

Undercover Security

Written by

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FADE IN

COLD OPEN

Montage of people shopping in shopping malls/Department stores.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Every day, shoppers flock to malls and department stores for the latest fashion trends. But not all them have honest intentions.

Montage of people shoplifting.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Every year retailers lose billions of dollars to shoplifters. To combat these crimes, retailers hire Loss Prevention Detectives.

Montage of undercover store security apprehending shoplifters.

INT. SURVEILLANCE OFFICE

Sitting in front of a bank of T.V. monitors are DAN RUSKER, 20's, and LYDIA WASHINGTON, 30's.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
This season on Store Detectives, we will follow the L.P. professionals at Dullards—a low-end department store located in one of the most poverty-stricken cities in America. Staffed by community college dropouts and Police academy rejects.

Dan looks at the Camera.

DAN  
You know we can hear you, right?

LYDIA  
Hey, I'm on the honor roll at the Taylor Swift Community College.

DAN  
And our town ain't so poor. Hell, we got a Walmart. They don't just open those anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYDIA

What we don't got is a Target.

DAN

Hell, when did they close?

LYDIA

Last year. Too much theft. Lost my job as head of security.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Please don't break the fourth wall.  
Just pretend we're not here.

Dan and Lydia stare at the camera with a scowl, then go back to watching the monitors. Dan starts eating a sandwich.

LYDIA

Oh my god, what is that smell?

DAN

My lunch.

LYDIA

Ugh, what the hell is in it?

DAN

It's a mix of head cheese, onions, garlic, and pimiento loaf.

LYDIA

I think I'm going to barf. Why would you eat that?

DAN

Don't judge; it's my people's food.

LYDIA

What people? You were born in a trailer park.

DAN

Trailer Park people are a "people," too.

Lydia looks at Dan in disgust, then turns her attention to the T.V. monitors.

LYDIA

Oh, look at this.

DAN

You got something? I need to chase somebody.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LYDIA  
Nah, just some little girl looking at  
Doll stuff.

Dan looks over at Lydia's monitor.

DAN  
That's sweet. Look at her checking  
out all the new doll clothes. Reminds  
me of my niece.

TV MONITOR

LITTLE GIRL SHOPLIFTER VICKIE, 8 to 10, with her large doll,  
is sitting in the aisle looking at doll clothes and  
accessories packages. She looks around, pulls out a knife,  
and starts cutting open boxes.

Back to scene.

LYDIA  
Well, I hope your niece isn't s a  
klepto; that kid's about to go to  
town in Toys.

DAN  
What?

LYDIA  
She's cutting open boxes.

DAN  
Shit, she's going for it. Zoom in.

Lydia starts to zoom the CCTV camera in on the Little  
Shoplifter Vickie, and Dan leans over, spilling part of his  
sandwich on the camera controller and Lydia's hand.

LYDIA  
God dammit, you got that crap all  
over my hand.

TV MONITOR

Little Shoplifter Vickie is taking the clothes and  
accessories out of the boxes, then she takes the head off  
her large doll and starts to shove everything into the doll.

BACK TO SCENE

LYDIA  
Do we go and stop her?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAN  
Hell yeah.

LYDIA  
But she's just a kid.

DAN  
She's old enough to steal; she's old  
enough to deal. Plus, we need the  
case. We ain't caught no one all day.  
(beat)She's moving; follow her.

Lydia is trying to control the camera while she cleans Dan's sandwich off her hand.

LYDIA  
I'm trying, but you got your trailer  
trash hoagie all over the controller.

TV MONITOR

Little Shoplifter heads to the exit.

BACK TO SCENE

DAN  
She's heading for the exit. We gotta  
go.

Dan and Lydia run out of the office, Lydia wiping the sandwich off on her Jacket. Lydia smells herself.

LYDIA  
Damn, that shit stinks.

EXT. DEPARTMENT STORE EXIT - DAY

Little Shoplifter Vickie is walking out of the exit dragging her stuffed doll, passing NELLY a sign waiver, waving a going out of a business sign that reads "BJ's Going Out of Business Sale. All BJ's Half Off."

NELLY  
Hey, kid, where you going dragging  
that natty doll?

Little Shoplifter stares at Nelly and then sticks her tongue out to Nelly.

NELLY (CONT'D)  
You little bitch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dan and Lydia come out of the exit and get in front of Little Shoplifter, who looks at them confused. Dan displays his LP Badge.

DAN  
Store security. Hold it right there.

