

I went shopping tonight after work. Afterwards I sat in the car crying. All over a £10 shirt.

However that is just the brief outline of the story.

The full version is something like this...

Went to get veggies after work for dinner, and in wanting to get a new good quality non-stick fry pan I went to the upstairs part to have a look. I normally walk straight through the clothes section at the start of the upstairs, but the cheap suits caught my eye - and I need a suit for August 1. Tried a jacket on in the odd hope it would fit - it didn't. Found one two sizes up - it still didn't fit. Found another one one more size up - it fits... barely but it fits. Alas I couldn't find trousers in my current size or even the next size down (where I should hopefully be in 5 weeks).

My temperament was raised though to note they did stock the next size down - nice to know for future reference...

I then went to look at shirts. I did recently but some shirts two collar sizes smaller than my previous buys - and they fit - didn't believe I'd find that size in a high street store and so never actually looked. The thing is - the ones I got are in fact a little big - so I today brought one that is a half size even further down.

I finished my shopping just about holding myself together. I stalled at the checkout and just looked at the shirt in its box. I was close to break point then. I paused so much that the cashier had to ask if I was ok, and I couldn't resist saying that 7 months ago I wouldn't have been able to buy clothes there.

With exception of that short period in 2003 - I haven't brought anything in a high street store for absolutely years - I recall once buying a red short sleeved shirt back in about 2001 from Debenhams in Coventry. That is the last time I recall doing so though - or being able to do so.

If I had my phone on me (I'd left it in the car) - I'd have been tempted to get a picture of this moment - I was just so so so happy.

The rain outside when I left the store didn't bother me. I just walked to the car and cried.

I last cried almost 7 months ago - December 1st 2008. I cried tonight - June 26th 2009. December the first it was in shame for weighing as much as I did then. Tonight - because I have managed to change things so much that I can now buy from a high street name - if only they had trousers one size larger then they do (and coordinating with the jacket I found) - then I'd be sooo happy to have brought them there and then - and proudly wear them on August 1st. Alas - not to be - but now I know I will be able to soon.

YES.....

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