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# The Ultimate Gift

By Cheryl McKay

Are we on?

Hello.

When? Thank you.

Yes. I'll tell him.

Sir.

He's gone.

Contact family members  
the various corporate boards  
and business interests.

Yes, sir.

Sir, I

I am so sorry  
for your loss.

Am I speakin'  
to a Theophilus Hamilton of Birmingham?

Sir? Yes, sir. This is he.

Name's Howard Stevens.

You can call me Red.

I need a lawyer for a few  
business ideas I have  
a few still

in the dream stage.

Though the skies may weep  
the Bible assures us that  
precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his saints.

I wonder who the old man  
negotiated with for the rain.

Well, it's a sure bet  
he's laughin'  
watchin' us get soaked.

Yeah, well,  
now it's his turn.

There's not a person here  
whose life, in some way  
has not been touched  
by Howard Red Stevens.

Red often quoted  
Malcolm Muggeridge  
saying that, Every happening,  
great or small  
is a parable by which  
God speaks to us  
and the art of life

is to get the message.

May the message of Red Stevens  
continue in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

-What are you doing? You're gonna get all wet.

-Bill.

Even though Dad moved his corporate offices  
from Texas many years ago  
for tax reasons  
he always said he wanted  
to be buried under Texas soil.

Is that him?

That's him.

Mom.

-You're late.

-For what?

Give me some of that!

Settle down over there.

Good morning.

Before we start,

I'd like to say how much Red  
meant to me personally.

As you know, we started out  
as business partners  
and we ended up  
as friends.

I am deeply grieved  
by his passing.

Yes, well, that's very nice.

Now, may we proceed?

Red's will

is in his own words

still, every bit

as legal and binding

Blah, blah, blah.

And, so,

my eldest son, Bill

I leave my company,

Panhandle Oil and Gas.

Currently worth \$600 million.

However, Bill, since you had

zero interest in my company while I was alive

I don't imagine that will

change much after my death.

Therefore, the board

will maintain control.

Excuse me, but my client would like to explore all of his options.

Your client

has no more options.

One of those instructions

Mr Hamilton skipped over

is Red's desire that each of you vacate after receiving your portion of the estate.

-As in, leave the room.

-What the She can't talk to me like that.

-Well, do something.

-You can go now, Mr Stevens.

-What All right. Fine. Fine.

-We should really go.

I have never been so humiliated.

Did you see that old man

talking' to me that way?

And you guys just sat there

and said absolutely nothin'.

That's it?

-A cow farm?

-A 10,000-acre cow farm.

Well, what's that worth anyway?

Ruth, come on.

Come here.

What exactly do we get?

A place for you

to take your mistress.

Come on, Ruth.

Let me explain.

-I want to see everything! Full disclosure.

-Come on, Jack. Let's go.

-Good day, Mr Stevens.

-You said you had a strategy!

-This is a long way from over.

-You said it was a slam dunk!

-To Sarah, widow of my late son,

Jay Howard Stevens

I am truly sorry

for the events of the past.

Please know that Jays death

represents the greatest tragedy

I have ever experienced.

I leave you control of my Myers Park estate  
where you now reside  
and a managed trust for expenses as long as you live.  
-There we go.  
Since your choice  
of male companionship is vast and varied  
the deed and title for the house  
will remain under the control of my trustees.  
-Good day, Mr Hamilton.  
-Good day.  
It's amazing just how far  
the fruit can fall from the tree.  
And still roll  
a great distance.  
Nice of you to show up.  
You're in time for nothin'.  
Let's go.  
Jason.  
How do you know  
my name?  
It's my business to know everyone  
named in your grandfather's will.  
Let's cut the b.s., 'cause  
I know what he left me nothing.  
Walk away you'll never know,  
will you?  
Jason?  
So, what's in the box?  
Your inheritance.  
Have a seat.  
Does the box or the seal appear to have been  
tampered with in any way?  
No.  
Then therefore  
witness this day  
that I am  
breaking the seal  
affixed in my presence  
by Red himself.  
-Miss Hastings.  
-Yes, sir.  
-Are we on?  
-Yes, we are.  
Mmm. Well, then,

If you're watching this  
I must be dead.  
That's a strange concept.  
How was my funeral?  
Well attended?  
I hope it rained.  
Hamilton, Miss Hastings  
I hope you're having  
a better day than I am.  
If you've just been  
with my family, I doubt it.  
Jason, I made a lot  
Of mistakes with our family  
but you're the one  
I think I hurt the most.  
The only way I can make it up to you  
is to not give you anything.  
I knew it.  
What I mean by that is that  
I'm not giving you anything just yet.  
So sit back down there.  
I've been thinking about this  
for a long time.  
How can I give you something and not have it  
ruin you like your uncles and aunts?  
Even some of their kids.  
So I want to give you a gift  
a series of gifts  
leading up to, well  
I wanna call it  
the ultimate gift.  
Now, you fail in anyway,  
it's over.  
You get nothing.  
And everything you do  
must be to Mr Hamilton's satisfaction.  
You might wanna make friends with him  
sooner than later.  
This is a voice-activated  
Conversay.  
It allows two-way communication  
between our office and you.  
And you can also replay  
Red's messages on it if you need to.

-Sir.

-Ah, good.

There's a flight to Houston

**tomorrow at 7:**

As in morning, 7:00am?

**Yes. That 7:**

-For what?

-You have until then to accept.

-Why do I have to go?

-You'll find out when you get there.

-This is whacked.

-You might wanna rethink that.

What could he possibly give me

that he hasn't already taken away?

Huh? Screw him.

Screw both of you.

Well.

How was your day?

I'm not sure.

What do you mean?

My grandfather may have

left me something.

-Yeah?

-I'm just trying to figure it out.

-You mean it's not cash?

-I don't know.

Don't know?

If I want to play into his little power trip,

I gotta go pick it up.

-Where?

-Texas.

-Yech.

-You know what? I'm not going.

Well, aren't you

at least curious?

What if it's gold?

He ruined my life.

My best revenge

is to just

ignore him.

Besides,

I've got a trust fund.

