

'EXPENSIVE GIFTS'

Written by:

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INT. VAN - DAY

Three men are on the floor of the van. Each one, all dressed in black with a ski mask covering their faces.

In the centre of the floor several large duffel bags.

They sit around them.

OLIVER, 60, is the first to remove his ski mask. Smiling he pumps a fist into the air celebrating.

OLIVER

You see. You listen to me, I make you rich.

He reaches out to the bags. He unzips a couple for a look. They're stuffed full of money.

He runs his hands over them. Just want to touch. JOHN, 30, and CARL, 19, remove their ski masks next. Both hot and sweaty.

JOHN

We should hit another. That was too easy.

OLIVER

Only because you left all the planning to me. And did what I said.

CARL

We need a place to hide.

JOHN

Well, I say we go to another one. Do the same thing and get more.

OLIVER

This is enough for now. You two just need to continue being smart. Like me.

Oliver zips the bags back closed. All three men continue to look down at the bags. Can't help but smile.

CARL

The cops are the next question.

Oliver looks up at him.

Carl gives him a sideways glance. He shouldn't even have to

say.

CARL

What are you going to do about them? They're going to come straight for you. We might have done this job clean. No evidence. But it's still going to have your stink on it. I want you to be as nervous as I am.

JOHN

Forget nervous. We're loaded.

CARL

I'm not going through all of this just to lose it all. What are you going to do now?

Oliver grins.

OLIVER

Of course, the cops are going to come for me, and I'm going to hide the money right in plain sight. They're going to see it and not even know.

JOHN

Give me the money and I'll bury it.

CARL

We each take out share and never see each other again.

OLIVER

Boy's relax. I'm in charge. The money stays with me. Let the heat die down. I've planned this all out. I'm the smartest. So just leave the thinking to me.

All three men return to staring at the bags. Stolen cash. it's there's. All smiling happily.

EXT. ELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Oliver has one of those duffel bags from the van. He drops it down on the ground beside him. He knocks on and rings the bell. With a knowing, confident smile. He waits.

ELLE, 35, answer the door. Instantly, there are tears.

ELLE
Dad. You're out.

She wraps her arms around him. And they hug.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Oliver stands at the head of the long oak table. The kitchen is cute. Country style.

Elle sits close to him. Now joined by FRANK, 40. JACK, 8 and BETH, 6. They all look at him with either love, suspicion or surprise.

Frank leans back in his chair. His eyes narrow. He's the one with suspicion.

FRANK
We've not seen you for years. And now you just turn up unannounced. What gives? What do you want?

Elle reaches over. Slaps Frank across the arm.

ELLE
Don't talk to my dad like that.

OLIVER
Well, you see Frank. I've only just got out of prison a couple of days ago. I didn't know who to call. I just knew that I wanted to see my family.

ELLE
Well, we're glad you're here.

Elle gestures to the children.

ELLE
They've both grown a lot since you last saw them.

JACK
I don't wear nappies anymore. That was mum's idea. Not mine.

Oliver smiles and nods.

BETH
And I don't remember you at all.

FRANK

Properly for the best. He never stays
around for long.

Elle shoots Frank a look. Staring daggers.

Oliver places the duffel bag down. Places it into the centre
of the table. He unzips it.

OLIVER

I brought gifts for everyone. No need
to get jealous. They're all the same
amount. I've got a friend in the
jewellery business. No more than a
couple hundred each.

A gold watch each for Frank and Jack. Two diamond necklaces
for Elle and Beth.

These items are clearly worth a hell of a lot more than he
says they are.

They shine and sparkle. They're the real things. Everyone is
blown away. Impressed. Put them on. Except for Frank. Who
can't shake the feeling of suspicion?

FRANK

Are you going now?

Oliver shakes his head.

OLIVER

I'd like to reconnect with my family.
If I can?

Elle, Jack and Beth all stand up. They come over to Oliver.
Wearing their gifts. They hug him.

ELLE

Don't listen to him. You can stay for
as long as you want to.

Oliver smiles. happy to hear it.

EXT. ELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Frank and Elle stand in the open doorway. Wearing their
gifts. They watch as two uniformed police officers. Men.
Approch.

