

1. Common



1. n "...Another regular late night in San Francisco."
2. n "There usually aren't many customers around this time. {w}Just the occasional junkie or
drunk guy getting a burger to try and sober up."
3. n "And here I am, staring at the whirring milkshake blender, bored out of my mind..."
4. n "The normal routine."
5. n "I glance up when the doors to the kitchen behind me suddenly swing open."
6. n "It's Troy, my boss."
7. n "He gives me a happy wave and grins, and I can tell he's going to call out my name in his
usual friendly voice –"
8. old "That's not a name!"
9. old "What? No! Try again."
10. t "\"Hey, [mc]! Glad you decided to come in early.\""
11. mc "\"...Yeah, Boss. No problem.\""
12. n "I probably shouldn't tell him I just need the extra money."
13. n "What, does he think I come here for {i}fun{/i}?"
14. t "\"Kinda slow right now, huh?\""
15. t "\"Well, just keep the place cleaned up until someone comes in.\""
16. t "\"I'll be in the back if you need me.\""
17. mc "\"Got it.\""
18. n "With that, Troy disappears back into the kitchen, leaving me all alone again."

19. n "Man, I really get why they call it the \"graveyard shift\"..."
20. n "It feels like I'm watching over a cemetery sometimes. One that smells like greasy burgers."
21. mc "\"...\""
22. n "With a sigh, I reach for a rag and start to rub down the counter."
23. n "Gonna be a long night."
24. mcp "\"...?\""
25. n "At that moment – {w}I realize there's a customer in one of the booths ."
26. n "...When did he get here? {w}I definitely didn't see him walk in."
27. n "It's a guy in a dark hoodie with a slightly hunched posture. Probably around my age, maybe a year or two older."
28. n "Even though he's sitting down, I can tell he's pretty tall, and he looks intimidatingly muscular despite the baggy jacket."
29. n "Well, shady or not, a customer's a customer. {w}I tuck a menu under my arm and stroll out from behind the counter, heading towards him."
30. u "\"...\""
31. n "He glances up when I get close, gazing at me sharply with two bright blue eyes."
32. n "But he doesn't say anything.{w} He just stares."
33. n "...What the hell? Is he coming off a bad trip or something?{w} Or is he just another rude college kid?"

34. old "Greet him politely"
35. old "Ask what he wants"
36. n "Putting on my most welcoming smile, I slide the menu onto the table."
37. mcp "\"Hello, sir. Can I get you anything tonight? A coke, burger, milkshake?\""
38. u "\"...!\\""
39. n "The man blinks at me, looking taken aback by my words."
40. n "...Did I say something strange? {w}I didn't think I was being too friendly, but maybe I
should've acted more casually..."
41. n "Annoyed at this guy's attitude, I force down the urge to roll my eyes and just clear my
throat instead."
42. mcp "\"What are you here for? Coffee? A burger? Sobering up before going home to your
girlfriend?\""
43. mcp "\"If you're just looking for somewhere to brood, I hear the bus stops are really
cozy.\\""
44. u "\"...!\\""
45. n "The man lets out a quiet exhale, staring at me in silence for a moment longer."
46. u "\"...Just coffee.\\""
47. n "Murmuring a response under his breath, he finally averts his gaze from my face."
48. n "His voice is low and husky – not unpleasant, but it makes him sound a bit older than he
looks."

49. n "Why does he seem so tense? {w}I wonder if there's a reason why he's acting all gloomy
or if this is just his normal self..."

50. mcp "\"Coffee it is, then. I'll be right back!\\""

51. mcp "\"Coffee. Got it.\\""

52. n "I turn to head back towards the kitchen, wondering if this guy will even leave a tip."

53. n "But before I can so much as take a step –"

54. mcp "\"...!\\""

55. n "A hand grabs my shirt, tugging me back."

56. n "Flustered, I quickly glance over my shoulder at the strange man, who narrows his eyes
at me."

57. u "\"...Has anyone else come in here tonight?\\""

58. u "\"A man in a leather jacket... with a tattoo on his cheek.\\""

59. n "He murmurs under his breath, staring at me so intensely that I swallow a nervous lump
in my throat."

60. n "Shit. Maybe I should've forced some politeness earlier."

61. n "Troy, this would be a great time for you to walk out of the kitchen...!"

62. mcp "\"N-no, no one like that's come in tonight. Why?\\""

63. u "\"...\\""

64. n "He sinks back against the seat cushions at my reply, tightly balling one hand into a fist."

65. n "...After a moment, he pulls a cigarette from his pocket and clenches it between his
teeth."

66. n "The flame from his lighter briefly flickers in his bright blue eyes, a guilty look flashing
over his face."

67. u "\"...Sorry.\""

68. u "\"I'll get out of here.\""

69. n "Muttering quietly, he starts to push himself out of the booth –"

70. extend " but I shove my arm out to stop him."

71. u "\"...!\""

72. mc "\"At least wait until you finish your coffee!\""

73. mc "\"It's pretty rude to come into a diner and leave without ordering anything, after
all.\""

74. n "He's a weird customer, but I'm kind of curious about why he's so uneasy..."

75. n "And this is the most interesting thing that's happened on any of my shifts, too."

76. u "\"...\""

77. n "The man hesitates, studying me with a suspicious look."

78. n "Maybe he thinks I'm teamed up with this 'leather jacket' guy he's all worked up about.
They must really have a history."

79. old "Offer a casual shrug"
80. old "Calm him down"
81. n "I shrug my shoulders nonchalantly."
82. mc "\"Listen, I don't wanna be involved in your guys' spat or anything.\""
83. mc "\"I'm just trying to make some tips, okay? Calm down.\""
84. n "I shake my head a little, letting out a patient sigh."
85. mc "\"Don't worry, I have no clue who Mr. Tattoo-Face is.\""
86. mc "\"But my boss would get mad at me if I didn't ask a customer to stay, so... why don't
you stick around?\""
87. u "\"...\""
88. n "He pauses for a moment longer, and his blue eyes burn into me searchingly – as if he's
trying to read my true intentions."
89. n "...But finally, he lowers himself back into the booth, giving a reluctant nod."
90. mc "\"I'll get that coffee, then.\""
91. mc "\"Don't run away while I'm gone!\""
92. udp "\"...Right.\""
93. n "With that, I hurry towards the kitchen, setting up a pot of fresh coffee to brew."
94. n "Troy's on his phone, chatting away with his new girlfriend, so I can't ask him if he
knows that guy in the booth."

