

The Present

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

PETER is talking to RACHEL on the phone in the driver's seat of his car. He's wearing a collared t-shirt. A backpack is in the passenger seat.

PETER

We're still on for 3:00, right?

RACHEL

(through the phone)

Of course.

PETER

Great, great.

RACHEL

(through the phone)

You'll be there?

PETER

Don't worry, Rachel. I wouldn't miss our first date anniversary for the world. I got a gift for you too...

RACHEL

(through the phone)

Aw, you did?

PETER

Yep. Trust me, you're gonna love it. I'll see you there.

RACHEL

See you.

Peter hangs up. He looks over at his bag, then moves it over to check the water bottle pocket. It's empty. A confused look crosses Peter's face. He turns to look through the backseat, then looks through the front. His confused expression remains.

PETER

(to himself)

Where'd it go?

INT. HOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Peter enters his house's kitchen and begins looking around. His MOM is in the living room, putting running shoes on.

PETER

Hey Mom.

MOM

(looks up)

Yeah?

PETER

Have you seen the Rogue figure?

Peter opens the cabinets on the right of the sink. Paper plates, some plastic utensils. Nothing.

MOM (O.S.)

I thought you had it. Can't you give her another one of your figures?

PETER

It would mean a lot to Rachel if I gave this one to her. Her collection, y'know? And I know I took it out of my room.

He checks the ceramic and plastic plate cabinet on the other side. Nothing.

PETER (CONT'D)

(pauses)

I'll check there again anyway. See you later.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Peter enters his room on the second floor. On his desk are three Funko Pop figures; Stan Lee, FFH Spider-Man, and movie Wolverine. There's a space where another would go next to Wolverine. Peter's gaze stops at it.

PETER

Where are you, Rogue?

He turns, and notices something on his bed. He walks over and picks it up. It's a Polaroid photo of someone holding the Rogue figure as she looks in the movies. A look of revelation crosses Peter's face.

PETER (CONT'D)
(shouting, mad)

TOM!

INT. HOUSE GREEN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

TOM, Peter's brother, is sitting on the green room couch. He gives off the impression of being a semi-frequent troublemaker. Peter is sitting across from him with a serious look on his face. A table is between them. The other three Funko Pop figures are on Peter's side of the table, facing Tom as if they're also interrogating him.

TOM
Come on, Peter. What makes you think your own brother would do this?

PETER
(dead serious)
You serious? You've been doing jokes like this for years. This is the exact sort of thing you'd do.

TOM
(defensive)
But I didn't do it! I know how important this anniversary is to you. If I was gonna pull something, I would've certainly done it before today.

Peter puts the photo of the Rogue figure on the table and slides it over to Tom.

PETER
Then explain this. I found it in my room.

Tom looks at it.

PETER (CONT'D) (O.S.)
And I know you got that Polaroid camera last Christmas.

TOM
(scoffs)
This was when I was home alone last week. I just thought Rogue looked cool.

PETER
(accusingly)
Motive.

TOM
Hey, Rachel's wanted the Rogue figure for her collection for a while, and you should give yours to her. When you told me you were going to, I thought I'd give this to you so you could remember it after you give it to her. I was gonna tell you today after your anniversary date.

Peter's suspicious look lessens.

PETER
I sort of believe you. But I still think you know where it is.

TOM
Oh, I do.

PETER
I knew you did. Where is it?

TOM
Tell you what...

Tom turns over the Polaroid, takes out a pencil, and starts writing on the back of it.

TOM (CONT'D)
It's 2:43 now. If you can solve a riddle I set up beforehand for something else before 3, you'll find Rogue.

He slides it over to Peter, who picks it up and reads it. It's a riddle that reads "If it's Rogue ye seek, a lead's under the sink".

PETER
Or you could just tell me.

Tom shakes his head, gets up, and leaves the room.

PETER (CONT'D)
(rolls eyes)
Fine.

He gets up.

MONTAGE - SOLVING THE RIDDLE

- Peter opens the cabinet under the sink. Another note is there. Peter takes it, reads it, then rushes off.

- Peter looks under the living room couch. Another note. Peter reads it and rushes off again.

- Peter swings back the shower curtain in the upstairs bathroom. The note reads "Thine search is nearly over. Check behind thine open door".

INT. PETER'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Peter enters his room, to which the door is open. He closes the door and looks at the floor. A look of surprise and happiness crosses his face. He kneels down and picks up the Rogue figure from the floor.

PETER

Oh, that's right, I hit the door
on my way out.

He stands up.

PETER (CONT'D)

(to Tom)

Hey Dr. Evil! I found it!

TOM

I told ye! Now go, and meet thy
beloved!

Peter scoffs at this and leaves his room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Peter's phone dings. As he stops at the stairs, he takes it out.

INSERT PHONE

It's 2:46.

Recent text from RACHEL: Heading out?

Current text from PETER: OMW + gift *excited face emoji*

Current text from RACHEL: *smiley face emoji*

Peter smiles and heads downstairs.

FADE OUT.