

Ruby.M

Friday 17th September 2021

WAL T: Hidden Figures

It was a warm but torrential day at around 10 o'clock.

I strolled slowly through the space task group office looking for Katherine so she could help me with some vital maths calculations.

As I got closer to the large, glass globe in the centre of the room I instantly started shouting and threw my hands up in frustration to see an empty chair at Katherine's desk.

"Now... where is she?" I ranted.

"She's never here when I need her."

"It's not like I ever said we could go on breaks whenever!"

Everyone turns around and the room goes silent. The phones stop ringing, the paper isn't waving about and nobody's mouth is opening.

They all stare at both me and Katherine as she walks in through the brown, heavy doors dripping with water as if she had just got out of a bath.

"Where have you been?!" I asked ominously.

I saw a stare of disbelieve cover her face for about 5 seconds until she answered.

"The bathroom sir" She answered shivering with fear.

"For 45 minutes a day, what do you do in there?"

"There is no bathroom for me here sir"

"What do you mean theres no..."

Before I could finish she started yelling at me.

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"There's no coloured bathrooms here!"

I didn't say anything, in fact I was speechless. I couldn't yell at her knowing what a mess I had made.

How did I not notice there was no coloured bathrooms? How did I make such a mistake?

Before I knew it she was back at the yelling.

"I have to run half a mile to go to the bathroom, and I can't use one of the handy bikes all because of my uniform. Skirt below my knees, the heels and a simple string of pearls. Well I don't own pearls, god knows you don't pay colours enough to afford pearls!"

I felt horrible seeing her body shaking with anger and her hands were still and tense as if she was a statue.

"I work like a dog day and night living off of a coffee pot that none of you wanna touch." She yelled.

"So please excuse me if I have to use the bathroom a few times a day" She asked calmly.

I watched everyone stare at her as she grabbed her lunch and walked straight out of the room without saying a word. Her heels clacking and her dress running wild.

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I still stand there uncomfortably in front of everyone thinking over everything that Katherine mentioned also making me walk slowly past all the desks to peel the label off the coffee pot obviously not thinking she would ever come back.

To be honest, I don't really know what she's doing right now but I'll make sure to write her a sorry letter telling her that I've changed everything and begging her to come back.