

Surprises

A Short One Act Drama

By

Keith Passmore

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Surprises

A Brief Synopsis:

Bryn arrives home with the Christmas shopping which includes a surprisingly large parcel. Is it a surprise? Who is it for? The women had agreed not to exchange or buy Christmas presents, but why has Bryn bought it? It sparks a somewhat poignant conversation between Bryn and her companion, Sarah.

Production Notes:

The action takes place in a room in a small apartment. The staging is simple, consisting of a table, covered with a cloth, and a chair.

Time: Two weeks before any Christmas.

Both characters, Bryn and Sarah, are in their early thirties.

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Characters

Bryn
Sarah

Scene: A room in Bryn and Sarah's apartment.

A simple set consisting of a table at C covered with a cloth and a chair behind it. There are exits UL and L and another UR which leads to the kitchen.

Bryn, a woman in her early thirties and of average height enters UL struggling with a heavy bag of shopping in one hand and a long, bulky Christmas wrapped parcel in the other. She places the parcel against the table L and the bag on the table. She stretches noisily, clutching her back and wincing. She then begins taking items from the bag and placing them on the table.

Sarah enters L. She is also in her early thirties, tall and well groomed. Bryn continues emptying the bag.

Sarah: Oh you're back, I was about to send out a search party.

Bryn: I'm back alright, and it's my back that's killing me.

Sarah: How much have you bought for goodness sake? I told you not to buy everything at once. There's plenty of time, another two weeks yet.

Bryn: Yes I know, but you don't have to queue up for hours competing with crowds of once in a blue moon pease on earths.

She thumps the last package on the table.

Yes, I think that's about all of it. I'm not buying anymore that's for sure.

Sarah: I hope there's some food in that lot.

Bryn replaces most of the packages into the bag and crosses UR

Bryn: The food's for Christmas. Just remember that.

Bryn exits into the kitchen UR

Sarah notices the parcel leaning against the table and crosses to it

Sarah: *(calling)* The parcel looks interesting!

Bryn enters UR and crosses to the table.

Bryn: Hands off, please!

Sarah moves away

Sarah: What is it?

Bryn: A present.

Sarah: Well it certainly looks like one, but I thought we agreed not send presents to each other or to anyone else for that matter.

Bryn: I've changed my mind.

She picks up the rest of the packages and exits into the kitchen UR

Sarah: *(calling after her)* Should I be flattered?

She approaches the table as Bryn returns

Bryn: *(straightening and smoothing the table cloth)* What did you say?

Sarah: *(moving away to R)* I said should I be flattered?

She points to the parcel

Bryn: Why should you be?

Sarah: I just wish you hadn't done it.

Bryn: Done what?

Sarah: Bryn, don't play games. It is a nice gesture and I'm touched.

Bryn: By my thoughtfulness?

Sarah: Yes, of course.

Sarah approaches Bryn to embrace her but Bryn moves away to L

Bryn: You don't know what it is.

Sarah: It looks fascinating.

Bryn: Well it's for someone special.

Sarah: Of course.

Bryn: I hope it's appreciated.

Sarah: It will be I'm sure.

Bryn: I just hope the recipient hasn't already got one.

Sarah: You have a good idea of what I do have

Bryn: Yes, I think I do.

Sarah: It is for me isn't it?

Bryn: Did I say it was?

Sarah: I naturally assumed... (*firmly*) apart from me you don't know anybody.

Bryn: Is that so?

Bryn throws her a mischievous look

Sarah: Who do you know?

Bryn: (*laughs*) What d'you mean who do I know? Isn't it a case of who I don't know?

Sarah moves closer to her, but Bryn moves away DL

Sarah: You've met someone haven't you? Who've you met?

Bryn: (*with her back to Sarah and quietly*) A friend.

Sarah: (*crossing slightly DR*) A friend? Where would you meet anyone?

Bryn: Shopping, at the shops! The only place I ever go without you.

Pause

Sarah: What's her name?

Bryn: Her? (*Scoffs*) Why should it be a 'her'?

Sarah: (*interrupting*) A man? (*She laughs incredulously*) You? (*Turning to the front*) Our Bryn's found a man! (*Turning to her*) What man would bother with a boring housekeeper whose mind stops at this week's special on decaffeinated coffee?

Bryn: Someone who's interested in decaffeinated coffee I expect.

Sarah: (*fiercely*) Perks you up does he, your frothy coffee cream dream?

She crosses slightly UR with and stops with her back to Bryn.

Bryn: (*quietly*) You're so unattractive when you're jealous.

Sarah: Huh! (*quietly*) I don't believe you've met anyone.

Bryn crosses to the table and picks up the parcel

Sarah: (*sharply*) What is it for God's sake?

Bryn: But it's not for you.

Sarah: So you can tell me then. I don't know the man. I've never met him and probably never likely to.

Bryn laughs incredulously and leaving the parcel on the table moves DR

And I don't think you have either. I know you too well.

Bryn: (*sourly*) You may not know me at all!

Sarah: (*laughing briefly*) Oh I do. Well I thought I did.

Pause

