

## Mayday

She was late, again. She was supposed to open the Music store that morning yet she ended up calling her coworker to fill-in for her instead. Two hours later, she eventually made it to work but she didn't look like she took much time to get dressed: her hair was messy and she was dressed in an oversized hoodie hiding her jean shorts; even her converses' laces were undone. Wherever she was, she was definitely in a hurry to leave.

Unable to make eye contact, she claimed her seat behind the cash register once she wore her uniform "Sorry I'm late, something came up".

"This is the third time you show up late this week" Yoongi scolded her "I can't keep covering for you".

"I'm sorry again, I didn't mean to cause you any trouble" she glared at him, eyes all puffy.

Her state instantly alarmed Yoongi. They knew each other for a long time, and although they grew apart at some point, he never saw her in such bad shape "That's okay, just try to be on time in the future".

Later that afternoon, Yoongi was back in the storage room dusting the new piano collection to prepare it for display when, out of the blue, a loud shouting could be heard inside the shop.

"STOP IT! Stop calling me! Stop looking for me! I told you we're over!" she screamed at the top of her lungs. Meanwhile, a bulky figure stood in the middle of the shop nonchalant to her pleas.

"Calm down babe, you know it's not over until I say so" he declared in contempt.

Luckily for her, Yoongi showed up just in time "Is there a problem here?"

"Everything is fine" the big guy replied as he walked towards her "We were just leaving".

To her horror, she closed her eyes and clenched her fists dreading her ex coming any closer.

"I don't think so. She just resumed her shift so she's not going anywhere" Yoongi blocked the guy's path while shielding her behind his back "Besides her lunch break is over and, from what I heard, you are too for that matter".

Enraged, the macho glowered at Yoongi with disdain "You think you're funny, little guy?"

"I think I'm hilarious" Yoongi backfired "Now leave before I call the police".

Upon hearing the threat, her ex-boyfriend threw her a vicious glare and left the shop. Soon after, Yoongi turned to check up on her “Are you okay? Did he hurt you?”

“He did in many ways” she muttered under her breath “Thank you for standing up for me”.

“You’re welcome” he nodded. Watching her walk away, he thought to himself “You deserve better”.

A few days later, everything in the Music store went back to its original pace. Finally liberated from her abusive relationship, she resumed her work properly and compensated for all the wasted shifts.

One morning, Yoongi came to the shop holding two cups of coffee and a bag of donuts. He put the food on the counter and called for her “Hey there, care to join me?”

“I have a lot of work to do” she politely declined “Enjoy your breakfast”.

“Come on, for old times’ sake? I brought your favorite flavor” he urged her.

After bickering for a while, she finally accepted his invitation. Together, they sat across from each other around the counter and shared the meal in awkward silence.

“I never understood why you chose him” he abruptly initiated the conversation “You know you deserve better”.

“I guess I messed up then, too bad” she conceded, taken aback by his unexpected intervention.

Upon hearing her comment, Yoongi stood up and faced her “Do you enjoy playing this game?”

“So what if I did?” she gazed at him in defiance.

Set off by her audacity, Yoongi left his seat and met her on the other side of the counter. His impulsive reaction startled her, causing her to cover her face in fear. Sensing her distress, he reached out for both her hands and planted a kiss on each palm “I’m not him and you know that”.

“I only chose him because I didn’t think I could have you” she timidly confessed, her heart pounding in her chest.

Her straightforwardness caught Yoongi by surprise. In response, he mildly cupped her face and brushed his thumb across her lips. He then lifted her up on the counter and they locked lips before he allowed his tongue to explore her mouth. At that very moment, Yoongi suddenly stopped mid-kiss and walked away towards the exit.

Dumbfounded, she froze in her spot, unsure of what just happened “Yoongi, what are you doing?”

“Don’t worry” he reassured her. After locking up the store, he helped her get off the counter then held her hand and ushered her to the storage room “I’m just making sure that you can have me all for yourself”.