

THE GIFT

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FADE IN:

INT. WORK AREA

A person sits at an empty desk, typing on their laptop. This is ANDY.

A BUZZING disrupts Andy's train of thought - it's Andy's CELL PHONE VIBRATING on the desk.

Andy ignores it, and it eventually stops.

But then, sensing someone is at the door watching, Andy looks up. A smiling face peers back, causing Andy to JUMP.

ANDY

Jeeze! You scared the crap out of me.

Without waiting for permission, the guest enters, a large BRIGHTLY COLOURED BOX in their hands. This is TONI.

TONI

I tried calling.

ANDY

Well...I'm working. So...

(re: the box)

What's that?

TONI

This? Don't you know a birthday present when you see one?

ANDY

A birthday present? But...

TONI

Your birthday is months away. I know.

ANDY

But...

TONI

I just...I don't know...I really wanted you to have it.

(beat)

Now.

Andy, still taken aback, reluctantly, takes the box.

TONI (cont'd)

(alarmed)

Careful! It's fragile!

Andy jumps, fumbles the box, but manages to recover and gently places it down on the desk. Andy sighs - relieved - and goes back to typing. But Toni stays put.

After an uncomfortably long stint of silence, Andy looks up.

ANDY
What?

TONI
Aren't you going to open it?

ANDY
Uhhh...

TONI
Because I'd love to see your face when you - you know - open it.

ANDY
Umm...I think I'll wait. Until I get home.

TONI
Oh?

ANDY
Yeah. I have a lot of work to do.

Toni nods, turns to leave. At the door, Toni turns back.

TONI
This has nothing to do with you and me breaking up, you know. Or you breaking my heart.

With that, Toni leaves, closing the door behind them.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT

Andy makes their way towards their car, casually strolling through the stalls.

Just as Andy approaches it, Toni POPS around from the back - holding the BOX, making Andy jump and scream!

TONI
Andy! You forgot this!

ANDY
Oh, I...

TONI
And I didn't want you to forget it.
You will open it, right?

ANDY
Um...yeah. Of course.

Andy gets into the Driver's seat, shuts the door.

INT. ANDY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The car engine roars to life, and Andy is about to pull away when a TAP at the window gets their attention. It's Toni.

Andy rolls down the window - halfway.

ANDY
What is it, Toni?

TONI
I just want to make sure you're going
to open it.

(beat)
And that you know it has nothing to
do with you cheating on me with my
best friend. Nothing at all.

Andy's eyes go wide. The car speeds away.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE - LATER

Andy plops down on the sofa. The brightly colored box sits on the coffee table. Andy studies it before eventually pushing it aside.

No sooner do they do that, when Andy's phone starts ringing.

ON PHONE: TONI

Andy hits decline.

RINNNNNNGGGG!

It starts up again, making Andy flinch.

ON PHONE: TONI

Again, DECLINE. Almost instantly, the doorbell rings.

ANDY
Nooo...no way.

Before Andy even has time to get up, the KNOCKING begins.

Andy gets up, and answers the door.

It's Toni, who, once again, enters without being asked in.

TONI
Sorry for barging in. I was just in
the neighbourhood.

ANDY
I didn't open it yet, if that's why
you're here.

Toni looks Andy up and down and laughs.

TONI
Obviously! I would know if you opened
it.

(beat)
Oh, and just so you know, this has
nothing to do with you "accidentally"
running over my dog.

Andy brings the box to their ear, and listens for...
something.

TONI (cont'd)
(yelling)
BOOM!

Panicked, Andy practically drops the box, while Toni bursts
into laughter.

TONI (cont'd)
I'm kidding! Mail bombs are so 1990.

Frustrated, Andy hands the box back.

ANDY
That's it! Whatever it is, I don't
want it.

TONI
But, Andy...

ANDY
No buts! I'm sick of the mind games!
I know I can be a jerk and I made
mistakes, but this...this is...

TONI
Torture?

ANDY
Exactly! Now get out!

TONI
You're sure?

Andy thinks about it for a moment, and then nods.

ANDY
Positive!

TONI
If you say so, but no take-sies back-sies! Okay?
(beat)
You know Andy, it's okay to admit you're curious... You are curious, aren't you?

ANDY
Yeah. I little.
(beat)
So, if I open it, do you promise to leave me alone?

TONI
Absolutely!

Andy braces, as Toni lifts the lid....

And this is where YOU, our FILMMAKERS, fill in the blanks and write the ending!

What's in the box?

You decide.

THE END