BAD MANAGEMENT

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BAD MANAGEMENT

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, LUXURY GOODS

In slow motion, we see Eve cruise down the aisles. She walks past Ramon (Gay, vain, Puerto Rican, butt-cheek implanted, hates Eve) assisting a man trying on aftershave. The man knocks a bottle off the counter display. Eve coolly catches it and places it back. As she turns away her jacket clips the display and whole thing topples. None the wiser, Eve waves over at her friend Linda (massive hair, like a tanned Joan Cussack from Working Girl). Linda waves back and then, once Eve has passed, takes a sneaky sip from her hip flask. Eve sees a small child crying in the aisle. She walks over, scoops him up and hands him to an anxious looking woman. As she walks on, we see his actual mother running over to snatch the child from the confused stranger. They look angrily after Eve.

A man rushes by Eve and trips over. She helps him to his feet and hands him his iPad and three umbrellas that he has dropped. She continues on her way. As she leaves screen we see Mrs. Paulin, store detective (small, out of shape, super keen), frantically sprinting after the thieving man. Finally Eve walks past a wrapping paper stand and grabs a gift bag. She turns the corner and picks up an item from the '$10 or less' display, stuffs it in the bag, and strolls off.

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, LUXURY GOODS

Eve, hiding the gift bag behind her back, approaches Monique(small, fragile, bit of a whisker issue) who is on her knees behind her counter.

EVE
Good morning Monique... Oh, have you had a fall?

Monique looks up, confused.

MONIQUE
No, I'm just stacking this shelf.

EVE
Well in that case, would you mind accompanying me to the staff area?

Monique, confused, gets up and follows Eve.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE'S STAFF ROOM - DAY 1

Monique and Eve enter. The room is full of staff holding glasses of grape juice in plastic flutes.

Tobias Eastmore SNR (Tough, hates failure, likes lunches) and Tobias JNR (his son, devilishly handsome, a brat and a womanizer) are slightly off to one side.

EVERYONE
Surprise!

MONIQUE
What's going on?

EVE
It's your surprise leaving party!

She points to a big "Bon Voyage!" banner. Monique looks around, confused. Eve hands her the gift bag.

MONIQUE
I didn't know I was leaving

EVE
Awwhhhh.

Eve takes centre stage. She bangs on the side of her glass. Tobias is texting. Eve makes a point of waiting. He presses save, it pings. He gives Eve a wide grin. She rolls her eyes.

EVE
Today we say 'Bon Voyage' to Monique who's served Eastmores for 35 years. Which is, like, nuts.(She pats Monique's shoulder) But we met just fifteen years ago when I got what I thought was just a holiday job in this good store. Monique became like a *spirit guide*, watching over me as I quickly rose through the ranks and at the tender age of 38 was made departmental manager.

She starts a round of applause by slapping the back of her own thigh. Not knowing where the applause is coming from everyone joins in. Eve turns to Monique.

EVE
What I'm trying to say is; Monique, you were by my side through all of that and I'm just glad you get to spend your twilight years knowing that you'll always have a 5% discount off all products here. Excluding sales items. Would you like to say a few words?

MONIQUE
Am I being fired?

EVE
No, you’re retiring.

Eve holds up her glass. They all raise their glasses.

EVE (SINGING)
For she’s a jolly good fellow -

Mrs. Paulin (store detective, 30’s, round, eager) steps up.

MRS.PAULIN
(Harmonizing) For she’s a jolly good fellow -

Ramon hugs Monique. Eastmore taps his watch, looks to Eve.

EVE
Okay lets wrap this up now.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. 'COSMETICS' SHOP FLOOR - DAY 1

Everyone is back at work on the shop floor. Ramon and Linda is at her station with a customer who is trying out lipsticks.

CUSTOMER
Do you have this in rose pink?

Linda stares at the woman. Then sort of half scans the counter, then looks over her shoulder at Ramon.

LINDA
Ramon. We got the 'Kevin Aucoin' lips in rose pink?

RAMON
They're probably in the store room by the boxes of new stock.

Linda sighs deeply and turns back to the woman.

LINDA
No.

The customer stares at her. Linda blinks slowly. Then;

LINDA
Can I interest you in a store card?

The customer walks off. Linda's gaze turns to Tobias. She watches him as he bends over to reach for something. He looks up. Sees Linda watching. Gives her a knowing smile. Linda nudges Ramon.

LINDA
You see that? That makes me wish I still had my womb.

Ramon shudders. Eve approaches

EVE
Morning team. Morning Ramon.

RAMON
I hope you're happy with what you did to Monique. That woman was like a mother to me.