Worst-case scenario  
I'll live off my mom.  
I don't need his money.  
Yeah, but one can always use  
some extra walking-around money.  
Not if I have  
to sell my soul.  
But, if you had to, at least try to get  
as much out of him as you can.  
My gosh. What if you actually  
had to get a job sometime?  
Police escort sorta.  
Uh, ladies and gentlemen  
from the flight deck, we have a very full flight  
to Houston this morning.  
Uh, excuse me, sir.  
Can I- Can I see  
your boarding pass again?  
Thank you.  
Yeah. See, this is, uh  
I'm sorry. This is for coach.  
Nah. That's impossible.  
-No. It's, uh, 32B.  
-Well, change it.  
We can't Please.  
We can't No.  
Thanks a lot.  
We can't change it.  
It's a Q fare. You can't upgrade.  
-So, can we  
-Do you have any idea who I am?  
I- I know exactly  
who you are.  
You're the guy in Seat 32B. Here we go.  
Conversay to Jason Stevens.  
Hello, Jason.  
What is this, one of those things  
Aunt Martha had to wear?  
I see you're at the, uh,  
Houston airport.  
Uh, Baggage Claim.  
You got a problem?  
You don't look like you've worked  
a day in your life.



Great.

The Amazing Kreskin.

I'm don't know what I'm supposed to be doing,  
because no one's been

Hey! Hey!

I'm Gus.

I'm your ride. Get in.

I'm sorry about  
your grandfather's passin'.

He and I go way back.

He was some man.

He loved to work.

The man just loved  
hard work.

Right. Mind if I smoke?

Ah, it's a free country.

Can you stop  
at the next convenience store?

-Convenience store?

-Please.

The last store was  
about 50 miles back.

We've been on my property  
for the last 30 minutes or so.

Well, seein' as how  
you're Red's grandson  
you'll stay in the main house  
with us.

I know it ain't much.

The little lady just wanted a modest place.

Dinner's in an hour.

### **Breakfast at 5:**

Uh, Gus?

-Aren't you forgetting something?

-I don't think so. Shoot.

The gift.

So this is hell.

Hey, city boy.

Breakfast is over.

Don't you have some kind  
of gizmo to wake you up?

Beat it.

-Good morning.

-What is your problem!

Time to get to work.

The sun'll be up soon.

Man Speaking Spanish ]

-Let's go!

Your granddad and I

started out together

wild cattin' oil wells

down in Louisiana.

Made some money.

We each bought cattle spreads

as a hedge against

the oil runnin' out.

Of course,

he really made it.

-Nice to own your own little piece of Texas, right?

-Right.

Just from there

eight feet

from the center.

What?

Lunch will be sent

**'round about 11:**

Well, how far

am I supposed to go?

Don't worry.

You'll run out of posts

before you run out of Texas.

I wish I had a dollar

for every fence post I've ever set.

Matter of fact, I do.

Hey.

What do you think?

No! Hey!

Aw! Come on, man!

So, I'm dying to know. What did you get?

Uh, it's complicated,

but it involves land

building materials

and slave labor.

They're giving you

a shopping mall?

Not exactly.

So it must be the land, right?  
They're giving that to you?  
-Uh, land's got a lot to do with it, yeah.  
-You don't sound too sure.  
Well, whatever it is, I gotta survive  
this geriatric cowboy  
until he gives it to me  
or when I get back or  
or when I'm finished.  
Finish what?  
You know what?  
Let me get back to you, okay?  
Jason, what are you  
So that's it.  
Yeah.  
Let's go.  
I'm not done.  
Work's never done  
on a ranch.  
All right. Whatever.  
You know, you do any work  
like you just did  
you can do anything.  
Now, aren't you  
forgettin' something?  
-I don't think so. Shoot.  
-The gift.  
I came here to pick up a gift.  
Remember?  
That was the gift?  
I do manual labor  
for a month  
and you're trying to tell me  
it was a favor to me.  
-The gift of work.  
-Wow.  
-Congratulations.  
-Look, Hamilton.  
Just tell me what  
my total inheritance is. I'm over this.  
Where are you going?  
Where is he going?  
Can you tell him  
to come back, please?

Mr Hamilton.

Mr Hamilton.

Hey.

Mr Hamilton, sir.

Please.

I think it's only fair I know the amount  
of money we're dealing with here. Don't you?

I've been gone for a month.

Just tell me

What do I have to do? What is it?

Red said,

a series of gifts.

But let me add

a personal note.

I, too, think

this is a waste of time.

But it will end shortly,  
because you are going to fail.

I expect you to fail  
and to fail miserably.

Now, if you do want  
to continue

make an appointment  
with Miss Hastings.

Okay. Look. Whoa, whoa, whoa.

Mr Hamilton.

I've been acting like a moron  
about this whole thing, and I'm sorry.

And now I- I see exactly  
what you and Red have in store for me  
and I think

it's exceedingly beneficial.

So, what's the next gift?

You'll know.

Howdy.

Wait! Wait!

That's an \$8,000  
paint job!

You don't begin to live  
until you've lost everything.

Heck, I've lost everything  
three or four times.

It's the perfect place  
to start.

Now, for most  
of your adult life  
you have been  
the life of the party  
and an easy touch  
for a lot of weak hangers-on.  
Now let's see who  
your real friends are.  
I was at your funeral, and there wasn't  
a single person there  
who wasn't on your payroll or didn't  
have something to gain from your death.  
What exactly is he  
asking me to do?  
He wants you to come back  
at the end of the month  
with one true friend.  
Thank you.  
-And how were the lobster tails?  
-It was fine, thanks.  
The lady was enjoying  
the Montrachet.  
And sir, the Margaux.  
I hope it met  
your expectations.  
It was terrific.  
Thank you.  
We don't get too many requests  
for the '78.  
It's a bit too pricey  
for some of our patrons.  
I'll just leave this  
with you then.  
Caitlin, where do you  
see our relationship?  
-What are you asking me, Jason Stevens?  
-Just thinking.  
How long have we  
been going out?  
Uh, an appropriate  
amount of time.  
-Long enough.  
-See? My thoughts exactly.  
I was thinking that maybe

it's time to take us more seriously.

Yes?

But there's something

I want to ask you first.

Jason, if you're talking about a prenup,  
isn't that sort of passe?

Well, see, I'm in

I was thinking

Excuse me, sir.

The charge card company  
declined the charge.

That's impossible. I don't have a credit limit.

Just run it through again.

It's always our practice  
to run it through again  
but they declined.

