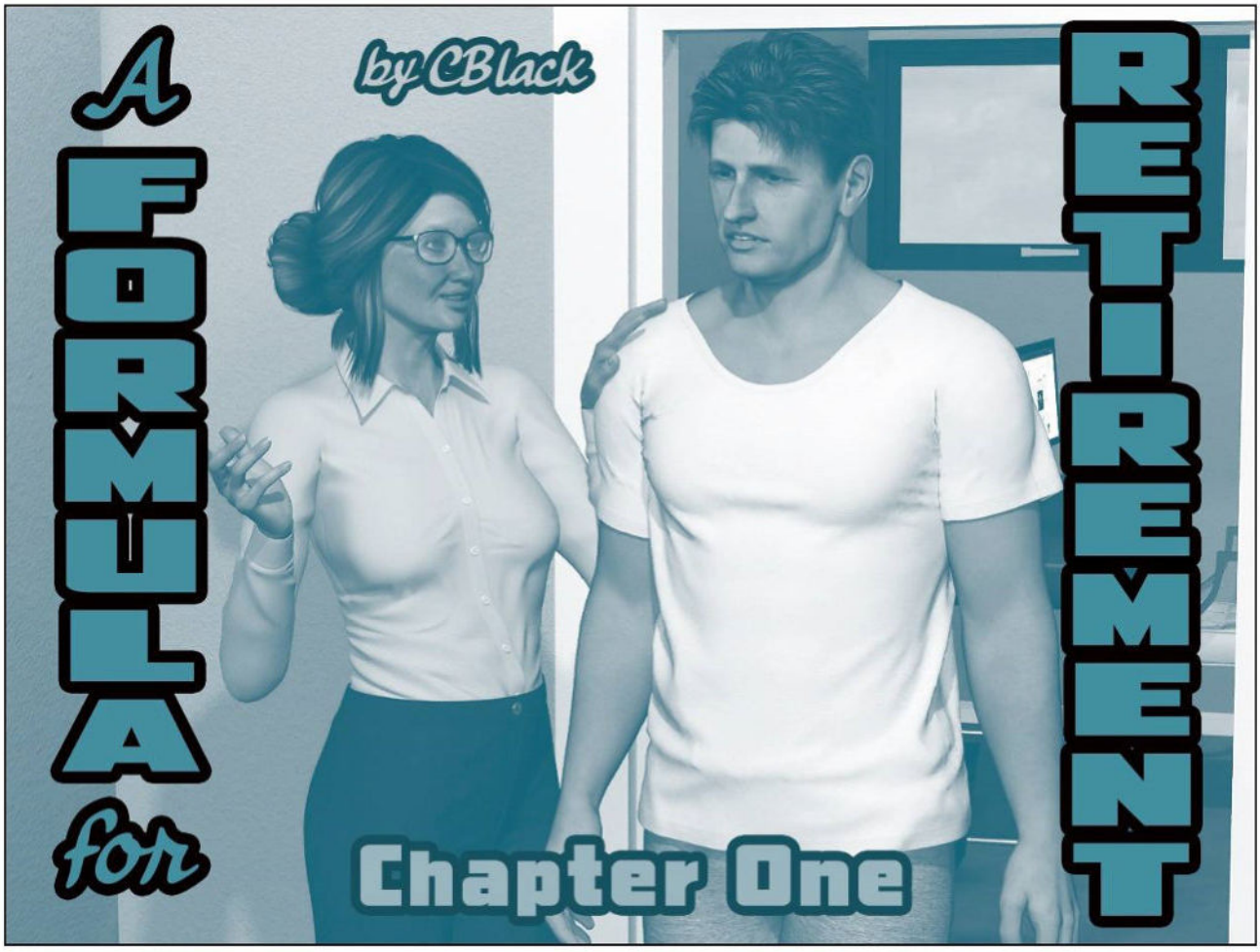
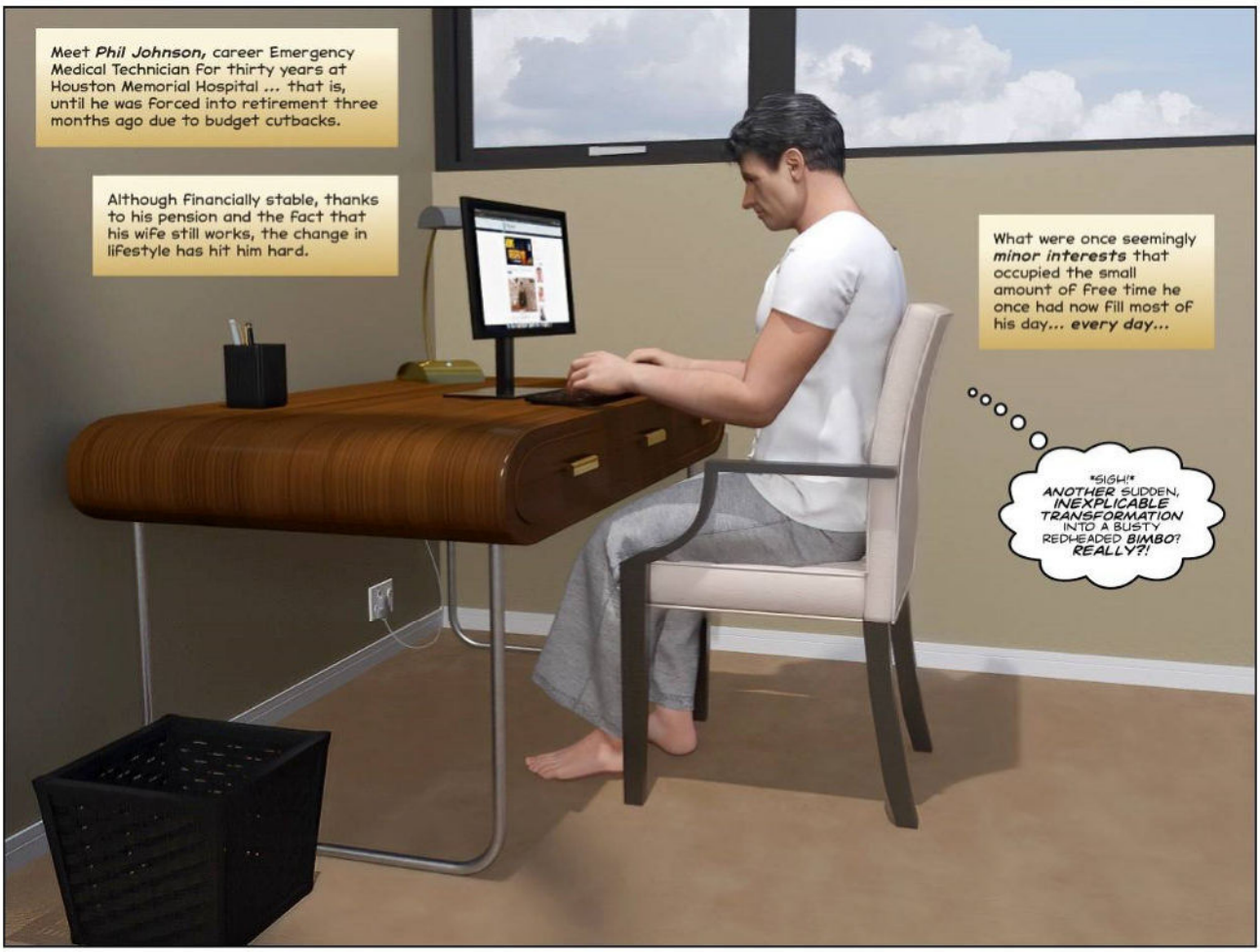
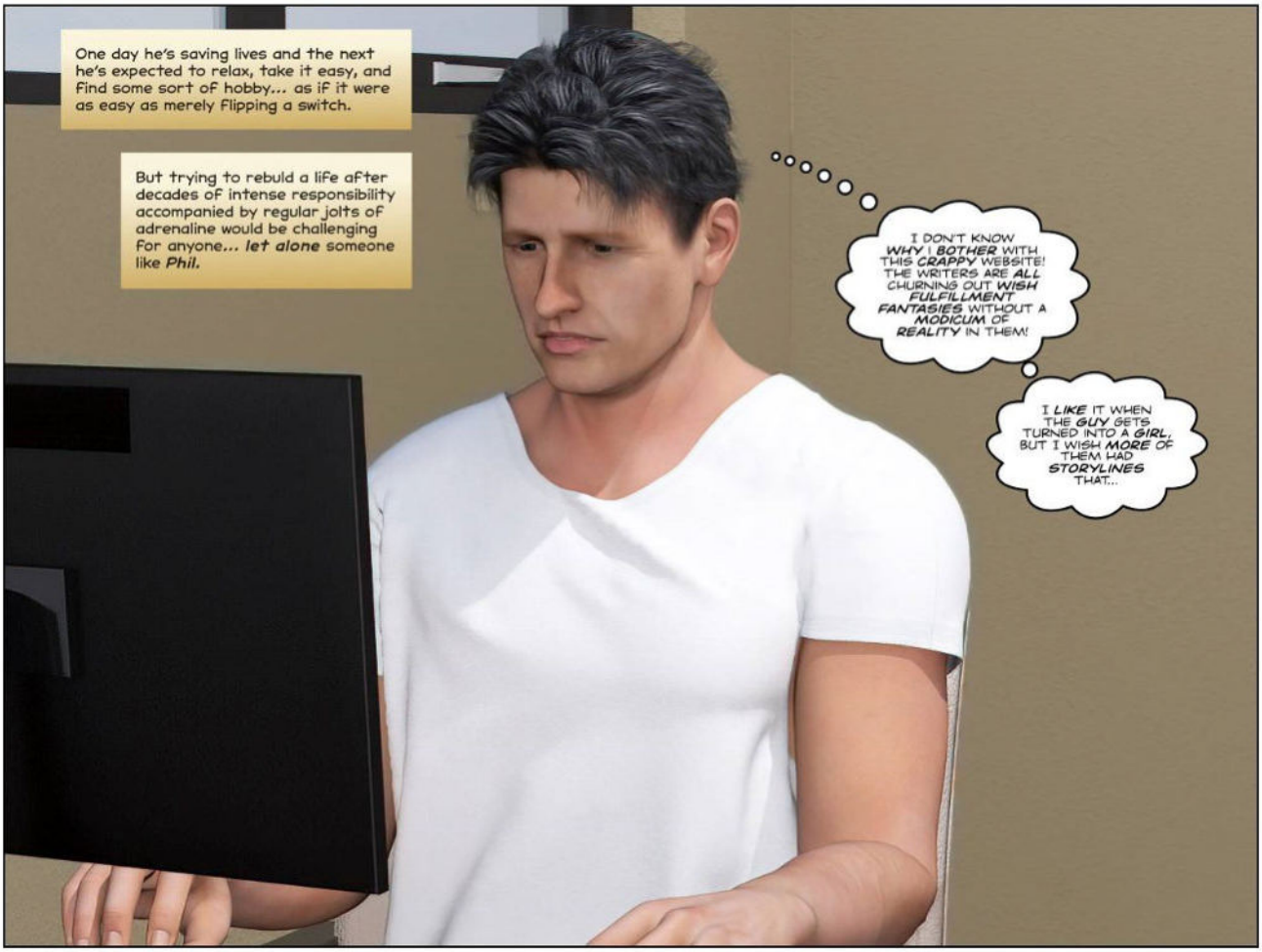
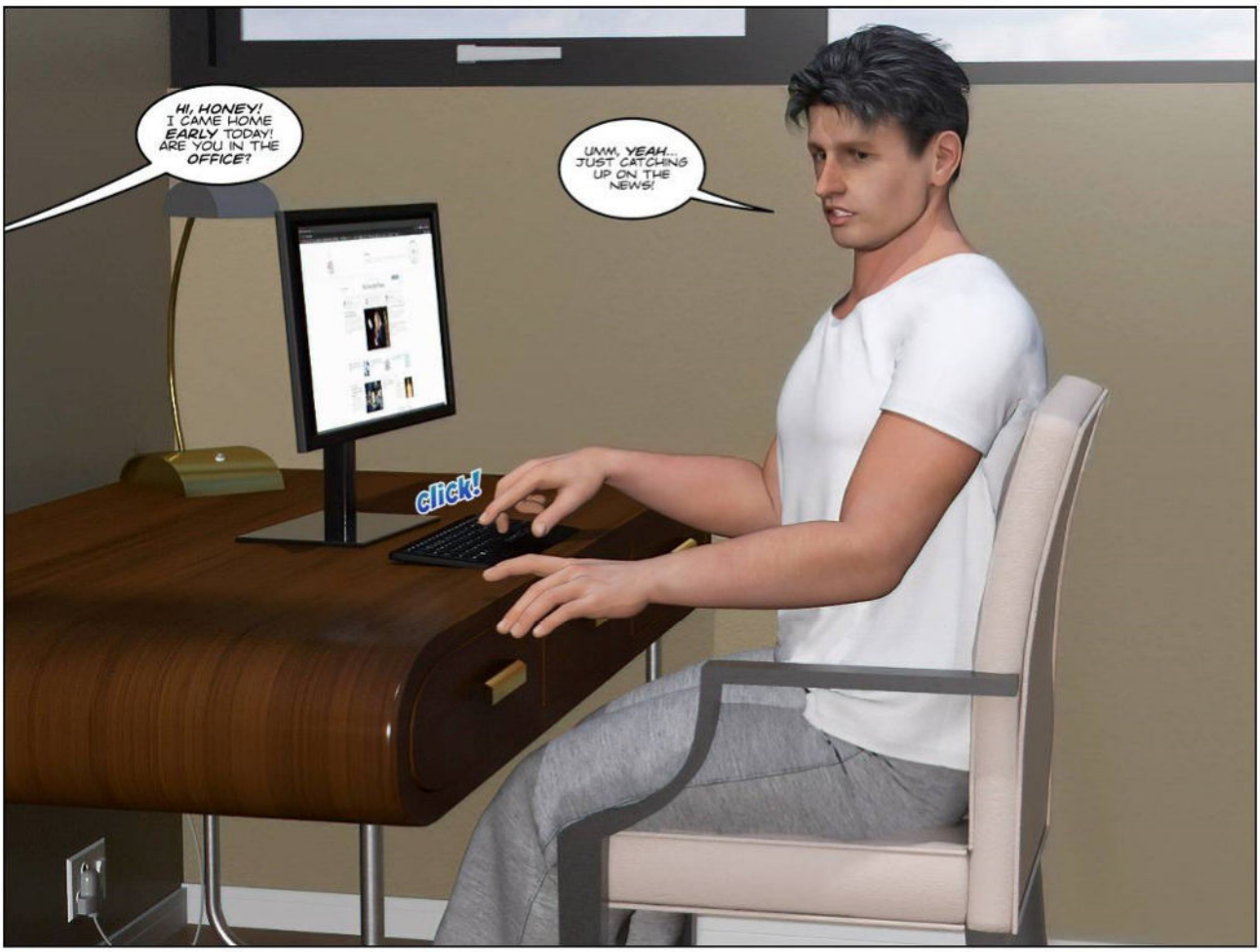

A FORMULA for
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RETIREMENT
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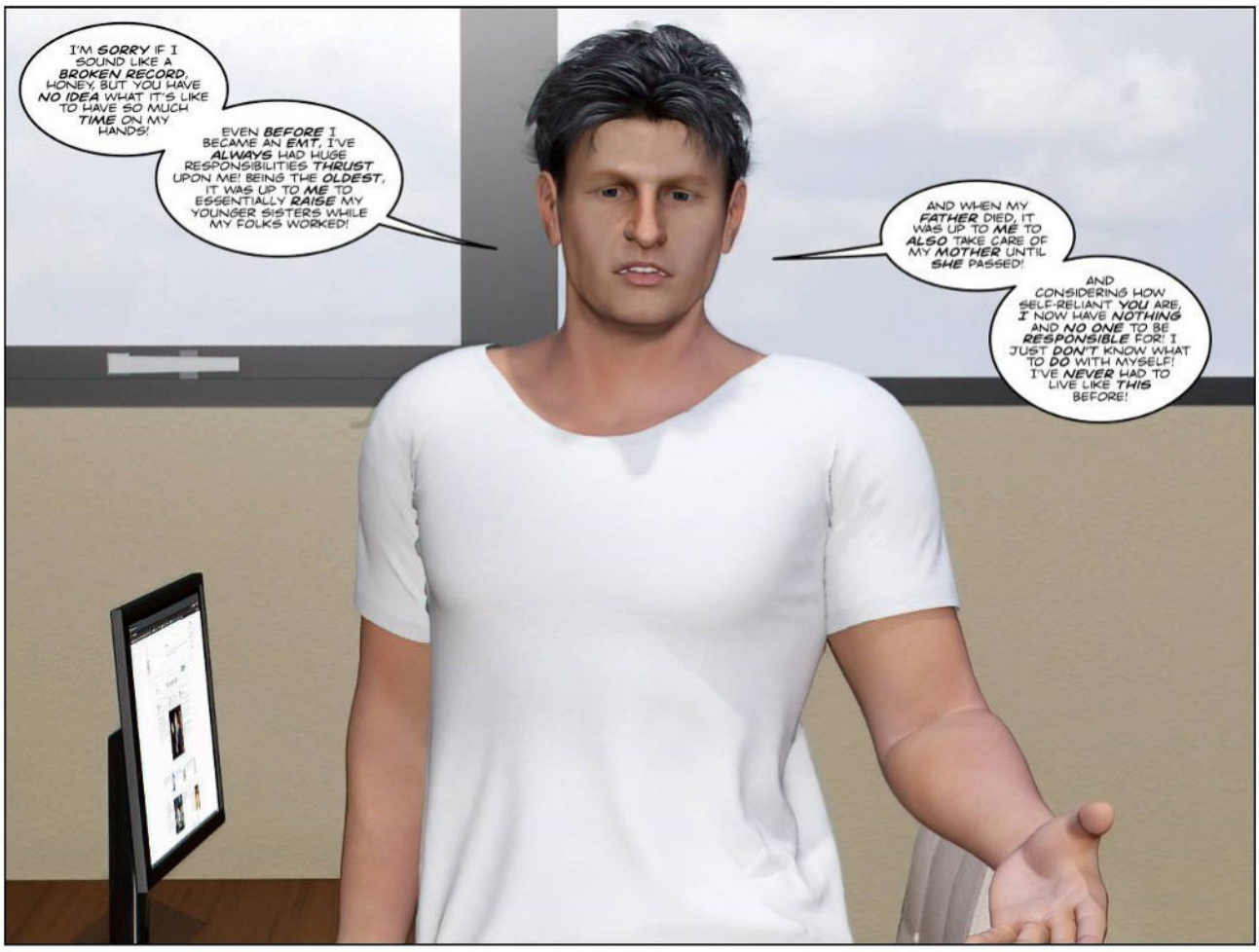

A FORMULA for
by CBlack
RETIREMENT
Chapter One


Meet Phil Johnson, career Emergency Medical Technician for thirty years at Houston Memorial Hospital ... that is, until he was forced into retirement three months ago due to budget cutbacks.
Although financially stable, thanks to his pension and the fact that his wife still works, the change in lifestyle has hit him hard.
What were once seemingly minor interests that occupied the small amount of free time he once had now fill most of his day... every day...
SIGH! ANOTHER SUDDEN, INEXPLICABLE TRANSFORMATION INTO A BUSTY REDHEADED BIMBO? REALLY?!


One day he's saving lives and the next he's expected to relax, take it easy, and find some sort of hobby... as if it were as easy as merely flipping a switch.
But trying to rebuild a life after decades of intense responsibility accompanied by regular jolts of adrenaline would be challenging for anyone... let alone someone like Phil.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER WITH THIS CRAPPY WEBSITE! THE WRITERS ARE ALL CHURNING OUT WISH FULFILLMENT FANTASIES WITHOUT A MODICUM OF REALITY IN THEM!
I LIKE IT WHEN THE GUY GETS TURNED INTO A GIRL, BUT I WISH MORE OF THEM HAD STORYLINES THAT...


HI, HONEY! I CAME HOME EARLY TODAY! ARE YOU IN THE OFFICE?
UMM, YEAH... JUST CATCHING UP ON THE NEWS!
click!


DID YOU GET A CHANCE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE TODAY? MAYBE GO OUT FOR A DRIVE... OR A WALK?
OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, I'VE WALKED EVERY SIDEWALK AND TRAIL IN THIS TOWN AND DRIVEN EVERY ROAD WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES!
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF GETTING OUT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF GETTING OUT!


I'M SORRY IF I SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD, HONEY, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE SO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS!
EVEN BEFORE I BECAME AN EMT, I'VE ALWAYS HAD HUGE RESPONSIBILITIES THRUST UPON ME! BEING THE OLDEST, IT WAS UP TO ME TO ESSENTIALLY RAISE MY YOUNGER SISTERS WHILE MY FOLKS WORKED!
AND WHEN MY FATHER DIED, IT WAS UP TO ME TO ALSO TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER UNTIL SHE PASSED!
AND CONSIDERING HOW SELF-RELIANT YOU ARE, I NOW HAVE NOTHING AND NO ONE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR! I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF! I'VE NEVER HAD TO LIVE LIKE THIS BEFORE!


Also meet Laura Johnson... Phil's wife of thirty years. Currently an associate vice-president at a prominent biotech research company.
TRUST ME, HONEY, NO ONE KNOWS MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH THAN ME!
BUT I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL DEFINITELY CHEER YOU UP!
OH REALLY! AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?


UNH-UNH! IT'S A SURPRISE! WHY DON'T YOU POUR US SOME WINE WHILE I CHANGE?
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE SURPRISE IN A BIT!
SIGH FINE!

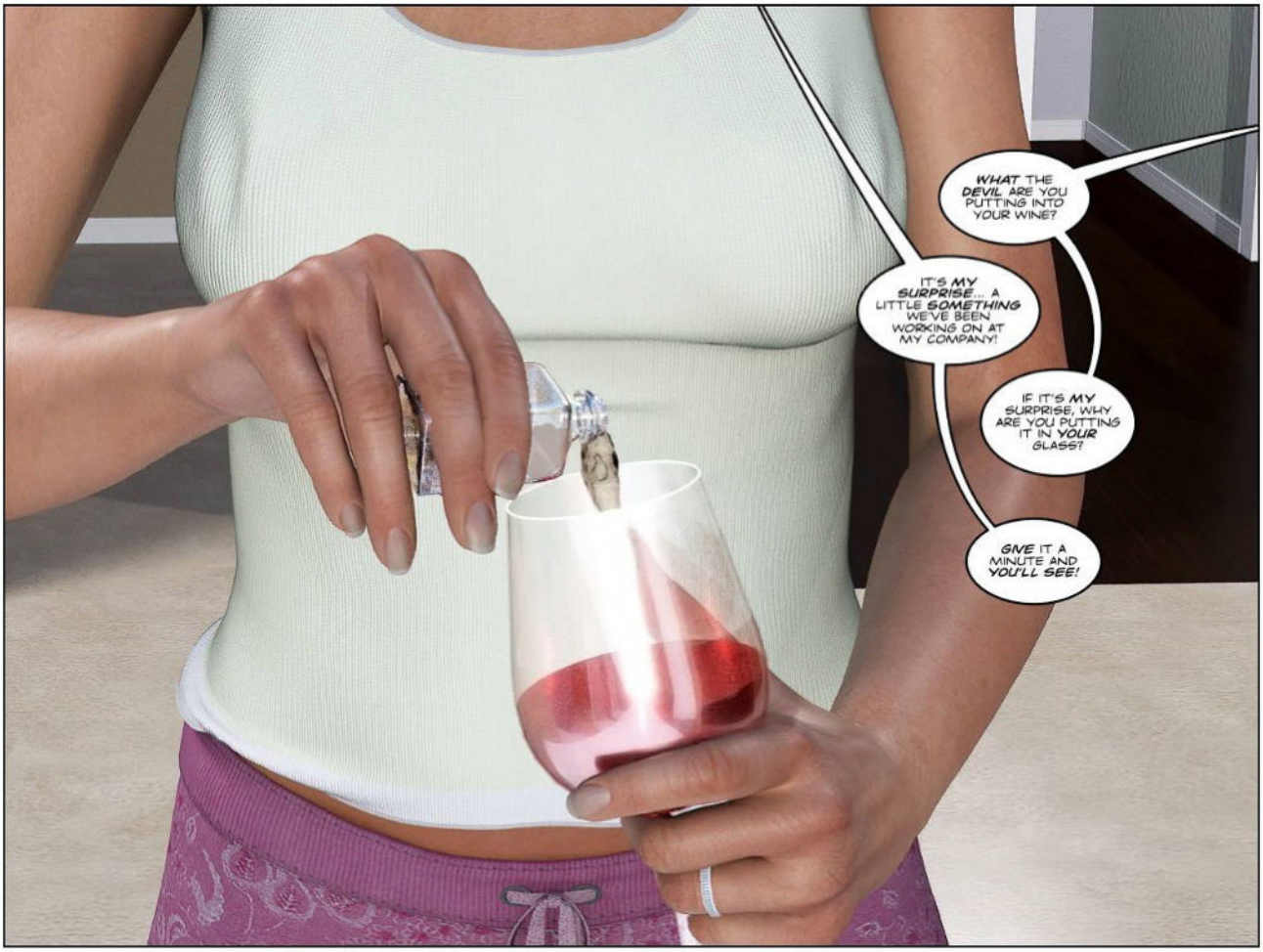

SIGH! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN PUT UP WITH THIS AND STILL KEEP A SMILE ON MY FACE!
I UNDERSTAND WHY PHIL IS WALLOWING IN SELF-PITY AND DEPRESSION, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER TO TAKE! WE BARELY TALK ANYMORE, MUCH LESS... *SIGH!*

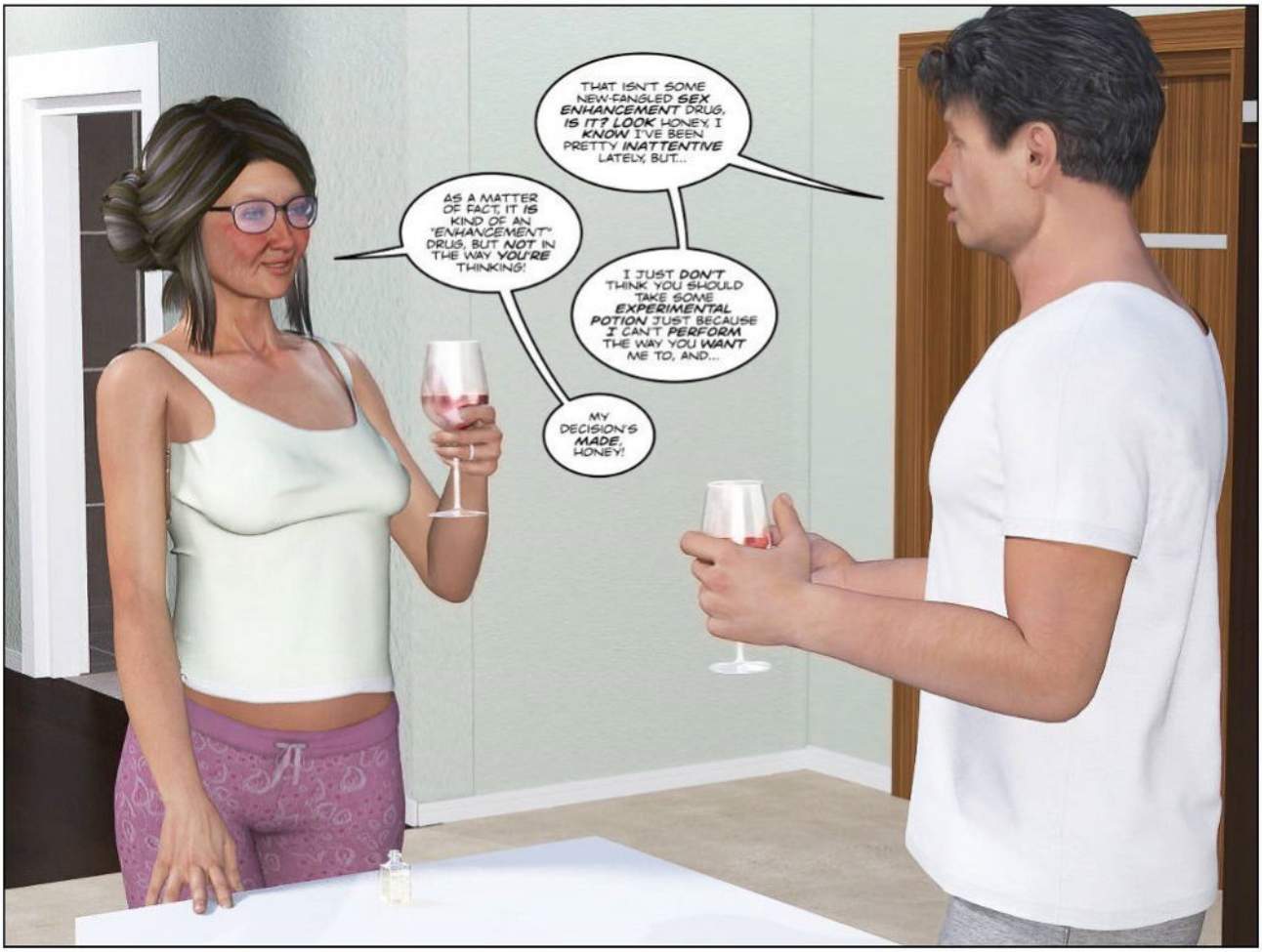

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I NEED TO GET SOME ANSWERS ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR MARRIAGE! I'M JUST HOPING MY PLAN WILL ENABLE ME TO DO THAT!


SHIT! WHY DO I HAVE TO BE SUCH A JERK TO MY OWN WIFE? IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF THIS IS HER FAULT!
NOT ONLY DOES SHE HAVE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF MY DEPRESSING MOOD SWINGS, BUT WE ALSO HAVEN'T HAD SEX SINCE I GOT FIRED!
HOW THE HELL CAN SHE PUT UP WITH ME?
3:15


SIGH! I'M BARELY A SHADOW OF THE MAN SHE MARRIED! SHE'D PROBABLY BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME!


SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, HONEY! I HAD TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT DECISION ABOUT YOUR SURPRISE!
WHAT KIND OF DECISION?
BE PATIENT, HONEY! I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT, NO MATTER WHAT!


WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU PUTTING INTO YOUR WINE?
IT'S MY SURPRISE... A LITTLE SOMETHING WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON AT MY COMPANY!
IF IT'S MY SURPRISE, WHY ARE YOU PUTTING IT IN YOUR GLASS?
GIVE IT A MINUTE AND YOU'LL SEE!


THAT ISN'T SOME NEW-FANGLED SEX ENHANCEMENT DRUG, IS IT? LOOK HONEY, I KNOW I'VE BEEN PRETTY INATTENTIVE LATELY, BUT...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS KIND OF AN "ENHANCEMENT" DRUG, BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU'RE THINKING!
I JUST DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME EXPERIMENTAL POTION JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T PERFORM THE WAY YOU WANT ME TO, AND...
MY DECISION'S MADE, HONEY!


BOTTOMS UP!
BUT...

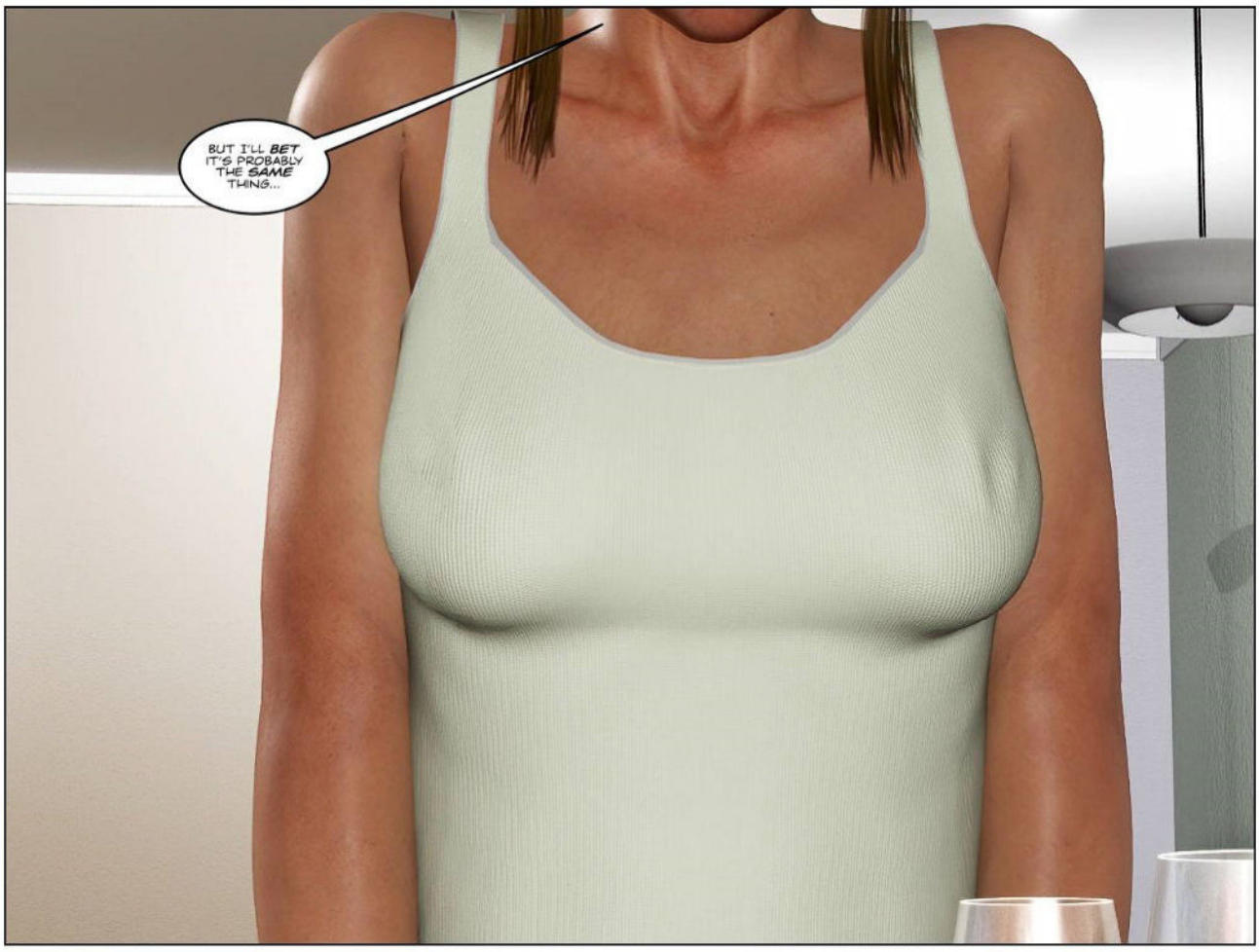

WELL, GREAT! NOW WHAT?
NOW... WE WAIT!
WAIT?! FOR WHAT!? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, LAURA! YOU NEED TO EXPLAIN IT TO ME!
EXPLAINING IT WOULD RUIN THE SURPRISE, HONEY! PLEASE, JUST BE PATIENT... IT SHOULDN'T BE MUCH LONGER NOW!

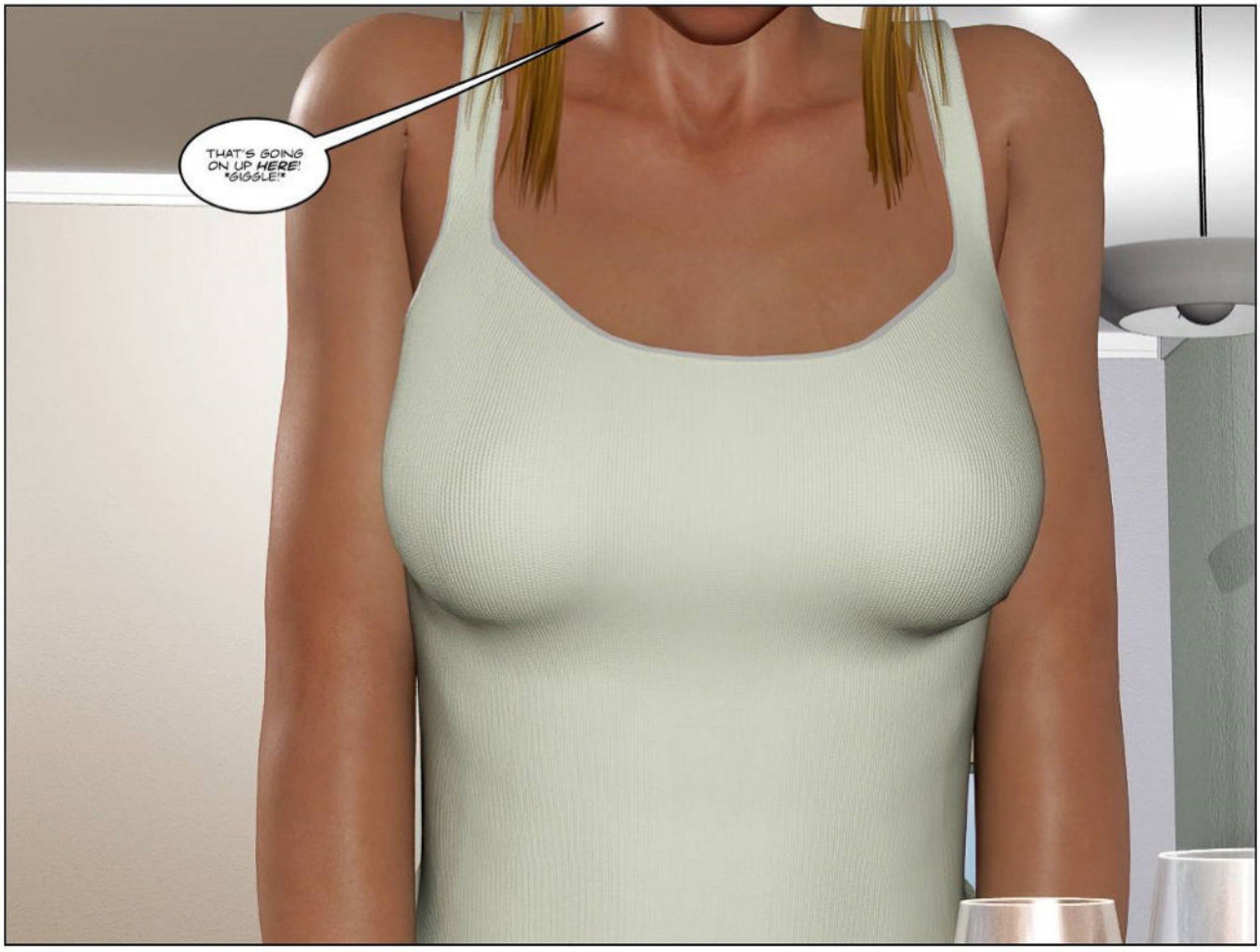

WHAT SHOULDN'T BE MUCH LONGER?! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?! I...
WAIT... IS YOUR HAIR CHANGING COLOR?!
HOPEFULLY! AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING! *GIGGLE!*


UMM... HONEY?


WH... WHAT'S GOING ON BACK HERE?


WELL, I CAN'T BE SURE...


BUT I'LL BET IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME THING...


THAT'S GOING ON UP HERE! *GIGGLE!*


HOLY..


I'M GLAD YOU'RE IMPRESSED SO FAR, HONEY!

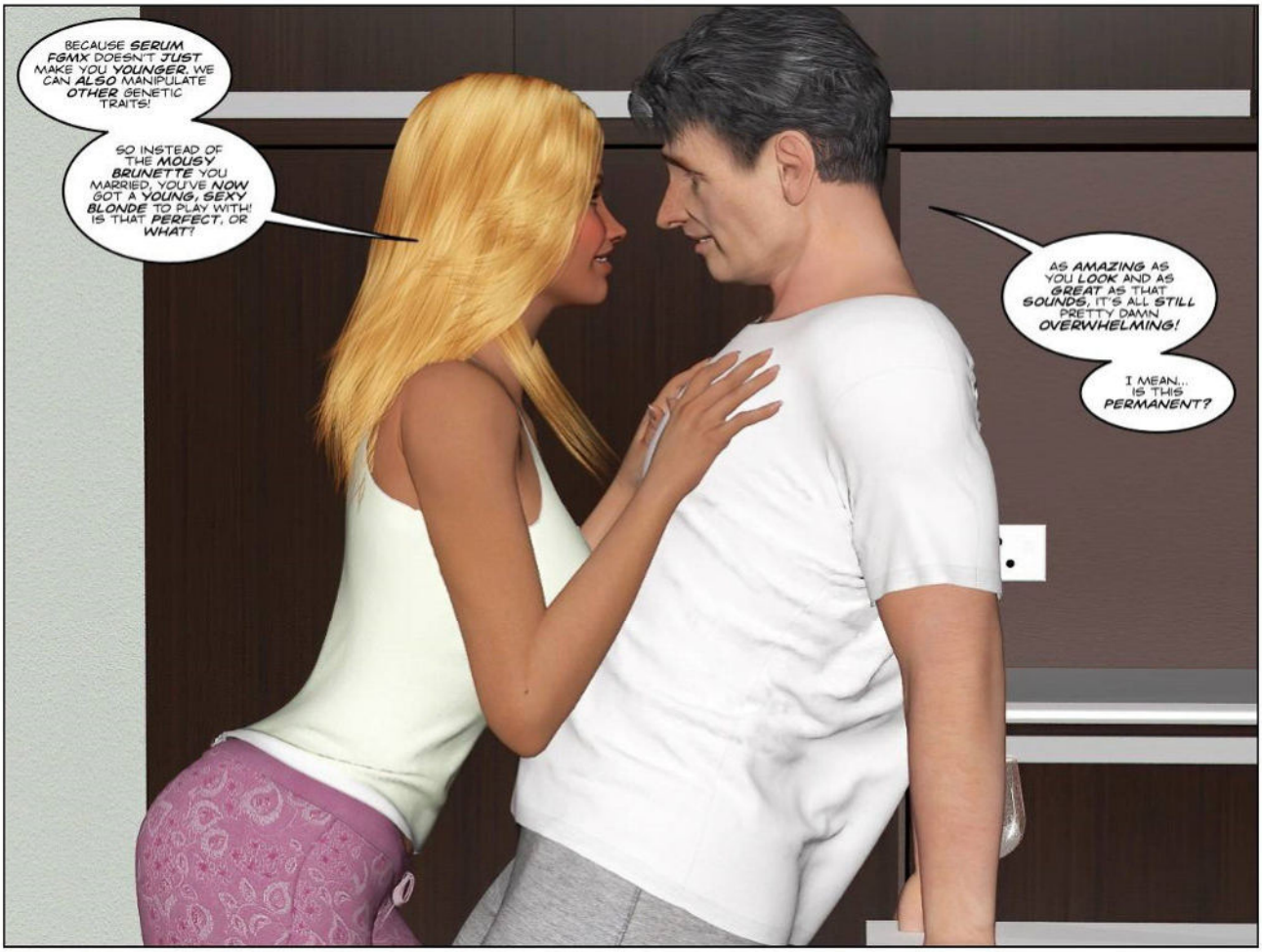

BUT I THINK YOU'LL APPRECIATE IT EVEN MORE...


WHEN YOU SEE THE FINISHED PRODUCT! *GIGGLE!*
GASP!


WHAT IN GOD'S NAME JUST HAPPENED?!
JUST A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT MY DIVISION HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS!
3:35


AHHH! THAT'S BETTER!
IS... IS THAT REALLY YOU, LAURA?


OF COURSE IT'S ME, SILLY! DIDN'T YOU SEE ME CHANGE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?
I KNOW IT MUST BE QUITE A SHOCK, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO SPRING IT ON YOU UNTIL I KNEW EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT!
YEAH, BUT RIGHT NOW, WHAT I SEE AND WHAT I BELIEVE ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS!
BUT... YOU NEVER LOOKED LIKE THIS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?


BECAUSE SERUM FGMX DOESN'T JUST MAKE YOU YOUNGER, WE CAN ALSO MANIPULATE OTHER GENETIC TRAITS!
SO INSTEAD OF THE MOUSY BRUNETTE YOU MARRIED, YOU'VE NOW GOT A YOUNG, SEXY BLONDE TO PLAY WITH! IS THAT PERFECT, OR WHAT?
AS AMAZING AS YOU LOOK AND AS GREAT AS THAT SOUNDS, IT'S ALL STILL PRETTY DAMN OVERWHELMING!
I MEAN... IS THIS PERMANENT?


UNFORTUNATELY, NO! IT'S OUR ULTIMATE GOAL, OF COURSE, BUT SO FAR IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY!
HOW LONG BEFORE IT WEARS OFF?
WHEN WE FIRST STARTED TESTING, THE SERUM ONLY LASTED ABOUT 6 HOURS, BUT NOW WE HAVE IT UP TO ALMOST 60 HOURS!
SO THAT GIVES US THE WHOLE WEEKEND TO REACTIVATE THAT DORMANT LIBIDO OF YOURS! *GIGGLE!*


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR COMPANY ACTUALLY LETS YOU BRING THIS STUFF HOME AND USE IT ON YOURSELF!
IT'S MY DEPARTMENT, HONEY, SO BRINGING HOME A COUPLE OF VIALS FOR MY OWN USE IS NO BIG DEAL!
IN FACT, SEVERAL OTHER EXECUTIVES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY OUT THE SERUM!
REALLY? AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS?
NONE WHATSOEVER! IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE!


SO NOW THAT WE'VE GOT ALL THE CHIT-CHAT OUT OF THE WAY, HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A MUCH CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR PRESENT?
I... I THINK I CAN HANDLE THAT! HEH-HEH!
OH, I'M GOING TO LET YOU HANDLE ANYTHING YOU WANT! *GIGGLE!*


And, about twenty minutes later...
PLEASE CHEER UP, HONEY! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, IT'S MINE!
ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY! *SIGH*


I SHOULDN'T HAVE PUSHED YOU INTO A SITUATION YOU WEREN'T READY FOR! HELL, I ONLY GAVE YOU A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO GET USED TO THE NEW ME BEFORE I THREW MYSELF AT YOU!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I WAS FORCING YOU TO HAVE AN AFFAIR WITH A STRANGE WOMAN! NO WONDER YOU WEREN'T READY FOR IT!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE, THEN FINE!

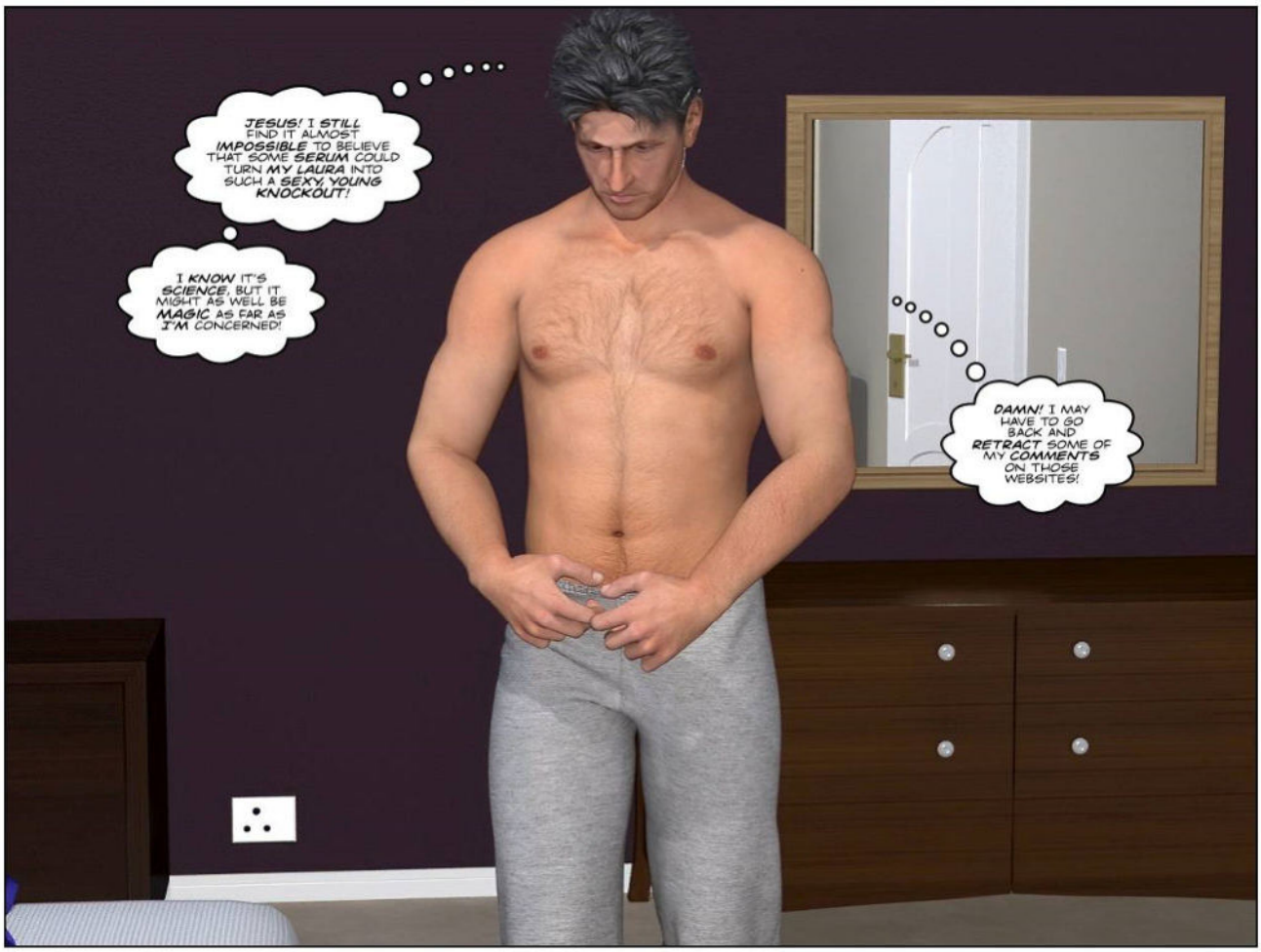

LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GET DRESSED AND COME SHOPPING WITH ME? YOU CAN HELP ME PICK OUT SOMETHING SEXY TO WEAR WHEN WE GO OUT TONIGHT!
WE'RE GOING OUT?
OF COURSE, SILLY! IT'LL BE LIKE WHEN WE WERE DATING, BUT THIS TIME YOU'VE GOT A SEXY BLONDE ON YOUR ARM TO SHOW OFF!
A SEXY, YOUNG BLONDE OUT WITH A BATTERED OLD FOOL! SOUNDS GREAT.


SIGH! ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO THE DATE THING TONIGHT, BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN FOR SHOPPING!
PLEASE, HONEY! IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET USED TO ME LIKE THIS... THEN WE CAN COME BACK HERE AT THE END OF THE EVENING AND FINISH IT UP THE RIGHT WAY! *GIGGLE!*
DEAL!


I WON'T BE GONE TOO LONG, HONEY!


WELL, SHIT! THAT DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR AS WELL AS I'D HOPED IT WOULD! AND IT ONLY DEEPENS MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT WHERE PHIL'S HEAD IS AT!

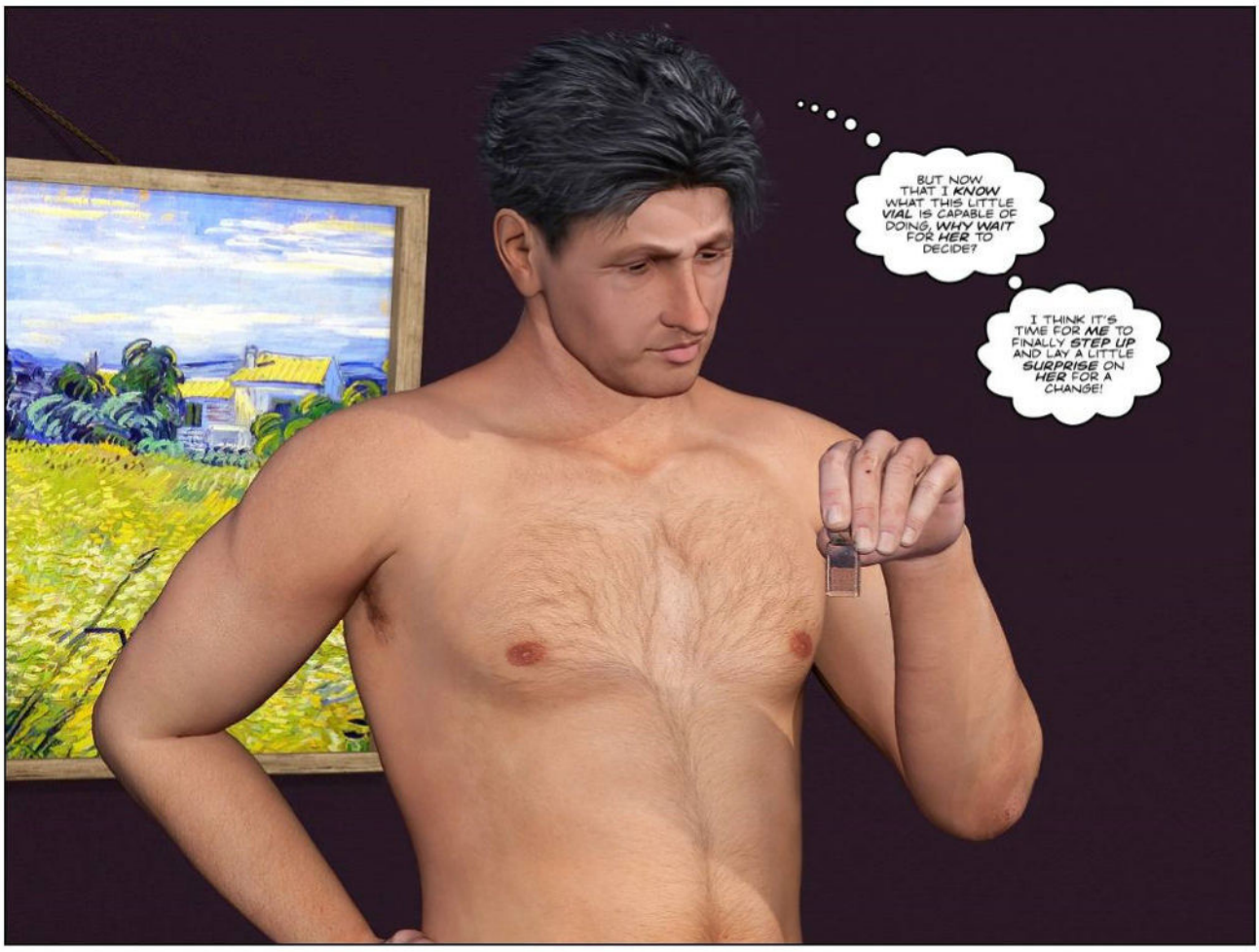

SIGH! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE GOING TO PHASE TWO OF MY PLAN AFTER ALL!


JESUS! I STILL FIND IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT SOME SERUM COULD TURN MY LAURA INTO SUCH A SEXY, YOUNG KNOCKOUT!
I KNOW IT'S SCIENCE, BUT IT MIGHT AS WELL BE MAGIC AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!
DAMN! I MAY HAVE TO GO BACK AND RETRACT SOME OF MY COMMENTS ON THOSE WEBSITES!


BUT AS YOUNG AND SEXY AS MY WIFE IS NOW, I STILL COULDN'T RISE TO THE TASK OF SATISFYING HER! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?
MAYBE I'VE BEEN SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME THINKING ABOUT HOW I'M NOT MUCH OF A MAN ANYMORE, AND HOW IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO BE SOMETHING ELSE!
AND NOW SHE WANTS ME TO PARADE HER AROUND TOWN! WONDERFUL! OTHERS WILL LOOK AT US AND THINK I'M A LUCKY OLD FART, BUT ONLY LAURA AND I WILL KNOW THE TRUTH... THAT I'M NO LONGER MAN ENOUGH TO FULFILL HER NEEDS!
SO WHY THE HELL DIDN'T SHE BRING ONE OF THOSE SERUMS HOME FOR ME?


SHE DID SAY SHE BROUGHT HOME A COUPLE OF VIALS! SO WHY HASN'T SHE GIVEN IT TO ME ALREADY?
OR MAYBE SHE DID!


MAYBE SHE JUST WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WAS SAFE FOR HER TO USE BEFORE GIVING IT TO ME!
MAYBE THAT WAS THE DECISION SHE HAD TO MAKE ABOUT MY SURPRISE... WHETHER TO GIVE ME A DOSE THE SAME TIME AS HER, OR WAIT UNTIL LATER!
PROBABLY A GOOD DECISION ON HER PART! I MIGHT'VE HAD A HEART ATTACK IF SHE'D SNUCK THIS STUFF INTO MY WINE BEFORE I WAS READY!


BUT NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT THIS LITTLE VIAL IS CAPABLE OF DOING, WHY WAIT FOR HER TO DECIDE?
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO FINALLY STEP UP AND LAY A LITTLE SURPRISE ON HER FOR A CHANGE!


WELL, LIKE THE LADY SAID... BOTTOMS UP!


ECHHH! NO WONDER SHE PUT HERS IN HER WINE! THIS STUFF IS NASTY!
IT DIDN'T TAKE VERY LONG FOR LAURA TO START CHANGING, SO I WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE FOR ME TO...

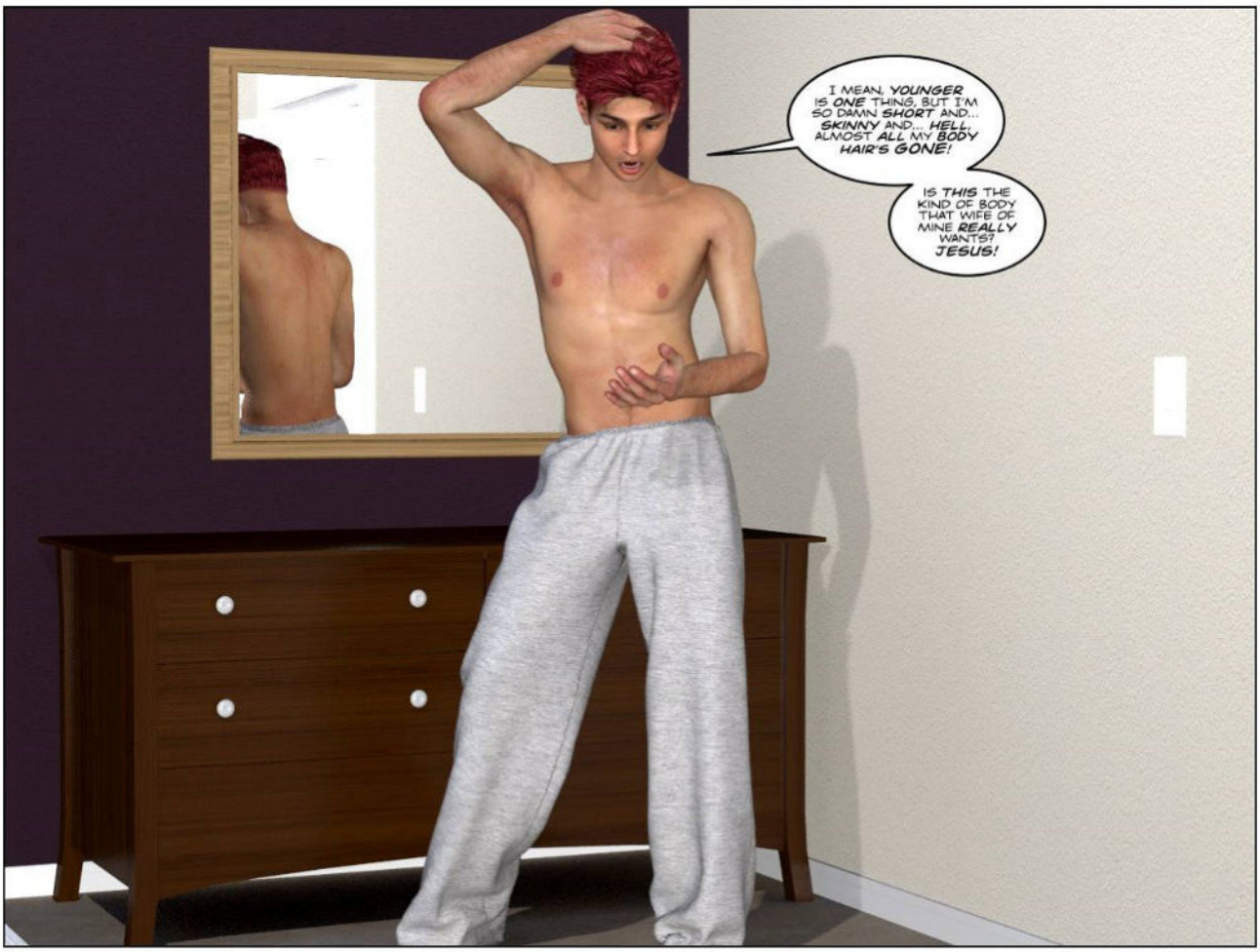

WHOA!
GUESS THAT ANSWERS THAT QUESTION!


FEELING LIGHT-HEADED...


DIZZY...


AND SO... WEIRD...


WHAT THE HELL?! I... I LOOK LIKE A DAMN KID!

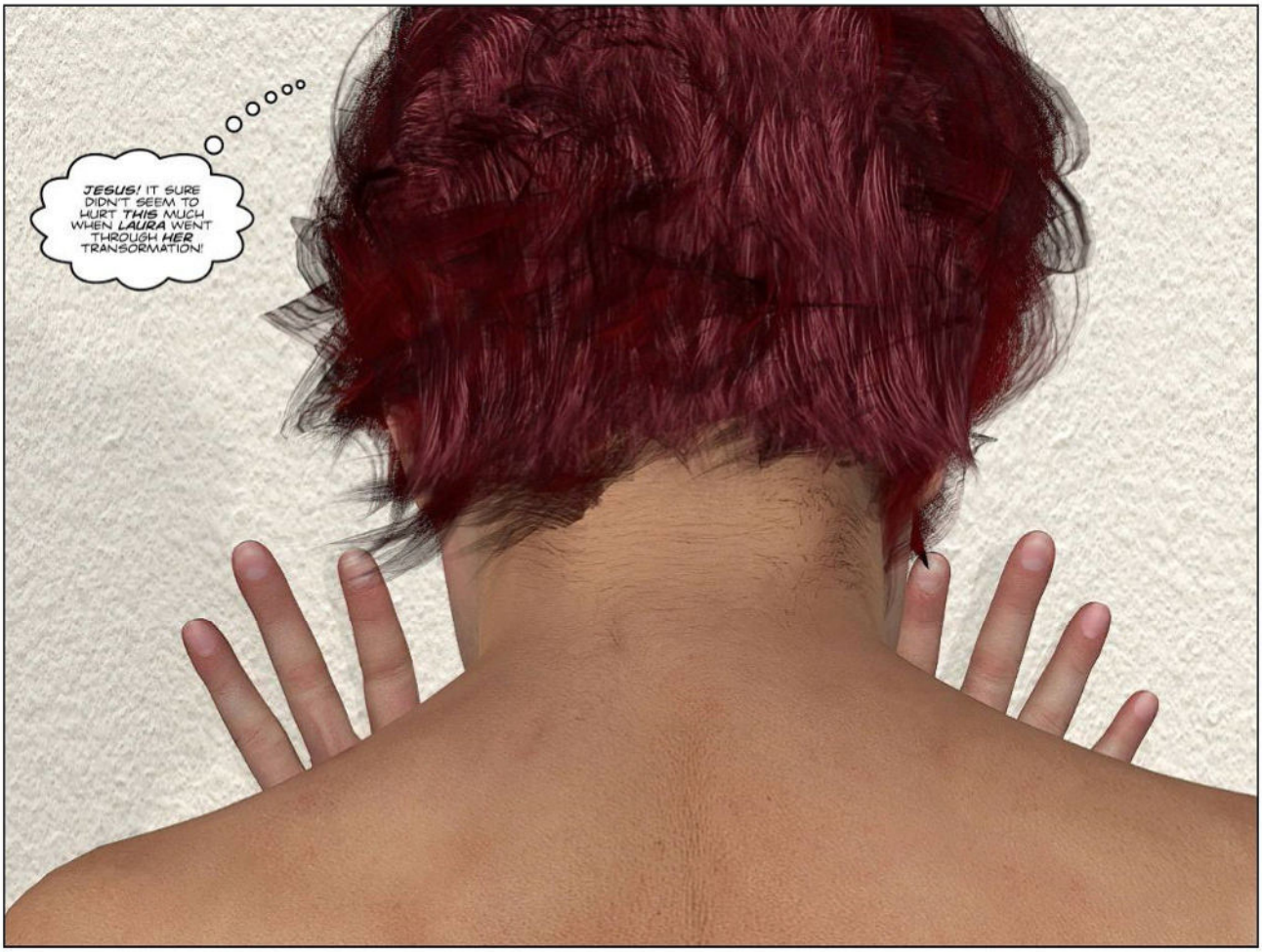

I MEAN, YOUNGER IS ONE THING, BUT I'M SO DAMN SHORT AND... SKINNY AND... HELL... ALMOST ALL MY BODY HAIR'S GONE!
IS THIS THE KIND OF BODY THAT WIFE OF MINE REALLY WANTS? JESUS!


OH, SHIT! I DON'T THINK IT'S DONE YET!


OOF! WHAT THE HELL...?
Crack!


POP!!


Crack!
AAGHHH! DAMN, THAT HURTS!


JESUS! IT SURE DIDN'T SEEM TO HURT THIS MUCH WHEN LAURA WENT THROUGH HER TRANSORMATION!

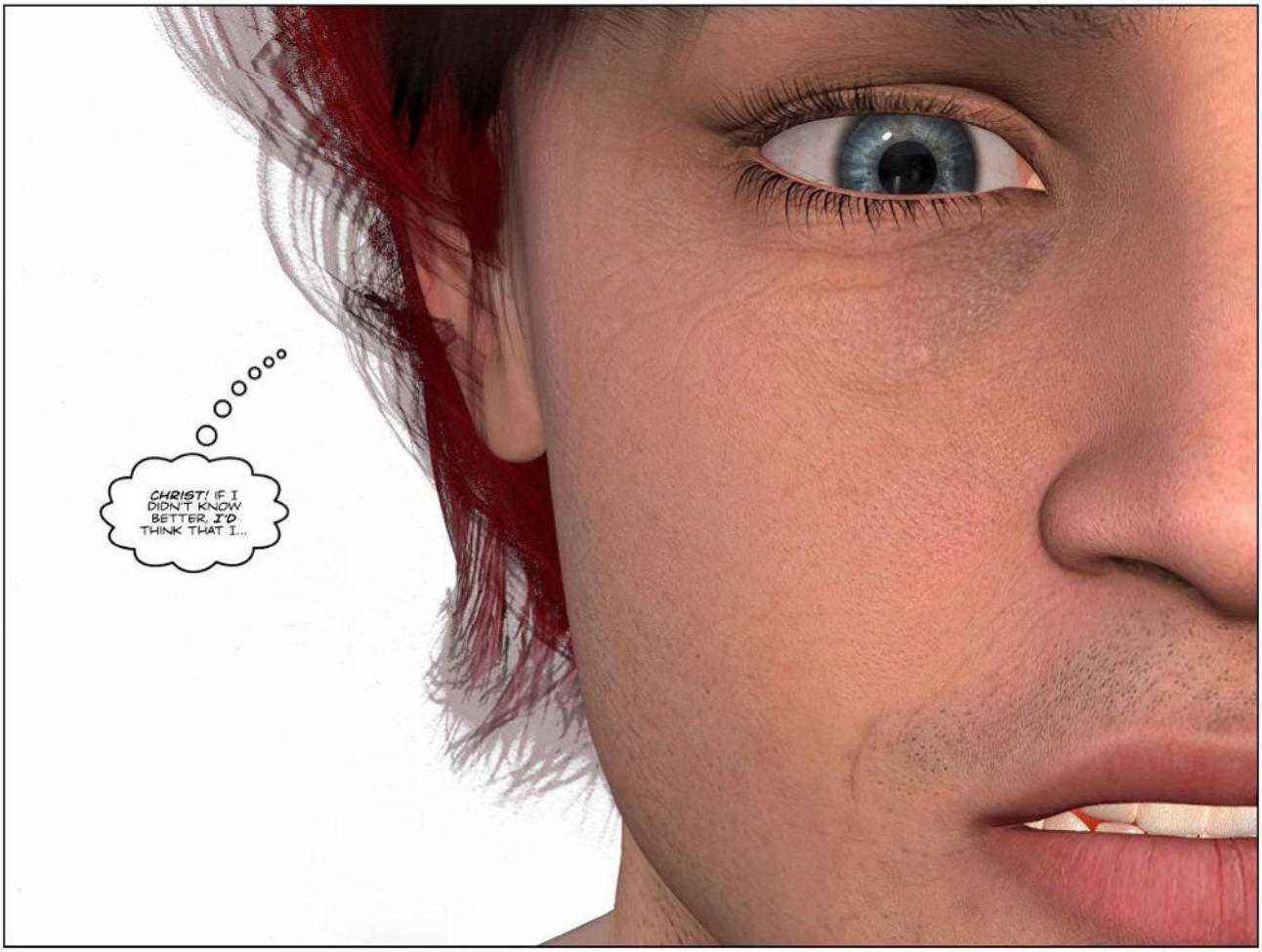

HUH?! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH MY HANDS?


WHY THE HELL ARE MY NAILS GETTING SO DAMN LONG?!


ARRGGHH! CAN HARDLY KEEP MY PANTS UP!


WHOLE BODY FEELING SO... WRONG...


SO... DIFFERENT!


CHRIST! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK THAT I...


THAT I...


HOLY SHIT!


IT'S JUST ME AGAIN, HONEY! YOUR DITZY WIFE GOT ALL THE WAY DOWNSTAIRS BEFORE REALIZING SHE FORGOT HER PHONE!
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR BECOMING A BLONDE, I GUESS! *GIGGLE!*


IT SHOULD BE RIGHT THERE ON THE DRESSER, HONEY! COULD YOU..?


GASP!

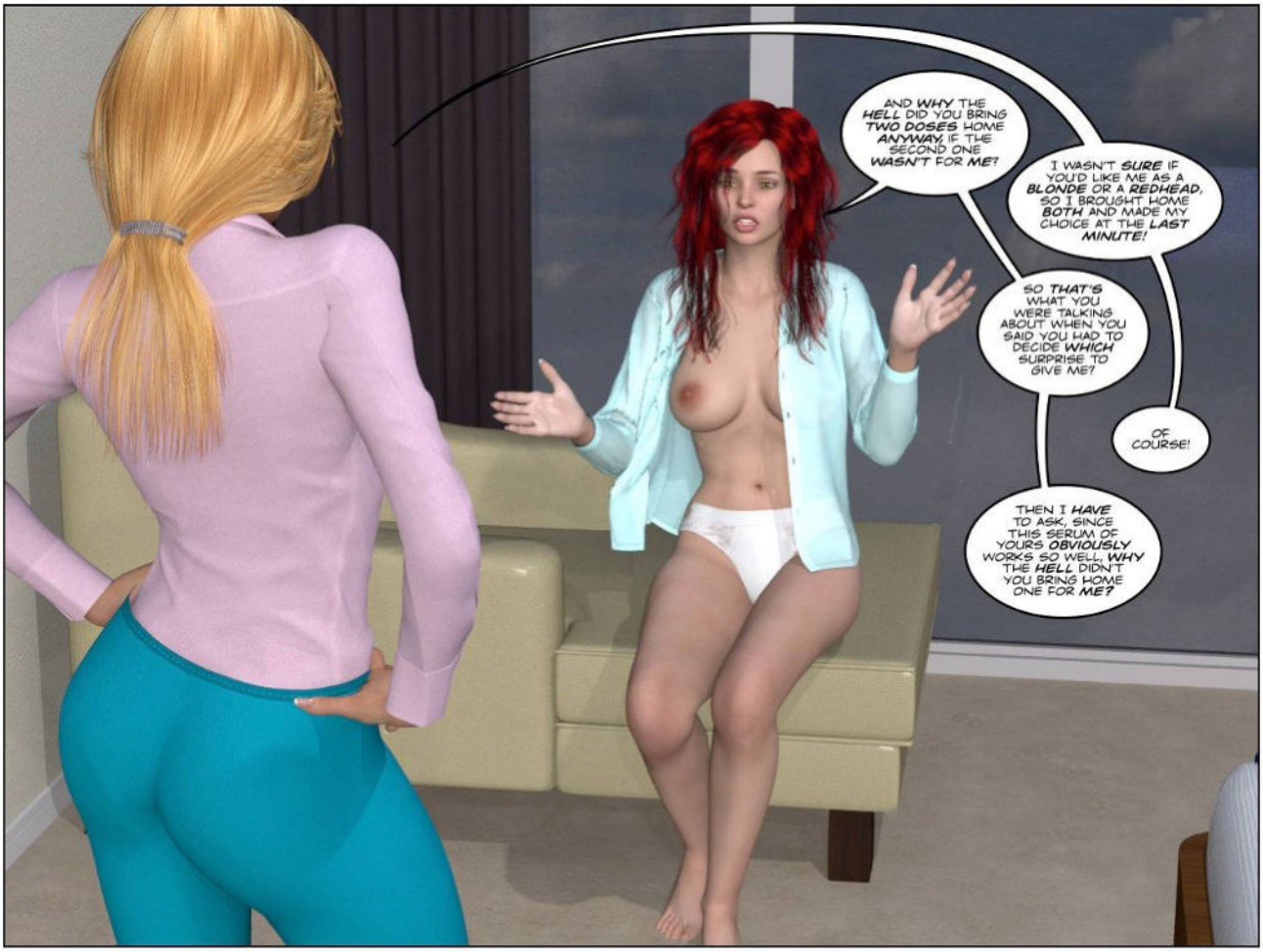

ERR... HELP?!

A Formula for Retirement

by CBlack

Chapter Two




I WASN'T SURE IF YOU'D LIKE ME AS A BLONDE OR A REDHEAD, SO I BROUGHT HOME BOTH AND MADE MY CHOICE AT THE LAST MINUTE!
AND WHY THE HELL DID YOU BRING TWO DOSES HOME ANYWAY, IF THE SECOND ONE WASN'T FOR ME?
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT WHEN YOU SAID YOU HAD TO DECIDE WHICH SURPRISE TO GIVE ME?
OF COURSE!
THEN I HAVE TO ASK, SINCE THIS SERUM OF YOURS OBVIOUSLY WORKS SO WELL, WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU BRING HOME ONE FOR ME?


BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED ONE FOR MEN... NOT YET! ALL THE ATTEMPTS WE'VE MADE HAVE BEEN FAILURES!
WHAT?! BUT YOU SAID IT WORKED ON THE OTHER EXECUTIVES IN YOUR OFFICE! THEY'RE NOT ALL WOMEN, ARE THEY?
THE ONES WHO'VE TRIED SERUM FGMX ARE, YEAH!
WELL, SHIT! NOW YOU TELL ME! SO, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS?


THERE'S NOTHING MUCH WE CAN DO! WE HAVE TO WAIT ROUGHLY 60 HOURS UNTIL YOU CHANGE BACK!
SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE A WOMAN FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND?
YEAH... I'M SORRY! I'M SURE A MACHO GUY LIKE YOU MUST FIND IT INCREDIBLY DISTURBING TO BE INSIDE A BODY LIKE THAT!
WELL, YEAH, BUT... I'M NOT A TOTAL NEANDERTHAL, HONEY!


WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR! PERHAPS BEING A WOMAN FOR A FEW DAYS WILL BE ENLIGHTENING! OR AT LEAST A CHANGE FROM THE DULL ROUTINE, RIGHT?
I SUPPOSE... BUT THE WAY THIS BODY FEELS, IT'S NOT AT ALL LIKE I EXPECTED!
EXPECTED? YOU MEAN YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS HAPPENING BEFORE?
UM, WELL... NOT EXACTLY, BUT... I MEAN, WHO DOESN'T EVER CONSIDER WHAT IT MIGHT BE LIKE TO BE THE OTHER GENDER, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, DEAR! I SUPPOSE IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO SPECULATE ON THE "WHAT-IFS" OF LIFE!


SINCE THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY UNCOMFORTABLE SIDE EFFECTS, I HAVE AN IDEA I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK ABOUT!
WHICH IS...?
SINCE YOU'RE THE FIRST MAN WHO'S TAKEN A SERUM DESIGNED FOR WOMEN, IT WOULD BE A HUGE HELP FOR ME AND MY DEPARTMENT TO SEE HOW YOU COPE UNDER NORMAL EVERYDAY CIRCUMSTANCES!
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NORMAL EVERYDAY CIRCUMSTANCES"?
WELL, KNOWING YOU, I'D WAGER YOU PROBABLY WANT TO SPEND THE NEXT 60 HOURS HUNKERED DOWN HERE IN THE APARTMENT UNTIL YOU CHANGE BACK!
YOU KNOW ME WELL!
YES... YES, I DO!


WHICH IS WHY I ALSO KNOW YOU'D DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO INDULGE YOUR LOVING WIFE!
UH-OH! I'M NOT GONNA LIKE THIS, AM I?
YOU JUST HAVE TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND!
YEAH, I'M NOT GONNA LIKE IT AT ALL!
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, HONEY! WHO KNOWS... YOU MAY GET A KICK OUT OF IT!
JUST TELL ME...

