

## Seaman's Grocery Treatment

Log Line: Beth Harris gets a job in the photo department of her local grocery store after dropping out of college to have her daughter. Though her dreams of becoming a photojournalist are temporarily put on hold, she does fulfilling work with a group of employees who become her second family. Outside of work, she is constantly running into trouble with her increasingly threatening ex-boyfriend and father of her child. The employees of Seaman's grocery store are faced with a new set of challenges when Beth's ex is murdered in the store.

"Seaman's Grocery" is an independent grocery store based in Florida in the 1990s. Retail and Foodservice are jobs that are underappreciated and underpaid, and being a woman in this field creates a whole other set of issues. Beth discovers this on her first day of working at Seaman's Grocery. This film takes Beth on a journey where she learns life lessons from her "character-building jobs" that she wouldn't have learned in a classroom. For the majority of Seaman's employees, the time spent working here serves as a midway point between a worse place and a better place. Though Beth views her employment as temporary, she can't help but get attached to the people surrounding her. The zany cast of characters that she finds herself surrounded by daily is the most interesting and rewarding part of her job.

First, there's Kevin, the general manager of Seaman's grocery store. He has worked there since he was fifteen years old and loved every minute of it. Kevin takes great pride in his work and cares deeply for everyone who works there. He also has an affinity for TY beanie babies and running the store "like a family". The other manager of the store is Chuck, who has a sultry Tom Selleck mustache and a million-dollar smile. Chuck is more focused on getting out of the grocery store market (pun intended) and addicted to playing the lottery. He hopes one day this will be his ticket out (pun also intended).

Liv and Sheryl man the bakery. Liv is a no-nonsense twenty-seven years old going through a divorce. She is a bit goth which highly contradicts her bakery partner Sheryl. Sheryl is an ex Disney cruise baker who took to land after her husband left her for an Ariel impersonation. Their personalities often clash, though through the film they find common ground. Liv discovers that Sheryl's terminal optimism might be exactly what she needs in her life.

Then there is Butch. Butch is, you guessed it, the butcher at Seaman's. He is a shy, quiet type; a gentle giant, minus the gentle. He could be compared to Ed Kemper or Jeffery Dahmer if it weren't for his admiration for human beings. He has some serious violent tendencies, but would never think to take them out on a person. Even if he has trouble relating to them. Butch can satisfy his morbid curiosities through his job eviscerating animals.

Lastly, Sean. Sean is the father of Beth's child. They dated their sophomore year of high school but parted ways during the Summer. During the winter break of Beth's freshman year of college, they shared one passionate night. One passionate night was enough to create Devon. Since Highschool Sean hasn't done much. He is trying to apply for the police academy, but he can't seem to accumulate the money or pass the physical due to his passion for drugs and alcohol.

The story begins once Beth is hired. Kevin, the manager, shows her the ropes and Beth gets a general idea of the atmosphere. He proudly shows off a cardboard Baler that they bought a few years ago, but expresses that the store cannot afford any new gadgets because of constant financial issues. Here we learn that Beth has dropped out of college to raise her daughter, and is trying to get back on her feet.

Her employment starts off to a bit of an odd start, as her first day happens to be “Themed Thursday”. This is a program implemented by the higher-ups to drum up more business. Today just so happens to be, Bring your Pet for twenty percent off your purchase. The store is filled with all sorts of exotic animals. It is Florida after all. While working, Beth’s sketchy ex-boyfriend and the father of her child come in to buy cheap vodka and jolt cola. He gives off weird vibes, which grab the attention of Butch.

Butch becomes increasingly interested in Beth. He develops a crush on her but doesn’t know how to express these feelings. Butch has an affinity for humans and craves human connection, this goal seems unattainable to him. Beth, on the other hand, is completely oblivious to this and tries to focus on her work. Seaman’s is often short on staff, which means Beth often finds herself working in other departments. One day she has to wake up at the crack of dawn to help the bakers get ready for a going-away party for one of their oldest employees. On this particular day, we learn that Liv is going through a messy divorce. Sheryl and Liv find common ground once they allow themselves to be real around each other. Sheryl suggests that they poison her ex-husband with Epicac.

At the going-away party Meredith, aged 82, divulges her struggles with money post-retirement and has to work well into her eighties. This is a capitalist wasteland after all. At the end of the first act, Kevin expresses the financial trouble that Seaman’s faces as a new corporate grocery store has opened down the street. The owners of Seaman’s have introduced new uniforms, hoping that this will create a fun and productive atmosphere at Seaman’s. The uniforms are a dreadful neon polyester-dripping innuendo.

