

# SHOES 'R' US

*by Dawn E. Conroy*



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# Shoes “R” Us

A script for a mother-daughter event

by Dawn E. Conroy

### **Dedication**

This is dedicated to my wonderful husband, Bob,  
who thinks I have enough shoes. What does he know!

## *CAST OF CHARACTERS*

### **Customer**

A kind and earnest lady.

### **Husband**

Sarcastic until the end.

### **Sales Clerk**

Overly effervescent. Originally written for a male, but may be played by a female if you wish.

### **Assistant**

No lines, just facial expressions. Hands shoes to Clerk, stacks boxes, etc. May be male or female.

## *PRODUCTION NOTES*

### **Setting**

Shoe store. You will need at least one table and two stools, for the Customer and Husband. Shoes of all types (more than are mentioned in the script) should be arranged on the table, along with stacked shoe boxes.

### **PROPS**

Numerous shoe boxes for effect, shoe horn, newspaper for husband, old shoes for lady, money, and an oversized purse.

You will also need the shoes referred to in the script: work shoes, high heels, sneakers, moccasins, slippers, Hush Puppies, pumps, mules, stilettos, orthopedic shoes, flip-flops, platform shoes, sandals, waterproof boots, Mary Janes, skis, running shoes, snowshoes, patent leather shoes, oxfords, penny loafers, and Crocs with a professional sports team logo. That's twenty-two pairs in all — however, if you are unable to find all the various shoes mentioned, simply adjust the dialogue as needed. It is

quite easy to tailor the script to the shoes you have by deleting the lines for that particular pair.

### **PERFORMANCE TIP**

Every time a shoe is mentioned, the Assistant can open and display the boxes or hold up the designated shoe. If the boxes are marked in advance, the Assistant may easily show the right one. The boxes or pairs of shoes may then be stacked to create a comical pile. The Assistant may also react facially to the dialogue interchange.

### **SYNOPSIS**

A woman with worn-out shoes seeks a new pair so she can walk with Jesus. The clerk suggests various possibilities, including high heels for standing tall, flip-flops for helping those who are wavering in their faith, mules for dealing with stubborn people, and many more, including Crocs, sneakers, orthopedic shoes, waterproof boots, penny loafers, oxfords, and even skis! Then the woman's husband points out that her old shoes are beautiful! They're holy, not just "holey," because she has served so faithfully.

### **SHOE THEME**

This is a fun mother-daughter or "Every Daughter" banquet theme. Your centerpiece may be an old shoe (or one purchased from a thrift store — a pump with a high heel works well) that is filled with dirt and has a flowering plant coming out the top. If you like to give a favor, a pair of warm socks is generally useful and appreciated. Watch for sales! Another fun touch is cardboard footprints leading into the room where the festivities take place. Play music with a shoe theme, such as "These Boots Were Made for Walkin'." And finally, involve your guests by asking them to bring a pair of their baby shoes or to share with their table about a favorite pair of shoes and why they are/were special. If you want to play a game, simply read the rhyme below and ask the women in attendance to tally their points as you go along. Be sure to reward the winner with a gift card to a shoe store.

This is a rather peculiar game —  
 It really does not have a name!  
 It's simple to play, as a game should be.  
 You just do as you're told, you see.  
 So now if you'll please give me your attention,  
 We'll put an end to this suspension.  
 In the end, whoever scores the most

Will receive a prize of which to boast.  
 Now since you're all fashionable girls,  
 Give yourself five if you have any pearls.  
 You may add three if your toes peek out,  
 And earrings will give you two more to shout.  
 Score yourself five if you show any red.  
 Add six more for a curl on your head.  
 Now before you think you are going to win,  
 Take away two for each safety pin.  
 Give yourself six if your pants are tight.  
 Add one for a scarf which is just about right.  
 Add five more if your shoes are black,  
 And take away three for a zipper in back.  
 Now count all your buttons, for each you get two,  
 And take away one for each button that's blue.  
 Give yourself five if your heels are high,  
 And why not take ten for the green in your eye?  
 Ten more points for a rose on your clothes.  
 Take away five if you forgot to wear hose.  
 If you kissed your husband today, add nine.  
 If you didn't, subtract twelve — you're subject to fine.  
 This is the end ... there isn't any more.  
 Who is the lucky lady with the highest score?

