

LOSING BATTLE

An Original Screenplay

written by

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FADE IN:

DREAM

INT. STRIP MALL - DAY

WATCHMAN, a trim and dapper security guard, patrols.

Three TEEN-AGED BOYS sneak behind him into a Men's Shop.

But as Watchman walks, he removes his badge and uses it as a rearview mirror.

The Boys strut toward the exit, wearing expensive clothes over their own.

WATCHMAN

OK, stop right there, fellas.

The Boys run in various directions.

Watchman leaps over potted plants, springs off a wooden bench like it's a trampoline, hurdles a fountain, and captures each Boy.

He plunks them down on a bench by his security station. They hang their heads.

WATCHMAN

Look at you. Tsk, tsk, tsk.
Ever been to prison?

END DREAM

INT. WALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

WALTER "WALLY" O'MALLEY, a chubby man in his 30s who looks just like Watchman, stretches in his bed, dreaming. He wears Superhero pajamas.

The alarm clock rings. Fumbling to turn it off, he knocks it off the small refrigerator next to his bed.

He sits up on the edge of the bed and yawns. Then he grabs juice from the refrigerator and drinks from the carton.

INT. SECURITY CAR - DAY

Wally sits in the mall parking lot. He wears a gleaming badge with his name on it.

On his neatly pressed trousers is a jelly doughnut.

He savors the last bite, wipes his chin, and sucks jelly from his fingers as he opens the door.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - DAY

Wally briskly brushes crumbs from his pants and the handle of his gun. His thumb gets caught in his holster.

Embarrassed, he looks around. No one there, but he covets a convertible on the lot and strokes the hood.

WALLY

You'll be mine some day, baby.

Wally strides toward the mall entrance, whistling.

A loud SCRAPE of metal against concrete draws his attention to a parking spot.

SADIE, an elderly mall walker, backs her car away from the post she just hit.

Wally hurries to her.

WALLY

You all right, Sadie?

Sadie winks at him. One false eyelash dangles.

SADIE

Just fine, Wally. I got more insurance than you got girlfriends.

WALLY

I hope so.

Wally gestures about her eyelash.

Sadie cackles, as she sticks it back on, crooked.

INT. MALL - DAY

GENTLE MUSIC plays. A banner announces SUMMER SALES. An upbeat atmosphere with elderly MALL WALKERS.

SHOPKEEPERS open up - BAKERY, ICE CREAM SHOP, MAGAZINE STAND, MEN'S SHOP, COFFEE SHOP, CANDY SHOP.

Wally heads for the magazine stand as Sadie power walks by. She winks her long eyelashes, flirting.

Wally flips through a SUPERHERO comic book and takes it to the cash register.

MAGAZINE STAND OWNER

No charge, Wally.

Wally salutes and continues patrolling. The Baker, in a floury apron, motions Wally over.

BAKER

Cinnamon rolls, fresh from the oven. Here, mangia (eat). Mangia.

Wally eagerly takes them and stuffs one in his mouth. He closes his eyes with pleasure.

WALLY

I shouldn't. Mmm.

Wally waves goodbye with the rolls and continues his rounds.

Slim, attractive TERESA COLUMBO, in her 30s, pushes her cart of flowers, ribbons, balloons, and cards.

TERESA

Hi, Wally. Here's today's special. You didn't get married on me last night, did you?

She tucks a flower into Wally's lapel.

Wally blushes and sniffs the flower.

WALLY

No. Thanks, Teresa.

TERESA

Have a great day. You're the mall's best eligible security guard.

Teresa starts to push her cart away.

WALLY

Because I'm the mall's only security guard.

TERESA

Nothing happens here.

Wally circles back to his station near the fountain from the dream. Comic books lie on his bench.

A PLAQUE hangs - Wally's photo and EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR, 11 YEARS OF SERVICE WITHOUT A ROBBERY.

Shoppers continue to pass Wally's stand. A few wave to him.

In the background, three Teen-Aged Boys, from the dream, point to Wally, whisper, and snicker in changing voices.

Just as Wally is about to eat another cinnamon roll, KATIE, 5, tugs at his sleeve, whimpering.

KATIE

I can't find my Mommy!

Wally scans the crowd. He takes Katie's hand.

WALLY

Don't cry. We'll find her.
Look, this nice man'll give us ice cream.

KATIE'S MOTHER (OS)

Katie! Katie!

KATIE'S MOTHER rushes over and hugs Katie.

The Teen-Aged Boys, in the background, go into the Men's Shop and put on expensive jackets.

They sneak out behind Wally.

KATIE'S MOTHER

I was worried sick. Thank you,
Officer, so much.

WALLY

I really didn't do anything.

Mother and child wave goodbye.

Wally sits to read his comic books. But his eyes keep straying to the Candy Shop.

Wally succumbs. The Candy Shop Owner straightens his display.

WALLY

Any smashed bon-bons?

CANDY SHOP OWNER

A few squashed caramels and...

The Candy Shop Owner deliberately breaks some candies.

CANDY SHOP OWNER

Here - these are broken.

The Candy Shop Owner hands a small box to Wally, and Wally immediately pops candies in his mouth.

WALLY

It's good for business that
you...keep a tidy case. For
the paying customers.

A chocolatey grin crosses his face.

The Wally spies the Ice Cream Shop and waves at the Owner.