A Question of Wealth

Ву

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EXT. HILL-SIDE - DAY

A sparse green expanse. A solitary tree. Underneath it, TAMMY GREY (24), moderately unattractive, sits between the legs of ROBERT BROWN (34), clean cut, handsome male.

> TAMMY So where did you get your money from?

He smiles.

ROBERT I worked for this guy. He inherited his business from daddy.

He strokes her hair.

ROBERT (CONT'D) Didn't run it well. I thought I could do better myself.

TAMMY

Okay.

ROBERT So... I got together with a couple of guy. We borrowed some cash...

TAMMY And the rest is history.

ROBERT With a little hard work in between.

She turns her head to lean against his chest.

TAMMY Does it feel weird?

ROBERT

Does it...

TAMMY Y'know. Being rich.

He almost winches.

ROBERT

Feels...

TAMMY You like it? ROBERT That a question? TAMMY Uh huh. INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY Tammy works the shelves. Next to her, ANNIE GILT (24), cropped black hair, works with her. ANNIE Again? TAMMY Uh huh. ANNIE So that's like, two times? TAMMY Yeah. Right. ANNIE So it's on, then? Tammy looks at Annie. TAMMY On? Annie stops working. ANNIE Yeah. Got to be on. Annie piles more products onto the shelf. TAMMY Well. Maybe it ain't stood still. ANNIE That's just on. Tammy smiles, and shakes her head. Annie thinks.

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ANNIE Do you trust him? Tammy stops. Looks at Annie. TAMMY Trust him? ANNIE Yeah. Like... TAMMY What do you mean? ANNIE I mean he could... TAMMY What? ANNIE Girls like... (beat) ...us. Tammy stares Annie out. Annie shifts product. TAMMY Like us? INT. RESTAURANT - DAY Cosy, warmly lit, a few couples dotted about. Robert orders to a smart waiter. Tammy gazes at him. Waiter shuffles off. Robert spots her stare, and repays her with a warm smile. TAMMY Tell me... ROBERT About?

TAMMY

The others.

ROBERT The other what?

TAMMY Meaningful people in your life.

He shifts his position.

ROBERT Where has this come from?

TAMMY I'm interested.

He swills his wine.

ROBERT But it's not about us?

TAMMY (playful) Hiding?

ROBERT There's been people. But then, you've history?

TAMMY

Well...

ROBERT Tell me about them.

She laughs.

TAMMY Okay. It's about us.

She raises her glass to him.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

A colorful, bustling high street.

Carrying a couple of bags, Tammy marches on; Annie, a couple of steps behind her.

ANNIE So did you get a precise number? TAMMY Can you drop it? ANNIE It's a sign of maturity. Being able to talk about these things. TAMMY It looks like a sign of... ANNIE I mean a man in his position... TAMMY Testing me! ANNIE Looking out for you. TAMMY Can't you just be... ANNIE I want to know you're safe with him. TAMMY ... happy for me? And she stops. Turns to face Annie. ANNIE I mean... Really. What does he want with you? Tammy shakes her head, trying to figure. TAMMY We're... just... ANNIE I mean, he could have anyone. Anyone he wants. TAMMMY And he chose me? ANNIE Why?

TAMMY Annie. Are you...

ANNIE Looking out for you.

Tammy closes her eyes, tight shut.

ANNIE (CONT'D) Why? What were you going to say?

EXT. PARK - DAY

Trees line a wide path. There is frost on the ground.

Robert and Tammy are both wrapped up warm. They hold hands.

TAMMY

Why me?

He looks at her, and then focuses ahead.

ROBERT

I like you.

TAMMY You could like anyone.

ROBERT No. No you can't.

They stroll on.

TAMMY

Why not...

She kicks at leaves.

TAMMY (CONT'D) ... a buxom blond?

ROBERT

Why?

TAMMY You could have anyone?

ROBERT

As in?

TAMMY Anyone you wanted.

ROBERT I meant how.

TAMMY They'd want you.

## ROBERT

Because?

She thinks a little; dips her head.

TAMMY You could afford them.

He stops, and takes her other hand in his.

#### ROBERT

So. If I was some guy. Works in a garage.

### TAMMY

Mmm.

ROBERT Would you still want me then?

# TAMMY (playfully)

Mmmm?

ROBERT If I wasn't rich? Would you still... like me?

### TAMMY

Maybe.

ROBERT So not a major impact on your decision then?

### TAMMY

Uh huh.

ROBERT So why not the same for me?

She smiles, and they walk on.

INT. BAR - NIGHT Bar-staff are upending chairs onto tables. Only the legless are left. Annie and Tammy prop up the wood-work. ANNIE And Poof! You're gone. It's easy as that. Annie downs her dregs. INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY A busy Saturday. Annie packs bags for the customers. A till down she spots Robert, checking his shopping through. She gazes at him, and holds it. He shuffles items into his bags; tries to keep up with the check-out girl. INT. LIBRARY ENTRANCE - DAY A calm, sparse place. Robert sit on a bench, legs akimbo. Tammy walks in, and straight up to him. Stands in between his legs. He looks up at her. TAMMY I'm here. He smiles. ROBERT I want to ask you a question. FADE OUT: