

CONGRATULATIONS

by

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INT. STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING ROOM - DAY

The room is quiet. There is a simple aesthetic to the room, along with the six chairs that have jackets on the back of the them. The chairs circle a long table. The sixth chair doesn't have a jacket only a box in front of it on the table.

ARTHUR enters the room, a sense of order and balance in him. He casually goes to his seat which is on the left side of table by the first chair.

He is on his phone.

After a couple of seconds he places the phone on the table. Then he notices it. The box.

He thinks he knows what it is but isn't too sure.

He gets up.

JIMMY and DAWN walk in the room hanging off each other, clearly in love with just their bodies. Jimmy catches a glimpse of Arthur and pushes Dawn away. She is not happy.

DAWN

Hi, Arthur.

ARTHUR

(Unimpressed)

Sorry, was I interrupting?

JIMMY

Interrupting? Interrupting what, what are you even talking about?

Jimmy notices the box.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Ooooooh, looks like Virginia got a present.

He starts walking over to the box. Dawn closes the door.

DAWN

(to Arthur)

You know what's inside?

JIMMY

This is Arthur we're talking about, of course he doesn't know, he wouldn't open it without permission.

Arthur places his hand on the box.

ARTHUR
Neither will you.

JIMMY
Really, Mr.Goody-two-shoes is going
to stop me?

DAWN
No, he'll just put his hand on the
box to show you how pretty they
are.

JIMMY
Dawn, shut up.

ARTHUR
It belongs to Virginia, you know
the rules, her kill, her prize.

JIMMY
Sure, like that softy could have
ever-

ARTHUR
I don't care what you think, We
have rules for a reason.

A beat...

...Jimmy grips the box.

JIMMY
Virginia asked me to open it for
her.

ARTHUR
Is that really the best you can do?

Jimmy throws a punch but it's caught by Arthur. His face
remains stoic.

Jimmy throws another punch letting go of the box.

Arthur slides the box to the end of the table while dodging
the punch. Dawn rushes to the box and stops it before it
falls to the floor.

DAWN
Maybe we should wait till Virginia
gets here to open the box?

JIMMY

Screw the box. I'm thinking the treasurer needs to learn some respect.

ARTHUR

Yeah, I was thinking the same thing about you. I am surprised you haven't been caught.

JIMMY

What's that supposed to mean?

ARTHUR

I'm just saying you don't understand what no means.

JIMMY

You little-

Erik flings open the office door. He is out of breath.

Erik scans the room and takes a step inside. He sees the box.

ERIK

What's that?

DAWN

Don't know, it-

JIMMY

It belongs to Virginia.

ERIK

What?

ARTHUR

It was here when I came. At her spot.

ERIK

Did you open it?

JIMMY

I've been trying, but Arthur has been getting in the way.

ARTHUR

We'll open it once everyone gets here.

JIMMY

Before or after the meeting?

ARTHUR

That's not up to me to decided.

ERIK

Alright we'll wait.

Erik walks up to the chair on the right of the sixth chair and takes a seat. Jimmy who is right next to him moves to his seat which is on the right of Erik.

Dawn slides the box back to Arthur, Jimmy tries to grab it but is stopped by Erik.

Dawn walks over to Arthur and takes a seat opposite of Erik. On the left of the sixth chair.

Arthur takes his seat and they wait.

Jimmy is sliding his phone back and forth on the table between his hands.

Dawn is scrolling through Twitter.

Erik and Arthur and are quietly waiting.

Sophia enters the room. She is neat and powerful, she is the kind of person that doesn't tell jokes. Give her a mission and she will execute it flawlessly.

SOPHIA

I see, that everyone is here.

Sophia takes he her seat at the head of table, the first chair. Only the seat across from her, the sixth seat, is open.

ERIK

Virginia is not here yet.

SOPHIA

I know.

JIMMY

Do you know you when she's coming, she's got a package.

Sophia glances down at her sleeve, there is a red stain there. She slowly takes her hand and places it on her lap out of sight.

Erik notices.

ARTHUR

If she's not coming, then I am going home.

SOPHIA

Don't you have something to report.

ARTHUR

Yeah, it was Virginia.

SOPHIA

Does it pertain to the school festival?

ARTHUR

Yea.

SOPHIA

Virginia is no longer in charge of that, so just tell me.

ERIK

Then I guess this box belongs to you.

Erik slides the box down to Sophia aggressively, he knows what it is now. Jimmy and Sophia stop it at the same time.

JIMMY

You don't mind if I open it, do you?

DAWN

What's going on?

ARTHUR

Jimmy let her open it, it's hers.

JIMMY

Before you were saying it was Virginia's and now you're saying it's Sophia's.

ARTHUR

Cause I didn't know-

JIMMY

I'm opening it.

Sophia lets go of the box.

SOPHIA

Go right ahead.

Jimmy glances at her, then the box. He hesitates. Could it be a trap?

Jimmy takes a deep breath in and opens the box. Erik takes a glimpse of it and looks away.

Jimmy puts down the lid on the table. Inside is a black jacket, a letter, and a decorated knife.

Everyone can now clearly see what's inside the box.

There.

Is.

A.

Tense.

PAUSE.

Jimmy stands up.

JIMMY

Let's go Dawn. Virginia's not coming.

DAWN

(Toxic)

Oh really, I wouldn't have guessed.

They leave the room.

ARTHUR

Here I thought we weren't allowed to target each other.

Erik gets up. He is a little weak in the knees.

ERIK

Naivety is a killer Arthur, You can't expect everyone to follow the rules. Sophia?

SOPHIA

Yes, Erik?

ERIK

I quit.

He leaves.

SOPHIA
What about you Arthur?

He doesn't say anything.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
Isn't there something you're
supposed to say to me?

A beat...

...He needs to be careful.

ARTHUR
(Painful)
Congratulations.

Arthur gets up and heads for the door.

SOPHIA
Arthur.

He stops.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
Tell your mother I'm sorry for her
loss.

She tries to string together a smile. Arthur glances back at
her.

ARTHUR
Yeah... Will do.