

Stephanie's 'mental problem' lasted two days before she finally 'recovered,' exiting her room early in the morning.

She sighed as she moved some of her hair while strands of *jet-black fur* fell from her shoulders and were somewhat stuck to the back of her arms.

Stephanie noticed the fur stuck to the back of her arms and muttered, "I need to vacuum my room."

Noticing that she had not showered in a long time, too, Stephanie went to the bathroom to take a nice warm shower, getting herself clean while getting the jet-black fur off her body.

Once her body was clean, and all the fur was off, Stephanie exited the shower and dried herself off with a towel and a hair towel to keep her long hair up.

Stephanie exited her bathroom and headed into her room, getting her clothes and putting them on, wearing a long-sleeve light blue shirt with jet-black jeans and barefoot.

Her long hair was still in the hair towel, and she went into the kitchen while taking her phone.

She placed her phone down on the counter and went to the fridge, taking out one of the leftovers that were made by Adalina, having already read the sticky note written by her.

Stephanie heats her breakfast and pours a glass of milk, drinking it while waiting until her microwave beeps.

Hearing the microwave beeping, Stephanie took out her food and started eating it while standing, then remembered she needed to look through her messages.

Stephanie picked her phone up after placing her bowl down and looked through the messages, as some were telling her that she needed to work at different places at the exact time and where she was supposed to go.

She silently nodded to herself as she went through the messages sent by the bosses about what to do for next week, made multiple mental notes, and reached the bottom.

Stephanie was about to swipe it when she paused after seeing it was a different number from the others.

‘That’s weird,’ Stephanie perked after noticing the phone number.

She tapped on the phone number and looked at the message as it read, ‘Hey, is this Stephanie?’

Who knows her name?

Stephanie stops eating and picks her phone up, responding to the message, ‘Yeah, it’s me. Who is this?’

She replied to the message and returned to eating once it was sent to this stranger that was texting her, thinking it was a spammer.

After a while, the person on the other side of the message remained silent before saying, ‘Oh, good! It’s me, Ten Cents.’

Stephanie nearly choked on her food after reading the new message sent to her, surprised to see that *Ten Cents* was texting her.

She quickly picked up her phone after reading the text message and typed, ‘TEN CENTS?! 🤪 Holy 🤩, how did you get my phone number?!’

A text message was sent to her, responding, ‘Adalina sent me your phone number after writing me some notes. She must’ve slipped your phone number while I wasn’t looking.’

“That sly-” Stephanie huffed with a smirk before returning to her messages.

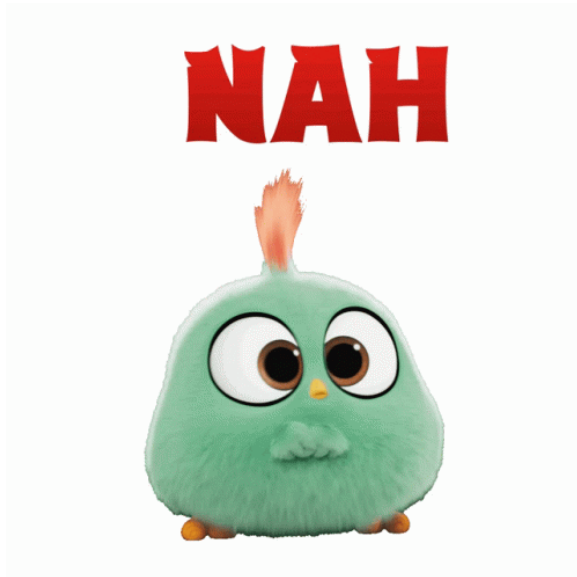
‘I should’ve known that Adalina would pull this stunt on us! 😞😡’ Stephanie texted. ‘But at least it is you instead of some random stranger.’

‘True,’ Ten Cents responded. ‘But how did you know Adalina would pull this stunt on us?’

‘She does this with many men whenever she sees them interested in me,’ Stephanie responded as she silently huffed. ‘But they were a bunch of 🍆s who only liked my ‘good looks’ as they call it. So I turned them all down because of their crude personalities, and Adalina stopped after seeing I wasn’t interested.’

A long pause as Stephanie started to become silently worried that she must have said something wrong as it went silent, but Ten Cents responded, ‘Oh, that makes sense! You’re not interested in the other guys?’