Okay.

So, I was thinking, um

well, maybe, it'd be a good time  
for me to move in with you.

Uh, you move in with me?

Why? Half my wardrobe's at your penthouse.

Just for a change of scenery.

Besides, I'm remodeling my place.

A remodel? But Who's your designer?

I know everyone in town.

I should've said

I'm beginning to remodel.

I've only really started  
with the demolition.

I'm sorry, sir.

Your bank is on the line.

They'd really like

to speak with you. I must insist.

Look, guys. I'm having  
a little bit of a setback.

It's nothing that can't be fixed.

All right?

Sweetie, I'm switching accounts right now  
and I'm

temporarily out of money.

Is there a way

you could pay for this?

Jason, you're, um

You're, uh  
asking me  
to pay the bill?  
It's  
You owe me.  
What?  
Yo, dude,  
I'm rollin' over.  
What do you mean  
I can't?  
I have been there for you  
countless times.  
You owe me. That's it.  
Bottom line.  
Who was the one who loaned you  
I could come up with a better excuse  
when I was 12 years old.  
All I need is a place to sleep.  
I don't get what the problem is.  
You can let me spend the night.  
One night. Hello?  
Sorry. Your service has been disconnected.  
-Can I help you? Yeah, shut up.  
-No. Nothing, thanks.  
Jason.  
Um Uh,  
what a surprise.  
-Mom, you're never gonna believe this.  
-I'm afraid I can't let you in.  
I'm having a bit of a situation.  
I need some help.  
-I need to borrow some money.  
-Of course you do. Everyone needs money.  
Uh  
Didn't your grandfather  
leave you anything?  
What are you talking about?  
He hated me.  
Jason, he did not.  
He didn't come around much, but, uh,  
I always thought it was because of me.  
It doesn't matter.  
Do you have any extra spending cash?  
I would love

to help you.  
-But I can't.  
-You can't?  
They told me specifically that you would be  
comin' around for money  
and that I was not  
to give you anything.  
But I'm your son, Mom.  
That's what you're supposed to do.  
If I violate  
their instructions  
I am out everything  
everything.  
So for the sake  
of the greater good  
I must insist  
that you leave.  
I'm not gonna upset  
the whole applecart  
just because you're facing  
a few challenges.  
I'm sorry. I just  
cannot help you.  
Thanks.  
Ow!  
Hey, man. You're  
You're on my bench.  
You're on my bench.  
Beat it.  
-A simple no would have sufficed.  
-Fine. No.  
-No, what?  
-No, you cannot sit on this bench.  
This is not your bench.  
This is a city bench.  
-Go sit on another bench.  
-But it's my bench.  
I've got just as much  
right to it as anybody.  
It's a free country, you know.  
See, that's where  
you're wrong.  
Name one thing  
in this country that's for free.



You need money for everything.  
Without money, you're nothing.  
Look at you.  
No money. No food.  
No family. No friends.  
Nothing.  
Besides, I'm sitting  
on this bench now.  
This is my bench.  
Okay?  
I'll flip you for it.  
Fine.  
I have a quarter.  
Thanks.  
Oh.  
Well, aren't you gonna  
chase him for it?  
Beat it, kid.  
I've been watching you.  
You're not a real bum.  
We saw you at a funeral.  
Quite the entrance.  
-What were you doing at  
-My mother and I come here for lunch every day.  
Except, right now,  
she doesn't know where I am.  
-Emily!  
-Whatever.  
Emily!  
Oh! Emily.  
-You must really be having a bad life.  
-Come on. Right now.  
I was just having a pleasant conversation  
with this gentleman.  
-Leave us alone, please.  
-Dear, don't be ridiculous.  
Sorry to disturb you. Come on.  
That's okay. I'm not the one  
who's disturbed.  
Some friend you are.  
Thanks a lot, poser.  
You know what I've said  
about talking to strangers.  
-He's not a real bum.

-Hey. Whoa, whoa. Wait, wait, wait.

Okay, this is gonna sound

really, really strange

but I'm just gonna

come out and say it.

I'll make a deal with you.

I need a friend.

But only for a little while,

and, uh

in return, I don't know,

I'll take you both to Disneyworld.

Excuse me?

-I need a friend.

-Explain yourself.

-It's complicated.

-No, it's not.

It's pathetic.

-Come on. Now, just because

-Mom, I told you.

-He's not a real bum.

-Okay.

Oh, dude, come on.

She doesn't even like

Chateaufort du Pape.

Thank you.

Miss Hastings,

bring me the Stevens file.

Looks like our boy's not even

gonna make it through round two.

But, sir

doesn't he have until

the end of today?

Well, from what I hear

he could have another month

and still get the same result.

Yes, sir.

-So, what do you think? Is this a good spot?

-Yeah, perfect.

You can see everything

under the perfect tree.

-Hey! Hey! Give that back!

-I'm sorry, ma'am. I'm just hungry.

-Sir, you need to step back.

-Don't you have a sandwich?

-You need to step back.  
-Leave her alone.  
Get back! Get back!  
I've got 911 all dialed in.  
All I have to do is press Send.  
Sweetheart, get back.  
-Ow! No!  
-Hey! Hey! Leave 'em alone.  
Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo!  
Whoo! Yeah.  
My bench.  
Mwah!  
-So, you have a bet with a dead guy?  
-Mm-hmm.  
-Cool.  
-Emily. Be polite.  
Wait. How can you have a bet with a  
deceased person?  
See, that's the part  
that's complicated.  
So you come up  
with a friend.  
What do you get if we  
go along with this?  
-Emily.  
-No, it's okay. I don't know.  
Something about an ultimate gift  
or something.  
But you're not sure  
what that is.  
Yeah, that about  
sums it up.  
So what do we get  
if we agree to do this?  
-We need money. How much are you willing to pay?  
-Emily!  
I'm sorry. You're gonna  
have to excuse my daughter.  
Sometimes she tends to be  
a little outspoken.  
I can't promise you anything.  
Now, that's better.  
But what if  
we really did

become friends?

-Emily, it's not polite

-Shh.

-So you're Jason's friend?

-Yes, I am.

-True friend?

-Absolutely.

Pinky promise.

So, how long have you

known Mr Stevens?

We go way back.

We're like this.

Now, where do I sign?

And, uh

he hasn't promised you

any compensation for this friendship?