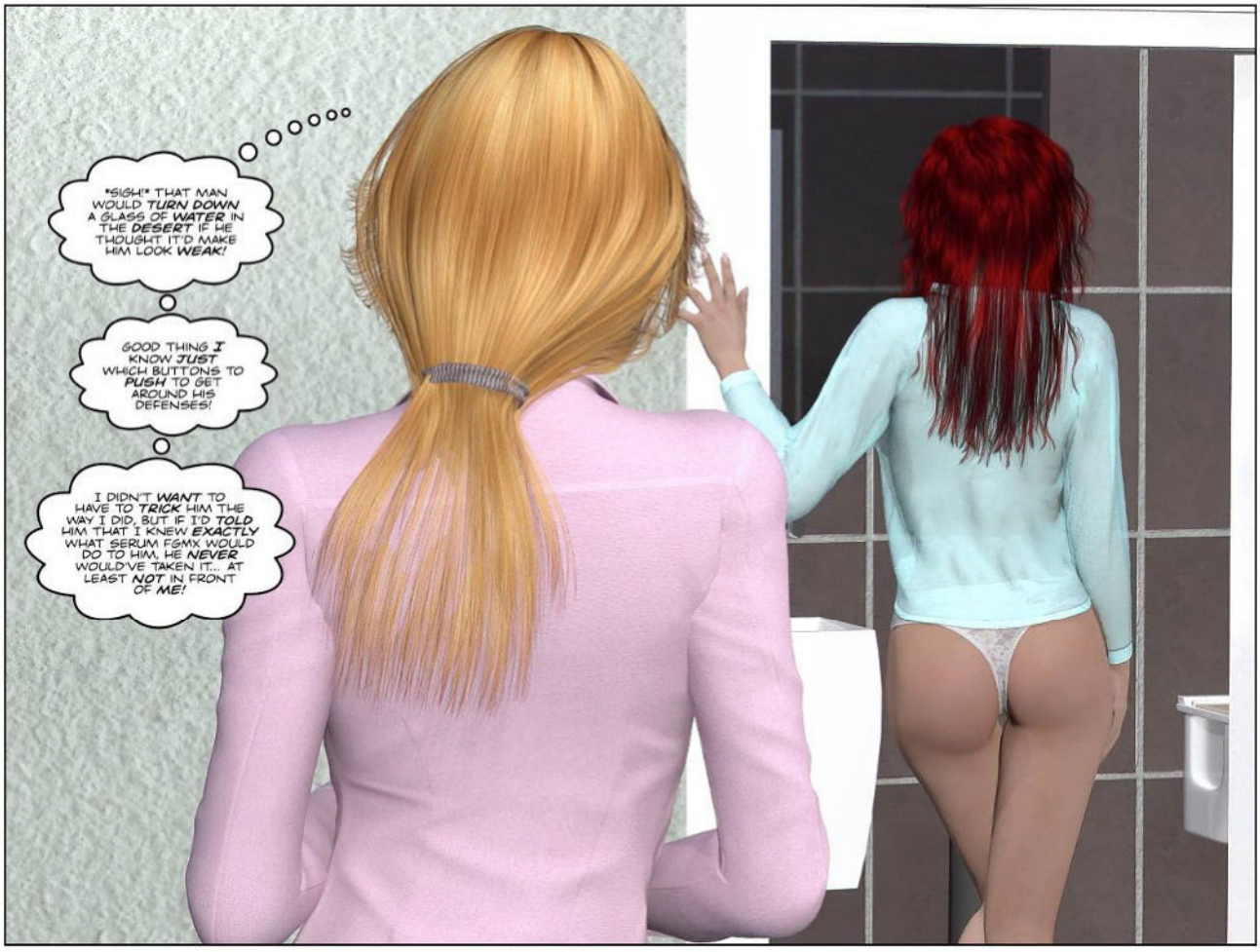

INSTEAD OF HIDING AT HOME ALL WEEKEND, COME OUT AND BE A GIRL WITH ME!
YOU'RE KIDDING... RIGHT?
NOT AT ALL! YOU GET A ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE TO SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES WHILE HELPING US MOVE FORWARD IN DEVELOPING SERUM FGMX FOR MEN!
HOW THE HELL CAN ME BEING A GIRL HELP DEVELOP A MEN'S SERUM?
SEEING HOW YOU HOLD UP UNDER "NORMAL EVERYDAY CIRCUMSTANCES" WILL GIVE US INVALUABLE BASELINE DATA! MOVE US MONTHS AHEAD ON THE TIMELINE!
GOD, YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, AREN'T YOU?!
COMPLETELY! BUT I'M NOT ONLY SUGGESTING THIS FOR SCIENTIFIC REASNS!


I WAS REALLY HOPING THIS WOULD BE A WEEKEND FOR US TO RECONNECT! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT THE SERUM HOME!
THINGS WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW, CONSIDERING YOUR CURRENT... CONDITION! BUT THAT SHOULDN'T STOP US FROM TRYING TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
IT MAY NOT BE THE PASSION-FILLED WEEKEND I WAS HOPING FOR, BUT IF WE GIVE IT A CHANCE, WE MIGHT STILL HAVE SOME FUN. WON'T YOU TRY, PHIL? FOR ME? PLEASE?
"SIGH!"


FINE! IF IT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY!
YES! YES, IT WILL! THANK YOU, HONEY! I PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!
YEAH, WELL... WE'LL SEE!
OH, I THINK AFTER 30 YEARS OF MARRIAGE I KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH TO MAKE PROMISES LIKE THAT!


AND THE FIRST THING YOU NEED IS A SHOWER, BECAUSE TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HONEY... YOU STINK!
HEY!
NOTHING PERSONAL, SWEETIE! IT'S JUST A FACT THAT YOUR BOD'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT OVER THE LAST HOUR AND COULD USE A GOOD SCRUB DOWN!


LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY HELP! *GIGGLE!*
I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF SHOWERING MYSELF, THANK YOU!
WELL DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO HURRY IN THERE, HONEY! IT'LL TAKE ME A WHILE TO FIND SOMETHING OF MINE THAT'LL FIT YOU!


SIGH! THAT MAN WOULD TURN DOWN A GLASS OF WATER IN THE DESERT IF HE THOUGHT IT'D MAKE HIM LOOK WEAK!
GOOD THING I KNOW JUST WHICH BUTTONS TO PUSH TO GET AROUND HIS DEFENSES!
I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO TRICK HIM THE WAY I DID, BUT IF I'D TOLD HIM THAT I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT SERUM FGMX WOULD DO TO HIM, HE NEVER WOULD'VE TAKEN IT... AT LEAST NOT IN FRONT OF ME!


HE'D BE SHOCKED AND HUMILIATED IF I TOLD HIM I KNEW ALL ABOUT HIS PRURIENT INTERESTS! PHIL JOHNSON PRESENTS HIMSELF AS TOO MUCH OF A MANLY MAN TO INDULGE IN SUCH FANTASIES!
I NEVER DREAMED THAT MY PHIL HAD ANY DESIRES THAT WERE SO OUT THERE! BUT AFTER I FOUND ALL THOSE WEBSITES HE VISITS ON A REGULAR BASIS, FILLED WITH POSTS AND STORIES ABOUT MEN CHANGING INTO WOMEN...
IT EXPLAINED SO MUCH, THAT THIS MAN I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF AS AN ALPHA MALE HAS ANOTHER SIDE TO HIM, AND REVEALS WHY HE'S BEEN SO DISTANT AND INATTENTIVE THIS PAST YEAR!


I HAD ASSUMED THAT HIS INATTENTIVENESS WAS DUE TO AN AFFAIR HE MIGHT'VE BEEN HAVING WITH ONE OF THOSE YOUNG HOTTIES HE USED TO WORK WITH! THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I DECIDED TO SNOOP AROUND ON HIS COMPUTER!
"SIGH!" I ALMOST WISH IT HAD BEEN SOMETHING AS "NORMAL" AS AN AFFAIR! THAT WOULD'VE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER TO DEAL WITH!
I DON'T KNOW IF GIVING HIM THIS CHANCE TO LIVE OUT HIS LITTLE FANTASY IS THE SMART THING TO DO, BUT IT'S ALL I COULD THINK OF!
BECAUSE I HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW FAR PHIL'S INTERESTS GO! IS THIS JUST A KINK HE LIKES TO INDULGE IN FROM TIME TO TIME, OR MORE OF A FULL-FLEDGED OBSESSION?
I CAN'T HELP WONDERING... GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY THAT I'VE SERVED UP TO HIM ON A SILVER PLATTER, HOW MUCH OF A WOMAN DOES MY HUSBAND WANT TO BE? I... I GUESS I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT!


HOLY SHIT, HOLY SHIT, HO-LY SH-IT!! I NEVER THOUGHT ANYTHING LIKE THIS WAS EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE!
EVEN SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING IT! BUT THERE IT IS... I'M A GIRL!
AND NOT JUST ANY GIRL... I'M A YOUNG AND VERY, VERY HOT GIRL! JESUS!
HOW MANY STORIES HAVE I READ WHERE A GUY GETS TRANSFORMED LIKE THIS? I NEVER IMAGINED SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD EVER HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE... AND CERTAINLY NOT TO ME!


I ALWAYS THOUGHT STORIES LIKE THIS WERE RIDICULOUS... SELF-INDULGENT FANTASIES ABOUT HOW AMAZING IT WOULD BE TO SUDDENLY BE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
BUT JESUS! NOW I'M LIVING THE FANTASY! THE CLOSEST I'VE EVER GOTTEN TO ANYTHING THIS HOT WAS IN A RENO STRIP CLUB! AND EVEN THEN, I COULDN'T LAY A FINGER ON HER!
WELL, GUESS THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING ME NOW! HEH-HEH!


AND LAURA DID IMPLY I SHOULD TAKE ALL THE TIME I NEEDED IN HERE! *GIGGLE!*


OOOHHH! THAT IS AWESOME!
FEELING THE SENSATION OF WATER ON MY BREASTS IS MIND-BLOWING!


AAAHHHH!
HAVING TITS OF MY OWN IS A TOTAL MIND-FUCK! I'VE SPENT SO MANY HOURS WONDERING WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE!
CAREFUL, DIPSHIT! YOU DON'T WANT YOUR WIFE TO HEAR, DO YOU?


JUST GOTTA... KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT... OOOO... WHILE I DO A LITTLE EXPLORING! SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TOUCH MYSELF DOWN THERE, AND... AND...


MMMMPH!


I'D LOVE TO PUT PHIL INTO A SUPER-GIRLY OUTFIT AND SEE HOW HE REACTS, BUT EVEN IF HE ENJOYED IT, HE'D NEVER ADMIT IT TO ME!


BIT IT'S FINE! DRESSING HIM IN ILL-FITTING CLOTHES WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO...


OOHHH, GOD!!


WELL, THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG! I WONDERED IF HE'D BE ABLE TO RESTRAIN HIMSELF... SINCE HE NOW HAS THE KIND OF BODY HE'S BEEN DREAMING OF! *GIGGLE!*


SO... ENJOY THE SHOWER?
UMM... YEAH, IT WAS FINE! JUST, UHHH... STUBBED MY TOE GETTING OUT OF THE SHOWER... THAT'S WHY I YELLED!
UH-HUH... WHATEVER YOU SAY, HONEY! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING SOMETHING FOR YOU TO WEAR, I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS!
MIGHT AS WELL HIT ME WITH THE BAD NEWS FIRST AND GET IT OVER WITH!
OKAY.. THE BAD NEWS IS, CONSIDERING YOUR RATHER VOLUPTUOUS FIGURE, I ONLY HAVE A FEW THINGS THAT'LL EVEN COME CLOSE TO FITTING YOU!
WHAT LITTLE I HAVE TO OFFER IS EITHER VERY BAGGY OR VERY STRETCHY!
WONDERFUL. AND THE GOOD NEWS?


NOW I DON'T HAVE TO GO SHOPPING ALONE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
REMEMBER I WAS GOING TO GO SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING SEXY TO WEAR TONIGHT? WELL, YOU'LL DEFINITELY NEED SOMETHING THAT FITS TO GET YOU THROUGH THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS!
AND YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT FOR ME?
HARDLY! AT THE VERY LEAST, WE NEED TO FIT YOU FOR A BRA! YOU'LL FIND OUT REAL QUICK THAT CARRYING THOSE GIRLS AROUND WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT CAN BE A REAL BACK-BREAKER!


SIGH! I DID AGREE TO DOING THIS WITH YOU, DIDN'T I?
YES, YOU DID, HONEY! THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
FINE! LET'S FIND ME SOMETHING TO WEAR SO I CAN GO OUT AND HAVE SOME LINGERIE SALESGIRL GROPE ME IN PUBLIC!
SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE...


I KNOW A BIG STRONG MAN LIKE YOU UTTERLY LOATHES THE IDEA OF WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHES, SO I APPRECIATE YOU INDULGING ME! I'M HOPING THAT IF YOU'LL KEEP AN OPEN MIND, IT MIGHT EVEN TURN OUT TO BE A BIT OF FUN!


I KNOW I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF CHOICES FOR YOU TO WEAR, BUT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO OUT LOOKING LIKE THAT?
I DON'T SEE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!


SINCE I GOT FIRED, I'VE WORN PRETTY MUCH NOTHING BUT SWEATS AND T-SHIRTS WHEN I LEAVE THE APARTMENT, AND NO ONE HAS GIVEN ME A SECOND LOOK!
IN FACT, THE ONLY TIME ANYONE EVER REALLY NOTICED ME AT ALL IN PUBLIC WAS WHEN I WAS WEARING MY UNIFORM! SO I DON'T SEE WHY NOW WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT!
UGH! YOU ARE STILL SUCH A GUY INSIDE THERE!


DID YOU EVEN ATTEMPT TO BRUSH OUT YOUR HAIR? BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE A RAT'S NEST!
HEY, I TRIED TO, BUT I COULD BARELY GET A BRUSH THROUGH IT ONCE!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T USE ANY CONDITIONER!
WHY WOULD I? I'VE NEVER HAD LONG HAIR BEFORE! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!
SIGH!


I REALLY, REALLY DON'T WANT YOU WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR HAIR LIKE THIS! I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO... ERR... I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D TRY A LITTLE HARDER TO MAKE THIS WORK!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, HONEY! I GUESS I'LL SPEND THE WEEKEND STICKING AROUND THE APARTMENT AFTER ALL...
NOT A CHANCE, MISSY! YOU SAID YOU'D INDULGE ME, AND I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE!
IT'S JUST... WE'RE NOW GOING TO HAVE TO SQUEEZE IN A QUICK SALON VISIT TODAY, ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE!


A SALON?! C'MON, LAURA! I SAID I'D PLAY ALONG, BUT THAT'S...
...NOW ON THE AGENDA! AND MAYBE, WHEN YOU SEE THE RESULTS, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY WOMEN PUT OURSELVES THROUGH SUCH THINGS!
I'M EXCITED TO SEE HOW YOU'LL LOOK COIFFED AND COLORED... EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT!


THIS IS SO FREAKY! IT'S LIKE WE'RE UNINTENTIONALLY HITTING EVERY ELEMENT IN THOSE STORIES I READ... NOT THAT THOSE SALON AND SHOPPING SCENES EVER DID MUCH FOR ME!
IF ONLY THIS WERE LIKE ONE OF THOSE STORIES WHERE THE WIFE WAS BI AND DIDN'T MIND THAT HER HUSBAND HAD TURNED INTO A HOT CHICK!
THEN WE COULD SPEND THE ENTIRE WEEKEND IN BED, HAVING THE MOST AMAZING TIME OF OUR LIVES!
BUT I'M WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT LAURA'S NOT INTO GIRLS... THE ONE BAD EXPERIENCE SHE HAD IN COLLEGE SEALED THAT DEAL!


A short while later...
Western Wonders
PLEASE. TELL ME. YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON BUYING WHOLE FREAKING WARDROBES FOR BOTH OF US, ARE YOU?
OH. HEAVENS NO! SERUM F9MX JUST LASTS FOR TWO AND A HALF DAYS, WE'LL ONLY NEED A COUPLE OF OUTFITS EACH!
AND DON'T WORRY... I'LL STAY AWAY FROM THE EXPENSIVE DESIGNER LABELS! *GIGGLE!*
GOOD! 'CAUSE REMEMBER, ONLY ONE OF US IS BRINGING HOME A PAYCHECK THESE DAYS!


I KNOW, HONEY... I KNOW!
SINCE YOU'VE CONSISTENTLY REMINDED ME EVERY DAMN DAY FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS!

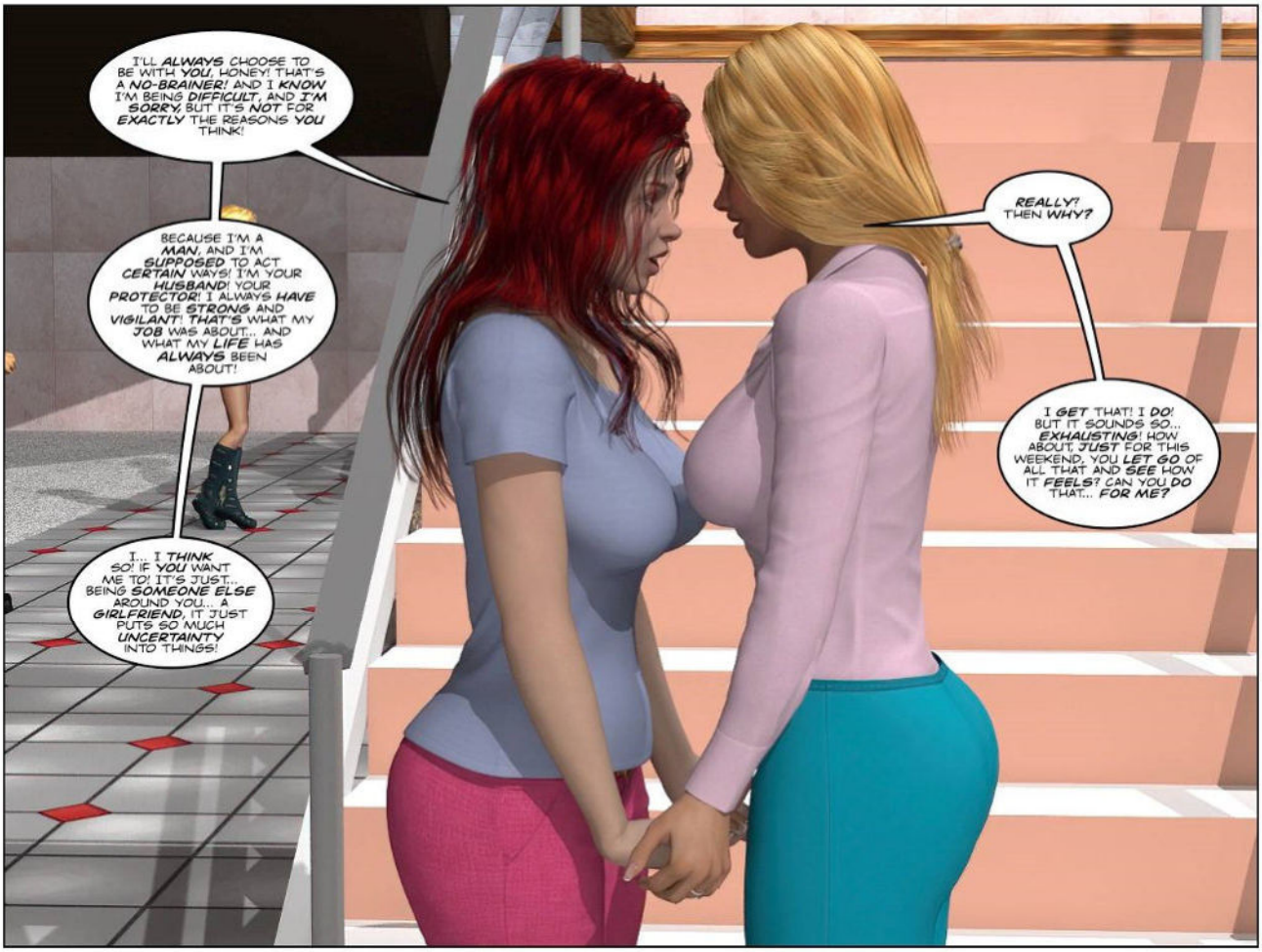

SO, I CALLED AHEAD TO A LITTLE SALON UPSTAIRS, AND THEY CAN SQUEEZE YOU IN FOR A QUICK TOUCH-UP! NOTHING FANCY... JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU A WEE BIT MORE PRESENTABLE!
"PRESENTABLE," HUH? AND JUST WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


OKAY... LOOK, PHIL! I'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS WEEKEND FOR MONTHS! I WANTED TO BE THIS SEXY, YOUNG GIRL FOR YOU TO HELP GET OUR MARRIAGE BACK ON TRACK! BUT THOSE PLANS WENT UP IN SMOKE WHEN YOU TOOK IT UPON YOURSELF TO TRY SOMETHING NOT MEANT FOR YOU!
SO NOW WE'RE BOTH SEXY, YOUNG WOMEN! AND IF WE'RE GOING TO SALVAGE ANY OF THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY, I NEED YOU TO STOP BEING SUCH AN ASSHOLE AND GET ON BOARD WITH WHATEVER I ASK OF YOU!
OTHERWISE, I MIGHT AS WELL CHECK INTO A HOTEL FOR THE WEEKEND AND LEAVE YOU AT HOME TO PLAY WITH YOURSELF IN THE SHOWER ALL YOU WANT!


JESUS! YOU HAVEN'T SNAPPED AT ME LIKE THAT IN YEARS!
YEAH, I GUESS I DO, DON'T IT! I'M SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A JERK, HONEY! IT'S NOT INTENTIONAL!
WELL, YOU DESERVE IT!
ACTUALLY, I THINK IT IS!


I THINK YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF TO BE MISERABLE ABOUT ALL THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF LETTING GO OF THAT STORIED MACHISMO OF YOURS!
HEAVEN FORBID SOMEONE EVER PERCEIVES YOU TO BE ANYTHING LESS THAN THE MANLY MAN YOU'VE ALWAYS APPEARED TO BE!
WELL, NEWS FLASH, SWEETIE! FOR THE NEXT 60 HOURS, NO ONE IS EVER GOING TO MISTAKE YOU FOR PHIL JOHNSON, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THAT!


YOU CAN BE SOMEONE ELSE THIS WEEKEND... SOMEONE NOT BOUND BY THE STRICT MASCULINE CODE YOU'VE ALWAYS FOLLOWED! YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT LIFE IS LIKE AS A PRETTY GIRL!
SO ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND THE TIME SULKING BACK AT THE APARTMENT, OR CAN YOU LET GO OF THAT FRAGILE MALE EGO AND HAVE A FUN WEEKEND WITH ME?
DECIDE NOW, BECAUSE I'M SICK AND TIRED OF FIGHTING YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!


I'LL ALWAYS CHOOSE TO BE WITH YOU, HONEY! THAT'S A NO-BRAINER! AND I KNOW I'M BEING DIFFICULT, AND I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S NOT FOR EXACTLY THE REASONS YOU THINK!
BECAUSE I'M A MAN, AND I'M SUPPOSED TO ACT CERTAIN WAYS! I'M YOUR HUSBAND! YOUR PROTECTOR! I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE STRONG AND VIGILANT! THAT'S WHAT MY JOB WAS ABOUT... AND WHAT MY LIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT!
I... I THINK SO! IF YOU WANT ME TO! IT'S JUST... BEING SOMEONE ELSE AROUND YOU... A GIRLFRIEND, IT JUST PUTS SO MUCH UNCERTAINTY INTO THINGS!
REALLY? THEN WHY?
I GET THAT! I DO! BUT IT SOUNDS SO... EXHAUSTING! HOW ABOUT, JUST FOR THIS WEEKEND, YOU LET GO OF ALL THAT AND SEE HOW IT FEELS? CAN YOU DO THAT... FOR ME?


THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO BE SCARED ABOUT, HONEY! HALF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD SPEND THEIR WHOLE LIVES AS WOMEN! I THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT FOR ONE WEEKEND... ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'VE GOT ME TO HELP YOU THROUGH IT!
AND REST ASSURED... NOTHING YOU DO OR SAY THIS WEEKEND COULD MAKE ME LOVE YOU ANY LESS THAN I ALREADY DO!
IN FACT, ADDING THIS PARTICULAR LAYER TO OUR RELATIONSHIP COULD VERY WELL MAKE ME LOVE YOU EVEN MORE!
SIGH! HEARING YOU SAY THAT DOES MAKE ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER ABOUT ALL OF THIS! LIKE I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD... EXCEPT I'M NOT EXACTLY A GUY RIGHT NOW!


I'LL SAY. NOW LET'S GET YOUR AMPLE BUTT UP TO THAT SALON AND GET YOU CLEANED UP! *GIGGLE!*
HEY!
Smack!


SIGH!. I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO PUSH PHIL THIS WAY, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE IF HE KEEPS ON PRETENDING THAT HE'S FAR TOO MACHO TO ENJOY ANY ASPECT OF BEING A WOMAN...
I NEED TO KNOW HOW FAR THESE FANTASIES OF HIS GO... JUST HOW MUCH HE'LL EMBRACE IT!


A while later, after the salon and a couple of other stops...


HOW THE HELL IS THIS THING SUPPOSED TO STAY UP? THERE AREN'T ANY STRAPS!
IT WILL, DON'T WORRY! IT'S DESIGNED TO WORK THAT WAY!
JUST REMEMBER HOW I TOLD YOU TO PUT IT ON!
YEAH, YEAH... I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!


I'LL BE OUT IN THE STORE LOOKING AROUND! COME SHOW ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE!
SIGH! GET COMFORTABLE! THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE!
I HAVE FAITH IN YOU! *GIGGLE!*


SO FAR, SO GOOD! STILL A LITTLE SURLY AROUND THE EDGES, BUT AT LEAST HE'S STOPPED OPENLY COMPLAINING ABOUT EVERYTHING!
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT ME GETTING ANGRY AT HIM AGAIN... SOMETHING I'VE RARELY EVER DONE IN THE PAST, AT LEAST TO HIS FACE, SO THAT MOST LIKELY THREW HIM FOR A LOOP!
SOMETHING I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER FROM HERE ON OUT! *GIGGLE!*


OH, WOULDN'T PHIL LOOK ADORABLE IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS? WHO KNOWS? AFTER TONIGHT, HE MIGHT EVEN CONSIDER...
WELL, HELLO THERE, GORGEOUS!
WHAT THE...?!


GASP! JACK!? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ADMIRING THE VIEW! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE THIS VERSION OF YOU! ROWR!!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
OKAY, OKAY! I WAS ACROSS THE WAY DROPPING A SUIT OFF AT MY TAILOR WHEN I SPOTTED YOU IN HERE!


COME OVER HERE! MY FRIEND'S BACK THERE, AND I DON'T WANT HER TO HEAR US!
YES! AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT YOU AND ME, SO LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY! OKAY?
IS THIS THE SAME FRIEND YOU GOT THAT EXTRA VIAL OF SERUM F9MX FOR?
OKAY! BUT WON'T SHE FIGURE IT OUT LATER TONIGHT WHEN WE ALL HOOK UP?


I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT NECESSARILY GOING TO BE A HOOK UP! I JUST WANT YOU AND YOUR FRIEND TO TRY AND PICK UP ME AND MY FRIEND AFTER I TAKE HER TO THAT BAR!
IT'S NOT ME, BABE, IT'S MY FRIEND... SHE'S TOTALLY NEW TO BEING A SEXY YOUNG WOMAN! SHE'LL BE SKITTISH WHEN A HANDSOME YOUNG STUD LIKE YOUR FRIEND FLIRTS WITH HER! SHE PROBABLY WON'T BE READY TO... ACT ON ANY FEELINGS SHE MAY HAVE, AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M GOING TO STICK WITH HER!
I CAN'T SPEAK FOR MY FRIEND, BUT WHY WOULDN'T I BE SUCCESSFUL PICKING YOU UP, SINCE YOU AND I HAVE BEEN HOOKING UP FOR MONTHS?
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOUR HUSBAND HAS FINALLY GOTTEN OFF HIS ASS AND LEFT YOU ALONE FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND...


SO, NO NOOKIE FOR ME UNLESS YOUR FRIEND IS WILLING TO HOOK UP WITH MINE? SOUNDS LIKE MAJOR INCENTIVE TO GREASE THE WHEELS FOR THOSE TWO!
LET'S JUST SEE HOW THINGS PLAY OUT, OKAY? THERE'S A STRONG CHANCE NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT!
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, DON'T WORRY, BABE! I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU NEXT WEEKEND! COUNT ON IT!
OH, I DO, GORGEOUS! I ALWAYS DO!


NOW, GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SHE COMES OUT AND SEES US TOGETHER!
AND REMEMBER, WHEN YOU TWO "HAPPEN" TO SHOW UP AT THE HOTEL BAR, ACT LIKE WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER!
JUST LIKE THE LITTLE ROLE-PLAYING WE DID THE FIRST TIME YOU WORE THAT INCREDIBLE BOD FOR ME! HEH-HEH!
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, HOT STUFF!


SHIT! THAT WAS CLOSE! THE BIG LUG COULD'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
OKAY... I THINK I FINALLY GOT IT!


JESUS! IS IT SUPPOSED TO HOLD THEM UP SO DAMN HIGH?
OF COURSE! IT'S INFINITELY BETTER THAN LETTING THEM HANG LOW... ESPECIALLY WITH A FIGURE LIKE YOURS! *GIGGLE!*


YEAH, A FIGURE THESE CLOTHES ARE DOING NOTHING TO HIDE! DON'T YOU THINK THEY'LL DRAW A LITTLE TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO ME?
THEY'LL DRAW THE ATTENTION ANY GORGEOUS YOUNG WOMAN WOULD NORMALLY GET, AND THAT'S THE POINT! IF WE'RE GOING TO BLEND IN WITH THE CROWD THIS WEEKEND, WE HAVE TO EXEMPLIFY THE GIRLS WE APPEAR TO BE!
"BLEND IN WITH THE CROWD?" WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR US BESIDES THIS LITTLE SHOPPING TRIP?
BECAUSE YOU'RE VERY PERCEPTIVE! BUT DON'T WORRY... WE'LL HAVE A BLAST! I PROMISE!


BUT IF YOU WANT TO WAIT BACK HERE AND GATHER YOURSELF FOR A BIT WHILE I GO PAY, THAT'S FINE! JUST MEET ME OUT FRONT WHEN YOU'RE READY!
OKAY... THANKS! I'LL BE OUT IN A FEW MINUTES!


IT'S DEFINITELY WORKING! PHIL'S ACTING A BIT HESITANT, BUT I CAN SEE THE THRILL IN HIS EYES!


"What he needs right now is a little time alone, without me watching over him, so he can embrace that new reflection of his!"


THERE WERE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF STORIES ON THOSE WEBSITES! I GET THAT PHIL HAS FANTASIES ABOUT BEING FEMALE. BUT THE QUESTIONS REMAINS, WHAT KIND OF WOMAN DOES HE WANT TO BE?
IS HE HAPPY TO HAVE A PUSSY, OR IS HE INTO THOSE STORIES WHERE THE CHICKS KEEP THEIR DICKS?
DO HIS FANTASIES CONSIST OF A GUY TURNING INTO A GIRL AND BECOMING A LESBIAN, OR DOES HE GRAVITATE TOWARD THE ONES WHERE A MAN TURNS INTO A WOMAN AND ENDS UP HOOKING UP WITH A MAN?
FOR ALL I KNOW, HE COULD BE INTO BOTH SCNEARIOS!


"He *now* has the kind of body he's *fantasized* about... but the question remains... now that he's a *gorgeous* young woman, *what's* he going to *do* about it?"


"is being female something he'll be content with *trying out* for a *weekend*... or is this a role he wants to *live* for a *lifetime*?"


I HAVE TO KNOW HOW FAR THIS GOES! HE HASN'T TOUCHED ME IN MONTHS, AND EVEN TODAY, WHEN I LOOK LIKE THIS, HE STILL COULDN'T GET IT UP!
IT'S WHY I'VE SOUGHT COMFORT ELSEWHERE OVER THESE PAST FEW MONTHS! I WASN'T LOOKING TO STRAY, BUT I'VE BEEN SO LONELY! AND JACK...
I'M NOT SURE HE'S SOMEONE I COULD EVER LOVE, BUT TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO LUSTS AFTER ME... EVEN IN MY REAL BODY, HAS BEEN SO INVIGORATING! JACK MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE!
PHIL'S MY TRUE LOVE, I WOULD CHOOSE TO BE WITH HIM IN A HEARTBEAT. BUT HE'S BEEN MISERABLE SINCE HE WAS FORCED INTO RETIREMENT!
AND I... I CAN'T LIVE THIS WAY ANYMORE! THAT'S WHY, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, I NEED TO FIND OUT IF PHIL STILL WANTS TO BE A MAN AND PLAY THE ROLE OF A HUSBAND... OR IF HE'D RATHER BE A WOMAN!


Totem Pole
FEELING BETTER?
YEAH... I THINK SO!

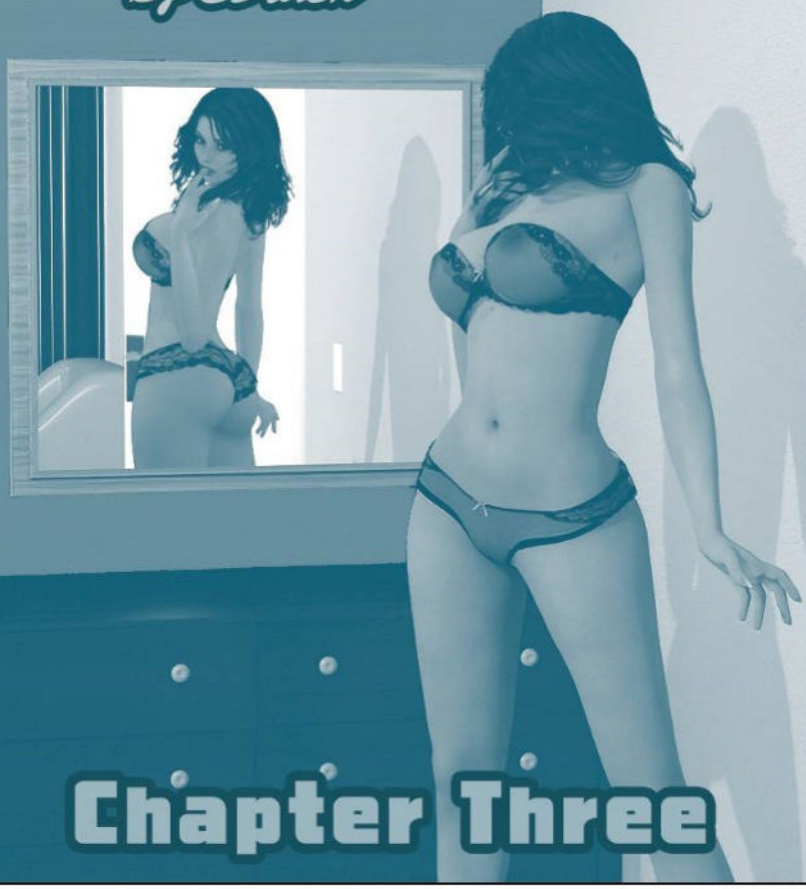

GOOD! WE JUST HAVE A FEW MORE STOPS TO MAKE, THEN WE'LL HEAD HOME!
OKAY, BUT WALK SLOWLY! THESE SANDALS ARE A LITTLE TREACHEROUS!
OH, HONEY, YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET! *GIGGLE!*
UH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!


JUST TAKE IT EASY AND SLOW... ONE STEP AT A TIME!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TO TAKE IT SLOW!
SO THAT'S LAURA'S LITTLE "FRIEND," HUH?
WHEW! GOTTA HAND IT TO THOSE GUYS IN R & D, THAT SERUM FSMX WORKS MIRACLES!



A FORMULA FOR RETIREMENT

by CBlack



Chapter Three


Later, outside their apartment building...
STOP


THANK YOU!
TAXI
NO, THANK YOU, DARLIN'!
5th Avenue


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET A CAB THIS TIME OF DAY!
LUCK? *GIGGLE!* YOU'RE SO CUTE! LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, SWEETIE!
TAXI
504
Beep, beep!


THEN WHAT...? OH!
NOW SHE'S GETTING IT!
AND YOU'LL FIND THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE MANY PERKS YOU'LL ENJOY THIS WEEKEND!


AFTER YOU!
OH, UMMM... THANKS!
UGH! IT'S THAT JERK FROM THE 18TH FLOOR WHO THINKS HE'S GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN! I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN HIM WITH THE SAME WOMAN TWICE!


AND I'LL BET I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HIS EYES ARE FOCUSED RIGHT NOW!
WELL, MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT WORTH HIS WHILE! AFTER ALL, HE DID GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF HOLDING THE DOOR FOR US!


OH YEAH! SWING THAT ASS FOR ME, BABY! DAMN!


WHAT FLOOR CAN I PRESS FOR YOU LADIES?
FIFTEEN, PLEASE!


ARE YOU TWO NEW TO OUR BUILDING?
WHY, UMMM... YES! YES, WE ARE! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
OH, I'D DEFINITELY REMEMBER SEEING LADIES AS LOVELY AS YOU BEFORE!
THAT'S CUTE! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, THEN I'M SURE WE'LL BE SEEING MUCH MORE OF EACH OTHER!
JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING! AS A MATTER OF FACT...
Ding!
OOPS! THIS IS OUR FLOOR!


C'MON, BABE! I CAN'T WAIT TO MODEL THIS NEW NIGHTIE FOR YOU!
UH... BABE?
UMM, YEAH! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT ON... BUT I'M MORE LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING IT OFF YOU! *GIGGLE!*


GIGGLE!
GIGGLE!
WELL... SHIT!


OH MY GOD, THAT WAS HILARIOUS! I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN HIS FACE AS WE WALKED AWAY!
PROBABLY AN ENTERTAINING MIX OF CONFUSION AND SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENT!


AND JUST WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO FLIRT LIKE THAT?
IT WASN'T TOO HARD GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES! I'VE DISLIKED THAT SMUG PUNK EVER SINCE HE MOVED IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO AND SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE HIM DOWN A NOTCH OR TWO!
I KNEW WHAT HE WANTED TO SEE, SO I GAVE IT TO HIM... JUST SO I COULD CHEERFULLY RIP IT AWAY A MOMENT LATER!
WELL, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER MYSELF!


WELL, I HAVE TO TELL YOU, THIS AFTERNOON WAS AWESOME! IT WAS JUST LIKE HAVING A GIRLFRIEND TO HANG OUT WITH AGAIN!
I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD THESE PAST FEW YEARS, I'VE LOST TOUCH WITH FRAN AND STACEY!
YOU THREE USED TO GO OUT TOGETHER PRACTICALLY EVERY WEEK! WHEN DID THAT CHANGE?
OH, YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS GO! FRAN GOT A NEW JOB AND STACEY BECAME A GRANDMOTHER! AT OUR AGE, IT'S SO EASY FOR PEOPLE TO DRIFT APART!


I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I'D BEEN MISSING IT UNTIL TODAY! A SWEET BONUS TO YOUR UNEXPECTED TRANSFORMATION, AT LEAST FOR ME!
WELL, GLAD I COULD HELP OUT!
WOULD PHIL PREFER TO PLAY THE PART OF GIRLFRIEND INSTEAD OF HUSBAND? I'M DETERMINED TO GET THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION THIS WEEKEND!


I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE LET DOWN YOUR GUARD AND HAVE BEEN WILLING TO INDULGE ME!
THINGS WENT SO WELL THIS AFTERNOON, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF YOU'RE... ENJOYING YOURSELF... AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT!
BEING YOUNG AGAIN IS PRETTY GREAT! THAT KNEE OF MINE DOESN'T SCREAM WHEN I GO UP STAIRS AND...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, AND YOU KNOW IT! ALL I'M REALLY TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I APPRECIATE YOU GOING WITH THE FLOW AND ACCEPTING THE BODY YOU'RE IN FOR THE WEEKEND!
BEING FEMALE... IT'S NOTHING I EVER WOULD HAVE CHOSEN FOR MYSELF, BUT I'M MANAGING!


AND CONSIDERING HOW MUCH YOU'VE HAD TO PUT UP WITH FROM ME THESE LAST FEW MONTHS...
...BEING YOUR GIRLFRIEND THIS WEEKEND SEEMS LIKE THE VERY LEAST I CAN DO!


I FEEL LIKE THIS CHANGE WILL ENABLE US TO BOND IN NEW WAYS, HONEY! THIS WEEKEND IS TURNING OUT TO BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I ENVISIONED, BUT IT'S STILL GOING TO BE WONDERFUL! DON'T YOU THINK?
IF THIS RIB-BREAKING HUG IS ANY INDICATION, THEN, YEAH... I THINK I DO!


SO, JUST WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR THE TWO AMIGAS TOMORROW?
THAT PRETTY MUCH DEPENDS ON HOW TONIGHT GOES!
TONIGHT? HAVEN'T WE DONE ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY?
IF WE HAD ALL THE TIME WE WANTED, THEN MAYBE! BUT WITH ONLY A WEEKEND TO WORK WITH, I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ONE MINUTE OF IT!
SIGH! OKAY... WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?


WELL, I THOUGHT WE'D GET DRESSED UP AND GO OUT! I'D ALREADY MADE DINNER RESERVATIONS BEFORE ALL THIS HAPPENED! NO REASON TO LET THEM GO TO WASTE!
DRESSED UP? IN WHAT? BESIDES A FEW AROUND-THE-HOUSE ITEMS, THIS IS THE ONLY OUTFIT WE BOUGHT FOR ME!
AND I'M PRETTY SURE MOST RESTAURANTS THAT REQUIRE RESERVATIONS FROWN ON JEANS AND TANK TOPS!


ACTUALLY, I BOUGHT A FEW THINGS FOR YOU WHILE YOU WERE SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN THE DRESSING ROOM! THEY WERE JUST TOO CUTE TO PASS UP!
GEE... AND I DIDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING!
OUR RESERVATIONS ARE FOR EIGHT! LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY HELP WITH ANYTHING!


WE CAN DO YOUR MAKEUP AFTER YOU'RE DRESSED!
GREAT...
OH, AND THERE ARE SOME SHOES IN THAT BAG YOU SHOULD PUT ON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO YOU CAN GET USED TO THEM!
EVEN GREATER...


FEIGN THAT RELUCTANCE ALL YOU WANT, SWEETIE! AFTER WHAT I SAW IN THAT ELEVATOR, I KNOW YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS IS A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN YOU'RE WILLING TO ADMIT... TO BOTH ME AND YOURSELF!
I JUST WONDER WHAT'S GOING THROUGH THAT HEAD OF YOURS! DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE HOW YOU'LL ACT NOW THAT YOU'RE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ONE OF YOUR STORIES... A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?


GET USED TO THE SHOES, SHE SAYS! RIGHT!
THIS SEEMS LIKE YET ANOTHER SCENE OUT OF THE STORIES I READ, THOUGH I NEVER IMAGINED I'D BE THE ONE STRAPPING ON A PAIR OF ULTRA-HIGH HEELS!
IF WALKING IN THESE THINGS IS TRICKIER THAN WORKING THE DAMN BUCKLES, I COULD BE IN BIG TROUBLE!


YIKES! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT THESE THINGS ON FIRST!
'CAUSE THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF BEING WORSE THAN BREAKING MY ANKLE BECAUSE OF THESE SHOES IS BEING NAKED, IN THIS BODY, WHILE ONE OF MY OLD EMT MATES ADMINISTERS FIRST AID TO ME!


SIGH! WHY THE HELL IS EVERYTHING A WOMAN PUTS ON SUCH A GODDAMN STRUGGLE? GETTING GUSSIED UP ALWAYS SOUNDS SO EASY IN THOSE STORIES!


BUT I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN TOO MUCH... NOT WHEN THE END RESULTS LOOK LIKE THIS! WOW! TALK ABOUT FANTASIES COME TRUE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS ME!


HMMM... IT'S AWFULLY QUIET IN THERE! NO YELLING, CURSING OR THE SOUND OF HEELS BEING THROWN AGAINST THE WALL...
I'D BETTER CHECK AND MAKE SURE "SHE'S" MAKING SOME HEADWAY BEFORE I FINISH GETTING READY MYSELF!


MAYBE I'D BETTER JUST TAKE A QUICK PEEK FIRST, SO I DON'T...
OH MY..







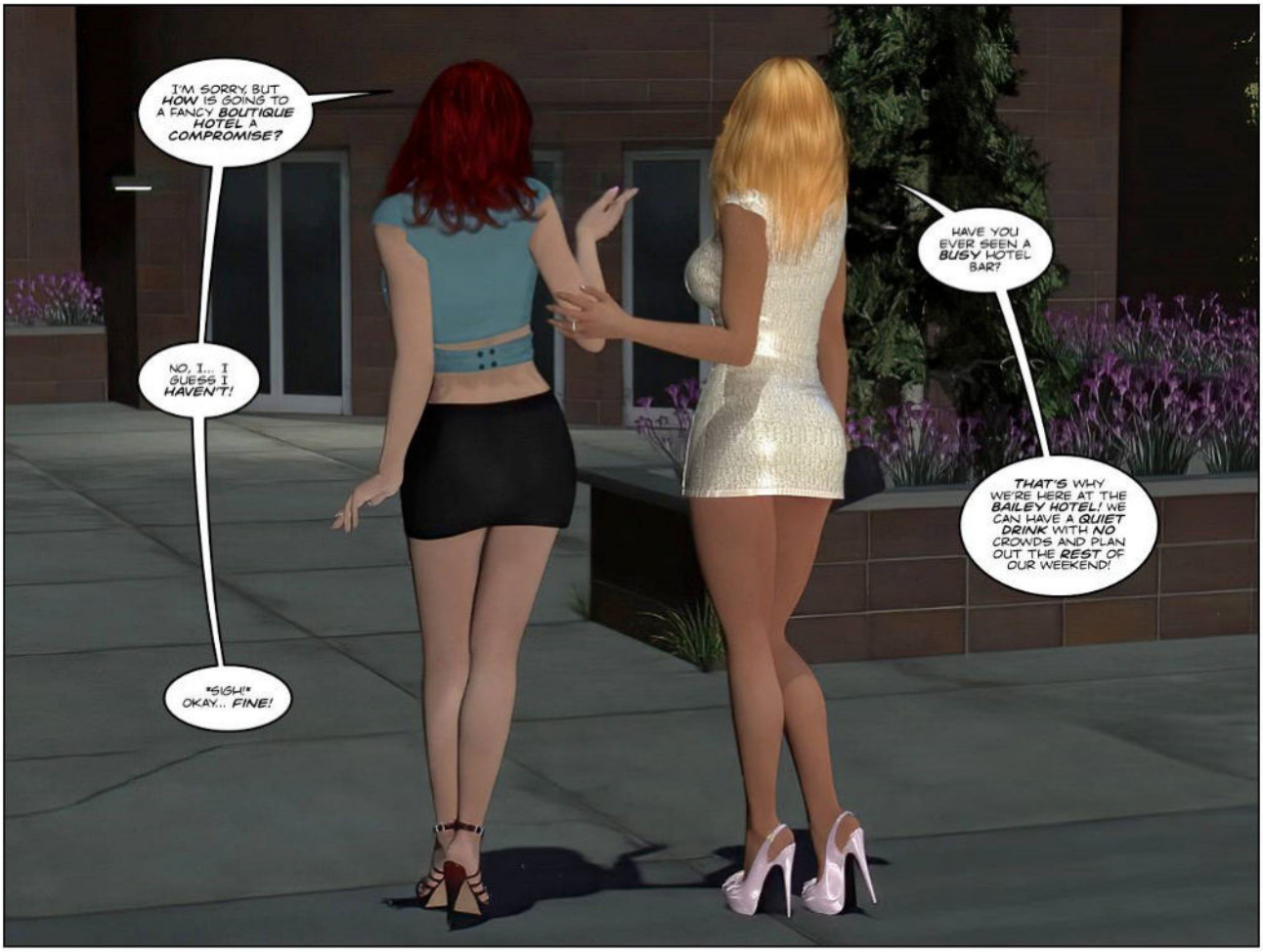

WOW... I THINK SOMEONE IS BEGINNING TO FULLY EMBRACE THE ROLE SHE'S BEEN ITCHING TO PLAY!


A few hours later...


TAX
THIS IS CLOSE ENOUGH! THANK YOU, DRIVER!
STOP
WHY HERE? THIS ISN'T OUR APARTMENT!


ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO MAKE ME WALK THE LAST THREE BLOCKS IN THESE SHOES?
OH, QUIT WHINING! YOU'VE BEEN HANDLING THOSE STILETTOS LIKE A CHAMP ALL EVENING!
BESIDES, WE'RE NOT GOING HOME QUITE YET! WE'RE GOING TO STOP IN HERE FOR A DRINK FIRST!


I THOUGHT WE DECIDED WE WERE GOING HOME AFTER DINNER!
NO, GOING HOME RIGHT AWAY IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO! I THOUGHT THAT SINCE YOU HANDLED YOURSELF SO WELL AT THE RESTAURANT, A VISIT TO A NIGHTCLUB WAS IN ORDER!
BUT I KNOW THAT'D MAKE YOU MISERABLE... SO THIS IS OUR COMPROMISE!
R504


I'M SORRY, BUT HOW IS GOING TO A FANCY BOUTIQUE HOTEL A COMPROMISE?
NO, I... I GUESS I HAVEN'T!
SIGH! OKAY... FINE!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BUSY HOTEL BAR?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE AT THE BAILEY HOTEL! WE CAN HAVE A QUIET DRINK WITH NO CROWDS AND PLAN OUT THE REST OF OUR WEEKEND!


PERHAPS A NICE QUIET DRINK WOULD BE JUST THE THING AFTER THE DAY I'VE HAD!


Meanwhile, inside the hotel...


SO WHEN ARE THESE TWO LADIES OF YOURS GETTING HERE?
LAURA TEXTED ME FROM THE CAB A FEW MINUTES AGO, SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE!
BUT REMEMBER... AS FAR AS HER FRIEND IS CONCERNED, LAURA AND I HAVE NEVER MET BEFORE! GOT IT?


YEAH, YEAH! WHATEVER KINKY ROLE-PLAYING GAME YOU AND YOUR LADY FRIEND ARE INTO, I'M IN!
I JUST HOPE THIS FRIEND OF HERS IS WORTH IT!
OH, SHE IS! BELIEVE ME!
SO, STICK TO THE COVER STORY WE CAME UP WITH AND JUST PLAY ALONG WITH WHATEVER I SAY, AND WE'LL BOTH BE SCORING HIGH TONIGHT!


IN FACT, YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF, BECAUSE THERE THEY ARE!
OH, AND THE BLONDE IS MINE!
WORKS FOR ME! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER FOR REDHEADS! DAMN!


WHAT CAN I GET YOU TWO?
TWO WHITE WINES, PLEASE!
COMING UP!


SO, NOW THAT WE'VE SETTLED INTO OUR "GIRLS' WEEKEND," HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?


I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, LAURA... I'M ENJOYING IT MORE THAN I EVER IMAGINED I WOULD!
THE RESTAURANT, FOR EXAMPLE... WE'VE BEEN GOING THERE FOR YEARS, BUT WE'VE NEVER GOTTEN THE LEVEL OF SERVICE WE RECEIVED TONIGHT!
AND IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT PRETTY MUCH EVERYWHERE WE GO!
AND THAT SURPRISES YOU?
NO... NOT REALLY!


I MEAN, I ALWAYS KNEW THE WORLD WAS DIFFERENT FOR PRETTY GIRLS, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR MYSELF!
WITH THE SET OF CURVES WE'VE GOT, WE'D BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION NO MATTER HOW WE DRESSED! BUT WHEN WE SHOW THEM OFF THE WAY WE ARE TONIGHT... EVERY EYE ON US WHEN WE ENTER THE ROOM... IT'S QUITE A RUSH!
I HAVEN'T FELT MY ADRENALINE PUMPING LIKE THIS SINCE I QUIT WORKING! I KNOW IT'S NOT AT ALL THE SAME THING ... BUT I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED THAT KIND OF THRILL! DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE?
I THINK I GET IT, HONEY! YOU'VE BEEN WANDERING AROUND LIKE A ZOMBIE SINCE YOU RETIRED... BUT NOW YOU'RE ALIVE AGAIN!
I GUESS IT TOOK TURNING YOU INTO A GIRL TO BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE! *GIGGLE!*

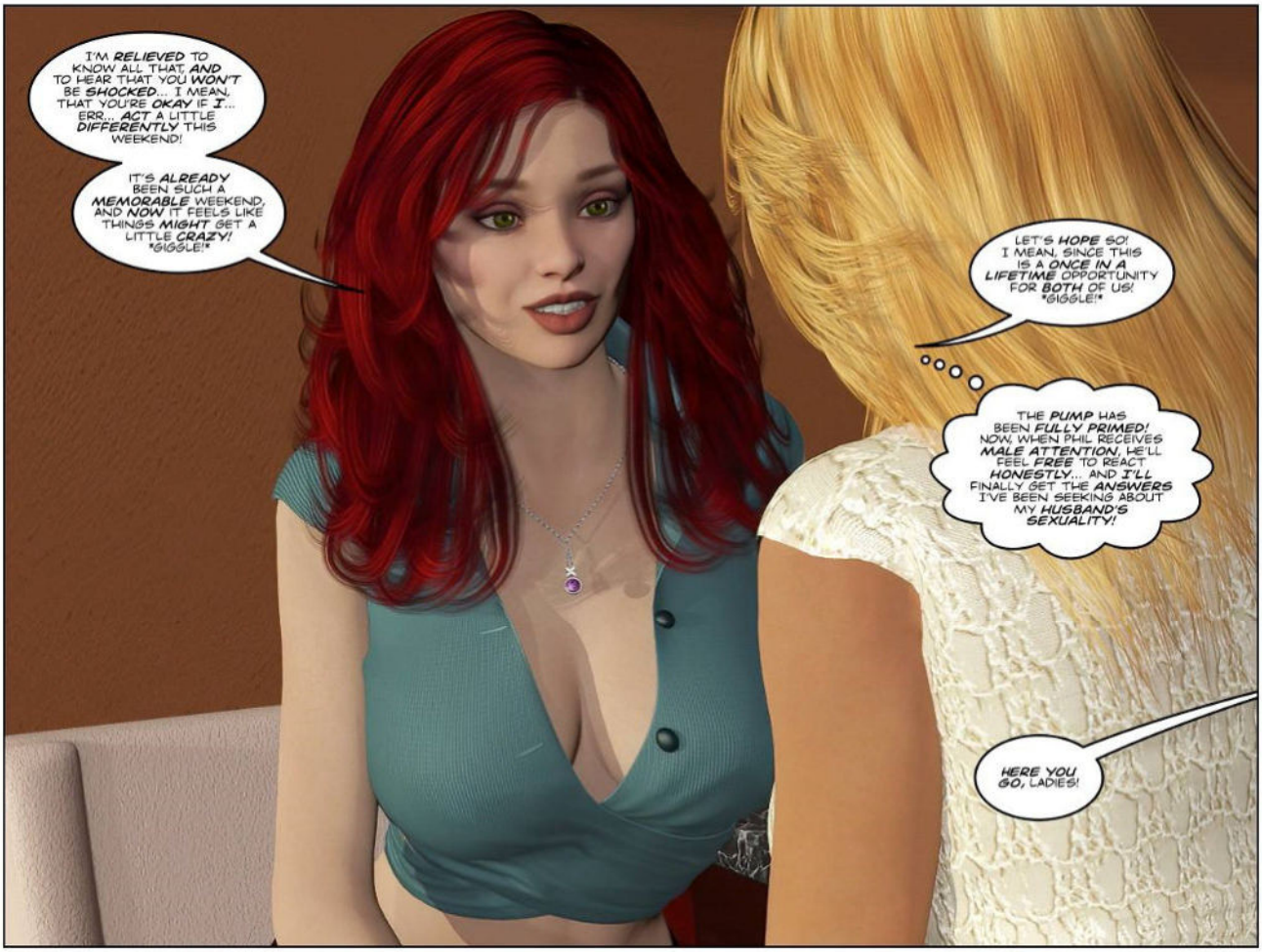

TO BE HONEST, I FEEL THE SAME WAY! BEING YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL IS A TOTAL RUSH FOR ME AS WELL!
AND TOTALLY ADDICTING! I... I COULD EASILY SEE MYSELF FORGETTING WHO I REALLY AM!
ERR... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, WE'RE TWO HOT, YOUNG WOMEN OUT ON THE TOWN! I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT THE "WHAT IFS" AVAILABLE TO US!


HOLY SHIT, LAURA! ARE YOU ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT...
CAN YOU HONESTLY TELL ME THAT THE THOUGHT HASN'T AT LEAST BRIEFLY CROSSED YOUR MIND?
WELL, MAYBE... FOR AN INSTANT! BUT I... I'M NOT EVEN SURE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING! YOU LIKE GUYS, AND I... I...
GO ON, TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT! AND DON'T BE ASHAMED BY WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE FEELING! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
IT... IT'S NOT?
NO... I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S THE SERUM!
YOU MEAN, BEYOND THE PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION, THAT SERUM IS ALSO AFFECTING MY MIND?


THRE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO MENTION IT BEFORE... BECAUSE YOU ALREADY HAD ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH!
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING?
WELL, ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF OUR TEST SUBJECTS EXPERIENCE UNINTENDED INCREASES IN CERTAIN HORMONE PRODUCTION!
SPECIFICALLY, THE HORMONES THAT INCREASE LIBIDO... AND INTERFERE WITH THE SUBJECT'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
ACTUALLY, I AM! EVERYTHING I JUST SAID WAS TOTAL BULLSHIT... BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT!


LOOK, HONEY, I'M JUST SAYING THAT WHATEVER OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY IMPULSES EITHER OF US MAY BE FEELING THIS WEEKEND ARE LIKELY DUE TO THE SERUM!
SO WHATEVER HAPPENS THIS WEEKEND WILL BE NO FAULT OF YOURS... OR MINE! I'M GUESSING IT'S WHY YOU'RE ABLE TO ENJOY THE KIND OF ATTENTION YOU'VE BEEN RECEIVING... THE KIND OF ATTENTION THAT WOULD NORMALLY REPULSE YOU! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S THE CASE?
SIGH YEAH, I... I THINK IT MUST BE!


THE MAIN THING IS THAT YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL ANY GUILT OVER ANY THOUGHTS THAT MAY CROSS YOUR MIND THIS WEEKEND! JUST REMEMBER, IT'S PROBABLY SERUM FGMX TALKING!
THERE! I DO BELIEVE I'VE SET EVERYTHING UP PERFECTLY SO PHIL WILL FEEL LESS NEED TO HIDE WHAT HE'S FEELING... OR WANTING... WHILE HE'S OCCUPYING THAT BODY!
MAYBE NOW I CAN FINALLY LEARN WHERE HIS TRUE INCLINATIONS LIE! I'M DYING TO SEE HOW HE'LL CHOOSE TO LIVE OUT HIS FANTASIES OF BEING A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN NOW THAT HE KNOWS I WON'T JUDGE HIM FOR IT! *GIGGLE!*


I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW ALL THAT, AND TO HEAR THAT YOU WON'T BE SHOCKED... I MEAN, THAT YOU'RE OKAY IF I... ERR... ACT A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THIS WEEKEND!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN SUCH A MEMORABLE WEEKEND, AND NOW IT FEELS LIKE THINGS MIGHT GET A LITTLE CRAZY! *GIGGLE!*
LET'S HOPE SO! I MEAN, SINCE THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH OF US! *GIGGLE!*
THE PUMP HAS BEEN FULLY PRIMED! NOW, WHEN PHIL RECEIVES MALE ATTENTION, HE'LL FEEL FREE TO REACT HONESTLY... AND I'LL FINALLY GET THE ANSWERS I'VE BEEN SEEKING ABOUT MY HUSBAND'S SEXUALITY!
HERE YOU GO, LADIES!


THESE DRINKS ARE COURTESY OF THE TWO GENTLEMEN OVER THERE!
WHAT?!
OH, REALLY?


WELL, SHIT! SO MUCH FOR THE QUIET DRINK WITH NOBODY PESTERING US! WHAT DO WE DO?
WE SMILE, STAY PUT AND LET THEM MAKE THE NEXT MOVE!
NEXT MOVE? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IT'S ALL PART OF THE GAME, SWEETIE! AND WE'RE IN CONTROL! SO JUST SMILE AND DRINK YOUR DRINK!
SIGH! OKAY!


SO WHAT DO WE DO IF THEY COME OVER?
OH, THERE'S NO "IF" ABOUT IT, HONEY! THEY'LL DEFINITELY COME OVER WHEN THEY GET TIRED OF WAITING!
WAITING FOR WHAT?
WAITING FOR US TO GO OVER THERE!


YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY CONSIDERING GOING OVER THERE, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT!
GOOD! YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE FOR A MINUTE, AND...
BECAUSE THEY'RE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY OVER HERE!
WHAT?!


THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE... NOW, BEFORE THEY GET HERE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GIRL WHO WAS READY TO GO A LITTLE CRAZY?
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE SAID THAT BEFORE SHE FULLY GRASPED WHAT SHE WAS GETTING HERSELF INTO!
IT'S JUST A LITTLE HARMLESS FLIRTING, THAT'S ALL!


LOOK, HONEY... THIS IS AN UPSCALE HOTEL BAR, NOT SOME SEEDY MEAT MARKET! THEY OBVIOUSLY CAME HERE FOR THE SAME REASON WE DID, FOR A NICE QUIET DRINK!
BUT LIKE ANY RED-BLOODED MEN WHO'VE HAPPENED UPON A COUPLE OF VERY ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN, THEY FIGURE THEY JUST HAVE TO TAKE THEIR BEST SHOT!
AND WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF REALLY NICE GUYS AND WE CAN HAVE A PERFECTLY PLEASANT CONVERSATION... AND EVEN A BIT OF FUN!


AND AS GOOD-LOOKING AS THESE TWO ARE, I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO END AN EVENING! GRRRR!
LAURA?!
SORRY, BABE, COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! BLAME THE WINE AND THE HORMONES! *GIGGLE!*


GOOD EVENING, LADIES!
GOOD EVENING, YOURSELVES! AND THANK YOU FOR THE DRINKS!
DON'T MENTION IT! I'M JACK, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND SAM, AND WE WERE HOPING YOU LADIES WOULD JOIN US AT OUR TABLE!
WELL, I DON'T THINK...
WE'D LOVE TO!


SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST TALK ABOUT THIS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, HONEY! WE CAN WALK AWAY FROM THESE GUYS WHENEVER WE FEEL LIKE IT! I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW! *GIGGLE!*


HERE WE ARE, LADIES! AND I DON'T THINK WE CAUGHT YOUR NAMES!
WELL, I'M LAURA, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND, UMMM... LILY!
SAY HELLO, LILY!
UMMM... HELLO!
LILY? REALLY? WELL, I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN SOMETHING MORE DERIVATIVE, LIKE PHYLLIS! YUCK!


SO, ARE YOU TWO ALSO STAYING HERE AT THE HOTEL?
OH, NO... WE LIVE HERE IN TOWN! OUR DOUBLE DATE ENDED EARLY, SO WE DECIDED TO STOP IN FOR A NIGHTCAP BEFORE HEADING HOME!
LUCKY FOR US YOU DID! HEH-HEH!
LUCKY FOR ALL OF US, I THINK! *GIGGLE!*
OH, GREAT! WAY TO PUT EVEN MORE IDEAS IN THEIR HEADS, LAURA!


SO WHAT DO YOU LADIES DO DURING THE DAYTIME HOURS?
OH, LILY AND I ARE MODELS!
REALLY? ANYTHING WE MIGHT HAVE SEEN YOU IN?
ONLY IF YOU REGULARLY PERUSE SOME OF THE ONLINE LINGERIE CATALOGS! *GIGGLE!*
WELL, IF I HAVEN'T BEFORE, I DEFINITELY WILL START DOING SO NOW!! HEH-HEH!
LINGERIE MODELS?! IS SHE KIDDING?


I'D BETTER STEER THIS CONVERSATION IN ANOTHER DIRECTION BEFORE SHE ALSO HAS US POSING FOR PLAYBOY!
SO, I TAKE IT YOU TWO ARE FROM OUT OF TOWN! WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT DO YOU DO?
WE'RE, UMMM... TALENT SCOUTS FOR THE CHICAGO BEARS, IN TOWN FOR A FEW DAYS TO CHECK OUT SOME OF YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE PROSPECTS!
THE BEARS?! WOW! ARE YOU LOOKING AT ANYONE IN PARTICULAR?
UMMM... NOT REALLY! WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A GOOD QUARTERBACK, AND THERE ARE SEVERAL COLLEGES AROUND HERE THAT HAVE QUARTERBACKS WITH FIRST-ROUND POTENTIAL!
WOW! THAT SOUNDS... EXCITING!
OH... IT IS!


IT ALSO SOUNDS LIKE A LOAD OF BS!
THE BEARS JUST PICKED A QUARTERBACK IN THE FIRST ROUND IN THE LAST TWO DRAFTS, SO THEY'RE ALREADY TOP-HEAVY IN THAT DEPARTMENT!
AND AS FOR THE QBS IN THE VICINITY... YEAH, THEY ALL PRETTY MUCH STINK! THESE GUYS ARE NFL SCOUTS AS MUCH AS LAURA AND I ARE LINGERIE MODELS!
SO THAT'S HOW THIS WORKS... WE BULLSHIT AND THEY BULLSHIT UNTIL ONE SIDE CALLS THE OTHER'S BLUFF OR THERE'S A BIG SCORE!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PRETTY DAMN GOOD POKER PLAYER! MAYBE THIS COULD BE FUN, AFTER ALL!


TELL YOU WHAT, SAM... YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT THOSE BIG, HANDSOME JOCKS YOU HANG OUT WITH AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WEAR SKIMPY, SEE-THROUGH NOTHINGS IN FRONT OF TOTAL STRANGERS!
THEN WE'LL SEE WHERE THIS EVENING TAKES US! *GIGGLE!*
YOU'RE ON, GORGEOUS!
THIS'LL ALMOST BE TOO EASY! I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE LAURA IS READY TO WALK AWAY BEFORE WE GET IN TOO DEEP!


Later, after a few more drinks and some heavy back and forth flirtation...


GOD, I'M CONSTANTLY AMAZED HOW DIFFERENTLY "LILY" GETS TREATED COMPARED TO "PHIL!"
THIS GUY IS HANGING ON EVERY WORD I SAY, NO MATTER HOW RIDICULOUS IT MIGHT BE... AS IF I'M A QUEEN HANDING DOWN SOME ROYAL EDICT!
AND BEING ABLE TO COMMAND HIS EYES TO LOOK WHEREVER I WANT THEM TO MOVE WITH JUST A SUBTLE SHIFT OF MY BODY IS QUITE THE POWER TRIP!


I'VE FANTASIZED ABOUT HAVING A BODY LIKE THIS FOR SO LONG, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT COULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN! EVERYTHING ABOUT TODAY HAS EXCEEDED MY WILDEST EXPECTATIONS!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ADMIT TO LAURA JUST HOW MUCH I'M LOVING THIS... AND THAT SHE'S GIVEN ME THE GREATEST GIFT I COULD EVER HAVE ASKED FOR!
AND I DO BELIEVE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF SERUM FGMX MUST BE HAVING AN INFLUENCE ON ME, BECAUSE I'M FLIRTING WITH A GUY AND HAVING FUN, SOMETHING I NEVER IMAGINED MYSELF DOING!


I THINK THE SERUM MUST BE INFLUENCING LAURA AS WELL! JUST LOOK AT HER! I'VE NEVER SEEN HER SO VIBRANT AND ANIMATED!
AND WHY SHOULDN'T SHE BE? SHE'S GORGEOUS AND SEXY AND BEING WORSHIPPED BY THAT YOUNG STUD!
EVEN AT MY MOST ATTENTIVE, I NEVER LOOKED AT HER THE WAY JACK'S LOOKING AT HER RIGHT NOW... AND I'M SURE SHE'S VERY AWARE OF THAT LITTLE FACT!
SHE TOOK THAT SERUM HOPING FOR A LONG, SEX-FILLED WEEKEND WITH HER HUSBAND. BUT EVEN BEFORE I DID THIS TO MYSELF, I PROVED HOW TOTALLY INADEQUATE I AM AT FULFILLING THOSE HOPES!


I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT'S GOING THROUGH HER MIND RIGHT NOW KNOWING THAT THIS GUY, HELL... ANY GUY, WOULD HAPPILY... EAGERLY GIVE HER WHAT I COULDN'T!
HMPH! I DON'T HAVE TO IMAGINE ANYTHING! HER BODY LANGUAGE SAYS IT ALL! SHE WANTS HIM... SHE WANTS HIM BAD!


I CAN'T BLAME HER, THOUGH! SERUM FGMX GAVE HER... GAVE BOTH OF US... BODIES THAT SEEM TO BE BUILT FOR SEX!
LAURA IS MOST LIKELY CONSUMED WITH DESIRE RIGHT NOW... ACHING FOR A REAL MAN!
AND SHE DESERVES THAT... SHE DESERVES TO GET EVERYTHING SHE CAN GET OUT OF THIS WEEKEND! EVERYTHING I WAS UNABLE TO GIVE HER!
EARTH TO LILY... YOU STILL WITH ME?


OF COURSE I AM! I JUST THOUGHT LAURA WAS TALKING TO ME FOR A SEC! GUESS I WAS WRONG! *GIGGLE!*
PLEASE GO ON!
LIKE I WAS SAYING, PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE JUST HOW MUCH INFLUENCE GUYS LIKE JACK AND MYSELF HAVE OVER THE ENTIRE NFL! BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...


I LOVE MY WIFE, AND I'VE HAD SO MANY FANTASIES ABOUT TURNING INTO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND MAKING SWEET LOVE TO HER! IF ONLY LAURA WERE INTO GIRLS!
BUT SHE LIKES MEN! MANLY MEN! THAT'S WHY SHE MARRIED A GUY LIKE ME, SOMEONE WHO WAS STRONG, VIRILE, AND ALOOF!
BUT I'M NONE OF THOSE THINGS RIGHT NOW... AND HAVEN'T BEEN FOR MANY MONTHS! MAYBE IT'S TIME I FACED THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!

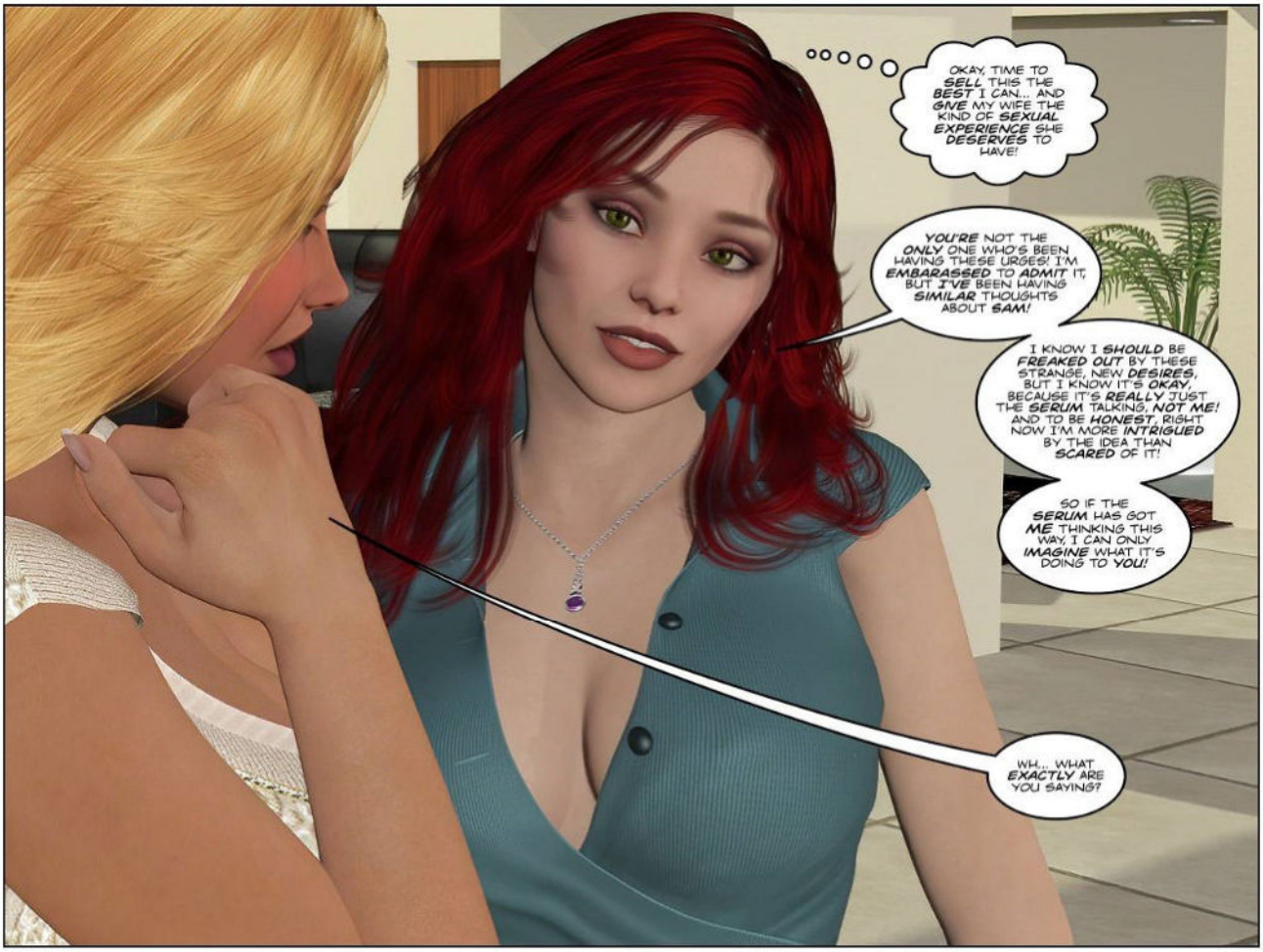

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SAM, BUT I'M GOING TO STEAL LILY AWAY FROM YOU FOR A MINUTE!
C'MON, HONEY, LET'S GO POWDER OUR NOSES!
UMM... OKAY!


SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
JACK, MY MAN. I DEFINITELY OWE YOU ONE!
THAT YOU DO! HEH-HEH!


WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO POWDER YOUR NOSE?
YOU'RE RIGHT... I DON'T! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!
YEAH... I HAD A FEELING THIS WAS GOING TO COME UP!


HAVE I BEEN THAT OBVIOUS?
'FRAID SO, HONEY!
DAMN IT! I WAS TREATING THIS ALL LIKE A GAME WHEN WE STARTED, BUT... THESE URGES I'M FEELING... I... I WANT SO MUCH MORE!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, LAURA! IT'S THE SERUM!
I KNOW THAT, BUT... IT DOESN'T DIMINISH WHAT MY BODY IS ACHING FOR... WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH JACK!


I NEVER THOUGHT THINGS WOULD GET SO HOT AND HEAVY WITH JACK! I'M SURE IT'S NOT THE SAME FOR YOU AND SAM... IS IT?
THAT'S WHY I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE, RIGHT NOW! OTHERWISE, I'M ON THE PRECIPICE OF DOING SOMETHING THAT COULD FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE OUR MARRIAGE, AND I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT!
WELL, THAT'S THE THING...


OKAY, TIME TO SELL THIS THE BEST I CAN... AND GIVE MY WIFE THE KIND OF SEXUAL EXPERIENCE SHE DESERVES TO HAVE!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN HAVING THESE URGES! I'M EMBARASSED TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'VE BEEN HAVING SIMILAR THOUGHTS ABOUT SAM!
I KNOW I SHOULD BE FREAKED OUT BY THESE STRANGE, NEW DESIRES, BUT I KNOW IT'S OKAY, BECAUSE IT'S REALLY JUST THE SERUM TALKING, NOT ME! AND TO BE HONEST, RIGHT NOW I'M MORE INTRIGUED BY THE IDEA THAN SCARED OF IT!
SO IF THE SERUM HAS GOT ME THINKING THIS WAY, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT IT'S DOING TO YOU!
WH... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING?


I'M SAYING... WE SAID THIS WEEKEND MIGHT GET CRAZY, AND IT HAS! THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH OF US TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW, AND WE SHOULDN'T PASS IT UP!
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO...
YEAH... I WANT IT BAD!


I... I KNEW THIS WAS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE OF SERUM FSMX, BUT I NEVER TRULY BELIEVED YOU'D BE INTO GUYS... AND ACTUALLY WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH ONE!
ME NEITHER, BUT I'M JUST LISTENING TO WHAT THIS BODY IS TELLING ME! AND I'D HATE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS LOOKING BACK AND REGRETTING HAVING MISSED OUT ON THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!


WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT! IF YOU'RE SURE!
I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING RIGHT NOW... OTHER THAN HOW DAMN HORNY I AM!
WELL, THIS ANSWERS ONE ENORMOUS QUESTION! "LILY" IS INTO GUYS! I CAN'T HELP WONDER IF PHIL HAS LOST ALL DESIRE FOR WOMEN! IS THAT WHY HE COULDN'T GET IT UP TODAY?
SHES TOTALLY BUYING IT! AND THAT'S GOOD, BECAUSE LAURA DESERVES TO BE FULFILLED, AND SINCE I'M NOT CAPABLE OF DOING IT...
WHATEVER THE CASE, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GIVING ME PERMISSION TO FUCK ANOTHER MAN! IS THIS ANOTHER WAY HE'S TRYING TO PUSH ME AWAY... BY SETTING ME FREE?


JACK CASUALLY MENTIONED THAT HE AND SAM HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS HERE IN THE HOTEL, SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL MEET BACK HERE IN THE BAR NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT! OKAY?
UHH... SURE! IF YOU THINK THAT GIVES US ENOUGH TIME! *SIGGLE!*


AS MUCH AS I LOVE JACK AND THAT WONDERFUL COCK OF HIS, I'M MORE EAGER TO HEAR WHAT "LILY" HAS TO SAY AFTER HER FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH A MAN!
AT LEAST, I ASSUME THIS IS PHIL'S FIRST EXPERIENCE! MORE AND MORE, I'M REALIZING I DON'T KNOW MY HUSBAND AS WELL AS I THOUGHT I DID!


