

Shopping with Mom

Lonna Gordon

Don't look so grumpy, Shoshana. At your age most girls are already going shopping with their friends. But you—I have to drag you out by the hair or you'd run around in rags. What do you have against shopping anyway?

Maybe if you weren't so picky, it wouldn't be so frustrating.

Never mind. Here we are. Look around for something you like.

Hello, well, yes, I guess we could use some help. My daughter needs something presentable to wear to her sister's shevah brachos. What do you have for her?

What did you say Shoshana? I can't hear you when you mumble.

Well then don't say it if it isn't important. Look at what the sales lady is showing you. Do you like it?

What do you mean it's an 'old ladies' outfit? *I think it's very chic.*

I am not! *No, I don't think she likes it.*

She doesn't like it, even if it is marked down 95%

You know why? Why what?

Why it's marked down 95%? Well why?

-What else do you have ma'am? Shoshana, don't just stand there sulking, look at what she's showing you. *Sorry, my daughter just doesn't like shopping for some reason.* What do you think of this one, Shoshana?

What's wrong with the color?

So? Everyone's wearing hot pink this season. It's the new black.

Well, maybe you're right. Not on a suit. *No, I don't think she likes this one either.*

—Even if it is 100% cotton—

—Even if you have matching shoes and hair accessories—

—Well my daughter is a little bit different from 'most girls.' What do you have there, Shoshana?

I see. Well put it back and keep looking.

You like that? Oh. Well, if you're sure...

Yes, I'm sure she'll look gorgeous in it. Do you have it in her size?

Four.

Oh well.

No, I really don't think that a size ten will fit her.

Well I guess it couldn't hurt if she just tried it on. Don't look like that, Shoshana; it's a fitting room, not a torture chamber.

This whole store is a tor—? Shoshana!

It's so hard to shop with teenagers. I suppose you must see customers like this every day.

I'm so glad I'm not the only one. Shoshana, what's taking you so long? Come out so I can see how it fits.

Come out anyway, I want to see for myself. You're right. It really doesn't fit.

What do you mean, 'it looks beautiful on her?' It looks terrible!

Well, yes, it might look nicer if she did wear her hair down with it, but that's not what I meant.

The skirt is practically falling off!

I understand that it's not supposed to be on her waist, but shouldn't it at least be somewhere close? No? Well the shoulders, they're not supposed to be that close to her elbows, are they?

Well, yes. If you yank it up like that and stuff in a few shoulder pads it does look better.

You look like a football player? Teenagers! Sometimes I just don't get her sense of humor. But the sleeves are definitely too long.

She has short arms? I never noticed it before, but it does look that way, doesn't it.

Yes, we could hem the sleeves, but I really think the whole thing is too big.

No, I don't think she's still growing—You are not still growing, Shoshana. What? Outwards? Oh. Ha ha. Hmm... you have a point there; we could just take the whole thing in... What do you think Shoshana?

No, I don't think we'll be taking this.

Yes, I imagine it must be very comfortable in the summer, but—

Well it does look warm enough to wear in the winter too, but—

I quite agree that it could pass for any occasion, but no, I don't think we'll take it, even so. Thank you very much.

No, I don't think there's anything in this store that's for us—

No, but thank you, I think she'll just change back and we'll be going. Thank you for your help.

No, I don't need anything just now... Thank you very much, good-bye.