

13. Belatedly

Topic: Friends forget another friend's birthday.

Cast:

TANYA and AHMED: good-hearted, but absentminded friends

TOMMY: no clue as to his friends' confusion

- 1 *(Scene opens with TANYA and AHMED Center Stage, deep in*
 2 *conversation.)*
 3 **TANYA:** *(Obviously disturbed)* I completely forgot it was
 4 today.
 5 **AHMED:** *(Also upset)* I thought it was in May.
 6 **TANYA:** No, September! Remember last year he had that
 7 big party right after school started? September
 8 sixteenth.
 9 **AHMED:** He's gonna be mad at us.
 10 **TANYA:** I never forget a birthday. I can't believe I didn't have
 11 this written down.
 12 **AHMED:** Isn't Cindy supposed to remind everybody?
 13 **TANYA:** I know! She's always real good about reminding
 14 everyone about birthdays. She really dropped the ball on
 15 this one.
 16 **AHMED:** What are we gonna do?
 17 **TANYA:** I guess the damage is done now. He knows we
 18 forgot because we always celebrate first thing in the
 19 morning. I don't think there is anything we can do
 20 except apologize.
 21 **AHMED:** Oh, great. That should be fun. *(Spots TOMMY Off-*
 22 *Stage.)* Uh oh, here he comes.
 23 **AHMED and TANYA:** *(Count to three silently and then yell as*
 24 *TOMMY enters.)* Happy birthday!
 25 **TOMMY:** Huh?
 26 **TANYA:** *(Overly cheerful, in a false way)* I bet you thought we

- 1 forgot, didn't you?
 2 **AHMED:** *(Also eagerly cheerful)* Man, we didn't forget, did we,
 3 Tanya?
 4 **TANYA:** No, no of course not.
 5 **TOMMY:** *(Beginning to catch on. Suspiciously)* Hold on you
 6 guys, wait a minute. You forgot my birthday?
 7 **AHMED:** Didn't we just say we didn't?
 8 **TOMMY:** No one said anything during homeroom.
 9 **TANYA:** *(Hesitantly, like she's making it up.)* Uh, we ... were...
 10 we wanted to surprise you later!
 11 **TOMMY:** Like now?
 12 **AHMED:** Sure, now's a good time!
 13 **TOMMY:** So where's my stuff? The balloons and presents?
 14 **AHMED:** Oh, well ... they're coming a little later.
 15 **TANYA:** We had a little ... problem getting them this
 16 morning. But we'll have them later!
 17 **TOMMY:** You guys are a wreck. My birthday is May eighth.
 18 *(Smiles.)* But it was fun to watch you get all riled up and
 19 try to lie your way out of it.
 20 **TANYA:** That's so cruel!
 21 **AHMED:** Yeah, that was mean, Tommy. I wouldn't *really*
 22 forget your birthday.
 23 **TOMMY:** Oh yeah? Then how come you forgot it *last year*?