SIGH! I'VE BEEN TELLING MYSELF I'M DOING THIS FOR LAURA, SO SHE CAN HAVE THE KIND OF SEXUAL EXPERIENCE SHE DESERVES. BUT IS THAT THE WHOLE TRUTH? OR IS SERUM FGMX AFFECTING ME MORE THAN I'VE REALIZED?
MY LIBIDO HAS BEEN ON A STEADY INCLINE EVER SINCE WE WENT SHOPPING TODAY! THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF SEXUAL EXPERIENCE I WOULD EVER HAVE CHOSEN FOR MYSELF, AND I'M NOT EXACTLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT! BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I'M CURIOUS AS HELL AS TO WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THOSE STORIES WHERE THE STRAIGHT GUY SUDDENLY CHANGES INTO A STRAIGHT GIRL WERE COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS! I COULDN'T IMAGINE HOW SOMEONE'S SEXUALITY COULD CHANGE AT THE DROP OF A HAT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME, IS IT? ALL I KNOW IS THAT BEING IN THIS FEMALE BODY IS SO DIFFERENT AND EXCITING! AND, AS LAURA KEEPS REPEATING, THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY! THAT'S WHAT I NEED TO FOCUS ON!


YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY STAYED IN THIS HOTEL BEFORE, BUT I'VE HEARD SOME GREAT THINGS ABOUT IT!
CARE TO GIVE ME A LITTLE TOUR... STARTING WITH YOUR ROOM? *GIGGLE!*
DARLIN', I'D LOVE NOTHING MORE! HEH-HEH!


WELL... MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO, I GUESS!
I WOULDN'T MIND A TOUR, EITHER! *GIGGLE!*
AND I'M JUST THE MAN FOR THE JOB! HEH-HEH!


SIGH! HERE WE GO!


A Formula for
by CBlack
Retirement
Chapter Four


A short time later, as the "tour" commences...
HERE WE ARE! CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING TO DRINK?
UMM, NO THANKS! I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT FOR THE NIGHT!
WANT TO KEEP MY HEAD STRAIGHT SO I DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY!


SMART GIRL! 'CAUSE YOU DEFINITELY WANT TO REMEMBER EVERY MINUTE OF TONIGHT! HEH-HEH!
JESUS! THIS GUY DOESN'T WASTE ANY TIME, DOES HE?
SO MUCH FOR HOPING FOR A FEW MINUTES TO GET MY BEARINGS BEFORE JUMPING INTO THIS THING!


OH, SHIT! I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH PSYCHING MYSELF UP FOR SEX WITH A MAN THAT I NEVER CONSIDERED THAT THERE MIGHT BE KISSING INVOLVED!
KISSING SOMEONE WITH STUBBLE WAS NEVER ONE OF MY FANTASIES! AND HIS TONGUE TASTES LIKE ASH! UGH! NOT INTO THIS AT ALL!

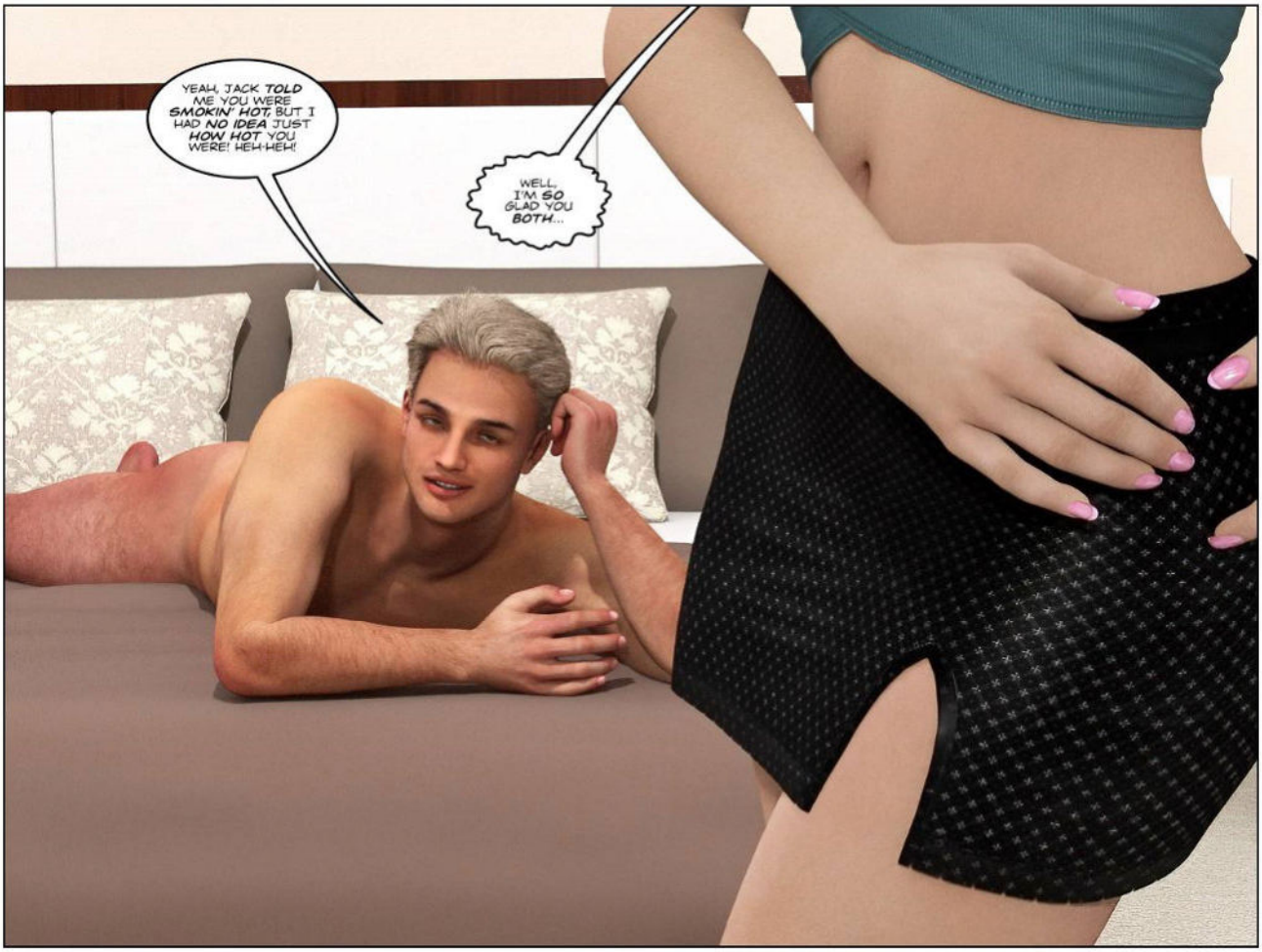

WELL, THERE'S ONE SURE-FIRE WAY TO PUT A STOP TO IT!


SO, ARE WE GOING TO STAND HERE IN THE DOORWAY MAKING OUT LIKE A COUPLE OF TEENAGERS, OR DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME WHAT A REAL MAN YOU ARE?


JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO GIVE ME THE GO-AHEAD, GORGEOUS! GET READY FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!
GASP! THIS IS IT!
TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT THE BEAST WITH TWO BACKS IS LIKE FROM THE FEMALE SIDE!


MAYBE IT'S FROM READING ALL OF THOSE STORIES, BUT I AM KIND OF EXCITED TO FIND OUT HOW IT'LL BE WHEN I SPREAD MY LEGS AND TAKE A MAN INSIDE ME!
HIS FINGERS FEEL REALLY GOOD DOWN THERE! I'M DEFINITELY NICE AND JUICY!


And, about twenty minutes later...
WHEW! I GOTTA TELL YOU, GORGEOUS, YOU ARE THE HOTTEST THING I'VE HAD IN A LONG, LONG TIME!
THANKS. THAT REALLY MEANS A LOT.
JESUS! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH AND PUT UP WITH, I GET SADDLED WITH QUICK-DRAW OVER THERE!
I WAS TRULY OPEN TO THIS BEING AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE, BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A HUGE FUCKING DISAPPOINTMENT AND WASTE OF TIME!


YEAH, JACK TOLD ME YOU WERE SMOKIN' HOT, BUT I HAD NO IDEA JUST HOW HOT YOU WERE! HEH-HEH!
WELL, I'M SO GLAD YOU BOTH...


WAIT A MINUTE! JACK TOLD YOU WHAT I LOOKED LIKE? HOW THE HELL COULD HE KNOW THAT, SINCE WE JUST MET YOU TWO FOR THE FIRST TIME TONIGHT?
OOPS! GUESS I SPILLED THE BEANS, DIDN'T I?
THAT DEPENDS! TELL ME MORE!
UMMM, I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD...


LOOK, STUD... IF YOU EVER WANT A CHANCE AT GETTING YOUR HANDS ON THIS BOD AGAIN, YOU'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT TONIGHT!
WELL, I GUESS IT WOULDN'T HURT TO COME CLEAN... ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING WHAT I'LL GET OUT OF IT! HEH-HEH!
YOU SEE... JACK AND I AREN'T SPORTS AGENTS, AND WE'RE NOT FROM CHICAGO! WE'RE BOTH FROM RIGHT HERE IN HOUSTON! CONVENIENT, HUH?


OH, VERY! BUT YOU CAN TELL ME MORE, RIGHT, HANDSOME? LIKE WHAT DO YOU TWO REALLY DO FOR A LIVING?
I'M AN INVESTMENT BANKER WITH WORLDCORP, AND HE'S A VP AT A BIOTECH FIRM!
A BIOTECH FIRM? WHICH ONE?
UMMM, GNI, I THINK! WHY?
NO REASON! KEEP GOING... YOU'RE DOING WONDERFULLY!
WHAT THE HELL?! THAT'S THE SAME COMPANY LAURA WORKS FOR!


COULD THAT JUST BE A COINCIDENCE? I HAVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
SO YOU TWO JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE VERY SAME, PRACTICALLY EMPTY HOTEL BAR THAT LAURA AND I DECIDED TO POP INTO... ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT! AND YOU BOTH JUST HAPPENED TO ALREADY HAVE TWO HOTEL ROOMS READY AND WAITING!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK YOU GUYS WERE STALKING US! YOU'RE NOT A COUPLE OF PSYCHO STALKERS, ARE YOU? HMMM?
OH, HELL NO! I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS UNTIL THIS MORNING! JACK AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND SET THE WHOLE THING UP! SOME KIND OF ROLE-PLAYING THING THEY'RE INTO, I GUESS!


AW, SHIT! JACK SAID I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU THAT!
WELL, THAT WAS THEN! NOW THAT IT'S ALL OVER, I'M SURE HE WOULDN'T MIND YOU TELLING ME EVERYTHING!
YEAH... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...


BUT, THEN, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ALL OVER, DOES IT? JUST TELL ME HOW LONG JACK AND LAURA HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER, AND I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW APPRECIATIVE I CAN BE! *GIGGLE!*
OOOOOHH!


OOOHH! NOT SURE WHEN THEY FIRST MET, BUT HE'S BEEN BRAGGIN' ABOUT BANGING HER FOR MONTHS!
MONTHS?!
AT LEAST! MMMMM!


MONTHS...

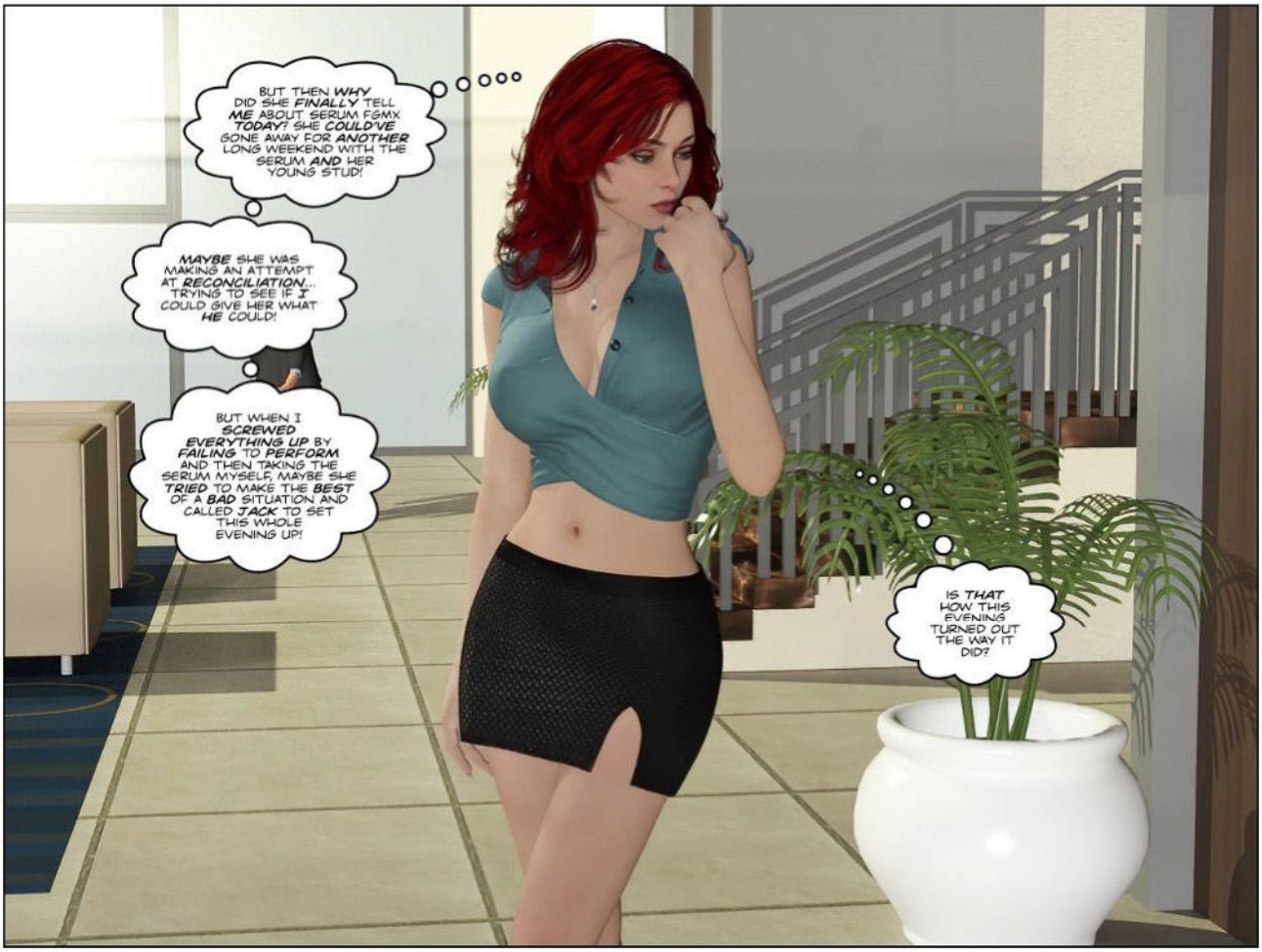

HEY! WHERE YOU GOING? I'M NOT DONE!


OH, BUT I AM!


Slam!!
WHAT THE FUCK JUST HAPPENED?


MONTHS?! LAURA'S BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH THAT GUY FOR MONTHS... MAYBE EVEN LONGER!
THAT MEANS HE PROBABLY KNOWS HER AS BOTH YOUNG AND OLD LAURA. OR SHE'S BEEN TAKING THE SERUM A LOT LONGER THAN SHE LED ME TO BELIEVE... OR BOTH!
WHATEVER THE CASE, SHE'S BEEN LYING TO ME ALL THIS TIME!


ALL THOSE LATE NIGHTS AT WORK... THOSE LONG WEEKENDS AT OUT OF TOWN CONFERENCES... IT ALL FITS!
I WISH I COULD SAY IT ALL STARTED BECAUSE OF ME GETTING LAID OFF... AT LEAST THEN I'D BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY A REASON! BUT HER "CONFERENCES" STARTED ALMOST SIX MONTHS AGO... WAY BEFORE I GOT FIRED!
IT NEVER, EVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT OUR MARRIAGE HAS BEEN IN BAD SHAPE FOR THAT LONG!


BUT THEN WHY DID SHE FINALLY TELL ME ABOUT SERUM FSMX TODAY? SHE COULD'VE GONE AWAY FOR ANOTHER LONG WEEKEND WITH THE SERUM AND HER YOUNG STUD!
MAYBE SHE WAS MAKING AN ATTEMPT AT RECONCILIATION... TRYING TO SEE IF I COULD GIVE HER WHAT HE COULD!
BUT WHEN I SCREWED EVERYTHING UP BY FAILING TO PERFORM AND THEN TAKING THE SERUM MYSELF, MAYBE SHE TRIED TO MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION AND CALLED JACK TO SET THIS WHOLE EVENING UP!
IS THAT HOW THIS EVENING TURNED OUT THE WAY IT DID?


BUT WAIT A MINUTE! SAM SAID JACK CALLED HIM THIS MORNING... HOURS BEFORE I EVER TOOK THE SERUM!
HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY SET UP THIS BOGUS "DOUBLE DATE" WITH LAURA AND ME UNLESS HE KNEW...


"GASP!" THIS MEANS THAT LAURA PLANNED FOR ME TO TAKE SERUM FGMX ALL ALONG! BUT WHY?!
WHY MANIPULATE ME INTO TAKING THE SERUM AND BECOMING HER GIRLFRIEND FOR THE WEEKEND? WHAT DOES SHE GET OUT OF IT?
COULD SHE KNOW ABOUT MY ONLINE INTERESTS? IS THAT WHY...? NO! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUPER CAREFUL WITH MY COMPUTER! THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE FOUND OUT! AND EVEN IF SHE DID, WHY WOULD SHE WANT TO REWARD ME WITH THIS KIND OF BODY? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!


WELL, CONSIDERING SHE PROBABLY WON'T BE DONE WITH HER BOY-TOY FOR ANOTHER HOUR AND A HALF, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO PUZZLE ON ALL THIS AND TRY AND FIGURE OUT SOME ANSWERS!
GLASS OF WHITE WINE, PLEASE!
COMING RIGHT UP!


GOD! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE FURIOUS, DISAPPOINTED, HEART-BROKEN, DEVASTATED... OR ALL OF THE ABOVE!
EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?


JESUS H. FUCKING CHRIST! ANOTHER ONE?! CAN'T THESE YOUNG PUNKS FIGURE OUT WHEN A PERSON WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE?
THEY'RE ALWAYS THINKING WITH THEIR LITTLE PRICKS INSTEAD OF THEIR HEADS... AS EVIDENCED BY THE TWO YOUNG DOUCHEBAGS LAURA "FIXED US UP" WITH!!
I'M FINE... REALLY! IF YOU DON'T MIND, I JUST NEED A LITTLE SPACE TO...


OH... I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE!
THAT'S OKAY! I HAVE THAT KIND OF VOICE! HEH-HEH!
YOU LOOKED UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE LEFT ALONE, I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO COMPLY WITH THE LADY'S WISHES!
BARTENDER, PLEASE PUT THIS YOUNG LADY'S DRINK ON MY TAB!


I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WORK OUT WHATEVER IS BOTHERING YOU! HAVE A GOOD EVENING!
UMM... THANK YOU!


WELL, THAT WAS NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING! AN ACTUAL GENTLEMAN!
HOWEVER, I SHOULDN'T BE TOO SURPRISED! MEN OUR AGE HAVE USUALLY HAD ENOUGH TIME TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PROPERLY TREAT A LADY!




SIGH! I MAY REGRET THIS, BUT I REALLY DO NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO BEFORE LAURA COMES BACK!
THE FIRST THINGS I SAY TO HER COULD MAKE OR BREAK OUR MARRIAGE... ASSUMING IT'S STILL SALVAGEABLE!


I'M SORRY IF I SEEMED RUDE A MOMENT AGO, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT... I WAS UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING!
AND I'M SORRY FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR SOLITUDE! I UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES BEING ALONE IS THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH PERSONAL PROBLEMS!
TRUE! BUT AFTER GIVING IT SOME THOUGHT, I REALLY THINK I'D PREFER TALKING THIS THROUGH WITH SOMEONE! WOULD YOU MIND IF I IMPOSED ON YOU?


WHY WOULD I EVER MIND THE COMPANY OF SUCH A LOVELY YOUNG LADY? PLEASE HAVE A SEAT! I'M GRANT... GRANT NELSON!
UMM... LILY! LILY JOHNSON!


SO, LILY... WHAT HAS GOT YOU SO *UPSET?*
IT'S ABOUT MY, UMMM... MY *BEST FRIEND!* AT LEAST I *THOUGHT* SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND, BUT SOME *THINGS* I'VE DISCOVERED ABOUT HER MAKE ME *QUESTION* THAT!
THINGS SUCH AS...
LYING! I FOUND OUT SHE'S BEEN *LYING* TO ME FOR *MONTHS!* NOT ABOUT *LITTLE THINGS* EITHER, BUT... THINGS THAT OUR *WHOLE RELATIONSHIP* IS *BASED* ON!


I CAN UNDERSTAND *WHY* YOU'D BE SO *OVERWROUGHT!* VIOLATING SOMEONE'S *TRUST* CAN DO *IRREPARABLE DAMAGE* TO THE WAY FRIENDS *FEEL* ABOUT ONE ANOTHER!
THAT'S WHY *I* HOLD IT IN SUCH *HIGH REGARD* IN *EACH* AND *EVERY ONE* OF MY RELATIONSHIPS... BOTH BUSINESS *AND* PERSONAL!
I ALWAYS HAVE, *TOO!* *THAT'S* WHAT MAKES THIS SO *DAMN PAINFUL!* HER *LIES* ARE SO *DEEP* SHE ENLISTED *OTHERS* TO HELP *COVER UP* FOR HER!
I'M JUST SO *THROWN* BY ALL THIS THAT I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I'M GOING TO SAY TO HER WHEN I *SEE* HER!


WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO SEE HER NEXT?
IN ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF WHEN SHE COMES DOWN THOSE STAIRS!
WELL, I DOUBT YOU WANT A PUBLIC SCREAMING MATCH HERE IN THE HOTEL LOBBY!
NO! NO, I DON'T!


WELL, I THINK IF WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, WE CAN FIND A WAY TO KEEP THAT PARTICULAR SCENARIO FROM HAPPENING!


Almost one hour and thirty minutes later...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU LISTENING TO ME BABBLE ON AND ON LIKE THIS!
I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND SOMEONE WHO WAS WILLING TO WASTE THEIR EVENING PLAYING THERAPIST FOR ME!
NONSENSE! I'VE ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF OUR TIME TOGETHER! I'M JUST GLAD I COULD BE OF SOME HELP!


THE IRONIC PART OF ALL THIS IS THAT I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT HER LIES IF SHE HADN'T PRACTICALLY FORCED ME INTO THIS RIDICULOUS 'GIRLS' NIGHT OUT!'
NOT YOUR CUP OF TEA, EH?
UGH! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW "UN-ME" THIS EVENING... HELL, THIS WHOLE DAY HAS BEEN FOR ME!
REALLY? CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?
OH... I SUPPOSE!


I SHOULD PROBABLY PREFACE THIS BY SAYING I DON'T NORMALLY LOOK AND DRESS LIKE THIS! UNTIL TODAY, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY MUCH OF A, UHMMM... OF A TOMBOY, FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD!
I FIND THAT VERY HARD TO BELIEVE!
TRUST ME, I HAVE NEVER LOOKED THIS GOOD IN MY LIFE... AT LEAST NOT UNTIL LAURA "PERSUADED" ME TO GET A SERIOUS MAKEOVER EARLIER TODAY!
MY COMPLIMENTS TO YOUR FRIEND'S SKILLS!
OH, SHE DIDN'T DO IT ON HER OWN, BUT I'D RATHER NOT GO INTO THAT PART OF THE STORY!


ANYWAY, AFTER MY RELUCTANT MAKEOVER, SHE TALKED ME INTO THIS "GIRLS' NIGHT OUT", WHICH WAS GOING OKAY UNTIL WE STOPPED BY HERE FOR A "QUICK DRINK," AS SHE PUT IT!
AND THAT "QUICK DRINK" TURNED INTO SOMETHING ELSE, I TAKE IT!
YOU COULD SAY THAT! WE WERE IMMEDIATELY HIT ON BY TWO GUYS WHO WERE ALREADY HERE! I WASN'T INTERESTED, BUT LAURA... LAURA WANTED TO GO FOR IT! SO, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR "FRIENDSHIP", I WENT ALONG WITH IT AS WELL!
AND LET ME GUESS... YOU WERE LESS THAN IMPRESSED WITH THE EXPERIENCE!
YOU'RE A VERY GOOD GUESSER!


MY TURN TO BE TRUTHFUL! I WAS HERE AT THE BAR WHEN YOU ALL LEFT TO GO UPSTAIRS! THE FACT THAT YOU RETURNED SO QUICKLY WAS A BIG CLUE!
YOU... YOU SAW ME LEAVE WITH THAT GUY AND THEN COME BACK LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR LATER?
GUILTY AS CHARGED!


OH MY GOD! YOU PROBABLY ASSUMED I WAS SOME KIND OF HOOKER WORKING THE HOTEL BAR!
I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T OFFER ME A FEW TWENTIES WHEN YOU FIRST TALKED TO ME!
NONSENSE! I COULD SEE THE RELUCTANCE ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU LEFT... AND THE DESPAIR IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU RETURNED!
THAT'S WHEN I KNEW, OR AT LEAST HOPED, YOU MIGHT NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO!


REALLY?
REALLY! BESIDES, IF YOU ACTUALLY WERE AN ESCORT, I GUARANTEE YOU WOULD COMMAND A MUCH MUCH HIGHER PRICE! HEH-HEH
OH, THANKS! THAT HELPS A LOT! *GIGGLE!*


SO, AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING INDELICATE, CAN I ASSUME YOUR "DATE" WAS NOT UP TO YOUR STANDARDS?
STANDARDS? HELL! LIKE I SAID, I'M A TOMBOY AT HEART! LET'S JUST SAY THAT MY ENCOUNTERS WITH MEN HAVE BEEN FEW AND FAR BETWEEN!
BUT EVEN I KNOW A SHODDY PERFORMANCE WHEN I EXPERIENCE ONE!
BRASH, QUICK AND ALL ABOUT HIM?
ON THE NOSE! YOU WEREN'T LISTENING OUTSIDE THE DOOR, WERE YOU? *GIGGLE!*
NOT LIKELY! HEH-HEH!


I SERIOUSLY HOPE YOU DON'T JUDGE OUR ENTIRE GENDER BASED UPON YOUR RECENT EXPERIENCE!
THESE YOUNG PUPS TODAY JUST DON'T HAVE THE MATURITY OR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO MAKE A WOMAN FEEL... WELL, LIKE A WOMAN!


WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU'D KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO DO THAT?
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'M BAFFLED BY ANY MAN WHO WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH SPENDING LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR WITH YOU!


OH, WOW! THIS SHIFTED GEARS VERY, VERY QUICKLY! I'D BETTER PUT AN END TO THIS BEFORE I DO SOMETHING I MAY... OR MAY NOT REGRET!
WELL, UMMM... I HAVE A FEELING THAT IF I DON'T GO FIND LAURA, SHE MAY SPEND ALL NIGHT UP THERE!


I UNDERSTAND! YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY TO HANDLE YOUR EMOTIONS WHEN YOU DO SEE HER?
YEAH, I'M CALMED DOWN ENOUGH TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW TO START ASKING QUESTIONS! AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THAT!
UTTERLY MY PLEASURE!


I HOPE I'M NOT BEING PRESUMPTUOUS, BUT I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER THIS EVENING, AND SINCE I'LL BE HERE IN TOWN FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, I WOULD REALLY ENJOY SEEING YOU AGAIN... TO CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION!
I... I REALLY ENJOYED OUR TALK, TOO. BUT... I'M NOT SURE IF I'LL BE AVAILABLE! I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND!
I DO COMPLETELY!


BUT IN CASE YOUR SCHEDULE OPENS UP, HERE'S MY NUMBER! IF I HEAR FROM YOU, I'LL BE ECSTATIC! IF NOT, WELL... I CAN ONLY HOPE WE'LL MEET AGAIN ONE DAY!
TH... THANK YOU, GRANT! I TRULY HOPE WE DO, TOO!


WHEW! IF I WAS GOING TO HOOK UP WITH A GUY TONIGHT, WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN SOMEONE LIKE GRANT INSTEAD OF THAT PUTZ SAM?
I JUST HOPE I CAN FIND LAURA BEFORE I START GETTING PISSED ALL OVER AGAIN!


THERE YOU ARE! I WAS JUST COMING DOWN TO MEET YOU!
AND I WAS JUST COMING UP TO LOOK FOR YOU!


I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOU AND SAM! YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ABOUT IT ON THE WAY HOME!
IT WON'T TAKE THAT LONG... TRUST ME!


A short while later, back at the apartment...
I'M SORRY YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A WOMAN WASN'T EVERYTHING YOU'D HOPED IT'D BE, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, A GIRL'S FIRST TIME IS SOMETHING OF A LETDOWN! *GIGGLE!*
I'D HARDLY COMPARE WHAT I WENT THROUGH TONIGHT TO A TEENAGE GIRL LOSING HER VIRGINITY IN THE BACKSEAT OF HER BOYFRIEND'S CAR!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT! LIKE MOST TEENAGED GIRLS, I'M SURE YOUR HIGH EXPECTATIONS ABOUT WHAT SEX MIGHT BE LIKE WERE QUASHED BY A MAN WHO HAD NO IDEA HOW TO ATTEND TO YOUR NEEDS!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE! I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT I WAS EXPECTING, BUT THAT CERTAINLY WASN'T IT!


I'M JUST GLAD THAT YOU HAD A GOOD TIME!
ME? I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT ME AND JACK YET! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I HAD A GOOD TIME?
OUR ROOMS WERE RIGHT NEXT TO ONE ANOTHER... I COULD HEAR YOU! LET'S JUST SAY IT'S BEEN QUITE A FEW YEARS SINCE I'VE HEARD YOU MAKE THAT MUCH NOISE DURING SEX!


OH MY GOD! I HAD NO IDEA! I... I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT! WHY THE HELL DID JACK AND SAM HAVE TO GET ADJACENT ROOMS?
DON'T BE, LAURA! I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TONIGHT WAS BECAUSE OF SERUM FGMX!
AND YOUR PROPENSITY FOR INFIDELITY AND BALD-FACED LYING!


HE'S NOT FREAKING OUT?! SERIOUSLY?!
AND LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER, WE DON'T WANT TO LOOK BACK ON THIS WEEKEND WITH REGRETS, WE WANT TO LOOK BACK AT IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH!
SO LET'S JUST SAY YOU GOT TO EXPERIENCE A LOT MORE "GROWTH" TONIGHT THAN I DID! OKAY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SPOUTING THIS DRIVEL, BUT PLAYING ALONG WILL ENABLE ME TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THIS SECRET LIFE OF LAURA'S, AS WELL AS FIGURE OUT WHY SHE DECIDED TO TURN ME INTO A GIRL FOR THE WEEKEND!


HE HEARD HIS WIFE GETTING NAILED BY ANOTHER MAN IN THE NEXT ROOM! WHAT KIND OF HUSBAND DOESN'T GET BOTHERED BY THAT?
I CAN'T LET HIM SEE HOW PISSED THAT MAKES ME... AT LEAST, NOT RIGHT NOW!
OKAY, BUT IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM FAIR THAT I'M ENJOYING THIS WEEKEND SO MUCH MORE THAN YOU ARE!
WELL, THERE IS A PRETTY DAMN GOOD REASON FOR THAT, YOU KNOW!
WELL, YEAH, BUT THIS WEEKEND IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH OF US! I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE ANY REGRETS DOWN THE ROAD ABOUT MISSING OUT ON SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU'D DONE!
REGRETS ABOUT WHAT, FOR INSTANCE?


WELL, CONSIDERING HOW EAGERLY YOU WANTED TO SCORE WITH SAM, AND HOW DISAPPOINTING HE WAS, I ASSUMED YOU'D WANT TO TRY AGAIN... WITH A DIFFERENT GUY, OF COURSE!
HOPEFULLY, YOU CAN STILL GET TO EXPERIENCE HOW WONDERFUL SEX CAN BE FOR A WOMAN!
WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE SHE'S PUSHING ME TO SLEEP WITH MEN? WHAT'S HER GAME HERE?
TO BE HONEST, SLEEPING WITH ANYONE ELSE ISN'T TOPS ON MY "TO-DO" LIST, BUT DON'T LET ME PUT A DAMPER ON YOUR SPECIAL WEEKEND!
THIS IS ALMOST LIKE ONE OF MY STORIES WHERE THE GUY'S WIFE KNOWS ABOUT HIS INCLINATIONS AND SECRETLY TURNS HIM INTO A GIRL! BUT IF LAURA HAD HACKED MY COMPUTER, SHE'D HAVE SEEN THAT ALMOST EVERY BOOKMARK I HAVE FEATURES GIRL-ON-GIRL ACTION, AND SHE WOULDN'T BE PUSHING ME TO HOOK UP WITH GUYS!
OR MAYBE SHE'S THAT PHOBIC ABOUT LESBIANS, AND SIMPLY CAN'T STOMACH THE IDEA OF HER HUSBAND BEING ONE?


OH, BUT HONEY, MY SPECIAL WEEKEND IS YOUR SPECIAL WEEKEND! AND I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I DIDN'T DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO SEE THAT YOU GET ALL YOU CAN OUT OF THIS AMAZING EXPERIENCE!
WE HAVE THE WHOLE DAY TOMORROW! WHAT IS IT YOU'D LIKE TO DO? MORE SHOPPING? OR WE COULD GO TO A SPA! AND IN THE EVENING, I'M UP FOR WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE! GO DANCING AT A CLUB... OR EVEN A LESBIAN BAR! TELL ME WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO!
YOU... YOU'D BE WILLING TO GO TO A LESBIAN BAR WITH ME? BUT I THOUGHT... YOU DON'T LIKE GIRLS!
NO, I DON'T, BUT THIS WEEKEND IS ABOUT YOU! DOES THE NOTION OF A LESBIAN BAR APPEAL TO YOU? OR WE COULD GO SEE SOME MALE STRIPPERS DOWNTOWN, IF THAT SOUNDS MORE ENTICING! WHATEVER YOU SAY!
I... I'M TOO TIRED... AND CONFUSED... TO THINK ABOUT ANY OF THAT RIGHT NOW! CAN WE TALK ABOUT IT TOMORROW?
SO MUCH FOR MY THEORY THAT SHE WAS AGAINST ME HOOKING UP WITH ANOTHER GIRL!


SURE THING, SWEETIE! I'M EXHAUSTED, TOO, SO I'M HEADING OFF TO BED! SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!
UHHH... IN THE MORNING? ARE YOU SLEEPING SOMEWHERE ELSE TONIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT, I... OH, I SEE! YOU THOUGHT WE'D STILL BE SLEEPING TOGETHER, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL... YEAH! WE HAVE SHARED THE SAME BED FOR THIRTY YEARS, AFTER ALL!


AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO DO SO... ONCE YOU'RE A MAN AGAIN! BUT YOU KNOW I'M NOT COMFORTABLE SHARING A BED WITH ANOTHER WOMAN! I NEVER LIKED IT GROWING UP, AND AFTER THAT HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE IN COLLEGE WITH BECCA...
BUT I'M NOT REALLY A WOMAN!
SORRY, HONEY! I KNOW YOU'RE STILL MY HUSBAND ON THE INSIDE, BUT THAT BODY OF YOURS IS 100% FEMALE!
UNTIL YOU CHANGE BACK, CAN YOU PLEASE SLEEP IN YOUR OFFICE?


AND DON'T WORRY, I'VE ALREADY PUT A FEW THINGS IN THERE FOR YOU!
GOOD NIGHT, HONEY!
OH, AND BE SURE TO WASH YOUR MAKEUP OFF BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP, OKAY? IT'S HELL TO GET OFF PILLOWS, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW!


MAYBE IT'S BEST IF WE DON'T SHARE A BED FOR THE NEXT FEW NIGHTS, BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDER IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO SHARE A BED AGAIN!
I WISH I COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON... WHAT SHE'S UP TO! NONE OF IT MAKES ANY SENSE TO ME!


GIGGLE! A SWEET, BUT SPICY LITTLE NOTE FROM JACK SAYING HOW MUCH HE ENJOYED TONIGHT!
SORRY, BABE! NO REPEAT PERFORMANCE TOMORROW! GUESS IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR NEXT WEEKEND! YOUR WORTHLESS FRIEND SAM MADE DAMN SURE OF THAT!


OH WELL! I DIDN'T GET WHERE I AM AT GNI BY NOT KNOWING HOW TO THINK ON MY FEET! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT IMPROVISING IN TOUGH SITUATIONS!
SO UNLESS I UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FAIL MISERABLY, BY THE TIME THIS WEEKEND COMES TO A CLOSE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT PHIL AND I HAVE ANY KIND OF FUTURE TOGETHER!


CHRIST! I HAVEN'T BEEN BANISHED TO THE GUEST BED SINCE MY INFAMOUS MENOPAUSE JOKE OF 20!! AND I DOUBT IT'S GOTTEN ANY MORE COMFORTABLE SINCE THEN!


SIGH! I'M OVER THIRTY YEARS YOUNGER THAN I WAS EARLIER TODAY, AND I'M A GORGEOUS WOMAN TO BOOT, BUT I COULDN'T BE MORE FRUSTRATED! THERE'S A SULTRY BLONDE IN MY BEDROOM, BUT SHE WON'T LET ME ANYWHERE NEAR HER!
MY FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE AS A WOMAN WAS TERRIBLE... AND NOW MY SINFULLY SEXY WIFE WON'T LET ME TOUCH HER! THIS ISN'T THE WAY THINGS USUALLY GO IN THE STORIES I READ!


IF THIS WERE ONE OF MY STORIES, WHEN LAURA SAID SHE HAD "A FEW THINGS IN HERE FOR ME," IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME LUBE AND A DILDO, OR PERHAPS A VIBRATOR AND BUTT PLUG!
NOTHING LIKE THAT IN HERE. BUT THEN AGAIN, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER STORIES THAT PRETTY MUCH MATCH THIS SCENARIO!


ZZZZZZZ!!
...SNORING! JESUS! I HOPE I STILL WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR HER ONCE I SHUT THE DOOR!
AT LEAST LAURA WAS THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO REMIND ME TO TAKE MY MAKEUP OFF! THAT'S ONE DETAIL THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO SKIP IN MY STORIES!


NOT SURE HOW MUCH SLEEP I'LL GET TONIGHT ANYWAY! NOT ONLY DO I HAVE ALL OF TODAY'S EVENTS SWIRLING AROUND IN MY HEAD, BUT I'VE ALSO GOT TO DEAL WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MY WIFE ISN'T THE PERSON I THOUGHT SHE WAS!


AND THE MORE I STARE AT MYSELF IN THE LINGERIE LAURA PUT OUT FOR ME, THE MORE I KNOW I'LL NEVER GET ANY SLEEP AT ALL UNLESS...


UNLESS...


OOOHHHH
...OHH...
GOD!!!!


ZZZZZZ!!


The next morning...


MMMMMM...


OOOHHHHH... YES!!


GASP!...
GASP!...
OOOOOHHHH!!!!


UGH! AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF CUTE THE WAY HE WAS "DISCOVERING" HIS NEW BODY! BUT NOW THAT IT'S ALL I SEEM TO HEAR COMING OUT OF HIS ROOM, IT'S A LITTLE DISGUSTING!
I SUPPOSE SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE! I'VE BEEN WELL AWARE FOR YEARS OF THE FACT THAT MY HUSBAND LOVES TO MASTURBATE!


IT FELT LIKE WE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH YESTERDAY, GETTING PHIL PAST THE POINT WHERE HE WAS TOO GODDAMN PRIDEFUL TO ADMIT THAT HE HAD FEMININE URGES!
BUT I STILL NEED TO KNOW HOW FAR THIS GOES... WHETHER PHIL CAN SATISFY THOSE URGES IN A SINGLE WEEKEND, OR IF THEY'RE GOING TO BE BUBBLING UNDER THE SURFACE INDEFINITELY!
FROM THE AMOUNT HE'S JILLING OFF, IT'S SAFE TO SAY HE LOVES HAVING THAT BODY! IS HE GOING TO BE COMPLETELY MISERABLE WHEN HE CHANGES BACK INTO HIS OLD, CRUSTY SELF? PERHAPS I'VE MISCALCULATED COMPLETELY, AND GIVING HIM THIS TASTE OF WOMANHOOD WILL MAKE HIM LOSE ALL INTEREST IN BEING A MAN!


OOOOHHH... FUCK! I COULD DO THAT ALL DAY LONG! *GIGGLE!*
IF, FOR NO OTHER REASON, JUST TO KEEP MY MIND OFF LAURA AND HER BOY-TOY!


AND, BOOM! THERE GOES MY POST-ORGASMIC BUZZ! IS THAT WHAT THE REST OF OUR MARRIAGE IS GOING TO BE LIKE FOR ME? EVERY JOYFUL MOMENT RUINED BY THE THOUGHT OF HER INFIDELITY?
I KNOW I SLEPT WITH SOMEONE ELSE, TOO... BUT I ONLY DID IT FOR WHAT I THOUGHT WERE NOBLE REASONS, SACRIFICING MYSELF SO LAURA COULD EXPERIENCE THE KIND OF PLEASURE I THOUGHT SHE DESERVED! WHAT A SAP I WAS!


I SHOULD CONFRONT HER, ASK HER WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, BUT I'M AFRAID TO TIP MY HAND!
IT FEELS LIKE THE RIGHT MOVE IS TO PLAY ALONG AS IF WE'RE TWO BESTIES UNTIL I UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S AFTER!
I KEEP THINKING THAT SHE MUST KNOW ABOUT MY INTERESTS IN TG TRANSFORMATIONS, BUT IF THAT WERE THE CASE, WHY WOULD SHE REWARD ME BY GIVING ME AN UBER-HOT BODY LIKE THIS FOR THE WEEKEND AND PUSH ME TO EMBRACE BEING A GIRL?
MAYBE SHE'S GIVING ME WHAT SHE THINKS I WANT AS A WAY OF EASING ME OUT THE DOOR, SO SHE CAN BE WITH JACK! COULD THAT BE IT?
I JUST DON'T KNOW! IT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THE HALF-BAKED STORIES I READ... THE KIND THAT MAKE NO SENSE!


HMPH! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S FINALLY FINISHED DIDDLING HIMSELF AND REJOINING THE WORLD!
TIME TO PUT ON A HAPPY FACE AND SEE WHERE THIS DAY ENDS UP!


GOOD MORNING!
WELL, AREN'T YOU ADORABLE! I KNEW THAT NIGHTIE WOULD LOOK AMAZING ON YOU! *GIGGLE!*


YEAH, I, UHH... I GUESS IT DOES! I HADN'T REALLY NOTICED TILL NOW!
OH, PLEASE! IT WAS THE SEXIEST ONE IN THERE AND YOU PICKED IT OUT! HOW COULD YOU NOT NOTICE HOW INCREDIBLE IT LOOKS AND FEELS ON THAT HOT LITTLE BOD OF YOURS?


WELL, IT WAS DARK WHEN I GOT DRESSED, AND I WAS PRETTY DAMN TIRED AND FELL RIGHT ASLEEP, SO I GUESS...
C'MON, PHIL! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ADMIT THAT YOU WANTED TO SEE HOW SEXY YOU'D LOOK IN A LITTLE NUMBER LIKE THAT?
I MEAN, IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU'D WANT TO! RIGHT?
UMM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY "NATURAL," BUT I GUESS I WAS A LITTLE BIT CURIOUS! BUT JUST A LITTLE BIT!


SIGH! I AM GETTING SO FED UP WITH ALL THIS DENIAL HE KEEPS SPEWING! MAYBE IF I INDICATE THAT I KNOW EVERYTHING, IT'LL FORCE HIM TO COME CLEAN!
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT MOST MEN HAVE A NATURAL FASCINATION WITH THE FEMALE BODY.. ESPECIALLY ONE AS YOUNG AND SEXY AS THAT ONE!
BUT FOR SOME MEN, THAT FASCINATION GOES DEEPER THAN JUST WANTING TO OBSERVE AND OGLE A SEXY YOUNG WOMAN! THEY ACTUALLY MIGHT EVEN WANT TO BE THAT WOMAN!
AND THAT'S PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE TO ME!
THERE! IF THAT DOESN'T COAX HIM OUT OF HIS LITTLE SELF-BUILT CLOSET, NOTHING WILL!
8:45


SHIT! THAT SOUNDS LIKE SHE DEFINITELY KNOWS ABOUT MY PROCLIVITIES... BUT EVEN IF SHE DOES, I'M NOT ABOUT TO TAKE THE BAIT!
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW YOU'RE SUCH AN OPEN-MINDED PERSON, HONEY, BUT, REST ASSURED, THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO ME!
I'LL PLAY DRESS-UP AND WHATEVER WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF THE WEEKEND, BUT I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO RETURN TO MY NORMAL BODY WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER!
BULLSHIT! COMPLETE AND UTTER BULLSHIT!
IT'S TIME FOR THE KID GLOVES TO COME OFF!


OH, CUT THE CRAP, PHIL! THIS GOES WAY BEYOND A BIT OF DRESS-UP FOR YOU! I'VE SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU GAZE INTO THE MIRROR! AND THE WAY YOU TEASED THAT GUY IN THE ELEVATOR YESTERDAY? THAT WAS THE WORK OF A PRO!
BUT THE BIG TELL IS HOW DISAPPOINTED YOU WERE WITH SAM LAST NIGHT! IT'S OBVIOUS HOW MUCH YOU REALLY, REALLY WANTED TO FEEL A GOOD, HARD MAN POUNDING AWAY INSIDE OF YOU!
WHAT?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!


OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE, PHIL! FESS UP! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR LITTLE FANTASIES! I'VE SEEN THE WEBSITES AND STORIES YOU'VE DOWNLOADED ONTO YOUR COMPUTER! IT WAS THE LAST THING I EXPECTED FROM THE MAN I MARRIED. BUT IT EXPLAINED SO MUCH!
SO, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO BE HONEST WITH ME ABOUT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU WANT TO BE, EVEN AFTER I'VE GIVEN YOU A TASTE OF THE BODY OF YOUR DREAMS, AT LEAST HAVE THE COURAGE TO ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF! OR ARE YOU REALLY THAT MUCH OF A SNIVELING COWARD?
3:35




WHERE THE HELL DO YOU GET OFF LECTURING ME ABOUT HONESTY AND COURAGE?!


HOW HONEST HAVE YOU BEEN WITH ME ABOUT YOUR "FRIEND" JACK?! HOW MUCH COURAGE DOES IT TAKE TO SNEAK AROUND BEHIND MY BACK FOR MONTHS?!
WHAT THE...?! HOW DID YOU...?!


THAT IDIOT FRIEND OF JACK'S ISN'T JUST PATHETIC IN BED, HE'S ALSO GOT A BIG MOUTH!
HE NOT ONLY SPILLED THE BEANS ABOUT HOW YOU AND JACK SET THINGS UP LAST NIGHT, BUT ALSO THAT YOU TWO ARE ACTUALLY COWORKERS AND HAVE BEEN SLEEPING TOGETHER FOR MONTHS!
WHICH ALSO BEGS THE LEADING QUESTION, IS THIS REALLY THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE TAKEN THE SERUM, OR DID YOU LIE ABOUT THAT AS WELL?
AND DON'T BOTHER RESPONDING TO THAT LAST QUESTION, BECAUSE I'M PRETTY GODDAMN SURE WHAT THE ANSWER IS!


OH, I'LL RESPOND TO THAT LAST QUESTION, ALL RIGHT! IN FACT, I'LL RESPOND TO ALL OF THEM!


FIRST OFF, SAM MAY BE AN IDIOT, BUT I WOULDN'T BE TOO QUICK TO CRITICIZE HIM FOR BEING PATHETIC AFTER YOUR FLACCID PERFORMANCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON!
A PERFORMANCE THAT WAS STILL MORE ATTENTIVE THAN ANYTHING I'VE SEEN FROM YOU FOR ALMOST A YEAR! SO DO YOU THINK IT'S ANY WONDER I TURNED TO JACK TO FULFILL MY NEEDS?
AND, YES, I HAVE TAKEN THE SERUM BEFORE... SEVERAL TIMES, IN FACT! BUT JACK APPRECIATED ME LONG BEFORE I STARTED TAKING IT!


NOW, LET'S GET A LITTLE TRUTH OUT OF YOU, SHALL WE? THIS RELUCTANCE YOU'VE BEEN FEIGNING ALL WEEKEND IS A SHAM, AND YOU DAMN WELL KNOW IT!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT THAT HAVING THIS SEXY YOUNG FEMALE BODY IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED?
C'MON, PHIL! SHOW ME HOW HONEST YOU CAN BE!


OKAY, I ADMIT THAT I READ THOSE STORIES... THAT I'VE HAD FANTASIES ABOUT WHAT IT'D BE LIKE TO BE A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
IT'S BEEN A RELEASE FOR ME... DEALING WITH THE PRESSURES OF MASCULINITY... MY FAILURES AT MY JOB... AND OUR MARRIAGE! AND LATELY I'VE BEEN READING THEM MORE THAN I SHOULD!
I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TALKED TO YOU ABOUT IT... OR SEEN A SHRINK... BUT I DIDN'T! BUT HAVING A BODY LIKE THIS WAS NEVER MY GOAL!
I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING! I ADMIT IT! AND I'VE TREATED YOU BADLY! BUT THAT STRUGGLE WAS MY LIFE... NOT THIS! I NEVER WOULD HAVE CHOSEN THIS ON MY OWN!


OH, MY GOD! HOW CAN YOU SPEW SUCH BULLSHIT AFTER YOU SPENT THE ENTIRE MORNING MASTURBATING? YOU'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF TOUCH WITH WHO YOU ARE... OR WHAT YOU WANT!
IT'S LIKE TALKING TO A BRICK WALL... SO WHY SHOULD I BOTHER TRYING TO TALK TO YOU AT ALL?


Slam!!


IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?!


Slam!!


A little later that day...
Slam!!


WHERE THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'M CHECKING INTO A HOTEL UNTIL TOMORROW SO I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR PATHETIC DENIALS AND ACCUSATIONS!


A HOTEL, HUH? WELL, SAY "HI" TO JACK FOR ME!


OH, I'LL SAY A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN "HI" TO HIM! TRUST ME ON THAT!
BECAUSE, UNLIKE YOU, I PLAN ON TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF WHAT THE SERUM HAS GIVEN ME FOR THE REST OF THE WEEKEND!
CONSIDER THAT WHILE YOU STAY HERE ALONE, DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST... DIDDLING YOUR LIFE AWAY!


Slam!!


HMMM... THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA! *GIGGLE!*


A couple of hours later...
OH... OHHH...
OOOHHHHH....
YESSS!!!


Creak!


JESUS! I THINK THAT WAS THE BEST ONE YET!


I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE HUMAN BODY TO HAVE THAT MANY ORGASMS IN SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME! WHEW!
I WONDER WHAT THE RECORD IS! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I GET SOME SERIOUS HYDRATION!
AND THEN A NICE, LONG SHOWER... 'CAUSE I'M SWEATY AND I'M SMELLY!


1:22
I SUPPOSE THOSE TWO ARE BANGING AWAY IN SOME SEEDY MOTEL OUT BY THE AIRPORT! HMPH! DOUBTFUL! KNOWING LAURA, THEY'RE MORE LIKELY SHACKED UP AT THE DOWNTOWN STILTON!
OR, SINCE THEY'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR SO LONG, MAYBE THEY HAVE THEIR OWN LITTLE RENDEZVOUS APARTMENT SOMEWHERE IN TOWN! BETTER TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR FINANCES TO MAKE DAMN SURE MY RETIREMENT FUND ISN'T PAYING FOR THEIR GODDAMN "LOVE SHACK!"


SIGH! I NEED TO STOP FIXATING ON THOSE TWO! WITH LAURA GONE UNTIL TOMORROW, I HAVE PLENTY OF UNINTERRUPTED TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHERE I GO FROM HERE!
NOW THAT I KNOW THAT MY MARRIAGE IS A SHAM, AND HAS BEEN EVEN BEFORE I GOT FIRED, WHAT DO I DO ABOUT IT? WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?
HELL! I STILL HAVEN'T COME TO TERMS WITH LOSING A JOB... NO, A CAREER... THAT CONSUMED PRACTICALLY EVERY WAKING MINUTE! THIS IS JUST THE ICING ON THE SHIT-CAKE THAT IS MY LIFE!


WHATEVER I DECIDE TO DO, MY LIFE OBVIOUSLY CAN'T CONTINUE ON THE WAY IT HAS BEEN! I'VE GOT TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS CHANGES!
AT LEAST THIS WEEKEND HAS SHOWN ME THAT I'M CAPABLE OF CHANGE, SO I'VE GOT THAT GOING FOR ME!
BUT ONCE I CHANGE BACK TO MY OLD, OVERWEIGHT PHIL-BOD WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO MUSTER UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES HAPPEN?
SIGH! THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF I HAD SOMEONE TO CONFIDE IN. BUT ALL I HAVE... HAD... WERE WORK FRIENDS, AND I HAVEN'T TALKED TO ANY OF THEM IN MONTHS!


OKAY, TIME TO SHAKE MYSELF OUT OF THIS FUNK! THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON MY TIME BEING YOUNG, FEMALE AND GORGEOUS!
ALTHOUGH I'M TEMPTED TO CONTINUE WITH MY MARATHON OF "SELF-EXPLORATION", IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE OTHER THINGS I MIGHT WANT TO TRY BEFORE CHANGING BACK!
I HIGHLY DOUBT LAURA IS GOING TO LET ME HAVE ANOTHER DOSE OF THAT SERUM ANYTIME SOON... SO WHAT EXACTLY AM I ITCHING TO DO WHILE I'VE GOT THIS BOD?






beep, beep, beep...


HELLO... GRANT?


A FORMULA for RETIREMENT
by CBlack
Chapter Five

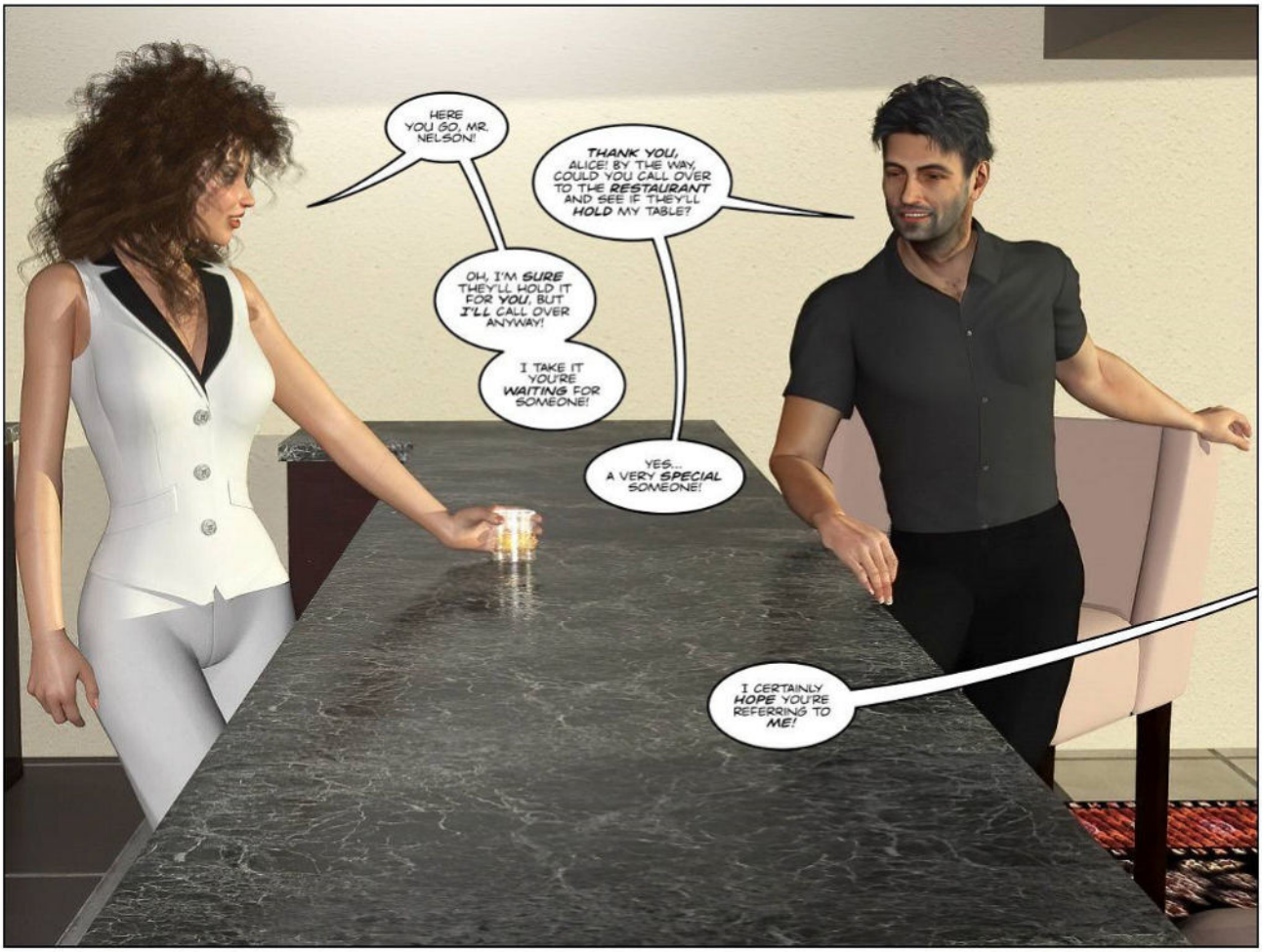

That evening, back at the same hotel...


GOOD EVENING, MR. NELSON!
GOOD EVENING, ALICE! HOW ARE YOU TONIGHT?
JUST FINE, THANK YOU! SCOTCH NEAT?
YOU REMEMBERED!
OF COURSE! COMING RIGHT UP!


WELL, THIS IS IT! THERE'S NO BACKING OUT NOW... EVEN IF I WANTED TO, AND I DON'T!
IT'S ASTONISHING WHAT SPENDING THE DAY INDULGING YOURSELF CAN DO TO YOUR PERSPECTIVE!


I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING DOWN TO THAT LESBIAN BAR! I'M SURE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE... BUT THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME IN LIFE TO DO EVERYTHING!
AND I CAN'T STOP WONDERING IF I'LL LIKE SEX BETTER WITH A MAN... IF IT'S THE RIGHT MAN! SOMEONE OF MY CHOOSING!


I ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT'D BE LIKE TO WALK INTO A CROWDED ROOM LIKE THIS AND HAVE EVERYONE LOOKING AT ME... KNOWING FULL WELL WHAT THEY'RE THINKING! I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S VERY... EMPOWERING!
IT'S GIVING ME THE KIND OF CONFIDENCE I HAVEN'T HAD FOR THE LONGEST TIME!
A CONFIDENCE I'LL NEED, BECAUSE TONIGHT IS LILY'S LAST HURRAH... AND SHE'S GOING OUT IN STYLE!


HERE YOU GO, MR. NELSON!
THANK YOU, ALICE! BY THE WAY, COULD YOU CALL OVER TO THE RESTAURANT AND SEE IF THEY'LL HOLD MY TABLE?
OH, I'M SURE THEY'LL HOLD IT FOR YOU, BUT I'LL CALL OVER ANYWAY!
I TAKE IT YOU'RE WAITING FOR SOMEONE!
YES... A VERY SPECIAL SOMEONE!
I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU'RE REFERRING TO ME!


OF COURSE! BUT ON REFLECTION, I MUST SAY THAT "SPECIAL" DOESN'T COME CLOSE TO DESCRIBING HOW YOU LOOK TONIGHT!
WHY, THANK YOU! I DID WANT TO LOOK MY BEST FOR YOU!
AND YOU HAVEN'T DISAPPOINTED!


PLEASE HAVE A SEAT! I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A DRINK OR TWO BEFORE DINNER!
THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL! WHITE WINE, PLEASE!
COMING RIGHT UP!
VODKA
OLD TIME WHISKEY 1902
WINE


I MUST SAY, I'M SENSING A MARKED CHANGE IN DEMEANOR BETWEEN THE GIRL I MET LAST NIGHT AND THE ONE BEFORE ME TONIGHT!
A GOOD CHANGE OR A BAD CHANGE?
OH, DEFINITELY A GOOD CHANGE... NOT THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOU BEFORE, THAT IS!
DESPITE BEING AN EMOTIONAL TRAIN WRECK? NO, NOTHING WRONG AT ALL! *GIGGLE!*


I KNOW I THANKED YOU LAST NIGHT, BUT YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH YOUR TALK HELPED ME PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE!
SERIOUSLY, IT WAS YOUR ADVICE AND CONFIDENCE IN ME THAT GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO PUT AN ABYSMAL DAY BEHIND ME AND START LOOKING FORWARD INSTEAD OF LOOKING BACK!
WELL, I MERELY DID WHAT ANY CHIVALROUS GENTLEMAN WOULD DO WHEN HE SEES A LADY IN DISTRESS! HEH-HEH!


WOW! I MUST BE PRETTY AMAZING TO HAVE DONE ALL THAT! HEH-HEH!
WELL, NOT ALL OF MY PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED... YET, BUT YOU ARE AMAZING ENOUGH TO HAVE STARTED ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!
AND THAT IS SOMETHING I AM EXTREMELY, EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR!
WELL, IT WAS MY PLEASURE!


HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE MINE AS WELL!




LIKE I SAID... DEFINITELY A GOOD CHANGE!


WELL, I'M FAMISHED! I'VE FOUND THE RESTAURANT HERE EXCELS IN BOTH SEAFOOD AND BEEF!
SOUNDS DELICIOUS!
AND WHAT WOULD THE LADY PREFER?


ROOM SERVICE!


CANCEL MY RESERVATION, WOULD YOU, APRIL?
OF COURSE, MR. NELSON!


HERE WE ARE! I HOPE THE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE TO YOUR LIKING!
IT'S FABULOUS! AND THE VIEW IS STUNNING!
WELL, THE HOTEL DOESN'T HAVE AN ACTUAL PENTHOUSE, BUT THIS IS THE CLOSEST THEY HAD, AND...


MMMMMMM!


WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT DINNER IS GOING TO WAIT?
THAT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW HUNGRY YOU ARE... AND WHAT'S ON THE MENU!
OH, I THINK I'LL BE VERY HAPPY WITH THE CHEF'S SPECIAL!
GOOD CHOICE! *GIGGLE!*


BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT JUST A LITTLE WHILE I FRESHEN UP!
FOR YOU, I'LL WAIT FOR AS LONG IT TAKES!


WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS ALL GOING SO WELL! I REALLY DIDN'T THINK I'D GET UP THE COURAGE TO PULL THIS OFF!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A WHOLE NEW PERSON HAS STEPPED INSIDE ME AND TAKEN CONTROL!
SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO ADMIT THAT SHE'S INTO GUYS... AT LEAST WHILE I'M INHABITING THIS FOXY BODY!


LOOK AT ME! I'M NOT THE SAME SCARED AND CONFUSED LILY FROM YESTERDAY. THAT'S FOR SURE! I FEEL LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON!
WHATEVER LAURA HAD IN MIND WHEN SHE DID THIS TO ME, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO THANK HER FOR LETTING ME LIVE OUT MY DREAMS... AT LEAST FOR ONE WEEKEND! HAVING A BODY LIKE THIS IS TRULY INCREDIBLE!
IT HASN'T BEEN EASY, PUTTING ASIDE FIFTY-PLUS YEARS OF ALPHA-MALE BEHAVIOR, BUT I THINK I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THERE! WOW. ELSE COULD I BE CONSIDERING DOING WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO?
BEFORE TAKING SERUM F5MX YESTERDAY, I NEVER IMAGINED FOR ONE SECOND THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE! BUT THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS HAPPENED, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THE OPPORTUNITY SLIP AWAY FROM ME!


AND SINCE THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE BEFORE CHANGING BACK, I'M DAMN WELL GOING TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!


THANK YOU! THAT'S VERY GOOD TO KNOW!
WHAT'S VERY GOOD TO KNOW?


ROOM SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! SO WE DON'T...
OH MY!


SO WE DON'T *WHAT*... HAVE TO HURRY? MY HOPES *EXACTLY!*


I *HOPE* YOU DON'T MIND ME GETTING A LITTLE *HEAD START*! BUT I FIGURED THE *LESS* TIME WE SPEND ON THE *CLOTHES*, THE *MORE* TIME WE GET TO SPEND ON THE *GOOD STUFF*! *GIGGLE!*
WELL, *OKAY*, BUT I JUST HOPE YOU'LL LET *ME* PARTICIPATE IN THE *REST* OF YOUR DISROBING!
CONSIDERING HOW GODDAMN *TIGHT* THOSE PANTS WERE, TRYING TO SLIP *OUT* OF THEM IN FRONT OF AN *AUDIENCE* WOULD *DEFINITELY* HAVE BEEN A *MOOD-KILLER!*
YET *ANOTHER* THING THEY *FAIL* TO MENTION IN THOSE *STORIES* OF MINE!


OH, I'M COUNTING ON THAT!


YOUR BODY IS MAGNIFICENT! A SENSUAL JEWEL ANY MAN WOULD TREASURE!
MMMMMMMM...


OOOHHHH! YOU'RE ALREADY SOO MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT'S-HIS-NAME LAST NIGHT!


SO WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET TO THE REALLY GOOD STUFF?
"REALLY GOOD STUFF?" IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?


I DIDN'T KNOW I'D NEED TO SPOUT POETRY TO GET YOU TO FUCK ME!! ISN'T WHAT YOU SEE ENOUGH?
OH, YOUR EXQUISITE BEAUTY IS REMARKABLE, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT! BUT MY EXPECTATIONS FOR TONIGHT RUN MUCH DEEPER THAN A CURSORY FUCK OR TWO!


YOU SEE, MY APPETITES ARE PARTICULAR AND VERY DISCRIMINATING! I THRIVE ON EXTRACTING AS MUCH PLEASURE FROM MY PARTNERS AS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE WITH THE HOPE THAT SHE CAN RECIPROCATE IN KIND... OR AT LEAST BE WILLING TO LEARN!
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...


"GASP!"
OOOOOOHHH, GOD!


I... I'VE NEVER FELT... NO ONE'S EVER...


OOOOHHHH!!!
JESUS!!


OH GOD...
OH GOD...
OHHH...


I KNOW YOU AREN'T! IT'S JUST THAT I'M SURE THERE'S MUCH MORE PLEASURE THIS NUBILE YOUNG BODY OF YOURS CAN ENDURE, AND I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR LOVELY FACE WHILE I HELP YOU ACHIEVE IT!
OHHH! WHY DID YOU STOP? I WASN'T FINISHED!


HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
OOOHHH! I'LL GIVE YOU AN HOUR TO STOP THAT!


DON'T TEMPT ME! I'M PERFECTLY WILLING, EVEN EAGER, TO KEEP YOU ON THE BRINK LIKE THIS!
IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT YOUR BODY! WATCHING YOUR FACE AS I EXPLORE HELPS ME DISCOVER YOUR MOST RECEPTIVE POINTS!
MMMMMM!
AHHH! THERE'S AN INTERESTING SPOT! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DO THIS...


OOOHHHH, GOD!
EXQUISITE! I COULD SPEND THE ENTIRE NIGHT JUST WATCHING YOU WRITHE AT THE WHIM OF MY FINGERS LIKE THIS!
BUT I THINK WE BOTH WANT MUCH MORE THAN THAT... AM I RIGHT?


PANT! WHAT... WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO ME IS... AMAZING! I'VE... I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!
I'M NOT SURPRISED!
BUT... *PANT!*... I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU! I... I'M NOT AS... AS EXPERIENCED!

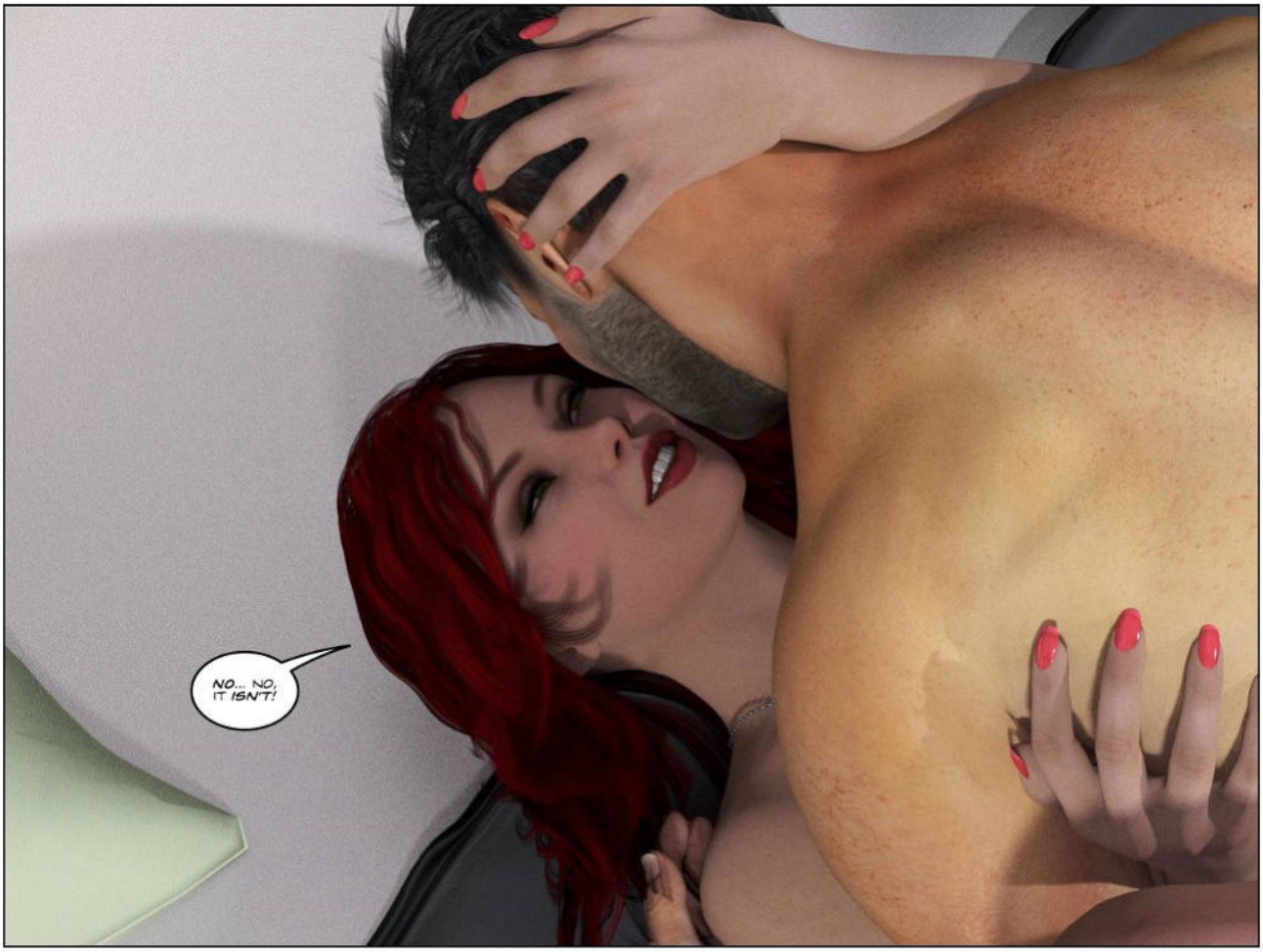

THE PLEASURE I SEEK ISN'T ALWAYS PHYSICAL, MY DEAR! I'M A RATHER COMPLICATED MAN! TO ME, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FOREPLAY CAN BE JUST AS EROTIC!
PSYCHOLOGICAL FOREPLAY?
THE WAY A WOMAN REACTS WHEN SHE'S AROUND ME... HER ATTITUDE, HER FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, HER CHOICE OF WORDS! IMAGINE WHAT I MIGHT DO TO YOU IF I WAS FULLY AROUSED! HEH-HEH!


SO LOOKING INTO YOUR EYES LIKE THIS AND TELLING YOU YOU'RE THE MOST FASCINATING AND POWERFUL MAN I'VE EVER MET TURNS YOU ON EVEN MORE?
IT DEFINITELY IS A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!


I DON'T SUPPOSE ASKING YOUR PERMISSION TO WRAP MY HOT, WET PUSSY AROUND YOUR THROBBING COCK DOES ANYTHING FOR YOU, DOES IT?
HMMM... I THINK YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOMETHING THERE!
LET'S FIND OUT, SHALL WE? PERMISSION GRANTED!


"GASP!" OH, MY!!
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY!


OOOHHHH! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS DOES TO ME!
HOLDING ME LIKE THIS... FEELING YOU INSIDE ME... EVERY LITTLE MOVEMENT YOU MAKE GIVING ME SPASMS OF PLEASURE! I COULD LIE HERE LIKE THIS FOR HOURS AND BE BLISSFULLY CONTENT!
THAT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR! BUT TONIGHT ISN'T ABOUT CONTENTMENT, IS IT?


NO... NO, IT ISN'T!


THEN HANG ON, BEAUTIFUL!

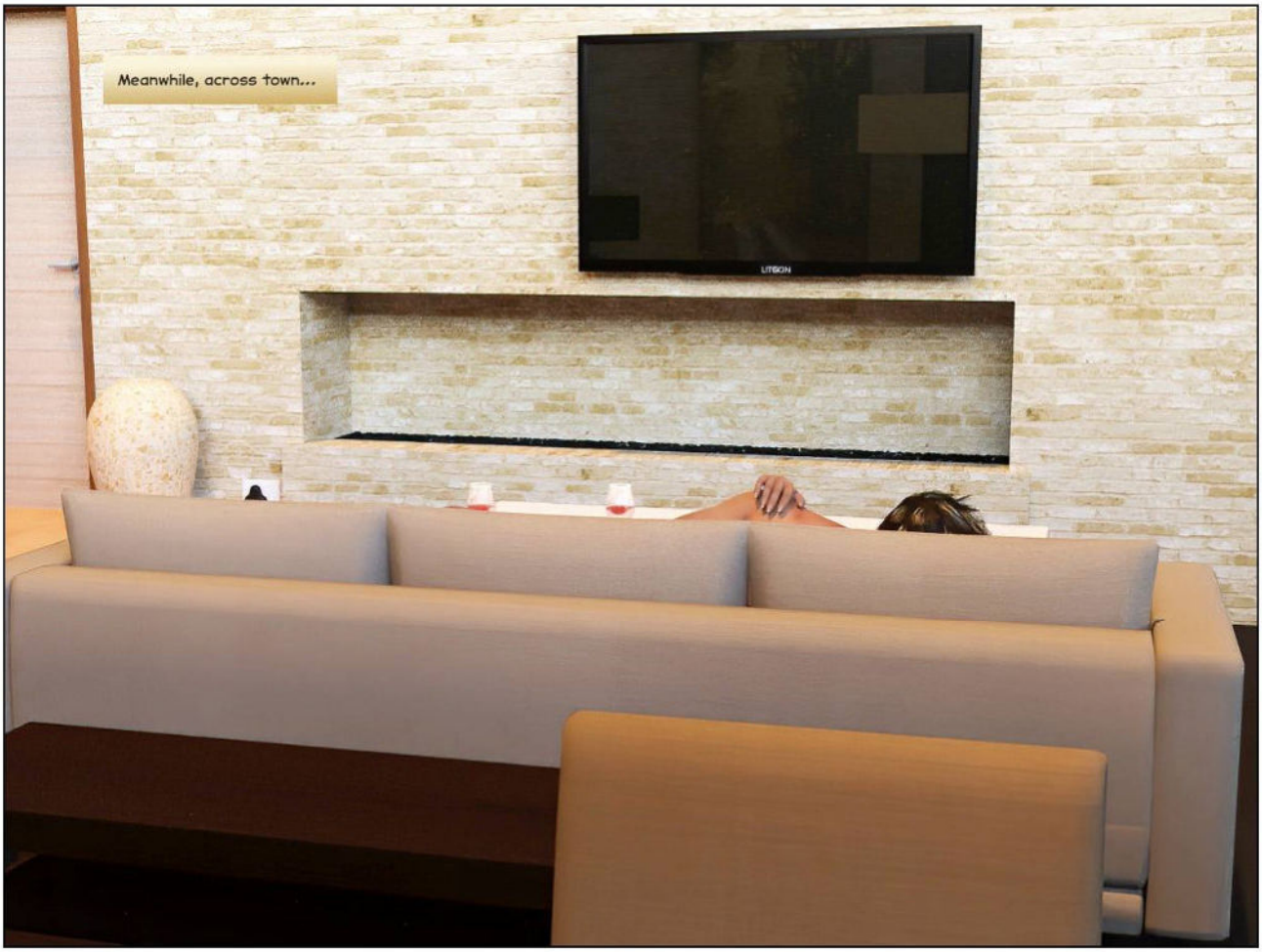

OHHH GOD... YESS!!










Meanwhile, across town...
LITSON


WHAT'S WRONG, BABY? YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE INTO IT TONIGHT!


DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M HAPPY AS A CLAM YOU SURPRISED ME BY SHOWING UP HERE THE WAY YOU DID! BUT IF YOU'D RATHER DO SOMETHING ELSE, I'M ALL EARS!
I'M SORRY, JACK! I GUESS I'M JUST... DISTRACTED, THAT'S ALL!
DISTRACTED, HUH? IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR FRIEND LILY, WOULD IT?


