

The Tyrant
by
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INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - KIERNAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

A pair of closet doors fly open.

KIERNAN CONNOR (17), tall, blonde, athletic, shifts through his shirts and pulls out a black VANS t-shirt, only to find it, bleached.

VANESSA (O.S.)

Kiernan!

KIERNAN

One minute!

Kiernan pulls out another shirt only to find it's sleeves torn.

Kiernan grumbles, rips the t-shirt off the hanger, and slams the closet shut.

INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

VANESSA CONNOR (40s) wearing a business suit with skirt, and carrying a briefcase, waits patiently at the end of the stairs.

THUMP. THUMP.

VANESSA

It's 7:30.

Kiernan steps off the staircase, backpack around his shoulders.

KIERNAN

Yeah, I know.

Kiernan brushes past Vanessa, opens the door, and steps out as Vanessa checks her watch and follows suit.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Kiernan pulls his car up into the crowded high school parking lot and stops his car.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kiernan tugs at the main doors.

They don't budge.

Kiernan grumbles presses a button on the intercom.

BEEP.

CLICK.

Kiernan pry's the door open and steps inside.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

A school monitor, ELIZABETH (50s) sits at a desk, staring at her computer, as Kiernan enters.

Kiernan spots Elizabeth and tries to sneak past her.

ELIZABETH

Not so fast Mr. Connor.

Kiernan stops in his tracks and huffs.

Elizabeth stares at him straight in the eye and wags her finger.

Kiernan trudges up the desk as Elizabeth grabs a clipboard and pencil to her right and places it on top.

ELIZABETH

What's your excuse this time?

Kiernan picks up the pencil.

KIERNAN

Don't have one.

Kiernan writes his name and time of arrival on the sheet, throws the pencil down and storms away as Elizabeth picks up the clipboard and stares at his entry.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Sitting at a desk, hipster LAURA JONES (18), also a senior, rubs her pencil eraser across some shavings, as her teacher, LLOYD JENNINGS (40s) drones on about a particular scene in a novel.

A copy of *The Diary of Anne Frank* sits next to her, closed.

Sitting across from Laura, techie junior, CODY STRINGER (17), looks up from his digital copy of the novel on his iPad and turns towards the empty desk behind Laura.

CODY
(whispering)
What do you think happened this time?
Fire?

As Laura opens her mouth, Kiernan waltzes into the room.

Lloyd glares at him.

LLOYD
Kiernan. I'm so glad you could join
us.

Kiernan's eyes brim as he marches over to his desk, tosses his backpack on the ground, and takes a seat.

Lloyd resumes his lecture.

LAURA
Well?

KIERNAN
You got water in your contacts or
something?

LAURA
Nice shirt, Arm & Hammer?

LLOYD (O.S.)
Something to add Ms. Jones?

Kiernan smirks as Laura bites her lip and slowly turns around.

LLOYD
Why don't you read the next entry?

Laura stares at her fellow students around her, each one holding a book, expect, for her.

Laura flips her copy open, she desperately scans through the pages.

Lloyd sneers and raises his copy back to his face.

LLOYD
Friday, July 6, 1943...

Laura slides the book aside and lets out a sigh of relief.

CODY

Roasted.

LAURA

Shut up.

KIERNAN

So, I guess I didn't miss anything than?

CODY

Only the true story of a lifetime!

Kiernan looks towards the SMART BOARD behind Lloyd, his eyes quickly meet Anne Frank's.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Kiernan, Cody and Laura sit together on a blue table, eating their lunches, while a blue binder with three white packets underneath, sit next to Laura.

Laura taps mindlessly on her phone while Cody plays a mobile game on his tablet.

Kiernan huffs.

KIERNAN

You two are pathetic.

Laura sneers and throws her phone down on the table.

KIERNAN

Thank you.

Kiernan turns to Cody.

KIERNAN

Well?

CODY

Quiet, I'm designing.

KIERNAN

Designing?

LAURA

Another one of your cities?

Cody grimaces.

CODY

Argh! You made me mess up.

KIERNAN

So, SATS?

PLUNK.

Three white packets suddenly appear in front of Kiernan.

Kiernan raises his brow, sets down his fork, and picks one up.

LAURA

Just in case you guys forgot.

KIERNAN

Next Wednesday, right?

LAURA

Might want to mark it on your calendar.

Kiernan smirks and flips open the paper as Laura stares at Cody.

Cody's fingers move rapidly across his tablet as he constructs virtual skyscrapers in the simulator.

Laura, biting her teeth, grabs her carton of milk off her tray and dumps it over Cody's tablet.

Cody's eyes go wide, he jumps back.

CODY

Laura!

Cody grabs a napkin off his tray and furiously wipes the screen.

LAURA

You have an addiction.

CODY

Like hell, Kiernan?

KIERNAN

Sorry pal.

Cody snorts, tosses the napkin back on the table, and picks up his tablet.

KIERNAN

How bad?

Cody taps on the tablet.

No response.

Cody drops the table and THUNK's his head down on the table.
Laura puts her hand on his shoulder.

LAURA

I'm sure they're all fine.

CODY

Only you would say that, Lady Death!

Cody raises his head and grabs one of the packets.

CODY

So, what you guys applying too?

LAURA

OSU.

KIERNAN

The Great Buckeye State?

LAURA

I figured I could use some new surroundings. Plus, they got this really good Fine Arts program.

CODY

Painting under the stars with Doctor Who? Oh let me guess, it's the one with the trench coat right?

LAURA

Tweed coat, Kenneth Cole.

Cody suddenly jumps up and points down at Laura's binder.

CODY

Barty Crouch Jr!

Kiernan stares blankly at Cody, Laura rolls her eyes.

Cody beams and sits back down.

CODY

I've seen the whole trilogy!

Laura jabs Cody in the arm.

LAURA
There's eight in the whole series
dumbass.

KIERNAN
Seven if you count Deathly Hallows as
one.

Cody rubs his arm.

CODY
They did Order of the Phoenix wrong.

LAURA
What about you?

Kiernan stares down at the packet. The words, SAT bleed into his eyes.

KIERNAN
San Bernardino.

CODY
Oof, really?

KIERNAN
It's all I can afford.

Kiernan closes the packet as Laura picks up her fork and eats some corn.

LAURA
You try applying for a scholarship?

KIERNAN
I did.

Kiernan holds up two fingers.

KIERNAN
Twice.

CODY
What about extra credit?

KIERNAN
You know Jennings doesn't do that.

Cody goes silent as Kiernan sets the packet aside and downs

his bottle of soda.

LAURA
Well, least you'll be close to Cody.

KIERNAN
UC Riverside, right?

CODY
Engineering!

KIERNAN
You'll be the next Will Wright.

Cody bows.

CODY
Thank you.

The bell rings.

Kiernan, Cody, and Laura throw their backpacks over their shoulders, grab their trays, and stand up.

LAURA
Well, see you guys at 4?

Kiernan and Cody wave goodbye to Laura as she struts away.

CODY
I'm thinking I might call in.

KIERNAN
Again?

CODY
I don't think I can handle all that plastic.

KIERNAN
And leave me alone on register duty?

CODY
Well...

Kiernan pats Cody on the shoulder and walks away.

CODY
At least wear something decent!

KIERNAN

Pick me up something from American Eagle!

CODY

Yeah, you'd like that, wouldn't you?

Kiernan chuckles and jogs away.

Cody grunts and raises his tablet to his face, he taps it.

Nothing.

Cody groans and trudges towards the school.

EXT. MALL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Kiernan pulls his car up into an empty space and stops.

INT. KIERNAN'S CAR - DAY

Kiernan lowers the car the window and lifts up his sunglasses.

The grand entrance to the GALLERIA AT TYLER stares back at him, anxiously awaiting his arrival.

INT. MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

Kiernan, headphones in ears, pushes the doors open and steps in. mall.

Kiernan marches past several tables filled with people, conversing, as the brightly lit signs from the food court's restaurants buzz loudly around him.

INT. MALL - ATRIUM - DAY

Kiernan walks into the atrium and passes in front of a JCPenney store.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - EXTERIOR - DAY

Kiernan steps up to a clothing store as JILLIAN "JILL" MATTHEWS (18) rushes up to him.

JILL

Don't go in there.

Kiernan raises his brow, pushes past Jill, and enters.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Kiernan steps past a wet floor sign near the entrance and walks up to a clothing rack where WILLIAM "WYATT" MOLNAR (19) stands fidgeting next to the store's manager GERALDINE LIPSITZ (50s).

Geraldine, holding a tablet in her hands, stares intently at the rack.

GERALDINE

You've interfiled all the hoodies.

WYATT

Ma'am?

Kiernan steps forward.

GERALDINE

Since when, in any store, do the extra-larges go in the front?

Wyatt stutters.

Geraldine grumbles, yanks out a green one from the rack, and shows it to Wyatt.

GERALDINE

What color is this?

WYATT

Uh, Green?

GERALDINE

Hunter Green, otherwise known as Code #355E3B.

WYATT

Uh, what?

GERALDINE

The chart.

WYATT

Chart?

Geraldine pulls up a color chart on her tablet and hands it to Wyatt.

Wyatt takes it and stares down at it as Geraldine grabs another hoodie off the rack and shows it to him.

GERALDINE

And this?

Wyatt's eyes dart towards the hoodie, the tablet, to Geraldine.

WYATT

Pine?

Geraldine snatches the tablet from his hands.

GERALDINE

Maybe in the nearest Home Depot...

CONNOR

Geraldine?

GERALDINE

Connor, you're just in time.