LYDIA  
Hey little girl, are your mommy and daddy around to discuss the merchandise you got in that doll?

Little Shoplifter stands staring angrily at Dan and Lydia.

NELLY  
Watch out, rent-a cops, that girl is evil.

LYDIA  
Shut up, Nelly; you retail Grim Reaper.

Little Shoplifter Vickie looks as if she is about to run.

DAN  
Don't do it, little girl.

Little Shoplifter starts to scream at the top of her lungs. People leaving the store are staring at the scene.

LYDIA  
Look, little girl, just give us back what you stole.

Dan approaches Little Shoplifter.

DAN  
Okay, you little felon, give Uncle Dan the doll.

Dan reaches for the doll, and Little Shoplifter bites Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Goddammit, you little...

Little Shoplifter kicks Dan, ducks under Dan and Lydia, and takes off running.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Damn it. Stop; you're under arrest.

Dan and Lydia take off running after Little Shoplifter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAN (CONT'D)  
I said stop.

LYDIA  
(puffing)  
I don't know why... you always... say  
that. They... never.... stop.

TITLES: "Undercover Security"

Opening

IN. OFFICE

Sitting behind a desk is JON MASON, 40's ordinary looking,  
plainly dressed.

JON  
(to camera)  
Um, hi. I'm Jon Mason, manager of  
loss prevention for Dullards  
Department store.

Jon looks around, nervous about being on Camera. Jon points  
to some generic motivational posters on his walls.

JON (CONT'D)  
Um, this is my office. I get my own  
office because I'm the manager.  
Right, I said that.

Jon picks up a mug that reads, "World's best boss."

JON (CONT'D)  
This is my coffee mug. I use it every  
day, for, you know, coffee. It reads  
the world's best boss. It was here  
when I arrived, but I pretended it  
was from my team.

There is a commotion outside the office; Jon looks around.

JON (CONT'D)  
That's my team. They must have caught  
a shoplifter. Good job, team.

Jon drums his fingers on his desk.

JON (CONT'D)  
Oh, we have these badges.

Jon pulls out a badge in a wallet that reads "Dullards L.P.  
Manager." Jon gets up and walks around the desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JON (CONT'D)

We use it when we stop the bad guys.

Jon demonstrates, gets very serious, and then pulls out his badge dramatically.

JON

Stop. Loss Prevention.

Jon puts the badge back in his back pocket.

JON (CONT'D)

Like playing cops and robbers, except, well, we're not cops. And the badge is plastic. (beat) But still pretty cool.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Dan and Lydia are leading a handcuffed Little Shoplifter Vickie in tiny handcuffs into the office with her angry Parents, MOM, and DAD.

DAN

Okay, give me all the merchandise you stole.

DAD

How dare you drag my daughter in here, in handcuffs no less. I will sue the pants off of you and this store.

LYDIA

Look, we got her on Camera.

Mall Cop enters carrying an oversized pretzel.

MALL COP

Hey, did you know you can have the old pretzels from The Pretzel King for free? They just throw them in the trash. So, what have we got here?

INT. MALL DAY PREVIOUS

Mall Cop is leaning on a railing giving an interview to the T.V. camera, holding a foot-long hot dog.

MALL COP

So, the Fellowship Town Police Department assigned me to mall duty.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

MALL COP (CONT'D)

Yeah, it's a pretty important job.  
Yeah, I keep the peace around here.  
You could say I'm feared but  
respected.

A group of teenagers walks past Mall Cop.

TEEN BOY

Lose some weight, rent-a-pig.

Mall Cop looks after them angrily.

MALL COP

Hey, show the badge some respect.

TEEN BOY (O.S.)

Fat lives matter.

Mall Cop

It's not very PC to body shame.

TEEN BOY (O.S.)

Whatever, officer PTSD.

MALL COP

Anyway, if it weren't for me, this  
Mall would be a haven for criminals.  
Yep, I..

The Teen boy runs up and knocks the foot-long hot dog from  
Mall Cop and runs off. The mall cop runs after Teen Boy.

MALL COP (CONT'D)

I'm going to tell your dad, the  
Chief, about this.

BACK TO SCENE

MOM

Good, the police are here. I want you  
to arrest these idiots for kidnapping  
my daughter.

MALL COP

Why is this little girl in handcuffs?

LYDIA

We got her on video loading the doll  
up with merch. Then she walked out  
without paying.

MALL COP

No way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN  
Here's the video.

Dan plays the video showing shoplifting.

MOM  
Oh my god, Vickie, what did you do?