Look at him.

Does he look like

he has anything to offer?

So, uh

you expect this friendship

to continue?

I plan on knowing Jason

for the rest of my life.

Tomorrow lunch at noon,

our usual spot in the park.

Sure.

Just a minute, pal!

You owe me.

Emily. Wait.

They go back a long way, don't they?

There was a time when Mr Hamilton

was quite ill

and needed

a kidney transplant.

Your grandfather went out of his way

to help him find a donor.

You could even say, I think,

that Mr Hamilton's alive today

because of Red Stevens.

Um.

In the, um, basement

of this building

there's a small apartment

for a custodian.

It isn't being used right now.

Perhaps you'd, um, like  
to take a look at it?

Thank you.

Jason, you have no concept whatsoever  
of the value of money.

Money has always been available to you,  
like the air you breathe.

I tell you, let's, uh, review some highlights  
of your recent past.

A \$25,000-per-night suite  
in Paris

with a personal chef  
whom you tipped heavily.

Toured the Bordeaux region  
in chauffeured hot-air balloons.

That was amazing.

A week of heli-skiing  
in Saint Moritz.

A small fleet  
of exotic cars.

The latest in everything,  
including women.

But the past is the past  
and I figure you've probably had  
a pretty tough month.

Well, it's about time.

Thank you very much.

And if I ever  
see you two again  
it'll be too soon.

Well, seeing how you've never  
held one of those before  
let me explain what it is.

That's a paycheck.

That's for what you earned at Gus's ranch.

Of course, the I. R. S. ravaged it first.

I hate those guys.

In your pocket  
every step of the way.

You start out in business,  
and then you have to make a payroll.

And just when you think

you're gonna make a  
Mr Stevens, this is  
the Gift of Money, please.

Yeah, all right. Sorry.

Look at me.

I'm carrying on about death and taxes  
even after I'm dead.

Now, you have to take that money and?  
as much as you need it yourself  
spend it on someone  
experiencing a real problem.

What can they teach you?

Put yourself  
in their shoes.

Jason, would you like us  
to cash it for you?

Please.

I think we know you  
well enough  
that we won't need  
any I. D.

How will you know  
how I spent it?

We'll know.

Hey.

I didn't  
take anything.

Nothin'. Nothin'.

Oh, no.

Great.

Naturally.

A young blonde woman  
and her little girl.

-Just down the hall.

-Thanks.

Paging Dr Howard. Dr Howard.

Paging Dr Kline.

Dr Kline.

Paging Dr Howard.

What are you doing here?

-You saw her.

-Yeah.

Did you talk to her?

-So, what's wrong with her?

-That depends.

-On what?

-On who you really are.

Maybe I can help you.

Emily has leukemia.

We thought she was in remission after  
her bone marrow transplant  
but a couple of weeks ago  
her body started  
to reject the transplant.

I'm sorry.

Uh, hey.

Uh, well, you gotta  
need money, right?

Oh, so that's it. You won your bet  
with your rich grandfather.

You're back off the streets.

Congratulations. What is it now?

Uh, I do have

to give away some money.

You're getting less mysterious  
by the minute.

I bet you're gonna get to the end  
of your game, collect your cash  
-and just ride off into the sunset.

-I don't know. Maybe.

But, Alexia, if I can help you,  
why won't you just let me?

Because no rich kid  
is gonna use me or my daughter  
to play a game.

She owes \$1,600

in back rent. Pay it.

You're a hundred dollars short.

Your check was for 1,500.

Tell Hamilton I'm good for it.

Just pay that bill.

Your other hundred.

Well, push Play.

Our lives should be lived  
not avoiding problems  
but welcoming them as challenges  
that will strengthen us  
so that we can be

victorious in the future.  
So, now that I've given you the gift of work  
and friends and the value of money  
let's discover  
the gift of family.  
Now this is a tough one  
but see if it's even  
remotely possible  
to get something positive  
out of our family.  
See if they truly know  
how to count their blessings.  
I f my doctors  
are remotely accurate  
this assignment might even  
fall on Thanksgiving.  
How appropriate.  
He's joking, right?  
Dr Allen, you're wanted in O.B.  
Dr Allen, please report  
to Obstetrics.  
-Hey, where's the girl?  
-Who, Emily?  
She's with God.  
Oh, there's my best friend.  
Listen, about the other day  
So, now you know  
all about me.  
No more mysteries.  
-Look, I'm really sorry.  
-Shut up.  
Don't be pathetic.  
I wonder if he takes  
advance orders.  
For what?  
For my place.  
You know, up there.  
What do you think  
it's gonna be like?  
Butterflies.  
Lots of butterflies.  
Did you know, God  
paints every color on a butterfly  
with his fingers.



I didn't know you thought about  
stuff like that.  
I think about dying.  
There's something basically unfair  
about a person dying.  
I even hate the idea.  
You know, I, uh  
I don't know much  
about God or  
or Jesus.  
But I can promise you that those arms  
are meant for you.  
What's gonna happen  
to my mom?  
I really don't hate her,  
you know.  
Did I mention  
I wouldn't be upset  
if you kissed her?  
Do you think  
your mom and I  
Okay. It's official.  
You are the slowest person I have ever met.  
You two were made  
for each other.  
I knew that  
back in the park.  
-In the park, I looked like a bum.  
-Let's not be delusional.  
You were a bum.  
So, what are you doing  
for Thanksgiving?  
-Mrs Drummond?  
-Yes.  
I want to send Emily's charts and blood work  
off to a specialist  
see whether or not she's a candidate  
for another transplant.  
Oh. Uh, will that give her  
a better chance than chemo?  
Unfortunately, chemotherapy  
isn't going to be enough.  
I'm sorry.  
Thank you.

So when I found out  
I was pregnant  
he was getting ready  
to leave for college and, uh  
didn't want anything  
to get in his way.  
And Emily she's  
she's the best decision  
I ever made.  
So, apparently  
someone came by  
and covered my back rent.  
Was it you?  
Thank you.  
I have a question for you,  
and I hope I'm not being out of line here.  
I was wondering if you'd like  
to join me for Thanksgiving.  
Oh. Um, thanks.  
That's nice of you to ask,  
but I can't.  
Um, obviously, Emily needs me here, so  
But thanks.  
Well, it's too bad,  
because youre missing out  
on a splendid example  
of a way-too-wealthy American  
dysfunctional thing.  
-It's Yeah.  
-Oh.  
You know, I have the strangest feeling  
I might have enjoyed it.  
What are you  
thinking about?  
Nothin'.  
You're thinking  
about Jason.  
Yeah. He's weird, isn't he?  
He's a good weird.  
You know, he, uh, invited me  
over to Thanksgiving  
with his family.  
-Oh, really?  
-Yeah. Of course, I told him, Whatever, loser.

