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Seagull Book and "Tape"

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Myself
Logan, Utah
November 14, 2018

Seagull Book and “Tape”

Informant:

My name is Megan Monson and I am a 21-year-old student at USU. I’m working to finish my degree in English Education. I spent 18 months in Tacoma, Washington as a missionary.

Context:

I got my job at Seagull Book when I was 17. This experience happened within my first week working there. On a minimum wage salary, we all had fun pulling pranks on each other and wasting time. Seagull Book is owned and operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was originally named “Seagull Book and Tape” because they sold books and books on tape. Now they sell clothing, books, memorabilia, and other nick-knacks.

Text:

My first time closing the store when I worked at Seagull Book I worked with a guy named Hunter. Hunter had worked there for a while so I figured he knew what he was doing. Just after we locked the door to customers, he started to wrap tape around his hands and knees, sticky-side out.

“The vacuum is broken so we usually just crawl around with the tape to get stuff off the floor,” he told me enthusiastically.

Thinking it was a weird concept, I taped my hands and knees too and cautiously crawled around the store in my skirt.

A few days later when closing time came, I started taping my hands and knees when my co-worker, Courtney, gave me the weirdest look.

M: “Is this not how you get stuff up off the floor?”

C: “No we have a vacuum.”

Bewildered as I vacuumed the carpet, I realized that I have been duped. That's when I decided to do the same prank to the next new employee. I don't know if they still do it, but it was always pretty funny watching new workers crawl around on the floor.

Texture:

I still cannot tell this story without laughing. I can just picture myself crawling around the store in a skirt trying to stay modest while simultaneously searching for loose strings or scraps of paper. I find it ironic that it was once called Seagull Book and Tape, it just makes the prank funnier.

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Folklore 2210
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