FRANK

Oh great. He's brought some friends along.

ELLE

You don't know that my dad has done anything. I trust him. That should be enough.

FRANK

Well, it's not.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Oliver sits at the table. The two police officers stand over him. Their hands on their batons. Their handcuffs. Ready to take him down. At any moment.

OLIVER

I hope I've answered all your questions. I hate to sound like a know it all. But I kind of am.

POLICE OFFICER

So you're telling us you don't know anything?

OLIVER

You can search me. Monitor me. Interrogate me. I have no money. I've only just got out of prison. I'm many things but I'm not stupid.

POLICE OFFICER

Well, you're a person of interest. So you will be seeing us again.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Oliver steps out of the kitchen. Walks through the hallway with a happy smile.

Frank suddenly appears. Grabs a hold of Oliver and slams him up against the wall. Keeps a hold of him. Won't let go. Too strong for Oliver to try and free himself either.

FRANK

You best tell me the truth about those gifts right now. Because I know you're lying. You keep telling me how smart you are. Prove it. Tell me the truth.

Oliver swallows hard. He knows he's beat.

OLIVER

Altogether. The gifts I gave you add up to about half a million.

Frank is stunned.

FRANK

Why?

OLIVER

I need to hide some money. Bank job. I know the police would come for me. Which they did. I couldn't put the money anywhere. They'd find it. If I hide it, they'd find it. Gave it to someone to keep safe, they'd lose it. So I gave it to my family.

FRANK

Jewellery?

OLIVER

Easy to sell. It's not stolen money anymore. It's someone else's.

FRANK

And your plan?

OLIVER

When the heat was over. The coast clear. I would wait for you all to fall asleep. I was going to steal the jewellery from you and sell it. Disappearing into the night.

Frank lets go of him. Takes a step back. Shakes his head. Sad.

FRANK

You'll break Elle's heart.

OLIVER

This is who I am.

FRANK

It doesn't have to be.

Oliver smiles.

OLIVER
Do you really believe that?

FRANK
Elle believes it. So I have to try and believes it too. You can change and live here with us. With your family.

OLIVER
I can't.

FRANK
Can't or won't?

OLIVER
I'm too old to become someone new.

FRANK
That's sad.

OLIVER
So what are you going to do? Call the police?

FRANK
I'm not going to do anything. I won't even stop you from stealing the gifts back. If that's really what you want to do. I just hope you won't.

Oliver's confused.

OLIVER
Why?

Frank walks away from him. Keeps his back to him.

FRANK
It's what Elle would want me to do.

EXT. ELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A van pulls up quietly outside the front of the house.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

John and Carl sit in the front of the van. The engine running. Flash its lights.

The curtains move. Oliver appears at the window. He holds up a hand to them. A signal. They stop flashing their lights.

Turn the engine off.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - ELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Oliver slowly creeps inside the room. The floorboards creak. He gets to the side of the bed. Silent. He clears his throat. Elle and Frank both wake up.

Elle is shocked to see him. Frank isn't.

OLIVER

I'm sorry. I can't stay.

ELLE

Dad?

OLIVER

I like to think that I'm so smart. But I'll never understand why you love me as much as you do.

ELLE

Dad, stay.

OLIVER

I can't. Sell the gifts I gave you. Live like royalty. At least for a few years.

ELLE

You don't have to go.

Oliver nods. Turns his focus to Frank.

OLIVER

I've been bad again. But I'm going to keep you safe. And to do that I've got to go.

ELLE

Dad no.

Elle goes to get out of bed. Frank reaches over. Holds her. Keeps her where she is.

Oliver kisses Elle's head.

OLIVER

I love you. And I'll see you as soon as I can.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Oliver takes out his phone. Makes a call. Slips out the back.

EXT. ELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Those same two uniformed police officers appear on either side of the van. Handcuffs at the ready. They rip open the doors. Arresting both of them indie.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

A quiet, empty street. Oliver walks alone. He's got away. He smiles to himself. Then laughs.

He pulls back his sleeve to reveal the shiny, pure gold watch. The one he had brought for Frank. He's got it for himself.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END