95. n "He's a strange customer, even for this hour, but... {w}he doesn't seem like a bad person."
96. n "I don't want to play therapist or anything, but part of me wants to ask what he's brooding about. Would he tell a stranger, though?"
97. n "When the coffee's done, I grab the cup and head back to the booth, cream and sugar tucked under my free arm."
98. n "—To my surprise, the man is still there."
99. n "He was staring off into space before, but when I get close, his head jerks towards me."
100. u "\" ...Thanks.\""
101. n "He mumbles awkwardly, pulling his cigarette from his lips and snuffing it out in the ashtray."
102. mc "\"No problem.\""
103. n "I set the coffee, along with the cream and sugar, down in front of him."
104. n "...But he just sort of blankly stares at the table, as if he's not sure what to do."
105. mc "\"Do you, er, want me to mix it in for you? The cream and sugar, that is.\""
106. u "\" ...\""
107. n "My offer makes his eyes widen, but after a brief pause, he stiffly nods."

108. n "...Has this guy never had coffee before?"
109. n "Well, whatever. I have to earn my tips, don't I?"
110. n "Huh. Well, I don't really mind, even though it's been a long time since a
customer asked me to do this."
111. n "I grab the cream and pour some into the cup, stirring until the dark liquid turns
into a pretty caramel shade."
112. n "After mixing in a couple spoons of sugar, I push the coffee towards him
expectantly."
113. mcp "\"It's not French press, but it's not poison, either. Go on.\""
114. u "\"...\""
115. n "He takes the cup and lifts it to his lips, looking unsure of himself."
116. n "—After a long sip, he blinks, and a surprised light washes over his face."
117. u "\"...It's sweet.\""
118. mcp "\"Oh, did I put too much sugar in? I can get you another cup, if you'd —\""
119. u "\"No, it's fine. I like it.\""
120. n "To my shock, the man's lips actually curl in a small smile."
121. n "It makes him seem a lot less intimidating, and the look in his clear blue eyes
softens a little."

122. n "...He's seriously an oddball."
123. n "Odd, but kind of charming in his own weird way. {w}A guy this size who doesn't even know how to drink coffee...."
124. mcp "\"...!\\""
125. n "—Just then, the diner's door suddenly swings open."
126. n "A blonde girl strides up to the counter, plopping down on one of the barstools with a loud sigh."
127. mc "\"Ah, business is booming as usual. I've gotta go see what she wants, but...\""
128. mc "\"If you need any more coffee, or just someone to spill your worries to, lemme know, alright? It gets pretty lonely in here sometimes.\\""
129. mc "\"Ah, sorry. Let me know if you need anything else.\\""
130. n "I apologize to my new 'friend,' whose expression has returned to an impassive stare."
131. u "\"Yeah.\\""
132. n "He lowers his eyes to stare at the depths of his coffee cup, not offering another word."
133. n "I almost feel bad for leaving him, but I can't exactly ignore a customer. Troy would yell at me until he went hoarse."

134. n "Hurrying around the counter, I approach the new customer curiously."
135. mcp "\"...\""
136. n "When I look closer, I realize it's actually a blond {i}guy{/i}, not a girl at all."
137. n "He's so slender and short that he really looked like a girl from behind, but his
face is a little too sharp to be a woman's."
138. u "\"...So, do you usually stare like that at everyone who comes in here?\""
139. u "\"I thought waiters were supposed to be welcoming, not creepy.\""
140. n "The first words that come out of his mouth are pretty coarse, even though he's
got a high, sing-song voice."
141. mcp "\"Ah, no, sorry. Just a little tired, that's all.\""
142. mcp "\"What can I get you?\""
143. u "\"...\""
144. n "He purses his lips together scornfully, letting out an annoyed huff."
145. n "But rather than responding to my question, he turns his head to scan the diner
— "
146. extend "\nAnd his gaze falls on the hoodie-wearing guy in the booth."
147. n "The blond stares intently at the other man, who doesn't seem to notice the
scrutiny he's getting."

148. n "What the hell? Is he really just going to sit here and ignore me...?"
149. old "You have a problem with him?"
150. old "Ask if he'd like to order something"
151. n "...This brat's kind of getting on my nerves."
152. n "First he makes a jab at me for 'staring,' then he goes and gawps at another
guy?"
153. n "The man in the hoodie's my customer, too, and he looks like he's already had a
tough night without being glowered at by some kid."
154. mc "\"Hey, do you have a problem with that guy?\""
155. mc "\"If not, could you quit scowling at other customers? You'll scare them off.\""
156. u "\"—!\""
157. n "My irritated words make him blink in surprise, but his sulky expression returns
half a second later."
158. n "He scratches his cheek with one hand, pausing doubtfully, then lets out a loud
sigh."
159. n "...Well, I don't want to make this awkward situation any worse."
160. n "Clearing my throat, I place a menu in front of the blond to get his attention,
and he quickly glances back towards me."
161. mc "\"Sir, would you like to order something? A glass of water, maybe?\""

162. u "\"...\""
163. n "He looks a little sheepish, but he grabs the menu anyway and starts to sourly flip through it."
164. u "\"Ugh... I just want a soda . Any kind.\""
165. u "\"I need to get a bad taste out of my mouth.\""
166. n "{i}What, from trying to smoke pot with your friends?{/i} I want to dryly ask, but I should probably have a little self-restraint."
167. n "I grab a nearby cup and head over to the soda fountain, filling it up with some sugary, yellowish-green drink that probably suits the tastes of a kid like him."
168. n "It's too bad he doesn't have a nicer personality to match his cute face.{w} I bet he never wears anything other than that annoying pout."
169. n "After I slide the cup and a straw in front of the blond, he tosses a couple dollar bills on the counter."
170. u "\"Hey, is it always so dead in here?\""
171. u "\"I don't usually come to places like this, but how do you stay open if there's no business? Shouldn't you be bankrupt?\""
172. n "...Resisting the urge to throw the soda in his face, I let out a strained chuckle instead."
173. mcp "\"...\""

