

**CLEAN-UP IN AISLE 8**

by

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POLITICAL Category

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10/28/2013

## CLEAN-UP IN AISLE 8

### Characters

JESSE, 30s, a red-blooded American male.

CAROL, female, 30s, Jessie's wife and Junior's mother.

JESSE JUNIOR, male, 2-3 years old, their son.

MAN, 30s-40s

BOY, 9-10 years old.

OLD WOMAN, 60s-70s.

STORE EMPLOYEE, male, 30s or older.

### Time

Sooner or later.

### Setting

A large supermarket, with entrance/exit doors SL and a well-stocked Aisle 8 running SL to SR. Shopping carts available.

## CLEAN-UP IN AISLE 8

*Lights up on a large, well-stocked supermarket. OLD WOMAN shuffles along Aisle 8, which runs SL to SR. After a few moments JESSE, wearing a baggy khaki coat, and CAROL enter SL with JESSE JUNIOR, who breaks free of their hands to run to a nearby refrigerated water fountain...*

CAROL

No, Junior. That's not clean. Here, this is better.

*CAROL holds out a water bottle. JUNIOR comes back to her to take it and drink. JESSE picks out a shopping cart and lifts JUNIOR into the seat. JESSE and CAROL meticulously buckle JUNIOR in, careful testing the cart's belt and fastenings.*

JESSE

This really isn't secure. Want me to get his car seat?

CAROL

No, I'll keep a hand on him, just in case.

JESSE

Wait.

*JESSE pulls the belt from his trousers and uses it to augment the belt in the cart, thoroughly securing JUNIOR. MAN and BOY walk past JESSE toward the exit with a cart carrying bagged groceries. MAN notices something under JESSE's coat and instinctively pulls BOY to his side and hurries out. JESSE and CAROL take note...*

CAROL

Liberal wuss.

JESSE

What kind of a pantywaist is afraid to go grocery shopping?

*JESSE and CAROL push their cart down Aisle 8, SL to SR, CAROL steadying JUNIOR with one hand all the way. They approach OLD WOMAN with a shopping basket on her arm. She points to the top shelf.*

OLD WOMAN

Excuse me, young man. Can you reach that can of beans for me?

*Stepping back, JESSE pulls a small caliber handgun from an ankle holster and with one fluid motion fires at the shelf under the beans, causing the can to leap into his free hand. OLD WOMAN drops her basket and bolts in terror, both hands over her head.*

CAROL

*(Horrorified.)*

Jesse, are you nuts! That could've been a disaster!

*CAROL fumbles in her oversize handbag while JESSE examines the can.*

JESSE

What do you mean? Didn't even nick it, see? No leaks.

*CAROL extracts shooter's ear muffs from her bag and puts them on JUNIOR.*

CAROL

Don't be an idiot. You could've damaged Junior's hearing. Not to mention blinding him with shrapnel.

JESSE

*(Chagrined.)*

Sorry, babe.

*JESSE lifts his boot to a shelf to re-holster his gun.*

JESSE (CONT'D)

Aren't his prescription polycarbonate safety glasses ready yet?

CAROL

Yes. And I would've insisted on picking them up first if I'd known you were going to be playing Good Samaritan over a can of beans.

*Suddenly STORE EMPLOYEE, in a long white apron and white hygienic cap, appears SL at the end of the aisle behind them. He fires a warning shot from a large handgun into the air, then drops into the two-handed pistol shooting stance that's standard procedure in TV cop shows.*

EMPLOYEE

Hold it! Right where you are!

*CAROL throws herself over JUNIOR, pushing the cart to the floor behind JESSE, who covers them protectively with one arm while pulling an assault rifle out of his coat with the other.*

JESSE

*(To CAROL.)*

Down, babe.

*JESSE and EMPLOYEE begin firing at each other, as they each take cover behind their respective end-cap displays. No one is hit, but shit is flying off the shelves all over the place. After a few moments, OLD WOMAN reappears SR with a handgun of her own and begins firing erratically at JESSE.*

OLD WOMAN

Eat lead, motherfucker!

*CAROL pulls the end-cap down around her family. CAROL now has a handgun of her own and has engaged EMPLOYEE in gunfire, allowing JESSE to take on the OLD WOMAN. At that moment, MAN and BOY appear SL, armed now with handguns.*

MAN

*(To BOY, pointing to EMPLOYEE, then JESSE and CAROL.)*

You take the dishdasha guy! I got Bonnie and Clyde!

*BOY begins firing at EMPLOYEE, who returns fire. MAN begins firing at JESSE and CAROL. JESSE dispatches OLD WOMAN with a gut shot, then joins CAROL in firing on BOY, MAN, and EMPLOYEE. Soon, CAROL blows EMPLOYEE away, and JESSE takes out MAN and BOY.*

*Several long moments of silence while CAROL checks on JUNIOR and JESSE goes to each of the bodies to make sure they're dead, kicking their guns away and prodding the corpses with his rifle barrel. OLD WOMAN groans and moves her arm. JESSE instantly applies the coup de grace with a bullet to her head. Then he returns to CAROL...*

JESSE  
 You two all right?

CAROL  
 Yes, thank God.

*CAROL finishes restoring JUNIOR to his upright and locked position. She compares the shopping cart's broken seat belt with JESSE's intact belt.*

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 And thank you. Look at this, hon--you were right about that belt. Damn cheap shopping carts, a real hazard. Sure won't be coming here again.

JESSE  
 I told you--this place is always crazy on Double-Coupon Day.

*JESSE and CAROL push JUNIOR in the cart around the carnage toward the exit. JUNIOR raises CAROL's handgun and plunks the water fountain.*

CAROL  
 Junior! No!

JESSE  
 Jesus.

CAROL  
 I told you to ask Mommy before you shoot her gun.

JUNIOR  
Bad water!

JESSE  
 You got that right, Junior. There's freon gas in there--it's poison.

*They wheel JUNIOR out the exit. Fade to black.*

THE END