

Birthday Gift

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

SABRINA

NICOLE

ALLIE

(Three of them are college students and roommates.)

JANITOR OF THE BUILDING

Scene: *The time is at about 11:30 p.m. in a cold winter. The place is the living room of their dorm on the fifteenth floor. There are a clock on the left side wall and a little furniture—one table, two benches on the left side and a small old TV upon the cabinet on the right side of the living room. Behind the two benches, the white curtain with some stains on it is put down. The door is located in the right side corner, just beside the cabinet. Out of their dorm, there is a stair opposite to the door of their dorm which can reach to the sixteenth floor—the top floor. There is a heavy iron door that leads to the outer space of the top floor. The moon is dim today. It is just a normal outdoor space with nothing. Nicole enters the living room from the left side of the stage eating her favorite grape.*

NICOLE [*putting a grape in her mouth*]. Hey! Allie! I'm so bored! Let's find something fun to do.

ALLIE [*pressing the remote control of TV from one program to another*]. I feel bored as well. So do you have any idea?

NICOLE [*looking at her watch*]. It's 11:30. Oh! Tomorrow is December 25th.

ALLIE I know it is Christmas. So what?

NICOLE Don't you remember? Sabrina's birthday is on Christmas! It's 11:30 now and after 12:00 is December 25th!

ALLIE Do you mean we can celebrate her birthday after 12:00?

NICOLE Yup! This is the first time I think you are so smart.

ALLIE *[laughing out loud]* Thanks for your first praise!

NICOLE I think we have to hurry up because Sabrina's boyfriend always takes her home at about 12:00.

ALLIE Yea, uh....I have an idea! We can decorate the top floor by using some romantic lights and bring her there by covering her eyes. That would be a big surprise!

NICOLE That sounds great! My friend gave me some firework that he stole from where he works. We can have our own fireworks at our dorm! That is wonderful and very romantic.

ALLIE What a perfect plan it is!

NICOLE We have no time! Let's start to prepare.

ALLIE Ok, I am going to put off all chains of colorful lights on the beautiful Christmas tree on the one floor. I'll come back right away. *[She grabs her coat and rushes out from the door.]*

[The light on the stage becomes dim gradually. For a while, Allie comes in from the same door on the right side corner. The light on the stage becomes bright.]

ALLIE I'm back. It was adventurous that I had to look around and ensure no one see me before I "borrowed" these lights.

NICOLE Haha. Good job! You seem to be not as stupid as I have thought.

ALLIE Thank you for the second praise.

NICOLE I have called Sabrina. She said she is on the way home. Let's hurry to decorate the top floor.

[Allie and Nicole left from the door with those chains of lights and the firework. It's exactly 12:00. A while later, Sabrina comes in from the door on the right side corner.]

SABRINA What the hell! It's deadly cold outside.

[Allie and Nicole come in from the same door. Nicole closes the door.]

ALLIE Hey Sabrina! We are waiting for you. Today is the big day!

NICOLE Yup! Your birthday is definitely something to celebrate.

SABRINA Oh! You guys are so considerate.

ALLIE & NICOLE Haha We already know that.

ALLIE Now Sabrina, close your eyes. [*She takes out a black handkerchief and covers Sabrina's eyes.*]

SABRINA [*She smiles with excitement.*] What are you guys going to do?

NICOLE You will know later. Now just follow us. We want to give you something different.

ALLIE Something that will impress you. Trust me. You will have an unforgettable birthday celebration. [*Her voice becomes small gradually.*]

[*They go out from the door. The light of their living room becomes dim and at the same time, the weak light shows outside. Three of them go up stairs. Nicole pushes the heavy iron door forward. She leads Sabrina to the center of the broad space. Allie uses all of her strength to close the heavy iron door. Both of Allie and Nicole look at each other and burst into laughter just as they are waiting for a perfect celebration.*]

ALLIE [*saying like she is proud of what she has done*] Now here we are!

NICOLE Sabrina, are you ready for everything?

SABRINA [*drawing a deep breath*] I think so. Haha...

ALLIE & NICOLE [*Allie puts off the handkerchief which covers Sabrina's eyes.*]

Happy birthday to you Sabrina!

[*Those colorful lights which Allie stole from the public Christmas tree spark like the stars in the sky.*]

SABRINA [*opening her eyes*] Oh my god... This is so fantastic!

