

SUPERSTORE

Episode 220.5

"Virtual Insanity"

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. CLOUD 9 BREAK ROOM - MORNING

THE EMPLOYEES are gathered at tables, waiting for GLENN's announcement. Chatter sparks:

AMY

(yawn)

Ugh, I didn't get to bed until one. Emma had this book report about stupid Thomas Edison due today.

JONAH

Well, I wouldn't call Thomas Edison stupid. Without him, we wouldn't have all these lights.

AMY

Oh, you mean the fluorescent lights that are giving me a blinding headache right now? Yeah, he's stupid.

CHEYENNE

At least your daughter doesn't wake you up at four AM because she's hungry or something. Why can't they eat at the same time as the rest us?

SANDRA

They're babies.

CHEYENNE

That's a lame excuse.

MATEO

Yeah, I didn't get to bed until two because I was being a bad bitch at The Firehouse -

(reads the room)

- I mean, I just couldn't get to sleep.

Glenn enters wearing a blinding neon safety vest. Everyone groans and shields their eyes. DINA follows behind Glenn.

GARRETT

Come on, man. It's six in the morning. That shirt is way too bright.

GLENN

This isn't a shirt, it's a reflective vest!

AMY

It certainly is reflective. Take it off.

GLENN

Do you know why I'm wearing this nifty vest?

JONAH

You want to punish us.

AMY

You want attention.

DINA

I said the same thing.

GLENN

No, it's Safety Awareness Week! The week where we learn about safety in the workplace! Now, what do you do when you see a customer choking?

GARRETT

Pretend I didn't see them and get as far away as possible.

GLENN

No, you do the Heimlich Maneuver! Like this-

Glenn reaches for Dina. She gives him a stern look.

DINA

Don't even try it.

GLENN

Well, Amy?

AMY

Sorry Glenn, I just ate.

Glenn looks at Garrett.

GARRETT

Nope.

Glenn looks at Jonah with sad eyes.

JONAH

You know what, just so we can get this over, sure. I'll do it.

Jonah gets up and stands with his back to Glenn. Glenn wraps his arms around Jonah in the Heimlich position.

GLENN

Now, you want to make sure you make a fist and get it in between their diaphragm and rib cage.

Glenn feels around on Jonah's chest, looking for the spot he's describing. Touching his pecks, wandering down to his stomach.

JONAH

Wow, I'm glad Amy didn't volunteer, or we'd have a whole different lecture on sexual harassment.

Glenn finds the spot on Jonah's torso.

GLENN

Ah, there we go. Now, you want to get a tight grasp on the victim.

Glenn tightens his grip. Jonah gasps for air.

JONAH

Wow, that's real tight. Glenn, you're not going to do this for real, are you?

GLENN

(not paying attention)
And then you just jam your fist in that spot until the piece of food is dislodged.

JONAH

Glenn, wait, no!

Glenn performs the Heimlich Maneuver at full force. Jonah jumps up and down with each pulse, trying to escape. Jonah's face becomes progressively more red and strained with each attempt. Jonah finally breaks free.

GLENN

And you've just saved a life!

Glenn pats Jonah on the back. Jonah staggers to his seat.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Thanks for helping demonstrate,
Jonah!

JONAH

Oh my God, I feel my stomach in my
throat! Ugh!

The rest of the employees look at Glenn like he's a maniac.

DINA

Great job, Glenn. I think we all
know how to do the Heimlich now.

Dina looks for the group's approval. All the employees
nervously nod.

GLENN

Great! Now who wants to help me
demonstrate CPR next?

Everyone looks around at each other, as if to say "not me."

Glenn shakes his fists in the air.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Yay Safety Awareness Week!

BLACKOUT.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. TOYS SECTION - DAY

Jonah walks by unassuming and looks down the aisle, still rubbing his stomach from Glenn's demonstration. He slowly re-enters the frame with a quizzical look. He sprints down the toys aisle and looks to Electronics.

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - CONTINUOUS

EUGENE and SAL are setting up a display that reads: "DREAM VISION." The display includes two pristine VR headsets, controllers, and a mess of wires coming out of them. Sal and Eugene hang signs on the sides of the display that read "FANTASY", "ROLLER COASTERS!" And "ESCAPE!"

CUT TO:

INT. TOYS SECTION - CONTINUOUS

Jonah's eyes widen with excitement. He whispers, as if he's seen the Holy Grail:

JONAH

It's here!

