

Progresso

by Ginnah Howard

I don't see why you didn't get a dozen while you were at it. *We've been through this.* That way you'd never run out. *Many times.* If you stocked up, you never would. *What did I tell you?* You get down to the last one, then what if you forget? *What happens?* You have to go without. Why can't you see it makes more sense to buy in bulk? *Because it makes sense to me to do it the way I do it. That's why I do it that way.* But why not be logical? Plus, and this is a big consideration, it's more economical. You buy a dozen when they're on sale. *Listen: I enter the store; I push the cart up and down the same aisles I always use; I get just about the same twenty-five things every week, with minor additions and these I have on a short list. Occasionally I give into a dangerous desire that's been building for weeks: chocolate kisses, something loaded with artificial flavor and salt. I never look at the prices. I never compare ounces. The check out is easy, the total expected. It all fits into the front seat, so I don't have to bother with the trunk. It takes only two or three trips to carry the bags into the house, and not that long to put it away.* But it's more expensive that way and in the end if you were to figure it out it actually takes you more time. *You do realize we are not talking about soup?* We're talking about making shopping more efficient. *How I shop is who I am.* But it would make so much more sense to get a dozen while you're at it.

