

The New Hire

written by

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INT. MONSTER BUY DEPARTMENT STORE - AISLE - DAY

LINSDAY WHEELER, (20's) white, pretty, hair in a bun, dress suit, holding a portfolio bag, marches her way passed customers in an aisle. She stops, reading the office sign above a door, before going through it.

INT. MONSTER BUY DEPARTMENT STORE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

A receptionist works at her desk, not acknowledging Lindsay as she stands in front of her.

LINSDAY

Hello, I'm Lindsay Young, here from my two o' clock interview.

The receptionist looks up from her computer, unimpressed.

RECEPTIONIST

Have a seat over there.

Lindsay sits, admiring several paintings of ownership, dated through many years, hanging on the walls. The receptionist's phone buzzes and she answers.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Right away, Mr. Lloyd.

She hangs up the phone, addressing Lindsay.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Mr. Lloyd will see you now, right through that door.

Lindsay stands, marching with confidence to the door, turning to the receptionist.

LINSDAY

We'll be seeing a lot more of each other once I get hired.

The receptionist fakes a smile.

RECEPTIONIST

Can't wait!

INT. MR. LLOYD'S OFFICE - DAY

Lindsay enters, greeted by ARTHUR LLOYD, (40's), grey hair, chubby, wearing a suit, sitting at his desk, but stands as she walks towards him.

MR. LLOYD
Ms., or Mrs. Wheeler, do come in
and sit, please.

Lindsay sits, adjusting herself.

LINSDAY
It's Ms. Wheeler, and thank you.

MR. LLOYD
Not married, interesting, do you
mind if I ask why?

LINSDAY
No, not at all, I'm career minded,
Mr. Lloyd, and marriage is a
distraction I can't afford.

MR. LLOYD
I see.

LINSDAY
Perhaps in five or ten years, but
not now.

MR. LLOYD
Good, we like go-getters here at
Monster Buy. Does your family live
in town?

LINSDAY
I moved away from home two years
ago, the career opportunity is
here, not back there.

MR. LLOYD
Are you and your family close, do
you talk every day?

LINSDAY
Being honest, they would have
preferred me to attend college
longer, choose a different path,
but not me, I'm where I want to be,
right here at Monster Buy.

MR. LLOYD
Yes, well, decisions can be
difficult sometimes to make, but
you strike me as a confident young
lady, sure of what she wants.

LINSDAY

I am, Mr. Lloyd, and I'm not afraid
to go after it

(pauses)

Would you like to see my resume?

MR. LLOYD

Yes, please.

Lindsay opens her portfolio bag, removing it, handing it to
Lloyd.

MR. LLOYD (CONT'D)

Thank you.

He studies the resume.

LINSDAY

You'll find that I'm very
meticulous about order and
structure within the workplace,
almost fanatic about it.

She laughs nervously, with Lloyd joining in on a fake tone.

MR. LLOYD

I can see that from your resume,
very impressive. Tell me Ms.
Wheeler, why do you want to work at
Monster Buy?

LINSDAY

It's simple, your chain of stores
are a winner in the business world.
Monster Buy is the fastest growing
department store in three years,
opening fifteen locations in that
time. You're a serious threat to
your competition, and they know it.
I align myself with winners.

MR. LLOYD

You've done your homework, I'm
impressed. It says here your
applying for the position of store
manager.

LINSDAY

This store.

MR. LLOYD

Well, we have a store manager
already...

Lindsay interrupts him.

LINSDAY

Demote him, I can do better. Under my leadership, this could be your number one store.

MR. LLOYD

How cutthroat of you, not lacking in drive or ambition.

LINSDAY

I'm a predator, Mr. Lloyd, always looking to better my territory at the expense of the next prey, gobbling up competition, devouring obstacles.

Lloyd smiles at her.

MR. LLOYD

You seem to be what we're looking for in management, that take-no-prisoners, killer instinct.

A red light on a wall lights up.

MR. LLOYD (CONT'D)

Wonderful, our president has decided to join us during your interview.

CATHERINE MARSHALL, (60's) blonde, confidant, dressed in a business suit, enters the room through another door.

MR. LLOYD (CONT'D)

Ms. Wheeler, Catherine Marshall.

Catherine shakes the hand of an intimidated Lindsay.

CATHERINE

How do you do? My, a strong handshake, I like that.

LINSDAY

Mrs. Marshall, it's an honor.

CATHERINE

Really, why?

LINSDAY

Your on the list of the twenty-five most influential and successful women in two thousand twenty one.

CATHERINE

Don't be fooled, we put our pants on the same way, one leg at a time. I like to roll up my sleeves, dig right in, take as much as I can.

LINSDAY

Wow, sounds like you're describing me.

CATHERINE

Well, I like what I heard through that speaker on the wall over there.

She points at the wall, specifically the speaker.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Here's a Monster Buy secret, I listen to every interview here at our flagship store, and I'm most impressed with you.

LINSDAY

Really?

