

Series Title: The Store

Episode Title: The Fifteenth

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Page-by-Page Plot

ACT ONE

Page 1

Establishing shot of the outside of the store. Tiffany Dean (wearing a business skirt and jacket, with her hair neatly done up) arrives at the front entrance. She is surprised to see a closed sign that informs customers that the store will open at 1pm. She checks her watch. It reads 8am. She digs the store key out of her sleek purse. She unlocks the door.

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Splash page with title and credits at the top. A view looking over Tiffany's shoulder. At the front of the store, Ashley (in trademark loose clothing just a bit more grungy than usual) and Stephen (wearing worn jeans and an old t-shirt) are sitting on the floor with piles of merchandise stacked about them. These items are varied and in haphazard piles, as if they had been dumped out of a box. There are boxes, in varying sizes, into which the items are being sorted. *Note about the boxes: Anytime, now or in the future panels, that we can see inside the boxes, the items are being sorted by color, shape, alphabet, or some other way, each box is sorted using a different method, but never by function or type of product until Tiffany gets involved and that manner is indicated.* Ashley and Stephen are filling the boxes. Ashley remarks that it is about time Tiffany showed up. Bottom inset: Tiffany looks shocked and stammers an apology.

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Stephen stands to greet Tiffany, whispering that everyone is supposed to get there an hour early on the fifteenth. Ashley, still sorting items, tells Tiffany to put her stuff away and come help. Tiffany looks confused, and asks what is going on. Stephen tells her it is the fifteenth. He takes her coat and purse and offers to put them in the break room. Ashley holds up a handful of papers. Tiffany, standing over Ashley, takes the pages. Ashley, still sorting, informs her that this is the standard list they work from until the official order comes in. Tiffany, still confused, asks "what order?"

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

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Jon (wearing a button shirt and tie) wheels in a dolly full of boxes, filled with more random merchandise. He drops them off in front of Tiffany. He checks the list, over her shoulder, then wheels the dolly to the back. The computer dings an alert. Ashley stands up, instructing Tiffany to empty the boxes so they can sort the items properly. Tiffany pulls items out of the boxes, one or two at a time. She stacks them neatly to the side, in groups based on what they are. Ashley, at the computer, groans and yells to Stephen that today's order is the standard and the standby. Stephen,

returning from the break room, groans and complains about the extra work for the standby order.

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Tiffany, only half her box emptied, asks what the standby order is. Ashley dumps the box out in a pile and tells her it's easier and faster that way. Ashley hands Tiffany the printout of the order and instructs her to ask Ivan for the standby list. Tiffany, appalled at the mess, takes the paper. Tiffany pokes her head in Ivan's office and tells him Ashley wants the list for the standby order. Ivan, wearing rumpled clothing and staring at his computer monitor, rummages in a drawer with one hand. He hands over a stapled bundle of pages. Tiffany inquires about the strange situation, to which Ivan shrugs and grunts that it's the fifteenth.

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Back at the front of the store, Ashley points out two boxes to Tiffany, instructing her to work from the standby list and start pulling items from the shelves until Jon gets back with more. Ashley adds that Jon will need to know the special items on the order when he returns. Tiffany checks the order. Close up of the order reads: "For pickup on the fifteenth at 11am: the Usual plus the Standby. Also needed: The Thing With The Thing, That Other Thing, and That Thing There." Tiffany, remarking on the odd phrasing, sets the order sheet down on the register counter. With box and standby list in hand, she gathers items off the shelves. *Note on the items selected: These items are varied and can be anything, and not just one of each item, instead the order calls for multiples of each item. It could be two toilet brushes, five cans of chili, eight boxes of cereal, four tennis rackets, and so forth.* Tiffany places her full box on the register counter, next to the order sheet. She picks up another empty box. When Stephen sees her in an aisle, the box is half full. Stephen stops her from picking up an item, pointing to a similar one next to it. He explains that their customer has specific brand requirements. He points out one or two other items in her box and tells her they need to be switched out. Tiffany asks him who the customer is. Ashley yells from the front that they need to move faster. Stephen takes the box, offering to fix the brand problems, and suggests Tiffany help Ashley sort the merchandise.

