

Stephanie woke up to her radio clock from the bedside table playing ‘*World’s Smallest Violin*’ from *AJR* and sat up from her bed, yawning widely as she revealed her vampire-like teeth.

She reached over to the radio clock and turned it off, looking at the blankets as they were scrambled around and leaving a single green blanket as her heater blanket and the yellow blanket were pushed to the back.

“Ugh,” Stephanie groaned as her hair was slightly tangled, although she had some random strands of black hair on her shoulders and pillow. “This happens every time...”

She reached over to the blanket and pushed it off, revealing her thin body as she wore a long-sleeved dark blue pajama shirt with black tights.

Stephanie stepped off the bed and stood up, yawning as she stretched her body out, hearing some pops and cracks coming from her bones as she grunted a little, mumbling, “Jesus Christ... I think I need to find a place for yoga.”

She blinked sleepily as she walked towards the door and opened it, entering a hallway with a couple of doors while yawning, entering one of them that looked like the bathroom as she paused and glanced over at the reader.

“I appreciate you following me,” Stephanie sighed as half her hair covered her left eye. “But I prefer having privacy for this moment of the story.”

With that, Stephanie closed the bathroom door as the ‘cameramen’ understood that she needed privacy.

A minute passed, and it was now in the living room, with two dinner tables near the hallway door and a massive wall with a rectangular walkthrough.

Couches and chairs were lying around with a large black TV, a coffee table with newspapers, and a TV remote.

Stephanie stepped out of the hallway dressed in a light blue long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and barefoot, carrying white socks.

Her hair was now neatly brushed, and she was wearing her dark blue and black rectangular glasses, pushing them into place with one hand before placing the socks on the coffee table.

She entered the kitchen and opened the fridge, peering in to see what she had as she knelt.

She looked around for a minute before finding a container of eggs and took them out, along with cheese and ham, and placed them on the kitchen counter.

Stephanie took out a couple of pans and turned the heater, warming the pan as she took a bowl from the cupboard and even a fork from the silverware drawer.

She placed the items down on the kitchen counter and opened the egg carton, picked up an egg, and cracked it on the side of the bowl before splitting it apart over the bowl to drop the egg.

Stephanie placed the egg into the yard waste near the kitchen sink and repeated with another egg, cracking it against the bowl before splitting it over it and dumping the egg and yolk into it with the other.

After two eggs had been cracked, Stephanie put them away and returned, using the fork to scramble them until they were a creamy yellow.

Once it was a creamy yellow, Stephanie stopped, placed the bowl down, took a miniature cutting board out, and removed a slice of ham from the package.

Just as Stephanie was about to cut, her phone started to ring, which caused her to jump before sighing after realizing it was just her phone in her pocket.

Stephanie reached over with one hand and revealed a *Bluetooth* earpiece in her ear as it flashed blue repeatedly and pressed the button.

“Hello?” Stephanie responded as she started cutting the ham.

“*Hello, is this Stephanie Allen?*” a voice asked.

“Yes, this is her,” Stephanie nodded. “What can I help you with?”

“*Well,*” the voice continued as Stephanie listened as she used the knuckles of her fingers to line the blade to cut smoothly. “*One of my important clients named Adalina reported that she is not going to attend because one of her sisters is going to have a baby, and I was wondering if you could come over to help?*”

“Sure thing!” Stephanie nodded as she paused, cutting the ham into smaller pieces. “When do you want me to come over?”

*“As soon as you want,”* the voice behind the phone responded. *“But come to the Pacific and North East Fleet building. I want you to deliver some orders.”*

“Of course!” Stephanie nodded as she finished cutting the ham. “I’ll be there before 7:30.”

*“Thank you so much, Ms. Allen!”* the voice thanked Stephanie before the phone hung up.

Stephanie smiled and pressed the button, hanging up the call as she continued what she was doing, finishing what she was cooking.

But she got an idea to make the dish *easier* to carry while walking to work.