174. n "His bratty question is one I've heard a lot before, so it doesn't exactly catch me off guard."
175. mcp "\"We're open during the day, too. Most people tend to come here when it's not, you know, 2:00 AM.\""
176. u "\"Oh... yeah, I guess that makes sense.\""
177. u "\"Isn't it boring when nobody comes in, though?\""
178. mcp "\"...\""
179. n "He sounds so innocent and curious that my irritation melts away a little bit."
180. mcp "\"It's pretty damn boring. Most of our 'clientèle' at this hour are just a few folks who are high, drunk, or both.\""
181. mcp "\"They don't make for great conversation partners, let me tell you.\""
182. u "\"...Hah.\""
183. n "The blond snickers, pulling his straw out of its wrapper and shoving it into his glass."
184. n "He sips a bit of the soda, then idly swirls the straw around with one finger, propping his chin up on his hand."
185. n "His eyes are a lively, sparkling green, and they watch me with interest."
186. u "\"How about any... weird types?\""
187. mcp "\"...Weird types? You'll have to be more specific than that.\""

188. u "\"...\""
189. n "Rolling his eyes, he pauses for a moment, as if he's thinking over his words
more carefully."
190. u "\"Like... people who don't really fit in.\""
191. u "\"Don't order food or anything like that, just kind of lurk around, act shady...
that type.\""
192. mcp "\"...\""
193. n "At the blond's description, I find my gaze shifting towards the hoodie-wearing
man in the corner."
194. n "—He's looking my way, too, and our eyes suddenly meet."
195. n "Well, he definitely matches the 'type' this kid is talking about, but...{w} there's
no reason for me to say that."
196. n "Besides, it's not as if we usually get customers like him. In fact, it's the first time
I've ever seen someone who didn't know how to drink coffee."
197. mc "\"...No, I can't say I've seen anyone like that come in here.\""
198. mc "\"Maybe they hang out in the seedier parts of town. If you can {i}get{/i}
seedier than this area, that is.\""
199. udp "\"...\""

200. n "—It might be my imagination, but at my response, I feel like the man in the booth just relaxed a tiny bit."
201. u "\"Really?\""
202. u "\"Mmh... I guess so.\""
203. n "The blond looks a little displeased, and he chews on the tip of his straw absentmindedly."
204. mc "\"Why do you ask? Are you looking for members of a gang or something?\""
205. u "\"...You could say that.\""
206. n "He hesitates before replying, shifting in his seat."
207. mc "\"Don't tell me you're trying to join up with a band of thugs. Kids like you shouldn't fall in with the wrong crowd.\""
208. u "\"—!\""
209. n "My playful remark makes the blond abruptly straighten his posture, his face screwing up like an angry chipmunk."
210. u "\"Who are you calling a kid?!\""
211. u "\"I'm 22! Do I have to show you my ID or something?\""
212. n "...Wow, I must have really hit a nerve."
213. n "In my defense, he definitely doesn't look 22.{w} I would've guessed 17 or 18, especially considering the way he acts."

214. mc "\"Calm down, I was only teasing.\""
215. mc "\"I just call everyone a kid, okay? Bad habit, sorry.\""
216. mc "\"Sorry, sorry! It's just because you're so full of energy, that's all.\""
217. mc "\"I get mistaken for a high schooler sometimes, so I feel your pain.\""
218. u "\"...Hmph.\""
219. n "Like a porcupine retracting its quills, the blond stops bristling, although he still wrinkles his nose at me."
220. n "Phew, close call."
221. u "\"Anyway, I'm not trying to join a gang.\""
222. u "\"I'm just looking for some... certain people, that's all.\""
223. u "\"I figured they might hang out around a place like this, since it's pretty seedy looking. No offense.\""
224. n "He smirks at me, tapping a fingernail against the side of his glass."
225. mc "\"...\""
226. n "...It's kind of hard to argue with that, sadly. {w}This isn't the worst part of town, but it's definitely not the best, and the diner could really use some repainting."
227. u "\"Hey, why don't you do me a favor?\""

228. u "\"Keep an eye out for anyone like what I described, and if you find someone,
give me a call.\""
229. n "Pulling a pen out of his pocket, he grabs a nearby napkin and scribbles
something down on it."
230. n "When he shoves it over towards me, I recognize the writing as a name and a
phone number."
231. mcp "\"... 'Luka,' huh? You really want me to call you if I see any random shady
customers?\""
232. I "\"You got it.\""
233. I "\"It doesn't seem like you have anything better to do with your time, so why
don't you help me out?\""
234. old "And what're you offering in return...?"
235. old "Sure, I'll try"
236. n "I raise one eyebrow at Luka, who watches me smugly."
237. mcp "\"You're going to offer something to sweeten the deal, right? There's no
reason for me to bother helping you, otherwise.\""
238. I "\"Offer something? Like what, money?\""
239. n "He purses his lips together doubtfully, but I shake my head, unable to contain a
smirk."
240. mcp "\"Hm, I don't know...\""

241. mcp "\"Maybe you could let me stare at you for awhile without getting mad.
How's that sound?\""
242. I "\"–!\""
243. n "Luka's cheeks turn a bright pink, letting me know my teasing was successful."
244. I "\"What kind of creepy thing are you trying to... You know what, I'm taking back
my number.\""
245. n "He tries to snatch the napkin away from me, but I hold it out of his reach,
snickering to myself."
246. n "It's actually pretty fun seeing him get all flustered, especially after he tries to
act so confident and cool."
247. n "I roll my eyes, crumpling up the napkin and shoving it in my pocket."
248. mcp "\"Sure, sure. I'll try to remember.\""
249. I "\"Good. Make sure you –\""
250. mcp "\"Although, all things considered, I'm more likely to drunk dial you, thinking
your number was from some girl I met at a bar...\""
251. I "\"...\""
252. n "He scowls at me with his teeth gritted together, and I have to bite back
laughter."

253. n "Man, talk about sensitive. {w}He must have an ego made of glass!"
254. mcp "\"Listen, I'll help you out, all right? Lighten up a little.\""
255. l "\"...If you don't want to, just say so. No need to be such a jerk about it.\""
256. n "He mumbles under his breath sourly, crumpling the wrapper of his straw in one hand."
257. mcp "\"Really, I don't mind. You were the one who said I didn't have anything better to do with my time, remember?\""
258. n "When I give Luka a reassuring wink, he flicks his eyes away and scowls, obviously embarrassed."
259. n "Then, he takes a last sip of his drink before hopping off the barstool."
260. lp "\"I'd better not get any weird calls from you...\""
261. lp "\"I'll block you the second you start saying gross crap to me!\""
262. n "Luka shouts over his shoulder on his way to the door."
263. n "Chuckling, I wave a dishtowel at him casually, watching him disappear into the thick of night."
264. n "Silly kid... {w}who knows what kind of trouble he's trying to work his way into."
265. n "I hope he gets home safely, though. He really looks like a perfect target for muggers or some of the more unsavory types who hang around these parts."
266. n "Maybe I should've offered to get him a taxi... oh well."

