

SANTA CLAUS IS MISERABLE

written by

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INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

It is packed with students. Among them are HORACE FERBER, 28, tall and thin with a pair of glasses on. Sitting next to him is FANNY WILLING, 27, long and straight hair, gentle. The two are engrossed in listening to their painting teacher, MARGARET BRIGHTON, 50, elegant and gentle.

MARGARET

I'm glad to see so many students here. All of you have basic and intermediate painting skills. In this class, I don't need to teach you the skills. What I'm going to do is to upgrade your creativity. Not easy.

She scans.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Judging from your faces, I know you all can achieve it. Your faces show me your ability, wisdom, talent and so on.

Laughter.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

And pay the course fee on time.

More laughter.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Just joking. Anyway, I'd like you to tell me something about your background. Who'll be the first?

Silence.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Time for silence.

Laughter. She looks around. Her eyes are fixed on Fanny.

FANNY

Judging from your eyes, I know you've picked me.

All laugh.

MARGARET

You are unlucky.

Fanny smiles.

FANNY

My name is Fanny Willing. I work from home selling and buying. Actually, I love painting and I know it's hard to be a painter. My dream is to paint an impressive picture you all like it. Creativity is important so I hope you can upgrade mine.

MARGARET

No worries. I'll do my best to help you.

Fanny nods. Margaret turns to Horace.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Is the gentleman sitting next to you your boyfriend?

Fanny turns to Horace. He smiles at her. She smiles back.

FANNY

He isn't.

MARGARET

You two look like lovers.

Fanny and Horace smiles.

HORACE

My name is Horace Ferber. I am single.

All laugh.

HORACE (CONT'D)

I also work from home. I am a translator. Sometimes, I feel my job a bit boring so I want to do something interesting. Painting is my cup of tea. I think creativity is very important. I'd like to make my painting more creative.

FANNY

Me too.

MARGARET

Does anyone want to share her or his background with us?

ROGER BYRON, 35, medium built with a moustache raises his hand.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

(looks at Roger)

Glad to see this gentleman raising his hand. What'd you like to share with us?

Roger stands up.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

You don't need to stand up. You can sit down.

ROGER

I prefer standing. My name is Roger Byron. I have been painting for fifteen years and I have a collection of my works. Maybe, I'll share them with you. I am confident to my works. My works are amazing, valuable, rare and inspirational. I like to talk with my wife about them. She likes them very much. Sitting next to me is my wife Lolita.

LOLITA BYRON, 33, short hair, stands up.

LOLITA

Hi, I'm Lolita. Thanks to my husband, Roger who told me about the pleasure of painting and inspired me to paint. I learned a lot from him. He is a great painter. I paint every day. I paint with my coffee which can give me inspiration. I paint with my sandwich which can give me energy. I paint with my music which give me relaxation. I paint with my...

MARGARET

(cuts in)

Okay, Lolita, I know what you mean. Time's up. See you this Friday.

Margaret opens the door and leaves. Lolita glares at her leaving. The students leave the room.

HORACE

(to Fanny)

Goodbye.

FANNY

Goodbye.

Horace gets up and leaves the room.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Horace sits on the couch with FRED BROWN, 30, watching tv.
Horace sips his coffee and puts it down on the coffee table.

HORACE

I met with a woman in a painting
class. She looks attractive.

FRED

Hot?

HORACE

She isn't. She looks gentle and
friendly. That's why she is called
Fanny.

FRED

Did you try to date her?

HORACE

I didn't.

FRED

Why?

HORACE

Actually, I wanted. But no guts.

FRED

You aren't good at it. What're you
panning to do?

HORACE

I don't know.

FRED

What does she look like?

HORACE

Gentle, elegant and easy going.

FRED

How do you know she's easy going?

HORACE

I trust my eyes.

FRED

Yes. You've a pair of good eyes.

HORACE
What do you mean?

FRED
You picked me as your friend.

Horace smiles.

FRED (CONT'D)
How's your painting class?

HORACE
It is good. The teacher's
experienced, has a sense of humour,
considerate. Eager to attend this
Friday's practice class.

FRED
Painting isn't my interest but I
can give some advice on dating her.

HORACE
You've lots of experience. An
expert.

Fred smiles in embarrassment.

FRED
To be honest, I am a failure of
love. They dumped me.

Horace seems surprised.

HORACE
Why do you give me advice? Because
you're a failure.

Fred sighs.

FRED
Because you won't make the mistakes
I've done. Saves lots of time.

HORACE
Thanks.

FRED
You're welcome.

Both laugh. They turn to watch tv.

INT. FANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Fanny sits at a desk with NINA BAWCK, 26. Fanny is typing on the computer screen. Nina is engrossed in watching it.

FANNY

Which painting brush should I get?

Fanny scrolls down.

NINA

Lots of. Hard to pick one.

Fanny nods. She scrolls down and stops.

FANNY

How about this one?

Nina shakes her head.

NINA

Too expensive. You don't need to get one like this. It is for professionals.

FANNY

It's an advanced class. Close to pro.

Nina nods.

NINA

Up to you.

Fanny keeps scrolling down.

NINA (CONT'D)

How is your class?

FANNY

Good. The teacher's nice.

NINA

How about the classmates?

FANNY

They look friendly.

NINA

Any handsome guys?

FANNY

No handsome guys. But a man named Horace seems attractive.

NINA
What does he look like?

FANNY
Tall and thin. Wears a pair of
glasses.

NINA
Is he your cup of tea?

FANNY
Yes, he is

NINA
Give him a chance.

Fanny thinks for a while.

FANNY
Let it be.

NINA
Did he try to date you?

FANNY
He didn't. Just say goodbye after
the class.

Nina's eyes are fixed on a Fanny.

NINA
He is too shy. A virgin?

Fanny laughs.

NINA (CONT'D)
Give him to me. I like virgins.

Fanny elbows her.

FANNY
Time's up.

She scrolls down.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Ten students including Horace and Fanny stand painting. All are engrossed in their works. Margaret walks around. She gives advice to some students. She stops and pats Fanny on the shoulder.

MARGARET

Well done.

Fanny smiles. Margaret starts to walk around. She stops to give a thumb up to Horace.

HORACE

Thanks.

This catches Roger and Lolita's attention. Both look unhappy.

MARGARET

I'm glad to see you all doing well in your paintings.

All students stop painting.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Your works are very skillful and creative. I know you guys spent lots of time in your preparation for your works.

Margaret APPLAUDS.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Besides, the works you all sent to me that I have appreciated were high standard and I have finished making comments on them and I'm gonna give them to you later.

All APPLAUD.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

At the end of this class I will pick a student whose work I like most and will give the student a medal to praise her or his for their effort.

She pulls out a medal from her trouser pocket, holding it up. All of the students have an eager look on their faces.

ROGER

(whispers to Lolita's ear)
Without a doubt, I will take it home.

LOLITA

I'll be the only one who can compete with you for it.

Roger nods.

CLASSMATE#1

Who do you think'll have a good chance of winning it?

MARGARET

Judging from the works you submitted to me, I think Horace and Fanny have left very good impression on me.

ROGER

(in a low voice)
Impossible!

LOLITA

(in a low voice)
Impossible!

All turn to Horace and Fanny. They are happy.

HORACE

Margaret, thanks to you for your appreciating for my work. Fanny is a good painter. Hopefully, I can beat this good competitor to win the medal. To be honest, other classmates are also good. Actually, all are good competitors.

FANNY

Agreed.

Margaret looks at her watch.

MARGARET

Okay. See you this Tuesday.

The students gather up their belongings and leave. Margaret sits at her desk. Roger and Lolita walk up to her.

ROGER

Hi, Margaret. Did you see my work handed to you last week. The work about a house in a remote island.

Margaret thinks for a while.

MARGARET

Yes. I saw it.

ROGER

What'd you think of it?

MARGARET

It's good, especially the feeling of loneliness that you expressed clearly and impressively. Nice work.

LOLITA

How about my work? The clouds in the sky.

MARGARET

I was impressed by the skills you used to paint it. Well done.

ROGER

Why'd you pick Horace and Fanny's works, not mine and Lolita's.

MARGARET

Yours're good but theirs are better.

LOLITA

Really?

MARGARET

Yes. Why do you ask?

ROGER

I'm curious.

MARGARET

Oh. I see.

The two turn and leave furiously.

INT. CORRIDOR - CLASSROOM - LATER

The students walk down. Some chat. Some use thier cell phones.

HORACE

Fanny, I will do my best to win the medal. Don't think less of me. Just joking.