KIERNAN

For?

Geraldine, suddenly, and without warning, tosses the whole rack to the ground.

WYATT

What in the fuck...

CONNOR

Uh, boss?

GERALDINE

For your information, Wilson...

Geraldine thrusts the hoodies into Wyatt's arms, she scowls.

GERALDINE

It's Sage.

Geraldine marches away.

KIERNAN

Rough day?

WYATT

You should have seen her earlier.

PLOP.

Kiernan and Wyatt turn around where they find Geraldine

tossing a pair of jeans onto a pile on the floor.

Kiernan and Wyatt bend down and begin picking up the hoodies.

WYATT

I know for sure, that I did it right.

KIERNAN

You don't think that maybe she's just trying to test you?

GERALDINE (O.S.)

Molnar!

Wyatt looks up as a jungle green hoodie hits him square in the face.

GERALDINE

You missed one.

Kiernan snickers as Wyatt rips the hoodie off his face.

WYATT

It wouldn't be the first time.

Kiernan stares at the hoodie.

KIERNAN

Jungle Green.

Wyatt narrows his eyes at Kiernan.

KIERNAN

It was the color of my room once.

WYATT

Yeah, sure.

Kiernan picks up another hoodie as Laura and Cody step in.

LAURA

Well, what we'd miss?

Kiernan shows Laura the pile of clothes next to him.

CODY

Looks like a computer exploded.

Kiernan and Wyatt roll their eyes as Laura and Cody bend down and help.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

A FEMALE CUSTOMER (40s) stands across the counter, glaring at Kiernan.

CUSTOMER

I'm a rewards member.

Kiernan's eyes shift towards the large paper bag in front of him.

KIERNAN

Do you have your card?

The customer clicks her teeth, throws her purse down on top of the counter, and reaches inside.

Kiernan looks to Cody on the register next to him.

Cody, knee-deep in his own "issue" with another customer, offers him a smile.

Kiernan grumbles and turns back around as the customer hands him her card.

Kiernan takes the card and scans it.

KIERNAN

No good. Can I get a phone number?

CUSTOMER

What?

KIERNAN

I can also take your email.

CUSTOMER

I've been a patron at this store for over five years.

KIERNAN

First time I've seen you.

The customer's eyes shift towards the brown bag, back to the card in Kiernan's hand.

CUSTOMER

Can't you try it again?

Kiernan scans the card once more, he shakes his head.

The customer grumbles.

CUSTOMER

I'm going to be late for my pedicure.

KIERNAN

You sure you don't want to give me
that phone number?

GERALDINE (O.S.)

Is there a problem?

Geraldine stomps forward, from seemingly nowhere.

Kiernan hands her the card.

KIERNAN

Her card's no good, so...

Geraldine snatches the card out of Kiernan's hand, shoves him
aside, and types into the computer.

Cody chuckles.

Kiernan sneers at him as Geraldine scans the card.

INVALID.

Geraldine hands the card back to the customer.

GERALDINE

I'm afraid your no longer in our
system.

CUSTOMER

I was just here yesterday.

GERALDINE

So, you were the broad that dropped
your large lemonade, onto my carpet?

The customer grimaces, she whips her head around to the wet
floor sign.

CUSTOMER

I had my hands full.

GERALDINE

With your adorable little Cascada's
I'd imagine. I see that they're not
with you this time?

CUSTOMER
I left them at the local Banfield.

GERALDINE
Really? Trying to save a few pennies?

The customer huffs.

CUSTOMER
Look, can I get my discount or not?

Geraldine peers inside her bag.

GERALDINE
Going to the beach?

CUSTOMER
Huntington State.

Geraldine scowls and types into the keyboard.

GERALDINE
\$49.99.

KIERNAN
5% percent off?

CODY
Better than nothing.

Geraldine glares at Cody.

Cody bites his tongue, Kiernan rolls his eyes.

CUSTOMER
That's it? Really?

GERALDINE
You might want to try looking in a
catalog next time.

The customer's jaw drops.

Geraldine smirks as she grabs her purse off the counter and
storms away.

KIERNAN
Hey, uh, boss?

Geraldine turns around.

KIERNAN

Don't you think you were a little rude?

GERALDINE

Would you want to clean up those little rats of hers?

Geraldine lifts up her shoe, revealing a dried poop stain beneath it.

Kiernan grumbles, Cody shakes his head.

CODY

I don't know.

KIERNAN

Seems a little harsh.

GERALDINE

Did you both even care to notice what brand that purse of hers was?

Kiernan and Cody shake their heads.

GERALDINE

Gucci, Aphrodite, retails for around two thousand.

KIERNAN

So? Maybe she likes to shop around.

GERALDINE

Well, here in California, there are three types of shoppers.

Geraldine slowly turns to her right.

GERALDINE

The Chambray.

Kiernan looks right where he spots a MALE CUSTOMER (20s) wearing a green chambray shirt, browsing khakis on a rack.

Geraldine turns left.

GERALDINE

The Zoe Kravitz wannabe.

Kiernan slowly turns left where he spots a FEMALE CUSTOMER (20s) wearing bohemian getup, staring at a pair of sandals.

GERALDINE

And your grandmother's dining room.

Geraldine whips her head towards the entrance.

Kiernan follows suit and watches as a YOUNG WOMAN (20s) wearing a long floral-printed dress, enters the store.

Geraldine hands Kiernan back the woman's reward card and marches away.

Kiernan rolls his eyes, chucks the card in the trash, and takes the bikini out of the bag.

CODY

Next!

Kiernan stomps away as a customer, carrying a blouse, steps up to Cody.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - GERALDINE'S OFFICE - DAY

Kiernan slowly opens the door and steps inside.

KIERNAN

Geraldine?

Geraldine sits at her desk, staring down at a paper in a red binder, sucking on a piece of candy. A dish of full blue raspberry Jolly Rancher's sits next to her computer.

Kiernan steps forward.

KIERNAN

Mind if I take a quick break?

GERALDINE

Are you asking me, or...?

Kiernan grumbles and stares down at Geraldine's paper.

KIERNAN

What's that? An order list?

GERALDINE

You do realize your clocked in?

Kiernan smirks.

Geraldine stares intently at Kiernan's shirt.

GERALDINE

Do you shop at Goodwill?

Kiernan cocks his head.

GERALDINE

Well, with those spots you could have me fooled.

Kiernan huffs.

KIERNAN

You don't really like fashion, do you boss?

GERALDINE

Try growing up in the 1980s.

KIERNAN

Why open a clothing store than? Let around run it?

GERALDINE

Did you know I was awarded as the designer with "The Most Potential" while I as at Parsons in New York?

KIERNAN

You went to fashion school?

GERALDINE

Class of '95.

KIERNAN

What happened?

GERALDINE

I had to chance to design a dress for Michael Kors for an upcoming fashion show of his.

KIERNAN

And?

GERALDINE

Do you know what he said?

Kiernan slowly shakes his head.

GERALDINE

Exactly.

Geraldine stares back down at her paper.

KIERNAN

Come on, Geraldine. You're really going to let one guy stand in the way of your potential?

GERALDINE

If I had any of that left do you think I would still be here, making only 30,000 a year?

KIERNAN

Doesn't seem that terrible.

Geraldine scowls, pulls out a grey Henley from underneath her desk, and tosses it to Kiernan.

GERALDINE

Here, before you embarrass me any more.

Kiernan catches the shirt.

KIERNAN

Thanks.

Geraldine reaches forward and picks up another Jolly Rancher out of the candy dish. She plops it into her mouth as Kiernan stares down at the dish.

KIERNAN

All, blue raspberry?

GERALDINE

Clearly the best flavor.

Geraldine picks up a pen. As she writes on the paper, Kiernan reaches for a couple only for Geraldine to suddenly WHACK his hand with a ruler.

Kiernan's eyes meet Geraldine's, she shakes her head.

Kiernan scowls and exits.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - EVENING

Kiernan vacuum's dirt and loose tags off the carpet as Laura, carrying a box of clothes, moves towards a rack.

Kiernan turns a corner, the vacuum cord wraps around her

ankle.

Laura steps forward and falls to the ground with a loud THUD!

Kiernan stops vacuuming and turns around to find Laura on the floor, surrounded by a heap of t-shirts.

KIERNAN

Well, that's one way to sort of them out.

LAURA

Cute.

Kiernan bends down and helps Laura pick up the t-shirts.

KIERNAN

What's she got you doing now?

LAURA

Clearing out old stock, or something like that.

Kiernan stares at the t-shirts, he raises his brow.

KIERNAN

Stock?

LAURA (O.S.)

Said we needed to make room for a new shipment.

Kiernan picks up a faded t-shirt and inspects the price tag.

6/23.

KIERNAN

Aren't these all from last year?

Laura picks up another shirt and checks the price tag as Kiernan picks up a velour tracksuit jacket.

KIERNAN

We can't sell this crap.

Laura drops the box as Cody waltzes by them, messenger bag strapped over his shoulder.

Kiernan jumps up and pulls him back.

KIERNAN

Oh no, where the hell do you think you're going?

CODY

Lay off man, my shift's up.

KIERNAN

Did you count all the money?

Cody bites his lip, turns around, and begins trudging towards Geraldine's office.

KIERNAN

The book's in her office.

CODY

I know.

Kiernan bends back down and helps Laura with the clothes.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - GERALDINE'S OFFICE - EVENING

Cody steps in, walks up to Geraldine's desk, and pulls out a black book from the drawer.

Cody slams the door shut and begins walking away. Halfway to the door though, he stops and turns back around.