267. n "When I'm left alone with my thoughts, I suddenly remember the man in the hoodie."
268. mc "\"-!\\""
269. n "But when I glance over to where he was sitting at the booth –"
270. n "No one's there."
271. n "He must have snuck out when I was talking to Luka. Damn."
272. n "A little disappointed, I return to his booth to take his coffee cup, but I notice something lying on the table."
273. n "–A \$10 dollar bill and a bunch of change, just for a cup of coffee?"
274. n "That's pretty generous... and now I feel terrible for doubting if he was going to tip or not.{w} It looks like he just dumped everything in his wallet onto the table. "
275. n "He drank every last drop of the coffee, though. I'm not sure why, but knowing that he liked it so much makes me kind of happy."
276. mc "\"What a weird night...\""
277. n "Shaking my head, I pocket the tip and head back to the kitchen with a puzzled smile."
278. n "The rest of my shift passes uneventfully."
279. n "People trickle in and out for a couple more hours, but no one else unusual shows up."

280. n "Finally, I wave goodbye to Troy and step outside, letting out a long yawn."

281. n "Time to walk home. Man, I'm tired..."

282. u "\"...Same spot... tomorrow...\""

283. u "\"Of course, don't you trust me?\""

284. mc "\"...\""

285. n "Bits and pieces of conversation float from a nearby alleyway."

286. u "\"Yeah, yeah... make sure you bring all the stuff.\""

287. n "...My curiosity immediately spikes."

288. extend "\nAre they talking about a drug deal or something? Next to {i}my{/i} diner?"

289. n "I press myself against the wall, straining to hear more of the conversation."

290. n "Maybe I can catch one of these guys and teach them a lesson or two. I won't have some dopeheads putting Troy or the customers in danger."

291. n "Or if I listen in, I can call the police at just the right time..."

292. n "If something dangerous is going on tomorrow, I need to tell Troy. Hell, maybe I shouldn't even come into work..."

293. mcp "\"...!\""

294. n "Are those footsteps?{w} They must be heading this way..."

295. u "\"Naturally. Payment up front, though. You wouldn't want your number one supplier to switch sides, would you?\""
296. u "\"...Hah.\""
297. n "As one of the two men talking lets out a scornful laugh, the footsteps grow closer."
298. mcp "\"...\""
299. n "I step back into the shadows, crouching down just out of sight."
300. n "A moment later, a couple of tall figures emerge from the alley."
301. n "One of them stands in the shadows and I can't get a good look at his face – but something about him creeps me out."
302. n "The other one... With that fancy suit and slick hair ... He must be a businessman."
303. u "\"You'd better keep your end of the deal, Isaac.\""
304. u "\"You turn your back on the Helgen, and you'll be {i}real{/i} fuckin' sorry.\""
305. n "Spitting out those words mistrustfully, the shadowy figure stalks off down the street."
306. i "\"...I'll be sorry, huh?\""
307. n "The one left standing behind – Isaac? – mutters those words under his breath with a dark smile."

308. n "Even though he looks like a man more at home in an office than an alleyway,
he doesn't seem one bit afraid."
309. n "I reflexively hold my breath, watching his elegant form loom on the sidewalk,
wondering what he'll do next."
310. i "\"...You can come out now.\""
311. i "\"I don't bite – unless you'd like me to, of course.\""
312. mcp "\"–!\\""
313. n "Isaac turns to look directly at me, as if he can see right through the darkness to
where I'm hiding."
314. n "However, the beckoning gesture he makes doesn't seem threatening, so I
reluctantly rise to my feet."
315. n "How did he see me...? It's nearly pitch-black in this spot."
316. i "\"There's a good boy. Is there a reason you were cowering in the corner?\""
317. i "\"You weren't trying to {i}eavesdrop{/i}, I hope.\""
318. n "His eyes, which look like molten gold – colored contacts, I'm sure, study me
questioningly."
319. old "You're making a deal next to my diner"
320. old "I like to know what happens around here"
321. n "...This guy's no thug, he's just some suit trying to act intimidating."

322. n "There's no reason to be afraid of him, so I might as well just tell the truth."
323. mc "\"You see this place here? It's where I work.\""
324. mc "\"If some kind of shady deal is going on nearby, of course I'm gonna want to hear about it.\""
325. i "\"...\""
326. n "In response to my confrontational tone, Isaac raises one eyebrow."
327. n "I shouldn't be too confrontational. A man like this could have a lot of nasty tricks up his sleeve."
328. n "Offering a casual shrug, I throw out the vaguest response I can."
329. mc "\"It's just good to know what happens around San Fran, right?\""
330. mc "\"I don't want to be in the wrong part of town when a bad deal is happening. It's just self-preservation.\""
331. i "\"...\""
332. n "—For whatever reason, my remark makes Isaac break into a smirk, and he tilts his head playfully to one side."
333. i "\"Oh, so you're just looking out for number one , hmm?\""
334. i "\"Cute... I would too, if I were you.\""
335. n "The hint of slyness that creeps into his tone sounds almost like — "
336. n "No, no, I'm definitely misreading him. {w}Why would a fancy businessman flirt with someone like me?"

337. mc "\"Don't make it sound so egotistical. I have friends to look out for, too.\""
338. mc "\"I've got customers and my boss to worry about, too... that's why I have to keep an eye on shady types around the diner.\""
339. i "\"Uh-huh. I'm sure.\""
340. n "With an unconvinced chuckle, Isaac saunters towards me, stopping only when he enters 'too close' territory."
341. n "—Well, if he's trying to make me back down, too bad."
342. n "No way I'll cower away from some fancy guy like him, even if he is taller than me. I have at least a little pride left."
343. n "I want to pull back, but I manage to swallow my nervousness and stay in place."
344. n "He's probably just a businessman, but there's something about him that's different... unnerving."
345. i "\"...\""
346. n "Isaac bends down to peer into my face, close enough for me to see every detail of my reflection in his glasses."
347. n "There's a sweet smell around him - some kind of cologne or shampoo - and it blocks out the stench from the dumpster nearby."
348. i "\"Tell me, what's your name?\""
349. i "\"I'm Isaac, as you probably heard from the scary skinhead back there.\""

350. n "He drops his voice to a whisper, and his gaze sparkles at me expectantly."

351. mcp "\"...It's [mc].\""

352. mcp "\"Nice to meet you, Isaac. You seem like a real upstanding guy.\""

353. n "I mutter a reply dripping with sarcasm, to which Isaac just gives me a coy wink."

