

# **LITTLE BROWN BOX**

by

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

Jeena is rushing around getting ready for work. She opens the refrigerator to get her lunch and a jar of mayonnaise crashes to the floor, breaking.

JEENA

Shit! No time for this.

She leaves the mess and dashes out the door, down the stairs to her car.

EXT. NEWSPAPER STAND - DAY

Jeena greets Joe, the 60-something proprietor who has her morning newspaper ready.

JEENA

Hey Joe. In a rush today, running late. Thanks for saving the paper for me. You know Joan!

JOE

Sure thing, darlin'. It's a beautiful day and I am thanking all the pretty ladies.

He points to a display of small wrapped boxes, each with a rose attached.

JOE

Pick one.

Jeena looks over the choices. She notices a box with a plain brown wrapper with three tea roses attached. She chooses that one.

JEENA

Aw, Joe. This is great. I'll take this little guy. Feeling plain brown wrapper today.

She gets in her car and heads for work.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A dozen employees are busy at their desks tapping on computers and on the phones.

Joan Bennett the supervisor is in at her desk and sees Jeena come in.

JOAN

She raps on her glass office to get Jeena's attention.

You are late again. The expense report is due today and packages need to be checked in downstairs.

JEENA

Sorry. Had an accident..oh, never mind.

Jeena goes to her desk and gets settled. She places the plain brown box from the newsstand in her desk drawer. She looks at it and shakes her head.

(To herself): I picked the last box anyone would want. It's gonna be that kind of day.

She places the tea roses in a small vase and settles down to work.

Two desks over sits Charlie, Jeena's work pal. She walks over to Jeena's desk.

CHARLIE

Hey! Late again. You got a rip in your pants - did you know?

JEENA

Oh, no. I rushed down the stairs. Must have caught it on something. Hell of a morning.

CHARLIE

Well, Joan is a barker today. Mad about the layoffs that are coming. Automation is going to get us. And watch out for Katrina. She's after your job. She actually wants to do the expense reports.

JEENA

Yeah, so she can flirt with JJ when he asks about it.

CHARLIE

I know. (Goes back to her desk).

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Jeena is still working on the expense report. It is not going well.

JOAN

Have you finished the report? JJ is waiting for it.

JEENA

No. Some of the expense forms weren't filled out right by the salesmen.

JOAN

I don't need excuses. Get it done.

JEENA

I'm trying. Still waiting for  
Travis. I called him twice.

JOAN

Call him again. Report is done  
before you leave or you stay.

Jeena continues working on the expense report and finally has a draft version done. She needs to double check it before sending it to JJ.

Katrina comes to her desk.

KATRINA

(Inpatient and annoyed). Jeena, you  
have packages that need to be  
checked in at the front. What are  
you waiting for?

JEENA

I didn't know. Don't get snippy. I  
will go right now.

She leaves her desk. The computer is on. Katrina goes over to the computer and sends the unchecked expense report to JJ.

Jeena comes back to her desk and has no idea what Katrina has done.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Joan and JJ are discussing the expense report which is incomplete.

JOAN

I told her she had to finish this  
by 5 or she would stay to finish  
it.

JJ

Well, it is not complete and I am  
disappointed. What happened?

JOAN

She said the guys didn't do their  
paperwork or turn it in. I don't  
know. She is spacey sometimes.

Joan shakes her head and leaves.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

Jeena is standing in front of his desk. She looks confused.

JJ

You sent me this incomplete report.  
Sloppy.

JEEENA

I did not send that report. It wasn't ready. I was sent to the front to log in packages. I thought I would be right back and didn't shut the computer off.

KYLE smooths out his shirt and adjusts his glasses. He raps on the office glass.

KYLE

I saw Katrina at your computer. I wondered what she was doing there.

JEENA

Did she send a file to JJ?

KYLE

How am I supposed to know? She was at your computer - that's all.

JJ asks Katrina to come into the office.

JJ

Katrina, were you at Jeena's desk? Did you touch her computer.

KATRINA

Huh...what. Uh, what is this?

KYLE

I saw you at Jeena's desk typing on her computer. Don't deny it.

KATRINA

I saw a report on the screen and thought it was ready to go. I wanted to be efficient. Jeena left her desk with the report wide open.

JJ

Okay, so you sent an incomplete report to be "helpful"?

KATRINA

Well, yeah, I guess so.

JJ shakes his head. He sends them all back to their desks.

He summons Joan.

JJ

We cannot have people messing with each others computers. This is a violation. Katrina is suspended for a week.

INT - OFFICE - END of WORK DAY

Jeena sighs and puts her head in her hands. She is tired and feels betrayed. She remembers the brown box from Joe. She retrieves it out of the drawer and opens it.

Inside is a lottery ticket and a ruby necklace. She cradles the necklace gingerly in her hands and admires how the light catches the red stone.

She scratches the lottery ticket and sees she has won \$10,000.

JEENA:

OMG. I picked the right box, not the last one I could have chosen. Not such a bad day after all.

She packs her tote bag and walks toward the front door to leave. She sees Katrina and Joan in JJ's office. Katrina is pale. Joan is red-faced.

JEENA

(to herself). I think I will let Katrina do the expense reports from now on.

She steps out into the late afternoon light.

EXT. - LATER - JOE'S NEWSSTAND

JOE

Here she is. How was your day, darlin'?

He notes that Jeena looks radiantly happy. She winks.

JEENA:

You played a trick on me. I picked the ugliest box. You'll never guess what happened!

JOE

Uh, no, I won't. Huh?

JEENA:

You put the ruby necklace in the box that no one but me would pick. I love it Joe. And, I won \$10,000 on the scratch. I'm buying you supper.

Joe nods and smiles as he closes the newsstand down for the day.

END