

Hotdog Harassment

Written by:

Alissa Gonrick

EXT. THE WALMART PARKING LOT - DAY

JEFF, a creepy middle-aged slob, sits in his beat-up KIA spectra, surrounded by trash.

Jeff stares awkwardly forward before easing slowly into a breakdown and banging his steering wheel.

JEFF
(Through his teeth)
NATTANY!

Jeff falls limp into his seat while he pathetically weeps in his own filth before noticing Nattany rushing by.

JEFF
(perks up, whispering to himself)
30 minutes late...

Jeff frantically searches for a notebook stashed in a satchel next to him in the passenger seat and begins to write.

NATTANY, a 20-something young girl, rushes into a side door of the Walmart, as she texts her manager.

Jeff, while still watching Nattany, pulls out a tape recorder and holds up his notebook with a clear bulleted list.

JEFF
It's day 216 of following the girl.
The first day she's ever been this late before. She's good at her job so I don't think the management will mind, but it makes me wonder where she's been today. I wonder why I can't find her address anywhere. She was in a rush. She was wearing her gray converse, jeans, and a nirvana hoodie. Nothing particularly out of character, but, I haven't seen her up close in 3 days to know any different. I think I need to go inside, I feel hungry anyways.

Jeff swings his car door open with a particular urgency as empty cans spill out from the bottom. He swipes them out from his path and walks slowly through the parking lot.

Salvation Army volunteers ring their bells as Jeff approaches the entrance. He throws in a dollar's worth of quarters before entering.

INT. WALMART ENTRANCE - DAY

Jeff looks around in a daze as he searches for Nattany's location.

Nattany is folding clothes toward the front of the store.

Nattany's MANAGER, a short bulky man with a clipboard, approaches her.

MANAGER

Hey Nattany, finish up what you're
doing and run over to counter 4
because Sarah needs her break. Thanks.

Nattany nods in agreement, finishes the shirt and walks over to the counter.

Jeff, never breaking his eye contact on the girl, rushes up to the hot table and grabs a single hotdog before getting in line for counter 4.

JEFF

(whispering to himself)
What the hell am I doing?

Jeff continues to get in and out of line, pacing back and forth before working up the courage to stay in line.

Nattany watches his odd behavior, but brushes it off to keep scanning groceries.

The line gets shorter and Jeff places his hotdog on the belt.

NATTANY

(In a customer service voice)
Hi, how are you?

Nattany picks up the hotdog and scans it.

JEFF

I'm actually wondering the same
about.. (trailing...)

NATTANY

(Cutting Jeff off)
Your total is \$2.69, will you be
paying with cash or credit today?

JEFF

Well, I - I just wanted to say that...

Nattany stares in confusion

NATTANY

Is there something I can help you with?

JEFF

Well, If I'm being honest I don't really need the hotdog.

Nattany looks confused since it's his only item.

NATTANY

Well, I can take it off your order?

JEFF

It's not that. I just needed a reason to talk to you. What's something that I can say to start a conversation with you? I've been wondering for so long, but nothing ever works.

NATTANY

Uh, what? (clearly distressed) Well, I mean you could ask what I like to do?

Both pausing awkwardly.

Jeff wipes the sweat from his eyebrow.

JEFF

Well... what do you like to do?

NATTANY

If I tell you, will you buy the hotdog and leave? I've seen you watching me over there. Don't you know how creepy this is? There's only so much of "the customer is always right" mentality that I can take. You know what? Get the HELL out of here freak! I'm calling my manager over here...

Nattany runs over to the front of the store where her Manager is standing, as something falls out of her pocket.

Jeff at first frozen, runs over to pick up the item. It's a small bag of meth.

Nattany turns around, shocked.

JEFF
This is why I'm here.

Jeff pulls out a badge and a pair of handcuffs from his ragged jeans.

JEFF
Nattany Bennett, you're under arrest
for the illegal possession of
methamphetamine, You have the right to
remain silent. Anything you say can be
used...

Jeff continues as he handcuffs her.

JEFF
...against you in a court of law. You
have the right to have an attorney
present now and during any future
questioning. If you cannot afford an
attorney, one will be appointed for
you at no cost.

NATTANY
What? That's not mine!

MANAGER
Hey, you can't take her, she's on
shift.

NATTANY
He's a creep! Are you even concerned
about where he's taking me? Are you
serious?

MANAGER
I don't get paid enough for this

JEFF
(Snarkily)
I do.

Jeff marches Nattany out of the store as she tries to fight him.