

From 10 Ways to Survive the Holidays by Don Zolidis

SEEMA, any age, F

CHARLES, any age, M

Seema and Charles are exchanging gifts for the holidays.

Both of them are on their phones. Charles looks up.

CHARLES

What would you like for the holidays, sweetie?

SEEMA

Oh you don't have to get me anything.

CHARLES

Oh. Okay. Cool.

Goes back to his phone

Pause.

Seema watches him.

SEEMA

You didn't believe that, did you?

CHARLES

It's a real load off my plate. Thanks. There are some video games I'm saving up for – this way, if I don't have to spend money on you, I can get myself something I really want. Or – I just had an awesome idea – *you* could get me some video games.

SEEMA

What?

CHARLES

I made a list, and there are some QR codes to websites where you can find them.

He hands her a sheet of paper with QR codes on it.

SEEMA

You – made this?

CHARLES

I know. I like to put in the extra effort. I'm very thoughtful.

He goes back to his phone

SEEMA

So I'm supposed to get you all this stuff and you're not getting me anything?

CHARLES

Yeah I was surprised too.

Short pause.

Charles gets a small envelope.

CHARLES

All right, I was pretty stupid before. I realize that you actually want a present, even though you made it abundantly clear that you didn't want anything at all.

SEEMA

I don't know that I was *abundantly* clear.

CHARLES

I respect the heck out of you. Because you are independent. So I thought to myself: what can I get my bae to show her that I honor her independence? What kind of special, amazing gift could I get to show what an amazing, special person you are?

SEEMA

Aww.

CHARLES

So here.

He hands over the envelope.

SEEMA

Now I'm excited!

CHARLES

It's a pretty tremendous gift, I have to say.

SEEMA

I got you something too.

She hands him an envelope.

CHARLES

Is it everything from my list?

SEEMA

Not exactly. But close.

CHARLES

Is it a Lexus?

SEEMA

There is not a Lexus in the envelope.

CHARLES

There is a December to Remember sales event going on right now, you can get a Lexus for no money down. That's basically free.

SEEMA

I did not put a Lexus in the envelope.

CHARLES

It would be a pretty cool surprise if you did get me a car.

SEEMA

Okay, should we open them?

CHARLES

I hope you like it!

SEEMA

I hope you like yours!

Seema opens her envelope. She takes out a gift card for Target.

Oh. It's a gift card to Target.

CHARLES

Yeah! You can get anything with it! At Target. Toiletries, paper products, off-brand sunglasses. Granola bars. Dishware. Pretty much everything.

SEEMA

Wow.

CHARLES

And now let's see what you got me!

He excitedly opens up his envelope.

It's a gift card to Target.

It's a gift card to Target.

SEEMA

...yeah. It's very flexible.

CHARLES

Right.

I've been needing to get some cleaning supplies. Febreze.

SEEMA

Yeah. You could get Febreze.

CHARLES

So...

SEEMA

So...

CHARLES

How much is on this card?

SEEMA

Thirty dollars. How much is on the card you got me?

CHARLES

Twenty-five dollars.

Short pause

BOOM I WIN!

Charles walks off.