Fanny smiles.

FANNY

I won't let you take the medal home. It belongs to me. Just joking.

Horace smiles.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The door is opened. Roger and Lolita enter. They set supermarket bags down on the coffee table and slump on the couch.

ROGER

I'm worn out. Never thought that holding the bags made me so exhausted.

LOLITA

That's why you should go to the supermarket very often.

ROGER

Why?

LOLITA

To get used to it.

ROGER

I won't. Tired of lining up. They moved very slowly. I really wanted to push them forward with my straight right.

LOLITA

I know you really wanted, but something stopped you from going further. You kept on thinking of it.

Roger turns to Lolita.

ROGER

What's it?

LOLITA

Margaret ignored your work that is better than Horace's

ROGER

That's right. She needs to change her glasses and retire. I don't think she's eligible for the post. Find someone else to replace her. By the way, she also thought less of yours, Lolita.

She gets up from the couch quickly.

LOLITA

(furious)

I have seen Fanny's work that is very ordinary. Compared to me, she is just a kid. Margaret'd retire. Don't waste our time.

Roger gets up from the couch quickly.

ROGER

(angry)

She's wasting our valuable time.

Lolita takes out a frozen chicken from the bag. She holds it up.

LOLITA

(looks at it)

I'm going to cook Margaret.

ROGER

Fry it.

She fingers the chicken.

LOLITA

Margaret chicken.

Roger pulls out another chicken from the bag. He holds it up and fingers it.

ROGER

Horace chicken.

Lolita takes out another one and fingers it

LOLITA

Fanny chicken.

ROGER/LOLITA (CONT'D)

(loud)

Eat them.

The two take the three chickens into the kitchen.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fanny is painting. Nina stands next to her watching.

NINA

You got an expensive brush. You think much of your class.

FANNY

Yes. I like the class very much. With the encouragement and inspiration of Margaret, I've learned a lot. The classmates're nice. Amazing!

NINA

And Horace.

Fanny CHUCKLES.

NINA (CONT'D)

Did the shy Horace try to date you?

Fanny shakes her head.

FANNY

From his eyes, he wanted to but he is too shy.

NINA

What a pity!

FANNY

Tell you something about my painting. Margaret liked it and Horace's very much. Ours will have a good chance of winning a medal at the end of the class.

NINA

Congratulations!

FANNY

Thanks. I will do my best.

Fanny puts down the brush.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I've finished it. What do you think of it? You've knowledge of painting.

Nina studies it.

NINA

Up to standard. It'll be better if you try to make this more colourful.

Fanny nods.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Horace is painting. Fred sits on the couch typing on his notebook screen. Fred shakes his head.

FRED

I need to complete this project by this Friday. Just finished one third of it.

HORACE

You can.

FRED

How's your painting.

HORACE

Almost finished.

FRED

Is it for your homework submission.

HORACE

Yes. The painting I submitted to Margaret got good feedback from her. She said either Fanny's work or mine has a good chance of winning a medal at the end of the class.

FRED

You're amazing.

HORACE

Fanny is amazing too.

Fred still types.

FRED

Did you try to date her?

HORACE

No.

FRED

Come on. Do something.

HORACE

I'll take it into account.

Fred stops typing. He yawns and stretches. He gets up and stands watching Horace painting.

INT. CLASSROOM - EVENING

Students including Horace, Fanny, Lolita and Roger are painting. Margaret walks around and stops to make comments on a female student. Then she instructs another student.

Horace and Fanny are engrossed in their works. Lolita turns to watch Horace and Fanny painting. Roger stops painting. Margaret keeps on walking around. A moment later, she stops.

MARGARET

Any problems with your work?

No response.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Okay. I've a piece of news to announce.

All stops painting.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Christmas is coming. To celebrate it, there's a Christmas tree in the Silver Park. Everyone's encouraged to add their decorations to the tree. Hope you'll add some of your works there to increase the Christmas atmosphere.

STUDENT#1

I won't. My work is very ordinary.

STUDENT#2

My painting won't get attention.

MARGARET

You'd try. Anyone wants to add some to the tree?

Silence.

STUDENT#3

I think Horace and Fanny'd display theirs there.

STUDENT#1

Agreed. I've seen theirs.

Horace and Fanny smile. Roger and Lolita look angry.

FANNY

I'll give it a shot.

HORACE

Me too.

Horace and Fanny exchange a look. They smiles at each other.

INT. SILVER PARK - EVENING

A tall Christmas tree stands. Visitors look up at it. Some take photos of it. Some talk about it. Fanny draws it. Horace and Fred enter. They walk around.

FRED

How beautiful this Christmas tree is!

HORACE

The best I've ever seen.

FRED

Are you gonna add a painting to it?

HORACE

Yes. I really want to increase the atmosphere here.

Fred nods. Horace spots Fanny painting. His eyes are focused on her. Fred elbows Horace.

FRED

Who's that girl?

HORACE

Fanny.

FRED

Oh! Why're you standing? Do something.

Fred pushes Horace forward slightly.

FRED (CONT'D)

Don't miss the boat. She is alone.

Horace starts to move toward her. Suddenly, a group of visitors flock to, blocking Horace. Fanny stops drawing and walks away. A disappointed look on Horace's face.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Fanny paints. Nina stands next to her. Fanny stops painting.

NINA
Why'd you stop? Anything wrong?

FANNY
This Santa Claus is too traditional. It won't make the tree more attractive. It needs something special.

NINA
You're right. Something special is important. What'll you do?

FANNY
Um...

Fanny is deep in thought.

FANNY (CONT'D)
What'd you suggest?

NINA
Um...

The two laugh.

NINA (CONT'D)
We should focus on his costume.

FANNY
That's right.

Fanny puts down the brush. She scratches his hair.

FANNY (CONT'D)
Hard to come up with a good idea.

NINA
You can.

Fanny scratches his hair again. Nina looks at her.

NINA (CONT'D)
You can.

Nina turns to stands behind Fanny.

FANNY
What're you doing?

Nina massages Fanny's both shoulders.

NINA

You're too nervous. It can help you out with a good idea that makes the painting unique and amazing.

FANNY

I'm feeling very comfortable.

Nina stops massaging.

FANNY (CONT'D)

Keep going. Good idea is coming.

Nina does massage to Danny's both shoulders.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I made it.

Fanny picks up the brush and paints a Santa Claus.

NINA

Nothing special.

FANNY

You'll see.

Fanny keeps on painting.

FANNY (CONT'D)

Looks at his feet.

Nina complies. Fanny paints the Santa Claus wearing shorts, his fat and naked feet with a pair of sandals on.

NINA

That's funny. However, why shorts and sandals? He comes from the North Pole.

FANNY

He gave the trousers and boots to a child as a present.

Nina bursts out laughing.

NINA

I like your idea.

FANNY

As a painter, we need something creative or it will become boring.

NINA

I'm worried Santa Claus would catch cold.

FANNY

He wouldn't because he is Santa Claus and...

NINA

And what?

Fanny moves closer to Nina.

FANNY

(whispers in her ear)

He would get discount as seeing a doctor.

The two bursts out laughing.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I'll put this one at the bottom of the Christmas tree.

NINA

Amazing.

FANNY

I need to make some adjustments.

Fanny starts painting.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Horace paints. Fred stands next to him also painting.

FRED

I don't have any talent for painting. Look at my work. Terrible!

Horace turns to Fred's work.

HORACE

You need patience. You just started to learn painting. Basic skills.

FRED

Your work is good.

HORACE

I have learned painting for six years.

Fred puts down his brush.

FRED
I need to take a rest.

He sits down on the couch.

HORACE
Finished.

FRED
That's a good painting.

HORACE
Thanks.

Horace yawns and stretches. He sits down on the couch.

HORACE (CONT'D)
I also need a rest. It tooks me
four hours to complete it.

FRED
It may take me four weeks to
complete this one.

HORACE
You're joking.

FRED
What're you planning to do after
the advanced class?

HORACE
Not decided yet. Perhaps, I want to
be a professional painter. Sell my
works.

FRED
Really?

HORACE
Maybe.

FRED
If you sell your work, I'll be your
first buyer.

HORACE
You're a good friend of mine. By
the way, I forgot to show you
something.

Horace gets up and walks into his bedroom. A moment later, he comes out carrying a painting of Santa Claus whose right hand holding a spatula, left hand holding a pan.

Fred gets up and studies the painting.

FRED
It looks funny.

HORACE
I wanted to make it more creative.

FRED
Why spatula and pan? His hands are used for giving presents.

