

Amanda Jordan

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Royal City, WA

Ajordan4@student.fullsail.edu

The Deadly Box

By Amanda Jordan

Billy is surprised to receive a secret package on his doorstep. He never ordered anything online before or received gifts. He wasn't a very social person and had no intention of changing that. However, as he opened the front door to get his package, his whole life started to turn upside down. Before long, he is faced with the thrill of seduction, fear, and a whole new way of thinking.

Billy sat on the couch in the living room of his crappy little studio apartment. He had recently moved into it when his parents kicked him out of their basement. They live in a beautiful two-story house just outside of San Francisco, California. Living in San Francisco is extremely expensive, and all that Billy could afford was this small studio apartment. His mom is a writer, and his dad a very successful photographer.

They have tons of money and Billy doesn't understand why they wouldn't let him live there anymore. He knew he wasn't very motivated. Instead of going to college after high school,

he started a string of odd temp jobs around the city. His parents didn't understand why he would do something like this.

Billy tried to explain to them that he got a lot of satisfaction over helping an elderly woman with her groceries or mowing the lawn of a crippled man who couldn't do it himself. He hates book learning and didn't want to sit in a classroom. He wants real life experiences, but when the temp agency found out he was gay, they fired him.

He thought over the last conversation with his dad who told him he would never amount to anything unless he got his shit together. They gave him six months to find a job and get his own place.

"What assholes," Billy said out loud.

His eyes scanned the small, dark, studio apartment. At least his parents had been nice enough to give him their old furniture when he moved out. However, the high style décor didn't look right in the dark apartment, rented by a lonely busboy. He wonders if he will ever find the man of his dreams, who will put up with his lack of work experience and no money.

Most days he was busy at his new job bussing tables at the local Denny's. A job he hates but it was the best he could find with only a high school diploma and no motivation. He only took this job because he thought it would suffice his parents into letting him stay with them. However, since he waited until the last week to get a job, they were not happy and told him to leave. They were nice enough to pay the deposit and first month's rent on his new apartment.

Billy knew he would have to keep his job at Denny's just to pay his rent until something better came along. Today was his day off and he decided to do nothing but laze around and watch TV. Billy is only, 25 but has the body of a 45-year-old man and is not very healthy. Most

people compared him to looking like Bill Murray with his brown hair and blue eyes. He sat there wondering if he should order in some food or take a nap, when he hears a knock at the door.

Billy checks his watch, then stands up and walks to the door. *Who could possibly be here, he thought?* Wearing only a pair of ripped jeans and a white stained tank top he opens the door. To Billy's surprise he sees a handsome man standing in front of him, holding a package.

"Good morning," said the delivery man with a sultry voice.

Billy can't believe how sexy the delivery man looks. He was about 6 feet tall, with dark blonde hair, and blue eyes, and looks just like Jensen Ackles from the show *Supernatural*.

"You mean good afternoon," Billy says with a smirk as he points to his watch. "Unless you are like me and sleep all day. Are you?"

"Oh, that is embarrassing," said the delivery man as he glances at Billy's watch. "My name is Trevor. I have a package for you, and no I don't sleep all day." He nervously glances at the box and then at Billy and smiles.

"Can you please sign here?" Trevor hands Billy a clipboard.

"Thank you." Billy looks at the box. His hands sweating, and his breath growing rapid as the sun beats down on his face. He stares at the handsome delivery man and for a mere second wonders if he should ask for his number. Billy straightens his posture and smiles nervously.

"Is there anything else?" Billy says his eyes darting around anxiously.

Shocked and embarrassed, Billy's face turns beat red as he realizes he is being very rude.

Trevor wide eyed, looks at him and sighs.

Billy looks down at his feet and says, "I am sorry I didn't sleep well."

Trevor smiles and shifts the box from one hand to another.

"I thought you slept all day, but that's okay, I understand" says Trevor.

Billy stood straight and looks Trevor in the eyes. “I don’t always sleep all day, but on my days off I try to catch up on sleep.”

“Oh, that is okay I guess,” says Trevor.

Billy blushes and grabs the box out of Trevor’s hands. Before he could say anything else, he turns around and rushes inside the apartment and slams the door behind him. Muttering to himself he walks into the living room and sets the box on the floor.

“Why am I such a coward?” Billy says out loud. Billy wonders if a man like Trevor would even be interested in him.

Billy picks up the box and sets it on the coffee table. Scanning the room for something sharp, he spies a pair of scissors. He reaches over and grabs them. He is just about to open the box when he hears his phone ring. Standing up he sighs and reaches into his pocket and pulls his phone out. The Caller ID reads, *Unknown*. Clicking decline, he puts the phone back in his pocket.

