

Temporary Christmas

by

Bloggin Hood

INT - APARTMENT ROOM

As the opening credits roll, we meet Katie, hard at work preparing a wreath. She takes her time, perfecting it until it finally lives up to her expectations. She hangs it next to a group of 6 or 7, looking proudly at her work. Then, her alarm goes off and she panics.

KATIE

Oh shoot! It's 7:15 already?!

Katie frantically runs out of the room and the scene changes to a different room the next time we see her.

INT - KATIE'S BATHROOM

Katie wears completely different clothes - a white blouse, a black cardigan, and a pencil skirt.

KATIE

Ok Katie. You can do this. You're going to do this. You're going to nail this job!

GEOFF

(off screen)

It's about time you got a real job.

KATIE

Geoff?!

Katie sees an image of Geoff behind her in the mirror and turns, excited to see him. But she soon realizes it's just her imagination and nothing more. She takes a deep breath and sighs.

KATIE

You got this Katie.

She goes toward the door, but not before grabbing her scarf.

EXT - OUTSIDE OFFICE BUILDING

Katie walks toward a large, generic looking office building. As she rounds the corner to her block, a man walks in front of her, causing her to stop and spill coffee on her cardigan and blouse.

KATIE

Are you kidding me? It's my first day?! Gah!

Katie's pace picks up as she tries to avoid any more mishaps. In front of her building is a Santa, who's ringing a bell.

SANTA

Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas Season to you miss.

KATIE

Sorry Santa, I'm not really in a festive mood right now.

SANTA

Oh. What's wrong?

KATIE

It's my first day of work, and I'm already screwing up. Look at this mess.

SANTA

Oh, that's nothing a little Christmas magic can't fix. Ho ho ho!

KATIE

Santa, I'm sorry, but I really don't have time.

While Katie reaches into her pocketbook to donate to Santa's cause, she doesn't realize that her stain is gone. Could this be Santa?

KATIE

Here. It's only \$10 but that's all I can spare right now.

SANTA

Oh, bless your heart miss. I'm glad to see your heart is open to Christmas.

KATIE

I'll be much more open if I get my first paycheck. See you later.

SANTA

But...

As Katie goes to close her pocketbook, she again spills coffee, ruining the work Santa has done. She catches the stain in the mirror.

KATIE

Really Katie? I have no coordination.

Santa is left flabbergasted. He dismissively gestured toward Katie before going back to ringing his bell. Katie enters the building.

INT - FLETCHER'S OFFICE

Katie meets with her new boss Fletcher who looks over her resume. Katie sits awkwardly to hide the stain on her blouse.

FLETCHER

I have to say Katie, you seem almost overqualified for this position. Are you sure you won't be bored here?

Katie laughs a bit too hard trying to sell the "joke"

KATIE

Oh, no sir. This job is exactly the type of work I'm looking for.

FLETCHER

(confused)

A temporary position is exactly the type of work you're looking for?

Katie goes wide eyed for a second.

KATIE

No, no! What a mean is this job is the perfect stepping stone.

Fletcher raises an eyebrow

KATIE

To a permanent job here in the company of course!

Fletcher smiles

FLETCHER

Katie, relax. You're fine.

Katie takes a deep breath but looks just as uncomfortable.

FLETCHER

And you're right. There is a full time position available to the temp who impresses us the most.

KATIE

I won't let you... Did you say the temp that impresses you the most?

FLETCHER

Oh, yes, there's actually a second temp who will be working on the project with you.

KATIE

I was told there was only one opening.

FLETCHER

There was, but we received a late application that was nearly as impressive as yours. Now don't

(MORE)

FLETCHER (cont'd)
worry, it's sounds like a
competition, but it's not. We're a
very flexible organization.

KATIE
But didn't you say the temp that
impresses you the most will get the
permanent job.

Fletcher thinks for a moment and nods

FLETCHER
Huh. Well, maybe there's a touch of
competition.

Katie looks nervous, but Fletcher smiles. He walks toward
the door to let Katie out.

FLETCHER
But keep in mind, this company is
all about teamwork. If the two of
you work well together, we can find
roles for the two of you.

KATIE
That shouldn't be a problem. I can
work well with others. Really, just
about anyone.

FLETCHER
That's great to hear.

The two walk out of the office and a third person walks up.
He wears his shirt untucked, baggy pants, and has sun
glasses on the top of his head. He stops a few feet away
from Katie and Fletcher, and looks surprised.

CALEB
K-Dawg, is that you?

Katie's heart sinks

KATIE
Oh no. Oh, no no no no no.

CALEB
It is! How you doing buddy? It's
been, what, 6 months or so?

KATIE
This can't be happening.

FLETCHER
Oh Caleb, do you and Katie know
each other.

CALEB

Sure do. We've worked together before.

FLETCHER

Really?

KATIE

We were employed in the same companies before. Only one of us worked though.

INT - KITCHEN

Katie and Caleb are working for a catering company. Both are wearing aprons. While Katie hustles to prepare trays of food, Caleb is using a fork and knife to mimic a drum solo. He knocks over a lit burner, igniting a pile of menus nearby and setting off sprinklers. A soaked Katie looks angry.

CALEB

You looked like you needed to cool off.

INT - OUTSIDE FLETCHER'S OFFICE.

CALEB

She's exaggerating. It wasn't that bad.

KATIE

It was incredibly bad. We had to run out and get fast food.

CALEB

Who's ever said no to fast food?

Fletcher doesn't speak, but seems to agree with Caleb.

KATIE

You didn't take the job seriously!

CALEB

Cooking wasn't for me.

KATIE

Then what about the filing incident at our other job?

CALEB

It was filing paperwork. It's wasn't exactly life or death.

KATIE

We were working for a hospital!

CALEB

And it was one mistake! People have two Kidneys, K-Dawg!

FLETCHER

Alright you two, enough. Look, I don't care what happened in the past. You're both here now and you're both going to work here as professionals, ok?

Both Katie and Caleb nod.

FLETCHER

Good. Now, head to your desks. You'll get trained on the project. We're expecting big things from both of you.

Fletcher goes back into his office.

KATIE

Can this day get any worse?

CALEB

Relax Pencil Skirt. We'll be fine.

KATIE

Don't call me Pencil Skirt!

CALEB

I thought it sounded better than coffee stain, but suit yourself.

Caleb Exits

KATIE

GAH!

INT - KATIE'S DESK

Katie is still fuming at Caleb being hired as she rapidly fills out a spreadsheet, slowing flipping over pieces of mail while she does so.

KATIE

How unlucky can you get? Every time I try to find a job, I get stuck with him!

She slams down one of the pieces of mail.

KATIE

I'd be better off doing this myself!

Another piece of mail is slammed down.

KATIE

But at least Mr. Sheffield will see who's really the most qualified for the position.

As she slams a third piece of mail, Caleb appears behind her, making a concerned face for a second as he hears the thud.

CALEB

Is that letter giving you some attitude or something K-Dawg?

KATIE

Ha ha. I'm just busy getting my work down. Doesn't look like you are.

CALEB

Right. That's because I already finished it.

KATIE

What? That's impossible. We had to go through 150 pieces of mail.

CALEB

I had 147, but who's counting?

KATIE

There's no way. You were chatting with everyone in the accounting department all day long.

CALEB

It's called a break, Pencil Skirt. You ever take one?

KATIE

I'll take a break when my work is finished.

CALEB

Right... Which is why I'm leaving for the day.

KATIE

You're leaving early too?

CALEB

Sheffy approved it.

KATIE

It's the first day?!

CALEB

And it won't be the last. I got a train to check. I'll see you tomorrow.

Katie looks furious as Caleb turns around, but Caleb stops before he goes.

CALEB

Wait, are you sorting by the address?

KATIE

That's how we got the spreadsheet.

CALEB

Try it by name. It'll be way faster.

KATIE

Oh what do you know?

CALEB

Well, that for starters. Have a good night, if you can.

He leaves. Katie shakes her head angrily, but then updates the spreadsheet the way Caleb mentioned. She begins to work much faster.

KATIE

I guess a stopped clock can be right twice a day.

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie is in her mother's Christmas Store, where only one customer is currently in. She speaks behind the register to her sister, Paige. Paige's son, Noel, runs around the place like a loon.

KATIE

It's like the universe is against me. I can't get away from him.

PAIGE

Was that the kidney guy from the hospital?

KATIE

Yep.

PAIGE

And he still got hire for the same job as you.

KATIE

You're not helping.

PAIGE

Well, what do you even need this job anyway?

KATIE

Money.

PAIGE

Is a temp job paying that much money?

KATIE

It's more than I have now. I need to pay rent somehow.

PAIGE

You shouldn't have to work a boring office job to make ends meet.

Paige walks over to Katie's wreath display. As she does so, Noel races by holding a nutcracker like an airplane.

PAIGE

This is what you should be doing. Look at these. They're beautiful.

KATIE

Yeah, and they're all still on the shelf. They don't make money. It's like Geoff said.

PAIGE

Why are we talking about Geoff? You haven't seen him in 5 months.

KATIE

But he was right. I quit two job to try and sell wreaths. It doesn't work.

PAIGE

Not with that attitude. You should be following your passions.

KATIE

I'll be glad to, once I have some money in my savings account.

Noel runs through the screen holding a display Santa.

PAIGE

You can go corporate if you want to, busy business woman. I'm going to make it my way.