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1           (*CUSTOMER and HUSBAND enter shoe store and find seats.*)  
2   **CUSTOMER:** Now, dear, I appreciate you coming along, but  
3           please don't rush me. You have your newspaper to keep  
4           you busy. (*He opens up paper and grunts as the CLERK*  
5           *rushes over.*)  
6   **CLERK:** Welcome to Shoes "R" Us, where there's no business  
7           like shoe business!  
8   **HUSBAND:** (*Dryly*) Cute.  
9   **CUSTOMER:** (*Gushing*) Oh, but it *is* cute! And your sign says  
10           that you have the right shoe for every occasion.  
11   **CLERK:** Yes, ma'am! You name it, and we're "shoe" to please.  
12           (*Nudges husband.*) Get it? Sure to please — shoe to please.  
13   **HUSBAND:** As much as I hate to admit it, I got it on the first  
14           take.  
15   **CLERK:** It's just shoe humor. We like to *sock* it to our  
16           customers — keep them on their *toes*!  
17   **HUSBAND:** Nothing worse than a *loafer*, eh?  
18   **CLERK:** Very good! You're a natural!  
19   **CUSTOMER:** Excuse me! All puns aside, I would like to buy  
20           a pair of shoes.  
21   **CLERK:** Say no more! Let's get down to business — shoe  
22           business. Now, what kind of shoe were you looking for?  
23   **CUSTOMER:** (*Assertively*) I want to walk with Jesus, and I  
24           need the right footwear.  
25   **CLERK:** Hmmmm. You want to walk with Jesus. And just so  
26           I can serve you better, exactly what is wrong with the  
27           shoes you're wearing?  
28   **CUSTOMER:** Oh, look at them. They're faded. The heels are  
29           worn. There are holes in the soles. And they're just too  
30           plain. They're out of style!  
31   **CLERK:** How much are you willing to spend?  
32   **CUSTOMER:** Well, we're not exactly well-heeled.  
33   **CLERK:** (*Brightly*) See how fast you've caught on?  
34   **CUSTOMER:** I couldn't resist. No, actually, I couldn't put a  
35           limit on what I would spend to walk with Jesus.  
36   **CLERK:** All right, then. Let's get busy. My assistant is here  
37           to help us, so let's start you off with a nice pair of work  
38           shoes. (*The ASSISTANT holds up a pair of work shoes.*)

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1 CUSTOMER: I thought that maybe a pair of work shoes  
2 would be the shoe to have to walk with Jesus. But why  
3 did you say “start me off” with a pair of work shoes?

4 CLERK: Ma’am, one pair of shoes just won’t cut it. You’re  
5 walking with Jesus, remember?

6 CUSTOMER: OK, so when will I wear these shoes?

7 CLERK: When you’re trudging through all the dirt in the  
8 world — and I don’t mean the stuff beneath our feet, if  
9 you get my drift. (*ASSISTANT places work shoes on the*  
10 *table, then hands high heels to CLERK.*)

11 CUSTOMER: Got it. A sturdy pair of work shoes. Perfect.  
12 And what else?

13 CLERK: These high heels are a definite.

14 CUSTOMER: Really?

15 CLERK: You’re going to have to stand tall when you’re  
16 walking through all that dirt, aren’t you?

17 CUSTOMER: Ah, yes. (*To HUSBAND*) What do you think,  
18 dear? Do you like the heels?

19 HUSBAND: (*Peering over the paper*) Does my opinion really  
20 matter?

21 CUSTOMER: You’re right. Read your paper. (*ASSISTANT*  
22 *takes the high heels from the CLERK and places them on the*  
23 *table.*) OK, heels and work shoes. I’m ready to go. (*Starts*  
24 *to stand.*)

25 CLERK: No, ma’am, I’m afraid you’re not. Our goal here at  
26 Shoes “R” Us is to satisfy the customer’s needs  
27 completely, and I’m afraid I would be fired if my boss  
28 found out that I had not completely satisfied your need.

