

Lie Judger

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CHARACTERS

Teacher: A bald old man.

Apate: The Goddess who leads the game.

Livia: A girl who are usually bullied by Ego.

Ego: A wealthy boy whose family was aristocrat.

Ira: A black strong boy with scary tattoo.

Guttur: A fat boy who likes eating. He and Desidia are friends.

Desidia: A fat lazy girl who likes sleeping. She and Guttur are friends.

Midas: An ambitious boy.

Virgo: A very quiet girl who is Victor's girlfriend.

Victor: A smart but lazy student who is Virgo's boyfriend.

SETTING

Place: A classroom in a high school.

Time: At the ending of last class.

[As usual, Victor wakes up at the ending of last class and starts tidying up his stuff. When every student is ready to leave, the teacher suddenly slips down. However, after a while, under everyone's gaze, a gorgeous woman in black dress stands up.]

Livia: Hey, teacher, what are you doing? Are you doing a magic or cosplay?

Ego: Stupid Livia! How could a bald old man possibly dress up as such an elegant and noble lady? Definitely, it is magic. The magic derives from Aglaia, the personification of the glow of good health. Am I right, my lady?

Ira: Hey! If you have something to announce, please just say it directly. Otherwise, I gotta go.

Guttur: Wow, her dress looks nice, doesn't it, Desidia? [Speaking while eating an apple.]

Desidia: [Waking up and speaking with one eye open.] I agree with you.

Midas: This beautiful dress must be expensive!

Virgo: Do you like this dress, Victor? If you want, I am willing to buy one and wear it for you!

Victor: You're pretty, no matter what you wear. [Speaking and yawning.] I just wanna go back home and have a nap.

Apate: Wow, wow, wow. Hello, everyone, I am Apate, the goddess of truth. I hate lies. I am sent by God to play a game with you.

[When Apate is speaking, some students think she is joking and leave the classroom straight away. Nevertheless, as soon as the students step out of the classroom, their bodies explode without sounds. After a one-second silence, screams, shouts, and cries erupt. Someone rushes out of the door. Someone jumps out of

the window. Someone calls the police.

Nonetheless, after the one-second scream, the dead silence comes back. Only Livia, Ego, Ira, Guttur, Desidia, Midas, Virgo, and Victor stand still without any voice.]

Apate: [Smiling with a drop of diffusing blood flowing from her pitch-black hair to one side of the fair cheek.] Good! Everyone is ready to listen to the game rules. As I mentioned before, I hate lies. Thus, this game is about deception and honesty. I will ask you guys a question. You need to answer the question honestly. If anyone lies in the reply, you can choose the person who you think lied to leave the game by a vote. If the selected person is the liar, the game ends. Otherwise, the game will continue.

Victor: [The corners of his mouth twitch.] How...how can we know who the real liar is? [Speaking with swallowing the saliva and lowering the head.]

Apate: [Looking down at the rest of the people.] I am the goddess of truth. I can smell the lie. Do not question my ability. [Smiling

while wiping the blood.] Now, listen up. My first question is, “Do you think you are superior to other people?” I! Like! The! Truth!

Ego: Wow, my noble blood is telling the truth that I am much more honorable than other people. Besides, the pariah’s death and my survival are the best proofs. Only I have the qualification to talk to you, my beautiful goddess.

Livia: [Glaring at Ego and chewing her lower lip.] Yes, I am superior to others, too.

[Ego sneers after Livia speaks up.]

Ira: [Speaking angrily.] You two arrogant fools! Everyone is equal! Other’s death warned us and helped us survive! We should be grateful to them! You idiots!

Ego: [Angrily shouting back.] You idiot!

Guttur: [Fetching another apple from his bag to eat.] Hey, stop quarreling. It’s not the time to argue about who is more noble. We need to

calm down and give the honest answer. This is the most important thing.

Ego: OK, I don't wanna waste time on meaningless argument. You! Answer quickly!

Guttur: [Speaking while eating the apple] OK, my answer is I am not superior to others. I am just better at eating than common people.

Desidia: [Siting down.] I don't think I am superior to other people, either. I'm just better at sleeping.

Midas: OK, honestly speaking, I am not superior to most people now, but I will exceed everyone and stand at the top of the world's wealth and power one day.

Virgo: [Speaking in a quiet voice.] I'm a common people. I am not superior to others.

Victor: I am not superior to others, either. I am just a common student.

Apate: [Agonizingly grabbing her face with her fingers.] Nooooooo, it is the smell of lie.
Death! Death! Only death can erase this smell!
Vote!

Livia: I am sorry. I lied, because I can't bear Ego anymore. He is always self-important and usually devalues us. Do you want to keep this kind of bastard alive in the world? Come on. To make the world better and for god's sake, it is the time to get rid of this bastard! I think Ego is the liar! [Raising the hand.]

