

A Super Shiny Precious Thing

By

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Cast of Characters

BLAKE: Late twenties or early thirties. Good natured, but impulsive and a little vain.

NOEL: His boyfriend. The same age. Sweet and practical.

Scene

Brooklyn.

Time

Christmas Morning.

A minuscule apartment lit by candles. There is no furniture. Two young men wear pajamas with coats and scarves for extra warmth. They are seated by a potted plant they've decorated with garland and tinsel.

They are BLAKE and NOEL, respectively.

NOEL has just opened a gift wrapped in newspaper.

NOEL
Oh my gosh, socks! Thank you.

BLAKE
You like them? I was worried.

NOEL
Like them? Are you kidding?

BLAKE
And look-- they have the days of the week on them. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday--

NOEL
And so on, yeah. I really love them! Thank you so much. How could you afford them?

BLAKE
They're used. Anyway, I know how much you like routine so--

NOEL
Seriously, thank you. I love them.
(NOEL kisses BLAKE.)
Merry Christmas.

BLAKE
Merry Christmas.

NOEL
You open the last one now. Here.
(He hands BLAKE a small package.)
I hope you like it.

BLAKE opens it. A magazine.

BLAKE

GQ! I love this book!

NOEL

I saw you eying it at Duane Reade so...

BLAKE

It's really nice. Seriously, even if it is last month's.
Thank you.

(They kiss again.)

Merry Christmas.

NOEL

Merry Christmas to you too. Well, I guess that's it, huh?
I'd better start the Christmas beans and rice.

NOEL begins to get up.

BLAKE

Wait!

NOEL

What is it?

BLAKE

I have one last gift for you.

NOEL

But you got me so much! The chapstick and the Ramen and
everything...

BLAKE

Well, I got you something else.

BLAKE goes offstage. NOEL continues
to talk to him.

NOEL

You didn't go over the limit, did you? Ten dollars, that was
the deal. We have to be careful with money right now because
we have to January's rent and the ambulance bill from when I
was electrocuted by a manhole and you have to pay that
public urination ticket before--

BLAKE

(From offstage.)

I know, I know... Don't worry, babe.

NOEL

I'd like to get the electricity and heat back on this week
so--

BLAKE enters with an enormous package which, by the way he carries it, looks to be extremely heavy. He sets it down with a thud.

BLAKE
This didn't cost a thing.

NOEL
What is it?

BLAKE
Just open it.

NOEL nervously lifts the lid.

A green light emanates from within the box.

NOEL immediately replaces the lid, frightened.

NOEL
What the hell?

BLAKE
Do you like it?

NOEL
Where did it come from?

BLAKE
Don't worry where it came from. Do you like it?

NOEL
It's--

BLAKE
Yup.

NOEL
God, it's--

BLAKE
I know. The world's largest emerald.

NOEL
Blake, where did you get the world's largest emerald?

BLAKE
I just took it.

From where? NOEL

The Met. BLAKE

Oh my god. NOEL

I just put it in my coat and walked out. You'd think security would be tighter. BLAKE

We have to give it back. I mean, we have to give it back. NOEL

Why? BLAKE

Are you KIDDING? NOEL

I've given this a lot of thought, Noel. The way I figure it, we deserve this emerald. BLAKE

How so? NOEL

Well, what else have we got? This could be, like, our thing. BLAKE

Our thing? I don't understand. NOEL

We've got no money, this crappy apartment, we hate our jobs, and we're practically starving. I feel that society owes us this. I mean, what has society ever given us? Zilch, that's what. BLAKE

Society doesn't owe you anything. This is a meritocracy. You can be anything you want! NOEL

You don't really believe that. BLAKE

Maybe I do. NOEL

BLAKE

No you don't.

NOEL

Okay, not really. But we do have to give it back. Do you think we could mail it to them anonymously?

BLAKE

You really want to put this thing in the mail?

NOEL

What if I dropped it off in person?

BLAKE

They'd arrest you.

NOEL

I could wear a disguise. I could wear a mask and all black like a cat burglar in a movie.

BLAKE

Do you know what happens to men like you in prison?

NOEL

No.

BLAKE

They get made somebody's bitch. That, or they get cut.

NOEL

But I'm your bitch *now*.

BLAKE

My forcing you to try Mediterranean food is not the same. No. We have to keep it. I say we keep it in the bathroom.

NOEL

Like in the medicine cabinet?

BLAKE

Or we could build a special shelf like my dad had for his bowling trophies and the paddle he used to beat me with.

NOEL

Okay, so... we can't give it back.

BLAKE

I don't think so.

NOEL

How much do you think we could make off the black market?

BLAKE

No!

NOEL

Why not? We need the money.

BLAKE

We can't. I'd rather give it back to The Met.

NOEL

I made a list of things I'd do if I had money. Hold on.

He begins to look for a list.

BLAKE

It's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. We are the only people with something like this. You know?

NOEL

Oh, I know! It's gorgeous.

(He finds the list.)

Here it is! Okay. One. See a dentist. Two. See a doctor. Three. See an eye doctor. Okay, I'm just going to make all three of those just "seek medical attention".

