

ORIGIN STORY

by

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SETTING — A café with six tables all in a row.

CHARACTERS — GOSSIPS 1 through 7.

AT RISE — GOSSIPS 1 and 2 are seated at an end table. All other GOSSIPS are seated sequentially one per table.

GOSSIP 1

Okay, I'm going to tell you something I really shouldn't. I was sworn to secrecy. You can't tell anyone. Alright?

GOSSIP 2

Of course not!

GOSSIP 1

He's looking for another job.

GOSSIP 2

Oh my god.

GOSSIP 1

I know.

GOSSIP 2

Did he say why?

GOSSIP 1

Not exactly, but I've heard that it might be because of his boss... You know how she is...

GOSSIP 2 turns around, is now sitting with GOSSIP 3 at a different table.

GOSSIP 3

His boss did what?!

GOSSIP 2

I don't know exactly—hit on him maybe?—but he wants out of there immediately.

GOSSIP 3

Oh my god.

GOSSIP 2

I know.

GOSSIP 3

It must be really bad, whatever it is.

GOSSIP 2

I mean, yeah...

GOSSIP 3 turns around, is now sitting
with GOSSIP 4 at a different table.

GOSSIP 4

He slept with his boss and now she's forcing him to quit?!

GOSSIP 3

You can't tell anyone.

GOSSIP 4

Of course not—that's not my place. But why isn't he suing
their asses off?

GOSSIP 3

They have something on him, I guess.

GOSSIP 4

Like what??

GOSSIP 3

Maybe an accident at the lab that was his fault? Or got
blamed on him...

GOSSIP 4 turns around, is now sitting
with GOSSIP 5 at a different table.

GOSSIP 5

How bad was the accident?

GOSSIP 4

You can't tell anyone.

GOSSIP 5

I would never!

GOSSIP 4

It must have been really bad—no one's talking about it,
probably because they can't.

GOSSIP 5

Oh my god.

GOSSIP 4

I know.

GOSSIP 5 turns around, is now sitting
with GOSSIP 6 at a different table.

GOSSIP 6

So that's how he got his superpowers??

GOSSIP 5

You can't tell anyone. I mean it.

GOSSIP 6

Of course not!

GOSSIP 5

I hear he can bend steel. With his mind.

GOSSIP 6 turns around, is now sitting
with GOSSIP 7 at a different table.

GOSSIP 7

So is he going to keep his job and fight crime in his free
time??

GOSSIP 6

Actually, you can't tell anyone about this...

GOSSIP 7

(leaning forward)

Yeah??

GOSSIP 6

I heard... that he's actually looking for a different job.

GOSSIP 7

Oh.

(quick beat)

Who cares...?

END OF PLAY.