WH... WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
WELL, YOU TOLD ME THIS WHOLE WEEKEND WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ALL ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU TAKING SERUM FGMX AND HAVING A WILD TIME TOGETHER!
YET, HERE YOU ARE, SUDDENLY SHOWING UP AT MY DOOR... ALONE! SOMETHING GO WRONG BETWEEN YOU TWO?


WELL... YOU'RE RIGHT! LILY AND I HAD A HUGE FIGHT!
THAT'S TOO BAD! YOUR HUSBAND FINALLY GOES AWAY FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND, GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITHOUT LEAVING TOWN, AND IT GETS RUINED BY A SQUABBLE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR FRIEND!
SO, WHAT WAS THE FIGHT ABOUT, ANYWAY?
SIGH I THINK IT'S TIME I TOLD YOU THE FULL TRUTH ABOUT "LILY"... AND WHO SHE REALLY IS!


WHO SHE REALLY IS? INTERESTING! DOES THAT MEAN I KNOW HER?
YES, I... I GUESS YOU DO!


YOU SEE, LILY IS ACTUALLY MY HUSBAND... PHIL!
HSBC
WHOA...


MAN, YOU WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN YOU SAID BEING A SEXY YOUNG WOMAN WAS TOTALLY NEW FOR HER! I MEAN, WAS IT ALL HIS IDEA, OR DID YOU TALK HIM INTO IT?
OR EVEN BETTER... DID YOU SPIKE HIS WARM MILK AFTER FINDING OUT HE WAS CHEATING ON YOU?
NO... NONE OF THOSE! IT... IT'S A LOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT!


HE DIDN'T TAKE THE SERUM WILLINGLY, BECAUSE I PRETTY MUCH TRICKED HIM INTO TAKING IT!
SO YOU DID FIND OUT HE WAS CHEATING ON YOU, JUST LIKE WE THOUGHT! AND YOU SLIPPED HIM THE SERUM SO HE COULD SEE WHAT IT FELT LIKE... RIGHT?
NO, IT... IT TURNS OUT HE WASN'T CHEATING ON ME AT ALL! BUT WHAT I DID FIND ON HIS COMPUTER WAS EVEN MORE STARTLING, AND EVEN A BIT DISTURBING!
DISTURBING? IS HE INTO SOME REALLY WEIRD SHIT?
I WOULDN'T CALL IT "WEIRD", JUST... DIFFERENT!
HOW DIFFERENT?
I... I THINK HE WANTS TO BE A WOMAN!


OH, WOW! THAT'S... THAT'S GOTTA BE A SHOCK, BABE! WHAT WAS IT YOU FOUND ON HIS COMPUTER THAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?
THERE WERE ALL THESE WEBSITES ABOUT TRANSGENDER PEOPLE... BOTH FANTASY-BASED AND REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS! THERE WERE EVEN SOME MEDICAL SITES BOOKMARKED THAT DEALT WITH TRANSGENDER ISSUES!
EVERYTHING I FOUND POINTED TO HIM BEING SERIOUS ABOUT IT!
SOUNDS PRETTY DEFINITE, IF YOU ASK ME!


I'M NOT AGAINST PEOPLE BEING WHO THEY ARE! I SUPPORT TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE! IT'S JUST... I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING MARRIED TO A WOMAN! DOES THAT MAKE ME A BAD PERSON?
I'M ALSO WONDERING IF PHIL HAS ANY INTEREST IN BEING WITH ME ANYMORE! I FOUND ALL THESE BOOKMARKS AND IMAGES FROM SOME VERY GRAPHIC MALE PORN SITES... AND THE WAY HE EAGERLY CHOSE TO SLEEP WITH SAM...
I... I THINK MY HUSBAND PREFERS MEN! MAYBE HE ALWAYS HAS, I DON'T KNOW! AND NOW I THINK HE WANTS TO BECOME A WOMAN SO HE CAN BE WITH THEM THE WAY HE'S ALWAYS WANTED!

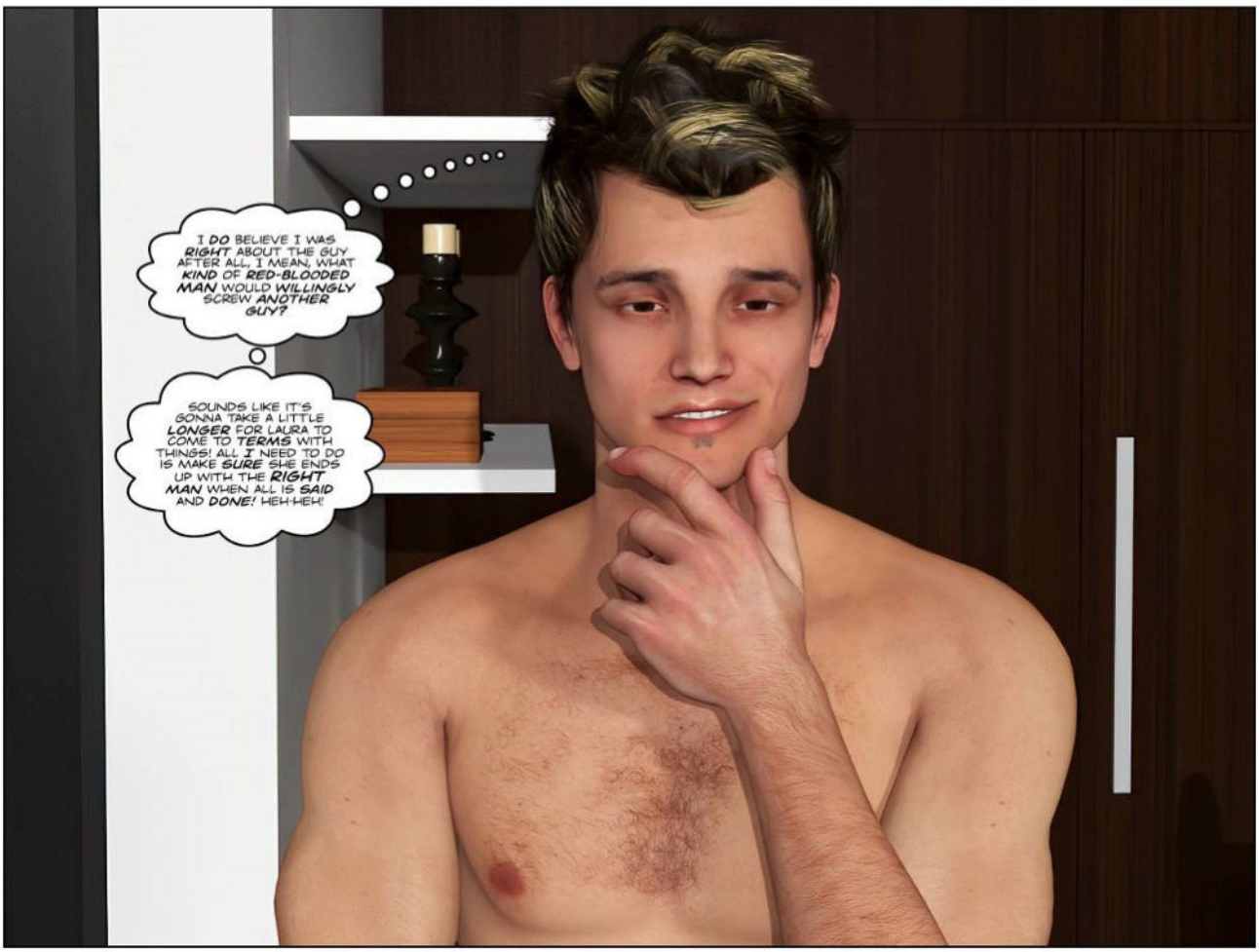

SO I'M CONFUSED, BABE! WHY GIVE HIM THE SERUM IF YOU THOUGHT THAT WOULD ONLY HELP PUSH HIM FURTHER AWAY FROM YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME ALL THESE MONTHS!
BECAUSE I'M LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND I NEED TO CONFIRM THAT WHAT I SUSPECT ABOUT PHIL IS TRUE BEFORE MAKING ANY MAJOR DECISIONS ABOUT OUR MARRIAGE!
AS CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, I STILL HAVE HOPES THAT THIS IS SOMETHING PHIL NEEDS TO GET OUT OF HIS SYSTEM, AND NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN HIM A TASTE OF HIS FANTASIES, HE'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO LIVING REAL LIFE... WITH ME!


YOU GET THAT, DON'T YOU? I MEAN, THESE LAST FEW MONTHS TOGETHER HAVE BEEN AMAZING, BUT I'VE ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR FROM DAY ONE THAT MY MARRIAGE COMES FIRST!
AS LONG AS THERE'S A CHANCE PHIL AND I CAN WORK THINGS OUT, WHAT YOU AND I HAVE WILL STAY JUST AS IT IS... NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS!
YEAH, I GET THAT! BUT WHAT IF YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT YOUR HUBBY'S "TENDENCIES"?
WELL THEN, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME HARD CHOICES! BUT UNTIL I'M CERTAIN OF THOSE ANSWERS, I'M NOT MAKING ANY MAJOR CHANGES!


I WAS SURE I'D BE ABLE TO LEARN WHAT I NEED TO KNOW THIS WEEKEND, BUT BECAUSE OF OUR SILLY FIGHT EARLIER TODAY, THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
I NEED TO BREAK DOWN PHIL'S DEFENSES SO HE CAN BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH ME! IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BITE THE BULLET AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED! *SIGH!*


GIVE ME A MINUTE, BABE, WHILE I GO TEXT HIM AN APOLOGY!
DO WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA DO, BABE!
HOLY SHIT! THIS COULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT ANY BETTER IF I'D PLANNED IT THIS WAY!


WHEN LAURA TOLD ME SHE THOUGHT THAT FAT OLD FART HUSBAND OF HERS WAS CHEATING ON HER, ALL I EXPECTED TO FIND WHEN I HACKED INTO HIS COMPUTER WAS A COUPLE OF EMAILS THAT'D PROVE SHE WAS RIGHT!
BUT ALL I FOUND WERE SOME REGULAR VISITS TO SOME TG FANTASY SITES, ALONG WITH A FEW OTHER FUNKY WEBSITES! THE GUY DEFINITELY HAS A KINKY SIDE, AND IT SEEMED LIKE THE BEST THING I COULD DO WAS TO LOAD UP HIS BROWSING HISTORY, FOLDERS AND FILES WITH ALL THE TG-RELATED STUFF I COULD FIND TO SEAL THE DEAL!
REINFORCING THE IDEA THAT PHIL WAS REALLY INTO GUYS WAS THE ICING ON THE CAKE! I KNEW HE HADN'T SLEPT WITH LAURA IN MONTHS, AND THAT SHE WAS SEARCHING FOR THE REASON WHY!
MAN, I HAD NO IDEA SHE'D REACT THE WAY SHE DID ONCE SHE DID A LITTLE SNOOPING ON HER OWN! NEVER DREAMED SHE'D DO SOMETHING BATSHIT CRAZY LIKE DOSE HER OWN HUSAND WITH SERUM FGMX... AND THAT HE'D END UP FUCKING SAM! JESUS!


I DO BELIEVE I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE GUY AFTER ALL. I MEAN, WHAT KIND OF RED-BLOODED MAN WOULD WILLINGLY SCREW ANOTHER GUY?
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GONNA TAKE A LITTLE LONGER FOR LAURA TO COME TO TERMS WITH THINGS! ALL I NEED TO DO IS MAKE SURE SHE ENDS UP WITH THE RIGHT MAN WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE! HEH-HEH!


WELL, I SWALLOWED MY PRIDE AND APOLOGIZED! WE'LL SEE IF THAT DOES ANY GOOD WHEN I GET HOME TOMORROW AFTERNOON!
HEY, YOU DID ALL YOU CAN DO, BABE!


NOW.. WHERE WERE WE?
RIGHT ABOUT HERE, I THINK! *GIGGLE!*


Later, back at the hotel...
OOPS! I THINK I GOT A LITTLE DRAWN BUTTER AND LEMON ON YOUR SHIRT!
HARDLY SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT! I HAVE PLENTY OF OTHERS!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE THE SHIRT OVER THERE AND COME BACK OVER HERE, HMM?


IN A MINUTE! I NEED TO GO FRESHEN UP!


FRESHEN UP AND CHECK THIS MESSAGE FROM LAURA! I'M SURPRISED SHE'S ACTUALLY TAKING THE TIME TO TEXT ME, CONSIDERING THE KNOCK-DOWN DRAG-OUT FIGHT WE HAD!
I WONDER IF SHE CAME HOME EARLY AND IS WONDERING WHERE THE HELL I AM!
WOULDN'T SHE BE FREAKED OUT IF I TOLD HER THE TRUTH? *GIGGLE!*


HOLY SHIT! SHE... SHE'S APOLOGIZING FOR THE FIGHT! SAYS SHE WAS WAY OUT OF LINE GETTING AS ANGRY AS SHE DID!
SHE THINKS WE SHOULD BOTH JUST WAIT UNTIL THE SERUM WEARS OFF AND WE CHANGE BACK BEFORE TRYING TO TALK THIS ALL OUT!
WOW! I NEVER EXPECTED THAT FROM HER! IN FACT, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME SHE EVER ADMITTED SHE WAS WRONG ABOUT ANYTHING!


SO WHY THE BIG TURNAROUND ALL OF A SUDDEN? SHE USUALLY STAYS MAD AT ME A HELL OF A LOT LONGER THAN THIS... FOR MUCH, MUCH SMALLER ARGUMENTS!
HELL, SHE WAS MAD AT ME FOR DAYS LAST YEAR JUST BECAUSE I FORGOT HER SISTER'S BIRTHDAY! AND NOW SHE'S APOLOGIZING JUST A FEW HOURS AFTER THAT KNOCK-DOWN DRAG-OUT FIGHT WE HAD EARLIER?
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO.


MAYBE LAURA GAVE ME THIS BODY JUST TO TORTURE ME, BECAUSE SHE KNOWS HOW MISERABLE I'M GOING TO BE AFTER I CHANGE BACK!
I IMAGINED BEING THIS WAY SO MANY NIGHTS BEFORE DRIFTING OFF TO SLEEP, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN! BUT THIS ISN'T THE REAL ME... IT'S ALL JUST AN ILLUSION!
BY TOMORROW I'LL BE LIVING MY OLD PATHETIC LIFE, AND AMAZING EXPERIENCES LIKE THIS WILL BE OUT OF REACH!


BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THAT RIGHT NOW!
I'M NOT A CRANKY OLD MAN AT THIS MOMENT! I'M A WOMAN WHO'S LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE HAVING THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY SEXUAL EXPERIENCE OF HER LIFE!
WHEW! I DO BELIEVE THAT MAN HAS FOUND EVERY EROGENOUS ZONE ON MY BODY... PLACES I NEVER KNEW EXISTED!


AND SINCE I'M NOW UNDER NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO RETURN HOME TONIGHT...
... MAKING THE MOST OF MY LAST NIGHT AS LILY JUST TOOK ON A WHOLE NEW MEANING!


I HAVE ONE FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS THIS BODY HAS TO OFFER... AND I'M GOING ALL IN!
I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT THE FACT THAT I'M ACHING FOR A MAN... AND HIS HARD COCK! NONE OF THAT MATTERS RIGHT NOW!


SO, NOW THAT WE'VE GOT DINNER OUT OF THE WAY, ANY THOUGHTS ON WHAT YOU'D LIKE FOR DESSERT?
OH, I'M DEFINITELY GETTING A CRAVING FOR SOMETHING, THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE!


WELL, CONSIDERING HOW MASTERFULLY YOU'VE ATTENDED TO ALL MY NEEDS SO FAR TONIGHT, I HOPE YOU'LL LET ME RETURN THE FAVOR AND SATISFY ANY AND ALL CRAVINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE!


STARTING WITH THIS NOT-SO-LITTLE FELLOW WHO LOOKS LIKE HE NEEDS SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION!
HARDLY MY FIRST CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES, BUT AFTER EVERYTHING GRANT'S DONE FOR ME, HE SURELY DESERVES IT...


ACTUALLY.. I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T PERFORM THAT PARTICULAR ACT!
BUT YOU...
TRUE... I DID! BUT ONLY BECAUSE I ASSUMED YOU'D ENJOY IT, WHICH YOU OBVIOUSLY DID, JUDGING FROM YOUR REACTION!


I WANT TO SEE YOUR EMOTIONS LAID BARE BY THE EXPRESSIONS ON YOUR EXQUISITE FACE, TO WITNESS EVERY SUBLIME MOVEMENT OF YOUR NUBILE FORM AS OUR BODIES INTERTWINE!
THAT PARTICULAR ACT DENIES ME BOTH OF THOSE PLEASURES, AND IS BENEATH A WOMAN OF YOUR CALIBER!


AND ALTHOUGH YOU MAY CLAIM TO LACK EXPERIENCE, I'M SURE A WOMAN OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND CREATIVITY CAN FIND A WAY TO SATISFY BOTH OUR NEEDS!


OH, I THINK I CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING! *GIGGLE!*
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU TOOK THE ONE THING I WAS RELUCTANT ABOUT OFF THE TABLE!


HMMM... AN EXCELLENT START!
"START" BEING THE KEY WORD, HANDSOME!


CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU GET OFF ON WATCHING ME ENJOY THE SITUATION?
OH, INDEED I DID!


THEN LET'S SEE WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU!


HMMMM... IT'S LIKE YOU READ MY MIND!
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EXPLORE YOURSELF AS OPENLY AS YOU WISH! I CERTAINLY WON'T STOP YOU! HEH-HEH!
WELL, IF YOU INSIST...


MMMMMMM! IT FEELS SOOO GOOD WHEN I PLAY WITH MY BREASTS!
I CAN TELL! BUT IS THAT THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD?


OOOHHHHH! NO... NO IT ISN'T!
BEAUTIFUL! NOW... WHY NOT TRY BOTH AT THE SAME TIME?


MMMMM! I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE THING THAT COULD POSSIBLY FEEL BETTER THAN THIS!
DO I DARE SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT THAT MIGHT BE?


WHY SPECULATE WHEN I CAN SHOW YOU?
MMMMM... YOU READ MY MIND!


OOHHHHHN! THERE YOU ARE! RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU!
AND RIGHT WHERE I WANT TO BE!








OOOOHHHHHH.....


OHHH... OOHHH... GOD!


OOOOHHHHHHH!!


OH MY GOD...


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA JUST HOW AMAZING YOU ARE?
FUNNY... I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU! *GIGGLE!*


YOU, MY LOVELY, ARE SOMEONE I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE AGAIN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN!
OH! I, UHH... I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! DON'T GET ME WRONG... I WISH I COULD, BUT...


BEFORE YOU GET TOO TONGUE-TIED, LET ME MAKE MYSELF CLEAR... I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT A SERIOUS, ONE-TO-ONE RELATIONSHIP! MY LIFESTYLE PRECLUDES THAT FROM BEING A POSSIBILITY!
HOWEVER, MY BUSINESS DOES OCCASIONALLY BRING ME TO HOUSTON! AND KNOWING THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU WERE HERE WOULD VERY LIKELY MAKE THOSE TRIPS MUCH MORE FREQUENT!
NO COMMITMENTS... JUST TIME TOGETHER WHEN I'M IN TOWN AND YOU'RE AVAILABLE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?


CHRIST! I CAN'T JUST TELL HIM THAT AFTER TODAY LILY WON'T EVEN EXIST! I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE BLUNT AND VAGUE AND HOPE HE ACCEPTS THAT!
I... I'M SORRY, GRANT! AS MUCH AS I'VE ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER, I WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
LIKE I SAID THE OTHER NIGHT, THIS WEEKEND WAS LITTLE MORE THAN AN EXPERIMENT FOR ME! AND TOMORROW I HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY REAL LIFE!
I... I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT!


OF COURSE I CAN! TO CLAIM OTHERWISE WOULD BE STAGGERINGLY HYPOCRITICAL OF ME, TO SAY THE LEAST!
I'M DISAPPOINTED, OF COURSE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO PRESS YOU ON THE DETAILS OF YOUR LIFE BEYOND THIS WEEKEND, BUT AT LEAST I'LL ALWAYS HAVE THE MEMORY OF WHAT WE SHARED FOR THIS BRIEF, BUT REMARKABLE ENCOUNTER!


SIGH! YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, IT MAKES IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GIRL TO MAKE A DIGNIFIED EXIT!


SO LET'S JUST THROW DIGNITY OUT THE WINDOW AND SPEND OUR LAST COUPLE OF HOURS ANNOYING THE HELL OUT OF EVERYONE IN ADJACENT ROOMS! *GIGGLE!*


AHHH! YOU'RE A WOMAN AFTER MY OWN HEART! HEH-HEH!


OOH... OOH... GOD...


Several hours later...
I HOPE I HAVEN'T MADE YOU LATE FOR YOUR FLIGHT BACK TO NEW YORK!
NOT TO WORRY! I'VE ALREADY RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER FLIGHT!


IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE FRONT DESK FOR ANY COMPLAINTS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS! HEH-HEH!
SMART THINKING! I'D HATE TO SEE YOU BANNED FROM THIS HOTEL! *GIGGLE!*


ONE LAST GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE BEFORE YOU GO?
I'D LIKE THAT!






Later, back at the apartment...
WHEW! NOW THAT'S HOW YOU TOP OFF A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME WEEKEND!
I HOPE GRANT WASN'T TOO PUT OFF BY THE WAY I BOLTED OUT OF THERE, BUT IF I HADN'T, I COULD EASILY SEE MYSELF STICKING AROUND FOR ANOTHER NIGHT... AND THAT WOULD BE MORE THAN A LITTLE DISASTROUS!
AND ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED HE WASN'T LOOKING FOR A RELATIONSHIP, THE WAY I LEFT SHOULD LET HIM KNOW THAT SEEING "LILY" AGAIN IS JUST NOT IN THE CARDS!


I ALSO WANTED TO MAKE DAMN SURE I GOT HOME BEFORE LAURA DID SO I CAN CLAIM I STAYED HERE THE WHOLE TIME ALONE!
AND HOPEFULLY THAT WILL BE THE EXTENT OF OUR CONVERSATION... UNTIL TOMORROW, AT LEAST!


SIGH! YEAH... WISHFUL THINKING!


Later that afternoon...
OKAY... TIME TO TEST THE WATERS AND SEE IF MY APOLOGY CALMED HIM DOWN AT ALL!


WELCOME HOME! HOW'S JACK?
I GUESS THAT PROBABLY IS THE BEST WAY TO GO!
SIGH! I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH YOU ANYMORE, PHIL! AND I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD JUST WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, AFTER WE'VE CHANGED BACK, BEFORE WE DISCUSS ANYTHING!


I'M GLAD YOU SEE IT THAT WAY, HONEY! IT'LL GIVE US BOTH A CHANCE TO COOL OFF, GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND LET OUR NORMAL, MORE RATIONAL SELVES TALK IT OUT!
MORE LIKELY IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS! THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO BED NOW!
SO YOU'RE SURE WE'LL CHANGE BACK BY MORNING?


OH, AND DON'T WEAR THAT FRILLY LITTLE NIGHTIE TO BED AGAIN TONIGHT! I'D HATE TO SEE IT ALL STRETCHED OUT OF SHAPE! *GIGGLE!*
GOOD NIGHT, HONEY!
VERY FUNNY!
YEAH... GOOD NIGHT!


WELL, DESPITE SOME OBVIOUS LEFTOVER TENSION, THAT WENT MUCH BETTER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD!
MAYBE THERE'S SOME HOPE FOR OUR MARRIAGE YET!


STILL, I CAN'T JUST DISMISS HOW EASILY PHIL SEEMS TO HAVE ADAPTED TO BEING "LILY"!
OH, HE MAY HAVE PROTESTED AND GRUMBLED ALL WEEKEND, BUT THE WAY HE GAVE IN SO EASILY THE OTHER NIGHT... AND THE WAY HE CARRIES THAT BODY NOW...
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT DEEP DOWN, HE MAY REALLY WANT TO BE LILY... FOR GOOD!
ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I DID THIS WAS TO FORCE PHIL TO BE HONEST WITH HIMSELF... THAT MAN IS A MASTER OF BURYING HIS EMOTIONS!


MAYBE TOMORROW MORNING, I'LL FINALLY GET THE ANSWERS I NEED!
IF NOT, I FIGURE A FEW WEEKS AS OUR "OLD" SELVES SHOULD GIVE PHIL SOME PERSPECTIVE ON THIS WEEKEND, SO HE'LL BE ABLE TO ARTICULATE WHAT HE WANTS!
AND IF PHIL'S TONGUE REMAINS TIED, I'LL FIGURE OUT A NEW FOOLPROOF PLAN TO DETERMINE HIS TRUE INTENTIONS! I HATE BEING SO MANIPULATIVE, BUT IT'S WHAT I'M REDUCED TO IF THAT MAN CAN'T TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HE'S FEELING!


I DO WONDER HOW PHIL WOULD REACT IF I OFFERED HIM ANOTHER DOSE OF SERUM FGMX? WOULD HE BE RELUCTANT, OR EAGERLY GUZZLE IT DOWN IN ORDER TO BECOME A NUBILE YOUNG WOMAN ONCE MORE?


OH, DON'T WORRY.. HONEY! I WON'T WEAR THE LITTLE NIGHTIE TO BED! I'M NOT THAT OBTUSE... AT LEAST NOT ANYMORE!
ONE THING I'VE DEFINITELY LEARNED THIS WEEKEND IS TO NOT TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED.. ESPECIALLY MY MARRIAGE!
AND THAT'S SOMETHING I'LL UNQUESTIONABLY START TO REEVALUATE TOMORROW AFTER I'VE CHANGED BACK!


"SIGH!" CHANGED BACK! TO WHAT? A FOOLISH AND UNEMPLOYED OLD MAN WHOSE WIFE OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T LOVE OR EVEN RESPECT HIM!
BACK TO A LIFE WHERE I DEVOTED MYSELF TO TAKING CARE OF OTHERS... PUTTING EVERYONE ELSE'S NEEDS BEFORE MY OWN... AT LEAST UNTIL THE MOMENT I WAS NO LONGER NEEDED AND THROWN TO THE CURB!
IT'S TIME TO FACE THE FACT THAT I'VE BEEN TOTALLY LOST, AND BROUGHT SO MUCH OF THIS MISERY ON MYSELF!


WELL, AT LEAST I'LL HAVE LOTS AND LOTS OF TIME TO TRY AND FIGURE EVERYTHING OUT... BUT NOT TONIGHT!
MMMM! THIS IS MY LAST NIGHT IN THIS BODY, AND I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
AS MUCH AS I'VE COMPLAINED AND WHINED TO LAURA, THIS WEEKEND HAS BEEN AN AMAZING, MIND-BENDING FANTASY COME TRUE!


OOOOHHHHH, YEAH!
AND THIS IS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE HIGH POINTS!


OOOOOO... GOD!!!


THAT'S IT, HONEY! HAVE ONE LAST GOOD GO-AROUND WITH THAT HOT LITTLE BOD OF YOURS AND GET IT ALL OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM!
JUST REMEMBER WHERE THE GOOD PARTS ARE AND HOW TO MAKE THEM SING!


YOU'VE DEFINITELY PICKED UP KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FEMALE ANATOMY THIS WEEKEND... I'M JUST HOPING YOU'LL BE INTERESTED IN USING THAT KNOWLEDGE TO SATISFY MY NEEDS! *GIGGLE!*




zzzzzzzzzzzz...




The next morning...
MMMMMM...


OOOOHHH! THE ONE MAJOR DRAWBACK TO THE SERUM IS WAKING UP OLD AND WRINKLED AGAIN! I HATE IT!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT LAST LONGER! WE JUST HAVE TO!


I DO, HOWEVER, ENJOY THE FACT THAT THE LAST THING TO GO IS MY HEIGHTENED LIBIDO!
ITS BENEFITS ALWAYS HELP ME TRANSITION BACK TO REALITY!


AND IF I'M CORRECT, PHIL SHOULD BE FEELING ABOUT AS RANDY AS I AM RIGHT NOW! SEEMS LIKE A GOOD TIME TO TEST THE WATERS AND SEE IF HE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN AN EXTENDED ROUND OF MAKE-UP SEX! *GIGGLE!*


HONEY? I HOPE YOU'RE AWAKE, BECAUSE I SURE AM! *GIGGLE!*
SO WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TO OUR BED, SO WE CAN...


GASP!!!


MMMMMMMMM...


A FORMULA for
by CBlack
RETIREMENT
Chapter Six


OH MY GOD! HE... HE'S STILL LILY! HE SHOULD'VE CHANGED BACK HOURS AGO, BUT HE HASN'T! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
OOOHHHHH....


WE REACHED THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF 60 HOURS SIX MONTHS AGO AND HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PUSH PAST THAT LIMIT SINCE!
BUT PHIL IS THE FIRST MAN TO TRANSFORM INTO SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE GENDER! IS THAT WHY HE'S STILL YOUNG AND FEMALE?
COULD THIS BE THE KEY COMPONENT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL THIS TIME IN ORDER TO MAKE SERUM FGMX PERMANENT?
MMMMMMMM....


WELL, THE ONLY WAY TO ANSWER THAT IS TO GET HIM INTO THE LAB AND RUN AS MANY TESTS AS WE CAN!
AS LONG AS HE'S STILL FEMALE, THERE SHOULD BE TRACES OF THE SERUM IN HIS BLOODSTREAM! ANALYZING ITS DECAY RATE SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH INVALUABLE INFORMATION!
OOOHHHHH....
AND BECAUSE TIME IS A FACTOR, IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING A LITTLE DISTASTEFUL!


SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR LATEST SESSION OF SAUCING THE TACO, PHIL, BUT IT'S TIME TO GET UP!
HUH?! WHAT THE...?!


HOLY SHIT! WHY THE HELL AM I STILL...
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT IN THE CAR, BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED TO GET UP AND GET DRESSED! WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME!
BUT...


NOW, GODDAMN IT!


After a quick and nerve-rattling drive to Laura's office building...
BUT I WILL BE CHANGING BACK... RIGHT?
LIKE I TOLD YOU A DOZEN TIMES IN THE CAR, I BELIEVE SO! YOU HAVE A 99.97% CHANCE OF CHANGING BACK!
CHANCES ARE, IT WILL HAPPEN ANY MINUTE NOW! THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO GET YOU INTO THE LAB AND RUN SOME TESTS BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!


BUT AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE WHEN YOUR BOSSES FIND OUT YOU TOOK SOME OF THIS SERUM HOME?
HELL, MOST OF THE EXECUTIVES HAVE BEEN DOING IT SECRETLY FOR MONTHS! THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GET IN TROUBLE FOR THAT!
AND IF IT TURNS OUT THAT GIVING IT TO YOU SOMEHOW UNLOCKS THE SECRET TO MAKING THE EFFECTS LAST LONGER, I COULD END UP WITH A BIG PROMOTION!


HMPH! GLAD I COULD BE OF HELP!
HERE WE ARE! REMEMBER, JUST LET ME DO ALL THE TALKING TO THE LAB TECHNICIANS SO WE CAN GET THIS DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!


I UNDERSTAND! LIKE I'D KNOW WHAT TO TELL THEM, ANYWAY!
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING MY LIFE JUST GOT EVEN MORE COMPLICATED?


A couple of hours later, in Laura's office...
HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO WAIT HERE? DON'T LAB RESULTS USUALLY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS ANYWAY?
NOT WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR OWN IN-HOUSE LAB AND I GIVE THEM THE ORDER TO EXPEDITE EVERYTHING!
YOU HAVE THAT MUCH PULL AROUND HERE, HUH?
YUP, BUT I'LL HAVE A HELL OF A LOT MORE ONCE WE FIGURE OUT WHY YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED BACK!


YEAH, ABOUT THAT! YOU STILL HANGING ON TO THAT 99.97% CERTAINTY OF YOURS? BECAUSE I'M NOT SEEING OR FEELING ANY SIGNS OF THIS GOING AWAY ANYTIME SOON!
AT THIS POINT, THIS IS PREMATURE, BUT I HAVE TO ASK, IF YOU ENDED UP BEING STUCK IN THAT BODY, HOW WOULD THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
WOULD IT BE A DREAM COME TRUE, OR HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR FILL OF BEING A WOMAN?


I... I DON'T KNOW! I'LL ADMIT THAT I'VE FANTASIZED ABOUT HAVING THIS KIND OF BODY... BUT THE NOTION THAT I COULD BE STUCK THIS WAY FOREVER IS DAUNTING! I THINK THAT...
Ding!
HANG ON, HONEY! THOSE BETTER BE THE RESULTS!


THIS... THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT!
WHY?! WHAT DOES IT SAY?!
GIVE ME A MINUTE!


HELLO, HANK? IT'S LAURA! I NEED YOU TO CHECK THOSE LAB RESULTS YOU JUST SENT ME! SOMETHING LOOKS OFF!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU ALREADY DOUBLE-CHECKED THEM! TRIPLE CHECK THEM AND CALL ME BACK ASAP!


WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG, LAURA?!
IT MIGHT BE A MISTAKE, BUT YOUR BLOODWORK DOESN'T SHOW ANY TRACES OF THE SERUM!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
A LOT, IF THE RESULTS HOLD UP!


ANY PERSON WHO IS ALTERED BY SERUM FGMX WILL HAVE TRACES OF IT IN THEIR BLOODSTREAM! IT DISSIPATES AFTER 60 HOURS, WHICH CAUSES THE PERSON TO CHANGE BACK!
SINCE YOU'RE STILL FEMALE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THE SERUM IN YOUR BLOOD, BUT THERE'S NONE EVIDENT!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
I DON'T KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING HIM RECHECK HIS FINDINGS!


SO ARE YOU SAYING I MIGHT BE STUCK THIS WAY... PERMANENTLY?
I REFUSE TO SPECULATE! LET'S SEE WHAT THE LAB SAYS FIRST, BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE RESULTS, WE'LL NEED TO RUN MORE IN-DEPTH TESTS ON YOU!
MORE FUCKING TESTS?!! WHY?
EVEN IF YOU DID CHANGE BACK RIGHT THIS SECOND, YOU'VE ALREADY BROKEN OUR EARLIER LIMIT BY ALMOST 12 HOURS! WE HAVE TO KNOW WHY!
Ring!

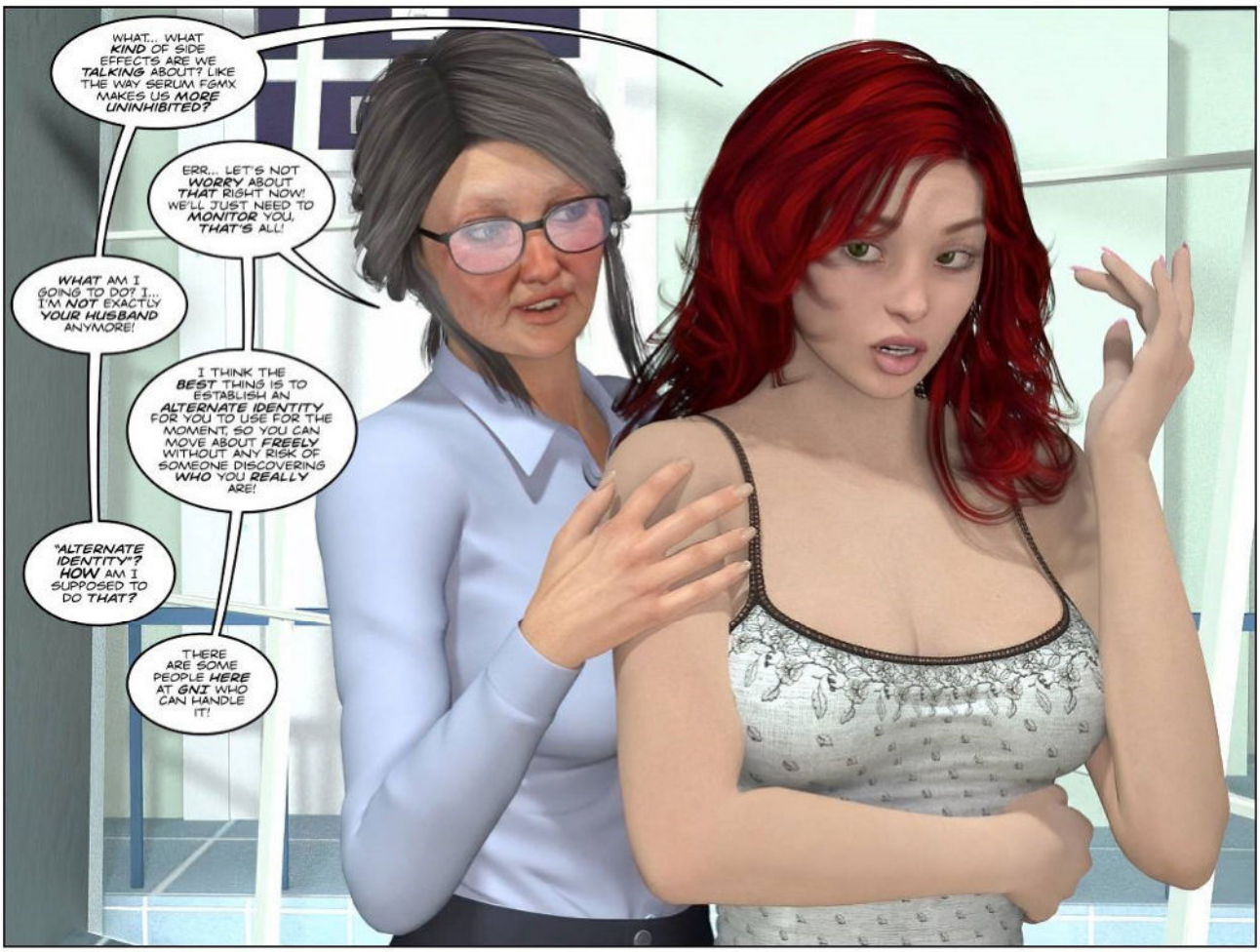

SO, ANY CHANGES, HANK?
SIGH! THANKS... WE'LL TALK LATER!
WHAT DID HE SAY?


HE SAID HE TRIPLE-CHECKED AND EVEN QUADRUPLE-CHECKED! THERE ARE DEFINITELY NO TRACES OF SERUM FGMX IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM!
WHICH MEANS...?
EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT THE SERUM TELLS US YOU SHOULD HAVE CHANGED BACK ALREADY! WHICH MEANS THERE'S A VERY STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THIS MAY BE PERMANENT!
HOLY SHIT!!


IT'S TRULY EXTRAORDINARY! THERE ARE MANY POSSIBLE VARIABLES AS TO WHY THIS HAPPENED! CHOLESTEROL LEVELS, BLOOD SUGAR, BLOOD TYPE, PREGNANCY, DIET... THE LIST GOES ON AND ON! WE NEED TO PINPOINT THE CAUSE SO WE CAN REPLICATE IT!
WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE... PREGNANCY? CAN I GET PREGNANT?!
WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, BUT I HAD THEM CHECK, JUST IN CASE! DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE NOT!
JESUS! THAT'S A RELIEF! BUT YOU... YOU REALLY THINK I'M STUCK THIS WAY?

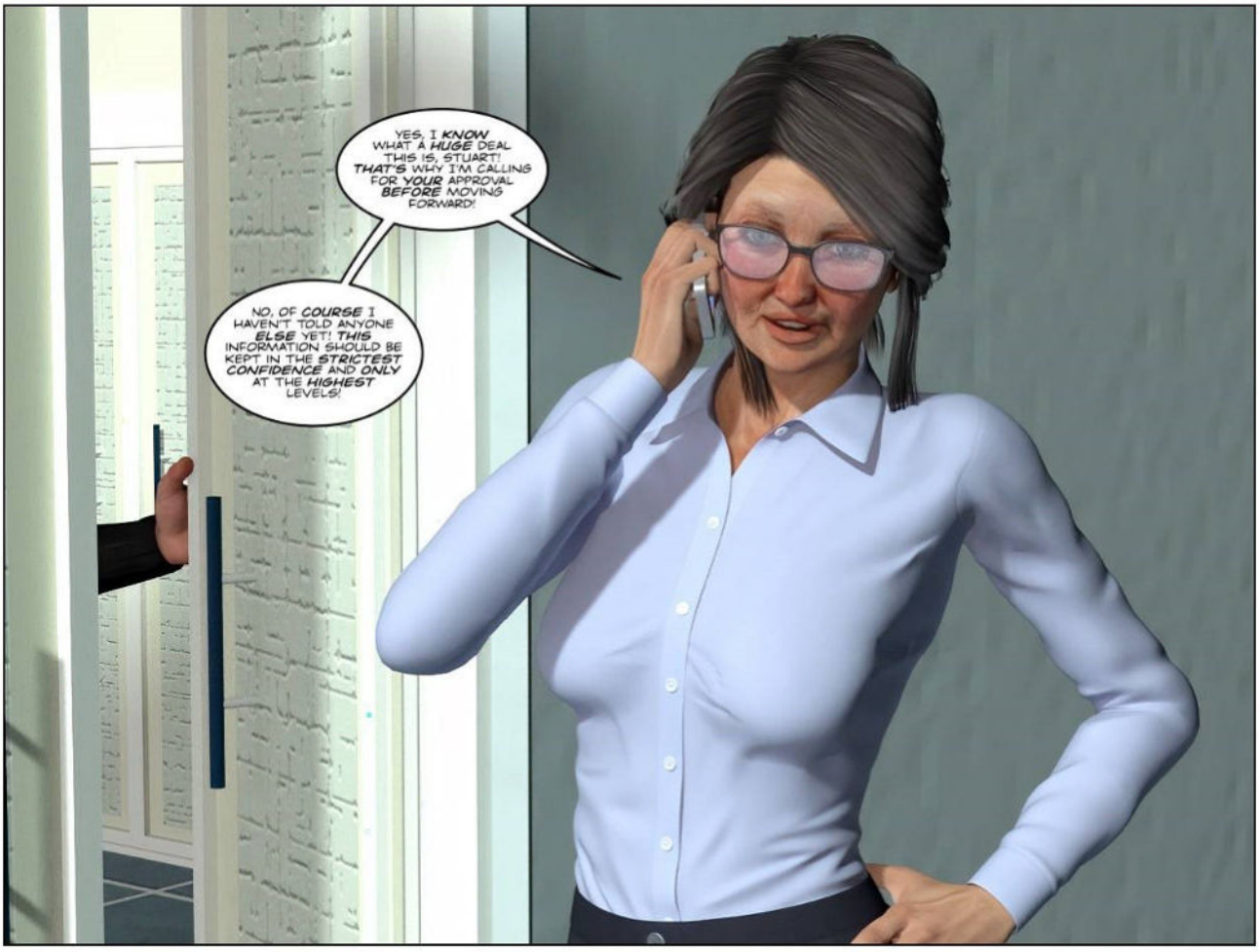

I CAN'T GIVE YOU A DEFINITIVE ANSWER, BUT IF I HAD TO PUT MONEY ON IT, I'D SAY YES!
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
BUT WE'LL SEE! I'M NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL I'VE EXPLORED EVERY POSSIBILITY! YOU DESERVE THE OPTION OF GETTING YOUR OLD BODY BACK, AND I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN!
ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL OF PEOPLE WILL BE INFORMED THAT THERE'S A SUBJECT WHO HASN'T CHANGED BACK YET, AND OF THEM, AN EVEN SMALLER NUMBER NEED TO KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
AND EVERY ONE OF THEM KNOWS THAT THEIR JOBS AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD DEPEND ON HOW WELL THEY CAN KEEP COMPANY SECRETS!


I... I KNOW WE WERE GOING TO SPEND THIS MORNING DISCUSSING THE STATE OF OUR MARRIAGE, BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN BEING MARRIED TO A WOMAN! SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?
LET'S PUT ALL THAT ON HOLD FOR THE MOMENT, HONEY! THE MAIN THING IS TO FOCUS ON WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU!
NOBODY'S EVER LIVED IN A TRANSFORMED BODY PAST 60 HOURS BEFORE! WE DON'T KNW WHAT SIDE EFFECTS THERE COULD BE! SO ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY HEALTHY!


WHAT... WHAT KIND OF SIDE EFFECTS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? LIKE THE WAY SERUM FGMX MAKES US MORE UNINHIBITED?
ERR... LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW! WE'LL JUST NEED TO MONITOR YOU, THAT'S ALL!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I... I'M NOT EXACTLY YOUR HUSBAND ANYMORE!
I THINK THE BEST THING IS TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATE IDENTITY FOR YOU TO USE FOR THE MOMENT, SO YOU CAN MOVE ABOUT FREELY WITHOUT ANY RISK OF SOMEONE DISCOVERING WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
"ALTERNATE IDENTITY"? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE HERE AT GNI WHO CAN HANDLE IT!


DON'T WORRY! YOUR PRIVACY WILL BE RESPECTED! WE HAVE DISCRETION DOWN TO AN ART HERE AT GNI! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT OUR LIVELIHOODS DEPEND ON THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN SECRETS!
I... I SUPPOSE I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY IN ANY OF THIS, DO I?
NO, HONEY... I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T!
I'LL BE BACK THIS AFTERNOON AND FILL YOU IN ON EVERYTHING, OKAY?


JESUS! I THOUGHT I'D WAKE UP THIS MORNING IN MY OLD BODY AND HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHERE MY LIFE WAS GOING TO TAKE ME AFTER THIS WILD WEEKEND!
BUT INSTEAD, I'M STILL "LILY", AND MAY BE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! PART OF ME FEELS LIKE THIS IS A DREAM COME TRUE, BUT ANOTHER PART OF ME THINKS IT'S A TOTAL NIGHTMARE!
SIGH! ONE THING'S FOR SURE! I'VE NEVER FELT SO POWERLESS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!


YES, I KNOW WHAT A HUGE DEAL THIS IS, STUART! THAT'S WHY I'M CALLING FOR YOUR APPROVAL BEFORE MOVING FORWARD!
NO, OF COURSE I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE YET! THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE KEPT IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE AND ONLY AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS!

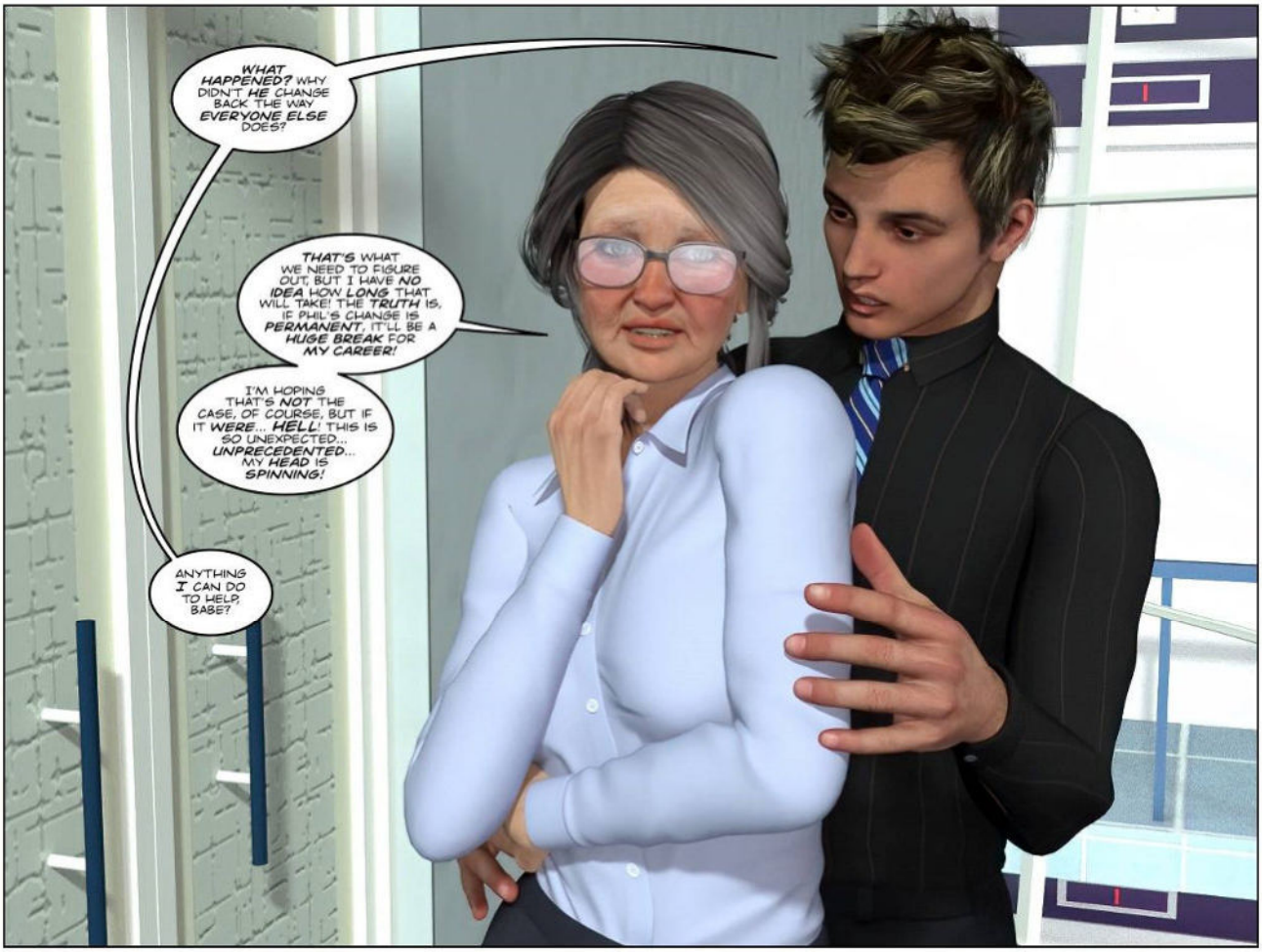

HEY, BABE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
THANK YOU, STUART! I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT! AND DON'T WORRY... I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!


JACK!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I TOLD YOU THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS!
I KNOW, BABE... I KNOW! AND I TOLD YOU THAT IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME!
WELL, IT MATTERS TO ME, SO I WISH YOU'D PLEASE RESPECT THAT!
OKAY, OKAY.. I GET IT!


SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS PART OF THE BUILDING ANYWAY?
WELL, I WAS ANXIOUS TO HEAR HOW THINGS WORKED OUT BETWEEN YOU AND HUBBY AFTER THE END OF YOUR, SHALL WE SAY, REVEALING WEEKEND!
CAN WE PLEASE WAIT AND TALK ABOUT THAT LATER? YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW BUSY TODAY IS GOING TO BE FOR ME!
YEAH, I CAN IMAGINE!


ESPECIALLY SINCE I COULD SWEAR THAT THE HOT LITTLE NUMBER THAT JUST LEFT YOUR OFFICE WAS YOUR HUSBAND!
GASP! OH, SHIT!!


GET IN HERE AND KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
SO THAT REALLY WAS HIM?
YES, IT WAS! AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT IT HAS TO BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM! YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT!
OH, I DO, BABE! I DEFINITELY DO!


WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DIDN'T HE CHANGE BACK THE WAY EVERYONE ELSE DOES?
THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE! THE TRUTH IS, IF PHIL'S CHANGE IS PERMANENT, IT'LL BE A HUGE BREAK FOR MY CAREER!
I'M HOPING THAT'S NOT THE CASE, OF COURSE, BUT IF IT WERE... HELL! THIS IS SO UNEXPECTED... UNPRECEDENTED... MY HEAD IS SPINNING!
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, BABE?


I DON'T KNOW! I NEED TO SET UP A TESTING SCHEDULE, COMMANDEER MOST OF THE LAB AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS, ALL THE WHILE KEEPING THE TOP EXECUTIVES IN THE LOOP! AND THAT'S JUST THE START!
I ALSO HAVE TO DEAL WITH PHIL! BESIDES GETTING HIM A WHOLE NEW ID, I'VE ALSO GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HIM WHEN HE'S NOT BEING TESTED!
I MEAN, WE CAN'T JUST KEEP HIM SITTING AROUND THE LAB ALL DAY LIKE SOME GUINEA PIG!


WELL, FIRST OFF, LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE ID FOR YOU! JEFF SIMMONS HANDLES THAT SORT OF THING, AND HE OWES ME BIG TIME! YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT AND I'LL SEE IT GETS DONE TOUT SUITE!
OH, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THAT WOULD HELP ME OUT!


AND AS FOR WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR HUBBY, WHY NOT GET HER A TEMP JOB HERE? WELL, THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS SHORT-STAFFED!
THAT WAY SHE'D ALWAYS BE RIGHT HERE WHENEVER THE LAB NEEDS TO RUN MORE TESTS ON HER!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?


OH MY GOD, JACK! YOU'RE A GENIUS! THAT WOULD BE PERFECT!
AND TO MAKE IT EVEN EASIER ON YOU, I'LL DEAL WITH HR AND RESEARCH TO GET HER JOB SET UP!
AND IF I'M CAREFUL, I THINK I CAN ENSURE THAT NO ONE REALIZES THAT OUR NEW HIRE IS ACTUALLY YOUR HUSBAND!
WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?
THAT'S NEVER SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, BABE!
BECAUSE WITH YOUR HUBBY STUCK THAT WAY FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG, MY CHANCES OF BECOMING YOUR ONE AND ONLY MAN IS LOCKED IN!


SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE CONSUMED WITH TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY SERUM FGMX WORKED SO WELL ON HIM, IT'LL BE UP TO ME TO REMIND YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND ISN'T MUCH OF A MAN ANYMORE!
AND WITH ME TAKING CARE OF HER NEW BACKGROUND AND WORK ENVIRONMENT, THAT'S GONNA BE A WHOLE LOT EASIER! HEH HEH!


Later that day, back at the apartment...
YOU GOT ME A JOB AT YOUR COMPANY?! WHAT ON EARTH MADE YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT I WANTED?
IT SEEMED LIKE THE BEST SOLUTION, GIVEN THE SITUATION! I NEED YOU ON THE PREMISES SO WE CAN GET THE LAB WORK DONE, AND THIS WAY YOU WON'T BE STUCK IN THE LAB ALL DAY!
IT'S JUST TEMPORARY, HONEY! SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU OCCUPIED WHILE WE FIGURE THIS OUT!


SIGH! BUT DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO MAKE ME A SECRETARY?
PLEASE! YOU WON'T BE A SECRETARY, YOU'LL BE A RESEARCHER. YOUR EXPERIENCE AS AN EMT GIVES YOU AN UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY THAT COULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR THE KIND OF RESEARCH THAT WE DO AT GNI!
OH, SO THIS NEW BACKGROUND YOUR COMPANY IS GIVING ME WILL STILL HAVE MY EMT TRAINING ON IT?
NO, I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID NOT!


WHY THE HELL NOT? I ONLY HAVE THIRTY YEARS EXPERIENCE, YOU KNOW!
"GENERIC LIFE HISTORY"?! JESUS! SO WHO AM I? A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT FROM THE SUBURBS OF BUMFUCK, TEXAS?
ANY KIND OF SPECIALIZED TRAINING OR EDUCATION IN YOUR BACKGROUND WOULD MAKE IT TOO EASY TO TRACE IF SOMEONE WERE TO LOOK CLOSELY ENOUGH!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD THEM TO CREATE A VERY GENERIC LIFE HISTORY FOR YOU! SOMETHING THAT WOULDN'T RAISE ANY RED FLAGS!
OH, HARDLY! I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS, BUT I'M CERTAIN AT THE VERY LEAST YOU'LL HAVE SOME KIND OF COLLEGE DEGREE!


YOU DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS YET? WELL, WHEN WILL WE KNOW?
WHICH MEANS YOU MUST'VE ALREADY GIVEN THEM A NAME TO USE! PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU KEPT...
AW, C'MON! WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO KEEP THAT NAME?
FROM WHAT THEY TELL ME, THEY'LL HAVE A GENERAL BACKGROUND IN PLACE BY THE TIME YOU SHOW UP FOR WORK ON WEDNESDAY, ALONG WITH YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, BANK ACCOUNT AND ANY OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION!
LILITH DIANE ROGERS!
IT JUST SEEMED EASIEST, SINCE IT WAS THE ONE WE USED THE OTHER NIGHT!


THE OTHER NIGHT? HOLY SHIT! YOU DIDN'T TELL YOUR "FRIEND" JACK ABOUT ME, DID YOU?
NO... NO, OF COURSE NOT! ONLY ME AND A COUPLE OF TOP EXECUTIVES KNOW THAT YOU'RE MY HUSBAND! NO ONE ELSE... I PROMISE!
I'M NOT HAPPY LYING TO PHIL LIKE THIS, BUT IF HE FOUND OUT JACK KNEW EVERYTHING, HE'D GO BALLISTIC!


BUT IF I'M WORKING AT GKI, THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE HE'LL SEE ME AND RECOGNIZE ME FROM THE OTHER NIGHT!
I DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE!
OH, UHH... YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT, HONEY! JACK WORKS IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PART OF THE BUILDING AND HAS NO REASON TO COME ANYWHERE NEAR RESEARCH!
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH! NO WAY!


WELL, DON'T WORRY! WE HAVE A COUPLE OF DAYS TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!
UNLESS I CAN THINK OF A WAY TO CONVINCE YOU THAT JACK ISN'T INVOLVED AT ALL!
BUT FROM THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE, I DON'T THINK THAT'S VERY LIKELY!


A couple of days later at the GNI research department...


YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WALK ME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE, MRS. JOHNSON! I COULD HAVE FOUND THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT MYSELF!
I'M SURE A HIGH-POWERED EXECUTIVE LIKE YOU HAS BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN ESCORT A NEW TEMP TO HER DESK!
NOT AT ALL, LILY! SINCE YOU'LL BE DOING RESEARCH FOR MY PROJECTS, I WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU!
GNI


I HAVE TO SAY, THAT DRESS OF YOURS IS EXQUISITE, BUT DON'T FEEL OBLIGATED TO WEAR SUCH TIGHT, REVEALING OUTFITS TO THE OFFICE EVERY DAY! CASUAL, COMFORTABLE CLOTHES ARE FINE FOR SOMEONE IN YOUR POSITION, AS I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED TO YOU NUMEROUS TIMES!
AND I APPRECIATE THAT, MRS. JOHNSON! I'LL MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING I WEAR FALLS WITHIN THE COMPANY'S DRESS CODE!


I'M JUST THE KIND OF GIRL WHO ENJOYS PUTTING HER BODY ON DISPLAY, BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, ISN'T IT? I MEAN, WOMEN SHOULD BE FREE TO DRESS THE WAY THEY WANT, DON'T YOU THINK?
I SUPPOSE SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK I'M A LITTLE SLUTTY, OR READ ME AS A DITZY BLONDE, BUT I DON'T MIND!
I'M JUST A NAIVE GIRL WHO'S MOVED TO THE BIG CITY FROM A TINY TOWN, AFTER ALL! I'M GRATEFUL THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR POSITION WAS WILLING TO TAKE ME IN UNTIL I FIND SOMEWHERE TO LIVE!


WELL, I LIKE TO MENTOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU, LILY! WOMEN WHO WANT TO BETTER THEMSELVES DESPITE COMING FROM SUCH HUMBLE CIRCUMSTANCES!
I JUST HOPE YOU DEVELOP ENOUGH CONFIDENCE THAT SOMEDAY YOU WON'T FEEL OBLIGATED TO USE YOUR SEXUALITY TO GET ATTENTION!
HMPH! AS IF LAURA DIDN'T LOVE SHOWING OFF HER BODY WHEN SHE TOOK THE SERUM! SUCH A HYPOCRITE!


SO, ARE YOU READY TO DO THIS?
SIGH! AS READY AS I'LL EVER BE!


HI, DARLA! HOW'S IT GOING?
FINE, MRS. JOHNSON! WHAT'S UP?
I WANTED YOU TO MEET LILY ROGERS! WE'VE HIRED HER TO HELP ON THE RESEARCH FOR SOME OF MY PROJECTS!
HIYA!
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD SHOW HER THE ROPES AND GET HER STARTED DOWN HERE!
YOU BET!


WELL, HAVE A GREAT FIRST DAY, LILY! YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH DARLA!
OH, I WILL! AND THANKS AGAIN... MRS. JOHNSON!


IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY GOT SOMEONE NEW DOWN HERE TO HELP OUT WITH ALL THESE PROJECTS! THANK GOD IT'S A GIRL! *GIGGLE!*
I KNOW, RIGHT? *GIGGLE!*
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT PHIL IS USING THE FACT THAT HE WANTED TO ALTER HIS APPEARANCE SO JACK WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM AS AN EXCUSE TO DRESS AS A TOTAL SLUT!
COULD MY HUSBAND'S DEEPEST DESIRE BE TO LIVE AS A BLONDE BIMBO?
Ring!!


YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER! I JUST LEFT PHIL WITH DARLA! I DO AGREE THAT SHE'S THE PERFECT CHOICE TO WORK WITH HIM!
OH, YEAH! DARLA'S THE BEST! SHE HAS A KNACK FOR MAKING EVERYONE AROUND HER COMFORTABLE, EVEN A GIRL WHO HASN'T BEEN THAT WAY FOR VERY LONG!
CHUCKLE! I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, AND SHE'LL KEEP PHIL FROM GETTING TOO STRESSED!
GLAD IT WORKED OUT, BABE!


UMM... I HAVE ONE REQUEST OF YOU, THOUGH!
NAME IT AND IT'S YOURS!
PHIL IS CONVINCED THAT YOU'D RECOGNIZE HIM FROM THE OTHER NIGHT AND WILL IMMEDIATELY FIGURE OUT WHO HE REALLY IS!
REALLY? DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT I BARELY LOOKED AT HIM THAT NIGHT? I ONLY HAD EYES FOR YOU! HEH-HEH!
FLATTERER! IN ANY CASE, YOU NEED TO PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY CLEAR OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT WHILE HE'S HERE... OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE BUILDING HE MIGHT BE!
SOUNDS A LITTLE PARANOID ON HIS PART, BUT IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I'LL DO IT WITHOUT QUESTION!


THANK YOU SO MUCH, BABE! I'LL SO MAKE IT UP TO YOU THIS WEEKEND!
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!


AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO GO DOWN TO RESEARCH AND PEEK IN ON MY LITTLE PROJECT, LAURA HAS A POINT! "LILY" MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS IF SHE SPOTTED ME!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH, BECAUSE EVERYTHING'S BEEN SET IN MOTION!


THERE'S A VERY GOOD REASON I WANTED HER MATCHED UP WITH DARLA! THAT CHICK'S MAN-HUNGRY REPUTATION IS LEGENDARY!
SHE'S WORKED HER WAY THROUGH MORE MEN IN THIS BUILDING THAN ANYONE CAN KEEP TRACK OF! AND WORD HAS IT SHE'S EVEN MOTIVATED SOME OF THE OTHER GIRLS IN RESEARCH TO FOLLOW SUIT!


I'M CONFIDENT THAT UNDER DARLA'S INFLUENCE, IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR LILY'S TRUE NATURE TO COME TO LIGHT! SHE DID FUCK SAM HER FIRST NIGHT AS A WOMAN, AFTER ALL!
LAURA'S FINALLY GOING TO SEE HER HUBBY FOR THE PERSON "SHE" REALLY IS! HEH-HEH!


I THINK YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO LIKE IT HERE! THE PAY IS DECENT AND THE BOSSES PRETTY MUCH STAY OUT OF OUR HAIR AND LET US DO OUR OWN THING, AS LONG AS WE GET THE JOB DONE, THAT IS!
OH, IT IS! AND THAT DOESN'T EVEN INCLUDE THE OTHER PERKS!
THE GUYS! THIS BUILDING IS FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF REALLY HOT GUYS!
SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY SWEET DEAL!
OTHER PERKS?
OH, REALLY?
GNI


OH, I'M SORRY! I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE ASKED FIRST IF YOU WERE MARRIED OR HAD A BOYFRIEND OR, UNNMM... A GIRLFRIEND?
HEY, NO RING ON THIS FINGER! I'M FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE!
OBVIOUSLY CAN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH, AND MAKING UP A FAKE LOVER WOULD BE WAY MORE TROUBLE THAN IT'S WORTH!


SAME HERE! GAWD, WE'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD!
I THINK WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG GREAT! MAYBE EVEN BECOME BFFS! *GIGGLE!*
I KNOW, RIGHT?
OH, UH... DEFINITE BFFS! *GIGGLE!*
FROM RUGGED EMT TO A MEWLING OFFICE GIRL! IT'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE TG AUTHORS IS SCRIPTING MY LIFE!


I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF GIRLFRIENDS UP ON TWELVE I HANG WITH. THEY'RE GONNA LOVE YOU!
GOD, DARLA IS SO HOT! BUT THEN AGAIN, SO AM I!
THE WAY I FIGURE IT, THE FUTURE IS TOTALLY UNCERTAIN, SO WHY NOT USE THIS TIME TO HAVE FUN? AND I DO HAVE A FEW BARBIE FANTASIES!


... AND I CAN SHOW YOU THE BEST TIMES AND THE BEST PLACES FOR COFFEE BREAKS! OH, AND THE BEST PLACE FOR HAPPY HOUR IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! I'LL TAKE YOU THERE AFTER WORK TODAY! YOU'LL JUST LOVE IT!
NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I THINK I COULD BRING ONE OF MY KINKIEST FANTASIES TO LIFE! BUT, HEY... IT'S A BARBIE WORLD! *GIGGLE!*


That evening, back at the apartment...
UGH! I HAVE GOT TO GET THESE SHOES OFF AND PUT MY FEET UP BEFORE I COLLAPSE!
AFTER THIRTY YEARS IN THE BACK OF AN AMBULANCE, I FIGURED AN OFFICE JOB WOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE!
WHEW, WAS I WRONG! I'M EXHAUSTED!


I DON'T KNOW HOW DARLA DOES IT! SHE HAD PRETTY MUCH THE SAME DAY I HAD, BUT WAS READY TO HIT HAPPY HOUR RIGHT AFTER WORK!
I FEEL BAD ABOUT TURNING HER DOWN, BECAUSE I OWE HER BIG TIME FOR GETTING ME THROUGH THE DAY, BUT I JUST COULDN'T MUSTER UP THE ENERGY TO GO!
PROMISING HER A RAINCHECK FOR TOMORROW WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD KEEP HER FROM LITERALLY DRAGGING ME ALONG WITH HER!


IT ALSO DIDN'T HELP THAT THE LAB CALLED ME IN FOR SOME FOLLOW-UP TESTS MID-AFTERNOON! THAT IN ITSELF PRETTY MUCH SUCKED WHAT LITTLE LIFE I HAD LEFT IN ME!
THANK GOD THEY SAID MOST FUTURE TESTS WOULD BE WAY LESS INVASIVE AND ONLY BE REQUIRED EVERY COUPLE OF DAYS!
LITTLE GLASS... OR BIG GLASS? OH, HELL YES... BIG GLASS!


THEY ALSO AGREED TO ONLY SCHEDULE THEM FOR FIRST THING IN THE MORNING BEFORE ANY OF MY COWORKERS ARRIVE!
IT MAY MEAN GOING IN EXTRA EARLY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT AT LEAST IT'LL DISSUADE ANY SUSPICIONS!
Ding!


WORKING LATE. DON'T WAIT ON ME FOR DINNER. HOPE FIRST DAY WENT WELL.
LAURA, YOU BETTER BE WORKING ON FIGURING OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME AND NOT HOOKING UP WITH JACK!
I STILL LOVE MY WIFE, BUT IT'S HARD TO TRUST HER ANYMORE! AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THAT!


SIGH! I WONDER IF THAT FEELING WILL EVER GO AWAY!


DAMN. JUST LOOK AT ME! I AM SO FUCKING HOT! THAT SERUM GNI COOKED UP IS TRULY AMAZING!
NOT ONLY DO I GET THE CHANCE TO BE YOUNG AGAIN, BUT I'M YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL! ONCE AGAIN, IT FEELS LIKE I'M LIVING THE DREAM... EVEN IF IT WAS NEVER EXACTLY MY DREAM!


AND I'M LEARNING MORE AND MORE WAYS REAL LIFE DIFFERS FROM ALL THOSE WISH-FULFILLMENT STORIES! LIKE HOW HARD IT IS TO MOVE, OR EVEN BREATHE, WHEN YOU WEAR A DRESS THAT'S THIS FRIGGIN' TIGHT!

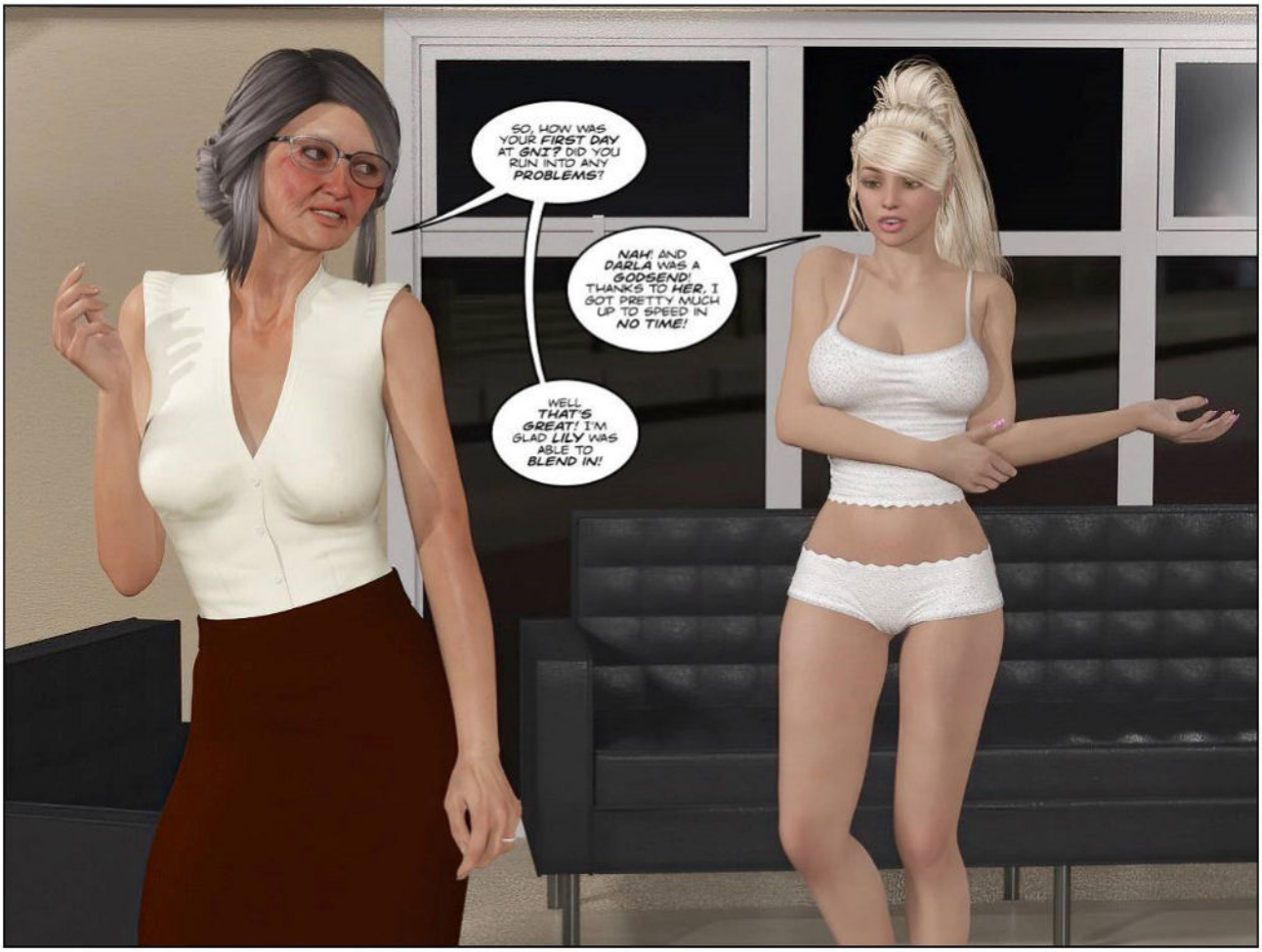

AND THEN THERE ARE THE REWARDS, LIKE HAVING A GLASS OF WINE WHILE WEARING SEXY UNDIES!


I'VE BEEN IN THIS BODY FOR DAYS NOW, AND IT'S PRETTY PATHETIC THAT IT'S NEVER BEEN NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN TO ANYONE WHERE PHIL JOHNSON IS!
BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, BEFORE I TOOK THE SERUM, I HADN'T TALKED TO ANYONE OTHER THAN LAURA FOR MONTHS AND MONTHS!
NOBODY EVER CALLS OR STOPS BY! A FEW COWORKERS REACHED OUT WHEN I FIRST "RETIRED", BUT SINCE THEN... BUPKIS!


BUT EVEN SO, WE SHOULD STILL COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF COVER STORY... JUST IN CASE THE HIGHLY UNLIKELY HAPPENS AND SOMEONE ACTUALLY WANTS TO TALK TO "PHIL!"
MAYBE AN EXTENDED FISHING TRIP WITH SOME OLD COLLEGE CHUMS! THAT SHOULD WORK FOR THE SHORT TERM, AT LEAST!
NEVER MIND THE FACT THAT I'VE NEVER FISHED IN MY LIFE! BUT WHO BESIDES LAURA WOULD KNOW THAT?
Slam!


I'M HOME... FINALLY!
I'M HERE IN THE LIVING ROOM!


YOU LOOK BEAT!
I AM! BESIDES WORKING ON YOUR PROJECT, I'VE SUDDENLY BEEN ASSIGNED THREE OTHER TOP PRIORITY PROJECTS!
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO DEVOTE ALL YOUR TIME FIGURING OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME! CAN'T YOU TURN THEM DOWN?
CORPORATE LIFE DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY! I NEED TO SAY YES TO EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO HAVE THE CLOUT TO HANDLE YOUR SITUATION THE WAY I WANT! OTHERWISE, SOMEONE ELSE WILL SWOOP IN AND TRY TO TAKE OVER!


SO, HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY AT BNI? DID YOU RUN INTO ANY PROBLEMS?
NAH! AND DARLA WAS A GODSEND! THANKS TO HER, I GOT PRETTY MUCH UP TO SPEED IN NO TIME!
WELL THAT'S GREAT! I'M GLAD LILY WAS ABLE TO BLEND IN!


HEY, UMMM... I'VE BEEN THINKING THERE ARE A FEW THINGS WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT, LIKE WHAT WE'RE GOING TO TELL PEOPLE IF SOMEONE ASKS WHERE PHIL'S GONE!
IT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW! SO WE SHOULD GET OUR STORIES STRAIGHT!
CAN WE WORK OUT THOSE DETAILS ANOTHER TIME? I'M TOO EXHAUSTED TO FOCUS ON ANYTHING LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW!
YEAH... SURE!


I DID WANT TO SAY THAT I'M SORRY FOR GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR THE WAY YOU DRESSED TODAY! IF YOU WANT TO LOOK LIKE A BLONDE BIMBO, IT'S FINE WITH ME!
WOW! YOU ARE TIRED... AND BITCHY! JUST SO YOU KNOW, I LIKE THE WAY I LOOK, AND I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE IT, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING! THIS IS FUN FOR ME!
IF YOU SAY SO! GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF, HONEY!
COME ON, LAURA! THIS IS JUST MY WAY OF COPING WITH EVERYTHING!
YOU HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF COPING! HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, PHIL!

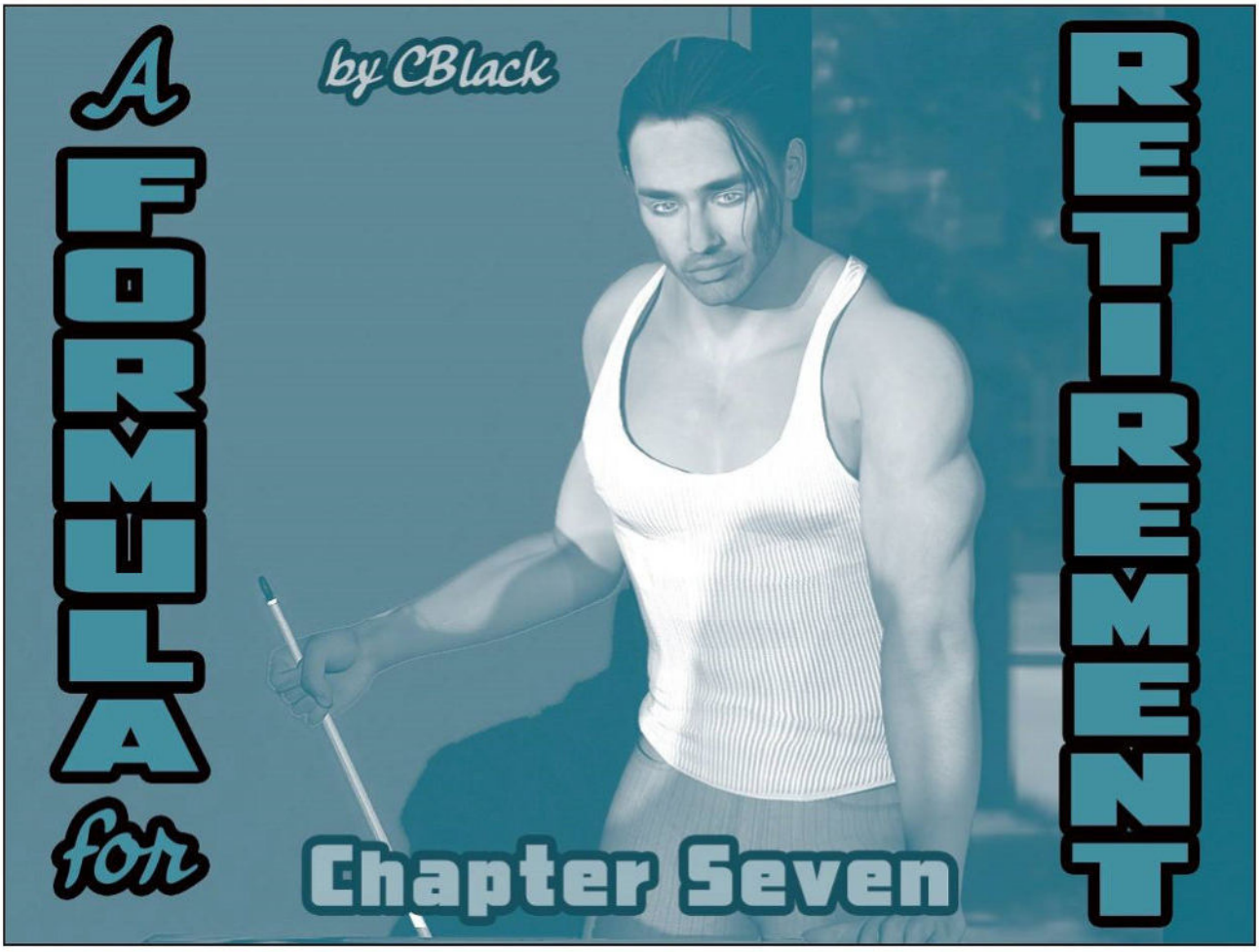

DAMN IT! JUST WHEN I THINK WE MIGHT GET ALONG!
I KNOW I'M PROBABLY OVERDOING IT, BUT CAN YOU BLAME ME? I'M JUST TRYING TO KEEP FROM CRYING ALL THE TIME. DAMN HORMONES!
MY LIFE WAS A TOTAL MESS BEFORE I TOOK THAT SERUM! HAVING A SMOKING-HOT BOD DOESN'T CHANGE THAT!


