

Goodbye, Box

By

Vvinni J. Gagnepain

EMPTY STAGE

The only thing on the stage at this point is a stool. On the stool is a box. CONSTABLE FORTNITE paces around the stool with the box on it.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

So, what you're saying here is that you didn't see the killer? *(Pause)* Could that be because you *HAVE NO EYES?* *(Pause)* Oh, don't play dumb with me, I've dealt with your kind before, it was...

Fortnite continues speaking ad lib until at some point the box falls off the stool. Fortnite steps on the box. Constable Fortnite sits on the ground, cradling the crushed cardboard box that he had held so dear.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

Two can play at that game...

Constable Fortnite exits. When he enters again, he is carrying another stool, with another box on it.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

See, you're not that special. I can get another one, no problem. Think you're special? Think you're the top dog? Well you're not! You're nothing but a two bit pony in a sea of radishes and twine.

During his tirade, Constable Fortnite hits both stools, causing both boxes to fall to the ground.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

So, you're working together. I see how it is, You knew I'd be getting a replacement, so you planted this one, that's how it is isn't it? Well, four can play at that game.

Fortnite exits, and enters again with another stool with a box on it, he then exits again, then re-enters with another stool and box.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

You see? Oh, and don't think you can play your mind games with me, I've got plenty more. You can't all be working together, you can't all have fallen. *(To the original box)*

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

You know I loved you. I would have done anything for you, but now things have changed. (Pause) Oh, No. They've changed alright. Many things have changed, and this is one of them. (Pause) Yeah, well you're just a one shot portal that's past it's prime in gold. (Pause) Eight can play at that game.

Fortnite exits and carries in and out three more stools and four more boxes. The fourth box Fortnite places on the floor. He Pauses, and looks over all of the boxes carefully. Quiet. Calm. Fortnite nods, and begins to exit. He then runs towards the boxes screaming and waving his nightstick around, the boxes fly, and stools are knocked over.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

Think you've seen it? Yeah, well sixteen can play at that game.

Fortnite exits and re-enters with eight more boxes, some with stools, some without. The boxes range in size and possibly shape. There will only be eight stools now. When Fortnite has taken all of the new stools out, he resets the old ones. Eight stools, sixteen boxes, and Fortnite.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

(chuckles)

Still feeling cheeky? I've told you, I've moved on. I no longer need you, and besides you've committed a crime. (Pause) DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING! YOU SAW PLENTY! ALMOST AS MUCH AS I SAW! (Pause) Yeah, well thirty-two can play at that game.

Fortnite exits and begins throwing sixteen boxes onstage. Once again, these boxes can be any size, shape, or condition. Fortnite re-enters when he is done throwing.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE

Think you're special now? Do any of you think your special? WELL YOU'RE NOT! You're a bunch of identical airbrushes while deep sea diving. Hear that? You're nothing! Absolutely nothing. (Pause) Who killed him? Tell me now and I'll let you go. (Pause) That's the way

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 you want to be, eh? Well sixty-four
 can play at that game.

Now, I know one of you saw who did
 it. I expect one of you to speak
 soon. (Pause) SPEAK! I pray you,
 speak! (Pause) Nothing, eh? After
 I've begged you, after I've given
 you all I have. Well sixty-four can
 play at that game.

Boxes. Thirty-two of them. The crew helps this time. They go
 everywhere, on top of other boxes, the audience, everywhere.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 Now, are you ready to talk? (Pause)
 YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL HERE! I AM
 IN CONTROL! I AM A CONSTABLE!
 (pause) What did you say? (Pause)
 One hundred and twenty eight can
 play at that game.

Sixty four more boxes, this time only the crew. Boxes flood
 onstage, boxes of all sizes, everywhere. Boxes.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 See? I'm in control. Now confess.
 (pause) What? ...No...no. I can
 stop the boxes at any moment. Two
 hundred and sixteen! You want me to
 show you? I'll show you. I'll make
 the boxes stop. Four hundred and
 thirty-two can play at that game!

The boxes do not stop, they just keep coming.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 You-you're right. My god, you're
 right! (Pause) Alright, fine, so
 you're surrounded by eight hundred
 and sixty four of your closest
 compatriots. Think that makes you
 the biggest moose this side of the
 river? Well it doesn't! This is
 still my territory, still my
 domain, I'M STILL IN CONTROL!
 (pause) Seventeen hundred and
 twenty eight can play at that game.
 (Pause) I'm getting lost, is this
 your plan? Wait...where'd you go?
 WHERE ARE YOU? Ah-Ha! thought you'd
 escape did you? Well you didn't!

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 Your trapped, see, trapped! (Pause)
 But they're still coming. They're
 all closing in on me. I can't stop
 them, and hell if you will. Fine!
 I'll still get that confession out
 of you, though. (Pause) How? Oh,
 you'll see. I've appealed to your
 logic, to your emotion, to your
 language. Now all that's left is
 morality.

Fortnite begins beating boxes with his nightstick, at points
 all we can see is the stick rise and fall, with no sign of
 Fortnite due to the boxes.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 (while beating boxes)
 Who did it? Who? Tell me? You think
 I'm enjoying this? Is that it? I'm
 not! I'm not an evil person, I'm
 just doing my job! Thirty-four
 hundred and fifty-six can play at
 that game!

Fortnite beats boxes for a moment more, then stops.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 It's useless isn't it? You're not
 going to tell me. (Pause) I KNOW
 YOU SAW WHO IT WAS! I KNOW IT!
 (Pause) I don't need a box asking
 me questions. (Pause) I can still
 escape!

Fortnite tries to run offstage, a box hits him. He tries
 again, another box hits him.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 You-you've trapped me. There's no
 way out. Unless it's killing you.
 (pause) I know who you are, I've
 loved you for god's sake. (Pause)
 YES! I did. You were my life...but
 now...now I must kill you.

Fortnite breaks down a box in a violent fervor.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
 There. You're gone. (Pause) No...no
 I must have killed you. (Pause) Oh,
 No? Unlike you, I'll keep my sanity
 while in the others' playing field.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
And this time there's no puppy
guarding.

Boxes are still flooding the stage. Fortnite sits down on a
box.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
This is the end, eh? The end of the
great Constable Fortnite,
surrounded by the enemies he was
supposed to stop. And nothing
stopping them. I've been a fool to
let you go, you know? (Pause) Yes,
but that was in the heat of the
moment, I haven't forgotten you. We
could still make it work! Love me!
LOVE ME! (Pause) I see. Very well.
Nothing left. Surrounded by
enemies. Foreign enemies. There's
nothing left in this world for me.
You've switched, and the others
won't speak for anything.

Constable Fortnite sits down on a box and begins sobbing.
Boxes continue to flood. They are most certainly covering
most of the ground, and even obstructing the view at times.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
Fine. If you're not going to tell
me, I'll just have to stop you.
(Pause) You're right, I've lost
sight of you, which means I'll just
have to kill you all. Including
myself. (Pause) No. You've had your
tie for reason, I've had mine. Now
it's time for action.

Fortnite lights a match.

CONSTABLE FORTNITE
Goodbye, box.

Fortnite drops the match. Presumably everything burns. End.