He bolts out of frame.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM STATION - CONTINUOUS

AMY and GARRETT both look at the Safety Awareness Week pamphlets Glenn hand-drew and gave everyone in the morning meeting. They discuss the pictures.

AMY

Did you know that if there's an earthquake, the safest place to be is in Glenn's office?

GARRETT

No I did not. Do you know where the safest place to be during a tornado is? The answer may surprise you.

AMY

Hmmm, is it Glenn's office?

GARRETT
(sarcastic)
How did you know?

AMY
Lucky guess.

Jonah runs into the scene, a little out of breath.

AMY (CONT'D)
Whoa there, is Glenn trying to do
the Heimlich on you again?

JONAH
Ha ha. No, you guys won't believe
what I'm about to show you.

CUT TO:

INT. TOYS SECTION - MOMENTS LATER

Garrett and Amy look toward Electronics, confused. Jonah
stands proudly behind them.

GARRETT
What are we supposed to be so
excited about?

JONAH
What, what do you mean? Look at it!

AMY
Look at what?

JONAH
The Dream Vision! The VR headsets
from Cloud 9! They're here--they're
finally here!

GARRETT
Okay, and I care why?

Jonah flips through a pamphlet about the Dream Vision. He
reads aloud:

JONAH
You care, because the Dream Vision
is the ultimate VR experience. With
over 250 simulations, you can
escape your boring reality. Make
hours seem like minutes in the
virtual world!

(MORE)

JONAH (CONT'D)

Forget television, forget your family, forget interacting with another human! This is the future, this is -

GARRETT

You had me at escape.

JONAH

So what are we waiting for?

AMY

I don't like it. You know video games are so addicting. Emma is always on the iPad all the time, and it's not healthy! She should be outside, making friends with her classmates, not cooped up in a dark room with a screen. You know what's next? We all put on these goggles and we're all in some sort of virtual coma -

Amy looks to Jonah and Garrett, who have left to the VR display as soon as Amy started talking. She looks over to Electronics where they're whooping it up in virtual reality.

Amy sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE

Glenn stands in front of the WAREHOUSE CREW with a demo fire extinguisher. Behind him is a white board that says "LAST WORKPLACE ACCIDENT: 156 DAYS". A real fire extinguisher cabinet sits on the wall to the left of the board.

GLENN

Warehouse team! I am so proud of you! Look at that, 156 days without an accident! Pretty good! And I have a surprise for you all for doing such a good job -

The Warehouse Crew leans in with anticipation.

GLENN (CONT'D)

- A fire safety demonstration!

They roll their eyes.

MARCUS

Glenn, couldn't we have a party or something fun?

GLENN

This is fun! Now, to get the fire extinguisher out, take this key and open the glass door-

MARCUS

Where do we get that key?

GLENN

Well, you ask me for it.

MARCUS

What if there's an actual fire?

GLENN

You come and find me, I'd like to know if there's a fire.

MARCUS

What if you're not here?

Glenn ponders for two beats, then on the third:

GLENN

So you open it like this, then take out the fire extinguisher.

Glenn takes out the fire extinguisher and sets it down right next to the demo fire extinguisher so the two are indistinguishable.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Now, how to operate it, you just squeeze the handle and -

JAKE, a portly warehouse employee, holds up his hand.

JAKE

Wait, are you sure that's not the real one?

GLENN

Come on Jake, I think I know a little better. You just squeeze the handle -

Glenn squeezes the handle and blasts Jake.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Ahhh!

JAKE

Ahhhh, my eyes! My eyes!

Glenn continues spraying Jake with the extinguisher.

MARCUS

Glenn, stop spraying it!

GLENN

I can't, my hands naturally ball up into fists when I'm scared!

JAKE

(through the spray)
Please stop!

Glenn sprays until the extinguisher is totally empty. Jake is covered in foam.

Marcus sighs and slowly erases the "156" of the "156 DAYS".

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE AREA

DINA walks by the Cafe area. A line of Customers has formed, with no one manning the Cafe station. Amy walks past, clipboard in hand. Dina catches her.

DINA

Hey Amy, who's supposed to be working the Cafe?

Amy references her clipboard.

AMY

Let's see, it's supposed to be Greg.

DINA

Well where is he?