-I think you should go.

-Absolutely not.

I wouldn't dream of missing

Thanksgiving with you.

So why'd you decide to come?

-My daughter banished me.

-Oh.

So I have you by decree.

Mmm, knowing Emily

by design.

Mission accomplished.

Two completely

opposite people

who wouldn't have had

a chance without me

destined to make

each other miserable.

You okay, Jason?

Oh. Don't tell me

you've never been on a bus before.

Wow.

Brace yourself.

Jason, seriously.

-I'm willing to bet that they are perfectly normal people.

-Oh, yeah? How much?

This is nice.

Thank you.

You know, I had my firm

do an informal audit

just the financials

of the publicly held side.

And there's still

several hundred million floatin' around.

Well, you knew him better than I.

Most of those companies

were privately held.

Maybe we should check into

some of his favorite charities.

-They do have to report large contributions.

-That's a great idea.

Daddy always was a sucker

for a begging hand.

Hmm. Unfortunately,

you're right.

And what sort of business  
does your family come from, Alexia?  
Um, health care.  
Oh, how wonderful.  
Well, we have a wing  
in the hospital downtown.  
A couple of wings, I think.  
Or is it  
a couple of hospitals?  
I always forget.  
My daughter is receiving great care  
thanks to your father.  
Great sector-health care.  
Little flat in the third quarter,  
but poised to rocket.  
Okay. I'd like to propose a toast.  
Yes. To each other.  
For suffering through a year  
of great adjustment.  
Uh, excuse me.  
Does anyone else seem to notice  
it smells a little like  
cowhide in here?  
And how are those  
sin stocks of yours doing, Jack?  
What's wrong with a little  
investment in alcohol, tobacco and firearms?  
-Over the stench of oil?  
-And what's wrong with oil, Thank you very much?  
My money's just as  
green in Manhattan as anywhere else.  
So, who does get  
the rest of the estate?  
Sarah?  
Well, I don't know  
anything about that.  
Well, you were  
the last one in there.  
-No, I wasn't.  
-Well, that's just ridiculous, darling.  
When we left, you were  
the only one there.  
Well, Jason was also there.  
-Ah. Jason.

-Do enlighten us, Jason.

You certainly could not  
have been the one  
that received the bulk  
of Red's estate.

-Or are you? -Is that why you insisted  
we get together for Thanksgiving  
so you could reveal  
your newly enhanced trust fund to us?  
It's Thanksgiving. I was hoping  
maybe we could all go around the table  
and each say something  
that we're most thankful for.

-Are you on crack, Jason?

-Again?

Well, here's a thanks.

We don't have to put up with Dad's endless  
litany of cliched quotes this season.

Or hand-spun,  
cornpone wisdom.

Hear! Hear!

Who is that?

I think he works  
down at the video store.

Well, Jason will tell you  
all you need to know about this man  
this dearly departed.

I mean, he more  
than anyone here  
has a bone to pick  
with the late, great Red Stevens.

Jason, I can only imagine  
what you've just been through.

-I could never get them to be thankful for anything  
either.

-What have you got?

-Hey!

-What in the world is that?

-All right, give it back.

-Pass it to me. Come on.

-Give it back!

- and if you do succeed

-Here Take it!

-you'll be one step closer to all I have for you.

What's all I have for you?  
It's between him and me.  
It's none of your business.  
It has everything to do with us.  
It's our money!  
So he's making you work  
for your inheritance?  
Not anymore, 'cause I don't  
think I could ever win at this one.  
Alexia, let's go.  
-Jason. Wait. Wait!  
-Don't!  
Just tell them  
what they want to hear.  
I don't have  
to tell them anything.  
Jason, you're gonna hear  
from my attorney Monday morning.  
-Yeah. Ditto.  
-Shut up, Jack.  
You're all pathetic.  
Wait.  
Jason, slow down.  
I put up with that for years.  
I was a part of that.  
What happened  
to your dad?  
He's dead. What else  
do you want to know?  
How'd he die?  
The only person who really knows  
just took it to his grave.  
Jason, there's something  
I always want you to remember, okay?  
When I met you,  
you were a homeless person.  
And you made friends  
with my daughter.  
We shared  
peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches.  
All this without me knowing  
anything about your background.  
Yeah, well, the problem is,  
that's me back there.

Yeah, but you can walk away from all that.  
You already have.  
I appreciate what you're saying,  
but money changes things.  
It gets you stuff. It's a- It's a way  
to live life worry free.  
-Money takes away the worry.  
-Yeah, I saw what money can do.  
And your worries  
or whatever  
you want to call them  
they're not  
life or death, Jason.  
Okay, I'm sorry, but my getting  
my inheritance is a matter of life or death.  
And I know when I say that,  
I sound like I'm being a Stevens  
and being a Stevens  
is all about money.  
But it's not.  
It's more.  
So, I'll pay you back  
as soon as possible.  
What?  
Uh, the money I owe you  
the 1,600.  
Happy Thanksgiving.  
Marietta Ruby.  
From the time I met her  
in the seventh grade  
that was my sweetheart.  
She didn't  
make it easy though.  
Took me all the way till the eighth grade  
to catch up with her.  
She's beautiful.  
Yeah.  
She passed away  
shortly after we were married.  
I'm really sorry.  
The greatest gift  
she gave me  
was the will to move on  
to overcome.