HORACE
You're right. That's why I used spatula and pan.

FRED
For what?

HORACE
Cooking turkey at Christmas.

Fred chuckles.

FRED
Your idea is very unique and interesting.

HORACE
I will display it at the bottom of the Christmas tree in Silver Park.

FRED
That's great. If I could paint, I would do the same thing.

The two keep on studying it.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Roger and Lolita paint.

ROGER
Look at my work. It is extraordinary. It is about Christmas.

Lolita turns to it.

LOLITA

Fantastic! Why don't you display it
in the Silver Park?

ROGER

It's priceless. I won't show it to
the public.

LOLITA

You're right. Mine's priceless too.

ROGER

Yes.

They keep on painting.

INT. SILVER PARK - EVENING

Fred and Horace enter. Horace carries the framed painting of
Santa Claus holding a spatula and pan. They reach the
Christmas tree. Horace puts it down at the bottom of it.

HORACE

Hopefully, they'll like it.

Fred looks around.

FRED

Fanny isn't here.

Horace looks around. Moments later, they turn around and sit
down on a bench. Some visitors come to the tree and watch the
painting.

FRED (CONT'D)

They seem to be interested in it.

Horace nods. Then they leave. Other visitors come and watch
the painting.

HORACE

Hope they like it.

A few visitors come and watch the painting. They discuss it.

FRED

What're they talking about?

HORACE

I don't know. Time to leave.

FRED
You don't want to hear their
reaction to it, do you?

HORACE
Let it be.

They get up and start to walk. A moment later, Roger and Lolita enter. They walk around. They stop to watch the Christmas tree.

ROGER
This tree is amazing. If it has
something special, it'll make it
more amazing.

LOLITA
Your painting.

ROGER
That's right. Yours is amazing too.

Lolita smiles.

LOLITA
What a pity! You rejected
displaying it to the public.

ROGER
Only you can enjoy watching it.
You're the luckiest person in the
world.

LOLITA
Honey! Thanks a lot.

Roger spots the framed painting of Horace. They move closer to it whose has a signature of Horace Ferber.

LOLITA (CONT'D)
(in a low voice)
It was painted by Horace.

Roger nods. Roger glares at it. Visitors walk away, leaving Roger and Lolita.

ROGER
Look at it. Just trash. It isn't
eligible for displaying it here.

LOLITA
Agreed.

Roger looks around. He takes away the painting.

LOLITA (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

ROGER
I'll destroy it.

LOLITA
Good idea.

Roger scans.

ROGER
It's time we went.

Lolita nods. They leave with the painting in hand. A moment later, Fanny with her painting in hand and Nina enter. They move up to the tree.

NINA
What a beautiful Christmas tree!

FANNY
I like it very much.

NINA
Your painting'll make it better.

FANNY
Hope so.

Fanny puts down her painting at the bottom of the tree. They turn around to sit down on a bench watching it.

NINA
I'm thrilled. Christmas is coming.

FANNY
Me too. Hope my painting'll
increase the Christmas atmosphere
here.

Some visitors go towards the tree. They study the painting. They talk about it.

NINA
They're talking about it.

Fanny looks nervous.

NINA (CONT'D)
Take it easy. I think they're
making good comments on it.

FANNY

Hope so.

A nervous look on Fanny's face. She gets up.

NINA

What're you doing?

FANNY

I've to go.

NINA

You're so nervous that you don't
want to hear their comments on it.

Fanny nods. They start to walk. After they leave the park,
Roger and Lolita come back. They scan and walk up to tree
quickly.

LOLITA

That is Fanny's work. Come on!
Nothing special. What'd we do?

ROGER

Easy.

He looks around and sees no other visitors. He takes away the
painting. The two leave with the paintings in hand.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Horace sits on a couch watching TV. Hearing the doorbell
RINGS, he goes to open it, revealing Fred. He enters. He
looks nervous.

HORACE

What's wrong?

FRED

When I went to the park, I didn't
see your painting.

HORACE

What! Disappeared!

Fred nods.

HORACE (CONT'D)

I displayed it just last night.

FRED
The staff told me they didn't
remove it. They welcome anyone
displaying their works there.

HORACE
Where is it?

FRED
No one knows.

HORACE
Why was it taken away?

FRED
Maybe, someone's jealous of it.

HORACE
Who?

Fred sits down on the couch. Horace goes into the kitchen and comes back with a soft drink in hand. He hands it to Fred, who takes it. Horace is deep in thought.

FRED
No worries. Make a new one. You
can.

Horace rises to his feet and walks back and forth.

FRED (CONT'D)
Who's the prime suspect?

HORACE
Dunno.

Horace stops walking.

HORACE (CONT'D)
I'll make a new one.

Horace goes into the storeroom. He comes back with painting tool in hand.

HORACE (CONT'D)
Hope to come up with an idea and
starts painting and finish before
Christmas.

FRED
You can.

HORACE

Thanks. If you've a good idea, let me know.

Fred nods.

FRED

Thanks for trusting me.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The door is opened. Fanny and Nina enter. They sit down on the couch.

NINA

Where's your painting?

FANNY

I really want to know the reason.

Fanny sighs.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I thought it would get attention but it vanished. What happened to it?

NINA

Is it possible that someone took it away because of jealousy.

FANNY

Someone's jealous of my work?

NINA

Yes.

FANNY

Who?

NINA

Try to figure it out.

FANNY

I'm not a detective.

Fanny scratches her hair.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I don't know who stole it. If anyone liked it, I'd give it to them. People here are honest. They wouldn't do that. Who?

NINA

I'm certain someone stole it due to jealousy

FANNY

I better make a new one instead of the lost one.

NINA

Good idea.

FANNY

Christmas is coming. Hope I can come up with a good idea before Christmas. I really want to display it in the park to increase the Christmas atmosphere for this town.

NINA

You need me, let me know.

FANNY

That's very kind of you.

NINA

We've been pals for years. Whenever I've trouble, you come.

FANNY

You're my best friend.

NINA

You're my best friend too. You need a new painting brush?

FANNY

Yes.

NINA

Let's go.

Fanny opens the door and they leave.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Horace is painting. Fred stands next to him watching.

FRED

Are you going to give Santa Claus a new look?

HORACE

Yes.

Horace starts painting Santa Claus. He stops painting.

FRED
What's the matter?

HORACE
I want something unique.

Horace mediates. A moment later, He paints. Fred is engrossed in watching him painting. Horace paints a Santa Claus who wears a crew cut and a pair of sunglasses.

HORACE (CONT'D)
What do you think?

Fred's eyes go wild.

FRED
Amazing!

HORACE
I wanted something unique.

FRED
Yes. Very unique. Crew cut and sunglasses.

HORACE
Is it over the top?

FRED
I don't think so. I like it.

Horace is relieved.

HORACE
Glad to hear you liked it. Hope it won't be taken away. I like it too.

FRED
When'll you display it in the park?

Horace thinks for a while.

HORACE
I don't want.

FRED
Why?

HORACE
I like it very much. The more I watch it, the more I like it.

FRED
 You'd let the public enjoy watching
 it. Share this valuable thing with
 them.

HORACE
 You're right. Okay. I'll show it to
 the public tomorrow.

Horace puts down the brush. He keeps on studying it.

HORACE (CONT'D)
 Santa Claus looks cool.

FRED
 And handsome.

HORACE
 Yeah.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Fanny is painting. Suddenly, the doorbell RINGS. Fanny puts
 down the brush and opens the door. Nina enters. She carries a
 bag and places it down on the coffee table.

FANNY
 What's it inside?

NINA
 Pizza and soft drinks. You like
 them.

FANNY
 Thanks.

Nina spots the painting.

NINA
 What're you painting?

FANNY
 Santa Claus.

NINA
 It is just an old man.

FANNY
 I'm gonna give him a costume to
 make him a special Santa Claus.

NINA
 Good idea.

Fanny starts to paint. A moment later, she stops and then she starts painting again.

FANNY

This is so hard. I'll try my best
to get it through.

Nina watches.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I will make it. Don't give up,
Fanny.

Moments later, Fanny puts down the brush.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I did it.

Nina APPLAUDS.

FANNY (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Fanny holds up a painting of a Santa Claus wearing a pair of boxing gloves.

NINA

Why boxing gloves?

FANNY

Santa Claus is very gentle. He
needs to be strong. A new look.

NINA

For the ring?

FANNY

Yes.

NINA

Funny! I like your idea.

FANNY

Something special.

NINA

Show it to the public. They'll like
it.

FANNY

I think so.