So Stephanie took a tortilla from the fridge and placed it down, putting the egg into the pan and the bowl into the sink, returning with a spatula and watching the egg carefully.

When the egg is cooked and uncooked, Stephanie places cheese, ham, and leftover bacon bits on one side before folding it in half.

She let that cook until the cheese had melted and the ham cooked evenly, turning the heat off and picking up the tortilla from the counter.

Stephanie put the omelet into the tortilla and carefully made it into a breakfast burrito before putting the dishes and utensils away.

She cleaned around the area briefly before picking up her food after wrapping it in a towel and walking over to the door, munching on her quick breakfast.

Stephanie placed the half-eaten breakfast burrito on a table with hooks over it and sat down, taking her white and pink shoes from the shoe cabinet and putting them on.

Once her shoes were on, Stephanie stood back up, took her sweater off the hook, put it over her body, and zipped it up.

She picked up her breakfast burrito from the same spot and unlocked the door, stepping outside as she turned around, closing it behind her.

Using the key from the pocket of her blue jeans, Stephanie locked the door, put the key back into the pocket, and walked down the steps, heading into *Bigg City Port*.

Stephanie continued to walk down the hill as she ate her breakfast burrito, listening to music as she continued walking while keeping track of time.

It reads '7:00' in the morning, so she has thirty minutes to reach the *Pacific and North East Fleet* building.

Stephanie soon arrived at the city and made her way through it while searching for the building, looking at the signs over it as she walked with the people.

She had already eaten her breakfast burrito, so Stephanie put her garbage in her pocket until she could find a garbage bin to throw away.

Stephanie arrives at the docks and sees the building right across from where the *Star Fleet* and the *Z-Stacks* were.

'Huh,' Stephanie remarked as she headed towards the building. 'They are right across from each other. That's pretty easy for anyone to deliver orders about contracts to them.'

But she shrugged to herself about the thought and continued to walk, carefully examining any suspicious activity as she walked down the docks.

While Stephanie was walking down the docks, two boats came around the corner before one stopped as the other stopped with the first.

"Eh? What's wrong?" a young voice asked, whistling the 's' when he spoke.

"It's her!" a second, yet, a familiar voice exclaimed.

"Who?" the first voice asked.

"Stephanie!" the second exclaimed. "Oh, what is she doin' here?"

"Why are you so worried about her?" the first asked. "Doesn't she know about you?"

A long quiet went between the two as the first asked, "[She knows about you, right?](#)"

“No, she doesn’t know me like this,” the first finally answered. “And... she’s a human.”

“SHE WHAT?!” the second exclaimed.

Stephanie stopped walking after hearing a voice and glanced to the side, seeing nothing as the two bows of the boats had already disappeared before she looked.

“Am I now hearing voices?” Stephanie mumbled as she turned away and continued her walk toward the building.

Once Stephanie arrived, she opened the door and peered in, seeing a beautiful young woman sitting in a chair, looking at the paperwork on the desk and sorting through them.

She has beautiful pale skin, light electric blue eyes, and long, straight, golden blonde hair reaching the bottom of her ribcage.

She has a healthy, thin body with C breasts, thin arms and legs with slightly thick thighs, and a round bottom with a slim waist.

The woman wore a long-sleeved cream shirt, a white jacket, and a faint gray tight skirt that reached her knees.

She also wore pearl pants and snow-white high heels.

“Hello?” Stephanie politely spoke as the beautiful woman glanced up.

“Hello, honey,” the woman greeted. “What can I do for you?”

“I’m here to help,” Stephanie answered. “Your boss called me over here.”

“Oh!” the woman perked. “Well, go right ahead and enter!”

Stephanie smiled, nodded, and walked down the hallway, pausing a little as she turned around and asked, “Which door is it?”

The woman glanced over the desk and answered, “It’s down the hallway and to the right. It should be slightly open.”

Stephanie nodded and turned around, walking down the hallway while looking at the doors as she passed them.