EVE
Really? In that case you should be pleased that she's finally getting to do those things she's probably always dreamed of doing. Like travelling the world. Or...
(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)
y'know, watching TV. There's so much good TV on! Who gets to just watch all the TV they want? Monique, now.

LINDA
I called you last night during Project Runway.

EVE
I was out with Chris.

LINDA
Well, you missed a good one. Janice Dickinson spat at Tim.

EVE
Dammit it I knew I shouldn't have left the house.

Eastmore approaches. Everyone tries to look busy. Eve grabs Ramon's pen. He grabs it back off her. She eyeballs him

EASTMORE
Nicely handled with Monique back there.

EVE
Thank you Sir.

EASTMORE
Always sad to see a favorite team member retire but in this business you have to keep looking forward. Out with the old, in with the new.

They look over at Tobias Jnr who is demonstrating to a middle aged woman how to play golf on the Wii. He guides her from behind, his arms wrapped around hers, showing her how to do a swing with the simulated golf club. She is lapping it up.

EASTMORE
How's the boy getting on?

Eve stares over at him.

EVE
He has a very interesting sales technique. Some might call it *predatory* but I call it.. forceful.

EASTMORE
My son's got passion and that's what people respond to in retail. Nowhere more than Luxury Goods.

EVE
Sir, you don't have to tell me that. I am one hundred percent *all* about luxury. I live luxury. I literally breathe leather. Or moleskin. I breathe moleskin.

EASTMORE
Good to hear. Now, you available for a Heads of Department meeting at three?

EVE
Oh. Erm... I was going to run through a Health and Safety refresher course with Linda this afternoon...

Linda looks surprised. This is the first she's heard.

EVE
But we can stay late and do that, can't we Linda?

Linda nods, not sure what's happening. Eastmore leaves.

EVE
I wanted to get a facial and eyelash tint before lunch.(She looks at her watch. Thinks) Tell you what just throw me a pair of falsies for now.

Linda passes her some false eyelashes.

EVE
(applying lashes)
I may as well tell you my news - I'm asking Chris to move in with me. I'm ready. Again.

LINDA
Congratulations. Again.

Eve sees that Ramon has placed Monique's staff ID badge on his counter, with a scented candle lit beside it.

EVE
Listen don't think I'm not affected by Monique's retirement, I'm gonna miss her as much as you guys and -

RAMON
She's coming over.

EVE
Crap.

She looks over her shoulder and a crying Monique is walking quickly in their direction.

EVE
She moves fast for an old lady.

Eve, with one false eyelash hanging off, ducks down behind Ramon's counter. She looks to Ramon.

EVE
Cover me.

RAMON
No.

She eyeballs Ramon and makes a low dash for the next counter. She makes another dash for a trolley of boxes and uses it to shield her as she wheels it out of her department. Ramon stares after her.

CUT TO

INT. EASTMORE'S SHOP FLOOR, SOUND AND VISION

Eve, still cowering behind the trolley, bumps into a pair of legs and is about to apologize when she looks up and sees it's Tobias.

TOBIAS JNR
What are you doing? There's 40 grand's worth of subwoofers on that trolley.

EVE
What am I doing? *This trolley* was blocking my thoroughfare. I know you seem to operate your own 'rules' system here but if you had paid the slightest heed to the health and safety briefing when you started, you'd know that we 'Keep. Aisles. Clear. Here'.

TOBIAS
Your eyelash is hanging off.

She shoves it back on. It hangs off again.

EVE
So how're you getting on? Settling in okay? It must be such a rewarding challenge for you to adjust to working, after so long, *not* working.

TOBIAS JNR
Oh I'm loving it. I'd go as far as to say I'm thriving here. In fact I've got some ideas about how you could improve your goods display

EVE
Well *fascinated* as I am to hear to them I'm actually meeting my boyfriend for lunch now.

TOBIAS JNR
You've got a boyfriend? Wow. You don't act like a woman who has a man in her life.

EVE
You know what, I'm not even going to get offended by that because I, unlike you, am mature enough to maintain a grown up relationship with an adult man. Who, by the way, is super hot and not too bad in the you know where, if you know what I mean. (BEAT) Bed. I'm talking about sexual intercourse. Specifically.

Eve walks off as though she's won.

CUT TO

INT. EASTMORE'S CAFETERIA - DAY 1

Eve and Chris are in the queue at Eastmores self service restaurant. Eve is filling their plates as she talks.

EVE
Do you want a hot wing?

CHRIS
No.

EVE
Sure? I'll get you one anyway

They sit down with their trays. Chris wolfs his food down. Eve doesn't even register this.

EVE
Oh, I forgot to tell you. The other night I was on the sofa and my feet were cold, so I unzipped a cushion cover and put my feet in it. It was like a shoe duvet! I'm gonna call it a 'Shu-vet'. I might try it again tonight.

