

I HATE THIS CANDLESTICK

Corin Wells / Jennifer Kim

CORIN stands close to the camera, having cornered a woman named Liz right outside of Liz's guest bathroom during a Christmas party. She speaks to camera as if she were speaking to Liz. Corin's slightly tipsy and holding in her hand, a large, thick CANDLESTICK with an orange jewel for a torso.

CORIN WELLS

Oh, hey! Liz! So funny I'm running into you outside your restroom right now. By the way, I am loving this party. Very festive. There are a lot of frog figurines everywhere, which...I didn't even know that was a part of Christmas or any holiday. But that is so fun. So fun.

(stalling beat)

Um. Anyways, I just wanted to come over because...during the gift exchange, I saw that you were like about to say something and be like, but wait I want to exchange with Corin! Which, I could tell that's what you were going to say. And then the exchange ended and you didn't get a chance to say that. And I just think that's unfair. So, I'm here to give you this gorgeous, intricate, incredibly unique candlestick that Henry gave me in exchange for those...plane tickets to...

(sighs in faux disgust)

Oh god, was it Tokyo? I mean, truly, Tokyo? Tokyo is so, so far. Everyone is going to Tulum or Santa Barbara or you know, those other closer destinations now. It is so like Glenn to give you an inconvenient gift like that. He's honestly, kind of a sociopath. But, look. I knew you were too nice to say something to him because you are the nicest person at this company and also the smartest. Everyone else's words, not mine. So I thought I'd just come over and make this easy. Because, this insanely charismatic candlestick is so obviously you and not me. Unfortunately, I can't pull it off. I wish I could be that type of person, but I don't deserve it. I mean would it not look perfect on your mantle in the library?

(MORE)

CORIN WELLS (CONT'D)

(beat, backtracking)

Which, I didn't go into because at the beginning of the party you said that it was off limits and I heard you. I didn't go in there, physically, because you said not to and I was there and I was listening. I can listen. I'm just talking about generally. You seem like someone sophisticated enough to have a mantle and a library, so.

(beat, then seemingly serious)

Okay, Liz, listen. I'm just going to get down to it. Henry wants you to have this candlestick. He likes you, secretly. Very, very, very secretly. Don't bring it up to him or anyone else. He'll deny it because he's difficult, but it's true. And what's not to like. Only, Henry trusts me and he knew that you and I were...desk mates, so he wanted me to give it to you. You're not going to reject Henry are you? Ok that's harsh.

(beat, more desperate)

Come on, Liz. It's my last year at this company. You know how hard I've worked. Just switch with me. I mean, it doesn't even come with a candle. Henry is a sick cheap. Did I already tell you that I'm pretty sure that he most likely steals from the petty cash box? Yeah. Plus, Japanese culture is all about self-awareness and respect. You would not do well there. You would have a terrible, terrible time there. Not that you aren't self-aware or have no respect!

(beat, with quiet composure)

I'll also just say that I know that someone in accounting gives you extensions on your expense reports. Which, you happen to be three months behind on. And that's not a good look if someone higher up like Kayla were to find out. That came out sounding more like a threat than I meant it to. I mean, it's not, not a threat. But it's not like a threat, threat.

(MORE)

CORIN WELLS (CONT'D)

(beat)

I feel really uncomfortable now.

(beat, genuine for the
first time)

Glenn is a sociopath. But, Henry doesn't have a crush on you, I mean, I don't think he does. He doesn't steal petty cash either. I don't know why I said that. I don't want it because it reminds me of my sister weirdly. And we don't talk because she hates me because I was a bad sister and I was always selfish. I still am, I guess. I hate looking at it. It makes me feel really alone and kind of ugly. I just wanted to get rid of it, but I can't. I get it. I'm sorry I threatened you. And I actually think you would do really, really well in Tokyo. You're a very considerate person and you're very quiet.

(beat)

I guess I'll just have to find someplace for her. Maybe on a library mantle, next to a gilded family portrait. I went in for a second. I didn't touch anything. Except for the lamp and the pillows.

(beat)

This really is a nice party. Merry Christmas.