I'VE FOLLOWED THIS RIGID CODE MOST OF MY LIFE, ALWAYS TRYING TO BEHAVE THE WAY BIG STRONG MEN ARE SUPPOSED TO BEHAVE! BUT I'M NOT A BIG STRONG MAN ANYMORE!
AND SINCE I CAN'T BE PHIL JOHNSON ANYMORE, WHO I AM GOING FORWARD IS PRETTY MUCH UP TO ME!


I MEAN, I KNOW I HAVE A NEW NAME, AND WE'VE THROWN TOGETHER A BACKGROUND FOR HER, BUT THE QUESTION IS, WHO IS LILY ROGERS? WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE GOING TO BE?


IT FEELS LIKE I'VE GOTTEN A DO-OVER FOR MY LIFE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I'VE STILL GOT OVER FIFTY YEARS OF SHIT TO WRESTLE WITH! BUT MAYBE I CAN PUT A DIFFERENT SPIN ON IT!
I MAY BE STARTING OVER FROM SCRATCH, BUT I'VE ALSO GOT OVER FIFTY YEARS OF LIFE EXPERIENCE TO DRAW UPON! GOOD, BAD, WORTHWHILE, OR WORTHLESS, IT'S A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN GIRLS MY AGE HAVE TO WORK WITH!

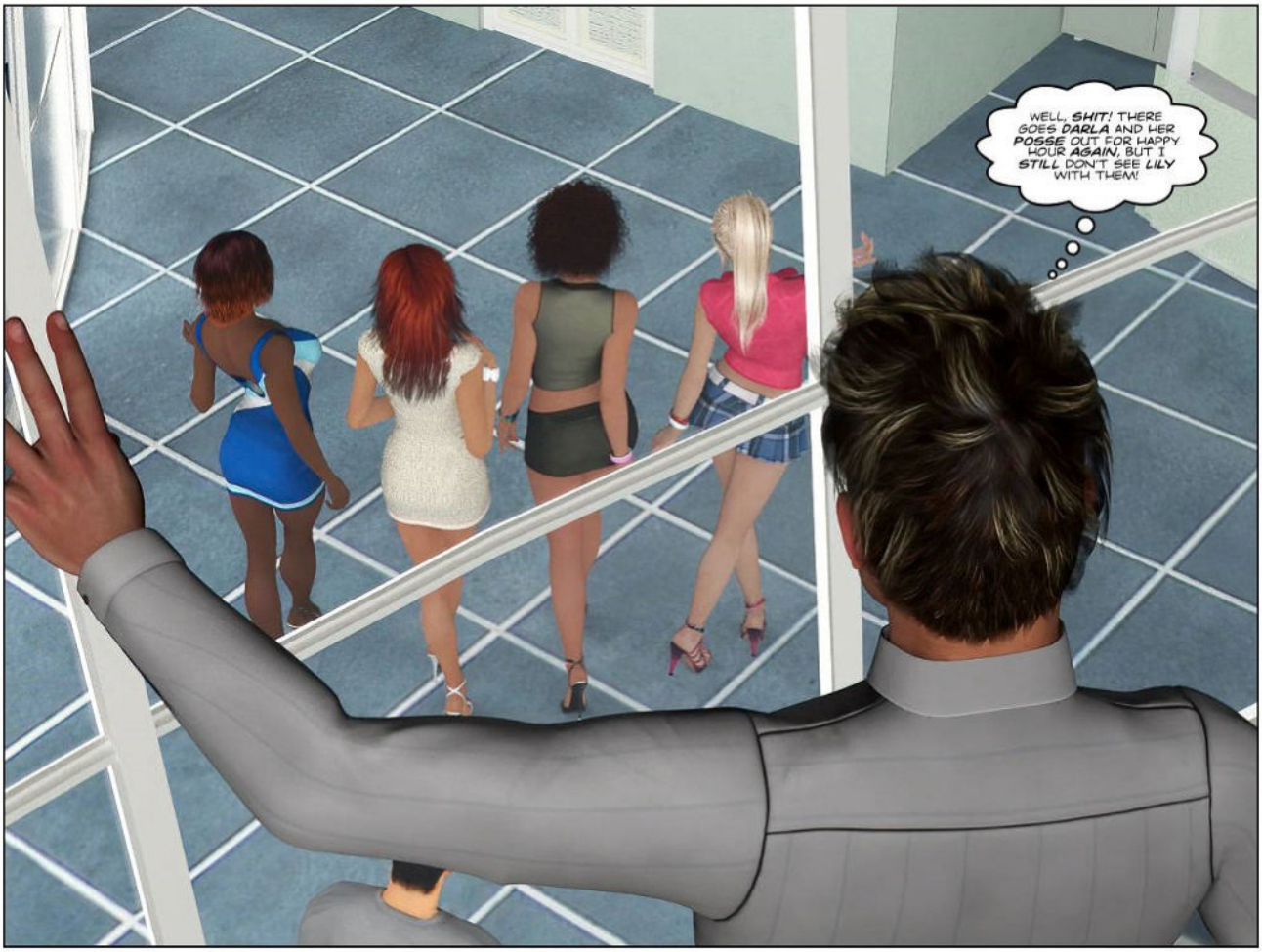

SO, WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHO IS LILY ROGERS... AND WHAT WILL SHE BECOME?


A FORMULA for
by CBlack
RETIREMENT
Chapter Seven


A couple of weeks later as five o'clock rolls around on a Friday...


Some employees of GNI are more eager to start the weekend than others...
OKAY, WHO BUYS THE FIRST ROUND THIS TIME?
HOW ABOUT WHOEVER HAS THE SHORTEST SKIRT? *GIGGLE!*
HEY, NO FAIR! I HAD TO BUY THE FIRST ROUND LAST WEEK!


BESIDES, I THINK DARLA'S IS JUST AS SHORT AS MINE... IF NOT SHORTER!
MAYBE SO, BUT I'M NOT THE ONE FLASHING MY PANTIES ALL OVER THE PLACE! *GIGGLE!*
HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT! IF I HAD A TUSH AS CUTE AS LILY'S, I'D BE FLASHING A LITTLE PANTY NOW AND THEN, TOO!
YOU DO, AND YOU HAVE!
OH, YEAH! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, SHIT! THERE GOES DARLA AND HER POSSE OUT FOR HAPPY HOUR AGAIN, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE LILY WITH THEM!


I *PROMISED* LAURA I'D STEER *CLEAR* OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT AS LONG AS HER *HUBBY* WAS DOWN THERE, AND *I HAVE!*
BUT *THAT* HASN'T STOPPED ME FROM *WATCHING* DARLA AND HER *FRIENDS* LEAVE AT THE END OF THE DAY, *HOPING* TO SEE "*LILY*" *TAGGING ALONG!*
BUT TO DATE, *NADA!* JUST THE USUAL *GAGGLE* OF DARLA-*WANNABES!* I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN *THAT* WRONG ABOUT LILY... *COULD I?*


I'VE BEEN *RELUCTANT* TO ASK LAURA *STRAIGHT OUT* HOW HER HUSBAND HAS BEEN *FARING* DOWN IN RESEARCH 'CAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO *TIP MY HAND!*
BUT I'M *SURE* THAT ONCE WE'RE INTO OUR *LONG OVERDUE WEEKEND* TOGETHER, THE TOPIC OF HER *HUSBAND* WILL COME UP *NATURALLY!*
SO, I JUST HAVE TO SEE *WHEN* THE WEEKEND'S GONNA *START...*


HEY, BABE! READY TO CALL IT A WEEK AND HAVE SOME FUN?
I WISH I COULD, JACK! BUT I'M GOING TO BE STUCK HERE AT THE OFFICE FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF HOURS!
WELL, THAT'S OKAY! WE CAN GET TOGETHER LATER ON, OR EVEN TOMORROW FIRST THING IF YOU WANT!
I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T WORK EITHER, BABE, BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE WORKING THROUGH THE WEEKEND!


AGAIN? JESUS, LAURA, WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOGETHER SINCE THAT WEEKEND "LILY" FIRST SHOWED UP!
I KNOW, BABE, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED! BETWEEN PHIL'S PROJECT AND THE OTHERS I'VE BEEN SADDLED WITH, I'M SWAMPED! AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO DROP THE BALL RIGHT NOW!
YEAH, I GET THAT YOUR CAREER AND YOUR HUSBAND BOTH TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER LITTLE OLD ME! AND I'M OKAY WITH MY PLACE IN THE PECKING ORDER! HONESTLY, I JUST WORRY THAT IF YOU DON'T TAKE SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF, YOU'RE GONNA BURN OUT... BIG TIME! AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT HAPPEN TO YOU!
IT'S SWEET OF YOU TO WORRY, JACK, BUT THIS IS JUST SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO!


SIGH! ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE PATIENT AND I'LL BE SUPPORTING... WHATEVER YOU NEED ME TO BE!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND? HOW'S SHE HANDLING THE NEW JOB? SHE MADE ANY NEW FRIENDS AT WORK?
PHIL SEEMS TO BE DOING JUST FINE, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL! WE HAVEN'T TALKED MUCH ABOUT HIS JOB!
TO BE HONEST, WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER ALL THAT MUCH BECAUSE OF MY LONG WORK HOURS!
HE'S USUALLY ASLEEP BY THE TIME I GET HOME, SO I ASSUME HE JUST GOES HOME AND WATCHES TV UNTIL HE FALLS ASLEEP.. THE WAY HE'S ALWAYS DONE!


AS FOR NEW FRIENDS... I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT! PHIL HAS NEVER REALLY BEEN ONE TO EASILY FOSTER FRIENDSHIPS!
HE'S ALWAYS POURED HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO HIS JOB, LEAVING VERY LITTLE TIME FOR ANYTHING, OR ANYONE ELSE!
I'M SURE IF HE MANAGED TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL, I'D HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT! HE'D GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO TELL ME!


I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR HIM, JACK, I REALLY DO!
NOW, I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK! I'LL TRY AND CALL YOU OVER THE WEEKEND, OKAY?
WELL, OKAY! I WAS JUST CURIOUS HOW SHE WAS GETTING ALONG, THAT'S ALL!
SURE, I GUESS THAT'LL HAVE TO DO! LATER, BABE!


GREAT! JUST GREAT! I WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR NOTHING!
WELL, GOOD THING I'VE ALREADY PUT A PLAN B INTO MOTION!


"Some other way to drive a permanent wedge between Laura and that anti-social workaholic of hers!"
Fire exit
CIDER


TGIF, EVERYONE!
HEY, GUYS!
ALL RIGHT! NOW HAPPY HOUR CAN REALLY START!


HEY, LILY, GRAB A STICK AND JOIN ME IN A GAME?


SORRY, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH ANY STICKS TODAY, HONEY! I'M HERE WITH MY GIRLS!


BUT MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME! *GIGGLE!*


OOOO! CRASHED AND BURNED AGAIN, LOGAN!
DEFINITELY WORTH TRYING, MAN... EVERY SINGLE TIME!


THE USUALS, LADIES?
OF COURSE!
OH, YEAH!
YOU BETCHA!


TWO DAIQUIRIS, A MANHATTAN, AND A WHITE WINE, PLEASE!
COMING RIGHT UP, DARLIN'!


I'VE GOTTA SAY, THIS AFTER-WORK ENVIRONMENT IS A HELL OF A LOT MORE FUN THAN ANYTHING I HAD IN MY YEARS AS AN EMT!
THESE GIRLS ARE A BLAST TO HANG AROUND WITH, BOTH DURING AND AFTER WORK. THE KIND OF WOMEN I IMAGINED I'D HANG WITH IF I'D BEEN BORN A WOMAN... OR PERMANENTLY CHANGED INTO ONE BY A MALFUNCTIONING SERUM!


I MEAN, NOT ONLY HAS DARLA TAKEN ME UNDER HER WING, BUT BOTH MAEVE AND JAYA ARE TREATING ME LIKE WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS!
AND THAT'S MADE IT SO MUCH EASIER FOR ME TO BLEND IN AND JUST BE ONE OF THE GIRLS!
THIS FEELS SO MUCH LIKE ONE OF THOSE IMPROBABLE SCENARIOS FROM ONE OF MY STORIES, WHERE A GUY WHO'S BEEN SULLEN AND STONG ALL HIS LIFE SUDDENLY STARTS ACTING ALL GIGGLY AND GIRLY!


I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIKE IT SO MUCH, BUT IT'S GETTING TO BE SECOND NATURE FOR ME TO ACT ALL FLIRTY AND FEMININE!
HOPE I DIDN'T HURT LOGAN'S PRIDE TOO MUCH! HE'S A NICE GUY, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ITCHING TO HOOK UP WITH HIM... OR ANYONE ELSE RIGHT NOW!


I'M GRATEFUL NOT ALL OF THE GIRLS ARE AS "AGGRESSIVE" AS DARLA, OTHERWISE I MIGHT FEEL PRESSURED INTO BEING A LOT MORE THAN JUST "FLIRTY!"
WHERE DARLA RARELY EVER LEAVES THIS BAR ALONE, MAEVE HAS ONLY OCCASIONALLY HOOKED UP WITH SOMEONE!
THANK GOD JAYA NEVER HOOKS UP WITH ANYONE! HER EXAMPLE SEEMS TO KEEP THE OTHERS FROM EXPECTING MORE FROM ME... EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T USE JAYA'S EXCUSE OF HAVING A BOYFRIEND FOR ACTING LIKE A WALLFLOWER!


HERE'S THE FIRST TWO! I'LL HAVE THE OTHERS RIGHT AWAY!
THANKS, CHET. YOU'RE THE BEST!
MEN


SOMETIMES, THOUGH, I WISH I COULD ACT AS BRAZEN AS DARLA! EVERYONE LOVES HER, EVEN THE GUYS SHE'S NEVER SLEPT WITH... AND NEVER WILL!
IT'D BE NICE TO FEEL THAT SECURE ABOUT MYSELF! MAYBE SOMEDAY...


DAIQUIRIS, LADIES?
OH, YEAH!
YUMMY!


BUT I HAVE ADOPTED A FEW OF HER MOVES! I DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO BEND OVER LIKE THAT WHEN I GAVE THE GIRLS THEIR DRINKS, BUT I KNEW THOSE GUYS WERE WATCHING AND WANTED TO GIVE THEM A LITTLE THRILL!
OH, WHO THE HELL AM I KIDDING? I THINK I GET AS MUCH OF A THRILL OUT OF IT AS THEY DO!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH THE OTHER DRINKS!


WHEN I READ ALL THOSE STORIES AND PICTURED MYSELF AS A WOMAN, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LOOK LIKE THIS... OR ACT LIKE THIS!
YES, BARBIE'S ALWAYS HAD A CERTAIN APPEAL FOR ME, BUT ONE OF MY FAVORITE IMAGES OF MYSELF WAS WITH LOTS OF PIERCINGS AND TATTOOS, HAVING SPIKY HAIR AND WEARING COMBAT BOOTS AND A LEATHER JACKET!
GIRLS WOULD MELT WHEN THEY SAW ME WALK UP TO THE BAR, AND GUYS WOULD GET NERVOUS!
BUT INSTEAD, I'M WEARING PINK AND REVELING IN THE LOOKS I GET FROM GUYS... AND THE ENVIOUS STARES I GET FROM GIRLS!
MEN


Later on, after a very happy hour or two...
GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE DARLA ACTUALLY DID THAT! I MEAN, WE ALL EXPECTED SHE'D BE LEAVING WITH THAT BANK EXEC SHE HAD HER EYE ON, BECAUSE DARLA NEVER FAILS! AND WHEN THEY BOTH DISAPPEARED, WE ASSUMED JUST THAT!
BUT WHEN SHE STRUTTED OUT OF THE MEN'S ROOM WITH THAT LOOK ON HER FACE... JESUS! EVEN FOR DARLA, THAT WAS INSANE!
Whump!


NOT THAT I THINK ANY LESS OF HER BECAUSE OF IT! ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK IT'S HER BRAZEN NATURE THAT DRAWS ME TO HER SO MUCH!
I FEEL SO LUCKY, BEING ABLE TO CALL THESE WOMEN MY FRIENDS! THEY CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED ANYTHING TO DO WITH PHIL JOHNSON! BUT LILY ROGERS IS A DIFFERENT STORY!
SIGH! HANGING OUT WITH THEM IS LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!


I'VE MADE MORE FRIENDS IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS AS AN OFFICE WORKER THAN I DID OVER AN ENTIRE CAREER AS AN EMT! BUT EVEN SO... I CAN'T SEE MYSELF STAYING ON AS AN OFFICE WORKER MUCH LONGER!
I DO LIKE THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF IT! I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH THESE FEMININE GIRLS WHO ARE OUT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME! I'VE GOTTEN USED TO ALL THEIR RAUNCHY TALK ABOUT THE GUYS THEY'RE DATING, OR FUCKING... OR HOPING TO FUCK!
BUT I THINK I'D NOW BE BETTER AT MAKING FRIENDS NO MATTER WHERE I GO... AND NOT JUST BECAUSE I'M A PRETTY GIRL!


WHAT I'VE REALIZED IS THAT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING FROM MY LIFE! I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS A MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK HARD AND TAKE CARE OF HIS FAMILY AND EVERYONE AROUND HIM!
I MAY NOT BE A MAN ANYMORE, BUT THAT IN ITSELF DOESN'T RELIEVE ME OF THE STRONG SENSE OF OBLIGATION AND DUTY HAMMERED INTO ME FOR SO MANY YEARS!
LAURA OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T DEPEND ON ME ANYMORE... FOR ANYTHING! SO HOW DO I FULFILL THAT NEED GOING FORWARD?
MAYBE IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHY SERUM FGMX MADE MY CHANGE PERMANENT AND THE COMPANY GOES PUBLIC ABOUT IT, I'LL BE ABLE TO GET MY EMT CREDENTIALS BACK!
I KNOW IT'D BE TOUGH TRYING TO PICK UP MY LIFE'S PIECES WHEN I'VE CHANGED SO MUCH, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING!


BUT I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AS LILY THAT I MADE AS PHIL! BEING AN EMT CONSUMED MY LIFE... IT WAS A RUSH EVERY TIME I SAVED A LIFE, BUT THERE WAS ALSO SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING I HAD TO DEAL WITH!
I'M BEGINNING TO GET WHY I NEVER WANTED TO SOCIALIZE AFTER THOSE FOURTEEN HOUR SHIFTS... BECAUSE IT WAS TOO INTENSE! I'M STARTING TO THINK I HAD SOME SORT OF PTSD FROM MY JOB!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M EMBRACING THE ROLE OF BEING FUN-LOVING AND FLIRTY! IT'S WHAT I CRAVE AFTER ALL THE SHIT I'VE SEEN... TO HAVE EVERYTHING BE LIGHT AND BOUNCY!


IT FEELS GOOD TO LET LIFE SLOW DOWN... AND LET GO OF BEING AN ADRENALINE JUNKIE! I SAW PEOPLE DIE PRACTICALLY EACH AND EVERY WEEK AS AN EMT, AND THAT DID THINGS TO MY HEAD! I CAN SEE IT NOW, HOW CLOSED OFF I WAS, PUTTING UP A WALL TO PROTECT ME FROM ALL THAT PAIN!
BUT IT ALSO DROVE ME AWAY FROM PEOPLE... FROM LAURA! NO WONDER SHE ENDED UP IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER MAN!
EVEN BEFORE I GOT THIS BODY, WE WERE NOTHING MORE THAN ROOMMATES... AND HAD BEEN THAT WAY FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS! LAURA WAS ALWAYS A PASSIONATE WOMAN, AND I TOOK HER FOR GRANTED!


IT'S LONG OVERDUE, BUT LAURA AND I NEED TO HAVE A SINCERE TALK ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH JACK AND OUR FUTURE! I UNDERSTAND WE CAN NO LONGER BE HUSBAND AND WIFE, BUT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, WE HAVE A STRONG BOND AND, DESPITE EVERYTHING, STILL LOVE EACH OTHER! AT LEAST I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE!


Even later that evening...
UGH! I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY MORE OF THESE TWELVE HOUR DAYS I CAN HANDLE!
WELCOME HOME!


YOU'RE STILL UP?
SURE! I FIGURED YOU COULD USE A GLASS OF WINE WHEN YOU GOT HOME! IT IS FINALLY THE WEEKEND, AFTER ALL, AND WE HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK MUCH LATELY!


I KNOW WE HAVEN'T, HONEY, AND THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY THIS HAPPENED TO YOU!
SUCH AS...?
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN KEEP IGNORING A COUPLE OF VERY LARGE ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM!
THE MOST OBVIOUS ONE IS THAT I'M VERY LIKELY STUCK THIS WAY FOR GOOD, AND WE HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THAT!
9:50


I UNDERSTAND, BUT I THINK THE BIGGER QUESTION IS IF YOU'VE COME TO TERMS WITH IT!
I MEAN, YOU APPEAR TO BE ADAPTING SPLENDIDLY, BUT APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING! YOU SAID YOU NEVER TRULY WANTED THIS, AND I BELIEVE YOU, SO ARE YOU TRULY PREPARED TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AS A WOMAN?
POSSIBLY... WHAT CHOICE DO I REALLY HAVE? BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR ACCEPTANCE?
YOU'VE MADE IT CLEAR THAT YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANY KIND OF PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH A WOMAN, SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US? I STILL LOVE YOU, LAURA!


I... I KNOW THAT, HONEY! AND I LOVE YOU, TOO! I JUST... I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN EVER BE TOGETHER, BUT I'M ALSO NOT READY TO LET GO! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
OF COURSE! I FEEL THE EXACT SAME WAY! AND I'M WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL WE FIGURE IT OUT! BUT IT ALSO BRINGS US TO THE SECOND "ELEPHANT" IN THE ROOM... JACK!


I REALLY DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT HIM WITH YOU! I'M SORRY!
BUT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT HIM! PLEASE! SINCE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JACK STARTED LONG BEFORE I BECAME LILY, I'VE COME TO REALIZE HOW MUCH I LET YOU DOWN AS A HUSBAND, AND THAT IT'S LITTLE WONDER YOU SOUGHT COMFORT IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER MAN!
AND THAT MAN WAS JACK!


HE WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BE A FLING! YOU WERE SO CLOSED OFF AND ANGRY, EVEN BEFORE YOU LOST YOUR JOB! JACK MADE ME FEEL... SPECIAL! WANTED! AND I NEEDED THAT!
I GET THAT! I'M NOT LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE... OR AN APOLOGY, LAURA! I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU NEEDED SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR LIFE!
HE WAS MERELY SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEONE I TURNED TO WHEN I... I NEEDED TO! BUT JACK'S BEEN SO KIND AND SUPPORTIVE... I'M AFRAID THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE MORE... COMPLICATED THAN I EVER INTENDED!
YEAH, I KIND OF FIGURED YOU HAVE SOME FEELINGS FOR HIM!
WELL, YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT I HAVEN'T SLEPT WITH JACK SINCE THE WEEKEND YOU TURNED INTO LILY! I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, PLANNED TO, BUT IT'S NEVER FELT RIGHT... AND IT WON'T... NOT UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN US!


YOU SHOULD SLEEP WITH THE GUY IF YOU WANT TO, LAURA! YOU HAVE NEEDS THAT I CAN NO LONGER SATISFY, SO YOU REALLY SHOULD...
IT... IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE PUSHING AWFULLY HARD FOR ME TO BE WITH JACK! IS THAT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO GO OUT AND FUCK MEN YOURSELF AND ARE FEELING GUILTY ABOUT IT? IS THAT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
NO! I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, AND I'M TRYING TO BE OPEN-MINDED! THAT'S ALL! JESUS!


IF YOU SAY SO, BUT FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SKEPTICAL TO ME. IT FEELS LIKE THAT NIGHT IN THE HOTEL WHEN YOU SLEPT WITH SAM... THAT YOU'RE ONCE AGAIN PUSHING ME AWAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE YOUR OWN AGENDA THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE ME!
I'M SORRY, BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS LATER! I'M EXHAUSTED AND HAVE TO SPEND ALL WEEKEND IN THE LAB! SLEEP TIGHT, HONEY!
BUT...


ONCE AGAIN, IT FEELS LIKE PHIL'S NOT BEING HONEST WITH HIMSELF... OR ME! UNDERNEATH IT ALL, HE'S THE SAME OBTUSE MAN WHO HAS NO CLUE WHY HE BEHAVES THE WAY HE DOES!
HE PRETENDS HE'S NOT THRILLED WITH THE WAY THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT FOR HIM, THAT HE NEVER WANTED THE GORGEOUS BODY HE NOW POSSESSES, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!
AND NOW HE'S TRYING TO PUSH ME BACK INTO JACK'S ARMS SO HE CAN BE FREE TO ACT LIKE SOME SLUTTY BIMBO FROM ONE OF HIS STORIES!
I'M NOT SURE WHY HE'S EVEN BOTHERING TO SEEK OUT MY PERMISSION! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, HE'S FREE TO EMBRACE THE LASCIVIOUS LIFE HE'S BEEN FANTASIZING ABOUT!


HMPH! DOES SHE REALLY THINK ALL I DO IS HANG AROUND THE APARTMENT WHEN I'M NOT WORKING?
HELL! DARLA INVITED ME TO GO SHOPPING WITH HER TOMORROW, BUT I TOLD HER NO BECAUSE I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF!
AND YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THAT IMPORTANT SOMETHING, LAURA! BUT YOU JUST NIXED THAT WHOLE IDEA, DIDN'T YOU?


SIGH! BUT THEN AGAIN, WHY WOULDN'T SHE THINK THAT ALL I DO IS STAY HOME AND SULK IN FRONT OF THE COMPUTER OR TV? IT'S WHAT "PHIL" DID FOR YEARS, AND SHE HASN'T BEEN AROUND ENOUGH LATELY TO NOTICE ANY OF THE WAYS I'M TRYING TO CHANGE!
BASED ON HER REACTION TO THE WAY I'VE BEEN DRESSING... IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT I'M PALS WITH SOMEONE LIKE DARLA, IT WOULD CONFIRM EVERY SUSPICION SHE HAS ABOUT ME!


LAURA'S MADE IT PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT SHE THINKS I'M ITCHING TO BEHAVE LIKE A SLUTTY GIRL... AND IF SHE SAW THE WAY I ACTED WITH MY NEW FRIENDS, IT WOULD ONLY PROVE HER RIGHT!
LAURA HAS NO IDEA HOW RESTRAINED I'VE BEEN SINCE THAT FIRST WEEKEND... WHEN I'VE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE KIND OF WOMAN SHE THINKS I AM!


AND DARLA'S MY FRIEND! I FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF WHEN I'M WITH HER... AND THAT'S NO SMALL THING! NOT THESE DAYS!
PHIL'S LATEST PENSION CHECK HAPPENED TO ARRIVE TODAY... AND IT'S BURNING A HOLE IN MY POCKET! SO I MIGHT AS WELL...


HEY, DARLA! IS THAT SHOPPING TRIP INVITE STILL VALID?


The next day...
TENURED


I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED ME BACK LAST NIGHT LILY! I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT YOU A LITTLE BIT!
I MEAN, WHAT RED-BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL PASSES UP A WHOLE DAY OF SHOPPING... WITH ME? *GIGGLE!*
I KNOW! WHAT WAS I THINKING? TODAY'S BEEN SUCH A BLAST SO FAR! THANKS SO MUCH FOR INVITING ME ALONG!
HERE I AM, WEARING A SLINKY OUTFIT AND SHOPPING WITH ANOTHER HOTTIE! *SIGH!* I CAN'T SEEM TO ESCAPE LIVING OUT ONE SCENARIO AFTER ANOTHER FROM MY STORIES!


ACTUALLY, I HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE! I WANTED TO HAVE SOME TIME THAT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US FOR ONCE!
BUT WE WORK TOGETHER ALL DAY!
YEAH, BUT THEY KEEP US PRETTY GODDAMN BUSY, SO WE REALLY ONLY GET A CHANCE TO CHAT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!
AND AFTER WORK, WE'RE ALWAYS SOCIALIZING AT HAPPY HOUR, SO THAT'S A LITTLE DISTRACTING... ESPECIALLY FOR ME, IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED! *GIGGLE!*
OH, I HAVE! *GIGGLE!*


IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE A LOT OF GIRL FRIENDS, BUT NOT REALLY ANYONE I WOULD CALL MY BEST FRIEND!
EVER SINCE YOU STARTED WORKING AT GNI, I'VE FELT KIND OF A... CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO OF US!
WE REALLY CLICKED, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT ABOUT YOU! AND I'D LIKE TO FIX THAT!
I... I FEEL THE SAME WAY, AND I'D LIKE THAT, TOO, DARLA!


AWESOME! I KNOW A CUTE LITTLE CAFE AROUND THE CORNER! LET'S TAKE A BREAK AND SHOOT THE SHIT FOR A WHILE BEFORE WE VENTURE ON!
SOUNDS GREAT!


UP TO NOW, I'VE MANAGED TO AVOID ANY IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH ANYONE REGARDING MY PAST! CONSIDERING HOW LITTLE INFORMATION THERE IS ABOUT "LILY'S" PAST, IT SEEMED THE WISE THING TO DO!
BUT DARLA'S MY FRIEND... AT LEAST, I WANT HER TO BE... AND SHE OBVIOUSLY WANTS ME TO BE HERS! AND TO DO THAT, I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TELL HER ABOUT MYSELF... TO FILL IN SOME OF THOSE HOLES IN LILY'S HISTORY!
FORTUNATELY, I'VE BEEN GIVING THAT A LOT OF THOUGHT THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, AND I THINK I'M FINALLY READY TO TRY AND "FLESH OUT" LILY'S LIFE STORY!


OH, C'MON! A DANCE MAJOR THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU WHO WASN'T A CHEERLEADER? I DON'T BUY IT!
IT WAS A DOUBLE MAJOR IN COMMUNICATIONS AS WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! WHICH DIDN'T LEAVE ME ENOUGH TIME TO BE A CHEERLEADER!
BUT, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I WAS ON THE DANCE SQUAD!
I KNEW IT!


CENTRE
DEN
I WONDER WHOSE BRIGHT FUCKING IDEA AT GNI IT WAS TO MAKE "LILY" A DANCE MAJOR? STEREOTYPE MUCH? JESUS!
AT LEAST MY "DEGREE" IS FROM A COLLEGE BIG ENOUGH TO MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO "REMEMBER" ME!
IT WAS HARDLY A BIG DEAL! I WAS ONE OF OVER FIFTY GIRLS STRUTTING AROUND DURING HALFTIME, SO I WAS HARDLY NOTICEABLE!
IN THE SKIN-TIGHT OUTFITS MOST DANCE TEAMS WEAR? DARLIN', IF YOU WEREN'T NOTICED, THEN YOU WENT TO A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE DURING MY SENIOR YEAR! BUT I WAS A VERY LATE BLOOMER!
I WAS PRETTY SKINNY, TOM-BOYISH AND ANTI-SOCIAL ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND MOST OF COLLEGE!
THINGS CHANGED DURING YOUR LAST YEAR, HUH?
YEAH! IT'S AMAZING WHAT A GROWTH SPURT WILL DO FOR A GIRL'S SOCIAL LIFE! *GIGGLE!*


ONCE MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY, I DIDN'T SEE ANY REASON TO STICK AROUND HOME! SO I KISSED MINNESOTA AND ITS FREAKING COLD WINTERS, GOODBYE AND MOVED DOWN HERE A FEW MONTHS AGO! MRS. JOHNSON IS AN OLD FAMILY FRIEND AND IS LETTING ME STAY WITH HER UNTIL I CAN SAVE UP ENOUGH TO GET MY OWN PLACE!
AND I'M GAINFULLY EMPLOYEED, THANKS TO HER! NOW THAT I'VE GOT A JOB, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO I AM, AND WHO I'M GOING TO BE!
WELL I, FOR ONE, AM ECSTATIC THAT YOU CHOSE TO LAND IN HOUSTON! AND, AS YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND, I OFFER MY VAST EXPERTISE IN HELPING YOU "FIND YOURSELF"! *GIGGLE!*
I AM SO COUNTING ON THAT! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET RIGHT ON THAT AND CONTINUE OUR SHOPPING EXPEDITION? THERE ARE ABOUT HALF A DOZEN SHOPS AROUND HERE WE HAVEN'T HIT YET!
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING!
GOOD, 'CAUSE NOW WE'RE ON A MISSION!
A MISSION, HUH?


HELL, YEAH! IF WE'RE GONNA SHOW OFF SOME OF THOSE NASTY DANCE TEAM MOVES THAT YOU'RE GONNA TEACH ME, WE NEED TO HAVE SOME DYNAMITE CLUB WEAR!
OH, YEAH! I GUESS WE DO!
AND I KNOW JUST THE SPOT!
STOP
YEAH, I SAW THAT COMING!


IT'S DOWN AROUND THE CORNER! A FRIEND OF MINE WORKS THERE, SO WE CAN PROBABLY GET HER DISCOUNT. AND...
I KNEW I'D EVENTUALLY TELL DARLA MY "BACK STORY", AND ALWAYS FIGURED THAT AFTER SHE FOUND OUT I HAD A STUPID DANCE DEGREE, I'D BE ON THE HOOK TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT I LEARNED IN SCHOOL!
I'VE ACTUALLY SCHEDULED SOME DANCE LESSONS SO I DON'T COMPLETELY EMBARASS MYSELF! AS LONG AS I CAN POSTPONE ANY OUTING TO A CLUB FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, THINGS SHOULD BE FINE!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE STILL CAN'T GO SHOPPING FOR CLUB WEAR!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW EXCITED I AM ABOUT THIS!


SHE'S A LITTLE FLAKY, BUT AS LONG AS SHE GIVES US THE DISCOUNT, WHO GIVES A RAT'S ASS! BESIDES, THE OUTFITS THERE ARE TO DIE FOR, AND...
WHEN I WENT SHOPPING WITH LAURA, I HAD TO HIDE MY INTEREST IN TRYING ON WOMEN'S CLOTHES! BUT NOW?
IT'S SO CLICHED, HOW MANY TG STORIES I READ HAVE THE GUY-TURNED-GIRL GO ON A SHOPPING SPREE LIKE THIS!! BUT HERE I AM, LIVING THE DREAM!
NOBODY KNOWS I USED TO BE A SAD, INTROVERTED, RAPIDLY AGING MAN! I NOW HAVE THE KIND OF FEMININE CURVES I ALWAYS WANTED!
A SUPREMELY GORGEOUS BODY THAT I LOVE SHOWING OFF! I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE SEE ME AS A BLONDE BIMBO!
AND THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FOR ALWAYS... I'M JUST TRYING TO HAVE FUN!' AND SHOPPING FOR CLUB WEAR WITH DARLA IS BOUND TO BE AWESOME!


I HAVE AN OUTFIT FROM THIS PLACE THAT GOT ME BANNED FROM TWO DIFFERENT CLUBS DOWNTOWN! DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT EVEN GONNA TRY TO GO BACK THERE AGAIN...
DARLA'S SO MAN-HUNGRY! I WONDER IF SHE'D EVER CONSIDER MAKING OUT WITH ONE OF HER BEST GIRLFRIENDS AFTER A SWEATY, DRUNKEN NIGHT AT A CLUB!
I WONDER IF I WOULD CONSIDER IT! IT'S STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I VALUE HER FRIENDSHIP TOO MUCH TO EVER PUT A MOVE ON HER!
OR IS THE TRUTH THAT THESE DAYS I'M NO LONGER ALL THAT INTERESTED IN PUTTING A MOVE ON HER... OR ANY OTHER GIRL?


AND HERE WE ARE!
OH, STOP BEING LIKE PHIL AND WORRYING ABOUT ALL OF THAT SHIT! YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT, LILY!


THE ONLY THING TO FOCUS ON RIGHT NOW IS BEING IN THE MOMENT AND HAVING FUN!


HMMM... I LIKE THE PATTERN, BUT IT'S MISSING SOMETHING!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LILY?
GIVE ME A SECOND!


THESE SHOES YOU PICKED OUT FOR ME ARE A LITTLE PROBLEMATIC... FAR HIGHER THAN ANYTHING I'M USED TO!
DEAL WITH IT, GIRLY! YOU'VE GOT THE LEGS FOR 'EM!

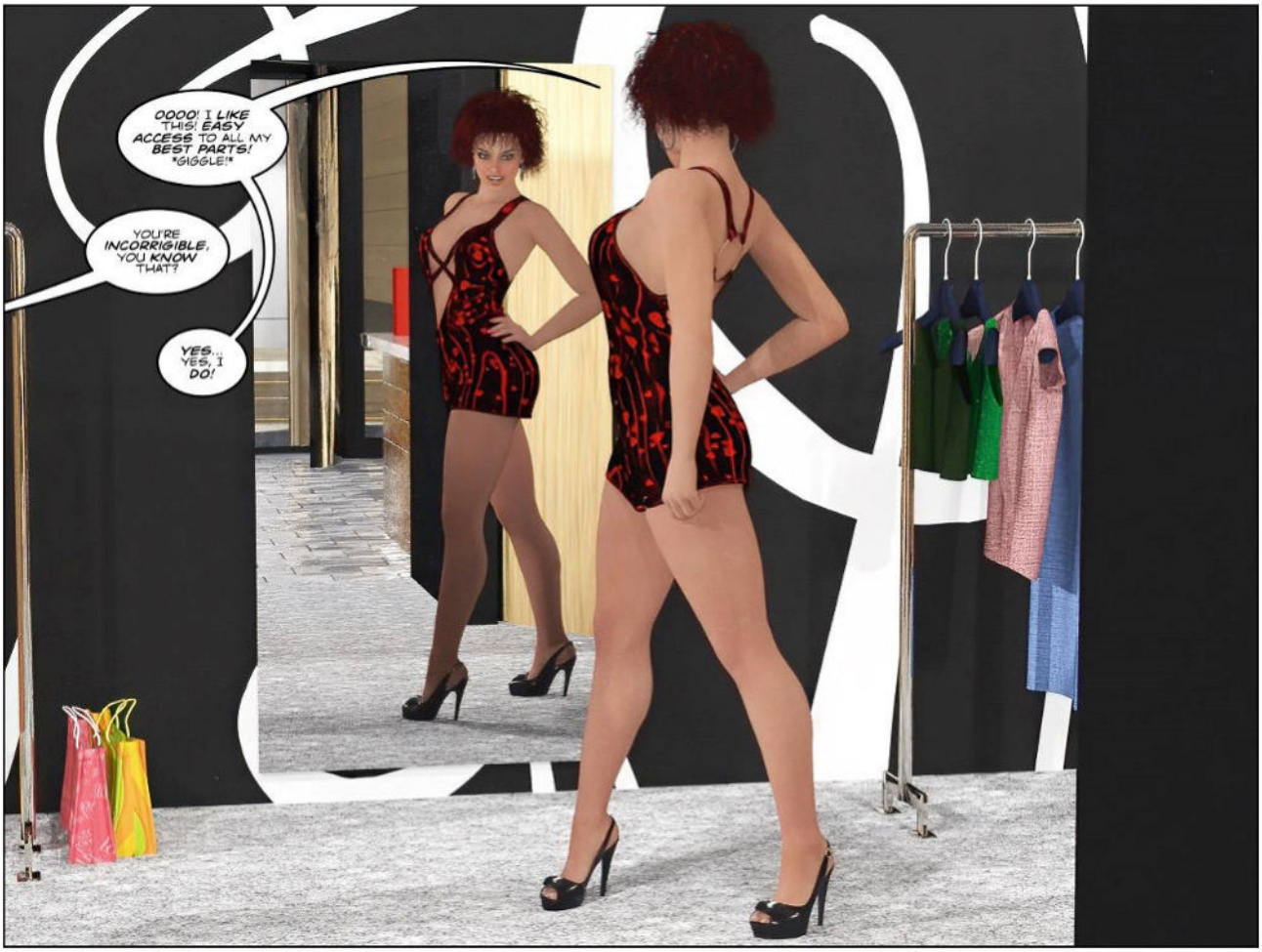

MAYBE SO, AS LONG AS I DON'T BREAK ONE FALLING OFF THESE STILTS!
TRUST ME, IN THAT DRESS YOU'D HAVE PLENTY OF GUYS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BREAK YOUR FALL! *GIGGLE!*


WOW! I KNEW THIS'D SHOW SOME SERIOUS CLEAVAGE, BUT DIDN'T KNOW IT'D BE SO SHINY!
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...
UNDER THESE BRIGHT LIGHTS, YEAH! BUT IN A NIGHTCLUB, IT'LL BE HYPNOTIC!
OH, DON'T WORRY! THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY!


SEE YOU BACK OUT HERE IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!
OKAY!


YOU SEE, I LIKE 'EM SHINY... AND SHORT! *GIGGLE!*
THAT ONE'S DEFINITELY GOT BOTH TAKEN CARE OF!


SEXY, BUT A LITTLE TOO FANCY FOR THE NIGHTCLUB SCENE!
TRUE! BUT I'D KNOCK 'EM DEAD AT THE NEXT COTILLION I GET INVITED TO! *GIGGLE!*
ONCE AGAIN, LIVING THE DREAM! THIS IS INCREDIBLE!


OOOO! I LIKE THIS! EASY ACCESS TO ALL MY BEST PARTS! *GIGGLE!*
YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
YES... YES, I DO!


HMMM... I THINK THIS LITTLE THING MIGHT TURN A HEAD OR TWO! *GIGGLE!*
MORE LIKE SEVERE CASES OF WHIPLASH! *GIGGLE!*
I FEEL LIKE I'M LOOKING AT THE HOTTEST WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN... AND IT'S ME!


TELL ME ABOUT IT! THIS IS GOING STRAIGHT TO THE TOP OF THE "BUY ME" PILE!
OH, NOW THAT ONE IS DEFINITELY YOU!


WOW! IF NOTHING ELSE, THIS ONE WILL AT LEAST GET ME ARRESTED! *GIGGLE!*
HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT! I'VE DATED A FEW COPS, AND THEY WERE ALL A BLAST!
MAYBE I WON THE TG TRANSFORMATION LOTTERY OR SOMETHING! SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION WHY I ENDED UP WITH SUCH SPECTACULAR PROPORTIONS!


SO, HERE'S THE PLAN... WE SPEND THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON PUTTING OUR CREDIT RATINGS ON LIFE SUPPORT, THEN HEAD TO MY PLACE WHERE WE GET ALL DOLLED UP IN OUR NEWEST, HOTTEST OUTFITS FOR A SCORCHING NIGHT OUT!
PERSONALLY, I THINK THIS ONE RIGHT HERE WOULD BE IDEAL FOR SHOWING OFF YOUR DANCE MOVES TO A CROWD FULL OF HUNGRY, HORNY STUDS! *GIGGLE!*


UMM, CAN WE POSTPONE OUR BIG DANCE NIGHT FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS? I, UMMM... PULLED A HAMSTRING THE OTHER DAY AND REALLY DON'T WANT TO AGGRAVATE IT UNTIL IT'S FULLY HEALED!
ALSO, I PROMISED MRS. JOHNSON THAT I'D COME HOME AND WATCH SOME OLD MOVIES WITH HER TONIGHT! SHE'S HAD A TOUGH WEEK, AND I FEEL I STILL OWE HER FOR GETTING ME THE GIG, YOU KNOW!
AND TRYING TO SHOW OFF ANY DANCE MOVES NOW WOULD BE A TOTAL DISASTER!


I'M DISAPPOINTED, THAT'S FOR SURE, BUT I UNDERSTAND! GOTTA KEEP THE BOSS LADY HAPPY... AND MAYBE THIS SMALL TOWN GIRL NEEDS A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENCE BEFORE HITTING THE CLUB SCENE?
WELL, MAYBE, BUT...
SO, HOW ABOUT A COMPROMISE TO KEEP YOUR NEW BESTIE HAPPY?


HEY, WHATEVER YOU WANT, BESTIE! *GIGGLE!*
ANYTHING THAT'LL BUY ME TIME!


Later that afternoon, at a nearby sports bar...


I KNOW I SAID I'D DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT ISN'T THIS A LITTLE EXTREME... ESPECIALLY FOR A PLACE LIKE THIS?
HEY, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS EXTREME WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKING SEXY, SWEETIE, AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT THE ATTITUDE TO MATCH!


THAT'S WHY WE CAME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS... SO YOU COULD WORK ON YOUR ATTITUDE IN A SAFE SPACE!
A "SAFE SPACE"? I FEEL LIKE A LAMB CHOP TOSSED INTO THE HYENA DEN AT THE ZOO!


I KNOW HOW EVERY GUY IN THIS PLACE IS GOING TO REACT WHEN THEY SEE US! IS THIS REALLY WHAT I WANT?
SIGH! IF YOU SAY SO!
TRUST ME, LILY, THE GUYS IN HERE ARE HARMLESS! MOST OF THEM ARE HERE TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR WIVES OR GIRLFRIENDS FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS, WHILE THE OTHERS CARE MORE ABOUT THE SPORTS THAN THEY DO ABOUT GETTING LUCKY!
OH, THEY MAY STILL PUT ON A GOOD SHOW... SUCK IN THEIR GUTS, MAKE A FEEBLE ATTEMPT AT SMALL TALK... BUT ONCE YOU SHOOT THEM DOWN, THEY STAY DOWN!
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO BUILD UP YOUR CONFIDENCE!


DON'T GET ME WRONG, FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, YOUR FLIRTING SKILLS ARE TOP-NOTCH! BUT THAT'S ONLY BEEN AT WORK AND DURING OUR REGULAR HAPPY HOURS... TWO PLACES WHERE YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS AND FEEL COMFORTABLE!
YOU'VE MASTERED THE KIDDIE POOL, SWEETIE, AND I THINK IT'S TIME YOU MOVED ON TOWARD THE DEEP END OF THE SOCIAL POOL!
MAYBE DARLA'S RIGHT! I HAVE ENJOYED FLIRTING WITH GUYS... AND BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION!


OH, AND DON'T WORRY... THE CHANCES OF ANY HOOK-UPS IN THIS PLACE ARE LESS THAN ZERO! SO JUST RELAX, STRUT YOUR STUFF, AND ENJOY YOURSELF!
I'LL... TRY!
WHAT EXACTLY AM I HOPING TO GET OUT OF THIS?


Whiskey
I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT INTO GUYS... NOT AFTER THAT NIGHT WITH GRANT! BUT THAT WHOLE WEEKEND IS FEELING MORE AND MORE LIKE SOME SORT OF FEVER DREAM!
BEING DRESSED LIKE A HOOKER IN A BAR FILLED WITH HALF-DRUNK GUYS DEFINITELY SOUNDS LIKE A SCENARIO FROM ONE OF MY STORIES! NOT EXACTLY MY IDEA OF FUN... OR IS IT?


IF IT'S LIKE DARLA SAID, THAT THE CHANCES OF HOOKING UP HERE ARE LESS THAN ZERO, THEN MAYBE IT WILL BE OKAY! I DO GET A KICK OUT OF FLIRTING!


WHAT CAN I GET YOU LADIES?
MANHATTAN FOR ME! WHAT ABOUT YOU, LILY?
UMM, A WHITE WINE, I GUESS!
INFAMOUS
VICTORIAN LACE
SOUTHERN SWEET


SO, WHAT ARE TWO FINE YOUNG LADIES LIKE YOURSELVES DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON?
OH, UMMM... WE WERE JUST DOING SOME SHOPPING NEARBY! AND, UHHH...
THOUGHT WE'D TAKE A LITTLE BREAK IN YOUR CUTE ESTABLISHMENT HERE!


WELL, LET'S HOPE IT'S A NICE LONG BREAK AND NOT YOUR LAST ONE AROUND HERE!
IF YOU LADIES NEED ANYTHING, JUST WHISTLE! I'M MARK, BY THE WAY!
WE WILL, MARK! THANKS!
YEAH, THANKS!


I THINK THAT CUTE BARTENDER HAS A THING FOR BLONDES! HE COULDN'T TAKE HIS EYES OFF YOU!
IT WASN'T MY HAIR HE WAS STARING AT, THANKS TO THIS PRACTICALLY SEE-THROUGH TOP YOU SQUEEZED ME INTO!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE AS GORGEOUS AS YOU LACKS SO MUCH CONFIDENCE! I DON'T GET IT!
LIKE I TOLD YOU, LATE BLOOMER!


YEAH, BUT MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU REALIZED YOU'VE GOT WHAT COUNTS IN SPADES, SWEETIE! NEVER BE AFRAID TO FLAUNT THAT AWESOME BOD OF YOURS AROUND THE DUMBER SEX!
'CAUSE ONCE YOU'VE GOT A MAN THINKING WITH HIS DICK, YOU'VE WON!
WON WHAT?
WHATEVER THEY'VE GOT THAT YOU WANT! *GIGGLE!*


BUT SINCE THE CLIENTELE IN HERE HAVE PRACTICALLY NOTHING TO OFFER GIRLS LIKE US, CONSIDER THEM LITTLE MORE THAN PRACTICE!
THINK OF IT AS TESTING OUT YOUR "NEW" EQUIPMENT AND THEY'RE THE CRASH-TEST DUMMIES! *GIGGLE!*
OH, THAT'S NICE! *GIGGLE!*


HMPH! DARLA HAS NO IDEA JUST HOW LATE A BLOOMER I TRULY AM! THE NOTION OF ANYONE DSLNG ME IS STILL SO UNREAL!
I READ ALL THOSE STORIES, IMAGINING WHAT IT MIGHT BE LIKE, NEVER DREAMING IT COULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN! BUT NOW IT HAS! I'VE GONE FROM GUY TO GORGEOUS!
I SEE IT EVERY TIME I LOOK IN THE MIRROR, BUT PART OF ME STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT... ACCEPT THAT IT'S REAL! BUT DARLA'S PEP TALK IS HELPING, LETTING ME SHAKE OFF SOME OF THOSE DOUBTS!
I'M LILY ROGERS NOW... YOUNG, SEXY, AND UTTERLY FEMALE! AND THAT'S WHO I'M GOING TO BE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE... UNLESS LAURA COMES UP WITH SOME MIRACULOUS NEWS!
AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'D DO IF SHE TOLD ME I COULD GET MY OLD BODY BACK! I FEEL MORE AND MORE LIKE I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS MIRACULOUS SECOND CHANCE, AND I'M ITCHING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!
OF COURSE, THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS! THAT CUTE BARTENDER, FOR EXAMPLE...


PREMIUM VODKA
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE IS GOING TO BRING? WHEN GNI IS DONE POKING AND PRODDING ME, WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY FIGURE OUT WHY IVE PERMANENTLY BECOME THIS WALKING BARBIE DOLL?
THEY MAY WANT TO PUT ME ON DISPLAY, TO DEMONSTRATE JUST HOW AMAZING THEIR SERUM IS! WHAT BETTER SELLING POINT THAN SHOWING BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES OF PHIL JOHNSON AND LILY ROGERS?
WOULD I HAVE ANY WAY TO STOP THEM FROM OUTING ME THAT WAY? THEY'VE TAKEN SO MANY PHOTOS OF ME IN THE LAB! FOR RESEARCH, THEY SAID! SHIT!
WHAT WOULD LAURA'S TAKE BE ON THAT? I CAN SEE HER BEING CONFLICTED! WOULD SHE BE MORE INTERESTED IN PROTECTING ME... OR PROMOTING HER CAREER?
I MEAN, HE MIGHT BE KIND OF FUN... IF I READ THAT PACKAGE OF HIS CORRECTLY! *GIGGLE!*


I'M HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO ALL THIS! I'M NOT READY FOR MY WORLDS TO COLLIDE!
HOLY SHIT! SPEAKING OF WHICH... THAT GUY! HE... HE LOOKS JUST LIKE...
GASP!
HOLY SHIT! IT IS! IT'S MATT SUTTON!
WHAT IS IT, LILY? SEE A COCKROACH THE SIZE OF A SMALL DOG? I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IN THIS PLACE!


I ALWAYS HATED BEING PAIRED UP WITH THAT COCKY SONUVABITCH! HE NEVER CALLED ME BY NAME... INSTEAD ALWAYS REFERRING TO ME AS "OLD MAN!"
AND WHEN HE WASN'T TRYING TO PROVE HE WAS THE BEST EMT AROUND, WHICH HE WASN'T, HE'D BE BORING US WITH STORIES OF ALL HIS "CONQUESTS!"
TRUE, ALL THE FEMALE EMTS THOUGHT HE WAS GOD'S GIFT TO THE PROFESSION, BUT TO ME HE WAS JUST A SELF-ABSORBED, COCK-SURE NARCISSIST!


A GUY WHO CAN ONLY BE TOLERATED BY OTHERS OF HIS OWN KIND!
OOOO! HE DOES INSPIRE A LITTLE GASP IN ONE'S THROAT, DOESN'T HE? HIS FRIEND IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT EITHER!
NOW HOW DID I MISS SPOTTING THOSE TWO SPECIMENS? GOOD EYE, GIRLFRIEND!
DELUTH'S
vodka


WELL I WAS JUST A BIT SURPRISED BECAUSE HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW FROM BACK HOME!
AN OLD BOYFRIEND, MAYBE? *GIGGLE!*
NOT EXACTLY!
BUT HE IS SOMEONE WHO DESPERATELY NEEDS TO BE TAKEN DOWN A NOTCH OR TWO!


AND I THINK I'M JUST THE GIRL TO DO THAT!
HOW ABOUT A GAME OF POOL, DARLA?
WAY OVER THERE? RIGHT NEXT TO THE HUNKY GUYS? AWWW... DO WE HAVE TO? *GIGGLE!*
CITYLIGHTS PREMIUM


SO, ARE YOU ALREADY FEELING A BIT MORE CONFIDENT, OR DO YOU JUST REALLY WANT TO PLAY POOL?
A LITTLE OF BOTH, ACTUALLY!
WELL THEN, I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE LEAD! BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING IN OVER YOUR HEAD, SHOOT ME A SIGNAL AND WE'RE OUTTA HERE! OKAY?
OKAY!


CHECK IT OUT, MAN! I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THOSE TWO HEADED OUR WAY!
THE WAY THAT BLONDE'S BEEN EYEING YOU, I'M SURPRISED IT TOOK THEM THIS LONG! HEH-HEH!
WHAT CAN I SAY... SHE'S GOT GREAT TASTE! HEH HEH!


SHOULD I BREAK, OR DO YOU WANT TO?
YOU GO AHEAD!
OKAY.. THANKS!


WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!


WELL THAT WASN'T VERY GOOD, WAS IT?
NOT REALLY, BUT KEEP GOING.. I'M HAPPY OVER HERE WITH MY DRINK!



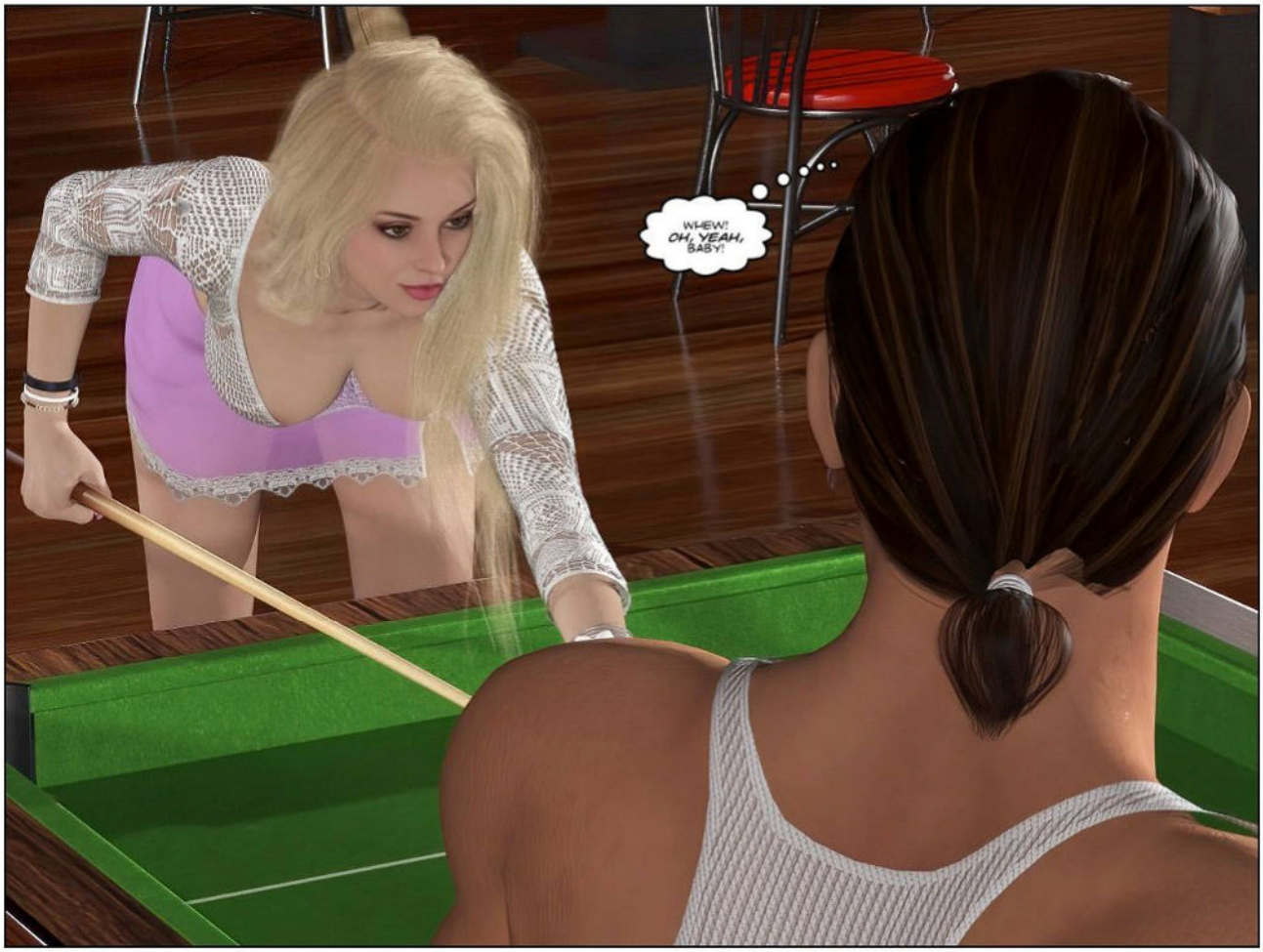

KEEP GOING! I'M DOING JUST FINE WATCHING FROM OVER HERE!
OH, POOH!


IN FACT, I'M GOING TO THE POWDER ROOM! BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE!
GOOD LUCK! *GIGGLE!*
THANKS!


NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, DUDE! I'M GOING TO THE BAR FOR ANOTHER ROUND! DON'T DISAPPOINT ME!
HEY! DISAPPOINTMENT ISN'T IN MY VOCABULARY! HEH HEH!


EXCUSE ME! WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY A GAME?
OH, I DON'T KNOW! I'M NOT VERY GOOD, AND MY FRIEND SHOULD BE BACK PRETTY SOON ANYWAY!
JUST ONE SHORT GAME, THAT'S ALL!
WELL...


AND I THINK YOU MIGHT BE BETTER AT THIS THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE! YOU JUST NEED A FEW POINTERS!
A FEW POINTERS, HUH? FROM YOU, I SUPPOSE!
WELL, I'M NO PROFESSIONAL... NOT BY A LONG SHOT! BUT THERE ARE THINGS I COULD POINT OUT TO HELP YOU SINK THOSE SHOTS YOU KEEP MISSING!
I GUESS A QUICK GAME WOULDN'T HURT!
GREAT! AND I'LL LET YOU BREAK!


WHEW! OH, YEAH, BABY!


HMPH! NOTHING!
YOU KNOW, I THINK I SEE PART OF YOUR PROBLEM! YOU'RE HOLDING THE CUE ALL WRONG!
I AM? I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A PARTICULAR WAY I WAS SUPPOSED TO HOLD IT!
OH YEAH! IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE! LET ME SHOW YOU!


FIRST OFF, YOU NEED TO LEAN WAY OVER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN... SET AT EYE LEVEL WITH THE BALLS!
OH, REALLY?
OH, YEAH! AND YOU'VE GOTTA PUT YOUR HAND ALL THE WAY AROUND THE ROD AND HOLD ON TIGHT!
HMMM... I THINK I CAN DO THAT! *GIGGLE!*
JESUS! CONSIDERING WHAT I'M FEELING PRESSED UP AGAINST MY ASS, MATT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN BULLSHITTING ABOUT ALL HIS CONQUESTS!


OH YEAH! THAT ASS FEELS EVEN FINER THAN IT LOOKS! CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS... AND EVERYTHING ELSE... ON THE REST OF HER! HEH-HEH!
AND IF YOU DO IT JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU, EVERYTHING SHOULD GO RIGHT WHERE IT'S SUPPOSED TO...


HMPH! IT STILL MISSED! MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD AS YOU THINK YOU ARE!
ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY! *GIGGLE!*
WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINK ONE YET, EITHER!
OH, I'M MUCH BETTER... AT LOTS OF THINGS! TRUST ME!
SAYS THE GIRL WHO HASN'T SUNK A SHOT YET!


OH, REALLY? TELL YOU WHAT... I'LL BET I COULD CLEAR THIS TABLE BEFORE YOU COULD SINK JUST FOUR BALLS!
WELL THAT'S HARDLY A FAIR BET, SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN HOW POORLY I SHOOT!
BUT I'M EVENING THE ODDS BY GIVING YOU A MUCH EASIER CHALLENGE!
I DON'T KNOW... MY FRIEND WILL BE BACK SOON, AND WE'VE STILL GOT A LOT OF SHOPPING TO DO, AND...


OKAY, TELL YOU WHAT... I HAVE TO SINK ALL THE YELLOW BALLS FIRST, THEN THE RED ONES AND THEN THE BLACK ONE BEFORE YOU SINK JUST FOUR BALLS! ANY BALLS... IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT COLOR!
DOES THAT SOUND A LITTLE BIT BETTER?
WELL... MAYBE! BUT IF IT'S A BET, WHAT ARE WE PLAYING FOR?
HOW ABOUT, IF I WIN, WE GO BACK TO MY PLACE FOR A DRINK?
OH, REALLY? AND WHAT IF I WIN?

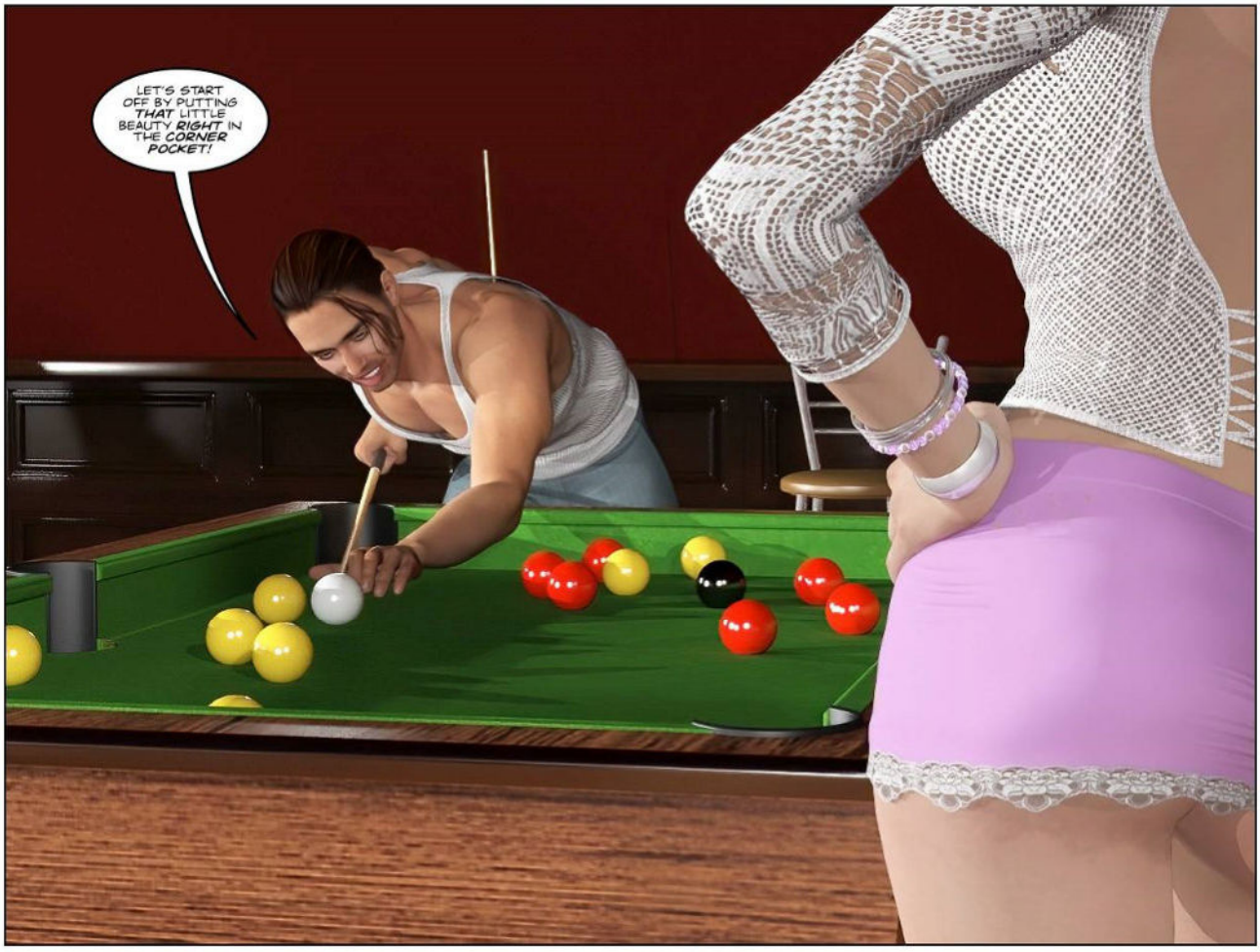

YOU WIN? *SNORT!* OKAY, SINCE YOU SAID YOU'RE OUT SHOPPING, HOW ABOUT I PUT UP FIFTY BUCKS IF YOU WIN?
I DON'T KNOW... I'VE JUST NEVER BEEN VERY GOOD AT BETTING, AND...


SCREW IT! I'M GETTING THIS CHICK BACK TO MY PLACE NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!
TWO HUNDRED BUCKS! IT'S ALL I'VE GOT ON ME, BUT I'M WILLING TO PUT IT ALL ON THE TABLE! AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE FIRST SHOT!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WELL...


OKAY! I MEAN, THE WORST THING THAT HAPPENS IS I HAVE TO HAVE A DRINK WITH A HANDSOME GUY! RIGHT? *GIGGLE!*
MY POINT EXACTLY, BEAUTIFUL!


AND, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, I'LL GET SOME SERIOUS SHOPPING MONEY OUT OF THE DEAL!
YOU JUST KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT, DARLIN'!
WHILE I KEEP TELLING MYSELF WHAT A LUCKY SONUVABITCH I AM! HEH-HEH!


WELL, POOH!
MIGHT AS WELL TEXT YOUR FRIEND THAT YOU'LL BE LEAVING WITHOUT HER, GORGEOUS, 'CAUSE THIS WON'T TAKE LONG!

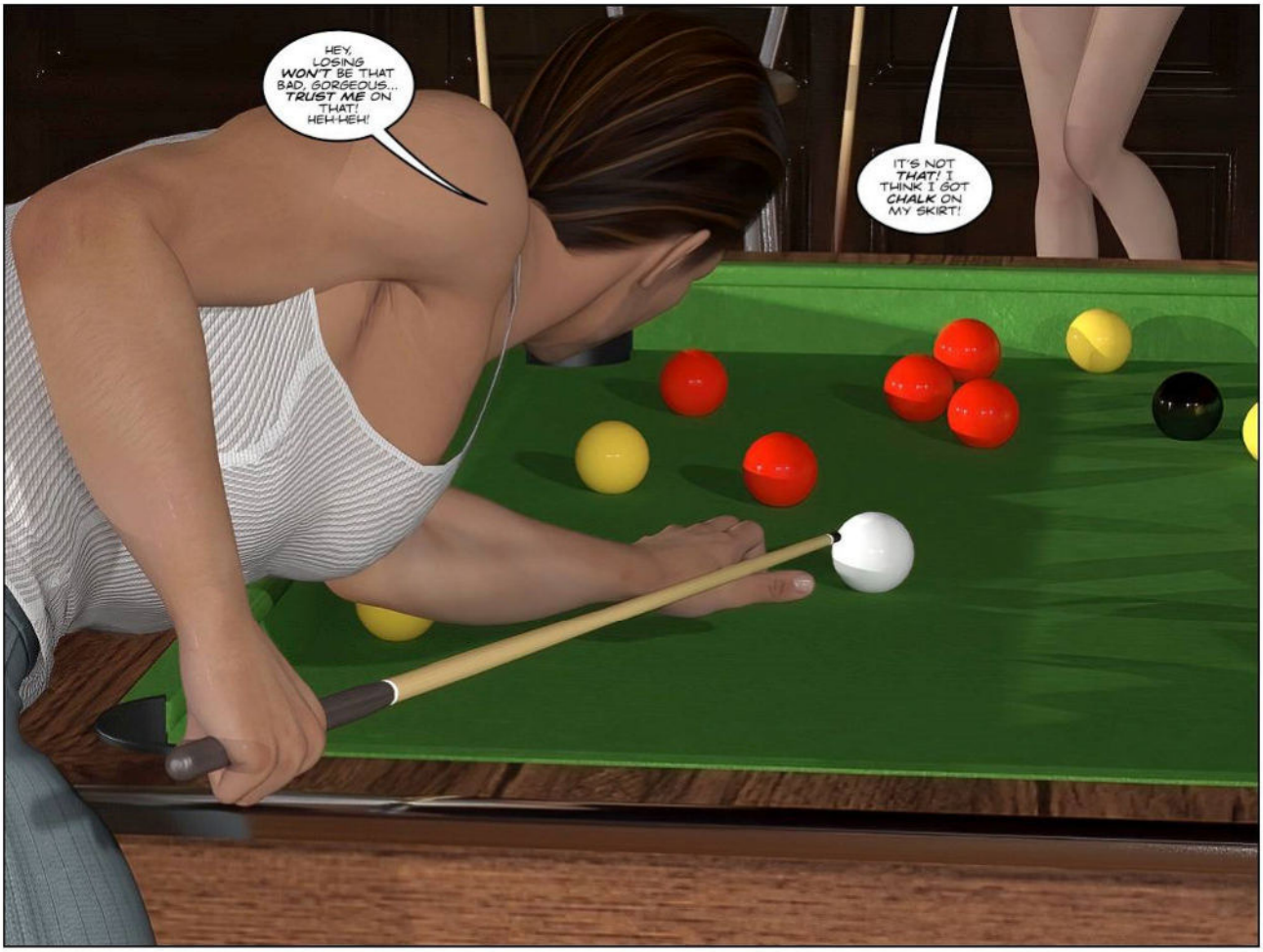

LET'S START OFF BY PUTTING THAT LITTLE BEAUTY RIGHT IN THE CORNER POCKET!


Plunk!
OH, YEAH!

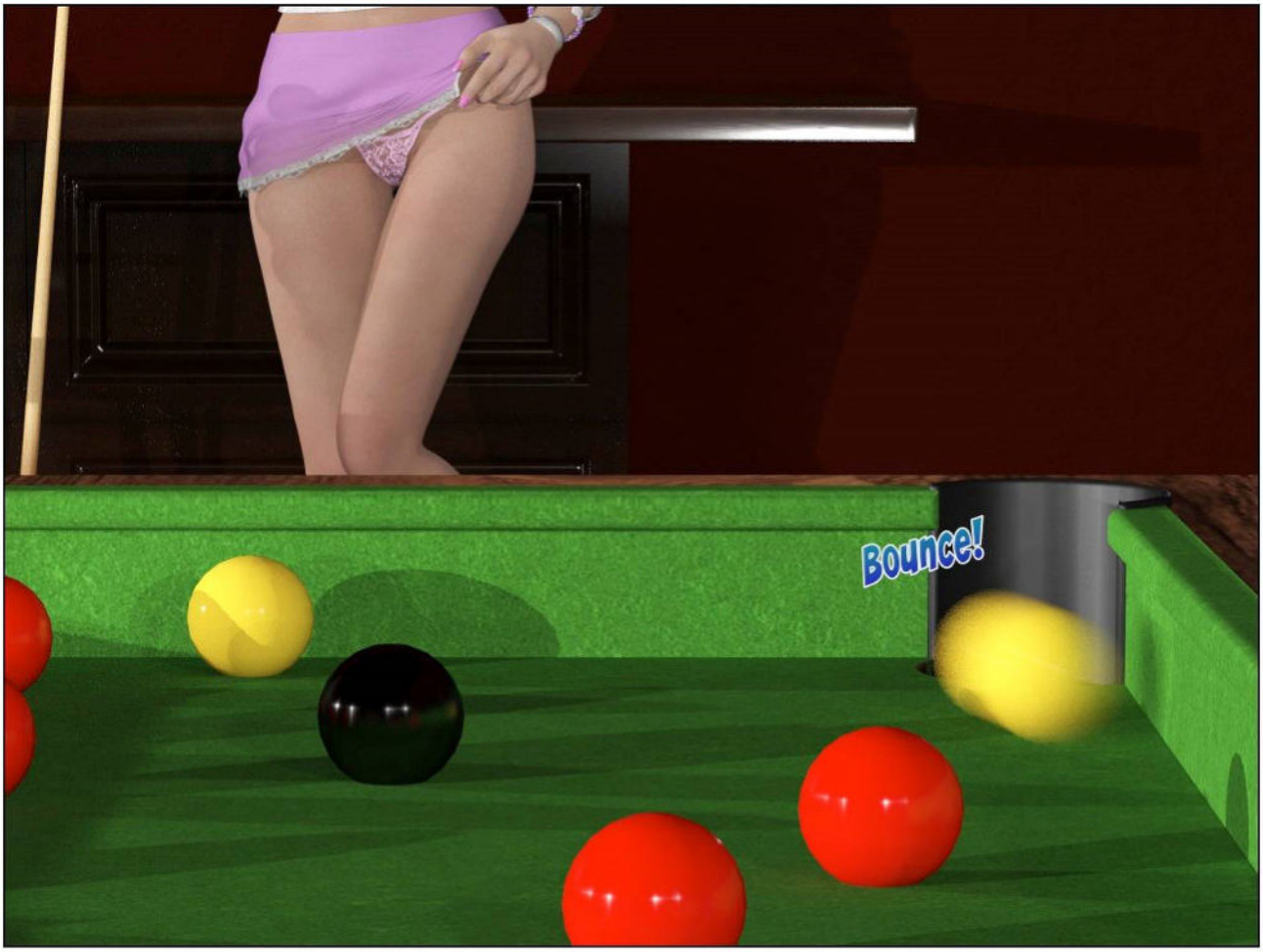

NOW FOR HER LITTLE SISTER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE! HEH-HEH!


YOU MIGHT AS WELL PUT THAT CUE STICK UP, DARLIN', 'CAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE SHOOTIN' FROM HERE ON OUT!


WHEN I'M IN THE GROOVE, GORGEOUS, NOTHIN' CAN STOP ME!
OH, POOH!


HEY, LOSING WON'T BE THAT BAD, GORGEOUS... TRUST ME ON THAT! HEH-HEH!
IT'S NOT THAT! I THINK I GOT CHALK ON MY SKIRT!