KATIE

With the novel? How is that going?

PAIGE

I'm getting there.

KATIE

Haven't written a thing yet, have you?

PAIGE

I'm just not inspired. But it's Christmas. It'll come to me. And then, the world will know the name, Paige Turner.

KATIE

Our last name isn't Turner.

PAIGE

I know, but it sounds great, right?

KATIE

Well, your son Noel Turner is about to throw Santa through the Candle Display.

Paige looks angry but quickly calms down.

PAIGE

Well, 'Tis the season.

She turns and runs

PAIGE

Noel! NOEL!

As Paige leaves the scene, Bernard, the only customer in the store. He holds a single, solitary ornament, costing \$2.95.

PAIGE

Only one ornament again Bernard?

BERNARD

I didn't see anything else I like.

PAIGE

You sure about that?

Bernard is clearly staring at Francine, Katie and Paige's mother who is visible for a moment, and then off screen.

PAIGE

Are you going to talk to her today?

BERNARD

Nah. I'll do it tomorrow.

PAIGE

You've been saying that for a month. You can approach her. She doesn't bite.

BERNARD

A woman of that quality, you just don't go up and talk to.

PAIGE

You got no problem talking to me.

BERNARD

Kid's these days. They don't get it.

Bernard gives Paige a \$5

BERNARD

Keep the change.

PAIGE

Thanks Bernard.

Francine comes over toward Paige and Bernard

FRANCINE

Find everything ok?

BERNARD

(Flustered)

Yup, yup, gotta go.

Bernard exits in a panic, nearly tripping over Noel still running around with a Santa.

FRANCINE

That man was wandering around in here for 90 minutes and he only brought one thing.

PAIGE

He paid over the sticker price though.

FRANCINE

It's a Christmas miracle. Paige, you know you don't have to work in the store anymore.

PAIGE

It's only an hour here or there. It's no big deal.

FRANCINE

But you have a big city job now. You don't need this.

PAIGE

I want to do this mom. We practically grew up here.

FRANCINE

Fine, I do enjoy the company. But if it ever becomes too much, you stop, do you understand?

PAIGE

If it's ever too much, I did something wrong. How is the store doing?

FRANCINE

Well, it hasn't been as great as normal. People would rather shop on their computers instead of in person.

PAIGE

But everything in here is hand made. It's special.

FRANCINE

But people have to see it to buy it.

PAIGE

Are you worried?

FRANCINE

No. We're still a week from Christmas. People always flock in this week for those last minute gifts and decorations. Things will turn around.

There's a crash. Noel has taken down an entire ornament display.

NOEL

It was Santa!

FRANCINE

I guess we better close up for the day.

INT - KATIE'S DESK

As Katie sits down, frantically working again, Caleb can be seen talking to other employees. Everyone is laughing while Katie is hard at work.

KATIE

(Looking at Screen)

And then I need to add this payment here, and that'll take care of the entry for Walker.

CALEB

(Caleb)

And then the guy ate the whole tray, shells and all!

There is loud laughter. Katie finally sees the conversation and is upset. She decides to go talk to Caleb.

CALEB

I mean, the amount of butter alone...

KATIE

Caleb!

CALEB

Hey, Pencil Skirt. Did you miss me?

KATIE

You are supposed to be working on our project.

CALEB

I've been working on it. I just took a breather.

KATIE

All I ever see is you taking breathers and leaving early.

CALEB

That doesn't mean...

KATIE

Listen! I am not missing out on another opportunity because of you. Either work or leave.

CALEB

Alright, alright. Take it easy. I'll go back to work.

KATIE

Working at work, what a concept!

Katie storms back to her desk while Caleb makes a face but returns to his. Before Katie can refocus, mail room worker Bob Bobberton enters the scene.

BOB

Hey. How's it going? Are you Lauren.

KATIE

No, I'm actually Katie.

BOB

Nice to meet you Lauren. I'm Bob. Bob Bobberton. Here's your mail.

Bob dumps a handful of important looking memos and letters on Katie's desk.

KATIE

But I don't think this belongs to me.

BOB

I tell you, this mail stuff is hard. I've been working here for
(MORE)

BOB (cont'd)
almost two days and I still don't
have to hang of it.

KATIE
Oh, did you just start here too?

BOB
I did. I'm actually a mail room
temp. Well, that's what they said
after my performance yesterday.

KATIE
I'm a temp too. I'm hoping to be
permanent.

BOB
Well good luck with that. You'll
have to work really hard to get a
job like that. Now that guy over
there. Crispin, I think. He's been
here since 6:30 working away.

KATIE
Crispin? You mean Caleb.

BOB
Yeah, old Crispy sure knows how to
fry those computers. Sure hope I
get one someday. Well, I got to go
deliver some more mail. Man, let me
tell you, the mail don't stop. Now
where does this Katie sit.

KATIE
Oh, that's me! Here, I'll give you
Lauren's.

BOB
I'll see you later Amy.

As Bob walks away, Katie is very confused looking at the
mail she was given, but glances over at Caleb's desk.

KATIE
(thinking)
There's no way he was here at 6:30.
I was making wreaths then. He can't
possibly work harder than me. I'll
have to work that much harder, just
to be safe!

Katie begins to frantically type away of the keyboard.

INT - APARTMENT BUILDING

That night, an extremely tired Katie knocks on an apartment
door. She is greeted by an older woman.

GERTRUDE

Oh, Katie. I didn't expect to see you tonight.

KATIE

Hi Mrs. Johnson! I told you I'd have your wreath for you tonight and here it is!

Katie reveals the wreath from behind her back. Gertrude is happily surprised.

GERTRUDE

Oh, it's lovely! Even better than I imagined!

KATIE

And the best part is all the materials were locally sourced.

GERTRUDE

You ever added in the holly berries.

KATIE

Just like you asked!

GERTRUDE

Thank you Katie. All of the stores around here make flimsy wreaths. You're the only one I can count on. What do I owe you?

KATIE

Nothing. This was a Christmas gift from me to you.

GERTRUDE

Katie, no! You worked so hard on this. I can't take it for free.

KATIE

I won't accept any payment.

GEOFF

(off Screen)

Maybe you should. You need to make money

Katie turns to see Geoff for a moment standing next to her.

KATIE

Not everything is about money!

She blinks and Geoff is gone.

GERTRUDE

Alright, if you feel that strongly about it! Thank you.

Gertrude closes the door and Katie takes a deep breath before heading back to her apartment. On her floor, several other door have wreaths out that look similar to the one she gave to Gertrude, but with their own flairs. Each is a custom made one.

INT - BREAK ROOM

As Katie tries to eat lunch, she struggles to stay away, working on wreaths as well as her temp job. Her eyes focus on her napkin, which has a Christmas wreath on it and soon, Katie's eyes are closed.

INT - WREATH STORE

Katie dreams of a big, bustling wreath store where customers flock in and empty the shelves. She is overjoyed seeing how many happy people walk in and out. Soon, she says that Geoff has entered.

KATIE

Well, look who's stumbled in.

GEOFF

It seems your business has taken off.

KATIE

I told you it could work.

GEOFF

Clearly it does.

KATIE

I guess you were finally wrong about something.

Geoff grabs Katie's hands.

GEOFF

Maybe I was wrong about a lot of things.

Geoff leans in to kiss Katie, but she wakes up before it happened.

INT - BREAK ROOM

Katie begins to walk up. Instead of seeing Geoff, she sees a very confused Caleb.

CALEB

You alright?

KATIE

What are you doing in here?!

Katie is horrifying before calming down and realizing she's in the break room.

CALEB

Relax Pencil Skirt. This is a break room. Other people are allowed to use it.

KATIE

It doesn't mean you can just stare at me!

CALEB

I was just making sure you were ok. I mean, sure, you're lunch is boring, but it shouldn't put you to sleep.

KATIE

Egg Salad is a perfectly acceptable lunch.

CALEB

That's even more boring than I thought.

KATIE

Is there a reason you decided to ruin my meal?

CALEB

You mean besides being your alarm clock? You get on me for having a conversion, but I guess nap time is different.

KATIE

I was resting my eyes!

CALEB

Sure you were. Look, I just came in to tell you the boss man wants to see us.

KATIE

Is it bad?

CALEB

I don't know. I'm just passing the message. He said to come after you finish your yawn inducing sandwich.

Katie looks as though she's about to fall asleep again.

CALEB

Are you sure you're ok?

KATIE

I'm just a little tired.

CALEB

A little tired? You look like you can fall asleep standing up.

KATIE

I'm just working a lot, ok?

CALEB

What, here?

KATIE

It's none of your business, ok?!

CALEB

Alright, jeez. Just trying to have a conversion.

Caleb turns to walk out and waives

CALEB

I'll see you in the boss's office.

He leaves

KATIE

How lucky for me.

Katie yawns again and looks worried. She immediately goes toward the coffee machine in the break room and pours a full glass, pauses, and then pours a second.

INT - OUTSIDE FLETCHER'S OFFICE

Katie, who now looks wide awake walks to Fletcher's office. Caleb is already there, and opens the door for her.

CALEB

Well, don't you look perky. I hope whatever you used was legal.

KATIE

Stop it!

Both walk in and Fletcher is standing, smiling to greet them.

FLETCHER

There they are. My star temps!

CALEB

(Whispers)

There's your answer on if it's bad news.

