

THE REASON I SHOP ONLINE

by

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**NOTES:**

'The Reason I Shop Online' was written for the 'SF48' competition in 2015.

The competition requirements were that the film should be no longer than 4 minutes long, had to include 'ginger' as a prop, should be shot in a rural landscape and include the line of dialogue 'long before the invention of ceilings or walls'.

The film was written, filmed and edited within 48 hours, and won the Audience Choice award in the competition.

You can watch the finished film here: <https://vimeo.com/130676824>

INT. CORNER SHOP - DAYTIME

Cheesy supermarket music. HONEY has a list and is browsing the shelves, ticking items off as she places them in her basket. Cereal. Orange juice. Toilet paper. One item remains unticked - ginger.

At the till she watches the bored and listless ASSISTANT pass her shopping over the scanner. Not having much hope for the girl's usefulness, she nevertheless asks:

HONEY

Ginger?

The ASSISTANT, scandalised that HONEY dare contemplate shopping for such an outlandish item, shakes her head and scans the rest of the items.

EXT. CORNER SHOP - DAYTIME

HONEY emerges from the shop, bags in hand, a large pack of toilet paper under one arm. She takes out her phone and speaks to it.

HONEY

Siri, where can I find ginger?

SIRI

I've found this for you.

Pulsing adventurous music builds as HONEY strides off determined, following the directions on her phone screen, still clutching her shopping.

EXT. KINGS HEATH - DAYTIME

HONEY's journey takes her down suburban streets, past restaurant Blue Ginger - is that where Siri is taking her?

SIRI

Recalculating route.

No. HONEY passes the restaurant and keeps on walking. She crosses the road and heads into Kings Heath Park, eyes fixed on the phone, shopping still in hand.

Pavement becomes path, road becomes grass, she is surrounded by trees, and still she walks, following the phone, puzzled yet still determined.

EXT. SHROPSHIRE HILLS - DAYTIME

The landscape of the park becomes more rugged, the path more uneven and stony.

As the music reaches a majestic crescendo the vista opens up, revealing that HONEY is now striding through open countryside. This is no longer just a shopping trip, it is an epic adventure, but with plastic bags and toilet paper.

HONEY crosses streams, loses her footing, scales hills, still following her phone.

EXT. EMPORIUM - DAYTIME

The path takes her through a mystical glade in the forest.

SIRI

You have reached your destination.

HONEY looks around. She's standing next to the ruins of a long neglected house with crumbling walls and overgrown with moss.

A wide shot shows she is alone, but a close up reveals a figure in the doorway - it's JEANIE, who looks remarkably similar to the corner shop ASSISTANT, complete with bored and disdainful attitude.

HONEY

(Uncertain) Hi, I was looking for some ginger?

JEANIE

Welcome to the Ancient Ginger Emporium. We can satisfy all your ginger needs. How can I help you.

HONEY

I'd like some ginger please.

JEANIE

Ale, beer, biscuits, bread, cake, crystalised, extract, ground, ice cream, loaf, nuts, root, snaps, tea, wine...

HONEY

Root I guess.

JEANIE

Releasing the magical root from the protection of the Ancient

Ginger Emporium requires a noble sacrifice.

HONEY  
I've got £2.56.

JEANIE  
The Ancient Ginger Emporium was brought into existence long before the invention of ceilings and walls. We don't do cash.

HONEY  
(Getting out her purse) Debit card?

JEANIE  
What've you got in there?

JEANIE points at HONEY's shopping. HONEY looks confused. JEANIE gestures more insistently. HONEY takes something out of the bag and gives it to JEANIE. JEANIE continues to gesture. HONEY takes item after item out, JEANIE keeps asking for more.

Eventually HONEY has given JEANIE all her shopping. JEANIE reaches over to a plinth where a ginger root has appeared. She hands it over to HONEY.

JEANIE  
Help with your packing?

HONEY  
No thanks.

JEANIE  
The Ancient Ginger Emporium wishes you well in all your endeavours.

HONEY turns and goes, ginger in hand. She looks back - JEANIE has vanished.

EXT. SHROPSHIRE HILLS - DAYTIME

HONEY, now carrying just the ginger root, retraces her steps. She clambers back down the hills, crosses back over the streams.

EXT. KINGS HEATH - DAYTIME

HONEY walks back along the path through the park, turns out onto the street, back past Blue Ginger.

EXT. CORNER SHOP - DAYTIME

HONEY arrives back outside the shop where she started. With a sigh she takes out her shopping list, scribbles out all the ticks from earlier and reenters the shop, picking up a basket as she goes.

/CUT TO CREDITS