Cody walks up to Geraldine's binder on the desk and stares down at the page.

Cody's eyes grow as wide as saucers, he grabs the binder.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - EVENING

Kiernan dusts the dust off the register with a feather duster as Cody comes rushing in.

CODY

Bullshit!

KIERNAN

Cody?

Cody rushes up to the register and throws the binder down on the counter as Laura steps forward.

LAURA

What? Couldn't find it?

Cody frantically points to the page.

CODY

Look!

Kiernan and Laura look down at the paper, their jaw's drop.

KIERNAN

What the hell am I looking at?

LAURA

Our salaries...

JILL (O.S.)

Guys?

Jill and Wyatt rush up and stop in front of Kiernan.

Kiernan flips the binder around.

KIERNAN

Take a look.

Wyatt and Jill look down at the paper.

Jill's jaw drops, she steps aside as Wyatt grits his teeth.

WYATT

That woman.

Kiernan shuts his eyes as Cody and Laura grumble.

WYATT

That tyrant!

KIERNAN

Does this really come as a shock too
you? Honestly?

Wyatt scoffs.

LAURA

I've seen housekeepers make more money
than that.

CODY

Really?

LAURA

Ever been to a Super 8?

JILL
I can't afford to quit.

Kiernan and Cody slowly turn to Jill.

JILL
It's just me and my Mom.

WYATT
Are we really going to stand for this?

Kiernan stares intently at the page.

LAURA
Well, Kiernan?

KIERNAN
We all know what will happen if we
confront her.

Kiernan closes the binder.

JILL
Kiernan?

KIERNAN
Will wait it out, see what happens.

Wyatt, Laura, Jill, and Cody nod in agreement, until...

KNOCK!

All five employees jump and whip their heads towards the entrance.

RANDY (40s), the security guard, stares back at them, flashlight in hand.

Kiernan cracks a smile and waves to Randy.

Randy steps away as Kiernan grabs the binder off the counter and tucks it underneath his shoulder.

KIERNAN
Nobody saw us.

Kiernan storms back to Geraldine's office as Laura, Wyatt, and Jill step away, leaving Cody by the counter, alone.

INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kiernan sits on top of his bed, phone in hand, as his fingers rapidly move along the screen.

LAURA (TEXT)
I really can't believe this.

KIERNAN (TEXT)
She must have a good reason.

LAURA (TEXT)
You taking her side now?

KIERNAN (TEXT)
Hey, just trying to be a realist.

LAURA (TEXT)
Sureeee....

Kiernan swipes his phone up and and pulls up the photos app.

Kiernan grins as he swipes through several pictures of himself and Laura in various locations. The high school football field at junior prom, a diner, outside Geraldine's store on their first day...

CODY (TEXT)
Evening, designers.

LAURA (TEXT)
Still upset over your salary, Heidi Klum?

CODY (TEXT)
Auf Weidershen Frau Jones!

KIERNAN (TEXT)
You sound awfully chipper.

CODY (TEXT)
I wasted New Amsterdam with a tornado.

LAURA (TEXT)
Another one of your virtual cities?

CODY (TEXT)
Hell yeah! You should've seen it.

KIERNAN (TEXT)
Let me guess, Brandenburg?

CODY (TEXT)

There's was even a replica of Otto Frank's Company Building.

LAURA (TEXT)

Who are you now, Erich Mendelsohn?

CODY (TEXT)

Been to Potsdam lately? Check out my tower!

A photo of the Einstein Tower suddenly appears on Kiernan's screen.

LAURA (TEXT)

How about all meet at the food court before work tomorrow? Maybe get Charley's or something.

CODY (TEXT)

Urgh, cheesesteaks give me the cramps.

KIERNAN (TEXT)

So, 3 o'clock than?

LAURA (TEXT)

I'll let Wyatt and Jill know.

Kiernan flicks off his phone, turns off his lamp, and shuts his eyes.

INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Kiernan, wearing a torn Quicksilver t-shirt with skinny blue jeans and carrying his backpack, steps up to the door, car keys in hand.

KIERNAN

I'm leaving Mom.

VANESSA (O.S.)

Hang on for just a second.

Vanessa, wearing a floral-printed blouse and black pencil skirt, rushes in, carrying an envelope.

KIERNAN

What is it?

Vanessa hands Kiernan the envelope.

VANESSA
Put in this mailbox for me before you
leave, alright?

KIERNAN
Well, what is it?

Vanessa remains silent.

Kiernan turns the envelope around and stares at the address.

Kiernan's eyes go wide, his jaw drops.

KIERNAN
No way, Berkeley?

VANESSA
Earth and Planetary science right?

KIERNAN
Yeah, I was hoping to study some of it
at Bernardino but...

Kiernan pauses, he sighs.

KIERNAN
How? You couldn't have possibly...

VANESSA
Remember Mrs. Costello?

KIERNAN
You mean, that weird 1st grade teacher
who used to live next to us?

Vanessa nods as Kiernan stares at the house across the street
from outside his window.

KIERNAN
I thought she was in still treatment.
Trypophobia?

VANESSA
Well, she's now one of Berkeley's lead
professor's.

KIERNAN
Of?

Vanessa winks at Kiernan.

KIERNAN
This is unreal.

VANESSA
I'll be able to cover most of the
tuition, thanks to all those extra
hours.

KIERNAN
Your the best Mom.

Kiernan hugs Vanessa.

KIERNAN
I still got to take the SAT though.

VANESSA
I'm sure you'll do just fine.

Vanessa kisses Kiernan on the cheek.

Kiernan scoffs and wipes it off.

KIERNAN
Geez, give me a warning next time,
alright?

VANESSA
Have fun at school.

Vanessa pats Kiernan on the shoulder and exits.

Kiernan stares at the envelope before turning to his watch.

7:30.

KIERNAN
Shit.

Kiernan rushes out the door.

INT. MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

Kiernan, Laura, Cody, and Jill sit around a small table,
eating their Panda Express meals.

LAURA
You're joking, right?

Kiernan grabs a piece of hot orange chicken with a pair of
chopsticks off the large plate in front of him and raises it

to his mouth.

KIERNAN

Does it look like I am?

Laura's eyes go wide as she stares at the plate.

JILL

Man, I wish could afford to go to college.

LAURA

Oh yeah, what are you going to do? You got plans?

JILL

I was kind of hoping to still work here.

Kiernan gags on his chicken.

Laura, Jill, and Cody grimace as Kiernan pounds his hand against his chest.

JILL

Not at Geraldine's.

Kiernan snatches his soda next to him and takes a large sip.

LAURA

Well, thank god for that.

CODY

Well, where at?

JILL

I've put in a few applications at some stores.

KIERNAN

You mean, like f.y.e.?

Jill huffs.

JILL

Well, unlike you all Gen Z'ers, I still watch MTV.

LAURA

You mean, binge-watching all those episode's of Teen Mom?

JILL
Like you should talk Ms. Hot Topic.

Laura scowls, she jumps up.

LAURA
You're on Dyrdek.

Laura raises her fist at Jill only for Cody to push her back.

CODY
Relax Zelda, take a Benadryl.

Laura grumbles and sits back down.

CODY
Hey, where's Wyatt?

KIERNAN
I don't know, he said he be here.

Kiernan checks the time on his watch.

3:30.

JILL
Well, he's missing out on the good news.

KIERNAN
Yeah, that's for sure.

CODY
Where do you think he is Laura?

Laura glares at Jill.

LAURA
Oh I don't know, maybe waiting outside the Lane Bryant store.

Jill's jaw drops.

KIERNAN
OK, time's up.

Jill grabs her tray, rushes over to the trash cans as Cody stands up and throws his backpack over his shoulders.

Kiernan and Laura grab their trays and walk over to the trash cans.

LAURA
Hey, you free after work?

KIERNAN
I don't know, depends, why?

Jill, passing by Laura, sticks her tongue out at her.
Laura sticks hers back.

LAURA
Well, I was thinking you could use a
good study partner.

KIERNAN
Oh? Really? You sure?

LAURA
You are the Earth Sciences expert.

Kiernan and Laura stop near the trash cans.
Kiernan blushes, he tosses the trash inside the can.

KIERNAN
I'll uh, think about it, alright?

Laura kisses Kiernan on the cheek.

LAURA
Don't take too long.

Kiernan struts away.

LAURA
Oh, and wear something less...

KIERNAN
Bleached?

Laura smirks.

KIERNAN
I'll have a word with my Tide Pod.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Kiernan stands at the counter, folding a shirt up for an
ELDERLY CUSTOMER (60s).

ELDERLY CUSTOMER
Your doing it wrong.

Kiernan grits his teeth, stops folding, and looks up.

KIERNAN
Am I?

The elderly customer stares intently at the sleeves, she purses her lips.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER
They're supposed to go under the blouse.

Kiernan looks down at the sleeves.

KIERNAN
A gift?

ELDERLY CUSTOMER
It's for my grand-daughter.

KIERNAN
That so?

ELDERLY CUSTOMER
She's from New York.

Kiernan narrows his eyes at the elderly customer.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER
Upstate.

KIERNAN
I might want to recommend this than.

Kiernan steps away from the counter and moves towards a rack of fluffy jackets.

The elderly customer cocks her head as Kiernan snatches a furry jacket off a rack, storms back up the counter, and tosses it down in front of her.

KIERNAN
I heard the winter up there is pretty brutal.

The elderly woman stomps away.

Cody and Kiernan high five each other.

CODY

Cold.

KIERNAN

Literally.

Kiernan grabs the shirt and places it on a hanger.

