

NEXT DAY...

I JUST GOT PROMOTED YESTERDAY, AND TODAY I HAVE A MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS. CLIMBING TO A HIGHER POSITION ISN'T AS EASY AS I THOUGHT.



WELL, THE GOOD THING IS KEN WILL BE IN THE MEETING TOO: HOPE EVERYTHING GOES WELL.

EMMA!






WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE RUNNING LATE, AND ISN'T
TODAY YOUR MEETING WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL CLIENT?

UMM... FROM DROP-OFF
TO PICK-UP SERVICE! I MEAN,
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY SOMEONE
GETS A PERSONAL CHAUFFEUR
FROM WORK!

YEAH! DON'T WORRY,
WE WON'T BE LATE. KEN
TEXTED THAT HE'S COMING
TO PICK US UP, SO WE'LL BE
THERE ON TIME.

HUH! YOU SEEM
TO BE MISUNDERSTANDING, HE
IS JUST A GOOD FRIEND.



HAHAHA... IF HE'S 'JUST A FRIEND,' HE MUST BE THE MOST DEDICATED ONE I'VE SEEN.

NOW, WHERE ARE YOU LOST? LET'S HEAD OUTSIDE AND WAIT, HE MUST BE ARRIVING SOON.

MEANWHILE...

YEAH, DR. WILSON MENTIONED THAT INJECTIONS TEND TO ACT MORE QUICKLY COMPARED TO OTHER MEDICATIONS.

WHY ARE YOU INQUIRING ABOUT THIS? DIDN'T YOU STATE THAT YOU REQUIRED THE FASTEST METHOD FOR THIS TREATMENT?

THIS IS NORMAL. DON'T REACT TO IT LIKE A LITTLE CHILD. KEEP STILL; I AM ADMINISTERING THIS NOW. THIS IS MY FIRST TIME GIVING SOMEONE AN INJECTION. IF IT HURTS, DON'T SAY I DIDN'T TELL YOU.

DO I REALLY NEED THESE SHOTS?

I WAS JUST ASKING, BECAUSE THESE SHOTS ARE QUITE STRONG. I STILL HAVE NUMBNESS IN MY BUTTOCKS FROM THE SHOT SHE GAVE ME.



AFTER FEW MINUTES...

AND ABOUT THAT... WE'LL ADD SOME EXERCISES TO OUR DAILY ROUTINE, WHICH MIGHT HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE NUMBNESS YOU'RE FEELING.

HAHA... IT'S OKAY! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT ANDREW MADE THE MISTAKE, NOT MIA. SO, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO SAY THANKS OR SORRY.



OKAY!
AND CLARA, I HAVEN'T PROPERLY THANKED YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US UNTIL NOW. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERYTHING

IT'S NOT EASY TO FORGET.. I KNOW THAT WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED IS ALL BECAUSE OF MY FAULT, WHICH IS CAUSING EMMA TO SUFFER AS WELL. AND YOU'RE JUST HELPING US. YET, I HAVE ALWAYS QUESTIONED YOUR DECISIONS.



IT'S ALRIGHT.
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES, AND I
BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD BE
GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO
CORRECT THEM..

YOU KNOW, ONCE MY UNCLE
MADE A MISTAKE, AIMING FOR QUICK MONEY
JUST LIKE YOU, BUT NOBODY GAVE HIM THE
CHANGE TO CORRECT IT, WHICH HAS CAUSED
ONGOING DISTRESS TO MY AUNT.

I DON'T WANT THE
SAME FOR YOU AND EMMA, WHICH IS
WHY I AM HELPING BOTH OF YOU.

YOU CAN DESCRIBE IT AS
BEING FOR THE GOOD TERM, AS WHEN WE
HELP SOMEONE IN THEIR TOUGH
CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY MIGHT OFFER THEIR
HELP TO US WHEN NECESSARY.

I AGREE... BUT STILL,
THE EXTENT OF HELP YOU'VE PROVIDED
US IS UNMATCHED. NO ONE ELSE DOES
AS MUCH FOR ANYONE.

YEAHH! IF THERE'S ANYTHING
I CAN DO FOR YOU, PLEASE DO LET ME KNOW.



HAHAHA...REALLY? ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING?

OKAY! YOU CAN GO NOW.
I'M FEELING TIRED, I'LL REST A BIT.

OF COURSE! YOU'VE DONE
SO MUCH FOR US, SO WHY CAN'T I?