He puts down his fork. Wipes his mouth.

CHRIS
I think we should break up.

She stares at him with food in her mouth, mid chew.

EVE
(mouth still a bit full)
What? Why..?... I don't understand... we had such a good time last night

CHRIS
Well you did. I don't even like crepes.

EVE
(Still trying to swallow)
Well... I mean... (Long pause) I don't know what to... why?

CHRIS
It's just, it's hard going out with an older woman.

EVE
I'm three months younger than you!

CHRIS
Yeah but you want to settle down, Eve. You've got a routine. We've spent the last 11 weekends watching the West Wing Box Set.

EVE
It's a commitment Chris! You knew that the night we started it.

CHRIS
I think I want something different from you.

EVE
That's not true, we want the same things.

CHRIS
No we don't. You're already planning where you're going to put your feet later.

EVE
Oh God. I think I'm gonna be sick. I can't do this again. I can't. Who else is there..? I can't even think of my plan B right now.

She throws her head back, tries to calm herself. Stops.

EVE
Would it make any difference if I asked you to move in with me?

She puts house keys with a love heart key ring on the table

CHRIS
I think it would definitely make this more awkward.

Beat.

EVE
Well if that's all we have to say to each other then I'm going to back to work. Where I'm appreciated.

She gets up.

EVE
I bought you those crepes. Remember that. And you *seemed* to be *enjoying* them at the time.

She leaves. Comes back. Awkwardly picks up the house keys.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE'S SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS - DAY 1

Linda is helping Eve clean up the mascara that has run down her face. Mrs. Paulin is hovering.

MRS. PAULIN
If it helps I thought he was too young for you.

EVE
He's the same age as me!

LINDA
Why don't you just call him? I remember when Todd walked out, I just kept calling him and calling him and calling him and calling him and after five weeks I broke him and he came back. A week later I got pregnant. And then he really couldn't leave.

EVE
You're divorced.

LINDA
Yeah, after 13 glorious years and three kids. You see, there can be a happy ending for you.

Linda gives her a lovely supportive smile.

CUT TO

INT. EASTMORE'S OFFICE - DAY 1

Close up of Eve, deep in thought, sitting in a leather chair opposite Mr. Eastmore, all the department heads are there and Tobias Jnr who is leaning back on a giant bean bag, legs crossed. Nonchalant

EASTMORE
...Eve?

She snaps out of it.

EASTMORE
I was saying, what do you think of the chair? We've just ordered 500 from Italy.

EVE
Nice. Yeah. Nice leather.

EASTMORE
I'm confident this chair is gonna change how people sit. Hit the button to your left.

Eve peers over the side of the chair and finds the button. The chair starts massaging her back and buttocks.

EVE
Wow. That is... oh, that's... that feels inappropriate (She tries to peer over the side) is there a button to turn this...

She tries to turn the chair off - it starts vibrating

EVE
(Her voice wobbling like Belinda Carlisle's)
Okay, does anyone else want a go on this because I've just had some bad news and it's making me feel a little bit -

Tobias turns it off. Smiles at her. She looks confused

EASTMORE
So, you may have noticed I've asked Tobias to pull up a beanbag and sit in on this - I know you've all seen what he's been doing on the first floor -

EVE
Yes, we have all seen, and frankly - it's distracting.

Tobias winks at her.

EVE
Are you winking at me? Take that wink back.

EASTMORE
- and I'm pleased to say that after much soul searching he's finally decided to stay on as a permanent member of staff. You're looking at the new head of Sound and Vision.

EVE
Where?

She looks around, realizes he's talking about Tobias. The department heads clap. Eve leans into the guy beside her.

EVE
(Whispers)
What? Hang on - he's fast tracking him - is that *legal*?

Tobias goes to get up. He finds it hard to get up out of the beanbag but eventually manages it.

TOBIAS
Thanks dad. Thanks guys. First of all I know I've only been here a short time but I feel I've got a lot to offer Eastmores; some very, very comprehensive life experience, my dot com businesses - don't know if you've heard of Linkdin? I'm on that. I've been to Europe, I've had two years as a semi pro golfer. I'm going to be bringing all of this to the table.

EVE
(whispers to the guy)
He's bringing golf to the table?

TOBIAS
What I've learnt from my business -

EVE
(whispers to the guy)
Failed businesses -

GUY
(whispering)
Can you stop doing that? Please. I'm *into* this.

She looks at him like, 'Ooooooh'.

TOBIAS
Is that you've got to take risks. And my observation so far is that maybe Eastmores is a bit stuck in its ways.

EVE
No. No, I don't accept that. There are some very forward thinking people in here. I for one recently suggested we get those wet foamy disc things so you can open plastic bags more easily-er.

