hendricks Shopping Experience.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 1:37 PM

A red Toyota cruises the lot.

INT. TOYOTA - DAY

BROOKLYN HAYES, 30s, drives. She's cute with an angular face, curvy body, and a sweet smile. She tries hard to please people and do the right thing, only her vision of "right" is often too rigid or sometimes from a child's perspective.

Brooklyn spots a WOMAN packing the trunk of her mini van.

She hits her turning signal.

She takes a notepad out of a bag, scribbles on it.

INSERT ON NOTEPAD: "Black Friday Mystery Shop Notes."

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The mini van pulls out, but Brooklyn's Toyota doesn't move. A beat-up flat bed truck ducks into the spot.

INT. TOYOTA - DAY

Brooklyn looks up in time to see the truck steal her spot.

BROOKLYN Hey, that's not fair.

She turns off her blinker, pulls forward. She glares at the FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER, 60s, who climbs out of the truck.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The Toyota pulls into a parking spot far away from the store.

INT. TOYOTA - DAY

With the engine on, Brooklyn gets a call, she hits "speaker."

BROOKLYN

Hello?

DYLAN (V.O.) Brook? Hi, it's Dylan. Does Grace have your client today?

BROOKLYN Josh at six o'clock.

DYLAN (V.O.) She said you have her bag?

Brooklyn looks at her back seat, it's packed with gym bags, a yoga ball, a folded portable trampoline, and kids toys.

She reaches in the back, pulls out a red gym bag.

BROOKLYN Oh, shoot. I do have it.

DYLAN (V.O.) I'll get it when I bring Bobbie.

BROOKLYN That'd be great. Thanks. DYLAN (V.O.) Brook, Jacob thinks he might have another fourth partner.

BROOKLYN I'm the fourth partner.

DYLAN (V.O.) He knows that, he wants it. But, your money isn't guaranteed.

BROOKLYN I'll have it by tomorrow.

DYLAN (V.O.) He's getting nervous, Brook.

BROOKLYN

You know, for a professional OT, I think I've put in more mystery shop hours this year than OT hours. I've done that to get the money to be your fourth partner. One year of mystery shops and I think I now hate shopping. I'm to the point where I don't care what these sales people say as long as it's good for my report. All I care about is the new OT clinic. That's all.

DYLAN (V.O.) I know. Just get the money, okay?

Brooklyn looks at the car next to her, sees a SLEEPING GUY.

INT. HARRY'S CAR - DAY

The sleeping guy is HARRY PETERS, 30s, a handsome devil with a few days of beard growth. He's fit, easy-going, and sociable. He sees the positive in everything, but Harry struggles with finding success in his life.

INT. TOYOTA - DAY

BROOKLYN Thanks, Dylan. I'll see you later.

She hangs up.

She pulls out papers, reads.

INSERT: MYSTERY SHOPPING INSTRUCTIONS

- 8 HOURS MAXIMUM SHOPPING TIME
- SHOPPER COMPLETES 20 DEPARTMENTS (WITH CHILD CARE)
- NO ORDER OF SHOPS
- SHOP TWO SERVICE DEPARTMENTS
- VISIT BATHROOMS (SAME SEX ONLY)
- ORDER ONE MEAL (REIMBURSED)
- COMPLETE MEGA PURCHASE

Brooklyn pulls out another paper, looks it over, closes her eyes. A smile appears on her face.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) Can I return an item? Does Hendricks do exchanges? Does Hendricks deliver? How much does delivery cost?

She takes a breath, repeats the questions, sounds rote.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 1:50 PM

EXT. TOYOTA - DAT

Brooklyn climbs out of her car, grabs a large purse, closes her door. She sees Harry awake and out of his car.

They smile at each other.

Brooklyn spots a KID, 6, who tippy toe walks, and his MOM.

BROOKLYN

Excuse me?

The Mom and Kid stop, look at Brooklyn.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) Does he walk like that a lot?

Mom looks at her son who stands on his tippy toes.

MOM

Sometimes.

BROOKLYN

I'm an OT. I'd suggest you try to encourage him to put his heel down. If he does too much of that, it may affect the development of his hips.

MOM I know. He already sees an OT and she's working on it.

BROOKLYN Oh, good. I'm glad.

MOM

Thank you.

The Mom and Kid walk away.

HARRY (O.S.) What's an OT?

Brooklyn looks at Harry, who leans against her car, relaxed.

BROOKLYN Occupational therapist. I mostly work with kids with autism.

HARRY Like a physical therapist?

BROOKLYN We don't heal injuries per se. We work with kids who are underdeveloped physically.

HARRY Wow, that's really great.

Brooklyn smiles, heads toward the store.

Harry follows her.

As he walks, he looks at his iphone, reads.

INSERT ON IPHONE: MYSTERY SHOPPER INSTRUCTIONS:

- NOTES DONE IN PRIVATE.

- DO NOT BAIT EMPLOYEES.

- TEST EMPLOYEES FOR STORE SERVICE AND

KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDLINESS, HELPFULNESS.

Wanda stands in front of a fresh-looking crew of EMPLOYEES. She looks a little haggard, but smiles brightly.

WANDA

We're doing really well in sales, guys. I have a second restock crew pulling merch, so all you guys need to do is be courteous and sell.

A knock on the door.

Letting himself in the room is MR. HENDRICKS, 60s, a silverhaired Playboy-type who'll throw anyone under the bus if it makes him money.

Right behind Mr. Hendricks is Taz. He gets between them.

TAZ Wanda Styles, Mr. Hendricks.

WANDA

Mr...

MR. HENDRICKS Good morning, Ms. Styles.

He reaches out his hand and they shake. He looks at the employees, like a seasoned politician, he smiles broadly.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) Happy Black Friday everyone. I'm Drake Hendricks. I own this store.

The Employees stand up straighter, pay attention.

WANDA You're here today?

MR. HENDRICKS I make it my business to visit one of my stores every Black Friday. Today, it's your store.

WANDA

Wow, that's really lucky for us.

MR. HENDRICKS Don't let me interrupt you. Go on, continue whipping up the troops.

Wanda looks back at her employees.

WANDA One important thing today, if you suspect a mystery shopper, report them to me ASAP. Do not out them.

Taz notices TWO DELIVERY GUYS at the door.

TAZ Can I help you?

WANDA Let them in. They're delivering food for the employees.

TAZ We got food for today?

Ignoring Taz, Wanda looks at TWO EMPLOYEES.

WANDA Can you guys set up the food?

They nod. Wanda escorts the Delivery Guys into the room.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BREAK ROOM - DAY

Wanda walks next to Mr. Hendricks. Taz trails behind them.

MR. HENDRICKS You pay for that food?

WANDA Corporate said they'd reimburse me-

MR. HENDRICKS I don't feed the employees, Ms. Styles. Not even on Black Friday.

WANDA Of course. It's my treat.

MR. HENDRICKS I'll float around the store, if you don't mind. Act like I'm not here.

He wanders away.

TAZ Nice and awkward, Wanda.

WANDA Being kind is awkward? TAZ What's the plan with the MS?

WANDA

If the employees are on the look out for one, that means they're more likely to be on their best behavior. Besides, I'm trying a different approach with the MS's.

TAZ What different approach is there?

WANDA Treat them with kindness and earn a decent report.

TAZ Store policy is to out them.

WANDA I'd rather have the good report.

TAZ Try having an efficient store.

WANDA Aren't you going home?

TAZ Hendricks is here. I'm staying.

WANDA I can order you to leave.

TAZ

Wanda, we both know this is your last day as manager. We both know why he's here today. Since I'll be your replacement-

WANDA That's not a guarantee.

Taz smiles.

TAZ

We'll see.

Taz hustles away.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Taz stops outside the break room, lets THREE EMPLOYEES pass.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Taz peeks his head inside. The room is empty.

Taz pulls out a bottle of liquid Ex-Lax, proceeds to douse the employee food with the Ex-Lax.

INT. WOMENS CLOTHING DEPARTMENT - DAY

Wanda rushes in, approaches a WOMENS CLOTHING SALESCLERK.

WANDA Everything okay?

WOMENS CLOTHING SALESCLERK We've never been this busy.

WANDA

You're doing great.

Wanda prances off.

INT. ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Packed with customers. An ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE helps a customer as other customers wait impatiently.

Wanda is nearby, checks her phone. She gets closer to the Electronics Employee.

WANDA Let me know if you need help.

ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE I need help.

WANDA I'll try to find someone.

INT. SHOES - DAY

Wanda approaches XAVIER, 20s, glasses and a bit overweight. He straightens a disorganized shelf of display shoes.

> WANDA Xavier, you're okay with staying?

XAVIER The pay check will be nice.

Wanda stares, says nothing.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

You okay?

WANDA I'm giving this store everything I have today. I hope it's enough.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 2:04 PM

INT. HALLWAY BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - DAY

Wanda walks behind OLD GREETER GUY, 70s, neatly trimmed gray hair, bow tie, and a brown Hendricks suit.

They approach the front of the store.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Old Greeter Guy freezes, glares at the nearly stripped Christmas tree. A pile of unbroken ornaments are nearby, but remnants of broken ornaments remain under the tree.

Wanda is next to him, crosses her arms, shakes her head.

Old Greeter guy glares at Young Greeter Guy.

OLD GREETER GUY What happened to the tree?

YOUNG GREETER GUY Had to hide in there, dude. Almost got trampled to death.

WANDA That was at midnight.

YOUNG GREETER GUY Yeah, well, I didn't put the stuff on the tree, so I figured I'd leave it for maintenance or someone else.

Old Greeter Guy fumes.

YOUNG GREETER GUY (CONT'D) Dude, not all of them broke.

WANDA You're off. Clock out.

YOUNG GREETER GUY

Sweet.

Young Greeter Guy heads out.

RICH, 30s, marches through the front door. He's gay with neatly trimmed hair and earrings. There's something about Rich that says he doesn't belong in a Hendricks uniform.

Rich looks over the wreck of a Christmas tree.

RICH Wow, we get a typhoon in here?

WANDA Rich, you're late.

OLD GREETER GUY And, you're not using the employee entrance, young man.

RICH I like this way better. More drama.

WANDA

Go clock in.

Rich walks out.

Wanda looks at Old Greeter Guy.

OLD GREETER GUY The lobby is forgotten all the time. We don't sell anything. Most folks just wave as they go past.

WANDA I'll get a decent clean up. Go ahead and redecorate if you want.

Wanda smiles, she stacks a few carts, leaves.

HARRY (O.S.) I think that's the largest tree they've ever had in here.

Old Greeter Guy looks at Harry, who studies the tree.

OLD GREETER GUY I decorated last year's tree but someone else did this one. Harry reaches down, picks up an unbroken ornament.

HARRY I think you greeters are really important. You job is valuable.

He hands Old Greeter Guy the ornament.

OLD GREETER GUY Thank you. Carts are around the corner. Checkout is downstairs. And, please consider trying our cafe. The food there's pretty darn good. Even my wife likes it.

HARRY I'm sure your wife's cooking rocks.

Old Greeter Guy smiles.

Harry notices Brooklyn, who loiters near a women's bathroom.

Harry pretends to walk away, but doesn't. He looks back, sees Brooklyn approach Old Greeter Guy. The greeter smiles at her.