Stephanie sent a GIF of an *Angry Birds* character shaking their head with the text, ‘NAH,’ over them in red.



‘How are you doing that?’ Ten Cents texted her. ‘How are you doing all that?’

‘🌀 It’s called GIFs and Emojis,’ Stephanie texted. ‘You’ll see them on your phone and even in some apps.’

‘Really?’ Ten Cents texted back. ‘I barely knew anything about that with phones.’

Stephanie chuckles after reading Ten Cents’ text as she texted, ‘I get that feeling too. But, hey, we are still learning as technology slowly grows. We just need to poke around and see what to do with it.’

‘Fair choice of words,’ Ten Cents texted. ‘You’re starting to sound like O.J. and Captain Star.’

Stephanie chuckled again after Ten Cents remarked as she texted, ‘I don’t count myself wise, Ten Cents. I’m just a wisecracker.’

It went silent for a while before Ten Cents sent a ‘😏’ to her as she texted, ‘Hey, you’re getting it! 😊’

Another was sent to her as Stephanie smiled softly as she went back to eating, noticing that it had gone cold after Stephanie started texting to Ten Cents.

She shrugged after eating her food as she finished before another text came as she walked over to her sink and placed the dishes inside before looking at the text.

It reads, ‘Hey, Steph. I was thinking. Since I have a day off today, do you have one off too?’

‘It’s today,’ Stephanie texted.

A moment of silence as Stephanie looked confused, wondering what Ten Cents was asking for, and a minute passed, and still, no text was sent to her.

Instead of switching out from the messaging app and going to a game, Stephanie waited patiently as her stomach nervously twisted.

‘Would you like to go out somewhere with me?’ Ten Cents finally asked before a series of texts followed after that reading, ‘It’s not a date!’ and ‘I didn’t mean like that. I just want to spend time with you!’ and ‘We haven’t properly met each other, that’s all!’

Stephanie quietly chuckled as she mentally remarked as the texting noises died, ‘He’s shy?’

How *cute*.

She texted back to him after things died down and said, ‘Sure! I would like to go out with you on a ‘non-date.’ 😊❤️ Where would you like to go?’

A silence came from the messaging app as Stephanie waited, leaning against the counter as she looked at the screen in her hands.

‘Would you like to walk around Bigg City Port?’ Ten Cents texted. ‘Then, could you show me where you usually go?’

‘Perfect!👏’ Stephanie texted. ‘What time do you want me to come over? Or do you want to come over to pick me up?’

‘How about 9?’ Ten Cents texted as Stephanie looked up at the clock, which read eight-thirty. ‘And, since you know where I am, I can try to come to pick you up this time.’

‘Great!👍’ Stephanie texted. ‘I’ll be ready before 9. I’ll see you soon, Ten Cents.’

‘You too!’ Ten Cents replied before the green dot went black.

Stephanie nodded as she went to get ready, needing to put her hair up and get her body dressed.

A while before the ‘non-date’ happened, Ten Cents was staring at the slip of paper hidden in the notes Adalina handed him that had someone’s phone number on it.

But the phone number had someone’s name instead, which surprised Ten Cents.

*‘Stephanie.’*

Curiosity came to him, and he put the phone number into his phone before going to the messaging app.

He hesitated for a minute as he sat on his bed, wearing a long-sleeve white shirt and black pants, and was not wearing his cap or shoes except white socks.

Gathering his courage, Ten Cents texted, ‘Hey, is this Stephanie?’

He waited nervously as he stared at his phone, wondering if he got himself tricked by Adalina and was texting a dead chat or one of the *Z-Stacks*.

Ten Cents hates a cruel prank and will be mad if-

A notification noise perked Ten Cents’ attention from his thoughts as he looked down, reading, ‘Yeah, it’s me. Who is this?’

Ten Cents' heart skipped a beat after seeing that Stephanie *did* send him a text, instantly feeling a rush of excitement as he texted, 'Oh, good! It's me, Ten Cents.'

A few seconds later, Stephanie texted him, 'TEN CENTS?! 😱 Holy 💩, how did you get my phone number?!'

He glanced at the phone number written on the paper by Adalina and responded with a slight huff, 'Adalina sent me your phone number after writing me some notes. She must've slipped your phone number while I wasn't looking.'