DAD  
There must be some mistake.

MALL COP  
All right, little criminal, give me  
the doll.

Mall Cop reaches for the doll.

DAN/LYDIA  
(yelling)  
NO, DON'T.

Vickie bites him; Mall Cop screams and then tries to hit Vickie with his pretzel, Mom and Dad try to restrain Mall Cop. Mall Cop grabs the head of the doll; the doll head pops off, and doll clothes start to spill out while Dan and Lydia look on.

LYDIA  
Where did you get those tiny  
handcuffs anyway?

JON  
I bought them after those kids  
attacked the drunk Mall Santa when he  
told them Santa isn't real.

LYDIA  
Ah.

INT DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Jon is walking through the store with a clipboard.

JON  
So, a very important part of my job  
is to conduct audits.

INT. FINE JEWELRY COUNTER

Jon is counting rings in a fine jewelry display. As Jon counts, the CASHIER in the background is ringing up customers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JON  
(Softly to himself)  
One, two, three...

CASHIER  
That will be fifty-five dollars.

Jon is thrown off his count and starts to count again.

JON  
One, two, three...

CASHIER  
Yes, that will be ten dollars and  
fifty-five cents.

Jon gets frustrated. The cashier leaves, and as Jon starts to count again, he is interrupted by the JEWELRY CUSTOMER.

JON  
One, two, three..

J.C.  
Hi, can you show me that ring?

Jon looks and sees no sales clerk around.

JON  
Oh, uh, well, I don't work in this  
department.

J.C.  
But you work for the store, correct?

JON  
Yeah but..

J.C.  
Great, let me see that ring.

Cut to Jon behind the counter while the customer looks at the ring. Then, Jon speaks to the Camera.

JON  
Sometimes you have to wear many hats  
in the retail biz. After all, the  
customers pay our salaries. You know  
what they say...

As Jon speaks in the background, the Jewelry Customer looks around and pockets the ring. Then, the Camera Man starts to motion to Jon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JON (CONT'D)

The customer is always..

CAMERAMAN

Um, hey, I think that guy is stealing  
that ring.

The Jewelry Customer looks around and runs out of the store. Jon realizes what's happened and goes to chase him but runs into a half door and falls over it.

INT. COMMERCIAL STAGE

Five Wives #1-#5 are sitting on chairs and dressed as sister wives.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's that special time of year, and  
you want to show your wives how much  
they mean to you.

The Sister Wives are all giggling.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And you're looking for that unique  
ring for these special concubines.

Sister Wives look at their different rings and then at the others with jealousy.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But most upscale department stores  
only carry a few designs, which might  
not go over too well with your  
ladies.

The Sister Wives start to square off with each other getting ready to rumble.

Shot of a scared-looking Cult Husband.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that might cause trouble in your  
poly-amorous dream world.

The Sister Wives start to fight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 But what if you could find a  
 department store with stock that  
 understands your weird religious cult  
 to give each of your wives a ring  
 that makes her/them feel special, yet  
 precisely the same?

The Sister Wives stop fighting and look at the Camera.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Come to Dullard's fine jewelry  
 department; we carry all our stock in  
 bulk.

The Sister Wives are all handed the same cheap-looking ring  
 from a little girl dressed as a mini-sister wife. They all  
 look at their hands with love. And start to hug each other.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 So, when you love more than one  
 woman, get them a ring that they will  
 love and that keeps them in line. Get  
 them a ring from Dullard's, one ring  
 to rule them all collection.

Cult Husband looks relieved then the Sister Wives all come  
 to kiss him.

INT DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

MAINTENANCE PERSON #1 and #2 are standing over a hole in the  
 sales floor.

MAINTENANCE #1  
 Damn, that's a big hole.

MAINTENANCE #2  
 Yep.

MAINTENANCE #1  
 So, what do we do?

MAINTENANCE #2  
 No budget to fix it. Stores falling  
 apart.

MAINTENANCE #1  
 So, we cover it up?

Maintenance Guy #2 grabs a rug off a display and places it,  
 barely covering the hole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAINTENANCE GUY #2  
A customer might fall through it,  
though.

Maintenance Guy #2 looks around and finds a rounder of Jared Subway T-Shirts with a sign that reads Sale \$1 on it and rolls it over the rug covering the hole.

MAINTENANCE GUY#1  
Good thinking. No one wants these.

MAINTENANCE GUY#2  
Yep.

MAINTENANCE GUY#1  
Whoa, that was a workout. Break time.