Katie gives a subtle annoyed look at Caleb, but doesn't take her focus away from Fletcher.

FLETCHER

It just feels great to have temps
that really have the go getter
attitude that you two do.

Caleb nods, accepting the compliment while Katie looks
confused that Fletcher said this about both of them.

FLETCHER

Not everyone has that spirit I'm
afraid. We had some issues with our
mail room temp.

KATIE

Oh I think I met him.

FLETCHER

It's unfortunate. We had to let him
go. We'll be behind in our billing
for months.

Caleb makes a pained face while Katie looks very nervous.

FLETCHER

But we're here to talk about you
two. How are you enjoying your time
here so far?

CALEB

It's been great.

Katie starts talking before Caleb gets a word out.

KATIE

It's been wonderful being here!

FLETCHER

Well, Katie, you're work thus far
has been impeccable. And Caleb, you
have been the talk of the office.

CALEB

Hey, I am what I am.

FLETCHER

We never envisioned the first leg
of the project going so smoothly.

KATIE

First leg?

FLETCHER

That's right. You've done so well,
we've decided to give you a little
more to do.

KATIE

OK! That's great.

CALEB
(to himself)
Great is relative.

FLETCHER
Phase 2 of the project is going to take all of the data that you've compiled and upload it into our main database. This will help combat some of those dreadful mail issues we're having.

CALEB
Oh, alright. That doesn't sound so bad.

FLETCHER
Now, the one downside to the database is that only one employee can access it at a time.

Both Caleb and Katie don't react to this at first, until it hits them.

CALEB
So we have to work together?

FLETCHER
That's right. But that shouldn't be a problem for the two of you. You said so yourself when you started.

CALEB
You got it boss man.

KATIE
Oh, I'm not sure if working together is the most efficient way to get the project done.

FLETCHER
Why not Katie?

CALEB
Yeah, why not?

KATIE
Oh, it's just I tend to do my best work on my own. You said it yourself that my work is impeccable.

FLETCHER
Well, that is true. But working at this company is more than just performing your duties at a high level.

KATIE
(to herself)

Why?

FLETCHER
Teamwork is crucial to our business, and we want to make sure you're capable of producing just as much in a team setting as on your own. Unless you think that'll be a problem.

KATIE
Oh, oh no of course not.

FLETCHER
That's great to hear. We're counting on you. The report is due on the 23rd so you'll have a few days to finish it.

CALEB
We'll be sure to get it done.

FLETCHER
That's what I like to hear.

INT - OUTSIDE FLETCHER'S OFFICE

Katie storms out muttering under her breath when Caleb runs up to slow her down.

CALEB
Alright, calm. It's not the end of the world.

KATIE
You have never taken anything seriously. And now you're going to cost me this job too!

CALEB
Look, I know I haven't been the best employee.

KATIE
Oh, you think?

CALEB
But I want this job as bad as you. I promise, I'm not going to do anything to sabotage it.

KATIE
I would love to believe you, really I would. But there is an old lady who's still missing a kidney because of your negligence! And
(MORE)

KATIE (cont'd)
think of that dinner that you
ruined.

CALEB
People change Katie.

KATIE
And first impressions matter. Do
you expect me just to think you're
going to be a completely different
person just because you say you
are?

CALEB
Give me a chance to prove it.

KATIE
(sighs)
I guess I don't really have a
choice, do I?

CALEB
No, but you won't regret.

KATIE
Just stay out of my way.

CALEB
Aye Aye Captain High Heels!

KATIE
Hey! You're not helping your cause!

CALEB
Now if you'll excuse me, I have to
run.

KATIE
It's 4 PM?!

CALEB
Yes, and Boss Man excused me for
the rest of the day.

KATIE
And this is how you get me to trust
you?!

CALEB
You'll see. See ya!

Katie is visibly angry as Bob Bobberton walks into the
scene, attempting to clean the carpet with a Rake.

BOB
Hey Lauren. How's it going?

KATIE

Bob? But I hear that you were..

BOB

Expanding my opportunities? Yeah, that's right. A temp job opened up in maintenance and I wowed them enough to land it.

Bob tears up some carpet with the rake.

BOB

Do you know where the mops are? I'm having a tough time with this surface.

KATIE

But that's carpet.

BOB

Oh, foreign substance, huh? I better get some bleach too. Maybe it's in the vending machine. Well, have a good weekend.

KATIE

It's Wednesday.

Bob continues to rake and ruin the carpet as the scene ends.

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie is behind the register ringing up a few ornaments for a random, unnamed character who walks away. Francine is nearby, listening to Katie complain about work again.

KATIE

It just keeps getting worse. I mean, why should my work be tied to his?

FRANCINE

Well, you'll stand out more. If he's as bad as you say...

KATIE

He might be worse.

FRANCINE

Then maybe you're lucky. You'll have no problem getting the full time job.

KATIE

I'm not sure it'll work that way. I'm going to have to suck it up and work with him.

FRANCINE

All you can do is your best sweetie.

KATIE

I hope my best is good enough. It's going to be the most stressful week right before Christmas.

FRANCINE

Then you shouldn't be working here on top of things. You got a job that could become a respectable career. You shouldn't be giving up your few free hours to work at the store.

KATIE

Mom, I'm not going to leave you during Christmas. You need the help.

Katie scans the store. The only customer in there is Bernard, who's pretending to buy something.

KATIE

It does get busy in here at times, right?

FRANCINE

Oh, I'm sure it's going to pick up tomorrow. I better add some ornaments to the display. Excuse me.

Francine rather frantically leaves the scene. Katie, seems confused, but ignores it to talk to Bernard.

KATIE

Are you going to talk to her today?

BERNARD

Ehh, she's got a lot going on.

KATIE

There's nobody else in here.

BERNARD

I'll do it when the right time comes.

KATIE

Are you sure about that?

BERNARD

Listen, I got this under control.

Bernard pays for a \$2 ornament.

KATIE

How big is your tree with all these ornaments you're buying?

BERNARD

Big enough.

Bernard leaves. Katie decides she should lock up the store. She goes over to close out but as she does so, she's Geoff in the window. She pauses, but assumes it's her imagination. As she goes to lock the door, Geoff knocks.

KATIE

Geoff?

Geoff has a wide grin.

GEOFF

Hi. I was hoping we could talk?

EXT - NEARBY TOWN

Geoff and Katie walk.

KATIE

I didn't expect to see you again.

GEOFF

Work brought me back into town for a bit.

KATIE

Ah, right. It always was work with you.

GEOFF

Well, it's a necessary evil. I'd like to lounge on a beach all day but that won't pay the bills.

Katie looks dejected, as this is the same conversation they always have.

GEOFF

Well, how have you been? And the store?

KATIE

The store has seen better times. We're hoping the business picks up this week. We're still getting a few wreath orders a day at least.

Katie pulls a wreath out of her bag.

KATIE

And as for me, I'm working on main street.

GEOFF
Are you now? Main street?

KATIE
Yeah. It's a temp job, but I'm
hoping it'll be full time soon.

GEOFF
Well look at you Katie. I'm
impressed. I thought you'd have
your head in the clouds forever,
but you're buckling down with a
real job, especially if the store
is doing as poorly as you say.

KATIE
I wouldn't say...

GEOFF
That's really good to hear. I'm
proud of you.

Katie looks confused, but doesn't say anything.

GEOFF
You wouldn't happen to have an
extra wreath in that bag of you,
would you?

KATIE
Why?

GEOFF
Well, they're lovely. They always
were. And I know my mother would
love one.

KATIE
Umm, sure. I have more at home and
at the shop anyway.

Katie gives one to Geoff, who looks on it.

GEOFF
You never gave up making these.
It's beautiful. Just like you.

Katie starts blushing.

GEOFF
How much do these cost? \$100 \$200

KATIE
(laughs)
We charge \$25.

GEOFF
You could be making a mint on
these.

KATIE
Christmas isn't about making a
profit.

GEOFF
Depends on who you ask.

Geoff opens his wallet to pay.

KATIE
No, you don't have to.

GEOFF
That's no way to run a business.

KATIE
Christmas isn't a business.

GEOFF
(at same time)
Isn't a business... Yes, I know.
But you can't be giving your
wreaths away. Not if the store is
struggling.

Geoff hands over \$40.

KATIE
I don't have change.

GEOFF
Its fine. It's worth much more than
\$25. Thank you.

Katie again is speechless.

GEOFF
I need to get going. It was great
catching up. Maybe I'll see you
around town this week.

KATIE
Yeah, maybe you will.

INT - KATIE'S APARTMENT

Katie is with Paige talking about her meet up with Geoff

PAIGE
So, lover boy dumps you five
months ago.

KATIE
I wouldn't say dumped

PAIGE
(emphasis)
DUMPS you

Katie makes a face

PAIGE

And then shows up with sweet words
out of nowhere. And how many times
did he compliment your wreaths?

KATIE

I lost count.

PAIGE

And he despised your wreaths
before.

KATIE

I don't think he hated...

PAIGE

(emphasis)
HATED those things.

KATIE

Ok, I get it.

PAIGE

I mean, all of this, right before
Christmas. Sounds like the perfect
holiday romance novel. I should be
writing it down.

KATIE

That's a big much.

PAIGE

Romances blossom and rekindle all
the time at Christmas.

KATIE

Nothing is going to happen with
Geoff and I.

