

J.C. Penney and Macy's Post Lackluster Sales Before Holidays

By Thomas Daniel Valls

Draft 1

PRE-SHOW: *STYLE* by TAYLOR SWIFT; but from like 0:59 when the final chorus comes in.

At RISE:

MACY and PENNY on opposite ends of the stage. Looking out.

MACY

We were able to land on a comet but I don't think we'll *ever* be ready for Black Friday.

PENNY

People just don't want to buy like they used to. What are we gonna do, Macy?

MACY

I don't know, Penny.

PENNY

Our biggest sales've been coming in from Taylor Swift's new album but even now that's being squandered because we've suddenly had to re-do our boots and kegs department.

MACY

People don't want kegs the way they used to, either.

PENNY

I blame the scaffolding that broke apart on the world trade center; that fucked shit up.

MACY

I blame the comet and the serendipitous release of *Interstellar* and the intermittent realization that I don't understand either of those things.

PENNY

Well now that we're stretching Black Friday over a five-day period, calling it 'Black Friday Week', according to my manager, *Miranda*; they wanna squeeze as much money as they can out of people. It's gonna be *rough*.

MACY

I never would've thought that like, by having more money, people would really wanna be stingier and like, be wiser about spending it. I guess that's the state of things. The world, you know?

PENNY

God, we're so cultured, knowing things. They should be proud that we're they're spritzers.

MACY

But should *we* be proud?

PENNY

Maybe not. Gerald's been telling me in bed that I gotta put out more.

MACY

Like, on commissions?

PENNY

I tell him that I'm nervous, he tells me he's nervous that *I'm* nervous, we fight and drink out of our nutria-bullet and I always end up telling that it's not my *fault* that people aren't buying the way they used to.

MACY

My boss's been saying it's because of the warmer weather. Last year when we had Polar Vortex number 2, people weren't even questioning why they were buying JNCO jackets; they just *were*.

PENNY

Janessa works in JNCO and said last year so many people were buying their Oakland goose toggle coats she forgot to take off like, 17 security sensors.

MACY

Janessa's a slut of course she'd forget to take those off.

PENNY

Janessa's not a slut.

MACY

Last year around Christmas, Gerald and I caught Janessa and a Rent-A-Santa chugging Fireball; fucking and shouting quotes from 'Gilmore Girls'.

PENNY

They were really quoting 'Gilmore Girls'?

MACY

It was fast and irrelevant so it very well could have been.

PENNY

Well, Janessa's been fired now anyways and I doubt JNCO will be selling out the way they used to.

MACY

None of us will. Let's face it Penny, we're worthless... nothing but cogs in a Movado Swiss Chronograph that an NYU undergraduate homosexual's only going to wear once, because he'll give a hand job to Alan Cumming's husband at Eastern Bloc and then in the rooftop pool at Le Bain and *DROP it*. He'll *drop* us into the bottom of that tank and we'll be *submerged*, and, and *drowned*, and, and, and unable to function, until we collapse, and have to give up our lockers, and, and find – find, Penny, ourselves tailoring \$25 chinos at Uniqlo in Atlantic Terminal that that *same* NYU homosexual's gonna wanna wear to The Eagle because they're tight around the calves and look really *fucking* good with his Doc Marten's and I don't know *why* I know so many gay bars but I guess that's how it all *STARTS*. Let's be honest, Penny. We don't know *anything* about where we're working.

PENNY

That's not true.

MACY

Oh, come on Penny, you lose track of how many boxes of Terre D'hermes you're putting back onto the shelves every time your manager starts going on about how many shares were sold the day before.

PENNY

I counted a lot of boxes last night, but I didn't count on this becoming so complicated.

MACY

What are you talking about!?

PENNY

I know a lot about my job, and I feel like you think I don't because *you* don't.

MACY

I know things about my business; you don't know things about *YOUR* business!

PENNY

You just said you didn't!

MACY

I Was Being Considerate And Trying To make You Feel As If You Weren't The Only *LOSER* Working In Retail!

PENNY

I KNOW THINGS ABOUT MY BUSINESS.

MACY

LIAR! // HEATHEN!

PENNY

// **YOU'RE THE LIAR!**

MACY

HOW DID THIS ESCALATE SO QUICKLY!?

PENNY

BECAUSE YOU'RE AN INSECURE SPRITZER!

MACY

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BEING SECURE YOUR BOYFRIEND DRINKS OUT OF A FUCKING NUTRIBULLET!

PENNY

LEAVE GERALD OUT OF THIS HE'S SENSITIVE.

MACY

I HAVE NO SYMPATHY HE WORKS AT EQUINOX.

PENNY

OH YEAH! Well We reported a loss of 62 CENTS a share on SALES of \$2.76 BILLION in *OUR* third quarter, COMPARABLY to like, \$1.94 a share on \$2.78 BILLION from the same period, *LAST YEAR!*

MACY

What does that *EVEN* mean!?

PENNY

The **FUCK** I know?!

MACY

Well *WE* had a net income of \$733 MILLION which is up from \$675 million from the year *BEFORE*, and that's not even because we sold Taylor Swift's 1989 because we don't because we're Macy's, we're CLASSY.

PENNY

Well, we were stingy as fuck so we like, *totally* rose profits to \$217 MILLION, which is like 61 cents a share, up from \$177 million in the same quarter a year before!

MACY

You're still stuck in Manhattan Mall, you might as well eat Subway for the rest of your life.

PENNY

AT LEAST WE DON'T CARRY THE MARTHA STEWART COLLECTION!

MACY

AT LEAST WE HAVE JONATHAN ADLER HE'S BASICALLY THE ANDY COHEN OF PILLOWS, // THE RACHEL RAY OF DUVETS, THE SHONDA RHIMES OF ELEPHANT TABLE LAMPS!

PENNY

// Okay okay okay stop stop okay, stop - STOP IT, **OH THIS IS STUPID, THIS IS STUPID MACY, PLEASE LET'S JUST STOP!**

They do.

This is silly! We're both in this together. We're both. We're different sides of the same coin.

MACY

Or like, different coins with the same sides, like quarters.

PENNY

We depend on one another, Macy. I'll need you in these upcoming weeks. I really will. Especially with Black Friday Week coming up soon. We need to be proud of each other.

MACY

I'm sorry I brought Gerald into it.

PENNY

I'm sorry I brought the Martha Stewart Collection into it.

MACY

God. We *really* as just, so cultured. So *mature*.

PENNY

Yeah, yeah I think we are.

MACY

I think I'm proud of you.

PENNY

I think I'm proud of you, too.

PENNY

I *am* proud to be a spritzer, Macy. I am.

MACY

Me too, Penny. I'm proud to be a spritzer, too.

Blackout.