

**The Perfect Gift**  
(a short film)

FADE IN -

**CONVERSATION SCENE (PT. 1)**

INT. LOUNGE (LAR OR STEM) - DAY

ALEX LOO is sitting by a table with his laptop. We can hear Christmas music playing. HADRIEN CHAN enters left and takes a seat next to ALEX. He gets ALEX's attention, who pauses his music.

[TEXT APPEARS: 10<sup>th</sup> December; 15 days till Christmas]

ALEX  
(annoyed) Oi, why do you need to disturb  
me la?

HADRIEN  
Bro, I need your help ok it's an emergency.

ALEX  
(puts down headphones) Ok, fine. What's up?

HADRIEN  
Ok so, you know how Christmas is like a  
few weeks away.

ALEX  
Yes...?

HADRIEN  
And, you're like my best friend right...?

ALEX  
(rolls eyes) Yeah sure...

HADRIEN  
Well... (sheepish) I need advice on what to get  
FAITH for Christmas...

ALEX is shocked and slaps HADRIEN's head. He winces in pain.

HADRIEN  
Ow! What was that for?

ALEX

Because you stupid la!

HADRIEN

I didn't do anything?!

ALEX

Ok you tell me. How long have you been together with FAITH so far?

HADRIEN

Uh, almost 5 years?

ALEX

And you still don't know how to buy a present for her? Your own girlfriend??

HADRIEN

I mean, it's our fifth Christmas together you know? So, it's like a big deal la! You get me?

ALEX

Ok ok fine. As your best friend of 10 years, I help you out with this one.

HADRIEN

Thanks la bro. You the best.

ALEX

(fist bump) Of course bro, I know. Anyway, have you tried to get hints from her?

HADRIEN

Duuuude... I've been trying, but...

CUT TO -

## **HINTING CUTAWAY**

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

FAITH WONG is working on her computer, she has one earphone in. HADRIEN approaches her (slyly) and tries to ask her what she wants for Christmas.

HADRIEN

Dear ah... I need your advice. So, one of my friends is trying to get a present for his girlfriend but he needs an opinion. Do you have any recommendations?

FAITH

Um... Something practical? Just make sure that it comes from the heart la.

HADRIEN is frustrated with her response. He tries again.

HADRIEN

Ooo I see... What about you dear? Is there anything that you want this Christmas?

FAITH

Na, I'm good.

HADRIEN gives up and falls back against the chair in defeat.

FAITH

I'm gonna use the washroom, watch over my stuff.

Once FAITH leaves, HADRIEN opens up her Amazon account, trying to see if she has anything in her wish list.

HADRIEN

Are you serious?? There's nothing??

CUT BACK TO -

## CONVERSATION SCENE (PT. 2)

INT. LAR OR STEM - DAY

HADRIEN

Do you see why I'm asking for your help?  
I'm doomed bro.

ALEX

Ok ok. Calm down; let's figure this out.  
Hm, do you have any ideas right now?

HADRIEN

Uh... Ok, what about shoes? Girls like shoes right?  
It's practical and stylish. Not too expensive not too-

ALEX

OI CHOI AH! You want to break the relationship is it?

HADRIEN

What?? What do you mean.

ALEX

Your mother never teach you ah? (HADRIEN shakes his head) Aiyoh... Old people say hoh, if you buy shoes for your girlfriend, it means that you want them to walk away from the relationship!

HADRIEN

Hah?? Serious ah? Um... ok... What about a watch?  
That's practical and the latest designs are super-

ALEX

CANNOT! If you buy her a watch, it means you're cursing the relationship to end faster!

HADRIEN

Huh?? What about flowers? Girls like flowers right?  
I special a bit, I give her white roses la.

ALEX

THAT ONE LAGI CANNOT BRO! You want to give her funeral present is it?

HADRIEN

Dude that's a lie for sure. (frustrated)  
What about a soft toy? Like a panda?

It's cute right?

ALEX

OI HALLO you really want her to die ah?  
Black and white are funeral colors!

HADRIEN

(increasingly frustrated) Uh... Playstation 4??