INT. STORE

THAT GUY SHOPLIFTER is walking through the store. Dan is chatting up a female employee when he sees That Guy. Dan calls on his radio.

DAN  
Hey, cams, it's D one.

LYDIA (V.O.)  
Damn it, Dan, can't you speak  
English?

DAN  
Fine. Lydia, it's That Guy, and he's  
in men's sportswear.

LYDIA (V.O.)  
Wait.... Okay, I got him. Oh shit,  
he's going good. And he looks good  
too. He must be working out.

DAN  
Focus.

LYDIA (V.O.)  
Right, Okay, he's loading up half a  
table.

CAMERA VIEW

That Guy is loading shirts into a bag.

BACK TO SCENE

Dan is running to an exit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN  
Where is he?

LYDIA (V.O.)  
He's heading for the east exit.

DAN  
Okay, this time, I got him.

LYDIA (V.O.)  
Shit, why are you even trying? You  
ain't never gonna catch That Guy.

DAN  
Today is my lucky day.

That Guy exits the store, places an elastic band over the door handles, and then runs off. Dan hits the doors, and they pop open. Dan tries to push them open, and they pop back in his face. Dan falls backward, then jumps up to see That Guy driving off in a supped-up Roadrunner, beeping his horn. Nelly is standing outside the mall laughing; her sign reads, "Miss Nora's BDSM Going out of Business. All Ball Gags half off."

DAN (CONT'D)  
God damn you to hell.

Lydia is laughing over the radio.

LYDIA (V.O.)  
I will add this video to the  
collection of That Guy getting away  
from You on our Facebook page.

DAN  
I asked you to take that down.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Store employee LAYLA is sitting at a table. Across from her are Jon and Lydia.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Employee theft accounts for over  
sixty percent of company losses,  
mainly because retail is a thankless  
low, paying hell-scape.

LAYLA  
So, what do y'all want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jon shows Layla a video of her stealing a hundred dollars out of a cash drawer.

JON

So, this is a video of you stealing money from your cash drawer.

LAYLA

Well, it's not what it looks like... you know what, fuck it. Yeah, I did it. You know why y'all don't pay me enough in this dead-end fucking job.

JON

So, you admit it.

LAYLA

Admit it, hell, I'm proud of it. You know what it's like to work in retail?

JON

Well, I....

LAYLA

I'm not talking to you, you management Gestapo; I'm talking to my home girl here.

LYDIA

Me?

LAYLA

Yeah, you. How much are they paying you?

LYDIA

Like twenty an hour.

LAYLA

Oh, they pay me minimum wage, but you get an extra fifteen dollars to protect the man's property. And bust the poor workers.

JON

That's not the point. If we could get back to..

LAYLA

Nope, do not try to silence my indignation. I stole that money because I don't make any money and I got bills.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

LAYLA (CONT'D)

Plus, I gotta put up with all these customers' bullshit, and I can't even pay the motherfucking rent.

JON

Okay, I'm going to call the cops now.

Jon gets out his cell phone.

LAYLA

Go ahead and call the cops, and I'm going to... I'm going to start a union.

JON

Wait, what?

LAYLA

I'm going to start a motherfucking union up in this bitch. Come on, homegirl, you in to stick it to the man?

LYDIA

Oh, hell yeah.

JON

Wait, um, let's talk about this.

LAYLA

Hell no, the time for talk is over. We gonna AOC this bitch.

Layla stands up on the conference table.

LAYLA (CONT'D)

UNION... UNION.

Lydia joins in.

LYDIA

UNION.. UNION,

JON

Wait, I think there was a mistake here. We can clear this up, um, how about...

LAYLA

Give me money, you kaki-wearing corporate flunky.

CUT TO LATER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Jon is handing out cash to Layla from his wallet. Lydia puts her hand out too.

JON

Nope, you are a security employee; you can't join a Union. That's why we pay you more.

LYDIA

I thought it was for risking my life-fighting meatheads stealing Air Jordans?

INT. STORE COSMETICS

JULIE BASSARD is flirting with a Male Fragrance model. Lydia calls Julie over the radio.

LYDIA (V.O.)

Hey, Julie. Are you working the floor? Because we have a problem customer in shoes. Over.

JULIE

I'm actually following a suspicious shopper. Over.

LYDIA

Girl, I can see you on camera. Stop flirting with Mr. Polo and get your ass to shoes. Over.

INT. SHOES

Julie is walking through the department and talking to the T.V. crew.

JULIE

Sometimes we get called to deal with problem customers because of our de-escalation skills.