> OLD GREETER GUY Welcome to Hendricks.

BROOKLYN Does Hendricks have delivery?

OLD GREETER GUY We sure do.

BROOKLYN How would I arrange for delivery?

OLD GREETER GUY The delivery counter, first floor.

BROOKLYN How much is delivery?

OLD GREETER GUY That kinda depends on what you're having delivered and how far they have to go, young lady.

Harry smiles, walks out.

Harry looks at a huge sign that directs customers to various departments. He sees the Child Care department nearby.

Harry sees Rich, who walks slowly, looks at his phone.

HARRY Excuse me, do you know anything about the babysitting room?

RICH They call it "Child Care."

HARRY Oh, right. Do you have to have a child to talk to someone there?

RICH That's kind of a bizarre, little question. Especially since I don't see you with a kid.

HARRY I was just wondering.

RICH Well, Mr. Just Wondering, I'm usually in appliances. I filled in there one time, and it was a Lego nightmare. That's all I remember.

Harry spots Brooklyn.

HARRY I'll visit appliances later.

RICH Don't go hitting on me.

HARRY Well, I'm straight.

RICH And, that's why you shouldn't be trying to hit on me.

Harry takes off, catches up to Brooklyn. He jumps in front of her, smiles brightly.

HARRY You're a mystery shopper. Excuse me?

HARRY A fake customer testing store service.

Brooklyn quickly grabs Harry, pushes him to a corner. She nervously scans the ceiling.

HARRY (CONT'D) What ya doing?

BROOKLYN They have security cameras.

HARRY

So?

BROOKLYN

Quiet. I know for a fact that if we get caught, our shop is voided.

HARRY

First, I don't think the cameras have audio. Second, the security guys know about mystery shoppers. Heck, they've helped me, given me dirt on employees-

BROOKLYN You can't get employees fired.

HARRY

Not bad dirt. Stuff like the ones who never bother to restock or the ones who sneak off to try on women's panties during their break. Maybe that is bad.

BROOKLYN

Where are you from?

HARRY Mystery Shoppers, Inc.

BROOKLYN

That's not possible. I was assigned here today.

HARRY I got this assignment because I'm in first place for the-

BROOKLYN Mystery-Shopper-of-the-Year?

Harry and Brooklyn stare at each other.

HARRY

How many shops have you done?

BROOKLYN Two hundred and-

HARRY

Twelve. All grade A's. We're tied. Looks like we're having a friendly little "shop off" today. If we both get A grades on our shop reports-

BROOKLYN

Then what? Who wins the twenty five thousand?

HARRY

I don't know. They're going to have to choose or we split it-

BROOKLYN

I need that money. I have a partnership in a new OT clinic waiting for me. I need all of it.

HARRY

I need it, too. I wanted to be a film director so badly I went out and shot a ninety minute movie. I made my dream come true, but I can't find distribution for my film. It's just sitting there and I'm broke. More than broke.

BROOKLYN

I'm supposed to feel sorry for you because you made a movie?

HARRY

It's a dramatic and meaningful film. If it gets a wide audience, it can really affect people. At least, I'm not playing a kid card.

BROOKLYN

This is really unfair.

Harry watches Brooklyn storm off, slip between customers.

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - DAY

Brooklyn on a flip phone, paces.

MAY WITHERS (V.O.) There's no splitting the money.

BROOKLYN I don't understand. How were we both assigned here today?

INT. MYSTERY SHOP INC. HEADQUARTERS - DAY

An office with a desk, chair, computer, and trash can. Photos of dogs taped to one wall. Piles of shop reports on the desk.

MAY WITHERS, 50s, black dyed hair and a fashionable outfit, sits at the desk, on a headset. She has ambitions in the business world, even if her tactics aren't always ethical.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

MAY WITHERS I think it was my assistant.

BROOKLYN Send this Harry to another store.

MAY WITHERS I can't do that.

BROOKLYN What am I supposed to do?

MAY WITHERS I guess you have to beat him.

BROOKLYN Or, I get nothing?

MAY WITHERS

My other option is I can always revoke the money due to having two winners. The contest rules clearly state, "Only one winner."

Brooklyn hangs up.

INT. MYSTERY SHOP INC. HEADQUARTERS - DAY
May Withers pushes a button, smiles.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Brooklyn passes customers and the Old Greeter Guy, who redecorates the Christmas tree with the unbroken ornaments.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 2:28 PM

INT. WANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Wanda sits behind her desk, looks at her computer.

Mr. Hendricks appears in the doorway.

WANDA Our numbers are right on target.

MR. HENDRICKS Excellent. But, let's give 'em a boost with a half off, shall we?

WANDA

Today?

MR. HENDRICKS No time like the present. You have enough merch. Get a sign up outside and make it happen.

WANDA

Right away.

Mr. Hendricks wanders around Wanda's office.

MR. HENDRICKS

Ms. Styles, you know how important today is, correct? For you, I mean. Your low sales numbers and mediocre mystery shop ratings are a concern to me. My coming here today was no accident. I'm considering a change. Let's make sure this store comes out on top in sales today, okay?

Wanda's kids, a TWIN GIRL and a TWIN BOY, 7, adorable and energetic, burst into the room followed by THE NANNY.

TWIN GIRL AND TWIN BOY

Mommy!

THE NANNY (to Wanda) The kids have a good time at the birthday party and the park, Miss. TWIN GIRL We ate ice cream.

TWIN BOY

And cake.

Wanda smiles, hugs her kids.

THE NANNY My husband is waiting for me.

MR. HENDRICKS Your kids are staying here?

WANDA

Child care.

TWIN BOY Mommy, can we play Uno?

WANDA You can play it in child care.

TWIN GIRL You need to play with us.

WANDA

I can't.

TWIN BOY Mommy, you promised.

WANDA

Not today. Get some of the other kids to play. I'll visit you later.

She looks at The Nanny.

WANDA (CONT'D) Drop them off on your way out?

THE NANNY

Yes, Miss.

The Nanny ushers the kids out of the office.

MR. HENDRICKS Good thing I provide child care for the little kiddos.

WANDA That's very generous of you. I won't let you down, Mr. Hendricks. MR. HENDRICKS You better not.

Mr. Hendricks strolls out.

Wanda follows him.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE WANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Wanda sees Mr. Hendricks pass Taz and disappear.

Taz smiles at Wanda.

TAZ Great day for a walk off.

WANDA The idea came from you.

TAZ I think Mr. Hendricks and I are going to be a great team.

Taz strides away.

INT. HENDRICKS FIRST FLOOR - CHECKOUT - DAY

A view from the ceiling, ten lines stretch thirty deep.

STORE ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.) Attention Shoppers... All Hendricks merchandise is now fifty percent off until 10 PM. That's right, shoppers, happy Black Friday. We here at Hendricks hope you enjoy your Hendricks Shopping Experience.

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - DAY Workers hoist a sign, "50% Off All Merchandise Until 10 PM."

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 3:06 PM - SHOPS COMPLETED BROOKLYN - 3 HARRY - 3

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Harry spots Brooklyn, follows her.

INT. ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Harry slides next to Brooklyn, who waits on a line to talk to the ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE, 20s, chubby with receding hairline.

HARRY I do electronics first.

BROOKLYN

Why?

HARRY I get a visual. Sets a tone for me.

He points at a BluRay player.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Like, that BluRay isn't just a box of wires and connectors, plug it in and it explodes with innovation and sensory overload.

BROOKLYN That makes it tough for kids with sensory overload issues, you know.

HARRY The kid card again?

BROOKLYN It's what I do for a living.

HARRY

I thought you mystery shopped.

BROOKLYN Shhh. If you already did this department, why are you here?

ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE (O.S.) Do you have a question, miss?

Brooklyn smiles at the Electronics Employee.

BROOKLYN Do televisions have warranties?

ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE

Of course.

BROOKLYN How long are they? ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE Depends. There's a store warranty and a manufacturer warranty.

BROOKLYN How long is the store warranty?

ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE Six months.

BROOKLYN And, the manufacturer warranty?

ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE Depends on the manufacturer.

BROOKLYN Can you list all of them?

HARRY You want him to list every TV manufacturer's warranty? Really?

Brooklyn glares at Harry.

BROOKLYN I need to know.

HARRY

Why?

BROOKLYN Because I'm interested.

HARRY You're interested in TV warranties?

BROOKLYN

I...
(she looks at the
 Electronics Employee)
Which one is the longest?

ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEE The Samsung HD is two years.

BROOKLYN Does Hendricks do delivery?

Harry rolls his eyes, walks away.

INT. APPLIANCES DEPARTMENT - DAY

Harry looks at his phone. He sees Rich nearby.

RICH It's Mr. Just Wondering.

Harry reads Rich's nametag.

HARRY

Rich, can I ask ya some questions?

RICH

Less scary ones.

HARRY

Let's say I'm redecorating my kitchen. I have dark granite counter tops and beige tile. Morning light bounces in from two long windows. Would a dark colored fridge ruin the atmosphere?

BROOKLYN (O.S.)

Atmosphere?

Harry sees Brooklyn behind him.

HARRY

Would you mind, I'm trying to describe my needs to this employee to help him understand what I want.

RICH I just sell fridges, you know.

HARRY

Okay, what if you sell me a fridge and once I get it home I realize it doesn't match my kitchen. Can I return it? Exchange it?

RICH

Yeah, sure.

HARRY There. Thank you.

BROOKLYN That's it? No details?

HARRY I got all the info I needed. BROOKLYN That's cheating.

RICH You two know each other?

HARRY

BROOKLYN

No.

RICH (CONT'D) Right, like I believe that.

INT. CHILDRENS CLOTHING DEPARTMENT - DAY

Customers wait to talk to the CHILDRENS CLOTHING SALESPERSON, a disheveled, petite woman.

No.

Brooklyn's next in line, holds a baby outfit (a onesie).

Behind her is the Fat Woman Customer who took Brooklyn's parking spot. She talks on her phone.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER To heck with Thanksgiving, Black Friday is the real holiday. I think I'm going to shop all day today.

It's Brooklyn's turn, she holds up the onesie.

BROOKLYN Can I return this item?

CHILDRENS CLOTHING SALESPERSON Is there anything wrong with it?

BROOKLYN Does Hendricks do exchanges?

CHILDRENS CLOTHING SALESPERSON I guess if you didn't like it.

BROOKLYN Does Hendricks deliver?

Harry is behind the Fat Woman Customer. He leans in close.

HARRY Don't you hate it when another customer asks stupid questions. FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER I do. (to Brooklyn) You want a onesie delivered?

Brooklyn glances behind her, sees Harry behind the Fat Woman Customer, he hides a smile.

BROOKLYN These are my questions, if you don't mind.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER They're crazy questions.

HARRY On Black Friday, too. There's a million people here and these employees have tons of customers.

BROOKLYN It's my turn now. When I'm done, you get your turn.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER Lady, this is the worst shopping day of the year. It's a national holiday, if you ask me. I'd like to get home one of these days.

HARRY

Me, too.

Other SHOPPERS nearby agree with Harry.

Brooklyn snarls at Harry. She faces the Salesperson.

BROOKLYN How much would delivery cost?