PAIGE

Why are you such a Bah Humbug!
Dream a little bit.

KATIE

Dreaming is why we broke up.

PAIGE

You mean got dumped.

KATIE

Whatever! Geoff is way too
practical. He's a numbers guy. He'd
never want me back. Not in a
million years.

PAIGE

Maybe not the old Katie. But what about the new Katie? You're a busy business woman now. He could probably smell cubical on your clothes. And it excites him.

Katie pauses for a second

KATIE

No, that's crazy.

PAIGE

'Tis the season!

KATIE

I think you're just stuck on holiday novels.

PAIGE

And all fiction has a dash of truth to it.

Katie looks in a mirror and pictures Geoff next to her. She can't help but smile.

INT- OFFICE

Katie opens a spreadsheet and wants to work, but realizes, she has no choice and must work with Caleb. Sighing, she gets up and walks toward his desk. Caleb is jamming out to Christmas music.

KATIE

You're already off to a great start this morning.

CALEB

Good morning to you too K-Dawg. What, you don't like Jingle Bell Rock?

KATIE

Of course I do. I don't like that you're not working.

CALEB

Did you consider opening up your e-mail?

KATIE

Huh?

CALEB

I sent you a proposed plan on how we can get this project done, fast.

KATIE

But we just got in to the office?

CALEB

Maybe I'm more productive than you're giving me credit for.

Caleb pulls up his e-mail. The camera would focus on Katie and Caleb instead of the screen.

CALEB

Here's the schedule I came up with. We can have our own designated time into the database. We won't even have to talk to each beyond saying "I'm in it" or "I'm out".

KATIE

That would make it easier.

CALEB

I'll even e-mail you my data list and show you where I'm leaving off. You know, to prove that I'm working.

KATIE

Oh...

Katie begins to look guilty.

KATIE

Well, what about duplicate work?

CALEB

What do you mean?

KATIE

Well, I'm sure some of our data got repeated. If we don't communicate at all, we might end up doing more than we have to.

Caleb at first looks confused, but then seems to understand.

CALEB

Is Miss Pencil Skirt herself trying to find a shortcut?

KATIE

No, no, I didn't say that! I just don't want either of us to do more than we required to make our deadline.

CALEB

Well, there's a trick, but we'd have to compile both of our sets of data first. It'll take some cooperation, but that's better than having to plow through piles of data on our own.

KATIE

Maybe... Maybe you're right. You know, You've done more at this temp job than the others combined.

CALEB

Plus less destruction.

Both laugh.

CALEB

So are you willing to work together on this?

KATIE

We can give it a shot. BUT if you try to pull a fast one on me, we're going back to our separate corners.

CALEB

They're called cubicals, not corners

Katie gives him an annoyed glare

CALEB

It was just a joke. I'll be serious about this. Let me show you how we can get rid of duplicates.

Caleb hits what seems like a hundred keys.

CALEB

And there you go? Looks like I dropped a full 38 entries from my list. That'll save us some time.

Katie yawns and shakes her head.

KATIE

I'm sorry. Can you show that one more time?

CALEB

You alright? Every day you look like you're ready for bed.

KATIE

Oh, it's nothing.

CALEB

I've seen you work before. You haven't been struggling to make it to the coffee pot in the past.

KATIE

I've just been helping out at my mother's store.

CALEB

You're double dipping? I thought you were an overachiever but that's a lot.

KATIE

My parents opened that store a few years before I was born. I've been pitching in since I was 3.

CALEB

I hope not unloading the delivery trucks..

KATIE

It wouldn't be Christmas if I wasn't there. It's been a part of my life forever. But it's taken it's toll.

CALEB

How about you go get your coffee, wake up, and then I'll show you how to delete the duplicate info again, ok?

KATIE

Are you sure?

CALEB

Yeah. We're not going to submit this on time if you're half asleep.

KATIE

Ok, thanks Caleb.

Katie exits while Caleb smiles for a second before turning back to work. As he starts typing, Bob Bobberton pops up from a neighboring cubical. He's got a button down shirt on and is wearing a tie, but it's tied like a shoelace.

BOB

Hey, Crispy!

CALEB

Bob? What are you doing here? I thought you were a janitor?

BOB

(Laughing)

Nah, that didn't work out for me. There was a lot of complaints about the rugs not being raked properly.

CALEB

Yeah, I don't think...

BOB
It's cool though. I got a temp
position in accounting.

CALEB
How did you?

BOB
Hey listen, Crispy...

CALEB
It's Caleb.

BOB
Do you know where the bathroom is
in this place?

CALEB
Haven't you ben here for almost a
week?

BOB
(nodding)
Yeah. I'm really holding it as best
I can.

CALEB
It's right down the hall.

BOB
Oh great. Thanks Karl.

Bob races out of the cubical, but not before seeing Katie.

BOB
Alright, Lauren! Great to see
you're still here after the mail
incident!

KATIE
What?

BOB
Can't talk. Duty calls!

Bob exits. Katie works up to Caleb with two cups of coffee.

KATIE
Was that Bob?

CALEB
Yeah, he keeps falling upward.

There's a thud.

CALEB
Or maybe just falling.

BOB
(off screen)
Somebody didn't cover up their rake
divots!

KATIE
Oh, I got you a coffee too.

CALEB
Oh, that was nice of you.

KATIE
I didn't know if you used sugar, so
I brought you some.

Katie hands up 7 packets.

CALEB
Why would I need this much?

KATIE
That's how much I use.

CALEB
That's like 50% sugar and 50%
coffee.

KATIE
Yeah, and it's tasty.

CALEB
No wonder you always get so much
work done.

THE TWO CONTINUE TO WORK AS THE SCENE FADES OUT

INT - OFFICE ROOM

We fade back in to see Fletcher addressing the entire team,
including Katie and Caleb.

FLETCHER
I wanted to thank everyone for
their hard work this year. Without
you, none of this would ever be
possible.

There is a lot of applause. Katie joins in, while Caleb just
nods along.

FLETCHER
I wanted to confirm that this year,
we'll be having our annual
Christmas Party on the 23rd. It'll
be across the street at our
favorite local restaurant. Everyone
is invited, including our temps,
who have been doing such a fabulous
job.

Katie's eyes light up when she hears they are invited.

FLETCHER

And the party will be open bar, but remember there's cameras, so act smart. Any questions.

BOB

(off screen)

Yeah, what's the takeout policy at this place? Do I have to bring my own containers or will they be provided?

FLETCHER

Umm, we can handle that off line. If no other questions, everyone have a great night, and we'll see you tomorrow to continue the holiday push.

Everyone begins to disperse. Bob tries to track down Fletcher who moves quickly to avoid him. Katie looks incredibly excited as Caleb walks toward her.

KATIE

Can you believe it? We get to go to the Christmas party!

CALEB

You think it's that big of deal?

KATIE

An office Christmas party? It'll be amazing!

CALEB

If you say so.

KATIE

I mean, the food, and all the networking opportunities. It could really ensure we get jobs here.

CALEB

We? I think boss man said there's only one job.

KATIE

Not if we really wow him with this project.

CALEB

Then you'd be stuck with me for even longer.

KATIE

It's a big office. We could make it work!

Caleb smiles.

KATIE

Oh I can't wait!

CALEB

Then we better make sure we have everything ready to go before the party starts.

KATIE

Definitely! Oh, I got to run. My mom needs help at the store again tonight. I'll see you tomorrow Caleb. Be ready to work!

Katie leaves

CALEB

Hmm...

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie is at the register, again scanning another ornament for Bernard.

KATIE

How many of these things do you have?

BERNARD

I like the Penguins. What do you want from me?

KATIE

We both know why you're really here. Just talk to her, will you?

BERNARD

I'll talk to her soon enough?

KATIE

Christmas is 3 days away. The clock is ticking.

BERNARD

Gah!

Bernard takes his ornament. Francine walks by and smiles at him, and Bernard awkwardly shuffles past her.

KATIE

If we could sell confidence in this store, I'd wrap it for him.

Katie sees Noel running through the store. A toy snowball is thrown from out of her sight. Noel fails to catch it and Katie starts to panic, but when it falls, it bounces harmlessly. Katie realizes it's cloth and takes a deep

breath.

NOEL
I'll catch it next time.

Noel throws it back. Katie walks toward Noel.

KATIE
Noel, you can't throw things in the store. What would your mother say?

NOEL
Smile for the camera?

KATIE
What would a normal mother say?

The toy snowball comes back in screen and this time, Noel catches it!

NOEL
I did it!

CALEB
(Off Screen)
Nice catch kid!

KATIE
That voice...

Caleb and another character in a wheelchair, Shane, appear. Caleb High Fives Noel.

KATIE
Caleb?

CALEB
Hey, Pencil Skirt! So, you weren't lying. This is your family's store.

KATIE
What are you doing here?

CALEB
I needed a few things for the holidays and you mentioned you had a store. Figured why not give my co-worker a little extra business. Besides, Shane loves Christmas.

KATIE
Oh, hello.

SHANE
(Weakly)
Hi.

Shane coughs a bit and Caleb crouches down to make sure he's ok.

CALEB
You good, bud?

Shane nods.

CALEB
Ok, we won't stay much longer.

KATIE
Umm, did you need anything else?

CALEB
No, just to get rung up.

KATIE
I can do that.