AFTER SOMETIME...

UGHH! THIS PAIN....





I'M FEELING DROWSY FROM THE INJECTION, AND SINCE CLARA IS RESTING, I THINK I'LL TAKE A SHORT NAP TOO. HOPEFULLY, I'LL FEEL A BIT BETTER AFTERWARD.

AT THE SAME TIME...


NOW WE CAN PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEP ACCORDING TO OUR PLAN.

AUNT, YOU'RE WELL AWARE THAT WE NEED SOMEONE WHOM WE CAN CONTROL FOR A LONG TIME. WE CAN'T FULLY TRUST A HIRED PERSON; WHAT IF THEY BETRAY US? ALL OUR EFFORTS WILL GO TO WASTE.

ARE YOU SURE WE CAN USE HIM? IN MY OPINION, IT'S BETTER TO HIRE SOMEONE RATHER THAN WASTING SO MUCH TIME AND MONEY ON HIM.

YOU'RE QUITE SENSIBLE... ALRIGHT, DO WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST. SO WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR THE NEXT STEP??





YOU MENTIONED THAT WE HAVE
SOMEONE IN THEIR COMPANY.

SO, IT'S TIME FOR US TO
MAKE USE OF THEM. GIVE ME THEIR
CONTACT NUMBER. WE NEED TO SEND SOME
INFORMATION TO BETTY INDIRECTLY.

YES, I PLACED THEM THERE
SO THAT WE CAN USE THEM WHEN
NEEDED.

LATER IN EVENING...

YOU DID A FANTASTIC JOB TODAY, OUR CLIENT WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR PRESENTATION.

HAHA... NERVOUS? REALLY? I WAS MORE NERVOUS THAN YOU DURING THE MEETING.



~RING
~RING




TO BE HONEST, I FELT QUITE NERVOUS AT THE BEGINNING, THANKFULLY, EVERYTHING ENDED UP GOING SMOOTHLY.



WHY IS MR. DAVIS
CALLING AT THIS TIME?

YES HE IS....
OFFICE HOURS ARE OVER, SO GO AHEAD
AND GRAB YOUR STUFF. I'LL TAKE THIS
CALL IN THE MEANTIME. THEN, I'LL DROP
RUBY AND YOU HOME.

MR. DAVIS? ISN'T HE THE
HR HEAD OF OUR PREVIOUS BRANCH?



THIS WAS MY FIRST MEETING
AFTER THE PROMOTION... THE CLIENT WAS
QUITE SATISFIED WITH MY PRESENTATION, AND
KEN ALSO PRAISED ME. LET'S HOPE THINGS KEEP
GOING SMOOTHLY LIKE THIS.

EMMA!



THERE IS A PROBLEM.

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED?

MAM, SHOULD I PAUSE THE ELEVATOR FOR YOU?