You know, I may have  
met someone myself.  
Then cherish her.  
And become  
the man she deserves.  
Have a seat.  
Now, as I said  
I had a feeling  
you were gonna stop by.  
That university you attended  
What was it rated? Number three?  
Number-three party school  
in the country.  
Do- Do you truly  
knowhow to learn?  
Jason, any process  
worth going through  
will get tougher  
before it gets easier.  
That's what makes  
learning a gift  
even if pain  
is your teacher.  
No. There's no way.  
Anywhere but there.  
I know what he's trying to do,  
and it's not gonna work.  
He can take his millions  
to his grave. I don't care.  
What he's trying to do is for your benefit,  
not your destruction.  
You know, Hamilton,  
you sound just like him.  
But guess what.  
You're not him.  
I don't know, son.  
I do have one of his kidneys.  
He's been out there for hours.  
Yep. He's got some big decisions to make.  
Do you think he'll  
come in or go home?  
He doesn't have a home.  
You're right! She hates you!  
-I know.



-Then why are you here?  
I have to leave the country  
for a while.  
I'm reluctant to go because  
of what I'm leaving behind.  
What are you leaving behind?  
Then you have to go.  
Now get out of here.  
You screwed up big time,  
you know!  
I had to eat a rubber hospital  
turkey for Thanksgiving!  
You better be back  
by Christmas!  
Even down here, you put your name on everything.  
Welcome! Oh, welcome!  
Jason Stevens.  
Oh! Oh!  
So good to meet you.  
-I'm Bella.  
-Hi.  
May I be the first to show you  
inside the library your grandfather built?  
-Yeah, sure.  
-Oh, good, good.  
Where are all the books?  
Oh.  
You joke.  
W- With the people.  
Is it not like that in the great libraries  
de Los Estados Unidos?  
Villagers wait for books.  
You bring them new books.  
They are waiting for you  
to pick up old books.  
Exchange. Library. Si?  
So basically,  
I'm in a third world country  
at a backwards library  
with no books.  
And the books that are here,  
I can't even read.  
Great.  
Mmm.

This I found  
when I was cleaning his desk  
once I heard  
of Red's passing.  
I thought maybe you  
would like to keep.  
When you sent this to him  
he proudly showed it  
to all of us.  
Then the tragedy.  
It broke his heart.  
Dear Grandpa  
How's Ecuador?  
I miss you and Dad so much.  
You know, my birthday's  
coming up, and I was thinking  
instead of giving me gifts  
this year  
could you take me  
on one of your trips?  
I promise I won't  
cause any trouble.  
I just want to see you  
and Dad again soon.  
Write back, please.  
Love, Jason.  
Hola.  
Un momento, por favor.  
You look  
just like your father.  
I was here  
the night he died.  
It happened up on that mountain,  
didn't it?  
-Take me there.  
-You cannot go.  
It is now the province  
of the drug lords.  
You don't understand.  
I'll pay you.  
Well, someday.  
I understand perfectly.  
But, senor, I only have one life.  
You're just bargaining now,

aren't you?  
Senor Stevens,  
you do not want to pay the price it would take.  
No one  
who goes there returns.  
Our guest of honor,  
Mr Jason Stevens!  
Oh.  
Gracias.  
I'm afraid to ask.  
Oh, you will love it.  
It's so rare we catch one.  
-The chief is going to talk.  
-Oh.  
He says we are here  
to celebrate you  
and those who keep  
the Jay Stevens Library alive.  
Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.  
No. No. No, no, no.  
He must be mistaken.  
My grandfather was very generous.  
Everything's named after him.  
No, it is the Jay Stevens  
Memorial Library.  
To my father.  
-Salud.  
-Salud.  
Have some more.  
-Salud.  
-Salud.  
Salud!  
Salud.  
You cannot hope  
to find it without me.  
How'd you know I'd go?  
You are a Stevens,  
are you not?  
I thought you said  
you couldn't take me.  
My purpose in coming to you  
was a promise I made to Senor Red  
that you could  
learn the truth.

He had one desire  
and one desire alone  
to ask your forgiveness.  
He said one day you would come.

Only then you could  
learn the truth.

Stop! Stop the jeep.

He had learned of a village  
in the next valley  
that had a plague and needed  
medical supplies.

But he never understood  
why Red forbid him to go.

There was no plague.

There was no village.

What?

Red wanted to introduce  
your father to the oil business.

But your father  
was restless and bored.

-No. No.

-He snuck away. He ran away

-and took a plane he had no business taking.

-No.

This is what Red wanted  
to protect you from. Till now.

There can be no blame  
for what happened here.

The penalty for  
your father's impulsiveness  
unfortunately, was a life  
his.

Americano?

Ow.

It was the best of times,  
it was the worst of times  
it was the age of wisdom  
it was the age  
of foolishness.

Can't you find him?

We think that

he went searching for the crash site  
which is in  
lawless territory.

-I'm sorry. Crash site?  
-Where his father died.  
Well, I mean, is  
is he in any danger?  
I'm so sorry.  
Neither love, nor hate thy life;  
but what thou livest,  
live well  
however long or short  
may the heavens permit.  
Tell me about my father.  
In many ways, he was  
very similar to you  
restless, rebellious,  
angry.  
I think Red  
saw something in him  
that he didn't see  
in his other sons  
a fire.  
The same fire  
he sees in you.  
I still don't forgive you.  
Amigo? Amigo,  
are you here?  
No, no, no! No! No, no!  
Please, no! I can- I can pay you!  
I have money! Please!  
-Oh, God! God! Does anyone  
understand what I'm saying?  
Mueren. Mueren.  
Muerte.  
Death.  
Hey. Hey.  
Hey. Shh.  
Can you walk?  
Save yourself.  
Not on your life.  
Come on.  
Come on.  
Hey. Oh. Mmm.  
What are you  
doing here?  
I was scared to death.