INT. END OF AISLE - DAY

Brooklyn scribbles notes. She finishes, sees a sign that reads, "Shoes." She slides around other customers, steps over a fallen blouse and around a stray shopping cart.

INT. SHOE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Brooklyn picks up a wedge shoe off the floor, sees its mate on a shelf of disorganized footwear.

She spots Xavier, who talks with Harry.

HARRY I know, dude, the Lakers were kings. Now where are they?

XAVIER Bottom feeders.

Harry sees Brooklyn, elbows Xavier.

HARRY Cute woman customer, man.

XAVIER That's the only thing I don't miss about my old job. Computer techs don't get out much.

HARRY I hear that.

Xavier approaches Brooklyn, Harry loiters nearby.

Brooklyn holds up the wedge shoes.

BROOKLYN Do you have this in a six?

Xavier looks down at her feet.

XAVIER You're not a size six.

Xavier grabs a foot scale.

XAVIER (CONT'D) Here, let me show you.

He leans down, removes one of her shoes, measures her foot.

XAVIER (CONT'D) Six and a half. I bet your feet hurt if you walk long distances.

BROOKLYN What if I went home and got the shoes that I bought last week, can I return them?

XAVIER I'll go get you a six and a half first and see how they fit.

BROOKLYN But, can I return the sixes? No answer, he's gone into the back room.

HARRY Now that's a good employee. Of course, he was laid off from his computer job eight months ago and hates this job. But, you can't tell it. He's friendly, knowledgeable, cares about shoes.

BROOKLYN How do you know all of that?

HARRY Because I talk to people. I don't spit out the required questions.

Harry wanders away.

Brooklyn takes out her notepad. She writes:

INSERT: Male employee, Xavier, shoe dept., friendly, courteous, knowledgeable, good employee.

INT. APPLIANCES DEPARTMENT - DAY

Taz walks in the aisle, sees Rich, heads for him.

TAZ We're tracking sales hourly today. Are you logging each purchase on the tracking sheet?

RICH

Of course I am.

Taz spies a TALL CUSTOMER looking at a refrigerator.

TAZ Go help that customer.

RICH I'm checking my log.

TAZ

Go now!

Rich glares at him, walks away, joins the Tall Customer.

Taz gets on Rich's computer.

INSERT: The Black Friday tracking page. Taz highlights sales from the last hour, he changes the numbers, lowers them.

Harry walks in, pulls out sunglasses, puts them on.

A lighting employee, CANDACE, 20s, hot-looking with a baby voice and iPhone-centric, sees Harry.

CANDACE What's with the shades?

HARRY It's so bright in here. You guys always have all the lights on.

CANDACE I think we're supposed to.

HARRY There's no balance or atmosphere.

Harry walks over to a group of standing lamps.

HARRY (CONT'D) What happens if a few are dimmed?

He dims three standing lamps and four desk lamps.

He returns to Candace, spreads his arms.

HARRY (CONT'D) Now that's atmosphere. It's still the lighting department, but now customers will gravitate to what their eyes see. They won't shade their eyes because no one's bothered to create atmosphere.

BROOKLYN (O.S.) Why is it so dark in here?

Candace sees Brooklyn near the entrance.

CANDACE It's for the atmosphere.

BROOKLYN I have bad eyesight. It's too dark for me. I'll go across the street to that cute little lighting store.

She heads out, Candace rushes to her.

CANDACE I'll turn a few back on. Brooklyn stops, smiles at Candace.

BROOKLYN That would be helpful.

Brooklyn and Harry watch Candace turn the lights back on.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - DAY

Harry pulls out his phone, hits "record."

HARRY (into the phone) Lighting female employee, good knowledge, friendly, likes light.

He presses stop.

His phone rings, he answers it.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Hello?

He listens, quickly ends the call, looks around, nervous. Harry sees Brooklyn walking ahead of him, he pursues her.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 3:57 PM - SHOPS COMPLETED

BROOKLYN - 6

HARRY – 6

INT. SPORTING GOODS - DAY

A mess, littered on the floor are baseball gloves and bats, football helmets, and hand-held weights.

A BURLY EMPLOYEE flags down Taz.

BURLY EMPLOYEE I have a guy who's looking for a pitching wedge. Is that baseball?

TAZ Aren't you in sporting goods?

BURLY EMPLOYEE I'm usually in mattresses.

Taz shakes his head.

TAZ Management once again puts employees in the wrong departments.

BURLY EMPLOYEE Aren't you management?

Taz sees Wanda pass by.

TAZ A word, Wanda.

WANDA Not now. I have a bunch of sick employees who need to go home.

And, she's gone.

Taz snarls, looks at the Burly Employee.

TAZ I'll be management very, very soon.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

EMPLOYEES mill around, one listens to music, another reads.

Wanda hustles in, Taz follows. Wanda surveys the food, most of it is gone, the table is a mess.

WANDA Toss all of it.

Wanda looks at the Employees.

WANDA (CONT'D) Any of you done with your break?

A RED-HEADED EMPLOYEE stands.

RED-HEADED EMPLOYEE

I am.

WANDA Go to Electronics. The employee there needs to go home sick. And, let me know ASAP if there's a mystery shopper.

RED-HEADED EMPLOYEE Will do.

The Red-headed Employee leaves.

TAZ If you catch them, you get the highest grade allowed. We get credit for noticing the difference.

WANDA I know how to handle it, Taz.

TAZ

But, you don't. I've carried this store for three years now. I've worked every weekend, I keep the employees in line. You mother them. Lunch on Black Friday?

WANDA What's wrong with that?

TAZ They're dropping like flies because of food poisoning. Smart idea.

WANDA I've been in management a lot longer than you-

TAZ

Employees in the wrong job, no warnings for being late. I'd fire them after three tardies. I'd make floor employees restock, I'd put employees in the right jobs.

WANDA

Taz, enough.

TAZ There's a reason why retail is losing out to that Internet giant.

A Fat Employee holds up his new iPod.

FAT EMPLOYEE

Amazon. I just got this for fifty bucks plus free shipping.

TAZ Do not say that name in this store. (back to Wanda) I think mystery shoppers gave this store bad reports for a reason.

Taz storms out.

INT. HOME FURNITURE - DAY

Harry talks to a HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN, 40s, balding, mole on the tip of his nose. He does not see Brooklyn nearby.

HARRY You have more couches in the back?

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN All of our available styles are on the showroom floor. The ones in back are just different colors.

HARRY Are your delivery guys careful? What if they break my sliding glass door trying to get my new couch inside my game room?

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN You have a game room?

HARRY Soundproof, dark-colored walls, thick rug, ceiling fan, three flat screens, surround sound.

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN My wife won't let me have a game room. I watch football on a laptop.

HARRY

Why don't you try to tell your wife that if she gives you one game room, you'll stay out of her way.

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN Yeah, that might work.

BROOKLYN (O.S.) Don't mess up your marriage just to get a game room.

Brooklyn slides in between Harry and Home Furniture Salesman.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) You have young kids?

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN Three.

BROOKLYN You like spending time with them? HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN Heck, yeah. My oldest is playing baseball already. And, he's good.

BROOKLYN Your wife won't like a game room conversation at this time. Maybe wait until the kids are older.

The Home Furniture Salesman nods.

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN I don't want to spend our Disneyland vacation money, either.

Brooklyn smiles at Harry, looks back the salesman.

BROOKLYN If I buy a couch, can I return it?

HARRY

Undamaged, thirty days with the receipt. They can do reverse delivery for a return, but it'll cost ya. You can always pick it up in the store if they have it here. Plus, they have guys who will load it into your car.

The Home Furniture Salesman looks from Harry to Brooklyn.

HOME FURNITURE SALESMAN Yeah, he's right.

He slinks away.

Brooklyn and Harry glare at each other.

They keep the glare locked as they go their separate ways.

SUPER: THE CLOCK 5:01 PM - SHOPS COMPLETED

BROOKLYN - 9 HARRY - 9

INT. SPORTING GOODS DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Harry casually leans against a support beam.

He sees Brooklyn. She joins him.

HARRY I'm about to shop this department. Wanna try to ruin it for me?

BROOKLYN I'm not ruining anything, Harry. I think your report will accurately reflect your store experiences.

HARRY

Come on, show me your style. Get details on the responses of the sales people. Rate them, rate this store, affect the lives of the people who work here. Show me how to be responsible for all of that.

A SPORTING GOODS WOMAN, 30s, chunky, tan, spots them.

SPORTING GOODS WOMAN May I help you?

HARRY You can you help her?

SPORTING GOODS WOMAN (to Brooklyn) What are you looking for?

BROOKLYN I'm... not ready yet.

HARRY Sure she is. She has a whole list of questions to ask you.

SPORTING GOODS WOMAN (to Brooklyn) What would you like to know?

BROOKLYN I... need to come back.

Brooklyn takes off, Harry pursues her.

HARRY What's the problem?

Brooklyn spins around, gets in Harry's face.

BROOKLYN I'm not ready for sporting goods. Why not?

BROOKLYN It's...Just leave me alone.

Brooklyn rushes away. Harry watches her.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - DAY

Brooklyn walks fast, not really sure where she's going.

She sees Taz, who talks with an EMPLOYEE.

Brooklyn notices Taz's nametag, "Assistant Manager."

She looks back down the hallway, sees Harry wander into the sporting goods department.

Brooklyn approaches Taz.

BROOKLYN

Excuse me, I overheard the sporting goods woman talk about a mystery shopper. She's really busy and doesn't have time to deal with this guy who she knows is one of them.

TAZ

Really?

Taz glances down the hallway toward sporting goods.

TAZ (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Brooklyn smiles, walks away.

INT. SPORTING GOODS DEPARTMENT - DAY

Harry talks with the Sporting Goods Woman.

Taz gets close, listens in.

HARRY I can return a trampoline?

SPORTING GOODS WOMAN Truth, I think they're impulse buys. You get it home and realize you have no room and you return it. HARRY Like puppies?

SPORTING GOODS WOMAN I would never return a puppy.

Harry smiles.

HARRY

I wouldn't, either. What if I wanted one of those gi-normous trampolines for my huge backyard. Can it be delivered?

Taz has heard enough, he slides away.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

The Security Guard sits, watches monitors. His FELLOW SECURITY GUARD sits nearby.

A knock on the door, Taz lets himself inside.

TAZ I need to look at footage.

SECURITY GUARD

Please.

TAZ I don't need to say, "please."

SECURITY GUARD Would be nice, though.

The Security Guard sets up footage for Taz. He looks at his buddy, shakes his head.

Taz sits, studies footage.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SNACK AREA - DAY

A line of vending machines, a few round, tall tables. Many CUSTOMERS snack, mill around. The area is a mess.

Customers walk in and out of nearby bathrooms.

Harry purchases a coffee from a vending machine.

TAZ (O.S.) You're a mystery shopper? Harry spins around, looks at Taz.

HARRY

Sorry?

TAZ You're a mystery shopper.

Harry shakes his head.

HARRY Not me, man.

Harry sips his coffee.

TAZ I went to our security office. I spotted you in several departments.

HARRY That's called shopping. It's Black Friday. Great deals plus chaos.

TAZ You're asking my employees about returns, deliveries-

HARRY I'm a thorough shopper.

TAZ Mystery shopper. Come with me. Your shop is voided as of right now.

CANDACE (O.S.)

Taz?

Candace joins them, she smiles at Harry, then at Taz.

CANDACE (CONT'D) You haven't visited me.

Taz softens.

TAZ Sorry, I've been really busy.

CANDACE It's my dinner break. You coming?

TAZ I have to deal with this guy. HARRY He thinks I'm a mystery shopper.

CANDACE He's not a mystery shopper.

TAZ How do you know?

CANDACE He's here a lot. You live nearby?

HARRY A few blocks away.

CANDACE Right, I recognize you. You're here like every weekend. You bought a standing lamp from me last month.

HARRY Right, I did.

CANDACE He's a real shopper, Taz.

Taz looks from Candace to Harry.

TAZ I'm going watch you.

Harry watches Taz and Candace walk away.

A YOUNG CHILD knocks Harry, spills his coffee on his shirt.

YOUNGER CHILD

Sorry, mister.

The Young Child joins his family nearby.

Harry tosses the coffee, heads into the bathroom.

INT. OUTSIDE MENS BATHROOM - DAY

Harry walks out, a large wet spot on his shirt.

He sees Brooklyn head out of the store, he pursues her.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Brooklyn breezes past incoming shoppers. She doesn't notice the Old Greeter Guy still hard at work re-decorating the Christmas tree, pulls from open boxes of new ornaments.

Brooklyn walks out, Harry is right behind her.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Harry follows Brooklyn to her car.

EXT. TOYOTA - DAY

Brooklyn unlocks her car, takes out the red gym bag. She closes and locks her car, checks her phone.

HARRY You tried to out me.

BROOKLYN I reported a suspicious shopper.

HARRY Nice. You don't exactly play fair.

BROOKLYN

You want to talk about fair? How did we both get assigned to this shop, Harry? I didn't even know I was tied with anyone.

HARRY

I didn't know, either. May can't discuss other shoppers.

BROOKLYN May? As in the owner May Withers?

HARRY She works the desk.

BROOKLYN

I know she does. I just don't know her by her first name.

HARRY I do. So what?

BROOKLYN You purposely tried to ruin my shops today. BROOKLYN That works for me.

DYLAN (O.S.)

Brook?

Joining them is thin, short, DYLAN, 30s, who holds the hand of her cute daughter, BOBBIE, 7.

Brooklyn hands her the gym bag. She smiles at Bobbie.

Harry loiters within listening distance.

BROOKLYN Are you ready, Bobbie?

BOBBIE

Mommy said you're going to check me into the babysitting room as part of your job.

BROOKLYN That's right. Then, me and your Mommy will pick you up.

DYLAN I'll take this to Grace and come back. I'll call you.

BROOKLYN Great. I owe you one.

DYLAN Jacob confirmed that the other partner has money ready to go.

BROOKLYN But, I have until tomorrow.

DYLAN I know. I don't know what to do.

BOBBIE Did you break a promise, Mommy?

Dylan smiles down at her bright-eyed daughter.

DYLAN No, not yet. (to Brooklyn) (MORE) DYLAN (CONT'D) I'll try to stall Jacob, okay? Just get your money, Brook.

BROOKLYN

I will.

Brooklyn holds out her hand to Bobbie.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) Let's go, sport.

Brooklyn escorts Bobbie past Harry.

Harry smiles at Dylan.

HARRY You don't have another one of those kids I could borrow, do you?

Dylan glares at Harry, rushes away from him like he's creepy.

Harry's phone rings.

He looks at the caller, ignores the call.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 5:32 PM

INT. CHILD CARE CHECK-IN COUNTER - DAY

CHILD CARE WOMAN, 20s, hair tied back, girl-next-door type, waits while Brooklyn fill out a form with Bobbie next to her.

BROOKLYN How long can she be in here?

CHILD CARE WOMAN Two hours maximum.

Brooklyn hands her the form.

BROOKLYN What if there's a problem?

The Child Care Woman hands Brooklyn a pager, attaches a name and number tag on Bobbie's shirt.

CHILD CARE WOMAN We'll page you for any problem or at the end of the two hours. BROOKLYN What if you have trouble reaching me? Pagers don't always work.

CHILD CARE WOMAN Oh, well, we can always phone you or alert you over the intercom.

Child Care Woman opens a gate, Bobbie heads to the play area.

BROOKLYN Bye, sweetheart.

Bobbie walks away without waving.

Brooklyn takes out her phone, makes a call.

INT. MYSTERY SHOP INC. HEADQUARTERS - DAY

May Withers hits a button, answers the call.

MAY WITHERS Mystery Shop, Inc.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

BROOKLYN It's Brooklyn. Do you know Harry Peters?

MAY WITHERS He's one of my employees.

BROOKLYN

And?

MAY WITHERS And, nothing.

BROOKLYN I'm just checking to see if maybe he's getting favors. If we end up tied, who will choose the winner?

MAY WITHERS

I will.

BROOKLYN And, you'll choose fairly?

MAY WITHERS Ms. Hayes, I don't have to give out twenty five grand at all. INT. BEAUTY SHOP - DAY

Harry smiles at a BEAUTY SHOP GAL, 20s. They flirt MOS. She leads him to a chair, puts a bib on him. He gets a haircut.

INT. WEDDING SUITE - DAY

Brooklyn sits in front of a WEDDING SUITE WOMAN, 40s.

BROOKLYN I've dreamed of having a Hendrick's Bridal registry.

WEDDING SUITE WOMAN What is the date of your wedding?

INT. OPTICAL - DAY

Harry talks with a specs-wearing OPTICAL CLERK, 20S.

OPTICAL CLERK Lenses are thirty nine, ninety.

HARRY You can't return glasses, can you?

OPTICAL CLERK Well, that's never happened before.

INT. ACTIVITIES CENTER - DAY

An ACTIVITIES GUY, 40s, burly, stands behind a counter. He waves at Wanda as she passes by. Wanda joins him.

WANDA How's it going?

He grabs his "Back in fifteen minutes" sign.

ACTIVITIES GUY I need a ten one hundred.

He's about to put out the sign when Brooklyn walks in.

BROOKLYN Are you closing?

The Activities Guy tosses his sign, but Wanda steps in.

WANDA Go ahead, I got this. ACTIVITIES GUY Thanks. I'll be right back.

The Activities Guy wanders away.

WANDA How may I help you?

Brooklyn sees Wanda's nametag: WANDA STYLES, STORE MANAGER

Brooklyn shuffles nervously.

Harry gets in line behind her.

Brooklyn is tongue-tied.

Harry smiles at Wanda, taps Brooklyn's shoulder.

HARRY You gonna buy something or just ask a bunch of questions?

Brooklyn swallows.

BROOKLYN I'd like to book a trip to Vegas.

Brooklyn opens her bag, pulls out her wallet and credit card.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Crowded, noisy, KIDS run around, PEOPLE carry trays of food.

Taz sits with Candace at a table.

TAZ The mystery shopper.

CANDACE What about the mystery shopper?

TAZ I can give one.

Taz smiles.

TAZ (CONT'D) Wanna help me?

INT. LIGHTING DEPARTMENT - DAY
Candace sees Wanda, waves her over.

CANDACE That one right there.

Candace points to the Fat Woman Customer.

WANDA

You're sure?

CANDACE That's the mystery shopper.

Wanda is on it. She pursues the Fat Woman Customer.

Taz appears from behind a divider, smiles at Candace.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 6:47 PM - SHOPS COMPLETED

BROOKLYN - 13 HARRY - 13

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ACTIVITES CENTER - DAY
Brooklyn leans against wall, makes notes.
She sees Harry, follows him.

BROOKLYN That was completely unfair.

HARRY

What, you don't like Vegas? AT least, I'm not playing the kid card every minute.

BROOKLYN I borrowed my friend's daughter so I can get my child care shop done.

HARRY You want real unfair? Like maybe the truth? You're a bad shopper.

BROOKLYN

Excuse me?

HARRY You're scripted. You ask questions exactly how they're written.

BROOKLYN That's our job.

Our job is to test employees on their friendliness and knowledge. The questions are suggestive.

BROOKLYN The instructions say-

HARRY

Do you listen to them? Or, are you just mentally trying to remember what they say so you can write down the answers later?

BROOKLYN

I'm in first place because I did two hundred twelve shops that all received grade A's. I know my job. At least, I don't lie and tell the employees I'll come back to buy something. You only need to buy one thing and then return it. And, you owe me for that Vegas trip.

HARRY

You don't get it, do you? Our job is to lie to them. To fake it. And, be comfortable doing it.

Brooklyn shakes her head, walks away from Harry. She stops in front of a door. A sign reads, "Employees Only."

HARRY (CONT'D) What are you doing?

BROOKLYN Getting a break room description is worth bonus points.

Brooklyn pushes the door and disappears.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Brooklyn wanders in, smiles at TWO YOUNG EMPLOYEES who eat bagged dinners. The table food is gone.

A man carrying two large boxes bumps into her, it's Harry.

HARRY Do you work here?

BROOKLYN

I... I do.

HARRY Well, where do these go?

BROOKLYN What are they?

HARRY Break room supplies.

Brooklyn frowns. A Young Employee points to the corner.

YOUNG EMPLOYEE #1 You can put them over there.

HARRY

Thanks.

Harry puts down the boxes.

The Two Young Employees leave.

HARRY (CONT'D) Break room bonus, good idea.

BROOKLYN It was my idea and that's going in my report. You're a copy cat.

HARRY You sound like you spend a lot of time with kids.

TAZ (O.S.) Why are you in here?

Harry turns, faces Taz.

HARRY Hi, we met before, didn't we?

TAZ Yeah, we did.

Taz looks at Harry, then Brooklyn.

TAZ (CONT'D) This is the employee break room. Employees only.

HARRY Customers need breaks, don't they?

BROOKLYN We're looking for your snack area. TAZ Why are you back here?

RICH (O.S.) They're with me, Taz Man.

Rich wanders in, stands next to Harry and Brooklyn.

RICH (CONT'D) They're my friends. I told them to meet me back here.

TAZ Against store policy. Have you ever read the employee manual?

RICH Nobody reads that.

Taz gets in Rich's face.

TAZ One minute after closing, when this store is mine, I'm firing you.

RICH

Promise?

Taz looks at all three of them.

TAZ

Get out.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - DAY

Rich, Harry, and Brooklyn stroll together.

HARRY Did you just get fired?

RICH Not fired, fired. Taz likes to threaten to fire me.

RICH (CONT'D) Oh, I had you ID'd right away. You're an obvious MS.

HARRY

I'm obvious?

RICH

You ask about child care with no kid. You ask a lot of questions. You never buy anything.

BROOKLYN We have a purchase requirement.

RICH You're one, too? Double MS's. Wow, my lucky day.

Rich looks from Harry to Brooklyn.

RICH (CONT'D) You know, I never understood the whole mystery shopping thing. I work here, I get a paycheck, I'm nice to people because I like to be nice to people. That's me.

HARRY Not everyone in retail likes it. Some folks end up taking these jobs because they need to have a job.

RICH That doesn't mean they need to be miserable to the customers. I've never been like that. It would make my day drag by. Life is too short.

You gonna out us? RICH

HARRY

Naw, I've never outed a mystery shopper, 'cause I figure you're just doing you're job.

HARRY

Thanks.

