



Proudly Presents

GIVING THANKS

WRITTEN BY GREGORY T. BURNS

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Characters:

Shelby Erickson, a newlywed

Donald Erickson, a newlywed

Mrs. Erickson, Donald's mother

Grandpa, Donald's grandfather

Mr. Erickson, Donald's father

Bubba, Donald's older brother

Corndog, the Erickson's pet

Scene One: Donald and Shelby Erickson's home

Shelby: Are you sure your family is okay with us coming to dinner?

Donald: Of course, they are dying to meet you. After all, we're married now.

Shelby: They aren't mad that we eloped?

Donald: No. At least, I don't think they're mad.

Shelby: I just can't help but think about your mother's wedding gift.

Donald: It was very thoughtful of her.

Shelby: She sent us used dish towels!

Donald: We're using them, aren't we?

Shelby: Who sends *used* dish towels for a wedding present?

Donald: She's getting older. She probably just got confused.

Shelby: The note said, "These are to wipe up the mess of a life you've made for my son."

Donald: (*Pause*) She has a weird sense of humor.

Shelby: That's not funny.

Donald: It's hysterical. Listen, don't worry about it. We've got a nine-hour drive ahead of us. We can talk about it in the car.

Shelby: Donald, would you do me a favor?

Donald: Of course, Sweetie, what is it?

Shelby: Would you lead me out to the garage and help me get into the car?

Donald: (*Teasing*) Why? Have you forgotten where it is?

Shelby: (*Afraid to tell him the truth*) No, I'm just feeling a little dizzy, that's all.

Donald: Sure. Here, take my hand. Remember, no matter what happens today—I love you, Shelby. It’s you and me against them today.

Shelby: (*Giggling*) You make it sound like a game of war.

Donald: (*Smiling, trying not to alarm her*) No, it’s just another Thanksgiving holiday with an atypical family of corn farmers.

Scene Two: Inside Donald’s car

Donald: (*Driving*) Are you still thinking about that wedding gift?

Shelby: I can’t get it out of my head. Donald, the dish towels had stains.

Donald: They were probably just my mom’s tears. She’s a nut. She might even be bipolar. It’s just like the time she gave one of my old girlfriends a gift card to Macy’s.

Shelby: Now, see. I would have appreciated a gift like that.

Donald: There was nothing on the card. She just took one of the gift cards near the register, stuck it in her purse and gave it to Jennifer for her birthday.

Shelby: That’s awful.

Donald: No, what’s awful is she wrote \$300 on the inside sleeve of the gift card. Jennifer picked out all of these items from the store. She was so excited. She spent nearly half a day trying to get the most out of that gift card.

Shelby: What happened?

Donald: She got to the register. The salesgirl rang up her purchases. Jennifer handed her the gift card, and she found out it had never been activated. Jennifer called my mother and wanted to know if she still had the receipt for the gift card. Mom told her there was nothing on the card.

Shelby: Just like that?

Donald: Mom told her that the \$300 was what she *would* have put on the card, if she had had the money.

Shelby: Well, I guess the *thought* was sweet.

Donald: Sweet? Are you kidding me? No way. Mom just wanted to see how Jennifer would react. My mother’s mean. Most of my family is crazy. They’re corn farmers from Iowa!