

# Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

## FILTERS

by MOLLY WU

**GENRE:** Dramatic Monologue

**SYNOPSIS:** In an age of filtered reality ads, a mother questions what advertisers and modern media are actually selling.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** It's important that Christy's tone about her daughter isn't mocking; she's exhausted, but beneath the humor, genuinely troubled.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1F

**TOPIC:** Christian Living, Coveting, Appearances

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** 1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 139:14

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon starter

**CHARACTERS:**

CHRISTY - 40ish

**PROPS:** A row of chairs, side table, fashion magazines

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** Wireless mics if desired

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A clothing store

### Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com  
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*CHRISTY enters wearily, and flops into a chair with an exhausted sigh. She checks her phone.*

**CHRISTY:** Three hours. Shopping for three hours, not a single thing to show for it, and now my daughter's locked herself in the dressing room and won't come out without the aid of a police negotiator.

*Sighs. Looks up to address the audience directly.*

She said she doesn't look right.

Doesn't look "normal", like the *mannequins*.

*Beat.*

Normal.

Like the *mannequins*.

And I'm sitting here flipping through fashion magazines and looking around at all of these plastic people and wondering what exactly these ads are selling us. Because I think it's more than clothing. They're selling us an idea of what "normal" looks like.

And my little girl's buying it. We're *all* buying it.

*Beat.*

But it's more than just a female self-image problem, isn't it? There's something deeper going on here, beneath all the airbrushing and filtering. The way even supermodels get "fixed" and digitally corrected to look sculpted and flawless?

It's more than just the dehumanization of women. It's the dehumanization of humans.

It's one thing to covet a world that someone else lives in; and yeah, terrible things are stored up for those who refuse to be happy. But we're starting to covet a world that no one actually lives in, and to me, that's much scarier.

It's like we're consciously deciding to live for a while in unreality, and I don't think the human mind is built to sustain that. It leads to obsessiveness.

To mania.

To dark green ugly diseases.

And we're doing it with more than magazine ads depicting a fake "ideal" female form. We're doing it with our song lyrics. With our Facebook posts. With our Christian films.