RING~



~RING

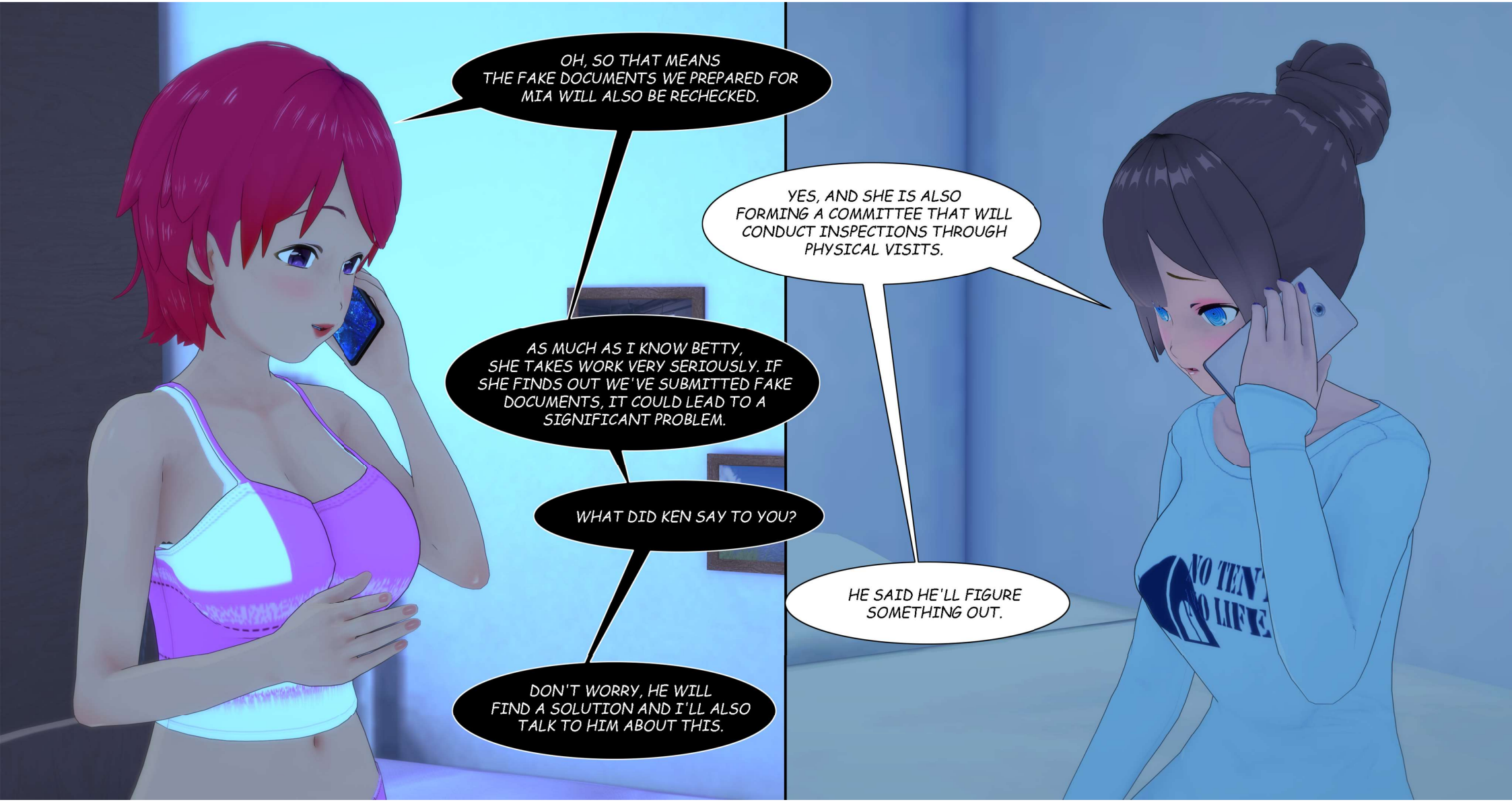
HEY EMMA!
I SAW YOUR TEXT ABOUT YOUR
PROMOTION. CONGRATULATIONS!

A PROBLEM?
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?

THANK YOU CLARA,
BUT THERE'S BEEN A PROBLEM.

TODAY, KEN RECEIVED A CALL FROM
THE HR DEPARTMENT OF THE OLD BRANCH. HE TOLD
THAT BETTY REQUESTED REPORTS OF ALL EMPLOYEES
RECEIVING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.

SHE SAID THAT THERE
WILL BE A DEEP INVESTIGATION INTO
THE BASIS ON WHICH THESE BENEFITS
ARE BEING PROVIDED.



OH, SO THAT MEANS THE FAKE DOCUMENTS WE PREPARED FOR MIA WILL ALSO BE RECHECKED.


YES, AND SHE IS ALSO FORMING A COMMITTEE THAT WILL CONDUCT INSPECTIONS THROUGH PHYSICAL VISITS.

AS MUCH AS I KNOW BETTY, SHE TAKES WORK VERY SERIOUSLY. IF SHE FINDS OUT WE'VE SUBMITTED FAKE DOCUMENTS, IT COULD LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.

WHAT DID KEN SAY TO YOU?

HE SAID HE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

DON'T WORRY, HE WILL FIND A SOLUTION AND I'LL ALSO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS.



I KNEW THAT IF BETTY GOT EVEN A HINT THAT SOME EMPLOYEES WERE USING FAKE DOCUMENTS TO CLAIM BENEFITS, SHE WOULDN'T SIT IDLY. AS EXPECTED, SHE'S TAKEN ACTION.

NOW IT'S KEN TURN..



I WONDER WHY BETTY
SUDDENLY WANTS TO RE-CHECK
ALL THIS.

HEY KEN!
CLARA CALLED ME EARLIER, SHE
TOLD ME EVERYTHING.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE
MIGHT HAVE TIPPED HER OFF?

I DON'T THINK SO, BECAUSE
ONLY HR HEAD KNOWS ABOUT MIA'S FAKE
DOCUMENTS, AND NO ONE ELSE. PERHAPS BETTY
IS RECHECKING EVERYTHING DUE TO POTENTIAL
CHANGES IN THE RULES OR FOR ANOTHER
REASON.

