Saturday Night Five

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PAGE ONE

Splash

*** The Store is vast, with lots of shelves all over the place. They contain numerous items, from general groceries like bread, snack chips, and more, to somewhat unfitting items like power tools, shaving cream, phone cases, to the truly bizarre, like a 'cheese printer' and a 'sonic hammer'. ***

Panoramic shot of the Store, with the lights off, with no customers at all. It's very empty, with one exception - Steven, at the cash register, all by himself. It's eerily quiet, and so far, rather boring.

1. CAPTION: The night shift. Bland, boring, empty... that's how it usually goes. And Stephen is experiencing it firsthand. But maybe it'll get more interesting?

PAGE TWO

Panel 1

Steven sits at the counter where the cash register is, utterly bored out of his skull. His eyes are half-lidded, he's resting his chin on his hand, and he's staring at nothing in particular. To the left is the cash register, and immediately in front of him is his smartphone, which appears to have a website open.

1. STEVEN: I really have to stop getting myself roped into this stuff...

Panel 2

Steven looks down at his phone. A closer look reveals what the website actually is: a place to get advice on how to get a date, and how to woo your crush. The headline reads "How to Knock Her Off Her Feet" in small text.

1. STEVEN (THOUGHT): At least I got to keep my phone...

Panel 3

Steven looks away and continues his unfocused looking, though this time, he has a dreamy smile. A little thought bubble appears near his head, showing Tiffany.

[To the Artist: Cartoon hearts fly out of his head.]

1. STEVEN: Man, Tiffany's so cute... wish she'd notice me some day.

Panel 4

Steven's thoughts segway into a dream sequence where he imagines himself and Tiffany on a date in some movie theater, sharing popcorn.

[To the Artist: The borders are drawn like a thought bubble, indicating this is Steven's imagination.]

PAGE THREE

Panel 1

Steven is smiling at Tiffany in the dream, and she is smiling back while holding his hand.

Panel 2

Steven and Tiffany lean in for a kiss...

1. SFX: CRASH!

[To the Artist: The sound effect should cover the entire panel.]

Panel 3

Steven abruptly snaps out of his daydream and flails about.

1. STEVEN: What the?!

Panel 4

Steven catches his balance and looks around, noticing a bunch of cans having fallen to the ground. He just barely sees somebody duck past a pillar.

1. STEVEN: Who's there?!

Panel 5

Steven looks very scared, and immediately grabs his phone to dial the cops.

1. STEVEN: Crap, I'm not at all prepared for this! Gotta call the cops!

PAGE FOUR

Panel 1

Steven pauses, suddenly getting a thoughtful look on his face. He gets another thought bubble showing Tiffany.

1. STEVEN: Wait a minute...

Panel 2

The thought bubble shows Tiffany looking concerned.

1. STEVEN: Tiffany might notice me if I try to protect the store on my own... but how?

Panel 3

He raises his phone and shines a light on to the shelves full of baseball bats and toys.

[To the Artist: Divide this into three smaller panels showing the bats and toys.

1. STEVEN: Ahh, alright... okay.

Panel 4

Steven pulls a can of pepper spray out from under the counter. It has a generic "Pepper!" label.

Panel 5

Steven gets a determined look in his eyes as he leaves the counter.

1. STEVEN: Don't worry, Tiffany, I'll protect the Store for you!

PAGE FIVE

Panel 1

Steven patrols through the darkness of the Store, using his smartphone to light the way.

1. SFX: Tap, tap, tap

Panel 2

Suddenly, a shadow blurs by, moving too fast for particular details to be made out in the light, apart from them appearing thin and colored blue.

Panel 3

Steven jumps back in fright, nearly dropping his phone.

1. STEVEN: Oh crap!

Panel 4

Steven stays still, looking terrified, shaking.

1. SFX: Quiver quiver

Panel 5

Steven swallows.

1. SFX: Gulp

Panel 6

Steven gets a fierce look on his face.

1. STEVEN: No, I have to stomach my fear... I have to, for Tiffany.

PAGE SIX

Panel 1

Steven dashes through an aisle full of pastries, phone and spray in hand, shining the path in front of him.

Panel 2

The unseen intruder is also racing down an aisle, still unidentifiable.

[To the Artist: The panels are positioned like vertical halves of the page, with Steven's panel on the left, and the intruder's on the right.]

