

DETECTIVE FOX

So is that your... He said "my Gabby"...

GABBY

Oh! No. No. He's a friend. Gay friend. I'm-- I've been too busy for a boyfriend.

DETECTIVE FOX

Gay? Didn't peg that. I usually...

Detective Fox bails out of that thought, nods to their cake.

DETECTIVE FOX

You do have a gift here. Shame to waste it.

GABBY

I don't. I bestow it selectively. On those who deserve it. Much more gratifying than just selling to whomever.

DETECTIVE FOX

(smiles)

I like that. "Bestow".

They meet eyes. Gabby tries not to blush. Fails. Detective Fox savors another bite and says without thinking:

DETECTIVE FOX

Probably better that way. If I could have this any time I wanted I'd get big as--

(realizes what they're about to say)

Not that there's anything... You know. Whatever works for you.

Gabby winces a little inside.

GABBY

That's the other reason I don't bake more. I'm on a strict eating program.

DETECTIVE FOX

Oh yeah? That must be tough.

GABBY

You get used to it. It's going well actually.

Detective Fox nods, uncomfortable.

DETECTIVE FOX

Good. Good for you. So what else do you do? For fun?

GABBY

Oh. You know. Read. Umm... Write.

DETECTIVE FOX

Yeah? What do you read and write?

GABBY

Novels, a lot of articles for research... I write for work.

DETECTIVE FOX

So, for fun you... work.

GABBY

Sounds a little grim when you put it that way.

DETECTIVE FOX

Not if you're happy.

GABBY

Right.

Gabby's expression fails a little. Happiness for her is deferred. Another body. Another life.

DETECTIVE FOX

You okay?

GABBY

Yeah. Sorry...
(genuine)
Are you happy?

The question feels intimate. They deflect:

DETECTIVE FOX

Don't think about it very much.
It's more about survival mode.

GABBY

Because of your work? Because it's dangerous?

DETECTIVE FOX

Not on a hacking case. Not too dangerous.
(carefully)
(MORE)

DETECTIVE FOX (CONT'D)

Hey. I don't mean to take advantage of your hospitality... But if you'd keep your eyes open around Daisy Chain, I could use the help. Tech crimes aren't really my thing. We're down a few men so I pulled the short straw on this one.

Gabby nods -- as it dawns on her:

GABBY

Nobody wanted it, huh?

DETECTIVE FOX

Not that it isn't important. Or criminal.

(then)

But it's not sexy, you know?

Gabby aches with shame.

DETECTIVE FOX

You okay?

GABBY

What? Yeah. I'm good.

Detective Fox looks at their phone. Time to go. Whatever giddy connection they had over the cake has evaporated.

DETECTIVE FOX

Anyway. If there's anything -- if you see something off or somebody acting interesting... Let me know, would you?...

Gabby looks like she's stuck in a daydream.

DETECTIVE FOX

Thank you. For the cake. You know where to reach me.

Detective Fox nods to Steven, pats Gabby on the shoulder -- and goes.

CLOSE ON GABBY

Feeling diminished.