NINA

Let's have pizza to celebrate the
new look of Santa Claus.

They move up to the coffee table.

INT. SILVER PARK - EVENING

Horace and Fred enter, going to the Christmas tree. Horace
puts his painting at the bottom of the tree. Fred looks
around.

HORACE

Why're you looking around?

FRED

To see if there are suspects.

HORACE

Let me know if you find some.

FRED

I look like a private detective,
Sherlock Holmes.

HORACE

I'm Watson.

They sit down on a bench. Horace watches his painting and Fred
still looks around. Horace elbows him.

HORACE (CONT'D)

Take it easy. Perhaps, the
disappearance of my painting was
accidental.

FRED

Why was it accidental?

HORACE

Maybe, a strong wind blew it away.

FRED

To the Pacific ocean and it was
still floating in the ocean. One
day a man saw it and did his best
to save it and returned to you by
registered mail.

Horace smiles.

HORACE

You can say that again.

FRED
Would you repay the favor to him?

HORACE
I would kiss him on both cheeks.

FRED
That'd be a punishment more than a favor.

Horace elbows him.

HORACE
Come on. Everything'll be fine.

FRED
Hope so. I still believe someone took it away on purpose.

HORACE
Time to leave.

Horace gets up from the bench. They start walking. After they leave the park. Visitors discuss Horace's painting. Moments later, they walk away. Roger and Lolita behind a tree come out and go to take away Horace's painting.

Lolita spots Fanny and Nina are approaching.

LOLITA
Fanny's coming.

ROGER
Go back and stand behind the tree.

They move up to it quickly. Fanny and Nina get to the tree. Fanny puts down her painting at the bottom of the tree. They sit down on a bench.

NINA
Hope it'll be safe.

FANNY
I don't think someone will take it away. People here're honest.

Nina shakes her head.

FANNY (CONT'D)
Why shaking your head?

NINA

Someone must've have taken it away
on purpose. My sixth sense told me.
It's always spot on.

FANNY

Look! The visitors seem to be
talking about it.

Nina turns to watch it.

NINA

Yes. Hope your painting will remain
here.

FANNY

Come on. Be positive.

NINA

Should we tell the security guards
to keep an eye on it?

FANNY

Don't bother them. They're busy at
patrolling.

NINA

You're always considerate.

Fanny glances at her watch.

FANNY

It's time we went.

They get up and walk. After they leave, Roger and Lolita
behind the tree come out and take away Fanny's painting. They
giggle while walking down the road.

SUPER: ONE DAY LATER

INT. SILVER PARK - EVENING

Fanny and Nina talk with a security guard. Fanny and Nina
nod.

SECURITY GUARD

I'll walk around to look for your
painting.

FANNY

Thanks.

The security guard walks away.

FANNY (CONT'D)
Hope he'll find it out.

NINA
Not easy. Someone stole and dumped
it.

FANNY
You're right. I should've taken
your advice.

NINA
Don't blame yourself. Let's dine
out.

FANNY
It's on me.

NINA
Thanks in advance.

They start to go.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Horace sits on the couch and Fred walks around.

FRED
I'm certain someone took it away on
purpose.

HORACE
Why? I'm not a famous painter. No
one'll buy it.

FRED
That's why I can't figure it out.
This mystery is killing me.

HORACE
Forget it.

FRED
Do you've any enemies?

HORACE
I don't have any.

FRED
I don't believe you have because
you're such a good guy.
Considerate, honest, and generous.

HORACE
You're making me very happy.

FRED
And sense of humor.

Fred stops walking.

FRED (CONT'D)
I'll try my best to figure it out.

HORACE
Don't. I don't want you to spend
your time on it

FRED
You're very considerate. Okay. The
case is over.

HORACE
Do you like steak?

FRED
I like it.

HORACE
I'll cook it as our dinner.

Horace enters the kitchen.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Lolita sips her coffee. She glances at the entrance and looks
at her watch. Fanny enters and Lolita waves at her who waves
back. Fanny goes to the table.

FANNY
I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.
I was painting while getting your
call. That's why I'm late.

LOLITA
That's all right.

FANNY
You told me you got something
important to fill me in. What's it?

LOLITA
If you promise to keep it a secret,
I'll tell you about it.

Fanny thinks for a while, confused.

FANNY

I promise.

LOLITA

Three days ago, I was in the silver park and saw Horace take away a painting which has your name. Is that your painting?

FANNY

(eyes widen)

Yes. Why'd he do that?

Lolita sighs.

LOLITA

You and he are competing the medal. He's jealous of you. He really wants to win.

FANNY

We should compete fairly.

LOLITA

You're too naive. Human nature is ugly. To win, he'll do whatever he can. Watch out for Horace.

Fanny nods.

FANNY

I never thought that he is so mean. He had left good impression on me.

LOLITA

Did he try to date you?

Fanny shakes her head.

FANNY

I had a feeling he'd wanted to.

LOLITA

Stay away from him. He has many girlfriends.

FANNY

I'll stay away from him.

Lolita smirks, sipping her coffee.

INT. CLASSROOM - CORRIDE - EVENING

Roger and Horace sits on a bench. Roger whispers in Horace's ear.

HORACE

What! Are you sure?

ROGER

Positive. The woman was Fanny. She took away your painting.

HORACE

My God. I never thought it was Fanny who did that to my painting. I don't understand.

ROGER

Because you and Fanny're competing to win the medal. You two have a good chance.

HORACE

I see.

ROGER

Fanny's a bad woman and she's lots of boyfriends.

HORACE

I should wear glasses to have a clearer look at her. Fortunately, I didn't try to date her.

ROGER

You're lucky. Keep this a secret.

HORACE

No worries. I will.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fanny and Nina sit on the couch.

NINA

Horace is a fucking man who stole your painting because of jealousy. I'm right. It has to do with jealousy.

FANNY

Fortunately, he didn't date me.

NINA

If he tried to date you, you'd promise.

FANNY

Yes. He looked gentle and kind.

NINA

In fact, he's a fox and playboy with lots of girlfriends.

FANNY

More cunning than a fox and a fucking playboy.

NINA

Stealing your work was no use. That proves that yours is better than his. Fanny, you'd be happy about that

Fanny gets up. She salutes to Nina.

FRED

You're the only person in the world who can console me and makes me very happy.

Nina laughs.

NINA

You'd learn MMA.

FANNY

(confused)
Why?

NINA

Punch his nose. Kick his ass. Grab his throat. Elbow his chest.

FANNY

Wow! A little bit cruel.

NINA

Not cruel. Do you want to hear more of these ways.

FANNY

No. I forgot to make dinner.

Fanny goes to the kitchen.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Horace and Fred sit on the couch. Fred drinks his beer. Fried chicken, potatoe chip and peanuts are on the coffee table.

HORACE

Fortunately, I didn't try to date her.

FRED

You're the luckiest man in the world. What if you tried and she promised?

HORACE

I can't imagine.

Fred puts down his beer.

FRED

(serious)

She would cheat you, fool you, dump you. Treat you like a slave. You end up in a mental hospital.

HORACE

Oh! Come on. I don't think so.

FRED

Remember what I said. Someone stole your painting due to jealousy. I'm right.

HORACE

Yes. You're right. I don't think she'd do that. I agree that she is a bad woman.

Fred gets up, looking down at Horace.

FRED

You're too gentle. She would take advantage of your kindness to bully you and you can't put up with her cruelty, end up in the mental hospital crying every day.

HORACE

Consider becoming a screenwriter? You've potential to be a good one.

FRED

I'm serious. Fanny's a witch.

HORACE
She isn't a witch.

FRED
Why're you siding with her?

HORACE
I'm not. Okay. Time for dinner.
It's on me.

FRED
It's on me.

HORACE
Why?

FRED
I want to comfort you by using a
dinner.

HORACE
You're a good friend of mine.

FRED
Let's go.

Horace opens the door and they leave.

INT. CLASSROOM - EVENING

It is packed with students including Horace and Fanny. All are engrossed in painting. Margaret walks around to give some students advice. When she sees Horace's work, she stops.

MARGARET
Horace, the color you're using is
excellent, which can reflect the
theme of the painting.

Other students stop to watch Horace's work.

STUDENT#1
Agreed. It's good.

STUDENT#2
I like the color that is not too
bright.

HORACE
Thanks.

STUDENT#3
What if you add blue to it?

MARGARET

Good idea.

HORACE

I'll consider.

MARGARET

Fanny, what'd you think?

Fanny keeps on painting, ignoring Margaret.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Fanny, what'd you think of Horace's work?