CODY

Still no Wyatt?

KIERNAN

It's not like him to be this late.

CODY

Man, did you see the look on his face yesterday?

KIERNAN

Remember what we all agreed upon?

Cody walks back to his register as Kiernan grabs the coat off the counter and storms away.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - EXTERIOR - DAY

Jill and Laura stand outside the store as two shoppers rush by.

JILL

20% Percent off!

The shoppers march away.

JILL

This isn't working.

Laura spots a SHOPPER (20s) walking by and rushes up to him.

LAURA

Hey, interested in trying one of our new button-ups?

SHOPPER

No thanks.

The shopper tries to walk away only for Laura to block his path.

LAURA

I'd reconsider.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me?

Jill rushes forward.

JILL

Uh. Hey Laura, maybe we should...

CUSTOMER

Who the hell do you think you are?

LAURA

You do know that turtlenecks died in the 80s, don't you?

The customer storms away.

JILL

Maybe I should just look up some tips online.

LAURA

Google Answers never fails.

Jill grumbles.

JILL

Hey, aren't you supposed to be on floor duty?

LAURA

(mockingly)

We're a little bit understaffed at the moment...

Laura and Jill peer inside the store where they spot Kiernan shifting shirts on a rack and Cody pricing items at the register.

JILL

I wish the morning crew would stick around.

LAURA

At the rate she pays them? Speaking of which...

Laura grows silent, she whips her head around.

LAURA

Geraldine's gonna flip.

JILL
Like she already hasn't.

LAURA
You think he might have just gone up
and quit?

Suddenly...

CLICK.

CLICK.

Laura freezes.

JILL
I warned you.

Geraldine steps forward.

GERALDINE
Jones. I haven't scheduled any
training exercises for today.

LAURA
I thought I could a little practice.

GERALDINE
And? How's that working out?

Laura grows silent.

Geraldine scoffs, shoves both girls aside, and stares out
into the mall.

GERALDINE
That tightwad.

JILL
Boss?

GERALDINE
Have either of you imbecile's seen
Wyatt?

Laura and Jill shake their heads.

Geraldine huffs, she takes a deep breath.

GERALDINE
Well, then I'm left with no other

choice.

LAURA

Wait, you can't...

Geraldine re-enters the store as Laura flips out her phone.

JILL

Laura?

LAURA

He can't be this stupid.

Laura frantically texts Wyatt as Jill stares out into the mall.

INT. MALL - RESTROOMS - DAY

A pistol sits concealed underneath a ski mask on the top of a toilet.

It flushes as a gloved hand, grabs the ski mask.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Cody staples an orange label, marked CLEARANCE, onto a shirt as Geraldine marches forward, tablet in hand.

GERALDINE

Finished?

Sweat pours down from Cody's head.

CODY

Almost.

Geraldine grumbles and storms away.

Cody places the shirt on a hanger and onto a rack next to him and grabs another from a pile to his left.

Cody picks up a tag, raises it to the shirt, and presses his finger on the stapler.

Suddenly, his hand slips.

CLICK.

Cody drops the stapler and cries out in pain.

KIERNAN (O.S.)

Cody?

Kiernan, Laura, Jill, and Geraldine rush over.

Cody stares down at his hand.

A staple protrudes out of it as blood slowly pools to the surface.

KIERNAN

Shit.

LAURA

What happened Arwin?

CODY

My hand slipped...

Geraldine grumbles and grabs Cody's arm.

Cody winces, he cries out in pain as Laura's jaw drops.

LAURA

Boss?

GERALDINE

It's not that serious.

Kiernan clenches his fists.

KIERNAN

Like hell.

Jill rushes up and pushes the pair away from each other.

JILL

Come on guys, get it together.

KIERNAN

Stay out of this Jill.

GERALDINE

You have something to say to me,
Connor?

KIERNAN

Oh, you bet.

As Kiernan raises his fist, a clothing rack tumbles to the ground with a loud THUD.

Geraldine and her four employees whip their heads around to find, Wyatt, standing near the rack, pointing a pistol at them.

KIERNAN

Christ.

WYATT

Nobody fucking move!

LAURA

Wyatt?

Geraldine's eyes shift towards the emergency telephone behind her.

Geraldine races towards it.

KIERNAN

Geraldine!

Wyatt fires at the telephone.

Geraldine stops in her tracks.

Wyatt marches up to Geraldine and rips off his mask, aims the gun at Geraldine's head.

WYATT

Your gonna give me what I've earned.

GERALDINE

I take it you've been snooping around my office?

Kiernan, Cody, Jill, and Laura look away.

WYATT

Well?

KIERNAN

Don't do this Wyatt.

CODY

Come on, snap out of it man!

GERALDINE

I had to make some cuts.

WYATT

Cuts?

GERALDINE
You all know of Mr. Hill?

LAURA
The leasing manager right?

GERALDINE
Well, lately we've been having these
discussions.

Wyatt steps forward.

WYATT
About?

Geraldine clears her throat.

GERALDINE
Well, for the store to remain open, I
have to make a certain amount...

KIERNAN
Which is?

GERALDINE
I can't disclose that.

The five employees grumble.

GERALDINE
So, in a an effort to mitigate...

Wyatt, with one fell swoop, shoves an entire display of
shirts off a rack.

Geraldine shudders.

GERALDINE
..to mitigate the damage, I took the
liberty of lowing your all salaries to
a more reasonable level.

LAURA
Reasonable?

WYATT
You think that gives you the right to
take my money, our money?

GERALDINE
I had to channel it into more suitable

ventures.

Geraldine heads towards the counter.

KIERNAN

Uh, Boss?

Geraldine pulls out her tablet and shows it to the five.

JILL

A floor plan?

LAURA

For?

GERALDINE

For our new store.

Geraldine sets the tablet aside.

GERALDINE

One that will be opening next month.

Kiernan grits his teeth.

KIERNAN

I don't get it.

GERALDINE

Kiernan?

KIERNAN

You told me you hated fashion!

GERALDINE

That doesn't mean I can't inspire the next Dior or Diane von Furstenberg that walks in, now can I?

LAURA

By cutting our pay, seriously?

GERALDINE

It was the only option I had. The most sensible one of course.

JILL

Sensible?

GERALDINE

Haven't you all noticed how smoothly

this place runs when you're not
around?

The five employees sneer.

KIERNAN

Why not just fire us than?

GERALDINE

That would be the easy thing to do
now, would it?

Geraldine stomps over to Wyatt and extends her hand.

GERALDINE

Now Wyatt, if you would.

Wyatt trembles, he hands Geraldine the gun.

WYATT

Your a monster.

GERALDINE

I run a clothing store in a dying mall
for some otherwise spoiled and
ungrateful prepubescents. Who do you
think I am, Anna Wintour?

Geraldine lifts her blouse, places the gun on her belt, and
steps forward. Her eyes meet Wyatt's.

Wyatt trembles, breathes frantically, and wets himself.

GERALDINE

Nervous?

WYATT

Maybe just a little.

GERALDINE

Get out.

Wyatt darts out of the store.

Geraldine huffs and storms back to her office. The door slams
shut with a THUD.

LAURA

Fuck.

JILL
Kiernan?

KIERNAN
I don't even know what to say...

As Kiernan and Laura ponder, a CUSTOMER (20s) quickly steps into the store and curiously looks towards the fallen rack.

JILL
Were closed!

The customer storms away.

KIERNAN
Well, at least we know now, about...

Cody winces, he stares back down at his hand.

CODY
Uh, guys?

LAURA
Shit.

Jill grabs a cloth from underneath the counter and wraps it around Cody's wound.

EXT. MALL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kiernan stares at Laura next to her car.

KIERNAN
So, you still feel like studying,
or...?

Laura enters her car, starts it up, and speeds away.

INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Kiernan steps in and closes the door behind him. As he heads towards the staircase, he spots a faint light coming from the living room.

INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kiernan steps in to find Vanessa sitting on the sofa.

KIERNAN
Mom?

Vanessa picks up a piece of paper off the coffee table in front of her.

VANESSA
This came in the mail.

Kiernan marches forward. grabs it, and stares down at it.

KIERNAN
It's not what it looks like.

VANESSA
Really?

KIERNAN
You know how Geraldine is.

VANESSA
Well, from what you told me...

Vanessa shifts on the sofa.

VANESSA
She runs a tight ship, correct?

KIERNAN
Ship? More like a prison.

Vanessa grumbles, she stands up.

KIERNAN
Mom?

VANESSA
I know you've been having some trouble trying to manage things.

KIERNAN
Manage things? Come on...

VANESSA
School and work are two very different things, Kiernan.

KIERNAN
You don't think I know that?

Vanessa turns to leave.

VANESSA
Know very well where you want to see

yourself in ten years.

KIERNAN

Uh, Mom?

VANESSA

Bernardino's only two miles away...

Vanessa exits.

Kiernan, teeth and fists clenched, rips the check to pieces.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Kiernan, Cody, Laura and Jill sit at their usual table, staring down at their foods, silent. Four SAT packets sit in front of them.

KIERNAN

I take it you all got yours too?

Silence.

CODY

There's also this.

Cody hands Kiernan a piece of paper.

KIERNAN

Our work schedule?

CODY

Check out next week.

Kiernan stares down at the paper.

CONNOR

WEDNESDAY 3-9pm.

Kiernan grumbles, his hands grip the paper.

LAURA

Kiernan?

Kiernan hands Laura the paper, she stares down at it.

JONES

WEDNESDAY 3-9pm

LAURA
Fucking shit!

