

Present Face
by
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(Inspired by the song,
"Present Face"
By
Garfunkel and Oates)

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARK, 30s, is unwrapping a present. PATRICE, 30s, looks on in anticipation.

He opens the box, and pulls out... a sweater.

PATRICE
Do you like it?

MARK
(faking it big time)
Oh, wow! A sweater! It's... great!
(beat)
Isn't this just like the one your
mom gave you?

PATRICE
Uh huh!

MARK
(trying to hold it
together)
Great! We've got matching outfits.

PATRICE
Like a real couple!

He fixes a grin on his face.

Pleased at first, she looks closer. Realization dawns.

PATRICE
Oh my god. You're making a present
face.

MARK
What? No!

PATRICE
You are. You're making a present
face. That's a fake smile. And
you said "great" twice. Nobody
says, "great" twice when they get a
sweater. You hate it.

MARK
No! I don't hate it... I don't!
It's--

PATRICE
Don't say great.

MARK

Really great.

He tries to smile.

PATRICE

(pointing at his face)

Present face.

She grabs the sweater, and storms off to the bedroom.