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The Stone Said

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see what I'm sayin'? They're rich, and they can make things anywhere. I know 'cause I paid for this here shirt, didn't I?"

"You sure did pay," said his best friend, returning to his dealing.

"Yeah, and when I tried it on there was plenty of room in the sleeves. I bet only those French people know how to make a shirt so a guy has enough room in it.

"I told Catherine I liked it real good and that she sure knows how to pick a shirt for a guy, and she said that's why she worked there. I knew she picked this real special for me and the label probably comes out so other people can't know where you got it, and so a girl can get her guy a shirt without her friends copyin' her, see what I'm sayin'? Girls do that. They see what their friends have and they want it, too. I wonder why she hasn't called yet?"

"Can't imagine," said his best friend.

"She's probably gettin' all ready for me. I'm all ready myself," said Drake. He walked over to the closet and took out a hanger.

"Why are you hanging that thing inside out?" asked his best friend, watching him.

"So it won't get dirty on the outside. I don't wanna take any chances, 'cause Catherine works with shirts and she'd notice, see what I'm sayin'? She's a real profession-

al."

"She must be to be able to see a smudge on that," said his best friend.

"Yeah, she is. She even put it in a plain box for me when I paid for it. She said it would protect it better than just an ol' bag would, and I agreed but I never would have thought of that myself. I figured she just didn't want any other girls seein' where I bought the shirt.

"She said 'Bye' and I said 'Bye' and then I told her 'Don't forget to take care of that there cardboard that I found in the try-out room,' and she said 'Oh I already have,' and then she put her hand over her mouth in her shy way.

"When I got home, I had to call you right away to tell you about it all. Thanks for comin' over, like I told you before."

"No problem. What are friends for?" said his best friend scooping up the cards and shuffling them again.

"Yeah, what for? I got somebuddy to talk to while I'm waitin' for my girl to call me. I just gotta give her time to get over her shyness, see what I'm sayin'? You might as well deal me in the next hand of solitary while I'm waitin'."

The Stone Said

The stone said to the dust:
"Dust is what you are now
And shall forever be."

Brian Delong