Stephanie responded, 'I should've known that Adalina would pull this stunt on us! 😞😡 But at least it is you instead of some random stranger.'

Ten Cents silently nodded in agreement after Stephanie told him before texting, 'True, but how did you know Adalina would pull this stunt on us?'

'She does this with many men whenever she sees them interested in me,' Stephanie responded. 'But they were a bunch of 🍆s who only liked my 'good looks' as they call it. So I turned them all down because of their crude personalities, and Adalina stopped after seeing I wasn't interested.'

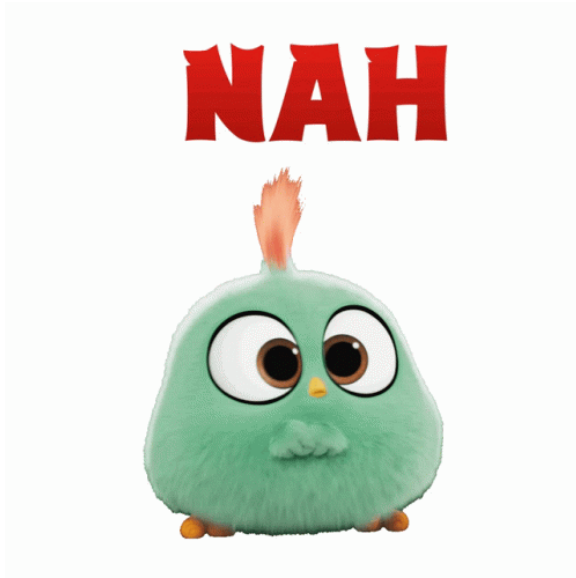
Ten Cents felt confused about what Stephanie texted him but had an uneasy feeling that she *knew* some men around *Bigg City Port*.

But, from what she said in her text, Stephanie must have encountered many people with horrible personalities.

Ten Cents hoped to himself that he was not one of those people she met.

'Oh, that makes sense!' Ten Cents texted, not noticing someone opening the door and seeing him texting while sitting on his bed. 'You're not interested in the other guys?'

Ten Cents looked confused when she suddenly sent a moving picture of a green bird-like character shaking their head with the text, 'NAH,' over them in red.



‘How are you doing that?’ Ten Cents texted her as he had a confused expression. ‘How are you doing all that?’

‘🤔 It’s called GIFs and Emojis,’ Stephanie texted as Ten Cents mentally smacked himself for his stupid question. ‘You’ll see them on your phone and even in some apps.’

‘Really?’ Ten Cents texted. ‘I barely knew anything about that with phones.’

Ten Cents then silently ‘D’oh’ed himself for remarking that he barely knew anything about phones, knowing it tells that he is *really* old compared to Stephanie.

...Wait, is it even allowed in *Bigg City Port*?!

Ten Cents pushed that thought in the back after a message from Stephanie responded, ‘I get that feeling too. But, hey, we are still learning as technology slowly grows. We just need to poke around and see what to do with it.’

Ten Cents sighed after Stephanie responded before smiling softly as he texted, ‘Fair choice of words. You’re starting to sound like O.J. and Captain Star.’

‘I don’t count myself wise, Ten Cents.’ Stephanie responded as Ten Cents felt a little nervous. ‘I’m just a wisecracker.’

Ten Cents snorted a little from Stephanie's response as someone looked over his shoulder curiously, looking at who he was texting as he sent one of the laughing Emojis she mentioned.

'Hey, you're getting it! 😁' Stephanie remarked as Ten Cents chuckled.

Then he saw something from the corner of his eye and Sunshine looking over his shoulder.

He wore a short-sleeve pale yellow shirt with blue jeans and white socks.

They made eye contact as Ten Cents blushed crimson as steam came out of his mouth, exclaiming as he hid his phone underneath his shirt, "AH, SUNSHINE! Wot are you doin' in my room?!"

"I came in here to see what was goin' on," Sunshine chuckled before poking his nose, teasing him as his blush deepened to the point of his ears. "It sounds like you are texting someone you *like*."

"Wot?!" Ten Cents huffed, pushing Sunshine with a hand as he removed the other from hiding his shirt underneath his shirt. "No! I'm just texting a friend!"

"Friend," eh?" Sunshine chuckled as Ten Cents gritted his sharp teeth.

