

Agie's New Shoes.

By Bob Ryan

Thady was just settling down to reading the newspaper when he heard Agie say, "Oh my feet are killing me, I would love a new pair of shoes for Christmas." What do you need a new pair of shoes for, you never go out," answered Thady. "You know how I suffer with my arthritis," said Agie. "Its only four days to Christmas can't you wait for the January sale?" Agie had a quick temper and said, "if I knew you were such an old skinflint I would never have married you." After calming down she continued, that the shoes can be her Christmas present. Agie went on to say, "tell the girl in Sullivans I need a size six." The thought of buying shoes for Agie did not appeal to Thady who said, "can't you get Kitty to buy the shoes." I don't want Kitty to know my business," she replied. Thady reluctantly agreed to buy the shoes.

Agie was all excited when Thady arrived home the following day with the new shoes. She opened the box, removed the paper packing, felt the leather and remarked the shoes were nice and soft. First she tried on the right shoe and then the left. Thady feeling he accomplished his mission sat down to read his paper, but was interrupted by Agie, "They are too small, I need a size seven." You told me to get size six answered Thady. Agie cocked her head, "they are not comfortable, you will have to take them back."

Thady felt embarrassed when he returned to Sullivans the following day, but the sales lady was very understanding and said, "no problem Sir, I will exchange them for a size seven." When Thady returned home Agie also found fault with the size seven saying they were too big. "My feet need to be measured." You can't expect the sales lady to come to the house ," said Thady. "Tell her about my arthritis," she answered. Thady took a deep breath gritted his teeth and the following day returned the size seven shoes. He hesitated for a while before getting the courage to mention Agie's request to have her feet measured. "We don't normally make house calls said the sales lady, but since it's the season of good will I will ask the manager. After a few minutes which seemed like an eternity to Thady she returned smiling saying I will call in the morning at 11 am.

The following morning the lady from Sullivans arrived punctually at 11. am. She measured Agie's feet and said I have a size six and a half in the car that should fit you." Agie tried on the shoes but could not make up her mind. The girl from Sullivans said, " I will leave the shoes and if you are not satisfied you can return them tomorrow." Later that evening Agie said to Thady the shoes don't feel right." Thady had run out of patience and said, God could not please you, don't ask me to go back to Sullivans." To hell with you, I will get a taxi and go myself, she replied.

It was Christmas Eve and Sullivans was packed with customers doing last minute shopping. Agie must have tried on every shoe in the shop but nothing suited her. The sales staff in Sullivans were beginning to despair of ever pleasing Agie and as a last resort one of the sales staff said I will have a word with our manager. A tall dark handsome young man approached Agie and said, I believe you are having difficulty in finding a pair of shoes to fit you?. He opened a box and said, these are a pair of wide

fitting shoes that we have just got in. She tried on the shoes and to the relief of the sales staff in Sullivans said they were grand.

Agie was in great form when she arrived home and said to Thady the manager was a lovely young man.. Thady looked at the shoes and noticed they were a size six. “They are the shoes I got for you the first time, he remarked. They are a special wide fitting shoe, replied Agie. Thady picked up the newspaper on the table, sat down on the armchair and muttered to himself, "women”.