CART BOY

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FADE IN:

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

CART BOY (good-looking young man wearing an apron over his grocery store uniform) walks down the isle, scanning the shelves, straightening items without stopping. The theme to 'Mighty Mouse' plays quietly in the background.

The camera takes a first person view; we see through Cart Boy's eyes as he hurriedly walks through the aisles, looking everywhere. The camera shakes. He is searching for something. He is on a mission. CART BOY has come to save the day!

He approaches an Old Lady who looks confused. She turns towards the camera, looking directly into it.

OLD LADY
Excuse me young man. Can you tell me where the...

The Old Lady's voice quickly fades out and she disappears from sight as the camera moves quickly by.

An arm and index finger extends from the camera and points in a different direction in an effortless attempt to steer the lady to where "whatever it was" is...

The Old Lady obviously feels ignored and angry as Cart Boy passes her by.

OLD LADY
Young man!

Cart Boy whisks past the old lady and almost immediately comes up on a HOUSEWIFE looking at canned goods. Behind her, unrestrained inside the cart, is a TODDLER GIRL jumping around wildly. Cart Boy picks up the little girl and places her in the cart seat and buckles the restraint around her waist. The HOUSEWIFE turns around, shocked. He waves his finger at her.
Cart Boy turns a corner entering the produce department. An ELDERLY GENT fondles some produce, squeezing the tomatoes too hard. The man puts a few tomatoes in a plastic bag and spins the bag closed without using a tie. As he reaches out to place the bag in his cart Cart Boy grabs the bag, ties a proper knot and hands it back to the stunned Elderly Gent.

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - DAY

A small Ford Focus drives through the parking lot looking for a parking spot.

INT. FORD FOCUS - DAY

CINDY SMITH drives the car. Sitting in the passenger seat is CHAD SMITH (Cindy's husband). He points to an empty spot.

HUSBAND
Right there. Right there!! Stop.
Back up.

The wife calmly parks the car.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Cart Boy quickly and frantically scours another aisle. The camera closes in on an attractive lady in the aisle. She is on her knees picking up dropped can goods from the shelf. The camera gets down to her level right next to her.

ATTRACTIVE LADY
Thank you.

Her smile quickly changes to a look of concern. Cart boy extends his arms, grabs a few cans, and quickly puts them back on the shelf. He shakes a damaged can of baked beans at the Attractive Woman, then abruptly walks away.

INT. GROCERY STORE ENTRANCE - DAY

Cindy and Chad Smith get out their list, grab a cart and begin to shop.
INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Still in first person view, Cart Boy cleans up a spill on aisle 6. There are yellow caution cones halfway down the aisle.

Chad and Cindy turn the corner and begin the approach into Cart Boy's spill zone. Cart Boy extends his arms and frantically waves them off. The camera shakes and he waves his arm, he's angry.

The couple looks at Cart Boy in surprise then turn around.

INT. CHECKOUT COUNTER - DAY

The Smiths checkout.

INT. AISLE 3 - DAY

Cart Boy quickly walks down the aisle and sees the same lost Old Lady from earlier. He extends his index finger in a different direction and whizzes past her.

OLD LADY
(Dismayed)
Young man! Young man! Excuse me!

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Cart Boy collects runaway carts in the parking lot.

The Smith's Ford Focus turns the wrong way down a one-way lane and approaches Cart Boy slowly in their vehicle. Cart Boy eyes them as they approach. He draws his eyebrows together. His lips turn down in a frown. They go slower. The showdown has begun.

HUSBAND
(to Cindy)
Go around him.

WIFE
(to Chad)
Will you let me drive the car?

Suddenly Cart Boy dashes toward their car.

HUSBAND
(worried)
Look Out.

Cart Boy jumps in front of the Smith's car, arms outstretched in a firm 'Stop'. He's not going to let them pass. He begins waving his hands frantically. His mouth opens wide in a scream. He is screaming but not a sound is heard; the camera is inside the car facing him, situated in the back seat looking out between the couple. We can see the back of the Smith's heads as well as Cart Boy. The camera slowly zooms in and focuses on Cart Boy's now contorted face.

OUTSIDE THE CAR

In SLOW MOTION the camera pans away from Cart Boy's face. His voice is deep like Darth Vader's and he is sounding like a warped record.

INSIDE THE CAR

The camera pans back stopping between the couple's heads. Still SLOW MOTION they turn to speak to each other, also sounding like a warped slow record.

The Smiths continue to stare at him in disbelief. Cart Boy mouths the words: One Way!

Everything returns to regular speed and normal voices resume.

HUSBAND
(quietly-scared)
Drive around him, honey.

Cindy drives slowly around Cart Boy who is on Chad's passenger side. He pounds Chad's window, screaming at them, but we cannot hear what he's saying, yet we can hear the thumping on the glass. The Smiths look straight ahead paralyzed with fright.

The battle is over.
The camera zooms in on the rear view mirror. The camera turns around inside the car, facing out the back window and zooms in on Cart Boy. On the road behind the car he is hitting his knees in defeat and disgrace which goes from disgrace to rage. His arms are raised, obviously screaming to the Cart Boy gods. We still cannot hear a thing.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The camera faces Cart Boy who is still on his knees. He lowers his arms and slowly rips his apron from his body exposing a red triangle on his shirt housing the initials 'CB' in red and blue block letters which is placed center chest. Cart Boy screams louder towards the sky and again raises his arms straight up.

The camera swings around showing Cart Boy from behind as the victorious Ford Focus puts its blinker on and makes a right hand turn, leaving the frame. The camera swings back around Cart Boy and is now facing him. Then it slowly raises to a bird's eye view, looking down on Cart Boy who is still looking up, screaming, arms stretched towards the camera. The camera lifts, pulls back farther and farther, revealing the entire grocery store parking lot, vehicle and pedestrian traffic as well as the Ford Focus circling the area.

Suddenly hundreds of similarly dressed cart boys converge on Cart Boy with their carts, swarming around him like ants on a bread crumb. He disappears in the crowd. They all rip their aprons off revealing the same emblem on their chests. The carts slowly roll away from the group as if in a synchronized dance.

The camera suddenly drops; zooms in on cart boy's screaming face, filled with anguish, and into his open screaming, drooling mouth. Blackness for a few seconds.

INT. FORD FOCUS

Cindy navigates the parking lot, slowly, looking for the exit. She goes to turn down an aisle, the wrong way. Chad grabs the dashboard.

HUSBAND
No, Honey! That's a one way!

She immediately corrects her steering. A moment of silence.

    WIFE
    Will you let me drive the car please?

THE END