This cheeky little blonde-

"Though, is it that girl you have been meetin'?" Ten Cents flinched in surprise after Sunshine mentioned. "How did you get her phone number?"

"Stephanie's friend, Adalina," Ten Cents explained but still blushing. "Slipped me her phone number after handin' me notes, and, well, we're textin'."

A mischievous smile appeared on Sunshine's face, and Ten Cents felt worried after seeing that face.

What is he planning?

In a blink of an eye, Sunshine snatched Ten Cents' phone from him and said, "Well, it looks like a perfect time for you ta meet her!"

Sunshine was chased by Ten Cents around his room, dodging Ten Cents' attempts to grab him and yelling, "Wot!? No! Wot if she is at work?! Give me my phone back, Sunshine!"

But Sunshine went underneath Ten Cents' bed as he attempted to reach underneath with an arm, trying to grab him, shouting, "Come out of there, Sunshine!"

Meanwhile, Sunshine texted Stephanie at the far back of the bed as Ten Cents' arm, and hand kept missing him, 'Hey, Steph. I was thinking. Since I have a day off today, do you have one off too?'

'It's today.' Stephanie responded as Sunshine's cheekiness grew.

Sunshine texted, 'Would you like to go out somewhere with me?' and was about to send it when Ten Cents finally grabbed Sunshine's left arm and dragged him out from underneath the bed, seething with irritation.

"Sunshine, you better not-" Sunshine only stared at Ten Cents with that cheeky smirk as he sent the message to Stephanie. "Sunshine!"

Ten Cents drops Sunshine after grabbing his phone and looking at the messages, turning redder as more steam comes out of his mouth.

He quickly texted, 'It's not a date!' and 'I didn't mean like that. I just want to spend time with you!' and 'We haven't properly met each other, that's all!' but stopped after realizing what he meant was not meaning what he was trying to say.

He had dug himself a deeper grave that he could not climb out.

"Are you proud of yourself, Sunshine?!" Ten Cents exclaimed as Sunshine was laughing at Ten Cents' reaction while lying on the ground where Ten Cents dropped him.

He was so red that he looked like the Fire Chief's uniform and steamed with steam like a sauna!

Then, Stephanie replied, and Ten Cents felt his heart leap out of his chest as he worriedly read what Stephanie texted him.

It reads, 'Sure! I would like to go out with you on a 'non-date.' 😊❤️ Where would you like to go?'

Ten Cents' mind halted after reading the text message from Stephanie, surprised to see that she somehow *understood* what he was trying to say.

After noticing Ten Cents' shocked expression, Sunshine stopped laughing and gently grabbed his arm, asking, "Eh, what she said?"

He read the text message and looked surprised, saying, "She said 'yes?'"

"She said 'yes,'" Ten Cents repeated in shock.

"She said 'yes?!'" Sunshine exclaimed.

"She said 'yes!'" Ten Cents whooped.

"Be quiet!" a voice shouted from downstairs. "I'm trying to read!"

"Sorry, Top Hat!" Sunshine called as Ten Cents thought before texting.

He sent as he had butterflies in his stomach as rushes of excitement went through him, 'Would you like to walk around Bigg City Port? Then, could you show me where you usually go?'

'Perfect! 🙌' Stephanie responded as Ten Cents' excitement picked up. 'What time do you want me to come over? Or do you want to come over to pick me up?'

"Let you pick her up!" Sunshine exclaimed. "She's been over here, so why not you?"

"Good idea, Sunshine!" Ten Cents nodded before turning to his phone. "And I'll pick her up at nine."

'How about 9? And, since you know where I am, I can try to come to pick you up this time.' Ten Cents texted.

'Great! 👍' Stephanie responded as Ten Cents' heart was beating excitedly against his chest. 'I'll be ready before 9. I'll see you soon, Ten Cents.'

'You too!' Ten Cents grinned.

Ten Cents turned his phone off and were excited to meet with Stephanie as Sunshine whooped excitedly for his older brother.

He said as he ran a hand through his short hair, “This is fantastic! I finally got to meet up with her!”

“Now hold on, Ten Cents,” Sunshine exclaimed as Ten Cents looked at him.

He grabbed Ten Cents’ shirt and yanked him down to his level, feeling his hair and checking his body.

“I think the shower is good for another day,” Sunshine nodded. “But,” he started pushing Ten Cents’ hips as he moved forward and strained, “You need to get ready before nine!”

