

“CHRISTMAS SHOPPING” by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2024)

ANDREA recounts the end of her marriage to a close friend.

ANDREA: I used to do all the Christmas shopping. I'd buy the gifts, wrap them, write the cards. Put both our names on them. It's not like Gus wasn't busy with his job, I'm not saying that. But the responsibility *always* fell to me. So last Christmas, I got Tom this thing he'd been pestering us about for months. Some game for his computer all his friends got the moment it came out. It was expensive, but he's a good kid, he deserved it. And when he ripped it open on Christmas morning, and his expression changed to this, this look of pure joy and disbelief, he hugged his dad. Who was equally surprised, I don't have to tell you. I looked at Gus, who'd done nothing, taking all the credit and I thought ... nope.

Performance Notes:

- *Sentence structure is an interesting feature of this short speech. Andrea speaks in short, telegram-like phrases. What might that suggest about her personality, or her emotional state in this moment?*
- *How does Andrea feel about this moment she's describing? Is there emotion in what she's saying, or is it a clinical appraisal of the end of her marriage?*
- *Consider her scene partner: who is the person she's elected to confide in?*