Julie turns a corner and sees KAREN CUSTOMER and SHOE ASSOCIATE, locked in a knockdown fight. Julie runs over to break them up.

CUT TO A FEW MINUTES LATER

Julie is talking to Karen Customer, who is in handcuffs. Shoe Associate is in the background getting bandaged.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Now, what the hell is your problem?

KAREN CUSTOMER.

Well, I bought these shoes for my son last year, and now they don't fit him anymore. And that bitch won't give me my money back.

Karen Customer tries to get up and go back at Shoe Associate, Julie pushes Karen back into her chair and gives the Camera a WTF look.

INT. OFFICES

Jon is waiting to speak with the STORE MANAGER.

JON

So as the L.P. Manager, I often meet with the Store Manager. I'm like an Assistant Store Manager.

STORE MANAGER, female, 40's; angry-looking marches in.

STORE MANAGER

Jon, my office.

Jon jumps up to follow her. Store Manager sees the film crew.

STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Who the fuck are they.

JON

Oh, the T.V. crew? I told you we are being featured on Store Detectives this season.

Store Manager stares at the Crew.

STORE MANAGER

Are they paying us?

Jon looks at the Crew. The Camera shakes no.

STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)

They stay outside of my office. Oh, and people online call the show Store Dicks.

Store Manager flips off the T.V. crew on the way to her office.

INT. OFFICES

The door to the Store Manager's office is open enough to see Jon standing and the Store Manager sitting and scolding him.

STORE MANAGER

Jon, what the fuck is going on with your department?

JON

I don't know what you mean. They caught a shoplifter this morning.

STORE MANAGER

Well, bra- fucking-vo. But they also got hit by a professional who stole half of the men's sportswear.

JON

(laughing)  
Oh, right, "That Guy."

Jon air quotes.

STORE MANAGER

"That Guy."

Store Manager air quotes.

JON

Yeah, he's this super shoplifter. Dan's been trying to catch him, but That Guy not only gets away but Dan constantly gets humiliated. Lydia has a whole YouTube channel. It's hilarious.

Jon takes out his phone to show Store Manager, then looks at the scowl on her face and puts his phone away.

STORE MANAGER

So, let me get this straight, a shoplifter is stealing thousands of dollars from our store while embarrassing one of your team, and that's funny to you?

JON

No ma..

Store Manger shoots Jon a nasty look.

JON (CONT'D)

No. It's not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STORE MANAGER

Here is a list of things I had to deal with today because of you and your team.

Store Manager starts reading from a list.

STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)

The Mall cop tried to beat up a little girl and her parents.

JON

Well, the little girl did steal over five hundred dollars in doll clothes, and she bit him and it was only his pretzel, so not as bad as it sounds.

STORE MANAGER

Okay. We covered the massive theft in Men's sportswear. Oh, here's a fun one. My L.P. Manager violated security policy, letting a thief hold and then steal a twenty-thousand-dollar ring.

JON

Okay, now with that one, I was trying to give good customer service, and the customer is always..

STORE MANAGER

The customer was a thief. And what is this about an employee who stole from her register trying to start a union?

JON

Oh, I handled that one already; nothing to worry about. Crisis averted.

Jon sounds confident about his success.

STORE MANAGER

How much did you pay her?

Jon is less confident.

JON

Sixty bucks.

STORE MANAGER

So, I'm out one hundred, plus the twenty grand ring, and you lost sixty bucks. That's what a day's pay.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Look, Jon, the fact is the store is not doing well. Keep this between us, but the store is probably going to close.

JON

Wait, what?

STORE MANAGER

We are losing sales, and the theft is out of control. Worse than that sad Target.(beat) And the only reason I am not shit-canning you and your team of incompetent, drooling troglodytes is that when the store does close (beat), I'm going to throw you so far under the bus to save myself the skid marks on your underwear are going to read Goodyear.

INT. SURVEILLANCE OFFICE

Jon walks in while Lydia and Dan sit at the monitors and joke around.

DAN

This time it's going to work.

LYDIA

No way. That Guy is always going to get away from your slow redneck ass.

DAN

I'm telling you; I got the perfect plan. It can't fail.

JON

Hey, look, I need to talk to you both.

DAN

Hold on, boss. Look, when that scumbag comes in, I got the perfect trap.

INT. STORE WOMEN'S WEAR PREVIOUS

Dan is moving a leather jacket to a rounder with the Jared Subway t-shirts over the hole. Dan talks to the Camera.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN

So, I know what That Guy goes after; he always wants the latest fashion. So, we just got in this six-hundred-dollar leather jacket. He won't be able to resist it.