“Whoa, whoa, whoa, Sunshine!” Ten Cents exclaimed as he went to the door, moving his arms out to stop himself. “Slow down a little! I need my shoes!”

He looked down at his clothes and added, “I need my jacket and stuff too!”

“Oh, right!” Sunshine perked as he stopped pushing Ten Cents’ hips. “Clean ones would work!”

Sunshine ran past Ten Cents as he looked confused, now wondering what Sunshine was planning.

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Meanwhile, Stephanie was brushing her long brown hair with a hairbrush as she was calm, looking at the time while preparing herself.

For identification purposes, she had already texted Ten Cents her home address and given his name to the chat room.

Stephanie put her glasses on as she walked into the living room, double-checking if she had everything for this little ‘non-date.’

The thought of an actual ‘date’ crossed her mind as a shy blush appeared on her cheeks, thinking if that was *possible* for her and Ten Cents to-

Stephanie used both hands to gently slap her cheeks to get the thought out of her mind, not wanting to rush through the relationship.

The last thing she wanted was to have kids at a-

Stephanie blushed more as she gently slapped her cheeks again, not wanting to think more about this relationship before perking when her doorbell suddenly rang.

She looked at the clock as it read nine o'clock.

Stephanie gasped as she rushed over to the door, quickly opening it as she saw Ten Cents standing at the entrance of her home.

“Ten Cents!” Stephanie perked as she hugged him.

Ten Cents felt his mind scream with glee when Stephanie hugged him around his body, but since he was eight inches taller than her, she reached up to his chest.

Is she at *Sunshine's* height?

Stephanie realized that she hugged Ten Cents and instantly released him, blushing as she stuttered, “Ah, s-sorry! I didn't mean to hug you like that! I didn't think if you were fine with it or-”

“Steph,” Ten Cents chuckled as she stopped stammering. “It's okay. I was caught off guard when you launched yourself at me.”

On the other hand, his heart was beating like crazy in his chest when he finally got to talk to Stephanie properly and was wearing his uniform.

Even his hair was neatly combed, but since he did not like it as it was combed back, Ten Cents ruffled it to how he liked it behind Sunshine's back.

Luckily, he placed his cap on quickly before Sunshine noticed he ruffled his hair behind his back as Stephanie said, “So, do you want to walk around?”

“Ah, sure!” Ten Cents nodded. “Follow me!”

Stephanie nodded as Ten Cents turned around to walk down the stairs, still confused about how could Stephanie *afford* a splendid house like this?

Ten Cents had his hands on the railing as he walked down the stairs, and Stephanie was doing the same behind him.

But as they were climbing down, Stephanie's thumb contacted the side of Ten Cents' hand.

Ten Cents felt his heart almost leap out of his chest again after feeling Stephanie's thumb touch, and Stephanie felt the same thing, moving her hand back as she stammered, "Sorry! I, ah, was trying to climb down the stairs."

"It's fine," Ten Cents responded, not looking over at Stephanie as his ears were slightly red.

'Heart, calm down!' Ten Cents scolded his already fast-beating heart.

He does not want a heart attack at this young age and in front of a woman he likes!

Ten Cents blinked about what the last sentence read before the first as they stepped off the stairs and were on the driveway.

Stephanie approached him and pointed to the left, "Let's head in that direction! That's where my favorite places to go are."

"Really?" Ten Cents smiled. "Well, let's head in that direction."

So they both went into *Bigg City Port* and wandered about, admiring the view of the city as Stephanie spoke about some of the structures she had seen.

Even the malls that she would get herself dragged into by Adalina because she needed new clothes.

The only problem for Stephanie is that she gets easily anxious whenever rush hour comes and gets stuck in tight crowds.

Ten Cents listened to Stephanie's chatting and explained about some of the buildings he had been in before.

Some he did not like, while others were great to visit whenever he had time off or on an off day like today.

They would talk to each other about their opinions and walk side by side, Stephanie gently leaning into him for comfort while Ten Cents would walk confidently.

He noticed Stephanie gently leaning into him as they walked side by side, so he gently leaned with her to help her feel comfortable.

In the distance, a familiar young blond hair person was watching them walk through the city, smirking as he muttered, "Ten Cents, you sly dog."

