

SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD

Written by

Joana Snellenberger

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EXT. STREET - DAY

Early 90's, at busy strip mall, ANNIE, 17, teenager, gets off the bus and puts her walkman inside her purse
She walks into the photography store and looks mesmerized with all the photo equipment. ANNIE sees CARL, 40s, short, overweight guy, photography store owner.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY STORE- DAY

Annie walks in, Carl gives her a name tag.

CARL

Good Morning Annie, I'm so happy you are here ! You got the bus to get here? What a ride!

Carl laugh.

ANNIE

A little bit over 40 minutes. It was a long ride, but at least I have my music.

Annie points to her purse and some of her cassette tapes. Carl looks impressed.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

It would be better to have a car, thanks for giving me this Jo--

CARL

Let me introduce your trainer, She will be your guide for today. This is Vivian. She works here for 2 months now.

At the messy photo counter is VIVIAN, blond bombshell, also 17, waves at Annie.

She walks to ANNIE and makes a welcome gesture with her arms.

VIVIAN

(sarcasticaly)

Oh hello Annie ! I'm going to show you EVERYTHING today. Follow me.

ANNIE

Yay.

CARL

Wait. Do you guys know each other?
That's great!

ANNIE

Yes, we do, we just avoid each
other for particular reasons

CARL

Well, you will have to get along
here. It's not a choice, you need
each other for at this job.

Annie mumbles something to herself. She puts her purse on the
counter and starts to following Vivian

VIVIAN

Come on, let me show you around. I
have a lot to teach you.

INT - PHOTOGRAPHY STORE - LATER THAT DAY

Vivian doesn't care about teaching, she plays with the
camera, put a film on it, test it, as she ignores
Annie. Vivian start to talk with handsome costumer, she leans
on the counter, as she flirts with him. Annie walk by them.
She frowns her face.

ANNIE

I wouldn't if I were you. She is
only 17 man... you know, you could
get some jail time if you hang out
with her.

Vivian gives her a killer look. Takes a deep breath. The
costumer leaves. Carl comes back into the store and enter the
dark room.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY STORY- DARK ROOM -AFTERNOON

Annie knocks at the dark room door, where Carl is developing
some photos.

ANNIE

Carl, I need to talk to you. Did
you see Vivian flirting with a
costumer? And she is only 17?

CARL

How old was the costumer?

ANNIE

Maybe 30. But the point is, she flirting with costumers. It's called integrity and being professional.

CARL

Well, it depends of what is she professional with.

Carl winks at Annie.

ANNIE

Gross.

Annie starts to walk back to the photo counter, when Carl calls her back to the dark room door.

CARL

Annie! Do you want to be taking passport photos today? I think you will be good at it.

Carl walks her to the back of the store, a white panel is set up with a seat in front of it. He gives Annie a nice, professional camera and teaches her how to use it.

CARL (CONT'D)

Be very careful. If you drop it and breaks, you will have to pay for it. And for what it is worth, you are not buying a car for the next 5 years.

Annie holds the camera and decided to give it a try. A costumer walks in and ask Vivian for passport photos. She is looking at negative sleeves and without looking up points to Annie.

Annie welcomes the costumer.

ANNIE

You can seat over here sir, and try not to blink.

She sets up her equipment and starts shoot the photographs. Suddenly she feels a strong bump and the camera crashes on the floor. Annie looks confused. She gets up and see Vivian.

VIVIAN

(unapologetic)
I'm sorry. Oh my god!
(MORE)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Did you drop it? How are you going to pay for that now?

The costumer anticipates a fight and decide to leave.He grabs his hat from the counter and leaves the store. Annie looks desperate with a broken camera on her hands. As she tries to remove the film, she takes a deep breath

ANNIE

What is you problem? Why do you have to ruin things for me?

VIVIAN

You are going to lose your job and I will never have to see your face again.

ANNIE

You are completely out of your mind. What have I ever done to you?

VIVIAN

How about talking bad about me behind my back to my boss? Is that professional? Does that count as integrity? Hum?

Vivian walks toward Annie. She taller and wants to be intimidating.

ANNIE

I can believe how sneaky you are! You were listening behind the door? You are something else!

Annie can feel her face blushing.Anger travels her entire body. The girls yell at each other. Carl walks into the store and see the fight.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

We don't have to be friends, but could you tell me what have I done to you?

VIVIAN

You are weird and I don't like you. And yes, I was listening as soon as you got in to the dark room. I don't trust you, and now I know why. Thanks.

Carl walks back in the store and see the girls arguing.

CARL

Wait...What happened to my camera?

Carl can't contain the desperation. He put his hand on his forehead, as he clean the sweat on his face.

CARL (CONT'D)

What have I told you about being careful?

ANNIE

I mean... It was an accident. I'm sorry. I tripped and dropped it.

Vivian eyes are wide open. She can't believe Annie didn't say it was her.

VIVIAN

Actually... I was walking and I bumped on Annie and she dropped the camera. It's my fault.

Carl takes a deep breath and looks to both girls, as he picks up the camera lenses, collects the film from the floor

CARL

Here is the deal, who is paying for the camera now?

ANNIE

Hum... Your insurance maybe?

Vivian giggles and shakes her head back. Annie takes her backpack and walks to the door.

CARL

Yes, you are more than fired. You should be happy I didn't get you arrested!

EXT. PHOTOGRAPHY SIDEWALK - DAY

Annie stares at the billboard of "HONEY I BLEW UP THE KIDS" in front of the store. While she puts her walkman, she hears a honk. Vivian skidded the tires and stop the car in front of Annie.

VIVIAN

I got fired too. What are you up to
now? Need a ride?

ANNIE shrink her shoulders and gets into the car.

ANNIE

Hell. Why not?