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**EAC384: Creative Project #1 - Creative Work**

### **I think this will work? A short story**

"No!" A convincing shriek of despair that came from the lobby has filled the whole vacation house.

I was going down the stairs to clean the lobby. When I heard the scream, I looked down and saw Ellen next to the bloody and still trembling body of her husband Saul.

"Oh.. no, What happened here?" I shockingly asked.

"I don't know Paris. I really don't," Ellen replied as she tried to comfort and stop the bleeding of her husband.

"Mom! What happened?" Ellen's kids shouted as they came from the corridor. I was surprised.

"Don't come down here! Stay in your room. Paris, please make sure they are in the room."

I went up quickly to go to the kids. "Hey kids!" As I tried to be friendly, I suddenly felt a rush of guilt. "I will tell you sometime but please.. Please stay in your room okay?". I put my arms around their shoulders and guided them to their rooms.

"Why? Why!" Tina, our head servant, went down the stairs and rushed to Saul's body. She pushed Ellen aside then tears flowed down while she tried to stop the bleeding by pressing her apron to Saul's head. Saul struggled to tell her something but only blood came out of his mouth. I finished guiding the kids back to their rooms. I went back to the lobby. Tina noticed me coming in and glared at me.

"Paris! Stop looking around and get some bandages and alcohol at the servants quarters," Tina tried to fight her tears and be the loyal head servant. "Move! Quickly!"

At the start of summer, Saul and his wife Ellen, together with their kids and us, their servants, went to their vacation house. During this break, they didn't let us work so we could relax and have a vacation. Even though they tell us to relax, we still do our work because of their kindness and most especially their good salary. Saul and Ellen treated everyone, from their business partners to their servants, pleasantly except to each other.

Last night, all of us passed through the corridor to go to the servants quarters. In front of the couple's room, we heard their shouting match.

"You cheated on me too! You are not as perfect as you think!" Saul shouted. I glanced at Tina and she glared back at me.

"Shut up. This is over. The kids will stay with me," Ellen replied.

"No! I will not let that happen!" Saul screamed then we heard a loud slap.

Saul always shouted the loudest and sometimes hurt Ellen. When this happened, Ellen wore a headscarf the next day. Today, she wore a headscarf and sunglasses. She does not deserve this and I hate Saul for hurting her. But should I do it?

Going back to the lobby with bandages and alcohol in hand, Tina and Ellen have their own shouting match.

"Don't blame me for this. And do not talk to me like that! You're maybe Saul's mistress but you're still my servant!" Ellen confronted Tina.

"You're still a murderer. You, both of you and Paris!" Tina replied. She tried to calm herself down. She picked up her phone and called the police.

"How dare you call me a murderer! Paris and I entered the lobby together then we saw Saul's body. How about you? After pushing Saul, you quickly hide? You dirty woman!"

"No! You liar!" entering and going down the lobby, Tina suddenly gave a sharp look "Both of you, liars!" Tina dropped the phone, moved swiftly and snatched the bandage violently, the alcohol bottle dropped but she quickly went for it and rushed to Saul's body. She cleaned the blood around his head and clumsily applied pressure to his wounds. Saul fought for his life but he lost too much blood and he let out his last breath.

Tina, with a look of disbelief, shook Saul's body as she tried to revive him. He didn't respond. Tina wailed and let out all of her emotions. She stopped and her body started to shake. She clenched her fists and all of a sudden she stood up, glared again at me and exerted all her remaining energy to pounce "I will kill you Paris!"

There were successive loud knocks on the front door. Everyone stopped what they were doing "This is the police. Open the door!" Ellen opened the door. The police entered and were shocked to see the blood in the lobby. "What happened here?"

Ellen cried as she spoke, "My head servant, Tina, suddenly pushed my husband from the stairs to the lobby injuring his head," She stopped as she sighed and mustered all the sorrow and pain to her voice. "My husband is now dead, and my servant Tina suddenly blames me and is now attacking my other servant. Please stop her!"

The police looked at the blood on Tina's dress and immediately sprinted to grab Tina and put handcuffs on her. "I did not do anything!" Tina resisted their arrest but the police still dragged her out of the house. "Maam Ellen, other officers will come here to investigate this incident. Please take a rest and I'm very sorry for your loss," Tina stopped resisting and accepted her fate as they escorted her inside the car.

The house was silent but was filled with blood and distress. It's spring season but it feels like winter. Ellen and I looked at each other and nodded in agreement that finally, everything ended.

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And that is how I expected everything to unfold.

"As I have said," Saul continued as we walked through the stairs. "Pack up your things and leave immediately. I know the relationship between you and Ellen. I will not pry about it and you don't need to deny it as I know the truth. Go now."

Ellen was in the lobby. I looked at her and behind her sunglasses, I still could read her miserable eyes saying "Do it now," And I nodded.

I'm at Saul's back. Just one, strong push and everything ends. All the pain and misery of Ellen.

But I didn't do it.

Tina entered the lobby carrying all of my things. "Thank you. Goodbye," I nodded at her and picked up my things. She didn't reply and only glared at me. Maybe she should be more thankful that I didn't do it?

As I left the house, I felt Ellen's stare and heard her whimpers. I can't look at her because I betrayed her. But I think it's for the best.

Spring has come and irises have started to bloom. The wind blew and I could feel the earthy scent through my nose as it filled me with life and hope that everything will be fine. It has been a rough year for me. I took a final look at the house and breathed a sigh of relief. I will now go home and rest.

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