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Untitled

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over a base of the richest black four-ply satin I have ever seen. The value of this gaudy treasure - something which should have been carried by Liz Taylor or Joan Collins to the Academy Awards extravaganza - I guessed to be about fifty-five thousand dollars.

At last the checker received the information that the tomato sauce up front was indeed three-for-a-dollar, dispatched the shopper concerned and turned her attention to the fat lady with the dazzling clutch bag, and quickly checked through a pitiful assortment of some seven items, among which, I well remember, were a box of generic cereal, a one-pound carton of lard (I didn't even know they made that stuff anymore) and two cans of hominy. From her regal purse, to pay for her groceries, the fat lady extracted food stamps!

That was too much for me and, while ten or twelve other startled shoppers stood gawking, I blurted out:

"Excuse me, Madam, but that is the most magnificent handbag I have ever seen. May I ask where you got it?"

"Oh, thank you," she cheerily replied. "I won this bag on The Wheel of Fortune. Isn't it beautiful?"

"Yes, Madam, it is much more than beautiful," I said," and it goes perfectly with your paisley sneakers."