AMY

I don't know, he didn't call in.

DINA

Huh. Well looks like you're working the Cafe today.

AMY

Dina, come on.

DINA

You're the shift supervisor, and someone's not on their shift. Chop chop.

The faint sound of Garrett and Jonah laughing is heard.

DINA (CONT'D)

Wait, did you hear that?

Dina listens closer and sniffs the air. The laughter is heard again.

DINA (CONT'D)

Joy. Gotta go.

Dina sprints out of frame. Amy reluctantly walks to the Cafe.

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - CONTINUOUS

Jonah and Garrett are enthralled in a zombie game. They point little controllers in each hand like guns, blasting their way through.

JONAH

Alright, we open this door and then you take the shotgun and blow the zombie's head off! Go for the head, it's how you kill a zombie.

GARRETT

This isn't my first zombie rodeo, partner. Now crack that door.

Dina marches into frame behind them.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Wait, I hear something coming up behind us.

Dina is right behind them, standing.

DINA

Guys!

Jonah and Garrett whip around to face Dina.

JONAH

Oh God, it's the boss zombie! Kill it, kill it, ahhhh!

GARRETT

Ahhhh, die! It's so disgusting!

Jonah and Garrett click their controllers at Dina.

DINA

HEY!

Jonah and Garrett take their goggles off at the same time and recoil in horror as if they've seen the real boss zombie.

JONAH

Oh God, I thought we were still in the game.

DINA

The only game you two are going to play is figuring out how much I docked from your paycheck this week. Now get moving!

Jonah and Garrett scatter.

CUT TO:

INT. GLENN'S OFFICE

Jake sits with a puffy face and a compress on his eyes. Glenn is mid-conversation with JEFF on the phone.

JEFF (PHONE)

We'll start filing the workman's comp paperwork on our end, Jake. Luckily it wasn't too bad.

JAKE

(through a swollen mouth)
Fank You.

GLENN

Hey, how about that, huh? Jake, why don't you take the rest of the day off?

JEFF (PHONE)

I think that goes without question.

Jake gets up slowly and staggers out of the office.

JEFF (PHONE) (CONT'D)

Hey Glenn, is he gone?

GLENN

Yes.

JEFF (PHONE)

Glenn, you have to be more careful.

GLENN

I know! It was just a demonstration!

JEFF (PHONE)

Well, I'd suggest laying off the demonstrations for today.

GLENN

But it's Safety Awareness Week!

JEFF (PHONE)

So far it hasn't been that safe. Just take it easy, okay?

GLENN

You got it.
(thinking Jeff's hung up)
What a real Pauly Push-Me-Around.

JEFF (PHONE)

- I'm still here, Glenn. I'm going to assume that was an insult.

GLENN

(thinking fast, doing an imitation)
- And my name is Jonah, and I am very rude!

Glenn crosses his arms, smug.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Whew, that was close.

JEFF (PHONE)

Still here, Glenn.

Glenn's eyes widen.

CUT TO:

INT. AUTOMOTIVE AISLE

A BIKER with a long white beard and cowboy hat holds up two jumper cable clamps up to his nipples. He shakes his head no, and instead reaches for a bigger set of jumper cable clamps. He nods approvingly.

CUT TO:

INT. PERFUME AISLE

A RICH LADY takes an expensive perfume bottle and sprays her wrist. She sniffs, then moves along. A SLOPPY GUT DUDE who looks like he hasn't showered in days approaches the same bottle of perfume. He sniffs it, then applies it to his armpits and junk and moves along.

CUT TO:

INT. CHECKOUT

An ANCIENT WOMAN is paying for her groceries in pennies. She has stacked them up to form a whole metropolis of pennies. She continues to count while taking individual pennies out of her coin purse. The people behind her glare.

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS

Mateo, Sandra, Jonah and Garrett huddle around the Dream Vision display. Jonah is in mid-explanation:

JONAH

It has 360-degree rotation -

GARRETT

And it's awesome.

JONAH

- receptive controls -

GARRETT

Awesome.

JONAH

- and an Internet browser.

GARRETT

Uh, I think that's an awesome, Jonah!

SANDRA

I just hope there's no roller coasters. Virtual roller coasters make me think of real roller coasters and then I throw up.

MATEO

Come on! Be brave, Sandra.

SANDRA

That's not one of my strengths.