Harry and Brooklyn walk away.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - DAY

Wanda catches up the Fat Woman Customer, takes her shopping bag from her hand.

WANDA Here, let me carry that for you. FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER Excuse me?

WANDA It's a store courtesy. These bags get heavy sometimes. You know what, I'll get you a cart.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER I've looked. There are none left.

WANDA I'll find one. Where're you going?

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER Um, holiday shopping.

WANDA Great, I'll meet you there.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER Black Friday is so freakin' great.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 7:00 PM.

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - EVENING

Customers continue to flood into the store.

INT. LOBBY - EVENING

Customers pass the Old Greeter Guy, who pulls double duty -smiles at customers and answers questions while putting more ornaments on the Christmas tree, an ornament-hanging machine.

INT. MEN'S DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Taz acts like he's straightening a clothing rack, he nods at Mr. Hendricks, who joins him. They talk MOS.

STORE ANNOUNCEMENT Attention Shoppers. Don't forgot to visit our cafeteria. Today's special meal is pasta with Swedish meatballs. We here at Hendricks hope you enjoy your Hendricks Shopping Experience.

Taz walks away.

Mr. Hendricks receives a phone call, he answers, listens.

MR. HENDRICKS That's unacceptable. Your final numbers better be above-the-line or I'll cook you...Hold on...

Mr. Hendricks sees a FAMILY nearby. He lowers the phone, smiles brightly at the Family.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) Are you enjoying your Hendricks Shopping Experience?

They nod in unison.

Mr. Hendricks slips away, hides in a corner, back on phone.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) Those numbers better go up by closing time or I'll make sure you never have another job...ever.

He hangs up, straights his tie, the smile back on.

INT. CAFETERIA - EVENING

Harry pays for a Hendricks meal. He picks up his tray, grabs utensils, searches for a table, but can't find an empty one.

He sees Brooklyn at a table by herself. She's on the phone.

Harry approaches, listens in.

BROOKLYN Did he eventually calm down?

She listens.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) He's regressed a little. I'm glad mom told you about the red ball. He's been obsessed with it lately.

While listening again, she sees Harry hovering nearby.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) Thanks again, Grace. I have to run.

She hangs up.

She looks at her notes, tries to ignore Harry.

HARRY

If there's one department we could shop together, this is the one.

BROOKLYN

I'm working on my notes.

Brooklyn frowns, nods.

Harry sits down.

HARRY How is your Hendricks Shopping Experience today?

BROOKLYN

Great, I'm about to lose out on being a partner in a new OT clinic and my client had a meltdown.

HARRY

You know I overheard a woman today say that Black Friday should be a national holiday.

BROOKLYN It's gotten pretty big.

HARRY Bigger than Easter, Labor Day.

BROOKLYN

Veterans Day.

HARRY And Memorial Day. All combined.

Brooklyn finishes her drink.

HARRY (CONT'D) Does this OT clinic open up without your money?

BROOKLYN Yeah, it does.

HARRY So, kids'll get the help they need.

Brooklyn doesn't answer.

HARRY (CONT'D)

I've got a balloon payment due on Monday. I lose my house if I miss it.

BROOKLYN Sorry about your house, Harry.

STORE ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.) Brooklyn Hayes, please go to child care. Brooklyn Hayes to child care.

Brooklyn digs through her bag, pulls out the red-blinking child care pager.

BROOKLYN

Shoot.

She quickly packs up her things.

HARRY What I'm trying to say is, I need that money, too.

BROOKLYN Yes, Harry. We all need money. Do the best you can and I'll see you at the finish line.

Brooklyn rushes out.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - EVENING

THREE SECURITY GUARDS escort a caught SHOPLIFTER. Customers part to give the group a wide berth.

INT. CHILD CARE CHECK-IN COUNTER - EVENING

Brooklyn sees Dylan, who paces nervously.

BROOKLYN

Dylan, I'm so sorry.

DYLAN She's crying in there. She saw me and wants to leave. I'll called you, like, five times.

BROOKLYN I didn't hear it ring. I'm sorry.

Brooklyn heads to the counter, Dylan stops her.

DYLAN They said you owe a late fee.

BROOKLYN

I'll pay it.

Brooklyn rushes to the counter, hands in the pager.

CHILD CARE WOMAN You owe fifteen dollars.

BROOKLYN

Fine.

Brooklyn gets out her purse.

CHILD CARE WOMAN Does your daughter know that woman?

She gestures at Dylan.

BROOKLYN Can you please just get her?

The Child Care Woman retreats.

Brooklyn tries to smile at Dylan.

Wanda approaches them. She walks next to her EX-HUSBAND, 40s.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) (whispers to Dylan) That's the manager. Please yell at me tomorrow. Not right now.

Dylan still fumes, but nods.

The Child Care Woman escorts Bobbie out. She goes straight for Dylan, hugs her.

Brooklyn quickly pushes them away as Wanda and her Ex arrive.

WANDA (to the Child Care Woman) Can you get my kids?

The Child Care Woman smiles, walks away.

EX-HUSBAND Ain't never got such a rushed call from you. Like you need me. WANDA

I need you to be a father for a few hours. Can you do that?

The Ex-Husband smiles a toothy grin.

EX-HUSBAND Come by my place and git 'em when you're done, Wanda.

The Child Care Woman escorts Wanda's kids out.

TWIN GIRL Mommy, you didn't visit.

WANDA

I'm sorry, baby doll. You need to go home with Daddy. I'll come get you when I'm done.

TWIN BOY

When?

WANDA

Late tonight.

The Ex-Husband puts an arm around each kid.

Wanda watches them walk out.

INT. SHOE DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Brooklyn stares at Xavier, who sits on the floor buried among a pile of shoes.

Harry joins her.

HARRY What's that about?

BROOKLYN

Shoes.

They approach Xavier.

HARRY You okay, dude?

XAVIER I've gone from six figures to buried in shoes. HARRY

Sorry.

BROOKLYN

Me, too.

Harry looks at Brooklyn.

Harry's phone rings, he looks at the number. Doesn't answer.

HARRY Creditors. Third time today.

Harry sits down next to Xavier.

HARRY (CONT'D) Are we sorting?

Harry helps Xavier sort shoes.

Brooklyn watches them.

She walks a few feet away, then changes her mind and returns.

BROOKLYN I'll do the women's shoes.

She kneels down to help.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) So, if we happen to shop near each other, let's just play fair, okay?

HARRY You got it.

MONTAGE:

Harry and Brooklyn shopping together.

INT. COMPUTERS/TV DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Harry and Brooklyn side by side. Harry talks, smiles at a COMPUTER/TV SALESMAN, 50s, dorky-looking.

He steps aside when it's Brooklyn's turn.

INT. OUTDOOR FURNITURE - EVENING

This time, Harry waits while Brooklyn talks to the OUTDOOR FURNITURE SALES PERSON, 40s, a plump woman.

INT. ANTIQUES DEPARTMENT - EVENING

A tall, wildly dressed ANTIQUES WOMAN, 40s, stands in front of Brooklyn. Harry stands nearby.

BROOKLYN Can I return an item?

Harry coughs.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) I mean, I understand that buying an antique is like...buying a new best friend...however if that new best friend went home with me and didn't get along with my...other best friends, then could I return it?

The Antiques Woman tries to smile, doesn't answer.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 7:50 PM - DEPARTMENTS COMPLETED

BROOKLYN - 15 HARRY - 15

INT. AISLE OUTSIDE LIGHTING DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Harry and Brooklyn stop, see two MALE CUSTOMERS in a tug-ofwar with a standing lamp.

> MALE CUSTOMER #1 I had it first.

> MALE CUSTOMER #2 Like hell you did.

They tug, back and forth, back and forth.

CANDACE

Hi, Harry.

Harry smiles at Candace, Brooklyn notices.

The tug-of-war gets louder, neither ready to give in.

CANDACE (CONT'D) How's the atmosphere?

HARRY On the verge of some violence. Should I call security? Candace strides over to the Two Male Customers, grabs the standing lamp in the middle, eyeballs both of them. CANDACE Knock it off. The Two Male Customers simultaneously give up. Candace up the stands lamp. HARRY (to Brooklyn) Where you headed? BROOKLYN The entertainment furniture department to buy the mega package. Brooklyn walks away, Harry follows her. They pass Mr. Hendricks, who joins Candace. MR. HENDRICKS (O.S.) Well, hello, employee... (he checks the nametag) Candace. I'm Mr. Hendricks. Of Hendricks Megastores. CANDACE You got the same name of the store. MR. HENDRICKS I certainly do. I own them all. CANDACE Hendricks and Hendricks. How cool. INT. OUTDOOR FURNITURE - NIGHT Taz looks amused as he watches Wanda follow the Fat Woman Customer around like a puppy dog. Wanda pushes the woman's cart and carries her soda. Rich creeps up behind Taz. RICH That woman from corporate? TAZ What's it to you? RICH That's some serious suck-up.

TAZ The mystery shopper.

RICH That's not the mystery shopper.

TAZ Get back to work.

Rich hesitates, slowly wanders away.

INT. AISLE OUTSIDE APPLIANCES DEPARTMENT - EVENING The Fat Woman Customer walks ahead of Wanda.

> FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER This has been the best shopping experience of my life.

Rich steps in front of Wanda.

RICH Wanda, you have the wrong one.

Wanda's face drops.

INT. HALLWAY IN FRONT OF WANDA'S OFFICE - EVENING
Xavier walks with a soda in hand.
He stops, hears "strange" noises from behind Wanda's door.

He tries the handle, it's locked.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SECURITY OFFICE - EVENING
Xavier walks out, tosses his finished soda in a recycle bin.
Wanda and Rich pass him on their way out.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - EVENING

Wanda and Rich walk in.

WANDA (to the Security Guard) My employee needs to find someone.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Rich walks out, the Security Guard right behind him.

SECURITY GUARD Talk to Xavier in shoes.

RICH Number one, I don't need a pimp. Number two, I can't date a guy whose name starts with an X, it's a childhood trauma thing.

SECURITY GUARD Not that. Just... go talk to him.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Brooklyn is handed an order form by the ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT GUY, 40s, super tall, a bit Lurch-like.

ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT GUY It'll be five thousand two hundred twenty dollars and six cents.

Harry creeps up behind her.

HARRY

Fifty-six inch wall mounted HD flat screen TV, two reclining chairs with matching side tables, leather couch, and mini fridge in beige. I'll take one, too.

ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT GUY You'll have the mega-

HARRY Entertainment package. In black.

Brooklyn moves off to the side, pulls out her instructions.

INSERT: MYSTERY SHOPPING INSTRUCTIONS - MEGA BUY

BUY AT CHECK-OUT

INQUIRE AT SHIPPING THE

COST TO SHIP TO: UKRAINE

PICK UP AVAILABLE ITEMS

RETURN ALL ITEMS

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 8:17 PM

INT. HALLWAY NEAR CHECK-OUT - NIGHT

Harry and Brooklyn hold their respective order forms. They head toward the massive lines at check out.

Harry and Brooklyn separate, get into different lines.

HARRY We have until ten, right?

BROOKLYN Ten. Plenty of time.

Both take deep breaths, look mighty worried.

Wanda squeezes through the crowd, smiles at Brooklyn.

