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Network 3rd Draft

SUPERSTORE

“Pilot”

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COLD OPEN

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

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

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

GARRETT (O.S.)

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

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

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

Fatter?

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

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

Happier?

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

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

Sadder?

IN COSMETICS, a goth teenager paints her lips black.

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

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

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

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

...and peace...

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

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

...and friendship...

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

CUT TO:

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

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

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

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

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

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

BO
What about the eight-buck ones?

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

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

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

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

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

He walks off with the ring.

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

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

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

CUT TO:

INT. PERSONAL CARE SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

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

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

AMY

Wait, don't--

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

AMY (CONT'D)

Smart. The best rolls are always right in the middle.

JONAH

(joking)

That's what I figured. They're the load-bearing ones.

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

AMY

Need a hand?

JONAH

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

AMY

(confused)

No you don't.

JONAH

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

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

AMY

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

JONAH

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

AMY

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

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

JONAH

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

AMY

(deadpan)

It does, doesn't it?

(then)

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

JONAH

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

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

AMY

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

JONAH

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

AMY

Oh, I wouldn't say that.

Cheyenne, the pregnant girl, walks up to Amy.

CHEYENNE

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

JONAH

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

AMY

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

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

CHEYENNE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

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

AMY

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

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

GARRETT (O.S.)

The superstore is a melting pot...

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

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

GARRETT

...a place where all types of people from all walks of life are free to go after what they want. Basically, the superstore is America. And in America, is there anything we don't want?

(he pauses, then adds)

Cloud 9-brand condoms, on sale now. Cloud 9 Condoms: When Savings Are Worth A Little Risk.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. A DIFFERENT, GENERIC CLOUD 9 - DAY

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

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

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

YOUNG EMPLOYEE

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

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

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

(he turns and winks to camera)
...to know that.

WE WIDEN OUT TO:

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

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

GLENN

So what can we learn from this?

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

MATEO

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

GLENN

Very good, that's exactly right.

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

DINA

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

GARRETT

I also sensed a subtle anti-union message.

ON SCREEN: Christopher Lloyd addresses camera.

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

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

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

GLENN

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

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

JONAH

Why didn't you tell me you worked here?

AMY

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

GLENN

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

CHEYENNE

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

JONAH

(still whispering to Amy)

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

AMY

"Elitist"? What's that?

JONAH

Like someone who thinks they're better than--

(realizing)

You know what elitist means.

AMY

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

GLENN

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

JONAH

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

He gives a little wave. Then Mateo stands.

MATEO

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

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

JONAH

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

GARRETT

(sarcastically amazed)
Get out of town!!

Glenn takes out a small black quote book.

GLENN

Now I used to end these meetings with some wisdom from the good book, but then somebody...
(looking to Dina)
reported me to corporate.

DINA

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

GLENN

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

(leafs through book, muttering)

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

(reads)

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

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

GLENN (CONT'D)

Welcome. Welcome to Cloud 9!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - PATIO SECTION - DAY

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

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

CUT TO:

INT. BABY AISLE - LATER

A LOST CUSTOMER walks up to Jonah.

LOST CUSTOMER

Excuse me? Which aisle is Books in?

JONAH

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

LOST CUSTOMER

(confused)

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

JONAH

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

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

GARRETT

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