



TRICE HETAD

The chronically unemployed

“This could be another chance... But is it really what I want?”

You were sixteen when your parents skipped town, leaving you alone in this hellhole. That same year you were diagnosed with a hereditary genetic disease: You're doomed to lose voluntary and involuntary control of your muscles, until you either die or get stuck in an iron lung for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, this wonderful bit of news didn't push you to live the rest of your years to the fullest like in a Lifetime movie. It destroyed you. You see a therapist to climb out of this bottomless pit of nihilism, but you've only found a stepping stone in the last few months.

You met John Smith, a travelling architect and the only person capable of making you feel loved every time you're together. He doesn't know about your disease, and that's exactly what gave you new life: If you were to lose him, your renewed optimism would promptly follow and you'd just go back to trying to smoke yourself numb, without the guts to leave your apartment.

But it's not like the world became any kinder overnight: A couple of months ago you got a job at RST Video, a horrible 24/7 video rental. The previous clerk, Dante Sparrow, had been fired for stealing tapes. Ian Mraz, its creep of an owner, made you uneasy from the very moment you met him, but you would never have imagined he'd go so far as to assault you. One day he snuck his dirty

hands under your skirt while you were busy sorting the upper shelves, and as you tried to wriggle free you fell from the ladder. You ran from the store in tears and never set foot inside again. Instead of suing him, you just buried one more horrible experience. You couldn't even manage to tell John, you were too afraid he would judge you.

Now you're on your way to another job interview for another shitty position: clerk of 66 Stop Groceries. John buys his cigarettes there and he says it sucks, but you need the cash, as well as the change of air. The owner's name is Arthur and he wants to replace the current clerk, Kennet—another creep, apparently. Luckily he won't be at the interview, and all in all you find yourself eager to get the job. It's not just the rain hurrying you on, although the weather does not bode well at all.

Profile

You're struggling to keep yet another person from abandoning you, but deep down you know nobody can accept you. You're impulsive, yet you rarely let yourself go, so you just end up another moody victim of paranoia, overwhelming people with your questions in a vain attempt to determine whether they can be trusted.

You're afraid to die, though you don't seem to care much about life. You'd do anything to avoid the ugly end that awaits you and you need to keep believing something is going to change in your life by the end of the day.

It's been a while since you last felt this kind of eagerness, and even though 66 Stop Groceries is not your dream job, maybe here you'll find a quiet place to get by until you kick the bucket.



Structure

You wear black inside and out.

The terrible knowledge that your days are numbered shines through your melancholy smiles. You're restless and tired, it's transparent from the way you shift your weight from one foot to the other.

Today you're strangely excited and you allow yourself to be somewhat more energetic, like a girl on her first date, both eager and terrified that something might go wrong.

Acquaintances

Kennet Hicks, the clerk you want to replace. The issue with rumours is that they make no difference between a persistent lech and a potential rapist. Still, the gossip surrounding him could hardly be any worse.

Dante Sparrow, the clerk you replaced back at RST Video. Ian described him as a thief and a troublemaker, but after what he did to you his words may as well be a heap of shit.

Heather Smith, your ordinary thirty-year-old good little housewife. But you remember her vividly: She came to RST Video every Wednesday to rent the wildest porn movies she could find. People are weird.

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