354. i "\"Something like that. Well, listen, [mc], if you want my advice –\""

355. mcp "\"...I'm [mc].\""

356. mcp "\"I don't talk to many guys in suits, so sorry in advance if I trip over my
tongue.\""

357. i "\"No need to worry, I'm used to making people starstruck during first
meetings.\""

358. i "\"But listen, [mc], if you'd like a little piece of advice –\""

359. i "\"You should stay away from this place tomorrow night. I'm not saying you'll get
hurt, but...\""

360. i "\"There might be some... friendly conflicts going on.\""

361. n "He seems oddly thrilled by the prospect of \"conflicts,\" and a gleeful light
shines in his eyes."

362. i "\"Of course, if you're looking for excitement, then I won't stop you from coming
by. Who knows...\""

363. n "Isaac pauses, his lips curling into a smirk."

364. i "\"You might even see a friend of yours there. Or maybe {i}customer{/i} is a better word...?\""
365. mcp "\"...\""
366. n "A shiver courses down my spine at his teasing murmur."
367. n "He's talking as if he knows something about me... but I've never seen his face before in my life."
368. mcp "\"What are you trying to say? Someone I know is going to be a part of this 'friendly conflict'?\""
369. i "\"Maybe. You can't say for sure unless you show up, am I right?\""
370. i "\"Assuming your self-preservation instincts aren't too strong, that is.\""
371. mcp "\"...\""
372. n "—I know he's trying to provoke me, but that doesn't stop anger from rising up in my chest, even though I try my hardest to stay calm."
373. n "He probably thinks his money makes him some kind of king. {w}What a class act."
374. old "I'll come if they're using you as target practice"
375. old "I'll come if it's safe"
376. mcp "\"I'll stop by if there's a chance you'll get hit in the crossfire.\""
377. mcp "\"That fancy suit isn't bulletproof, is it?\""
378. i "\"...Wow, I caught a feisty one.\""

379. n "He lets out a low wolf whistle, eyes going wide in mock surprise."
380. i "\"I'm flattered that you're so worried about me, though I'd be more concerned
for yourself.\""
381. i "\"Someone with a pretty face like the one you have... can catch the attention of
some {i}bad{/i} types.\""
382. mcp "\"I don't want to risk my neck on a whim, but if you can guarantee I won't
end up full of bullet holes...\""
383. n "When I trail off hesitantly, Isaac tilts his head to one side, biting his lower lip
slyly."
384. i "\"I wasn't promising you'd be safe.\""
385. i "\"In fact, a cute guy like you would be instantly pounced on by the bad types
who'll be there.\""
386. mcp "\"...Bad types? Like who?\""
387. n "My pulse starts to race faster as I question Isaac, who only throws me an
evasive shrug."
388. i "\"Some people who walk the streets this time of night aren't always friendly,
[mc].\""
389. n "His eyes flick away from me for a moment, and a sudden cold, dangerous edge
enters his voice."

390. i "\"There are lots of predators out there... stalkers who'd just {i}love{/i} to have a taste of someone like you...\""
391. n "When his gaze returns to mine, a chill runs through my whole body."
392. n "Isaac reaches out towards my face, tracing the back of his hand lightly along my cheek, all while a cruel smile crawls over his lips."
393. i "\"And if you're not careful, you might end up with a bite taken out of you – caught in the jaws of a hungry wolf.\""
394. n "His whisper drops so low that his words are barely audible, and I have to lean in a little to catch them."
395. i "\"You'd be safer if you stuck with me, your valiant Van Helsing... although my prices aren't cheap.\""
396. n "Isaac's fingers trace along my neck, all the way to my lips, where he teases one digit around the corner of my mouth."
397. mcp "\"...\""
398. n "I can't look away from his hypnotic golden eyes, which swirl in a way that makes my mind feel like it's melting."
399. n "My body refuses to move."
400. n "Even as Isaac presses closer, I can't do anything but hold my breath, staring up into that beautiful gaze..."

401. u "\"...Isaac!\\""
402. u "\"Isaac, what are you doing?!\""
403. i "\"...!\\""
404. n "When a cry rings through the air, Isaac abruptly pulls away from me, throwing a
glance over his shoulder."
405. u "\"Hurry up! We need to get going!\\""
406. n "The voice calls out again, sounding oddly familiar, but it's too dark to see who it
belongs to."
407. mc "\"...\""
408. n "—What the hell happened a second ago? I can barely remember what Isaac was
just saying."
409. i "\"Tch, always with the bad timing. Oh, well.\\""
410. n "Exhaling a reluctant sigh, Isaac turns away – {w}but he pauses to give me a
parting Cheshire-cat grin."
411. i "\"Make sure you show up tomorrow! I'll make it worth your while, don't
worry.\\""
412. mc "\"Huh? Wait–!\\""
413. n "By the time I recover my senses, Isaac's already striding off towards the figure
in the distance."

414. n "The two of them disappear around a corner before long, swallowed up by the darkness."
415. mc "\"Ngh... my head hurts like hell...\""
416. n "I don't know what Isaac did, but I've got some kind of awful migraine now. Maybe it's from his cologne."
417. n "—Christ, why do I keep meeting all these weirdos? This is too much crap for one night."
418. n "Maybe Troy slipped some kind of acid into my burger earlier. {w}Yeah... that's gotta be the only explanation here."
419. n "Shaking my head, I shiver and start hurrying home, keeping an eye out for any of the \"bad types\" Isaac mentioned."
420. n "Luckily, I don't see anyone else on my way back, except for the occasional stray cat or homeless guy on a bench."
421. n "I don't think I've ever been so relieved to step into my cold apartment, which feels like some kind of holy sanctuary right now."
422. n "No creeps or huffy brats, just the comfort of my creaky bed and the flickering light from my old TV."
423. mc "\"Everything will be back to normal tomorrow...\""
424. mc "\"Yeah... today was just a fluke.\""

