

Has anyone told you, yet?

I'm going to go ahead and take a wild shot in the dark.

No, considering I have no idea what you're talking about. What's new, Jo?

Scoresby's back in town.

That's great news!

It is?

Yes! I'll have to take him out, buy him- well, not a round, perhaps, considering I have to keep my head level these days, but he was always fond of iced tea. I remember that from lecturehall.

We could have lunch together- he could meet Catie, it'd be nice. She's getting better with being out and about the town without too much anxiety, as long as I'm around.

Catching up for old times' sake. Maybe Retrofit has a table open? It's a bit short notice...

It's been far too long since I've seen the man. We fell a little out of touch, after I finished my degree. Academia is a self containing social sphere, really- it's rare to cross paths, especially after I'd taken a stab into corporate finance... It's almost as insular.

Well. I mean, it's good to see that you're willing and eager to leave the house. But...

I don't want to burst your bubble, but he's here on professional business.

A lunch outing surely wouldn't be too out of place? I'm sure he has the time of day- we got along quite well when I was younger. It's normal practice, and it wouldn't be a whole afternoon... It'd be nice to get out of the house and see an old familiar face.

No- it's not that. I'm sure he can find the time for a lunch get together, that's not the problem.

Then what is?

He's here to work with the Drydenne Historical Society. Do you remember the coalition of the neighbouring towns and theirs with those folks?

I do, yes. You dragged me along to a meeting or two of theirs, so we could- uh, say hello to Father Alexander. He's often at them, seeing as he's part of the council.

Well, he's here on their behalf. They're footing his travel expenses, since it's in their best interest that his most recent project is seen through.

Project? What would an aerospace professor need from a small town historical society?

He's trying to pass an Act. Related to information and transparency on the behalf of the police precinct and the public. He's spearheading the cause, in lieu of recent events. The impetus is there, and he wants to 'capitalize on this forward momentum' while people are still openly talking about it, before the media buzz dies down.

Oh.

I see. That's... Rather unexpected, but he was always passionate about social justice.

Yeah. I'm sure he wouldn't be insensitive enough to broach the topic of asking for your public support so soon after- but I wanted you to be prepared for that, in case he does reach out under that pretense instead of just catching up with his old favourite student.

Thank you, Joshua. I'm glad that you came to talk to me about it ahead of time.

If you're still hankering for a lunch date, you know Amie's always down to have a playdate. We could let the girls tucker each other out and catch up. I don't have too much going on in my life that you aren't already privy to, but if you ever want someone to chat your ear off about inner precinct politics and the rumour mill around town... I'm a phone call away.