[*Three of them hold hand in hand in a circle and dance so happily that everything seems to be too perfect to be true.*]

SABRINA Oh! Thank you. I'm very happy that you guys still remember my birthday and give me this surprise which I never thought of before...

[Just at this moment all brilliant chains of lights go out suddenly.]

[Blackout]

ALL *[screaming]*

SABRINA *[startled]* Allie! Nicole! Where are you? It's so dark that I can't see anything.

ALLIE Hey! I'm here. *[stretching out her hand to hold Sabrina.]*
What happened? Why did all lights go out?

SABRINA *[in a shivering voice]* I'm so scared!

NICOLE Let's go down stairs! Harry up!

[Three of them approach the heavy iron door. Nicole reaches out both of her hands trying to discern where the handle is and then rotate it. However, the door can't be opened.]

NICOLE Damn! I can't open it! *[She tries again and again, but still cannot open it.]*

SABRINA *[sobbing]*

ALLIE Are you kidding? It's not fun at all! Let me try! *[turning the handle of the iron door, but the outcome is the same]* This is so ridiculous! *[She tries to run and bump into the heavy door.]*

NICOLE Stop doing that! STUPID! It's impossible for you to knock over the heavy iron door!

SABRINA *[crying loudly]*

[Just at this moment, a frozen cold wind strikes into their bones.]

SABRINA *[continuing crying]* I'm chilled to my marrow.

ALLIE The wind really makes me have goose bumps. *[rubbing her hands in order to make herself warmer]*

NICOLE [astonished] I think I know why the door cannot be opened.

ALLIE Why?

NICOLE Just like the door on the top floor of the College of Humanities at our school, it is designed that you can only open it from the inside and it cannot be open from the outside because of the special purpose—avoiding any thief intruding the building.

ALLIE [surprised] What? Why didn't you find out that earlier?

NICOLE I think I'm still much and far smarter than you!

SABRINA Stop quarreling. [with ironic tone of voice] I think both of you really give me a too impressive and unforgettable birthday surprise. No one brings the cell phone. What can we do now?

ALLIE [glancing at the firework on Nicole's hand] Hey guys! I have a fabulous idea!

NICOLE Are you sure it is "fabulous" instead of "foolish?"

ALLIE Whatever you say!

SABRINA What's your idea?

ALLIE We can ignite the firework to attract people's notice.

SABRINA Huh! That sounds great! And it's the only thing we can do now.

NICOLE [sighing] Fine. This time it's all up to you!

[Sabrina helps Allie to ignite the firework. Three of them gather together leaning on the wall.]

NICOLE This is the most unexpected fireworks I have ever seen.

[Allie and Sabrina wave their hands in the air and yell as loudly as they can.]

ALLIE Hope that someone can see us, or...

SABRINA [continuing Allie's unfinished sentence] Or we will be frozen to die.

[Hearing what they said, Nicole joined in the yell.]

ALL *[waving their hands]* Hey! Hey! Hey!

ALLIE *[yelling loudly]* Someone comes to save us from here!

[No one answers them.]

SABRIAN *[After a while, she squats down beside the wall.]* I'm completely
 exhausted!

ALLIE *[sighing and patting Sabrina's back]*

NICOLE Sorry Sabrina! It's all our bad to do this kind of stupid thing!

[Finally all of them sit down together in the dark. The wind is blowing in gusts. All of them feel so cold that they get close with each other to avoid being beaten by the strong wind. Everyone lapses into silence.]

ALLIE *[At this moment, Allie hears some footfalls but those footfalls die out soon.]*
 Hey! Do you hear the voice?

SABRINA No, I don't.

NICOLE Neither do I.

[All of them fall into silence again. The wind is still blowing and even becomes fiercer and fiercer. After a while, abruptly, the door is pushed open. A beam from a flashlight shines on them.]

JANITOR OF THE BUILDING *[yelling out and pointing at them angrily]* Don't
 you guys know that firework is forbidden here?
 [suddenly seeing those chains of lights and yelling much more angrily] What the hell is going on here?
 That's why all lights of the Christmas tree I
 decorated for a long time disappear?

ALLIE *[saying with happiness]* Oh Ye! Don't be mad, sir! I swear that I can
 RETURN you much and far more chains of Christmas lights with various
 and bling bling colors as long as you can save us from here! It's a real

bargain, right?

ALLIE, NICOLE & SABRINA [giggling]

Blackout