No one responds to this.

TOBIAS
If I could just finish my point; it got me thinking what else are we selling when we're selling an Eastmore product?

GUY
Extended Warranties?

TOBIAS
No, sex. We're selling sex. And that's why I feel I could be just the guy to inject some sex around this place. Doesn't matter if you're selling an Abs Sculptor or a christening spoon, it's all sex. I'm bringing sexy back to Eastmores.

Eastmore gives him the thumbs up. Eve goes to say something. Bites her tongue. But she's fuming.

CUT TO:

INT. 'ELECTRONICS' SHOP FLOOR - DAY 1

Eve, Ramon, Linda and Mrs. Paulin are looking over at Tobias. He is basically slow dancing with a woman to a Bang & Olufsen sound system. 'Secret Lover' by Atlantic Starr is playing extremely loudly.

EVE
...I use sex to sell. I mean it might not be 'in your face' sex, but it's sex alright. It's good old wholesome, family sex.

Tobias takes his hands off her lower back to point out another high spec detail of the sound system.

EVE
You know, first they get rid of Monique -

RAMON
You got rid of Monique.

EVE
And then they try and take our dignity. We don't need to degrade ourselves like that. Look at us. We are professionals and we are good at our jobs.

She looks at Ramon who is plucking a grey hair out of his chest and Linda who hasn't brushed her hair today. Tobias comes over.

TOBIAS
Just got my sales figures. Thought I'd share the good news. 200% up on last month.

EVE
Congratulations.

LINDA
I am so happy for you. Come here.

Linda gives him a big hug. Kisses his cheek. Tries to kiss his forehead. He pulls away. Wipes his face a bit.

TOBIAS
Listen, I detected some hostility during the meeting and I just wanted to make sure we're cool.

EVE
Why wouldn't we be?

TOBIAS
Well I'm sure it's not easy having some young buck come in and, you know, shake things up a bit. And I heard from Martha in the canteen that you got dumped today.

EVE
What?

TOBIAS
I know it's hard to adjust to change especially at a time when your confidence must be at an all time low. So just wanted to say no pressure. Just keep doing what you're doing. (He smiles) And if it helps I thought your Shuvet idea was very strong.

He winks at her. Eve eyeballs him.

CUT TO:

INT. EVE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 1

Eve is back in her apartment, cat on her lap, watching Working Girl on Netflix, feet in a cushion cover (shu-vet). She is drinking wine from the bottle, through a straw. There is the familiar sound of the last dregs being sucked out. The film is gripping her. The scene where Sigourney Weaver's character says "Who's got the power?" And Tess puts her hand on her heart and says "I have, I have the power" comes on. Eve rewinds it. Plays it again. Mouths along to it. She hugs the cat. Cat howls and scratches her.

Cut to Eve standing in front of the bathroom mirror, trying to cover up her cat scratch. She stares long and hard at herself, pulls her hair back, giving herself a mini face-lift. She opens her handbag, empties a load of testers into the sink. She is about to apply the products when she catches sight of her chin. Rubs it. Starts rhythmically plucking hairs out of it.

ACT TWO

INT. COSMETICS, SHOP FLOOR - DAY 2

Eve walks onto the shop floor holding a box of cupcakes. She has big hair, shirt buttons undone, a pair of high heels and her skirt hem two inches higher than usual. Her face looks suspiciously tight. Eve walks past Ramon. He stares at her.(The music playing is “Let the River Run” carly Simon)

RAMON
Are you wearing eye tabs?

EVE
(as she walks)
Yes. Yes I am.

RAMON
My God, they’ve peeled weeks off you.

Eve walks up to an unmanned counters and opens the box, she wafts them a little, so that everyone can smell fresh cake, and steps back. All her team members approach the box.

EVE
Everyone look at me!

Everyone turns to look, cakes in hand, caught out. Eve stands in front of her instant audience and clears her throat.

EVE
When I was 11 years old my father left my mother for a woman called Rita, who he’d met at his office, and over the years gotten close to, but that’s not important, what’s important is that one of the reasons he left my mother was because she always wore a purple turtle neck which he said was unflattering but she said was very comfortable, and even though he begged her to throw it out she kept wearing it and *wearing it* and in the end, he left.

RAMON
(Looking around)
Are we being punked?

EVE
My point is, we need to take off the purple turtle necks people and start making an *effort*.
(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)
I don't want people thinking that the Luxury Goods department have let themselves go.

Ramon gasps, he can't believe what he's hearing.

EVE
I'm just dropping truth bombs here. Sorry if one landed on you

She sees Tobias walking nearby. Eve's voice rises

EVE
I want this to be the most kickass department here. And that might ruffle a few feathers but I'm afraid if you can't handle it then tough titty tit. Tits. Look what happened to Monique when she let herself go.