She soon arrived at a slightly open door at the end of the hallway and knocked on it twice, hearing a female's voice on the other side, "Come in!"

Stephanie opened the door after a familiar voice from the phone responded, seeing a beautiful woman at a desk as she looked up at her.

She has long, graying hair, ocean-blue eyes, half-framed glasses, and a healthy, thin body with slender hips.

She wore a white uniform with a cape over the left arm and a captain's cap, pins on the collar, dark gray pants, and white high heel boots.

"Hello, Stephanie," the woman greeted. "I'm so glad that you came here on time."

Stephanie nodded after the woman remarked as she stood up, towering slightly over Stephanie's height as she walked over to the drawer while Stephanie followed her.

She opened the drawer and took out two folders labeled with different company names.

"These are the letters you need to pass over to the *Star Fleet* and the *Z-Stacks*," the woman explained as she handed two letters to Stephanie.

Stephanie nodded as she took the letters in her hand, saying, "I will do my best to hand these letters over to the two companies."

"Great!" the woman nodded. "When you return, can you do a few more tasks?"

Stephanie nodded again and turned around as the woman said, "Please be careful. There are going to be strong winds today."

Stephanie silently grimaced after the woman mentioned the wind, worried about the letters flying away after getting out of her hand.

So Stephanie opened her sweater as she exited the building, gently tucking the letters into her shirt and zipping them back up for safety.

Once the letters were tucked into her sweater, Stephanie went towards the first building, the *Star Fleet*.

Adalina had to take her home after the gang incident, so she had not gone to the office.

Stephanie looked closely for the same gang, looking at the empty warehouses as she cautiously walked by them before passing.

She soon arrived at the market and paused, seeing the craziness as she sighed, glancing around for any idea how to get around the tight crowd.

“Hey, Stephanie!” Stephanie perked after hearing her name and glanced over, seeing Kasey as they pulled up next to her. “Need a hand?”

Stephanie nodded after Kasey asked, and they tossed a rope at her, watching as she climbed it and hopped onto the boat.

“Welcome aboard, sailor!” Kasey greeted Stephanie with a smile. “Where do you want me to take you?”

“I would like to head over to the *Star Fleet* building, please,” Stephanie pointed.

“Okay!” Kasey nodded before turning around to the captain. “Turn to port!”

The captain nodded with an “Aye-aye!” and turned the wheel, turning the ship to the left as Stephanie watched, the wind gently blowing in her long hair.

The massive boat had a white sail with a black bow named ‘*The Amphitrite*,’ in cursive.

They passed by other boats and ferries as they went around *Bigg City Port*, arriving and leaving as Stephanie watched each of them.

Stephanie watched as they got closer to the *Star Fleet* docks and parked to the side, and Stephanie walked over to the right.

One of the sailors offered to help, and Stephanie accepted, being gently lowered to the ground before landing on her feet on the docks.

“Thank you, Kasey!” Stephanie thanked Kasey.

“Let me know if you need another ride, okay?” Kasey asked.

Stephanie nodded after Kasey bid her farewell and started to leave the dock.

Stephanie entered the building after opening the door and stepped inside, relieved that she had not dropped any papers.

She stepped into the building before pausing when she saw someone sitting in a chair in the hallway with pictures on the walls of the contracts.

The person had beautiful caucasian skin, ocean-blue eyes, and short jet-black hair with a single curl on his forehead.

He wore a sailor’s uniform in the colors of yellow, white, black, and hints of blue with the number six on the collar of his jacket and the name ‘*Hercules*’ in cursive on the other and had a single stripe down the side of his black pant legs and black shoes.

He wore a blue and white sailor’s cap with a bird ornament and round glasses with yellow lenses.

After noticing him, Stephanie thought he was the captain but paused when she noticed he had the number six pin instead.

“Oh,” Stephanie perked as the man glanced over at her after she entered the room. “Sorry, I thought you were the captain.”