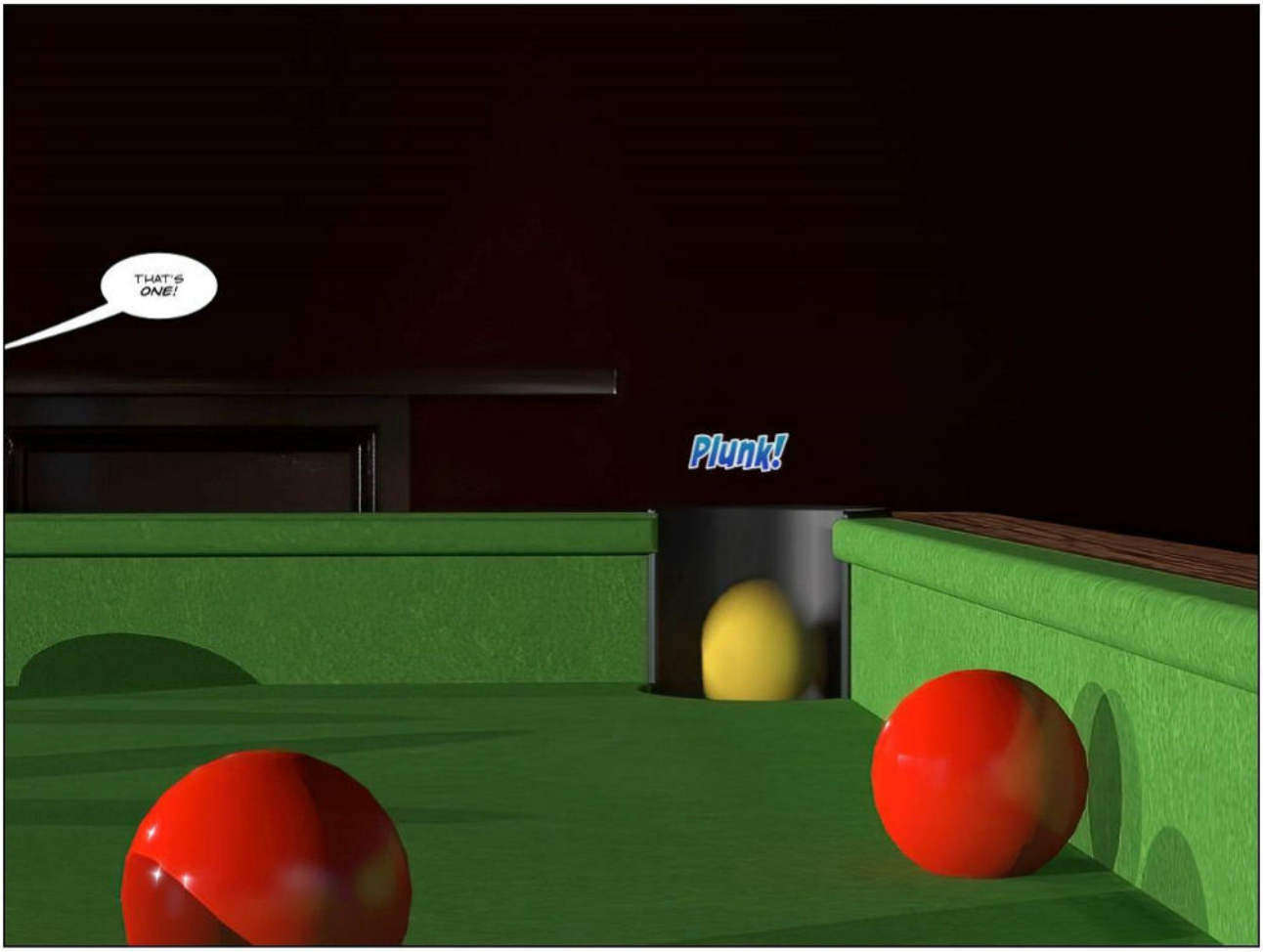

MAYBE I CAN SOAK IT IN COLD WATER WHEN WE GET TO YOUR PLACE!
HOLY..


Bounce!

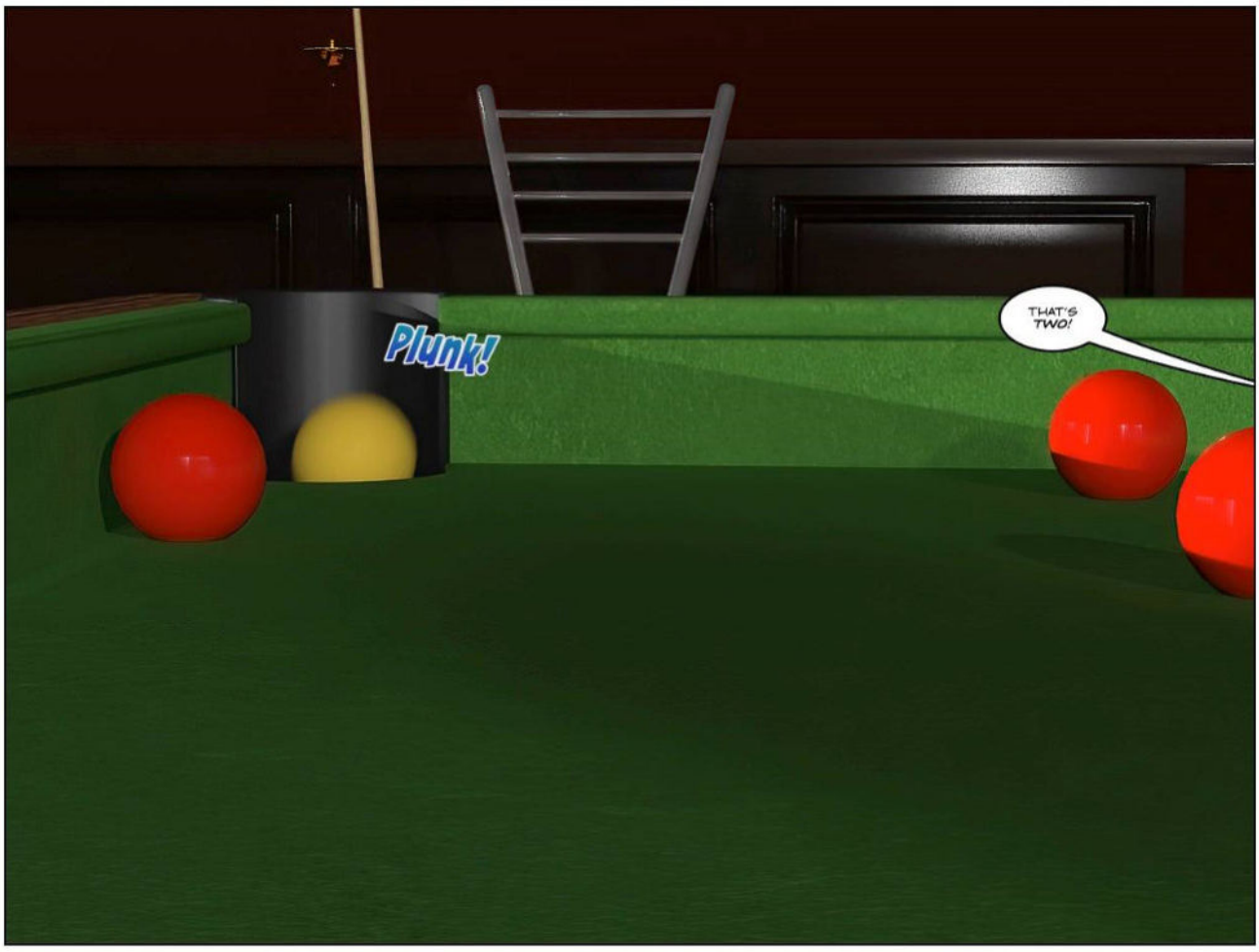

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE I GET TO SHOOT AGAIN AFTER ALL, DOESN'T IT?


YOU KNOW, I DON'T SEE ANY CHALK MARKS ON YOUR SKIRT!
YEAH, TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST A LITTLE DUST... CAME RIGHT OFF!
EXCUSE ME, HANDSOME, BUT YOU'RE IN MY SHOT!

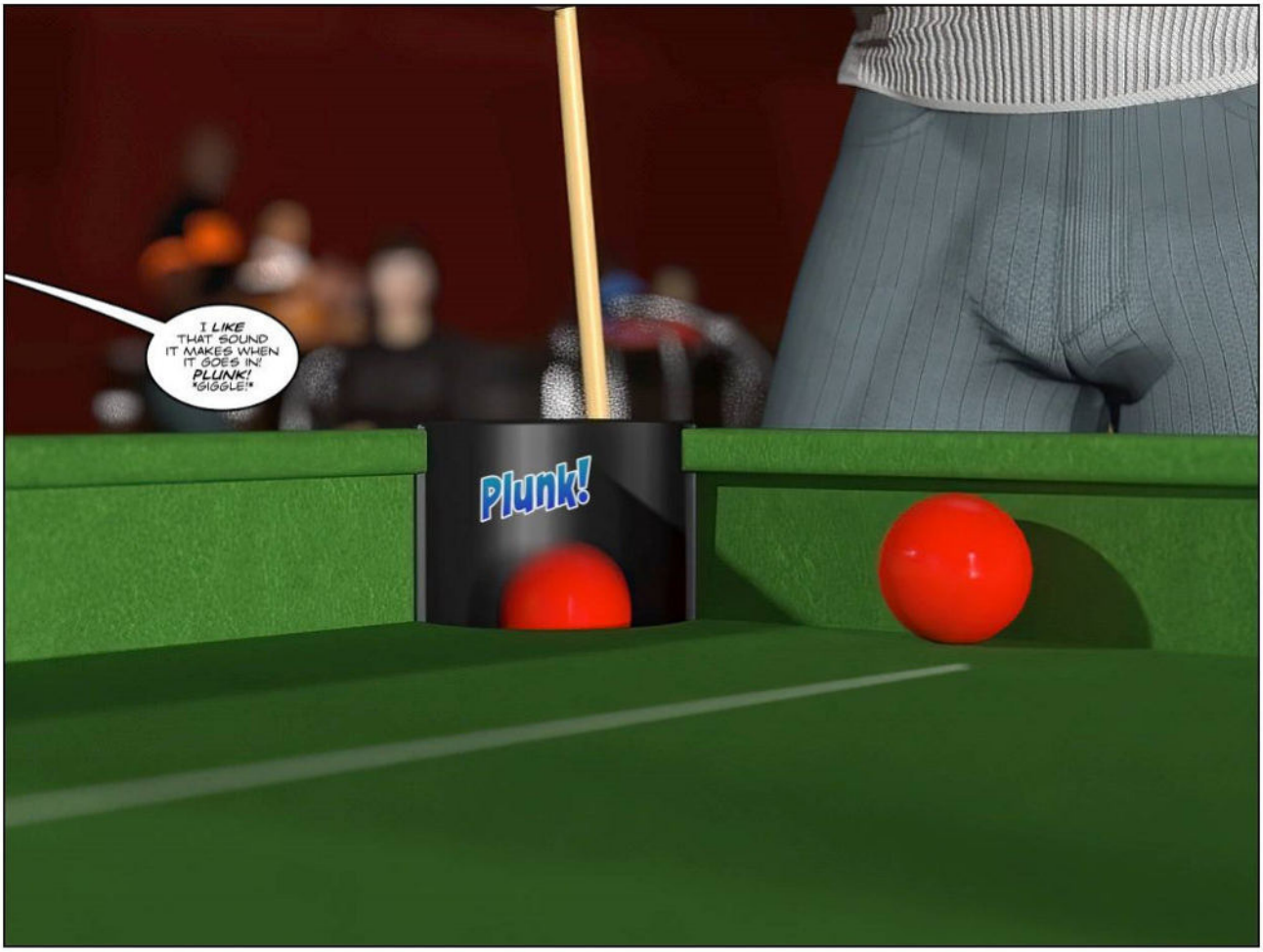

NOW, YOU DID SAY I COULD SINK ANY BALLS, RIGHT? NO MATTER WHAT COLOR?
YEAH... THAT'S THE BET!
JUST MAKING SURE! *GIGGLE!*


THAT'S ONE!
Plunk!

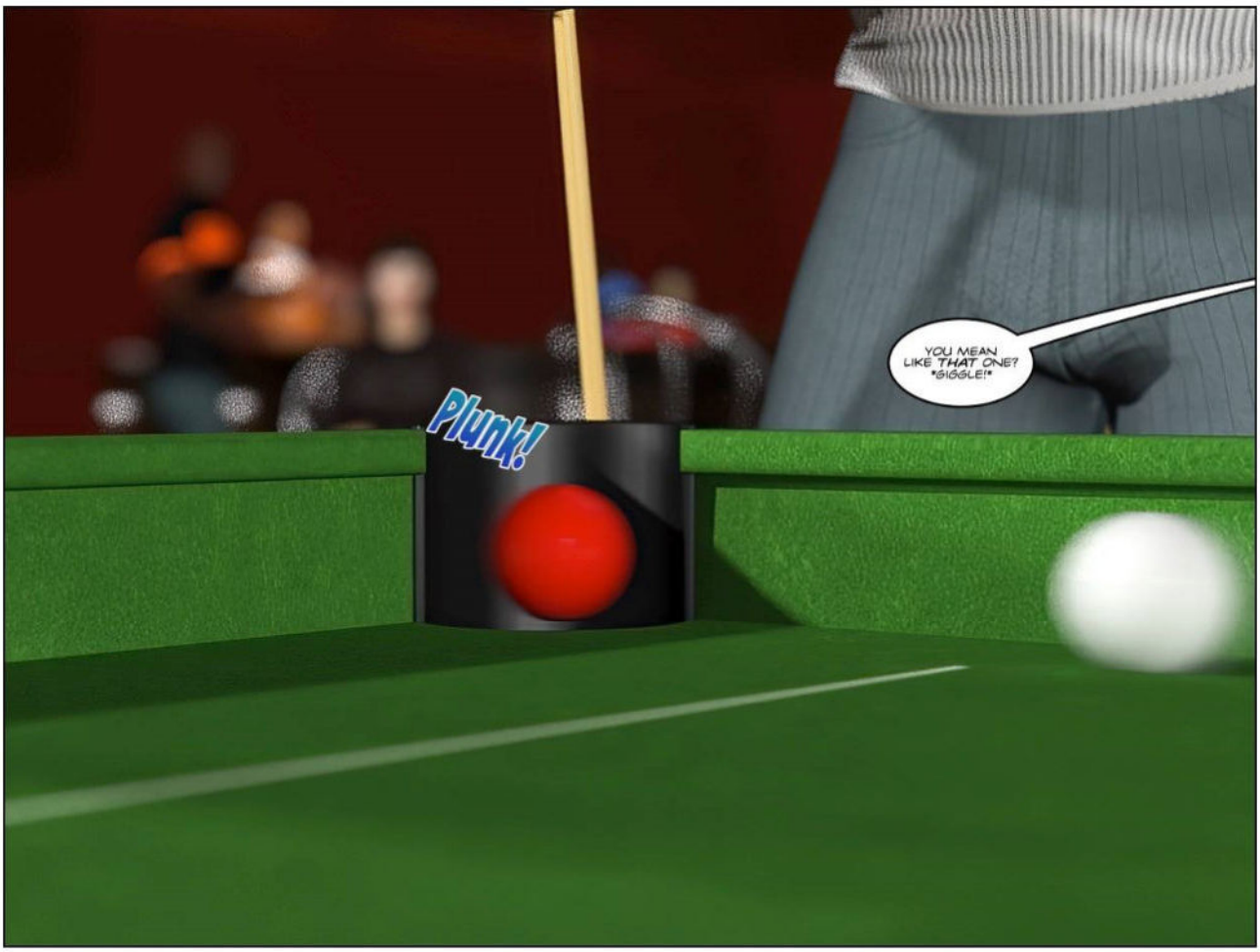

LET'S TRY THAT YELLOW ONE YOU MISSED, SHALL WE?


Plunk!
THAT'S TWO!


HMMM... MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A RED ONE!

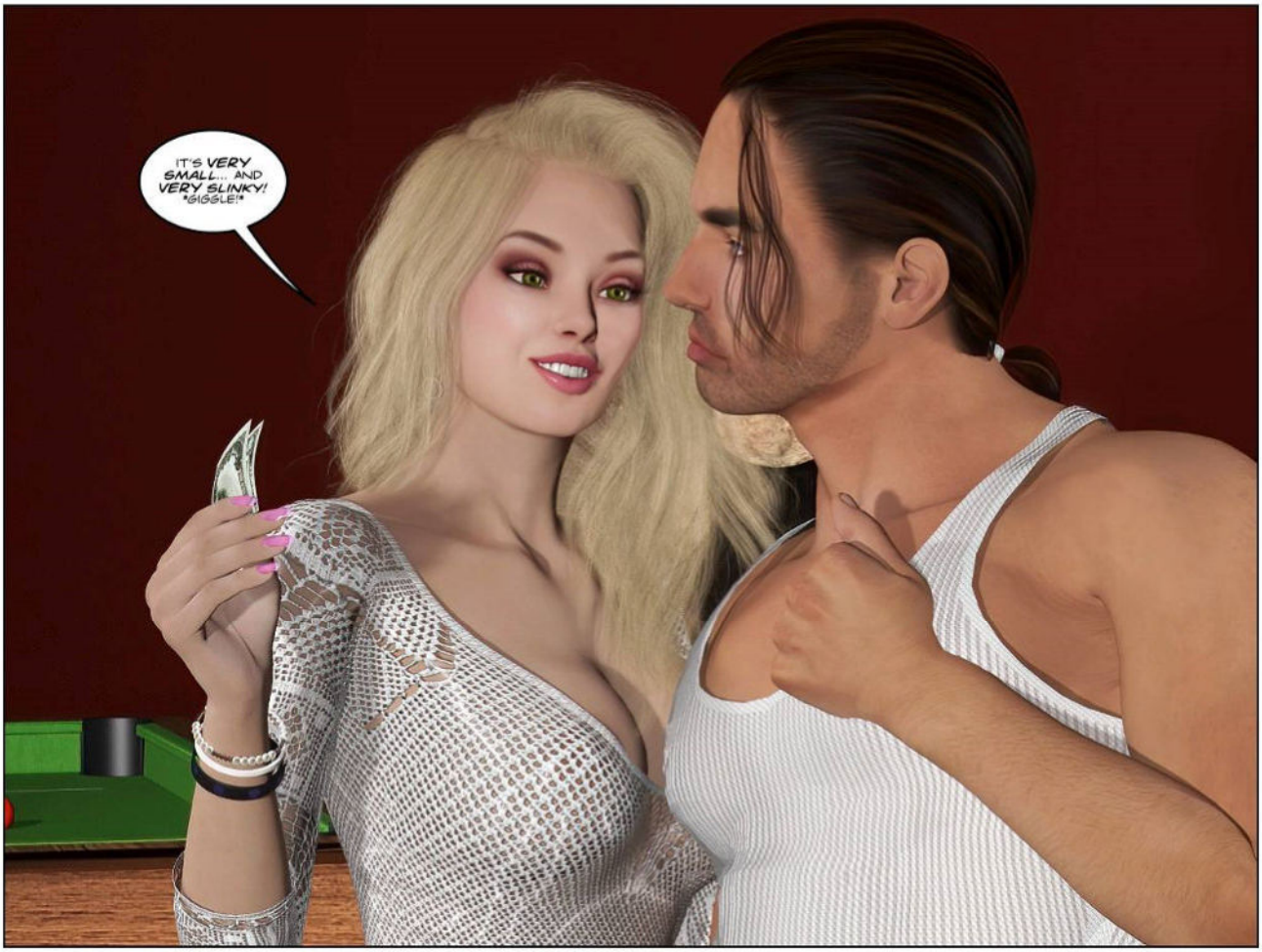

I LIKE THAT SOUND IT MAKES WHEN IT GOES IN! PLUNK! *GIGGLE!*
Plunk!


OOPS, I LOST TRACK! HOW MANY MORE DO I NEED TO WIN?
GRUMBLE! ONE MORE.
Thock!


YOU MEAN LIKE THAT ONE? *GIGGLE!*
Plunk!


SO, UMMM... HOW 'BOUT A REMATCH? DOUBLE OR NOTHING?
OH, I DON'T THINK SO, HANDSOME! MY FRIEND AND I HAVE LOTS MORE SHOPPING TO DO TODAY!


AND THANKS TO YOU, I CAN FINALLY BUY THAT DESIGNER BIKINI I'VE HAD MY EYE ON!

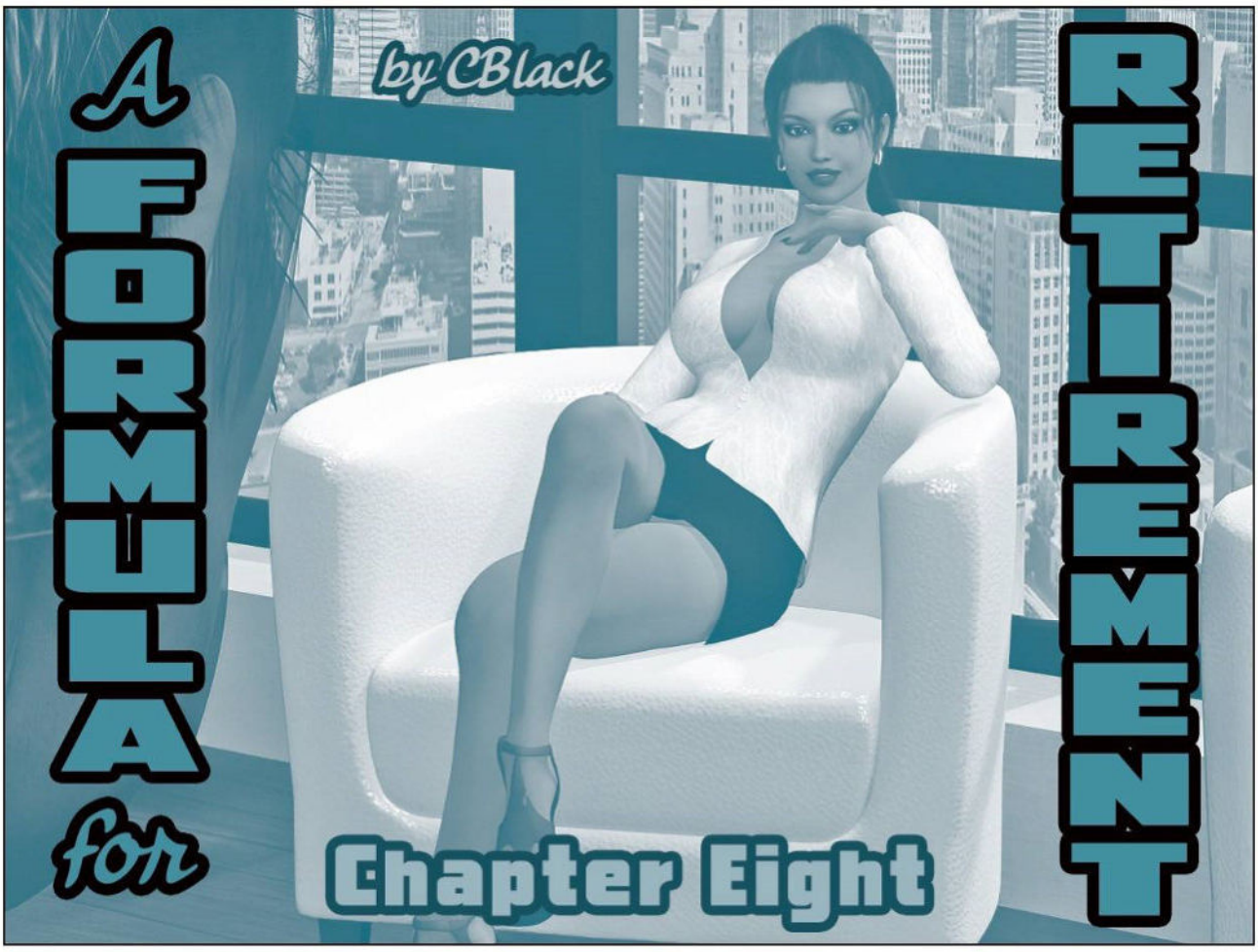

IT'S VERY SMALL... AND VERY SLINKY! *GIGGLE!*


DUDE! WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT SURE, BUT I THINK I JUST GOT HUSTLED!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THOUGH, I DON'T REALLY MIND... NOT ONE LITTLE BIT! DAMN!


SO, WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO PLAY LIKE THAT?
COLLEGE! I'M JUST GLAD IT ALL CAME BACK TO ME! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
WELL, YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELF QUITE A BIT!
OH, I WAS! IT WAS SUPREMELY... SATISFYING!
NOT GOING TO TAKE HIM HOME... AS A SOUVENIR, MAYBE? *GIGGLE!*
NOT TODAY! HE MAY HAVE BEEN GOOD-LOOKING, BUT HE WAS KIND OF A JERK!
AND ONE THING I DO KNOW ABOUT JERKS IS THAT THEY'RE NOT MUCH FUN TO BE AROUND WHEN THEIR EGOS HAVE BEEN BRUISED!


AND YOU BRUISED HIS LIKE A PRO! I'M PROUD OF YOU, GIRL!
GLAD I COULD HELP! *GIGGLE!*
THANKS! I KNOW I WAS INITIALLY RELUCTANT ABOUT THIS LITTLE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITY OF YOURS, BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, I KIND OF LIKED IT!
IT WAS VERY EYE-OPENING... ALMOST CATHARTIC!


SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR WINNINGS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ABOUT TO SAY THIS, BUT...
JUST LIKE I TOLD THE MAN... WE'RE GOING BIKINI SHOPPING, GIRLFRIEND! *GIGGLE!*


A FORMULA for RETIREMENT
by CBlack
Chapter Eight


Later on, back at the apartment...
OH MY GOD! I NEVER, EVER THOUGHT I'D LOVE SHOPPING SO MUCH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WILLINGLY SPENT THE BULK OF THE DAY SLIPPING INTO ONE SLINKY OUTFIT AFTER ANOTHER... AND THE TRUTH IS, I CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT AGAIN!


IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH MY OUTLOOK HAS SHIFTED! PART OF ME IS DEFINITELY EMBARRASSED THAT I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE SUCH A GIRLY GIRL! BRUISED REMNANTS OF MY OLD MALE EGO, I SUPPOSE!
BUT IT FEELS LIKE I'M GETTING MORE COMFORTABLE IN MY SKIN... EVEN IF IT'S SKIN I HAVEN'T OCCUPIED FOR ALL THAT LONG!
AFTER SPENDING THE DAY WITH DARLA, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER ABOUT MYSELF.. NO LONGER HESITANT TO EXPERIENCE UNIQUELY FEMALE EXPERIENCES!
WHY ELSE WOULD I BE REVELING IN THE JOY OF HAVING EXPONENTIALLY EXPANDED MY FEMININE WARDROBE?
YET ANOTHER WAY I SEEM TO BE ACTING OUT ONE OF MY STORIES! SHEESH!


THIS IS THE LAST OF IT, MISS!
NOT A PROBLEM, MISS! NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL!
OH, THANK YOU SOOO MUCH! IT WOULD'VE TAKEN ME FOREVER TO GET ALL THOSE BAGS UP HERE ALL BY MYSELF!


THIS IS FOR YOU! AND I DEFINITELY HOPE YOU'RE AVAILABLE NEXT TIME I GO SHOPPING!
I'LL MAKE DAMN SURE I AM, MISS! HAVE A NICE EVENING!
YOU TOO!


IT'S SO DAMN EASY TO GET "SPECIAL SERVICE" JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE I GO IN THIS BODY... BUT I'D RATHER NOT MAKE A HABIT OF IT! NO MORE RELYING ON THE KINDNESS OF ÖBER DRIVERS!
I NEED A VEHICLE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN DRIVING AROUND IN MY OLD CAR! THAT MIGHT RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT "PHIL'S" WHEREABOUTS!
I SHOULD ASK LAURA TO BRING THE OLD JUNKER BACK FROM WHEREVER SHE'S STASHED IT SO WE CAN SELL IT AND GET ME A NEW SET OF WHEELS!


BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST... I NEED TO GET ALL THESE THINGS STASHED AWAY BEFORE LAURA GETS HOME!
IF SHE SAW ALL THIS STUFF AND REALIZED HOW MUCH I SPENT TODAY, SHE MIGHT HAVE A HEART ATTACK!
5th Avenue


IF LAURA SAW THE CLOTHES IN THESE BAGS, IT WOULD CONFIRM HER WORST SUSPICIONS, THAT I WAS BECOMING THE SUPER GIRLY-GIRL I'D ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING!
THAT'S NOT THE CASE, THOUGH... NOT EXACTLY! I NEVER HAD MUCH APPRECIATION FOR THINGS LIKE SILK AND LACE UNTIL RECENTLY... BUT I SURE DO NOW!


I WISH I UNDERSTOOD IT MYSELF, WHY I WANT TO DO THINGS LIKE WEAR SKY-HIGH HEELS... AND NOW OWN SO MANY PAIRS OF THEM!
I KEEP TELLING MYSELF IT'S BECAUSE I SIMPLY LIKE THE WAY THEY MAKE MY LEGS LOOK, NOT THAT THEY HELP MAKE ME WEAK OR SUBMISSIVE... AND THAT PART OF ME LIKES BEING THAT WAY!
I KNOW IT'S SOMETHING I'M WRESTLING WITH, THAT I'M SICK AND TIRED OF HAVING TO BE A STRONG, SILENT MAN AND AM DELIGHTED TO LET ALL THAT GO!
5th Avenue


I THINK IT'S WHY I GRAVITATE TOWARD BRIGHT COLORS IN MY NEW WARDROBE... OR WHY I'VE GONE BLONDE!
IT'S LIGHT, AIRY, AND FUN... THE KIND OF PERSON I LONG TO BE!


I'VE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THIS IS WHO I NOW AM... AND WHO I'M GOING TO BE FROM HERE ON OUT! PHIL JOHNSON ISN'T COMING BACK! NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
I'M LILY ROGERS NOW... AND SHE'S GOT HER FIRST DANCE LESSON TOMORROW, AND DARLA AND THE GIRLS WANT HER TO JOIN THEM ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND NEXT WEEKEND!
SOUNDS LIKE CHALLENGES... AND LOADS OF FUN! THE PERFECT KIND OF SCHEDULE FOR A GIRL LIKE ME!


AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I KEP TELLING MYSELF!
AS MUCH AS I LIKE WHO I'M BECOMING, IT'S HARD TO LET GO OF THE PAST! OR FEEL GUILTY FOR HAVING SO MUCH FUN! PART OF ME FEELS LIKE I DON'T DESERVE THIS BODY.. OR ANY JOY I GET FROM IT!
HOW CAN I JUST WALK AWAY FROM MY OLD LIFE AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED? DOESN'T THAT MAKE THAT LIFE A FAILURE?


I NEED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE MAN I ONCE WAS... AND THE WOMAN I'VE BECOME!


Much later that evening...
UGH! TODAY WAS THE ABSOLUTE WORST! THE RESULTS FROM THE LAB WERE TRULY DEVASTATING!
EVERY MALE SUBJECT WE'VE GIVEN SERUM FGMX TO HAS RESPONDED AS EXPECTED, CHANGING INTO A WOMAN AND THEN REVERTING BACK, EXACTLY SIXTY HOURS LATER!


PHIL IS A TRUE ANOMALY! WE SIMPLY CAN'T EXPLAIN WHY HIS TRANSFORMATION IS PERMANENT... OR WHY THERE'S NO SIGN THAT HIS BODY HAS BEEN ANYTHING OTHER THAN FEMALE!
WE'VE RUN EVERY POSSIBLE TEST, AND THERE ARE NO ANSWERS! ANY HOPE WE HAD OF THIS BEING SOME SORT OF GAME-CHANGER HAS BEEN DASHED!
WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE AS FAR AS THE SERUM GOES... AND I'M STUCK WITH A HUSBAND WHO'S NOW A BLONDE BIMBO!


ZZZZZZZZZZ!


HEH-HEH! LOOK AT HIM... ASLEEP ON THE SOFA WITH THE TV STILL ON! I GUESS THAT IN SOME WAYS, DESPITE ALL THE CHANGES, HE'S STILL THE SAME OLD PHIL!
BUT THEN AGAIN, PHIL WOULD NEVER LOUNGE AROUND WEARING SUCH A TIGHT, SKIMPY OUTFIT! HE REALLY LOVES SHOWING OFF THAT NEW BODY OF HIS SO MUCH!
I FIND IT DEPRESSING, THAT PHIL COULD BE ANY KIND OF WOMAN HE WANTS... AND THIS IS WHO HE CHOOSES TO BE!
ZZZZZZZZZZ!
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SO SURPRISED! IT'S JUST... PHIL WAS ALWAYS SO INTENSE AND SERIOUS! HE LOVED HELPING PEOPLE... SAVING LIVES!
BEFORE I LOOKED AT HIS COMPUTER, I NEVER IMAGINED PHIL DREAMED OF BECOMING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!


I WON'T DENY THAT IT'S FUN TO BE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL... BUT I FEEL SO DISAPPOINTED IN MY HUSBAND... FOR HIS CHOICES!
I THOUGHT PHIL HAD MORE RESPECT FOR HIMSELF... AND FOR WOMEN! BUT HE WAS OBVIOUSLY NEVER AS EVOLVED OF A MAN AS I IMAGINED HIM TO BE! IF NOTHING ELSE, I'VE LEARNED THAT MUCH!
Click!


The next morning...
HUH, I GUESS LAURA'S STILL ASLEEP!
I'M KIND OF GLAD SHE'S NOT AWAKE TO SEE ME HEADING OFF TO MY FIRST DANCE LESSON! I PLANNED ON TELLING HER THAT I NEED TO DO THIS BECAUSE IT'S PART OF LILY'S RESUME, BUT I CAN JUST PICTURE THE LOOK SHE WOULD HAVE GIVEN ME!


SIGH! CALL ME A COWARD, BUT IT SEEMED EASIER TO JUST LEAVE HER A NOTE SAYING I WAS HEADING TO THE GYM!


A short time later downtown...
I REALLY HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE! HAVING AN ALLEY ENTRANCE IN THE SKETCHIER PART OF DOWNTOWN IS NEVER A GOOD SIGN!
BUT SINCE THERE WERE VERY FEW OPTIONS FOR A SUNDAY CLASS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, I HAD TO TAKE WHAT I COULD GET!


I DO HEAR VOICES AND MUSIC COMING FROM THE NEXT ROOM, SO THAT'S A GOOD SIGN, AT LEAST!


OKAY, LADIES! LET'S GET STARTED!
BINGO! WOMEN STRETCHING IN LEOTARDS!


HMMM... LOOKS LIKE I BOUGHT THE WRONG KIND OF OUTFIT FOR THIS CLASS!
LINE UP FACING THE MIRROR! I WANT TO CHAT A BIT BEFORE DIVING IN!


SINCE WE'LL BE HERE TOGETHER EVERY SUNDAY FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, I THOUGHT WE SHOULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER A LITTLE!
SO LET'S GO DOWN THE LINE, TELL EVERYONE WHO YOU ARE, AND WHY YOU'RE TAKING MY CLASS!
LET'S START OVER HERE ON MY RIGHT!


HI, I'M MARLA JENKINS! AND I'M TAKING THIS CLASS AS KIND OF A SURPRISE FOR MY HUSBAND! *GIGGLE!*
WE'LL TRY AND MAKE IT ONE HELL OF A SURPRISE FOR HIM, MARLA!


I'M CARLA DUBOIS, AND I'M TAKING THIS CLASS TO HELP ME PREPARE FOR A PART IN A REGIONAL THEATER PRODUCTION OF "GYPSY!"
I KNOW THE CHOREOGRAPHER FOR THAT SHOW, CARLA! HOPEFULLY I CAN TEACH YOU JUST WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR!


HI THERE! I'M MEISHA WILLIAMS! I'VE BEEN DANCING BALLET SINCE I WAS LITTLE, BUT WANTED TO ADD SOME OTHER STYLES TO MY REPERTOIRE! THIS SOUNDED LIKE THE MOST FUN!
OH, IT'LL BE A BLAST, MEISHA! TRUST ME!


WELL, I'M, UHHH... LILY ROGERS, AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I MIGHT BE IN THE WRONG CLASS, SINCE IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ALL HAVE A LOT MORE EXPERIENCE THAN I DO!
TO BE HONEST, ALL I REALLY WANT IS TO LEARN ENOUGH NOT TO EMBARRASS MYSELF WHEN MY GIRLFRIENDS AND I GO OUT DANCING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, LILY! GIVE ME A FEW WEEKS, AND YOUR GIRLFRIENDS WILL WISH THEY HAD YOUR MOVES!


WELL, AS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW, MY NAME IS MARGO, AND MY JOB FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IS TO TEACH YOU ALL HOW TO REALLY MOVE THOSE SEXY BODS OF YOURS!
I FIGURED WE'D KICK THINGS OFF TODAY DOING SOME STRETCHING AND THEN GO ONTO SOME BASIC MOVES! THAT WILL ENABLE ME TO SEE YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES!
ONCE I KNOW WHAT I'M WORKING WITH, WE'LL GET TO THE FUN STUFF, I PROMISE!


I KNOW I SHOULDN'T EXPECT A MIRACULOUS TURNAROUND FROM ONE LESSON, BUT I'M HAVING DOUBTS I'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP ENOUGH HERE TO FAKE IT NEXT WEEKEND ON SOUTH PADRE!


OOF! IF NOTHING ELSE, I'M DEFINITELY LEARNING HOW FLEXIBLE MY BODY IS NOW!
I HAVE NEVER IN MY ENTIRE LIFE BEEN ABLE TO STRETCH LIKE THIS BEFORE!


I COULD SWEAR THE CLASS I LOOKED AT MET MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK! MAYBE IN MY HURRY I SIGNED UP FOR THE WRONG ONE!
IT'S TOO BAD, BECAUSE I LIKE THE SMALL SIZE, AND THE INSTRUCTOR SEEMS GREAT! I JUST WISH THERE SOME WAY I COULD GET IN A FEW MORE SESSIONS BEFORE NEXT WEEKEND!


MAYBE MARGO HAS ANOTHER CLASS... OR TWO... DURING THE WEEK THAT I COULD SIGN UP FOR! OR MAYBE SHE KNOWS SOMETHING ELSE I COULD TAKE BEFORE I HEAD OFF WITH DARLA AND THE GIRLS!


I'LL JUST HAVE TO ASK HER AFTER CLASS... IF I HAVE ANY BREATH LEFT! WHEW!


YOU ALL DID A GREAT JOB TODAY! IF IT SEEMED A LITTLE REDUNDANT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE MORE EXPERIENCED, DON'T WORRY... WE'LL START PUSHING THINGS UP A LEVEL NEXT WEEK!
IN THE MEANTIME, WORK ON THE BASIC ROUTINES WE RAN THROUGH, KEEP STRETCHING, AND I'LL SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY!

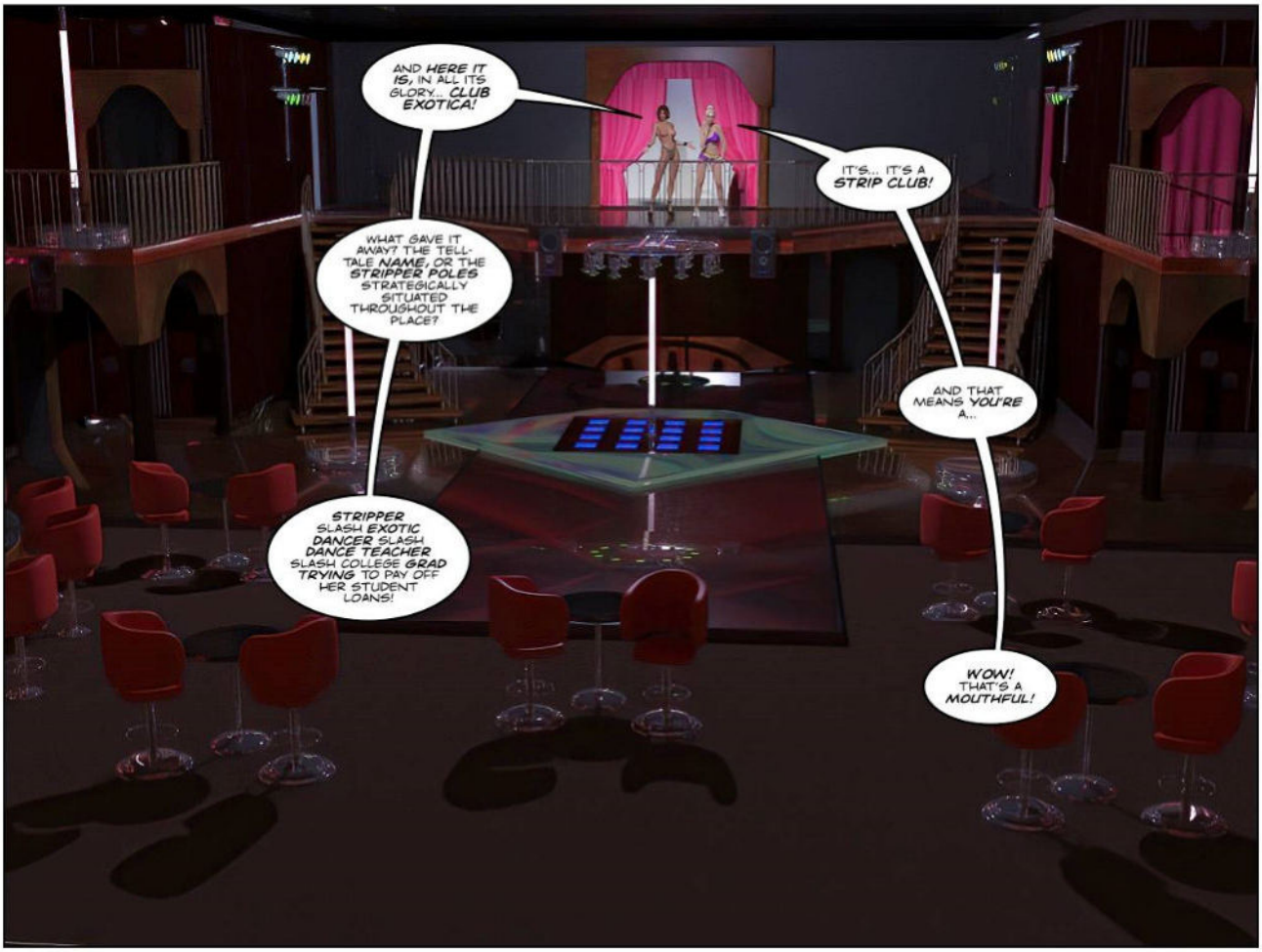

SAY, MARISO, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
SURE, LILY... WHAT'S UP?


FIRST OFF, I LOVE THE CLASS!
THANKS! BUT I HAVE A FEELING THERE'S A "BUT" RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!
NOT REALLY. IT'S JUST THAT, FOR SOME REASON, I THOUGHT THIS CLASS MET MORE OFTEN!
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST LOOKING TO IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS!
THAT'S RIGHT... AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND NEXT WEEKEND!


OH, SO DO OTHER CLASSES USE THIS SPACE THE REST OF THE TIME?
THERE'S A CLUB NEXT DOOR?
NO, I CAME IN THROUGH THE ALLEY!
I SEE! UNFORTUNATELY, SUNDAYS ARE THE ONLY DAY I'M NOT WORKING MY OTHER JOB, AND IT'S ALSO THE ONLY DAY THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE!
GIGGLE! NO! IT'S USUALLY RENTED OUT AS A PRIVATE EVENT SPACE BY THE CLUB NEXT DOOR!
UM, YEAH! DIDN'T YOU WALK THROUGH IT ON YOUR WAY IN HERE?


AHH! THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! C'MON... LET ME SHOW YOU THE LESS CREEPY WAY IN AND OUT OF THIS PLACE!
I'M ALL FOR THAT!


GOING THROUGH THESE DOORS TAKES YOU RIGHT INTO THE BACK OF THE CLUB!
BUT DON'T THEY MIND HAVING YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS PASSING THROUGH?
NOT AT ALL, CONSIDERING THEY'RE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS... AND I WORK THERE WHEN I'M NOT DOING THIS!
OH... WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE!


AND HERE IT IS, IN ALL ITS GLORY... CLUB EXOTICA!
IT'S... IT'S A STRIP CLUB!
WHAT GAVE IT AWAY? THE TELL-TALE NAME, OR THE STRIPPER POLES STRATEGICALLY SITUATED THROUGHOUT THE PLACE?
AND THAT MEANS YOU'RE A...
STRIPPER SLASH EXOTIC DANCER SLASH DANCE TEACHER SLASH COLLEGE GRAD TRYING TO PAY OFF HER STUDENT LOANS!
WOW! THAT'S A MOUTHFUL!


HANG ON! LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION... ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU WERE IN A CLASS IN EXOTIC DANCING?
GASP! NO! NO, I DIDN'T! BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT MAKES SENSE!
WHAT DOES?
THE OTHER GIRLS... AND THEIR REASONS FOR TAKING THE CLASS... I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
WELL, PEOPLE TAKE MY CLASS FOR ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT REASONS! *GIGGLE!*


I'M SO SORRY TO HAVE WASTED YOUR TIME! I OBVIOUSLY NEED TO FIND A CLASS THAT'S MORE MY SPEED!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DID GREAT TODAY!
OH, SURE, I LIKED THE STRETCHING, BUT WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU'RE TEACHING, AND I NEED TO LEARN IT A LOT FASTER THAN WHAT YOU'VE GOT SCHEDULED!
IT FEELS TO ME THERE'S A LITTLE MORE TO THIS THAN WANTING TO IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS! WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON?


WELL, TO SAVE YOU FROM A LONG AND DRAWN-OUT EXPLANATION, I ESSENTIALLY LIED TO SOME NEW FRIENDS THAT I WAS A DANCER IN COLLEGE, AND NOW THEY WANT TO TAKE ME OUT DANCING SO I CAN STRUT MY STUFF, SO TO SPEAK!
AND YOU WEREN'T A DANCER?
NEVER! I WAS HOPING I COULD LEARN AT LEAST A FEW MOVES SO I DIDN'T COMPLETELY EMBARRASS MYSELF IN FRONT OF THEM!
PRETTY PATHETIC, HUH?
HARDLY! FROM WHAT I SAW TODAY AND THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN, I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED THAT YOU HADN'T DANCED BEFORE!


AND SINCE I'D HATE TO SEE ONE OF MY STUDENTS EMBARRASS HERSELF ON THE DANCE FLOOR, I THINK I COULD PROBABLY SQUEEZE YOU IN FOR A FEW MORE LESSONS THIS WEEK!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU ONLY HAD THE ROOM ON SUNDAYS!
TRUE! BUT SINCE THE CLUB DOESN'T OPEN UNTIL EIGHT DURING THE WEEK, WE COULD WORK IN A FEW LATE AFTERNOON LESSONS RIGHT HERE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE SHOWS UP!
YOU'D DO THAT... FOR ME?
SURE... WHY NOT?


I MEAN, THEY WOULDN'T LET ME DO A WHOLE CLASS IN HERE! BUT SETTING IN SOME "EXTRA REHEARSAL TIME"... WITH A "FRIEND"? WHY WOULD THEY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT? *GIGGLE!*
THAT'D BE AWESOME! I WORK UNTIL FIVE! COULD WE DO THESE AROUND 5:30 OR SO FOR AS MANY DAYS THIS WEEK AS YOU CAN STAND ME?
I'LL BE HERE EVERY DAY BY 5:30 STARTING TOMORROW, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!


YOU ARE THE BEST, MARGO! HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT?
MOST OF THE CUSTOMERS HERE DO EVERY NIGHT! BUT THEY'RE USUALLY PRETTY DRUNK, SO I TAKE IT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH! *GIGGLE!*


A while later, back at the apartment...
OH MY GOD, IS IT REALLY AFTERNOON? I HAVEN'T SLEPT THIS LATE SINCE COLLEGE!
THAT'S WHAT THESE DAMN 12-HOUR WORKDAYS ARE DOING TO ME!


THAT'S FUNNY... PHIL'S NOT ON THE COMPUTER, AND I DON'T HEAR THE TV ON!
MAYBE HE WENT TO THE GROCERY STORE, SINCE I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO ALL WEEK!


THE GYM? BUT PHIL HASN'T WORKED OUT IN YEARS! I SUPPOSE IT FIGURES! NOW THAT HE HAS THE MAGNIFICENT BODY OF HIS DREAMS, HE WANTS TO KEEP IT IN SHAPE!
HE NEVER HAD THE MOTIVATION TO WORK OUT AS A MAN, BUT NOW THAT HE'S A BLONDE BOMBSHELL, HE'S FINALLY ABLE TO FIND THE TIME! *SIGH!*


I NEED TO FACE FACTS AND STOP REFERRING TO HIM AS "PHIL" AND START CALLING HER "LILY!"
BECAUSE UNLESS THERE'S SOME SORT OF SPONTANEOUS REVERSION, MY HUSBAND'S NEVER COMING BACK!
Slam!


OH, YOU'RE HERE! I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE HEADED INTO THE OFFICE WHEN YOU WOKE UP!
I WOULD HAVE, BUT I SLEPT PAST NOON! I'M TOTALLY WIPED OUT!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE TAKING THE DAY OFF! IT'S ABOUT TIME!
SO WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE GYM?
UMMM... I DON'T KNOW! A COUPLE OF THINGS!


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD ANY WORKOUT CLOTHES! WHEN DID YOU GET THAT OUTFIT?
UMM... A FEW DAYS AGO!
SO YOU'VE BEEN OUT CLOTHES SHOPPING ON YOUR OWN?
YEAH, I GUESS I HAVE!


AND OF COURSE YOU PICKED OUT THE SKIMPIEST CLOTHES POSSIBLE! IS THAT WHY YOU'RE GOING TO THE GYM, SO YOU CAN GET NICE AND TONED IN ORDER TO SHOW IT OFF?
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, LAURA, I'D APPRECIATE YOU COMING RIGHT OUT AND SAYING IT INSTEAD OF DOING THIS DANCE!
WORKOUT
Ring!


OH, CRAP! THAT'S MY PHONE!
IT MUST BE WORK! HANG ON A MINUTE, OKAY?
SIGH OKAY...
Ring!


HELLO?
PHIL?! NO, UMMM... HE'S OUT OF TOWN RIGHT NOW, AND I DON'T EXPECT HIM BACK FOR AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS!
YES, I'M HIS WIFE, LAURA JOHNSON! WHO IS THIS?


YEAH, LAURA, I LIKE SHOWING OFF MY FABULOUS BODY! GET USED TO IT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE IT TO ME, AFTER ALL! AND IT'S ONE HECK OF A GIFT! SOMETHING I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO RETURN! HEH-HEH!
I LOVE LAURA, BUT SINCE I'M NOT HER HUSBAND ANYMORE, WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE ROLES WE'RE GOING TO PLAY IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES!


Several minutes later...
THAT WAS A LONG CALL! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK IN TODAY, DO YOU?
WELL THAT'S GOOD! THEN WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO FOR SO LONG?
NO! IT, UMMM... IT WASN'T WORK!
IT WAS SOMEONE CALLING ABOUT YOUR CAR!

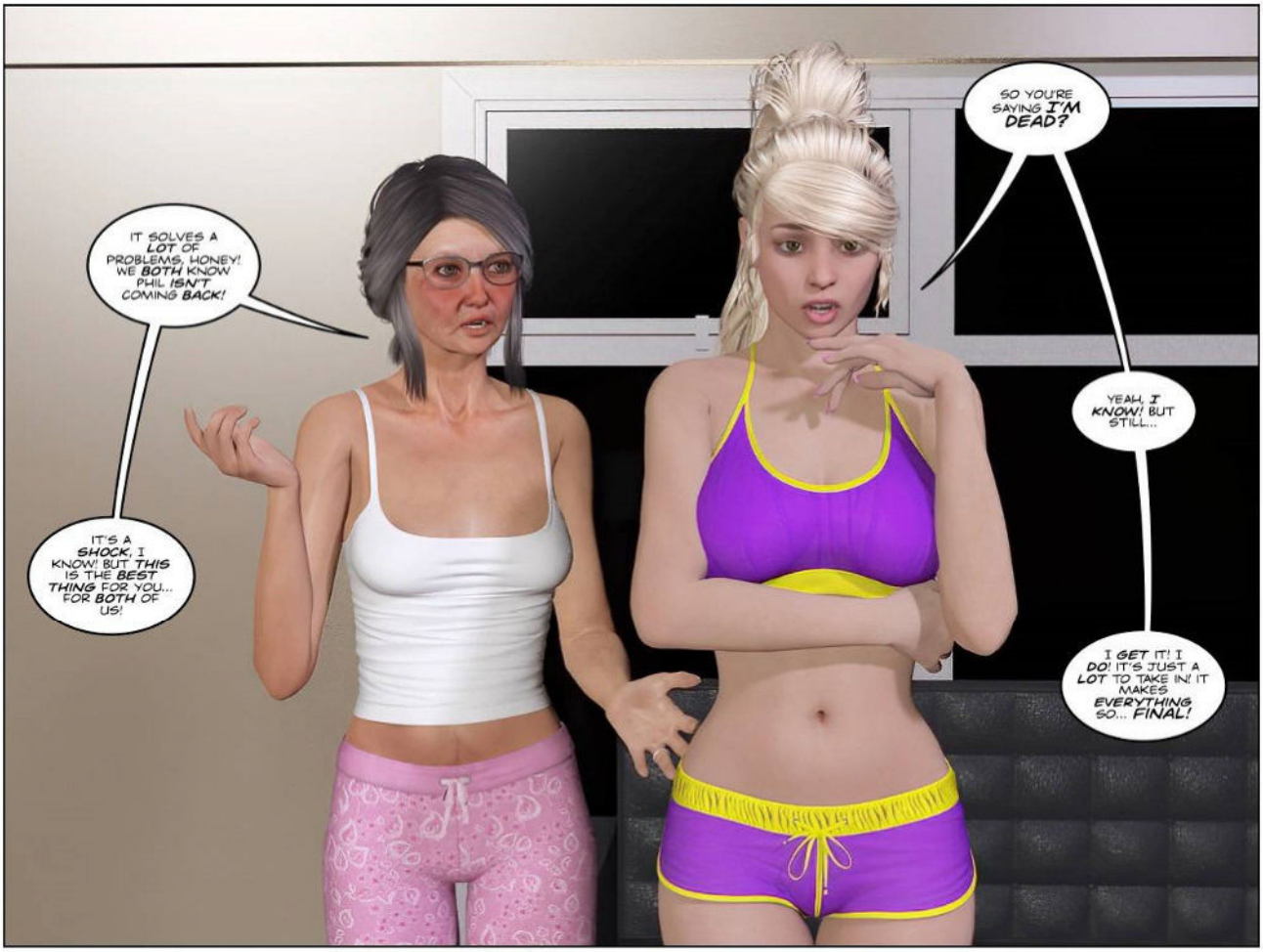

MY CAR? HEY, THAT'S ACTUALLY SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!
IF THEY WANT TO BUY IT, GREAT! THEN WE CAN BUY ME A NEW ONE SO I DON'T HAVE TO KEEP USING ÜBER TO GET AROUND, AND...
NO ONE WANTS TO BUY IT, HONEY! IN FACT, IT'S BEEN WRECKED!


WRECKED? HOW THE HELL DID THAT HAPPEN? WHERE DID YOU HAVE IT PARKED, ANYWAY?
NEW MEXICO...
NEW MEXICO?! WHAT WAS MY CAR DOING IN NEW MEXICO?!
IF YOU'LL JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...


YOU MADE THE COMMENT A FEW WEEKS AGO ABOUT SENDING "PHIL" ON AN EXTENDED FISHING TRIP IN CASE ANYONE CAME LOOKING FOR HIM!
YEAH, BUT NO ONE HAS! SO IT'S ALL GOOD!
WELL, I TOOK THAT IDEA AND KIND OF EXPANDED ON IT!
EXPANDED IT? HOW?
TO MAKE THE STORY MORE BELIEVABLE, I PAID SOMEONE TO DRIVE YOUR CAR TO NEW MEXICO AND PARK IT IN A CAMPING AREA NOT FAR FROM TAOS!
THAT WAY, THERE WOULD BE SOME EVIDENCE THAT YOU ACTUALLY WERE ON A FISHING TRIP!
WELL, I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME, BUT I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE! SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CAR?


THAT WAS THE NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE ON THE PHONE! THEY FOUND YOUR CAR CRASHED AT THE BOTTOM OF A RAVINE ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTHEAST OF TAOS!
IT WAS UPSIDE DOWN IN A FAST-MOVING RIVER, AND THEY THINK IT'S BEEN THERE FOR OVER A WEEK!
SO WHAT DID YOU TELL THEM... THAT SOMEONE STOLE IT AND CRASHED IT?
UMMM... NO! THEY ASSUMED YOU WERE DRIVING IT WHEN IT CRASHED, AND... I DIDN'T CORRECT THEM!


HOLY SHIT! ARE YOU SAYING WHAT I THINK YOU'RE SAYING?!
THE TROOPERS SAID IT'S A VERY FAST-MOVING RIVER, AND THERE ARE LOTS OF PREDATORS THAT FAR BACK IN THE MOUNTAINS... BLACK BEARS, MOUNTAIN LIONS, COYOTES...


IT SOLVES A LOT OF PROBLEMS, HONEY! WE BOTH KNOW PHIL ISN'T COMING BACK!
IT'S A SHOCK, I KNOW! BUT THIS IS THE BEST THING FOR YOU... FOR BOTH OF US!
SO YOU'RE SAYING I'M DEAD?
YEAH, I KNOW! BUT STILL...
I GET IT! I DO! IT'S JUST A LOT TO TAKE IN! IT MAKES EVERYTHING SO... FINAL!

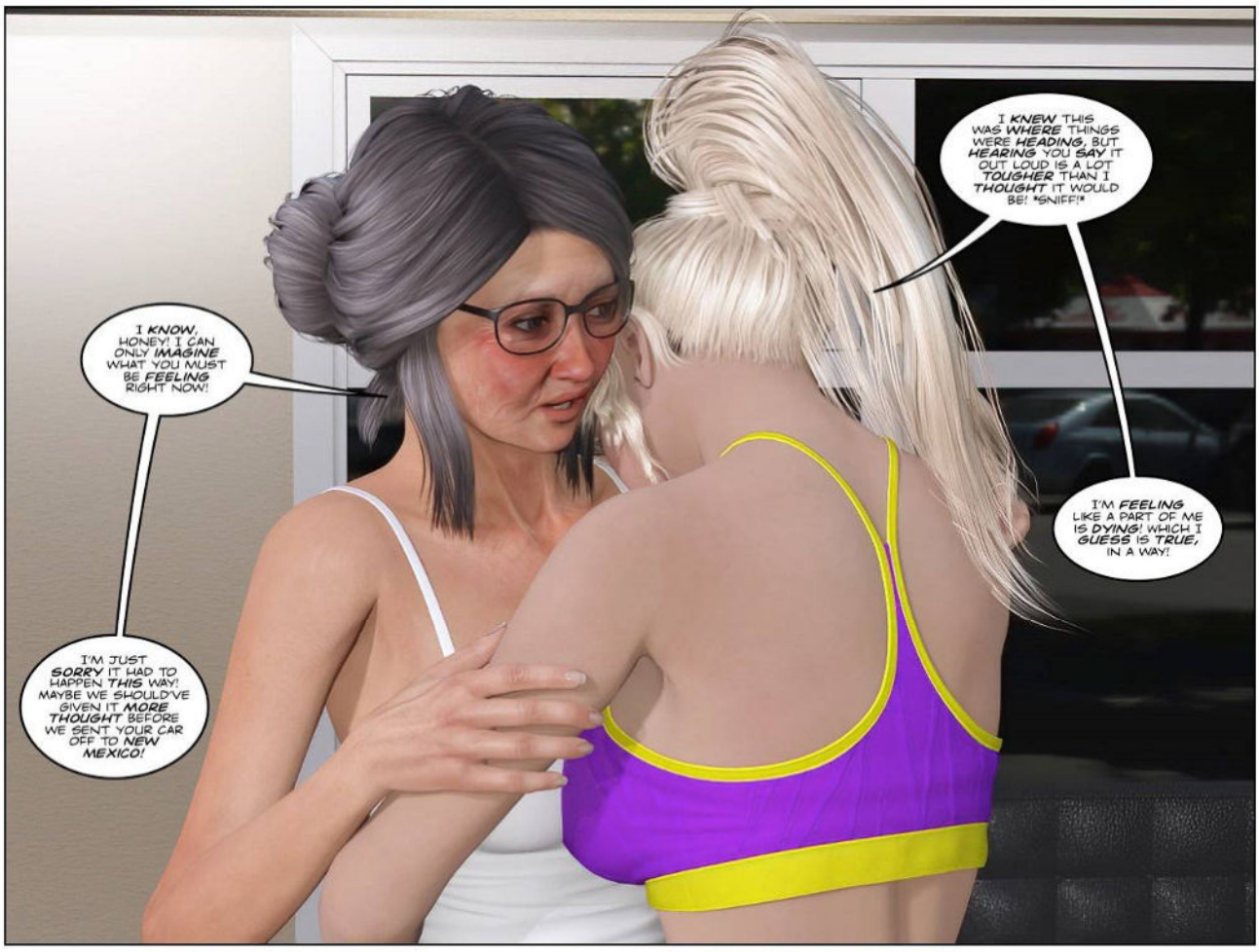

I MEAN, I'VE PRETTY MUCH ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT I'LL NEVER CHANGE BACK TO A MAN!
BUT I SOMEHOW THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO RECLAIM SOME ASPECTS OF MY OLD LIFE!
PART OF ME THOUGHT I COULD GO BACK TO BEING AN EMT SOMEWHERE, AND... AND...
YOU STILL CAN, HONEY! BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT AS LILY ROGERS! THAT'S ALL!


SO THIS IS IT, THEN? I'M LILY ROGERS NOW?
YOU'VE BEEN LILY FOR QUITE SOME TIME HONEY! YOU KNOW THAT!
WE HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO WORK OUT, BUT AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADING!
WE DO? WHAT HAPPENS NOW? ARE YOU STILL GOING TO KEEP TESTING ME TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT WHY I HAVEN'T CHANGED BACK?
NO, WE WON'T BE SUBJECTING YOU TO ANY MORE TESTS! THAT'S SOMETHING I WAS PLANNING TO DISCUSS BEFORE I GOT THAT PHONE CALL!


WE'VE DONE EVERY TEST WE POSSIBLY CAN, AND WE'RE AT A DEAD END! WE DON'T KNOW WHY YOUR TRANSFORMATION STUCK WHEN NOBODY ELSE'S HAS, BUT IT'S SAFE TO SAY THIS IS THE BODY YOU'LL POSSESS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
I PRETTY MUCH FIGURED THAT, BUT WHO AM I? I MEAN, WE GAVE LILY ROGERS A LIFE HISTORY, BUT IT'S PRETTY SPARSE!
DON'T WORRY! GNI CAN ENHANCE YOUR RECORDS, AND WE'LL GO THROUGH EVERYTHING WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB TO MAKE SURE IT'S AIRTIGHT!
NO ONE WILL EVER SUSPECT THAT LILY ROGERS DIDN'T EXIST BEFORE A FEW WEEKS AGO!




SOB!


I KNOW, HONEY! I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT YOU MUST BE FEELING RIGHT NOW!
I'M JUST SORRY IT HAD TO HAPPEN THIS WAY! MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE GIVEN IT MORE THOUGHT BEFORE WE SENT YOUR CAR OFF TO NEW MEXICO!
I KNEW THIS WAS WHERE THINGS WERE HEADING, BUT HEARING YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD IS A LOT TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE! *SNIFF!*
I'M FEELING LIKE A PART OF ME IS DYING! WHICH I GUESS IS TRUE, IN A WAY!


WE...?
OH SHIT!


I... I COULDN'T DO IT ALL ALONE, HONEY! I NEEDED HELP AND COULDN'T ASK YOU TO...
COME TO THINK OF IT... YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO NEW MEXICO IN YOUR LIFE! HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO SEND MY CAR?
WHO HELPED YOU WITH THIS, LAURA?


JACK. JACK HELPED ME WITH EVERYTHING!


AND TO DO THAT HE'D HAVE TO KNOW WHY, WOULDN'T HE?
YES... YES, HE WOULD.
BUT, YOU SEE, HE SAW YOU COMING OUT OF MY OFFICE THAT FIRST DAY AND... AND FIGURED IT OUT... AND...
AND...


SIGH! THE TRUTH IS, HE'S KNOWN ALL ABOUT YOU FROM THE START! I'M SORRY, HONEY!
BUT YOU... YOU SWORE TO ME... YOU SAID...


WOW... HERE I WAS, READY TO SAY THAT I UNDERSTOOD WHY YOU TURNED TO JACK IN THE FIRST PLACE AND THAT IF YOU WANTED TO BE WITH HIM NOW, I'D BE FINE WITH IT! BUT NOW?
SEEING HOW EASY IT WAS FOR YOU TO THROW AWAY MY "LAST SHRED OF DIGNITY", I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THAT!


IN FACT, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH EACH OTHER UNTIL I CAN PROCESS THIS!
SO UNTIL I TELL YOU OTHERWISE, PLEASE CONSIDER ME AS LITTLE MORE THAN A ROOMMATE!


A VERY PISSED OFF AND VOLATILE ROOMMATE WHO NEEDS A LOT OF SPACE!


Slam!!


SHIT...


The next day...
IT WASN'T MY GUY, LAURA, I SWEAR! I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS, AND HE'D NEVER DELIBERATELY STEAL OR CRASH THE CAR!
HE DID EXACTLY WHAT WE ASKED HIM TO DO... DROVE YOUR HUSBAND'S CAR OUT TO THE TAOS AREA, MADE A FEW CHARGES ON PHIL'S CREDIT CARDS, AND THEN PARKED IT IN A SECLUDED CAMPING AREA!
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY THEY THINK IT WAS CRASHED OVER A WEEK AGO? WELL, THAT PROVES IT WASN'T MY GUY BECAUSE HE WAS BACK HERE IN TOWN TWO WEEKS AGO, RIGHT AFTER WE SENT HIM OUT THERE!
BUT IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, I'LL GIVE HIM A CALL AND MAKE SURE HE'S OKAY AND NOT BEING EATEN BY A BEAR SOMEWHERE!
THANK YOU, JACK! THAT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BETTER!


I'M SORRY MY INVOLVEMENT HAS GOT HER SO UPSET WITH YOU! ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP PATCH THINGS UP BETWEEN YOU TWO?
I SWEAR, IN ALL THE YEARS WE'VE BEEN MARRIED, I'VE NEVER SEEN PHIL SO ANGRY BEFORE!
I CAN DEFINITELY KEEP DOING THAT, IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT!
NO! THE BEST THING FOR YOU IS TO CONTINUE KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE FROM HER HERE AT WORK!


I JUST CAN'T GET OVER THE LOOK SHE GAVE ME BEFORE STORMING OFF! I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE THAT BLONDE HEAD OF HERS!
BLONDE? I THOUGHT SHE WAS A REDHEAD!
DIDN'T I EVER MENTION THAT? LILY STARTED DYING HER HAIR BLONDE BEFORE SHE STARTED WORKING AT GNI! PART OF HER PLAN TO STAY HIDDEN FROM YOU!
WELL, UHHH... IT DEFINITELY WORKED! IF I HAVE SEEN HER OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, I CERTAINLY HAVEN'T RECOGNIZED HER!


I'LL LET YOU GET BACK TO WORK! KEEP ME UPDATED, OKAY?
YOU BET! I'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS I HEAR FROM MY FRIEND! TALK TO YOU THEN, BABE!


NO NEED TO TELL YOU I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO HIM! IN FACT, JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS AFTER HE CRASHED THAT CAR RIGHT WHERE I TOLD HIM TO!
AND THE RESULTS HAVE PANNED OUT JUST AS I'D HOPED THEY WOULD... GIVING LAURA THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON HER HUSBAND... FINALLY!
THE FUNNIEST PART IS KILLING OFF PHIL MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AS NECESSARY AS I FIGURED!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HOT BLONDE IN DARLA'S POSSE IS LAURA'S HUSBAND! DAMN! LOOKS LIKE MY IDEA OF TEAMING HER UP WITH DARLA WORKED OUT EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED IT WOULD!
I'M DYING TO GET MORE INTEL ON LILY, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT DIRECTLY!


FORTUNATELY, THOUGH, I DO HAVE AN INDIRECT PIPELINE TO THAT KIND OF INFO!


HEY, JAYA! HOW WAS YOUR WEEKEND?
OH, HI, JACK! NOTHING SPECTACULAR, I'M AFRAID! SPENT MOST OF IT MAKING WEDDING PLANS WITH MY FIANCÉ!


SOUNDS KIND OF BORING!
OH, IT WAS... ESPECIALLY FOR HIM!
FORTUNATELY, I'M GONNA MAKE UP FOR IT THIS NEXT WEEKEND!
OH, YEAH? YOU TWO GOT SPECIAL PLANS, HUH?
NOPE! HEADED OUT FOR A MUCH-NEEDED WEEKEND WITH THE GIRLS!
REALLY? SOUNDS LIKE FUN!


TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!


Later that day, as 5 o'clock rolls around...
HEY, LILY! MAEVE, JAYA, AND I ARE GONNA GO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING... A LITTLE PRE-WEEKEND PREP, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
WANT TO GO WITH?


MY BANK ACCOUNT BARELY SURVIVED OUR LAST OUTING, SO I THINK I'M GOING TO PASS!
BESIDES, I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED FOR OUR WEEKEND!
OH, C'MON! YOU CAN STILL TAG ALONG! IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO BUY ANYTHING!
I KNOW, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I ALREADY HAVE PLANS!
NOTHING NEARLY AS INTERESTING AS YOU MIGHT THINK!
OOOO! WHAT PLANS... AND WITH WHOM?

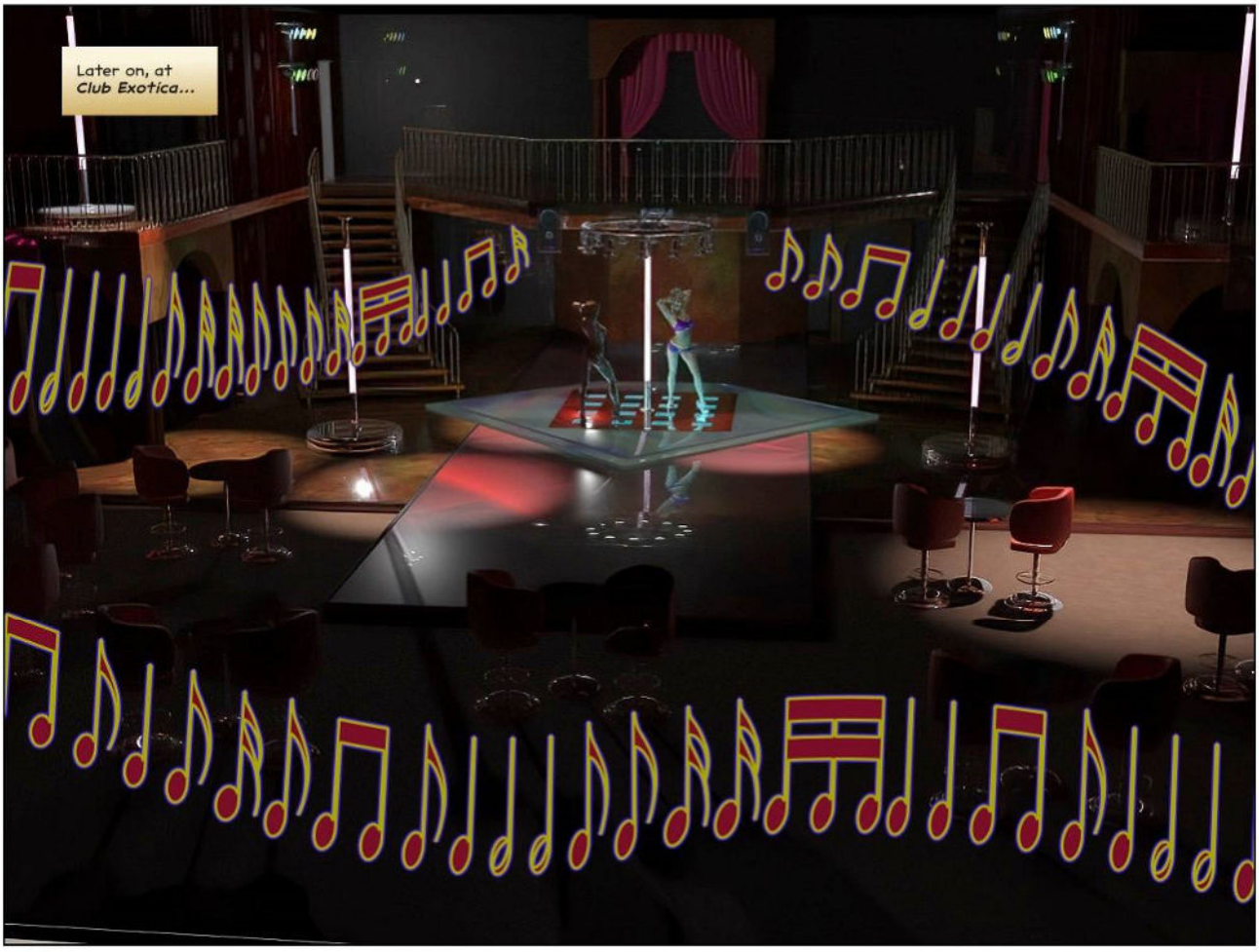

YOU SEE, UMMM... SINCE THIS WEEKEND WILL BE MY FIRST OUTING IN THE SOUTH TEXAS SUN, I FIGURED I'D GET A LITTLE PRE-TAN ON THIS ALABASTER MINNESOTA SKIN OF MINE BEFORE WE GO!
SO I'VE SCHEDULED A COUPLE OF TANNING SESSIONS THIS WEEK! DON'T WANT TO COME BACK LOOKING LIKE A BROILED LOBSTER, YOU KNOW!

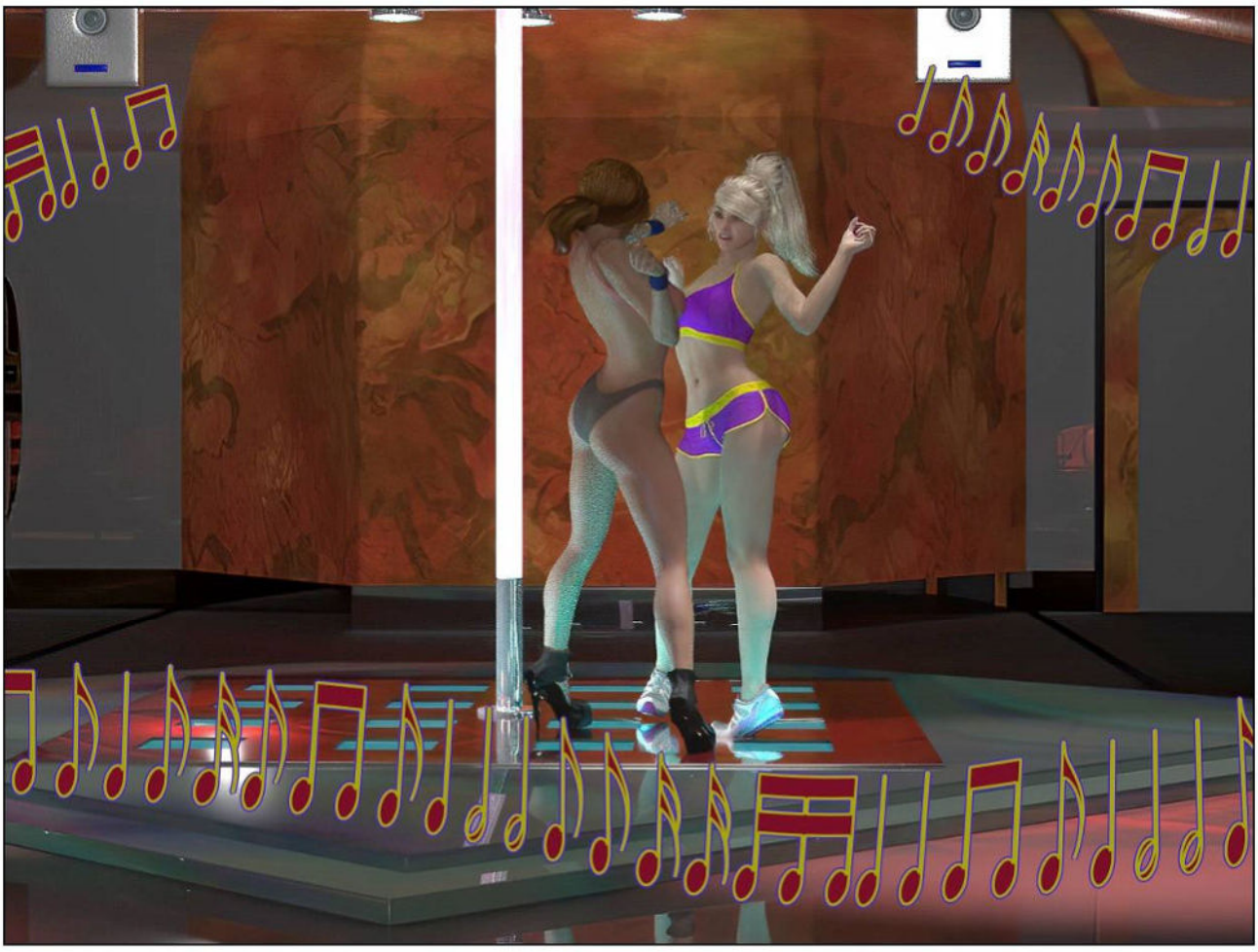

BUT YOU ALL HAVE FUN, AND I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
WELL, OKAY! SEE YOU TOMORROW, SWEETIE!
YEAH, LATER, LILY!
BYE!


WELL, GREAT! NOW I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO SQUEEZE IN SOME TANNING SESSIONS AFTER MY DANCE LESSONS!


SIGH! I HOPE THERE'S ONE ON THE WAY HOME THAT STAYS OPEN LATE!



