

# *Outer Reaches of Space*

*by*

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Cast of Characters

ANGIE:

25

JOHN:

28

Place

Manhattan

Time

Evening

Setting: Inside a mall in Manhattan.

At Rise: John and Angie walk through the mall, John is carrying more bags than he can practically hold.

**JOHN:** I can't.

**ANGIE:** I just wanna go to that store real quick.

**JOHN:** No. I'm not doing it.

**ANGIE:** It'll take two seconds.

**JOHN:** It's not gonna take two seconds. It's gonna take another hour.

**ANGIE:** Come on, I'll be quick.

**JOHN:** Nah, I can't do it.

**ANGIE:** We came all the way to the city to go to two stores?

**JOHN:** It's been three hours? It should have been like an hour tops.

**ANGIE:** I like to look around and make sure I get the right item for the best price.

**JOHN:** You ask ridiculous questions, questions that make no sense.

**ANGIE:** Your hungry.

**JOHN:** YEAH, I'm hungry.

**ANGIE:** How about we eat and then go to the other stores?

**JOHN:** I'm getting hot flashes, feeling faint.

**ANGIE:** Let's find a place to eat.

**JOHN:** Can't stand this, carrying these bags, feel like I'm suffocating inside my coat. It's either hot or cold---

**ANGIE:** So, take off your coat.

**JOHN:** When I take off my coat I'm cold. When I leave it on I'm hot. The temperature in this mall isn't working right.

**ANGIE:** You just need to eat. Wanna go get a chicken sandwich and fries, maybe a coke or sprite?

**JOHN:** Yeah, yeah, whatever let's go.

**ANGIE:** Oh, wait! Wai, wai, WAIT! I have to run in the make-up shop. I've been searching high and low for this new facial cream from Paris, it's so good for your face and prevents wrinkles.

**JOHN:** You don't have wrinkles, Ang.

**ANGIE:** And I don't plan on getting any, either.

**JOHN:** Come on with this shit.

**ANGIE:** Take me two minutes.

**JOHN:** Here's another five years. If I added up all the time I have spent waiting for you, I'd gain back at least three years of my life.

**ANGIE:** We've only been together for two years.

**JOHN:** I'm talking about man years.

**ANGIE:** Want me to run in by myself real quick?

*Angie leaves to go into the store, John doesn't realize it.*

**JOHN:** Can you run in and ask someone if they have exactly what you are looking for? I can't stand waiting in this---I'm gonna get heat stroke, I feel it coming on---just go in there, ask the lady if she has the cream you want, if she says no, leave, if she says yes, buy it. Please. Don't go and have another two hour conversation about where she's from and asking about discounts and all the bullshit stories you make up to try and get a deal, cause I can't take it.

Honestly, I'm like a heart attack away from death. Angie, you don't understand. I know I sound crazy, cause you've gotten me worked up to this point. Look at me, I can't even control myself cause I feel overwhelmed with all these fragrances in the air---so deep in my nostrils, I can't even breathe anymore, it burns my throat and I wonder, you know, I walk through the store wondering how in the hell do people that work here, survive such smells, all day long. Like, if I worked here, I'd be in a different department, I couldn't do perfumes or colognes or whatever that poisonous gas is, I'd DIE.

I rather work in the shoe section or suits, yeah, maybe the suits where things are calm, less customers, people are a little more assertive. I can't stand the madness. All this running around, jumping over one another, sweating with the hot flashes going on and the constant search for the best item for the best deal. I can't take it. I get dizzy, frustrated, annoyed, grumpy, sarcastic, violent, well no, not violent but I feel violent, which makes me worse cause I don't act on my violent feelings cause I'm a gentleman, and the restraint bubbles up under my neck, slowly strangling me, that's why, that's why I'm freaking hot---

**ANGIE:** I'm back. They didn't have it.

**JOHN:** You were gone this whole time?

**ANGIE:** Who were you talking to?

**JOHN:** I thought I was talking to you.

**ANGIE:** What??

**JOHN:** I was giving a whole monologue over here by myself?

**ANGIE:** I guess so, was I fast enough?

**JOHN:** I can't believe I was standing here this whole time, like a jerk.

**ANGIE:** Was I fast or not?

**JOHN:** That *was* fast.

**ANGIE:** You have to learn patience.

**JOHN:** Angie, I have patience, you PUSH my patience to the outer reaches of space.

**ANGIE:** You have zero tolerance. As soon as we step foot in the mall, your brain shuts off, you get this zombie like face of misery and you completely transform into a beast of crabbiness, hostility and impatience.

**JOHN:** I'm trying, you know?

**ANGIE:** Try harder. Let's go feed little boy.

**JOHN:** You see? You call me little boy and that fires me up.

**ANGIE:** Cause you act like a little boy.

**JOHN:** I'm cranky now but I've been good for the first twelve hours we've been here.

**ANGIE:** Why wouldn't you just let me come by myself?

**JOHN:** Because I like getting out of the house too, you know.

**ANGIE:** Can't we ever do anything nice and calm? You know, just enjoy our time shopping together?

**JOHN:** We can, but it's you Angie, you will stare at an item for five minutes and zone out and I'm doing jumping jacks in the corner watching how slow you move. Me, I'm in and out. I know what I want, I walk in determined and I grab the item, buy it and walk right out. Done. No games, no conversations, just buy and fly.

**ANGIE:** I can't do that.

**JOHN:** But at least compromise. At least, go a little faster, meet me halfway, you know I'm waiting, you know I hate this agonizing process, you know I'm trying to be patient, if you can speed things up then I can make it through without bursting.

**ANGIE:** You just need to eat.

**JOHN:** I do need to eat but you need to comprehend what I'm saying. We need to make progress.

**ANGIE:** I can't go fast like you.

**JOHN:** Baby, listen, please, you're driving me crazy over here.

**ANGIE:** You drive yourself crazy.

**JOHN:** If you can see things from my perspective and move your body a little faster, we'd get things done in a timely manner and I wouldn't have to complain.

**ANGIE:** I'm moving as fast as I can, John.

**JOHN:** No you're not. You are deliberately moving like a snail to torture me, aren't you?

**ANGIE:** You really have no patience, whatsoever.

**JOHN:** Two hours! Two hours in the watch store, looking at the same watch. Is it me?

**ANGIE:** This watch is for my mother and I have to ask about the coupons and look online to see if there is a better deal, these things take time. Sometimes when you show the sales rep you can get the item cheaper somewhere else, they will match the price in order to get the sale.

**JOHN:** Really?

**ANGIE:** Yes, really.

**JOHN:** That's pretty smart.

**ANGIE:** It is.

**JOHN:** I've never tried that. How did you learn that tactic?

**ANGIE:** My mother.

**JOHN:** Really?

**ANGIE:** Yep. She's always a step ahead.

**JOHN:** Smart cookie, I'll give her that.

**ANGIE:** When I was young she would change the prices on the tag with a black marker before buying them.

**JOHN:** You're kidding?

**ANGIE:** Nah, she saved thousands.

**JOHN:** Wow.

**ANGIE:** Yeah.

**JOHN:** She never got caught?

**ANGIE:** Not once.

**JOHN:** She was never afraid of going to jail?

**ANGIE:** She just did it without thinking about it.

**JOHN:** Unbelievable.

**ANGIE:** What are you in the mood to eat?

**JOHN:** Want some pizza?

**ANGIE:** I can do pizza.

**JOHN:** Okay, halftime here we come.

**END OF PLAY**