

ANTIQUED

Buttercup

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EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

In the midst of a small town.

A thick layer of snow blankets everything.

SINGING fills the street as a trio of cheerful carolers belt out some holiday tunes. Although, with a bit too much Christmas spirit.

Across the street from them is young woman, SIGI (28), a mean looking brunette, watches the three with distaste.

She smokes the last bit of her cigarette and flicks it away.

She turns around and looks up at the store before her.

A wooden sign hangs above the entrance with large flowing lettering, it reads: "A World of Antiques".

With reluctance, Sigi enters the store.

INT. A WORLD OF ANTIQUES - DAY

The interior is heavily decorated with a Christmas theme.

There's a maze of shelving inside. All of which are jam packed with all kinds of antiques imaginable.

Sigi starts browsing.

The cashier, MARIE (71) a cheerful old woman, finishes up with the only other customer.

MARIE

If there's anything I can help you with, dear, just holler.

SIGI

I'm just looking for a gift for my grandmother. She likes this old shit.

MARIE

That's good and all, but I will like you to do so without the cussing. We have rules.

She points up to a wall.

In amongst decorations is a small blackboard with a set of rules written in chalk.

MARIE

Rule number one, no cussing. Rule number two, no horseplay. With it being Christmas and we having the tree out, rule number three is mind the tree.

Sigi looks towards the back of the store where a large Christmas tree stands.

It has a pulsing blue star at the very top and looks to be decorated with hundreds of small ornaments.

MARIE

If I have to tell you three times, it's a Christmas carol out of you or you leave.

SIGI

Okay, sorry.

She moves along down an aisle towards the tree.

Nothing she sees really stands out.

Now closer to the tree, she inspects it.

An old man, SEAN (73), with thick glasses and frosty white beard, is kneeled down rearranging items on the lower shelving. He takes notice of Sigi.

Sigi watches as the pulsing blue star on the tree sends waves of blue light down the trunk and into the tips of all the branches giving all the ornaments a faint glow.

SIGI

Trippy.

A sign attached to a post and rope barrier around the tree reads: " If you break it, you replace it".

She inspects the human ornaments more closely. They all are unique, very detailed, and attached to the tree by hook.

She reaches out and touches one.

SEAN

Mind the tree!

SIGI

Oh, fuck!

Sigi jerks her hand away in fright. The ornament shifts on the branch and teeters, dangerously close to falling.

MARIE

That's two more strikes young lady.
Now, I want a song out of you.

SEAN

Sing Jingle Bell Rock, that's a
classic.

MARIE

Frosty the Snowman.

SEAN

Know what? Sing Baby, It's Cold
Outside and I'll join ya.

Marie and Sean start smirking, they are loving this.

SIGI

I'm not singing a god damned
Christmas carol.

Disappointment comes across Marie's face now.

MARIE

Well then, I'm sorry you couldn't
find anything for your grandmother.

She uses a hand to signal for Sigi to leave the store.

Sigi starts for the door, muttering under her breath.

SIGI

Pair of senile --

GLASS SMASHING cuts her off.

Everyone freezes and goes silent.

Sean slowly turns to look at the base of the tree. He sees
the ornament in pieces on the ground.

SEAN

Oh, my lord!

MARIE

(concerned)
What was that?

SEAN

We've lost one.
(to Sigi)
We told you to mind the tree!

Sean gingerly picks up the pieces.

Marie looks heartbroken, mumbles a quick prayer to herself.

MARIE
Was it her doing?

SEAN
Yes. She was touching it.

SIGI
I'm sorry, I'll pay for it or I can
fix it.

MARIE
Right, well ...

Marie walks from around the register, moves to the door, and locks it. She also flips the open sign so it reads closed.

SEAN
We doing it now?

MARIE
No time like the present.

She gently guides Sigi back to the tree.

SIGI
Do you want me to fix it or pay for
it?

She stops before the tree and steps to the side of Sigi.

MARIE
Right now, I just need you to stay
there and look at the star.

Although confused, Sigi does so.

The star pulses away.

SIGI
How long to I have to look?

MARIE
Only a moment or two.

SEAN
What if someone sees?

MARIE
Oh hush, this won't take long.

Marie takes a quick gander at the door for reassurance.

Sigi continues staring, she frowns. The blue pulsing light seems to be getting bigger and brighter.

Marie and Sean watch on impatiently and the blue light gradually engulfs Sigi.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

A view from across the street.

One single flash of blue lights up the windows and door, then all goes to normal.

After a moment, Marie strolls up to the door, flicks the sign to open, and unlocks her store.

INT. A WORLD OF ANTIQUES - DAY

Back by the tree Sean is hangs up a new ornament.

It's another human ornament, but this one is of Sigi.

THE END