

The Box Spoof

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Karen woke up one summer morning ready to hang out with her friends. All of them stayed close throughout high school and all kept near one another. They were all so close that they lived around the corner from one another.

Rashid, Tara and John all came over Karen's to pick her up to go to Torchwood exhibition, no one really wanted to go but Karen, but they were her friends and wanted to pretend to take an interest in what she wanted to do, so that they next time they wanted to do something she would feel obligated to go.

Karen started to fry herself eggs for breakfast when the trio barged in. She tried to remember the last time any of them ever knocked when they came over more importantly she tried to remember when any of those people got one of her house keys.

"You got a package." Rashid said lifting the package as if he were holding a pizza box.

"I wonder what it is." Tara said pulling out a tiny pocket knife she had on her key chain.

Karen started to wonder what prompted Tara to put a pocket knife on her key chain but was distracted by a more pressing thought.

"How are you just going to open a box that was on my door step?" she shouted.

"Why don't you want us to see what's in it?" Tara asked.

"Is it...is it sex?" John asked once he stopped digging in her food cabinets.

Everyone laughed at John's question because Karen was considered the most conservative of the bunch.

"No. I didn't order anything, I don't know what it is."

"Then let her rip." John gave Tara the word to continue to open the box.

Tara opened the box to reveal a peculiar looking device that had a button on the top of it with a glass case covering the top of the button.

"It's a button. Someone sent you a button Karen. What in the world would you do with a button?" Tara asked annoyed that it wasn't anything that she had any use for.

"I don't know. It must've went to the wrong house is there a return address or anything like that on it?" Karen asked as she started to eat her breakfast and joined the others.

"No. No note." Tara told her.

"Throw it away." Karen threw away the button and went on to the exhibition.

When she returned home with her friends she noticed that the box was no longer in the trash can outside of her house, but she didn't say anything.

After everyone was settled inside and started to watch television or eat someone knocked on the door. The knock was strange, the person knocked three times after each knock was a moment of pause before the next.

"I ain't answering that creepy ass knock." John announced.

"Rashid answer the door." Tara told Rashid.

"No, you answer it."

Karen figured since it was her house she should be the one to open it and when she did she gasped at the sight of the person on the other side of the door.

"I see you got my package." The visitor said.

John snickered like a fifteen year old because the man said package. Tara slapped him on the shoulder for being such a child.

"May I come in?"

Karen didn't know why but she let the man in, maybe it was because of the shock from seeing his face. But everyone else's reaction wasn't just a simple gasp like Karen's.

Tara, John and Rashid also got a good look at the visitor's face. "Holy shit dude, what happened to your face!" John shouted.

Part of the side of his face was missing as if it had been melted away. "It happened during an unfortunate accident. Now about this box."

Again John snickered, and Tara slapped him on his shoulder again, "What I can't help it, with words like package and box being thrown around I can't help myself."

The stranger continued to talk, "As I was saying, this item presents to you two choices. If you press the button, someone who you don't know, will die and you will be given a million tax free dollars."

"What happens if I don't press the button?" Karen asked.

"Nothing."

"Okay I'm cool with that, you can take your button back." Karen had made up her mind quickly.

"Don't you have any use for the million dollars?" the man was shocked by her response.

"Uh, yeah, but something's not right here, why don't you just take the million dollars and fix your face man?" John answered for Karen.

"That's okay I don't want to kill anyone." Karen refused the man's offer again.

"Well, to just think about it here's a hundred dollars." The man pushed the hundred dollars across the table.

"Wait, that's it only a hundred? That won't even cover her cable bill." Tara jumped in.

"Fine, then, three hundred, to think about my offer, you have twenty four hours." The man started to get up to leave after giving Karen the key to the box that opens up the case to the button.

John takes the key from the man and opens the box himself.

"What are you doing?" the man was shocked.

John pushed the button and looked at the stranger, "Where's my million dollars?"

