The Gift

A screenplay written by Jessica Lee

INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT - NIGHT

Minny watches ‘You’ the scene where the main character approaches their victim. She continues to watch whilst holding her green ceramic mug, warming her hands.

Vincent walked out from the bedroom door and approached Minny from the back.

VINCENT
(groggy)
What you up to, hon?

Vincent comes over Minny’s shoulder and pecks her cheek.

MINNY
Nothing. Just watching some Netflix.

VINCENT
Watching ‘You’, again? I swear you’ve rewatched it 5 times now.

Vincent turns away and begins to walk to the kitchen.

Minny quickly pauses the show and turns her head to Vincent.

MINNY
(whiney)
WHAT? That’s because it’s so good. You don’t know how good it is! Just give it one more shot, please?

Vincent laughs, grabbing a wine glass from the kitchen cabinet.

VINCENT
No way. That show is way too creepy for me like how does a guy do that to someone whom he claims to love. That’s not love, it’s an obsession.

Vincent waves his arms and Minny rolls her eyes in response.

Vincent makes a silly face Minny and turns to get the wine from the fridge.

Vincent pours the red wine into his wine glass in his hand.

MINNY
Boo… That’s right and that’s why it’s interesting!

Minny sighs and turns back toward the T.V.

MINNY
Whatever, you had your chance.

VINCENT
Whatever, you say madame. I don’t know it’s just so weird and fucked up. You know, stalking someone and going through all that length…? No thanks, you enjoy.

Vincent stirs his glass before taking a sip.

MINNY
I will thanks!

Suddenly two **HARD KNOCKS** from their heavy apartment door echoes their living room and kitchen, immediately capturing their attention.

VINCENT
Are we expecting someone at this hour?

Vincent looks down at his wristwatch.

MINNY
No, did you?

Minny looks at Vincent who’s shaking his head.

Minny groans, putting her mug down, pausing the show and getting up from the comfy position from the couch.

Vincent sees and begins to walk to the door.

VINCENT
(considerate)
Mins, it’s okay. I’ll get it.

MINNY
(bothered)
No, it’s okay. I’m already up.

She reluctantly begins slowly walking to the heavy door.

MINNY
Who is it…?

Minny says rubbing her fatigued face waiting for a response.

There's a **LONG PAUSE.**

MINNY
Who is it…?

Minny turns over her shoulder making a weird look at Vincent.

SILENCE fills the air and Minny gets a chill.

Minny looks through the peephole and sees no one.

Minny backs away from the hole and begins to open the door.

VINCENT
What? What is it?

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT DOOR

Minny finishes opening the door revealing an uncovered smooth white frosted cake that has her name, **'Minerva'**, in runny red frosting.

VINCENT
A cake…? A whole one? Woah, what the hell…?

Minny approaches the cake and slowly crouches to its level.

Vincent follows and begins to look around their apartment entrance.

Vincent
Hello…? Anyone there?

Minny smiles turning her head to Vincent.

MINNY
Is this a surprise?

VINCENT
Sorry… but no. I would have loved to give you a cake but anything like that. What's with the design and why would I leave it out like that?

Minny takes a closer look at the details of the strange cake.

MINNY
Of course, you wouldn't… Yeah, a neat freak like you would never leave a cake like this unattended, especially outside…
(thinking)
I wasn't expecting anything so I have no idea what this is.

Minny picks up the cake by its base and begins to walk inside towards the kitchen.

VINCENT
We're taking the cake inside? What if it was left for someone else?

Vincent follows Minny inside, closing the door behind him.

MINNY
Hon, it has my name on it. I think it's for me.

VINCENT
You're right but isn't weird. I mean your name is red? It's creepy…

IN THE KITCHEN

Minny puts the cake on the kitchen counter.

MINNY
Aww is little Vinny scared of a cake?
(makes a pouty mouth)
I mean, if the person who left it uncovered doesn't mean that they're close by?

Vincent shuffles on the spot for a second.

VINCENT
No…! What do you mean? Do you think it’s someone from our building?