A student Pat's Fanny on the shoulder. Fanny turns to her.

STUDENT#1

Margaret asked you a question.

FANNY

Sorry! I concentrated on my painting.

STUDENT#1

What'd you think of Horace's work?

Fanny turns to it. She frowns and scratches her hair. She turns to Horace.

FANNY

Peter, what're you painting? I don't get it.

Horace is superised.

HORACE

I'm Horace, not Peter.

FANNY

Sorry! You look like a robber called Peter.

Laughter. Horace looks embarsaed.

FANNY (CONT'D)

I don't understand what you're painting. Can you tell me?

HORACE

It's about a lonely man walking on a beach. Seeing the waves makes him understand we've ups and downs in our life.

FANNY

The man looks like a playboy trying to befriend a hot woman.

Laughter. Horace is angry.

HORACE

He isn't a playboy. He feels down.

FANNY

Why?

HORACE

Try to imagine. Try to close your eyes. You'll see.

Fanny close her eyes.

FANNY

He feels down because those sexy women ran away as he was approaching them. So he's trying to come up with another trick to have sex with them.

Margaret is stunned.

HORACE

He is a decent man.

FANNY

He isn't.

Horace spots Fanny's painting.

HORACE

Susan, can you tell me what the your work is about?

Fanny glares at him.

FANNY

It is about poverty.

Horace scratches his hair.

HORACE

Really?

FANNY

Yes.

HORACE

I don't feel it.

FANNY

So you should go back to the basics.

Horace moves closer to study the painting.

HORACE

They look rich men.

FANNY

They're scared. They're suffering from hunger.

HORACE

Yes, they're scared.

FANNY

Now, you understand. Good boy.

HORACE

They're scared because they worry they'd be kidnapped and pay for ransom.

Some students smiles. Fanny is embarrassed.

HORACE (CONT'D)

If I were you I'd discard it and paint another one instead. This one is very bad. Hope you don't mind.

FANNY

I don't mind.

Fanny moves up to Horace's work.

FANNY (CONT'D)

When the playboy made it, let me know. I'd tell the hot women to stay away from him.

Some students smile.

HORACE

I'd tell you his cell phone number.

Laughter.

HORACE (CONT'D)

I'd tell the three rich men to hire bodyguards. They'd be kidnapped and pay for ransom.

FANNY
Thank you for your concern.

HORACE
You're welcome.

Margaret glances at her watch.

MARGARET
Time's up. See you this Friday.

Margaret opens the door and leaves. Other students follow her, leaving Fanny and Horace. Fanny glares at Horace.

FANNY
Goodbye, Peter.

HORACE
Goodbye, Susan.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fanny and Nina sit on the couch.

NINA
It was so funny that you called him Peter.

Fanny laughs.

NINA (CONT'D)
You were too kind to him. If I were you, I would punch him in the nose.

FANNY
I also called the man playboy in his painting.

Nina bursts out laughing.

FANNY (CONT'D)
He always thought his paintings were the best.

NINA
You're right. Teach him a lesson.

Fanny nods.

FANNY
He deserved it. However, he struck back.

NINA
What's that?

FANNY
He spoke ill of mine.

NINA
That's his style.

FANNY
That's his style. He won't let me go. He'll do whatever he can to attack me again.

NINA
What're you planning to do?

FANNY
I'm ready to take care of him. Peter, I'm not afraid of you.

Nina laughs.

NINA
Looks like you two'd have a gun showdown like a western movie.

FANNY
I'm ready to draw.

NINA
How about Peter?

FANNY
He'd be scared to piss as seeing my gun.

NINA
I'm waiting for your showdown.

FANNY
Stay tuned.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Horace is painting. Fred stands next to him watching.

FRED
She called you Peter. How'd you feel?

HORACE

I was pissed off. I don't like the name Peter.

He stops painting and turns to Fred.

HORACE (CONT'D)

I had a fight with Peter as we were kids. He was cunning, disgusting, and so on.

FRED

How about being called Fred.

HORACE

A good name.

Fred smiles.

HORACE (CONT'D)

She also critiqued my painting like a playboy trying to date hot women on a beach. It's about loneliness.

FRED

What about her painting?

HORACE

It's about poverty but I said three rich men being kidnapped. That made her angry. I remember the look on her face. Funny.

Horace laughs.

FRED

I think she'll do anything to attack you again.

HORACE

Yes.

FRED

What'll she do?

HORACE

I'm not scared. Fanny, bring it on.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Roger and Lolita sit on the couch. Two bottles of whiskey and some snacks are on the coffee table. Lolita looks at her watch.

LOLITA
Uncle Tom is late.

ROGER
Maybe, he's stucking in a traffic
jam. Uncle Tom's a good painter. I
need his advice.

LOLITA
That's why you bought the expensive
whiskey.

ROGER
He likes it.

Roger glances at his watch.

LOLITA
He's always late.

ROGER
He is a busy man.

Suddenly, the doorbell RINGS. Roger goes to open it,
releaving TOM SCOTT, 65, medium built with white hair.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Uncle Tom, I'm glad to see you
here.

TOM
Hi, Roger.

He steps into. Lolita gets up from the couch and moves up to
him.

LOLITA
Nice to see you, Uncle Tom.

TOM
You look wonderful, Lolita. Are you
still painting?

LOLITA
Yes. Would you give us some advice
on our paintings.

TOM
Of course.

They sit down on the couch. Roger pours the whiskey into a
glass. He hands it to Uncle Tom, who takes it and sips.

TOM (CONT'D)

Amazing! I like this brand. Very expensive.

ROGER

Most importantly, you like it

Uncle Tom has a happy look on his face. He sips the whiskey again. Suddenly, he drinks it in a one gulp and pours the glass himself and drinks it in a one gulp again. Lolita's eyes go wild.

He pours again and drinks. Half of the bottle is empty. Roger's eyes widen.

TOM

This brand is amazing. I like it.

ROGER

Uncle Tom, could you give me some advice on my painting.

He points at a painting hung on the wall. Tom stops drinking. His eyes are fixed on the painting.

TOM

I can't believe you've made a big progress.

ROGER

Really?

TOM

The theme, the skills and the color are extraordinary. What's happened to you? You changed a lot from an ordinary painter to a genius. What'd you do to yourself?

Roger's mouth and eyes go wild.

ROGER

In the past six months, I locked myself up in the storeroom for three hours daily, trying to forget who I am.

TOM

It worked. You're the next Van Gogh.

ROGER

Thanks a lot.

Tom pours himself a drink and eats the snacks. He pours himself a drink again.

TOM

You're the next Van Gogh. I am certain.

Roger APPLAUDS and jumps up from the couch. Tom pours himself a drink. The whole bottle is empty. Seeing it, Roger pours Tom a drink from another bottle.

ROGER

A painting teacher ignored my work.

TOM

The teacher should resign.

Tom starts to drink. Lolita moves closer to Tom.

LOLITA

How about my work?

She points at a painting hung on the wall. Tom stops to rise and walks up to it. He studies it.

TOM

What's happened to you two? You also made a great progress.

LOLITA

This painting is about anger and dirtiness so I didn't take a bath and wash my hair for a week and lost my temper to Roger frequently.

TOM

You sacrificed your time for painting. Awesome. Judging from the painting, you're the reincarnation of Da Vinci.

LOLITA

Really?

Tom nods.

LOLITA (CONT'D)

The painting teacher ignored my work too.

TOM

The teacher should resign.

Tom returns to pour himself a drink.

TOM (CONT'D)

I'm thrilled. You two can paint so well. The painting society can't survive without you two.

Tom starts to drink.

TOM (CONT'D)

Paint more good works. our next Van Gogh and the reincarnation of Da vinci.

The three hold up their glasses and toast one another.

ROGER/LOLITA

To Van Gogh and Da Vinci.

INT. CLASSROOM - CORRIDOR - EVENING

Fanny walks down carrying her painting tools. Suddenly, Horace comes out of the classroom, seeing Fanny. The two stop walking. They glare at each other. They look like they'll have a showdown like a western movie.

Fanny takes two steps forward, still glaring at Horace.

FANNY

No guts.

Horace moves three steps forward.

HORACE

No guts.

Fanny looks angry. She takes three steps forward.

FANNY

Playboy.

HORACE

Playgirl.

Fanny takes three steps back.

FANNY

Bad man.

Horace takes two steps back.

HORACE

Bad woman.

The two stand still glaring at each other. A moment later, Fanny breaks the ice.

FANNY

Go back to the classroom.

