

Crossroads Toy Store
"Little Shot"
By: Daniel German

PAGE 1

Splash Page

It is a clear sunny morning overlooking the Crossroads Toy Store's parking lot, we see part of the large store as well as multiple cars parked in the lot. Close to the entrance to the store there will be a large black SUV with Scar standing next to it, he will be speaking to the store's other co-owners; Kora, Willow, and Jemma are sitting within the car.

CAPTION: Crossroads Toy Store 9:00am

JEMMA: Scar, make sure you do a walk-through of the entire store every couple of hours.

Scar: I will.

JEMMA: And make sure the big Knight's Armor display is put up before lunch time.

Scar: Of course.

JEMMA: And watch out for a Mr. Abe--

WILLOW: Jemma! He's got it.

WILLOW: Stop micromanaging.

INSET PANEL

Close in on Kora, Willow, and Jemma in the car. Willow is in the passenger seat, Kora behind her and Jemma sitting beside her. A bald man in a black suit sits in the driver's seat wearing sunglasses. Jemma's eyebrows are raised with concern, While Kora has a large, sly smile and raised eyebrow on her face. Willow head is down, and she has her hand over her face with her eyes closed, as if she was embarrassed by the situation.

JEMMA: I'm just nervous. This is Scar's first-time taking care of the store by himself and... and we're going to be at ToyCon for the whole weekend.

WILLOW: How did you talk me into going to this again?

KORA: We're not talking about you right now, Willow.

KORA: Look, Jem, I am a hundred percent sure that Scar is going to screw this up in some way. But don't worry about it, we'll take care of it when we get back.

PAGE 2
PANEL 1

Close up on Scar, standing outside of the SUV, he has a flat, deadpan, face with his eyes squinted and pursed mouth.

SCAR: Your confidence is overwhelming, Kora.

PANEL 2

From inside the car, Jemma is sulking in her chair with her arms crossed, looking outside of the car window. Willow shouts with her head raised and Kora looks at Jemma annoyed. Scar has a sheepish smile with his eyes closed and he is scratching the back of his head.

WILLOW: Though hurtful, Kora is partially right. Scar can handle himself and the store today, Jem.

JEMMA: But--

KORA AND WILLOW: Jemma!

JEMMA: Fine! We'll see you Monday, Scar.

PANEL 3

The SUV drives away in a blur leaving Scar there by himself. Behind him, a man walks into the store. This is Nathan Abernathy, a skinny, Caucasian man in a grey suit.

WILLOW, JEMMA, AND KORA: Bye Scar!

SCAR: Bye.

PANEL 4

Scar turns around to face the store with his fists clenched. It should seem as though the store is towering over him.

SCAR: Let's do this.

PAGE 3
PANEL 1

Scar passes the automatic sliding doors of Crossroads and enters the well-lit store. He smiles at the bright colors of the toys and people shopping. Parents with their children all smiling around the store some being helped by happy employees. Two boys play sword fight with foam swords. To Scar's left Nathaniel Abernathy is talking with an employee.

PANEL 2

Scar's smile turns into a look of confusion when he is approached, too closely, by Nathaniel Abernathy.

ABERNATHY: Hello, are you the one in charge here?

SCAR: Ugh, I guess.

ABERNATHY: Excuse me?

SCAR: I mean, yes. I am in charge.

PANEL 3

Scar's face shows a look of concern with his eyes wide and his mouth flat. Abernathy stands up straight with his eyes closed and his pointer finger raised, on level with his face. Behind the men a large candy display will be filled with boxes of the promotional sweets.

SCAR (whispered): Dear God, I'm in charge.

ABERNATHY: My name is Nathaniel Abernathy, I'm a safety inspector here to review the store for the day.

PANEL 4

Scar smiles with his teeth visible grating against each other. His body has gone stiff and his eyes are wide. Abernathy has turned from him and makes an unapproving look towards the store, nose turned up, and pursed lips, squinted eyes.

SCAR: Oh, that's wonderful.

SCAR: Unfortunately, the owner that usually conducts the inspections is gone for the weekend. So, can you come back later, because that'd be gre--

Abernathy: No. I cannot.

PANEL 5

A worried Scar leads Abernathy deeper into the store with one hand guiding him, and the other on Abernathy's back.

SCAR: >sigh<.

SCAR: Okay, the office is this way, I guess.

THOUGHT (SCAR): Don't screw this up. Don't screw this up. Don't screw this up.

PANEL 6

From behind the candy display Jax steps out. He grins widely and impishly as he wrings his hands.

