< 6 months ago, at college >

*Eric and Lisa are studying at a table*

Lisa: One week ‘til finals. You have any plans after the quarter?

Eric: Yeah. Zco’s offered me a full-time position after I graduate, so that can’t come soon enough.

L: Nice! I just picked up a 6-month internship at Yco, so I’ll be doing a parallel computing capstone with them while I finish my math minor.

E: That’s great! Hey, speaking of plans… are you busy at all later?

L: Um… yeah, actually. I’ve still got to study for finals. I’ll talk to you later, though!

E: Okay, sure!

< 1 month ago >

*The following text appears as a series of texts between Lisa and Eric*

E: You going to the conference

E: ?

L: The one in Portland?

E: yeah

L: Some of the talks look interesting, but I wouldn’t know anybody there.

E: Well, I'll be there with John, our CTO. He’s giving one of the talks

L: Really? I’d like the chance to talk with him. His work looks quite interesting.

E: I could introduce you two after his talk. You still doing parallel computing stuff right?

L: Yes, I am. I gave my capstone presentation last week.

E: Cool! One of our current projects deals with data manipulation, and we’re looking for another developer.

E: We’d be working together if you got the position

L: \*If\* I get the position. At the very least it’d be a great networking opportunity.

E: Okay! I’ll let you know what room his talk is at and you can meet us outside when it’s done

L: That would be great. Thank you!

E: Cya there!

< 1 hour ago, at the conference, immediately prior to John’s talk >

*Eric and John are standing at the “front” of the conference hall*

**E**: You ready for your talk?

**John**: I’ve given a few of these before, so I’m not too worried.

**E**: Right, yeah. And you’re still available afterwards to talk with Lisa?

**J**: That girl you told me about? I can make a few minutes, but I do need to use that time for people who are interested in my research.

**E**: Well, she sounded pretty interested in hearing your talk, and-

**J**: I’m sure she did.

**E**: and I think her skills would be a great addition to the team. I know we’d like someone who can do parallel computing, so-

**J**: Dr. Penrose! So glad to see you here. <*Aside, to Eric*> I really need to discuss some more important matters before I give my talk, you can finish telling me about your friend later.

**E**: Uh, sure. Okay.

*<At the conference, after John’s talk - John, Eric, and Lisa meet>*

**E**: John, this is Lisa. Lisa, John

**L**: Hello, nice to meet you. I’m Lisa.

**J**: A pleasure, Eric talks about you fondly.

*<Lisa and John shake hands, >*

**J:** Eric, I’m going to need some coffee I think, would you please get us some?

**E**: Sure… I’ll go get us some coffee, how do you take your coffee Lisa?

**L**: Oh, I’m ok, thanks though.

**J**: Go on Eric, and be quick about it, I have a feeling our conversation will be brief. If she had any experience in a postgraduate program she’d understand the importance of keeping her edge in places like this.

**E**: Uh, right, maybe the two of you could discuss Lisa’s research while I’m gone.

*<Eric leaves, and John silently chuckles at the suggestion>*

**L**: I saw your presentation earlier, I liked what you had to say about the importance of distributed systems. I must agree that all of the literature on the subject is indicating that it’s quickly becoming a key technological element for the future of machine learning and AI development.

**J**: Thank you, it isn’t often that I see such a young woman show this kind of interest in my research. It’s almost like you want something from me, or think that there’s something I can do for you?

<*Lisa shows visible frustration at John’s assumption that she wants something, but uses the fact that John has stated his expectations to her advantage*>

**L**: Yes actually, I was hoping for a moment of your time to…

*<John makes a sudden exaggerated gesture as if to capture the attention of another person outside of the current scene>*

**J:** Jerome! I was hoping to run into you today, don’t go far you old dog, I would like to get your take on how my presentation went today. *<back to Lisa>* Don’t stop, you’re wasting both of our time now.

*<Lisa looks both shocked and angered by the blatant contradiction between John’s words and actions>*

L: I was hoping to discuss your thoughts in considering parallel computing systems as being the other side of...

**J**: Aha, Eric must have told you about my doctoral thesis.

I studied parallel computation while I was working on my Ph.D.

You see, further development in technologies centered around parallel computation is a futile endeavor so long as Intel’s paradigm of fewer, more powerful individual cores continues to reign over supreme over the market.

