

IT'S A SECRET

by Ken Bradbury



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The place: the Mall.

The people: Jen and Mark.

JEN: *(entering in a hurry)* Come on, Mark!

MARK: *(entering, less enthusiastically)* Aren't you done yet?

JEN: Just a few more stops. I promise. We've still got time to make the movie.

MARK: Jen, this is the 14th store!

JEN: You're counting?

MARK: What else do I have to do while you hit every girls' shop in the Mall?

JEN: You act like you don't like shopping.

MARK: That's because I don't like shopping! I hate shopping!

JEN: Your mom buys all your clothes. Admit it.

MARK: What's wrong with that?

JEN: Where's the fun in that? It's the joy, Mark! The adventure of shopping! The joy of closing in for the kill! Come on! *(taking his hand and beginning to drag him)* Just one more store.

MARK: *(sees the sign above the store's entrance)* Hold it! No way! I'm not goin' in there!

JEN: It's just a clothing store, Mark!

MARK: But look at kind of clothing! Vicky's Secret! They sell ... *(looks)* Oh, my gosh. It's even worse than I thought!

JEN: But Mark ...

MARK: I can't go in there! Just look at that stuff, Jen! I'm embarrassed to even look at it! Mom even washes my

clothes separate from my sister's so my socks don't touch ... well ... you know.

JEN: You are really funny.

MARK: This is not a bit funny, Jen. I can't go in that store.

JEN: Your mom told me that you won't even try on clothes in a store.

MARK: So what?

JEN: They have changing rooms, Mark! Nobody can see you!

MARK: Yeh, but they all know I'm standing back there in my ... my ... (*grabs her and begins to leave*) Oh, let's go.

JEN: (*stopping and grabbing him*) Okay. How about this? If you let me stop at this one last place then I promise for our next three dates I won't do a bit of shopping.

MARK: That's impossible. You'd go into withdrawal. We'd have to put you in a rehab program.

JEN: (*holding her hand up*) Scout's honor. Three dates without even a mention of shopping.

MARK: That would be heaven.

JEN: (*grabbing him and beginning to take off*) Great! Let's go!

MARK: (*stopping*) I'll just stand here inside the door. Don't make me actually go back there and look at that stuff.

JEN: Suit yourself! I'll just be a minute. Promise.

MARK: Five minutes and I'm going to the movie by myself.

JEN: You're funny, Mark. (*She waves at him and exits*)

MARK: (*aloud, to himself*) "You're funny, Mark." I'll tell you what isn't funny. Standing here and ... (*sees someone coming down the Mall walkway*) Oh, no. Oh, no. I can't believe this. Here comes most of my football team! (*waves weakly*) Hi guys. No, I'm not shopping here. I'm

just standing here. No, I'm not looking at anything. You are? You're sick. I was just waiting for ... Hey! Where you goin'? Let me explain! Stop laughing! Everybody's looking! (*but they are gone*) Great. It'll be all around school by second period tomorrow.

JEN: (*entering*) Hey, Mark! Look at this! (*holds up a garment*)

MARK: (*shielding his eyes and turning away*) Don't do that! Get that away from me!

JEN: It's just a ...

MARK: I know what it is. I've seen catalogs.

JEN: Well? What do you think?

MARK: Don't ask me what I think! Did you see who just walked by here? The entire football team! They were asking me if I knew Vicky's little secret! Come on! Let's get outta here!

JEN: Just another minute. (*she begins to leave*)

MARK: Jen!

JEN: Remember my promise, Mark. (*and she's gone*)

MARK: (*to himself*) Yeh. And I gotta promise myself never to come near this place again. (*someone has walked up to him*) What? Where do we keep the what? (*shocked*) How should I know? I don't work here! No, I really don't work here. Sorry. (*the customer moves on.*) Great. Now they think I'm a store clerk in ladies' store. (*another person walks up to him*) The what? Lady, I've never seen one of those in my life? No, it's not my business to know those things. Then what am I doing in the store? (*the person walks off*) Wait a minute! Let me explain! I'm just ... I'm ... Great. Now I'm a weirdo.

JEN: (*running on*) Having fun?

MARK: Are you ready to go yet?

JEN: Just a few more things. Mark, there are some chairs over there by the ...



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