

Cupidity

By

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EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Moderately heavy foot traffic moves along the sidewalk, and numerous people enter and exit through a bank of revolving doors.

BARRY, early thirties, paces nervously back and forth. He alternates between rubbing his hands together and stuffing them into the pockets of his chocolate brown pants.

He periodically glances at the people that exit the building until RENEE, mid twenties, moves through the revolving door furthest from him.

He watches her gracefully move along for a moment, and smiles as she moves toward him.

He takes a deep breath and steps toward her. His foot catches a crack on the sidewalk that jolts him forward, but a quick jog gets him back on track.

He stops right in front of Renee. She smiles politely and side steps him.

RENEE

Excuse me.

Barry watches her as she walks away. After a few steps, he walks after her.

BARRY

Excuse me. Miss? Miss?

Renee stops and turns back to him.

RENEE

Yes?

BARRY

I have to tell you something.

Renee looks at him in confusion.

RENEE

Sorry?

BARRY

I have to tell you something. Look, you probably don't know me, but--

Renee snaps her fingers and points at him.

RENEE

I know you. You're the vending machine guy, right?

Barry smiles and nods.

BARRY

Yeah. That's me. I'm Barry.

RENEE

Renee.

Renee extends her hand and Barry shakes it.

BARRY

Renee. Good. Knowing your name makes this a lot easier.

Renee shakes her head.

RENEE

Makes what a lot easier?

Barry shoves his hands in his pockets.

BARRY

Well...Renee, as you already know, I'm the vending machine guy. I just wanted you to know that I think you're an interesting person.

RENEE

Really?

BARRY

Well, yeah. I mean, I think you're an interesting person, and I'd like to get to know you better.

Renee doesn't move, but stays completely focused on Barry as he shifts uncomfortably.

BARRY

It's like, I come here twice a week to fill up the snacks and put new grounds in the coffee machine and stuff, but it's much more than that, you know?

Renee slowly nods.

BARRY

Anyway, what I'm getting at, is maybe you'd like to have dinner with me sometime?

Renee opens her mouth to respond, but Barry raises his hands and interjects.

BARRY

I meant coffee! Maybe we can get together and have coffee. You know, so we can get to know one another. Chat a little. Maybe chat a little about going out for dinner at some point.

Barry emits a slight, uncomfortable laugh. He shoves his hands back in his pockets.

BARRY

So, what do you say? Would you like to get together, have coffee, and possibly chat about going to dinner at some point? I think you're an interesting person. I really do.

Renee places a hand on Barry's shoulder.

RENEE

That's sweet Barry, really it is, but I have a boyfriend.

Barry looks at Renee with disappointment.

BARRY

You do?

Renee nods.

RENEE

Yeah. Sorry. I really appreciate what you said about me being an interesting person though.

Barry smiles.

BARRY

Well it's still true. I just hope you won't think I'm some kind of weirdo the next time I see you up on the seventeenth floor.

Renee raises an eyebrow.

RENEE  
Seventeenth?

BARRY  
Yeah. Where you work.

RENEE  
But I work on the eighth floor.

Barry shakes his head.

BARRY  
Hold on. You're not the  
receptionist for the law firm on  
the seventeenth floor?

RENEE  
No, I'm the paralegal for the law  
firm on the eighth floor.

The two stand in silence and stare at each other for a  
moment.

Barry throws his hands up in frustration.

BARRY  
Then what the hell am I doing  
talking to you? You're not even  
the right girl! Geez Louise!

RENEE  
Does that mean you don't find me  
interesting?

BARRY  
Interesting. I don't even know  
you.

Barry storms off down the street. Renee watches him walk  
away in total shock.

THE END

\*\*\* ALTERNATE ENDING \*\*\*

Renee places a hand on Barry's shoulder.

RENEE  
That's sweet Barry, really it is,  
but I have a boyfriend.

Barry looks at Renee with disappointment.

BARRY

You do?

Renee nods.

RENEE

Yeah. Sorry. I really appreciate what you said about me being an interesting person though.

Barry smiles.

BARRY

Well it's still true. I just hope you won't think I'm some kind of weirdo the next time I see you up on the seventeenth floor.

Renee laughs.

RENEE

Don't worry, I won't. I'll see you later, okay?

BARRY

Sure.

Barry smiles and watches Renee walk off down the street.

A WOMAN, late twenties passes him by and catches his gaze. He looks back to Renee, then once again to the woman.

He raises a hand and quickly walks toward the woman.

BARRY

Excuse me. Miss? Miss?

THE END