

### **The Box**

**by Kyrie Dunphy**

The sky over New York was overcast and the clouds were harbingers of snow. The sounds of pedestrians calling for taxis announced the end of the early show. Although it got loud with the theater crowd, it was sometimes fun to watch the people. It felt cold on that day, so everyone was bundled up.

Sera opened the door upon hearing the doorbell ring, a cigarette hanging from her mouth and leaving the taste of nicotine behind. She had dark red hair and a temper to match. Her eyes were dark blue and showed her intelligence.

There, on her doorstep, was a large, brown box. Attached was a note with her name on it. She brought it in and closed the door, not wanting her apartment to freeze over. Her place also doubled as her office due to her being a private investigator. She always loved mysteries and here was one: what could be in the box?

Sera resisted the urge to rip it open like a kid on Christmas and decided to play a game like she always did when she found something secretive. She wanted to figure out what was inside the box and solve the puzzle.

Sera inspected the box by shaking it and listening for anything.

At least it's not ticking, she thought with a relieved smile.

Then, she sniffed it. The box smelt of cardboard, which didn't seem unusual. Next, she read the note attached.

It was written in cursive and said, "To Sera Chase, hope you find this useful for your investigation. A friend."

*Well, that's cryptic,* she thought.

Sera was currently on a missing person investigation. The daughter of a wealthy family hired her to investigate the disappearance of her brother.

Before this, she had checked everywhere for information: his social media accounts, his home, hospitals, prisons, and the morgue, but no luck. This box may hold the information she needed.

But why was she getting this present now? And who was the friend? She couldn't hold her curiosity any longer and opened the box. Inside was a CD.

I guess this person was a friend after all, she thought while examining the CD. The mystery got more and more complicated as more questions kept coming up.

*I wonder who my friend is?* Sera thought.

END