HORACE

Why?

FANNY

You don't need to know the reason.
Just go back.

HORACE

You're bossy.

FANNY

So what! I am a person who is polite to everyone, except a bad man and playboy. It'll be good to the painting community if he stops painting.

HORACE

He shouldn't stop. The person who'd stop is the woman. She doesn't know what painting is. Through it, we can tell a good message to the world. She can't because she's a bad woman.

MAN'S VOICE

Excuse me.

Fanny turns around, seeing a CLEANER.

CLEANER

Sorry. I need to clean this corridor.

FANNY

(To the cleaner)

Oh! Sorry. Watch out for the bad guy.

The cleaner looks confused. Fanny starts walking.

HORACE

Watch out for the bad woman.

The cleaner seems bewildered. Horace turns around to go back to the classroom.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roger sits on the couch, sipping his whiskey.

ROGER

This brand's amazing. That's why
Uncle Tom liked it.

Lolita comes out of her bedroom.

LOLITA

He drank up two bottles of it at a
time. He is amazing too.

ROGER

Yeah. Hope he'll come over here
giving us advice on painting.

LOLITA

I liked his feedback very much. I'm
the reincarnation of Da Vinci and
you're the next Van Gogh.

ROGER

He is a honest man.

Roger glances at his watch.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Time for bed.

He rises and Lolita follows him into the bedroom.

INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM - LATER

The two climb into the bed.

SUPER:THREE HOURS LATER

The two fall asleep. Roger SNORES. Lolita rolls over.

LOLITA

(falls asleep)

I'm the reincarnation of Da Vinci.

Lolita stops rolling over.

LOLITA (CONT'D)

(falls asleep)

I'm the reincarnation of Da Vinci.

Lolita waves at the ceiling.

LOLITA (CONT'D)
 (falls asleep)
 I'm the reincarnation of Da Vinci.

Roger keeps on snorling. Moments later, he gets out of the bed, sleepwalking to open the door into the living room.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Roger sleepwalks and picks up a brush and starts painting.

ROGER
 (falls asleep)
 I'm the next Van Gogh.

He paints uncle Tom's face.

ROGER (CONT'D)
 (falls asleep)
 I'm the next Van Gogh.

He paints uncle Tom's hand holding up a bottle of whiskey.

ROGER (CONT'D)
 (falls asleep)
 Cheers. I'm the next Van Gogh.

He stops painting and goes back to his bedroom.

INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM - LATER

He enters, sleepwalking Lolita falls asleep, waves at the ceiling.

LOLITA
 I'm the reincarnation of Da Vinci.

ROGER
 I'm the next Van Gogh.

INT. CLASSROOM - EVENING

It is packed with students including Fanny and Horace. Margaret holds up a framed painting.

MARGARET
 I just finished this painting that took me three years to complete. I haven't named it. The title of a painting is vital. I really want you can give it a name.

She scans.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Any suggestions? Sorry. I forgot
telling you something about it. The
theme is lost.

STUDENT#1
Lost and found.

Laughter.

MARGARET
I don't like it. You lost something
you value as your life.

STUDENT#2
Why don't you just say lost.

MARGARET
Too straightforward. It's like the
tv series.

Laughter.

STUDENT#3
Why don't you ask Horace? He may
help.

MARGARET
Good idea.

She turns to Horace.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Horace. What do you suggest?

Horace thinks for a while.

HORACE
How about where is my painting?

MARGARET
Nothing special. Why this one?

HORACE
Ask Fanny.

Margaret looks confused.

MARGARET
Why ask Fanny?

HORACE

She can answer your question.

Margaret turns to Fanny, who is angry.

MARGARET

Fanny?

FANNY

My suggestion is where is my painting?

All students are bewildered except Roger and Lolita who smile.

MARGARET

Why'd you two have the same suggestion?

Fanny turns to Horace.

FANNY

Where is my painting?

HORACE

Where is my painting?

Fanny rises and glares at Horace.

FANNY

Where is my painting?

Horace gets up from his chair and glares at Fanny.

HORACE

Where is my painting?

All are silent. Roger and Lolita give each other high five slowly and quietly.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Fanny and three classmates sit at a table. All are having steak.

CLASSMATE#1

I like this steak here. It's always up to standard.

CLASSMATE#2

Thanks to Fanny. She recommended it to us.

Fanny smiles.

CLASSMATE#2 (CONT'D)

Are you confident about winning the medal, Fanny?

FANNY

I'm confident but all classmates are good competitors.

CLASSMATE#3

To be honest, Fanny, you and Horace're the only two to compete the medal.

CLASSMATE#1

Horace's painting skill's great.

Fanny smirks.

FANNY

I don't think so.

CLASSMATE#2

Don't think less of him.

FANNY

I think he's nothing but a thief.

The three classmates seem confused.

CLASSMATE#3

What're you talking about?

FANNY

Forget it.

They keep on eating steak. Suddenly, classmate#2 spots Horace entering and looking around. There are no table available.

CLASSMATE#2

Horace!

The others turn to him. Classmate#2 waves at him, who smiles at her. He moves up to them.

CLASSMATE#1

There's a seat here. Do you mind...

FANNY

He minds.

HORACE

I don't mind.

He sits down next to Fanny.

CLASSMATE#3
We're just talking about you,
Horace.

HORACE
About me what?

CLASSMATE#3
The medal you're competing with
Fanny.

HORACE
I think you're better than Fanny.

Fanny puts down her knife and fork.

CLASSMATE#3
I don't think so. You and Fanny are
the best.

CLASSMATE#1
Agreed.

CLASSMATE#2
I'm learning from you two.

FANNY/HORACE
Thanks.

Horace eyes the steak Fanny is eating.

HORACE (CONT'D)
Fanny, you shouldn't have ordered
medium. Y'd have rare.

FANNY
Why?

HORACE
Because you're rare. Ignored the
action you've done and keep on
saying where is my painting. You're
rare. No one can do the same thing
like you.

FANNY
Are you talking about yourself?

HORACE
You know what I mean.

The three classmates are engrossed in listening to their conversation, confused.

HORACE (CONT'D)
You're rare.

Fanny glares at him. A waiter comes with a manual in hand.

HORACE (CONT'D)
Steak, please.

WAITER
What'd you like your steak?

FANNY
Rare.

The waiter turns to Fanny.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Roger and Lolita stand in the middle looking at the two paintings hung on the wall.

ROGER
The more I look at my painting, the more I like it. Outstanding, inspiring, amazing, and

LOLITA
Excellent.

ROGER
Yes. Lolita, yours is also excellent.

LOLITA
Yes. You're absolutely right.

The two walk closer to study the paintings.

LOLITA (CONT'D)
Why don't we display them in the park?

ROGER
Why?

LOLITA
To let the public appreciate them.

Roger shakes his head.

ROGER

They're ordinary people. They can't. You and I're superior to them.

LOLITA

That's why we need to let them appreciate our paintings. If they can't, they'll have regrets in their life.

Roger thinks for a while.

ROGER

You're right.

LOLITA

You agree?

Roger nods. Lolita moves up to remove the paintings from the wall.

ROGER

Just for a week.

LOLITA

What a pity! I wanted more people who can see them.

ROGER

Giving them a week to appreciate them is a generous offer. They'll be able to see the next Van Gogh and the reincarnation of Da Vinci's works.

LOLITA

Yes. They'll have no regrets in their life.

Roger glances at his watch.

LOLITA (CONT'D)

Let's go.

ROGER

Should we have them insured?

LOLITA

People here are honest.

ROGER

I'm worried...

LOLITA

No worries. If someone take them away. It'll become sensational news in the newspaper.

ROGER

That's right. No one dares to take them away. Take good care of them.

LOLITA

I go get a good bag for them.

Lolita goes into the storeroom.

INT. SILVER PARK - CONTINUOUS

Roger and Lolita walks into. Lolita carries a bag that contains the two paintings. Roger's eyes are fixed on it all the time.

LOLITA

You look nervous.

ROGER

Of course. Our valuable paintings're going to display here. I thought we should have them insured.

LOLITA

People here're honest. No worries.

They keep walking. Moments later, they get to the Christmas tree.

LOLITA (CONT'D)

What a wonderful tree!

ROGER

It'll be better after we display our paintings here.

LOLITA

That's right.

Lolita opens the bag and takes out two framed paintings and places them at the bottom of the tree.

ROGER

Let's sit down on the bench.

Roger and Lolita turn to sit down on the bench watching their paintings.

LOLITA

Calm down.