WANDA Are you ready to check-out?

BROOKLYN

I... Um... yes.

WANDA

Follow me.

Brooklyn hesitates. Wanda lowers her voice.

WANDA (CONT'D) I'm opening a new register.

BROOKLYN Oh, great. Thanks.

Brooklyn passes Harry, follows Wanda to a closed register.

Wanda opens the register, Brooklyn looks around, gets glares from several customers.

She catches Harry's eye, he frowns, looks away.

Brooklyn hands Wanda the order form and a credit card.

WANDA Some customers say it's a bit pricey, but this is our best mega package. It's a bargain.

BROOKLYN It's for our game room. WANDA You married?

BROOKLYN Um, yes. That's my husband.

She points to Harry.

WANDA Oh, have him come over.

BROOKLYN He's buying something separately.

WANDA I'll take care of you both.

Brooklyn waves at Harry to join her.

Harry cuts through lines, joins Brooklyn and Wanda. Other customers scowl even more.

BROOKLYN Honey, she can help us both.

HARRY

Honey?

WANDA It's no problem. Really.

She takes Harry's order sheet, looks it over.

WANDA (CONT'D) You're getting the same thing as your wife?

HARRY

My wife...

He glances at Brooklyn.

HARRY (CONT'D) My wife... is buying that one for us. This one is... for our friends.

BROOKLYN They're getting married. This is our wedding gift to them.

HARRY Right. They're really good friends. BROOKLYN It's for their professional work space. They get the black one.

HARRY For darker atmosphere.

WANDA I don't know much about atmosphere, but if I were ever to get married again, I'm inviting you guys.

Harry hands Wanda three credit cards.

HARRY Can you...spread that out on these?

WANDA

I sure can.

She checks out Harry.

When she's done, Harry and Brooklyn head off.

Wanda sees a long line of customers at her check out, in front is the Fat Woman Customer.

Sheepishly, Wanda puts out the "closed" sign.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER I thought I was a special customer.

Taz pulls Wanda to the side.

TAZ We have a problem.

INT. DELIVERY DESK - NIGHT

TWO DELIVERY DESK CLERKS, 30s, one a tall, Asian female, the other a short guy with a large nose, work at two stations.

Harry stands in front of Delivery Clerk #1.

HARRY I might be donating all of this to the struggling victims.

DELIVERY CLERK #1 In The Ukraine? HARRY I think it's just, "Ukraine." But, yeah. How much would that cost?

Brooklyn stands in front of Delivery Clerk #2.

BROOKLYN My friend wants to buy this exact same package and ship it home.

DELIVERY CLERK #2 Let me quess. Ukraine?

Brooklyn smiles, glances at Harry.

The Delivery Clerks glance at each other, go back to work.

INT. WANDA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Wanda paces, Taz is calm and collected.

TAZ We're down to twenty percent.

WANDA We have less then two hours left.

TAZ Let's close a few departments.

WANDA

We can't do that. Have the employees double up.

TAZ Is this you finally not coddling the employees? It's about time.

Taz walks out.

INT. PICK UP DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Wall to wall people.

Harry and Brooklyn sit in chairs, hold numbers.

BROOKLYN May Withers?

HARRY No. She's much...much older. She's getting a divorce, but not for me. Silence.

HARRY (CONT'D) I like to call people by their first names.

Brooklyn nods, says nothing.

HARRY (CONT'D) I'm not getting special treatment.

BROOKLYN Okay. I believe you.

More silence, awkward.

Wanda appears, snatches the numbers from their hands.

WANDA I'll get these pulled for you.

She disappears.

HARRY Do you think-

BROOKLYN

She knows?

Silence.

HARRY What do we do?

BROOKLYN I'm... finishing my shop, Harry. If the store manager wants to help me out, then who am I to stop her?

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE RETURNS DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

FOUR WAREHOUSE EMPLOYEES push four carts, two carts for Harry, two for Brooklyn. The carts contain two HD TV's, two couches, four reclining chairs, four tables, and two fridges.

Harry points to the Returns Department.

WAREHOUSE EMPLOYEE #1 Aren't we loading into your car?

HARRY I'm returning. I can't afford it. Harry leads the way.

Brooklyn follows Harry's carts, looks back at her carts.

BROOKLYN Come on. I changed my mind, too.

The Warehouse Employees look at each other, push forward.

INT. RETURNS - NIGHT

Several customers wait turns. THREE RETURNS EMPLOYEES, 20s, all hunky guys, work at three separate desks.

Harry and Brooklyn again hold numbers. The Warehouse Employees wait by their respective carts.

Harry takes notes on his phone, Brooklyn on her notepad.

Wanda breezes in, takes their separate numbers, and motions them to follow her to a desk.

WANDA

I have two customers that need help returning a few items.

Returns Employee #1 looks at Harry, Brooklyn, and the huge carts behind them full of the mega entertainment purchases.

RETURNS EMPLOYEE #1 That's a lot of return items.

Wanda looks at Harry and Brooklyn.

WANDA He'll need the receipts.

Harry and Brooklyn hand them over.

Wanda hands Returns Employee #1 the receipts.

Harry walks a few feet away. Brooklyn joins him.

BROOKLYN What is it?

HARRY If a store manager is helping us, how do we know if the reactions we're getting are honest?

BROOKLYN

Harry, you're the one who should be enjoying this gold star treatment.

HARRY What does that mean?

BROOKLYN Mr. Friendly, Mr. Buddy-Up-To-Everyone. Do you get honest reactions when you put on an act?

HARRY

Maybe I'm not acting, did ya ever think of that?

RETURNS EMPLOYEE #1 Excuse me, which one of you has the black mega entertainment purchase?

TAZ (O.S.) Hold on one minute.

Harry, Brooklyn, and Wanda turn to face Taz.

WANDA Taz, what are you doing?

TAZ

My job.

Taz steps aside, behind him is Mr. Hendricks.

Taz points at Brooklyn.

TAZ (CONT'D) Sir, that woman is a mystery shopper. She's been shopping here all afternoon asking MS type of questions. I am officially reporting her, Mr. Hendricks.

MR. HENDRICKS Nice catch.

Taz smiles at Brooklyn.

TAZ As of this moment, your shop is null and void. It won't be on record and you won't get paid.

WANDA

Mr. Hendricks, this is not the way I run my store-

MR. HENDRICKS

We hire mystery shopping companies on purpose, to test the performance of our staff. If she's obvious, then this MS isn't doing her job.

HARRY

She's not the mystery shopper. I am. I met her today. We ran into each other in the entertainment department. She bought a mega package for a new OT office. She works with kids with autism. I was buying the package because I'm the mystery shopper.

TAZ Then, why was she returning hers?

Brooklyn hesitates.

BROOKLYN Because I just lost out on my partnership. I'm out.

TAZ We have you on tape all over the store. Fourteen departments-

BROOKLYN

Fifteen.

Taz smiles broadly.

TAZ You are the mystery shopper.

MAY WITHERS (O.S.) They're both mystery shoppers.

They all see May Withers confidently stride in. Mr. Hendricks shakes his head, then smiles broadly.

MR. HENDRICKS Ms. Withers, how are you?

MAY WITHERS Terrific, Mr. Hendricks. HARRY (to May Withers) You sent us both here on purpose.

BROOKLYN (catching on) So we'd both get caught.

HARRY And neither of us would win-

BROOKLYN The Mystery-Shopper-of-the-year.

MAY WITHERS They finish each other's sentences. How cute is that?

HARRY May, if you want to get back at me-

MAY WITHERS The prize money is off the table.

BROOKLYN

Why?

MAY WITHERS Because if you can't finish your shop, there's no winner. Since you both got caught, you can't finish.

Mr. Hendricks plants himself in front of Harry and Brooklyn.

MR. HENDRICKS According to store policy, you need to be escorted from the store.

Mr. Hendricks gestures to the Security Guard behind him.

WANDA This isn't fair. I was-

MR. HENDRICKS Helping them so they'll give you a good report. I know all about it. You have until closing time, and then you're out of a job.

Mr. Hendricks looks at Taz.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) At ten PM, it's his store. Wanda glares at Taz, who is all smiles.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE RETURNS DEPARTMENT - NIGHT The Security Guard walks with Harry and Brooklyn.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

The Security Guard, Harry, and Brooklyn pass the Old Greeter Guy, who continues to adorn the giant Christmas tree while greeting incoming customers. There are really no spots left for ornaments, but don't tell Old Greeter Guy that.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 8:48 PM

EXT. HENDRICKS MEGASTORE - NIGHT

Swimming against incoming customers is Harry and Brooklyn. Behind them, the Security Guard returns to the store.

EXT. PARKING LOT - HARRY'S CAR - NIGHT

Harry and Brooklyn stop next to Harry's BMW.

BROOKLYN Are you a typical BMW driver?

HARRY It's used. When my film was done, I wanted to get a car that said, "I made it." Maybe, I should have paid off some bills first.

Harry leans against his car, crosses his arms.

HARRY (CONT'D) Looks like we both lost today.

BROOKLYN You know, I was enjoying it.

Harry looks at his car, then back at Brooklyn.

HARRY What if I wanted to return my car? Or, get it shipped to Ukraine?

BROOKLYN

Why Ukraine? Why Budapest? Why do they choose those locations? It's not fair. I've never had to price shipping to New York or Florida.

HARRY What about two feet away?

Brooklyn doesn't answer, she lets her bag drop to the ground.

HARRY (CONT'D) How much would it cost to deliver, I don't know, a kiss? Not to Ukraine or Budapest, right...there.

Harry points to the mid-point between him and Brooklyn.

BROOKLYN

I... Um...

HARRY Or maybe delivery is free.

Harry takes half a step forward.

BROOKLYN Definitely not free.

HARRY You're not that cheap?

BROOKLYN Not on your life.

HARRY I'm broke. Free works for me.

BROOKLYN It's... on sale. Very cheap.

Harry inches a bit closer.

HARRY Can I return it?

BROOKLYN You think you're not going to be satisfied? The merchandise has yet to be delivered and you're already asking about a return?

HARRY Not that kind of return. Harry gets closer to Brooklyn.

He leans in, kisses her. Slow at first. No hands.

Brooklyn pulls back slightly.

BROOKLYN Aren't we supposed to be in mourning? We both just lost out on twenty five thousand dollars.

HARRY We got caught. Together.

Brooklyn smiles, she kisses Harry.

Harry gently touches Brooklyn's cheek as the kiss continues.

Brooklyn puts her hands on Harry's chest.

Moments pass.

A loud cough is heard right next to them.

They reluctantly stop, look at Wanda.

WANDA

I want to apologize. I thought if I could get a decent report on Black Friday, I could save my job. But, Hendricks is right. Corporate hires mystery shoppers for a reason. I shouldn't have done that. I feel like this is all my fault.

RICH (O.S.) Not so fast.

Rich joins them.

RICH (CONT'D) I told Wanda about you guys.

BROOKLYN You promised us you wouldn't.

HARRY

Why?

RICH I didn't want to see Wanda go. I made a bad choice. I'm sorry. Harry, Brooklyn, and Wanda remain quiet.

Harry looks across the aisle, sees May Withers. She stands by her car, stares at something away from him.

Harry sees what she's looking at... the corner of the Hendricks building sits Mr. Hendricks with Candace.

