

REFLECTION PIECE

A Birthday Present: a reflection

Last year, a number of students from the School of English, including myself, had the opportunity to participate in a creative writing workshop that illuminated how difficult- and how liberating- it is to produce our own piece of art. We, the students, thank professors Carlos Morton and Zoe Detsi for their help and for providing this opportunity. Our task for this workshop was to create our very own short play.

Eve Ensler in the Preface to her play *Necessary Targets* writes that the purpose of theatre is “to experience what we experience, to see what’s in front of us, to allow the truth in, with all its sorrow and brutality,” (xv). With these words in mind, I started writing my short play *A Birthday Present*.

By writing a short play like this, I wanted to create an atmosphere of surprise. I love mystery and especially a successful plot twist. Readers may recognize and identify with what these characters express. That’s the goal, after all. The characters are flawed. They are brutal to each other like real people are in real life.

The title is *A Birthday Present*. Birthday presents are often items of joy and pleasure; unless people do not like them. In this play, a birthday present is a complicated thing. It will bring pleasure to some and it will be fatal for others.

Enjoy!

WORKS CITED

Ensler, Eve. *Necessary Targets*. Villard Books, 2001