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- E) Garish displays.
- F) Shoppers in and out of revolving doors.
- G) Businessmen testing toys.
- H) Santas having lunch at a counter.
- I) Heaps of purchases on store counters.
- J) Gift wrapping.
- K) Lost, crying child.
- L) Cash and credit cards changing hands.
- M) Hands rubbing sore feet.
- N) Businessman asleep in the mattress dept. with bulging shopping bags at his side. Etc.

END MONTAGE.

69

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - LINGERIE DEPARTMENT - CLOSEUP - 69 *
CLARK - NIGHT *

He's peering into a display case. He looks up. Freezes.

CLARK'S POV

Cleavage, MOVE UP TO a beautiful young WOMAN.

WOMAN

Can I show you something?

Clark's bent over a display case, looking at the
delicates.

CLARK

Uh.

WOMAN

For your wife? Girlfriend?

CLOSEUP - CLARK

He straightens up. He's very uncomfortable and warm.

CLARK

I guess it wouldn't be the
Christmas shopping season if the
stores were any less hooter...
hotter than they are. It's warm
in here, isn't it?

*

(CONTINUED)

The Woman smiles. She realizes he's nervous.

WOMAN

You have your coat on.

CLARK

Do I?

(catches himself
staring)

Sure I do. How did that happen?

WOMAN

Because it's cold out?

CLARK

Could be!

*

There's an uncomfortable silence.

WOMAN

So. You were looking at something?

CLARK

You know, I couldn't help it.

WOMAN

(puzzled)

Excuse me?

CLARK

Gesundheit.

*

WOMAN

Do you want me to take anything out for you?

Clark's jaw drops. He wheezes. He looks over his shoulder to see if anyone's listening to the conversation. He ignores the question and carries on.

CLARK

I was just looking for something for... my mother. Her wife. And obviously she doesn't wear underwear and there's plenty of shopping days left until adultery.

(winces and
corrects himself)

Adulthood. Which is to say Christmas. Yuletide. Yule. As in yulelog. Not a log. I didn't mean a log. I don't have a log.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLARK (CONT'D)

I mean, I do but not in the sense that you think I think I said. Which I said but not meaning what I said when I said it.

Clark mops his brow with the back of his hand.

CLARK

In other words, I'm late and you've been very helpful and busy and I've enjoyed talking about my log and boy, 'tis this ever the season to be huge. Uh, merry.

*

WOMAN

That's my name.

CLARK

Huh?

*

She points to the name plate on her chest.

*

WOMAN

Mary.

*

CLARK

Christmas.

*

WOMAN

And a happy New Year.

*

A70 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - RUSTY A70

He's moving through the crowds, package in his arms, looking for Clark.

B70 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - RUSTY'S POV - LINGERIE DEPT. B70

THROUGH the crowd he sees Clark at the lingerie counter. Clark's laughing and enjoying himself. Mary's showing him a miniscule pair of panties.

*

C70 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - CLOSEUP - RUSTY C70

He watches Clark with suspicious curiosity.

70 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - LINGERIE COUNTER 70

Rusty approaches the counter and Clark.

MARY

*

(to Clark)

These are cut high on the hip.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

She turns around and displays her bottom.

MARY

I'm wearing something very similar. Can you see the line?

CLARK

Oh, yeah.

Clark turns to Rusty.

CLARK

Can you see the line, Russ?

RUSTY

Yeah, Dad.

CLOSEUP - CLARK

It registers that he's just addressed Rusty. His eyes bulge. He snaps his head around to Rusty.

CLOSEUP - RUSTY

Looking at Clark.

CLOSEUP - CLARK

Looking at Rusty. Complete terror.

CLARK

Hyew!

A71

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE

A71

Clark and Rusty walk through the store loaded with lingerie boxes. Clark's in a nervous sweat as he tries to explain himself to Rusty.

CLARK

Boy, did I get a lot of shopping done. And that funny-looking gal back there was so helpful.

*

RUSTY

Funny-looking?

*

CLARK

That wasn't fair of me. Unusual looking. So tall and skinny and ... top heavy.

*

*

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

A71 CONTINUED:

A71

CLARK (CONT'D)

The wide hips, the narrow waist, the real big eyes and lips and if her cheekbones were any higher, gee whiz, she'd have to open her mouth to put in her contacts. But she was nice and she knew her underpants and that's all that's important.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

RUSTY

Dad? She was cover girl material.

CLARK

Yeah. For like a medical journal. Sure.

*

(pause)

Gee, I hope I remember where I parked the ole dickster... Truckster.

Clark shoos Rusty on ahead.

RUSTY

Dad!

CLARK

Keep moving, Russ.

RUSTY

But, Dad...!

He pushes Rusty through a door and takes a look back at Mary.

B71 INT. LINGERIE DEPARTMENT - CLARK'S POV

B71

She waves to him.

C71 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - LADIES' ROOM - CLOSEUP - CLARK

C71

A nervous smile. He turns and walks through the door. As it closes we read a brass sign -- LADIES. O.S. there's a collective SHRIEK and a pair of SHARP SLAPS. A beat and Rusty and Clark walk out. Their hair is messed-up. They both rub their stinging cheeks.

71 OMITTED

71

A72 EXT. GRISWOLD HOUSE - MORNING

A72

A clear, bright Saturday morning.