

Dear Somebody

by

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Address
Phone number

SCENE 1

We open in a house. An older woman is finishing reading a book to a little girl.

GRANDMA

Dillan the tiger ran to his mother and father. They had finally been reunited. Dillan cried and cried and cried and hi smother and father hugged him tighter and tighter and tighter. The family of tigers were finally together again. The End.

(The little girl begins to cry.)

What's the matter? The tiger was reunited with his parents.

SOMEBODY

But it took so long. His parents didn't even recognize him and now he... He has less time with them.

GRANDMA

(Hugging the little girl tightly.)

Shhh. It's okay. It's okay. Is this about Grandpa?

(The little girl nods)

Do you miss him?

(The little girl nods again)

It's okay to be sad. Especially if you lose something or someon every dear to you. But don't forget, my dear sweet granddaughter, if you stay sad about what you've lost you won't have any room in your heart for what you have. Just because Grandpa is gone from this world doesn't mean he is gone forever. He's watching over me, your mother, your father, and you everyday. Keeping us safe.

SOMEBODY

I wish he was still here. I miss his stories.

GRANDMA

(Smiling)

Perhap I can remedy that.

She gets up an dwalks over to pick up a small wooden box. She also grabs a piece of paper and a pencil.

GRANDMA CONT'D

Come here. I want to show you something. Now, write down a letter for Grandpa.

SOMEBODY

A letter?

GRANDMA

Just trust me dear.

The little girl writes out a letter.

SOMEBODY

Done.

GRANDMA

Okay now fold it up real tight. Tighter. Tighter. Good
Now put it in the box and close the lid.

*She places the letter in the box.
There is silence.*

SOMEBODY

Grandma?

GRANDMA

Shhh...

(There is a sound of a small bell.)

It's here.

*The little girl looks at Grandma
then at the box. She lifts the lid
and takes out an envelope.*

GRANDMA CONT'D

Who's it for?

SOMEBODY

It's... It's for me!

GRANDMA

Open it. What does it say?

*She opens the letter quickly. The
lights come up on the opposite side
of the stage to reveal Grandpa
sitting in the same house.*

GRANDPA

Well, well, well! If it isn't my favorite
Grandaughter! Hiya sweetie! Looks like Grandma's
showing you the special magic box. Well, what do you
think? Pretty cool huh? With this box you can write
letters to me and I'll get them in my time. If you
ever wanna hear one of my stories just let me know. I
love ya sweetheart! I always have and I always will!

*The little girl looks at Grandma
with excitement*

SOMEBODY

It's Grandpa!

GRANDMA

That's right! It's Grandpa!

But how?
SOMEBODY

GRANDMA
This box and it's siter over there are magical.

Magical?
SOMEBODY

GRANDMA
Magical. When you put something in this box here it travels 3 years into the past to it's siter over there.

A jingle is heard again. The little girl rushes over to the other box, opens it an dpulls out a letter.

It's from me!
SOMEBODY

Who is it for?
GRANDMA

It's for you.
SOMEBODY

GRANDMA
Um, why don't you let me read it first sweetheart?

SOMEBODY
I wanna see what I said.

She reads the letter excitedly. Her expression changes from happy to sad slowly as she reads. She begins to cry. Grandma rushes to her and hugs her. She then takes the letter and reads it.

SOMEBODY CONT'D
I don't want you to die, Grandma.

GRANDMA
It's okay sweetheart. It's okay. Everything is okay. I'm still here. I'm still here.

The lights fade to black.

SCENE 2

We are in an antique shop. Dillan walks in and the door jingles to signal his entrance. He nods to the shopkeeper and begins looking around.

SHOPKEEPER

Anything in particular you're looking for today?

DILLAN

Oh, well, I'm kind of looking for a box of some sorts to put some mail in and well, I thought maybe something that serves a purpose but also looks nice.

SHOPKEEPER

A box eh? Something for mail... I think... Over here I've got a couple good boxes for storing mail. This one here? No. Alright, how about this one? Really? This one? Wait!

(He pulls out the magic box)

This one.

DILLAN

Looks nice. Lots of space. I think... This is the one.

The shopkeeper walks over to the counter to ring him up.

