An Important Package

by

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EXT. SUBURBAN STREET BLOCK - DAY

Quiet, middle class neighborhood. EUGENE, bored, (~50) cleans his lawn, looks around.

Suddenly- a loud and urgent-sounding knocking.

PACKAGE MAN (~30, UPS uniform) bangs on a neighbors door, holds a little package in his shoulder.

The banging goes on until Eugene finally walks over.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

EUGENE
Hey! Maybe just leave it on the floor?

PACKAGE MAN
No! No, no, no, no, no! This package HAS TO get to the resident of this house!

EUGENE
Maybe the resident isn't home?

PACKAGE MAN
I heard noise from this house. The resident of this home is home!

Package Man continues to hammer quick and loud knocks.

EUGENE
What's so important about that little package?

PACKAGE MAN
Oh - you don't understand! It's everything! Without the resident getting it, chaos could break loose! My job, my security, our economy, it's all at stake! I'm a sane man! I wouldn't knock like this if this wasn't SUPER SERIOUS! This package HAS to get to the resident!

Eugene is confused, but moves to knock on the window as well.

EUGENE
Anyone here? Hello?
Package Man gets frustrated, looks onto the floor, turns to Eugene.

PACKAGE MAN
Have you ever felt like it's just... over?

Eugene turns to face Package Man.

EUGENE
What do you mean?

PACKAGE MAN
Have you ever felt like super desperate? Like all your efforts meant nothing? Like everything you've been building is about to fall apart because of ONE STUPID THING!?

EUGENE
Not sure what you mean? It's just a package.

Package Man looks closer at Eugene, almost peering into his soul.

PACKAGE MAN
Do you have a wife? Kids?

EUGENE
Yeah.

PACKAGE MAN
Imagine you're building a house.

Eugene is unsure where this is going but listens carefully.

PACKAGE MAN (CONT'D)
Doing all the stuff necessary to build a house. You get the material, the workers, start working on it yourself, connect the wires, the wood, the pieces, get the permit, the land... all that good stuff. And then - one day, after some years, you think you're done with it. You think you're ready to raise your family in it. Ready to sleep, eat, drink in it. And out of nowhere some stupid hurricane comes along and wipes that house away before you were even able to take a crap in it!
EUGENE
That would be awful.

PACKAGE MAN
Yeah! No kidding... That's how I feel right now. If I don't get this stupid package to this stupid guy my stupid house gets wiped away. More than that! Everything I've been holding on to... my money... my happiness... my soul... All gone... because of one stupid resident and one stupid package!

EUGENE
Well... wait! If I can help you... in any way... you know I would!

PACKAGE MAN
I have to break in!

EUGENE
Are you nuts?

PACKAGE MAN
I have to! This package has to get to the resident!

Beat.

PACKAGE MAN (CONT'D)
Can you help me?

EUGENE
Break into my neighbor's house?

PACKAGE MAN
If you'd know the consequences of not bringing this package to the resident you'd suggest to do the same!

Eugene looks around, gathers his thoughts.

EUGENE
I... I mean is it that important?

PACKAGE MAN
My friend... this delivery is my house! Bringing this package in there... that's my life. It's not just what I'm supposed to do. It's what I have to do.
EUGENE
I'm not sure this is a good idea.

PACKAGE MAN
Neither am I. It's a risk. But so is building a house.

Package Man positions himself to break in. Eugene is unsure what to do.

PACKAGE MAN (CONT'D)
So? You're helping me or not?

EUGENE
I... Is there really no other way?

PACKAGE MAN
Yes or no?

Beats.

EUGENE
Okay! Okay, Okay, Okay... Let's do this!

PACKAGE MAN
At 3. One...

Eugene and Package Man both get ready to hit the door.

EUGENE
Two...

PACKAGE MAN
Three!

They push themselves onto the door but fail!

The door remains locked. They give it another shot.

EUGENE
One!

PACKAGE MAN
Two!

EUGENE
Three!

INT. LOBBY OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

The door breaks open, they enter the house. The Resident, RORY (male, ~50), comes out of a room wearing a bathrobe.
RORY
What's this big fuss about? I can't shower for five darn minutes!
(re: door)
What did you-?

Package Man runs over to Rory, hands him the package.

PACKAGE MAN
20 minutes or less. Here you go.
19 minutes and 45 seconds. Company promise kept! Thanks for shopping with "20 Minute Delivery"!

RORY
Oh! Thank you! That was... quick.

EUGENE
What?

PACKAGE MAN
I work in delivery. Don't want to get fired. My world depends on it. Appreciate your help here. Have a good one!

Package Man runs out of Rory's house.

Eugene stands on Rory's now broken door.

Rory furious, Eugene stunned.

They stare at each other while the sound of motor is heard from Package Man driving away. The awkwardness can be felt in the air.

EUGENE
You know... your door needed a do-over anyways...

CUT TO:

INT. EUGENE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eugene sits on a couch, holds a phone. He dials a number, puts it at his ear.

UPS CUSTOMER SERVICE
(through phone)
Hello?
EUGENE
Yes! I'd like to file a complaint!
One of your employees busted a door.

UPS CUSTOMER SERVICE
Do you have any photographic evidence, sir?

EUGENE
What?

