TWENTY-FIVE

Scene 2 – Clock Store

*When dim lights come up, Store Assistant2 is behind SR Counter. In front of counter is Customer. Both are frozen. #5 is standing DSR with % sign in left hand & “Sale” sign on stick in right. #2 enter DSL and crosses to #5.*

#5: You’re late.

#2: They’re not going to start without me!

#5: *(hands “Sale” sign to #2)* Just do your job, ok? *25% off*

#2: FINE! *(puts Sign up to cover faces)* What’s 25% off?

*#5: Shhh…*

*(****SFX*** *– shop bell indicating the door is opening)*

**Son:** Cool! Look at all these clocks!

**Farmer:** *(to son)* Son, I don’t want you to touch anything in this store. Clocks are expensive and if you break anything, we’ll have to pay for it.

**Son:** But it’s 25% off! See that sign?

Farmer: I just need to drop off my pocket watch for cleaning. Wait with me in line. Quietly*. (They wait their turn in front of SL counter)*

**Customer:** *(handing over $)* I assume you guarantee your work.

**Assistant 2:** Of course. We want you to be 100% satisfied with your repairs, but if you’re not, we can always sell you one of our new clocks. They’re all 25% off.

**Customer:** If my clock is working, why would I need a new one?

**Assistant 2:** Well, working is a relative term.

**Customer:** It’s either working or it’s not. There’s nothing relative about it.

**Assistant:** *(puts ear to clock)* Yup. It’s still ticking. Definitely working.

*Store Owner (crazy white wig & lab coat) enters – walking “upstairs” from basement – carrying tool box & large clock. He is talking to himself about “25 seconds. It’s got to be exactly 25 seconds.” He dumps everything on SL counter and immediately starts tinkering with clock.*

**Customer:** *(to owner)* You *do* guarantee your work – correct?

**Store Owner:** *(focused on work – doesn’t look up)* Of course, of course…any clock for 25% off. *(Customer rolls eyes, takes clock, and exits DSL)*

**Farmer:** Excuse me, I’d like to drop my watch off for cleaning. *(Son wanders)*

**Store Owner:** Oh no! Waterproof watches won’t happen for decades!

**Farmer:** *(confused)* What are you talking about? *(Beat)* Sir, this watch has been in my family for 2 generations. We’ve taken meticulous care of it – getting it oiled and cleaned every year. It still keeps perfect time and I want to keep it that way.

**Store Owner:** Well, that’s different. Perfect time is definitely a problem. *(to Assistant 2)* Write up a work ticket for this watch. Put down “fix perfect time”

**Farmer:** No - the timing is fine. I just need it cleaned and oiled.

**Assistant 2:** Don’t worry, he’s a bit eccentric but we guarantee it will be good as new – or you can buy a new clock for 25% off. *(Writes ticket, ties to watch, and carries it downstairs while owner continues to work & murmer ”25 seconds”)*

*Son, who had gone over to examine the 25% Sale sign was startled when #2 lifted Sign and made face at him. He rushes back to Dad & tugs on sleeve to leave. Dad is hesitant but his son is persistent, so he exits DSL with son.*

*(****SFX*** *– shop bell indicating the door is opening)*

**Disgruntled Customer:** *(enters DSL carrying a clock)* I need to talk to the owner right now! Are you the owner?

**Store Owner:**  *(never looking up)* If you need assistance. Ring the bell.

*(****SFX*** *– shop desk bell 3 times, trying to be polite but with a bit of impatience)*

*(****SFX*** *– footsteps on stairway)*

*(Customer rings bell. Assistant 2 comes up stairs with modern contraption.)*

**Assistant 2:** Boss, I’m not sure I got this right. Can you check the calibration?

**Owner:** Take that machine back to the basement! There are spies everywhere.

*(****SFX*** *– footsteps on stairway)*

*Assistant hides gadget from customer view & takes it downstairs*

**Disgruntled Customer:** So, you are the owner.

**Owner:** Yes, but just for another 25 minutes.

Customer: I need to talk to you.

Owner: Ring the bell.

*(****SFX*** *– shop desk bell is sounded furiously - customer furiously rings the bell repeatedly and Assistant 2 comes running upstairs)*

*(****SFX*** *– footsteps running upstairs)*

**Assistant 2:** *(takes the bell away)* What seems to be the problem?

**Customer:** The problem is that after this man fixed my clock, it is keeping time fast. I’ve figure out that it gains 25 seconds every hour.

**Owner:** *(stops working & is suddenly very interested)* Did you say 25 seconds? Are you sure about that?

**Customer:** Yes, my pocket watch keeps perfect time and I’ve compared the two for several hours. This clock gets 25 second further ahead every hour.

**Owner:** Perfect! This is exactly what we need!

**Customer:** It’s not what I need. I need an accurate clock and if you can’t fix it I want my money back! *(He reaches out to take his clock back)*

**Owner:** *(Grabbing clock off counter and protectively wrapping arms around it)* Don’t worry, my assistant will re-calibrate it *(looks at watch)* in another 23 minutes and 25 seconds.

**Customer:** Why can’t he do it right now while I wait?

**Owner:** Oh no, it’s not safe. There could be an explosion. You never know what will happen when you mess with the time continuum.

*Assistant comes from behind counter and gently “assists” customer to the door.*

**Customer:** *(looking worried)* I think I’d better take my clock back.

**Assistant:** Don’t worry, he’s a bit eccentric but he’s a genius. You’re clock will be fine. Come back in a half-hour. *(Gives a gentle push and customer exits SL)*

*(****SFX*** *– shop bell indicating the door is opening)*

*(****SFX*** *–shop door closing)*

**Owner:** Hurry! We need to attach this clock to the time travel machine and harvest the energy of those 25 seconds. If his calculation is correct, it will be just enough to launch me back to the future without blowing up the entire store!

*Owner carries clock down to basement and Assistant follows.*

BLACK OUT