

# *The Gift*

by Dennis Durrett-Smith

*A very large gift-wrapped box is center stage. DAVID, enters and stops, seeing the package. He walks upstage of the box, muttering an enthusiastic "Whoa!", overwhelmed by its size and possibilities. He exits and rolls in a hand cart or dolly and starts to slide it underneath the back of the box.*

*Nicole quietly enters as DAVID shifts dolly to SL side of box to plan his moving of the box out the DSR entrance where NICOLE is entering. DAVID looks up and sees NICOLE for the first time.*

NICOLE: My van is just outside.

*DAVID looks at her strangely, reaches for the top of the box to tilt it back, ignoring her during this action.*

NICOLE: If you want, you could follow me and I could hold the door for you.

DAVID: I'm sorry; I think you might be in the wrong place.

NICOLE: No, this is room 25 and that must be my package, and you can follow me out to my van. I'm sorry you had to wait so long - - you see, I had to pick up my daughter from piano lessons and . . .

DAVID: Wait! Stop! You really must be in the wrong room. I'm here to pick up MY package in room 25. Maybe you have a package to pick up somewhere else, but this isn't it – this is mine *he pauses to see her wilt a little, but NICOLE still stands her ground between DAVID and the doorway* and . . . uh, I'm going to just, pick this up and . . .

MEGAN: *calls to someone outside the doorway* I'll be back in a minute! There's a really great gift waiting for me, and *she has turned and sees NICOLE and DAVID staring, frozen, at her.* Omigosh! It's really big, isn't it? Is there, well, somebody in charge here I'm supposed to thank or be nice to or something or can I just take it? *She looks at DAVID and then NICOLE, trying to get an answer from either one so she can grab the box.*

DAVID: I think you have both made a big mistake. *He removes the dolly from the side of the package and comes DS of package.* To begin with, I don't work here; I will NOT be helping you take this to your car because it's MY package and . . .

MEGAN: Whoa, stop! I got an invitation to pick up my gift in room 25 and this has to be it! *She goes to put her hands on it and NICOLE steps in front of her, takes her arm. ALL freeze as they hear loud singing coming from outside the door. ANTONIO barges in the door singing at the top of his lungs.*

ANTONIO: Hey!! That's it!! My gift!! Cool!!

DAVID: Oh, no . . .