Katie goes behind the counter and Caleb puts a few things up, including 3 wreaths.

CALEB
I got to say, these wreaths were great. Got one for my parents, one for Shane, and one for me.

KATIE
You... You really thought so?

CALEB
Oh yeah. Way better than anything you'd find at a big store.

KATIE
I, umm, I made these.

CALEB
What? No, stop it! There's no way you made these.

KATIE
No, really. I did. It's my contribution to the store.

CALEB
That and working yourself to exhaustion.

Caleb gestures to Paige, who has entered the scene.

CALEB
You got to ease up on her hours. It's affecting her work performance.

PAIGE
I'm sorry. Who are you?

KATIE

It's fine, Paige. It's just somebody from work.

CALEB

And honestly, I don't know why she's working there when she can make wreaths like that.

KATIE

Wreaths don't pay the bills.

CALEB

These wreaths can and should. You're selling yourself short.

Caleb pays and takes his bags.

CALEB

Nice meeting you. And I'll see you at work Katie.

Caleb and Shane leave. Katie blushes and Paige immediately turns to her.

PAIGE

And who was that?

KATIE

He's the guy from work.

PAIGE

The one that you've been complaining about?

KATIE

Yeah. He's been better lately.

PAIGE

Oh you think? He just came in the store to flirt with you.

KATIE

He was not flirting with me.

PAIGE

I'm just glad he kept his shirt on.

KATIE

Paige!

PAIGE

Actually, he's pretty cute. I'd have been ok if he did take...

KATIE

Paige, your son is right there!

Noel is running around the store again.

PAIGE

Oh, he's heard worse. So I guess all your fighting was a lovers quarrels, huh?

KATIE

What are you talking about?

PAIGE

Oh please. He's into you.

KATIE

No, he's not. We have to get along if we want this temp job to become permanent. It's nothing more than that.

PAIGE

Right... Are you trying to convince me, or yourself?

KATIE

I have stuff to do Paige. Don't you?

Katie leaves the register and walks away.

PAIGE

Yeah, harassing you!

INT - CALEB'S DESK

Katie walks to Caleb's desk at the beginning of the day and sees one on her wreaths hanging on his cubical.

KATIE

Hey. You brought my wreath in?

CALEB

Oh yeah. I figured what place needs holiday cheer more than an office. Besides, you get to admire your own work this way.

KATIE

That's... That's really nice.

CALEB

So's the wreath.

Katie smiles but catches herself.

KATIE

So, ready to get to work?

CALEB

Let's do it.

Note that the next few scenes will be in montage format.

INT - CALEB'S DESK

Katie and Caleb are intently discussing some of the documents they're reviewing. The conversation seems fast paced, though we don't actually hear any of it.

INT - CALEB'S DESK

This time, the vantage point is at the computer, where we see various data entered into the database. The camera focus would pan back to Caleb and Katie, who are working together very well.

INT - BREAK ROOM

Finally, Katie and Caleb are shown sitting in the break room, laughing as they both drink coffee.

At the same time, Bob Bobberton enters the scene in the background wearing a full suit. After a few seconds, he appears with wet hair and two K cups lids on his suit coat.

BOB

Did you guys know the coffee machine is busted? People need to be careful when they make their fresh cup of Jim.

CALEB

You mean Joe.

BOB

Who's that?

INT - CALEB'S DESK

The montage ends with Katie and Caleb at Caleb's desk, reflecting on a successful work day.

CALEB

What a day.

KATIE

I can't believe how much we managed to get done.

CALEB

I know. We should be able to finish easily tomorrow.

KATIE

Oh yeah. I can finish up entering the data tomorrow if you want.

CALEB

Ok, yeah, you can do that. I double check the mail in the morning to make sure our info is current. Let me send you the data now.

Caleb hits send and his computer shows a very cartoony, out of date e-mail notification.

CALEB

We'll wrap up early tomorrow and make it to the party as it's starting.

KATIE

Oh I can't wait. A real office Christmas party to socialize and show we belong.

CALEB

Hey, it's the first of many.

The two share a 90s style high five.

CALEB

So what's on the docket for tonight? Another evening working at the Christmas store?

KATIE

No actually. Paige said she's going to cover everything tonight and things have been slow so my mother forbade me from going.

CALEB

Well, you deserve a night off.

KATIE

I don't know. It makes me feel guilty.

CALEB

Why would you feel guilty?

KATIE

Cause it's Christmas! I should be there helping out and making sure everyone enjoys their holiday!

CALEB

Trust me. I'm sure you and your wreaths will make everyone happy.

KATIE

Me and my wreaths?

CALEB

Yeah. Not just the wreath. You too.

KATIE

Oh, thanks... Umm, what about you? What's your plan for today?

CALEB
Oh, I got a hot date with my DVR
backlog and a nice bowl of pasta.

KATIE
Are you cooking?

CALEB
Only the best from a can

Caleb gives a chef's kiss and Katie laughs.

KATIE
Well, you enjoy that. I'll see you
tomorrow.

CALEB
Yeah, good night Pencil Skirt.

Katie leaves. Caleb watches her leave and lingers too long.
Eventually, Bob appears.

BOB
You should go after her.

CALEB
You think?

BOB
I mean, she might have broken the
coffee machine. Somebody has to be
held accountable or else we might
get in trouble.

CALEB
I'm not sure we're thinking the
same thing, but I'm going to go for
it.

Caleb exits

BOB
And if you catch her, ask her where
I can get some coffee.

EXT - OUTSIDE OFFICE

Katie walks out of the office and again sees Santa. She
drops a few dollars in his donation cup, and is greeted with
a "Ho ho ho". She turns away, but hears a voice call her.

GEOFF
(off screen)
Katie? Is that you?

Katie turns to see Geoff.

KATIE
Geoff, what are you doing here?

GEOFF
I'll be honest. I was looking for
you.

KATIE
What?

GEOFF
Listen, I was hoping we could talk.
Would you like to join me for some
coffee?

KATIE
Oh, um, yes. Yes. I'd really like
that.

GEOFF
Great. Shall we?

Before they can leave, Caleb comes into the scene. He starts
off by smiling, but then sees Katie with Geoff.

CALEB
Hey Katie, I... Oh, hello.

KATIE
What's the matter?

GEOFF
Someone you know Katie?

KATIE
Yes, this is Caleb. He's one of the
temps working with me.

GEOFF
I'm Geoff. With a G.

CALEB
With a G? How do you spell that?

GEOFF
G-E-O-F-F

CALEB
That sounds more like "Gee-off" but
hey, whatever suits you.

KATIE
Caleb? Stop it. Why are you being
rude?

CALEB
I'm just saying.

GEOFF
It's fine Katie. I can see why he's
working a temp position. Now, shall
we go?

KATIE

Yeah, sure. See you tomorrow Caleb.

CALEB

Yeah. Pleasure meeting you.

Geoff waves without a word. The two leave the scene and Caleb hangs his head.

CALEB

Ehh, it was a crazy idea anyway.

Santa laughs in the background.

SANTA

Christmas is full of Crazy ideas.

CALEB

Within reason.

SANTA

Well, why don't you make a Christmas wish? It might come true.

CALEB

What if I got two?

SANTA

Santa is always willing to listen.

CALEB

I wish Shane gets better, and I wish Katie is happy.

SANTA

Nothing for you?

CALEB

Nah, that's all I need. Take care Santa.

INT - COFFEE SHOP

Katie and Geoff are talking. Katie is holding onto every word Geoff says.

KATIE

I'm really glad you've invited me out.

GEOFF

I think we have some unfinished business.

KATIE

I never thought I heard you say that.

GEOFF

The world works in mysterious ways
sometimes.

KATIE

Did you mother like the wreath?

GEOFF

The what?

KATIE

The wreath. The one you brought
from me the other day.

GEOFF

Oh... Yes yes. She says it's
lovely.

KATIE

I'm glad she likes it.

GEOFF

Indeed she does... How is the
Christmas shop doing?

KATIE

Well, it's still full of merriment.
Just not full of customers.

GEOFF

You don't say? Even at this time of
the year?

KATIE

Yeah, my mom says it's going to
turn around before Christmas, but
it's been as slow as I can
remember.

GEOFF

You were smart to get a steady job.

KATIE

I mean, I hope it'll be a steady
job. I'm still just a temp.

GEOFF

If you're competing with that
rift-raff, I think you've already
gotten it.

KATIE

Oh, Caleb is harmless. He's just
high strung, that's all.

GEOFF

You'd know better than me, but he's
the type that'll bounce from job to
job. Now you...

He takes a long sip of coffee

GEOFF

You've matured. I can tell. You recognized you needed to make a change.

KATIE

It's not a change. It's just helping me pay bills.

GEOFF

Sure, but bills are important. I'm sure your mother is struggling with them right now.

KATIE

Things has been better, but that's not really your business.

GEOFF

It might be my business. Would she consider selling?

KATIE

What? Why would you even ask that question?

GEOFF

I understand the shop has been your family's for years, but let's face it, it's failing.

KATIE

It's not failing!

GEOFF

How many customers are you getting a day? Or even a week? This town doesn't need a Christmas store. It needs more restaurants, bars, condos. Not a luxury store that nobody shops at anymore.

KATIE

Is that what this is about?

GEOFF

Your store is in the perfect spot - the center of town. If your mother was willing to sell, my team would make a generous offer.