JILL
Cody?

Cody nods.

KIERNAN
So much for college.

JILL
I thought you guys already told her
about it last week?

KIERNAN
Yeah, we did. Said she'd think about
it.

Jill grabs the paper, stares down at it.

KIERNAN
You might not want to do that.

LAURA
Well?

Jill grabs her apple juice and chugs it all down.

CODY
Man. What the hell are we supposed to
do now?

Kiernan, stares intently at the packet, he grumbles.

LAURA
Kiernan?

KIERNAN
No way I'm working at that thrift
store forever.

CODY
So, what's the plan than, boss?

KIERNAN
We make her pay.

JILL
How?

KIERNAN
We start small.

LAURA
Small?

KIERNAN
You fix your pad?

Cody takes out his iPad and hands it to Kiernan, he turns it on and boots it up.

KIERNAN
She's always carrying that thing around with her...

LAURA
What are you going to do, break it?

KIERNAN
Oh no, much worse.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Geraldine, facing a wall of shirts, stares intently on her tablet.

Kiernan. near the register, nods to Cody.

Cody opens the register and groans.

CODY
Oh man.

Geraldine grumbles and marches forward.

GERALDINE
What are you moaning about Stringer?

CODY
The count's all wrong!

Geraldine raises her brow as Cody points frantically inside the register.

Geraldine huffs, shoves him aside, and sets down her tablet. As she begins counting the bills, one by one, Kiernan steps forward and swaps Cody's tablet with hers.

CODY
So, how are the plans coming along?

GERALDINE
You suddenly taking an interest?

CODY
A guy can't dream?

GERALDINE
Thought you were headed for Riverside.

Cody shrugs his shoulders as Geraldine slams the register shut with a loud THUD.

GERALDINE
Well, that's \$457 dollars and 25 cents
all accounted for.

CODY
Really?

Geraldine huffs.

GERALDINE
If you're this bored, go fold up some
bags.

Geraldine grabs Cody's tablet and storms away as Kiernan steps forward.

CODY
Hey, you really think this will work?

KIERNAN
Watch.

As Geraldine steps towards a rack of swimsuits, a CUSTOMER (20s) wearing a sundress, slowly steps up to her carrying a small white crop top.

CUSTOMER
Excuse me. Do you have this in a
small?

GERALDINE
Did you check the rack?

The customer cocks her head.

GERALDINE
One minute.

Geraldine turns on Cody's tablet and swipes it left.

LEFT.

RIGHT.

LEFT.

CUSTOMER

Is something wrong?

GERALDINE

It looks like my old friend Cook's up
to his old tricks again...

CUSTOMER

I'm sorry?

GERALDINE

Our systems down, unfortunately.

CUSTOMER

Can't you just check in the back?

GERALDINE

Nothing back there but old shrugs and
mom jeans.

The customer slowly looks towards the backroom as Geraldine
fidgets.

GERALDINE

Might I recommend something else? A
mid-riff?

CUSTOMER

It's for a date tonight.

Geraldine's eyes shift towards the customer's dress.

GERALDINE

Boyfriend live in Malibu?

CUSTOMER

Yeah? So?

Geraldine turns to the rack to her left, pulls out a red
tank-top with spaghetti straps, and shows it to her.

GERALDINE

Well, this ought to do the trick.

CUSTOMER
Spaghetti straps? Gross!

Geraldine huffs as the customer storms away. Kiernan, and Cody snicker as Geraldine whips her head around.

Kiernan and Cody look away as Geraldine flicks the tablet back on, presses the APP store icon.

The tablet shuts off.

Geraldine grumbles, she taps hard at the screen.

Nothing.

Geraldine taps rapidly on the home button until a smiley face emoji flashes onto the screen.

Geraldine, shaking like a leaf, slams the tablet onto the ground and smashes it with her high heel. It cracks.

Cody's jaw drops as Geraldine picks up the tablet and marches towards the counter.

KIERNAN
There a problem, boss?

Geraldine dumps the tablet on the counter next to Cody and storm aways.

The door to Geraldine's office slams shut with a THUD.

Cody picks up his tablet, stares down at it, sniffles.

Kiernan gently places his hand on his shoulder.

KIERNAN
He fought a good battle.

CODY
Rest in piece little Stevie.

Cody clutches his tablet to his chest as Laura and Jill rush forward.

LAURA
Well, that went better than expected.

KIERNAN
This is just the beginning...

JILL
I've never seen her so pissed.

Cody snuffles.

LAURA
Look, I'll buy you a new one, alright?

CODY
Maybe one with Tinder pre-installed?

Laura punches Cody in the face.

The tablet and Cody plummet to the ground.

LAURA
So, now what?

KIERNAN
We move onto Phase Two.

INT. MALL - JCPENNEY - WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT - DAY

Kiernan grabs several floral dresses off a rack and throws them over his shoulder.

CODY
Stargazers? Man's that's cruel.

KIERNAN
Californian fashion at it's finest.

Laura pulls out a tulip-printed dress from the rack next to Kiernan.

LAURA
No way she'd ever think about selling one of these.

JILL
Kiernan?

KIERNAN
Grab anything that's white.

Jill moves towards a rack of designer blouses as Cody and Laura dart towards one with tie-dye shirts.

INT. MALL - JCPENNEY - REGISTER - DAY

Kiernan, Cody, Laura, and Jill toss down a large pile of

floral print dresses, white tops, tye-dye shirts and a few other pieces of clothing onto the counter.

LINDA (40s)'s eyes go wide, she stares down at the pile.

LINDA
Is that everything?

INT. MALL - DAY

Kiernan, Cody, Laura, and Jill rush down the corridor, each of them carrying four large shopping bags.

KIERNAN
Sure your Mom won't be too pissed?

LAURA
She's got three other cards.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Kiernan, Laura, and Cody stare intently at Jill as she stands outside Geraldine's office.

KIERNAN
Ready?

Jill nods and knocks at Geraldine's door.

JILL
Geraldine!

Kiernan, Laura and Cody scramble away as Geraldine slowly opens the door and sticks her head out.

GERALDINE
What is it, Snow White?

JILL
I have a question about one of our policies.

Geraldine huffs, steps out, and closes the door behind her.

GERALDINE
Go on.

JILL
Well, I think you should see first.

Jill turns around and walks away.

Geraldine follows behind her as Jill steps up to a rack with floral dresses.

Geraldine's eyes go wide, she stops in her tracks.

JILL

I know you're all about making the big bucks, but...

Jill takes off a white Maxi dress off a rack and shows it to her.

JILL

Should we really be allowed to sell this clothes, fresh?

Geraldine's eyes twitch, she clenches her fists, wails.

Geraldine rushes forward, rips the dress out of Jill's hands and tears it to pieces.

Kiernan, Laura and Cody's eyes go wide, Geraldine's jaw drops.

Bright white blouses, sundresses, tye-dye shirts, and floral printed apparel stare back at her on each and every rack.

Geraldine screams, moves towards a rack, tears apart each dress...

Fabric by fabric...

Hem by hem...

Kiernan, Laura, Cody, and Jill snicker as Geraldine stares down at a pile of ruined clothing, a large sun hat in her hand.

GERALDINE

If this was your idea of a joke...

KIERNAN

Is it working?

Geraldine takes a deep breath.

GERALDINE

And to think I was actually considering giving you all time off...

LAURA
Wait, what?

KIERNAN
Seriously?

Geraldine storms up to the counter, tosses Laura the hat.

GERALDINE
I heard Ventura is nice this time of
year.

Laura grabs it as Geraldine storms back to her office and
slams the door shut with a loud THUD.

CODY
Is she for real? Like...

JILL
Now what are we supposed to do?

LAURA
I don't know, Kiernan?

KIERNAN
I'm gonna need some time.

INT. KIERNAN'S HOUSE - KIERNAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kiernan, still in work uniform, sits on his bed, stares up at
the ceiling, furrows his brow.

Kiernan turns to his left, stares at a poster for Berkely on
his wall.

Kiernan grumbles, rips off his nametag and tosses it to the
ground. It lands next to his copy of The Diary of Anne Frank,
near his backpack by the door.

Kiernan jumps out of bed, grabs the book, and lifts it up.

Kiernan's eyes meet the dark black eyes of Anne Frank.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Kiernan peers his head in and knocks on the wall next to him
with the book of Anne Frank in his right hand.

KIERNAN
Mr. Jennings?

Lloyd, standing near the board, slowly turns to Kiernan, marker in hand.

LLOYD
Kiernan, it's late.

Kiernan steps in.

KIERNAN
I was kind of hoping you could help me
with something.

Lloyd sets down the marker, Kiernan stares down at the book.

LLOYD
Finished reading?

KIERNAN
What was it really like? For Anne?

Lloyd takes a seat at his desk.

LLOYD
Have you ever felt oppressed?

KIERNAN
Oppressed?

LLOYD
Like being beaten down, taken
advantage of...

Lloyd turns to a picture of Adolf Hitler on the SMART Board behind him.

LLOYD
Usually by an authoritative rule.

Kiernan turns towards the picture, shudders.

KIERNAN
My boss can be a real dictator
sometimes, you know?

LLOYD
Well, think what it must have been
like to be a Jew, during that time.

Kiernan stares down at Anne Frank, she stares back.

LLOYD (O.S.)
Constantly being monitored,
checkpoints around every corner,
children being held upside down...

Kiernan's eyes go wide, raises his head.

LLOYD
True story.

Kiernan breathes a sigh of relief.

LLOYD
There's a reason the Frank family went
into hiding.