Where's Emily?  
Um, she's resting.  
She'll see you tomorrow.  
You guys have  
a good Christmas?  
We didn't have one.  
How could we?  
You know what? We're gonna have  
a fantastic one next year.  
I promise.  
We won't have a next year.  
The events of that day  
playin my mind over and over and over again.  
I'm so sorry.  
If your father hadn't died  
while working for me  
Please give me  
a chance to explain.  
Ever since that day, my life  
has been filled with grief.  
It is apparent that you  
will never forgive me.  
I do not blame you for this.  
It's also something  
that I cannot do for myself.  
I loved your father  
so much.  
A parent should never have  
a child precede them in death.  
It is the most painful  
experience imaginable.  
Uh  
that's enough for today,  
gentlemen.  
Welcome back, stranger.  
Hey.  
Ta-da.  
Here  
Wow.  
An airport gift shop gift.  
How thoughtful.  
Does it come  
with needles?  
Uh

Yeah, you can kiss me,  
even though you're a guy.  
I missed you too.  
Whatever.  
Let's cut to the chase.  
You really blew it  
with us this Christmas.  
I was unavoidably detained.  
Okay, yeah.  
I want Christmas.  
I want to ride a horse.  
Oh, I got, like, a week or two  
left with this other thing  
but, um, let me make a call  
and we'll see  
Jason.  
Now.  
Okay.  
-That works for me.  
-Excuse me, sir. It's Jason on line two.  
Oh, uh,  
will you all excuse me?  
I have to take this call.  
Go ahead, Jason.  
Mr Hamilton, look.  
One way or another, this is over.  
Either I was in South America  
way too long  
or I missed the deadline  
or whatever  
but what I'm about to do  
is way more important.  
And I know you have no reason  
whatsoever to trust me  
but I need to borrow  
my grandfather's jet.  
And I need it now.  
I want to take Alexia and Emily to Gus's ranch  
for a late Christmas.  
Jason, do you know what you're doing?  
Look, I have no control  
Uh, what, um, Mr Hamilton  
was saying was that, uh  
he'll be sending along

Red's next gift on your Conversay.  
You have your bags  
packed within the hour  
and, uh, he will  
have the jet fueled  
-and ready to go.  
-Thank you.  
This means so much to me.  
And, Hamilton  
I promise I'm gonna take back all those  
nasty thoughts about you being the Grinch.  
Thanks again. Merry Christmas.  
Hey, Gus!  
What is this?  
Snow in Texas?  
Had it trucked in.  
Ho, ho, ho!  
All right, Hector, hit it!  
-Merry Christmas.  
-Gus, this is Emily.  
-Hi, Emily. Welcome.  
-Alexia.  
-Hi.  
-Alexia, how ya doin'?  
-And there he is.  
-Hey.  
I'll get your bags.  
I see why you chose this place.  
I wish I could take the credit.  
Emily said her wish was to go  
horseback riding with you.  
What?  
Emily  
What? What's wrong?  
She's  
She's terrified of horses.  
I'm the one who loves horses.  
Oh, Jason, it's so beautiful.  
Thank you.  
Thank you.  
Well, this is what I was tellin' you about.  
-Pretty, huh?  
-It's beautiful.  
Hey, come here.



I wanna show you something.  
Gonna be okay, sweetie?  
Alexia  
-there's something I need to do.  
-What?  
For Emily.  
And now for me.  
And Gus.  
How about that?  
When I achieved my dreams,  
it was like going home  
to a place  
I'd never been before.  
You don't know that feeling,  
do you?  
The first few gifts  
I've given you have been practical.  
Show up, do this, do that.  
And then the gifts started  
needing you to provide input.  
They needed intuition.  
Still, your average person  
is too weighted down.  
Jason, you need to be free,  
free to dream.  
You need to come up  
with a dream, then act on it.  
Jason, this is the time  
for you to dream.  
You thinkin' about butterflies?  
No, Jason, I'm looking at the stars.  
You know,  
I set this whole thing up  
because I thought you wanted  
to go horseback riding  
not your mom.  
Get real. Horses are  
smelly and sweaty.  
So, sweetie,  
what's your dream?  
If you could dream  
of anything anything  
what would your dream be?  
My dream?

My dream was  
a perfect day.  
And I'm just  
finishing it.  
My dream was to be  
with people I love  
who love each other,  
that love me.  
What about you, Jason?  
What's your dream?  
I don't know.  
For as long as I can remember,  
all I wanted to do was have fun.  
Now I don't have a clue.  
It's okay.  
Guys are clueless.  
Hey, you have to know this.  
Even if you don't  
have a dream of your own  
you gave me mine.  
-That counts for something.  
-Mmm.  
Of course.  
Look at her.  
Isn't she beautiful?  
I mean, except for  
her choice in lipstick.  
But you have to admit  
even if you got nothing  
else out of the deal but her  
you'd still be a huge winner.  
Don't blow it. Knowing you,  
you're likely to do it.  
Merry Christmas, Jason.  
Merry Christmas.  
Up until now,  
I have only existed.  
I've, um  
I've drifted through life  
day to day  
thinking that  
that was enough.  
And honestly, I don't know  
if I have my own dream.

But I do know I can help  
others fulfill theirs. I know it.  
Jason, will you excuse us  
for a few minutes?  
Hamilton & Partners.  
We've deliberated and evaluated  
whether or not your answer  
conforms with the expressed  
desires of Red Stevens  
and we find  
that your answer does.  
Therefore, we are releasing  
an amount allocated for you at this time.  
That is, uh  
\$100 million to do with  
whatever you please.  
All of us here at the firm  
want to congratulate you, Jason  
for sticking it out  
putting up with some  
very harsh conditions  
and prevailing.  
Congratulations, Jason.  
So that's it?  
Yes, I- I think so.  
No, don't get me wrong.  
It's not the amount.  
It's, uh  
It's just  
I don't know.  
I was  
expecting a different  
feeling or  
something.  
I think that's  
because now you  
are a different person.  
And, uh  
And, no  
we won't cash  
that check for you.  
Okay, so he is the best  
architect in town. That's great.  
Tell him I want a meeting with him

first thing Monday morning.

-

-And how much is that?

I want to tour that property  
as soon as possible.

Oh, that's amazing. We'll have a meeting  
at the bank in, let's say, what, a month?

-That would depend on how  
many vehicles you were talking.

-I'm sorry. Can you hold on?

-Certainly.

-Yeah?

Mr Stevens, a- a young lady to see you.

-Great. Send her up.

-Okay.

-I'm sorry.

-Will it be a large number of

Yeah, there are gonna be  
plenty of cars.

-Okay, we'll have to look into it and let you know.

-Okay, Thank you.

You're welcome.

Oh, I like the remodel.

Where have you been?

In and out of prison.

Mmm.

Good to hear.

No visible tattoos.

-I missed you.

-Hmm.

-What's this?

-Oh, it's nothing.

That's a nice round number.

Somehow I don't think you'll be having  
any more credit card problems, will you?

You know, um,

you still owe me a dinner.

How could I ever forget?

I missed you.

I think I still

remember my way around.

Why don't you meet me

in a few minutes?

How quaint.

