

Monologue version 2

from *The Lay-Away Plan*

by Jan Probst

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Female, forties

Deloris is the manager of an upscale women's clothing department in a large department store. She is speaking to a customer who has made numerous attempts to return a dress she purchased months ago, on lay-away.

DELORIS

Well, too bad. Time to grow up. There are bigger problems in life than not being able to return an expensive cocktail dress for a refund. Like the cancer that at this very moment is raging through the body of my daughter, my little miracle baby, the light of my life. My precious time with her is slipping away while I'm stuck here listening to idiotic customers with your petty little demands. All. Day. Long. And why? Because I have to pay the bills. Even now. In the worst time of my life. And on a good day, in a good month, I could not begin to afford the dress you so cavalierly dieted yourself out of. So congratulations on your amazing weight loss! You look terrific! But your little victory appears to have some unexpected consequences. Just like life. I have boxed your purchase for you, Ms. Ferguson. I suggest you take it and go home.