

Booster's

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INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

In the Juniors department TEEN GIRL #1 and TEEN girl #2 are standing near a rack of cloths.

INTERCUT STORE AND SECURITY VIDEO

Teen Girl #1 starts to take cloths off the rack and Teen Girl #2 opens her large bag. They both walk through the store grabbing and concealing cloths into their bags, then they head towards the exit.

EXT. MALL - SAME

Teen Girl #1 and Teen Girl #2 are coming out of the store and are confronted by MELISSA ROYAL, 20'S, and SEAN QUINN, 40'S. both holding out badges.

MELISSA
Loss Prevention.

SEAN
Let's go girls. Back in the store.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Electronics, brand new jeans, shirts, jackets are piled throughout the living room. KRISTINE JONSON, 20's, and JOSH DUNGER, 20s, are lying together on a mattress.

KRISTINE
Wow, that was great.
(beat)
Do you have any stuff left? I need another hit.

JOSH
Yeah, one more on the table.

KRISTINE
You sure babe? I don't want to take the last hit.

Kristine reaches for the drugs on a dirty table and grabs a pill while Josh gets up to go to the bathroom.

JOSH
No worry, Ocha will be here soon.

Kristine hides the pill in her jeans on the floor, then calls after Josh.

KRISTINE
Hey, did you really steal all this
stuff?

Josh calls back to her from the bathroom.

JOSH (O.C.)
Yep.

Josh walks back out.

KRISTINE
Did you steal that big ass TV?

Kristine points to a 70-inch flat screen on the wall.

JOSH
Well, I had some help with that one.

KRISTINE
Oh.

JOSH
Yeah, my partner. He walked around
the store keeping security, and all
the associates occupied, while I got
the TV and walked out.

KRISTINE
They just let you walk out?

JOSH
My partner is the biggest, scariest
black guy you have ever met. They
were all so scared he was going to
steal something, they never even paid
attention to the white guy pushing a
TV out of the store.

KRISTINE
Well, aren't you just a smart thief?

JOSH
I prefer to think of it as economic
redistribution.

KRISTINE
Are you going out today? Is that why
your friend with the free party
favours is on his way?

JOSH
Yeah, something like that. I have to
earn to keep the party going.

KRISTINE
Can I go with you?

JOSH
No. Today is just a mall job, and
Ocha doesn't like having people
around he doesn't know.

Kristine pouts then pushes her breasts together.

KRISTINE
(sexy voice)
I am sure I could help you distract
the security people.

INT. POLICE OFFICES - DAY

DETECTIVE TYLER MASSON, 30's, is sitting at his desk. His
cell phone rings.

MASON
Mason.(beat)Are you sure? (beat)Okay,
got it.

Mason gets his jacket and starts to leave when DETECTIVE
PARTEL, 40's,calls out.

PARTEL
Where you off to agent Utah?

MASON
You know just because I surf doesn't
mean I like that nickname.

DETECTIVE MORAL, 50's, walks by.

MORAL
We could go back to calling you Cali
boy. How do you surf on the
Mississippi river anyway?

MASON
Get action off the wakes from the
barges.

MORAL
Your not going to wait for your new
partner?

PARTEL
I hear Mr. Rat should be here any
time.

MASON
I got a lead on a crew working today.

MORAL
Lucky you getting the trash from
Vice.

MASON
Tell him to meet me here.

Mason writes down an address and then heads out.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Melissa and Sean are leading Teen Girl #1 and #2 through the store. They all come to an unmarked door.

MELISSA
In here.

Melissa leads them all into the Security office.

INT. OFFICE

TEEN GIRL #1
I told you, we didn't do anything.

TEEN GIRL #2
My parents are going to sue you all.
You'll see.

SEAN
Cut the shit. We have you both on
camera. Now give me the fucking
merchandise you stole.

MELISSA
Look this will go smother if you both
cooperate. Hand over all the unpaid
items you have in your bag.