Dan then places the Jacket in the middle of the rounder. Then he connects a cable to it like a battery cable.

DAN (CONT'D)

So, I bought this electric cord online that will electrify the metal hanger, then zap. That Guy gets fifty thousand volts.

Dan then shows the cord leading to an electrical outlet. Dan then places a sign on the top of the rounder that reads, "Men's Leather Jacket \$600.00".

DAN (CONT'D)

This is going to be awesome.

BACK TO SCENE

As Dan and Lydia talk about how stupid Dan's plan is, a group of TEENAGERS Enters the store.

LYDIA

That is the stupidest idea you have ever had.

JON

Hey, um, what's happening on the sales floor?

Dan and Lydia stop arguing and look at the monitors. Suddenly the TEENAGERS burst into a Flash Mob Dance.

LYDIA

Oh, that's one of those flash mob dances. I love those.

The Teenagers are doing an incredible choreographed dance routine. Jon and Lydia are enjoying the dance. Dan looks concerned.

JON

Wow, this is nice. I needed something to cheer me up.

DAN

Aren't these covers for...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Suddenly the Teenagers start to grab merchandise and run for the exits.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Grab and runs.

Dan, Lydia, and Jon bolt from the office.

INT. STORE

Dan, Lydia, and Jon are trying to grab some of the Teenage Shoplifters, but they keep missing them. Finally, Jon, Dan, and Lydia are exhausted and standing at the exit.

JON  
So, I was going to tell you both  
(panting) that if we  
don't (panting)  
get the theft under (panting)  
control. (panting) The store is going  
to (panting) close.

Lydia looks around.

LYDIA  
Great, time to update my resume  
(beat) Again.

DAN  
So, we're basically fucked.

INT. WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Store Manager is walking the sales floor when she notices the sign and the Leather Jacket. At the same time, That Guy is heading for it, then That Guy hides to watch.

STORE MANAGER  
Damn it. Who the hell put this men's  
Jacket on the wrong damn display?

Store Manager looks around.

STORE MANAGER (CONT'D)  
And, of course, there is no one  
around if you want it done right.

Store Manager grabs the Jacket at the top of the hanger and is electrocuted. Then the hole opens under the rug, and the rounder and Store Manager fall through, still holding the electrified jacket hanger and dangling in the hole, jerking around. That Guy laughs and runs off.



INT. MALL-DAY

Mall Manager MIKE STOKOWSKI, 60's heavy set, is standing in front of a Mall Kiosk.

MIKE

Do you have crafting crap you are trying to sell? Have you been trying to sell stuff online but need help getting the bang for da buck?

Mike starts to walk past empty Mall kiosks.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Did you join one of those get-rich-quick multi-level marketing scams with your life savings, and now you have a ton of useless products no one wants and you need to sell it before they repossess your car? Then you should rent a mall Kiosk.

Mike walks by more empty Mall Kiosks.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Or maybe you are a religious cult trying to brainwash people with a massage or trying to sell body creams from the dead sea? Then a Mall Kiosk is definitely for you.

We see more Mall Kiosks.

MIKE (CONT'D)

So, contact me: Mike, Manager of the Fellowship Town Mall. And let me get you into a Mall Kiosk to suit your needs.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCER

To find out about a Mall Kiosk, call 555-555-6555. Or check out our webpage. [failingmall.com](http://failingmall.com)

MIKE

Mall Kiosks are also a great way to launder money from illegal activities. Why do you think Mall Kiosks still exist?

EXT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Store Manager is being led out on a stretcher. Jon, Dan, and Lydia are standing near the stretcher.

Store Manager motions for Jon to come closer. Jon goes and leans in; Store Manager whispers something to Jon. Then Store Manager is led away.

LYDIA

What did she say?

JON

She said to thank Dan; she's going out on workers comp, then sue the company and retire to the Ozarks.

DAN

That's so her. Even injured, she's thinking about us.

JON

She also said that she hopes we all rot in hell.

Jon and Lydia stare at Dan.

DAN

What?

Lydia, Dan, and Jon start to walk back to the store.

LYDIA

You electrocuted the Store Manager with your crazy stunt.

DAN

Yeah, well, if she hadn't ruined it, I would have "That Guy" in cuffs right now.

LYDIA

You're nuts, you know that, right?

JON

It's official; I live in retail hell.

FADE OUT