

Solitude

“Hey, Jessica! I finally found you! Long time no see!” Juliana felt surprised and somewhat excited.

“Long time no see.” Jessica was impatient.

“See! You are so pretty right now after accepting my suggestion!” Juliana was pretty complacent.

Jessica did not provide any response and she did not even see Juliana again. It was a World Vegetarian Day, so Juliana invited the head of an abbey of monks to a vegetarian hot pot restaurant. To her surprise, she met her “old friend” here!

Juliana was driving the abbot to his temple after the dinner.

“Master, I keep trying to do good all the time, but why it is so hard for others to realize I’m helping them? I can’t understand, I don’t know why, I...”

Juliana was interrupted by the abbot.

“Just keep doing good things without desiring any return, and the Goddess of Mercy would remember that.”

“I never wish to get the return, but, as you saw, she probably hates me! I’m so confused.” A sad expression showed on Juliana’s face quickly.

Seven months ago, Juliana invited Jessica to do a massage. As soon as Jessica took off her clothes, a slightly chubby body was shown.

“Hey, honey, you should control your diet and start to reduce your weight right

now!” Juliana gave her advice with a surprised look.

“Well, I don’t think that I’m overweight!” Jessica was a little bit unhappy.

“Yes, you are! Look at yourself please! How could you be fat like that!” Juliana kept criticizing Jessica and there were two masseuses nearby.

Jessica was offended and she felt pretty awkward, so she did not say anything on that date. From that time on, Jessica never initiated contact with Juliana and she refused every invitation from her. However, Juliana was still confused about that because she deemed that she had done nothing wrong. In her views, she persuaded her friend to lose weight and her friend did that successfully!

Juliana who is 37 years old is middle-aged right now. Additionally, she came to Canada after divorcing Edward, her ex-husband, seven years ago in HongKong, China. Her ex-husband who is a certified public accountant in the People’s Republic of China was graduated from HongKong university. Reviewing the education level of Juliana, she quit her school life since secondary school and did not pursue higher education level later. They were married for three years. However, numerous issues occurred between them because of the huge differences in their education level.

It was winter time when they broke up their marriage seven years ago. For Juliana, it seemed colder than before. The emotionless sharp wind blew on her.

“Edward, please tell me... who is that woman?” she was whispering.

“She is only one of my colleagues in our corporation.” answered Edward with a

puzzled expression on his face.

“Stop lying to me! Someone told me what you did with her! We have been married for 3 years. You got lots of free time, but I never ask what you did when you went out. You make me so disappointed. Well, I’m the moron keeping myself in the dark. How could you do things like that! How could you cheat on me!” Juliana got mad and yelled.

“How could I? What about you? Juliana. How could you always speak without thinking and criticize my friends countless times? You know what? All of my friends hate you! This includes my family members and me right now! I had planned to ask for a divorce half a year ago. I felt guilty about that, even though you are so annoying all the time. After we got married, there is no common topic for us! None! I cannot bear that anymore! I will let my lawyer send you a divorce agreement tomorrow.” Edward finally said it out.

“Did I? Stop making excuses! We are done as you said!” Juliana behaved exceptional calm this time. However, as soon as Edward left there, Juliana finally could not help crying and she fell upon her knees. She deemed that China is dark from that time. No one could understand her there. Furthermore, her parents were not in this world anymore. A car crash took her parents ten years ago. Juliana knew her relatives did not like her either, so she decided to leave and seek a new shelter, a new home. She started traveling around the world and made a decision of staying in Canada.

In Canada, Juliana did not have many social activities. She became a Buddhist here who often does voluntary work in the temple. Due to the limitation of her education level, she became a dealer in a gambling house which provides a slender income. Therefore, all of the friends she knows are from the temple and the gambling house. Juliana has been staying in Canada for almost seven years. Nevertheless, she still could not speak English and does not plan to learn it. Even though she had few friends here, but she still refused to join the local community. She is still somewhat unpopular and the majority of her friends are not willing to talk with her, because she usually does not speak pleasingly and she does not realize that for so long.

The conversation between Juliana and the abbot did not last long. Juliana was still confused about what is wrong with this world without any introspection. After dropping off the abbot in the temple, she drove her car at maximum speed.

She closed her eyes and smiled.

It was pretty quiet outside and snowing heavily.