425. n "I try to comfort myself with those words as I throw off everything except my
briefs, then flop onto the bedsheets with an exhausted groan."
426. n "Normally, I wouldn't complain about running into a bunch of good-looking
guys, but...{w} there was something {i}off{/i} about all of them."
427. n "I can't put my finger on it, but I have a bad feeling in the pit of my stomach –"
428. extend " like I accidentally peered into some kind of world I wasn't supposed to
see."
429. n "Well, it doesn't matter. {w}Tomorrow will be the same old, same old..."
430. n "...I hope."
431. mc "\"Mmh...\\""
432. mc "\"Ngh... sun...\\""
433. mc "\"Sun... fuck off...\\""
434. n "I bury my face against my pillow to hide from the sunlight."
435. n "Damn, it must already be afternoon."
436. n "Stupid graveyard shift makes it so hard to catch a decent amount of rest, unless
you sleep underground or somewhere away from a window."
437. n "Maybe I should invest in a coffin. More style points than a sleeping mask, that's
for sure."
438. mc "\"Nnnnnh...\\""

439. n "Groaning, I eventually force myself out of bed and stumble over to the kitchen
to put on some coffee."
440. n "Work doesn't start for awhile yet, so I can do a little freelancing today."
441. n "I'm only working at the diner to save up some money on the side, anyway."
442. n "My real passion is —"
443. old "Writing"
444. old "Music"
445. old "Art"
446. n "I've always wanted to become a famous author, but right now, all I can do is
churn out e-books to try and build up my name."
447. n "Occasionally I'll get a paid gig, too, like a commissioned short story."
448. n "...Although mostly, it's just porn. {w}Let me tell you, people pay a {i}lot{/i} for
their weird erotica."
449. n "But one day, I'll make it big as a writer. Even if it's as a famous porn writer, it
still counts."
450. n "I love making music, even though I never had any formal training."
451. n "But there's something really soothing about bringing to life the beats and
melodies in my head, so I spend a lot of my free time working on new tracks."

452. n "I've worked on a few small games and student films, but I'd like to really reach the stars one day... {w}or at least get out of the bottom five percent on Cloudsound."
453. n "Ever since I was a little kid, there were always a bunch of fantastical creatures and places I wanted to draw."
454. n "I've gotten good enough to make some money from commissions now and then, but there are so many great artists out there who're better than me."
455. n "I'm doing my best to improve, hoping that eventually, people will say \"I recognize that artist!\" rather than \"what weird anatomy.\""
456. n "—Anyway, I have some time to spare, so I plop down in my office chair with coffee mug in hand."
457. mcp "\"...\""
458. n "...But the moment I stare at my computer screen, I suddenly remember what happened last night."
459. n "Back on that dark street..."
460. i "\"You might even see a friend of yours there. Or maybe {i}customer{/i} is a better word...?\""
461. n "Isaac was acting like he knew something about me, or someone I know, even though that should be impossible."

462. n "There was something unnerving about what he said afterwards, but I can't really remember his words...{w} it's all fuzzy."
463. n "—I'm starting to think that it's not some random drug deal going down tonight."
464. n "A smart man would keep his distance, but if I don't figure out what Isaac meant, it's gonna drive me crazy."
465. mcp "\"That sleazeball in a suit is up to something, that's for sure...\""
466. n "I put my head down on my desk and rub my eyes with one hand."
467. n "I guess there's no helping it, huh... {w}I'll have to see for myself what'll happen tonight."
468. n "Distracted by my own thoughts, I spend the rest of the time until my shift halfheartedly working on a new project."
469. n "After what feels like forever, it finally gets dark, and I head out to start my shift."
470. n "But during my walk, I can't help feeling a lot more nervous than normal."
471. n "Troy left this morning for a business trip, so I'm the only one who's working tonight..."
472. n "And if anything happens, I'll have to deal with it entirely on my own. {w}Great."
473. mcp "\"...\""

474. n "—The diner seems unusually quiet, even for the night shift."
475. n "Only a couple people end up stumbling in over the course of a few hours, and
midnight ticks over into the early morning."
476. n "I grow more and more tense, until finally, I can't take it any more."
477. mc "\"Time to close up early. Sorry, Troy.\""
478. n "Grabbing my keys, I flick off all the lights and leave the diner, locking it up
behind me."
479. n "Then, I make my way to the nearby alley where Isaac came from last night."
480. n "...But it's empty."
481. n "No gangsters, no men in suits.{w} Just a deserted hangout for rats and
abandoned garbage cans."
482. mc "\"...\""
483. n "Maybe I missed the meeting... although I should've heard gunfire if there was
any."
484. n "I guess they might not be here yet. But I really don't want to wait around in this
creepy place for very long, especially not alone."
485. mc "\"Ngh... I should probably just head home.\""
486. mc "\"That's the sensible thing to do... yeah.\""
487. n "After a few more seconds of deliberation, I turn back towards the alleyway
entrance."

488. n "I'm not sure why I feel so disappoi –"

489. u "\"Gotcha!!\""

490. mc "\"–!\""

491. n "Out of nowhere, someone grabs my shoulders."

492. n "A second later, my back slams against the wall, and a pair of strong arms pin
me in place."

493. u "\"Hey, hey, hey~\""

494. u "\"You're not one of those dumbass Seirei guys! You're a human!\""

495. n "Two wide, puzzled eyes scan over my face like I'm some kind of mutant."

496. mcp "\"Ngh... of course I'm human!\""

497. mcp "\"What were you expecting, a fucking platypus?\""

498. n "After I snarl back at him...{w} I immediately freeze."

499. mcp "\"A human...? O-of course I'm human!\""

500. mcp "\"What else could I be? I don't underst–\""

501. mcp "\"...\""

502. n "I break off halfway through my sentence, staring at my attacker."

503. n "This red-haired guy has a tattoo on his face... and is wearing a distinctive
leather jacket."

504. n "Could he be the person that man from last night was talking about...?"

505. u "\"Whoa, why're you gettin' all mad, man? You're just not the guy I was lookin' for!\\""
506. n "He flashes me a wide, taunting grin."
507. n "My eyes are drawn to the shape of his canines, which look just like an animal's _"
508. n "Long, sharp, and bone-white."
509. u "\"...You know, you smell pretty nice...\\""
510. u "\"Kinda special, actually. Real sweet.\\""
511. n "He leans in a bit, leering at me with those sharp fangs."
512. n "They have to be some kind of body mod... {w}right?"
513. u "\"I'm pretty hungry, too! Haven't eaten all night... and you're lookin' so much better every second...\\""
514. n "–Shit, if I don't do something, this creep will really take a bite out of me...!"
515. old "Try to push him off"
516. old "Reason with him"
517. mcp "\"Get... off... you – ngh!\\""
518. n "I throw every ounce of my strength into pushing the man away, but he doesn't seem the least bit impressed."