KIERNAN
But they got caught though, didn't
they?

LLOYD
Yes, they did, but...

Lloyd waves Kiernan forward with his hand.

Kiernan raises his brow, steps forward.

LLOYD
If you the chance to make a stand,
what would you do? Given the right
materials?

Kiernan stares down at Anne Frank, whips head towards Adolf
Hitler, takes note of the Swastika on his shirt.

INT. MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

LAURA
Oh, hell no.

Kiernan grumbles, he flops back in his chair. Geraldine's
tablet sits in front of him.

KIERNAN
Seriously, though, think about it!

LAURA
Detention sounds more civil.

KIERNAN
Cody?

CODY

Yeah, sorry bro, I'm with Laura on this one.

Kiernan's jaw drops.

KIERNAN

Jill?

Jill says nothing.

Kiernan purses his lips, picks up the tablet, begins scrolling through it.

LAURA

Think of all the trouble we'd get in.

CODY

Yeah you know, with the police?

KIERNAN

I thought you both cared about getting into college? Or was I wrong?

Laura and Cody exchange glances as Kiernan sets the tablet back down, turns to Jill.

KIERNAN

And you Ann August, you have your mother to support right?

Jill looks away.

KIERNAN

Look, it's simple. We get in, trash a few walls...

LAURA

With what, our backpacks?

Kiernan leans forward.

KIERNAN

I've got it all covered.

EXT. MALL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Kiernan, Cody, Laura, and Jill stand next to Kiernan's car as Wyatt pulls up next to them. They step back as Wyatt exits.

JILL

Wyatt.

WYATT

Sup Guys.

LAURA

How's homelife?

WYATT

Well, wish I could say it was better.

Wyatt scratches his head, peers into the rear seat.

Laura, Cody, and Jill look inside and spot a ripped blanket and dirty pillow lying in the backseat.

LAURA

I heard Chevron's hiring.

WYATT

The one that just got robbed this past week?

CODY

I saw that too, \$200 whole dollars!

JILL

Luckily, no one was hurt.

WYATT

I'll keep looking.

Kiernan shoves Laura aside and steps forward.

KIERNAN

So, you got the goods?

Wyatt nods, moves towards the trunk.

Kiernan, Laura, Cody, and Jill step up as Wyatt opens the trunk and pulls out four baseball bats, hands one to Kiernan, Cody, Laura, Jill.

LAURA

Is this going to be enough?

WYATT

Relax, I got more.

Wyatt pulls out a spray can of red paint, tosses it to Laura.

Laura grabs it, stares down at it as Wyatt tosses a green one to Cody, black one to Kiernan, and a yellow one to Jill.

Jill fidgets, her hands tremble.

JILL
I don't know guys.

KIERNAN
Jill?

Jill's eyes dart towards the entrance, back at Kiernan.

JILL
What if we get caught?

KIERNAN
You really think were doing this like,
now? Come on.

Jill grumbles, rolls her eyes.

KIERNAN
We go at night, after close.

CODY
What about mall security?

WYATT (O.S.)
I've got that covered.

The four turn back to the trunk as Wyatt pulls out a can of mace along with a brass knuckle.

Laura wrinkles her nose.

LAURA
What is that stuff?

WYATT
Mace. Want to smell?

Wyatt shoves the can in her face.

Laura jumps back.

Cody stares at the knuckle, he stiffens, lowers his voice.

CODY
Is that really necessary man?

Wyatt puts on the knuckle and raises his fist.

WYATT

Only if things get ugly.

Cody gulps, he steps back.

LAURA

Kiernan.

Laura pulls Kiernan aside.

KIERNAN

Hey, It's alright if you're nervous.

LAURA

Do you really think we're doing the right thing?

Kiernan's eyes dart towards Wyatt's car, to the mall.

KIERNAN

You remember that time she made you sort out all those socks?

Laura glares at the mall, grits her teeth, and walks back to the three.

Kiernan sighs and jogs back to Wyatt.

JILL

What was that all about?

LAURA

Remember those nightmares I told you I had for about a week?

Jill's eyes go wide.

KIERNAN

So, we good for 8?

WYATT

Only if you all are.

Kiernan, turns to Laura, Cody, Jill.

The three look to each other, to Kiernan. They nod.

WYATT

Bath & Body Works, don't get caught.

Wyatt closes the trunk.

Kiernan, Laura, Cody, and Jill step back as Wyatt starts his car and speeds away.

INT. MALL - FOOD COURT - NIGHT

Randy opens the door for a CUSTOMER (40s).

RANDY
Have a nice night.

The customer waves goodbye and exits.

Randy peers over his shoulder, looks around.

Randy locks the door, whips on his flashlight, begins his rounds.

INT. MALL - RESTROOMS - NIGHT

Laura and Jill, bats and paint can in hand, poke their heads outside the restroom door and look into the food court.

Nothing.

Laura and Jill slowly step out, creep forward, only for the bathroom door to their left to fly open.

Laura and Jill gasp, jump back, raise their weapons.

Kiernan and Cody step out.

Jill sighs, Laura grumbles.

LAURA
Seriously?

Cody shrugs his shoulders, Kiernan lowers his voice.

KIERNAN
Keep it down, he might hear us.

Kiernan, bat gripped tightly in hand, cocks his head to his friends, creeps forward.

INT. MALL - BATH AND BODY WORKS - NIGHT

Kiernan, Cody, Laura, and Jill stop in front of the gated-up store.

Laura scans the area, moves towards a bench.

LAURA

Wyatt?

Wyatt jumps out from a planter next to the bench, startling Jill.

Jill gasps, she sprays Wyatt with the can.

WYATT

Argh, fuck!

Wyatt staggers back, shields his eyes.

KIERNAN

Jill!

Kiernan, Cody and Laura rush over.

JILL

I'm sorry, I...

Wyatt, with one fell swoop, wipes the paint off his face and opens his eyes. They are red, bloodshot, sclera slightly yellow.

KIERNAN

Wyatt?

CODY

You alright, man?

Wyatt huffs, grumbles.

WYATT

You paint a real good picture Little Miss Sunshine.

Jill trembles, plunks down on the bench.

Laura joins her, puts her arm over her shoulder as Cody whines.

CODY

Just where the hell is this place?

KIERNAN

Hey, if you're bored...

Cody grumbles, glares at Kiernan, the Bath and Body works

logo.

CODY

Man, I left my whole city for a bunch
of Gingham?

LAURA

How?

KIERNAN

They've got a PC Version.

Wyatt stomps forward, cracks his knuckles.

WYATT

You got a problem, Stringer?

Cody whips his head around, raises his bat.

CODY

So what if I do?

Wyatt narrows his eyes at Cody, cracks his neck.

Kiernan trembles, his mouth sputters.

Jill and Laura exchange glances.

KIERNAN

Hey, come on, guys?

WYATT

I've got just the scent for you.

Cody pats the bat against his hand.

CODY

Oh? And what would that be?

Wyatt raises his brass knuckle to his face.

WYATT

Cherry Blossom.

Cody scowls, raises the bat above his head.

Wyatt raises his fist only for Kiernan to jump forward and
place his hands on Wyatt's brass knuckle.

KIERNAN

I think you've made your point.

Wyatt glares at Cody, nods.

Cody nods, lowers his bat.

Kiernan relaxes, pulls out Geraldine's tablet, turns it on.

LAURA (O.S.)

Well?

Laura and Jill step forward.

Kiernan points right.

Wyatt stomps forward, takes lead as the rest of Geraldine's minion's trudge behind him.

INT. MALL - VACANT STORE - EXTERIOR - NIGHT

The five walk down the corridor.

WYATT

Well?

Kiernan stops in his tracks, turns left, looks up.

An empty, vacant clothing store sits in front of them, sandwiched between a Build-A-Bear-Workshop and American Eagle.

LAURA (O.S.)

Mr. Huggles.

Kiernan, Cody, Jill, and Wyatt raise their brows, turn to Laura.

Laura fidgets, giggles.

LAURA

Come on, don't tell me you guys
never...?

KIERNAN

Let's just stick to the plan alright?

Laura groans as Cody steps up to the gate and bends down.

Cody grabs at the bottom, tries to pull it up.

It doesn't move.

Cody grumbles, steps back, wipes his hands on his jeans.

CODY

Well, anyone bring a forklift?

KIERNAN

No need.

Wyatt pulls out a small key from his pocket, steps up to the gate, bends down.

JILL

How did you...?

WYATT

Nabbed it earlier during rush hour.

Wyatt places the key into the lock and turns it. It CLICKS open.

Wyatt stands back up, puts the key away.

WYATT

While good old Randy was on break.

LAURA

At the local Hollister, I bet.

JILL

Isn't he, like 40?

Kiernan grumbles as Wyatt flips open the gate.

INT. MALL - VACANT STORE - NIGHT

All four employees (and one-ex) slowly step in and look around.

CODY

Just how big is this place exactly?

KIERNAN

9,000 square feet.

Laura's jaw drops, she steps up to a wall, places her hand on it.

LAURA

That's enough to fit ten wall displays.

JILL

And fifty racks.

KIERNAN

Oh, I almost forgot.

Kiernan pulls out five red armbands.

KIERNAN

Check it out.

The four step up and stare down at them. Their eyes go wide.

JILL

Swastikas?

Kiernan puts one on, shows it to them. A five pointed half-lean stares back at them.

WYATT

The mall's logo?

KIERNAN

What, too obvious?

LAURA

You recruiting us Hitler?

KIERNAN

(in German)

It is not truth that matters, but victory.

Cody's jaw drops.

