

Gullible Cassandra

Written by
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Int. The Airport - Night

[Scene 1]

Lights on. CASSANDRA is sitting down on the airport seat, with people walking around the airport. There are two people sitting a row behind her, they are chattering loudly. There is airport hustle and bustle noises. The noises fades out as CASSANDRA starts to talk.

CASSANDRA

(in tears)

Why won't I ever change? Why I so gullible?? I should have noticed all the fake stuff, all the white lies.

I shouldn't have let myself get tricked like that.

(The announcement for her plane departure plays and she trudges through the stage door with her luggage, her head hung low. Top of stage doorpost says 'Departure Gate'.)

Lights off.

Int. Home - Morning

[Scene 2]

Spotlight shines on a stack on butcher paper on a board. A stage crew flips back the pages until it says '20 days earlier'.

Lights on. LUCY, CASSANDRA's sister, is listening to music with her earphones. She is humming some K-pop tunes while surfing the internet on her laptop.

LUCY

Wah the new TWICE album is out!

(scrolls down)

Oh my gosh \$100 dollars for the silver-plated-signed-plus-chop plus-free-sticker-plus-free-tote-bag-limited-edition CD?! I must buy!

(clicks around)
Huh... I only got \$50 in my account...
Oh I know!

(in a sing song voice, with a sly
and mischievous look on her face)
Cassandraaa!

CASSANDRA stumbles into LUCY's room through the stage door.

CASSSANDRA
yes, what's up?

LUCY
(Lucy batters her eyelashes
innocently, her façade changing
tremendously. Her hand reaches out
to CASSANDRA)

Ma ask me take money from you for
my...um extra school materials leh.

CASSANDRA
Orh.
(takes out her wallet and gives her
\$10)

LUCY
(stares at the \$10 and pouts)
Jie...(this word is dragged out in a
whining manner) you know school
materials these days are so
expensive. I need \$50!

CASSANDRA
Is it? Okay then...
(is puzzled but slowly took out \$50
from her wallet and leaves the
stage)

LUCY

(snickering)

Oh god she so easy to trick sia.
(goes back to computer and clicks
around.)

Lights off.

Int. The Office - Morning

[Scene 3]

Lights on to reveal an office space. CASSANDRA enters from right side of stage in office attire, sits down at her desk. EMPLOYEE enters on left side of stage. He is in home clothes, and he sits on a chair. Beside the chair is a telephone. They cannot see each other as they are, technically, in different places. There are EMPLOYEES sitting behind CASSANDRA, on their computers, working. EMPLOYEE dials on the telephone. CASSANDRA picks up her handphone. The EMPLOYEES behind Cass look up.

EMPLOYEE

(fake coughing)

Sorry, Cassandra. I'm unable to make
it to work today cause I'm sick.
Very (fake coughs again) very sick.

CASSANDRA

(raises eyebrow)

Weren't you fine just yesterday? I
saw you posting on your social
media. You were having fun. Don't
lie to me ah.

EMPLOYEE

I promise, I'm really not lying! I'm
having a serious case of stomach
ache after eating some bad stuff
yesterday (groans in pain).

CASSANDRA

(furrows her eyebrows)

Oh, I see. OK take care of yourself then. I'll see you when you recover.
(She puts on her earphones)

EMPLOYEE 1 behind CASSANDRA
Wah like that also can! Must be Kok Seng. Aiyah Cass also so gullible, I wonder how she ever became manager.

EMPLOYEE 2
Yea lor. Kok Seng obviously going out to watch Black Panther, I heard him tell John the other day.

EMPLOYEE 3
Oh yea! Morning half price!

All shake head and go back to work. Lights off.

Int. Home - Night

[Scene 4]

Spotlights turn on toward the giant butcher paper. Stage crew flips to '15 days earlier'. Lights on. CASSANDRA's MOTHER is in CASSANDRA's room using CASSANDRA's laptop. CASSANDRA is lying on her bed reading some magazines.

MOTHER
(typing on laptop, looking slightly confused)

Cass ah! Can come help me here can?

CASSANDRA
Huh? Okay.

MOTHER
Hurry! Important!

CASSANDRA
What is it Ma?

MOTHER

(complaining)

Aiya these days technology so
difficult to understand.