MATEO

Well, let it be your virtual strength!

Mateo and Sandra put on the VR headsets. Sandra throws it off immediately and begins to heave.

SANDRA

It was a roller coaster! *Hurrp*, I have to go!

JONAH

Ooh, that was my bad. Here--here's a karaoke program.

Sandra exits. Mateo slips the headset on.

MATEO

Ooooooh!

We hear the audio of the crowd roaring. An announcer is heard in the simulation:

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome your star, performing for a sold out crowd, it's
(text to speech voice)
Mateo Big Pimp \$ (Dollar sign).

MATEO

Nice, Jonah.
(to the virtual crowd)
Yes, I love you all! Here's one for all my bad bitches out there!

Mateo holds the controller up to his mouth like a microphone. Music begins to play, underscoring his performance. He sings "Help Me" by Joni Mitchell at a high pitch and volume.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Help me /
I think I'm falling in love again /
When I get that crazy feeling /
I know I'm in trouble again /
I'm in trouble.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY AISLE - SAME TIME

Glenn sheepishly tiptoes down the aisle. Sal mops the floor with the "CAUTION" sign propped up.

GLENN

Ooh, good to have that sign so you know the floor's slippery!

Sal nods, then slips as he takes his first step. Glenn tiptoes faster. He approaches a CUSTOMER who is looking at a glass bottle of vinegar.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Oh, there's a sale on those! Two for one!

The Customer reaches for another bottle and five bottles come crashing down. Glenn winces and tiptoes faster. He approaches GREG- a disgruntled shopper wearing a leather jacket, punching a bag of flour.

GREG

Yeah, you like that? Yeah, you gonna be a nice soft pizza dough when I'm done wit you!

Glenn pauses to say something, but decides he better not. He tiptoes past. He rounds the aisle as a huge cloud of flour explodes from behind him.

He can now see Mateo in the Electronics section, waving his hands and saying "Help me".

GLENN

No no no no no!

Glenn runs off frame.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 - ELECTRONICS - CONTINUOUS

Jonah, Garrett, and now CHEYENNE cheer on Mateo as he dances in full effect, singing his heart out.

MATEO

We all live for the applause,
applause applause /

Glenn sprints into the center of the group.

GLENN

Oh my goodness, is he stuck in there? Is he in the Matrix now?

GARRETT

No, he's just singing an overplayed pop song. Also I think a better analogy would be that he's Lawnmower Man-ing it.

GLENN

You mean this helmet is mowing his brain down? What is Lawnmower Man-ing it?

GARRETT

Well, Lawnmower Man was a groundbreaking film in the '90s about Virtual Reality and the World Wide Web - you know what, I'm wasting my time.

Glenn turns back to Mateo.

GLENN

Mateo? Mateo?! Mateo, can you hear me? Mateo can you see me? Mateo can you feel me?

On "Feel me", Glenn reaches out and grabs Mateo. Mateo flips out.

MATEO

WHO THE HELL IS TOUCHING ME????

Mateo panics and runs away, but the cord attached to the VR headset snaps him back and he falls flat on his back.

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. GLENN'S OFFICE - LATER

Mateo sits in the chair across Glenn's desk. He is in a full neckbrace with ice pack on his head. He is not pleased to be there.

GLENN

Wow, feels like deja vu here.

MATEO

Why?

GLENN

Because I was just in here with Jake, when I - you know what, it doesn't. It doesn't feel like deja vu at all, this is the first time I've been in my office reporting an accident.

(takes a beat)

Mateo, you were playing with the Dream Vision on company time, which is a big no no.

Mateo slumps down.

GLENN (CONT'D)

But I also caused you bodily harm, which pretty much trumps any employee mischief.

Mateo perks up.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Now I just have to report this to Jeff-

MATEO

Wait, what?

GLENN

Every accident has to be reported to the district level, plus I'm sure he'd want to hear from you!

MATEO

No. No, you know what? I'm feeling much better, we don't have to call Jeff.

Mateo springs up, but is in obvious pain.

GLENN

Well, I suppose if it was just a
minor accident -

MATEO

Yep, it was. I'll get back to work
right away!

Mateo limps out of Glenn's office. He struggles against the
door frame and groans with pain every step.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - SAME TIME

Amy hands a scone in a bag to a bald MIDWEST DAD. He takes it
and exits. Jonah saddles up next to Amy.