RAMON
She didn't let herself go. She got diabetes.

EVE
Well she got herself replaced is what she did, and I'm going to be interviewing her replacement today. So think on.(Claps her hands) New recruits, new energy, new... moon.

Everyone look confused, including Tobias.

EVE
Forget the moon bit, that didn't really work. That was silly. Okay back to work, except you Linda

Linda goes up to Eve. She is extra bronze today.

LINDA
What happened to your neck?

EVE
It's um... it's a love bite. From a cat. It's a cat bite.

LINDA
What's going on? Did you start on those pills I was telling you about? Your pupils look great.

EVE
No, this is all me. You know what, yesterday was the wake up call I needed. I just realized, I'm nearly forty -

LINDA
You're forty-one.

EVE
Exactly, *nearly* forty and I've got start upping my game. If they want our department to be sexy, I will *give* them sexy, so help me. And I think I've found my secret weapon.

She hands over a resume with a photo attached of a good-looking, young woman, Mel.

EVE
Proper hotty. Right there.

LINDA
She's looks like the kind of girl who would've bullied me at school for wearing tie-dye

EVE
Exactly.

Linda goes to walk off.

EVE
Oh and Linda, about your tan -

LINDA
Oh, yeah, it was supposed to be Mahogony Kiss but I fell asleep on the bathroom floor so I think it overdeveloped.

EVE
I've got two words 'Tan-orexic'. It's ageing you. Not a good look on the make up counter. As your manager I'm going to have to ask you to lighten that up.

Eve walks to Ramon, plucking the grey out of his chest hair.

EVE
Can you stop that? No one wants to see a grey chest pube in their 80 dollar cold cream.

Eve walks off, high on the power. Ramon looks after her, agog. Linda joins him. He clasps his shirt, closing the V

RAMON
I feel like I've been punctured.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS - DAY 2

Eve, looking like an old Olivia Newton John in Grease post make over, is once again walking in slow motion through the department. As she walks everyone's heads turn to check her out. The women look envious and men are all 'Schwing!'. Eve looks delighted with herself. She sees an attractive man ahead really checking her out.

MAN
Mmmmm, look-ing fine.

Eve smiles, confidently. She goes to thank him when a voice behind her gets there first.

MEL (O.S.)
Thank you.

Eve, confused, looks around and sees Mel from the resume photo (young, tanned, dressed in Tommy Hilfiger). Eve now sees that all eyes were focused on this beautiful girl. Not her.

MEL (CONT'D)
I'm here for the interview.

INT. EVE'S OFFICE - DAY 2

Eve is in her tiny office behind her desk. Opposite her sits Mel. Eve flicks her hair back, competitively.

EVE
...I saw your resume and photo and I thought, perfect. I'm very keen to really bring Eastmores up to date with forward thinking, youthful staff members. People like you, or me, for example.

MEL
(confused)
Oh. Right.

EVE
So, lets start from the top. Why Eastmores?

MEL
Well, Eastmores is one my favorite department stores. I remember the Christmas displays here when I was a kid. Did you do those?

EVE
No. No I didn't *do* those.

Eve eyeballs her. Looks down at her resume.

EVE
So you're studying Business Management. I'm sure that impresses a lot of people. Not me, sadly. I remember my parents telling me what a disappointment I was when I dropped out of my Textiles Diploma. Well. Look at me now - Head of Luxury Goods at Eastmores *and* I get a 15% discount off LITERALLY EVERYTHING. Name a thing.

MEL
Is this part of the interview?

EVE
Yes. Name a thing.

MEL
I don't know... a car?

EVE
We don't sell cars. You should know that. Beaded car *seats,* yes. I've got one...

She's points to one on the back of her office chair

EVE
..and I got it 12 dollars cheaper than you would have.

Mel stares at her. Eve nods. BELIEVE. She looks at the resume

EVE
So, it says here you want to be part time...?

MEL
Yeah, just a summer job really.

EVE
(She laughs) No, it's just, I said exactly the same thing when I started and fifteen years later, it's my world!

MEL
Well that's not gonna happen to me, I'm very ambitious.

EVE
Really?(Half joking) You don't think I'm ambitious?

MEL
No, it's just when *I'm* 50 I'd like be running this place.

EVE
I’m not even 40.

MEL
I know. You’re 41.

She points to an old birthday card on top of the filing cabinet with a ‘41 today’ on it.

EVE
You know what, you've got a bad attitude.

MEL
Well you’ve got a cat scratch on your neck.

EVE
It's a love bite, actually. And I got it from a model.

MEL
(Under her breath) A model cat.

