

"The Gift"

by
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Based on Days of Our Lives

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INT. MARLENA'S CONDO: EARLY EVENING

Marlena is putting pictures taken at the DiMera cabin into the family photo album. As she picks the individual photos up, she lovingly touches the one with Sami and the twins until she puts it behind the plastic sheet. John walks in. She looks up and smiles.

MARLENA

How was it?

JOHN

Strange. Did I really start that company?

MARLENA

You loved Basic Black.

JOHN

(fixing himself a drink)
Hum?

MARLENA

What did you think of the changes Deanna made?

JOHN

(his tone is a mixture
of amusement and
annoyance)
Who hired her?

MARLENA

You did.

JOHN

I did?

MARLENA

Yes, you did. You liked her enthusiasm and her creative uniqueness.

JOHN

(sitting beside her on
the couch)
That's one way of putting it.
What are you doing?

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MARLENA

I picked up the pictures from our adventure. I miss them already. Do you think Lucas should have gone with them?

JOHN

He couldn't. He has to be here for the trial

(picking up a picture of him and Marlena)

I like this one of us.

MARLENA

It is nice.

JOHN

I want one for my new desk.

MARLENA

(giggling)

Do you really want your employees to see what we look like before breakfast?

JOHN

You're right. I'll scare them into quitting.

(kissing her neck)

But you my dear will force me to firing executives for lusting after my wife and not getting the job done.

MARLENA

You are so sweet.

Marlena closes the album and puts it on the table in front of them. An old piece of paper falls out. John picks it up.

JOHN

(opening it)

What's this?

There is a large two-story house drawn on the sheet of paper with big bay windows along with a floor plan.

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MARLENA
(looks over)
I remember that.

JOHN
What is it?

MARLENA
I drew that when Sami was
pregnant with Will.

JOHN
Why?

MARLENA
(sadly smiling)
I used to look over the fence at
Alice and Tom. They had their
children and grandchildren all
in the neat little package they
called home. I was so jealous.

JOHN
Your children had a good home.

MARLENA
Not like Tom and Alice. It was
always so stable and loving.
With their big back yard for the
children to play. The kitchen
always smelled like home. I
wanted to grow old in this house
with my soul mate just like
them.

JOHN
(teasing)
I heard Alice has always been a
fabulous cook.

MARLENA
What's that suppose to mean?

JOHN
(smirking)
(MORE)

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JOHN (cont'd)
That I like eating the food
Alice Horton as prepared.

MARLENA
Are you implying I'm not a good
cook?

JOHN
Naw! I would have said that
straight out.

Annoyed, Marlena starts to get off the couch. Laughing
John pulls her back and embraces her

MARLENA
So I'm just a sex kitten you.

JOHN
Yes. And my best friend. My
mentor. A wonderful mother. A
fabulous heal...just how long do
you want me to puff up your ego?

MARLENA
Just a little more.

JOHN
Okay.

They passionately kiss. Subtle, John takes the drawing
from her and tucks it away in his back pocket.

INT. BRADY PUB: AFTERNOON

The lunch rush is over. Caroline and the staff are
cleaning up. Steve and Kyle are just finishing lunch.
Hope and Bo walk in. Caroline greets them at the door
with a hug and a kiss.

CAROLINE
You late for lunch, but I can
find something for you.

BO
Ma, that's okay. We're meeting
John.

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Steve and Kayla over hear and join them. Caroline picks up the dirty dishes off the nearest table and carries them to the back.

STEVE
He called us too.

KYLA
He made it sound terribly important.

Marlena walks in time to hear her name

HOPE
Something about Marlena.

MARLENA
Should my ears be burning?

HOPE
John asked us to meet him here.

MARLENA
Me too. Anyone know what for?

STEVE
He didn't say. Don't you know?

MARLENA
No. I just got a message from him to get the pub as quick as possible. I wonder what's going on?

John proudly walks in.

BO
John. What's going on?

MARLENA
What's the big emergency?

JOHN
No, emergency. I just bought you want you wanted.

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STEVE

That's nice. But why do we all
have to be here.

JOHN

You're our friends. Right?

BO

(suspicious)
Why do you ask?

JOHN

I just wanted to share this
moment with you--our dear best
friends.

STEVE

Why do I get the feeling, I
should run like hell?

KAYLA

Stop!

MARLENA

You bought me something?

JOHN

(holding out a small
box)
I'm making your dream come true.

MARLENA

(taking the box)
What is it?

JOHN

Open it.

Marlena pulls the ribbon and takes off the lid. There
is a key inside.

MARLENA

A key?

JOHN

To your dream house.