PAGE SEVEN

Panel 1

Steven reaches the aisle where the items he needs are – sports equipment and big toys. He scoops up a baseball bat and a fist-sized ball.

1. STEVEN: Haha, gotcha! Guy won't know what hit'em!

Panel 2

There's suddenly a loud noise, making Steven jump.

- 1. SFX: THUNK!
- 2. STEVEN: That was from the frozen aisle! Oh, you're so screwed, buddy...

Panel 3

Steven hurries there in a rush, pepper spray in his back pocket, the bat in his left hand, and the ball in his right. His phone sits in his pocket protector, the flashlight shining from it.

PAGE EIGHT

Panel 1

Steven spots the intruder in the frozen aisle, in front of a large fridge unit full of chicken, and shines the light on them, raising the bat.

1. STEVEN: Hey, whoever you are! You're not allowed to be here, so get lost!

Panel 2

The intruder promptly dashes away, earning a big frown from Steven.

1. STEVEN: Aw, come on, are you kidding me?

Panel 3-6

Steven chases after the intruder, determined to catch up. He passes by various aisles and shelves full of food, tools, and strange gizmos.

PAGE NINE

Panel 1

Steven's panting as he continues the chase, starting to lag behind the intruder.

1. STEVEN: Dammit, slow down, you...

Panel 2

He looks ahead, and sees the intruder having fallen over on the ground, next to a large spill with a wet floor sign nearby. Beyond, the cash register on the front counter is visible, and unguarded.

Panel 3

Steven looks panicked.

1. STEVEN: Oh crap, they're gonna rob us! I gotta stop'em!

Panel 4

Steven ducks behind a rack of camera equipment, disappearing from sight.

PAGE TEN

Panel 1

The intruder gets up and runs towards the cash register in a sprint.

1. INTRUDER: Almost there...

Panel 2

Suddenly, a bat swings out and catches the intruder's legs, forcing them to fall forward.

1. INTRUDER: Oh shi-

Panel 3

The intruder tumbles to the ground, inadvertently slapping the can of pepper spray out of Steven's hands.

Panel 4

Panicking, Steven throws the ball...

Panel 5

...which misses the intruder's head and just bounces off, right into Steven's face.

- 1. SFX: Smack!
- 2. STEVEN: Argh!

Panel 6

Steven falls to the ground, disoriented and distracted, his phone light throwing its beam around erratically.

PAGE ELEVEN

Panel 1

Steven groans and holds his head, obviously in pain.

1. STEVEN: Owww... serves me right...

Panel 2

He looks up, and is surprised to see that it's none other than their coworker, Ashley, an androgynous, slender person, who's already running towards the doors.

1. STEVEN: Ashley?! What are you-?

Panel 3

He doesn't get to finish, as suddenly that ball is thrown in his face again. He catches it.

1. STEVEN: Not falling for that!

Panel 4

Ashley is suddenly completely gone, with no sign of them anywhere. Steven gets up, confused.

1. STEVEN: Ashley? Where are you?

PAGE TWELVE

Panel 1

It's the morning after, with the lights in the Store now turned on and showing everything clearly. Steven is at the cash register again, looking exhausted as he checks to make sure the money is still there.

1. STEVEN: Damn, Ash, what were you doing there...?

Panel 2

Suddenly, his boss walks by, and approaches him, making him stand up straight.

1. BOSS: Hey, Steven, you okay? I was looking at the security tapes and saw you dealing with somebody last night?

Panel 3

Steven smiles.

- 1. STEVEN: Oh, yeah, it was an intruder trying to rob us! Must have scared'em off.
- 2. BOSS: Ah, good job, kid. I oughtta give you a raise for doing something like that.
- 3. STEVEN: Aw, you don't have to...
- 4. BOSS: Nonsense! You deserve it. Come speak to me in a few minutes, okay?
- 5. STEVEN: Okay, sir.

Panel 4

Steven's boss walks away. Steven looks around before noticing Tiffany stocking the shelves.

Panel 5

Tiffany turns towards him, and gives him a smile and a wave.

Panel 6

Steven smiles and waves back, having a dreamy look on his face.

- 1. STEVEN: Ooh yeah, I did good...
- 2. CAPTION: He did good, indeed. Seems Steven has Tiffany's eye... but what of Ashley? What made them enter the Store and run from Steven? Only time will tell...
- 3. CAPTION: End...?