EVE
I’m going to give you my concluding impressions now, ok? You’re a dick.

CUT TO:

INT. EVE’S OFFICE - DAY 2

Eve escorts Mel from her office and slams the door. Tobias watches from Electronics. He sees Mel. He likey what he sees.

CUT TO:

INT. THE STAFF AREA - DAY 2

Ramon is applying mascara with a wand to his chest hair. Linda is trying to lighten her tan. Ramon looks up.

RAMON
You know you don’t have to do this, sweetie. You’re a black woman and you should be proud of that.

LINDA
My entire family are Irish immigrants. I’m ginger.

Ramon looks shocked.

RAMON
Then you need to sort that out now.

She continues trying to remove the fake tan.

LINDA
I don't know if I can take this off. I haven't seen my natural skin color since 1975.

RAMON
Well think of yourself as like a painting restorer. Scraping back the layers and layers to finally reveal a masterpiece.

Linda smiles.

RAMON
Although the actual canvas might be damaged, then you gonna wish you never started picking at it.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS - DAY 3

Eve, with her hair now in pigtails, walks into her department. Ramon is stocking up. He has his shirt opened in a deep 'V'. His chest hair is dark and luxurious.

EVE
Morning Ramon. Ramon? Good morning.

He puts the stock down and leaves the counter. Mrs. Paulin (wearing a blouse two sizes too small for her) stares over.

MRS. PAULIN
He's got a problem with you.

EVE
No he doesn't.

MRS. PAULIN
It's my job to observe. He doesn't like you.

EVE
Yes he does. He does like me, it's just tricky cos I'm the boss. It's a power thing. Deep down he likes me. Gays love me because I'm fierce. I'm a Fag Hag.

MRS. PAULIN
You know Fag is a derogatory term.

EVE
Okay fine... I'm a (She thinks) Bender Befriender

Linda is suddenly beside her. She is ghost white.

EVE
Ahharrghh!

LINDA
You okay?

EVE
What have you done to your face?

LINDA
I lightened my tan. Turns out I'm Caucasian.

Eve is distracted. She looks over at Electronics. She sees Mel, dusting down a top row of TV's assisted by Tobias who is giving her a waist lift. Eve's mouth drops open.

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - DAY 3

Eve storms up to Tobias is flicking through a TV's channels

EVE
What's she doing here?

TOBIAS JNR
Oh Melanie? I hired her.

EVE
You *hired* her?? Why would you do that?

TOBIAS JNR
Becasue she's hot and she's got great sales technique. You should see her rapport with the customers.

The camera pans to Mel, standing with a male customer

MEL
... it's got two HDMI ports for a high definition BluRay or games console *and* surround sound.

CUSTOMER
You had me at 'on button'.

The camera pans back to Eve and Tobias.

EVE
The only reason you hired her was because you want to have sex with her.

TOBIAS
That's right, because if *I* want to have sex with her, *everyone* wants to have sex with her, and THAT is how you sell electronics.

EVE
That is so sexist.

TOBIAS
Look I understand why she didn't want to work for your department.

EVE
She didn't want to work for *my* department?

TOBIAS
She just thought she was more suited to Sound and Vision's aesthetic.

EVE
You think she's too sexy for us, don't you? Well think again my friend. Think again.

TOBIAS
You've got something in your teeth.

EVE
What? Where?

She starts rubbing her tongue over them. Tobias walks off

INT. EVE'S OFFICE. DAY 3

Eve is at her desk, furiously trawling through websites. She sees something she likes. She smiles.

EVE
Bingo.

ACT THREE

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS - DAY 4

Linda, still with her incredibly white face (and brown body), is giving a woman a manicure in the treatments area.

LINDA
(Trying to be appealing))
You know the icing on the cake would be if you let me treat this wart.

WOMAN
I don't feel comfortable here.

Eve walks onto the shop floor accompanied by a very cute, Abercrombie and Fitch style young man.

EVE
Hey everybody. This is Ben. He's going to be joining the team. Ben this is Linda and Ramon.

BEN
Hey you guys.

He does a double handed shake with Ramon, Linda and with the customer who's having her nails done, ruining them. Ramon and Linda stare at him.

EVE
Welcome. I'm sure you'll settle right in. (Beat) Your shoe lace is undone.

He bends down to tie it up. Eve looks to Ramon and Linda

EVE
(quietly)
He's great, right? I want to have *sex* with him. I mean professionally. Because if *I* want to have sex with him, *everyone* wants to have sex with him, and THAT is how you sell Luxury Goods. He's gonna be a real asset.

Ben looks up from still trying to tie his shoe.

BEN
Okay, so where do you want me to stand? And what kind of look am I going for?

