

The Department Store Synopsis:

A young girl is running late to see her friend. When she decides to take a shortcut through a city department store she finds more than she expected. Stepping off the path can be quite a dangerous thing as the girl finds herself trapped in an endless loop of paths, blue mannequins and creepy perfume women. Only when the girl finally accepts the rules of the store does the loop end and she can leave.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A young GIRL (17) walks down a busy city street. Her phone rings and she pulls it from her pocket; answering it.

GIRL
(into phone)
Hello?

EXT. CITY STREET 2 - DAY

Young GIRL 2 (17) is standing in a busy street. The girl has her phone to her ear.

GIRL 2
(into phone)
Hey, babes, where are you?

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The Girl looks around and sees a street sign.

GIRL
Umm... I'm on Davis street.

EXT. CITY STREET 2 - DAY

Girl 2 looks at her watch.

GIRL 2
You're going to be late. Cut through that big department store, I'm on the other side.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The girl turns around and spots the large, rustic-looking department store. She stares at the store in awe, mesmerized by it.

EXT. CITY STREET 2 - DAY

Girl 2 is confused by the silence from her friend.

GIRL 2
Babes?

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The girl snaps from her stare and turns back to her phone.

GIRL
Yeah, sorry. I'll be there in 5 minutes.

She hangs up the phone and pockets it. Taking a last look at the store's exterior, the girl towards the store.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

The girl walks in through the front doors. She looks around at vast racks of clothing. There are white paths leading around the store. The store sounds busy with many voices.

She looks up at a hanging sign. The sign has directions to places in the store, including the exits. At the bottom of the sign is a note: "Follow the paths so you don't get lost."

She sees the exit to her friend and she follows the path.

The girl walks along the white path when she comes to a 'T' intersection. At the top of the intersection is a blue mannequin dressed in pants, a top and a hat. Behind it are a cluster of clothing racks.

The girl looks at the mannequin and then past it. At the far end of the store she can see the exit. She looks up at another sign. It tells her to take the left path to the exit. The girl looks at the left path and sees it takes the long way around to the exit.

GIRL

Stuff that.

She walks off the path, past the mannequin and through clothing racks.

The girl weaves her way through the racks, keeping her eyes on the exit. Her phone beeps. She looks down and retrieves her phone. She continues walking while she reads a message from Girl 2: "Hurry up, babes!"

As she walks the sounds of the store grow quieter.

The girl finishes reading the message and pockets the phone.

She suddenly stops and looks up in shock. She is standing at another 'T' intersection. Looking around, she sees that the mannequin is the same one she passed before. The girl turns around but the racks she was walking through are gone.

All the sounds from the store have stopped, only silence.

She shakes off her confusion and looks past the mannequin at the exit in the distance.

Remembering the directional arrow pointed left before, the girl looks at the left path and follows it.

The camera pans towards the hanging sign, but this time instead of an arrow pointing to the exit it has a question mark.

The girl speed walks down the white path. She turns frantically looking around.

In front of her are two perfume counters, one on either side of the path. The counter display cases are lit up. Two women are standing behind the counters. They are each holding a vile of perfume.

WOMAN 1 leans over her counter and the Girl stops walking. The woman is giving a creepy grin.

WOMAN 1
Hello, are you lost?

The girl looks around, confused.

GIRL
I'm trying to find the exit.

WOMAN 2 leans over her counter, smiling widely.

WOMAN 2
Don't be silly. Why would you want to leave when you can try the latest scents.

Woman 2 tries to spray the girl but she backs away.

GIRL
Um, no thank you.

The girl turns away from the women and starts to walk away.

WOMAN 2
(creepy smiling)
Too bad, you should have stayed on the path.

The girl spins around with a shocked look on her face, but the counters and the women are gone. Only racks of clothes remain.

She breathes deeply and turns again. She is back at the 'T' intersection, the blue mannequin staring back at her.

The girl runs down the left path.

She passes the creepy grinning women at their counters, but she doesn't stop running.

WOMAN 1
(calling out)
Are you lost?

WOMAN 2
(calling out)
Try our latest scent.

The girl doesn't look back, she focuses on the path ahead of her.

The path winds on and on, endless.

She is exhausted from running. She stops to catch her breath, hands on her knees.

She closes her eyes for a second. Then snaps them back open after realising she has taken her eyes off the path.

She is standing at the 'T' intersection with the blue mannequin.

She screams and attacks the mannequin, ripping its arms and legs off.

She is standing at the 'T' intersection again. The mannequin is back together.

The girl looks to the exit in the distance, tears in her eyes. She drops to her knees.

GIRL
(screaming)
I'll stay on the path!

She closes her eyes...

The girl opens her eyes and the sounds of a busy store surround her. She looks around and customers are looking at her like she is a crazy person shouting in the store.

She stands and looks at the sign. The left arrow points to the exit.

She hesitates but follows the path.

She passes the two counters but there are no women there. The display case lights are off.

She continues to walk until she reaches the exit. She turns her head slightly to look back but stops and instead pushes the doors open.

EXT. CITY STREET 2 - DAY

The girl exits the store to see her friend waiting.

GIRL 2
(smiling)
There you are. What took you so long?

The girl looks stunned.

GIRL 2 (CONT'D)
At least that shortcut helped, you made it on time.

GIRL
(confused)
What? But I...

The girl looks back to the store, but it looks perfectly normal.

GIRL 2
Come on, let's go.

Girl 2 leads the girl down the street. Girl 2 is chatting away, but the girl is not listening. Her eyes are fixed on the department store.