JONAH

How's it going over here, huh?
Looks like we've got a regular
sandwich artisan.

AMY

Ha ha. Greg didn't show up today.

JONAH

So? Why do you have to work the
Cafe?

AMY

Because it's the responsible thing
to do. When you're short, you pick
up the slack.

JONAH

Well we're all being irresponsible,
over there and it's pretty fun.
Come on, it's virtual reality!

AMY

I like my reality just fine,
thanks.

JONAH

Fine. I'm just gonna go over here
and slay some dragons!

Jonah walks off. Amy yells after him.

AMY
Fine, I'll be here slaying some
(she holds up a strudel)
Strudel! Von Strudel! Strudel von
Strudel! He's an evil Baron!

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - MOMENTS LATER

Jonah and Garrett have recruited ELIAS, EUGENE, and SAL. They're all wearing VR headsets and have arranged chairs like a roller coaster car. They lean with the turns and put their hands up in unison.

Sandra walks into frame from the left, takes one look at the crew, gags and runs off.

Dina comes into frame from the right.

ROLLER COASTER CREW
Ahhhh!

DINA
HEY!

The roller coaster crew takes off their goggles and look at Dina.

ROLLER COASTER CREW
(with actual fear)
Ahhhhh!

They sit, paralyzed - except for Elias, who bolts past Dina.

DINA
That's it, I thought I could trust
grown adults to have some self
control, but then I remembered I
work with children! So now I have
to do this.

Dina takes the VR headsets off Jonah and Garrett. She storms to a lockable display case of "Glowy GloWorm Interactive Stuffed Toy!" His face has a light in it. GLOWORM speaks in an animatronic voice.

GLOWORM
Won't you please play with me?

Dina opens the case and rips Gloworm from the base. Gloworm flickers and his voice becomes distorted.

GLOWORM (CONT'D)

Ow! Be gentle! It's fun to share!

Dina breaks Gloworm in half over her knee. She tosses the pieces at Eugene's feet.

EUGENE

(on the verge of tears)

No -- not Glowy Gloworm!

Dina throws the headsets into the display case and locks it.

JONAH

Dina, this isn't fair! You can't do this!

DINA

These are supposed to be for customers only. Do you look like a customer? No, you're wearing a blue vest!

GARRETT

Dina, come on!

DINA

Ah ah ah! Did you know there's a study that says video games make people violent.

GARRETT

There's no truth to that. NOW GIMME THE DAMN GOGGLES OR I'LL KILL YOU.

DINA

Ah, see!

JONAH

Dina, come on.

Sandra re-enters from the left.

DINA

It made Sandra sick!

SANDRA

Oh no, it's just because when I think of roller coasters -

Sandra gags and excuses herself. Dina stands in position to unleash her full fury, a giant 50" TV is behind her. It turns on with flames roaring in a hellscape. The soundtrack to the movie syncs with her speech, getting louder.

DINA

Alright, listen up crybabies!
Here's the deal: if I catch you so
much as looking at this Dream Look
or whatever the hell it's called, I
will unleash a fury so great, that
corporate will have to file three
separate accident reports: one for
your torso, one for your legs, and
one for your skull which will be
conveniently missing and never
found again! Elias, turn down the
friggin' TV NOW!

Elias appears from behind an aisle in the background, smiles,
and then turns the TV behind her down.

DINA (CONT'D)

You are going to work, work is not
supposed to be fun. You are meant
to suffer, go home, and do it all
over again the next day, and the
day after that, and the day after
that until you die. And that is the
harsh reality that you cannot
escape.

JONAH

But what if we're in virtual
reality?

A beat.

DINA

Your skull will be the first to go
missing.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Garrett has dark circles around his eyes from withdrawal. He
presses the intercom with lackluster.

GARRETT

Attention shoppers, there's no
point to life, so why not stop on
over to the sporting goods
department, where we have a special
on handguns. Perfect for shooting
targets, glass bottles, yourself -

Jonah runs into the scene with the same dark circles as
Garrett.

JONAH

Okay, I've figured out a plan: Dina keeps her keys on a keyring.

GARRETT

That's where keys go, stupid.

JONAH

But! On that keyring is also the women's bathroom key. She locked it because women were taking "unnecessary bathroom breaks."

GARRETT

Hmm, who do we know who is a woman?

