

# Surprises

A Short One Act Drama

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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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# Surprises

## 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*

