

HERE FLAMINGOES NOTHING

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

AMY	A friend of Lilly's.
LILLY	A friend of Amy's. Funny how that works.
BRIAN	An eccentric neighbor who happens to like Lilly.

SETTING

The front porch of a house.

SCENE

(Amy and her friend Lilly are standing on the porch. Between them is a flamingo that has recently been unwrapped and removed from a nearby box. Lilly is holding a card.)

AMY

So that's different.

LILLY

Yeah. Definitely a first for me.

AMY

What does the card say?

LILLY

Just 'Lilly. This used to be a box of chocolates prior to the Manhattan Project. I hope you enjoy. From You Don't Know Who'.

AMY

Manhattan Project. That's... weird. And I assume that you don't actually know from who?

LILLY

Right now I'm not even sure I know 'from what'.

AMY

Could it be from—

LILLY

Don't even try. I mean, I know literally no one who would send me a plastic flamingo for Valentine's Day. Or... D-Day. Or... or any other day.

AMY

Maybe it's magic. What? Don't look at me like that. You don't have a better theory.

LILLY

A magic flamingo?

AMY

Could be.

LILLY

Uh huh. What kind of magic?

AMY

Maybe it turns into a handsome prince when you kiss it.

LILLY

So a doubly-enchanted frog?

AMY

Well, it sounds stupid when you say it like that.

LILLY

Sure. Because it was such a solid theory right up until that point. (Beat.) Alright. We can figure this out. Who's the strangest guy I know.

AMY

Gary.

LILLY

Yeah. Definitely Gary. But would he send me a Valentine's Day flamingo?

AMY

He might. (Pause.) No. Who says it has to be from a guy, though?

LILLY

This is insane.

(Brian enters. He's passing by, but stops and approaches when sees the situation.)

BRIAN

Nice. Is this one of those pre-packaged meal plans?

LILLY

Might end up that way. Oh, Brian, Amy. Friend from college. Amy, Brian. He just moved in a few weeks ago.

AMY

Hey.

BRIAN

Hey. So what's the deal?

LILLY

That's the big question. This was delivered today, and I have absolutely no idea who it's from. Or why they sent it.

BRIAN

Maybe it was delivered to the wrong address.

LILLY

It had my address on the box.

BRIAN

Maybe it was accidentally sent to the wrong address.

LILLY

There was a card inside with my name on it.

BRIAN

Hrmm. That's pretty specific. Handwriting?

LILLY

Typed.

BRIAN

Return address?

LILLY

None.

BRIAN

Well, that cinches it.

LILLY

Oh?

BRIAN

It was Amy.

AMY

What?

BRIAN

She was here when you opened it?

LILLY

Yeah...

Then it was definitely her. BRIAN

Wasn't me. AMY

But isn't that just the sort of thing she would say if she was trying to hide it? BRIAN

Yes. But it's also what she would say if she didn't send it. LILLY

Well, one thing's for sure. Whoever sent it, they're really taken with you. BRIAN

Or just really weird. LILLY

Definitely that too, but they clearly spent a lot on it. This is a pretty solid artificial bird. Not one of those cheap deals you find at the Five and Below. (*He picks it up and examines it.*) Made in Brazil. (*Nods knowingly.*) They make a good flamingo down there. Did it come with adoption papers? BRIAN

No. LILLY

Shame. BRIAN

Yeah. LILLY AND AMY

Well, I should be on my way. Good luck with the bird. BRIAN

Wait a minute. LILLY

Yeah? BRIAN

Did you...? LILLY

BRIAN

(Pointing between the flamingo and himself...)

Me? I wish I could afford a nice flamingo like that. Hell, I was barely able to afford one of those inflatable goats for my yard.

LILLY

I never saw—

BRIAN

I didn't put it out. Turns out that the inflatable ones don't eat grass, so I still have to mow anyway. Total waste of money.

LILLY

What a shame.

BRIAN

You can have it, if you want. To, you know, keep the flamingo company.

LILLY

I'll give that some thought.

BRIAN

Alright. Just let me know.

(He starts to head off again.)

AMY

He seems nice. A little strange, but...

LILLY

A lot strange. *(She and Amy suddenly share an epiphany, and she calls out just before he exits.)* Hey, Brian!

BRIAN

(Turning around...)

Yeah?

LILLY

You never answered the question.

BRIAN

Which question?

LILLY

Whether you sent me this.

BRIAN

Huh. I guess I didn't. Probably for the best. It's always good to be sitting down before someone... you know, drops a bomb like that. One way or the other.

LILLY

Drops a bomb like...

BRIAN

But maybe we can try to figure it out together? Say, over a drink tonight?

LILLY

(Looks back down at the card, a sly smile comes to her face.)

Sure. Manhattans?

BRIAN

It's like you read my mind.

(Brian exits. Amy and Lilly share a smile, then lights out.)