SHOPKEEPER

Now I'll let you know I've heard a lot of stories about this box.

DILLAN

Oh yeah? Like what?

SHOPKEEPER

Some people say it's haunted.

DILLAN

A haunted box?

SHOPKEEPER

They're just stories but some people say the stuff they put in disappears.

DILLAN

Really?

SHOPKEEPER

Yeah which is why I'm only gonna charge you 99 cents for it.

Dillan hands him a dollar bill.

Thank you.

DILLAN

No, thank you. Enjoy the box. If you can.

SHOPKEEPER

SCENE 3

Dillan crosses over into his house on the other side of the stage. He places the box around the room in different spots before finding just the right spot. He leaves and the lights come up on the other side of the stage to reveal SOMEBODY in the attic of her home. She is older now. Around the same age as Dillan. She looks around the room.

Where are you?

SOMEBODY

She continues to search for something until she finds it. She rushes to a cardboard box and opens it. From inside she pulls out her Grandmother's box. She dusts it off and opens it. She dumps the contents out on to the floor. Tons of mail, toys, and other various items fall onto the floor.

Well, good to know someone is using your box for storage Grandma.

SOMEBODY

She stares at the box and rubs its lid. On the other side Dillan returns with mail. He places it in his box and closes the lid. A jingle is heard and SOMEBODY looks at the box in confusion. She opens it and takes out Dillan's letters. DILLAN meanwhile begins to walk away from his box but then backpeddles as he remembers he needs one of the letters. When he opens the box his letters are gone.

He looks around the space. He rubs his hands across the inside of the box.

There is a jingle.

DILLAN quickly turns to the box. He slowly approaches it and opens it. He takes out the letter and reads it.

Letters are read by one character while their respective writers speak what is being read by the other.

SOMEBODY

Dear Somebody, if you are reading this then you currently have my magic box. Please write back so we can discuss how you can return it as well as your payment.

DILLAN takes another look around. He then grabs a pen, writes something on the back of the same sheet and places it in the box.

A jingle plays

SOMEBODY takes the letter out of the box.

DILLAN

Dear Somebody, are you a ghost?

From here on out, actors alternate between reading and speaking what is being read by the other.

SOMEBODY

No, I am not a ghost.

DILLAN

What are you?

SOMEBODY

I'm human. I just want my box returned to me.

DILLAN

Dear Somebody, first off, I am very confused. How is this happening? One minute I put my letter in the box and the next thing I know it's gone and replaced with a letter from you. Is it some sort of new technology? Second, who are you and why do you want this box?

SOMEBODY

Dear Somebody, The phenomenon you are experiencing is a magical one. As for who I am and why I want the box I can't tell you. But I must get this box back from you.

DILLAN

Dear Somebody, I have so many questions. Why can't you tell me who you are? Why do you want this box? Where are you? Please. I need answers.

SOMEBODY

Dear Somebody, in order to get the answers you seek it will take some time. But I must ask, if I answer your questions will you return my box?

DILLAN

Dear Somebody, Yes. If my curiosity is satisfied I promise to return this box to you.

SOMEBODY paces around the space.

SOMEBODY

I will answer your questions.

DILLAN

Who are you?

SOMEBODY

I can't tell you that.

DILLAN

Why?

SOMEBODY

It is dangerous.

DILLAN

You promised.

There is a pause from SOMEBODY.

SOMEBODY

I am from three years into the future.

DILLAN pauses to take in the information.

DILLAN

Three years in the future? How is that possible?

SOMEBODY

The box, or boxes, we possess are what allow us to communicate. The box you possess has the ability to send anything placed inside it to it's sister box three years in the future. That sister box is the one I am currently utilizing to talk with you. My box, to complete the loop, sends things back three years into the past.

DILLAN

So there are actually two boxes and they are connected?

SOMEBODY

Yes.

DILLAN

If you really are three years in the future, then how do I give the box back to you? Would I have to wait three years?

SOMEBODY

Not you. Only the box. We will not meet in person.

DILLAN

Why?

SOMEBODY

Dangerous.

DILLAN

I won't hurt you.

SOMEBODY

Others have said the same.

There is a pause in the conversation.

DILLAN

How did you learn about the boxes?

