Challenge: Microfiction

“That’s your receiver?”

The question catches the manager off guard, not something he had been expecting from the inspector making their rounds around the store and in the kitchens, fridges and back rooms, but now that it has been asked, he is curious where it is going to lead.

“Yes, that’s the receiver. Why? Do you need them for something? I'm sure they would be happy to take a moment away from what they are doing since there are no vendors currently if you need to check or discuss something with them.”

For a moment the inspector just looks at the receiver standing silently at their desk some distance away, working diligently on something at the computer, seemingly completely oblivious to the fact that they are the topic of discussion. The receiver shifts their weight smoothly from one foot to the other continuously, head tilting a little to the side with the top hat perched on their head tilting slightly and the single shoulder cape carefully tied on under one arm swaying along with them as they move.

“Do they always dress like that for work? Is that normal or is it a free dress day?”

A small surprised chuckle escapes the manager before he is able to stifle it, and a smile crosses his face while he moves slightly in order to have both the inspector and the receiver in his line of sight. Taking in the almost entirely black outfit of the receiver which prominently features the cape and top hat, which also includes black suspenders hanging down from back pants, black work boots, a black leather collar necklace with square silver studs along the length of it, the silver handled cane leaning against the desk next to them and the manager can't help but chuckle once more.

“No it is a themed dress day, the theme is Halloween costumes and there is a contest for the best costume, but I'm pretty sure that most of that is just their clothing and things that they have collected over the years that they have combined in order to make a costume, a Victorian Punk is what they said they were. Normally they wear our uniform shirt with cargo pants.”

The inspector looks over at the receiver once more who is still standing at the tall desk in front of the computer swaying slightly side to side with their cape moving rhythmically behind them, before making a small dismissive gesture and continuing on with the inspection.

Shaking his head, the manager makes a mental note to tell the receiver later about the question and turns to follow after the inspector while the receiver continues to sway happily from side to side in time with the music playing so softly from their phone that only they can hear it, head turned slightly to the side to watch for the potential approach of the inspector.

Kelly