29 CUSTOMER: You mean I need more?

30 CLERK: (*Shaking head up and down*) Many more. Such  
31 ex-pansive travel will require an ex-tensive amount of  
32 shoes.

33 HUSBAND: Not to mention ex-pensive, too.

34 CUSTOMER: Ignore the voice behind the paper. Continue!

35 CLERK: You’ve heard the expression “Walk softly and carry  
36 a big stick,” haven’t you?

37 HUSBAND: She wants to walk with Jesus, not Teddy  
38 Roosevelt.

- 1 **CUSTOMER:** (*Waves off husband.*) **Yes, I have.**
- 2 **CLERK:** (*As ASSISTANT displays sneakers*) **Here are sneakers**  
 3 **when you need to be quiet and unassuming.**
- 4 **CUSTOMER:** **I get it. Do you have any moccasins or**  
 5 **slippers?** (*ASSISTANT sets sneakers on table and holds up*  
 6 *moccasins and slippers.*)
- 7 **CLERK:** **We sure do.** (*ASSISTANT puts moccasins and slippers*  
 8 *on table.*)
- 9 **HUSBAND:** **Why not throw in a pair of Hush Puppies?**  
 10 (*ASSISTANT holds up Hush Puppies.*)
- 11 **CLERK:** **Aren't you clever?! But actually a pair of Hush**  
 12 **Puppies is needed to hush the crowds so they can hear**  
 13 **the word of God. Not to mention that no one can resist**  
 14 **a puppy. They're cute and cuddly and have those big**  
 15 **brown eyes, and —**
- 16 **CUSTOMER:** **Right! Right! If I add in the sneakers,**  
 17 **moccasins, slippers, and Hush Puppies, that makes six**  
 18 **different pairs of shoes total. Surely that's enough.**  
 19 (*ASSISTANT places Hush Puppies on table.*)
- 20 **CLERK:** **The name's Nathan, (*May be changed*) not Shirley,**  
 21 **and by no means is this enough!**
- 22 **HUSBAND:** **I'd better call MasterCard and see if they'll give**  
 23 **me an extended line of credit.**
- 24 **CUSTOMER:** **It will be fine, dear. What else, Nathan?**  
 25 (*ASSISTANT holds up a pair of pumps.*)
- 26 **CLERK:** **Well, we actually should have started with these**  
 27 **first — a nice pair of pumps.**
- 28 **CUSTOMER:** **Don't tell me ... (*After a pause, excitedly*) To get**  
 29 **“pumped up” for serving my Lord?**
- 30 **CLERK:** **Bingo!**
- 31 **CUSTOMER:** **Oh, this is fun!** (*ASSISTANT places pumps on the*  
 32 *table.*)
- 33 **HUSBAND:** **A riot! I haven't had this much fun since my last**  
 34 **root canal.**
- 35 **CLERK:** **Next we have a pair of shoes that aren't my**  
 36 **favorite — mules.** (*ASSISTANT holds up mules.*)
- 37 **CUSTOMER:** **Mules? Why in the world would I need them?**
- 38 **CLERK:** **Think about it. Mules are stubborn, and in this**

1 world you will deal with a lot of stubborn people who  
 2 are set in their ways and refuse to change. Jesus had  
 3 the Pharisees, and believe me, their kind still exists.

4 **CUSTOMER:** Mules it is! (*ASSISTANT places mules on table.*)

5 **CLERK:** Now, be careful of this next pair. (*ASSISTANT*  
 6 *displays an exaggerated stiletto-heeled shoe.*) **The stiletto!**

7 **CUSTOMER:** Oh, my!

8 **HUSBAND:** Is that a registered weapon?