Ego: You bitch dare to murder me! You cockroach! Ant! Bedbug! I think Livia is the liar! [Raising the hand.]

Ira: I agree with you, Livia. I hate arrogant nobility. I think Ego is the liar. [Raising the hand.]

Guttur: [Fetching a banana from his bag to eat.] Well, Ego used to snatch my snacks. I hate him, as well. I think Ego is the liar. [Raising the hand.]

Desidia: [Closing the eyes.] Whatever, I will follow the majority. I think Ego is the liar.

Midas: Sorry, Ego, under this circumstance, we need your death to end this game. I think Ego is the liar.

Virgo: [Speaking in a quiet voice.] Is this too cruel for Ego? I abstain.

Victor: Well, I don't want to get involved in your personal grievances. I give up my voting right, too.

Apate: [Speaking with smile.] Great! The liar is selected.

Ego: [Panic-stricken.] No! No! No! You... [Ego explodes without sounds.]

Apate: [Speaking with smile.] Sorry. The person you selected was wrong, so the game will continue. Here is the second question, "Did you ever envy this man you just killed?"

Livia: I never envied rude and self-righteous man!

Ira: Honestly, although I didn't like Ego, I did envy that he could own a large fortune without effort.

Guttur: [Fetching another banana from his bag to eat.] Well, I was extremely jealous that Ego could have various snacks to eat.

Desidia: [Leaning over the table.] Rich people can do whatever they want. They can sleep from morning to night without livelihood concern. To be honest, I was jealous about Ego's life.

Midas: Honestly, I envied Ego's life, too. He was born in rich and power. I yearned for his wealthy and powerful family.

Virgo: [Speaking in a quiet voice.] Yes, I also envied Ego. His life was easier than ours, because of his family.

Victor: Well, it sounds like everyone is telling the truth. I hope this game will end after my answer. I envied Ego. His family gave him so many conveniences that he could live without any concerns. I was eager for his carefree life.

Apate: [Yelling.] No! No! Liar! One of you lied!

Victor: [Shocked.] Why? Why did you guys lie? Please, do not do what Livia did. It is not justice! We need to finish this fatal game!

Ira: I have to say I don't think that Livia never envied Ego. Regarding human nature, everyone should be a little bit jealous about wealthy people from the bottom of their hearts because their life is easier and better than others. She probably didn't realize she was lying, because of her anger on Ego. [Raising his hand and glancing at everyone.]

[After a short silence, except Livia, everyone raises their hands one after another.]

Livia: OK, I'm used to being bullied, but you will regret. You... [Livia explodes without sounds.]

Apate: [Speaking with smile.] I am quite sorry, but the game will continue.

Ira: [Yelling.] No! No! It doesn't make sense.

Apate: [Speaking with smile.] The third question is, "Did you ever do school bullying on others?"

Ira: [Angry.] Hey, are you directly pick on me? It is true that I have a strong body and a scary tattoo, but I never did school bullying. I never did school bullying on anybody!

Guttur: [Speaking while eating chips.] Well, Ira, why are you flurried and annoyed? No one said you did school bulling. [Raising hand.]

Desidia: [Sitting and supporting her face with right hand.] Yes, you overreacted, Ira. [Raising the left hand.]

Midas: Now, I have the reason to suspect that you lied last round, Ira. What are you scheming for? [Raising hand.]

Virgo: [Speaking in a quiet voice.] Can we just calm down? Perhaps, he got discrimination before. Everyone has his or her own sad story.

Victor: Yes, we should calm down and make an analysis, as opposed to doubting each other.

Ira: [Angry.] Exactly, how could you raise your hands without hesitation, you murderers? Besides, the goddess hasn't even said that someone is ly... [Ira explodes without sounds.]

Apate: [Clandestinely putting down the hand she just raised and speaking with smile.] Woops, he is not the liar. Now, it is the fourth question, "Do you work hard in your study?"

Victor: [Crouching with his head in his arms and speaking in a low voice.] No! No! No! It is ridiculous. No...

Virgo: [Squatting nearby Victor.] Are you Okay, Victor?

Desidia: [Standing up.] Well, this is a good question. As you may not know, I do work hard on my study, though I like sleeping anywhere anytime.

Guttur: [Fetching a packet of chips from his bag to eat.] I don't buy it. You always sleep in class. Sleeping in class means lack of effort in study, Desidia.

Desidia: Guttur, don't look down on me. Seemingly, I was sleeping, but I was just trying to find the most comfortable way to listen to the teacher.

Guttur: [Speaking while eating chips.] Desidia, do not fool yourself. I know you are lazy. I am lazy, too. It is not a shame to tell the truth.

Desidia: I admit I'm lazy in many aspects, but I do work hard in study. Trust me, my friend.

Apate: [Shouting.] One of you is lying! The lie is corrupting and stinking!

