

Availability May Be Limited

by

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FADE IN ON:

INT. TARGET DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Your average department store. Mostly empty, except for the long line that snakes from electronics to housewares.

SUSAN MILLER (35) stands patiently near a rack of "intimate apparel."

She spots a frilly bit of lingerie. She admires the fabric...until she sees the price tag. She frowns, and places it back on the rack.

CANDY (O.S.)  
Susie? Susie Miller?

Susan looks up. Farther back in line, CANDY SELMAN (32) and PEGGY RYDER (39) wave at her eagerly.

The woman scoop up their packages and cut ahead - elbowing a WOMAN (50s) out of the way.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN  
Hey!

Candy shrugs. She and Peggy gather around Susan; an unstoppable avalanche of smiles and sunshine.

CANDY  
Can you believe this line? You'd think they'd open a second register.

PEGGY  
Why should they? Everyone's desperate to get a copy of Atomic Stompers 4. They know we'll wait as long as it takes...

Candy points at Peggy proudly.

CANDY  
And when Peggy says as long as it takes, she's not kidding. You know how long she waited when Ipad 2 came out? Missed an appointment, but got one the first day. You know, Mark was really appreciative...

Peggy leers at Susan suggestively.

PEGGY  
Hey, Susie. How's Daniel?

Candy squints in Susan's direction.

CANDY

Susie...didn't expect to see you here.  
Shouldn't you be in the girl section,  
buying Tricia an Edward doll?

The line shuffles forward imperceptibly.

SUSAN

I wish. But Tricia's not into Twilight  
or boys. It's video games these days.  
Super Rainbow Pony Princess, to be exact.

Candy and Peggy mouth "Oh" simultaneously.

PEGGY

Super Rainbow Pony Princess, now there's  
a brain builder!

Candy shoots Peggy a derisive look.

CANDY

You should talk. Last I heard, Adam was  
eating paint chips off the floor.

PEGGY

Candice, you know that was back in third  
grade. He thought it was a potato chip.

She looks to Susan for moral support.

PEGGY

Adam's been doing well in school, and his  
birthday's coming up next week. We  
promised him Atomic Stompers, and he's  
going to get it.

She glares at Candy.

PEGGY

Even if it's the last one.

Candy HUFFS. She turns to Susan, ignoring Peggy.

CANDY

In my opinion, good behavior should be a  
given. Charlie and I only reward Jonnie  
for true excellence. And for working  
smarter, not harder. Like last week, when  
he won the science fair with his steam  
engine model.

She steps in front of Peggy, edges her aside. Peggy  
opens her mouth to protest.

Candy turns, and blinks innocently.

CANDY

Didn't Adam make a dinosaur out of  
popsicle sticks for that one?

Peggy nods, and steps backward.

A COUGH brings the bickering to a halt. All three woman  
look up expectantly.

It's a PIMPLY TEENAGE CLERK: complete with apron, name  
tag and clipboard. The boy CLEARS his throat nervously.

CLERK

Attention, customers. Atomic Stompers 4  
is sold out. But we're expecting a  
shipment next week. Anyone interested  
can give me your name and number...

A collective GRUMBLE rises from the crowd.

Several CUSTOMERS surge forward. The boy is mobbed as  
the CROWD grabs at the clipboard.

Candy and Peggy push forward, irritated.

CANDY

We've been waiting for hours. We need a  
copy today!

PEGGY

You should have told us there was a  
limited supply. What are we supposed to  
do?

CLERK

Well, there's a Best Buy on the fifth  
floor. They might have one copy left.

Peggy and Candy look at each other. A moment of silence  
stretches into eternity.

They turn, and dash towards the door.

Susan is shoved aside, into a rack of cotton robes.

INT. THE MALL - FIRST FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: A timer appears at the top of the screen, clocking  
each second that passes. A score tally appears in each  
corner, color coordinated to the womens' blouses.

Candy and Peggy streak out the door, neck and neck.

High heels CLICK rapidly on the marble floor.

Directly ahead, COUPLES walk hand-in-hand. They weave side to side as they LAUGH and point to various stores.

Candy and Peggy break rank to avoid a collision.

SUPER: 100 points, added to each score tally.

Peggy veers dangerously close to a Hello Kitty Kiosk.

She clips a LITTLE GIRL (6), holding a huge stuffed toy. Hello Kitty bounces to the floor. The girl turns red, and starts to cry.

Peggy looks back briefly. Then forges ahead, with no word of apology to the shocked PARENTS.

The girl picks up the toy, and holds it protectively to her chest. She sticks her tongue out at Peggy.

LITTLE GIRL (O.S.)

That lady was an booger-head, Mommy.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Gloria, such language!

SUPER: 25 points, deducted from Peggy's side.

Candy looks back and grins. The distance between them grows with each step.

Candy turns a corner, towards the elevators.

There's a wall of PEDESTRIANS ahead. Candy SCREECHES to a halt with inches to spare.

It's a line of ELDERLY MALL WALKERS. Lots of pant suits, wheelchairs and canes. They move glacially slow.

SUPER: The counter slows to a crawl. A cartoon kitty appears in one corner, TAPS it's foot impatiently.

Peggy catches up. She stands next to Candy, out of breath. Two more OCTOGENARIANS stroll by.

OLD WOMAN #1

(to her friend)

You should try Poise. Much more comfortable than Depends...

Her COMPANION nods in agreement.

A break appears in the tide of old people. Peggy and Candy dart through in unison.

SUPER: POOF. The kitty disappears. The clock returns to normal speed.