(He scratches them off his paper.)

Four. Rent a car and get out of the city for a weekend.

BLAKE

Rent a car?

NOEL

Yeah.

BLAKE

Why "rent"?

NOEL

I just thought it would be nice to get out of the city for a weekend.

BLAKE

But why not *buy* a car? Hell, why not *buy* a country house? You're thinking small, like a poor person.

NOEL

Okay. Four. Buy a car and a country house. Five. Buy Blake a suit.

BLAKE

That's on your list?

NOEL

Yeah. And not for special occasions. An *every day* suit.

BLAKE

That's so sweet.

NOEL

Well, I know that you want one. You're always talking about how people should wear suits all the time like they used to.

BLAKE

Like in old family photos. Even poor people looked nice.

NOEL

Six. Have a steak. Seven. Buy some furniture.

BLAKE

I don't know. I sort of like having no furniture. It makes for clean lines.

NOEL

Well, we'll just get all modern stuff then. Like what they have at Ikea.

BLAKE

Agreed.

NOEL

Eight. Have a big wedding with all our friends and family.

BLAKE

Really? That's on there?

NOEL

Yeah.

BLAKE

You want to marry me?

NOEL

Of course I do. We've talked about this.

BLAKE

I've talked about it. I didn't know you wanted it too.

NOEL

Of course I do. You're like my favorite person.

BLAKE

Really? Even though I'm poor and ugly?

NOEL
You're not ugly.

BLAKE
Thank you for saying that.

NOEL
It's ugly that you would think that about yourself.

BLAKE
A guy just needs reminding occasionally, I guess.

NOEL
You're always fishing.

BLAKE
Well, what would it be like?

NOEL
What?

BLAKE
Our wedding.

NOEL
I don't know.

BLAKE
You've obviously given it some of thought.

NOEL
Yeah.

BLAKE
Well?

NOEL
You'll make fun of me.

BLAKE
Why would I make fun of you?

NOEL
You'll say that I'm neurotic and controlling.

BLAKE
You are neurotic and controlling, which is why I'd like to know what you have in store for the big day. I mean, if anybody could plan a wedding its you.

NOEL
No.

One detail. BLAKE

I couldn't. NOEL

Come on... BLAKE

Gray. NOEL

Gray? BLAKE

NOEL
Gray and lavender are the colors. Like, gray suits with lavender accents. A lavender tie or lavender shirts or something?

BLAKE
I look terrible in lavender.

NOEL
No you don't. And, anyway, I look great in it. There's a place in the botanical gardens, a sort of clearing, with all these pretty lavender flowers. I thought we could do it there.

BLAKE
What else?

NOEL
I want strings. Like a string quartet, maybe, and they should play something that's not the wedding march, but still really pretty. I don't want anything too traditional because I don't want it to be like straight peoples' weddings. I want something that's just ours.

BLAKE
Totally.

NOEL
Like, for instance, I want the guests seated together. I hate when they're separated, you know? And we'll walk up either side of them at the same time and meet in the center instead of having some stupid bride steal the show.

BLAKE
Yeah, I like that. Oh, and I hate people's vows. Like I sort of think it should be private.

NOEL

Private vows... we could whisper our vows into each other's ear.

BLAKE

That's beautiful. Also, no religious stuff.

NOEL

Agreed. Totally, no religious stuff. And then, at the end when we kiss, it'll be like the end of an eighties movie. Everybody will stand up and clap and our mothers will be crying as we zoom off in a black town car... our lives just beginning.

BLAKE

Wow.

NOEL

I know.

BLAKE

I can't wait until we get married!

NOEL

Me neither.

BLAKE

You know, the emerald was a wedding gift. This guy, Reginald Caulfield, found it while he was on safari in Burma in the twenties and he brought it home to his fiance. She was a young socialite named Elizabeth Hollister, but everybody called her Itsy.

NOEL

Why did they call her Itsy?

BLAKE

Beat me. Because she was small, I guess. Reginald said she was the only person lovely enough to own it. So they just kept it until 2003, when Itsy died of cancer. It was all on a plaque at The Met. Can You imagine? It was just hidden away. They were the only ones who could appreciate it.

NOEL

People like that get all the good stuff.

BLAKE

I don't know.

NOEL

Hmm.

Short pause as they consider the box with the emerald inside.

BLAKE

I know it's stolen... but I don't feel bad.

NOEL

Me neither.

BLAKE

I think you're right. We should sell it. I mean, if we sold it we'd be rich for the rest of our lives. It could be the end of all our problems, really. I mean, we've never had anything, you know?

(NOEL opens the box and the light pours out again as they sit considering it.)

It doesn't make sense for us to keep it, anyway. I mean, that's weird. Right? The two of us living in this shitty apartment starving to death while we secretly hoard the most beautiful and rare gem in the entire world? Just keep it for ourselves? It's stupid.

NOEL

Blake?

BLAKE

Yeah.

NOEL

Let's keep it.

BLAKE

Yeah?

NOEL

We deserve it.

BLAKE

Okay. Let's keep it then.

They stare into the box as the lights come down.

END OF PLAY.