Guttur: [Speaking while eating chips.] See, Desidia, stop telling the lie. Come on, please say you didn't work hard.

Desidia: No, Guttur! I know who I am. I'm telling the truth. You are telling the lie. It is you who need to stop telling the lie.

Guttur: [Throwing away the taker-bag of chip.] O!K! You guys judge who the liar is, Midas, Virgo, Victor!

[The chips fell to the ground and broke into pieces.]

Midas: [Raising the hand.] Sorry, I can't trust you, Desidia. I can't imagine a student who likes sleeping in class is a good student. If you don't show your ability in front of others, no one could help you.

Virgo: [Speaking in a quiet voice.] Sorry, I and Victor don't want to judge anymore. We abstain.

Victor: [Crouching with his head in his arms and speaking in a low voice.] This is wrong. Everything goes wrong...

Desidia: Guttur, for the last time of asking, do you trust me or not?

Guttur: Sorry, Desidia, I don't know whether I should believe you or not. I abstain. You can vote on Midas, then you will have the same...

[Desidia explodes without voice in front of Guttur.]

Apate: [Clandestinely putting down the hand she just raised and speaking with smile.] Wow, sorry, this girl told the truth. Therefore, here is the fifth question, "Do you think you are a glutton"?

[Guttur picks up a complete slice of chip with Desidia's blood, and bites it with tears of regret, and nods his head slowly.]

Guttur: [Speaking while eating the chip.] Guess what? It is a judgement. It is a judgement from God. In Ira's round, we didn't tell anything about our school bullying, but the vote killed Ira. Why? Because it wasn't a game of honesty from the beginning. All the questions have potential guidance. We are potentially led to judge others. Ego died for his pride. Livia died for her envy. Ira died for his wrath. Desidia died for her sloth. And I am going to die for my gluttony. All of us are sinners. We are going to be punished for our sins. No one can escape. [Raising the hand.] At least, let me judge myself. I vote on myself!

Midas: You are right. It wasn't a game from the beginning. It is a torture. I give up and abstain.

Virgo: [Speaking with tears.] Oh, no! I can't endure it anymore! Can I quit the game?

Apate: [Speaking with smile.] No, you can't.
The only way to finish the game is vote.

Virgo: [Desperate.] I... abstain.

Victor: [Crouching with his head in his arms
and keeping silent for a while.] I...
abstain...too.

Guttur: Thanks. [Guttur explodes without
sounds.]

Apate: [Speaking with smile.] No, he is not the
liar. Wow, the sixth question! "Are you greedy
for money and power?"

Midas: Now, it's my turn. [Raising her head and
shouting.] Come on, God. If you want to punish
me, just do it. I am not afraid of you! I am
greedy for money and power. So what? It is not
my sin? It is my dream! Even if Azrael can take
my life, he will never take my dream!

Victor: [Suddenly standing up.] Wait! As Guttur
said, all of us are judges. Can we just give up

our judgement? No judgement, no death! All of us should abstain!

Virgo: It does make sense, Victor. I abstain.

Midas: Really? It seems Azrael can't take my life today. Your game is not perfect, God! I abs... [Midas explodes without voice.]

Apate: [Putting down her hand.] Sorry, God is perfect. God also gives me the right to vote, in case all of you abstain. Go on! The question seven! "Are you virgins?"

Victor: Stop your lying please, Apate! The goddess of lies! I've already found something weird, since Livia's round. As soon as every tells the truth, no one would die. Except Ego, the rest of us all have a good relationship with each other. Why would any of us let the others die? So, I pretended to be crazy and was observing everyone. Guttor is right. This is not a game to vote on liar. This is a judgement to vote on sinner, but Guttor forgets that in this trial, everyone is judging and being judged, including you, Apate. I saw you clandestinely

raise your hand in the rounds of Ira and Desidia. They died because of your vote. It means you are the participant, too. We also have the right to judge you!

Apate: [Angry.] No! I am the goddess. You don't have the right to judge me!

Victor: Vote game can't continue when only two people left. Thus, it doesn't make sense if only I and Virgo are the participants. When you continue asking questions, everything is clear. Now, I am just feeling guilty that I can't figure it out earlier. Otherwise, would not have been so many casualties. However, I can't lose Virgo. Virgo can't lose me. It's time to judge. Virgo! Trust me! Vote on Apate! We will survive! [Raising the hand.]

Virgo: I never doubted you, Victor! Vote on Apate! [Raising the hand.]

Apate: [Struggling.] No! I am the goddess! You don't have the right to judge me! [Apate explodes without sounds.]

[After Apate's death, Victor and Virgo suddenly pass out. When Victor wakes up, everything is back to the original scene, the ending of the last class. Everyone is alive and is tidying up for leaving. The old bald teacher is standing before the blackboard. Nothing changes. Victor breathes a sigh of relief. Suddenly, the teacher slips down....]