

My Name is Still Alice by Kate Shein

A woman in her thirties walks up to a Bridal Registry Consultant, standing behind a counter.

WOMAN:

Excuse me; are you the registry consultant? Well, I'm here to register! For gifts. This is a really big step for me; I'm very excited! I'll bet you hear that a lot, don't you? ...When is the happy event? ...Oh you mean wedding date. There isn't one. I'm not getting married. I'll probably never get married. But, I need things, and I think registering is a good way for me to learn to receive. Yes, I know this is the bridal registry, and that you only register brides. Frankly, I find that a bit discriminatory. I'm here to register and I really don't want any hassle. No, no, don't get the manager... I am not trying to cause trouble. LOOK, for months now I've been buying gifts for all of my friends who've been getting married. It's an epidemic. There's been a slew of weddings, not to mention showers, lately, and I've attended all of them, brought gifts to every event.

It's not that I begrudge them their happiness, not at all - I'm a very supportive person. It's just that lately I've been feeling that something's a little out of whack, you know, sort of off-balance; and yesterday, while I was attaching tiny silver bells to a spice rack for my friends, Howie & Wendy, this voice inside my head started screaming at me. It said, "Schmuck! Why do you keep buying presents for people who have already found everything they want?" Or words to that effect. I don't remember exactly. I do recall that the voice sounded resentful. And I had to agree with it. I mean, isn't it enough that they were lucky and found each other? That they fell in love and made a commitment? That they'll be splitting the rent and filing jointly? My God, they've found someone who'll give them a FOOT MASSAGE whenever they want! They've already won the sweepstakes, why do they get the door prizes too? Why do they get to register for things like...like....like a cookie jar shaped like a giant eggplant, or a set of 'really good knives'? THEY'RE BECOMING A TWO INCOME FAMILY FOR CHRISTSAKE, WHY CAN'T THEY BUY THEIR OWN KNIVES!????!!!!

Now then. I need things. I am not getting married and I need things. I need better towels. Matching luggage. A pasta machine. Candlesticks! Put me down for two pairs! Come on, just do it! You registered Ann and Deena, Becky, Jane and Cindy. I insist on registering too! I know I am single. I confront that fact every day of my life. It's fine! I LIKE it! But I'm not staying single without the same material goods as my married friends. My ship is coming in if I have to tow it myself! Do you really want to know when the happy event it? It's a week from Saturday. That's the day I'm throwing a shower for myself, officially announcing a life of single hood. And the beauty of it is, I won't have to return anything if it doesn't work out!