Jonah and Garrett rush to the Cafe.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Amy helps an elderly shopper, GLADYS with her order.

GLADYS

I'd like one Italian panini please!
And I'd like it extra crispy!

AMY

(cheery)
Absolutely!

Amy loses her customer service face, mechanically opens a panini from its plastic wrap, and shoves it in a giant Toasting conveyor.

Jonah and Garrett rush next to Amy. Jonah tries to get through his plan as quick as possible.

JONAH

Hey Amy, you know how Dina keeps the woman's bathroom locked and has the key?

AMY

Yeah, that's why I use the men's bathroom.

Jonah and Garrett look quizzically at Amy.

AMY (CONT'D)

What? Does this sound familiar?

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

(impersonating a man)

"Oh boy guys, did you see the sportsball last night? Close game, close game, 5 to 20 on the 9!"

JONAH

I thought that was Glenn. You do a very convincing Glenn.

AMY

Thank you.

JONAH

But if someone--who was a woman, were to request the use of the Women's Bathroom, she would also have the key to the display case.

GARRETT

Where the Dream Vision is!

JONAH

Thanks for following along, Garrett.

Garrett and Jonah look at Amy hungrily.

AMY

Oh come on!

JONAH

We only need it for ten minutes! That's it! Plus, you owe me!

AMY

For what?

JONAH

Are we forgetting the Dressing Room incident?

Amy thinks for a moment.

AMY

No guys, I have to stay here.

JONAH

Come on, be a little irresponsible for once!

Amy thinks, then sighs.

AMY

Fine, but we are even after this.

GARRETT

Depends on what the dressing room incident was.

JONAH

(cutting him off)
Absolutely.

Amy takes off her Cafe cap and follows Jonah and Garrett off.

Gladys watches them leave, then focuses on her panini in the conveyor which comes out and goes back in perpetually.

CUT TO:

INT. DAIRY AISLE

Dina checks the expiration of the yogurt. She questions one package, opens it, sticks her finger in and tests it, then puts it back on the shelf. Amy appears in the foreground.

AMY

Dina! Hey, I really have to take a mondo dump.

She looks over to Jonah and Garrett, who are hiding behind an aisle. They give a thumbs up.

DINA

Huh, you haven't used any bathroom breaks today, which is suspicious but also productive. Okay, I am starting my timer on my watch, you have five minutes. Here you go.

Dina hands Amy her keyring.

AMY

Thanks, Dina.

DINA

Good luck with that dump. Sounds like a doozy.

Amy shrugs it off and runs past Dina. She tosses the keys seamlessly to Jonah.

AMY

(whispering to Jonah)
We're even!!

CUT TO:

INT. GLENN'S OFFICE

Glenn is on speaker phone with Jeff. Glenn's having an existential crisis about his bad luck.

JEFF (PHONE)

Look Glenn, I'm sure this is all in your head. It's pure coincidence that Jake got hurt during a safety demonstration, but he's been the only one.

GLENN

Well, don't forget about Mateo.

There's a pause.

JEFF (PHONE)

I don't know what happened to Mateo. What happened to him?

GLENN

Well, it's just a minor accident, he's fine now! He said we didn't need to call you!

JEFF (PHONE)

Glenn, it doesn't matter what he thinks, you're the manager! You need to report all accidents to the corporate level!

GLENN

I know! I just wanted to look good on Safety Awareness Week.

JEFF (PHONE)

Glenn, that's a made up thing. We just say that so we can fulfill our OSHA requirements.

Glenn's face turns to anger. He broods in silence.

JEFF (PHONE) (CONT'D)

... Glenn?

Glenn violently hangs up the phone.

GLENN

It's Safety Awareness Week, and we will be safe!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM AISLE

MATEO stocks lavender towels on the shelf. He rubs his neckbrace. He feels a buzz coming from his phone. He looks at the text he just received from JEFF:

GRAPHIC:

"HEARD U GOT HURT TODAY ... THINKING OF U <HEART EMOJI>".

Mateo pockets his phone in frustration.

MATEO
(to himself)
Dammit, Glenn.

Mateo thinks about the situation. His anger slowly turns to sorrow as if he didn't make the right choice with Jeff. He leans on the towels and thinks hard.

He's almost to the point of tears when SANDRA bursts into the aisle, covering her mouth.