(pushes herself from the computer)
Can help me sell this wallet? I go
buy dinner while you do this

CASSANDRA

Orh.

(busy on computer trying to sell the
wallet)

KENNETH, CASSANDRA's brother, has been eavesdropping just
outside the room, hiding behind the door post.

KENNETH

(to the audience)

Mother never scolds Cassandra and
that's like so unfair sia. Why
should the oldest get the best
treatment? Tsk, I've had enough of
this girl liao lah

KENNETH

(peeks at price)

Eh? You selling for \$200? This
wallet so old you think people want
to buy ah? Tsk. Come I help you
(takes over CASSANDRA's seat in
front of computer and types)

CASSANDRA

(looks over KENNETH's shoulder at
the screen)

Oh, so little? But Ma say she need
the money-

KENNETH

(interrupts)

\$50 enough lah! She sure happy one.
Which one you think she prefers, \$50
now or \$200 in 1 year's time?

CASSANDRA

Orh. Ok then you help me do ah
(goes back and read magazine)

KENNETH

There! All done. See got people want
to buy already

CASSANDRA

(looking at her magazine)
wah ok

KENNETH runs off and hides at the door post, and along the way
bumps into the MOTHER, who has returned after buying food. She
looks at the screen.

MOTHER

Wah Lau! Cass did you put \$50 as the
asking price?

CASSANDRA

(Comes over to the laptop)
Yea why? Oh look! Sold the wallet
already! 7 people wanted to buy sia.
Wahh

MOTHER

(fuming with anger,
clenching her fists)
what?! \$50?! My wallet was worth
\$250 you know?!

CASSANDRA

Ma! Kenneth told me \$50 now is
better than \$200 in the future, and
that-

(starts to think for herself and realizes it's very silly. Meanwhile, Kenneth comes into room and points to her and laughs)

MOTHER

Will you never learn? Stop trusting people so easily! (pulls Kenneth's ear) Look at Kenneth, that's why I never ask him to do things, he can't take things seriously one!

(looks and points at KENNETH)
you later watch out, going to tell your father

(looks at CASSANDRA then at the screen)
So now how?

CASSANDRA

Erm... can change the price, but since people accept already my selling rating will drop. Aiyah nevermind small issue I'll just delete the listing and sell again.

MOTHER

(storms out of room and mutters)
Aiyah, next time don't listen to your brother, you know he likes to talk nonsense.

Int. Cassandra's room - Night

[Scene 5]

CASSANDRA

(talking to herself)
Ma go scold me like what sia. Help her also never appreciate. Also not my fault, he made sense at that time. Aiyah so stupid.

(scrolls through her whatsapp)

I can't even rant to anyone because
all my friends busy. One need walk
her hamster, the other one doing her
homework. I also don't know how
lah...sigh.

[she thinks for a moment, silence
engulfing her]

It's true though, right? I **am** very
gullible. What can I do sia? Sigh

(phone buzzes with sound)

CASSANDRA

(surprised)

someone messaged me? Wah, it's
someone from that dating app I
downloaded...for fun. I think it's
called tender, or something. (Reading
out loud) Hey girl h-

(Tok soon enters stage beside her as
she talks, looking down at his phone
with a smile on his face)

TOK SOON

-ow you doing?

CASSANDRA

(looks up from phone)

Oh my god it's a cute guy! And he
looks exactly like Suga from BTS
sia. Suga and tok soon, haha, they
could be exact twins, omg. But ah,
I'm not going to talk to a guy I've
never met, that would be soooo
dange-

TOK SOON

(interrupts her thoughts with
another message, she looks at her
phone)
you're really pretty.

CASSANDRA

(immediately gushing, replying)
Hehe thanks Tok Soon. Wow, I'm
really flattered *acting bashful,
doing the floppy hand thing* but
y'know ah, it's a miracle my face
not full of pimples with the stress
my brother gives me!

TOK SOON

(sends another message)
It's a miracle you're still single.

They continue conversing for a while, changing positions throughout the span of the conversation [i.e Cassandra changes from sitting on the chair to sitting in a criss-cross position on the floor and so on]. Lights off. Romantic Music is playing.

Int. Cassandra's room - Night

[Scene 6]

Lights on. Romantic music fades out. Calendar is flipped to 10 days earlier'. CASSANDRA and TOK SOON are now talking over the phone.