RICH (CONT'D) Look, I might be able help and maybe even get Taz Man fired.

Harry glances back at May Withers.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

May Withers looks away from Mr. Hendricks and Candace.

She unlocks her car, opens her door.

It's stopped by Harry.

HARRY He's your husband?

MAY WITHERS Soon to be ex. I didn't take his name. It comes with complications.

She glances back at Mr. Hendricks with Candace, sees the two of them go back inside the store.

HARRY No divorce papers yet?

MAY WITHERS I was holding off...I'm ready now.

HARRY Can I make an amendment?

MAY WITHERS To my divorce papers?

HARRY

Add an extra twenty five grand to put the Mystery-Shopper-of-the-Year money back on the table for the Mystery-Shopper-of-the-Year.

Harry points at Brooklyn, who stands at Harry's car with Rich and Wanda.

HARRY (CONT'D) She deserves to win the money.

MAY WITHERS She can't finish her shop-

HARRY

You own Mystery Shop, Inc., which means you care about it. The companies that hire your business want fair and accurate reporting from us. She was doing that.

MAY WITHERS You don't understand. We weren't always using the reports that way.

Harry looks confused.

MAY WITHERS (CONT'D) We would sometimes alter them to motivate management.

HARRY

You would?

MAY WITHERS I...had to go along with it.

She shakes her head.

MAY WITHERS (CONT'D) I talked him into the prize. Do you know what he said at first? "Why would I give a dumb mystery shopper twenty five thousand dollars?"

HARRY Wouldn't it piss him off even more if that money still got paid out?

May Withers smiles brightly.

MAY WITHERS Even if I agree, there's still one problem, I can't get you, or rather her, back in there.

HARRY I'll take care of that. Rich sits on the trunk of Harry's car. Brooklyn and Wanda flank him.

WANDA He's more of a dead beat dad. My kids go to school nearby. I hope to find something in this area.

RICH You can keep your job now.

WANDA I don't think it's enough. If it's not Taz, then they'll put someone else in. If Hendricks want to change, he can go ahead and change.

Harry joins them.

HARRY The mystery shop is back on.

BROOKLYN You're kidding?

HARRY

May Withers didn't assign both of us. It was Hendricks, who happens to be her soon-to-be ex-husband. She now feels it's more important that the big wigs in Hendricks corporate see a completed Black Friday mystery shopping report. She's willing to look the other way, if we don't get any more help.

Harry looks at Wanda. She raises her hands.

WANDA I'm staying out of it.

BROOKLYN And the prize money?

HARRY

It's back on.

RICH What about Taz Man? HARRY

It's still Wanda's store until ten, right? If we have permission and we can avoid Taz and Hendricks, maybe we can pull off part one.

RICH

Part one?

Harry smiles.

HARRY Part two is to save her job.

Harry smiles at Wanda.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 9:04 PM

SHOPS COMPLETED

BROOKLYN - 15 HARRY - 15

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Wanda and Rich walk inside. Harry and Brooklyn stop.

HARRY How many shops ya got left?

BROOKLYN

Five.

HARRY You better get going.

Harry takes a few steps toward the Old Greeter Guy.

BROOKLYN What about you?

HARRY I'm going to help this guy out.

BROOKLYN I think the tree is done.

HARRY I don't have a kid to check into child care, so I'm done, too. BROOKLYN Oh, I forgot about that.

HARRY Brooklyn, I'm going to help you win. I'll find creative ways to help keep Taz away, plus I have the plan to help Wanda.

Brooklyn shakes her head.

BROOKLYN

That was the deal you made with May Withers, wasn't it?

Harry looks away.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D)

Harry, I spend my days working with kids on sharing and being fair with each other and playing together. I don't believe in one-sided deals.

HARRY

You can't accept help? You were willing to let Wanda help you.

BROOKLYN

I could have left you on that long check-out line. But, I didn't. Do you want to know why? Because she was helping both of us. And, you were teaching me that I could be less scripted, I could just talk to people. I can talk to kids and parents about OT issues, but I never realized I was uptight about talking to regular people. I liked it. I can't let you help me win.

Brooklyn rushes away.

Harry wanders over to the Old Greeter Guy, removes an ornament from a box, finds a spot, hangs the ornament.

INT. SHOE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Wanda huddles with Rich and Xavier.

WANDA The two of you know what to do? XAVIER How many employees are still here?

WANDA About ten percent of staff. I poisoned most of them with my food.

XAVIER

Not you.

Wanda glares at Xavier.

XAVIER (CONT'D) Security has cameras everywhere. While I was hanging out in the security office, I took a look at the break room. I know who did it.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Harry sits, watches the Old Greeter Guy continue his recordbreaking-number-of-ornaments-on-one-tree decorating. He uses a ornament-hanging stick to place them up high.

The Fat Woman Customer walks in among yet another group of customers. She stares at the Christmas tree.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER That's stunning.

She puts down her purse and coat, jumps in to help out.

HARRY What're ya doing?

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER I came back to spend the last hour grabbing whatever I could. I was here eleven hours today. I wanted to make it an even twelve because I thought I still needed more stuff. But, this is what the holidays are all about. Helping this fella finish decorating this tree.

HARRY I think it was done hours ago.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER Not yet it isn't.

Harry watches them both. He stands, returns to the store.

MONTAGE:

Brooklyn and Harry shopping their last departments.

-- Brooklyn shops the holidays department. She notices that they're completely out of Christmas tree ornaments.

-- Brooklyn shops the women's clothing department.

-- Harry shops the home decor department.

-- Harry shops the accessories department.

END MONTAGE.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - NIGHT

Harry and Rich spot Candace, they join her.

RICH Hi Candy, Harry and I have a proposition for you.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Taz talks to a MAINTENANCE WORKER, 50s, short, Latina.

TAZ You got all of the vomit?

She nods.

TAZ (CONT'D) You stay on the first floor. You understand what I'm saying?

MAINTENANCE WORKER (in perfect English) I was born and raised here.

The Maintenance Worker pushes her cart away from Taz.

Wanda, her arms full of discarded merchandise, sees Taz.

WANDA Taz, check out has a question.

TAZ Let them deal with it.

Wanda dumps the merch into a cart, glares at Taz.

WANDA

This is still my store until ten o'clock. As my assistant manager, it is your job to assist with check out. A customer is waiting, Taz.

Taz scowls, walks away.

INT. AISLE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - NIGHT
Brooklyn checks her notes, puts them away.
She's stopped by Harry, who finishes his notes on his phone.

BROOKLYN I thought you quit?

HARRY You were right. I should finish.

He thinks.

HARRY (CONT'D) I need to finish.

BROOKLYN

Thanks.

SUPER: THE CLOCK AT 9:28 PM

INT. COMPUTERS/TV DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Brooklyn takes a moment to watch a favorite movie on a TV. She looks around, sees the movie is on all of the TVs.

She pulls out her cell phone, makes a call.

BROOKLYN Hi, I know it's late, but I need to ask you a really big favor.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT Harry speaks into his cell phone.

> HARRY Automotive guy was wired on too much caffeine, but his knowledge-

He stops, sees Brooklyn, Dylan, and a sleepy-looking Bobbie.

HARRY (CONT'D) What's going on?

BROOKLYN You need to check in Bobbie, wait five minutes, and then check her out. Your excuse is you changed your mind because your kid is tired-

HARRY She actually looks tired.

BROOKLYN It'll take you ten minutes max.

HARRY Why are you doing this?

BROOKLYN Because I also teach my kids how to play fair. You need a kid for child care. You better hustle, Harry, it's almost closing time.

Harry walks away with Dylan and Bobbie.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Very tall aisles contain stacks of merchandise. It looks endless. A fork lift nearby.

In a corner of a hidden aisle is a pair of shoes, only the tips are seen. They're close together, the toes tap lightly.

The shoes belong to Taz. He sits on a folding chair, a sleek, high speed laptop on his lap.

Taz looks up when he thinks someone be might coming.

False alarm. He goes back to work.

His phone buzzes. He looks at it. Reads a text.

He smiles.

INT. CHILD CARE CHECK-IN COUNTER - NIGHT Harry goes to the desk. He smiles at the Child Care Employee.

> HARRY My wife called, she wants me home. It's past her bedtime.

Harry hands the Child Care Employee the pager.

HARRY (CONT'D) You didn't even need to page me.

The Child Care Employee carries out Bobbie, she's asleep. Harry takes Bobbie, walks away from the counter to Dylan.

> HARRY (CONT'D) I'll carry her out to your car.

DYLAN You're running out of time.

HARRY It's cool.

DYLAN I really want Brooklyn to be a partner with me in this clinic.

HARRY She wants it, too.

Dylan holds out her hand.

DYLAN I'll take her.

Harry carefully transfers the sleeping child to Dylan.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Xavier at a computer, the Security Guard next to him.

XAVIER That little dweeb. It's gone.

SECURITY GUARD What's gone?

XAVIER The security footage inside Wanda's office and inside the break room. Taz must have deleted it.

Xavier shakes his head.

XAVIER (CONT'D) Dang it. I have to find something.

Xavier furrows his brow, he's ready to work.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT
Rich walks with Harry. They see Brooklyn, they join her.

BROOKLYN Where are you off to?

RICH Harry's destination is in the mattress department.

Rich smiles.

RICH (CONT'D) Not what you think. Or, well, sort of what you think. I guess.

HARRY Are you done yet?

BROOKLYN I have my last one. Sporting goods.

HARRY What's the deal with that one?

BROOKLYN

They have a bunch of items in sporting goods that I use with my OT clients. Zip lines, trampolines, yoga balls. It's just, they never have anyone up there that can really help a customer. I always do it last and I try to be myself. I'm not a mystery shopper then. But, I'm always disappointed. The staff their never know what they're selling and how important some of that stuff is to...kids. Some it... It's not all fun and games.

HARRY

Which should go into your report to Hendricks every single time. They need to have knowledgeable people in every department.

BROOKLYN It's personally disappointing.

RICH I have a feeling you won't be disappointed this time.

INT. SPORTING GOODS DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Brooklyn slowly wanders in, looks around. She sees a lean, bearded SPORTING GOODS GUY, 30s.

BROOKLYN Hi, can I ask you some questions?

SPORTING GOODS GUY We're almost closed, but I don't like to leave a customer hanging.

Brooklyn sees the trampolines.

BROOKLYN If I were interested in, let's say, one of those trampolines-

SPORTING GOODS GUY Which size? If your child is small, I'd recommend the fourteen inch. Of course, if your child has spatial issues, like has trouble finding his or her body in space, then you'd want a larger one with a net. For safety reasons.

Brooklyn's mouth drops.

BROOKLYN How do you know about all of that?

SPORTING GOODS GUY My son has autism. That's what his OT says. He has poor balance-

BROOKLYN Because he can't find his body in space. Wow, that's really great.

The Sporting Goods Guy doesn't know how to respond.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) Oh, not great for your son. What I meant is that it's great that an employee with the proper knowledge finally works in this department. I'm really relieved.

SPORTING GOODS GUY You have any other questions?

BROOKLYN

I sure do.

INT. MATTRESSES - NIGHT

SUPER: THE CLOCK 9:50PM

Harry looks at a bed, then another, he pushes on a mattress.