Sandra lets out the vomit right in the middle of the aisle.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Good God, Sandra! Get it together.

SANDRA
Sorry, I just can't stop thinking about roller coasters. It's been real hard.

MATEO
Well, it's been a hard day for me too. Here -

Mateo shoves the towels he just stocked onto the floor to cover up Sandra's vomit.

MATEO (CONT'D)
-Fixed. Let's try to get your mind off that-which-will-not-be-named, and onto something else, like my crippling indecisiveness and how it screws up my relationships.

SANDRA
Oh. Sounds ... fun.

Mateo takes Sandra by the hand and they exit.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - THE INFERNO

GLADYS watches her panini, which is just a charred black mass go back in the toaster. It doesn't come back out. Gladys waits in anticipation, then a fire erupts from the mouth of the toaster. Gladys shakes her head and scoots her cart away.

GLADYS

Too crispy.

The fire rages from the mouth of the toaster.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKOFFICE BATHROOMS - SAME TIME

DINA looks at her watch as she walks towards the Women's Bathroom.

DINA

Okay, it has been four minutes and fifty-five seconds. Chances are she won't make it out of there from that mondo dump, so I will just dock her pay -

Amy opens the door to the Men's Bathroom.

DINA (CONT'D)

Alright, I need to know shape, size and color. Be as descriptive as you can, it's for my records.

AMY

Dina, I have to tell you something, I didn't have to take a mondo dump. I took the keys to-

Amy is interrupted by the fire alarm. Amy's eyes widen as she remembers.

AMY (CONT'D)

The Italian panini.

DINA

Took my keys to the Italian panini? Doesn't make sense. Anyway, looks like there's a fire drill. Let's go.

Dina runs off. Amy follows after her.

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - SAME TIME

GARRETT and JONAH are immersed in the virtual world. Panic and flashing lights from the fire alarm surround them. The deafening sound of the fire alarm doesn't phase them.

GARRETT
THIS IS GREAT!

JONAH
YEAH! HEY, DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

GARRETT
MUST BE IN THE GAME!

JONAH
AH!

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - THE INFERNO

GLENN enters the scene. He panics in high-pitched voice.

GLENN
NO! NO! THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN!

He rushes to the fire extinguisher case on the wall. He fumbles with his keys in a panic.

Dina and Amy arrive on the scene.

DINA
Glenn, what the hell are you doing?

GLENN
I'm trying to get the case open!

DINA
Oh for crying out loud!

Dina shoves Glenn aside and breaks the glass to the case with her raw-ass elbow. She grabs the fire extinguisher and gets it ready. She presses down on the handle, but the extinguisher lets out a depressing hiss.

DINA (CONT'D)
Why isn't it working?

Glenn realizes he put the demo extinguisher back in this case.

GLENN

It's the demonstration one! Get everyone out!

Dina runs off to the intercom station. The sprinkler system goes off in the Cafe, covering Glenn in water.

GLENN (CONT'D)

(defeated)

It's Safety Awareness Week.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERCOM STATION

Dina rushes to the intercom.

DINA

Attention everyone! This is not a drill! Please make your way to the exits in an orderly fashion, or be consumed by the blaze that is close behind! That is all!

CUT TO:

INT. BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mateo and Sandra hear the announcement and bolt out of the break room.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD 9 ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Amy helps facilitate everyone moving out of the store.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOUD 9 FRONT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Amy has a clipboard as all the employees file in lines for counting. Glenn stands next to her.

AMY

Okay, we've got everyone accounted for, except for -

She scratches her head sheepishly.

AMY (CONT'D)
Garrett and Jonah.

GLENN
Then it's up to me to save them!

AMY
No Glenn, you don't have to do
that. Wait for the fire department.

GLENN
No Amy -

He looks back in heroic fashion.

GLENN (CONT'D)
- It's Safety Awareness Week.

CUT TO:

INT. DAIRY AISLE WALL - CONTINUOUS

"War/Fanfare" from *Rocky IV* plays. Glenn walks up confidently to the fire axe case on the wall in slow motion. He takes his keys and unlocks a smaller fireproof box that contains a brass mallet. He breaks the glass on the fire axe case and marches down the aisle. He lifts up the axe above his head. The music cuts out and everything's back to normal speed as he yells down the aisle.

GLENN
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - CONTINUOUS

Jonah and Garrett wave their controllers around, oblivious.

