



GIFTS by Valerie Michele Oliver

REVIEWS

"A beautiful short story."

—Priyanka Seth, *Editor, Star Scribes*

"This story really reminded me of "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry, but where his tale is about a newly married couple [Gifts] is about what seems to be a first date gone awry -- as they often seem to do . . . It's just occurred to me that the two characters aren't named in the story, which I didn't really mind, in fact it kind of added to the universal nature of the story."

—Hope Hammond, *Freelance Editor*

"I have just read your story, and found it... how to put this... having been in a serious relationship for some time, I can see exactly how the characters are fighting over a trivial matter that is in the end just that: trivial and unimportant in the larger scheme of things. For that reason, I found it not only touching but also real, and amusing in that way that makes you smile for the irony of life."

—Carrie White, *Managing Editor, Glass House Press*

“WOW, what a storyteller you are, Valerie Michele! This could be a mini-movie! It reminded me that to allow words to "hurt me" by taking something personally erodes my happiness . . . Spirit does have a sense of timing and humor?”

—*Lore Raymond, Entrepreneur/Writer, Women As Visionaries*

“It gave me chills. I appreciate all the details you included. I did feel the love as they both did what they could to honor the other. Beautiful!”

—*Angel-Rose Coen, Divine Guide/Healer/Author, Beyond Illuminated*