MINNY
Yeah, I mean how can you move a whole cake just with the base through the city? No one does that? So, it has to be someone close, right?

Minny gestures, left to right.

VINCENT
That’s true… Maybe we could ask around?

MINNY
Let’s not. It’s almost 11. I bet some people are already in bed…

Minny fiddles around with Vincent’s glass of wine.

VINCENT
Yeah, you’re right. But then what do we do with this cake?

MINNY
I don’t know…? Maybe we should eat it?

VINCENT
I don’t know about that. Can’t you see? This cake is weird.

Vincent swings his gesturing arms around the cake.

MINNY
It is a bit weird… But what if Diana or someone from the building made it?

VINCENT
That’s true, but I don’t think she or anyone bakes or has the time to?

Vincent cocks his head and stares at the ceiling.

MINNY
Oh, shit that’s right! Remember when she told us that she accidentally killed her cake by trying to make it vegan.

Minny clasps her hands together.

VINCENT
Shit, yeah that’s right. She said the last thing she fed it was a home-baked vegan cake food. And she vowed to never bake since. Shit.

MINNY
Yeah, probably not her then…

VINCENT
I don’t know… All I know is that you shouldn’t eat it.

Vincent’s hands slowly nearing the base of the cake.

MINNY
Why? I should probably eat something just in case, right?

VINCENT
Sure, but not this cake. Isn't it weird? Someone drops off an uncovered cake on our 6th floor at this time of night? Not to mention the creepy lettering of your name.

MINNY
I don’t know… I think it’s kinda cute…

VINCENT
Oh my god, you’ve become immune to these things because of your horrible taste in everything creepy! No, you’re not eating this cake.

Vincent suddenly picks up the cake and begins to walk outside.

MINNY
What are you doing, Vincent…?

Minny notices him approaching the door.

VINCENT
Throwing this shit out.

Vincent **RUNS.**

MINNY
What? No, do it tomorrow!

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT

Minny chases Vincent outside.

Minny sees Vincent run down the first case of stairs.

Minny hunches over the rails from their apartment.

MINNY (O.S)
(whispering scream)
Vincent, stop!

VINCENT
No.

Vincent stops and looks up before quickening down the stairs.

Minny groans and quickly grabs the keys at the wooden dresser.

Minny closes the door and begins to run down the dark square spiral.

APARTMENT STAIRS

MINNY
Where are you going?

VINCENT
The dumpster.

MINNY
What? Just wait!

Vincent makes it to the end and runs outside holding the cake in both of his hands.

Minny, out of breath, follows Vincent.

ON STREET OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT BUILDING

Vincent quickly turns the corner into the alley next to their building and makes a **SMALL THUD** noise by dropping the cake.

Minny, hot on his trails, turns the corner and sees the cake on its head next to the dumpster.

VINCENT
Shit.

Minny is **SHOCKED.**

MINNY
Oh my god! Vincent! What have you done?!

VINCENT
Sorry, I was meant to just put it down but I slipped… Sorry, hon…

Minny approaches the cake still out of breath.

Minny crouches down and stares at the smashed cake.

MINNY
Jeez, Vincent…

At least the rats will have a feast tonight…

VINCENT
Sorry, I'll get you a much better cake tomorrow after work…

MINNY
Yeah, you better…

Vincent approaches Minny and helps her back up from the ground.

BOTH embrace, looking down at the cake.

MINNY
You're right though. There's something wrong about that cake…

FADE OUT:
Transition into the next day.

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

Minny and Vincent are linked arm to arm. Vincent holds a cake box by its handles.

MINNY
You didn't have to buy me the cake but thanks for getting it! I love it!

VINCENT
No problem, honey, coz I'm so excited to eat it, too!

Minny and Vincent approach the alleyway.

Minny looks over and immediately stops in **HORROR** seeing a pack of dead rats around the cake.

MINNY
(gawking)
Holy shit, Vincent! What the hell is that?

Vincent looks over at the alleyway, just as shocked, and sees the lifeless rats.

VINCENT
What the fuck…!

FADE OUT.

THE END