ROGER

I'm worried they'll love our paintings too much and try their best to snatch them.

LOLITA

No worries.

A MAN approaches. His eyes are fixed on the paintings. Suddenly, he touches Roger's painting. Roger runs toward him.

ROGER

What're you doing?

MAN

(confused)

Pardon.

ROGER

What're you doing to my painting?

MAN

I don't get it.

ROGER

You shouldn't have touched it.

MAN

There's no notice about this.

ROGER

Just watch. Don't touch. Okay.

MAN

Okay.

The man walks away.

LOLITA

Come on, Roger.

ROGER

I'm here to protect our paintings.

He goes back to sit down on the bench. A WOMAN approaches the tree. She looks at Roger's painting.

WOMAN

(to herself)

It's a up to standard painting.

Hearing it, Roger runs toward her.

ROGER
What'd you say to the painting?

WOMAN
It's a up to standard painting.

ROGER
I give you one more chance to say
it again.

WOMAN
It's a up to standard painting.

ROGER
I give you one more chance to say
it again.

The woman is speechless.

ROGER (CONT'D)
I give you one more chance to say
it again.

The woman walks away quickly.

ROGER (CONT'D)
You should say it's a very good
painting.

Roger keeps on glaring at the woman leaving. He returns to the bench. Moments later, A MAN approaches the tree. He watches Roger's painting and shakes his head.

MAN
Ordinary.

Hearing it, Roger dashes to the man.

ROGER
I give you a chance to say it
again.

The man looks confused.

ROGER (CONT'D)
I give you a chance to say it
again.

MAN
Ordinary.

Roger is furious.

ROGER
Do you know who painted it?

The man shakes his head.

ROGER (CONT'D)
The next Van Gogh.

MAN
Where's the next Van Gogh?

ROGER
In front of you.

MAN
You?

Roger nods.

MAN (CONT'D)
I've learned painting skills for
ten years. This one is ordinary.

ROGER
(loud)
I give a chance to say it again.

Lolita moves up to them quickly.

LOLITA
Calm down, Roger. We should accept
different kinds of comments.

MAN
She's right.

LOLITA
So we can make progress.

MAN
She's right.

LOLITA
Thanks to your comment on Roger's
work.

MAN
You're welcome. You're a sensible
person.

LOLITA
We should be sensible.

MAN
You're right.

LOLITA
How about my work?

She points at her painting. The man turns to it.

MAN
Sorry! It's ordinary.

LOLITA
(smiling)
What'd you say?

MAN
Sorry! It's ordinary.

LOLITA
I give you a chance to say it
again.

MAN
Ordinary.

Lolita is furious.

LOLITA
Do you know who painted it?

The man shakes his head.

LOLITA (CONT'D)
The reincarnation of Da Vinci.

MAN
Really!

LOLITA
What does that mean?

MAN
I don't think it was painted by the
reincarnation of Da Vinci.

LOLITA
How dare you!

She takes a few steps forward and grabs the man's hair.

LOLITA (CONT'D)
Go to hell!

MAN

What're you doing. That hurts.

Roger slaps the man's mouth. Lolita keeps on grabbing his hair.

MAN (CONT'D)

Help! Help!

Roger slaps the man's mouth again.

MAN (CONT'D)

You two should see a doctor.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Horace and Fred sit on the couch having hamburgers.

HORACE

This hamburger's good. Thank you for your recommendation.

FRED

A friend of mine recommended it to me.

HORACE

How about steak tonight?

FRED

Good idea. A friend of yours recommended it to you.

HORACE

Yes.

Both laugh. Suddenly, their conversation is interrupted by the news on tv.

REPORTER

(on tv)

The police caught a couple who hit a man in the Silver Park. The three had different opinions on painting skills. The couple thought their paintings were excellent. The husband kept on saying he's the next Van Gogh and her wife said she's the reincarnation of Da Vinci all the time in the police station. The police said the couple was very annoying.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Fanny and Nina are adding decorations to a Christmas tree. After they have finished it, they turn to hang a small Santa Claus to a wall. A moment later, they finish.

NINA
Today is CHRISTMAS EVE, I'm
thrilled.

FANNY
Me too.

NINA
Are you going to make something
special for us to eat?

FANNY
Yes.

NINA
What's that?

FANNY
Take a guess.

Nina thinks for a while.

NINA
Noddle.

FANNY
I say something special.

NINA
Soup.

Fanny shakes her head.

NINA (CONT'D)
Hard to guess.

FANNY
Try to guess.

NINA
I give up.

FANNY
To keep it mysterious, I won't tell
you until tonight.

NINA
Hope it won't let me down.

FANNY

It won't

NINA

You're good at cooking. I'm confident to you.

FANNY

Thanks.

NINA

It'd be better if your painting was still displayed in the park.

FANNY

What a pity!

NINA

We'd go there to have a look and hear visitors' feedback.

FANNY

What a pity!

NINA

It was Horace's fault. We'd punish him.

FANNY

How?

NINA

Make him a turkey.

Fanny laughs.

FANNY

Good idea.

NINA

Let's go.

Both laugh.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Horace and Fred sit on the couch. Fred scans the Christmas decorations.

FRED

You did a good job of the decorations.

HORACE

I did that every year. Get used to it. Most importantly, I like the Christmas atmosphere.

FRED

I like it too. I think we miss something important.

HORACE

What's it?

FRED

Your painting in the Silver Park.

HORACE

Yes.

FRED

You learned something from someone stealing it?

HORACE

I don't get it.

FRED

Human nature. How bad the woman is.

HORACE

You're right. Fortunately, I didn't try to date her.

FRED

So we'd dine out tonight to celebrate it.

HORACE

Yeah. Not only for Christmas but also for not dating the bad woman.

FRED

It's on me.

HORACE

It's on me. You pay next time.

FRED

Okay.

The two get up and leave.

INT. ELDERLY CENTRE - EVENING

It is packed with elderly people. Some are in wheelchairs. Some sit on the couch watching tv. Horace, Fred, and two nurses enter.

NURSE#1

Today, two gentlemen came over here to celebrate Christmas Eve with us. Let me introduce them to you. Standing to my right is Horace.

Horace, with a large bag in hand, steps forward.

HORACE

Hi, I'm glad to visit this centre. Although it's an elderly centre, I feel you all're energetic, kind and sense of humour because I browsed its website with tons of the photos telling me. Amazing!

ALL ELDERLY

Thanks.

ELDERLY#1

That's very kind of you to visit us.

HORACE

My pleasure.

NURSE#1

Standing next to me is Fred.

Fred carries a large bag moves forward.

FRED

Good evening, this is the first time I've visited this centre. I feel thrilled because you all have lots of life experience. Perhaps, I can learn from you all.

ALL ELDERLY

Good evening.

ELDERLY#2

Maybe, we learn from you.

Fred smiles.

ELDERLY#1

I want to learn from you about how to use a cell phone. My son gave one to me but I've had trouble using it.

FRED

If you've a problem, let me know.

HORACE

Let me know too and I'll try my best.

All of the elderly people APPLAUD.

HORACE (CONT'D)

Oh! I forgot. I've some Christmas presents for you.

He opens the bag, takes out the presents, handing them to the elderly. Fred does the same thing. A moment later, Fanny and Nina enter. They also carry bags.

NURSE#1

Hi, Fanny and Nina.

FANNY

Hi. We bring some Christmas presents here for the lovely persons.

Hearing the conversation, Horace and Fred stop to turn around. The two look surprised.

NURSE#1

You're such a wonderful person. By the way, let me introduce Horace and Fred to you two.

Fanny and Nina look surprised as seeing the two.

HORACE

Hi.

FANNY

Hi.

Fanny and Nina start giving presents to the elderly, who take the presents happily.

ELDERLY#3

You four're nice people. Spending your times with us.

ELDERLY#2

The presents're very good. We'll have a warm and pleasant Christmas.

ELDERLY#1

Horace, do you've a girlfriend?

HORACE

I don't have.

ELDERLY#1

Do you've a boyfriend, Fanny?

FANNY

I don't have.

ELDERLY#1

That's great. You two look like lovers.

Laughter.

ELDERLY#1 (CONT'D)

Horace, I suggest you invite Fanny to have a Christmas dinner.

All APPLAUD. Horace and Fanny look embraced.

ELDERLY#3

Horace, do something.

Horace is speechless.

ELDERLY#1

May I ask you a question, Fanny?

FANNY

Yes.

ELDERLY#1

If Horace invites you to dinner, will you take it?

Fanny is speechless.

ELDERLY#2

Come on. You can't ask her the question. Fanny is shy.