(MORE)

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JOHN (cont'd)

(to the others)

We found the drawing Marlina made a long time ago. It was the house she wanted to grow in with her children and grand children--it's not exact, but it's really close. It even as the big backyard you wanted.

MARLENA

(kissing him)

Oh, John. Thank you.

KAYLA

How romantic?

STEVE

Don't get any ideas.

KAYLA

I already had them.

STEVE

Swell.

(to John)

So you gathered us her to make Bo and me look bad?

BO

It doesn't make me look bad. We have a backyard.

HOPE

With a lawn that needs to be mowed.

BO

Thanks John.

JOHN

(walking to stand
between Steven and Bo)

There was another reason I wanted you here.

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BO

Here it comes.

JOHN

The house is structurally fine.
But it needs a little work.

BO

A little work?

JOHN

But I'm going to fix it up. It
shouldn't take that long.

MARLENA

(snickering)

You're going to do home repair?

JOHN

Of course how hard can it be.
Little paint. A few nails.
Screw around a little.

MARLENA

You? Get real! You might not
remember your last repair
project but I do.

HOPE

Me too.

BO

Wasn't the fire department
involved?

JOHN

I don't remember that.

STEVE

Neither do I. Do tell.

MARLENA

(calling out to
Caroline)

Caroline, John is thinking about
home repair again.

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CAROLINE
(rushing to block the
doorway to the kitchen)
STAY AWAY FROM MY STOVE!

KAYLA
Is that how Mom got her new
stove?

Marlena nods.

JOHN
Fine.
(draping his arms over
Steve and Bo)
I'll get help.

STEVE
Don't look at me.

BO
I don't even know you.

KAYLA
No, really. Don't look at Steve.

HOPE
Marlena, I'll give you the
number of my handyman. He's
fabulous.

KAYLA
That's a good idea. You would
be better off

JOHN
Are you implying that the three
of us can't do home repair?

MARLENA
Could I have that number?

HOPE
Sure. Let me write it down. He's
name is Wilber. He's absolutely
wonderful. Quick. Does an
excellent job. Has a nice butt.

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Hope pulls out a pen and scrap paper from her purse; she writes down the name and phone number.

BO

Hey.

HOPE

Not as nice as yours.

STEVE

Sweetness, are you impugning--

KAYLA

Caroline, would you let Bo or Steve to fix anything?

CAROLINE

Only if I wanted to buy a new one.

BO

Ma?

CAROLINE

Don't Ma me. I still remember the toaster.

BO

I was a kid.

JOHN

Well, gentlemen. Are you going to just take that? Or are you going to stand up and prove you are manly men?

Bo and Steve look at each other. Hope hands Marlina the phone number. Marlina takes and smiles.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF NEW HOUSE: MID AFTERNOON

The house is old and has quite clearly been empty for a long while. The light filters through the dirt on the big bay windows. Dust and cobwebs are every where. The furniture is old. Some of it is broken. It is a money pit. Off stage the front door is heard opening and closing. Steven is laughing.

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STEVE
(off camera)
Dude, you were taken.

JOHN
(off camera)
It's not that bad.

BO
(off camera)
You're kidding? Didn't we just
get rid of one ghost. You
looking for another.

Stunned, Marlena walks in looking around. The others
follow. John is carrying a flashlight.

MARLENA
John, I love the thought.
Really.

KAYLA
The property is nice.

HOPE
It has a nice view.

JOHN
Use your imagination. It could
be just like your drawing.

STEVE
Wouldn't it be simpler just to
tear it down and start over?

JOHN
(proudly)
No. It has potential.

MARLENA
I love you John. Really. I do.

HOPE
Wilber has friends. Lots of
them.

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MARLENA

Good. I think we're going to need them.

JOHN

The foundation is solid. The electrical and plumbing are up to code.

BO

The code from 1950 what?

JOHN

It was inspected when it went back on the market a few months ago. I saw the report.

MARLENA

Maybe if we keep looking--

JOHN

I bought it. It's ours.

Horrified, Marlana looks around.

MARLENA

You did?

KAYLA

(to Steve)

Don't you even think about it?

STEVE

Me? Buy you a house without your permission? I like of sleeping in our bed.

JOHN

(walking toward the door)

Let me show you around. I have to turn the electricity first. The fuse box is downstairs.

BO

(puts out his hand for
(MORE)

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BO (cont'd)
the flashlight and John
gives it to him)
I'll do it.

HOPE
(worried)
Be careful.

BO
I'm just going downstairs.

KAYLA
Steve, go with him.

JOHN
The door is at the end of the
hallway on the left.

STEVE
(shaking his head)
Come on Beauregard. Let me hold
your hand so you don't get lost.

BO
Get away from me, you!

Bo and Steve walk out of the room

HOPE
Do you think it's safe.