*<John crosses his arms and widens his stance as he looks smug for having shown this upstart her place.. or something>*

**L**: Yes indeed, that notion was valid until recently, but with last year’s release of DirectX12 and Vulcan’s API introducing new, more useable tools for developers to write multithreaded software we are seeing a change in both AMD and….

**J**: Hah, *<John makes air quotes as he says indeed>* “indeed”, you sound like this particularly stuffy old professor from my days as an undergrad, but please, go on.

**L**: Huh,

*<Lisa, hiding an angry sneer, assumes a stance similar to John’s, but with an emphasis on straightening her back and tilting her head back in order to look down her nose at him>*

“Indeed”, Doctor, I do concur, but wouldn’t you say that we are on the verge of needing to reassess the roll of parallel computation in distributed systems?

**J**: <Initially angry> You know… *<John pauses and takes a second to reflect on what just happened>* You know, I must admit that was rather clever of you, to roll with the punch like that, but mind yourself that you don’t assume an overly familiar attitude towards me.

**L**: *<Through a strained smile>* Thank you for your advice, sir. Now, if don’t mind, I would like to show you my GitHub repository containing a data-dashboard showcasing my own research findings.

<*Lisa pulls her laptop out of her bag and shows John her GitHub page*>

<John *Stares at the page and scrolls down a bit, looking as if he’s searching for something specific*>

As you can see, these findings show the implications of near-future advancements in multithreading focused CPUs

**J**: I see that you are doing a lot of data cleaning and preparation in Java here, I would have used Python. It shows competence to use the right tool for a given job you know, it just goes to show that you’re still just a little girl when it comes to how you think about software design.

**L**: Actually, I made a note on that in the comments for my input handling class, so I agree that Python would be preferred, but the company I am interning with chose to use Java on this project in order to meet customer specs.

**J**: I find that hard to believe, and besides the obvious poor choice in language, any veteran Java-dev could see that your code fails to properly utilize lambda functions and Stream operations to optimize your code’s efficiency.

**L**: Again, thank you for the advice, sir. Pedantics aside, would you mind sharing your thoughts regarding what the data shows?

<*Eric returns with the coffee*>

**J**: Pedantics!? Just who the hell do you think you are young lady!? *<John mutters to himself about Lisa being unbelievable>* No, I won’t “share” my thoughts. I don’t feel comfortable giving a conclusive statement to some little girl that has already misinterpreted my **essential** prerequisite criteria as merely being pedantic. I don’t believe that I can trust you to properly understand my conclusions.

*<John turns to Eric>*

About time. <*John takes a cup, then turns back to Lisa*> If you want to talk more on this subject, I suggest that you try some special interest pity group, because you certainly can’t handle meaningful professional criticism such as what has just been handed to you, you are truly ungrateful. *<John exits*>

*<Lisa looks at first shocked, then scared, then mad>*

**E**: <*Hands a cup to Lisa*>. Whoa! What was that about? Did you try to argue with him? You know, it’s not smart to question such a well-established man’s integrity.

But I also must admit that your spunk is a part of why I like you so much. You should let me talk to him for you, to smooth things over. I’ve seen him angry like this often, he’ll cool soon enough and then we can try to get you a job at Zco again. Just don’t try to challenge his genius again.

**L**: **Honestly** Eric, would you please stop?

**E**: Stop what?

**L**: I did not challenge his *<Lisa makes air quotes>* “genius,” nor did we discuss my working at Zco. Not because he wouldn’t allow it, but because I don’t **need** to work in an environment where my work is automatically dismissed because I’m just a “little girl”, nor do I **want** to work somewhere that my colleagues only see me as a prospective date!

**E**: Whoa again! Did I do something wrong? I am sorry if I offended you.

**L**: Eric, get a clue, are you trying to be ignorant of what just happened? Your lack of concern here shows **me** that **you** aren’t seeing me a whole person.

It’s like you only see me the way you want to see me, and not as who I am.Otherwise you would have noticed how your boss just dismissed the plain and simple presentation of my research findings. That he did so based solely on his pedantic discrepancies with the language choice of my code base; he then used that weak pedantic excuse to justify why he couldn’t be bothered to objectively evaluate the actual science of my work. I

**E**: Ok,

**L**: He certainly thinks he does. <*Sigh*>. There’s another talk starting soon, and I don’t want to miss it. I’ll see you later, Eric. Thanks for the coffee.

**E**: Oh, okay. See you.