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

Scar walks in front of Abernathy who is sternly looking at the ground with a judgmental stare as if waiting to find an infraction. Scar is doing his best trying to seem pleasant with an awkward open smile and wide crazy-eyes staring at Abernathy. His hands are raised a bit, gesturing to the store floor.

CAPTION: Crossroads: Action/Adventure Section 11:00am

SCAR: This is the portion of the store that I run, Action/Adventure, or AA for short. Which does cause problems when we have meetings with certain employees.

INSET PANEL 1.1

Close up on Scar with wide eyes and a nervous hand on his forehead.

SCAR: Probably shouldn't've said that. But I am incredibly nervous, and you won't stop me from talking.

INSET PANEL 1.2

Extreme close up on Scar's face with wide wild eyes and a gaping frown.

SCAR: Please say something!

PANEL 2

Close up on Abernathy and he stares at Scar with a flat face, squinted eyes and a level mouth.

PANEL 3

Without changing the rest of his face Abernathy opens his mouth slightly.

ABERNATHY: What's next?

PANEL 4

Scar lifts his head to the ceiling, eyes closed, as Abernathy walks past him. Abernathy's head is turned to look at Scar behind him.

SCAR: The sweet release of death.

ABERNATHY: What was that?

SCAR: Nothing.

PANEL 5

Scar opens his eyes and instantly looks shocked, with his mouth agape and shocked eyes.

PANEL 6

Jax stands at the top of a shelf full of climbing equipment. He balances on the edge. A small crowd has gathered at the bottom of the shelf and all look up to the boy.

PAGE 5
PANEL 1

A frazzled Scar grabs Abernathy by the shoulders and looks at him eye to eye. A startled Abernathy has big eyes and a frowned mouth. Natasha, out of store uniform, shops behind Abernathy, turned away from Jax's stunt.

ABERNATHY: What do you think you're doing!

SCAR: I was wondering what color your eyes were and I just had to find-- Natasha!

PANEL 2

Natasha looks up to Scar with her eyebrows knit in confusion.

NATASHA: Yes?

SCAR: Come here, please.

PANEL 3

Abernathy stands between Scar and Natasha with the climbing gear shelf behind him. Scar still has his wild eyes and forced smile as he points to the top of the shelf behind Abernathy's head to Natasha. Natasha looks up

SCAR: Hey, do you think you can show safety inspector Abernathy around anywhere else in the store please.

NATASHA: Yeah sure.

INSET PANEL

Close up of Natasha's surprised face with wide eyes and a gaping mouth.

NATASHA: Oh my God! Let's go!

PANEL 4

As Natasha and Abernathy walk away Scar grabs onto the display shelf and he raises his leg to start climbing.

NATASHA: We can check out the horror section, for a good ten minutes.

ABERNATHY: Oh, I don't really do good with scary stuff.

PANEL 5

Scar climbs the shelf and some climbing equipment falls as he passes. His eyes are squinted with determination, but a small smile of excitement grows on his mouth.

PANEL 6

Scar balances himself on the top of the shelf and he calls to Jax who is holding a grappling hook and rope.

SCAR: Jax, it's way too dangerous to talk about up here so let's climb back down so I can yell at you properly.

JAX: You know what, Scar? I actually agree with you, we should get down from here and quickly. But why climb...

PANEL 7

Jax throws the hook and it connects to a nearby hanging light fixture.

SFX: Clang.

PANEL 8

Jax holds out the rope to Scar and smiles devilishly.

JAX: ... When we could swing?

PAGE 6
PANEL 1

Scar's eyes widen with excitement as he starts to shuffle over to Jax.

SFX (SHELF): CREEEEEEEEEEKKKKKK.

PANEL 2

Scar now holds the rope and stares at it with wide eyes, as if in a daze.

INSET PANEL

Scar is mid swing with Jax on his back. The two have wide, open mouthed smiles on their faces.

PANEL 3

Close up of Scar clasping the rope close to his joyful face.

PANEL 4

Scar then turns and tosses the rope down. Jax stands behind him looking very shocked.

SCAR: No, nope, too dangerous. We shouldn't even stay up here for much longer, let's get back on the ground.

JAX: But?

SCAR: Now, Jax.

PANEL 5

The boys climb down the shelf; Scar then Jax. Both have disappointed looks on their faces. Jax has his lips pursed and raised to the right, while Scar's face is deflated with listlessness.

JAX: No fun.

SCAR: Tell me about it.

PANEL 6

Scar and Jax are on the ground and the crowd around them clap. Scar gives a somber smile and waves, while Jax folds his arms and scowls.