EVE
Just shadow Linda and Ramon. They'll show you the ropes.

BEN
Cool. Where are the ropes?

Eve looks to Linda and Ramon. They look unimpressed. Tobias walks by. He looks over at them all. The Luxury Goods team stand in a row. Mrs. Paulin in her tight blouse, Linda white faced, Ramon with his luxurious chest hair and sexy Ben, blue stealing away. All looking over at him, giving him attitude. Eve points at Ben and nods. Believe. Tobias looks weirded out.

CUT TO

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, LUXURY GOODS - DAY 5

Ben is staring at Ramon as he uses the register.

RAMON
You never use a til before?

BEN
Not really. What is it? Like a calculator with a money drawer?

RAMON
Yeah.(Long pause)Okay, well you just scan it in and it adds it up for you. All you need to do is count out the change.

BEN
Ok-ay... my math is pretty bad. I was dropped on my head as a teen. I couldn't even remember basic numbers for like, 7 or 2 years.

Ramon stares at him. Ben blue steels him back.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE'S SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS

Eve looks over at Tobias and Mel, flirting with their respective customers, making sales. Eve looks back and sees a male customer by the Aftershave counter. She undoes a button on her blouse, saunters over with a tester bottle.

EVE
You look like the kind of man who should be smelling of Tom Ford -

MAN
Well I'm actually just -

She sprays his neck and sort of ploughs her face into it.

EVE
Mmmmm hmmmm.

The man pulls away.

MAN
What the hell are you doing?

EVE
I was just trying to sniff the-

Suddenly his wife is there

WIFE
What the hell is she doing?

MAN
I don't know, I think she tried to lick my Adam's apple.

EVE
What? No, I was just smelling his -

They walk off, freaked out. Eve looks confused. She sees Tobias and Mel, looking over. She is mortified.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE'S SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS

Linda and Ramon are at their counter, pricing up some cosmetics and watching Ben who is standing to one side, looking hot.

LINDA
How'd you go with the iPad case display?

Ben points to a counter that has a ton of iPad cases piled up in a high tower like an unimaginative child would do. The pile is precarious, to say the least.

LINDA
Jesus. How many'd you put out?

BEN
(Looking at the display)
Definitely more than 11.

Eve walks over.

EVE
How's it going team? Looking good.

A woman approaches Ben with some silver picture frames.

WOMAN CUSTOMER
Excuse me, do you have these in a larger size?

Eve goes to answer but Ben stops her - "I've got this"

BEN
(Sternly, to the woman) We don't sell these.

EVE
No, we do, obviously. Ha! Ramon, would you mind showing this lady to our frame display? Ramon?

Ramon eyeballs Eve, pissed off. He dumps a stack of boxes into her arms and leads the customer towards the wall of frames nearby. Ben stays where he is.

EVE
Aren't you going to see where they are too?

BEN
No, I'm good.

He gives her a lovely winning cheeky bone-y smile and goes back to just standing. Tobias strolls over to Eve and Ben. He watches a minute as Ben stands there and Eve keeps stacking. She looks up. Annoyed to have Tobias there.

EVE
Shouldn't you be in your department?

TOBIAS JNR
It's cool. I've got Mel looking after things. She's a natural. Give her six months and she'll be running the place.

EVE
Really? Tobias, have you met Ben? Our newest team member? He's got a bright future here.

TOBIAS JNR
Hey Ben.

BEN
Hey. Oh Eve, I wanted to ask, do you think I should pee in my break even if I feel I don't need to?

Eve looks awkwardly at Tobias who gives her a big smile.

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE'S SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS

Eve is looking frazzled from running the counter and trying to flirt with customers. She looks around for Ben. He's over in Sound and Vision talking and giggling with Mel. Eve's lip curls

Linda and Ramon walk over to her. Eve turns around and still unused to Linda's incredibly white face, gets a fright.

EVE
Linda, please put the fake tan back on tomorrow, please.

LINDA
Forget the tan; that guy you hired is a liability. A big, buff, chiseled liability. Has he ever even worked in retail?

EVE
Yeah, well, no, not really. He's (hushed tone)a model.

LINDA
What?

EVE
It's fine. I know what I'm doing.

RAMON
You've hired a model to replace Monique? You know she did like, 90 per cent of the work down here.

Linda turns to Ramon

LINDA
You gonna tell her?

RAMON
I'm not talking to her.

LINDA
(To Eve)
Okay. Here's the thing. This isn't working. Either the model goes or we do.

Eve stares at them. She can't believe this. On the other side of the shop floor, Eve sees Eastmore approaching with the Adam's Apple guy and his wife from earlier. They are pointing at Eve. She looks worried.

MAN
That's her.