BUT IF EVERYONE'S DOCUMENTS
ARE BEING RE-CHECKED, MIA'S WILL
BE TOO.





IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS; THERE WILL ALSO BE INSPECTIONS THROUGH PHYSICAL VISITS.

THIS MAKES THE SITUATION EVEN MORE TROUBLESOME., YOU KNOW HOW STRICT BETTY IS ABOUT THE COMPANY'S RULES.

I KNOW, BUT I'M STILL UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

IF MIA WERE ACTUALLY ATTENDING SCHOOL, THIS ISSUE WOULDN'T EXIST. BUT...

HOLD ON... MIA CAN GO TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?





YOU TOLD ME EARLIER THAT MIA HAD TO DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL BECAUSE OF HER PARENTS SO WHY CAN'T SHE REJOIN? AND IF SHE DOES GO BACK TO SCHOOL, IT WOULD SOLVE OUR PROBLEM AND SHE'LL COMPLETE HER EDUCATION TOO.

HMM, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT IT WON'T BE THAT EASY. LIKE, HOW WILL WE ARRANGE FOR MIA'S SCHOOL ADMISSION?

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, I'LL MANAGE IT.

OKAY, BUT DISCUSS THIS WITH EMMA. IF SHE AGREES, THEN FINE.

HAHA...WHY WOULDN'T SHE AGREE TO IT... ALRIGHT, I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH HER TOMORROW AND YOU CAN TELL MIA. I'M SURE SHE'LL BE EXCITED TO HEAR ABOUT GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.



LATER AT NIGHT...

I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP.
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT GIVES ME A
HEADACHE. WHENEVER SOMETHING GOOD
HAPPENS, THERE'S ALWAYS SOME TROUBLE
THAT COMES ALONG WITH IT. HOPE, KEN
FIGURES A SOLUTION OUT SOON.





EMMA!

WALK

WALK




YOU'RE STILL AWAKE.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN FEELING OFF SINCE WE
LEFT THE OFFICE.

A HEADACHE?
COME, I HAVE SOMETHING REALLY
EFFECTIVE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR
HEADACHE GO AWAY.

I COULDN'T SLEEP AND FELT
THIRSTY, SO I CAME TO GET
SOME WATER.

JUST A LITTLE HEADACHE,
NOTHING ELSE.



WHAT'S THIS?
I HAVEN'T HAD THIS BEFORE.

HERE, TAKE THIS.

YOU'VE NEVER HAD WHISKEY?
HAHA... YOU'VE MISSED OUT
ON A LOT.



THE SMELL OF THIS IS
QUITE STRONG.

ANYWAY, AS CLARA SAYS, '
THERE'S NO HARM IN TRYING
SOMETHING NEW.

NEXT DAY...

STRETCHING

STRETCHING

MIA!





THERE'S SOMETHING
VERY IMPORTANT WE NEED TO
TALK ABOUT.

TODAY IS OUR EXERCISE DAY.
WHY AREN'T YOU READY YET?

AT THE SAME TIME...

I DRANK A BIT TOO MUCH
LAST NIGHT, AARGH...MY HEAD IS
STILL SPINNING

OR IT COULD ALSO BE
HAPPENING BECAUSE I HAD WHISKEY
FOR THE FIRST TIME.





EMMA? WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

DID YOU TAKE THE MEDICINE?

IT'S NOTHING,
JUST A SLIGHT HEADACHE.

YES, I'VE TAKEN IT.
LET'S LEAVE THIS ASIDE.


AH, I GET IT NOW...
YOUR HEADACHE IS PROBABLY FROM
THINKING ABOUT THAT. DON'T WORRY, I'VE
FOUND A SOLUTION... IT WILL SOLVE OUR
PROBLEM, AND MIA'S TOO.

SEE, MIA HAD TO DROP OUT OF
SCHOOL BECAUSE OF YOUR PARENTS, AND
THAT AFFECTED HER EDUCATION.

DID YOU FIGURE OUT
ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

MIA'S TOO? WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YEAH, BUT WHAT DOES
THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?



THINK ABOUT IT,
IF WE GET MIA BACK INTO SCHOOL,
BOTH OUR AND MIA'S EDUCATION
PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED
SIMULTANEOUSLY.



SCHOOL?



TO BE CONTINUED...