

RETAIL THERAPY

written by
Sam Herriges

JANE - recently single, trying to find herself

THERAPIST - calm, supportive, on the phone

SHOPPER - middle-aged, with her child

BETH - tough, also recently single

WORKER - brow-beaten by capitalism, literally just trying to go home on time.

RETAIL THERAPY

Sam Herriges

INT - Marshall's - Day

JANE is walking through Marshall's looking at items while she talks on the phone.

JANE

Okay, I'm in the candle aisle.

THERAPIST

Now what do you see?

JANE

Cucumber melon, ocean breeze, autumn leaves...

THERAPIST

Autumn leaves. How does this make us feel?

JANE

Autumn makes me think of Halloween. And the time I got ghosted by Paul! He left me blowing in the wind behind him in my Skeleton suit. It still chills me to the bones.

THERAPIST

And how do deal with this trauma?

JANE

We confront it. By buying it.

THERAPIST

Perfect. Let's find another relic, maybe something with fewer puns. It distracts from the exercise. Now, what else do you see?

JANE

A duvet, a doormat that says "live laugh love", and a wok.

THERAPIST

Ah yes. And is the wok saying to you.

JANE

It says, "So kind of you to wok on by."

THERAPIST

Jane...

JANE

Fine. Such a buzzkill. Well, it reminds me of Sean. He lied and said he made dinner for me when he just ruined my wok by reheating old Chinese food. I should've known he was lying when he said he baked the fortune cookies too.

THERAPIST

And how do deal with this trauma?

JANE

We confront it by buying it.

THERAPIST

But it does sound like you actually need this wok.

JANE

Oh totally. Good looks.

THERAPIST

Now turn around. Face the store. What do you see?

JANE

White women.

THERAPIST

Besides the women, what do you see?

JANE

I see a sea of swimsuits.

THERAPIST

Swim toward them.

(WOMAN motions swimming through the store. A SHOPPER shields her child away from JANE.)

JANE

Okay, I see ones with fish on them. Like when Mark Anthony told me there are plenty of fish in the sea right before dumping me for my Equinox instructor.

(JANE turns toward SHOPPER.)

JANE

There might be plenty of fish in the sea, but the dating pool is FULL OF PISS!

(SHOPPER gives JANE a look of disgust as she covers her child's ears.)

THERAPIST

And how do deal with this trauma?

WOMAN

Well normally we confront it by buying it, but this trauma doesn't come in a medium.

THERAPIST

Put it in the cart anyway.

(WOMAN shrugs and places it in the cart.)

THERAPIST

Walk toward the shoes. It's time to take big strides toward our progress.

(JANE reaches for a pair of crocs and her hand touches BETH's hand.)

JANE

Oh, these Crocs are part of my healing. I kinda need them.

BETH

Well they're part of my healing too.

JANE

Um, my ex dumped me while wearing Crocs.

BETH

That was your first red flag. My ex never took them off!

JANE

Well, mine was a condescending mansplainer.

BETH

Yea? Mine listened to the Joe Rogan Experience daily...

JANE

Oh, like everyone's ex? Get in line.

BETH

And he had a podcast of his own.

JANE

Nevermind. You win.

BETH

No, we both lost.

(BETH takes the shoebox out of the JANE's hand and walks away.)

JANE

True.

THERAPIST

JANE, It's time to leave your trauma where it belongs.

JANE

The clearance section.

THERAPIST

That's right.

(JANE makes her way to the clearance aisle.)

JANE

I release you! Bye boys! Stay with the cheap junk where you belong!

(WORKER hears the ruckus and walks into the aisle.)

WORKER

Oh, my God. Are you kidding me lady? We've gotta clean this shit up now.

JANE

That sounds like your problem. Have you tried retail therapy?

WORKER

What? No. You know that's not actually therapy, right? If your therapist is telling you to shop, you're getting grifted.

(JANE walks away waving her hand as if to brush off that comment.)

JANE

Jealous are the tormented.

(WORKER begins picking up the discount relics of JANE's past.)

WORKER

(to herself)

Unbelievable. Third time this week.

(FADE OUT.)