“No, sweetheart,” the man chuckled. “Captain Star will be a little late to arrive here.”

Stephanie sighed after the man chuckled, and she took the paper from inside her sweater after sitting down, saying, “Okay, I came here to give him a letter about a contract.”

The man looked confused as he asked, “What happened to Adalina?”

“One of her sisters is having a baby,” Stephanie explained. “So I am doing Adalina’s job for her since she is staying with her sister at the hospital.”

“That is very kind of you,” the man remarked. “So what is your name, m’lady?”

“Stephanie,” Stephanie responded. “My name is Stephanie Allen.”

Then she mentioned to the man with a hand, asking, “I bet your name is ‘Hercules,’ right?”

“You’re right about that, sweetheart,” Hercules nodded. “Ten Cents have fondly talked about you since you came here.”

A light blush appeared on Stephanie’s cheeks as she asked, “He does?”

“Oh, yes, he does,” Hercules chuckles. “He talked to me last night about you since he met you on the pier. He seemed to be in high spirits whenever he met you.”

Stephanie’s cheeks blushed more after Hercules mentioned Ten Cents’ conversation with him about her as he noticed the blush on her cheeks.

“What do *you* think about Ten Cents?” Hercules asked.

“Where do I begin?” Stephanie chuckled. “I just met him, but,” she paused as she blushed. “He’s adorable, in my opinion. His slightly chubby cheeks, his hair, his eyes...”

Stephanie drifted as she thought about Ten Cents, and Hercules softly chuckled, seeing how *strange* Stephanie was acting as she quickly snapped back to reality and stammered, “Sorry! I, uh, did, erm, is the captain here?”

“No, not yet,” Hercules chuckled. “Sorry I got you into a Ten Cents rabbit hole.”

Stephanie groaned as she faceplanted herself into the papers in her hands, the tip of her ears beet red with embarrassment.

Hercules chuckled a little after seeing Stephanie’s embarrassment about Ten Cents before the door opened, revealing a middle-aged man entering the building.

He has caucasian skin, short dark brown hair with white streaks, a mustache, and sky-blue eyes.

He wore a captain’s uniform with a captain’s badge and had a black and white sailor’s cap on his head with black shoes.

“Hello,” Stephanie stood up after seeing the man. “Are you the captain?”

“Yes, I am,” the captain nodded as he held his hand. “My name is Captain Starr, leader of the *Star Tugs*.”

“I’m Stephanie,” Stephanie greeted, taking Captain Starr’s hand and shaking it firmly with him. “Stephanie Allen, a friend of Adalina.”

They release their hands after shaking as Captain Starr tells Hercules, “I suppose you know Hercules?”

“Yes,” Stephanie nodded. “He’s Ten Cents’ older brother, right?”

She asked as she looked over at Hercules with a slightly confused expression.

“Correct, m’lady,” Hercules nodded before standing up from his chair. “Well, I better be off doing work.”

“Be careful,” Stephanie warned. “There are going to be strong winds today.”

Hercules tipped his hat slightly to Stephanie and exited the building as Stephanie turned to Captain Starr and remarked, “He’s very polite.”

“Yes, he is,” Captain Starr nodded in agreement. “That is why he is one of my best sailors.”

“Sailors?” Stephanie thought as she followed Captain Starr. ‘Ten Cents and the others are sailors like Kasey? ...How much am I missing while being so deep in work?’

They entered the office as it was a little larger than the main room Stephanie had entered, and Captain Starr sat down behind his desk, as next to his desk was a white megaphone with blue stripes.

Stephanie looked at the papers in her hand and determined which one was which, handing the one signed by an unknown person about the ‘Moyola.’

“Is this the right one?” Stephanie politely asked.

Captain Starr looked at the paper in his hand after putting on his reading glasses, reading the paperwork thoughtfully before looking up, saying, “Yes, this is the right one. Thank you, Stephanie.”