INT. ELEVATOR BANKS - CONTINUOUS

A CROWD gathers at the two elevator banks.

Peggy stands at one door. Candy stands at the other. They stare at each other competitively.

Peggy watches the elevator cord jiggle. Three floors above, the car stops to take on more RIDERS.

Candy's car descends non-stop.

Peggy's elevator stops on the 3rd floor. Candy grins evilly.

The elevator arrives at Candy's bank.

She steps inside, and waves to Peggy. She's instantly mobbed by SHOPPERS and MOTHERS with strollers. The doors close with a SNAP.

The elevator begins to ascend.

SUPER: 200 Points, earned by Candy.

INT. CANDY'S ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Candy stares down at Peggy's shrinking figure with glee.

A LITTLE BOY reaches up and hits all five buttons.

The smile on Candy's face fades away.

SUPER: 50 points deducted from Candy's score. The loser bell BUZZES.

She peers through the glass as Peggy's elevator passes by.

Peggy wiggles her fingers, and points towards the fifth floor.

The elevator CHIMES open on the second floor. People flow out at a leisurely pace.

Candy hesitates. Then she squeezes out the door - just before it closes.

INT. THE MALL - SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Candy dodges SHOPPERS as she races through the mall.

She reaches the escalator. It's out of order.

She runs to the staircase and bolts up the steps, taking two at a time. The steps light up in neon colors, with each successive footfall.

INT. THE MALL - THIRD AND FOURTH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Candy reaches the top, and glances upward.

On the fifth floor, Peggy races along, her purse flying free.

SUPER: A cross hair traces her path, but doesn't get close enough to shoot.

Candy reaches the next flight of escalators. Also out of order.

CANDY

Oh, crap.

She races up these as well.

CANDY

Thank fucking God for Zumba...

INT. THE MALL - FIFTH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Candy reaches the fifth floor and stares around in panic.

She spots Peggy, who stands frozen in front of the mall directory.

Candy looks around for Best Buy. Nowhere to be found.

PEGGY

(to herself)

This can't be it. I was supposed to turn right...

She stares at Candy in confusion, then points at the anchor store, directly ahead.

PEGGY

Where the hell is it? This is a fucking Borders!

Candy stabs a finger onto the directory's red locator arrow.

Super: An animated path follows her finger, traces the direction between Borders and Best Buy.

CANDY

There it is. The blue zone! We're in the red, and we want the blue zone!

The women tear down the aisle, towards the other end of the mall.

They race along, neck and neck and swerve to avoid obstacles. First a Slurpee Spill. Then a TEENAGE GIRL, texting on her phone.

Super: The points rack up on both sides, with each successful dodge.

Best Buy looms ahead, like the promised land. The archway lights up, neon blue and inviting.

Neither woman hesitates. They run into the store with wild abandon.

SUPER: A checkered flag appears at the bottom of the screen. It waves, and an invisible crowd CHEERS.

INT. BEST BUY - CONTINUOUS

Candy and Peggy streak past a BEEFY SECURITY GUARD (20s).

SECURITY GUARD

Hey, no running!

Without looking back, Candy flips him the bird.

They don't break stride until they reach the electronics department.

INT. ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS.

Both women collapse at the register, completely out of breath.

A TEENAGED GIRL sits at the counter, holding a phone. She's chewing gum, and has a blue smock and nameplate.

CANDY  
We're. Here. For.

PEGGY  
Atomic...Stompers...

CANDY  
Four...

Candy slaps a credit card on the counter and HUFFS.

The girl looks at them dubiously. They're both a wreck. Smearred makeup. Frizzed out hair. Clothing askew.

REGISTER GIRL  
We just sold out, a few seconds ago. If you'd like to give us your number...

Candy looks up, her eyes red and wild.

CANDY  
Where is he? Has he left the store yet?

The girl chews on her gum, and shakes her head.

REGISTER GIRL  
A lady called, put it on hold. She's on her way to pick it up now.

Peggy waves cash in the clerk's direction.

PEGGY  
Give it to me instead. I'll pay double...

A COUGH makes them swing around.

It's Susan, approaching from the entrance.

She holds up a smartphone, and waves it in their direction.

SUSAN  
Work smarter, girls, not harder.

Susan smiles, and walks past Candy and Peggy.

SUSAN  
(to the electronics clerk)  
I'm Mrs. Miller. I called in the order?

Peggy and Candy watch bug-eyed as a copy of Atomic Stompers 4 slides across the counter, and is neatly deposited into Susan's bag.

Candy gets enough of her second wind to speak first.

CANDY

I...thought you wanted Super Rainbow Princess?

Susan pats her purse.

SUSAN

It's right here. Got it fifteen minutes ago.

PEGGY

But why take...

CANDY

Atomic Stompers Four..?

Susan grins sheepishly.

SUSAN

You know how expensive the Super Rainbow series is? Even worse than Hello Kitty.

Peggy looks down at the floor.

SUSAN

Then there are dresses and parties. Adds up, you know. Especially with girls.

Susan smiles shyly, then looks over at Candy.

SUSAN

Then there's this dressy little thing I've been had my eye on recently. Saw it while we were in line. A bit expensive, but I bet Daniel would be appreciative...

She digs into her purse, and holds up the copy of Atomic Stompers 4.

SUSAN

So, who wants to be first bidder?

SUPER: GAME OVER, splashed across the center of the screen. It flashes, then the Credits and High Scores Roll... Susan Miller takes top billing.

FINAL FADE OUT.