SFX (repeated throughout crowd): CLAP.

PAGE 7
PANEL 1

A mother early 30's, red blouse and blue jeans, with her young daughter 3, yellow dress, come up to the boys. The young girl waves to Jax and smiles, he lowers his arms, but his expression remains. The mother gives Scar a kind smile as she speaks.

MOTHER: I'm so glad you weren't hurt at all.
MOTHER: I was so worried about you two.

PANEL 2

Jax looks uneasy at the mother with wide scared eyes. The mother smiles at him with her daughter's hand in hers.

PANEL 3

Jax runs away quickly leaving Scar and the mother with confused faces.

SCAR (to the woman): Thank... you.

PANEL 4

The crowd disperses, and Scar looks concerned in the direction that Jax went.

SCAR (THOUGHT): What was that about?

PANEL 5

A look of shock comes across Scar's face when he remembers Mr. Abernathy.

SCAR: Oh no!
SCAR: Abernathy!

PANEL 6

Scar runs towards the horror section.

PAGE 8
PANEL 1

Scar leads Abernathy (now a bit disheveled) through the fantasy section of the store. They are walking along the back of the store where a large black curtain separates the Fantasy and Horror sections. Scar has an inquisitive look on his face with his hand palm up in an "as a matter of fact" sort of way, eyebrows knit and mouth open. Abernathy walks hunched over with wide eyes looking toward the floor.

CAPTION: Crossroads: Fantasy Section 1pm

ABERNATHY: I... I don't know how that woman deals with that gruesome store.

SCAR: Who, Natasha? Yeah, she's disturbingly undisturbed from the horror section.

ABERNATHY I just didn't know that it would be so terrifying.

PANEL 2

Scar and Abernathy stop at an aisle where, at the other end, Jax is pouring a clear liquid on the floor. Scar's eyes are pointed down the aisle as he shrugs. Abernathy is still hunched over with a worried face aimed at the floor.

SCAR: She did tell you it was the horror section.

ABERNATHY: True, but no amount of warning could've prepared me for...

ABERNATHY (shaky word balloon): ...That.

PANEL 3

Mid shot of Jax casually shaking out a bottle of "Dragon Slobber" the bottle itself is in the shape of a dragon's head with a cap on its open mouth. The liquid coming out of the green bottle is clear with flecks of gold. Scar looks at the path in front of him and smiles.

SFX (slobber): GLOOOOSH

PANEL 4

With the bottle now empty, Jax tosses it behind him and slides through a bright pink aisle filled with princess toys.

SFX (surfing floor): SLOOSH!!!

PANEL 5

Scar's face turns to shock, dropped jaw and wide-open eyes. Abernathy looks up and notices Scar. Abernathy's face contorts inward as he asks a question.

ABERNATHY: Is everything okay?

PANEL 6

Scar dreamily answers Abernathy as he thinks of the fun of sliding on the floor. His eyes are half open with dilated irises and a sedated smile.

SCAR: Yeah.

SCAR (whispers): ... fun.

INSET PANEL

Scar slides across the floor with a wide grin, while Jax does pirouettes behind him.

PAGE 9
PANEL 1

Scar is shocked out of his dreamy daze, when Abernathy talks to him. Close up on his surprised face.

ABERNATHY (Off-Panel): Are you looking at something?

PANEL 2

Scar manages to set in front of Abernathy and grab his face. They stare at each other each equally surprised. Abernathy's cheeks are squished in, but his eyes are still wide.

SCAR: Nope! Not looking at anything... but your eyes again. Green with little flecks of brown... gonna lock that in.

ABERNATHY: ... Thank you?

PANEL 3

Scar now has his hand on Abernathy's back. Making sure he blocks the rest of the aisle with his body as they walk away. Scar's free hand is raised, palm up, with his eye raised as he tried to convince Abernathy who looks at Scar as if he just got too close too fast.

SCAR: I am hearing everything you have to say about the horror section, and I will definitely look into making it less horrific.

SCAR: However, the owner of that section of the store has a saying. Her name's Kora, do you know her? No of course you don't know Kora; you only just met me. Anyway, do you know what Kora's saying is?

PANEL 4

Close up of Abernathy's confused face, with Scar's hands on his shoulders, and the black curtain behind him.

ABERNATHY: No.

PANEL 5

Abernathy's face widens with shock as Scar pushes him through the black curtain and back into the horror section. Scar smiles with his head tilted and eyes closed.

SCAR: No matter how much it hurts at first, it gets easier the more you do it!

