

# HIGHWAY ROBBERY • HANDLE WITH KID GLOVES

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During the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, highway travelers in their coaches were often held up and robbed of their possessions by armed highway men. Now, “highway robbery” means the price of goods and services is so high that the buyer feels as if he is being robbed by the seller.

Kid gloves are made from the hide of a young goat and are gentle to the touch. If you handle an expensive item or have to deal with an impatient waiter, you must do your best to “handle with kid gloves” in each of these situations. In these words, you must be extra careful to avoid any possible problems by being gentle.

**Setting:** The North Coast Mall

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Liz**

**Patty**

**Beth: a sales girl**

**Narrator:** There were huge sales on at Markers department store. Liz and Patty decided to be at the store’s door just as it opened.

**Liz:** Patty, I see someone coming to unlock the door! Come on, and let’s be the first ones in the store.

**Patty:** Okay! Which department do you want to go to first?

**Liz:** Cosmetics, for sure.

**Narrator:** The girls raced through the first floor level dodging in and out of the fine crystal displays. Suddenly, Liz saw a gleaming red vase that she thought was beautiful.

**Liz:** Patty, stop a minute. I want to see how much this vase costs. I’d love to have it in my bedroom filled with white roses.

**Patty:** It’s gorgeous. You better handle it with kid gloves when you look at the bottom for the price.

**Narrator:** Very carefully, Liz gently tipped the vase over. There was the tag that revealed the price. Her eyes widened as she read the numbers.

**Liz:** Patty, look at this! \$500 for this little red vase! That’s highway robbery! I bet my mother could find a vase just like this at the swap meet. And it sure wouldn’t be \$500! Come on, let’s get out of here.

**Narrator:** Patty and Liz dashed to the middle of the first floor and jumped onto the escalator.

**Liz:** Where to now? Oh, yes! Cosmetics!

**Patty:** Have you seen the new lipsticks they're showing in Teen Chic magazine?

**Liz:** No. I haven't even heard of that magazine. Where did you get it?

**Patty:** My mom brought a copy home and thought I'd have fun looking through it.

**Liz:** What's the lipstick's brand name?

**Patty:** Uh? I forget! Well, let's just look around. We're bound to find it.

**Narrator:** The girls wandered from one display to the next looking for the special, new lipstick.

**Liz:** Do you see it anywhere? How about over here?

**Patty:** No. That stuff is old. Wait a minute. I see it! Come on. Follow me.

**Narrator:** There was a huge multicolored banner hanging overhead for Sweetness lipstick. As the girls approached the counter, a sales girl smiled broadly at them.

**Beth:** What can I get for you two beautiful girls?

**Patty:** I'd like to see your Powder-Rose Sweetness lipstick.

**Beth:** Of course. Would you like a free makeover?

**Narrator:** While Patty was chatting with the sales girl, Liz was looking at the prices. Once again, her eyes grew big and she gulped. Quickly grabbing Patty's arm, Liz hurried to the escalator.

**Liz:** Okay. We can stop running now. Patty, I was looking at the price of that makeup and I couldn't believe what I saw. How much do you think that Sweetness lipstick cost?

**Patty:** Well, I know they're expensive but you pay for what you get.

**Liz:** Oh no! This is highway robbery! The price is \$65 for one tube. At that price, you'd have to handle it with kid gloves, for sure.

**Patty:** Gee, I didn't know it was *that* expensive. Thanks for saving my life, Liz.

**Liz:** And your wallet, Patty!