"*Sí*, it seems like it." Sunshine flinched after hearing someone's voice and glanced up, seeing Adalina.

"What are you doin' here, Ms. Callista?" Sunshine exclaimed.

"Well," Adalina chuckled. "My plan is working. *Mirar*."

Sunshine looked back as Stephanie and Ten Cents stopped at a café down the street where they were spying at.

Stephanie said to the café with a smile while Ten Cents looked a little uneasy, looking back at her as he mouthed something.

Stephanie assured him as she was mouthing something none could listen to as Ten Cents sighed.

"She doesn't like that café," Adalia perked with interest.

"How can you tell?" Sunshine asked.

Adalina shrugged and added, "I just can tell. I mostly guess what her thoughts are too."

Sunshine looked a little confused but perked when they started walking again and turned around the corner of the street.

Throughout the day, Stephanie and Ten Cents wandered through the streets, Ten Cents showing what he likes and Stephanie showing what she likes.

There are some that they both either hate or like, but a good amount is something they both agree on.

Behind their backs, Sunshine and Adalina spied on them as they walked through *Bigg City Port*, chattering like parrots while discussing their interests.

But they had to stop halfway because of how long they walked, panting and sweating while sitting on a bench.

“How long can they walk?!” Sunshine exclaimed as he had his hat off and waved it in front of his face to cool down.

Adalian shrugged an ‘I don’t know,’ before sighing as she slouched on the bench.

Meanwhile, two strangers wearing all black were sitting at a café, one drinking a dark purple boba while the other was on their phone.

They looked like the two that Stephanie met while working in Adalina’s job while caring for her pregnant sister.

They were enjoying their time at the café when the first one, whose name ‘*Zip*’ was on his collar, perked after spotting a familiar face crossing the street across from where they were.

He looked confused as he watched the couple... before realizing it was *Ten Cents* himself!

With a *girl* none of the less!

He inhaled out of surprise, and a bunch of boba shot into the back of his throat like a bunch of spitballs, causing him to gag that surprised the second with the name ‘*Zug*’ from his phone, looking up at ‘*Zip*’ with confusion as he placed his drink on the table.

“What’s wrong with you, Zip?” ‘*Zug*’ asked before pausing a little. “Are you okay?”

“I’m fine, Zug,” Zip coughed as Zug looked confused. “But look!”

He pointed as Zug looked at what he was pointing at, seeing the two as they had stopped in front of one of the restaurants, seeing Ten Cents with a *girl*!

Zug's jaw dropped after seeing Ten Cents with a girl, and Zip shook his shoulder, telling him, "Zug, Zug! Quick, take a picture!"

Zug nodded after he snapped out of his shock and lifted his phone, switching to his camera as they were still talking.

He aimed the camera perfectly as they turned around at the right moment, taking it as it had the picture of Ten Cents with Stephanie.

"Got it," Zug smiled as he showed the picture of Zip.

"Ohh, this is good!" Zip smiled but then looked confused. "Zug? Does that girl look familiar?"

"Hmm?" Zug picked up his phone and looked at the screen, noticing the girl beside him. "What about her?"

"Well," Zip started as he picked up his boba tea. "From the other workers, I heard that she is *Bigg City Ports'* hardest worker and is," he paused as the realization hit him. "Oh my god, Zug. He's dating a millionaire!"

"A millionaire?!" Zug exclaimed. "How did he manage to bag a millionaire?!"

"Shh!" Zip shushed him. "Don't say it out loud!"

Zug went silent after Zip shushed him before an idea came to him, and he smiled mischievously, saying, "Hey. What if the Star Fleet didn't know about this?"

Zip looked confused as he had the boba straw in his mouth, blinking twice as his cheeks were slightly full of boba.

To Zug, he looked like a chipmunk which amused him.

"Let's go give them a surprise visit tomorrow." Zug chuckled. "They're going to have the shock of their lives."

Zip nodded with a giggle before continuing to drink his boba as Zug saved the picture, deciding to share it in the chatroom to let the others know.

But, little did the two know the same group of gangsters that attacked Stephanie previously overheard the conversation and was *surprised* about the guy dating that same girl.

And she is a *millionaire* too!

“You gotta be [REDACTED] me,” the guy Stephanie hit across the head with a cog cussed. “She’s a millionaire?!”

“I knew that phone looked real!” Biggie exclaimed.