TEEN GIRL #1
We don't have any of your raggedy
junk.

Sean grabs the bag out of Teen Girl #1's hand.

TEEN GIRL #1 (CONT'D)
Hey, you can't go through my stuff.

Sean dumps the bag out.

SEAN
So, whats all this? Planing to open
your own raggedy jeans shop?

TEEN GIRL #1
That's not mine.

TEEN GIRL #2
Please don't call the cops. Here.

Teen Girl #2 dumps her bag out.

INT. JOSHES APARTMENT DOOR

OCHA MONTAZANO, 50's, knocks on the door.

INT. JOSHES APARTMENT - SAME

JOSH
That's Ocha. Get dressed unless you
want him to see you naked.

KRISTINE
I don't mind him seeing me naked but
only if he pays.

Kristine starts to put on one of Josh's shirts.

JOSH
I saw you naked, do I have to pay?

Kristine walks over to him and gives him a kiss.

KRISTINE
You're special□ you get the friends
discount.

Josh opens the door and Ocha walks in sees Kristine, smiles
at Josh.

OCHA
Well, well, Joshy. Looks like you
have company.

Ocha walks over to Kristine and introduces himself.

OCHA (CONT'D)
Hello, I am Ocha.

Ocha kisses Kristine's hand.

KRISTINE

I know. Josh has told me all about you.

Ocha turns to give Josh a nasty look.

JOSH

I just told her we worked together sometimes.

KRISTINE

He told me you guys make some real money. Maybe I could go with you both? I could be an excellent distraction.

Kristine pulls down her shirt showing off her cleavage.

OCHA

I bet you could. Um, okay. Josh you need a bump? Let's go in your bathroom.

INT. JOSHES BATHROOM

Ocha hands Josh a bag of white powder. Josh grabs it and start to set up his spoon and lighter. Josh then ties off his arm and gets a needle out of his drug kit.

OCAH

Nice piece of ass.

Josh loads his needle.

JOSH

Yeah, I got lucky last night.

Josh shoots the drugs into his veins and starts to slump on the toilet. Ocha leans into Joshes face.

OCHA

She knows a lot about what we do for just a piece of ass.

Ocha grabs Josh's hair and pull his head back.

OCHA (CONT'D)

You talk to much when you get high you fucking junkie. If you weren't my best booster I would hot shot you right now, then turn her out. You got me.

Josh nods.

INT. BACK HALLWAY

DETECTIVE DON CARVER, 50'S, and a STORE EMPLOYEE walk to a door labeled "Loss Prevention." Store Employee knocks on the door, and STORE DETECTIVE #1 opens the door.

STORE D #1
Hey, what can I do for you?

CARVER
Hi, I am looking for Detective Mason.

Store Detective calls out over his shoulder.

STORE D #1
Hey, Detective. Someone is looking for you.

The Store Employee leaves and Mason comes to the door.

MASON
Hi, can I help you?

Carver presents his badge and ID.

CARVER
Hi, Detective Mason. I am John Carver. Your new partner.

MASON
Um, hi. Nice to meet you.

Store Detective #1 comes to the door interrupting.

STORE D #1
Hey, Mason. It looks like our guys just pulled up.

CARVER
Mind if I stick around?

MASON
Only if you are willing to help out on the bust. We expect about ten boosters.

CARVER
Sure, I could use the exercise.

INT. VAN - DAY

Ocha, PAUL MARKS 30, African-American and Josh are sitting in the front seats with a bunch of MEN and WOMEN in the back and DANNY WILSON, 40s, African-American.

OCHA

Josh, my man, I appreciate that she is a hot chick, but I am not happy that you told her about us.

PAUL

What the fuck, Josh. You talked about us?

JOSH

Hey, sorry. I know I screwed up. I was pretty buzzed when this hot chick sits down next to me. I strike up a conversation with her, she asks me what I do, so I told her I steal from the corporate elite.

OCHA

Well, she better not be a cop.