Hmm.

Jason?

Where'd you go?

Shall I keep the limo running,

Mr Stevens?

Maybe not.

Ah, Mr Hamilton, Miss Hastings,

I'm so happy you came.

Jason, what's going on?

Have a seat.

Please. I insist.

Thank you all for joining me today.

May I direct your attention to

It's called Emily's Home.

It's for a dozen or more families

experiencing extraordinary health challenges.

Now, over here

will be the homes.

They're part of the same complex,

yet individual dwellings.

Families are gonna be able to live together

while they face their problems.

Now, obviously, there's

gonna be plenty of parking.

Over here is gonna be a state-of-the-art

employment center

catering to parents, single or married,

who need to earn some sort of income

while their child

undergoes treatment.

Now, at this

state-of-the-art hospital

Excuse me.

What's missing?

Oh, yeah.

A church

a worship center.

How much is this

gonna cost?

If you look at the prospectus

in front of you, page 5.

The total initial outlay

will be \$350 million.

Your part will be to underwrite the financing

and a loan guarantee of 250 million.  
I'm gonna be putting up the first  
Mr Stevens, this is all well and fine. We did  
business with your grandfather for many years.  
Excuse me. I'm sorry for interrupting,  
but I didn't phrase this as a question.  
You are gonna do this. You made this much  
off my grandfather in a typical year.  
And, gentlemen, this project has  
the full resources of the Hamilton  
law firm backing it. -Yes? Oh, I  
Pro bono, as I'm sure  
you will be too.  
Wrap up the details for me,  
will you, Hamilton?  
-My pleasure.  
-Thank you all. I appreciate it.  
Hey! Whoa!  
Come on, come on,  
come on, come on!  
She wanted me to be there.  
It was so important to her.  
She wanted me to be there.  
Jason, Alexia,  
as mayor of Charlotte  
it is my extreme honor  
and privilege to preside over  
the ground breaking  
for Emily's Home.  
But it is also a sad day  
in that the namesake and the inspiration  
for this incredible project  
is not here with us today.  
But her spirit  
will always be with us all.  
Jason, Alexia.  
Thank you very much.  
Thanks.  
I am so proud of the man  
you've become.  
Thanks in great part to you.  
Meet me at my office as soon  
as possible, will you?  
-I have one more matter I need to discuss.

-Of course.

We understand you went outside the boundaries of our instructions with one of those gifts.

What?

Don't what me.

You know what I'm talking about.

-Miss Hastings, will you, uh, dismiss everyone, please?

-Oh. Yes, sir.

Over the course of several days this investigator personally witnessed and recorded the subject as he committed various misdemeanor infractions for which he was never cited.

Nevertheless, illegal activities did occur.

Panhandling,  
bordering on assault  
stealing private property,  
resale of stolen items  
street vending  
without a permit  
jaywalking.

It is the opinion of this investigator that the subject is a reprobate and not capable of completing the 12 gifts laid out in Red Stevens's will.

That's enough, Miss Hastings.

My pleasure, Mr Hamilton.

Jason, if you made it this far, he had one final message.

-Jason.

-Yeah?

You gave away the \$100 million?

All of it?

-Yeah, so what?

-Well, if you're standing here now it means that not only have you succeeded in receiving all of my gifts but have done so beyond the boundaries that I have set.

I guess that means that I have succeeded as well.

What I could not

accomplish in life  
I have done in death.  
As long as you are  
still alive, I will be too.  
I love you, Son.  
I love you too.  
Good-bye, Jason.  
As executor of the estate  
of Red Stevens  
I hereby execute  
and otherwise assign  
complete and controlling  
interest to Jason Stevens  
the balance of Red's estate  
including all holdings,  
investment portfolio  
and offshore interests  
totaling in excess  
of two billion dollars.  
Depending on OPEC prices  
and foreign currency fluctuations, of course.  
I need a lawyer for a few business ideas I have  
a few still  
in the dream stage.  
When would you like to meet?  
Meet? Hell, you're hired.  
Sir, are you sure you wouldn't like to meet first?  
You were at the top  
of your law class, were you not?  
-Yes, sir.  
-Then you're my lawyer.  
Now let's get on with it.  
We got a world to conquer.  
Do you think I'm old,  
Miss Hastings?  
Mm-mmm.  
Well, I think it's about time I retire  
from this law firm.  
Whatever will you do,  
Mr Hamilton?  
Go to work  
with Jason Stevens.  
-Change the world.  
-Mmm.



Hi.  
Thank you.  
So I want  
to give you a gift  
a series of gifts  
leading up to, well  
I wanna call it  
the ultimate gift.  
Now, you fail in anyway,  
it's over. You get nothing.  
You know, you do any work  
like you just did  
you can do anything.  
Now, aren't you  
forgettin' something?  
-I don't think so. Shoot.  
-The gift.  
The gift of work.  
-Wow.  
-Congratulations.  
The charge card company  
declined the charge.  
That's impossible. I don't have a credit limit.  
Just run it through again.  
It's always our practice to run it through again,  
but they declined.  
I need a friend.  
You expect this friendship  
to continue?  
I plan on knowing Jason  
for the rest of my life.  
Do- Do you truly  
know how to learn?  
Villagers wait for books.  
You bring them new books.  
They are waiting for you  
to pick up old books.  
Exchange. Library.  
Si?  
Well, you don't begin to live  
until you've lost everything.  
Wait! Wait!  
That's an \$8,000 paint job!  
Heck, I've lost everything

three or four times.

It's the perfect  
place to start.

And Emily she's

-she's the best decision I ever made.

-

What's gonna  
happen to my mom?

I really don't hate her,  
you know.

-Salud.

-Salud.

Salud!

Salud.

Jason, you need to be free,  
free to dream.

You need to come up  
with a dream, then act on it.

And honestly, I don't know  
if I have my own dream.

But I do know I can help others  
fulfill theirs.

Uh, I do have to  
give away some money.

You're getting  
less mysterious by the minute.

She owes \$1,600  
in back rent.

Pay it.

You're a hundred  
dollars short.

So, apparently  
someone came by  
and covered my back rent.

Was it you?

Thank you.

What would  
your dream be?

My dream?

My dream was  
a perfect day.

And I'm just  
finishing it.

-I love you, Son.

-I love you too.  
Good-bye, Jason.