



THE PRESENT

by Jeff Dunne

A SMITH SCRIPT

This script is protected by copyright laws.
No performance of this script – IN ANY MEDIA – may be undertaken without payment of the
appropriate fee and obtaining a licence.

For further information, please contact SMITH SCRIPTS at info@smithscripts.co.uk

THE PRESENT

By Jeff Dunne

© 2017 by Jeffrey A. Dunne

CHARACTERS

- JESSIE A straightforward, no-nonsense woman who calls things as she sees them.
- JAMES A decent guy, but harboring a strange, unexpressed, and denied discomfort when it comes to Jessie.

SETTING

Pretty much anywhere. Present day.

Note: This play is intended to be performed with British, Monty Python-ish timing.

(JESSIE approaches JAMES in a room or hallway. She has a present – a box with a bright bow on it – in her hands, and puts it down on a nearby table or desk.)

JAMES

What, uh, what you got there?

JESSIE

What does it look like?

JAMES

Hard to say, really.

JESSIE

Hard to say? Haven't you ever seen a present before?

JAMES

Of course I have.

JESSIE

And it didn't look anything like this?

JAMES

Not really.

(Jessie gives him a look.)

The bow was bigger. And blue.

JESSIE

Oh yes, I can see where that would cause a bit of confusion.

JAMES

And what are you, uh, what are you doing with it?

JESSIE

It's for you, actually.

Is it? JAMES

Yes. JESSIE

For me. JAMES

Right. JESSIE

It's not my birthday. JAMES

No. JESSIE

Or Christmas. Oh, god, it's not December already, is it? JAMES

No, it's not a Christmas gift. JESSIE

Well, what is it then? JAMES

I just wanted to do something nice. JESSIE

And this was it, then, was it? JAMES

Yes, James. This is it. JESSIE

What, uh, and what is it? JAMES

You'll have to open it up to find out. That's the way it works with presents. JESSIE

JAMES
Can't you just, you know, give me a hint?

JESSIE
Fine. It's something I made.

JAMES
For me?

JESSIE
Yes.

JAMES
You made something...

JESSIE
Yes

JAMES
For me?

JESSIE
That's right.

JAMES
With your own hands?

JESSIE
No, I used the vicar's hands.

JAMES
You did?

JESSIE
Yes. And then I had to throw them in the rubbish, because they got all dirty.

JAMES
(Beat)
You didn't really?