9 **CLERK:** You'll need a pair of stilettos when you want to  
 10 make a point. (*Takes one shoe and pounds it against palm for*  
 11 *emphasis.*) **Get it?**

12 **HUSBAND:** Got it. Now, put that thing down before you hurt  
 13 someone!

14 **CUSTOMER:** I just don't know if I could actually walk in  
 15 those.

16 **CLERK:** Well, that would be pointless! Get it? Pointless.  
 17 (*ASSISTANT places stilettos on the table.*)

18 **HUSBAND:** If I have to tell you one more time that I "got"  
 19 something, you'll be getting something!

20 **CUSTOMER:** Now, dear, he's only doing his job. Go ahead.  
 21 (*ASSISTANT holds up orthopedic shoes.*)

22 **CLERK:** After walking around in those stilettos, you'll find  
 23 these very comfortable.

24 **CUSTOMER:** Orthopedic shoes! That's more my style.

25 **CLERK:** You'll fit right in when you visit the elderly and  
 26 infirmed.

27 **CUSTOMER:** One fall from those stilettos, and *I'll* be the one  
 28 getting visited. (*ASSISTANT puts orthopedic shoes on table*  
 29 *and hands CLERK a pair of flip-flops.*)

30 **CLERK:** We can't forget a pair of flip-flops.

31 **CUSTOMER:** Hmmm ... for when I'm at the beach?

32 **CLERK:** Uh ... no! Actually, they're for dealing with people  
 33 who are wavering in their faith — you know,  
 34 flip-flopping. You'll encounter those who only come to  
 35 church when it's convenient or when it suits them.  
 36 (*Holds up flip-flops.*) These will remind you to encourage  
 37 those people to hold fast to their beliefs. (*ASSISTANT*  
 38 *takes flip-flops and puts them on the table.*)

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1 CUSTOMER: Oh, boy! This isn't going to be as easy as I  
2 thought. I'm sure there's probably more. (*ASSISTANT*  
3 *hands CLERK a pair of platform shoes.*)

4 CLERK: Here we have the platform shoe.

5 CUSTOMER: To make me stand higher than those I'm  
6 serving?

7 CLERK: Excellent answer ... but once again, no! Let's face  
8 it — a lot of people have their own "platform" or agenda  
9 in life. When you walk with Jesus, the only agenda is  
10 his. We need to conform to *his* ways, not ours.

11 CUSTOMER: I know Jesus didn't have this many shoes. He  
12 probably only had one pair of sandals. (*ASSISTANT*  
13 *places platform shoes on table and holds up a pair of sandals.*)

14 CLERK: And can you walk on water?

15 HUSBAND: Hah!

16 CLERK: My point exactly. (*ASSISTANT tosses sandals away*  
17 *comically and holds up a pair of waterproof boots.*) So let's  
18 add to our collection a nice pair of waterproof boots.  
19 Not only for walking *in* water, but for forging through  
20 the tears of those in sorrow and despair. (*ASSISTANT*  
21 *places boots on table.*)

22 CUSTOMER: This is really overwhelming. Maybe I need  
23 more than a new pair of shoes to walk with Jesus.  
24 (*ASSISTANT hands a pair of Mary Janes to CLERK.*)

25 CLERK: Nonsense! These will help.

26 CUSTOMER: A pair of Mary Janes?

27 CLERK: We all know a Mary Jane, don't we?

28 CUSTOMER: Why, yes. I have a good friend named Mary  
29 Jane.

30 CLERK: And I'll bet she's a wonderful person.

31 CUSTOMER: How did you know?

32 CLERK: I've never known a Mary Jane that wasn't worth  
33 emulating — so there. Wear these Mary Janes, and  
34 you'll be a kinder, gentler person. (*CLERK and*  
35 *ASSISTANT exit to retrieve another pair.*)

36 CUSTOMER: Who'da thought?!

37 HUSBAND: Nobody! This guy (*Or woman*) works on  
38 commission. What's the matter with you? We'll need a

1 U-Haul for all these boxes. Exactly what do you think  
2 you'll carry all this footwear in once you start your  
3 walk?

