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An Exhibition

written by

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INT. ART EXHIBITION - NIGHT

Several colorful modern abstract expressionist pieces are showcased throughout the space which is brimming with ART GOERS. BUZZING CONVERSATION is heard over the GENTLE PIANO MUSIC playing in the background.

DAN, 27, looks as if he were a part of the exhibit. His tall and lanky frame allows him to easily see over everyone. He quickly pinpoints the location of a COCKTAIL SERVER carrying a tray full of champagne glasses heading in his direction.

Dan leans weighty against the wall, sandwiched between two large canvases featuring abstruse reddish tones that match his rosy face.

Dan moves to take a step towards the incoming Cocktail Server and stumbles instead as the room spins around him.

Dan quickly returns to the wall for support and looks around wide-eyed, blinking furiously past the Cocktail Server until his gaze tunnels in on HECTOR, 58, a short, burly, and balding Greek man in an outdated brown suit.

Hector's thick eyebrows are furrowed in confusion while observing a smaller, less noticeable painting on the other side of the gallery.

Dan smooths his hair and adjusts his blue polka-dotted button up shirt, tucking it deeper into his skinny jeans, as he clumsily crosses the gallery. He doesn't notice he's bumping into Art Goers while confidently practicing his introduction.

DAN

(loudly)

Hello Mr.- Hello Hector, I'm Dan, Anna's boyfriend. It's so great? No. It's so... good! It's so good to finally meet you! Yeah! Isn't your daughter's art amazing? Yeah, yeah, yeah! I think so too! She worked so hard on it.

Dan stops a few feet behind Hector as he ends his speech and stares down openly at Hector's bald and shiny scalp before him.

Dan quickly checks his breath, smiles, and nods to himself. He takes and holds a final deep breath, grounding himself, before taking a large lunge-like step placing him uncomfortably close and directly next to Hector.

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Dan stares unblinking at the artwork before them, not breathing, mouth pursed uncomfortably, avoiding Hector's gaze. His face gets impossibly redder with every passing second.

Feeling Dan's presence, Hector looks up at Dan out of the corner of his eye, his annoyance and discomfort apparent, and takes a side step away from him. Then another. Hector then turns and walks away to observe the next painting.

Dan lets out his breath.

DAN (CONT'D)
(beat)
Shit.

Dan vigorously turns to follow Hector.

As Dan eagerly nears the next painting, Hector takes notice of his impending approach.

Hector meets Dan's unhinged smile with a perturbed scowl, then turns and rapidly walks away.

Dan's long legs allow him to quickly catch up to Hector and cut off his path. Dan breathes heavily as he sticks out his arms wide to awkwardly prevent Hector from moving past him.

Hector glares at Dan openly annoyed.

Dan stares back, smirking.

HECTOR	DAN (CONT'D)
Who the hell-	Hector, your daughter's artwork isn't amazing and she hardly worked on it!

Hector's glare transforms into an amused expression and he begins to laugh at Dan's flustered state.

DAN (CONT'D)
Wait! I mean it's amazing and she makes me hard. No! The art is hard. To do. Art. Not me! I am not hard.

HECTOR
(laughing)
Look, its okay if you don't like it. I don't even understand half of this abstract art shit she does.

Dan struggles to recover from his embarrassment.

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DAN

I-I mean. It is... good! It's really about... The colors? Yeah...

(inwardly; unaware)

I... I really don't understand it.

(aware)

Oh god, please don't tell her I said that.

Hector laughs again and pats Dan on the back, Dan begins to hesitantly laugh along and relax into the situation.

HECTOR

Listen, I'm pretty sure half the people are here just for the free drinks. I know I am! Just pretend to like the art, she won't notice, trust me.

(laughing)

She thinks I love art.

ANNA, 26, quickly approaches in a chic pantsuit covered in prints that match the art pieces in the exhibit. She smiles widely and kisses her father on the cheek.

ANNA

I see you two really hit it off!

HECTOR

Yeah this guy is great! He is a really big fan of your art! He could not stop talking about it.

Hector gives Dan a secretive wink.

ANNA

(laughing)

Well he should be, considering he's my boyfriend and all.

HECTOR

Boyfriend?

(beat)

Boyfriend! Oh! So this is Dan?

Hector straightens out and meets Dan with a stern over-protective father-like grimace.

DAN

We both really love your art.

Dan returns an overly obvious wink to Hector.