PANEL 6

This panel should be pitch black the only thing seen will be Abernathy's wide eyes through the darkness.

SCAR (off panel): Natasha, take care of him!

PANEL 7

Still in the darkness four pairs of inhuman red eyes glow open surrounding Abernathy. Abernathy's eyes tear up.

MONSTER EYES (red jagged word balloon): Will do.

PAGE 10

PANEL 1

Jax slides through the princess aisle casually knocking over the assorted toys on the shelf.

SFX (knocked over toys): CLANK

Scar (Off-Panel): JAX!

PANEL 2

Jax gets to the end of the aisle and Scar is there with a stern scowl on his face, a mop in one hand and a bucket in the other. Far behind him, the mother from before walks toward Scar, with her child in her arms.

SCAR: You are in so much trouble. Not just for making this mess, but also for blatantly stealing the Dragon Slobber from the shelves.

PANEL 3

Jax looks confused and shrugs an arm. The mother reaches Scar and looks at him furiously. She has high eyebrows, her mouth is open as if yelling, and her nostrils are flared. Scar is torn between looking concerned at the mother and angered at Jax.

JAX (to Scar): You can't prove anything; this floor was slippery when I got here.

MOTHER: Excuse me! My little Julia just slipped and fell on the other end of the aisle because of this delinquent pouring whatever that is all over the floor!

PANEL 4

Scar raises his hand to the mother in an attempt to calm her down. She remains angry and looks down, directing her yelling towards Jax. Jax looks scared with stretched eyes.

SCAR: Miss, I am trying to get this cleaned up right now.

Mother: I cannot believe you were raised this wild! Where even is your mother, young man?

PANEL 5

Jax runs away with tears flowing from his eyes, the mother looks shock and holds her daughter close. Scar reaches for Jax with the bucket still in hand.

JAX: I don't know!

SCAR: JAX, WAIT!

PANEL 6

Scar quickly passes the mop and bucket off to a nearby employee, Vic. Vic is a muscular, pretty-boy, wearing a store uniform that is too tight to show off his body.

SCAR: Vic, take care of the spill in the princess castle.

VIC: Should I know what that means?

PANEL 7

Scar runs toward the entrance of the store. Various customers stare at him with confusion.

PAGE 11

PANEL 1

Jax runs out to the store's parking lot; outside is very cloudy, making the lot dark almost as if it was later in the day. Jax has tears flying off his arm as he tries wiping them from his eyes. Scar is close behind him with his arm outstretched.

SCAR: Jax!

PANEL 2

Scar hugs Jax. Jax looks surprised with wide, tear-filled eyes.

SCAR: I'm sorry.

INSET PANEL (UPPER LEFT)

Scar catches Jax's arm.

PANEL 3

Scar pulls away and wipes the boy's tears.

SCAR: Between the dangerous stunts and the crying, what is going on with you today? This isn't like you.

PANEL 4

Jax turns away from Scar, still sad, wiping away tears.

JAX: Last week I sent a letter to my mom.

PANEL 5

Jax turns back around and looks at Scar, his eyes rolling, as if Scar was the dumbest thing on Earth. Scar looks excited his eyebrows arched and a wide smile on his face.

SCAR: Well, that should be cause for celebration, this is big! Why didn't you tell us?

JAX: Because I knew it was stupid and it was. The letter was sent back to the orphanage unopened. She obviously doesn't want anything to do with me.

PANEL 6

Scar puts his hand on Jax's head. Jax looks up surprised at Scar.

SCAR: You little snout, don't know that letters are sent back for a multitude of reasons?
SCAR: One possibility may be that the letter was returned to sender, because no one lives at that address anymore. She's still out there, Jax. And I'm sure you'll find her.

PANEL 7

Scar hugs Jax again. They both smile.

SCAR: And until that day comes, I'll be right here for you.
JAX: So, you won't be here for me after I find her?

PANEL 8

Scar and Jax walk with each other's arm on their backs, when Abernathy (more disheveled than ever) runs out completely terrified.

SCAR: Don't think about it too hard, little snout.
ABERNATHY: AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

PAGE 12

PANEL 1

Natasha runs out but stops to catch her breath next to Scar and Jax. They both look confused.

NATASHA: Mr. Abernathy, wait!

JAX: he's gone, dude.

SCAR: Nat, what happened?

NATASHA: Not sure, he just screamed that the store gets a passing grade as long as he never has to go into the horror section again.

PANEL 2

The three walk back into the store arm in arm.

SCAR: I guess the horror section broke another one. Too bad.

SCAR: Now, let's go teach Vic how a mop works.