

A Question of Wealth

By

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EXT. HILL-SIDE - DAY

A sparse green expanse. A solitary tree. Underneath it, TAMMY GREY (24), moderately unattractive, sits between the legs of ROBERT BROWN (34), clean cut, handsome male.

TAMMY

So where did you get your money from?

He smiles.

ROBERT

I worked for this guy. He inherited his business from daddy.

He strokes her hair.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Didn't run it well. I thought I could do better myself.

TAMMY

Okay.

ROBERT

So. I got together with a couple of guys. We borrowed some cash.

TAMMY

And the rest is history.

ROBERT

With a little hard work in between.

She turns her head to lean against his chest.

TAMMY

Does it feel weird?

ROBERT

Does what?

TAMMY

Y'know. Being rich.

He almost winces.

ROBERT

It feels...

TAMMY
You like it?

ROBERT
That a question?

TAMMY
Uh huh.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Tammy works the shelves.

Next to her, ANNIE GILT (24), cropped black hair, works with her.

ANNIE
Again?

TAMMY
Uh huh.

ANNIE
So that's like, two times?

TAMMY
Yeah. Right.

ANNIE
So it's on, then?

Tammy looks at Annie.

TAMMY
On?

Annie stops working.

ANNIE
Yeah. Got to be on.

Annie piles more products onto the shelf.

TAMMY
Well. Maybe it ain't stood still.

ANNIE
That's just on.

Tammy smiles, and shakes her head.

Annie thinks.

ANNIE
Do you trust him?

Tammy stops. Looks at Annie.

TAMMY
Trust him?

ANNIE
Yeah.

TAMMY
What do you mean?

ANNIE
I mean he could...

TAMMY
What?

ANNIE
Girls like... us?

Tammy stares Annie out.

Annie shifts product.

TAMMY
Like us?

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Cosy, warmly lit, a few couples dotted about.

Robert orders to a smart waiter.

Tammy gazes at him.

Waiter shuffles off.

Robert spots her stare, and repays her with a warm smile.

TAMMY
Tell me.

ROBERT
About?

TAMMY
The others.

ROBERT
The others what?

TAMMY
Meaningful people in your life.

He shifts his position.

ROBERT
Where has this come from?

TAMMY
I'm interested.

He swills his wine.

ROBERT
But it's not about us?

TAMMY
(playful)
What are you hiding?

ROBERT
There's been people. But then,
you've history?

TAMMY
Well...

ROBERT
Tell me about them.

She laughs.

TAMMY
Okay. It's about us.

She raises her glass to him.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

A colorful, bustling high street.

Carrying a couple of bags, Tammy marches on; Annie, a couple of steps behind her.

ANNIE
So did you get a precise number?

TAMMY
Can you drop it?

ANNIE
It's a sign of maturity. Being able
to talk about these things.

TAMMY
It looks like a sign of...

ANNIE
I mean a man in his position.

TAMMY
Are you testing me?

ANNIE
Looking out for you.

TAMMY
Can't you just be...

ANNIE
I want to know you're safe with
him.

TAMMY
...happy for me?

And she stops. Turns to face Annie.

ANNIE
I mean, really. What does he want
with you?

Tammy shakes her head, trying to figure.

TAMMY
We're... just...

ANNIE
I mean, he could have anyone.
Anyone he wants.

TAMMY
And he chose me?

ANNIE
Why?

TAMMY
Annie. Are you...

ANNIE
Looking out for you.

Tammy closes her eyes, tight shut.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Why? What were you going to say?

EXT. PARK - DAY

Trees line a wide path. There is frost on the ground.
Robert and Tammy are both wrapped up warm. They hold hands.

TAMMY
Why me?

He looks at her, and then focuses ahead.

ROBERT
I like you.

TAMMY
You could like anyone.

ROBERT
No. No I couldn't.

They stroll on.

TAMMY
Why not, for instance...

She kicks at leaves.

TAMMY (CONT'D)
...a buxom blond?

ROBERT
Why?

TAMMY
You could have anyone.

ROBERT
As in?

TAMMY
Anyone you wanted.

ROBERT
I meant how.

TAMMY
They'd want you.

ROBERT
Because?

She thinks a little; dips her head.

TAMMY
You could afford them.

He stops, and takes her other hand in his.

ROBERT
So. If I was some guy. Works in a garage.

TAMMY
Mmm.

ROBERT
Would you still want me then?

TAMMY
(playfully)
Mmmm?

ROBERT
If I wasn't rich? Would you still... like me?

TAMMY
Maybe.

ROBERT
So not a major impact on your decision then?

TAMMY
Uh huh.

ROBERT
So why not the same for me?

She smiles, and they walk on.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Bar-staff are upending chairs onto tables. Only the legless are left.

Annie and Tammy prop up the wood-work.

ANNIE

And Poof! You're gone. It's easy as that.

Annie downs her dregs.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

A busy Saturday.

Annie packs bags for the customers.

A till down she spots Robert, checking his shopping through.

She gazes at him, and holds it.

He shuffles items into his bags; tries to keep up with the check-out girl.

INT. LIBRARY ENTRANCE - DAY

A calm, sparse place.

Robert sit on a bench, legs akimbo.

Tammy walks in, and straight up to him. Stands in between his legs.

He looks up at her.

TAMMY

I'm here.

He smiles.

ROBERT

I want to ask you a question.

FADE OUT: