

Ten Cents was in *high spirits* when he woke up in the morning, which was very strange for him to be *this* happy.

The *Star Fleet* was confused about Ten Cents' liveliness as he was just waiting for breakfast, knowing he was *not* a morning person.

But his strange behavior seemed a little *different* to them.

On the other hand, Sunshine was smiling because he *knew* something had happened to Ten Cents.

Sunshine may have gone to bed early because he was tired from trying to follow them around *Bigg City Port*, but by Ten Cents' expression, he knew it somehow *worked*.

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Meanwhile, Adalina was waiting for the sidewalk light to turn white when Stephanie walked up next to her, saying happily, "Hello, Adalina!"

Instead of her traditional outfit, she wore a long sleeve shirt with overalls, brown boots and long hair in a long braid.

Adalina looked down at her and said, "Hello, Stephanie. How was yesterday?"

"It was fantastic!" Stephanie beamed, surprising Adalina. "I met someone, and we spent the day walking about *Bigg City Port*, and we had a *lot* of things in common!"

The sidewalk light turned white, and they turned their attention to the road, crossing it with the others as the cars waited for their turn.

After crossing the road, Stephanie went back to talking, continuing, "He was very kind, he's handsome, he's-"

"He?" Adalina looked surprised but was mentally 'yes'ing herself.

Stephanie blushed and stammered, "Y-Yes, he."

Adalina chuckled after Stephanie stammered as her blush deepened a little, mentally remarking about how *cute* she looked when a different shade of blush was on her cheeks.

Luckily, they parted at the same spot, and Stephanie shook the feeling off, heading to one of the job sites messaged to her.

She arrived at the spot and greeted the manager, telling her what to do for the job.

Stephanie nodded and went into the breakroom, taking her sweater off and wearing blue overalls with her long-sleeve shirt.

She hung her sweater and walked back outside, helping the people with the cargo as she carried the crates to a barge, handing them to another worker before heading off to get another.

Suddenly, something yellow appeared from the corner of her eye, and Stephanie perked, glancing over to see what it was, and saw one of the *Stars Fleets*.

Not Ten Cents.

She sighed with a gentle huff before taking the crate after it was placed in front of her and picking it up, walking over to the barge, as she carried it in her arms.

However, two familiar *Z-Stacks* watched Stephanie pick up a crate, hand it to the worker to place it on the barge, and walk back, grinning mischievously.

“Oh, she’s beautiful,” Zip remarked as Zug looked confused.

“What do you mean, Zip?” Zug asked.

“I mean,” Zip began as a light blush formed. “Can you agree with Ten Cents? She’s beautiful!”

“But why is she working with the workers if she *is* rich?” Zug pointed out.

Zip opened his mouth to respond but closed it after Zug pointed out a good question.

“Actually,” Zip nodded. “That is a good question.”

Zug chuckled after Zip nodded before hiding, as Zug explained, “Alright. Since Ms. Allen is busy with crates. We’ll take our time to visit Mr. Goody Two-Screws at *Star Fleet*.”

“Good idea!” Zip nodded. “But aren’t they already working at this time if we already went there?”

“Oh, right,” Zug nodded. “That’s a wrench in the plans.”

“Let’s wait until they all have a break,” Zip perked. “Then, we can show that picture you took!”

“Good idea, Zip,” Zug nodded. “I like the way you are thinking.”

But little did Zip or Zug know, Stephanie *did* overhear the conversation itself and was silently worried.

How did they see them walking with each other?

Are they literally thinking that she and Ten Cents were *dating*?

Stephanie’s stomach twisted nervously as she continued work, pretending not to listen to the two as she planned something.

If they are going to visit *Star Fleet* during break time, she needs to get there fast before they get there first.

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Meanwhile, Ten Cents was working with Sunshine at taking the barges Stephanie had helped load, saying, “So, your little supposed prank and soon turned a ‘non-date’ *did* work, Sunshine.”

“Really?” Sunshine grinned. “How did it go?”

“It went fantastic!” Ten Cents smiled. “We walked around *Bigg City Port* and talked about ourselves.”

‘Figured that.’ Sunshine smirked.

“But, ah,” Ten Cents blushed. “I sort of stayed a little too long outside.”

“You did?” Sunshine perked. “How long?”

“Ooh, until eight o’clock.” Ten Cents answered. “Herc was disappointed in me for being out that long, and I had a little talk with Top Hat. I’m glad I didn’t get grounded at that spot.”

“Eight o’clock?” Sunshine blinked. “What were you two doin’ during that time?”

“We were just walkin’ and talkin’,” Ten Cents exclaimed as he blushed before. “I think we were a little caught up in our conversation, and I forgot to check the time.”

Sunshine giggled slightly before saying, “Well, maybe I should’ve strapped a watch on you to check the time.”

“You know I don’t like watches,” Ten Cents frowned. “It’s either too tight or too loose on my wrists.”

“Maybe you need more muscles,” Sunshine giggled.

“Hey,” Ten Cents blushed. “I am!”

Sunshine laughed as they pulled barges down *Bigg City Port*, and Ten Cents rolled his eyes unamusingly but sighed gently as he continued with his day.

Maybe he *should* check his phone for the time on another ‘non-date.’

They stopped to let a shrimper pass, and something blue appeared from the corner of his eye.

Ten Cents felt himself jolt with panic, thinking it was Stephanie as she could work on this day after yesterday was an off day.

He glanced over from the corner of his eye, feeling nervous that Stephanie *would* see him in this form... but was a stranger wearing a navy blue jacket.

Ten Cents sighed in relief after seeing it was a random elderly man wearing a navy blue jacket as he and Sunshine continued after the shrimper passed.

The day went by fast, and Ten Cents luckily shifted back to his human form during work, so he did not have to encounter Stephanie in that form.

After work, he returned to the *Star Fleet* building with the others, enjoying their peace... until Zip and Zug arrived.

“Well, hello, Ten Cents.” Zug greeted as Ten Cents frowned.

“Wot is it you want?” Ten Cents crossed his arms over his chest.

They both chuckled as Ten Cents looked confused with the others, wondering what they were planning.

“A little birdy told us that you were meeting a girl.” Ten Cents jolted after Zip pointed out as the *Star Fleet* perked.

‘Uh oh.’ Sunshine gulped.

“Wait, Ten Cents,” Warrior mentioned to Ten Cents, who went silent and had a face of worry.

“Is hanging out with a girl?”

“You got a lot of nerve comin’ over here and accusin’ Ten Cents.” Big Mac crossed his arms over his chest.

“Oh, no, Big Mac,” Zug chuckled as Ten Cents was in a mental panic as he took out his phone.

“We got proof!”

Zug went through his photos and showed the picture of Ten Cents *with Stephanie!*

‘[REDACTED], my cover is blown!’ Ten Cents silently shrieked in panic as Sunshine bit the side of his finger nervously.

“Wait, is that really him?” O.J. asked, pointing at the picture of him.

“Yep,” Zip giggled. “That’s him and Ms. Allen.”

“Ms. Allen?” Hercules perked. “The one who helped Adalina?”

“That’s her!” Zug nodded. “She’s a rich human too, to boot.”

Ten Cents perked after hearing that she was ‘rich,’ not believing it at first... but the realization slowly hit him after noticing how *expensive* her house was.

...HOW DID HE MANAGE TO GET A RICH WOMAN?!

“Looks like Mr. Goody Two-Screws is in love~!” Zug teased as Ten Cents’ ears went red.

He wanted to strangle those two *Z-Stacks* for showing the picture of him with Stephanie, but he was too embarrassed to even do anything and looked at Sunshine for help, but Sunshine looked as worried as him.

“Yeah, and this love will give you a beating until next Tuesday!” Zip and Zug flinched after hearing a familiar voice and turned around, seeing Stephanie.

But they grew worried after seeing how *mad* she looked.

“What is wrong with you two?!” She exclaimed as Zip and Zug’s faces started to form sweat. “You don’t take pictures of couples unless you get their permission!”

“Ah, Ms. Allen!” Zug panicked. “Z-Zi-”

“Don’t try to throw your partner underneath the bus,” Stephanie glared at the two as they instantly shut up. “Hand me your phone *now*.”

That word sent shivers down the two’s spines as Ten Cents looked surprised to see how *mad* Stephanie was.

He had seen her all smiles and sunshine... but her being this mad sent *shivers* down his spine.

Zug handed his phone to Stephanie as she deleted the picture of her and Ten Cents, saying as she handed it back to him, “Now, don’t ever take a couple’s picture without their permission. Alright?”

“Yes, ma’am.” They both nervously nodded.

“Good,” Stephanie nodded as she slowly calmed down. “May you two leave Ten Cents and his family alone?”

“Yes,” Zip nodded, grabbing Zug’s wrist after he placed his phone away. “We’ll be leaving right now.”

With that, Zip dragged Zug with him and disappeared as Stephanie sighed, pushing her glasses into place.

Once calmed down, Stephanie turned to the Star Fleet and asked Ten Cents, “Are you okay? I’m sorry I didn’t arrive soon. The group that attacked me last week stopped me in my tracks. I manage to stir an argument among them.

“Yeah, I’m fine,” Ten Cents nodded, a little startled about seeing her mad. “Just a little-”

“Tennyson Century.” Ten Cents’ ears grew red after hearing his full name as Stephanie perked, looking confused after hearing the name.

He *hates* whenever someone says his full name in front of anyone... but if *Hercules* says it... he is in trouble.

“Oh, crap.” Ten Cents winced as Stephanie looked around him.

Hercules crossed his arms over his chest as Ten Cents looked sheepish as Stephanie rubbed her left hand’s index finger.

She knew Hercules was kind but did not know if he was the same towards Ten Cents.

“You never told us *she* is your interest!” Top Hat exclaimed before Hercules would say anything. “And you *are* in love too?!”

“And why didn’t you tell us, Ten Cents,” Warrior nodded.

“Well, I didn’t know how you would react.” Ten Cents answered. “And wouldn’t believe me if I told ya anyways.”

Stephanie chuckled a little after Ten Cents answered and said, simultaneously with Ten Cents, “Also, we’re not dating.”

They both looked at each other after they said the same thing and blushed as Stephanie added, speaking again with Ten Cents, “We’re friends.”

They blushed more after speaking simultaneously again as Top Hat looked surprised at their *reactions* to each other as Hercules smiled, uncrossing his arms over his chest.

“So, is that why you were gone yesterday, darling?” Hercules softly chuckled. “You were spending your time with her?”

Ten Cents blushed more as it was to the tip of his ears, saying, “Yes.”

Stephanie chuckled, saying, “Well, Ten Cents is a great guy to hang out with. He’s very kind and has a *lot* of things in common with me.”

“And I sort of knew about this,” Sunshine spoke up. “I just didn’t tell you guys because I didn’t think it would work. ...But, it did.”

Stephanie looked slightly confused as Ten Cents said, “I’ll explain everythin’ after work.”

“Fair enough,” Stephanie chuckled. “Also, I got Saturday off. Do you want to spend time with me?”

“Sure, I would like to.” Ten Cents instantly responded. “I got that day off too. Where do you want to go?”

“Mhh,” Stephanie gently hummed. “We both did show where we like to go around. So, why not a walk around the forest? I love nature.”

“Perfect!” Ten Cents nodded with a blush. “Same time?”

“If you let your family know where you are going, Ten Cents.” Stephanie gently poked at him.

“Right, right,” Ten Cents chuckled. “I’ll let them know.”

Stephanie chuckled before turning around and pausing, saying, “Oh, one last thing.”

She turned around and hugged Ten Cents, surprising him with the hug but blushed more as his heartbeat picked up, and she released him.

“See you on Saturday, Tennyson.” Stephanie gently flirted.

“Right, you too,” Ten Cents chuckled with a blush before realizing she had said his real name.

“Hey, wait a minute! Did you say my real name?!”

“Maybe?” Stephanie called back with a gentle tease.

Ten Cents' ears went red after Stephanie teased as Sunshine snorted while covering his mouth with both hands.

“Wot?” Ten Cents asked as he looked confused. “Wot’s so funny?”

“She knew your real name.” Sunshine snorted. “And she’s like you!”

Ten Cents blushed more after Sunshine pointed out, now seeing *some* of Stephanie’s personality... even her cheekiness too.

“Well, now I know what is going on with Ten Cents,” O.J. softly chuckled. “She seems like a great lady for you.”

“Yeah, she is,” Ten Cents nodded with a blush as Top Hat took his pocket watch out to look at the time.

“Well, our break is over,” Top Hat sighed, uninterested in the conversation. “It’s best if we get back to work.”

Ten Cents was confused, but Top Hat was right.

They needed to return to work, or Captain Star would get impatient.

“Ten Cents, m’dear,” Hercules walked next to him. “You are one lucky tug.”

Ten Cents blushed after Hercules congratulated him, feeling a little shy that now his *family* knew his relationship with Stephanie.

Thank god they do not think that is a *literal* ‘relationship.’

...Right?