

# The Gift of Love

Steve Fogelman





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***We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!***

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THE GIFT OF LOVE

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CAST

ROZ: 50's to 60's, any ethnicity, active suburban retiree/housewife.

HOWARD: 50's to 60's, any ethnicity, Roz's husband, also active retiree.

Place

*ROZ and HOWARD's home.*

Time

*The present.*

THE GIFT OF LOVE

Setting: *A room in ROZ and HOWARD's suburban home.*

At Rise: *ROZ paces, speaking on her cellphone.*

ROZ: Sweetie, how many times do I have to tell you? I don't have any problem with the princess theme and neither does your father. It's a birthday party, right? We've been looking forward to it. We found a theme-appropriate gift I'm sure you'll all love. Oh. They just called? Well, screw them. More food for the rest of us, right? Don't give it another thought. There will be plenty of people to celebrate without them. I know. I know, but--What? You wait til--Oh, okay. That sounds—Okay, okay we'll pick it up. Right. Why go so far? Really? Why didn't you tell me? We need to start talking every day. You hear of these things but you never think--Did you talk to the manager? That's terrible, that's terrible. You should sue. Daddy knows lawyers. Well of course, not really, I just meant, it seems discriminatory...uhye...you'll just shop somewhere else. So what if it's five minutes farther? Their cinnamon rolls aren't the best in town. Exactly. And a few more milligrams of Lexipro. I know. Anything else? Ice, cups? You married a good man even if he forgot the cake. Whatever, he's a good man down deep. It's not easy for anyone. Yeah, okay. Well, if they close at one we have to leave now. Going over the bridge, the construction backup never ends. That's the price to pay for living in a growing metropolis. Yeah, yeah, he drives fine. Knee hurts a little but doctor says that's normal. It's the one thing he loves to talk about. Okay, sweetie. See you soon. *(she hangs up)* HOWARD! Howie, we have to leave right now. Sharon needs us to pick up the cake at the shopping center bakery, not the one by the house, and they close at one. I'll tell you about it in the car. So it's a little out of the way 'cause we have to cross the bridge. It's chocolate/chocolate so you're only allowed a thin slice til your numbers come down. It's very rich. Has some kind of pudding in the layers. Howard? I understand you're not thrilled going to a three-year-old's party, but this is just passive-aggressive trying to delay the inevitable. Howard!

*(HOWARD enters with a child's baseball glove)*

HOWARD: I'm here, I'm here.

ROZ: *(re: glove)* What did I just say three minutes ago? It's not theme-appropriate.

HOWARD: Roz, c'mon.

ROZ: I have two adorable princess costumes wrapped, loaded in the car. That's the theme.

HOWARD: So what's wrong with something extra?

ROZ: *(pause)* Put it down and let's go.

HOWARD: I think she'll like it.

ROZ: I explained everything. You want to sit down with Sharon and Lenny and have them explain to your face?

HOWARD: No.

ROZ: Of course not. Keep a little distance. Nothing wrong with that, Howard, really I can see how that's more comfortable. But I feel the situation may sink in faster if you hear things right from them. Hearing from your wife, it seems like somehow there's negotiating, like everything else we do. But there's none, Howard. It is the way it is. I told you what the therapist said: Now's not the time in this stage. So put the glove down and let's go. You can't have a birthday party without cake.

HOWARD: Roz, lots of girls play catch.

ROZ: But she didn't want a glove for her birthday. She wants dresses.

## **END OF FREEVIEW**

***You'll want to read and perform this show!***