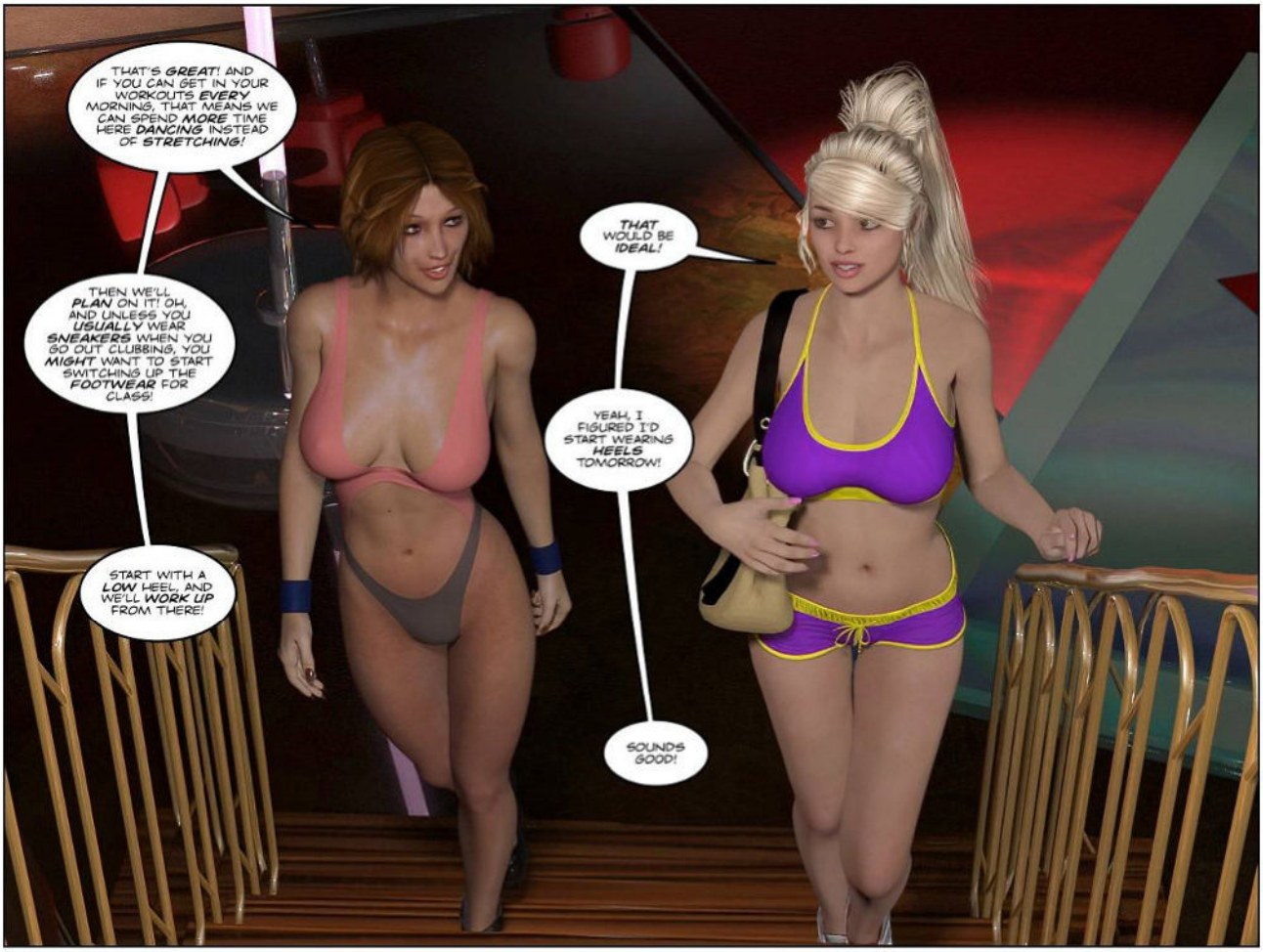

Later on, at
Club Exotica...




I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CALL IT A DAY, LILY!
ALREADY? IT FEELS LIKE WE JUST GOT STARTED!


WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR ALMOST AN HOUR AND A HALF! YOU STAY OUT HERE MUCH LONGER, AND YOU'LL BE DANCING FOR CUSTOMERS!
NOT THAT ANY OF THEM WOULD COMPLAIN, I'M SURE! *GIGGLE!*
WELL... OKAY!


YOU DID GREAT TODAY! YOU SURE SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY TO WORK WITH!
WELL DANCING IS A GREAT WAY TO WORK OUT HOSTILITIES! THAT AND THE GYM!
YEAH, I'M, UMMM... WORKING THROUGH A FEW THINGS WITH MY ROOMMATE THESE DAYS, SO I GUESS I HAVE A LOT OF AGGRESSION TO BURN OFF!
OH, I'VE STARTED USING OUR COMPANY GYM EVERY MORNING, TOO! IF NOTHING ELSE, IT GIVES ME AN EXCUSE TO GET UP AND BE GONE BEFORE SHE GETS UP!


THAT'S GREAT! AND IF YOU CAN GET IN YOUR WORKOUTS EVERY MORNING, THAT MEANS WE CAN SPEND MORE TIME HERE DANCING INSTEAD OF STRETCHING!
THAT WOULD BE IDEAL!
THEN WE'LL PLAN ON IT! OH, AND UNLESS YOU USUALLY WEAR SNEAKERS WHEN YOU GO OUT CLUBBING, YOU MIGHT WANT TO START SWITCHING UP THE FOOTWEAR FOR CLASS!
YEAH, I FIGURED I'D START WEARING HEELS TOMORROW!
START WITH A LOW HEEL, AND WE'LL WORK UP FROM THERE!
SOUNDS GOOD!


OH, I ALMOST FORGOT... DO YOU KNOW OF A GOOD TANNING SALON NEARBY THAT'S OPEN LATE?
YEAH! SOLAR HEAT, ABOUT 5 BLOCKS SOUTH OF HERE! TELL THEM I SENT YOU, AND I'LL GET A FREE MONTH OF TANS! *GIGGLE!*
YOU'RE ON! THANKS AGAIN, MARGO! SEE YOU TOMORROW!


And as the week progresses...


So do Lily's dancing skills...


As well as her confidence...


And as the week comes to an end...

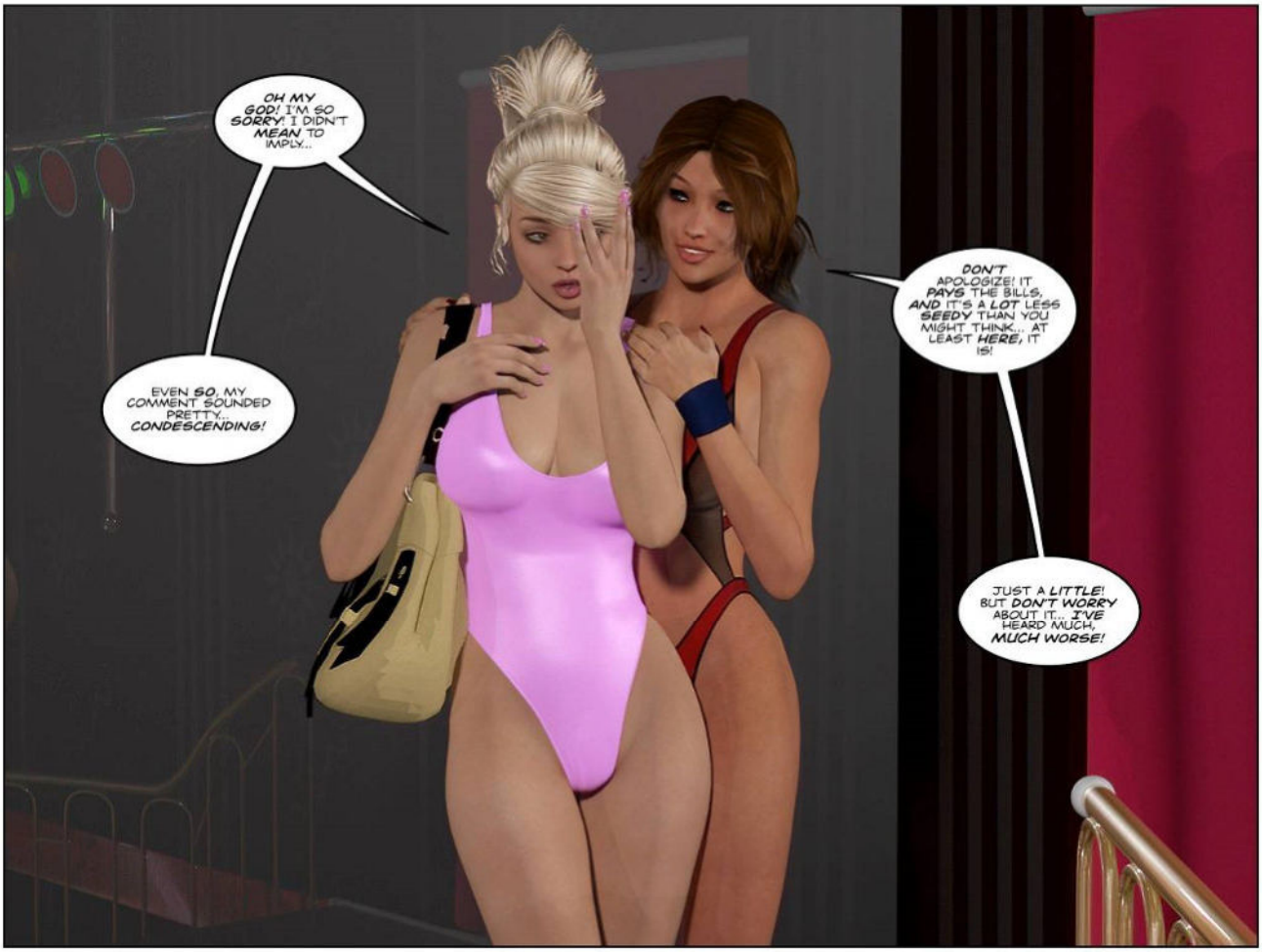

WOW! IF YOU CAN PULL OFF THAT MOVE WITH A DANCE PARTNER INSTEAD OF A POLE, YOU'LL HAVE HIM WRAPPED AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER! *GIGGLE!*
WELL, THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I WAS ORIGINALLY GOING FOR, BUT IF THAT'S THE END RESULT, WHO AM I TO COMPLAIN? *GIGGLE!*
BUT IT WILL MAKE ME LOOK GOOD TO THE OTHER GIRLS, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I AM GOING FOR!


YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HAD A STUDENT WHO'S IMPROVED AS MUCH IN ONE WEEK AS YOU HAVE!
THANKS! THAT REALLY MEANS A LOT TO ME, MARGO!
IT'S TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE IN CLASS ON SUNDAY! THE OTHER GIRLS WILL BE BLOWN AWAY WHEN THEY SEE YOUR NEW MOVES!


THANKS! I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER ABOUT THIS WEEKEND! I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN!
YOU'VE WORKED HARD! YOU DESERVE IT! I'M GOING TO MISS THESE LITTLE SESSIONS OF OURS!
ACTUALLY, I WAS KIND OF HOPING WE COULD CONTINUE THESE LESSONS NEXT WEEK, IF YOU DON'T MIND! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HEY, IF YOU DON'T MIND RUSHING OVER HERE EVERY DAY AFTER WORK, I DON'T MIND TAKING YOUR MONEY! *GIGGLE!*


SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, I THINK THAT'D BE GREAT! LIKE I SAID, YOU SEEM TO HAVE A REAL KNACK FOR THIS!
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT TEACHER! TRUST ME... I'VE NEVER BEEN KNOWN FOR HAVING GRACE OR SEDUCTIVENESS!


YEAH... I DON'T THINK SO! TAKING MY CLOTHES OFF IN A ROOM FULL OF DRUNK AND HORNY MEN IS SOMETHING I HAVE NEVER, EVER IMAGINED MYSELF DOING!
I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE! IN FACT, WE BETTER BE SURE TO ALWAYS FINISH UP BEFORE THE BOSS GETS HERE... OTHERWISE, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF HIRED ON THE SPOT!
UNLESS THAT'S SOMETHING YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN! *GIGGLE!*
VERY FEW OF US DO, SWEETIE... AT LEAST UNTIL WE'RE ACTUALLY DOING IT!


OH MY GOD! I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO IMPLY...
EVEN SO, MY COMMENT SOUNDED PRETTY... CONDESCENDING!
DON'T APOLOGIZE! IT PAYS THE BILLS, AND IT'S A LOT LESS SEEDY THAN YOU MIGHT THINK... AT LEAST HERE, IT IS!
JUST A LITTLE! BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... I'VE HEARD MUCH, MUCH WORSE!


SO, I'LL PLAN ON SEEING YOU MONDAY AFTERNOON... SAME DANCE TIME, SAME DANCE CHANNEL? *GIGGLE!*
I'LL BE HERE!
HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FRIENDS THIS WEEKEND!
OH, I DEFINITELY HOPE TO! BYE, MARGO!


The next morning...
AND THERE HE GOES... BRIGHT AND EARLY, JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK!
Slam!
SIGH! ANYTHING HE CAN DO TO AVOID SEEING OR TALKING TO ME!


I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR BEING PISSED, BUT HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO CALM DOWN AND TALK TO ME AT SOME POINT! WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
NOW WHO ON EARTH COULD THAT BE THIS EARLY?
Ring!


HELLO?
OH, HI, STUART! WHAT'S UP?
UMMM, SURE! I WAS ON MY WAY OUT THE DOOR ANYWAY! I'LL BE THERE IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES!
OKAY... SEE YOU THEN!

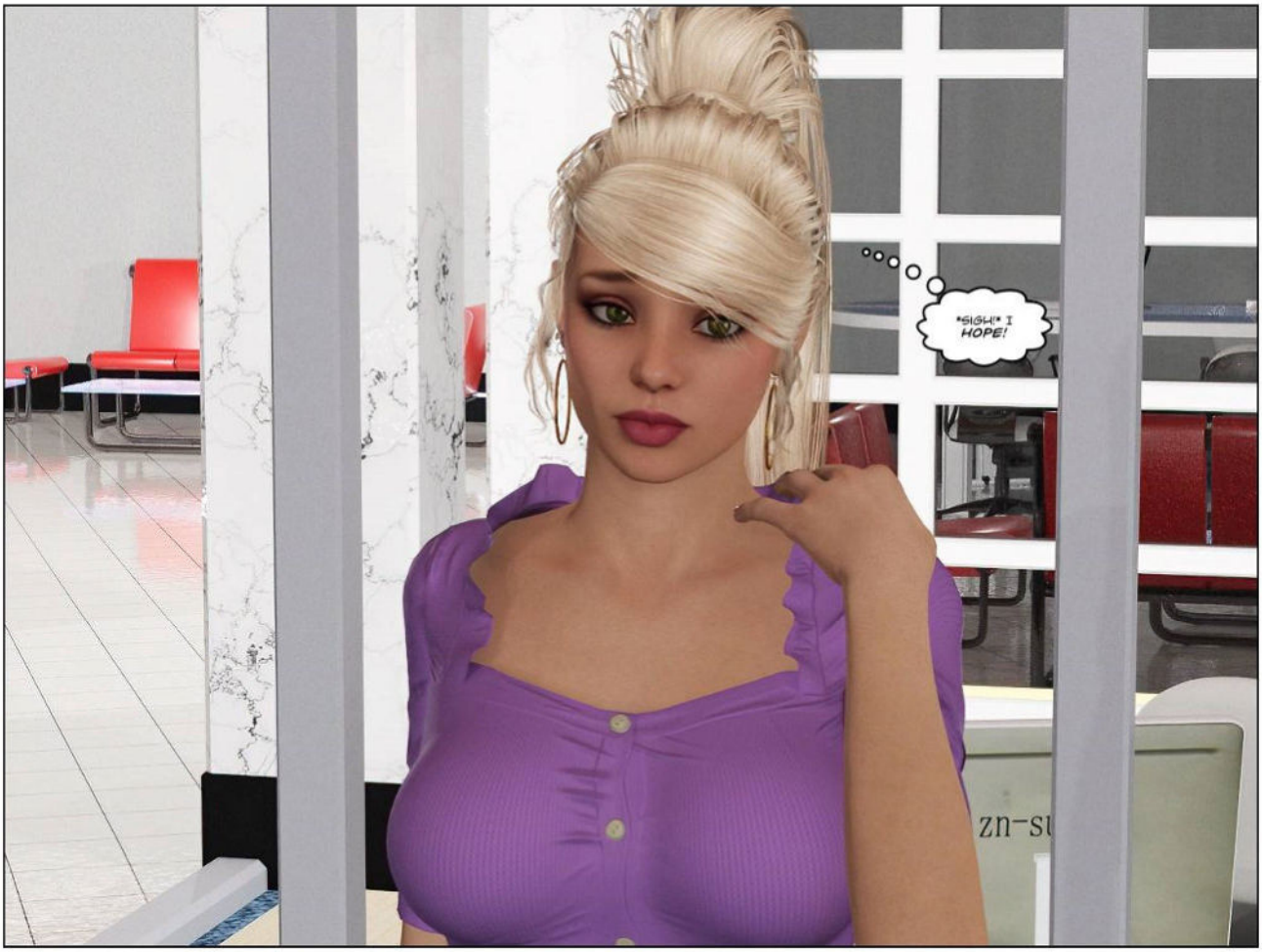

UH-OH! WHEN YOUR BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, IT'S EITHER VERY GOOD NEWS OR VERY BAD NEWS!
CONSIDERING HOW THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS HAVE GONE, I HAVE A SINKING FEELING I KNOW WHICH ONE IT IS!


Later that morning, at GNI...


THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING ME STASH MY BAGS IN YOUR CAR, DARLA! HOPEFULLY I'LL HAVE MY OWN CAR SOON AND WON'T HAVE TO MOOCH OFF THE KINDNESS OF MY FRIENDS!
NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL! IN FACT, I TOLD MAEVE AND JAYA TO DO THE SAME WITH THEIR BAGS SOMETIME TODAY!
IT MAKES IT A HELL OF A LOT EASIER FOR ALL OF US TO GET OUT OF HERE FASTER AFTER WORK SO WE CAN MAKE OUR FLIGHT TO PADRE!


BY THE WAY, YOUR "PRE-TAN", AS YOU CALL IT, LOOKS GREAT! YOU'RE GONNA KNOCK 'EM DEAD ON THE BEACH!
THANKS! AS LONG AS I DON'T COME BACK LOOKING LIKE A FIRE HYDRANT, I'M HAPPY!
ANY INTERESTING TAN LINES TO SPEAK OF?
I'M NOT SAYIN'! *GIGGLE!*
UH-OH! HR? WHAT DO THEY WANT?


WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
UPSTAIRS! I'VE BEEN SUMMONED BY HR!
HAVE YOU BEEN HARASSING THE GUYS IN THE LAB AGAIN?
HEY, I'VE TRIED TO BE A GOOD GIRL! *GIGGLE!*
BACK IN A LITTLE BIT!


SIGH! I HOPE!


At about that same time, many floors above the HR offices...
STUART, YOU'VE KEPT ME IN SUSPENSE SINCE I GOT HERE! I REALLY WISH YOU'D TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
YOU'LL SEE, LAURA! JUST BE PATIENT A LITTLE BIT LONGER!


AND WHY ARE WE UP HERE INSTEAD OF IN YOUR OFFICE? WHOSE OFFICE IS THIS ANYWAY?
IT'S THE NEW OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF RESEARCH! LIKE IT?
IT'S GORGEOUS! BUT WHO IS THIS NEW VP? I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE POSITION BEFORE!
THAT'S BECAUSE WE JUST CREATED IT... FOR YOU!


ME?! YOU... YOU MEAN I'M GETTING PROMOTED AFTER ALL?
WHY WOULDN'T YOU? MY GOD, LAURA... YOU WERE OUR ONE AND ONLY CHOICE FOR THE POSITION!
YOU'VE BEEN A ROCK THESE LAST FEW WEEKS! AND THE YEARS LEADING UP TO NOW HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT STELLAR!
YOU DESERVE IT!


OH MY GOD, STUART! I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
THEN DON'T SAY ANYTHING... LET ME DO THE TALKING!


YOU'RE INVALUABLE TO THIS COMPANY, LAURA, AND WE WANT TO SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH!
BESIDES A VERY SIGNIFICANT BUMP IN SALARY, THERE ARE OTHER PERKS THAT I THINK YOU'LL BE VERY PLEASED WITH!
NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS UNRESTRICTED ACCESS AND USE OF SERUM FGMX!
UNRESTRICTED? YOU MEAN I CAN START USING IT HERE AT WORK?
OF COURSE! WE HAVE A PROGRAM TO TRANSITION YOU TO YOUR NEW ROLE... ALONG WITH THE NEW BODY YOU MAY SELECT!


THIS... THIS IS ALL SO OVERWHELMING, STUART! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!
THANK US BY CONTINUING TO DO THE AMAZING WORK YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE!
OF COURSE I WILL!


I'LL LEAVE YOU TO GET ACCLIMATED TO YOUR NEW ENVIRONMENT UP HERE! FEEL FREE TO REDECORATE AS YOU SEE FIT! AND SOMEONE FROM IT SHOULD BE BY IN A FEW MINUTES TO SET UP YOUR NEW COMPUTER!
YOU'LL HAVE ACCESS TO A NEW EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT THAT GIVES YOU ACCESS TO THE SPECIAL PROGRAM I MENTIONED! THERE ARE QUITE A FEW DECISIONS FOR YOU TO MAKE!
THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING CAREFULLY, BECAUSE YOU'LL BE MAKING A NUMBER OF LIFE-ALTERING DECISIONS!
I... I WILL, STUART! AND THANK YOU AGAIN!


SIGH FINALLY!


Meanwhile, back in Research...
THERE YOU ARE! I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT YOU!
THEY DIDN'T MAKE YOU REWATCH ALL THOSE TRAINING VIDEOS AGAIN, DID THEY? *GIGGLE!*
zn-sunny


NO... NOTHING AS BORING AS THAT! IT WAS JUST SOME, UMMM... PAPERWORK THEY NEEDED FROM ME!
IT JUST TOOK ME A WHILE BECAUSE I DECIDED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRETCH MY LEGS A BIT ON THE WAY BACK!


I'M NOT GOING TO RUIN YOUR DAY AND THE WHOLE DAMN WEEKEND TELLING YOU I JUST SPENT THE LAST TWENTY MINUTES CRYING MY EYES OUT IN THE LADIES ROOM BECAUSE THEY JUST TOLD ME TODAY IS MY LAST DAY HERE AT GNI!
I... I GUESS THAT, SINCE I'VE BEEN GIVING HER THE COLD SHOULDER, LAURA DECIDED TO LASH OUT!
I JUST NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D GO THIS FAR! JESUS!
GOD! WHAT WOULD THAT DEPARTMENT DO WITHOUT ALL THEIR PRECIOUS PAPERWORK? I SWEAR!

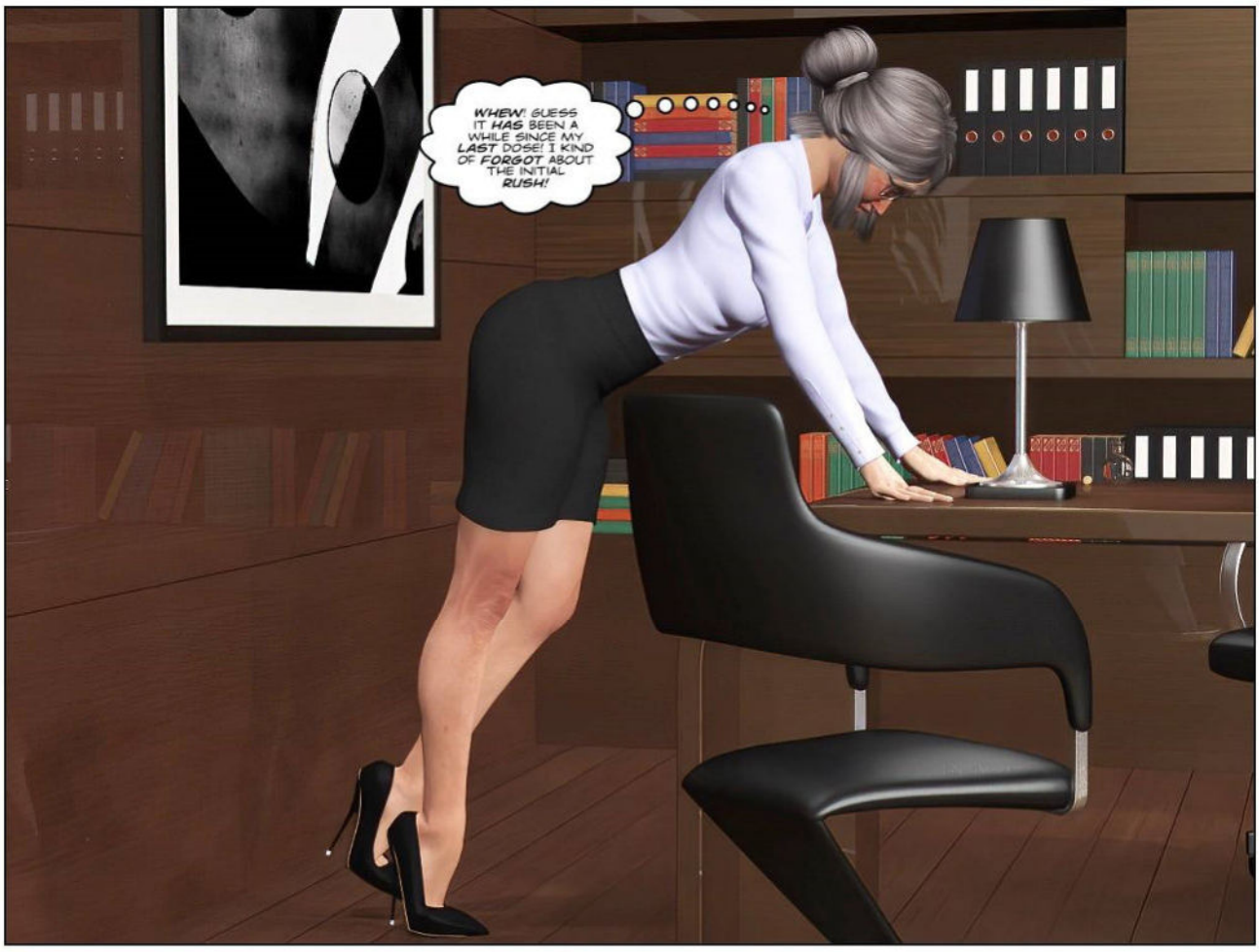

SNIFF! SO, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE WE WERE SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY HR?
SOMETHING ABOUT GETTING OUR BUTTS OUT OF HERE ASAP AFTER WORK SO WE CAN MAKE OUR FLIGHT AND HAVE LOTS OF TIME TO PARTY TONIGHT IN PADRE!
THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT!


BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I NEED THIS WEEKEND!


Later that morning...
WOW! STUART WASN'T KIDDING WHEN HE SAID THIS PROGRAM THEY'RE OFFERING WAS LIFE-ALTERING!
I THOUGHT THE ENORMOUS RAISE I RECEIVED WOULD BE THE MOST EXCITING PART OF THIS PROMOTION, BUT SEEING THESE OTHER PERKS... DAMN!


I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL SEVEN DAYS A WEEK... AS LONG AS I TAKE SERUM FSMX ON A REGULAR BASIS, THAT IS!
I ALREADY ORDERED UP A FRESH BATCH, TO MY SPECIFICATIONS... NO MORE WAITING AROUND, HOPING TO GET MY HANDS ON WHATEVER SURPLUS DOSES MIGHT BE ON HAND FOR A BIT OF WEEKEND FUN!

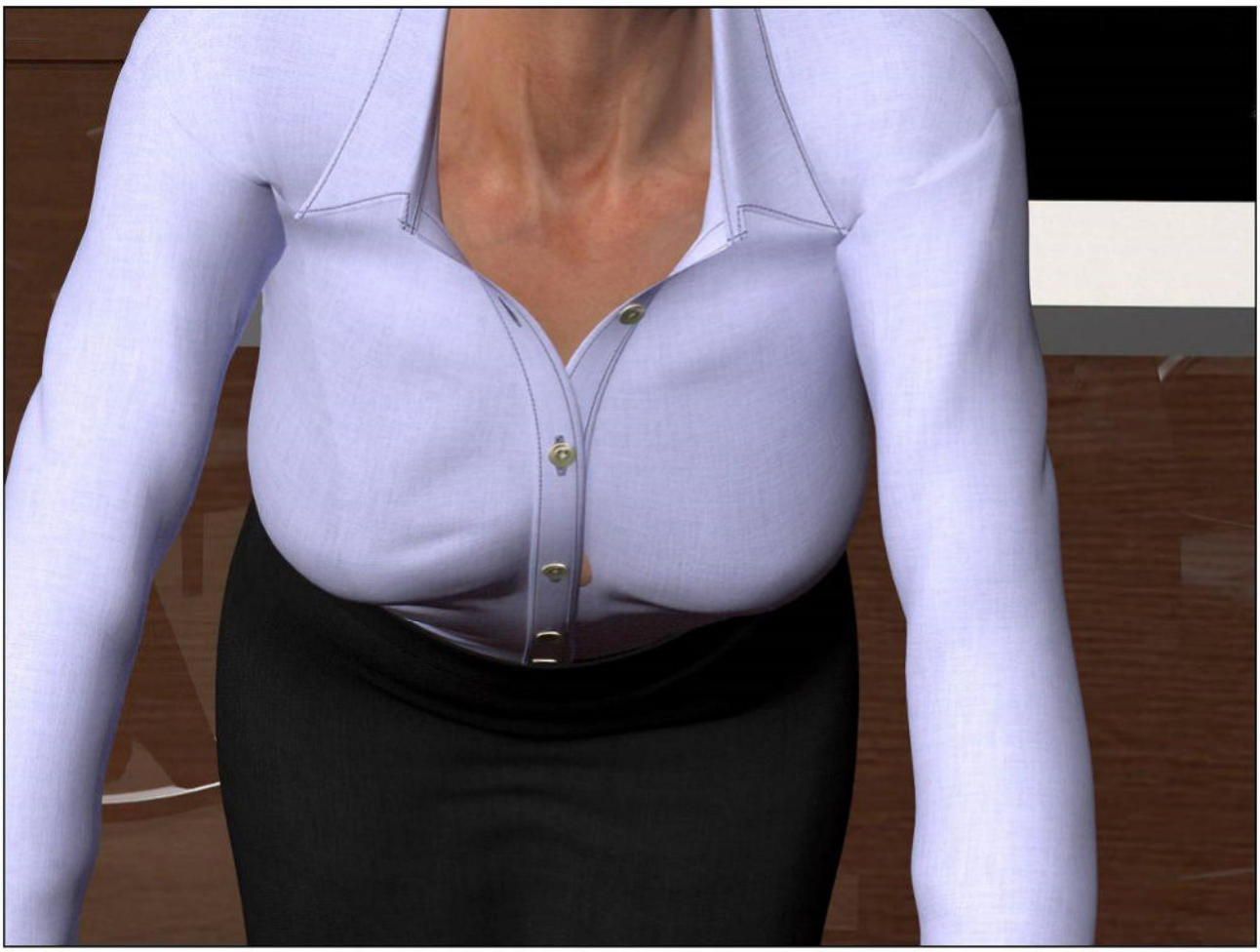

WHY THE HELL SHOULD I WAIT ONE MORE MINUTE? I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DO!


WHEW! GUESS IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST DOSE! I KIND OF FORGOT ABOUT THE INITIAL RUSH!





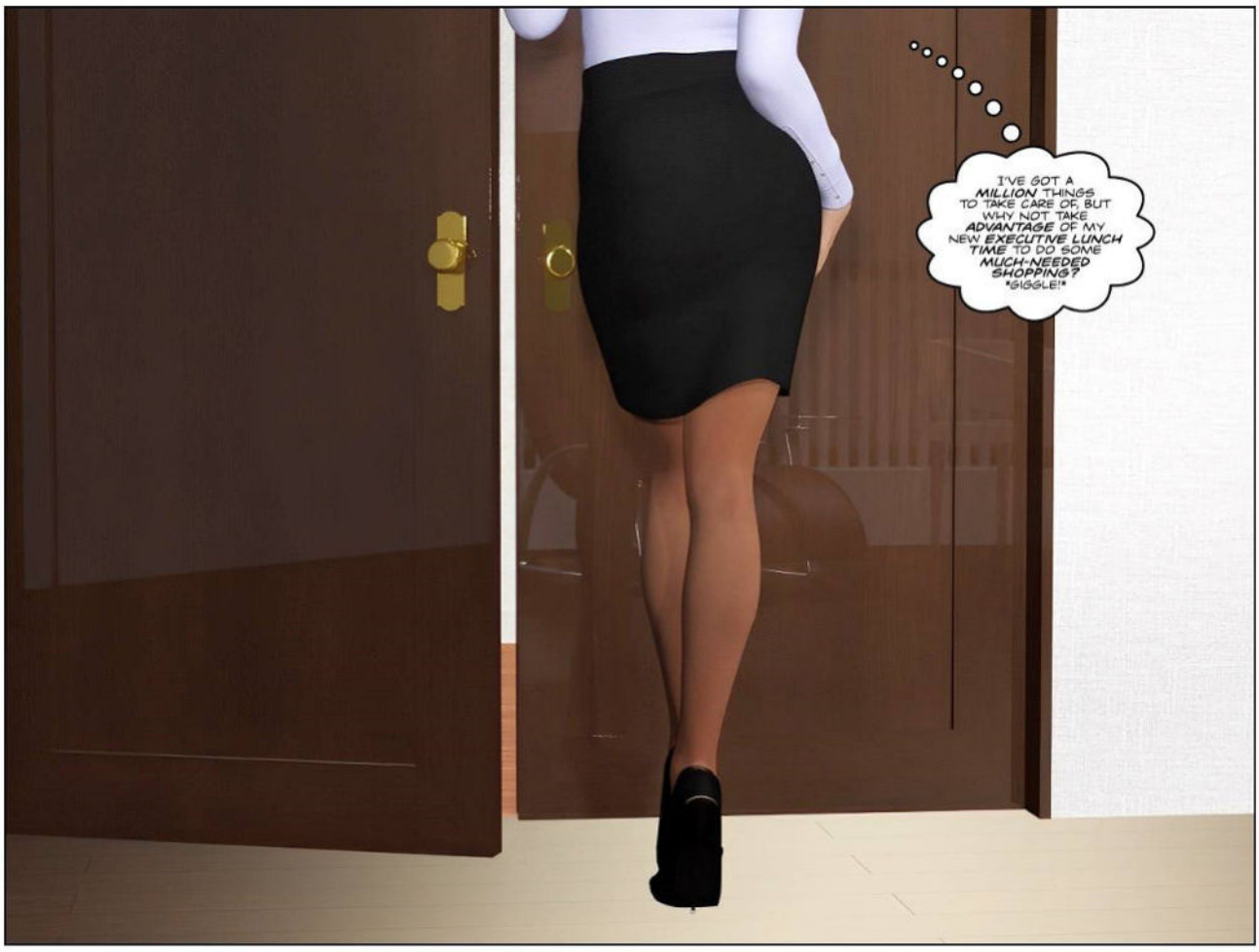









AHHH! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW WONDERFUL HAVING A BODY LIKE THIS FEELS!


I'VE GOT A MILLION THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF, BUT WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY NEW EXECUTIVE LUNCH TIME TO DO SOME MUCH-NEEDED SHOPPING?
GIGGLE!


A couple of hours later...
NOW WHY THE HELL AM I BEING SUMMONED TO SEE THE NEW VP OF RESEARCH? I'M NOT EVEN IN THAT DEPARTMENT!
IT'S NOT LIKE GNI TO BRING IN A NEW HIRE AT THIS LEVEL! WHOEVER THIS LANA STEWART IS, SHE MUST BE HOT SHIT!


I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY BROUGHT IN AN OUTSIDER FOR THIS NEW POSITION ABOVE LAURA'S! SHE WAS HOPING TO GET PROMOTED, BUT OBVIOUSLY THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN!
I WONDER IF SHE ALREADY KNOWS!
Knock! Knock!
COME IN!


HI, UMMM... I'M JACK KELLY! I WAS TOLD YOU WANTED TO SEE ME! AND...


WHOA!!
YES, YES, I DID, MR. KELLY!


I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME UP HERE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, MR. KELLY.. OR CAN I CALL YOU JACK?
UH, JACK IS... UHMM, FINE!
GOOD! THEN JACK IT IS!


YOU SEE, JACK, I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME!
YOU HAVE? BUT HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT ME? DIDN'T YOU JUST START WORKING AT GNI TODAY?
OH, MY INTEREST IN YOU HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH COMPANY BUSINESS, JACK!
IT... IT DOESN'T?


HOLY SHIT! THIS CHICK IS ÜBER HOT, BUT ALSO ÜBER CRAZY!
I... I...
MMM-MMM! MY INTEREST IS ENTIRELY PERSONAL, BUT I STILL DO MEAN BUSINESS... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!


LOOK, MS. STEWART, I APPRECIATE THE INTEREST... REALLY I DO! BUT I CAN'T DO THIS!
YEAH... YOU ARE INCREDIBLY HOT! AND YOU CAN PROBABLY FIRE ME ON THE SPOT, BUT I... I JUST CAN'T!
REALLY? EVEN THOUGH I'M IN A POSITION OF POWER... AND COULD REALLY HELP YOU RISE IN THE COMPANY?
I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YOUR REASON WHY!


MAYBE IT'S AN OUTDATED NOTION IN TODAY'S BUSINESS WORLD, BUT... I'M AFRAID I'M ALREADY TAKEN!
AND IF MY LOYALTY TO THE WOMAN I LOVE GETS ME FIRED... SO BE IT!




OH... YOU DO KNOW JUST THE RIGHT THING TO SAY TO A GIRL, DON'T YOU?


MMPH!!


MMPH?


LAURA?!
SURPRISE, BABY! HOW'D YOU'D YOU FIGURE OUT IT WAS ME?
THAT LITTLE THING YOU ALWAYS DO WITH YOUR TONGUE IS PRETTY UNIQUE. BUT... WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!


YOU LIKE? IT'S A WHOLE NEW ME TO GO WITH A WHOLE NEW JOB!
YOU MEAN...?
I GOT A BIG PROMOTION! YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE NEW VP IN CHARGE OF RESEARCH!
THAT IS AWESOME, BABE! BUT WHAT'S WITH THIS LANA STEWART BUSINESS?
BECAUSE THIS IS WHO I'M GOING TO BE FROM NOW ON! PHIL HAS A NEW IDENTITY, AND NOW SO DO I! IT'S ONE OF THE MANY PERKS THAT GOES WITH MY PROMOTION!


ARE YOU SAYING YOU FIGURED OUT HOW TO MAKE SERUM FGMX PERMANENT! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
FINE BY ME! YOU KNOW I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU, NO MATTER WHAT BOD YOU'RE WEARING! BUT WHY THE CHANGE FROM YOUR USUAL ATHLETIC BLONDE BOD?
NO, IT DOESN'T GO THAT FAR... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE SERUM ON A REGULAR BASIS IN ORDER TO STAY YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL! BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM ANYMORE!
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I'VE HAD MY FILL OF TEMPERAMENTAL BLONDES LATELY!


SO... LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A NEW LOVER, STUD! I'M THINKING WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING SPECIAL THIS WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE THAT FACT!
OH, AND HAVE I MENTIONED THAT I NOW HAVE ACCESS TO GNI'S CORPORATE JETS, IF THAT GIVES YOU ANY IDEAS!
IT CERTAINLY DOES, GORGEOUS! IT CERTAINLY DOES AT THAT!


IN FACT, I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE SHOULD GO!


A FORMULA for
by CBlack
RETIREMENT
Chapter Nine


That evening, at a South Padre Island motel...
OKAY, LADIES! THE EVENING IS YOUNG, AND SO ARE WE! SO LET'S MEET BACK HERE IN THE LOBBY IN ONE HOUR READY TO PAR-TAY!
WORKS FOR ME!
OH, HELL YEAH!


HOW 'BOUT YOU, LILY? YOU'VE BEEN AWFUL QUIET ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE! EVERYTHING OKAY?
OH YEAH, JUST, UMMM... WORRYING IF I FORGOT ANYTHING! FIRST TRIP TO THE BEACH, YOU KNOW!
NOT A PROBLEM! PLENTY OF SHOPS AROUND HERE JUST IN CASE!
ALL RIGHT! SEE YOU IN AN HOUR, THEN!


I'M GLAD WE FOUND A PLACE WHERE WE COULD ALL AFFORD OUR OWN ROOMS! I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO BE SHARING A ROOM WITH ANY OF THEM YET!
OF COURSE, I'M THINKING DARLA HAS HER OWN REASONS FOR WANTING HER OWN ROOM! *GIGGLE!*


HARDLY THE RITZ, BUT FROM THE WAY DARLA'S BEEN TALKING, WE WON'T BE SPENDING MUCH TIME IN OUR ROOMS!
GOD! I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WENT ON A VACATION... JUST FOR FUN! BUT CONSIDERING THE WEEK I'VE HAD, I DEFINITELY DESERVE IT!


OH, WHAT AM I COMPLAINING ABOUT? HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN SAY THAT THEY'VE BEEN FIRED AFTER THEY'VE ESSENTIALLY BEEN EATEN BY BEARS?
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER THESE DAYS! THE ANGER I FELT AT LAURA AFTER SHE ADMITTED SHE'D ONCE AGAIN BEEN LYING TO MY FACE FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS WAS OFF THE CHARTS!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE LET IT SHOW BEFORE... WHEN I WAS PHIL! BUT I'M LILY NOW, AND IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY! IT'S SO MUCH HARDER TO KEEP ANYTHING BOTTLED UP!
I'M DEFINITELY NOT FEELING ANGRY ANYMORE... JUST HURT AND SAD! I CAN'T BELIEVE LAURA GOT ME FIRED! I THOUGHT SHE'D WAIT FOR ME TO CALM DOWN ENOUGH SO WE'D BE ABLE TO TALK THINGS OUT... BUT NO!
I GUESS SHE'S FINALLY GIVEN UP ON US AND THIS IS HER WAY OF BREAKING TIES WITH ME! ARE WE REALLY GOING TO LIVE COMPLETELY SEPARATE LIVES FROM HERE ON OUT? I NEVER IMAGINED IT COMING TO THIS!
STILL, I SUPPOSE THE NEXT STEP IS FOR ME TO FIND MY OWN PLACE TO LIVE... BUT HOW THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT WHEN I DON'T HAVE A JOB?


SCREW IT! I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT ALL THAT RIGHT NOW! I'VE GOT A LOT OF STEAM TO BLOW OFF, AND THIS WEEKEND IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
THANK GOD FOR DARLA AND THE GIRLS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D HAVE DONE WITHOUT THEM!
AND THANK GOD WE HAVE THIS GIRLS' WEEKEND! SINCE WE WON'T BE WORKING TOGETHER ANYMORE, I NEED TO DO SOME MAJOR BONDING OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, SO THEY'LL WANT TO STAY FRIENDS WITH ME!


I KNOW HOW THINGS CAN GO! YOU THINK YOU'RE TRULY FRIENDS WITH THE PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH, BUT ONCE THAT'S GONE, IT CAN DISAPPEAR FAST IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON BESIDES WORK!
I GUESS THAT'S THE QUESTION! I LOVE THESE GIRLS, THEY MAKE ME FEEL SO ALIVE, BUT DO I REALLY FIT IN WITH THEM? CAN I STILL BE PART OF DARLA'S POSSE? WON'T THEY EVENTUALLY REALIZE THAT EVEN THOUGH I MAY LOOK THE PART, DEEP DOWN INSIDE I'M REALLY A CRUSTY OLD MAN?


HMMM... SPEAKING OF LOOKING THE PART, I SUPPOSE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION RIGHT NOW IS, WHICH BATHING SUIT AM I GOING TO WEAR TOMORROW?


Meanwhile, in a different hotel not too far away...
Golden Flower


YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO JOIN THE MILE-HIGH CLUB! NOW I KNOW! HEH-HEH!
IT MAKES THINGS EASIER WHEN YOU'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE CABIN! *GIGGLE!*


RESERVATION FOR LANA STEWART!
DON'T BOTHER! OUR DRIVER IS TAKING CARE OF IT!
AH, YES, MS. STEWART! WE HAVE YOU IN THE CORPORATE SUITE ON 18! I'LL HAVE SOMEONE TAKE YOUR BAGS RIGHT UP!


AND THE SOONER WE GET TO THE ROOM, THE SOONER I CAN START DEVOURING YOU! *GIGGLE!*
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, GORGEOUS!

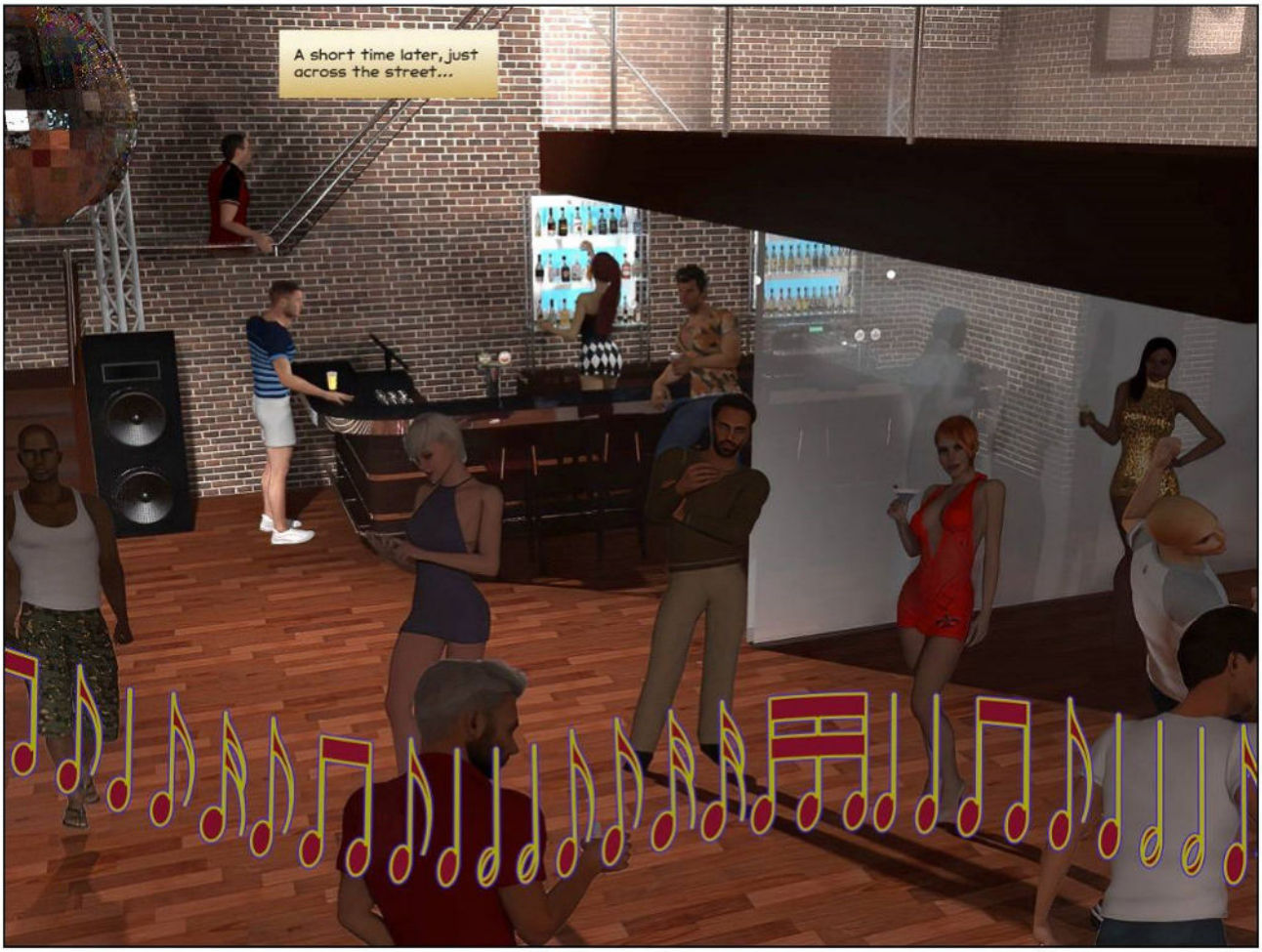

DAMN... I SET THIS WHOLE WEEKEND UP SO LAURA COULD "ACCIDENTALLY" BUMP INTO HER FORMER HUBBY... AND SEE EXACTLY THE KIND OF WOMAN SHE'S BECOME! I THOUGHT THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH WOULD DESTROY ANY LAST REMNANTS OF THEIR EMOTIONAL BOND!
BUT NOW I SEE THIS IS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY! LAURA HAS FINALLY MOVED ON! THIS TRANSITION TO LANA IS A SURE SIGN OF THAT!
DAMN! WE COULD HAVE SPENT THIS WEEKEND SOMEWHERE EVEN MORE FUN... LIKE CANCUN OR CABO SAN LUCAS! OH WELL... TOO LATE NOW!


And, about an hour later at the hotel next door...
LOOKING GOOD, LADIES! BUT WHERE'S LILY?
I JUST KNOCKED ON HER DOOR A MINUTE AGO! SHE'LL BE HERE IN A SEC!


I KNOW WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO REALLY SCOPE OUT THE AREA YET, BUT I DID SPOT A PLACE RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET THAT SEEMED TO BE HOPPING!
YEAH! WORKS FOR ME!
SOUNDS PERFECT!

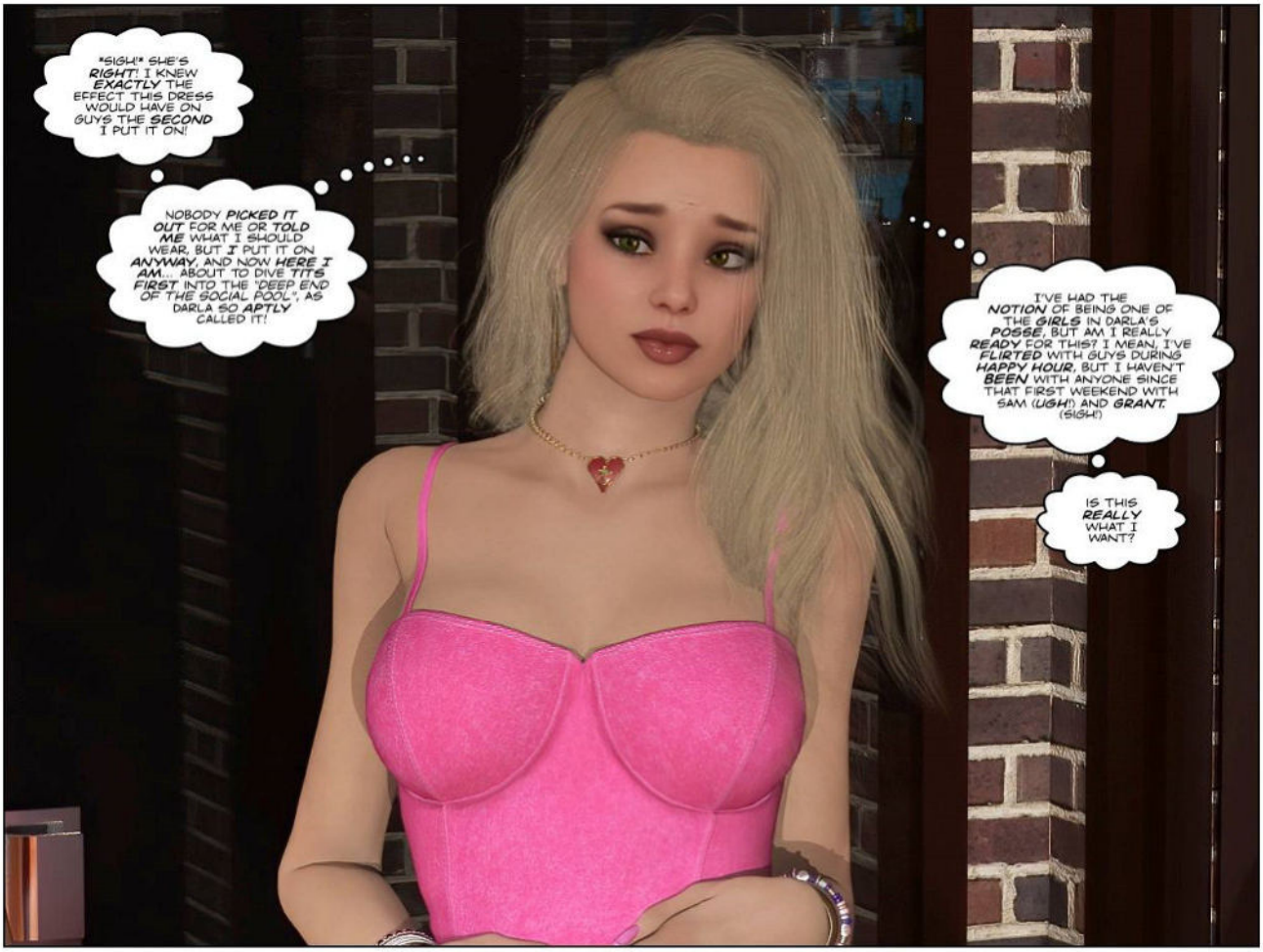

BUT TONIGHT IS JUST A WARM-UP FOR TOMORROW! I'M GONNA FIND US THE HOTTEST CLUB IN TOWN, AND YOU CAN BET YOUR SWEET ASSES WE'LL BE THERE!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT ALL PLANNED OUT AS USUAL, DARLA!


AND THAT'S JUST FINE WITH ME! SO LET'S DO THIS! *GIGGLE!*


A short time later, just across the street...


OH, YEAH! GOOD CALL, DARLA!
SAYS THE GIRL WITH THE HANDSOME FIANCÉ BACK HOME!
NO SHIT! THIS PLACE IS HOPPING! I THINK I'M GONNA LIKE IT HERE!
"BACK HOME" IS THE KEY PHRASE THERE, GIRLFRIEND! AND I'M NOT MARRIED YET! *GIGGLE!*


HOT GUYS AND LOTS OF DANCING! JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR!
NOW YOU CAN FINALLY SHOW OFF ALL THOSE HOT DANCE MOVES OF YOURS!
HONEY, IN THAT DRESS, I DON'T THINK ANY OF THE GUYS WILL GIVE A DAMN! *GIGGLE!*
UMM, JUST REMEMBER IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS SINCE COLLEGE, SO DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH! OKAY?


SIGH! SHE'S RIGHT! I KNEW EXACTLY THE EFFECT THIS DRESS WOULD HAVE ON GUYS THE SECOND I PUT IT ON!
NOBODY PICKED IT OUT FOR ME OR TOLD ME WHAT I SHOULD WEAR, BUT I PUT IT ON ANYWAY, AND NOW HERE I AM... ABOUT TO DIVE TITS FIRST INTO THE "DEEP END OF THE SOCIAL POOL", AS DARLA SO APTLY CALLED IT!
I'VE HAD THE NOTION OF BEING ONE OF THE GIRLS IN DARLA'S POSSE, BUT AM I REALLY READY FOR THIS? I MEAN, I'VE FLIRTED WITH GUYS DURING HAPPY HOUR, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN WITH ANYONE SINCE THAT FIRST WEEKEND WITH SAM (UGH!) AND GRANT. (SIGH!)
IS THIS REALLY WHAT I WANT?


SIGH! I'VE GONE THIS FAR, SO I GUESS I'LL JUST GO WITH THE FLOW AND SEE WHERE IT TAKES ME!


I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE THE COURSE OF MY ENTIRE LIFE THIS EVENING! I'M JUST HERE TO HAVE FUN!


AND I HAVE TO ADMIT, CUTTING LOOSE ON THE DANCE FLOOR IS A BIG TURN-ON!


AND THE WAY THAT BASS VIBRATES THROUGH EVERY PART OF MY BODY IS SOOOOO NICE!


WHEW! I DEFINITELY NEED A DRINK AFTER THAT!
NO SHIT!


A WINE SPRITZER AND A MANHATTAN, PLEASE!
COMIN' RIGHT UP!


I THINK THERE ARE A SHIT-LOAD OF GUYS IN HERE WHO WOULD AGREE WITH ME WHEN I SAY YOU REMEMBER THOSE COLLEGE MOVES OF YOURS JUST FINE!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT I GUESS IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE! *GIGGLE!*
WOO-HOO! THOSE DANCE LESSONS REALLY PAID OFF! DARLA BOUGHT IT!


YOU LOOKED PRETTY AWESOME OUT THERE!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
CAN WE BUY YOU LADIES A DRINK?


OOOO! YOU CAN BUY ME ANYTHING YOU WANT, TALL, DARK AND, IF THERE'S A GOD, WELL-ENDOWED!
PUT THE LADIES' DRINKS ON MY TAB!
GOT IT!
HEH-HEH!


THANK YOU! THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU!
MY PLEASURE! I'M CARL, BY THE WAY! CARL WHITSON!
LILY... LILY ROGERS!
A LOVELY NAME FOR A REMARKABLY LOVELY LADY!

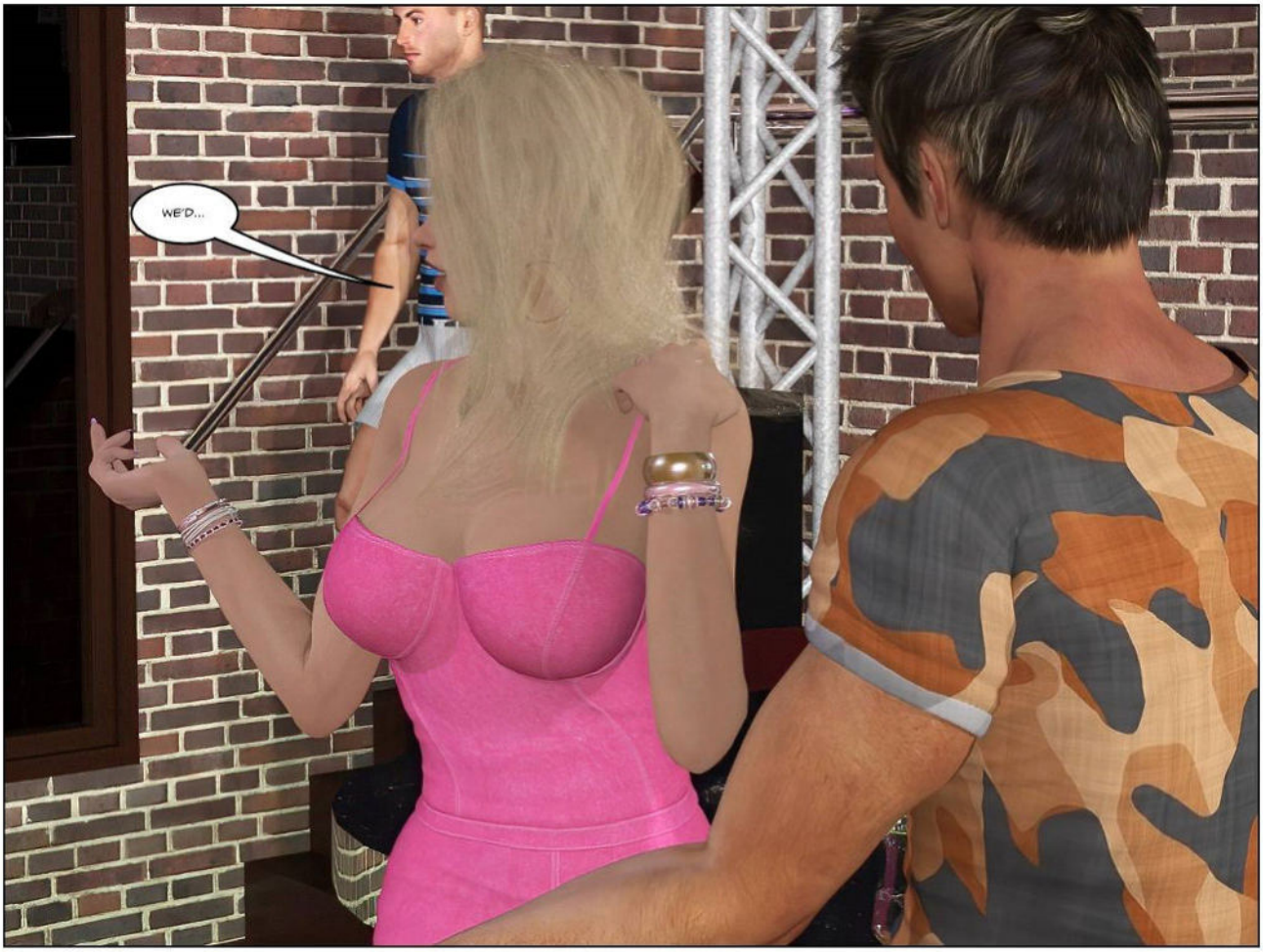

I KNEW THIS WAS AN INEVITABLE MOMENT IN A WEEKEND AWAY WITH DARLA AND THE GIRLS... JUST DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD ARRIVE SO SOON!
I DEFINITELY KNOW WHAT THIS GUY WANTS! THE QUESTION IS, WHAT DO I WANT?
GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!


SO, CARL, ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE LOCALS WHO REGULARLY FREQUENTS PLACES LIKE THIS HOPING TO CHARM VISITING YOUNG WOMEN LIKE MYSELF?
AH, IF ONLY! UNFORTUNATELY, I'M JUST A VISITOR MYSELF! DOWN HERE FROM DALLAS FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS! AND YOU?
HOUSTON! MY GIRLFRIENDS AND I JUST FLEW IN A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO!
REMIND ME TO THANK MY FRIEND WHO INSISTED WE COME DOWN THIS PARTICULAR WEEKEND! HEH-HEH!


SO, WHAT DO YOU DO IN DALLAS... AT LEAST WHEN YOU'RE NOT CAROUSING THROUGH THE CLUB SCENE UP THERE?
I'M AN ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE, WHICH DOESN'T LEAVE ME TIME FOR "CAROUSING" OR PRETTY MUCH ANY KIND OF SOCIAL LIFE... OUTSIDE OF TRIPS LIKE THIS, THAT IS!
AND WHAT DOES SUCH A STRIKING YOUNG LADY LIKE YOU DO FOR A LIVING IN HOUSTON... WHEN SHE'S NOT BREAKING MEN'S HEARTS, THAT IS?
I'M A, UHHH... A RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR A LARGE COMPANY UP THERE! WE ALL WORK THERE!
NO NEED TO BRING THINGS DOWN BY MENTIONING MY RECENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS!


RESEARCH ASSISTANT, HUH? YOU KNOW, RESEARCH IS A HUGE PART OF THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY!
OH, IT IS, IS IT?
I'M JUST SAYING! THERE ARE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR A WOMAN WITH YOUR SKILLS... ESPECIALLY IN DALLAS! HEH-HEH!
FOOD FOR THOUGHT! *GIGGLE!*
AND, UNFORTUNATELY, SOMETHING I ACTUALLY DO HAVE TO CONSIDER... BUT NOT TONIGHT!
AMSTEL BEER


I SEE YOUR DRINK IS ALMOST EMPTY! WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER, OR WOULD YOU MAYBE LIKE TO DANCE?
I SHOULD PROBABLY WAIT A WHILE BEFORE HAVING ANOTHER! AND I'M PRETTY SURE MY FRIEND DARLA HERE WAS HOPING WE'D...


WE'D...

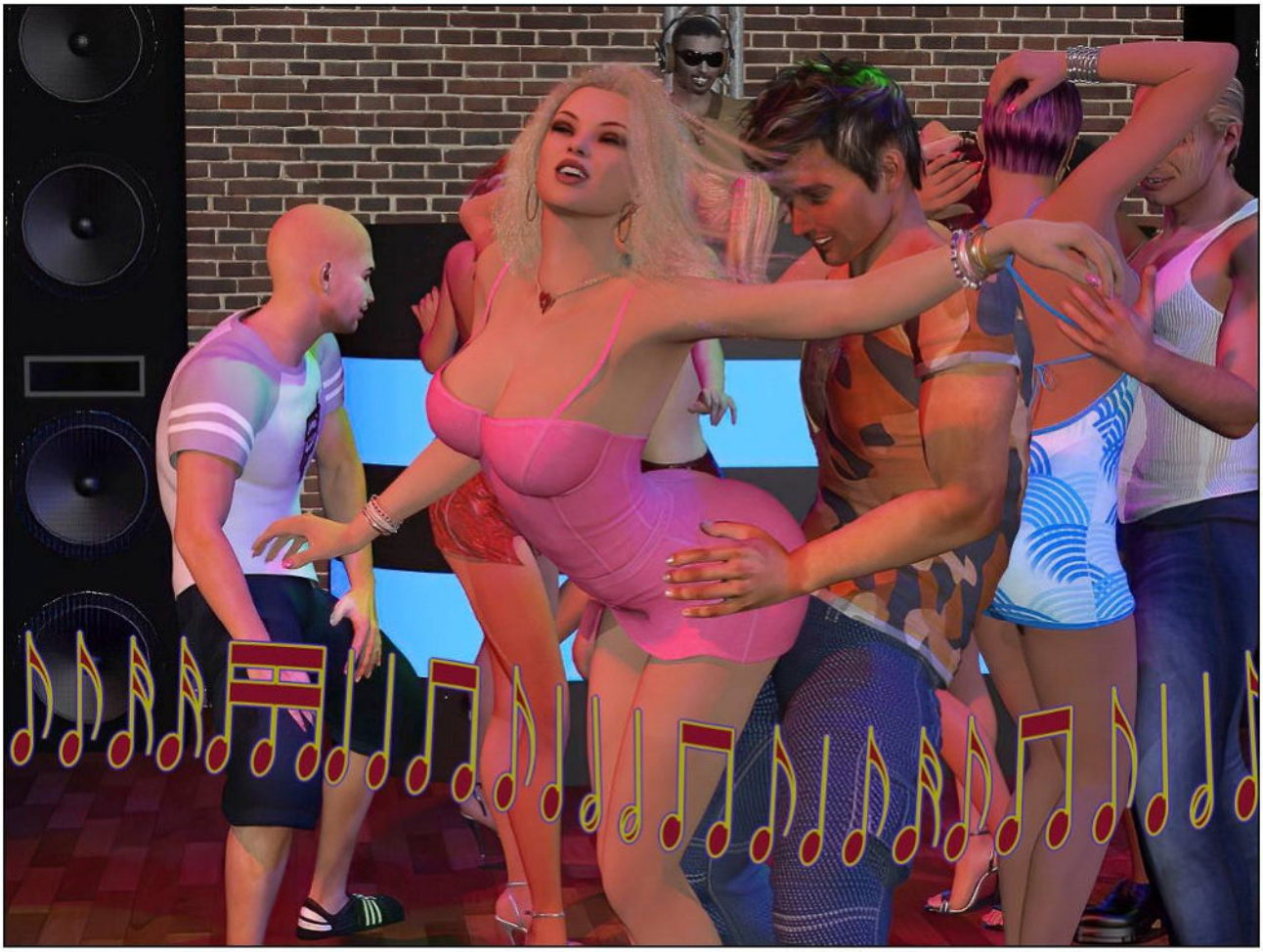

OH...


WELL, SHIT! I DIDN'T WORK MY ASS OFF ALL WEEK LEARNING TO DANCE SO I COULD STAND AROUND AND WATCH EVERYONE ELSE!
DANCING IT IS, I GUESS!
OUTSTANDING!












WHOA! THIS... THIS IS GETTING PRETTY DAMN STEAMY! MAYBE I OUGHT TO SLOW THINGS DOWN A BIT!


I THINK I NEED TO TAKE A BREAK! CHECK IN WITH MY FRIENDS!
THEY DID? WHEN?
OKAY, BUT YOUR ONE FRIEND ALREADY LEFT WITH MY FRIEND!
OH, ABOUT AN HOUR AGO! THEY DIDN'T STICK AROUND HERE VERY LONG! HEH-HEH!


WELL MY OTHER TWO FRIENDS ARE RIGHT OVER...
OVER WHERE?
WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE'D THEY GO?


WELL, IT, UHHH... LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALL LEFT!
YEAH, I, UMMM... I'D DEFINITELY LIKE A DRINK! THAT'S FOR SURE!
STILL THINK YOU NEED A BREAK?


I ALSO NEED TO GO FRESHEN UP! COULD YOU GET ME A BOTTLE OF WATER, PLEASE?
WHATEVER THE LADY WISHES!


WHEW! THERE WAS A MINUTE THERE WHERE I ALMOST LOST CONTROL!
ALL THAT BUMPING AND GRINDING REALLY GOT ME WORKED UP! I GUESS I HAVEN'T BEEN TAKING CARE OF THIS BODY'S NEEDS THE WAY I SHOULD... AND NOW MY LIBIDO'S IN OVERDRIVE!
SHIT! I REALLY WASN'T PLANNING ON HOOKING UP WITH ANYONE THIS WEEKEND! I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT... ABOUT ANY OF THIS!
THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE FELT LIKE A GAME TO ME, BUT NOW THAT I KNOW THERE'S NO GOING BACK... THAT THIS IS MY REAL LIFE, I WANT TO BE MORE CAREFUL!


BEING A BLONDE BARBIE HAS TRULY BEEN A BLAST! AND I'M SURE CARL WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED ONE BIT IF HIS DANCE PARTNER HADN'T REINED HERSELF IN THE WAY I DID!
IT WAS PRETTY DAMN OBVIOUS DURING MOST OF OUR "BUMPING AND GRINDING" JUST HOW WORKED UP HE WAS AS WELL!
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, TOO... FROM WHAT I COULD TELL! *GIGGLE!*


JESUS! LISTEN TO ME! ONE SECOND I'M WORRIED ABOUT FIGURING OUT MY SEXUALITY AND LOSING CONTROL, AND THE NEXT I'M PRACTICALLY OGLING HIS CROTCH!
I REALLY NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS I WANT... WHO LILY ROGERS IS GOING TO BE!


I'M 180 DEGREES FROM THE MAN I USED TO BE, I'M GETTING TO LIVE OUT MY WILDEST FANTASIES, AND I LOVE BEING THIS WAY! BLONDE, PERKY, AND FLIRTY! AND YET...
I ASSUMED THE OTHER GIRLS AND I WOULD ALL STICK TOGETHER THE WAY WE DO AT HAPPY HOUR! DRINK AND DANCE! I DIDN'T THINK I'D END UP ON MY OWN, SO DAMN QUICKLY!
THIS WEEKEND WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT ME BONDING WITH MY BESTIES, BUT I'VE BEEN LEFT TO NAVIGATE THIS MINEFIELD ON MY OWN!
I CAN'T SAY I MIND BEING LUSTED OVER... TO BE AN OBJECT OF DESIRE! IN FACT, IT'S PRETTY DAMN INTOXICATING!
BUT I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO TAKE THINGS ANY FURTHER THAN SULTRY LOOKS... AND PERHAPS A BIT MORE GRINDING!


IT'S ONE THING TO THROW YOURSELF INTO A SEXUAL SITUATION LIKE THIS WHEN YOU THINK IT'S A ONE-TIME THING AND YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO DO IT AGAIN, LIKE I DID THAT FIRST WEEKEND WITH GRANT!
BUT THINGS HAVE OBVIOUSLY EVOLVED SINCE THEN! LILY WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE AT THE END OF THIS... OR ANY OTHER WEEKEND! WHATEVER I DO TONIGHT WILL STAY ON THE RECORD... AND BECOMES A PART OF WHO I AM!


AND THAT'S THE QUESTION, ISN'T IT? WHO AM I? I'VE BEEN PLAYING THE PART OF A BLONDE, BUSTY AND FUN-LOVING BABE, BUT IS THAT TRULY THE DIRECTION I WANT TO TAKE MY LIFE?

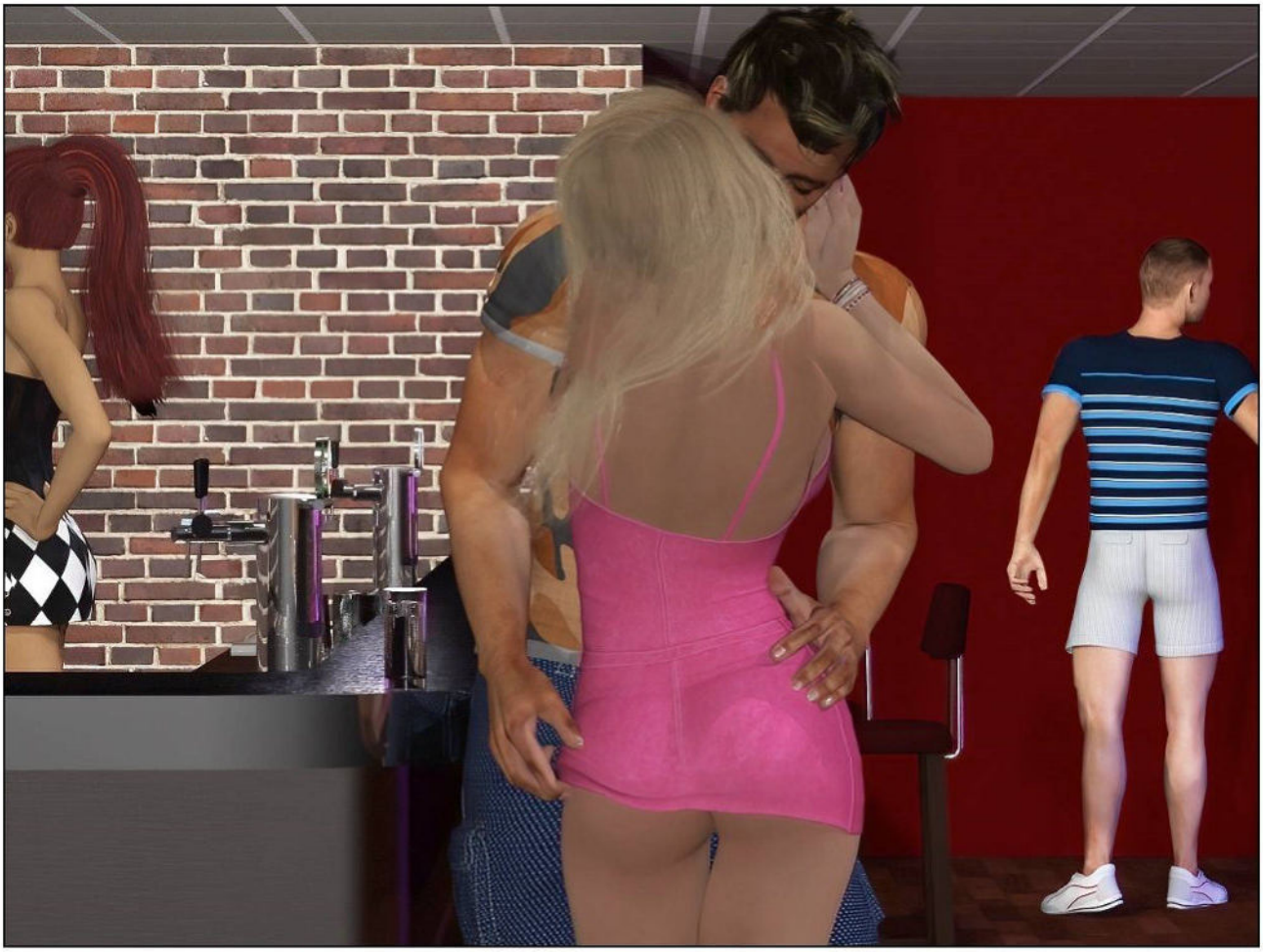

THANKS A LOT, DARLIN'!
MY PLEASURE!


THERE YOU ARE!
YES... HERE I AM!

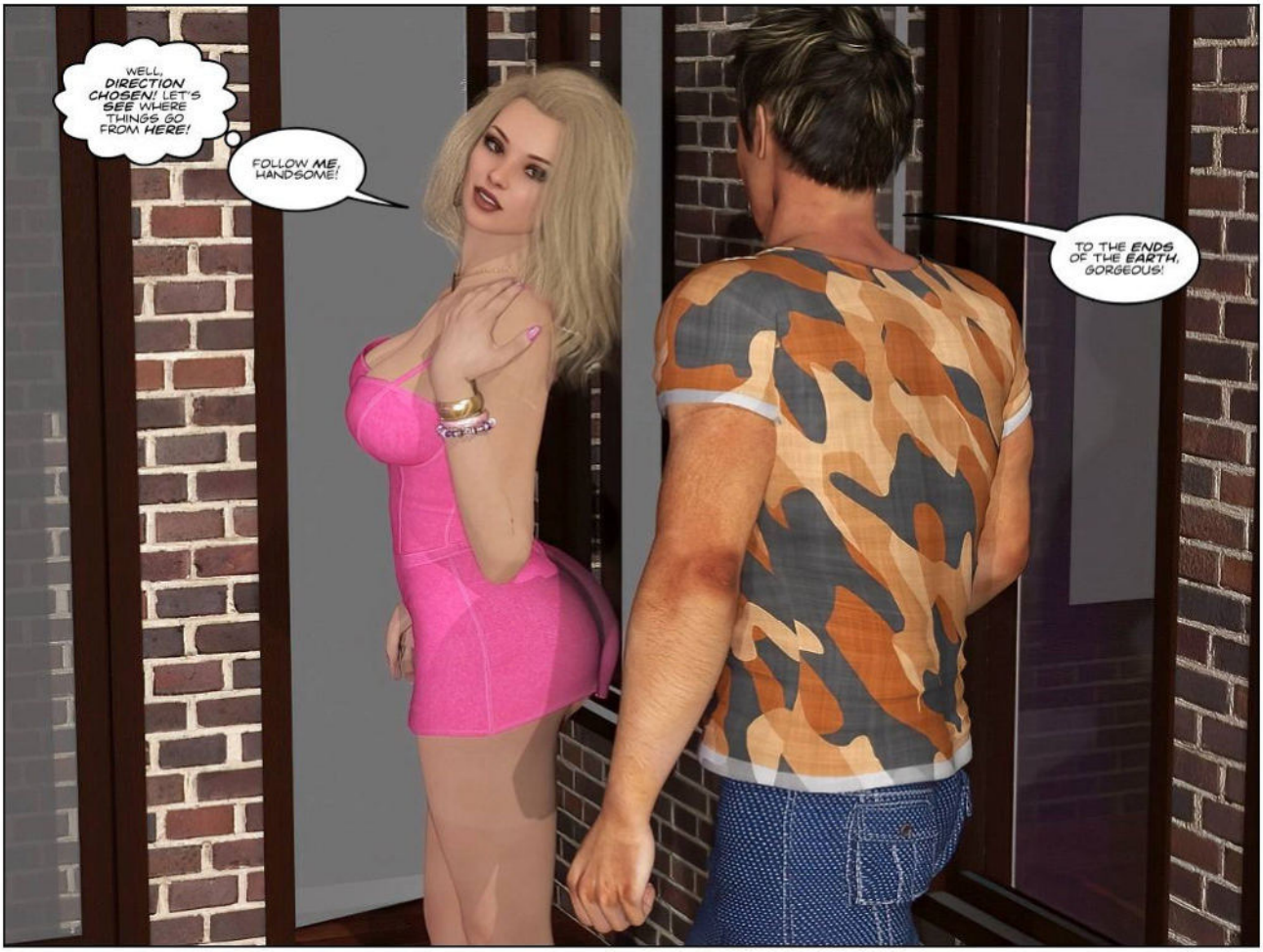

THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY BOTTLES, SO I HOPE TAP WATER'S OKAY!


