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The Gift: Who's Hungry?

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THE GIFT:
WHO'S HUNGRY?

STORY AND ART BY ERIN HEALY
IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN THIS SKYLINE, SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE MY BUILDING. SEVEN YEARS SINCE I HAVE SEEN MY PARENTS.

I HARDLY EVEN REMEMBER THE NORMAL DAYS, THE DAYS BEFORE THE GREAT COLLAPSE.

MOST PEOPLE LEFT RIGHT AWAY, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT THEIR FATE IS NOW...
WE OWE EVERYTHING WE HAVE TO ONE MAN, MR. ABBOTT. DESPITE LOSING HIS FAMILY IN THE COLLAPSE, HE HAS KEPT US FED AND ALIVE FOR SEVEN

WHEN THE FOOD SUPPLIES RAN OUT, HE DEVISED OUR SYSTEM OF GIFT-GIVING. BOTH MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN GIFTS. THEY SEND FOOD TO US EACH MONTH FROM THE SAFETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE REST OF US REMAINING WAIT TO EITHER BECOME THE NEXT GIVER OR KEEP SAFE IN OUR HOME.
PRESENT DAY

HOW IS IT THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BEAT YOU AT CHESS?

OK! OK, I GET IT. I AM TERRIBLE AT GAMES.

YOU'VE NEVER REALLY BEATEN ME AT ANY GAME. SCRABBLE, SORRY, TROUBLE, MONOPOLY...

OR MAYBE I AM JUST REALLY GOOD... CHECK MATE!

OR MAYBE I AM JUST EXTREMELY UNLUCKY...

I'LL GET IT!

TODAY IS THE DAY.
Hello kids, are you ready?

I think today is the day, sir.

Well, wouldn't that be exciting. To be chosen! To help out your community! You can only hope to be so lucky.

Hi, Mr. Abbott! I have a few questions about the giver...

Enough questions!!!

Where do people go if they are chosen?

Are they safe?

Can we all go there?

Why do we have to go on the scale?
LET'S MOVE ON. PELOPS, COME STEP ON THE SCALE. YOU MUST BE EATING WELL.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE! I AM VERY EXCITED TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST!

MY TURN!

IF YOU INSIST, THOUGH IT'S RATHER UNNECESSARY!

ONE HUNDRED FOUR. AS I THOUGHT, STILL 44 LBS AWAY.

BEFORE I LEAVE, I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, PELOPS.
I keep track of all the previous givers to remember them for their contribution to me and my family.

It's your family!

Take a look in this photo album.

Sally...

...Jed...

...and Mrs. Abbott!
That's right! And if you become our next giver, you will see your family again!

Goodbye Pelops, good luck tomorrow! It would be great to have you as our giver.

I hope to be so lucky!
THE NEXT DAY...

WHERE'S MR. ABBOTT?

I THINK I HEAR HIM COMING!

IT'S ALMOST TIME!

CREEAAAK

TAP TAP
WELCOME EVERYONE!

SAME DRILL AS ALWAYS. WHEN I DRAW YOUR NAME, PLEASE CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE.

THE LAST NAME CALLED WILL BE OUR NEXT GIVER!
EGAN!
ROBERTS!
SNYDER!
Sweeney!
MOORE!
JOHNSON!
JANES!
BURTON!
GILBERT!
KELLEY!
THREE LEFT...

---REYNOLDS!

---SAWYER!
WHICH MEANS OUR DONOR IS...

ME!
CONGRATS, PELOPS. YOU WILL DO GREAT.

FOR ONCE, I AM THE LUCKY ONE!

COME NOW, THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE. PEOPLE ARE GETTING HUNGRY!
HERE WE ARE! ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS GO THROUGH THOSE DOUBLE DOORS.

BUT WHAT DO I DO ON THE OTHER SIDE?

PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, OF COURSE! THE REST WILL BE VERY OBVIOUS.

GOOD BYE, PELOPS!
WHAT THE...?
MOM???

MR. ABBOTT!!!

MR. ABBOTT! LET ME OUT!

BANG BANG
MRS. ABBOTT? SALLY? JED?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

AHAAAAAA!
HELP!!!

WOOO!
GHHH!
THE END.