

COMFORT OR STYLE

by

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DIALOGUE SAMPLE

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CHARACTERS

ANNA, mid 20s-30s, from outer-borough New York City

HATTIE, mid 20s-30s, from outer-borough New York City

ANNA wears a tank-top, shorts and sandals. HATTIE wears a full-length Indian sari and kundan jewelry set. She is not Indian.

SETTING

A bench near a playground in New York. It's the middle of summer, and very humid.

DIIALOGUE NOTE

Paragraph breaks within a character's speech indicate a short silence.

(*Beat.*): Indicates a short silence between the lines of characters

(*Pause.*): Indicates a longer silence

"COMFORT OR STLYE"

(A bench near a playground in New York, USA. Mid-summer. Humid humid humid.)

ANNA and HATTIE, two women in their mid-20s-30s, are in the park. Neither of them is Indian. This is important because HATTIE wears an Indian sari and jewelry set.

ANNA wears a tank-top and shorts. She stands clutching an empty umbrella stroller, staring at HATTIE's outfit.

HATTIE calmly rocks her pram.)

HATTIE

They always wear such nice outfits. So colorful. Feminine. What's wrong with us? Why can't we dress this nice?

ANNA

Um...

HATTIE

What?

ANNA

Uh...How is she?

(HATTIE checks the pram.)

HATTIE

Sleeping. Thank God. You should come up with me -- up on Roosevelt Avenue? That's where they shop. You should go up with me.

ANNA

Can you imagine?

(HATTIE pulls a large box from behind the bench.)

HATTIE

But I brought some stuff for you to try on, anyway.

ANNA

Oh.

(During the following, HATTIE pulls saris [draped dresses] and salwars [a kind of shirt or tunic] from the box.)

HATTIE

Look at these patterns. Oh man.

ANNA

I -- really, I -

HATTIE

You don't gotta strip, just -- here I'll show you how they drape it.

ANNA

No I -

HATTIE

I think you'd look good in yellow.

ANNA

Hattie, some of them're standing right over there.

HATTIE

Who cares?

ANNA

They might get offended -

HATTIE

They don't care. Look. They're doin' their own thing. C'mon, like a jerk I dragged this down here for you.

ANNA

It's...it's just so funny. What does John say?

HATTIE

John can say whatever he wants. I'm sick of baggy jeans and t-shirts. Try these.

(ANNA holds up two salwars.)

HATTIE *(cont'd)*

Eh? I think the yellow's better than the turquoise.

ANNA

I had -- remember my yellow sweater with the shoulder pads?
It so completely washed me out.

HATTIE

You got dark hair, yellow will look good.

(ANNA takes the yellow salwar.)

HATTIE *(cont'd)*

I decided that Old Navy? wants us to look like crap.
That's why they don't sell this kinda stuff. That's why
they sell us those ugly sacks they call clothes. They like
us feeling like crap.

ANNA

I don't want to make fun of them.

(She indicates offstage.)

ANNA *(cont'd)*

You see -- there was a Chinese kid in fourth grade named
Ryan, and I used to call him "Lyan." I hate that about me.

HATTIE

Okay I see where -- it's not a friggin' hate-crime to try
on other people's clothes, don't get in a wad.

ANNA

You know -- you don't see any of them dressing up in our
clothes.

HATTIE

Why would they? We wear friggin' sacks.

ANNA

Yeah but then if Maggie pees on your t-shirt, it's no
tragedy.

HATTIE

I seriously doubt they'd trade clothes with us.

ANNA

Okay...maybe we should ask. Yeah.

*(She turns to approach the offstage
Indian women.)*