Ring Ring

Unknown again. Billy sighs and rolls his eyes. This time Billy answers.

“Hello.”

“Hi Billy,” a man laughs. “How are you?”

“I am okay, and who is this?”

“You don’t recognize my voice? I am hurt,” says the strange voice.

“Umm, sorry no I don’t think so.”

Billy looks up at the antique bookshelf his parents had gave him. He spots a picture of him and his high school sweetheart, Lisa who he had lost his virginity to. This was before he had realized he was gay. They had remained close friends and he always treasured their friendship.

Even after she told him that his parents were right to kick him out and he needed to get his life in order. She wanted him to be successful, just like his parents did.

Annoyed Billy starts to pace around the living room. “Hey, I hate to cut this short, but either you tell me who you are or leave me the hell alone.”

“Now Billy, you don’t have to get upset, what would your mother think if she heard you talk like that?”

“My mother? How do you know my mother?”

“Oh, Billy, I know a lot about you; like how you are very kind and giving but you don’t want people to see that side of you,” says the strange voice.

“Okay, who is this?”

“Well, Billy, if you don’t know who I am then you won’t know what I am going to do to you, do you?”

“I am not sure what that is supposed to mean.” Billy bends down and looks at the return label on the box and saw it was blank. There is no sender information on the box. *Hmm, maybe it’s a gift from my dad*, he thought. Ever since he found out, I am gay he always tries to show me how supportive he is, so I get random gifts and magazines about gay pride. Not to mention the parades and rallies he drags me to every year.

Billy smiles and looks up at the photo of his parents on the bookshelf. Billy loves them for being so supportive of his choices and never making him feel ashamed. The sound of laughing jolts Billy from his thoughts.

Ha Ha. ‘It means exactly that, Billy, but you will know more when you open that box,’ says the voice on the phone.

“The box... how do you know about the box?”

Billy took a step away from the package and kicks it gently with his foot.

“Oh, Billy, I know everything about you remember? A word of advice, be careful and let me know what you think of my gift. I got to go. I will see you later.”

Billy hangs up the phone and looks down at the package. Taking a big gulp, he grabs a pair of scissors. His heart racing rapidly. He could hear his heartbeat in his ears. He bends down to open the box and stops. He looks up at the pictures of his parent’s again. Reaching into his pocket he pulls out his phone and dials his dad’s number. It rings and goes to voicemail. Billy starts to hang up and pauses.

“Hey Dad, it’s me Billy. I am sure you know that. I just wanted to call and say that I understand why you and Mom have been pushing me so hard to do better with my life.” Billy takes a deep breath and continues.

“After getting fired from the temp agency, I felt like the whole world had rejected me for being gay, and I got depressed and kind of spiraled out of control, and I took it out on you guys, I am sorry and I love you.”

Billy hangs up the phone started to put it back in his pocket.

Ring Ring

Billy jumps as the ringing phone startles him.

“Hello,” Billy says annoyed.

“Hello again, Billy. Have you opened the box yet? Oh, of course you haven’t,” says the strange voice.

“How did you know that I haven’t opened it yet?”

Billy looks around his apartment and shifts uneasy. He puts the scissors down on the coffee table. He walks into the kitchen and looks out the window. The street is empty of people and the only thing he sees is a few cars and a delivery truck parked on the side.

“I told you Billy I know everything about you, such as you are a bus boy who was recently kicked out by his bastard parents, as well as you are gay and looking for a soulmate.”

“Hey, show some respect and don’t call my parents names. They never did anything to you, and who in the hell are you?”

“I am sorry Billy, but your parents are not good people and they should have been there for you, instead of kicking you when you were down.”

“I am warning you, don’t talk shit about my parents!”

Ha-Ha. “You are warning me? Really Billy? You are one of the most timid and scared people I have ever met.”

“Met? Have we actually met? Who the hell is this?”

“Ahh Billy, I am the man of your dreams, the one you have been looking for and the one I have been looking for in return,” said the stranger.

Billy walks out to the living room and sits down on the couch. He glances at the box.

“Well if you are the man of my dreams then why won’t you tell me who this is?”

“You will know soon enough Billy, but first I want to see if you can figure it out.”

Knock Knock

Billy looks at the door and then back at his phone.

“Hey, I have to go. There is someone at the door. Don’t call me back until you decide to stop playing games.”

“Don’t you hang up on me, Billy,” says the voice angrily.

Billy hangs up the phone and walks to the door. Opening the door, he sees Trevor standing there.

