

NO PEEKING

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. GIFT ROOM - EVENING

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An un-peopled family room, with sounds of socializing in the next room. Dishes chinking, children laughing, adults gossiping, the usual atmosphere of a large family party.

A Christmas tree stands in the corner of the room, which has been decorated with lights, ribbon, and an inordinate amount of homemade ornaments.

Under, around, and near the tree, there are mountains of Christmas presents, which seem to be gathered in groups.

A door opens, and in sneaks JOY (11) and FLORA (9). They close the door carefully and Flora listens at the door. Joy scans the names on the gifts.

They hear footsteps.

JOY
Quick, into the closet.

FLORA
Joy, please don't make me.

JOY
Just until they leave.

Joy shoves Flora into the closet.

The main door opens, and in creeps SHAWN (12), who takes a piece of candy from the nearby cany dish, then starts to go through the presents.

He looks at the names on the gifts, but moves them all around until he finds the one with the right name. He gently picks off the tape and peels back the paper.

SHAWN
Awesome.

He puts the gift to the side and looks for another. He starts to open one, when NADIA (11) enters, closing the door.

NADIA
What are you doing?

SHAWN
Get lost, Nadia.

NADIA
Okay. I think I'll get lost over to
your mom and tell her you were
peeking at your presents.

SHAWN
Do it. I dare you.

Nadia puts her hand on the doorknob and tries to turn it, but
it won't budge. She keeps twisting, but still nothing.

NADIA
We're stuck.

SHAWN
What? I thought Grandma was kidding
about the broken knob.

NADIA
(calling)
Mom! Dad!

SHAWN
None of the adults are worried
about where their kids are.

NADIA
My parents will be worried.
(calling)
Help, I'm trapped with my mortal
enemy!

SHAWN
Hey, chill! I'm not so happy about
it either.

NADIA
But what if we're trapped forever?!

SHAWN
Do you always break down like this
when something unexpected happens?

NADIA
I'm not breaking down!

SHAWN
Sure. What are you doing here
anyway?

NADIA
Grandma asked me to come organize
the presents.

SHAWN

She trusts you not to peek?

NADIA

Yes, because unlike you, I have character.

SHAWN

I have plenty of character.

NADIA

Bad character.

SHAWN

Character is character.

NADIA

(calling)

Ugh, help! I'm getting hungry!

SHAWN

We've been in here for two minutes. Why don't you just sit down and try not to be annoying. Here, have some candy.

He tosses the candy dish toward her. She thinks, takes the dish and starts eating.

NADIA

You want some?

SHAWN

Nah, I snuck some when we first came in.

NADIA

How come your so bad?

SHAWN

How come you're so good?

NADIA

I don't know. I guess I have no reason not to be.

SHAWN

That was a rhetorical question.

NADIA

My parents are nice and all, but sometimes I wish they would just back off and let me get into trouble now and again.

SHAWN
What?

NADIA
Nothing. I said nothing.

SHAWN
Nadia's got a little bad in her.

NADIA
So?

SHAWN
So, I had no idea you were sorta cool.

FLORA
(o.c.)
I can't breathe.

JOY
(o.c.)
Sh!

The closet doorknob jiggles, then out topples Joy and Flora.

JOY (CONT'D)
Flora!

FLORA
Fresh air!

Nadia goes to help Joy and Flora up.

NADIA
What are you doing in the closet?

FLORA
Hiding.

JOY
Spreading Christmas cheer.

SHAWN
(laughing)
So unoriginal!

JOY
Then why are you in here?

FLORA
Peeking might be unoriginal, but there's no shame in it.

Nadia laughs.

JOY

You say anything, Princess Perfect,
and I will poison all the candy in
your stocking.

Nadia looks away in discomfort, then notices the name on a
gift near her.

NADIA

Wait, your presents are over here
Shawn, why did you open that one?

FLORA

Isn't that one Nadia's?

SHAWN

No.

NADIA

You're trying to steal my gifts!

SHAWN

No I'm not.

JOY

That's illegal. She could report
you to the police.

NADIA

I'm telling your mom and my mom.

SHAWN

I wasn't trying to steal anything.

NADIA

Oh really?

SHAWN

Really. I was trying to make it
look like you were peeking.

NADIA

Why?

SHAWN

Then you would get into trouble for
once and we'd all watch you get
punished.

JOY

Brilliant.

NADIA

Well, I guess the joke is on you.

SHAWN
How?

NADIA
Because I was coming in here to
peek.

JOY
No way.

NADIA
Yes.

They all laugh. She offers everyone the candy dish and they
take a piece. There is a knock at the door.

ANNE
Shawn?

NADIA
Aunt Anne, it's me!

ANNE
Nadia? Is Shawn with you?

SHAWN
Yeah.

ANNE
Open the door, his mom is freaking
out.

NADIA
We can't open it, the door's
locked.

ANNE
(garbled)
It locks from the inside.

SHAWN
What?

ANNE
It locks from the inside! You guys
unlock it.

Joy shoves Flora back into the closet.

JOY
Don't say anything.

Joy goes into the closet and closes the door. Nadia unlocks
the door and opens it.

ANNE
Well, well, well, what are you two
doing in here?

SHAWN
Stealing.

NADIA
Peeking.

ANNE
What?

NADIA
Thanks, Anne!

Shawn and Nadia run off.

ANNE
You two better hope I don't catch
you again!

She looks around, peeks at the open present, then exits,
closing the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END