“You’re welcome,” Stephanie nodded. “Now for the second one.”

“Oh, before you leave, Stephanie,” Captain Starr said as Stephanie stopped leaving. “You might want to be careful around the *Z-Stacks*. They are not trustworthy people you want to be friends with.”

Stephanie looked confused after hearing Captain Starr warning her about the *Z-Stacks* before nodding, saying, “I will be careful with them, Captain.”

After telling Captain Starr, Stephanie left the *Star Fleet* building and headed over to the *Z-Stack* building, which was easy for her since they were side by side.

She entered the building and stepped inside, pausing to notice how *eerie* it was compared to the *Star Fleet*’s facility.

There were rarely any contracts on the walls, and an almost dark aura around it sent slight shivers down Stephanie’s spine.

“YES?!” a sudden voice shouted down the hallway as Stephanie jolted. “WHO IS IT? COME IN HERE AT ONCE!”

Stephanie walked down the hallway after hearing the voice shout and opened the door, seeing a cranky man sitting at the desk with his arms crossed.

He wore a black captain’s outfit and had red eyes, caucasian skin, and spiky jet-black hair with some signs of gray hair.

Next to him on the ground was a black megaphone with yellow stripes, and the office was *much* different from Captain Starr’s.

“Yeah, what is it?” the man snarked. “What do you want?”

‘Rude,’ Stephanie silently huffed.

Stephanie walked up to the captain and unzipped her sweater, taking out the paperwork about the ‘Moyola’ and placing it down in front of him.

“Why do you have the paperwork for *Moyola*?” the man asked slightly confusedly.

“Adalina is helping her sister with her baby at the hospital,” Stephanie answered. “I’m helping the *Pacific Fleet* deliver these papers.”

The man huffed after Stephanie calmly explained to him and said, crossing his arms over his chest, “Well, I appreciate that you handed me the paperwork, but how do *you* know Adalina and the company?”

“I am friends with the members,” Stephanie shrugged as she turned around. “Which is something that you *don’t* understand.”

The man turned more irritated after Stephanie huffed as she walked out of the *Z-Stack’s* building, sighing as she mumbled, “Damn, what a-”

But she paused when someone approached her before stopping and looked confused.

The first has a thin body with fair skin, light green eyes, and short dark brown hair.

He wore a black and white uniform with a fedora with a white ribbon around it, with the number five pin and the *Z-Stacks’* flag pin, and the name ‘*Zip*’ on the other in white thread.

The second has a slightly chubby body, fair skin, and short blond hair with steel-blue eyes.

He wore the same black and white uniform with a fedora with a white ribbon around it with the number four pin, the *Z-Stacks’* flag pin, and the name ‘*Zug*’ on the other in white thread.

“Sorry, ma’am,” the second apologized.

“Yes, sorry, ma’am,” the first nodded before pausing after seeing Stephanie and blushed, stuttering, “Ma’am, ma’am!”

After the first stutter, Stephanie chuckled and asked, “Is your friend okay?”

“Uh...” the second responded, blushing as the first shook his head and answered, “I’m fine. Just surprised.”

Stephanie gently chuckled after the second regained himself and said as she walked by them as they stared, “It was nice meeting you boys. Have a nice day!”

They watched her from behind as she walked down the port as the first said, “Did you see her? She’s beautiful!”

“I saw!” the second nodded. “Is she interested in us?”

“What do you mean by ‘us?’” the first asked, looking confused by what his friend asked him.

The second blushed after the first asked and stammered, “Erm, never mind!”

Throughout the day, Stephanie helped the *Pacific Fleet* by sorting through the papers to help Katrina, the woman Stephanie met in the morning, even though she was clumsy the whole time.

It was hard for Stephanie as she was helping the *Pacific Fleet*, but it was enough to keep them going, even when Adalina was not there.

When nighttime came, Stephanie was finally done with Adalina’s job and was heading home... until she noticed a familiar figure standing near the docks.