Beth decides to take her fate into her own hands and begins photographing her coworkers. She spends more time with Butch one morning when she photographs him butchering meat. Butch confides in Beth his time in prison, and how he struggles with his mental health. Beth is sensitive to this and accepts Butch with his fault. After all, her increasingly hostile ex constantly visits the store to harass her.

One day, Sean comes into the store and asks to borrow money. When she refuses, he becomes physical with her. Kevin rescues her, as Seaman’s is his domain in which he oversees all. Beth is quite shaken after this run-in. The bakery girls comfort her and discover that he ordered a cake for their daughter’s first birthday. Sheryl and Liv develop a prank that will hopefully keep Sean from ever coming back to Seaman’s.

The day Sean is murdered, the day he is scheduled to pick up the cake, starts like any other day. Beth develops several photos from a hunting trip. She is nervous about Sean coming into the store as she has filed a Restraining order after he tried to climb into her second-story window. As she develops the photos of dead deer she imagines herself as the deer and Sean as the hunter. She runs to the butchery freezer to cool down. At the same time, Sean has entered the store to find Beth and to pick up his cake. Sheryl and Liv Surprise him when the cake is filled with pig’s blood. It explodes and gets all over him which sets him into a fit of rage.

Sean circles the store and enters through the back entrance where he finds Beth in the Butcher room. He grabs her and threatens to kill her. Beth has no choice but to send a butcher knife through his stomach. Butch finds her in shock as Sean bleeds out on the floor. Butch offers to take the fall, as he doesn't want to see Beth's daughter taken away from her. Beth refuses and they try to figure out a plan when Liv walks in on the scene. They decide to hide the body in the freezer until they can come up with a plan.

Once the body is hidden, Kevin comes into the Butchery to inform Beth she has a customer. She is greeted by a Police Officer, Officer Brody, who has come to pick up the photos from his hunting trip. The tension grows when Beth discovers one of the photos has been exposed improperly due to her panic attack. The police officer is not worried, she can redevelop it while he does some shopping.

During this time, Liv divulges to Sheryl what happened in the back. Sheryl is quick to suggest that they hide Sean's body in the cardboard Baler and take out a stack of cardboard in Butch's truck. As the Police officer peruses the store he gets questionable vibes from Butch at the meat counter. He then finds the pig's blood on the floor for Sheryl and Liv's Prank. This causes him to enter the butchery with his gun drawn. On his way, he passes Chuck, who like usual is scratching away at his lottery ticket. Chuck doesn't notice the commotion as he is preoccupied with scratching the winning numbers to a twenty-two million dollar jackpot.

Officer Brody points his gun at Butch through the freezer flaps of the Butchery. He demands no sudden movements as he examines the crime scene. While he is preoccupied a frozen chicken flies from the freezer, hitting him on the head and knocking the gun out of his hand. Beth has finished developing the new photo and searches for the police officer. He cannot be found anywhere in the store so she goes to the Butchery. Here she finds that Butch has overpowered Officer Brody and has him in a chokehold. Butch tells Officer Brody that he and he alone killed the man in the freezer out of self-defense.

There is a court hearing on Butch's behalf. This is the first time that we see any of the employees out of Seaman's. Butch is let off for Sean's murder because of Florida's "Stand your Ground" rule. However, he is given two years in jail for assaulting a police officer. Seaman's inevitably closes due to the opening of the grocery chain down the street and the fact that a murder took place there.

One year later, Beth visits Butch in jail. On her way she visits Sheryl and Liv at their independent bakery called, "whisk-takers". Chuck's lottery winnings have helped out every employee at Seaman's. On their wall is the newspaper article about the murder. They use a photo that Beth took during one of their photo sessions. This landed Beth a job at a local paper. While there, they show Beth a postcard from Chuck. He is living his best life in Miami with the girl of his dreams. Kevin got a high-paying job at the corporate grocery store. However, they do not run the store like a family which is why he desperately clings to their monthly trivia night.

Beth shows up at the prison with her daughter and some goodies for Butch. He has started a taxidermy program in the prison to satisfy his morbid curiosities. Beth does a story on him for her job and Butch gains what he always wanted, a real friend.