

James Lookalike (Based on a True Story)

by

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INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

JAMES, wearing his favourite pink dress and with the words 'go away' written on his forehead in pen, pushes a shopping trolley as he shops for various groceries stacked on shelves by his sides. In front of him, is a blind turn to the right. Other SHOPPERS stare at him. He walks to the turn, revealing more stacked shelves by his sides and another blind turn to the right a few metres away. He spots another MAN wearing a pink dress and with the same words written on his face. JAMES starts a conversation with him.

JAMES

Oh. Hello...

LOOKALIKE

(confused)

Huh...

JAMES

Nice clothes and message. It's punky.

LOOKALIKE

Punky? Oh no, I dress this way ironically.

JAMES

What do you mean?

LOOKALIKE

I'm making a statement. How I dress actually doesn't reflect my character at all...

JAMES

Oh. Do other people see you that way?

LOOKALIKE

After all these years dressing this way, I've never had a single problem.

JAMES looks puzzled.

JAMES

I don't believe you...

The LOOKALIKE looks sympathetic.

LOOKALIKE

How do people react to YOU, then?

JAMES

Most laugh.

LOOKALIKE

Well, I'm sorry that's what you have to go through.

JAMES

Thanks. But people really respect you, then?

LOOKALIKE

I'm a pillar of the community.

JAMES

Really??

LOOKALIKE

Sure! I work for charities, voluntary sea rescues, I'm an MP, you name it!

JAMES

Wow. You've never been in a mental home, then?

LOOKALIKE

(laughing)

Me?? No!

JAMES

Well, I'm very well known there.

LOOKALIKE

I'm so sorry.

JAMES

Well, this shopping won't do itself, it was nice meeting you!

JAMES strolls/rolls away, takes the second turn and disappears. A MALE SHOPPER with a trolley emerges from the first corner and widens his eyes as he talks to the LOOKALIKE.

SHOPPER

You really are a scumbag, aren't you?

LOOKALIKE

I'm sorry??

SHOPPER

You look EXACTLY like that James Ziegler idiot!

LOOKALIKE

Who??

SHOPPER

You know who, the one who dresses and acts like you!

LOOKALIKE

I don't know a James Ziegler...

SHOPPER

Do you know how pathetic you are?

The LOOKALIKE looks like he's about to cry.

LOOKALIKE

What did I do??

SHOPPER

I bet you're thinking of blowing up Dan's car right now, aren't you?

LOOKALIKE

What???

SHOPPER

Or maybe you'd like to kidnap a teacher and pretend you're him?

LOOKALIKE

Now that's too far!

SHOPPER

Then you can break out of a mental home!

The LOOKALIKE kicks his trolley in frustration.

LOOKALIKE

How dare you speak to me this way??
I'm a respected member of the
community and will not put up with
this abuse!

SHOPPER

I'm abusing you?? Why don't you just
go on a lifelong hate campaign
because your friend made you miss a
rare number?

LOOKALIKE

What's that even mean? I'm nothing
like how you're describing me, I'm an
innocent soul! I only ever do good, I
do it all the time!

SHOPPER

You're an innocent soul? What's the
'go away' message about, then?

LOOKALIKE

It's irony! It makes you think, makes
you philosophise and grow as a
person!

SHOPPER

What's the dress about, then?

LOOKALIKE

That makes you think, too!

JAMES is seen again, now approaching the LOOKALIKE and
SHOPPER.

SHOPPER

Dear God, not another one.

LOOKALIKE

(to James)

Tell this kind shopper here that I'm
a good man!

JAMES

You're an asshole...

SHOPPER

See???

LOOKALIKE

(to the shopper)

Please believe me! Everyone who knows
me loves me, and I want to be friends
with you, too!

SHOPPER

Friends???

JAMES

(to the lookalike)

Oh he really hates you...

LOOKALIKE

Look, take my business card. It has
my number on it, I want to meet with
you later. Put things right.

The LOOKALIKE retrieves a card from his pocket and offers it
to the SHOPPER.

SHOPPER

I'd rather die.

JAMES

Oh now he's really mad...

The SHOPPER retrieves a mobile from his pocket and films the LOOKALIKE and JAMES.

LOOKALIKE

What's going on?

SHOPPER

I'm posting a video of you on Youcube and I'm calling it 'Two Weirdos'.

LOOKALIKE

Good, I'm glad you're filming me. I'm clearly dressed this way out of irony. It has just been pointed out that message isn't always getting across and I would just like to clear the air.

JAMES

I dress this way to annoy everyone...

SHOPPER

Thank you, that's all I need.

JAMES

No problem.

The SHOPPER stops filming and walks away from the other two.

LOOKALIKE

Oh great.

JAMES

Can WE be friends?

LOOKALIKE

No we can't.

JAMES

Can we be friends ironically?

LOOKALIKE

No.

JAMES

Oh. Bye then.