

Midnight Launch

By

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FADE IN

EXT. GAME-N-GO - NIGHT

The small building sits in a modest strip mall. Shops of all kinds surround it. The neon sign glows, reading: Game N' Go.

SIX people await anxiously outside the store. Some are nerds. Some are everyday people. One is a complete OUTCAST (31) wearing a business shirt and double-breasted coat.

The nerds converse.

NERD 1 (18) ill fitting shirt, underweight.

NERD 1  
How much longer?

NERD 2 (23) round with wiry glasses.

NERD 2  
Only five more minutes.

NERD 1  
Damn you midnight, get the lead out!

Nerd 3 (22) short-sleeve button-up with a clip-on bow-tie.

NERD 3  
I can't wait. I haven't slept in two days.

NERD 2  
You guys catch that epic trailer on-line? *Two-Thousand Yards*...

All the nerds in unison.

NERDS  
Eyes that have seen man's darkest hour. His most animalistic behavior. His gaze, fixed, *two-thousand yards* ahead! War like you've never seen before!

The nerds chuckle.

The low-key group also converse.

PERSON 1 (24) wears a polo shirt and jeans.

PERSON 2 (28) sports a fashion tee and shorts.

PERSON 1  
I hope the online is decent. Forget  
the campaign.

PERSON 2  
What?! The campaign is what I'm  
here for.

PERSON 1  
Not a fan of the online, eh?

PERSON 2  
It's fun. I just get tired of  
little kids calling me gay.

Person 1 chuckles.

PERSON 2  
I mean, what am I supposed to do?  
Snap on this little shit using the  
headset?

PERSON 1  
I would.  
(Looks around)  
Check this guy out.

Person 1 points to the back of the line. Person 2 turns to  
the Outcast.

PERSON 2  
Hmm. Looks a little shaky.

PERSON 1  
Like he should be working late in  
the office. Not in line for a game.

EXT. GAME-N-GO, FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

The door swings open.

A SALES ASSOCIATE (27) skinny and buck-toothed peeks his  
head out the door.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Welcome to Game N' Go. Please form  
a line at the register, and I'll  
assist you momentarily. If-

The nerds yank the door open and dart inside. The everyday  
people follow suit. The outcast walks in slowly.

INT. GAME-N-GO - NIGHT

The store displays games everywhere for every console. Accessories hang from the wall. Magazines and candy sit in a rack next to the only two registers in the store.

The nerds jock for position. Each one wants to be first in line.

NERD 1  
Move your ass!

NERD 3  
Shut up Dexter's Laboratory. I was here first.

NERD 1  
I know hapkido! Back off man!

The outcast walks slowly up to them. He stares. They freeze. He nods his head to the side. They step aside.

The outcast approaches the register.

OUTCAST  
Two-thousand yards.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Do you have a valid ID sir?

Outcast whips his wallet out, and shows his ID. He digs out his money then tucks his wallet away.

The sales associate grabs the game. Outcast pays. Outcast leaves. In and out.

EXT. GAME-N-GO - NIGHT

The outcast breaks into a sprint. Giggling all the way to his car. Geeked.

INT. GAME-N-GO - NIGHT

BACK TO THE STORE

The everyday people then grab their copies of the same game. They leave.

The nerds are finally up. Nerd 1 leans in. He talks low.

NERD 1  
One copy of two-thousand yards  
please?

Nerd 1 bats his eyes at the other nerds. The other nerds roll their eyes.

The sales associate rings him up. Nerd 1 gets his game.

Nerd 3 steps up to the register.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
I'm sorry, that was our last copy.

NERD 3  
Wait?! What do you mean 'that was your last copy'?

SALES ASSOCIATE  
This is a small store. We weren't really expecting anyone to come.

NERD 3  
What kind of shit is that?!

Nerd 1 and 2 notice the commotion.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Sir, I'm sorry. If you come back tomorrow I-

NERD 3  
Fuck that!

The sales associate jumps back.

NERD 3  
I wan't my copy now! I pre-ordered it!

SALES ASSOCIATE  
I'm sorry, but-

NERD 3  
Your going to be real sorry if you don't get me my copy of that game.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Sir?

NERD 2  
Hey, calm down man. No need to get all upset.

Nerd 3 turns to nerd 2...

NERD 3  
Oh, fuck off!

Then to nerd 1. He eyes his copy of two-thousand yards.

Nerd 3 turns back to the sales associate.

NERD 3  
Either go into your little back  
room, and dig me up a copy...or...  
none of us will be leaving this  
store. Not until I get what I paid  
for!

The sales associate eyes the man. The associate shakes his head.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Sir, I'm going home. So are these  
two gentlemen. You too.

Nerd 3's eyes go blank. A smirk crawls across his face.  
Two-thousand yard stare.

The sales associate directs his focus to the other two nerds.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Thanks for choosing Game N' Go.  
Come see us agai-

BANG! BANG!

The smoking gun points to the sky. The false ceiling rains debris over nerd 3. The other two nerds react. They bolt out the front door.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Please sir?! Oh my God-oh my God-oh  
my God!

Nerd 3 brings his gun down. He leans against the desk. The associate crouches behind the desk. His eyes peek over the top.

NERD 3  
Now, let's try this again. Where is  
my game?

SALES ASSOCIATE  
We ran out. I'm sorry.

NERD 3  
Wrong answer.

The sales associate smacks his forehead.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Wait! What game did you pre-order  
again?

Nerd 3 studies him.

NERD 3  
What game did I pre-order?

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Well sir, we had more than one game  
we were doing a midnight release  
for.

The sales associate hops up, and goes through his computer.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
Ah! Here it is...Two-Thousand  
Yards...Sally Smartypants  
2...Nucleus Man...MidEvil  
Meddling...and...Beat down Boxing.

NERD 3  
So, you do have it?

SALES ASSOCIATE  
If you mean Two-thousand  
yards...no. I don't.

NERD 3  
No you nincompoop! Sally  
Smartypants 2?

Sales associate stares.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
You've got to be kidding me?

NERD 3  
After that cliff-hanger ending in  
that first game. I got to know what  
happens in the second one!

Nerd 3 flashes a juvenile smile. He takes out his wallet,  
and dumps his money on the table. The associate,  
flabbergasted, gets his game.

Nerd 3 grins his way out of the store. The associate watches him leave. Nerd 3 is gone.

The sales associate looks at the mess. The hole in the ceiling. He shakes his head.

SALES ASSOCIATE  
It's just a damn game, dude!

END