CODY

Oh cool, say something else.

KIERNAN

(in German)

Your fly is open.

Cody furrows his brow, whispers to Laura.

CODY

What'd he say?

Laura bends down and yanks up Cody's zipper.

Cody gasps, shoves Laura away.

JILL

You, know German?

LAURA
I pay attention in class.

Laura stares at Cody, winks at him.

LAURA
When I want too.

Cody grumbles, snatches an armband from Kiernan, puts it on.

Wyatt, Laura and Jill do the same as Kiernan steps up to the wall.

CODY
So, what are we calling this
operation, oh blessed Angel of Death?

Kiernan raises his bat to the wall.

KIERNAN
Blitzkrieg.

Kiernan smashes his bat against the wall.

Once.

Twice..

Three times...

Again...

Cody and Laura open their spray cans and begin spraying another wall as Wyatt and Jill smash away at another.

Kiernan's bat smashes into the drywall.

Over...

and over...

and over....

The wall caves in, pieces of plaster and drywall fall to the ground.

Wyatt slams his bat into the wall, creating a hole, kicks it open. Jill struggles to hit the wall, taps it at with her bat, barely makes a dent.

Cody and Laura spray up and down, left and right. Streaks of

green and orange dance along the wall.

Kiernan glares at the wall, he steps back, raises the bat high above his head, swings.

BAM!

Kiernan drops the bat, jumps back, yelps.

KIERNAN

Woo!

Cody, and Laura stop spraying, rush over to Kiernan, stare at the wall. Their jaws drop.

KIERNAN

That oughta put this place out of business for a few weeks.

LAURA

Or a month.

Kiernan chuckles, turns to his left.

KIERNAN

Oh, hey...

Kiernan steps forward, stops in front of the wall, looks up.

An image of an orange and green Geraldine, dressed like a dictator, stares back at him,

KIERNAN

...would you look at that.

LAURA

Kind of looks like Mussolini.

CODY

Or Valeria.

Laura and Kiernan cock their heads, stare at Cody.

CODY

What? Same country.

Kiernan whips his head around.

KIERNAN

I think that's enough guys.

Wyatt huffs, steps back, inspects his work. The entire wall is in shambles, broken, cracked.

Jill drops the bat, hits the ground, looks at the wall. Not a single scratch.

WYATT

You really think this will make her change?

KIERNAN

Well, if it doesn't, than I..

A door suddenly slams shut with a THUD.

LAURA

Shit? Who?

WYATT

Randy!

Kiernan fidgets, his eyes scan the area.

Jill shakes her head.

CODY

Jill?

JILL

I can't do this.

Jill darts out into the mall, to the shock of her friends.

LAURA

What in the fuck...?

WYATT

Kiernan!

Kiernan rushes after her.

INT. MALL - VACANT STORE - EXTERIOR - NIGHT

Jill steps out and waves her arms high in the air.

JILL

Hey!

Kiernan grabs Jill and yanks her back inside.

INT. MALL - VACANT STORE - NIGHT

Kiernan releases Jill and shoves her back.

KIERNAN

What the hell were you thinking?

JILL

Maybe I don't mind making \$10.75 an hour.

Kiernan's jaw drops, he raises his brow.

KIERNAN

Really?

WYATT (O.S.)

I knew it.

JILL

What?

Wyatt sneers, folds his arms.

WYATT

You really are a flake.

Jill clenches her fists.

CODY

Hey, at least she tried.

LAURA

Shut it, Wyatt.

WYATT

I bet you couldn't even lift your own tote bag.

JILL

The job's not all that bad.

CODY

Stalin, we have a traitor.

KIERNAN

Do you really enjoy doing all of Geraldine's dirty work?

JILL

Which is really what, huh? Sticking a

few labels onto last season's hand-me-downs?

Jill stares at Kiernan's shirt.

JILL

No offense.

KIERNAN

None-taken.

JILL

There are worst jobs out there, you know.

KIERNAN

Like what? Huh? DoorDash? Dillards? The fucking Regal?

Jill grits her teeth, shoves Kiernan in the chest.

Kiernan pushes her back.

Jill glares at Kiernan, her eye twitches.

Jill rushes forward and tackles Kiernan to the ground.

LAURA

Jill!

Laura rushes forward, bends down as Wyatt and Cody's jaw's drop.

CODY

No way.

Jill whacks frantically at Kiernan as Laura pulls her off.

LAURA

Enough, seriously?

WYATT

She's like a little tiger.

CODY

Taiga.

Wyatt cocks his head, stares at Cody.

CODY

I know anime.

WYATT

Tch, grow up.

THUMP.

THUMP.

THUMP.

The five whip their head towards the exit.

LAURA

Shit, there's no way...

Wyatt steps forward, cracks his neck, raises his brass knuckle.

WYATT

Well, looks like I got no choice.

Cody murmurs, lowers his head.

CODY

Dude...

Kiernan scans the room, spots a door near the back, grab's Laura's arm.

KIERNAN

Back here! Move!

The five rush to the door.

INT. MALL - VACANT STORE - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Kiernan closes the door, turns around, and plops down next to Laura, Cody, Jill, and Wyatt.

LAURA

You think it's just him?

KIERNAN

Hopefully.

Jill wrinkles her nose, turns to Cody, looks to his pants.

Jill's jaw drops, she shoves away Cody.

JILL

Cody!

CODY

I'm headed straight for the gas chambers.

GERALDINE (O.S.)

Come on out Kiernan, Laura...

KIERNAN

Geraldine?

Kiernan raises his brow, stands up, opens the door.

INT. MALL - VACANT STORE - NIGHT

Kiernan and the gang step in, walk up to Geraldine.

Geraldine stares intently at Cody and Laura's portrait of her on the wall.

GERALDINE

Well, I must say I love the hat.

Their jaw's drop, Laura shakes her head as Geraldine begins pacing back and forth

GERALDINE

Although, I was kind of hoping for more a Meryl Streep kind of vibe.

JILL

Devil Wears Prada?

GERALDINE

A true classic.

KIERNAN

What are you doing here?

GERALDINE

I forgot my wallet in my office, largely in due to that "mess" you left behind.

CODY

That was kind of your own fault though...

Geraldine grits her teeth, slams her heel into the ground.

Cody whimpers, jumps behind Kiernan.

Geraldine grumbles, furrows her brow, shuts her eyes.

LAURA

How did you get in?

GERALDINE

Randy and I go way back.

Geraldine reaches into her pocket, pulls out a key, shows it to the five.

All four employees look to Kiernan.

Kiernan fidgets, sways back and forth.

KIERNAN

Look, boss.

Geraldine huffs, puts her hand out in front of her.

LAURA

We just wanted to make you understand.

GERALDINE

That I'm the devil of all fashion
right?

Wyatt glares at Geraldine's red blouse.

WYATT

You look you you're wearing at tulip.

GERALDINE

It's called peplum, Martha Stewart.

Wyatt groans, murmurs to himself as Geraldine picks up a bat off the ground and hands it to Kiernan.

GERALDINE

Well, If you're going to apologize, at
least make it right.

Kiernan stares at her, raises his brow.

Geraldine cocks her head towards the portrait her.

GERALDINE

You missed a spot.

Kiernan takes the bat, steps up to "Gerludia" and raises the bat.

Kiernan swings hard, again and again...

Over

and over...

until a large hole rests in the center of "Gerludia's" face.

Kiernan drops the bat, steps back.

KIERNAN

Boss.

GERALDINE

Your mother's been telling me how hard she's been working to get you in.

KIERNAN

How do you know her?

GERALDINE

She stopped in once for a pair of blue jeans and a high-neck.

Kiernan looks down at his jeans.

GERALDINE

Wyatt, how long have I been in the business?

WYATT

About twenty years now.

GERALDINE

Basically, longer than all of you.

JILL

My mom hates your clothes.

GERALDINE

Doesn't stop her from buying gift certificates from me, now does it, no?

Geraldine reaches into her pocket and pulls a wad of gift certificates.

GERALDINE

Have to please the neighbors somehow.

KIERNAN

Where are you going with this

Geraldine?

Geraldine stuffs the certificates back in her pocket and steps forward.

GERALDINE

Well, as it just turns out, there's been a change in the budget.

CODY

A change?

LAURA

You don't mean?

Geraldine snickers, picks up a can of paint off the ground, stares at it.

GERALDINE

Well, as it turns out, my little "episode" cost me more than just my reputation.

KIERNAN

Your, what?

GERALDINE

You don't know? I have a name you see.

Geraldine takes out a piece of paper from her purse, flips it open.

KIERNAN

West Coast Sweatshop?

GERALDINE

Apparently, I'm incapable of running a store.

JILL

I don't think it's that bad.

GERALDINE

You don't need to stand up for me.

JILL

But...

KIERNAN

Your point?

Geraldine shoves the flyer back in her purse.

GERALDINE

Mr. Hill has decided to postpone my moving plans.

LAURA

Until?

Geraldine steps up to the wall, raises the paint can.

Geraldine sprays...

Right...

Left...

Up...

Down...

Right...

Kiernan, Cody, Laura, Jill, and Wyatt's eyes go wide, their jaws drop as Geraldine steps back and drops the can with a loud THUD.

GERALDINE

Well?

Kiernan, Jill, Cody, Laura, and Wyatt look up at "Gerludia". A black arm, raised high to the sky, stares back at them.

GERALDINE

So as you can see, you have all won this battle.

The five turn to Geraldine.

GERALDINE

For now.

CODY

So, does that mean...

JILL

The tests...

Geraldine snorts, she waves her hand.