CANDACE (O.S.) You want me to dim the lights?

Harry smiles as Candace joins him.

HARRY This is the mattress department. I'm sure that's against some law.

CANDACE Whatcha doin' here, Harry?

HARRY I could ask you the same question.

CANDACE

I'm like one of a handful of employees left. I never eat the lunch they provide. Yuk.

HARRY Right, you ate with... Hendricks.

CANDACE The old fuddy duddy. He actually hit on me.

HARRY That is against a law, I think.

CANDACE I told him to stick it.

HARRY

Sue him.

CANDACE Naw. There's someone else anyway.

Candace gets close to Harry. He backs into a mattress, accidentally sits on it, that's not good.

HARRY

I... Um... So, you're working in mattresses now? No more lighting?

CANDACE It's more comfortable in here, don't ya think?

Candace gets even closer, only a foot away.

Harry pulls his legs up, tries to escape to the other side of the mattress. Candace grabs his arm.

CANDACE (CONT'D) Where ya going?

HARRY It's closing time. All customers get the boot.

CANDACE It's the perfect time.

HARRY You've done this before.

Candace sits next to Harry, very close. She rubs his bicep.

CANDACE

Do you swim?

HARRY I don't like drowning. So, no swimming for me.

She leans in for a kiss, Harry pulls back a bit.

CANDACE Harry, the store is closed. There's no one left.

HARRY Store security.

CANDACE I have... an arrangement with... store security.

She begins to unbutton his shirt.

Harry tries to contain his panic.

HARRY I'm not sure about this.

CANDACE Harry, I want you. Right now. She's about to kiss him, Harry is trapped.

TAZ (O.S.) What are you doing?

Candace turns her head to look at Taz.

CANDACE

Oh, hi there.

TAZ Hi there? You said we were meeting.

CANDACE Oh, I must have texted the wrong number.

She looks back at Harry, leans in for the kiss.

HARRY You're meeting him?

TAZ Yeah, she was meeting me.

HARRY Aren't you... store management?

TAZ

Not only that, but I'm the new head manager in two minutes. I'm in need of a new assistant manager.

HARRY Oh, and Candace here...

TAZ Was going to be it. Not anymore.

CANDACE Excuse me? You made me a promise.

TAZ That was if you slept with me.

Brooklyn, Wanda, Rich, and Xavier wander in.

Taz sees the Security Guard behind them.

TAZ (CONT'D) What's going on?

XAVIER We just gottcha.

TAZ Got me how? Taz looks around, he eyeballs Harry, then Candace. He suddenly realizes he's in trouble. TAZ (CONT'D) You don't have anything. The security cameras are visual only. XAVIER That was until I put microphones in here a little while ago and then spliced the audio with the visual. CANDACE (different-sounding voice) Plus, we've been monitoring you for some time now. TA7 Why are you talking differently? CANDACE I'm not what you think. TA7 I don't understand. Mr. Hendricks wanders in, behind him is May Withers. MR. HENDRICKS I've been informed, Taz, that some of the merch numbers for this store, per department, well, they look like they've be manipulated. TAZ Mr. Hendricks, I was doing some moving around of merch stock numbers for a reason. So the store can finally order merch based on hot sales. Double up on hot items. I was checking ...

He stops, his eyes dart to the floor.

WANDA

Amazon?

MR. HENDRICKS How can you check Amazon's sales numbers? TAZ

I... have a friend. He helps me. But, I also study trends. There's a pattern based on their hot sales. If sales are huge for one item, I would order double that merch.

MR. HENDRICKS You don't do the ordering. I have a department that does that.

TAZ I was being pro-active.

MAY WITHERS This is your new store manager.

MR. HENDRICKS Not anymore.

TAZ I was improving store efficiency and sales. What's wrong with that?

XAVIER What happened with today's numbers?

Taz's face drops.

TAZ The numbers are still there.

WANDA

They're much lower, aren't they? To make sure I lost my job?

Xavier looks at Mr. Hendricks.

XAVIER Taz broke into the computer system and lowered Black Friday sales numbers in nine departments.

HARRY Xavier here can prove he's been doing a little extra computer work.

Taz knows he's had it.

Mr. Hendricks looks at the Security Guard.

MR. HENDRICKS Security, toss him out of my store. The Security Guard steps forward.

Taz looks at Candace.

TAZ I really thought you and I-

CANDACE Taz, I'm store security. I was just playing a role.

Taz is devastated.

The Security Guard walks Taz out.

HARRY (to Mr. Hendricks) I'm glad to hear you believe that it's wrong to manipulate the truth.

Mr. Hendricks takes a deep breath.

MR. HENDRICKS You helped us nab him. Thank you.

He nods.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) And, you're right. Nothing good can come out of manipulating the truth.

WANDA Maybe next time security can let management in on their plans?

MR. HENDRICKS We thought maybe you were breaking into the computer system. I didn't know for sure it was him.

WANDA

Can we sit down and come up with a workable management plan? I do need to make some adjustments. I know that now.

Brooklyn steps forward.

BROOKLYN

The employees say she's the best manager around. They love her. They work hard for her. You'd be smart to find a way to keep her. That's my report, Mr. Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks looks at Wanda.

MR. HENDRICKS I think we can sit down and talk.

Mr. Hendricks looks at May Withers.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) See you at mediation?

MAY WITHERS You did the right thing today, Drake. Thank you.

HARRY

And?

MAY WITHERS And it costs you an extra twenty five grand in the divorce settlement.

For a flash, Mr. Hendricks looks pissed, then he softens.

MR. HENDRICKS Damned divorces cost... They sometimes devastate good people.

Mr. Hendricks looks at Harry and Brooklyn.

MR. HENDRICKS (CONT'D) I guess this payout is still available. Or, so I'm told.

HARRY Who wins it?

Mr. Hendricks shrugs.

MR. HENDRICKS That's up to May.

Mr. Hendricks walks out.

Rich looks at Xavier.

RICH Buy me a drink?

XAVIER I'm straight, you know.

RICH I know that. I want to celebrate Taz being outed and the store being completely out of merchandise. Plus, I want to re-evaluate my career in retail. They walk out together. May Withers looks at Harry and Brooklyn. MAY WITHERS I need to see the reports. HARRY Thanks, May. She walks out. Wanda smiles at Candace. WANDA Can I discuss those security cameras in my office? Wanda heads out. But, Candace holds back, looks at Brooklyn. CANDACE That was all fake, you know. Candace smiles, leaves. Harry and Brooklyn are alone. HARRY I'd give Candace a role in my next film. She was very convincing. BROOKLYN To Taz. HARRY And you? Brooklyn smiles. HARRY (CONT'D) I want you to have the money. BROOKLYN

Not after that performance. That was mystery shopping gold. Besides, you have bills to pay. HARRY You need it more.

BROOKLYN I do have a job, you know. Becoming a partner at an OT clinic can wait.

HARRY No, it can't wait.

They stare at each other.

BROOKLYN Well, how are we going to break this impasse?

HARRY We're not even done yet. We still have to submit our reports.

BROOKLYN We have forty eight hours.

HARRY A lot can happen in forty eight hours.

Brooklyn smiles.

BROOKLYN I know the perfect place to write up our reports.

Harry leads her to the entrance of the mattress department.

They almost run right into... the Old Greeter Guy and the Fat Woman Customer. They who hold hands, giggle like kids.

Harry and Brooklyn look at each other.

It's awkward.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER We were just going to... do some... looking... at the mattresses.

HARRY The store's closed.

Harry and Brooklyn try to contain smiles.

The Fat Woman Customer gently touches her partner's shoulder.

FAT WOMAN CUSTOMER I've had the best holiday of my entire life. Happy Black Friday!

The Old Greeter Guy and the Fat Woman Customer head to a bed.

HARRY

Have fun, guys.

Harry and Brooklyn skedaddle out of there.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The Las Vegas strip.

INT. LAS VEGAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dark.

Sounds of... love making. A moan. Shuffling under covers.

A lamp turns on and Harry sits up in bed.

HARRY We have an hour left.

He grabs a laptop, opens it.

Brooklyn's head appears from beneath the covers.

HARRY (CONT'D) We need to finish our reports-

BROOKLYN I have a better idea. Get back in here and I'll tell you about it.

She grabs Harry's arm, pulls him back under the covers.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY
A sign outside a door reads, "R. Harlyn Secret Shoppers."

INT. R. HARLYN SECRET SHOPPERS - DAY
Rich in front of a computer, wears a headset.
The phone rings, he answers it.

RICH R. Harlyn Secret Shoppers. (he listens) Harry's in the office today, you wanna talk to him?

He hits a button.

RICH (CONT'D) Harry, it's one of your actors.

Harry sits in front of a film editing computer. He hits a button, picks up a phone.

HARRY

Hello? (he listens) Two months hiatus? Okay... (he looks at a clipboard) I have a week of shops at pet clinics. How about that? (he listens again) I didn't know you had cats.

The door opens and Brooklyn walks in.

BROOKLYN (to Harry) I have an hour between clients.

Harry puts up his hand.

HARRY I'm gonna put you on hold. The manager, Rich, will book you.

He puts the call on hold.

Brooklyn kisses Harry, sits next to him.

BROOKLYN

Three things. One, lunch is on you. Two, the clinic has a fundraiser coming up and I volunteered you to help out. Three, a friend of mine owns Le Tuffs in Beverly Hills. They want us as secret shoppers.

HARRY

I've heard great things about that restaurant. When?

BROOKLYN Saturday night. HARRY This Saturday, not the next one.

BROOKLYN Next Saturday my boyfriend's movie is opening. I'm booked.

HARRY That sounds so awesome out loud.

She kisses him, they nuzzle a bit.

RICH Hey, guys, guess who called me this morning?

HARRY

Who?

RICH

Wanda.

Harry and Brooklyn look at each other.

RICH (CONT'D) Did you guys give the prize money to her kids?

Harry and Brooklyn remain quiet.

RICH (CONT'D) An anonymous college fund was set up for twenty five grand.

HARRY

Really?

BROOKLYN That sounds nice.

RICH

Way generous. Of course, one of you won that money. But, Brooklyn got a grant to buy into the OT clinic and Harry got his film distributed, so it's almost like that prize money was available.

HARRY I suppose it could have-

BROOKLYN Happened like that. HARRY

Maybe.

BROOKLYN

Possibly.

Rich smiles.

RICH

Nice.

Rich grabs his sunglasses.

RICH (CONT'D) Lunch. I'll be back.

He heads for the door.

RICH (CONT'D) Hey, book that actor guy on the phone, will ya, Harry?

He smirks, walks out.

HARRY It's like he's in charge.

Brooklyn looks around.

BROOKLYN Look at us. Your film is coming out and you're being given scripts to read. I have my clinic.

HARRY And, we co-own this place.

BROOKLYN I think we just couldn't give up the mystery shopping thing.

HARRY Which, by the way, is my idea for my next film.

Harry smiles.

BROOKLYN Mystery shopping.

Brooklyn laughs, grabs Harry, they hug, kiss.

She pulls away from his kiss.

BROOKLYN (CONT'D) I hope you enjoy-

HARRY

Your-

BROOKLYN

R. Harlan shopping experience! HARRY

R. Harlan shopping experience!

FADE OUT.

THE END