ELDERLY#1

Forgive me. Fanny and Horace look perfect lovers.

ALL ELDERLY
Yes, they're.

NURSE#1
I think it's time we played the
games.

INT. THE ELDERLY CENTER - CORRIDOR - LATER

Fanny and Nina exit.

NINA
We have a good time.

FANNY
I really enjoyed it.

NINA
I was surprised to see Horace here.

FANNY
Why?

NINA
He's a bad guy. I never thought
he'd come here for the elderly.
What do you think?

FANNY
I don't know.

They open the door and leave. A moment later, Horace and Fred
come out of the room.

HORACE
I never thought that they were so
lovely.

FRED
Yeah. I really enjoyed playing the
games with them.

HORACE
I liked this centre very much.

FRED
Me too. Why'd Fanny come over here
for the elderly? I don't get it.
She's a bad woman.

Horace is silent. Fred elbows him.

HORACE
I don't know.

INT. SILVER PARK - NIGHT

It is crowded with visitors. A choir is performing. They sing Santa Claus Is Coming To Town. Fanny and Nina enter.

FANNY
A good song.

NINA
Yeah.

They move up to the choir. They start to sing Silent Night. Fanny and Nina sing along.

Horace and Fred enter. They move around. Suddenly, the light bulbs tied to the Christmas tree are on, illuminating the park. All visitors are happy.

FRED
Amazing!

HORACE
Excellent. The best I've ever seen.

They move up to the tree quickly. Other visitors flock to surround it.

VISITOR#1
This tree is making this Christmas extraordinary.

VISITOR#2
Awesome.

Fanny and Nina walk up to the tree.

NINA
What a beautiful Christmas tree!

FANNY
The best I've ever seen.

Nina spots Horace and Fred. She elbows Fanny.

NINA
Horace is over there.

FANNY
Where?

Nina points at the direction. Fanny turns to.

NINA

A bad guy.

The choir SING White Christmas. All people sing along. Suddenly, the lights are off. All stop singing.

FRED

What happened?

It is silent. People look up at the tree. They are discussing the problem with the lights off.

NINA

My God. They're off.

FRED

It's a wet blanket.

HORACE

Without this beautiful tree and the lights, this Christmas'll fade.

FRED

Yes.

FANNY

Hope it'll go back to normal.

NINA

Hope so. I plan to come over here to see this beautiful tree again.

FANNY

Me too.

FRED

Are they checking it out?

HORACE

I think they're.

SUPER: ONE HOUR LATER

It is getting dark. People start to leave.

HORACE (CONT'D)

What a pity!

FRED

We've to leave.

They start to go.

INT. HORACE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Horace lies in bed, falling asleep. The alarm clock goes off. He wakes up and reaches for the alarm clock and presses the button. He gets out of the bed and opens the door.

INT. HORACE'S BATHROOM - LATER.

He enters. He brushes his teeth.

INT. HORACE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Horace comes out of the bathroom. He takes a deep breath.

HORACE
(to himself)
Today's Christmas so the air is
very good.

He sits down on the couch. He turns on the TV with a remote control. On the TV there is a program that features Christmas including songs and some cartoons. Horace HUMS.

The doorbell RINGS. He goes to open it. At the doorway is Fred carrying two plastic bags.

FRED
Merry Christmas!

HORACE
Merry Christmas!

He walks into and sits down on the couch. He opens the bags that contain food.

FRED
Christmas breakfast.

HORACE
Thanks a lot.

He pulls out sliced meat and bread.

HORACE (CONT'D)
Yummy!

They start to eat.

FRED
What're you planning to do tonight?

Horace shrugs.

FRED (CONT'D)

I'll have a Christmas dinner with my parents tonight. How about...

HORACE

No, thanks. Remember me to your parents.

FRED

What a pity! The lights are still off. My neighbor told me.

HORACE

They didn't check it out.

FRED

They did but the man responsible for the maintenance is very ill.

HORACE

Oh! I see.

FRED

So, this Christmas'll fade.

HORACE

Everyone liked it. They talked about how grand and beautiful it's, especially when the lights were on last night.

FRED

Maybe, the lights'd turn on themselves.

HORACE

You're kidding.

Fred smiles.

FRED

Miracle.

HORACE

If it came true, it'd be the best Christmas present to this town.

They keep on eating.

INT. FANNY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Fanny sits on the couch watching a Christmas film on TV. She laughs as watching some funny scenes.

FANNY
(to herself)
The best Christmas movie I've ever
seen.

She turns it off with a remote control. She rises and walks
to the window. She looks out of it.

FANNY (CONT'D)
(to herself)
The Christmas atmosphere is okay.

The doorbell RINGS. Fanny goes to open it, revealing Nina.

NINA
Merry Christmas!

FANNY
Merry Christmas!

She enters and sits down on the couch.

NINA
My aunt told me the lights tied to
the Christmas are still off.

FANNY
Why?

NINA
The man responsible for the lights
is sick. He can't repair them.

FANNY
I thought it'd be all right so I
could see it tonight to enjoy the
Christmas atmosphere there.

NINA
Next year.

FANNY
What a shame!

NINA
Everyone liked it. How about
watching a Christmas movie instead.

FANNY
Just watched it.

Nina shrugs.

INT. SILVER PARK - EVENING

Horace enters. He walks around. Not many people. He sit down on a bench looking up at the Christmas tree. He shakes his head. A moment later, he gets up and walks around again.

Moments later, Fanny walks into. She strolls around. She stops to see the Christmas tree. She shakes her head. She starts to walk. She sits down on a bench looking up at the tree. Horace sees her. He moves up to the bench.

HORACE

Hi, Fanny. Merry Christmas!

Fanny is surprised to see him.

FANNY

Merry Christmas!

Horace sits down next to Fanny.

HORACE

It's pity that the lights're off.

Fanny nods in agreement.

FANNY

Not much atmosphere here without it.

HORACE

Yes.

Horace looks around.

HORACE (CONT'D)

It is very silent.

FANNY

Few people.

Horace's eyes are fixed on the decorations at the bottom of the tree. He spots a few paintings. He pointes at them.

HORACE

They look good.

FANNY

Yeah.

HORACE

I put two paintings of mine there.

FANNY

Me too.

HORACE

I just wanted to increase the Christmas atmosphere there. I didn't intend to compete with you.

Fanny looks confused.

FANNY

What're you talking about?

HORACE

Um...um. It was...

FANNY

Don't beat around the bush.

HORACE

I'll forgive you.

FANNY

Forgive me what?

HORACE

You're not that bad. I saw you in the elderly centre. You liked elderly people.

FANNY

I don't get it.

HORACE

You shouldn't have done that.

FANNY

I don't understand.

HORACE

You shouldn't have taken away my painting at the bottom of the tree.

Fanny gets up furiously.

FANNY

I took away your painting. Horace, it was you who took away my paintings at the bottom of the tree.

HORACE

Me.

FANNY

I'll forgive you. You're not that bad.

Horace rises.

HORACE

Fanny, you're a good actress.

FANNY

Horace, you're a good actor.

HORACE

I'll forgive you. You're not that bad.

FANNY

I'll forgive you. You're not that bad.

MAN'S VOICE

That's enough!

They turn around, seeing Santa Claus.

FANNY/HORACE

Santa Claus!

SANTA CLAUS

It was Roger and Lolita who made up the story,

Horace and Lolita's eyes go wide.

HORACE/LOLITA

I see.

SANTA CLAUS

You two're good at painting. This time you two're over the top. I like my traditional appearances and costume. I don't like crew cut, shorts, sandals, spatula, pan, sunglasses and boxing gloves.

Horace and Fanny are embraced.

FANNY

I'm sorry.

HORACE

Sorry.

SANTA CLAUS

That's all right. I got lots of complaints saying Santa Claus is miserable so I came here from the North Pole to have a look. Besides, I'll give the kids here presents for the first time. It's time for me to work. Merry Christmas!

HORACE/FANNY

Merry Christmas!

Santa Claus points his index finger at the Christmas tree. The lights are on suddenly, illuminating the park. Fanny and Horace's eyes widen. They turn to Santa Claus, who vanishes.

HORACE (CONT'D)

I think guys here will flock to surround the tree again.

FANNY

We'll regain the great Christmas atmosphere here.

HORACE

I'm sorry. I misunderstood you.

FANNY

I'm sorry.

They burst out laughing.

HORACE

There is a restaurant whose Christmas dinner is good. I'd like to invite you.

Fanny smiles. She nods. They start to go.