GERALDINE

Oh, that little thing? Don't worry about it.

Geraldine reaches into her purse, pulls out a familiar packet, hands it to Kiernan.

GERALDINE

I wouldn't even think about standing in the way of your future.

Geraldine smirks at Kiernan.

Kiernan smiles, takes the paper from her.

LAURA

And our salaries?

GERALDINE

Consider them reinstated, with an added bonus of course.

JILL

How much?

GERALDINE

How does \$17.50 sound?

Laura and Jill high five, Cody fist bumps the air.

GERALDINE

On one condition.

Geraldine glares at Kiernan's stained t-shirt.

KIERNAN

Alright fine, I'll wear something clean.

Wyatt slowly steps up to Geraldine, clears his throat.

WYATT

So, uh, Geraldine.

Geraldine turns around.

WYATT

You think that maybe there's still some room for me?

GERALDINE

Well just so it happens, Andy put in his resignation today.

KIERNAN

Part of the morning crew right?

GERALDINE

I wasn't surprised.

LAURA

Because?

GERALDINE

Said he couldn't stand working with someone who eats on the job.

KIERNAN

You don't mean?

Geraldine reaches into her pocket, pulls out a handful of Blue Raspberry Jolly Ranchers.

GERALDINE

I always like to carry some around.

Kiernan steps forward, raises his hand.

KIERNAN

Can I?

Geraldine extends her hand.

KIERNAN

Just one.

Kiernan smacks, takes a jolly rancher.

WYATT

When can I start?

GERALDINE

Tomorrow, and I expect you to file properly this time.

WYATT

Not the...

Geraldine reaches into her purse.

GERALDINE
I brought you a study guide.

Geraldine takes out a color chart and shoves it into Wyatt's hands.

GERALDINE
Oh, Matthews?

Jill slowly steps forward.

JILL
Yes?

GERALDINE
You might want to think about getting your hair done.

JILL
Hair?

KIERNAN
Come on boss, no more secrets.

Geraldine snickers, turns to leave.

GERALDINE
You did apply for the lead key holder position at Charlotte Russe? Or, was I mistaken?

Jill's jaw drops, she turns to Laura.

LAURA
Way to go.

JILL
But, how?

GERALDINE
I have a few friends around here.

Cody points to Geraldine's purse.

CODY
You mean, besides?

GERALDINE
They wouldn't know the difference between a pencil and a bodycon.

Geraldine exits.

CODY

Bodycon?

KIERNAN

Type of skirt, was pretty popular in Japan.

LAURA

It wraps around your whole body.

Laura's eyes meet Kiernan's.

Laura moves up and down, moves her hands around her body, makes a sexy pose for Kiernan.

Kiernan snickers, Cody whistles.

CODY

Man, I want some of that!

Cody turns to Jill, he snickers.

JILL

Try it and see what happens.

Cody pouts, he stomps away as Kiernan puts his arms around Laura, looks into her eyes.

WYATT

Caesar, the queen has spoken.

LAURA

Well?

KIERNAN

I really can't believe this.

LAURA

Should we salute to you? Our Glorious Beast of Buchenwald?

KIERNAN

I think maybe we should thank Anne first.

Laura presses her lips against Kiernan's, they make out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Laura, Cody, and Kiernan sit back-to-back in a gym full of students with an SAT booklet in front of them.

ASSISTANT (O.S.)

You may now begin.

Laura, Cody, and Kiernan each pick up a pencil and open their test booklets.

INT. MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

Kiernan, Cody, Laura, Jill, and Wyatt sit around a table with five trays of food in front of them, eating, while Cody plays on his new tablet.

LAURA

So, how do you think you did?

KIERNAN

I think I got a pretty good shot.

CODY

I thought we weren't allowed to discuss it?

KIERNAN

Look around bird-brain.

Cody huffs, he returns to his game.

Laura groans, picks up her drink, takes off the cap. As she prepares to dump it on Cody's tablet, he whips out a spray bottle full of water and sprays it at Laura.

Laura glares at Cody.

WYATT

Really?

CODY

Well, it worked on my cat.

Cody clutches his tablet, jumps up, and races away with Laura in hot pursuit.

KIERNAN

So, you ready?

JILL
How do I look?

WYATT
Like Britney Spears pre-Toxic.

JILL
I even brought a list.

Jill inside her backpack and pulls out a list of interview questions.

Wyatt and Kiernan snicker.

Jill's smile drops.

JILL
What's wrong?

WYATT
I hope you didn't do that when you applied for Geraldine's.

JILL
So what if I do?

KIERNAN
Wow.

JILL
Kiernan?

KIERNAN
You ready to confess your sins?

Jill grumbles, shoves a chicken tender in her mouth only for an alarm on her phone to go off.

Jill grabs her tray, takes a sip of her drink, and stands up.

JILL
Well, this it.

WYATT
Go get em Snooki.

Jill throws her tote bag over shoulder, waves goodbye, and exits.

WYATT
So now what, you want to hit the

arcade?

KIERNAN

I'd rather settle for my PlayStation.

WYATT

Come on, you got to embrace that mall spirit!

A loud commotion catches Wyatt and Kiernan's attention. The pair whip their heads around as Cody shoves a PATRON (40s) aside, sending her food flying everywhere, and darts towards the atrium.

WYATT

We better stop her first.

Laura races after him.

Kiernan and Wyatt stand up.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Geraldine places a receipt inside the bag and hands it to a CUSTOMER (40s)

GERALDINE

Enjoy.

The customer turns around and walks away as Kiernan, Laura, Cody, and Wyatt slowly step up to the counter.

GERALDINE

Well, I didn't expect to see you all here on your day off.

Cody sneers at Laura, she raises her fists.

KIERNAN

We just thought we'd check in.

Cody shoves Laura, she shoves back.

GERALDINE

Squabbling?

Kiernan smiles, steps back, and pries Laura and Cody apart.

KIERNAN

Bonding.

GERALDINE

Why don't you both put your anger to good use?

Laura and Cody whip their heads around as Geraldine pulls out a small gift card from underneath the counter.

GERALDINE

\$100, to the first person who can fold the most shirts and put them on that display.

Geraldine points to an-almost empty shirt display behind them.

Cody and Laura stare at the display, too-each other.

GERALDINE

Well?

CODY

Where?

Geraldine cocks her head towards a door behind her.

Cody and Laura glare at each other and race towards the door.

KIERNAN

Isn't that against some kind of law?

The door slams shut with a loud THUD.

GERALDINE

Nothing wrong with a little friendly competition.

The sound of tumbling boxes echoes into the store.

GERALDINE

Did you memorize the chart?

Wyatt turns red, he fidgets.

Kiernan grumbles.

KIERNAN

Boss.

GERALDINE

Relax, I made it simple.

Geraldine steps away from the counter.

Wyatt's jaw drops as Geraldine wheels over a rack of jeans.

GERALDINE

Lightest to dark, ignore the sizes.

WYATT

But...

GERALDINE

Do it without missing one and you get
a free vacation day.

Wyatt pumps himself up, cracks his knuckles, steps up to the rack, rubs his hands together.

WYATT

Well?

KIERNAN

Don't cut yourself.

Wyatt playful nudges Kiernan on the shoulder and begins sorting the rack.

GERALDINE

So, how'd the test go? You aced it I
hope?

KIERNAN

I don't find out until next week.

GERALDINE

I expect a full rundown.

Kiernan snickers as Geraldine peers into a brown bucket next to her.

Suddenly, she screams.

GERALDINE

Sandra!

Kiernan's eyes go wide, he turns away as SANDRA (18) rushes over and stops near Geraldine's feet.

SANDRA

Yes ma'am?

GERALDINE

What is this?

Geraldine reaches inside the bucket and pulls out a white, lace-ridden thong.

SANDRA

Uhm, it's a...

GERALDINE

Need I remind you of where the dumpster is?

Sandra's eyes darken, they brim as Geraldine tosses the thong to her and cocks her head towards the door behind the register.

Sandra races away.

KIERNAN

Did she...?

GERALDINE

It wasn't the first time.

Geraldine narrows her eyes at a HUNK (30s), muscular, tall, good teeth, brisk into the store and step up to a rack of button-ups.

Kiernan huffs, he peers inside the bucket, pulls out a bottle of sunscreen.

KIERNAN

Sunscreen?

GERALDINE

I met a fellow from Wal-Mart who had trouble getting rid of their overstock.

Kiernan stares down at the bottle, eyes the price tag on the basket.

\$4.99.

Kiernan places the bottle back inside the basket as Geraldine steps back up to the counter.

KIERNAN

Oh, I got you something.

Kiernan reaches into his pocket and pulls out a red electric stapler.

Geraldine grumbles.

GERALDINE
How thoughtful.

KIERNAN
I figured you could use a new one.

Geraldine takes the stapler, she stares at it.

GERALDINE
You remember what I told you about
Parsons?

Kiernan leans in.

Geraldine sets down the stapler, shows Kiernan her shirt.

GERALDINE
What do you think?

Kiernan stares at Geraldine's green chiffon blouse, nods.

GERALDINE
I was thinking of starting my own
line.

KIERNAN
What did you have in mind?

Geraldine reaches underneath the counter, pulls out a stack of white crossovers, shows one to Kiernan.

GERALDINE
How does the name Venice Beach sound
to you?

KIERNAN
Need help?

GERALDINE
Grab a stack.

Kiernan jumps behind the counter, grabs the stack of white blouses, and hurries towards a rack as Geraldine pulls out another stack of blouse from underneath the counter and plops them down on top.

87.

END