“Oh, hello again,” says Billy.

“Hi, Billy. Can I come in?”

“Umm, sure.”

Trevor walks in and heads to the living room. He sits down on the couch and sighs.

“Billy, I know you are probably wondering why I came back and who I am, and I will explain all of that.”

“Okay,” said Billy.

Billy walks over and sits down in the chair across from the couch. He shifts uneasily as he looks at Trevor. Trevor anxiously taps his foot and stares at Billy.

“Okay Billy, I am just going to say it. I think you are really handsome and would like to take you to dinner. What do you think of that?”

Billy gasps and looks at Trevor, and smiles.

“Umm. Wow, that is probably the best invitation I have ever heard,” says Billy.

Trevor smiles and stands up.

“Ok great, I will call you later and we can set up the details,” says Trevor.

“That sounds good,” says Billy.

“Oh, hey can I use your bathroom really quick before I leave?”

“Huh, oh yes sure, it is right over there,” says Billy pointing at the bathroom door.

Trevor walks into the bathroom and closes the door. Billy watches him stunned by what just happened. Billy’s phone rings. He grabs it and answers.

“Hello.”

“Billy,” says the strangers voice. “Have you opened my package yet?”

“Wait, *your* package? You sent me this... what is it, and who are you?”

“Well, it’s a surprise but let me warn you at first it might be a little scary.”

“Scary, why is it scary, what does that even mean?”

“Yes, but it is all for a good reason. Just wait and see as it will get better,” says the stranger.

The phone disconnects. Billy looks down at the phone and shakes his head. Putting the phone back in his pocket he walks over to the box. He picks up the scissors and bends down. He opens the box and looks down only to find the decapitated heads of his parents.

AHHH

Billy screams and backs away from the box. Trevor comes running out of the bathroom and looks down to see the box. Horrified and scared, he looks at Billy.

“Are you okay?”

Shaking Billy answers. “Are you nuts? Of course, I am not okay, that is my parents.”

“Right but weren’t they bad people?”

Billy looks bewildered at Trevor.

“What? Bad people, what are you talking about?”

Billy runs to the front door and locks it. Looking out the peep hole he says,

“We have to call the police and get help.”

“Well hold on now, Billy. Let’s not jump to conclusions.”

“Conclusions about what? This maniac killed my parents.”

“Maniac is kind of a strong word, Billy,” says Trevor.

Billy turns and looks at Trevor who is standing above the box smiling.

“Wait, do you find this funny? Who are you?”

“Oh Billy, you know who I am,” says Trevor.

“What do you want from me?”

“What do I want from you?” says Trevor. “What I want is for you to love me and be mine forever.”

“But I don’t know even know you,” says Billy, “and what you are saying doesn’t make any sense.”

“You see Billy it does make sense, because I have been watching you for months now. Ever since I saw you at Denny’s and our eyes locked together, I knew I had to have you and that you and I are meant to be together. It was love at first sight,” says Trevor.

Billy slowly walks to the kitchen and grabs a knife.

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you,” says Trevor.

“You stop right there!” says Billy looking around nervously.

“Billy it is no secret that you are lonely and hoping to find the man of your dreams. I have heard your conversations with your parents at the restaurant many times.”

“What, have you been following me?”

“I was trying to figure out a way to ask you out, as I don’t have a great track record of dating men,” says Trevor.

“Probably because you are a psychopath. Wait, are you the one who has been calling me all this time?”

Trevor sighs and looks down.

“Yes, it was me who called you, but I am not crazy. You can even ask my doctor from the hospital.”

Billy looks around and sees the front door. He makes a run for it and trips over the box. He falls on the knife, plunging it into his stomach. Lying on the floor, he looks up and see's Trevor standing over him frowning.

"Billy what have you done?" Trevor says sadly.

Billy, gasps and tries to breath. Looking for his phone, to call 911 he can feel his life slipping away. Scrambling for his phone he looks up at Trevor.

"Why?" says Billy.

Trevor sits down on the floor next to Billy. Starting to cry he grabs Billy's hand.

"Oh, Billy, all I wanted was for us to be together, and now you have ruined that. I even killed your parents because they treated you so horribly. You are a good man and I fell for you the second I saw you. I've seen all the people you help. You are sweet to everyone. I just didn't want anyone to come between us. I knew you would forgive me when you saw how much love I have to give," says Trevor, leering at him.

Billy's breath slows and he gasp as he takes his final breath.

"This was not how things were supposed to go. We were supposed to be together forever. Just you and me, and now I am alone again," says Trevor out loud.