KATIE

You only came back here to try to scoop up my family's store on some discount?!

GEOFF

Katie, you have the wrong idea. This will help all of us. The money will go a long way for your mother. Plus, she doesn't have to worry about the lack of customers coming through the doors. And think of the new jobs this will create. Real, good jobs. The type that you can work at too.

KATIE

I have a job!

GEOFF

Sure, a temporary one. You just said you don't know if it's real.

Katie stands up and grabs her coat and scarf.

KATIE

I make wreaths too. Not that you ever cared!

GEOFF

Katie, your wreaths are lovely, but they haven't kept store afloat. Selling now makes sense. Listen to reason. Before it's too late.

KATIE

You will NEVER own that store. Do you hear me?

GEOFF

Have it your way. Though I thought you might have learned enough to listen to common sense.

KATIE

I can't believe I thought you'd be any different.

GEOFF

And I can't believe your head is still in the clouds.

Katie storms out.

GEOFF

(Yelling)

It'll be your loss in the long run. Don't say I didn't try and help!

Without missing a beat, Geoff opens his phone and begins to make a call.

INT - CALEB'S APARTMENT

By himself, Caleb eats from a can and watches something Christmas related by himself. He has Katie's wreath up on his door. Suddenly his phone rings. Caleb reaches into his pocket and see it's his mother

CALEB

Oh jeez.

He answers

CALEB

Hey Mom. How's it going? I'm Holly and Jolly alright. No, I'm good, I'm good.

There's a pause

CALEB

No, no, it's nothing. She just, well she was just somebody from work like I said.

There's another pause

CALEB

It's fine Mom. It's not a death sentence. Look, can we talk about something else? Like, what can I bring for Christmas.

There's one final pause

CALEB

Yeah, I can bring a side dish. I make a mean canned spaghetti.

There is an audible WHAT from the phone before the scene transitions.

INT - KATIE'S DESK

Katie sits at her desk with a coffee in hand, plugging away on the database. Caleb strolls by, looking gloomy.

KATIE

Hey there.

CALEB

Hey.

KATIE

Ready to finish this project and hit up that Christmas party?

CALEB

I think we're basically done.

Caleb hands Katie a small stack of documents.

CALEB

Here, there was 10 more entries to add. Otherwise, it's everything you already have. You should be done in an hour.

KATIE

You ok? Seems like you'd be a lot more excited about being done with work.

CALEB

Yeah, just a long night for me.

KATIE

Oh, tired huh? Want to get some coffee from the break room? They fixed the machine.

CALEB

Oh, I figured you'd have gotten you coffee fill with old Gee-off.

KATIE

What exactly is that supposed to mean?

CALEB

Nothing. Nothing at all.

KATIE

What I do outside of work is none of your business.

CALEB

You're right. Forget I said anything. Just finish up your end of the project and we're good.

Caleb goes to walk away, but Katie stands up to stop him, still holding her cup.

KATIE

Wait a second. Are you jealous?

CALEB

What? Of course not.

KATIE

I think you're a little jealous.

CALEB

Of a guy who can't spell his own name right? Keep dreaming.

KATIE

Hey, I'm just joking.

Katie goes to touch Caleb's shoulder to console him, but Caleb flinches, likely not thinking straight. In her clumsiness, Katie spills her coffee all over the laptop. It immediately powers down.

KATIE

Oh my god!

Katie frantically tries to hit the power button, but there's no response.

KATIE

I think it's broken! What are we going to do?

CALEB

We, aren't going to do anything.

Katie turns around.

KATIE

What do you mean?

CALEB

You, are going to have to finish the project. I, on the other hand, am going to get to the Christmas party right on time.

KATIE

But it's our project.

CALEB

(laughs)

Well, it was, but I already told Fletcher that my part is done and all that was left was for you to wrap things up. There's no reason for me to stick around.

KATIE

You jerk! I should have known you'd screw this up for me.

CALEB

Right, it's my fault you spilled coffee everywhere. Who's jealous of who now?

Caleb leaves the cubical.

CALEB

Feel free to use my laptop. Password is the same on all the temp equipment, and I don't think I'll need it at the party.

Caleb leaves. Katie again rapidly hits the power button on the laptop, and gets nowhere. She lets out a frustrated, but

quiet groan.

After the groan, a nearby office door opens. Bob walks out in a peacoat. He stops when he sees the state of Katie's computer.

BOB

Oh man. You're working so hard,
you're machine there is smoking. I
bet you're going to go places in
this company.

He takes out a scarf, but instead of wrapping it around his neck, he wears it around one of his wrists.

BOB

Merry Easter to you Crispy.

He exits

KATIE

That one wasn't even close.

EXT - OUTSIDE OFFICE BUILDING

As Caleb leaves the office to go to the party, he is stopped by Santa.

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho! Got anything spare
change for the needy.

CALEB

Not now Santa, I'm kind of in a
hurry.

SANTA

But what better time than Christmas
to help those in need?

Caleb looks guiltily up at the building, puts out his wallet, and throws some money into the bucket.

SANTA

Well thank you Caleb. I know you'll
do the right thing.

CALEB

How do you know my name?

SANTA

That's Santa's secret.

Caleb shakes his head and makes his way over to the party.

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

We quickly see Francine and Paige look at each other sadly and shrug as there are no customers in the store again.

INT - CHRISTMAS PARTY

Caleb enters the party room and sees an open bar, a buffet spread and a crowd of people. Among them are Fletcher, and somehow, Bob Bobberton, who finds himself at the center of the proceedings.

CALEB

This is going to be great.

Caleb goes to grab his name tag. Next to his, is Katie. Caleb picks up his name tag to put it on, but ultimately sighs and puts it down. Someone who is working at the party comes by.

WORKER

Is something wrong sir?

CALEB

Yes

The worker looks alarmed.

CALEB

Well no.

The worker looks confused.

CALEB

I got to go.

Caleb exits.

INT - CALEB'S DESK

Katie types away furiously on Caleb's laptop. She mutters to herself as she keeps making mistakes.

KATIE

I can't believe I'm going to miss the party because of that jerk. I can barely even type straight.

As she continues to type, Caleb sneaks in, holding a coffee.

CALEB

9 sugars, right?

KATIE

(mock laughs)

Ha, ha. It's only 7.

CALEB

Ehh, I was close.

Katie turns around and realizes it was Caleb.

KATIE

What are you doing here? Came to rub it in more?

CALEB

No, I came to lend a hand, if you'll let me.

KATIE

I'm sure that's why you brought coffee.

CALEB

Look, we'll keep in to the side and nothing will go up in smoke.

Katie doesn't crack even the slightest smile.

CALEB

Ok, too soon. That's fair. Look, I'm sorry. I was wrong. I shouldn't have left you to finish this on your own.

KATIE

I'm sorry too. I was kind of taunting you. You didn't go to the party?

CALEB

I tried to. But, I kept thinking it wasn't fair you were going to work on this by yourself.

Caleb hands her the coffee.

CALEB

If we hurry, we can get to the party with plenty of time. Just try to drink this on the side.

KATIE

(laughing)

Oh stop it you.

Caleb grabs the stack of new entries.

CALEB

Here, I'll hand these to you one at a time and you check the wording as you go.

As the two talk, they will continue to examine the paperwork and Katie will regularly type on her laptop.

KATIE

Thanks. You know, you've really matured from the days of starting fires and crossing medical cards.

CALEB

You know, that lady did make a full recovery.

KATIE

That's good.

CALEB

I just never really needed the jobs before. I didn't want to be a full time caterer or a glorified secretary. I didn't think there was any point taking those jobs seriously.

KATIE

So you goofed off instead?

CALEB

Yeah, goofed of all day, and partied almost every night with Shane.

KATIE

The guy who came to the store?

CALEB

Yeah, him. Oh.

Caleb points to something on the screen.

CALEB

The state on that one is NV, not NJ

KATIE

Oh, nice catch

Katie corrects what she's typing while Caleb continues his monologue.

CALEB

Shane and I, man, we went on some benders. All timers. But we didn't have a care in the world and kept bouncing back... Until Shane didn't.

KATIE

What happened?

CALEB

All that late night lifestyle caught up to him. He got really sick. Doctors say they hope he can make a full recovery, but it's been an uphill battle.

KATIE

Oh no. I'm so sorry. I had no idea.

CALEB

How could you? Before this week, we were two people who randomly worked a couple of jobs together. I can't really believe I'm tell you all this.

KATIE

Well, I sure hope he gets better.

CALEB

Me too.

The two sit in silence for a little bit

KATIE

Can you had me another sheet?

CALEB

Oh, right. Sure.

Caleb hands her another one.

KATIE

Thanks.

CALEB

You know, I got to admit something. I think I was a little jealous.

KATIE

What? Why would be jealous?

CALEB

I don't know. You ever look in a mirror?

Katie laughs

CALEB

Maybe all those times I was acting up at our temp jobs, I thought I could impress you.

KATIE

Well, that didn't work.

CALEB

Obviously not.

KATIE

But, I will say, you did impress me at this one.

CALEB

No kidding?

KATIE
No kidding. Another sheet please.

CALEB
Alright Katie. You're flying
through this.

Caleb hands Katie another sheet.

KATIE
And, for the record, there's
nothing to be jealous about.

CALEB
Oh. Oh Gee-off blew it, did he?