EASTMORE
Eve, can I have a word? In my office.

Eve looks worried. Follows him.

INT. EASTMORE'S OFFICE, LUXURY GOODS

Eve shuts the door. She looks in shock. She walks back across the shop floor. Mrs. Paulin walks with her.

MRS. PAULIN
I heard about the sexual harassment accusation. Don't worry I'm sure it wont stay on your permanent record. Mine didn't.

EVE
There was no *sexual* harassment. I was simply smelling a man. It's all a big misunderstanding.

Eve walks over to Ben.

EVE
Ben - come here.

Ben walks over. She talks in hushed tones.

EVE
Can you act?

BEN
Are you kidding? I was a spokesmodel for Men's Wearhouse for like 2 or 4 years!

EVE
Okay. I'm going to give you fifty bucks right now in cash, and when I say so, I just want you to nod and then leave. Okay? Nod and leave.

She holds up the cash. Ben takes it and winks.

EVE
Okay everyone look at me.

They all turn. Except Ben who looks in the opposite direction.

EVE
I just want to apologize for putting unnecessary pressure on you guys to get your sexy out. I'm sorry. So what if my mother liked her purple turtle neck? She was happy wearing it and it was very soft and warm and comfortable. What's wrong with that? And you know, you guys might not look as good in the uniform as Ben, but doesn't mean you can't sell the crap out of a(she looks around for a good example) a floral wash bag and matching tooth brush holder. I'm sorry if I compromised you.

BEN
That's okay.

EVE
And Ben, for that reason, I'm sorry - I'm going to have to let you go.

BEN
That's cool, I was only hired for the day.

EVE
I said nod and leave!

CUT TO:

INT. EASTMORE'S SHOP FLOOR, COSMETICS

Eve is watching Eastmore and Tobias in Sound and Vision. They are both looking at a plasma screen, watching a sportswoman in a short skirt serve a tennis ball. Their heads tilt to one side as they try to get a better look up her skirt. Linda walks up to Eve. Eve's eye tab has drooped off again.

LINDA
You look like you're having a stroke.

Eve gives a frustrated squeal and tries to pull off the eye tab. It won't come off.

LINDA
I just thought you should know Monique's dropped in to return her gift, it was leaking apparently.

EVE
Well she can't return it, it was a sales item.

LINDA
Harsh. You might wanna say hi. Be warned though, she’s still crying.

Eve looks over and a crying Monique heading in her direction.

EVE
Crap.

Eve slides down the wall and out of sight. We cut to her, darting behind a trolley. As she does this she clips Ben’s tower of stacked iPad cases which in turn avalanche onto a helpless Monique. She is left pinned under the pile up. Eastmore and Tobias look over and see a sheepish looking Eve still crouched on the ground but no longer hidden. A distressed Ramon runs over. As Monique struggles to get up Eve turns and smiles weakly at Eastmore and Tobias

TAG

INT. EASTMORE SHOP FLOOR, LUXURY GOODS

End of the day. Eve has taken her ponytail down and is back to her normal look. She sees Tobias approaching and ducks down behind the counter.

TOBIAS
How are you doing?

Eve slowly gets up from under the counter.

EVE
I'm great, thank you, very great.

TOBIAS
I hear you fired the moron.

EVE
You were threatened by him. I understand. Couldn't handle another sexy man around?

TOBIAS
So you think I'm sexy?

Eve is mortified that somehow she's been caught out.

EVE
If you must know, I had to cut him loose. He just didn't have the skills I require. I don't hire people cos I want to have sex with them, I hire them because they're good at their job. They are two very separate things. And I'm sorry if that's not sexy but that's the way I roll.

Tobias looks at her. For a moment it looks as though something might have sunk in. Mel comes over, ready to leave.

MEL
Wow. You look really.. sweaty.

EVE
Oh do I? Well you look... dry. Really, really dry. Desiccated. Have you had any fluids today?

Mel pointedly turns towards Tobias. Smiles sexily.

MEL
I'm going for a drink now - to get some *fluids* - would you like to join me?

TOBIAS JNR
I'd love to but I've got some business I need to attend to. But thanks.

Eve blurts out a laugh, then tries to pretend it was a cough. Mel looks a tiny bit put out, but just about covers it.

MEL
Okay. Well I'll see you tomorrow.

She leaves, shooting daggers at Eve. Eve smiles at Tobias.

EVE
Well, I was not expecting *that*. You drew the professional line. I'm actually very impressed.

TOBIAS JNR
Huh? No, it's just awkward because I already banged her in the Men's changing area.

At that moment Eve's eye tab comes unstuck and her eyelid collapses a little.

TOBIAS
Enjoy your evening, droopy.

He walks off. Eve, stands there, mortified.