The old man looked at John and shook his head, before he can answer Tara rushed over and pushed the button as well, "Does that mean I get a million dollars too?"

"It doesn't..." just as soon as the man started to answer Rashid pushed him out of the way and he too pushed the button. "That's three million dollars holmes pay up."

"As I was saying, it doesn't work like that!" the man said frustrated.

"So we just killed three people for nothing?" Tara asked putting her hands on her hips.

"No, the box needs to be programmed for you." Tara, Rashid and John looked at Karen who sat across from the box. They all went over grabbed her and tried to make her push the button. Karen struggled with them.

"No, stop, I don't want to push it."

"Hey, if we make her push it four times does that mean we get four million dollars?" Tara asked looking back at the confused man.

"No! That's ridiculous!" The man started to put on his hat and coat.

"You mean just as ridiculous as a button having the ability to kill someone?" John asked as they all gave up on making Karen press the button.

"Look," the old man cleared his throat, "If you force her to push the button it won't work either and no one gets a million dollars. I will return at five o'clock tomorrow to retrieve my box."

Again John laughed.

The old man started to leave when he suddenly got a phone call. "What? What's that? That's impossible. No, it, it can't be. Alright, I don't know yet, it's never happened before."

The man hung up the phone and turned to the group. "It would seem as if the box has malfunctioned and three people have died."

"Who'd we kill?" Tara asked with a disturbing grin on her face.

Before the old man could answer the news reporter came on the TV with breaking news. "This just in, three criminals on death row just dropped dead at the same time in different parts of the world."

"Awesome! We made a world a better place and at the same time we save some tax payers money!" Tara shouted and high fived John.

The news reporter continued, "Each of these inmates have all admitted to being rapists and murders who have no sense of remorse or anguish over what they've done altogether these men and one woman have killed over ten people."

"This is highly irregular!" The old man didn't know what to make of the situation.

"It's highly expensive pay us bitch!" Tara shouted.

"Bitch?" the old man said no one has ever spoken to him in that way. "Come with me and you'll get your money."

The entire group got into the car of the creepy old man and drove down to a NSA base. There they found a pool that seemed to move and have a life of it's own.

"Get in." The old man instructed.

"Uh, hell no." Karen told the man.

"I'm supposed to believe that our money is on the other side of this moving water? Do I look crazy to you." Tara said.

People started to converge around the four friends all of them had nose bleeds and were getting closer and closer to the four of them. John and Rashid starting punching people in the face while Tara took out her pocket knife and started to threaten to slash people.

Karen found a hole in the crowd and started to run away, "Come on!" she shouted.

"What about our money!" John shouted back.

"John, come on there is no money!" Karen shouted back.

The four went to Rashid's house and laid low for a few days. They figured it was time to get out of town since more and more people were beginning to drop dead after random incidents. They all packed up their belongings and moved out of Richmond and back to Philly. A year had passed by and they all began to talk about going back.

"Remember we used to live in Richmond?" John asked.

"Yeah, I remember something vaguely about that city." Tara spoke while.

Karen was back at work in the kitchen. "Do you think it's safe to go back?"

"Unless that guy with the melted face is still there with that water portal to hell." John quipped.

"We should send someone to check it out to see if he's still there." Rashid suggested.

"Sure, see you when you get back Rashid." John announced.

"I'm not going by myself." He snapped back.

Suddenly there was a strange three knocks on the door. Karen cautiously went to answer the door and she realized how stupid it was for her to once again get a door she can't look outside of before she answered it. She opened the door with all of her friends behind her and it was whom they feared, the man with half a face holding a box.

"Oh no! Not you four again! Out of all the places for me to go!" The familiar stranger complained.

"Don't yell at us, you're the one who reneged on paying us." John complained.

"Look, here's the hundred dollars you gave me a year ago, if you take it back will you leave us alone?" Karen asked.

"For now." the old man turned on his heel and went back into his car never to be seen again by the four friends.

"That is one creepy dude." Tara said to no one in particular.