UPS CUSTOMER SERVICE
Any photos, videos of the employee damaging your property?

EUGENE
Umm... No?

UPS CUSTOMER SERVICE
Then unfortunately I will not be able to assist you in this matter, sir.

Eugene frowns for some seconds, but then lights up.

CUT TO:

EXT. RORY'S HOUSE - DAY

Package Man is back, in uniform, knocking with a little package in his hand.

ELIZABETH (~50) walks up to him.

ELIZABETH
Sir? Is everything okay?

PACKAGE MAN
NO! EVERYTHING IS NOT OKAY!

Package Man looks onto the floor, turns to Elizabeth.

PACKAGE MAN (CONT'D)
Have you ever felt like it's just... over?

CUT TO BLACK:

Superimpose: 5 minutes later.

CUT TO:
EXT. RORY'S HOUSE - DAY

Elizabeth and Package Man are trying to bash the door open.

INT. RORY'S HOUSE - DAY

The door smashes open.

Inside sit Eugene and Rory on chairs. Between them stands a camera on a tripod.

Package Man comes in stunned and stares straight at the camera.

Elizabeth smiles.

    RORY
    (to Elizabeth) Thanks honey!

    EUGENE
    Well, look at that!

Package Man gets visibly scared. Eugene walks up to him.

    EUGENE (CONT'D)
    I believed in you. And you just ran away.

    PACKAGE MAN
    I'm sorry.
    (re: Rory)
    Sir! I will pay for your door!

    EUGENE
    We'll split it. It's 120 bucks.

Package Man takes out a wallet, goes over to Rory and hands him three 20 dollar bills.

Rory is surprised but accepts it.

    RORY
    Thank you, son!

Package Man, not scared anymore, smiles and nods.

Rory stands up.

    RORY (CONT'D)
    You know... I had a job just like you did back when I was younger.
    (MORE)
It didn't pay much nor was it very rewarding. But it fed the family and it was—well! It was my world!

Package Man nods.

You know what—

Rory takes out a key from his pocket, smiles and hands it to Package Man.

What's this?

It's so you don't have to crash open doors anymore. I own the hardware store around here. People have the same locks. This will unlock most doors.

Eugene and Elizabeth throw confused looks at Rory.

Sir! Thank you so much!

Rory smiles.

Package Man takes the key and leaves.

Have a blessed day!

All three stare at the door.

Beat.

Honey.

Yeah.

What the fuck did you just do?

Rory turns around to Elizabeth and Eugene.

Oh well I thought I'd do the kid a favor.
EUGENE
You have a key that can unlock all the locks you sell?

RORY
Many hardware store owners have one.

ELIZABETH
But why would you give it to a stranger.

RORY
He ain't a stranger anymore! Look how he paid me back!

Rory holds up the three 20 dollar bills. Elizabeth rolls her eyes.

ELIZABETH
(to Eugene)
What company is he from by the way?

EUGENE
His uniform said UPS.

RORY
I didn't even know UPS does these '20 minute or less' guarantees now! So cool!

ELIZABETH
I don't think they do.

Eugene's phone makes a notification sound. He takes it out of his pocket and starts reading something.

He continues reading for several seconds.

EUGENE
Oh shit.

ELIZABETH
What?

Eugene turns his phone screen to Elizabeth and Rory.

It reads a text "Message from police department: UPS driver ambushed two days ago."

They all groan.
RORY
I should have known that he wasn't UPS! A package can't make it from Kentucky to New York in 20 minutes!

ELIZABETH
So how did he find out what you ordered?

RORY
Oh...

FLASHBACK:
Rory speaks into a phone he holds in his hands.

RORY (CONT'D)
Okay guys, before I leave you here, I am going to quickly order this sweet new R-2-11 train off Amazon. Can't wait to get it! Make sure to like and subscribe! See ya!

END OF FLASHBACK.

Elizabeth stares at Rory.

ELIZABETH
You livestreamed it? On YouTube?

EUGENE
Oh goodness...

RORY
I didn't know someone would use my videos for such nefarious purposes!

EUGENE
That's it. I'm getting a new locksmith!

ELIZABETH
(to Rory)
What would possibly compel you to reveal you purchasing a train to YouTube?

RORY
Well many model train fans across the globe, like me, enjoy to get updates on my collection!
ELIZABETH
Well, dear model train fanatic, you just gave a thief the key to the whole neighborhood!

EUGENE
What about the second time you ordered? Like just now? To get him to come here?

RORY
Oh that I tweeted out.

Elizabeth and Eugene groan.

RORY (CONT'D)
Why would he even chose this neighborhood?

Elizabeth stares at the floor.

ELIZABETH
The new neighbors...

EUGENE
What?

ELIZABETH
The new neighbors that just moved in. They're millionaires.

RORY
Wait! That's it!

Eugene and Elizabeth turn to Rory.

RORY (CONT'D)
We know where he'll strike!

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT
Package Man approaches the door and quietly unlocks it with his key.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT
Package Man smiles and slowly enters the house.

POLICE OFFICER (O.V.)
Have you ever felt like it's just... over?

The lights turn on.
Package Man loses the smile, puts his hands behind his head and turns around to find a POLICE OFFICER in uniform, Eugene, Rory and Elizabeth smiling at him.

END.