JOSH

No way is she a cop. We spent the whole night getting high and fucking, not something a cop could do.

PAUL

Then she better not be a blabbermouth or it is her ass and yours, white boy.

OCHA

All right, we will talk more about this later. Time to go to work. Let me off at the Donuts shop. I will be watching it all and will text you when we are ready to go.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Mason and Carver are leaning over the monitor with Store Detective #1 watching the van on an outside security camera.

INSERT CAMERA VIEW

A van in the parking lot pulling up to the department store.

BACK TO SCENE

STORE D #1
Okay, it looks like they are
offloading. We have several subjects
headed into the store.

MASON
I have been tracking these
shoplifters for about a month. My
informant tipped me off that they
were going to hit the mall today.

CARVER
Are they an ORC gang?

MASON
Yep, this one group is a part of a
local ring that has stolen about
three hundred thousand dollars just
in the last few months.

STORE D #1
Okay, they're in.

INSERT SECURITY CAMERA VIEW

The camera follows several figures walking through the
department store. They start to grab merchandise while
looking around, then start to conceal clothes into bags.

INT. MALL - DAY

Josh and Danny are walking around the mall. They stop at a
high- end retailer. Josh walks into the store first.

INT. STORE - SAME

Josh walks in and all the STORE EMPLOYEES are smiling at
him. Danny enters, and immediately all the employees are
watching Danny with suspicion.

Danny starts to randomly grab items and move them around the
store while Josh walks around causally placing items in his
bag.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - SAME

STORE D #1
Okay, detective, they will be leaving
soon. Are you ready?

MASON
Sure you can handle this?

CARVER
Please, I worked my way through
college chasing shoplifters. What's
the plan?

MASON
We are going to head outside and help
store security take them down. I also
have plainclothes and uniforms in the
parking lot to grab the rest.

CARVER
Sounds like fun.

EXT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Mason and Carver are behind a wall next to the store exit.
Mason is on his cell phone.

MASON
Okay, got it.
(to Carver)
Here they come.

He points to the exit.

MASON (CONT'D)
Okay in Four. Three. Two. One.

Several people come out of the store with loaded down bags.
STORE DETECTIVE #2 jumps in front of them and Mason motions
for Carver to follow him. They run up to the shoplifters.

STORE D #2
Store security. Hold it.

MASON
NOPD. Stop.

Mason and Carver confront the shoplifters. Most of them stop
and drop their bags while another two take off running.

MASON (CONT'D)
Stop them.

Carver gives chase.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME

Carver chases a SHOPLIFTER MAN and SHOPLIFTER WOMAN through the parking lot.

EXT. MALL - SAME

Mason and the Store Detectives go to handcuff the remaining Shoplifters. The Shoplifters resist forcing Mason and Store Detectives to wrestle with them eventually getting them handcuffed after a brief struggle.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME

Carver is chasing the Shoplifters through the parking lot weaving between cars.

CARVER
(heavy breathing)
Stop. NOPD. I said, stop.

Just as the Shoplifters are about to escape, an unmarked NOPD cruiser pulls in front of them.

A PLAINCLOTHES POLICE OFFICER jumps out and points his gun at the shoplifters.

PLAINCLOTHES OFFICER
Get your hands up.

They both stop and surrender. Carver runs up and helps the Officer take them into custody.

INT. STORE

Josh is done shoplifting and leaves the store while Danny keeps the employees occupied.

INT. MALL - DAY

Josh is far away from the store he stops at a bench. Danny joins him, and as they are about to head for another store, Josh gets a text on his cell phone.

INSERT TEXT

5.0 IN HOUSE. DUMP AND RUN MEET UP L8TR.

BACK TO SCENE

Josh shows the text to Danny then they get ready to separate. Josh drops the bags he was carrying, but Danny picks them up.

JOSH

Dude, what are you doing? We need to dump and go.

DANNY

I need cash. Don't worry I'll be fine.

JOSH

But I carry the bag. It's the white privilege thing, remember?