KATIE
You have no idea. He didn't want to
meet with me. He wanted to try and
buy my family's store.

CALEB
That's a nightmare ate all right.
He's got that kind of money?

KATIE
He's well off, but I think he's
part of a buyer group from how he
was talking. I didn't let him talk
too much. I just thought...

There's a pause.

CALEB
I'm sorry.

KATIE
Don't be. I had thought he was
somebody that he wasn't. Plain and
simple. I wanted Geoff...

CALEB
Gee-Off

KATIE
(Laughing)
Geoff! I wanted Geoff to be my
ideal of him. But he turned out to
just be a greedy, selfish jerk.

CALEB
And on Christmas, no less.

KATIE
Yeah.

CALEB
Hey, look on the bright side.

KATIE
There's a bright side?

CALEB
You're filing away paperwork when
you should be out partying.

KATIE
Ha! Well, I got news or you.

CALEB
What's that?

Katie emphatically hits enter on the computer.

KATIE
We're done!

CALEB
Oh, that's a relief. What do we do
now?

KATIE
What else? We think of an excuse
about the other laptop.

CALEB
Oh, I almost forgot about that.
Listen, that's all you.

KATIE
I don't think so.

CALEB
Hey, my computer is still in good
shape.

As Caleb is talking, Katie looks outside. Snow begins to
fall.

CALEB
No comeback?

KATIE
Caleb! Come look at this!

Caleb comes over and the two watch the snowfall from a
nearby window. A faint Ho Ho Ho is heard.

KATIE
It's really Christmas now.

CALEB
And a special Christmas at that.

KATIE
Why?

CALEB

Cause I finally got to meet you.

For a second, the two pause, staring deeply into each other's eyes. They look as though they are about to kiss, but before anything happens, Katie's phone rings. It's a fairly loud pop song esque ring. Katie looks nervous.

KATIE

I um... I use it for an alarm clock.

CALEB

Right. I mean, it's catchy I guess.

KATIE

I'm sorry I...

CALEB

Answer it. It's fine.

Katie picks up the phone.

KATIE

Hello. Yeah Mom, I'm still at work. The Christmas party is tonight. I can come by after... WHAT!?

Francine's voice is unclear but comes through the phone.

FRANCINE

(Through Phone)

They're going to seize the store!

KATIE

I don't understand, how?

FRANCINE

(Through Phone)

There's nothing we can do.

KATIE

Look, stay calm. I'll be there in a second.

FRANCINE

(Through phone)

But what about the party?!

KATIE

This is a lot bigger than a Christmas party.

Caleb makes a surprised face for half a second as Katie closes her phone.

KATIE

I have to go. My mother says the store is in trouble. I don't know what's going on but I have to be with her.

CALEB

Yeah, of course, but what should I tell Fletcher and the rest of them? They're going to be looking for you.

KATIE

I can't tell them about the store. They won't think I can focus on the job here. Just tell them I had to run. They'll understand.

CALEB

You sure? I could come up with something and...

KATIE

No. If it's a strike against me, so be it. You deserve the job more anyway. You proved it.

Katie touches Caleb's shoulder on the way out.

KATIE

Thank you.

Katie leaves. Caleb continues to stare out at the snow for a few seconds, ultimately seeing Katie run on the sidewalk. He sighs.

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

Geoff is in the store, confronting both Paige and Francine.

GEOFF

It's a generous offer Francine. Consider your options wisely. Sell to a friend, or you can lose everything.

FRANCINE

You're no friend of mine!

GEOFF

Well, money should soothe that over, no?

PAIGE

I can't believe I used to think you were hot!

Katie walks through the doors confused.

KATIE

Mom, what's going on?

GEOFF

Ah, the whole family is here. What a touching moment.

KATIE

You? I told you, my mother would never sell this place to anyone. She sure won't sell it to you!

GEOFF

Oh Katie, you misunderstood me. I was offering a kindness to your family.

KATIE

By ruining with my parents built?

GEOFF

Well, you options are a bit limited. You can sell to me and walk away with good, clean money. Or, the bank can come in and seize the property, costing you everything. Not much of a choice, now is it?

KATIE

Mom, what is he talking about?

FRANCINE

Oh Katie. The store hasn't been doing well for a while. We're pretty much in debt. I don't know if we can even afford this month's rent.

KATIE

What?

PAIGE

You never said anything about this mom.

FRANCINE

What did you want me to say? That your father's store was dying.

KATIE

There's got to be something we can do.

FRANCINE

Outside of praying or a miracle, there's not much left.

GEOFF

Take the money Francine. I'm paying more than this store and the land it's built on is worth.

FRANCINE

There's no price you can place on this place!

GEOFF

Well, I'll let you think it over. I'll give you until tomorrow.

PAIGE

That's Christmas Eve!

GEOFF

Right, a working day. You have until then. Either way, the store will be mine, one way or another.

KATIE

You are a horrible man!

GEOFF

It's just business Katie.

KATIE

Where's your Christmas spirit?

GEOFF

I don't care for Christmas.

The three ladies gasp.

PAIGE

You're evil!

GEOFF

No, but I will be rich. We'll have condos here by the Summer.

Geoff leaves. Francine looks at those she's going to break down.

KATIE

Mom... Why didn't you tell us things got this bad?

FRANCINE

It's not an easy conversation to tell your daughters the family business is failing.

KATIE

We could have helped.

FRANCINE

With what? If the customers don't come in, there's nothing we could have done.

KATIE

But we could have been there for you.

PAIGE

Yeah Mom. There's more to it than just dollar signs.

Francine pulls out a tissue and wipes her eyes.

FRANCINE

Your father. He poured his heart into this place. He loved Christmas. You know how much he loved Christmas.

PAIGE

He was more excited to see Santa every year than we were.

KATIE

Maybe not more than you Paige.

PAIGE

Hey, I was the good child. I was going to get whatever I wanted.

FRANCINE

It took every penny he had to buy this place, but he did. And he made it the best darn Christmas store he could. The whole town loved it. And then, as the years, and technology grew, the profit started to decline. But never like this. I think the community loved him too much to let him go out of business.

KATIE

They love you too Mom.

FRANCINE

Maybe, but not enough to keep the lights on. If you're father was still alive to see this, it would break his heart.

PAIGE

We don't have to lose the store.

KATIE

Yeah, we got a whole night to think of something.

FRANCINE

Thinking won't get us anywhere.
It's customers we need.

Bernard sheepishly appears into the scene.

BERNARD

Hey, I'm a customer! A loyal one
too!

FRANCINE

You? All you've ever done is buy
the same \$2 ornament every day.

BERNARD

I like this ornament!

FRANCINE

You're just a loiterer.

BERNARD

I am not! I... I

Bernard starts looking nervous

BERNARD

I just wanted to try and talk to
you, that's all.

FRANCINE

You've never said a word to me.

BERNARD

I was getting to it!

FRANCINE

A lot of good that did for us, huh?

BERNARD

Gah!

Bernard storms out.

PAIGE

Mom. He didn't deserve that.

FRANCINE

(sighs)

No, he probably didn't. But it
doesn't matter. He won't have a
store to go to soon enough.

KATIE

You can't think like that Mom.

FRANCINE

The only thing we have to think
about is whether to take that nasty
Geoff's money or not.

KATIE

You can't let him have this store.

FRANCINE

I don't want to, but at least we've have some money.

KATIE

We could really need a Christmas miracle.

FRANCINE

I'm afraid that's only in fairy tales Katie.

EXT - IN TOWN

Katie, Paige and Noel walk through town.

KATIE

Can you imagine a world without the store?

PAIGE

We grew up there. I can't.

KATIE

It's going to be a really somber Christmas.

PAIGE

I think Mom has to take the money.

KATIE

I don't think...

PAIGE

I know. But she's not getting a new job at her age. It'll keep her well off.

KATIE

It'll keep her bitter. Plus, we don't know even what he's offering.

PAIGE

It's probably more than the repo men. I mean, if we're going to lose it anyway, we might as well let mom have some spending money, right?

NOEL

Let's ask Santa!

PAIGE

That's sweet kiddo, but I don't think Santa's got a lot of free time.

SANTA

Ho Ho Ho!

PAIGE

Then again, maybe he does.

NOEL

Hi Santa!

SANTA

What can I do for you little boy?

NOEL

Can you help my Nana's store?

PAIGE

I think you might be better off asking for a Nintendo.

NOEL

Oh, can I get that too!?

PAIGE

(nervous)

Hehe, maybe we should let Santa be.

NOEL

Nana's store might close because people aren't buying things from the shop. But it's such a cool store. It has everything you could want for Christmas. I wish people could see it. Maybe they're like it too.

SANTA

It sounds very special.

KATIE

It is.

SANTA

Well, tis the season.

PAIGE

Tis the season for what? Defaulted loans? You're not giving us much to work here Santa.

KATIE

(to Paige)

Paige. He's not the real Santa.

PAIGE

(to Katie)

He's sure acting like it.

PAIGE
C'mon Noel. We got to get some
sleep before tomorrow. Say bye.

NOEL
Bye Santa! Bye Aunt Katie!

KATIE
Goodnight guys.

Paige and Noel leave

NOEL
(off screen)
Do you think I'm going to get the
Nintendo?

PAIGE
(off screen)
You've have to be EXTRA extra good
to get something like that.

NOEL
(off camera)
I was!

