

## “Graduation Gifts”

by  
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**What** As two friends graduate high school, they compare the gifts they received from their dads. One student's gift leaves her feeling unknown and unnoticed by her parents, while the other gift comes with a meaningful lesson.

**Themes:** High School, College, Teens, Student Ministry, Family, Growing up, Parents, Future, Wealth, Materialism

**Who** Bobby  
Sharon

**When** Present

**Wear (Props)** Both are wearing graduation gowns. Sharon has her cap on, but Bobby does not have one. They each hold a gift. Bobby has a card from his father.

**Why** Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 13:5

**How** Keep the dialogue conversational and be careful not to overact. Give yourself time to think through these character's lives, where they've been, and their different life experiences. What's their outlook on the future? Thinking through these things will help you know better how to deliver your lines and how to “carry” yourself as that character.

**Time** Approximately 4 minutes

*Bobby and Sharon enter from opposite sides of the stage dressed in their graduation robes.*

**Both:** *(adlibbing)* Hey! We made it! Can't believe it! Congratulations!

**Bobby:** What are you doing after this? I forgot to ask. Are you going anywhere?

**Sharon:** Oh yeah! Sylvia, Kim and Sooz and me, we're going to Maryland.

**Bobby:** Maryland?

**Sharon:** Yeah. Kim's father lives there on the Chesapeake Bay and he's got some incredible sailboat, sleeps 10 or something, I don't know. But we're going out on it for the week. Just sailing around, laying in the sun and dropping in on all these little places on the bay that Kim's been talking about. It's going to be great. Are you still doing the road trip?

**Bobby:** Absolutely! In two days, we'll be in Yosemite and climbing some of the most extreme walls in the world.

**Sharon:** I can't believe you're doing that. That is so dangerous.

**Bobby:** It's not like we're beginners.

**Sharon:** I know...but still. I don't want to lose you. I expect you to still be my friend when I'm old and gray.

**Bobby:** I'll be careful. It's gonna be great. We've been practicing for this for four years.

**Sharon:** So, what happens after you get back?

**Bobby:** Working with my dad and then it's off to State in the fall.

**Sharon:** You're going to keep in touch with me, right?

**Bobby:** Away at the *(sarcastically snooty)* University of Richmond? You think you're going to even remember who I am after a week there?

**Sharon:** *(slightly serious)* You listen to me. I'm going to write you. And you promised you're going to write me back. Right?

**Bobby:** Absolutely. *(pointing at present)* Hey, what'd you get?

**Sharon:** *(not really caring)* Ah... something from my dad. He handed it to me with the diploma. Can you believe he got to hand me my diploma? That was embarrassing.

**Bobby:** Mr. Clive Sterrington?

**Sharon:** Shut up.

**Bobby:** Clive Sterrington, our State Representative and owner of like 4 or 5 businesses in the area?

**Sharon:** Shut up!

**Bobby:** Yeah, I can believe they "let" him give you your diploma. So what'd you get?

**Sharon:** I'll open it... later... what'd you get?

**Bobby:** Come on. Open it. Hey, tell you what... *(slyly)* I'll open mine if you open yours.

**Sharon:** *(slugs him)* You are so bad. Who's it from? One of your girlfriends...

**Bobby:** Yeah, right. Nah, it's from my dad. So, come on. Open yours. I'll open mine.

**Sharon:** All right. *(they open their gifts; she looks in and says quietly)* I knew it. *(looks over into Bobby's box)* What is that? *(and then with recognition)* Is that a...

**Bobby:** A fifth of Jack Daniels. Yeah. Whiskey.

**Sharon:** Ohmigosh! Did your father give you that?

**Bobby:** Yeah...yeah... *(closing the box; opens the card without thinking; he's become a little stiff)* So...what did you get?

**Sharon:** Oh...l...it's...ummm... *(shows him, embarrassed opening her hand)*

**Bobby:** Car keys? I thought you got a new...what was it...a Toyota when you turned 16. You got another new car for graduating? Can I have your old one?

**Sharon:** Shut up. Listen to what he wrote. "The prizes just keep getting bigger."

**Bobby:** So...what is it? *(he looks closer holding up the key chain)* A Beemer?

**Sharon:** It's not what I wanted.

**Bobby:** *(flabbergasted)* OH...what did you want? A jag?

**Sharon:** What I wanted... *(controlling herself)* What I want...all I've ever wanted is a family. A life...people who care about me. Right now, the maid and the grounds guy are more like my mom and dad. My real mom and dad...they don't even care.

**Bobby:** Care? The guy gives you a BMW and you're complaining? At least your old man's not a drunk who's hoping you'll follow in his footsteps. I can't believe this...I really thought...it's been four years...we've been so tight...what's this mean? *(starts reading the card)*

**Sharon:** *(looking at keys)*What my dad cares about is winning the next prize... and that's what he thinks I care about. Nothing matters except what's bigger and better than the last one. Like that's the lesson of life... like he doesn't even know me. He doesn't. My mom doesn't. The last time I had dinner with my parents...

My friends...like you... *(shifts "gears")*

You've got to promise me that you're going to stay in touch. And you're not going to be a... *(she sees him intensely into the card)*What is it? What's he say?

**Bobby:** Huh? Ah...yeah...let me just read it to you.

Dear Bob, congratulations! I can't tell you how proud I am that you're my son. You know I never got past high school and now you're headed on to college!

I bet you're surprised by what's in the box, but I felt like you were the right age to handle something like this. It's important to me. This is the bottle that's been sitting in my desk drawer at work for the past four years. I don't know why I bought it or why I kept it, but after going sober I just used this as a security blanket or something. Anyway, I'm done with it. Not because I'm so strong. Just because I'm fitting better stuff into my life. I'm giving it to you, and this is what I want you to do. On your way home I want you to stop off at the river, go out on the bridge and pour it out. You know how dangerous this stuff is, probably better than I do, because you were on the other end of my fists that time way back when. I'm giving this to you because I love you and I want you to know we can trust each other. One day at a time.

Love you always, Dad.

**Sharon:** *(after they look at each other for a moment)*You promise me! You promise me that I'm going to know you for the rest of my life. You understand.

**Bobby:** *(looking back at the note and then up at her)*I...I promise.

**Sharon:** Can I go with you...to the river?

**Bobby:** *(cracking a smile)*You want to drive me?

Sharon: Can we walk?  
Bobby: Sure.  
*She clasps his arm close and they exit.*

PURCHASE

SCRIPT

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