DANNY

Go, man, I got this. Meet up in the Quarter later.

Danny then heads for the nearest exit. Josh walks away from him and towards another exit.

EXT. MALL - DAY

Danny exits the mall and is immediately confronted by an NOPD OFFICER and a SECURITY GUARD.

NOPD OFFICER

Is that one?

SECURITY

Yeah, that's the one we got a call on.

NOPD OFFICER

(gun raised)

Drop the bag, asshole.

Danny drops the bag and gets on his knees with his hands up.

EXT. MALL - DAY

Josh exits the mall and outside people are being detained all over as he casually walks away.

INT. BOOKING ROOM

Mason, Carver and the Store Detectives are leading the shoplifters into the office.

The Store Detectives start to gather up the bags of merchandise and are handcuffing the shoplifters to a bench.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Sean and Melissa are at desks while the PARENTS of Teen Girl #1 and #2 are screaming at them. A bored looking MALL COP stands nearby.

MELISSA
Sean, can we talk.

SEAN
Sure.

Melissa leads Sean to another office.

INT. OUTER OFFICE

MELISSA
What the fuck is going on with you?

SEAN
What?

MELISSA
You were treating those two teen's like they had personally shit on your pillow.

SEAN
I'm just getting tired of being lied to by spoiled rich little cun...

MELISSA
(cutting him off)
Do not even go there. It's not just this. You have been verbally abusing every shoplifter we catch.

SEAN
Look, we got real criminals coming into this store and these little princesses act like they own the place. Plus nothing is going to happen to them.

MELISSA
Maybe you need to slow down on the drinking.

SEAN

What the hell are you talking about?

MELISSA

Sean, I can smell the bourbon on your breath. You're the manager. Act like it.

SEAN

I've got it under control.

MELISSA

Tell yourself what ever helps you sleep. Your on thin ice. I hear they are sending a regional investigator down.

Melissa storms off.

INT. BAR

Josh enters the bar looks around to see Ocha sitting at a booth. Josh heads over to join him.

OCHA

Josh, you got out. Good.

JOSH

Yeah, but they got Danny and our bags.

OCHA

What the fuck? How? Didn't you get my text?

JOSH

Yeah, but when I went to dump the bags, Danny grabbed them.

Paul enters the bar and joins them.

PAUL

What the fuck happened? I almost got busted in the van, PO, PO and rent a cops was all over the fucking place.

OCHA

Hold on, Paul.

(to Josh)

Now, why did Danny have the bags?

JOSH

He said he needed money and couldn't give it up. He took them from me and walked out of the mall entrance and right into Johnny law.

OCHA

Fuck, I bet he is gambling again. Fucking degenerate.

PAUL

Well, I wonder if he is the one who gave us up?

OCHA

What are you saying?

PAUL

Motherfucker did you not see what just went down?

OCHA

What? Sometimes they have these stings set up just waiting to see who comes along. Shit, people steal from those stores every day.

PAUL

Yeah, well, then how the fuck did they know I was in the van? Fuck, I stepped out for a smokes the only reason they didn't pick me up.

(beat)

I saw those pigs roll out and I just ducked my way through the parking lot. Not an easy task for a black man in the suburbs I might add.

JOSH

No way would Danny give us up. I saw his eyes. He was desperate.

OCHA

Wait, Paul, you think this was a setup?

PAUL

Motherfucker, you don't?

OCHA

I guess that makes sense. Maybe we have a rat.

PAUL

Right, and you roll into Josh's, and he got some bimbo who knows who you are and what we do then we get busted? Interesting coincidence.

OCHA

I don't believe in coincidence.

They both give Josh a hard stare.

JOSH

Hey, Kristine is cool. Shit, I spent the whole night doing drugs and bawling with her. Cops can't do that not even under cover. Right?

PAUL

Shit, white boy. This is NOLA. The local cops sell more drugs and pussy than the Don.

