

QUIET

Written by

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INT. RETAIL STORE AISLE 14 - NIGHT

ROSS, late teens, has one ear bud in, listening to a podcast and stocking a shelf.

He checks his watch and see's that it's one thirty in the morning. Ross stops stocking the shelf and walks out of the aisle.

EXT. RETAIL STORE - NIGHT

The moon beams hit Ross as he sits alone and eats his lunch at the store's employee picnic table.

He see's a group of coworkers who look to be ten to twenty years older than him. They're laughing, sharing stories and smoking cigarettes. He checks his phone and picks another podcast to listen to.

INT. RETAIL STORE AISLE 14 - MORNING

Ross is in the same aisle just stacking a different shelf.

He checks his watch and it's almost six in the morning. He quickly finishes stocking the shelf. He uses a pallet jack to raise the empty pallet and exits the aisle.

INT. ROSS'S CAR - MORNING

Ross's car is old and beat up. It's clear that it's his first car. It's not suppose to be nice. Just reliable enough to not leave him stranded.

Ross gets into old reliable. Starts it up and drives out of the parking lot.

INT. - COLLEGE CLASSROOM - MORNING

Ross has an energy drink cracked open and is taking notes of the college class he's attending.

INT. ROSS'S CAR - MORNING

Ross gets into his car. Toss's the now empty energy drink into his backseat and drives away.

INT. ROSS'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Sun beams peak through black curtains and show a small but tidy bedroom.

The sound of the key entering the doors key hole echoes throughout the room.

The door unlocks and enters ross. He drops his backpack as soon as he walks in and throws his keys on his dresser.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Ross turns the water on. Tests to see if the water temperature meets his needs. It does.

Water sprays out of the shower head, Ross undresses and enters the shower.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Ross reaches for a bowl, a cereal box, and grabs milk out of the fridge. He pours himself a bowl of cereal, plugs in his earbuds and watches a video on his phone as he eats his quick breakfast.

INT. ROSS'S BEDROOM

Ross puts his phone and earbuds on charge. Throws himself on his bed and proceeds to fall asleep.

Some time passes.

LOUD MUSIC begins to play and scares Ross awake. He sits up. He realizes it's his sister, JANE, mid teens, playing her loud music.

ROSS
(yells)
Jane! Turn it down!

The music gets quieter but its still loud enough for Ross to hear. He looks at the time and its four in the afternoon. Ross puts the pillow over his head but its not enough to drown out the music.

The sun beams in Ross's room soon get darker and darker.

Ross is still awake as his phone alarm starts to BLARE.

He rolls his eyes. His long night is about to start.

INT. RETAIL STORE - AISLE 14 - NIGHT

Ross is exhausted and stocking the shelf. The podcast he's listening to, sounds like muffled voices.

He looks at his watch and see's it reads, one thirty in the morning.

ROSS

Finally.

INT. ROSS'S CAR - NIGHT

Ross gets in the backseat of his car and lays down. Instead of eating on his lunch break, he's decides to nap.

As quick as his eyes shut, they reopen to his phone alarm BLARING.

INT. RETAIL STORE - AISLE 14 - MORNING

Ross looks at his watch and it's almost six in the morning. He looks over to his pallet and it's still halfway full of product.

ROSS

Fuck.

Ross raises his pallet with the pallet jack and exits the aisle with it.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - MORNING

An energy drink is open but it's not enough to keep Ross awake. He's slumped over the desk. Sleeping.

He scares himself awake as his classmates begin to get up and walk out.

Class has ended.

INT. ROSS'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ross is exhausted from the day. He doesn't bother with showering or eating. He just throws himself on his bed and falls asleep.

LOUD MUSIC PLAYS.

It startles Ross awake. He looks at his watch and see's that it's four in the afternoon.

It could be only one person.

ROSS
(yells)
Jane! Turn it down!

The music gets quieter but its still loud enough to hear.

Ross changes into his pajamas. Puts his phone and earbuds on charge. He lays back down but it's a waste of time.

The sun beams get darker. Ross just stares at his ceiling as his phone alarm begins to BLARE!

Ross rubs his face. Get's up and starts getting ready for his long night.

INT. RETAIL STORE - AISLE 14 - NIGHT

Ross walks down the aisle and see's the pallet he didn't finish from the previous night and a full pallet for tonight.

BOSS, late thirties, walks over to Ross.

BOSS
I saw that you didn't finish that pallet so I had it brought out. If you have problems let me know.

ROSS
Ok. I can finish both. I'm sorry for not finishing last night.

BOSS
You're fine. I know you're dealing with school. Just let me know if you fall behind again.

ROSS
Ok. No problem.

Boss, walks out of the aisle. Ross plugs his earbuds in and gets to work.

He looks at his watch and it reads one thirty in the morning.

Ross doesn't stop working. He watches his coworkers walk down his aisle to their lunch.

Time passes.

Ross is able to finish stocking the shelves. He puts the pallet jack underneath the two empty pallets and leaves his aisle.

INT. RETAIL STORE - AISLE 20 - MORNING

Ross, exhausted, is looking at a selection of ear plugs. He chooses a pair and exits the aisle.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - MORNING

Ross is on his second wind because of the energy drink he's finished. He's attentive and taking notes.

INT. ROSS'S BEDROOM

Ross has looks showered and ready for bed as he sits on his bed. Puts his phone and ear buds on charge.

He lays down and puts in his new ear plugs.

Ross. Asleep.

LOUD MUSIC. Starts to play.

It doesn't immediately wake Ross up but... eventually...

Ross's eyes become WIDE OPEN. He takes the ear plugs out and the music is BLARING.

ROSS
What the fuck man?!

Ross angrily gets up.

He doesn't know what to do at this point. He's done everything he can think of to drown out the music.

Until...

He notices his earbuds charging.

Ross quickly takes them off charge and storms out of his room.

ROSS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Here! Takes these. I'll grab them from you when I leave for work.

Ross storms back into his bedroom. Slams the door. Gets back into his bed and shuts his eyes.

He waits.

He's finally achieved peace and quiet. He's able to fall back asleep.

But then...

Jane, singing along to her music at the top of her lungs, startles Ross awake.

Ross is defeated and just accepts that this is the most quiet it'll get.

ROSS (CONT'D)
I wish I was a heavy sleeper.