4 CUSTOMER: Well, dear, I wasn't going to mention it today,  
5 but I was thinking I needed new luggage.

6 HUSBAND: New luggage? As it stands, we're going to have  
7 to knock out a wall in the house just to build a closet for  
8 all of these.

9 CUSTOMER: You know how I hate when you get sarcastic.

10 HUSBAND: That's what's ironic about this — *I'm being*  
11 *serious!* (CLERK and ASSISTANT return with a pair of skis.)

12 CLERK: OK. I wasn't sure we had your size, but we do.

13 CUSTOMER: Oh, no!

14 HUSBAND: OK, that's it! No more! (ASSISTANT places skis on  
15 table.)

16 CLERK: (As CLERK talks, the ASSISTANT may quickly hold all  
17 the following shoes up in a comical way, dropping one pair and  
18 lunging for the next.) But what about the running shoes to  
19 keep up with Jesus? Or the snowshoes when you're in  
20 over your head? Or the patent leathers to make you  
21 shine for Jesus? Or the oxfords when you want to come  
22 across as intelligent? Or the penny loafers when you're  
23 broke and need a break?

24 HUSBAND: (Exasperated) Are you finished?

25 CLERK: (Fearfully) I could be ... (Weakly) But then again,  
26 there's the \_\_\_\_\_ Crocs with matching socks. (Insert any  
27 local professional sports team.)

28 HUSBAND: (Incredulously) Say what?!

29 CLERK: Oh, like you don't think Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ fan?

30 HUSBAND: That may be true, but we're done here. She  
31 doesn't need any of your shoes to walk with Jesus.

32 CLERK: What?! She doesn't? (Facial reaction from the  
33 ASSISTANT.)

34 CUSTOMER: I don't?

35 HUSBAND: No. The shoes you're wearing are just fine!

36 CUSTOMER: But he said ...

37 HUSBAND: I don't care what he said. You know why they're  
38 fine? (She shakes her head no.) Well, I'll tell you. (Husband

1       *takes his wife's old shoe and holds it up.*) They no longer are  
2       the deep color they once were because in all kinds of  
3       weather, you faithfully attended church as well as  
4       Sunday school and Bible studies. They've faded because  
5       of volunteering for youth retreats and work parties  
6       when it rained and snowed.

7       CUSTOMER: But just look at those heels.

8       HUSBAND: The heels are worn because you always go that  
9       extra mile. You visit the sick and shut-ins. You deliver  
10      Meals on Wheels. You cook at the soup kitchen and  
11      prepare funeral luncheons.

12     CUSTOMER: But they're scuffed and dingy.

13     HUSBAND: It's hard to stay pristine when you're standing  
14      up for injustices and putting into practice what the  
15      Bible teaches us.

16     CUSTOMER: They've got holes.

17     HUSBAND: There are holes in your shoes' soles because you  
18      have been busy with *holy* work, saving other people's  
19      *souls* for Jesus. Don't you get it? You're already walking  
20      with Jesus.

21     CUSTOMER: But they're out of style.

22     HUSBAND: People have been following Jesus for over two  
23      thousand years. The style of the shoe isn't important.  
24      It's the feet that wear them. Remember what Isaiah  
25      says: "How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him  
26      who brings good news" (52:7). These shoes are lovely,  
27      my dear, because of what's inside them.

28     CUSTOMER: Sweetheart, that's the nicest thing you've ever  
29      said to me. Thank you. You're more than just a  
30      handsome face.

31     HUSBAND: (*Stands and folds paper.*) I keep telling you that,  
32      babe. (*Starts to walk Off-stage.*) I'm going to get the car. I'll  
33      pick you up out front. We're done here! (*He exits.*)

34     CLERK: (*Surveying all the boxes*) Well, I guess you won't be  
35      needing any of these.

36     CUSTOMER: Wait a minute. (*Checks to see if HUSBAND is*  
37      *gone.*) How much are the pumps?

38     CLERK: On sale for twenty-five dollars.

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