Stephanie perked after noticing the figure and headed in their direction, calling, “Hey! Ten Cents!”

Said Ten Cents flinched after hearing his name called and glanced at Stephanie walking towards him.

“Sorry!” Stephanie chuckled as she stopped in front of him. “I didn’t mean to scare you like that.”

“N-No, it’s okay,” Ten Cents stammered, turning to Stephanie as he blushed. “I was wonderin’ what you were doin’ the whole time. I saw you walkin’ to the *Pacific Fleet* buildin’.”

“Adalina is helping her sister deliver some babies,” Stephanie answered as she sounded tired from helping around the building. “So I took Adalina’s job for the moment to let her stay by her sister’s side.”

“You did?” Ten Cents remarked. “Cor, that has to be very challenging for you to do Adalina’s job!”

“Not really,” Stephanie chuckled. “Sorting through papers, computer work, and helping a ditzzy secretary is a good challenge!”

Ten Cents looked surprised after Stephanie remarked and asked, “You always seen the positivity in the hardest challenges?”

“Yep!” Stephanie nodded. “Even jobs too!”

Stephanie paused as she turned away from Ten Cents, yawning as she revealed her slightly scarred tongue and pointed canines... which Ten Cents silently noticed when she yawned.

“God,” Stephanie blinked as she rubbed her left eye with her hand underneath her glasses. “I need to head back home. A nice warm bed can do the-”

But then she suddenly stopped talking when she felt a *jolt* run through her body, perking Ten Cents’ attention from the slight reveal of her canines.

From underneath her sweater’s sleeve, a small clump of *black fur* started to grow from the back of her hand, causing Stephanie to panic as Ten Cents looked worried, not noticing the large patch of fluff on her hand.

“I need to go!” Stephanie exclaimed, turning around quickly and running down the road fast.

Ten Cents watched as she ran down the road, avoiding cars as she headed towards the house in the mountains.

“Is that her home?” Ten Cents softly mumbled. “Cor, that is one huge-”

A sudden *roar* echoed through Bigg City Port as Ten Cents leaped, glancing around for what could have caused that noise.

It sounded like a monster... but Ten Cents thankfully saw no creature around.

“What the absolute hell was that?!” Ten Cents exclaimed, startled by the sound bellowing around.

The ocean water rippled, and Ten Cents turned his head towards the ocean with a slightly worried expression before watching a head pop out, dripping wet with water.

The person has short yellow-blond hair, caucasian skin, and sky-blue eyes.

He wore a sailor uniform with a red cap with a black brim that was slightly pointed upward and was swimming in the ocean water.

“Are you alright there, Sunshine?” Ten Cents asked, kneeling to the man’s height.

“Yeah, I’m fine,” the young man named ‘Sunshine’ answered, swimming to Ten Cents and struggling to reach for Ten Cents’ hand.

“Come on, you can reach,” Ten Cents encouraged, finally grabbing Sunshine’s hand after a few tries.

Ten Cents tugged Sunshine onto the docks as Sunshine was dripping wet before shaking his body and taking his cap off to wring the water out of it.

“What was happenin’ between you and this ‘Stephanie?’” Sunshine asked as Ten Cents blushed.

“Oh, she noticed me by the docks and came over to talk to me,” Ten Cents answered as he blushed more. “She sounded exhausted from workin’ at the *Pacific Fleet* in Adalina’s job,” he paused and added, “But she sort of stopped talking and froze for a minute and then ran off.”

“Did she see somethin’?” Sunshine asked.

“No,” Ten Cents shook his head. “She perhaps remembered a job she needed to do and forgotten about it?”

Sunshine shrugged his shoulders after Ten Cents suggested and returned to drying himself off, but Ten Cents could not shrug off what he saw.

The sharp canines and her sudden freezing.

Is... she like them?

...Who knows?

In the distance, something large and furry watched them from the forest before sighing, turning around, and leaving as a fluffy black tail gently flicked.