

A script from



“A Surprising Letter”

by
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- What** Emily, an honor student, is waiting for College Admission letters and receives responses from her top three school choices on the same day. Her parents nervously wait for Emily to come home to read their contents, and a mysterious fourth letter that is addressed to Emily that's in a beautiful golden envelope with no return address. **Themes:** Graduation, Future, Plans, Dreams, College
- Who** Emily- a Senior in high school and her parents
John- Dad, mid-40's
Amy- Mom, mid-40's
- When** Present, in the days before graduation and awaiting College admission letters
- Wear
(Props)** Casual clothing
A simple set
Comfortable chair for John to read his newspaper
Coffee table
Four letters, one that is packaged in a beautiful gold envelope
Backpack with extra books
- Why** Proverbs 19:21
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational, being careful not to overact.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

John sits in his armchair, feet up, reading the newspaper. Amy stands nearby pacing, looking every once and awhile at the coffee table stacked with 4 letters.

John: Are you going to pace all afternoon? Sit down and relax. She'll be home any minute.

Amy: I still think we should open them. I could steam the seal with the kettle to loosen the adhesive, carefully pull the contents, read 'em, seal 'em back up and—

John: And ruin the surprise?

Amy: Or soften the blow.

John: Reading someone else's mail is a federal offense last time I checked.

Amy: She's been checking the mail twice a day to see if she'd hear back from schools and she gets three letters on the same day?

John: By my count, there's four letters for her there.

Amy: I just wanna know what they say. What do you think that other one is all about? It looks pretty fancy. And there's no return address.

John: Guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Amy: You can't feel as calm as you look.

John: I'm reading the news as a distraction.

Emily: *(Offstage)* Mom, Dad? I'm home.

Amy: Hey Emily! We're in the living room. There's a pile of mail waiting for you.

Emily walks in with a backpack and an extra pile of books. She plops it all down and stares at the coffee table and the letters.

John: Long day kiddo?

Emily: I stayed after practice to study for the big test. Wow. That's a lot of letters.

Amy: Two from out of state, one from close to home. Your top three schools.

Emily: They all arrived today?

Amy picks them up and leafs through them. She holds up a gold envelope that has a wax seal. It's heavy in her hand.

Amy: And there's this.

Emily: For me? It looks like something out of a storybook. Who's it from?

Amy: It doesn't say.

John puts the paper down.

John: Which one are you going to open first?

Emily: The shiny one, I think.

John: Good choice.

She breaks the seal open with her finger and pulls out a card. When she does, gold glitter falls out in a burst. Amy and Emily are taken aback in surprise. Emily quietly reads the note. She chuckles to herself then looks at her parents.

Amy: Well what does it say?

Emily: Really, Mom?

Amy: Yes really.

Emily: "Dearest Emily. A good old friend wrote me a letter and told me that soon you'll graduate and some big decisions are in your path ahead. So, he asked me to send some sage advice. Here it is: There are many plans in a person's mind, but it is the counsel of the Lord which will stand. With greatest respect, King Solomon."

Amy: Let me see that.

She gives her mother the letter. Amy scans it and looks at John.

Emily: The handwriting looks oddly familiar, Dad.

John: I thought it'd at least get your attention.

Amy: John, you jokester! You get to vacuum that up. How sweet of you!

John: Your mom and I are proud of you, Emily. You've worked so hard to get into good schools. We're all a little nervous and excited about your next step too, but we just want you to know that no matter what, God will accomplish his best plan for you.

We truly believe that if you scheme and you dream and devise plans for your future that are centered in the purposes of God, then they will be established.

Amy: This letter could've been addressed to me too.

John: It was for all of us. So just remember *that* as you open those letters, okay?

Amy: Which one are you going to open first?

Emily: All of them.

Emily hands a letter to John, one to Amy and holds one herself. She takes a deep breath. She nods at her parents.

They each tear at the envelopes and pull out the letters. They quickly scan the first paragraph and, one by one, look up at each other with big smiles.

Lights fade to end play.