

A Blind Eye

Student 5: Low Achieved

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Every morning, it's the same procedure, cook for her young kids and husband, clean the house - all before the long and busy shift she has coming up. She puts on her shirt buttoning up every button making sure nothing extra is showing, long black pants and all black leather shoes, that's the dress code. She slips on her manager badge, she makes no effort with her hair, after all she doesn't want to attract another man. (1) Twenty minutes to spare before, staring at her makeup, she thinks of all the different designs and styles she could do. She picks up her eyeliner and looks in the mirror. Out of nowhere she hears heavy, thumping footsteps, the pencil clatters on the table, she rushes to her work bag trying to look natural. (1)

"It's time to go, I'll be waiting," She rushes down and runs to the car. "What took you so long? Next time your late you're going to walk". (7) She feels like she's a little girl who's just been told off. Fists tightening, body stiffened, jaws clenching. (6) She's angry. Is she brave enough to stand up for herself? The rest of the car ride is full of awkward silence. (1) hearing every speed bump and pebble the wheels roll over. "We're here" both sitting there with an awkward silence as he stops the engine. (4) They look at each other, she quickly looks away. "I don't know why your in a mood, its all your fault." (7) He catches her looking at the clock at the front of the car. His lips touch her cheek softly, "have a good shift", with no expression on her face she bids him goodbye. He doesn't realise what he does to her, everything is always her fault. (1) (4)

She clocks in to work and manages her shift, everyone immediately clocks on to her mood. (2) Are we not doing our job properly or what? I swear every two minutes she demands us to do something different. What's her problem is what we're all thinking. She's on her break, we can all hear her on the phone speaking in a way we all seem to understand. We assume she's talking to her husband. Back from her break with a big smile on her face, she seems happy. (1) (2) We're all joking and having a laugh; there seems to be no customers, the topic of conversation is Facebook. "Josh I didn't know you had a Facebook, you should add me! Actually, all of you should add me". "I don't have a Facebook", we all look at her in shock, is she joking or? (7) Why not we all ask her with puzzled looks on our face, I mean even Ranju the 60 year old divorcee has a Facebook. "Cause, my husband doesn't allow me to have a Facebook" it's kind of a conversation killer, well that's awkward. (2) As customers come in, we all get back to work. We may not have said anything but were all thinking the same thing, how can a husband be so controlling? How can she let him be so controlling (5).

It's been a long 12 hours. There's a roster to complete before she leaves. She's in the office completing her task. As I do my job on front line; (3) taking orders and serving customers, I see a man standing on the side. He's not ordering, he's not making any eye contact what so ever. Crossed arms, flared nostrils, staunch stance. (6) I have no idea who this man is, is he going to rob me? Will he suddenly pull out a gun or something, there's got to be a reason as to why he's so angry.

She comes out of the office in a rush to get her planner from the crew room. As she her footsteps she realises her husband is right there. Rushing back to her office her pen is flying across the paper, cramping hands, and squinted eyes. She comes out like a scolded puppy, head down and tail in between her legs. (1) He causes a scene shouting and bickering as she ignores it and makes her way to the car. (2) (4)

I'm shocked from what I've just witnessed, from the conversation we just had about Facebook, to all the times she told me about the changes she made to her appearance since she got married, it's almost like she's trapped- but she does not even realise it. When she tells me these things she says it in such a happy way, as if it's a good thing. There's an underlying impression, she sees it as innocent but everyone else sees a women who's life is being controlled. (2) She will continue to live her life the way she does, giving a blind eye to the unacceptable behaviour. Just another woman in denial, controlled, abused and empty inside. (1) She deserves to be safe, she deserves respect, she deserves to be free. She deserves equality. (5) (6)