

A dangerous convenience store.

It all started when HE came to the store.

Life was hard when I started to go to highschool, My brother had been in the hospital for as long as I could remember. My parents kicked me and my brother out of the house long ago. For me to pay the bills for both my studying and my brothers hospital bills, it was hard. So I took a job at this convenient store. I knew that this store had a hard time to get employees, and I knew exactly why. That convenient store was frequented by gangsters. It was dangerous and I knew that, but the pay was so good that I had to take it.

Every day was more or less the same as it was the day before. Until a new guy came in, he didn't look like the other gangsters he was different. He just walked through the store took a bottle of vodka and he walked to the counter and-

- Get out of my way if you ain't gonna buy dickwad, he said with an raspy deep voice

As this man said that, he kicked the man that was paying and I thought "finally a righteous man" before I could even finish my sentences in my head I heard him talk on the phone.

- And then what? Did ya hit him or did ya stab him? You ain't gonna take care of the younglings properly? He said angrily

I could feel my heart beating so hard I would bet that he could hear my heart. This gangster was far from the righteous man that I thought he was. It's been a while.

During the hours I worked part-time. A scary gaster has been visiting without fail, Every single day.

It's been a month since i started to work there, and since the normal customers were gangsters they would never fail to show at least five times a day. And ever since that day that the man showed he would come everyday at the same time and he would always buy the same things, a pack of OOO cigarettes and some vodka. There was always something that I never could make sense of, Under that man's scary looks seemed to be a completely different person. He would never say or do dumb things, he payed and then he was gone. He would always make some small talk, or more like he would just say what came to mind.

- You look like a college student, Ya working real hard. Ain't it distracting for your studies? said he with a calm voice and expression.
- ah... I only work from 11.p.m to 7. When I'm attending school, I cramp all my sleep into the weekend. I said quickly.
- What? What the fuck, you can't even do that properly you peace of shit! he said angrily.

I hadn't even noticed that he had pulled out his phone. He turned around to talk on the phone so I started to look around and I saw his id "Ahjussi Geon Woo" not to make it any

more awkward than it already was. I just pulled my phone out so that it would not be awkward. "In the real life of a Gangster" was the first headline I saw on my phone as I opened it.

"Gangsters have found a new way of showing dominance, instead of punching or stabbing their younglings they now would cut off their fingers, this is also a new way of showing loyalty. Fingers have been found all around the city and the police can't do anything, are we really safe?"

- Oi you gonna ring me up?

At this point of time I was panicking "fingers!?" I thought to myself. As I was in mid panic I put my finger in his palm, just as I did that I realised what I had done. He just looked at me in silence with a surprised look on his face-

- I-....can I have my card back?
- Yes! I- um. yes of course!

Both me and the man were surprised but I gave him his card and he walked out. After that incident when I came home I couldn't sleep, all I could do was think how embarrassing that was. The next day he came in as normally but this time there was another guy with him, they more or less looked like they were working together. When they came to the counter the new guy started to scream at me and he was quite violent when I didn't get Ahjussi cigarettes fast enough. I knew I probably would get slapped or beaten, as that thought went through my head the man raised his hand. As the man did that I closed my eyes and "ThUD!" When I opened my eyes that man was on the floor and Ahjussi was shaking his hand.

- Ya alright? Ahjussi asked softly with his raspy voice
- I-im alright, but your hand!? I said with a worried tone.
- Nahh, it's alright, he said

While he was talking I took the first aid kit and walked slowly to him. I took his hand carefully as some blood started to drip from his knuckles, I took a bandage and started to bandage his hand. After I did that he just walked out, he left the things he bought and just left. The man that Ahjussi had pushed had crawled away. After that Ahjussi didn't come to the store for a whole week. And ofcourse the day he had to come in was the exact day that my Brother had passed away. You would probably ask yourself why I was working, well I had to distract myself. But as you probably guessed that wasn't the smartest, I was so out of it that four customers had gotten really mad at me and so I was a little beaten up. Right as I was closing Ahjussi came. He was walking towards me. He just stopped and looked at me. And just like that I started to cry, Ahjussi just stood there and watched me cry. He started to walk slowly to me and out of nowhere he hugged me. We just stood like that for what felt like an hour, it was nice. After that we drank as if there was the biggest party of the year. He walked me home that night. The next day I woke up having the worst headache ever, something felt different. It was so warm. When I turned around to see why it was so warm, I saw Ahjussi

laying beside me. I froze at the spot but just as fast as I froze I started to relax again. I layed like that with Ahjussi for a few minutes. I wanted to make breakfast for us. As I started to get up, Ahjussi placed his hand around my waist and pulled me back into bed.

- Don't leave Ahjussi whispered half asleep
- I...I won't I said hesidently

Me and Ahjussi layed like that for another hour and I fell asleep again.

TO BE CONTINUED