CASSANDRA

(Complaining on the phone.)
Wah so smooth ah you, but for real
leh my brother is such a pain! A few
days ago he go lie to me! He always
does that, and I always believe him.
And then my mom always scolds me for
it. No one treats me properly or
cares about my feelings. Sometimes I
don't even know what my worth is to
my family. (Cassandra sighs deeply)

TOK SOON

(replying)

Don't know about your family, but
where I'm at right now, girls like
you are priceless.

CASSANDRA

Where you're at right now? You mean
you're not in Singapore?

TOK SOON

You didn't know? I'm in Taiwan right
now! Doing some business before
coming back to Singapore.

CASSANDRA

You're in Taiwan??

TOK SOON

Yeah, I guess it's a long way from
Singapore but your beauty transcends
the distance. Winky face.

CASSANDRA

aww! Thanks, don't make me blush
leh. You're so easy to talk to! No
wonder you keep insisting on talking
through internet calls!

(MOTHER calls from offstage)

MOTHER

CASSANDRAAAA!!

CASSANDRA

(with a dreary voice)

I've to go Tok Soon, talk soon ah.
my ma is calling.

TOK SOON
Don't worry, I'll be right here
waiting babe..

CASSANDRA blushes and hangs up.

CASSANDRA
(to the audience)
Oh my gosh, did he just call me
babe? Does this mean we're boyfriend
girlfriend now..?

CASSANDRA giggles and runs off just as the lights
go off.

Int. Tok Soon's Room - Night [Scene 7]
Lights on. TOK SOON's expression is different. He is scrolling
through his laptop.

TOK SOON
Hmmm... works at DBS as an accountant...
been there since 2014. Wah her bank
account must be huge.

(clicks on mouse)
Hmmm... her photos all show her with
girl friends. Looks like she's never
even been close to a guy before...
Probably never had a boyfriend
before. Simple girl, simple mind. I
think it's time to strike.

Int. Cassandra's room - Night [Scene 8]
Spotlight turns on toward the giant board with the butcher
paper. Stage crew flips back till it says '5 days earlier'.

TOK SOON

(doing his nails, with his shoulder propping the handphone against his cheek)

Cassy sweetie...we've only met like, a month ago? But I believe in love at first text so I have something really important to ask you..

CASSANDRA

something really impor-

(Covers phone, paces across room before looking at the audience)

Is he... proposing?? Ohmygodohm-

CASSANDRA

(replying)

Yes baby, what is it? I can help you with whatever you want!

TOK SOON

I'm in a really tough situation right now. And I - I just can't handle it anymore.

(Tok Soon chokes on his words, as if he's going to cry.)

CASSANDRA

(Trying to hide disappointment)

Oh... no, what happened?

TOK SOON

Actually, nevermind... I'd rather not talk about it. Please, it's just too hard to deal with.

CASSANDRA

(looking really worried)

Please. Tell me. I'll try my best to understand. I'm really good at understanding others!

TOK SOON

Thank you so much babe. I... look I gotta go. Talk to you another time.. whatever happens, know that you're the first girl I ever really felt safe with... I... I gotta go-
(hangs up)

CASSANDRA

Tok Soon! Hello? Oh no! Is he ok? He sounded like his life was at risk or something... Tsk. I should have probed further, maybe he would have told me!

Int. Office - Afternoon

[Scene 9]

Spotlight turns on toward the giant board with the butcher paper. Stage crew flips back till it says '4 days earlier'. Lights on to reveal CASSANDRA at work. She is trying to type on the laptop but is very frustrated. She looks at her phone, gets even more frustrated.

CASSANDRA

It's been a whole day! How come he hasn't returned any of my text?
(goes back to work on her laptop but her phone vibrates; a text message is received.

(TOK SOON appears at the doorway)

TOK SOON

Hey babe, sorry to keep you waiting.
Don't worry, I'm ok.

CASSANDRA

What happened..? Can talk on the
phone?

TOK SOON

Apologies can't talk now. Mouth
still a little sore...

CASSANDRA

Sore..? Were you involved in a
fight? Please, tell me what's going
on!

TOK SOON

OK. I didn't want to mention this
but... I made a bad investment in
Taiwan, and now loan-sharks are
after me. Yesterday they came to
look for me and... (CASSANDRA gasps)
I'm trying, but the business just
isn't doing well...

CASSANDRA

How much do you owe them..?

TOK SOON

No, I don't want to take your money.
I'm a man!

CASSANDRA

Just tell me, please.

TOK SOON

I really need 10,000 dollars to
settle this problem once and for
all...

CASSANDRA

10,000? Erm...

TOK SOON

(gets a bit worried)

You know, actually, all this talk
has gotten me thinking. I really
want to be with you. I mean, be with
you like forever.

CASSANDRA

(Excited, sitting in a tense
position)

Do you mean..?

TOK SOON

Yes. I wanna meet you. I wanna take
care of you. (CASSANDRA covers her
mouth) But... I'm just so scared right
now.

CASSANDRA

Just pass me your bank account! I'll
transfer it now! Your safety is the
most important!

TOK SOON

I promise you, Cass: I'll fly back
as soon as the things are settled.
We can be together then! I love you
Cassandra! You honestly mean so, so
much to me. Thank you! I gotta go,
talk to you soon ok!

CASSANDRA

(CASSANDRA's heart is fluttering, is
blushing, holds phone to chest)
Ah, yes! I've been waiting for this
moment for like, ages!

CASSANDRA is happily dancing around the office as the lights go
off.

Int. Home - Evening

[Scene 10]

Spotlight turns on toward the giant board with the butcher paper. Stage crew flips back till it says '2 days earlier'. Cassandra is seen pacing the stage, tapping on her phone incessantly.

CASSANDRA

Where could he be? He said he'll be
planning to fly back after he's
settled his issues
(Cassandra sits around, pondering
for a moment)

CASSANDRA

Maybe he's in trouble! All alone in
Taiwan... Maybe, maybe I should go
look for him! He could be in
trouble!

(Cassandra looks up brightly)

CASSANDRA

That's right! I *should* do that. I
remember he texted me his apartment
address before. I'll just go over
and see how I can help! Just need to
get some air tickets... I'm coming Tok
Soon!

Cassandra begins furiously searching for air tickets on
computer. Lights off.

Ext. Outside Apartment - Afternoon

[Scene 11]

Lights on to reveal a corridor. Butcher paper says '1 day
earlier'. CASSANDRA enters from back stage. She is carrying some
luggage and rings the doorbell. She whips out her phone.

CASSANDRA

#05-13... This should be it. Here goes
nothing.

(Rings doorbell, after which a lady
opens the door.)

TENANT

Who you looking for?

CASSANDRA

Erm... is Tok Soon around?

TENANT

Who? Tok Soon? There's no Tok Soon
here! Wrong address!

CASSANDRA

Sorry auntie, is this Feng Guo Shi
Street, Block 858?

TENANT

Yes, correct, but there's no Tok
Soon here.

CASSANDRA

Huh..? Correct address but no Tok
Soon..?

(tries to peer in, which makes the
tenant agitated)

TENANT

Oei! You want me to call the
Police?? I've been staying here for
20 years: there's no Tok Soon here!
(Slams door)

CASSANDRA

(bewildered) What's going on?

(Checks the phone message again)

It's correct what. He told me Feng
Guo Shi Street, Block 858, #05-13
what... He even showed me his google
street view. Why would he- (Looks up
at audience in shock as lights off)

Lights on. Butcher paper says 'Today'. CASSANDRA is waiting at the airport looking dejected. She's scrolling through her phone.

CASSANDRA

(angrily)

Damn you, Tok Soon!

(changes expression to worry)

what if... what if it was a typo? What if he actually stays at Block 859 instead of 858? I mean, I never clarified with him the address: he doesn't even know I was coming over!

(looks hesitant)

But... he stopped contacting me the moment I wired him the money.

(has an idea)

I know! I'll start a new account on Tender! Put a different face so he won't know. I remember his interests, so if I put the same interests, then we would probably match faster!

(whips out phone and starts typing)

Ah there we go!

(typing and reading out)

Hey boy, how are you?

(puts her phone down)

What am I doing, this is so silly. This whole thing is just one big misunders-

(Phone Buzzes. She is shocked. Her hands were shivering as she raised the phone to see)

Hey Jennifer baby, I'm doing just
great since you messaged me.

(covers her mouth)

Why won't I ever change?

Lights off.

THE END