PAIGE
(off camera)
The broken living room window says
otherwise

NOEL
(off camera)
Ah man!

KATIE
I don't suppose you really do give
out miracles, do you?

SANTA
Christmas miracles start with the
heart, not Santa.

KATIE
That sounds like a cop out.

SANTA
Ho ho ho. Good luck to you Katie.

KATIE
Thanks...

She begins to walk away.

KATIE
But I never told you my name

She turns around and Santa is gone. Katie looks shocked, but
eventually walks away.

INT - CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the party, Caleb is talking to Fletcher and a few other men and women in business attire. Everyone looks intently at him as he speaks passionately about something.

We also see Bob Bobberton, who's outside of the circle but trying to peer in over other people's shoulders.

INT - KATIE'S APARTMENT

Katie works on a wreath looking at the mirror as she does so. In the mirror, she sees Caleb but only for a moment. She then goes back to working on her wreath.

INT - KATIE'S APARTMENT (NEXT MORNING)

A quick montage occurs of Katie waking up, shutting off her alarm clock, and then grabbing her wreath. She takes a deep breath.

KATIE

I couldn't be dreading this more.
Help me out Santa. Just this once.

EXT - OUTSIDE THE CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie takes a deep breath again as she gets toward the store. She hopes to see a giant group of people, but the store looks empty.

KATIE

I should have guessed.

Katie begins walking toward the store, but sees Noel come rushing toward her.

NOEL

Aunt Katie! Aunt Katie!

KATIE

Hey, slow down. You're going to hurt yourself.

NOEL

You gotta see it. Santa listened!

KATIE

You got the Nintendo.

NOEL

No, there's people!

KATIE

How many people?

NOEL

A lot of people

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie walks through the door and sees the store jam packed with customers. People walk with a significant amount of merchandise in their hands. The most popular item is, of course, Katie's wreaths. Nearly every customer has one.

Paige runs up to Katie as soon as she comes in.

PAIGE

Can you believe this?!

KATIE

No more than you. When did they all get here?

PAIGE

Almost an hour before we opened. There was so many of them outside, we had no choice but to let them in early. Mom nearly cried.

KATIE

And they're buying things?

PAIGE

Like you wouldn't believe. We've had to dug out some inventory I've never thought we'd need to. You remember Rindorf the Reindeer?

KATIE

You mean the misprint toy shipping we got and never returned?

PAIGE

Yeah, even those are selling.

Bob Bobberton quickly appears and disappears on screen, holding a Rindorf.

BOB

Oh man. This was always my favorite as a kid.

Katie looks like she wants to say something, but stops herself.

KATIE

Is the store going to be ok?

PAIGE

I think it might be. I don't know how it happened, but I'm just going to sit back and enjoy it.

Katie begins to look around to see who's in the store. At first, nobody is recognizable. However, as she scans, she sees familiar faces, including, Bernard, but a lot of people

from work. Then, she notices Fletcher. It seems most of the office was here.

CALEB
Merry Christmas Pencil Skirt.

Katie turns around and sees Caleb.

KATIE
Caleb? Was this you?

CALEB
Well, you couldn't come to the Christmas party so I decided to bring the Christmas party to you.

KATIE
I don't know what to say.

CALEB
I did have to mention that you were related to the owner of the store, but it didn't take much convincing to get them here. They really like Christmas.

KATIE
Caleb. I think you saved my mother's store!

CALEB
Well, I didn't bring everybody.

KATIE
It's the best gift I could have ever gotten.

Katie hugs Caleb, who is surprised at first but then savors the moment.

CALEB
And it didn't cost me a dime.

KATIE
Thank you.

CALEB
We're not done. We got to go talk to the boss man about something.

KATIE
What?

CALEB
You'll see.

Caleb grabs Katie's hand and then exits the screen.

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

In another part of the store, Bernard is talking to Francine

FRANCINE

Why do I have the feeling you had something to do with this.

BERNARD

What can I say? I told my gym buddies all about this place.

FRANCINE

Oh, you're going to the gym, are you?

BERNARD

Yeah. I'm getting buff. I'm going impress you.

Francine laughs

FRANCINE

Well, I really do appreciate the help. And I'm sorry for snapping at you yesterday.

BERNARD

Just make it up to me. What do you say I take you out to dinner one night?

Francine thinks for a minute.

FRANCINE

Well... Ok, but you're not paying for my meal.

BERNARD

Hey, that's fine with me if you want to pay.

FRANCINE

I was thinking more that we'd go Dutch.

BERNARD

Hey hey hey. I'm Greek!

FRANCINE

Oh boy. This might be a mistake.

Int - Christmas Store

Caleb and Katie are talking to Fletcher, who is holding one of Katie's wreaths.

FLETCHER

So, this is your work, is it?

KATIE

Yes, I make them by hand actually.

FLETCHER

It's remarkable. Caleb told me about them, but I needed to see them for myself.

KATIE

You really like them?

FLETCHER

More than like them. I love them. And I think the company would too.

KATIE

I don't think I'm following.

FLETCHER

Katie, traditional office work isn't your passion, is it?

KATIE

Well...

FLETCHER

It's ok, you can be honest.

KATIE

I always dreamed of being able to make wreaths for a living. But it's just so far fetched.

CALEB

Not if you have a global reach.

KATIE

Huh?

FLETCHER

Caleb actually pitched me the idea. Bit of an unorthodox move, but we do tell our employees to speak freely. We're always looking to expand our horizons. Perhaps partnering with you to sell wreaths could be a part of that expansion.

KATIE

Wh... What?! You want me to make wreaths full time?

FLETCHER

Well, that really depends on it you want to. They're extraordinary.

KATIE

But wouldn't it only be seasonal?

CALEB

No, I don't think so. People love Christmas. They'll want to buy the right Christmas gear year round.

Fletcher nods along as Caleb speaks.

CALEB

Plus, why not make wreaths for other holidays. Easter, Valentine's Day, 4th of July. You got a great imagination. I'm sure you could think of plenty of ideas.

KATIE

I never really thought about that but hey, I'm sure it could work for a lot of holidays.

CALEB

You got the perfect lady for the job boss man.

FLETCHER

The perfect team you mean.

CALEB

Huh?

FLETCHER

Caleb, you clearly have an eye for ideas and good products. Plus you both handled yourself wonderfully on the project. Though it was a shame what happened to your laptop Katie. Caleb told me about the awful leak.

Katie goes wide eyed and then begins to agree.

KATIE

Oh yeah. Such a freak occurrence.

FLETCHER

It's no matter. We'd like to offer full time jobs to both of you, but we'll have to go over the details later. I assume you're both interested.

KATIE

Oh, you bet!

CALEB

Of course.

FLETCHER

Wonderful. We'll chat more on Monday. For now, I have to buy one of these wreaths, and see what else the store has to offer.

Katie and Caleb exit while Fletcher shakes his head.

FLETCHER

It's a shame. We'll have to restart our search for the original job. We'll need to find a new temp.

Bob Enters the scene. He's wearing a wreath around his neck and has multiple Rindorf toys.

BOB

Hi Sir, I heard you were looking for a temp. I'm your man.

FLETCHER

You know something... You just might be!

BOB

Yeah, I know. That's why I said it.

EXIT - OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie and Caleb talk, away from the extremely busy store.

KATIE

I can't believe you did all of this for me.

CALEB

I didn't do that much. I just let them know who you were. That's all they needed.

KATIE

It's more than anyone else has.

CALEB

It's exactly what you deserved.

KATIE

Not bad Skinny Tie.

CALEB

Oh, you have nicknames for me, huh?

KATIE

That's not all I have for you.

The two kiss.

CALEB
 Maybe we can be a team beyond
 working hours.

KATIE
 I think I'd like that.

They kiss again

KATIE
 Say, what happened to your friend,
 Shane? Did he make it today?

CALEB
 Oh yeah. He's here checking out the
 store again.

INT - CHRISTMAS STORE

Katie and Caleb walk back into the and do see Shane, who is
 walking about, though gingerly. Caleb can't believe it.

CALEB
 Shane buddy! You're walking on your
 own. You haven;t done that in
 months.

SHANE
 Yeah I feel better!

KATIE
 Only at Christmas. It's like all of
 our wildest dreams came true!

Noel runs into the scene excitedly, just as we hear a faint
 ho ho ho.

NOEL
 I got a Nintendo!

PAIGE
 (off screen)
 Yeah, he got an Nintendo

KATIE
 Every last dream.

Katie and Caleb looks at each other and the camera pans up
 showing the happy crowd. Then the credits would play with
 Hallmark original, yet still basically traditional Christmas
 tunes.

Int - Office Building

In a post credits scene, Geoff is in the office building
 that Katie and Caleb work at. He wears a janitor outfit.
 He's being lead around by Bob.

BOB

Man, talk about a fall from grace. So you failed to acquire the Christmas Store and then got fired from your job for not sealing the deal?

GEOFF

Yes, I know. I lived it!

BOB

Well, that's alright. We believe in fresh starts here, and our temp program has been a great success. I mean, I've been in it 14 times now.

GEOFF

Can you just tell me what I have to do.

Bob hands him a rake.

BOB

Keep the carpet clean. And make sure you don't rake the coffee machine.

GEOFF

How am I supposed to rake rugs?

BOB

George, I'm a CFO. I don't know even know what a carpet is.

FIN