JOHN
This house is as sound as the
dollar.

HOPE
With this economy, you couldn't
you have thought of a better
comparison?

INT. BASEMENT: MID AFTERNOON

Shining the flashlight around, Bo and Steve walk around,
looking for the fuse box. The basement is relatively
empty. There are a few old trucks, pots and jars.
There is also an old ladder in the corner.

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STEVE

I can't believe John bought this.

BO

I can't believe he conned us
into helping him fix it.

STEVE

You know this means war.

BO

Or at least a really good
payback.

STEVE

Did you see that look on
Marlena's face when we drove up?

BO

I thought she was going to have
a coronary right there.

JOHN

(off camera from above)
The house is fine. It just
needs a little TLC.

STEVE

TNT more like it.

KAYLA

(off camera from above)
Why such a big house?

JOHN

(off camera from above)
Marlena wanted a house that
would fit all the children and
grandchildren.

MARLENA

(off camera from above)
John, it was a fantasy.

JOHN

(off camera from above)
(MORE)

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JOHN (cont'd)
Carrie and Austin are expecting.
Eric and Brady will eventually
have families. And Sami--well,
she has litters.

Bo and Steve both wince.

BO
He's going regret saying that.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF NEW HOUSE: MID AFTERNOON

Hope walks to the doorway and looks down the hall.

HOPE
(worried)
Are you sure it's safe?

JOHN
Of course it is. See!

He bounces up and down on the floor in the middle of the
room. The floor squeaks.

MARLENA
John, please stop. You're
scaring me.

KAYLA
At least when he falls through,
Bo and Steve can pick him up.

HOPE
And you can treat him.

JOHN
(walking towards them)
There is nothing wrong with the
floor.

He takes a another step. The floor beneath him gives
way. He drops through the floor to his waist.

MARLENA
John!

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The three of them run to catch him before he falls all the way through.

INT. BASEMENT: MID AFTERNOON

Bo and Steve hear the loud crash as pieces of the floor fall in front of them. Bo shines the light on the ceiling. John's legs are dangling through the floor. They look at each other and smile. Bo holds his finger to his lips to keep Steve quiet. He hands him the flashlight and goes to get the ladder. They set up beneath John.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF THE NEW HOUSE: MID AFTERNOON

John is stuck in the floor with Hope and Marlana holding him up. They try pulling him up.

JOHN

Wait a minute. I'm caught.

INT. BASEMENT: MID AFTERNOON.

Bo is on the ladder holding on to John's pants, keeping him from being freed. Steve holds the flashlight and snickers.

INT. LIVING ROOM NEW HOUSE: MID AFTERNOON

MARLENA

Are you okay?

JOHN

I'm fine.

HOPE

The house is safe? Who told you that?

MARLENA

Help me pull him out.

Marlana and Hope pull try to pull him up by his arms.

JOHN

Wait a minute. Stop pulling.

(MORE)

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JOHN (cont'd)
My paints are caught. You pull
me up now and you'll get to see
a whole lot more of me.

KAYLA
I'm a doctor.

MARLENA
I've already seen it.

HOPE
Me too.

Marlena gives annoyed-I rather forget that incident look.

Sorry. But it's true.

INT. BASEMENT: MID AFTERNOON

Steve steps up on the back side of the ladder. He
reaches up and pinches John's leg as if something was
biting him. Bo quietly laughs

INT. LIVING ROOM OF THE NEW HOUSE: MID AFTERNOON

John suddenly gets a weird expression.

JOHN
(panicking)
Something's down there.

MARLENA
What you mean?

JOHN
Something bit me.

KAYLA
Something what? How hard?

HOPE
(looking toward the
door)
I smell a rat.

Hope gives the arm she is holding to Kayla and runs out

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of the room.

INT. BASEMENT: MID AFTERNOON

John's legs rapidly move in mid air. Bo and Steve dodge them why continue to pick at his legs. They snicker.

JOHN
(off camera)
Rats?

MARLENA
(off camera)
John? Kayla, help me get him up.

Steve hands Bo the flashlight. Reaching up, he sticks his hand up John's pant leg as if an animal was crawling up his leg.

JOHN
(off camera)
Quick pull me up!

KAYLA
(off camera)
Aren't you afraid of loosing
your pants?

JOHN
(off camera)
Right now I don't care. I'm not
alone in them!

Bo puts the flashlight down and grabs John's pant legs. The flashlight turns a little. The beam settles on Hope. For a moment, Bo and Steve are startled.

HOPE
(crossing her arms
across her chest)
What are you two adolescents
doing?

Steve motions for her to be quiet.

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BO
We're busted.

HOPE
(yelling to those
upstairs)
Don't worry. Kayla and I are
married to the rats.