“Yeah, we get it now,” the female redhead nodded. “Let’s give her a surprise, too, while we’re at it.”

“Can’t we do it tomorrow?” one of the members asked. “I got somethin’ really important tonight, and I can’t miss it.”

They all looked at each other with somewhat disappointed expressions at his short size before nodding, saying, “Yeah, tomorrow.”

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As they did not know the whole scheme, Ten Cents and Stephanie were relaxing in one of the parks with hills as it was almost nighttime outside.

Ten Cents blushed shyly as Stephanie enjoyed the park’s quietness, except for the frog noises and crickets.

Stephanie looked up at the stars, saying, “I almost forgot how it gets dark very fast.”

Ten Cents looked at the sunset and realized he had been gone for a *long* time.

And he did not tell anyone in the house that he would be gone either!

Not wanting to worry Stephanie, Ten Cents asked, “Hey, Steph? What time is it?”

Stephanie took out her phone from her jeans pocket and looked at the time as it read seven forty.

“It’s almost close to eight o’clock,” Stephanie explained as Ten Cents felt nervous.

But she could tell his expression as he stood up from the bench, asking, “Are you past the time you were supposed to head back home?”

Ten Cents froze as he winced with embarrassment, and Stephanie gently smiled, saying, “Don’t worry. I know a shortcut to get to my house. Let me call Addie to help you get back home.”

Stephanie stood up from the bench and took out her phone again, flicking it open as she dialed Adalina’s phone as Ten Cents followed her.

“Hello?” Stephanie spoke, greeting Adalina. “Hi, Addie! I was wondering something.”

She paused as she asked, “Why do you sound tired?”

Ten Cents perked after hearing the question as she responded, “You were exercising? I didn’t know you take days off exercising.”

Stephanie chuckled a little as Ten Cents followed her, exiting the park as they walked through a forest.

Ten Cents glanced around as they entered the dark, quiet forest, walking on a gravel path.

“Oh,” Stephanie’s tone sounded worried. “Well, since Ten Cents’ house,”

“Apartment,” Ten Cents spoke up.

“Apartment, thank you,” Stephanie thanked before turning to her phone. “Is a little farther than mine. I was wondering if you would like to pick him up.”

Ten Cents felt worried after hearing Stephanie’s tone as she said, “Ah, okay. I just don’t want to force you to get up from bed, get dressed, and help me. I, uh,” she glanced over at Ten Cents with an embarrassed expression.

Then her expression changed slightly as she turned to Adalina, saying, “Really? Great! ¡Gracias!”

With that, Stephanie closed her phone as they arrived at her house, saying with a proud smile, “See? Shortcut!”

Stephanie and Ten Cents walked up the steps as Stephanie sat down on a chair, making a ‘sit by me’ mention with her hand.

Ten Cents blushed as he sat beside Stephanie, feeling his heart beating a little faster.

“Let’s sit here until one of my friends comes over here to pick you up,” Stephanie softly smiled.

Ten Cents nodded as he was still blushing, hoping that his transformation does not activate at this time and his heart beating out of his chest from all these emotions.

“Hey, Ten Cents,” Stephanie gently smiled as he glanced over at her. “Look at the stars.”

Ten Cents looked up at the sky and saw it covered with millions of stars before watching Stephanie’s hand move up.

“Look,” Stephanie smiled. “If you use your finger to draw,” she drew a shape over a collection of stars as Ten Cents watched her. “You can see that the stars shape the constellations in the sky.”

“Really?” Ten Cents asked.

“Yep,” Stephanie nodded. “I just sketched out the Sagittarius constellation.”

Ten Cents looked up at the sky with slight confusion, saying, “Where? I can’t see it.”

Stephanie chuckled as she gently grabbed his wrist, and Ten Cents blushed as he pointed for her, watching as she used his finger to sketch out, saying, “That’s the teapot constellation. If you connect these stars with the others...”

Ten Cents watched as Stephanie used his hand to sketch out the stars to make the constellation, finally seeing the constellation as he perked.

“Oh!” Ten Cents smiled. “I see it!”

“Yep,” Stephanie chuckled as she moved his hand down as Ten Cents stopped pointing. “That’s my birth zodiac.”

“You’re a,” he paused as he looked away, trying to remember the name. “Sag... Sag...”

