

GIFT & FRIENDSHIP

by Hau Nguyen

NATHAN (20), college student, does his homework outside. His friend, STEVEN, goes out, a water bottle on one hand and a coffee cup on the other, gives the water to NATHAN.

STEVEN
Hey, you need this?

NATHAN
(Appreciates)
Oh yeah, thanks STEVEN!

STEVEN
I'll be right back.

Phone VIBRATES. NATHAN picks up the phone. It is a group text from Tracy.

TRACY (V.O.)
(Excited)
Hey guys! So my birthday is gonna be at six tomorrow night. Can you guys come? It gonna be soo much fun! *kisses & party emoji*

NATHAN clears the message. Reveals lock screen picture of a group of friends. Tracy is the girl on the right side.

TRACY (CONT'D)
And guys, don't forget the gift!

A heavy heartbeat suddenly strikes NATHAN.

NATHAN anxiously stares at blank space.

NATHAN (V.O.)
(Low voice, Worried)
I've been through this before.
Always an ordeal. Never been easy.

A rapid succession of the faces in the lockscreen with complaining VOICEOVERS: "Do you even know how to pick a gift, NATHAN?", "Ugh! So...Disappointed", "It's like you don't know us at all NATHAN!" *Groan*

STEVEN
(interrupts)
Groan I can't wait for Tracy's birthday tomorrow.
(beat)
Whatchu gonna get?

NATHAN
 (Yells at blank space)
 Not now STEVEN!

NATHAN gets up, zips his backpack. He walks fiercely towards his bike.

NATHAN (V.O.)
 Oh man, what should I get now?

NATHAN kicks the bike stand, turns the pedal, rings the bell.

2 EXT. STREET - DAY 2

Hits the pedestrian cross button. The button starts counting down **"wait...wait...wait.."**

NATHAN (CONT'D)
 (pondering)
 Man, I really need to fix this!
 What should I get? What should I-

A gasp of realization on NATHAN's face. **"...wait, go, start crossing - C'mon go!"**

Stoplight turns green.

CUT TO:

3 INT. ROOM - DAY 3

Doorknob turns. NATHAN enters. Phone DIALING.

INTERCUT with a girl on her phone. Both face each other, sprint their conversation.

ALICE
 What do you want?

NATHAN
 Alice! It's me NATHAN.

ALICE
 What do you want?

NATHAN
 Look, I'm really having a hard time
 and I need your help. Do you have a
 minute?

Alice clips her phone on her shoulder and continues what she was doing.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE (CONT'D)
I'm literally in the middle of
something right now.

NATHAN
Cool, could you help me find
something for Tracy?

ALICE
Groan Ugh, Not now Nathan!
(beat)
I'll call you back later, Bye!

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Wait-

Alice hangs up. NATHAN looks at his phone.

NATHAN
(Disappointed)
Dangit.

NATHAN rushes to his laptop, He opens Tracy facebook.

We see a post where Tracy wants her friends to organize a
road trip, we also see there is a picture of a bracelet that
Tracy wants to get. Nathan stares at the post, hesitates.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

4

Both hands holding a gift bag, NATHAN anxiously stares at
Tracy, she is 100 feet away, sits outside a coffee table,
does her homework.

Inside Nathan's head:

NATHAN (V.O.)
(Excited)
Hey Tracy. Here's your birthday
gift

TRACY (V.O.)
(Not Excited)
But my birthday is not until
tomorrow!

NATHAN (V.O.)
But I thought you like surprises?

(CONTINUED)

TRACY (V.O.)
 (Complaining)
 No! Who told you that?
 (beat)
 And is this the same bracelet that
 I posted on Facebook? I already got
 that! Why are you getting me
 another one? *Groan* Are you
 facebook stalking me? You're such a
 creep, Nathan!

A flashback to Nathan's lock screen picture. "Do you even know how to pick a gift Nathan?", "So disappointed!"

Nathan looks like he's almost faint because of the pressure that he brings to himself. A quick glance at Tracy.

CUT TO:

5 BLACK SCREEN

5

Voicemail tone *Beep*

NATHAN (V.O.)
 Hello, this is Nathan Wilson.
 Please leave me a message and I'll
 get back to you ASAP.

A DAY PASSES.

TRACY (V.O.)
 (concerned)
 Hey Nathan, just calling to make
 sure that you're fine. Where have
 you been? I didn't see you at the
 party yesterday. Anyway, can you
 call me back when you get this.
 Bye!

CUT TO:

6 EXT. HOUSE - DAWN

6

Tracy opens the door, there is no one, she looks down. There is a gift bag under her feet, Tracy picks it up. Inside there's a piece of paper: "*Friendship isn't about who gives you the best gift. It's about who spends the best time with you.*" She turns to the back of the paper "*Road trip?*"

Car honks. Tracy startles, her face lights up with a big smile. Excited as she sees her friends, she waves to the car. Nathan comes out of the car, he smiles at her. Tracy sees and smiles NATHAN, NATHAN smiles back.

CUT TO BLACK