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Tiffany kneels on the floor, skirt hiked up a little and making the position awkward. There are three varying sized boxes in front of her. Random merchandise is piled all around her. Tiffany sorts the items into the boxes by function or type of product. Her organization makes logical sense, but contradicts every other box we've seen so far. When the piles are much smaller, and the boxes are nearly full, Tiffany is sitting flat on the floor, skirt hiked further up and hair starting to come loose in places. Stephen, approaching from behind her with his box of items, sees the organization of the boxes and gasps in shock. He slides his box on the register counter, pushing the order sheet off the counter. It glides to the floor, sliding under the counter with only the edge peeking out. Stephen dumps out the boxes Tiffany had organized, to her protest, and tells her that their customer has a particular way he likes things. Tiffany tries to ask him who the customer is but Stephen starts pointing to items from the pile that would fit an odd category, (maybe everything in the pile that is red or flat or cylindrical or whatever will be shown in the full box later).

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Jon and his dolly park another stack of boxes with random items (not necessary to show them all, maybe just a piece sticking out of the top box) behind Tiffany, asking if she has the special order. Tiffany searches for the order sheet, checking under the boxes on the register counter. Stephen picks up a box from the stack that Jon set down. Tiffany tries to recite the order by memory, getting it mostly right: "The Thing With The Thing, That One Thing, and That Thing There." Jon asks if she is sure that was what it said. Distracted by Stephen dumping the box onto a pile, she confirms that was all the order said. Jon leaves with his dolly. Stephen dumps out another box, adding to the pile of mixed up merchandise. Ashley, on the other side of some stacked boxes, calls out for them to hurry because he will be there soon. Tiffany yells back, asking if someone will please tell her who he is. Ashley informs her their client is an eccentric hermit who orders on the fifteenth of every month. Ashley elaborates with a theory that he is building an underground apocalypse shelter. The theory is that the strange organization is to avoid some government monitoring system or something just as paranoid. Ashley thinks he and Jon may be in some sort of black market operation together.

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Stephen and Tiffany have mostly full boxes scattered around them. Each one organized in an eccentric method. Tiffany's hair is mostly undone now and she has a smudge mark on her face. Ashley walks behind them to the boxes still stacked on the register counter. Ashley exclaims about them not being finished because the customer will be here any moment, and they haven't even changed yet. Ashley sees the corner of the order sheet, picks it up and sets it back on the counter. Ashley heads to the break room to change. Stephen and Tiffany each grab a box. They move between the nearly full boxes, stacked all over the front of the store (we're talking 30 to 40 boxes, maybe more). They place items from their boxes into the corresponding organizational pattern. There is a knock on the side door.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

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Ashley (now wearing a more clean and presentably set of loose clothing) runs out of the break room, yelling Ivan's name. Ashley instructs Stephen to hurry and change and Tiffany to fix herself up. Stephen runs to the back. Tiffany brushes her skirt out, and undoes her hair, making it more presentable. She is unaware of the smudge mark on her face. Ivan (in a fresh shirt) runs out of his office. Jon (shirt and tie still neat and clean) wheels out a final dolly full of packages, setting it next to the register counter. There are three items, with unique shapes, wrapped in brown paper and tied with twine. Ivan opens the side door to the shadowy silhouette of a man. Stephen (now wearing a clean pair of khakis and a button shirt) runs out of the break room. The customer steps inside, into the light. He is a clean-cut, handsome man in a business suit, not what one would picture as a paranoid, eccentric hermit.

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The customer walks by each of the row of team members, stopping at Tiffany. He comments that she is new. Jon speaks up to assure him that she is can be trusted and he vouches for her background. The customer smiles, then points out the smudge on her face. Tiffany covers it with a hand and turns her face, embarrassed. The

customer walks by the stacks of boxes, as he did the crew. He stops at the dolly with the three items on it. He points at one item and demands to know what is going on. It is not the item he ordered. He ordered That Other Thing not That One Thing. Jon steps forward and apologizes to the customer. He picks up the order off the register, reads it and grimaces in Tiffany's direction. He hefts the object the customer pointed to and assures him that he will be back with the proper item before the truck is fully loaded.

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The crew carries boxes out the side door under the watchful eye of the customer. Jon wheels his dolly out with the two original packages and a new package with another unique shape. Once the boxes are all loaded, the customer shakes Jon's hand. Ivan closes the door behind the customer. Jon shakes the order at Tiffany, insisting that the customer is very valuable and that mistake could have been a disaster. There is a big difference between That One Thing and That Other Thing. Jon stalks off, leaving Tiffany confused. Ivan disappears into his office. Ashley, Stephen, and Tiffany gather in the break room and collapse into chairs. Ashley remarks that they have one hour until the store opens to the public. Stephen is already face down on the table, snoring. Tiffany, elbow on the table and chin resting in her hand, remarks that if they have to do this every month, she's sure there's a better way to be organized. Ashley smiles and asks if she wants to hear a theory about what those brown packages are and why they have code names.

END OF ACT THREE