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A BRIGHT NEW BOISE
by Samuel D. Hunter

About the play (from Samuel French):

In the bleak, corporate break room of a craft store in Idaho, someone is summoning The Rapture. Will, who has fled his rural hometown after a scandal at his Evangelical church, comes to the Hobby Lobby, not only for employment, but also to rekindle a relationship with Alex, his brooding teenage son, whom he gave up for adoption several years ago. Alex works there along with Leroy, his adopted brother and protector, and Anna, a hapless young woman who reads bland fiction but hopes for dramatic endings. As their manager, foul-mouthed Pauline, tries ceaselessly to find order (and profit) in the chaos of small business, these lost souls of the Hobby Lobby confront an unyielding world through the beige-tinted impossibility of modern faith. Samuel D. Hunter's *A Bright New Boise* is an earnest comedy about the meager profits of modern faith.

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Pauline - female, 30s - 50s

PAULINE – Female, 30s-50s

About this scene:

PAULINE is the manager of a Hobby Lobby in Boise, ID. She has just learned that one of her employees, WILL, was a member of a cult-like church whose leader was recently arrested. He is also the estranged father of her young employee, ALEX.

PAULINE

I'm gonna say this once, and I hope you understand me.

(pause)

I took over this store four years ago. The first day I was here, four out of six cashiers called in sick, there were rats in the stock room, and a good quarter of all items on the floor were mis-stocked or mis-labeled. The manager before me, this little pip-squeak from Nampa, he saw there was mold problem in the air ducts so his solution was to puncture an air freshener and toss it inside. It was *chaos*, you understand? Corporate told me I was taking over as a *temporary* measure, to oversee the branch for six months before, they said, they would most likely close it completely. And what did I do? I cleaned it up. I stayed here during nights by myself restocking and organizing, cleaning the air ducts, firing and hiring and basically reshaping this entire store from the ground up. I took out ads in the paper announcing new management and grand-reopening sales. Six months later, our profits were up sixty-two percent, and they've been climbing ever since. I, Will, I brought order to chaos.

WILL

That's really—impressive.

PAULINE

Goddam right it's impressive. Damn near *miraculous*. And it happened because of me. Because I changed *everything* about this store, I changed the way this store feels, the way it thinks, the fucking *ecosystem* in this store. And I will not have you or anyone else disrupting the ecosystem I have painstakingly crafted.

(pause)

Listen, personally, I don't give a shit what you believe. But as far as the good people of Boise are concerned, you are a state-wide embarrassment. And if people were to find out that one of our cashiers is from this wacky little cult up north, they may think about buying their silk flowers somewhere else.