Catherine leans back towards Lloyd.

CATHERINE

Do I lie, Mr. Lloyd?

MR. LLOYD

Only when it suits Monster Buy.

They both laugh, with Lindsay nervously chiming in.

LINSDAY

Can I ask a question?

CATHERINE

Sure.

LINSDAY

Why is it so dark in here, with only that light in the corner? Isn't it hard to see the applicants?

CATHERINE

Believe it or not, no, it isn't, besides Mr. Lloyd is somewhat sensitive to bright light, so we try to accommodate him.

LINSDAY
Oh, okay, fair enough.

CATHERINE
Anything else?

LINSDAY
No, not right now. I'll just wait
for a follow-up email on whether or
not I got the job.

Lindsay stands, getting ready to leave.

CATHERINE
Whoa, whoa, Ms. Wheeler, not so
fast.
(pauses)
Mr. Lloyd, begin making
preparations for a store manager
change, you've got the job,
Lindsay!

LINSDAY
Oh my god, that's terrific! Can I
hug you?

CATHERINE
Why not?

The two women hug as Catherine indiscreetly smells Lindsay's
neck, smiling with delight.

LINSDAY
When can I start?

MR. LLOYD
There is one last task to perform,
then we can send you to payroll and
give you the tour of the store, you
can start as early as tomorrow.

LINSDAY
Yes, fantastic! You won't be sorry!

Catherine turns back to Lloyd.

CATHERINE
I like her!

MR. LLOYD
As do I.

CATHERINE

Now come with us, dear, so we can start you on your new career. Don't forget your bag now.

Lindsay grabs the bag as Catherine and Lloyd escort her through the door Catherine entered from.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The three walk down a dim hallway to an elevator door which opens, allowing them entry.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Catherine pushes a button marked LD as the doors close.

LINSDAY

What's LD?

CATHERINE

Loading dock, the first stop on the tour.

The elevator stops, opening the doors, as the three exit.

INT. LOADING DOCK - DAY

Catherine, Lloyd and Lindsay make their way to a dock marked D with a sign, where a large push cart sits covered by a tarp. A few workers perform duties in the area.

CATHERINE

Here is where you begin your journey into the Monster Buy family.

LINSDAY

What is that smell?

CATHERINE

The processing room behind you.

Lindsay turns, seeing a swinging door labeled Processing.

LINSDAY

Oh, where the food that comes in is processed?

CATHERINE

Some food does make it inside, yes,
enough to keep our produce section
fully stocked.

MR. LLOYD

Now, Ms. Wheeler, if you'll kindly
remove that tarp, we'd like to show
you a sample of the product we
receive here at dock D.

Lindsay pulls the tarp off the cart, seeing a young man
dressed in another supermarket uniform, bound and gagged,
struggling to get free.

LINSDAY

What is this
(pauses)
A joke?

CATHERINE

No, Ms. Wheeler, this is our
competition, the one you said you
wanted to gobble up and devour.

LINSDAY

This is kidnapping!

CATHERINE

I prefer to call it getting rid of
our rivals, one by one.

LINSDAY

What are you saying?

She begins slowly backing away from Catherine and Lloyd, not
noticing that the workers behind her have stopped, beginning
to surround her.

CATHERINE

We're an ancient clan, dear,
existing for centuries, all over
the world, and we were nearly wiped
out at one point by humans, like
yourself.

Lindsay is grabbed by some workers, holding her while Lloyd
walks towards her.

LINSDAY

Stop, let me go! You're crazy!

CATHERINE

No, just hungry, insatiable hunger, so we devised a plan to stay alive, adapting to the modern world, where we can feed and eliminate our enemies, while making a living providing quality, affordable merchandise.

The workers holding Lindsay push her forward, now in front of Lloyd, who rolls up her sleeve. He transforms into a creature with red eyes and rows of fangs in his mouth.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Oh, and we meant what we said, you'd make a great addition to our team, that's where Mr. Lloyd comes in.

Lloyd leans over Lindsay's exposed arm, biting it. She screams as the workers release her, holding her arm and trying to run, but stopping, beginning to transform into a creature herself.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

It only lasts a few moments, dear, but you'll love the results.

Lindsay turns to Catherine, approaching the cart, looking inside at the helpless young man.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Go ahead, your first shipment as a Monster Buy employee has arrived.

Lindsay dives into the cart, attacking the man, blood flies out of the cart.

INT. MONSTER BUY DEPARTMENT STORE - PRODUCE DEPARTMENT - DAY

An employee stocks shelves in a refrigerator unit with items marked as Monster Buy dip. Lindsay walks passed him, in uniform, proud and confident. A customer stops her.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me, are you the manager?

LINSDAY

I am, how can I help you?

CUSTOMER

I'm looking for your meat department.

LINSDAY

Absolutely, the freshest in town,
aisle eleven.

An announcement broadcasts over a speaker.

ANNOUNCER

Delivery at loading dock D.

Lindsay smiles as her eyes turn red.