519. n "Instead, he just presses me harder against the wall, twisting his lips into a mockingly hurt expression."
520. u "\"Hey, don't be like that, baby~\""
521. u "\"I just wanna play with you! Lemme have a little taste, c'mon!\""
522. n "He coos at me, starting to lean in closer again, and a sense of dread grips me like a vise."
523. mcp "\"Hey, wait, hold on!\""
524. mcp "\"If you're hungry, I can make you something, my diner's right down the –
\""
525. u "\"No, no, I don't want you to make me shit!\""
526. n "After the redhead cuts me off, a greedy look flickers in his eyes."
527. u "\"Nah... I want {i}you{/i}.\""
528. n "With a deep growl, he licks his lips, pressing his face closer and closer to my neck."
529. n "—I shut my eyes tightly, holding my breath."
530. n "This is it.{w} I'm going to get torn apart by some psycho in an alleyway."
531. n "His ragged breathing grows steadily louder, and I can feel each exhale brushing against my throat..."
532. n "..."

533. n "....."
534. u "\"Ngh-?!\""
535. n "All of a sudden, the pressure pinning me to the wall vanishes."
536. mc "\"...?\""
537. n "When I open my eyes – {w}I realize the man's no longer there."
538. n "No, he's still here, but now..."
539. mcp "\"You-!\""
540. u "\"Kh...\""
541. n "With a loud grunt, a familiar man in a dark jacket swings his fist towards my
attacker."
542. urp "\"Tch! Fuckin' Dominic!\""
543. urp "\"I {i}knew{/i} you were out here, ahahaha!\""
544. n "The redhead lets out a gleeful laugh as he dodges the punch, moving at an
incredible speed."
545. n "A second later, he aims a lightning-fast blow of his own towards the other man
– Dominic."
546. d "\"...\""
547. n "With an unchanging expression, Dominic smoothly sidesteps."

548. n "The next moment, his hand shoots out to swipe at his opponent's face."
549. u "\"Grh—!\\""
550. n "I hear the sound of something sharp cutting flesh —"
551. extend " and a moment later, blood starts to drip from the redhead's cheek."
552. u "\"Hahah... ahahaha!\\""
553. u "\"Dom, you're really mad! Wow!\\""
554. n "Rather than counterattacking, the tattooed man pauses, wiping off the blood
on his sleeve."
555. mc "\"—!\\""
556. n "...But before my very eyes, the claw-like gashes on his skin start to repair
themselves..."
557. n "Until they disappear completely, leaving him uninjured."
558. n "Am I going crazy? {w}There's no way any human could do something like
that..."
559. n "No, no, this has to be a bad dream, just a bad, bad, shitty dream...!"
560. u "\"Don't tell me you're worked up 'cause of this guy!\\""
561. u "\"Seriously? You wanna drain him that bad?\\""
562. d "\"...Enough.\\""
563. d "\"Don't bring him into this.\\""

564. n "Dominic's eyes narrow into slits as he stares at the man in the leather jacket, who's laughing as if he just heard the best joke on earth."
565. u "\"Hahaha—! Wow, wow! In that case, I'm gonna get my hands on him first!\""
566. u "\"Because... I wanna see you get way, way madder, Dom~\""
567. n "Rather abruptly, the tattooed man's face freezes, and his grin fades to a frigid, bloodthirsty expression."
568. u "\"I wanna see you suffer...\""
569. u "\"...Until you stop thinking of us as a fuckin' joke!\""
570. n "Just like that, he charges Dominic again, recklessly swinging frantic punches."
571. n "This time, though, he seems to be moving even faster than before, and his strikes are full of rage."
572. dp "\"—!\""
573. n "The assault is so powerful that Dominic retreats a little, losing a few feet of ground to the other man, who's clearly fueled by fury."
574. n "—They dodge and swipe at each other so quickly that my eyes can hardly follow their movements."
575. n "Their speed is completely inhuman, and the more I watch them, the more my blood runs cold."
576. n "Is it possible... {w}that they're really {i}not{/i} human?"

577. n "When my mind flashes back to the redhead's sharp fangs..."
578. extend " my stomach tightens, and a shiver wracks my body."
579. u "\"C'mere, Dom! I'm not gonna let you run away this time!\\""
580. n "With a menacing howl, the tattooed man leaps up —{w} pushing himself off the
wall to launch forward towards Dominic."
581. dp "\"Ngh...!\\""
582. n "When he doesn't manage to dodge in time, their bodies collide, and they
tumble to the ground."
583. n "—At this rate, one of them's going to end up torn open."
584. n "If I try to do something, they might turn on me, but can I really just stand here—
?"
585. old "Watch the fight"
586. old "Try to stop them"
587. n "...No, I shouldn't say anything."
588. n "These guys are obviously monsters, so if I involve myself now, I'll just get torn
apart."
589. n "And... their fighting is strangely mesmerizing to watch, even if it's a whole other
level of deadly."
590. n "...I have to say something."
591. n "Monster or not, I don't want to see someone get ripped apart in front of me!"

592. mcp "\"Dominic! Stop!\\""
593. mcp "\"Just throw him off and run!\\""
594. dp "\"...!\\""
595. n "Dominic seems to hear my words, but he keeps struggling with the violent
redhead, who's clawing at him with everything he's got."
596. n "Biting my lip, I watch the two men tussle frantically, their grunts filling the air,
until –"
597. u "\"...Whoa, what's going on here?\\""
598. u "\"Gentlemen, can you put things on hold for a moment?\\""
599. dp "\"...!\\""
600. urp "\"...!\\""
601. n "And at that instant, the fighting stops completely."
602. n "A tall figure approaches us from the alley's entrance, his face flashing into view
under the streetlamp."
603. mcp "\"Isaac...?\\""
604. i "\"...!\\""
605. n "After frowning at Dominic and the tattooed man, Isaac turns towards me, his
eyebrows shooting upwards."
606. i "\"Oh, you came after all!\\""

607. i "\"Sorry you had to see these two at their worst – but I {i}did{/i} promise Dom
would be here, didn't I?\""
608. mcp "\"...\""
609. n "–So that's who Isaac was referring to?"
610. n "How the hell did he know that I had met Dominic? {w}Wasn't that just a few
hours before I saw Isaac?"
611. n "He never came into the diner, either... so someone must have told him."
612. u "\"Fuck off, Isaac! You're not gonna stop me from tearing this shithead a new –
ngh!\""
613. n "Before the redhead can finish his sentence, Dominic suddenly throws him off
with a grunt."
614. n "He slams against the ground a few feet away, letting out a pained wheeze."
615. n "Chuckling, Isaac pushes up his glasses, looking completely unfazed."
616. i "\"Really, Rex, you need to learn when to hold back. You're going to embarrass
even your Helgen brothers.\""
617. r "\"...\""
618. n "As if Isaac just flipped a switch, the leather jacketed man seems to lose all of his
bloodlust."
619. n "Instead, he groans and rolls his eyes, looking like a kid who just got his favorite
toy taken away."