“Sagittarius,” Stephanie softly smiled.

“Oh, Sagittarius!” Ten Cents smiled before thinking about his. “Can you guess mine?”

“Mhh,” Stephanie gently hummed as she stared at the stars. “I think I got it, but I don’t.”

She moved her finger and started sketching out the stars with her first finger before muttering, “I found the Aries constellation, but I also found Cancer.”

Ten Cents chuckled as she hinted, “You guessed one of them right.”

“Oh, wait,” Stephanie smiled. “Aries?”

“That’s right,” Ten Cents chuckled.

“Ooh,” Stephanie smirked. “A good pair.”

“Wait, really?” Ten Cents asked, blushing.

“Yep,” Stephanie nodded. “Aries and Sagittarius are extremely compatible and have a unique relationship. From what I can tell from one of my gypsy friends, a male Aries and female Sagittarius relationship will be dynamic and comfortable.”

Ten Cents felt his face brighten a little more after hearing Stephanie’s conversation, now thinking *more* about this relationship.

“But,” Stephanie softly smiled. “Can Aries and Sagittarius be friends, even if they are different? One’s a goat, and the other is a half-human and half-horse hybrid.”

Ten Cents can hear the soft sadness in Stephanie’s voice as he places his hands on her shoulders, saying, “They can. Even though they are different species, they can still be friends, no matter wot.”

Stephanie’s eyes sparkled like the stars before smiling, placing her hand on Ten Cents as she said, “Thank you, Ten Cents.”

Ten Cents blushed as steam hissed through his teeth as Stephanie’s fingers from her right hand turned into jet-black claws, causing them both to panic.

Stephanie and Ten Cents glanced away from each other, Stephanie using her sleeve to hide the sudden claws while Ten Cents was forcing himself to stop steaming as he covered his mouth with his hands.

Then a car appeared, and Stephanie perked, saying as she stood up from the chair, “Ah, the car’s here! You can-”

“Thank you!” Ten Cents uttered a quick thank you before heading to the car and quickly entered as the driver drove out from the driveway.

After they left, Stephanie sighed as she moved her sleeve back up, looking at her clawed fingers with a sigh, muttering, “It always happens on a full moon, hmm?”

Meanwhile, Ten Cents stepped out of the car and thanked the driver after arriving at the apartment.

He entered the house and closed the door behind him, sighing with relief as he leaned against the door behind his back as steam came out from his mouth and nose, finally allowing all the build-up steam to come out.

“That was close,” Ten Cents sighed as he pushed his cap up to place a hand on his forehead.

He stood upright and was about to head to his room when he heard, “Tennyson Century.”

Ten Cents instantly froze at the room entrance and glanced over, seeing a calm Hercules with his arms crossed over his chest but with an angry Top Hat and a confused O.J.

“Where have you been, Ten Cents?” Hercules asked his voice calm but with a tone of anger. “You didn’t come down for lunch and were not in your room.”

“Ah, well,” Ten Cents started sweating nervously, glancing around for help, but Sunshine was not around. “I-I was walkin’ around *Bigg City Port*.”

“Without us knowing?” Top Hat asked with a huff. “You should’ve told us before you run off like that.”

“Top Hat.” Hercules turned to him with a sigh.

“You could’ve been hurt!” Top Hat continued, ignoring Hercules. “By all means, you could’ve fallen in love with someone and are secretly meeting up with them.”

Ten Cents went stiff after Top Hat mentioned as Hercules silently noticed his expression with O.J.

“Wot?!” Ten Cents exclaimed, trying to play it off. “Love? I’m not interested in all that! But, um, I’m sorry for wanderin’ off like that. I’ll be in my room.”

Ten Cents quickly headed to his room, leaving a more confused O.J., a faintly suspicious Hercules, and Top Hat huffing.

“Teenagers,” Top Hatt sighed with a roll of his eyes.

“Ten Cents was *once* a teenager, Top Hat,” O.J. pointed out. “You were too.”

“I know that,” Top Hat sighed. “It’s just hard to handle them.”

Hercules said nothing as he was thinking about Ten Cents’ reaction to how Top Hat mentioned ‘someone’ he was meeting up with.

Something just did not sit right with Hercules.

Maybe he could see it for himself at Ten Cents’ speed... if Top Hat does not constantly get on his nerves about him disappearing without letting them know.