SOMEBODY

My grandmother gave them to me when I was little. I used to use them to speak with my grandfather who had passed away. I wanted to hear his stories a little longer.

DILLAN

I'm sorry for your loss.

SOMEBODY

It was a long time ago.

DILLAN

So it is possible to speak to people who have already died?

SOMEBODY

Yes... But only if they had possession of the box during their life.

(DILLAN's urgency turns to disappointment.)

Was there someone you needed to speak to again?

Yes.

DILLAN

Who were they?

SOMEBODY

My wife.

DILLAN

How did she die?

SOMEBODY

She was sick.

DILLAN

I'm very sorry. I wish I could help.

SOMEBODY

Why do you want the boxes? Is there somebody you need to talk to?

DILLAN

Yes.

SOMEBODY

Who?

DILLAN

SOMEBODY hesitates to answer. Then she decides not to.

Can I please have my box back.

SOMEBODY

I apologize if things got too personal. How would you like my to return the box to you?

DILLAN

I will provide you an address. Please bury it in the front yard.

SOMEBODY

Why can't I just give it to you?

DILLAN

Because you never did, remember? I am three years in the future. What has happened has already happened. I can confirm nobody has given me the box you possess. But like Schrödinger's cat. I can't confirm whether the box is buried somewhere waiting for me to find it.

SOMEBODY

I see. What has happened is set in stone.

DILLAN

SOMEBODY

Exactly. There is no changing what has already happened.

DILLAN

Where do you want me to bury the box?

SOMEBODY

Please bury it at this address. Whoever you are, thank you.

*DILLAN takes the note from the box.
He shocked at what he reads.*

DILLAN

This address. Are you sure this is the place?

SOMEBODY

I am certain.

DILLAN

This is my home.

(Pause)

Dear Somebody, why this address?

Both wait patiently for replies from each other.

SOMEBODY

It's where I live. Where my husband and I live.

DILLAN

Dear Somebody, what is your name?

(No answer)

Dear Somebody, do I know you?

(No answer)

Dear Somebody, are you sure you are three years in the future?

(No answer)

SOMEBODY begins to panic as the lights go out on DILLAN's side.

DILLAN from SOMEBODIES time rushes upstairs.

DILLAN

Honey? Honey, what's the matter?

(He holds her tightly. She is breathing heavily after learning all that she has. He reaches for the letter)

Dear somebody?

(SOMEBODY snatches the letter from him.)

What's going on? Honey, are you alright?

SOMEBODY

Yes. I'm just... These are old... Old letters... From a friend. They live far away.

DILLAN

I see. Do you miss them?

SOMEBODY

Kind of... More like they miss me.

(They stare at each other for a moment)

Why don't you go downstairs. I'll be there in a minute. We can watch that movie you've been wanting to see.

DILLAN

I thought you were busy tonight?

SOMEBODY

I can make time for you. I can make time for you now.

There is a pause. Dillan knows something is wrong but he doesn't pry at it. He exits.

SOMEBODY begins writing on paper. This message will take some time. The lights fade on her.

The lights come up on DILLAN in the present.

A jingle is heard from the box. He takes the letter from the box and reads it.

SOMEBODY

Dear Dillan, if my theory is correct then it would seem there is no reason for you to return my box. It is already where I wanted it to be. It would appear it is me who is three years in the past. Not you. I've recently learned of my illness and decided I would have these boxes ready for you when you needed them. But now that the box has landed safely in your care, whether by chance or by some unseen power, it allows me to send you one last message. My dear husband, I love you so, so much. The times we spent together are all that we need. To have more than what life offers, I've learned from experience, only hurts more. I know the torture of being able to speak with someone but never touch them. Which is why this will be my last message, I could never do that to you. Live what life offers to the fullest. Goodbye my love. Sincerely..

There is a pause before she gets to finish.

...Somebody.

DILLAN

DILLAN sits in his space. He then suddenly grabs one last sheet and begins to write. It takes him some time. He then places it in the box. The light come up on SOMEBODIES side. There is a jingle from her box. She is hesitant to open it but eventually does. She takes the letter.

If they were in the same time it would be as though they were looking at each other.

SOMEBODY

Dear somebody...

DILLAN & SOMEBODY

I love you. Goodbye.