GARRETT
Ooh!

JONAH
Ahhhh! HEY, DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING?

GARRETT
YEAH, IT'S IN THE GAME!

JONAH
I DON'T THINK SO!

Jonah takes off his VR headset to see Glenn running down the aisle with a fire axe in hand, still screaming.

JONAH (CONT'D)

It's Glenn and he's running right
toward us with an axe!

GARRETT

NAW MAN, IT'S IN THE -

Garrett takes off his VR headset.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

- Game.

Garrett and Jonah throw down the headsets and run away. Glenn runs into frame. He tries to chop the headsets.

GLENN

You two really Lawnmower Man-ed it!
I hate these things, I hate them!
They're the work of the devil!

Glenn takes big chops to split the headsets, but keeps on missing. He adjusts the axe so he's just using the head of the axe, making little chops on them. It's ineffectual. He pants, out of breath.

Jonah and Garrett slowly come back.

JONAH

Look Glenn, we're sorry. We didn't
know -

GLENN

Always be aware of your
surroundings in an emergency!
That's rule one of the safety
manual! Now march, you two!
(with heroic confidence)
It's Safety Awareness Week!

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOUD 9 FRONT PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The fire truck has arrived, firemen ready themselves to go in.

Jonah and Garrett emerge from the store, embarrassed. Glenn follows behind them, looking like a heroic firefighter. Actual firefighters rush past him. He gives them a nod.

Jonah saddles up to Amy.

JONAH

Sorry I made you almost burn down the store.

AMY

Eh. Pretty irresponsible, huh?

JONAH

Yeah, I'd say arson is fairly irresponsible.

AMY

See? I can let loose every once and a while.

JONAH

Remind me never to ask you to let loose, ever again.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - AFTERMATH

Glenn and Dina look at a black mark on the wall where the toasting conveyor used to be.

GLENN

The fire department said it could've been a lot worse. But because we were prepared, and the sprinkler system actually worked, we'll just have to shut down the Cafe.

(leans into Dina)

We were very safe.

DINA

Sure, Glenn. Anyway, Amy was taking a mondo dump when the fire started, so she's got an alibi.

GLENN

Good, because she might have been "fired"? Get it?

DINA

Maybe not the time for jokes, Glenn.

GLENN

Boy, I really "burnt" her, huh?

DINA

Alright.

Dina walks away. Glenn remains proud of himself.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM AISLE - SAME TIME

Mateo and Sandra look around for damage.

MATEO

Thanks for listening to me, Sandra.
I really appreciate it.

SANDRA

No, thank you! It took my mind off
of ... you know.

MATEO

Oh, you're welcome! Oh look,
somebody knocked some towels down.

Mateo lifts it up and realizes it's the same towels as
before.

MATEO (CONT'D)

Ew.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM AREA - SAME TIME

Jonah walks around, surveying. He hears Amy in one of the
dressing rooms.

AMY (O.S.)

Oh you're a big cat mama, yes you
are! Oh you're a big cat mama, Hoo
hoo!

Jonah opens the door to reveal Amy trying on the ugliest cat
sweater ever imagined. She's startled by him.

AMY (CONT'D)

What?! Oh no, come on! Not again!

JONAH

It's okay, I won't count this
against you. Come on, I want to
show you something.

CUT TO:

INT. ELECTRONICS - CONTINUOUS

Jonah picks up the VR headsets, one a little chopped by Glenn.

JONAH

You never tried the Dream Vision.

AMY

Well, because I don't have to. I like the reality I'm in.

Jonah puts the headset on Amy.

JONAH

Sometimes it's good to get away once and a while.

AMY

Oh wow!

Jonah puts on his VR headset. The two look around at the world they're in. An inspirational, slightly romantic soundtrack underscores the scene.

JONAH

Look at that, over there!

AMY

Oh, that's beautiful!

Something happens in the virtual world that startles both of them. They clutch each other's hand.

AMY & JONAH

Whoa!

Jonah and Amy take off the VR headsets and look at their hands, still clutching. They shake it off, embarrassed.

JONAH

Well, I gotta get going.

AMY

Yeah, me too.

They both exit the frame on opposite sides, revealing ELIAS behind the giant 50" TV with the remote, the source of the soundtrack. He smiles, knowingly.

BLACKOUT.

END OF SHOW