

REFLECTIONS OF LITERATURE

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P A I N T

I'm walking up to the store and my god I was blinded by all this bright ass paint you painted the outside. Don't you know we don't paint the outdoors no bright-ass colors like this blue and orange words underlined in green. No, we don't mess around with crayon colors on the outside. Not on the inside, either. Don't you know Sears sells normal color paint, the kind to paint the outside of a building that people have to look at everyday, that don't mess with they eyesight, put a strain on they eye. This store of yours painted like the inside of kid's toy box. Need my sunglasses to walk down here which I only wore two times, last year to go to Miami and to come to your store in the middle of January. Why can't you paint your store more like the A&P? *Yeah, yeah, yeah. What do you need?* What you saying back there I see your mouth moving under that bushy mustache. Don't you go speaking that aerobic. We speak English in this country. Don't you know any English? Agghh, but what do you need it for? You been here all of what? ten minutes and already you have a store and a house with a pool. Arithmetic do you fine. What with you speakin aerobic, and you plunking this thick ass plexiglass up here on the counter all the way up to the ceiling, make me think my hearing is messed up. Why don't you put some air holes in here? You gone suffocate back there behind this plastic. Ain't you never read the warning on the cleaner's bag: don't put over head. Ha, ha ha. *It's bulletproof, for security. What do you need?* Help me, you the one needing some help about how to get along here. Stick your hairy ear down to the change slot so you can

hear what I'm bout to tell you, the secrets of living in America. You need to know and I shore ain't putting my lips down there. First thing, don't paint nothing no bright ass colors like you got outside. That might be alright in desert land where everything is sand beige, but here we got natural colors outside. This here is the Great Lakes State, the shore of Geechigoome, and we got two colors outside green for grass and trees, and blue for sky and water, and flowers colors when the sun is out and the temperature up, but they keep low to the ground. That's it. Everybody paints brown and black and tan on the buildings. But you Can't you see nothin or do you ride in on a Humvee with peeppholes for windows. Watch something beside the traffic light. You's in the Motor City now. *I drive a Pontiac Grand am. Are you going to buy something, today?* What you say? I can't hear you! You speak up you want to talk to me. I am the customer. The customer. Without me you have no business. *Without me you have nothing to spend for* Don't you know the customer right in America? Ain't you never heard that? Don't you know nothing about treating yo customers? I can't read no aerobic so why you write the signs in aerobic? How I'm supposed to know what's on sale this week. Don't you know nothing about running no store? Don't you? Don't you? Agghh, what's the point of talking to you? Gimme a pack of Kools. ☺