

## **13. Stranger**

Evelyn came back home from school. It's been few days since she started school and she couldn't help but feel happy. She has made a lot of friends in school.

Evelyn entered inside her house, "martha" she called. "Welcome back sweetie. How was your day" asked martha "it was good" she replied with a smile.

"I'm really hungry" evelyn whined, "why don't you go and fresh up dear, lunch is almost ready" said martha "ok" she replied and went to her room.

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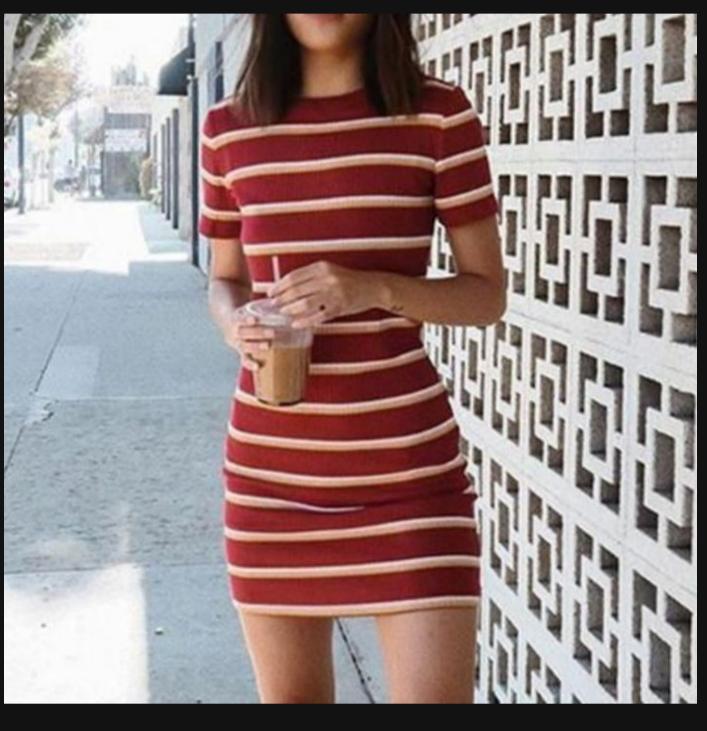
The trio was working in the o ice when there was a knock on their door. "Come in" said elijah while checking a file. "Sir" said a voice, the brothers looked up and saw it was christopher. "What is it" said noah. "Sir, the committee's letter came" he said and handed the letter to noah. "Hmm you may leave now" said ace and the guy le.

Noah opened the letter and started reading it. A huge smile formed on his face "we got the tender" he said. "Yes" ace cheered, elijah smiled.

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It was around eight in the morning when evelyn woke up. Today was saturday that means no school, she decided to go out for co ee. She came out of the shower, applied her body lotion and wore a short sleeve mini dress and paired it with white sneakers.



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"I'm going out for co ee" she said to martha "ok dear" she replied. Evelyn made her way to the co ee shop, she was about to reach the shop when someone bumped into her. It was an old lady "watch where you going" she sneered at evelyn. The lady looked rich.

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Evelyn flinched from the lady's harsh tone. Her father or anyone has never shouted at her. Her lower lip started to tremble, tears threaten to spill from her eyes but she controlled them.

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"I-I'm s-sorry mam" evelyn apologized, though it was that lady's fault. The woman didn't even look at her and walked away. Evelyn sighed in relief and started to walk but stopped midway, she saw a small purse lying on the ground. Evelyn picked it up, i think that lady dropped it, she thought.

Evelyn looked behind her and found the same lady. She jogged towards her "mam mam" evelyn called, the old lady turned around. "You dropped it" she said, the lady's eyes widened she snatched the purse from evelyn's hand and started checking it. "You brat, did you steal anything from it" the old lady barked.

Evelyn looked down, tears streamed down from her eyes. "No i didn't" evelyn whisper still looking down. "Yeah right, brats like yo-" the old lady stopped mid sentence, her eyes widened when her gaze fell on evelyn's teary face.

"I-I a-" the lady was about to say something but evelyn turned around and le . She didn't want to hear her harsh words anymore. She continued walking, such a meanie she was, i was just trying to help, evelyn thought while wiping her eyes from the back of her hand. a74

"Hey listen please" evelyn heard some call but she didn't stop. Someone held her arm, she turned around and saw it was the same lady. The old lady's eyes so ened when she saw the small girl's pu y eyes and red nose. "I'm sorry for my behaviour" the lady said "Umm...its a-alright" evelyn replied while fiddling with her fingers.

"I was just frustrated on my employee, I didn't mean to shout at you. I'm sorry little girl" the old lady said with a sad smile while patting evelyn's head. "Its alright-hey! i'm a big girl" evelyn protested. "You're cute" the lady mumbled while chuckling.

"I'm evelyn" she introduced herself "della" the lady replied with a smile.

"So evelyn where were you heading, if i may ask" the lady named della asked. "I was going for some co ee. You wanna join?" Evelyn asked "that's sweet of you but i don't wanna invade your privacy" della said "Not at all, infact i would love a company" evelyn said politely, she noticed that the lady looked tired. "Well ok then" della said with a smile and together they headed towards the cafe.

They settled on a booth and a waitress came to take their orders. "What will you guys have" she asked in a bored tone, "black co ee without sugar" della said sternly and turned to evelyn and gave her a warm smile. "I'll have a cappuccino please" evelyn said politely, the waitress hummed in response and rolled her eyes.

Della raised an eyebrow and said "first of all, she asked for co ee not for your fucking attitude so you better watch it" the waitress turned red in embarrassment and mumbled a 'sorry' and le . Evelyn giggled and della gave her a wink.

This time another waiter came and placed their orders.

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"Such a bitch she was" mumbled della while sipping on her co ee, evelyn gasped and said "you shouldn't cuss like that". Della chuckled in response and said "as if you don't cuss" "never, its not a good thing" said evelyn while drinking her co ee. "you are a good girl" della said and continued "your parents raised you good."

A sad smile formed on evelyn's face, della noticed it and asked "so you live with your parents?" "Yes, with my dad" she mumbled. "And your mom" della asked. "S-She died in a plane crash" sighed evelyn while looking down, della took hold of evelyn's hand and said "oh dear, I'm so sorry" "it's okay" said evelyn.

Della and evelyn talked for hours, she told evelyn that she is not from london and evelyn told della everything about her. They were laughing when suddenly della's phone rang, she looked at the caller ID and rolled her eyes "yeah" "hmm ok" and with that she ended the call.

"Umm...della. If you don't mind can i ask you something" said evelyn hesitantly "of course darling" she replied. "W-Why are y-you so cold tto everyone" evelyn asked politely, "Evelyn, this world is full of bad people, they are always ready to take advantage of your kindness that's why I'm cold to them" della replied with a smile.

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"But there are good people too" said evelyn, della chuckled a little "Sweetheart you are way too naive" she said.

They stood outside the cafe "it was nice talking to you evelyn, i had a wonderful time" della said. "Me too del" evelyn said with a big smile. Della chuckled at the nickname 'del' that evelyn gave her.

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"I gotta go now. Bye bye del" evelyn said but della stopped her "Evelyn, this world is not as good as you think. There are devils in disguise of an angel, so always be careful" she said with a smile. Evelyn looked at her confused but still smiled. They hugged and parted their ways.

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