JOSH

Well, she ain't a cop. She's just a Quarter stripper. I never even told her where we were going.

OCHA

They could have you under surveillance.

PAUL

Right.

JOSH

Then why aren't we under arrest right now? You guys are paranoid. If there was a rat, maybe it was one of the Mexicans.

OCHA

No way. I got those illegals by the balls. They say anything they get turned into Burrito meat.

JOSH

Well, until we find out who the rat is, if there is one, we need to chill and stop randomly accusing people.

OCHA

You're right. But no runs until further notice.

(MORE)

OCHA (CONT'D)

And we should all stay away from each other until I know more.

JOSH

I am going to head off.

OCHA

This place has a back door that leads out to an ally. I need to talk to the Don. He is not going to be happy. Fuck this life. I will be in touch soon.

Ocha leaves cash on the table and slips out the back. Josh gets ready to leave when Paul leans in close to him.

PAUL

Look, hipster boy, I am not going back to jail. And if I find out that you or that fucking titty dancer had anything to do with this, they will never find the fucking bodies. Got it?

JOSH

Paul, stop watching all those gangster movies and get the fuck out of my way.

Josh gets up and leaves.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Sean takes a seat at the bar. ANGIE, 20's, brings Sean his drink.

SEAN

Thanks Ange.

ANGIE

Tough day in the mall?

SEAN

Just another day in retail hell.

Sean looks around and notices the sexy brunette RACHEL SANDENBURG, 30'S, sitting next to him.

RACHEL

Personal service. You must be a regular?

SEAN

I'm here so often I should put my apartment on Airbnb, and just sleep in one of the booths.

RACHEL

A pragmatic drunk. I like that.

SEAN

Well at least I could cover my bar tab that way. Hi I'm Sean.

RACHEL

Hi Sean, I'm Sandra.

SEAN

I've never seen you here before, have I?

RACHEL

Maybe you have and you were to drunk to remember?

SEAN

If I ever get so drunk I wouldn't remember you, then it's time for AA.

RACHEL

Oh, aren't you a sweet alcoholic.

SEAN

I prefer functioning drunk.

Rachel and Sean toast.

RACHEL

Well to keep you out of some higher power admitting your faults in group session, this is my first time here. I just moved here for work.

SEAN

Ange, another round. Turns out I don't need AA yet.

ANGIE

Denial is a good place to be when you live in New Orleans.

SEAN

So what kind of work do you do?

RACHEL

I'm in (beat) procurement. What about you?

SEAN

I protect the profits of large faceless corporations.

Sean motions for Rachel to lean in close.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I chase shoplifters.

RACHEL

Oh, how interesting.

INT. STRIP CLUB

Josh is sitting at a table when a COCKTAIL WAITRESS comes over.

COCKTAIL WAITRESS

Hey hon, what can I get you?

JOSH

Beer. Is Kristine working?

COCKTAIL WAITRESS

Yeah, I think she is in the VIP room.

JOSH

Can you tell her Josh is here?

Josh hands her a twenty.

COCKTAIL WAITRESS

Sure thing handsome.

Josh sits sipping a beer. Kristine sits on his lap in her g string and pasties.

KRISTINE

Hi there my sexy thief. Hard day at the office or are you just happy to see me?

JOSH

Hey, babe.

KRISTINE

What's wrong?

JOSH

Some shit went down today. They got Danny. The pigs almost got me.

KRISTINE

Oh shit. That sucks. You okay?

JOSH

I need some company. Can you leave?

KRISTINE

I got another hour in the VIP room. I got to make another two hundred or I lose my spot.

Josh takes a few hundred dollar bills and hands them to Kristine.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Hello big spender. Let me give the manager his cut and change. I will meet you out front.

Kristine gives Josh a passionate kiss.

INT. PHONE ROOM

PHONE MAN sites a desk with several telephone lines hooked up to audio recording devices. A phone rings, Phone Man checks the number and pushes a button and an older sounding woman's voice message starts to play.

RECORDING (V.O.)

Hi this is Chris's phone. I'm, not available right now, so please leave a message and I will call y'all back. Bye now.

INT. STRIP CLUB BACK ROOM

Kristine is on her cell phone

KRISTINE

Hi, mom. It's me Kristine. Just calling in to say hi and I um, met a new guy. Miss you. Talk to you soon.

INT. PHONE ROOM

Phone man checks the recording from Kristine then picks up another phone.

PHONE MAN

Yes sire.(beat) Yes Trooper Johnson just checked in. (beat) According to her message she is fine and has made contact with the target. (beat) Yes sire, her next check in is at o seven hundred hours.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Ohcha is sitting with the DON who is obscured by shadows.

THE DON

So what the fuck happened?

OCHA

We got busted.

THE DON

No, shit. That's not an answer.

OCHA

Look the cops are always setting up stings in the mall's these days. Working with the fucking Loss prevention.

THE DON

So you don't think this was an inside job?

OCHA

Look I trust my crew, plus they only got the Mexicans. No loss there and none of them will talk. I know where their families live.

THE DON

They got Danny.

OCHA

He broke protocol. He got greedy.

THE DON

He won't talk.

OCHA

No way. Danny is a stand up guy.

THE DON

That wasn't a question.

OCHA

Fuck this life. Okay I will take care of it.

THE DON

What about the rich kid?

OCHA

He's my best earner plus he is a straight up junkie.

THE DON

That's the problem with junkies. They will steal what ever you tell them to as long as we feed their beast. But they are junkies so they will sell out their mothers for a fix or to stay out of jail.

OCHA

I will look into him.

THE DON

Find the rat or I may need to make some changes in our management structure.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

MASON

Well, you caught the bad guys.

CARVER

Not really. Your partners stopped them I just helped. Been a long time since I had to chase anyone down.

They drink their beers.

CARVER (CONT'D)

So I guess I wasn't a jinx today.

MASON

What's that?

CARVER

Come on man. You must've heard all the rumors about me.

MASON

I did.

CARVER

So?

MASON

So what.

CARVER

You don't mind being partnered with a cop who has been labeled a snitch by every one in the department?

MASON

I guess that depends. Look when I moved from San Diego PD to New Orleans finest, every cop on the beat thought I was IA.

CARVER

How did you deal with that?

MASON

I made busts. Never joined into any outside activities, and kept my head down.

CARVER

You mean you never turned any one in? Never took any money to look the other way?

MASON

No, did you?

CARVER

Million dollar question.

MASON

Look. I don't care about any rumors. I don't give a shit what you did or didn't do. I'm a good cop. I bust the bad guys. I don't report what I don't see, and I go home and live my life.

CARVER

Far enough. So are you telling me I get a clean start with you?

MASON

What I am saying is, if your are a rat looking for bad cops, you are in the wrong place. If you are a good cop who just want's bust bad guys then we will get along fine.

They clink beers.

EXT. NEW ORLEANS LEVY - NIGHT

Josh and Kristine are walking by the river.

KRISTINE
So, Ocha thinks your a rat?

JOSH
Well him walking in on you and I, and then you asking him to go on run. Then we almost get pinched.

KRISTINE
Sorry. I get ahead of myself. Shoplifting just sounded like a better way to make money than jerking off perverts in the VIP room.

JOSH
You do that?

KRISTINE
Judge not Josh. Your the best they have. Ocha has to know it wasn't you.

JOSH
Look these are dangerous people. We boost hundreds of thousands of dollars a month out of those stores. That's the kind of money people kill over.

KRISTINE
Don't worry babe. I got you.

She turns and kisses him.

INT. POLICE JAIL CELL

JAIL GUARD is making rounds when he comes across Danny's body hanging from his bunk.

JAIL GUARD
Shit, shit.

Jail Guard calls into his radio.

JAIL GUARD (CONT'D)
Code blue. Cell block B, unit 19.
Code blue.

FADE OUT