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Ha! This fool doesn't even know he's being used.

"I mean, you were fooled by this woman who goes by the name of Nancy Barrymore!" Gabriella enunciated each and every word carefully.

Rune came to a stop in front of Nancy before studying her in puzzlement.

"You don't know who she is, right? Her name is Nancy Barrymore, and she's Joan Watts and Larry Norton's best friend. She's also married to Jory Synder. Do you get it now?" explained Gabriella.

Realization finally dawned on Rune.

"You've been using me all the time?" Rune pointed at her furiously.

"No!" refuted Nancy loudly.

She treated Rune as a friend, but there was no way she could sit back and do nothing when Gabriella harmed her friend.

"Nancy, I've always respected you. Why did you lie to me? Is it funny to use someone blatantly?" Rune closed in on her. An icy glint flashed across his gaze as though he were about to kill her.

Rune hated people who had betrayed or lied to him.

"Rune, listen. I really wanted to be friends with you. I've never thought of using you. But Joan is my best friend. I can't allow her to be framed by others..."

"Shut the f*ck up!" Hearing the man's roar, Nancy trembled involuntarily.

Is he going to hurt me?

"Rune, is this your so-called friend? You definitely need glasses. I can't believe you allowed her to come to your store," Gabriella declared, adding fuel to fire.

"Gabriella, stop talking nonsense! Rune and I are friends. I'm not that despicable!" Nancy argued.

How innocent. She looks quite unyielding. I can't believe she's this silly. Gabriella snorted with disdain.

She won't get to leave this place today. Gabriella felt lucky for she was smart enough to send her men to keep watch on Rune. Otherwise, she wouldn't know that Nancy was a friend of Rune.

"How are you going to handle this?" she demanded.

Let's see how Rune will deal with Nancy.

"Get out. I don't want to see you again." With that, Rune turned and trudged away.

What? Is he crazy? How could he let her leave just like that? She knows my secret!

"No, you can't leave!" she hollered out of a sudden.

"Why not? Gabriella, you have no right to force me to stay. I'm only a customer," Nancy retaliated.

So what? The customer is always right?

Gabriella wasn't having any of it.

Meanwhile, gloom had veiled Rune's face as he slumped dejectedly.

"Enough, Gabriella. She hasn't said anything. Besides, she doesn't even have proof. Let her leave," he muttered.

Yet, Gabriella refused to let Nancy leave just like that. As Nancy was Joan's friend, Gabriella viewed her as an enemy, too.

"Sure, no problem. But first, I'll have to search you to see if you hid anything secretly." There was a hint of shrewdness in Gabriella's eyes.

What the heck? She doesn't have the right to search me!

Wait, this is suspicious.

Damn it, I have a recorder in my pocket. If the b*tch discovers it, my efforts will be in vain.

Luckily the recorder has been recording our entire exchange. They must've heard everything, right? A glint of hope appeared in Nancy's gaze.

"No, I have to go to her. She's in danger!" Jory rose to his feet anxiously.

"Hey, wait a minute!" Larry remained cautious.

Heading over right now would be too rash an act. They had to come up with a plan or risk wasting their previous efforts.

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"Get someone to enter the fashion boutique and pretend to be a customer. Calm down. We can't act recklessly," reminded Larry.

There was no way Jory could calm down for his wife was in danger. He immediately glared at Larry, clearly irritated.

After all, Nancy wouldn't have gone to the fashion boutique to fish for information if Joan hadn't gone missing. Now that Gabriella was there, she wouldn't let Nancy leave easily.

"Larry, that's my wife!" Jory grabbed his phone and strode out.

In the fashion boutique, Nancy's phone kept ringing in her bag. Yet, she dared not answer it.

"Ms. Barrymore, your phone has been ringing incessantly. Didn't you hear it?" Gabriella pointed it out on purpose.

She wanted to see how Nancy would react under the circumstances.

"Hello, Jory."

"Stay right there. I'll be there soon. Don't be afraid and stall for time. I'm on my way," uttered Jory.

Clearly, it was Jory who had called her.

"Alright, got it. But they only sell women's clothes here. I'll head to the mall to get your clothes later," replied Nancy deliberately.

"Nancy, what are you talking about? I'm serious. Stop talking nonsense. I'm worried about you!" exclaimed Jory.

"Hey, stop it. Can you be more serious? I'll buy your clothes later," Nancy continued.

It finally dawned on Jory that she was doing it on purpose. Someone's watching her!

They chatted briefly before cutting the line.

It seemed like a simple phone conversation, but Gabriella knew something was up. Nancy didn't just talk to someone on the phone. Hmm, I should get prepared.

"This way, Ms. Barrymore." Gabriella shoved her into the changing room.

"What are you doing? Stop it, Gabriella! What are you going to do to me?" Nancy struggled and retorted furiously.

Alas, her struggles were futile. She was no match for the strong Gabriella. Shortly after, her clothes were removed.

"Gabriella Ward!" Nancy roared.

"Ms. Barrymore, wait a minute. I'll return your clothes to you in a minute." Gabriella threw the clothes she had inspected into the changing room.

Huh? I couldn't find anything. That's impossible. She must've come to fish for information. Where is her tool?

Thump!

Suddenly, a pen fell on the ground and caught her attention.

What's this? A pen? From what Gabriella recalled, Nancy wasn't someone who liked to study. There was no reason for her to keep a pen in her pocket.

Could it be... Immediately, Gabriella threw the recorder to Rune warily.

"Hurry, find out what pen is this."

"Oh, you can buy this online. It's a recorder. Where did you find it? I don't have one." Rune shot her a curious glance.

Oh, I see! Gabriella's gaze turned menacing. I was right. Nancy did come here for something else.

"Your friend recorded your conversation." Gabriella gestured at the changing room.

"Look, Rune. I told you Nancy was just using you. What is going on in that mind of yours?" Gabriella went up to him before knocking on his head.

Rune couldn't believe how Nancy plotted against him.

He wished it wasn't true, but the recorder was proof.

"Rune, listen to me. It's not what you think," Nancy exclaimed as she hurriedly put on her clothes in the changing room.