620. r "\"Ngh, whatever... Stupid old man...\""
621. n "—After Rex mutters a reply, the electric tension in the air around us gradually fades."
622. n "It's replaced by an uncomfortable, awkward pause, and the four of us exchange glances for a few seconds."
623. n "But after the adrenaline cloud in my brain finally dissolves, I take a deep breath and turn to Isaac."
624. mc "\"So, are you gonna explain what the hell is going on here?\""
625. mc "\"Sorry to ruin the moment, but some kind of explanation for all of this would be great.\""
626. n "My voice, which cracks slightly with anxiety, breaks the long moment of silence."
627. n "Dominic, Rex, and Isaac all stare at me, and now I understand how a rabbit must feel in a den of wolves."
628. mc "\"These guys... they're not {i}normal.{/i}\""
629. mc "\"You know that, don't you, Isaac?\""
630. n "When I pose my shaky question, Isaac throws a glance towards Dominic."
631. dp "\" ...\""

632. n "For a split second, it looks like Dominic winces faintly, his eyes narrowing."
633. n "But a cold, unreadable look soon washes over his features again."
634. i "\"Yes, [mc], I think it's obvious by now that they're not 'normal.'\""
635. n "Isaac finally speaks up, and I shift my gaze back over to him quickly."
636. i "\"You see, behind the spit-shine gloss of our beloved San Francisco is a much,
much darker underbelly... \'"
637. i "\"One that people like you usually go their whole lives without glimpsing.\'"
638. n "He straightens his tie with one hand, an impassive smile flickering on his face."
639. i "\"But once you get a taste of that darkness, there's no going back.\'"
640. i "\"For instance, if a hypothetical, cute little diner-boy decided he wanted to go
tell the police a funny story... \'"
641. i "\"...A tall, scary man in a dark jacket would want to make sure he never says
anything else again.\'"
642. mc "\"... \'"
643. n "At Isaac's casual threat, I glance back at Dominic in disbelief."
644. n "His lips are pulled into a grimace as he meets my gaze, and I think I see a hint of
guiltiness on his face."

645. n "—Does that mean he'd really kill me, just to stop me from telling anyone about what I saw tonight?"
646. i "\"Of course, that's all hypothetical.\""
647. i "\"Humans like us can work with our vampiric companions just fine, assuming no one gets loose lips.\""
648. mc "\"Wait... then you're not a vampire?\""
649. i "\"...\""
650. n "My shocked question makes Isaac pause for a second."
651. n "However, he quickly lets out a laugh and shakes his head, adjusting his tie with one hand."
652. i "\"Not really, no. Not like Rex and Dominic here, anyway.\""
653. rp "\"Don't lump me in with that piece of shit, Isaac...!\""
654. n "Rex loudly protests from where he leans against the wall, glaring at us."
655. i "\"Of course, I'm so sorry. Now, back to the subject at hand, [mc]...\""
656. n "Just as Isaac rolls his eyes and starts up again, a pair of light footsteps echoes from down the alley."
657. n "—Several moments later, a short blond rushes up beside Isaac, panting a little."
658. l "\"Haah... phew...\""
659. l "\"I-Isaac, I'm sorry I'm la— eh?!\""

660. n "Halfway through his sentence, Luka breaks off sharply."
661. n "He stares at me with saucer-like eyes, and I stare back in astonishment."
662. mcp "\"Luka...?\""
663. mcp "\"Hang on a second... Were {i}you{/i} the one who told Isaac that I met
Dominic?\""
664. n "As bizarre as the whole situation is, the pieces are starting to fall into place."
665. n "This little brat was trying to get me to tell him about 'shady' types – {w}in other
words, find people who might be vampires for him...?"
666. I "\"...\""
667. n "Luka's surprised, then flustered, reaction confirms my suspicions, and he averts
his gaze sheepishly."
668. I "\"Yeah, so? It was pretty clear you were trying to protect him...\""
669. n "At that, Luka's eyes flick over towards Dominic, taking on a certain sharpness."
670. n "He glances over at Rex with the same hateful look, too. {w}Does Luka know
both of them already?"
671. ip "\"...All right, let's not get too excited.\""
672. n "Letting out a long sigh, Isaac pinches the bridge of his nose with his thumb and
forefinger."
673. i "\"It seems there's some miscommunication going on here. You see –\""
674. u "\"—I'll split your fucking skull open!\""

675. n "...During Isaac's second attempt to explain the situation to me, an entirely different noise splits through the air."
676. u "\"Oh, yeah? I'd like to see you try! Hahaha!\""
677. n "The not-so-distant sound of a fight floods towards us from a neighboring alleyway."
678. n "It's not just two voices, either. {w}Actually, it sounds like a lot more than that... like a party of the worst, bloodiest kind."
679. i "\"Ugh. This is getting to be downright comical.\""
680. i "\"Of course they'd decide to go at it tonight... animals, really.\""
681. n "Despite the scornful nature of his words, Isaac seems to brighten up all of a sudden."
682. l "\"Damn it... why are the clans fighting now, of all times? Is every vampire in San Francisco out here tonight?\""
683. n "Luka sounds irritated, even though Isaac is obviously pleased. Some kind of gang war must be going on."
684. n "The second I open my mouth to ask a question, however, Isaac takes off running – {w}directly towards the source of the noise."
685. l "\"Wait, Isaac! Where are you –\""
686. n "Luka starts to jog after Isaac with an exasperated cry, glaring at the other man's back."

687. d "\"...\""

688. n "At the same time, Dominic turns to head in the opposite direction, apparently disinterested."

689. n "His long strides take him towards the end of the alley quickly, making it clear that he doesn't want to stick around."

690. n "—Rex, however, makes a beeline straight for... me?!"

691. r "\"Just you and me now, baby~ Don't be shy!\""

692. n "...Oh, boy."

693. n "This night just went from bad to awful in the span of about fifteen minutes."

694. n "But if I want to figure out what the hell's going on with these guys, I'd better choose what to do right now —"

695. old "Chase after Dominic"

696. old "Follow Luka (unlocked)"

697. old "Follow Luka"

698. old "Catch up"

