

POORLY WRAPPED

A one-act play

By Tara Meddaugh

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When a beautiful woman walks into a local gift shop on a small island, the sales clerk is instantly smitten with her. Under this woman's "guidance," he goes to extreme lengths to make sure she is satisfied with her purchase. Yet as her demands increase, the sales clerk is torn between his duty to the shop and his growing lust of this stranger.

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LOCKING THE STORE

Setting: Clark is a young man in his late teens or twenties. He is the sales clerk at a gift shop on a small isolated island. Grace, a beautiful customer, has convinced him to give her a free disposable camera, and to wrap it with a roll of wrapping paper from his store. He is smitten with her, beyond rational thought, and does what she asks. He has been wrapping the camera for her, but has been distracted by her beauty.

CLARK

Grace, you're so beautiful. Maybe I should...look, it's almost five. I think maybe I'll just turn that sign over. Turn it over to say we're closed. Lock the door, maybe? Would that be alright with you? If I did that? I mean, just so we could make sure our time wasn't interrupted. You're so beautiful that I just couldn't, I just really wouldn't want it to be interrupted. You know? I mean, if someone walked through that door right now, I just, I just don't know what I'd do. What I'd be able to do. I just...

(moves to door)

I'm going to lock it. To say we're closed. No one will come here anyway. No one should. No one on this island stays out past 4:00. I'm mean, we're out. But that's us. We're different than all of them, aren't we? We're the two people who are different, and I'm going to keep the rest of them out.

(switches sign to say it's closed and locks door)

There. Locked. That feels good. I feel really good now that they're all closed out, and it's just me and you, and our time together, and my gift for you. And I'm just so glad—but you're so beautiful!—I'm so glad that you're not just my customer anymore. I know you want me to just keep wrapping this gift for you, but I think maybe I should take a break from the wrapping. Just for a little bit, okay? Because you're so...you're so beautiful that it's starting to really hurt me.

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To learn more about Tara's plays, visit www.tameddaugh.com.