ALEX

WALAOOO you really want her to die??  
4 MEANS DEATH.

HADRIEN

UGHHHH. (he slams his head on the table)  
Alex ah, you lying to me is it?

ALEX

No bro, it's true man. It's all from the old, old  
Chinese people man. It's true. I won't lie to you.

HADRIEN

(he gets up) Fine, ok. Since all my ideas don't  
work, what do you think I should get her?

ALEX

Uhhh, actually hoh, I need to leave for class  
already. (hurriedly packs up stuff) You just uh,  
think from your heart la. They say it's the thought  
that counts right? Ok you settle la bye bye.

HADRIEN

But you said you would help...

HADRIEN watches as ALEX runs down the hallway. He flops back  
against the chair, now alone. He lets out a heavy sigh.

FADE TO BLACK -

## **ARGUMENT SCENE**

INT. FAITH'S ROOM - DAY

HADRIEN knocks on the door (CUT FROM BLACK). The door opens, it's FAITH, who just woke up.

FAITH  
(confused) Oh hey? What are you doing here?  
It's so early...

HADRIEN  
Your roommate let me in... Can I come in?

FAITH  
Yeah of course...

HADRIEN AND FAITH move to sit on the mattress.

FAITH  
So, what's up? (yawns)

HADRIEN  
Well, do you know what day it is?

FAITH  
Uhh... I don't know... Wednesday?

HADRIEN  
Yes... but, it's Christmas! And I got you something.

HADRIEN hands a wrapped box to FAITH.

HADRIEN  
Open it!

FAITH pulls the wrapper apart. A Canon DSLR camera is in the box.

HADRIEN  
Well... do you like it?

FAITH  
(monotone) Yeah... thanks love.

HADRIEN is shocked at FAITH's response. He stands up in anger.

HADRIEN

(frustrated) Seriously?! That's all you say?  
Do you know how much time and money to put in to  
getting this for you? Why can't you be more  
appreciative and-

FAITH

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE GIFT OKAY?

The anger on HADRIEN's face softens, leaving confusion and hurt.  
He sits back down on the mattress.

FAITH

I... I don't care about however much money  
you spend. All I wanted was to spend time  
with you...

FADE TO (WHITE) -

## **FLASHBACK SEQUENCE**

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

FAITH and HADRIEN are sitting on the couch. They're watching a movie.

FAITH (VO)

I know we've been together for five years but...  
I just feel like you're getting more distant...

FAITH is trying to strike up a conversation but HADRIEN is busy on his phone.

FAITH

Hey, how was work?

HADRIEN

(monotone) Fine.

FAITH

Um... I got a call back from the job interview  
I went to last week... I might be getting the job..

HADRIEN

(monotone) Oh. Grats.

FAITH is frustrated and (annoyed) turns her attention back to the movie. HADRIEN is still on his phone.

FADE TO (WHITE) -

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

FAITH just got home from work. She sits down on the couch and calls HADRIEN. [SPLIT SCREEN]

FAITH

(excited) Hi dear! Are you busy now?

HADRIEN is gaming with his friends. He is annoyed by the call.

HADRIEN

Yeah... Why?



FAITH

Well, I got promoted at work today!  
Do you want to go out and celebrate with me?  
I just got home from work and maybe we can grab  
dinner together tonight.

HADRIEN

(distracted) Um... I can't tonight. I'm gaming with  
the guys tonight.

FAITH

Oh... Could you postpone? This is a pretty big  
deal for me and I want to celebrate it with you-

HADRIEN

FAITH, can you not? Why can't you just give me some  
space? Jeez.

HADRIEN hangs up. We see FAITH is shock, hurting. She buries her  
head in her hands.

FADE TO -

## **RESOLUTION SCENE**

FAITH

I don't care about if you buy expensive gifts...  
I just want you to be here for me...

HADRIEN is shocked by FAITH's explanation. He looks at her as she has her head buried in her hands.

HADRIEN

(regretful) I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

He embraces her. The scene blurs.

[TEXT APPEARS: The best gift that you can give is being present.]

FADE TO BLACK.