IT DOESN'T MATTER! I DECIDED WATER ISN'T WHAT I REALLY WANT!
OH, REALLY? SO WHAT EXACTLY IS IT YOU'RE AFTER?






MMMMM! FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY MEANS BUSINESS!
I THINK THAT APPLIES TO BOTH OF US!
THEN MAYBE WE'D BETTER FIND SOME PLACE A LITTLE MORE PRIVATE!
MY HOTEL IS JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY!
BUT MINE IS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET!
LOOKS LIKE THE LADY GETS HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE!

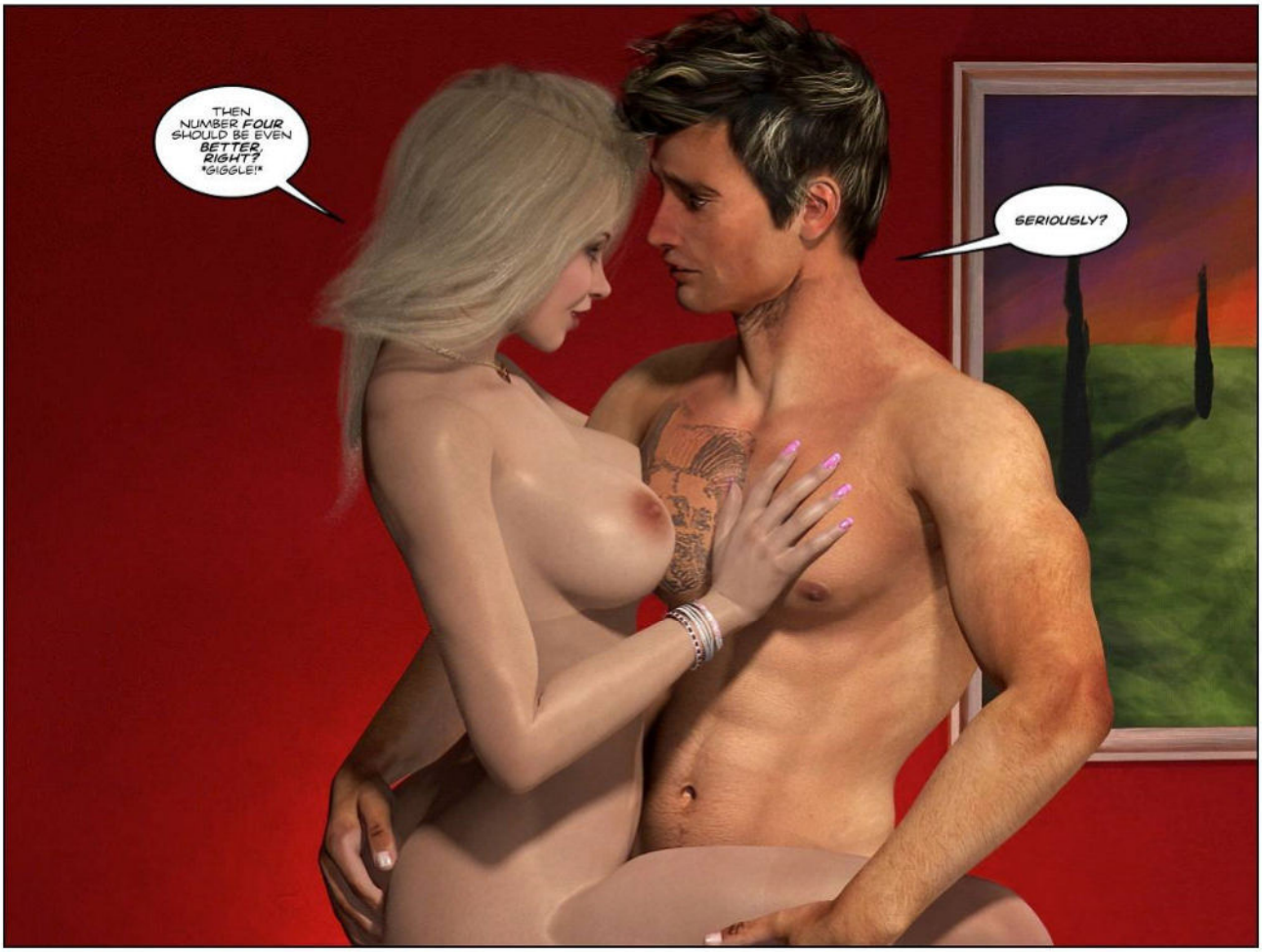

WELL, DIRECTION CHOSEN! LET'S SEE WHERE THINGS GO FROM HERE!
FOLLOW ME, HANDSOME!
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, GORGEOUS!


OH... YES... RIGHT THERE! HARDER!!
9
10


THAT'S IT, BABY! GIVE IT TO ME! HARDER! HARDER!! I'M ALMOST.. ALMOST...


OHHH... GOD!!
UGGHH!


MMMMM! I THINK THAT WAS THE BEST ONE YET!
WHEW! WELL, THIRD TIME IS A CHARM! HEH-HEH!


THEN NUMBER FOUR SHOULD BE EVEN BETTER, RIGHT? *GIGGLE!*
SERIOUSLY?


AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO, BABE, I'M EXHAUSTED! IN FACT, I CAN HARDLY STAND UP!
OH, THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM!


YOU CAN JUST LIE BACK AND LET ME DO ALL THE WORK THIS TIME! *GIGGLE!*
BUT EVEN SO, I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO... TO...


MMMMMMM! DON'T UNDERESTIMATE YOURSELF, STUD!
OOOOHHHH...


OOOHHH! THAT'S IT! HOLD ON FOR ONE HELL OF A RIDE, BABY!


Later, after an exhausted Carl crawls back to his hotel...
MMMM! I'D FORGOTTEN HOW INCREDIBLE IT FEELS FOR A WOMAN!
OF COURSE, IF I HAD REMEMBERED, I SURE AS HELL WOULDN'T HAVE WAITED THIS LONG TO DO IT AGAIN!


IT MAY HAVE BEEN NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS MY NIGHT WITH GRANT, BUT STILL... IT WAS SUPREMELY SATISFYING!
GOOD TO KNOW THAT GRANT'S EXPERTISE DIDN'T SPOIL MY ABILITY TO ENJOY BEING WITH OTHER MEN! *GIGGLE!*


WELL... THAT WAS A PRETTY DAMNED DEFINING EVENING, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
I THINK I'VE REMOVED ANY LINGERING DOUBTS I'VE HAD ABOUT WHAT KIND OF GIRL I WANT TO BE... AND WHERE MY PROCLIVITIES LIE!
I'M THINKING THIS IS GONG TO BE ONE HELL OF A WEEKEND! *GIGGLE!*

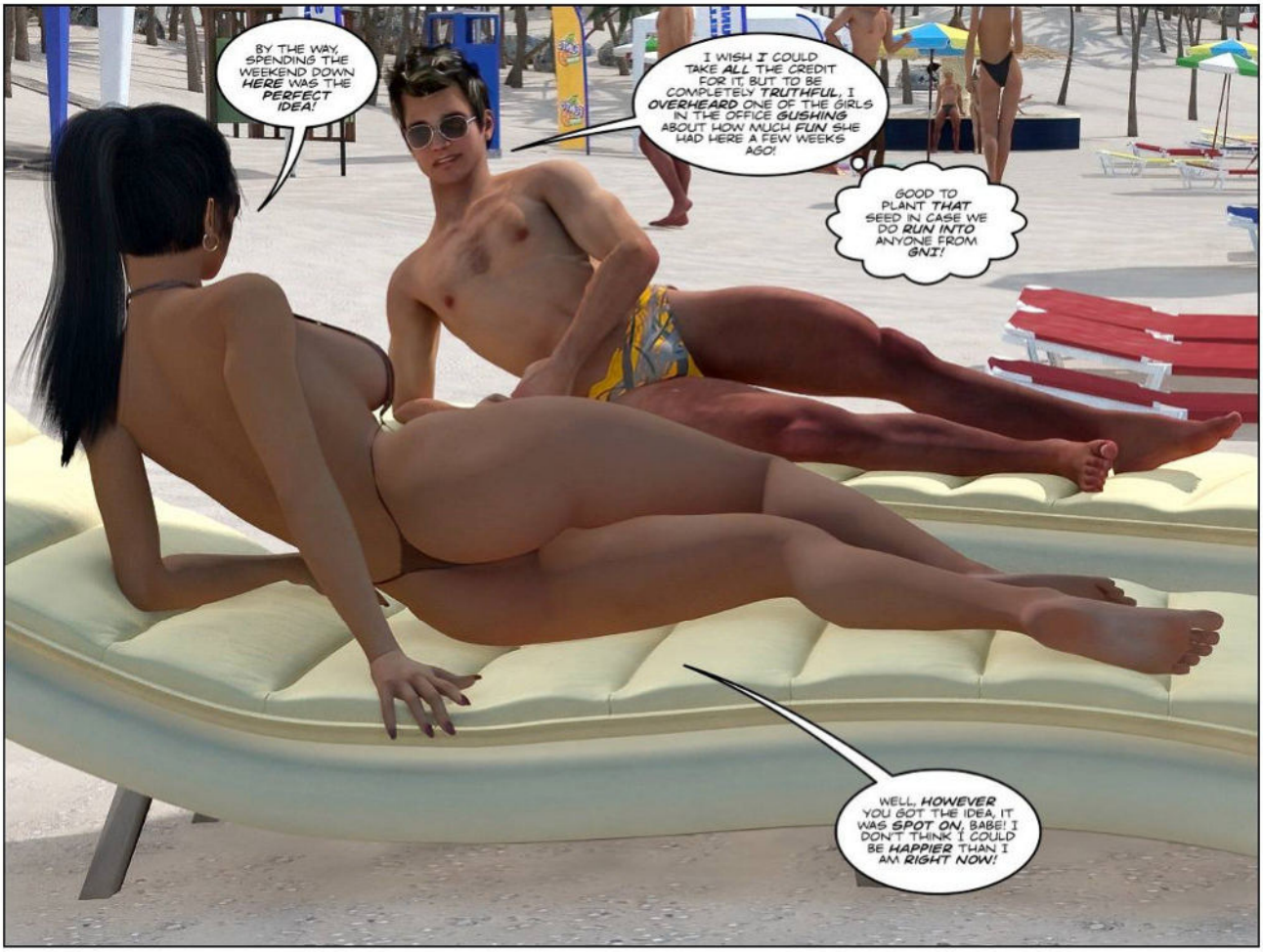

BUT THAT'S ALL IT'S GOING TO BE... ONE WEEKEND! I'VE STILL GOT ENOUGH SENSE TO REALIZE I'M ON AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER RIGHT NOW, AND WHAT FEELS RIGHT TODAY MIGHT BE ANOTHER THING TOMORROW!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO MAKE ANY SERIOUS LIFE CHOICES HERE ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND...


... BECAUSE WEEKENDS SHOULDN'T BE WASTED ON MAKING LIFE CHOICES!
AND THIS ONE IS ALL ABOUT HITTING THE BEACH WITH THE GIRLS AND SPENDING A WHOLE LOT OF TIME "EXPERIMENTING" WITH MY NEW FAVORITE HOBBY! *GIGGLE!*


The next day...


...as everyone is enjoying the beaches...


HAVE I MENTIONED HOW AMAZING YOU LOOK IN THAT SWIMSUIT, BABE?
ONLY ABOUT A DOZEN OR SO TIMES SINCE I PUT IT ON!
ONLY A DOZEN OR SO, HUH? I'M LOSING MY TOUCH! HEH-HEH!
WELL, WHEN I SEE THE WAY YOU FILL OUT THAT SPEEDO, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LOSING ANYTHING! *GIGGLE!*

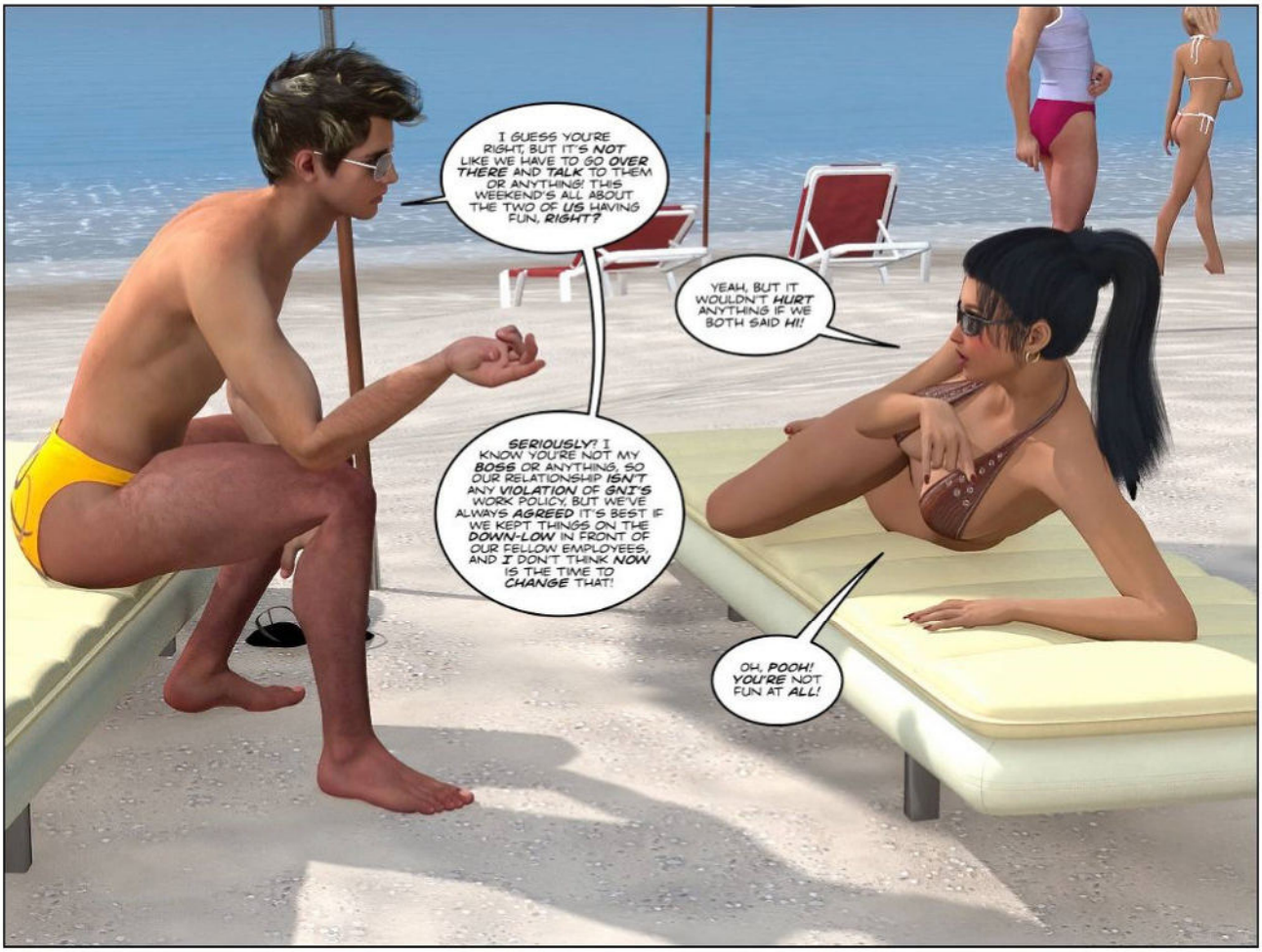

BY THE WAY, SPENDING THE WEEKEND DOWN HERE WAS THE PERFECT IDEA!
I WISH I COULD TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR IT, BUT TO BE COMPLETELY TRUTHFUL, I OVERHEARD ONE OF THE GIRLS IN THE OFFICE GUSHING ABOUT HOW MUCH FUN SHE HAD HERE A FEW WEEKS AGO!
GOOD TO PLANT THAT SEED IN CASE WE DO RUN INTO ANYONE FROM GNI!
WELL, HOWEVER YOU GOT THE IDEA, IT WAS SPOT ON, BABE! I DON'T THINK I COULD BE HAPPIER THAN I AM RIGHT NOW!


I CAN TELL! INDULGING IN A LITTLE LUXURY LIKE THIS REALLY SUITS YOU... THE NEW YOU, LAURA!
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO FORGET THAT NAME AND GET USED TO CALLING ME LANA, BABE! THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?
I'LL DO MY BEST... BUT I GOTTA SAY, I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED YOU'RE TAKING THINGS THIS FAR! BECOMING A WHOLE DIFFERENT PERSON!
WHY SHOULDN'T I?


IT FEELS SO RIGHT! I'M GETTING A DO-OVER IN LIFE... JUST LIKE PHIL! AND THAT MAKES ME HAPPY!
I'M FINE WITH IT... AS LONG AS I GET TO BE PART OF IT!
I JUST WORRY THAT... YOU KNOW... LOOKING THE WAY YOU DO, YOU COULD HAVE PRACTICALLY ANY GUY ON THE BEACH! AND AFTER YOUR ROUGH BREAKUP WITH PHIL, THAT YOU MIGHT BE ITCHING TO SOW SOME WILD OATS!
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT! THE WAY I LOOK, I DO BELIEVE I COULD BAG ANY GUY ON THIS BEACH! BUT TO BE HONEST, THE ONLY GUY I WANT IS YOU!


WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY GOOD TO HEAR! AND I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE SURE YOU KEEP ON FEELING THAT WAY!
YOU DARN WELL BETTER, MISTER! *GIGGLE!*


HEY, THOSE GIRLS OVER THERE LOOK FAMILIAR! AREN'T THEY FROM GNI?
I... I'M NOT SURE! I DON'T THINK SO!
YES, THEY ARE! AND AT LEAST ONE OF THEM, DARLA O'BRIEN, WORKS IN RESEARCH WITH PHIL... I MEAN LILY! I'M CERTAIN OF IT!


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE TO GO OVER THERE AND TALK TO THEM OR ANYTHING! THIS WEEKEND'S ALL ABOUT THE TWO OF US HAVING FUN, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT IT WOULDN'T HURT ANYTHING IF WE BOTH SAID HI!
SERIOUSLY? I KNOW YOU'RE NOT MY BOSS OR ANYTHING, SO OUR RELATIONSHIP ISN'T ANY VIOLATION OF GNI'S WORK POLICY, BUT WE'VE ALWAYS AGREED IT'S BEST IF WE KEPT THINGS ON THE DOWN-LOW IN FRONT OF OUR FELLOW EMPLOYEES, AND I DON'T THINK NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE THAT!
OH, POOH! YOU'RE NOT FUN AT ALL!


PLEASE, YOU DON'T REALLY THINK SHE'D...
THERE'S ONE OTHER THING YOU HAVEN'T CONSIDERED! IF DARLA'S HERE, THERE'S A CHANCE LILY MIGHT BE WITH THEM, TOO!
IT'S POSSIBLE, AND ONE THING I'M SURE OF IS THAT I'M NOT HER FAVORITE PERSON IN THE WORLD! SO IT'S FINE IF YOU WANT TO GO OVER AND SAY HELLO, BUT I THINK IT'S BEST IF I MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!


I'M GOING TO GO CHECK OUT SOME OF THE KIOSKS, PICK UP A HAT SO I'LL BE LESS RECOGNIZABLE! TEXT ME WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR!
YOU'RE BEING RIDICULOUS! PHIL ALWAYS HATED THE BEACH! WHENEVER WE WENT, ALL HE DID WAS WORRY ABOUT THE SWIMMERS GETTING INTO TROUBLE... AND EVERYONE ELSE GETTING TOO MUCH SUN! HE COULDN'T RELAX FOR ONE SECOND!
THERE'S NO WAY LILY IS HERE!
WELL, TURNS OUT THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE LAURA WILL GET TO SEE HER "HUBBY" IN HER NATURAL HABITAT AFTER ALL!


THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE WAY I PLANNED FOR THE GIRLS IN RESEARCH TO MEET THEIR NEW BOSS, BUT I'M THINKING IT COULD BE A BONDING THING... SO THEY'LL BE WILLING TO PUT IN EXTRA HOURS WHEN I ASK THEM TO!

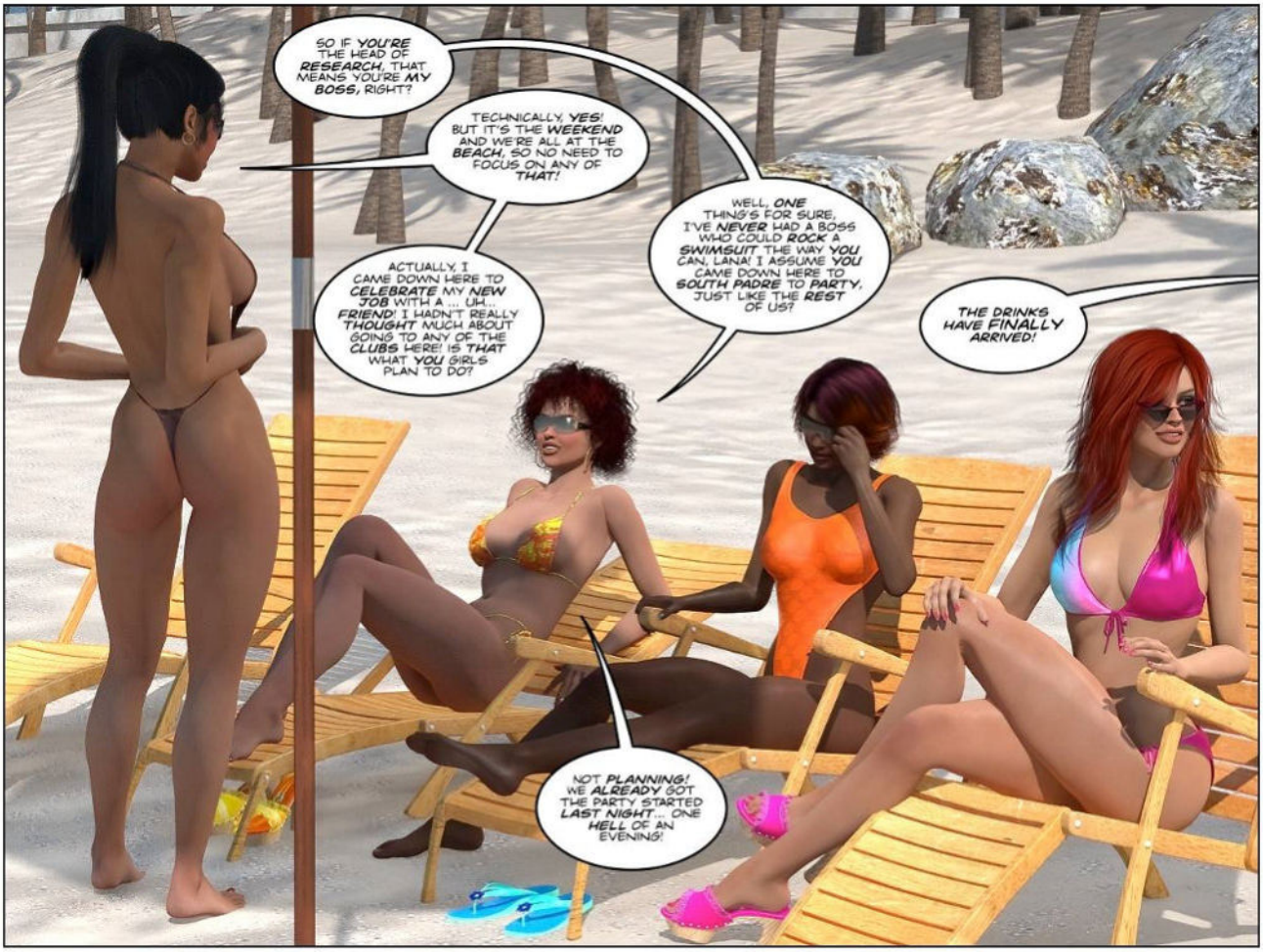

BESIDES, LILY MIGHT NOT BE TALKING TO ME THESE DAYS, BUT I'LL SURE BET SHE TALKS TO HER CO-WORKERS LIKE DARLA!


FUNTO
FUNTO
MAYBE I CAN LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT HER FRAME OF MIND THESE DAYS! IT'S WORTH A SHOT!


THIS PLACE IS AWESOME! I'M SERIOUSLY STARTING TO RETHINK MY HONEYMOON PLANS!
ONLY IF YOU DON'T MIND YOUR NEW HUBBY STARING AT ALL THE BIKINIS AS MUCH AS YOU'RE STARING AT ALL THE SPEEDOS! *GIGGLE!*


EXCUSE ME FOR INTRUDING, BUT DON'T YOU GIRLS WORK AT GNI UP IN HOUSTON?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE DO! HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?


I JUST STARTED WORKING THERE LAST WEEK! I'M THE NEW HEAD OF RESEARCH!
MY NAME'S LANA... LANA STEWART!
I'M DARLA! AND THAT'S JAYA AND MAEVE!
HEY!
HIYA!


SO IF YOU'RE THE HEAD OF RESEARCH, THAT MEANS YOU'RE MY BOSS, RIGHT?
TECHNICALLY, YES! BUT IT'S THE WEEKEND AND WE'RE ALL AT THE BEACH, SO NO NEED TO FOCUS ON ANY OF THAT!
ACTUALLY, I CAME DOWN HERE TO CELEBRATE MY NEW JOB WITH A ... UH... FRIEND! I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT GOING TO ANY OF THE CLUBS HERE! IS THAT WHAT YOU GIRLS PLAN TO DO?
WELL, ONE THING'S FOR SURE, I'VE NEVER HAD A BOSS WHO COULD ROCK A SWIMSUIT THE WAY YOU CAN, LANA! I ASSUME YOU CAME DOWN HERE TO SOUTH PADRE TO PARTY, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US?
THE DRINKS HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED!
NOT PLANNING! WE ALREADY GOT THE PARTY STARTED LAST NIGHT... ONE HELL OF AN EVENING!


OH MY...!!!
'BOUT DAMN TIME!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG! I WAS HAVING TROUBLE CARRYING ALL THOSE DRINKS MYSELF!


FORTUNATELY, I WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THESE HANDSOME GUYS TO GIVE ME A HAND! *GIGGLE!*


SUNBED & UMBRELLA RENTAL
DON'T FORGET MINE, HANDSOME!
WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, GORGEOUS!
NICE WORK, LILY!
MMMMMM... DEFINITELY!


SEE YOU TONIGHT, LILY?
YEAH! WE'LL BE AT WAVERIDERS ALL NIGHT!
WILD HORSES COULDN'T KEEP ME FROM SEEING YOU TWO AGAIN! *GIGGLE!*


DO I EVEN NEED TO ASK WHAT WE'RE DOING TONIGHT?
NOPE! *GIGGLE!*


THIS BLONDE BEACH BUNNY IS THE FOURTH MEMBER OF OUR GNI QUARTET AND THE WINNER OF TODAY'S MOST SCANDALOUS BIKINI CONTEST... LILY ROGERS!
LILY, THIS IS LANA STEWART! SHE JUST STARTED AT GNI A FEW DAYS AGO... AND HAPPENS TO BE OUR NEW BOSS!
NICE TO, UHHH... MEET YOU, TOO, LILY!
COOL! NICE TO MEET YOU, LANA!
HEY! IS THIS BITCH THE REASON I GOT FIRED?


YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK A LITTLE FUNNY ALL OF A SUDDEN!
OH, IT'S, UMMM... NOTHING! I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL!


IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU ALL! I'M SURE I'LL SEE YOU SOON, EITHER HERE OR BACK IN THE OFFICE!
UMMM... OKAY?
EVERYONE BUT ME, YOU MEAN, RIGHT?


WHO THE HELL WAS THAT AND WHAT THE FUCK DID SHE DO WITH MY HUSBAND?


I KNOW I SHOULD'VE STAYED AND TALKED TO LILY, BUT... I'M JUST TOO... TOO FREAKED OUT!
IS SHE DRUNK? ON DRUGS? HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN ACTING THIS WAY?
AND HOW THE HELL DOES SHE HAVE THE GUTS TO WEAR A SUIT LIKE THAT OUT IN PUBLIC?


THAT NIGHTCLUB... WAVERIDERS! SHE SAID THEY'RE GOING TO BE THERE TONIGHT!
IF SHE'S LIKE THIS ON THE BEACH, HOW THE HELL DOES SHE ACT IN A NIGHTCLUB FULL OF HORNY MEN?
I HAVE TO BE THERE TONIGHT! I HAVE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY HUSBAND!
BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I'M GONNA NEED A FEW THINGS...


FUN
Orange
A few minutes later...
THANK YOU FOR EXPEDITING THAT FOR ME, STUART! I OWE YOU ONE!
HEY, I COULDN'T FIND ANY HATS I LIKED, AND YOU NEVER TEXTED ME! WHAT'S GOING ON?


HUH?
WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW'D IT GO OVER THERE?
I SAW LILY!
SHIT! SO SHE IS HERE AFTER ALL!


YEAH, SHE IS! AND I HAVE TO SAY, I'M REELING!
WHAT HAPPENED? DID SHE SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?
NOT REALLY! SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO!


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DID SHE...
WHOA!
YEAH... THAT "WHOA" GIRL IN THE MICRO BIKINI IS MY HUSBAND!


HOLY SHIT! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU AND ME BOTH! I MEAN, I'VE SUSPECTED THAT THIS IS WHAT PHIL'S BEEN AFTER ALL ALONG, BUT TO SEE IT IN THE FLESH...
AND SO MUCH OF IT!
SHE HAD TWO MEN WITH HER... AND USED HER SEXUALITY TO WRAP THEM AROUND HER LITLE FINGER!
IT WAS BOTH BREATHTAKING... AND DEEPLY DISTURBING!
I CAN IMAGINE!


WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FINALLY GOT THE CONFIRMATION YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF WOMAN YOUR HUSBAND'S BECOME... SHE'S A BLEACHED-BLONDE SLUT!
I KNOW... AND I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I NEVER SAW ANY SIGN OF PHIL WANTING TO BE THIS WAY IN ALL THE YEARS WE WERE TOGETHER! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
BUT YOU JUST SAW HER WITH YOUR OWN EYES! END OF STORY, RIGHT?
NO, IT'S NOT! SHE'S GOING TO A CLUB WITH THOSE GIRLS TONIGHT, AND I NEED TO BE THERE, TOO!
I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE TORTURING YOURSELF LIKE THIS, BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, I'LL SUPPORT YOU!
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME FOR ANYTHING, LOVE!
I HOPE YOU MEAN THAT, JACK!

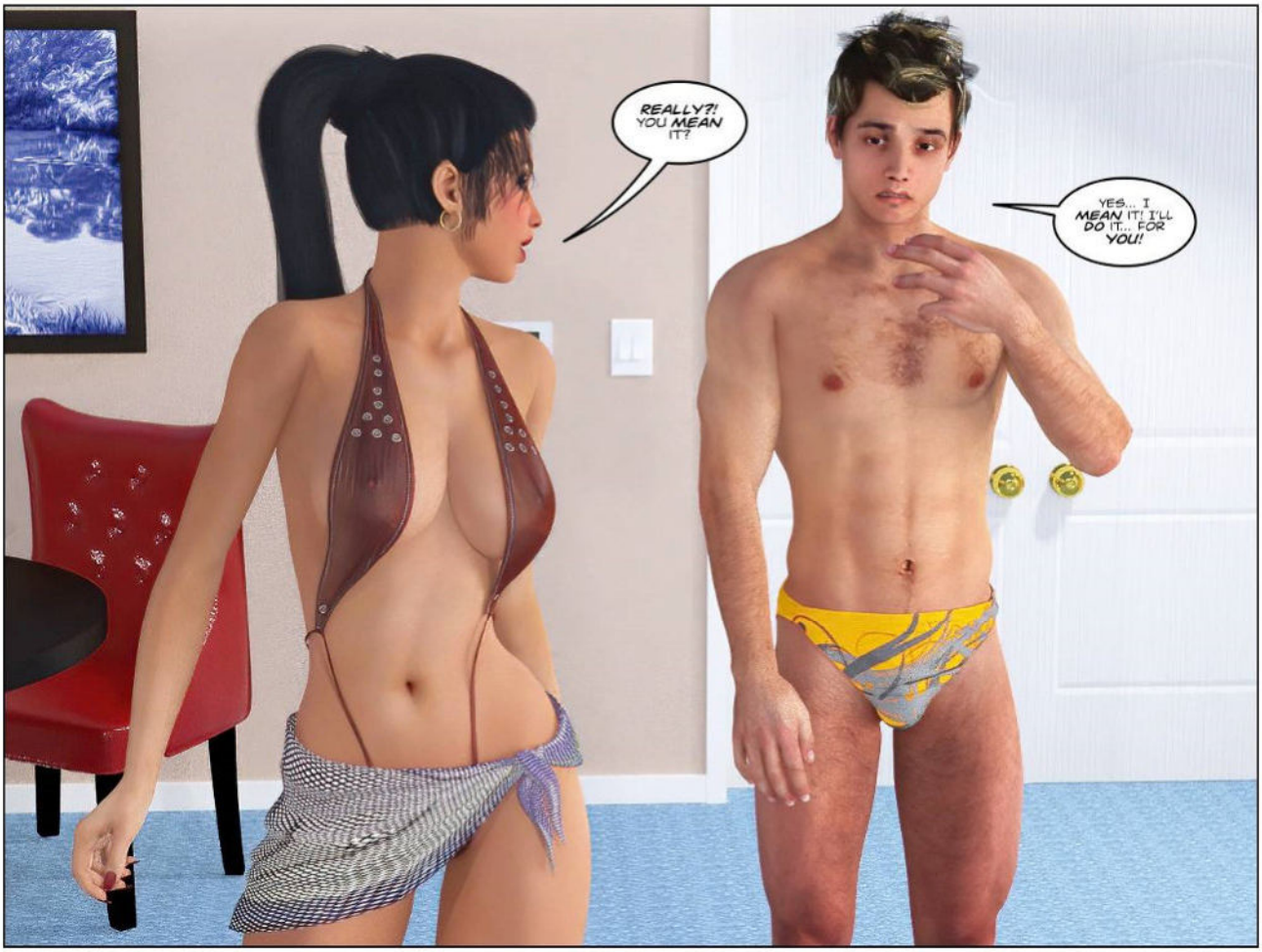

I DON'T KNOW WHY LAURA WANTS TO KEEP PUTTING HERSELF THROUGH THIS, BUT FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, THINGS COULDN'T BE GOING ANY BETTER!


Later that afternoon, back at their hotel room...
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!


YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR ME, JACK! ANYTHING!
BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO THAT NIGHTCLUB TONIGHT TO SEE LILY, AND I CAN'T DO IT ALONE! I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH!
I NEED YOU THERE FOR MORAL SUPPORT!
I KNOW I DID, BUT... WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE THIS?
I APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND THAT, LAURA, BUT... I JUST CAN'T!


WELL, THAT'S OKAY... I GET IT! I AM ASKING A LOT OF YOU!
I JUST THOUGHT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP HAD DEVELOPED TO A POINT WHERE EACH OF US COULD PUT ASIDE OUR PERSONAL HANG-UPS WHEN THE OTHER NEEDED US TO!
BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG!
LOOK, LAURA...

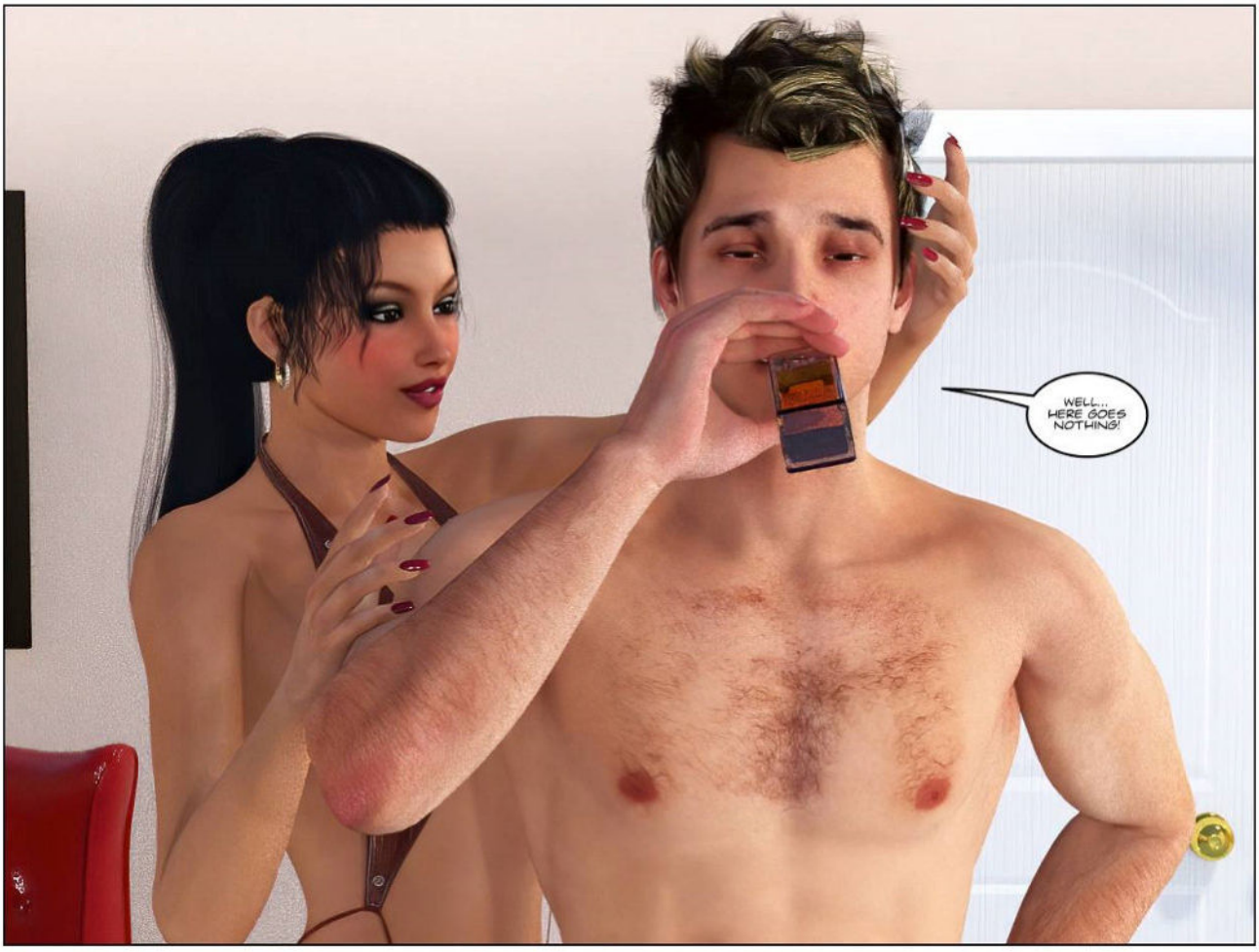

MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST! WHAT MY HUSBAND DOES ON A NIGHT OUT WITH THE GIRLS IS REALLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS ANYMORE!
WE'LL JUST STAY IN, MAYBE ORDER SOME ROOM SERVICE! WE CAN WATCH SOME OLD MOVIES, CHAT ABOUT OUR FUTURE TOGETHER. FIGURE OUT IF THERE IS ONE...
I'LL DO IT.


REALLY?! YOU MEAN IT?
YES... I MEAN IT! I'LL DO IT... FOR YOU!


OH, JACK! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME!
ACTUALLY, I DO! AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I'M AGREEING TO IT!
THAT, AND THE FACT THAT IT FEELS LIKE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL FINALLY LET YOUR HUSBAND GO AND COMMIT TO ME!

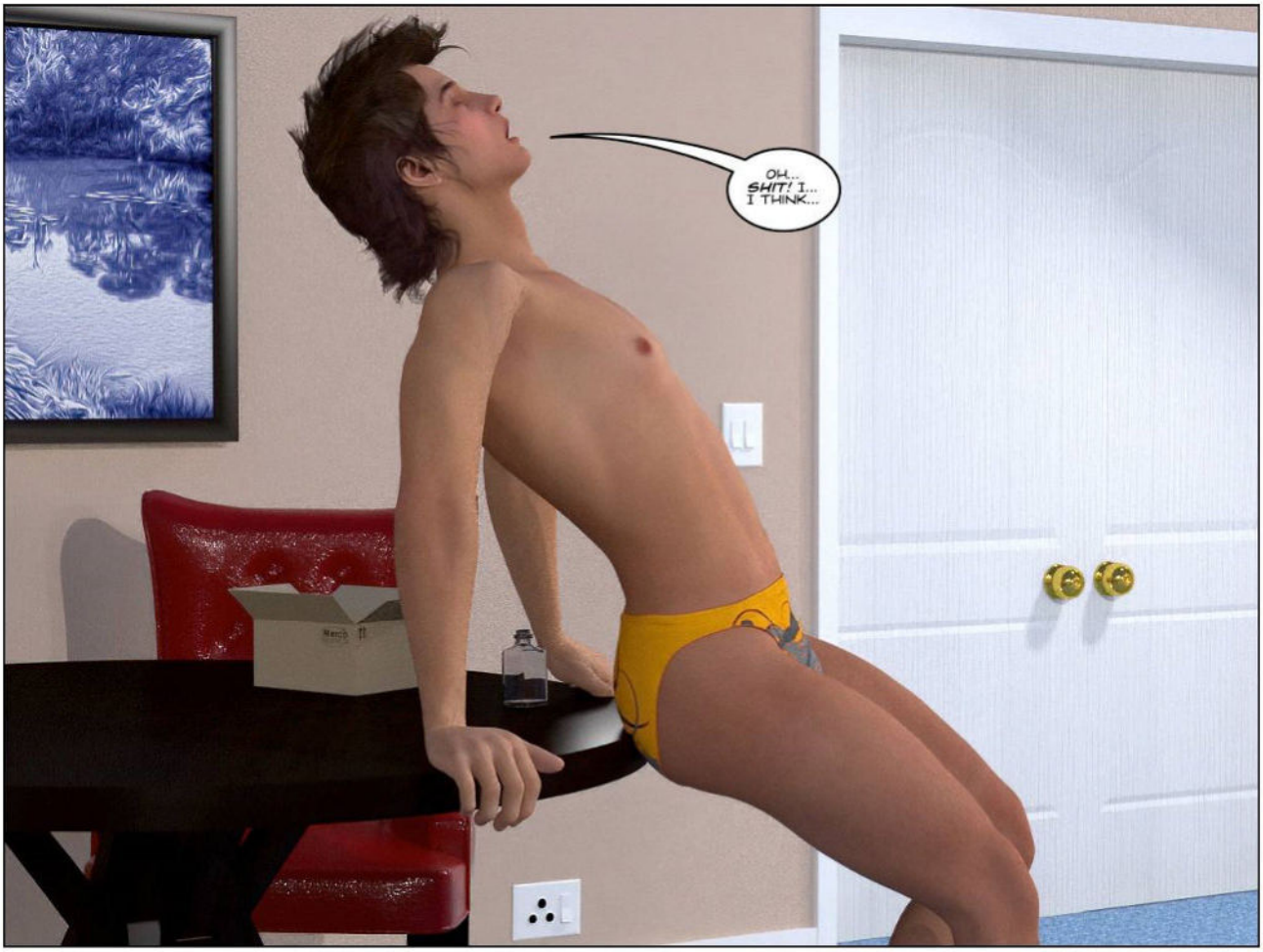

"SIGH!" SO... YOU'RE THE EXPERT! HOW DO WE DO THIS?
IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE! YOU DRINK THE SERUM... AND HANG ON! "GIGGLE!"
HANG ON! WHY? DOES IT HURT?
ON THE CONTRARY! I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN QUITE A RUSH WHENEVER I USE IT!
THOUGH I'VE HEARD IT'S A LITTLE MORE INTENSE FOR THE MEN... LIKELY DUE TO THE MORE EXTREME CHANGES!

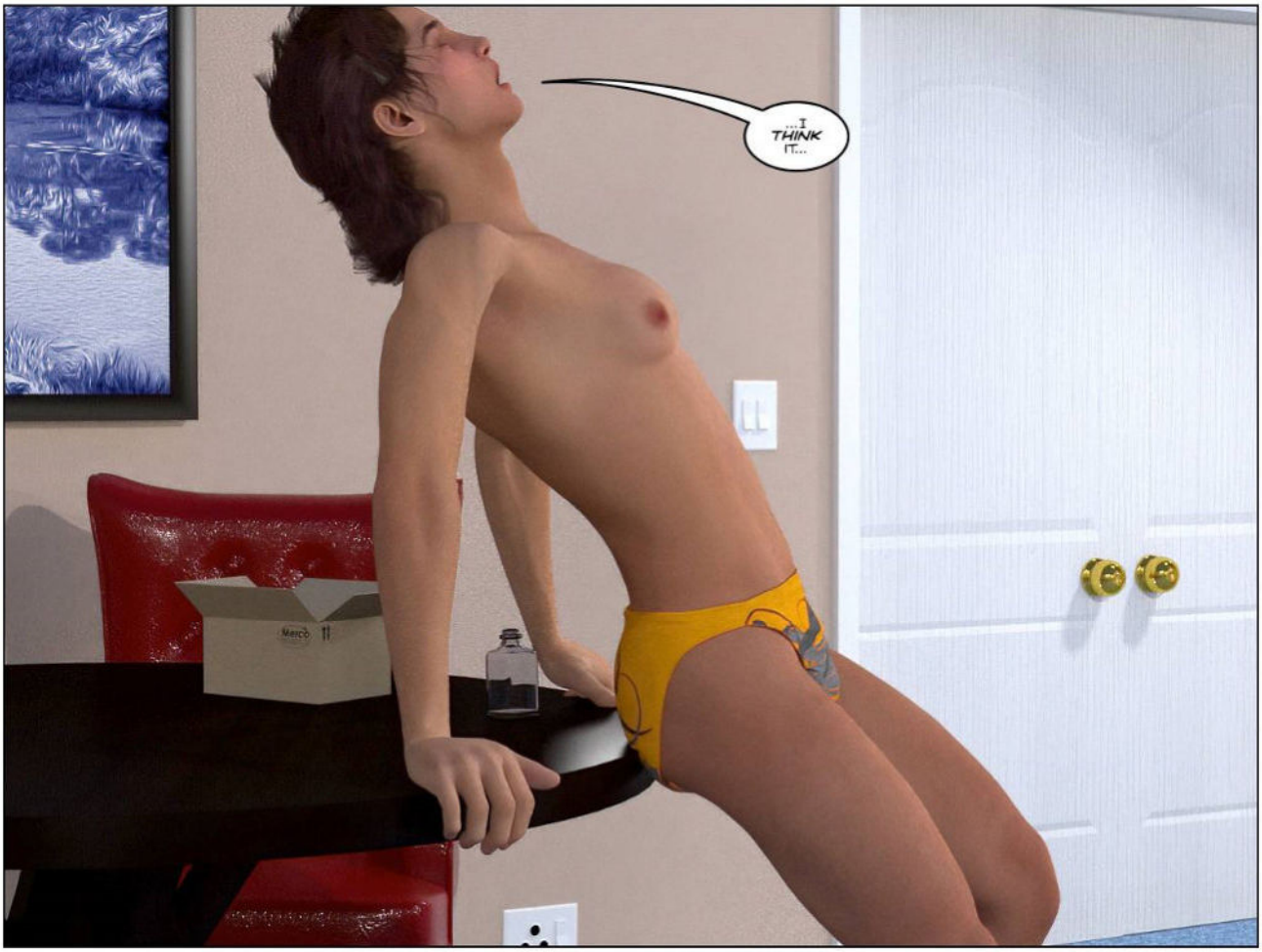

ONE OF THE MANY PERKS OF BEING A TOP EXECUTIVE, DEAR!
WE'VE NOW TESTED IT ON DOZENS AND DOZENS OF MEN, AND PHIL IS THE ONLY ONE WHO NEVER CHANGED BACK! VERY GOOD ODDS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT THE OFFICE TO SEND THIS DOWN HERE SO FAST!
AND YOU'RE SURE IT'S SAFE?
YEAH... JUST GREAT!

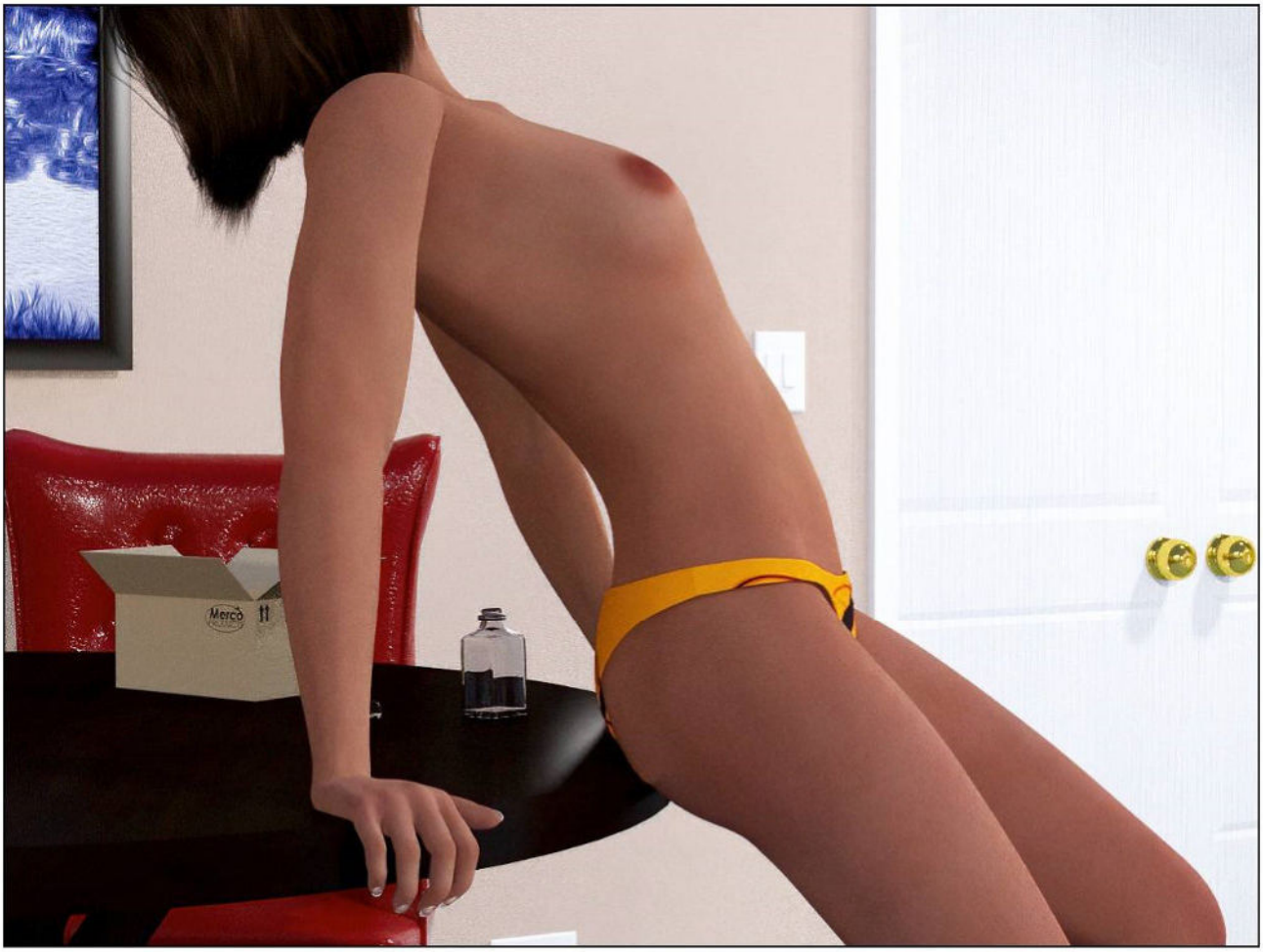

WELL... HERE GOES NOTHING!

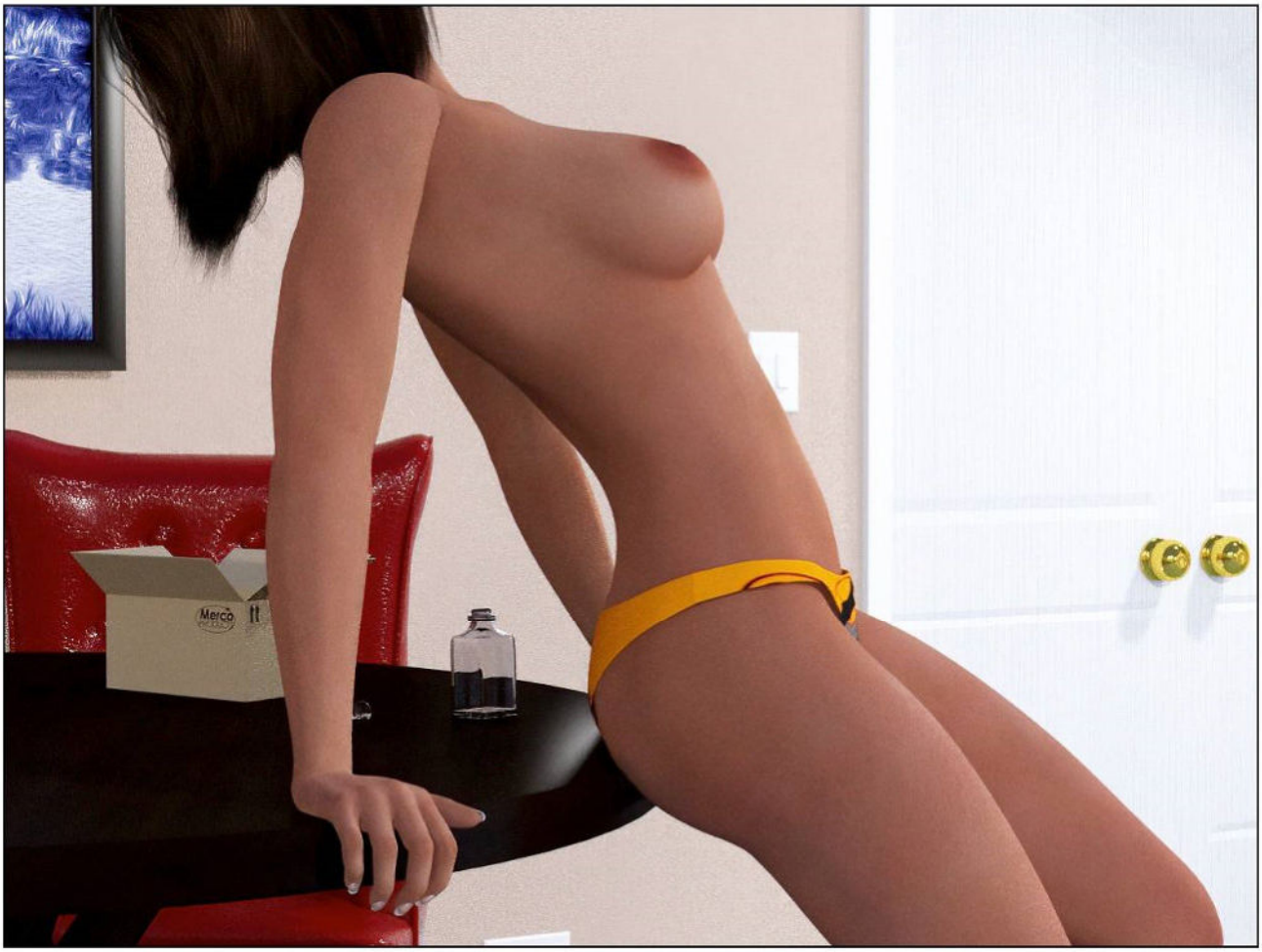

OKAY.. NOW WHAT?
JUST RELAX, BABY.. AND ENJOY THE RIDE! *GIGGLE!*


WHOA! I FEEL... WEIRD!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY STARTED! DON'T WORRY... IT WON'T TAKE LONG!


OH... SHIT! I... I THINK...


...I THINK IT...


Mercò


Mercò




HOLY SHIT! THAT... WAS INTENSE!
GLAD I COULD AMUSE YOU! SO... HOW DO I LOOK?
WOW! I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF VIDEOS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S TRANSFORMATIONS, BUT NEVER IN PERSON! THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING!
YOU LOOK PERFECT! A BIT DISHEVELED, BUT THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED!


GOOD THING WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO GET YOU READY!


Several hours later...
WaveRiders




GO ON IN, LADIES, AND HAVE FUN!
OH, WE WILL! THANK YOU, HANDSOME!


YOU KNOW, IF I FALL OFF THESE THINGS AND BREAK MY LEG, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE MEDICAL BILL, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK MY INSURANCE WOULD COVER IT!
BUT WE DIDN'T PRACTICE ME FREEZING TO DEATH! COULDN'T YOU HAVE DRESSED ME IN SOMETHING WITH A LITTLE MORE MATERIAL?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FALL, HONEY! WE PRACTICED LONG ENOUGH THIS AFTERNOON THAT YOU'LL DO JUST FINE!
THIS IS A NIGHTCLUB, BABE, NOT A STAFF MEETING! SO RELAX, GET INTO CHARACTER, AND ABOVE ALL, QUIT WHINING!


ACTUALLY, I JUST TOLD THEM TO SEND THE FIRST ONE THEY FOUND AND GET IT HERE ASAP!
THE FACT YOU ENDED UP SO WELL-ENDOWED IS JUST A STROKE OF LUCK! *GIGGLE!*
FINE! BUT DID YOU HAVE TO GET A SERUM THAT WOULD MAKE ME SO DAMN... TOP-HEAVY?
HMPH! NOT FOR MY BACK, IT ISN'T!


SO, DO YOU SEE THEM YET?
NO, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN MUCH, SINCE MY EYES HAVEN'T FULLY ADJUSTED YET!
SIGH! I JUST HOPE THEY'RE HERE ALREADY! 'CAUSE THE SOONER WE GET THIS CRAZY PLAN OF YOURS UNDER WAY, THE SOONER WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE!


YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY NEED TO LOOK AT THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY RATHER THAN A BURDEN!
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY MALE EYE IN HERE TO FOCUS ON THIS MASSIVE SHELF ENTERING EVERY ROOM A FEW SECONDS BEFORE ME?
YEAH, I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
AND YOU SHOULD! IT'S SOMETHING VERY FEW MEN WILL EVER EXPERIENCE! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!
UH-HUH... YOU BET I WILL, HONEY!


YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A CLUB LIKE THIS BEFORE! THE ENERGY... THE VITALITY! I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING LANA STEWART COULD ENJOY ON A REGULAR BASIS!
UMM... REALLY, BABE? ARE YOU SURE? I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A DRINKER OR A DANCER!
OH, I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT... JACK! AND I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO TAG ALONG!


BUT I'M THINKING MY NEW BFF JACKIE WOULD BE AN AWESOME WING-WOMAN AND WE COULD HAVE OODLES OF FUN TOGETHER!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU WANT ME TO DO THIS MORE THAN ONCE?
I'M KIDDING, BABE! BUT I REALLY DO NEED YOU TO GET ON BOARD TONIGHT! CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?


SHIT! CAN'T SAY I LIKE HEARING THAT "LANA'S INTRIGUED BY PLACES LIKE THIS! THIS NEW PROMOTION IS PROVING TO BE A REAL PAIN... IN MY BACK... AND MY FEET!
I'M TOTALLY DOWN AS WINGS-WOMAN TONIGHT, BABE! I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT AND YOU'RE LOOKING FOR CLOSURE!
BUT MAYBE INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON THE END OF YOUR MARRIAGE, YOU SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON HAVING A NEW LIFE... WITH ME!
I'M TRYING, HONESTLY, I AM! I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT THROUGH MY THICK HEAD THAT PHIL IS JUST...


HEY! YOU MADE IT! DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU HERE, BOSS-LADY!
YEAH, I COULDN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD ONCE YOU GUYS MENTIONED WAVERIDERS... AND I'M SO GLAD WE CAME! THIS PLACE IS AWESOME!
I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE HOTTEST PLACE IN TOWN, AND SO FAR IT'S LIVED UP TO THAT REPUTATION!


WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
THIS IS MY BFF, JACKIE! SHE'S, UMMM... VISITING FROM LOS ANGELES!
HIYA! I AM, LIKE, SO PLEASED TO MEETCHA!
DIAL IT BACK, BARBIE!


SO, ARE THE OTHER GIRLS FROM GNI HERE, TOO?
YEAH, THEY'RE AROUND! MOST LIKELY OUT ON THE DANCE FLOOR! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN SPOT 'EM!


OH, YEAH, THERE'S MAEVE AND JAYA BOTH DANCING WITH THAT HUNK OVER BY THE BACK WALL!
ISN'T THAT ONE OF THE TWO BEEFCAKES THAT WAS ON THE BEACH TODAY?
GOOD EYE! THEY SPOTTED HIM WITHIN A FEW MINUTES OF GETTING HERE, AND THEY'VE BEEN DANCING UP A STORM SINCE!
HOW COME THEY'RE SHARING HIM? WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE?
'CAUSE LILY CALLED DIBS FIRST! *GIGGLE!*
WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SHE CALLED "DIBS?"


SEE FOR YOURSELF! THEY'RE OVER TO THE LEFT OF THE OTHERS!
WOW!
WHERE? I DON'T...


GASP!


HUBBA-HUBBA!
OH MY GOD!


PRETTY HOT, HUH?
UMM... YEAH! HOT!


HOW DID SHE... I MEAN, WHERE DO YOU THINK SHE LEARNED TO DANCE LIKE THAT?
SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS ON A DANCE SQUAD IN COLLEGE!
GIGGLE! WITH MOVES LIKE THAT, I'LL BET THEIR SQUAD WAS VERY, VERY POPULAR!
YES, I'M... I'M SURE THEY WERE!


I THINK I NEED A DRINK! WHERE'S THE BAR IN THIS PLACE?
AND WHERE ARE THESE LOUNGES?
IT'S HIDING WAY IN THE BACK SOMEWHERE! I'VE FOUND IT'S A HELL OF A LOT EASIER TO PARK YOURSELF IN ONE OF THE LOUNGES AND WAIT FOR A SERVER TO COME BY!
THERE'S A NICE ONE UPSTAIRS! FOLLOW ME!


JESUS, LAURA! WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED TO SEE? CAN'T WE GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE?
THIS IS CRAZY! IT WAS ONE THING TO SEE MY HUSBAND GIGGLING ON THE BEACH LIKE ANY OTHER BIKINI-WEARING BIMBO!


BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE MAN I WAS MARRIED TO COULD EVER MOVE SO SENSUOUSLY... OR GRIND AGAINST A GUY LIKE THAT! UNTIL THE LAST FEW YEARS, HE USED TO LIKE HAVING SEX WITH ME! I KNOW HE DID!
I SURELY WOULD HAVE NOTICED IF HE'D BEEN EYEING OTHER MEN OUR WHOLE TIME TOGETHER... BUT I GUESS I'M WRONG! THERE WAS ALL THAT EVIDENCE ON HIS COMPUTER... AND NOW I'M SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
HOPEFULLY A CHAT WITH DARLA WILL HELP ME UNDERSTAND JUST WHO THIS PERSON IS THAT PHIL SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME!


HERE WE GO, LADIES! GRAB A SEAT, AND A WAITER SHOULD BE ALONG PRETTY SOON!
AWESOME! MY FEET ARE KILLING ME!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DANCED YET!
UMMM... NEW SHOES! HAVEN'T BROKEN THEM IN YET!


SO, UMMM... YOU AND THE OTHER GIRLS SEEM REALLY CLOSE! HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER, DARLA?
JAYA AND I GO WAY BACK! WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOREVER! SHE HELPED ME GET THE JOB AT GNI A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO! AND THAT'S WHEN I MET MAEVE!
WE'VE BEEN THICK AS THIEVES SINCE THEN! *GIGGLE!*
WHAT ABOUT LILY? I ASSUMED SHE WAS ONE OF YOUR GROUP, TOO!
OH, SHE MOST DEFINITELY IS! BUT SHE JUST JOINED OUR LITTLE CIRCLE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO WHEN SHE STARTED WORKING AT GNI!


ONLY A FEW WEEKS, HUH? WOW, YOU ALL REALLY SEEM TO HAVE BONDED QUICKLY!
I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S JUST, AS SOON AS I MET HER, I KNEW SHE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL!
SHE WAS NO IDEA JUST HOW SPECIAL! HEH-HEH!
SHUSH!
SPECIAL? REALLY! LIKE, HOW DO YOU MEAN?


NONE OF WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WILL AFFECT OUR JOBS, WILL IT?
OF COURSE NOT! WHAT'S DISCUSSED AT WAVERIDERS STAYS AT WAVERIDERS!
I THINK I'M GOING TO LIKE YOU, BOSS-LADY! AS FOR LILY, I COULD TELL FROM THE GET-GO THAT SHE WASN'T LIVING UP TO HER POTENTIAL... THAT SOMETHING WAS HOLDING HER BACK!
NOT SURE IF IT WAS MY INFLUENCE, BUT ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT HOT LITTLE FIRECRACKER SHAKING HER BOOTY DOWN THERE IS A FAR CRY FROM THE QUIET, RESERVED GIRL I MET A FEW WEEKS AGO!
SHE... SHE'S CHANGED THAT MUCH, HUH?
OH, HELL YEAH! I'M NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF REPRESSIVE LIFE SHE LED BEFORE SHE MOVED TO HOUSTON, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME THAT SHE'S NOW THE KIND OF GIRL SHE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE!


I CERTAINLY HAVEN'T KNOWN LILY FOR VERY LONG, BUT I CAN RECOGNIZE A HAPPY AND FULFILLED PERSON WHEN I SEE ONE!


ARE YOU OKAY?
NO... NO I'M NOT!
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?
A LITTLE SPACE WHILE I TRY AND SORT ALL THIS OUT!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO WHISPERING ABOUT OVER THERE?


OH, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T REALIZE WE WERE TALKING SO LOW!
I WAS JUST TELLING JACKIE I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR A SERVER AND WAS GOING TO HUNT ONE DOWN!
NEED ANY HELP?
NO... NO THANKS! I... I WON'T BE LONG!


MY GOD... I THINK WHAT DARLA SAID... IT RINGS TRUE! I KNEW PHIL WAS MISERABLE, BUT I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS WHY!
IT WASN'T REALLY ABOUT HIS JOB... OR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT OUR MARRIAGE! HE JUST WANTED TO BE A BUSTY, BLONDE PARTY GIRL SO HE COULD CHASE GUYS IN NIGHTCLUBS!
AND NOW, BECAUSE OF ME... BECAUSE I FOOLISHLY GAVE HIM SERUM FGMX, HE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO JUST THAT... FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
SO... WHAT'S YOUR STORY, HOT STUFF?
UMMM...


WHERE THE FUCK IS SHE? IF SHE'S NOT ON THE DANCE FLOOR, THAT MEANS SHE COULD BE ON THE WAY UP HERE!
SHIT! EVEN THOUGH I KNOW SHE WON'T RECOGNIZE ME, I CAN'T FACE LILY RIGHT NOW! I JUST CAN'T!


I NEED SOME ALCOHOL TO SETTLE MY NERVES! WHERE THE HELL ARE ALL THE GODDAMN SERVERS? I GUESS I'LL GO TRY AND FIND THE DAMN BAR MYSELF!
AT LEAST THAT WILL GIVE ME ENOUGH TIME TO TRY AND COMPOSE MYSELF!


JESUS! THIS PLACE IS A GODDAMN LABYRINTH! WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY HIDING THAT FUCKING BAR?
MMMMM! DIDN'T I TELL YOU A BIT OF PRIVACY WOULD BE EVEN MORE FUN, BABY?
OH MY GOD! GET A ROOM, YOU TWO!


WHY DON'T WE JUST GO BACK TO MY PLACE?
OH, WE WILL, BABY. WE WILL! I'M JUST NOT ALL PARTIED OUT YET!
!!!!!!


BUT DON'T WORRY, STUD, WHEN WE FINALLY DO LEAVE, I'LL SHOW YOU THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE! *GIGGLE!*
GASP! LILY?!


OOPS! I GUESS THIS SPOT WASN'T AS PRIVATE AS I THOUGHT AFTER ALL! *GIGGLE!*
HI, IT'S LANA, RIGHT? THE NEW HIRE AT GNI?
OH, YOU DIDN'T INTERRUPT ANYTHING! WE WERE ALL DONE... FOR NOW, THAT IS! *GIGGLE!*
YEAH... THAT'S ME! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT ANYTHING! I JUST... UHH...


OH, I, UMMM... ALREADY RAN INTO DARLA UPSTAIRS, BUT I... I'M NOT FEELING WELL AND WAS JUST LEAVING!
GOODBYE, LILY!
HEY, DARLA AND THE OTHERS ARE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! COME JOIN US!
SEE, I HOPE IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS! DO YOU NEED ME TO...


EVEN IF PHIL ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A WOMAN, DOES SHE HAVE TO BE SUCH A SLUT? JESUS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SERIOUS, RESPONSIBLE MAN I MARRIED HAS BECOME THIS INANE PARTY GIRL... AND SEEMS TO BE LOVING EVERY SECOND OF IT!


MY HUSBAND... THE MAN I LOVED... HE REALLY IS GONE! *SOB!*
I CAN'T STAY HERE! NOT WITH HER PARADING AROUND LIKE THAT! I JUST CAN'T!


OH, SHIT! JACK! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM!
HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS PHONE, SO THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL HIM I'M LEAVING... BUT THERE'S ALSO NO WAY IN HELL I'M GOING BACK IN THERE!


"Well... he's resourceful! I'm sure he'll figure out that I decided to leave and make his way back to the hotel eventually!"
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING! THE BEACHES, THE SUN, THE GUYS, THE SURFING!
L.A., HUH? I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT THERE, BUT NEVER HAD THE CHANCE!
OH, YOU SURFED?
HELL YEAH! IT'S THE BEST WAY TO OUTMANEUVER THE COMPETITION... 'CAUSE YOU SPEND HOURS ON YOUR BOARD WAITING FOR JUST THE RIGHT WAVE... WITH THE HOTTEST GUYS LYING ON THEIR BOARDS RIGHT BESIDE YOU! *GIGGLE!*
I LIKE THE WAY YOU WORK, GIRLFRIEND! MAYBE YOU OUGHTA MOVE OUT HERE AND TEACH ME AND MY FRIENDS HOW TO "SURF!" *GIGGLE!*
MAYBE I WILL! *GIGGLE!*


CONSIDERING WHAT LAURA'S SEEN AND HEARD SO FAR, I FIGURE IT MAY TAKE HER A WHILE TO RECOVER! SO I NEED TO PLAY THE PART OF HER BFF JACKIE UNTIL SHE GETS BACK, AND IT'S KIND OF FUN JUST MAKING UP A LIFE OUT OF THIN AIR!
THE MAIN THING IS THAT THIS WEEKEND HAS BEEN EXACTLY WHAT LAURA NEEDS TO LET GO! SHE'LL BE ABLE TO PUT PHIL IN THE PAST AND MOVE ON TO HER NEW LIFE AS LANA... A LIFE WHERE JACK KELLY IS THE ONE AND ONLY MAN SHE CARES ABOUT!
SOMEONE HERE ORDER SOME DRINKS?


I WAS ABOUT TO SEND A SEARCH PARTY OUT FOR YOU GUYS! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE LINE, GORGEOUS! ANYWAY, WE COME BEARING JELLO SHOTS!
JELLO SHOTS? REALLY?
WELL... I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME!


JELLO SHOT, BEAUTIFUL?
MMMMM! YUMMY! MY FAVORITE!
JESUS! WHAT IS THIS... SPRING BREAK?


"SIGH!" GOD, I REALLY HOPE LAURA DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG!


The next day, a little before noon...
Ding!


I HAVE TO SAY, YOU'RE DEFINITELY HANDLING YOURSELF A LOT BETTER THAN YOU WERE WHEN YOU GOT BACK LAST NIGHT! YOU WERE PRETTY OUT OF IT! *GIGGLE!*
WELL, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY GOOD AT RECOVERING AFTER A ROUGH NIGHT OUT! GOES BACK TO MY COLLEGE DAYS!


I JUST WISH IT WASN'T SO GODDAMN BRIGHT IN HERE!
I'M ALSO PLEASANTLY SURPRISED YOU AGREED TO WEAR THE CLOTHES I PICKED OUT FOR YOU TODAY!
TRUTHFULLY, I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO FIGHT YOU OVER THEM!
BESIDES, IF I'M GOING TO TRAVEL WITH SOMEONE AS SEXY AND GLAMOROUS AS YOU, THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TRY AND MAINTAIN A SIMILAR STYLE!


WELL, YOU LOOK FABULOUS, BABE! AND YOU'RE HANDLING THOSE HEELS ALMOST LIKE A PRO!
YEAH, WELL, AFTER LEARNING HOW TO STAY UPRIGHT ON THEM WHILE DRUNK LAST NIGHT, THEY'RE A PIECE OF CAKE TODAY!


YOU KNOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT A GOOD SPORT YOU'RE BEING ABOUT ALL THIS! I MEAN, I ESSENTIALLY FORCED YOU TO BECOME JACKIE AND THEN ABANDONED YOU AT THE NIGHTCLUB!
I'M AMAZED YOU'RE EVEN SPEAKING TO ME AFTER ALL THAT!
HEY, I SURVIVED! AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HAD A PRETTY INTERESTING AND EYE-OPENING TIME!
AND IT'S GOOD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE LENGTHS I'D GO TO IN ORDER TO SUPPORT YOU, BABE! EVERYTHING FROM OBTAINING A MASSIVE SET OF HOOTERS TO DOING JELLO SHOTS!


AND I APPRECIATE IT, HONESTLY! I KNOW I'VE BEEN A TOTAL MESS EVER SINCE I LAID EYES ON LILY AND RUINED THE WONDERFUL WEEKEND WE HAD GOING! I AM SO SORRY!
IT'S OKAY! WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER WEEKENDS TOGETHER! I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY ACCEPTING THE FACT THAT PHIL HAS MOVED ON!


AND I'M MOVING ON, TOO! I'M GOING TO HAVE A WHOLE NEW LIFE AS LANA STEWART, AND YOU'LL BE HER MAIN MAN... ONCE THE SERUM WEARS OFF, THAT IS!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT, BABE!


SIGH! NOW IF ONLY I COULD FORGET SOME OF THE THINGS I DID LAST NIGHT!


That night, back at the apartment...
"SIGH!" AS MUCH AS I HATE BEING BACK IN MY "OLD" BODY, IT'S NICE TO KNOW SERUM FGMX REMAINS AT ITS PREVIOUS LIMIT OF 60 HOURS!
VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME, SINCE I'LL NEED TO FIGURE OUT A DOSING SCHEDULE IN ORDER TO SPEND AS LITTLE TIME AS POSSIBLE IN THIS BODY GOING FORWARD!


Slam!
THE TIMING OF MY REVERSION COULDN'T BE BETTER, SINCE I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANT PHIL COMING HOME TO "LANA!"
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!


THIS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE LAST CONVERSATIONS WE EVER HAVE, BUT IT'S AN IMPORTANT ONE! PHIL HAS MOVED ON TO A DIFFERENT LIFE, AND I'M GOING TO DO THE SAME! WE JUST NEED TO SETTLE ON HOW TO SEPARATE!
I'M NOT READY TO MOVE... I REALLY LIKE THIS PLACE! BUT I DON'T WANT THAT BIMBO LIVING UNDER MY ROOF!
SHE'LL PROBABLY TRY TO HIDE IT FROM ME, THE FACT THAT SHE BEHAVED LIKE A COCK-HUNGRY SLUT ALL WEEKEND, THE SAME WAY SHE'S HIDDEN THESE THINGS FROM ME FOR SO LONG!
BUT I'M WISE TO HER GAMES! I'LL KNOW THAT ANY RELUCTANCE OR AMBIVALENCE SHE EXPRESSES ABOUT HER TRANSFORMATION ARE MERELY LIES!


THE PHIL JOHNSON I KNEW AND LOVED... IT FEELS LIKE HE NEVER TRULY EXISTED! THAT I JUST THOUGHT HE WAS THIS BIG STRONG MAN AND NOT...


WELL, WELL, WELL! LOOKS LIKE LILY MIGHT NOT BE TRYING TO HIDE THINGS FROM ME ANYMORE!
YOU'RE BACK! DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME THIS WEEKEND... WHEREVER THE HELL IT WAS YOU WENT?
YES... YES, I DID!


I WAS WORRIED THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED! ESPECIALLY IF YOU SPENT THE WHOLE TIME DRESSED LIKE THAT!
BUT NOT WORRIED ENOUGH TO CALL THE POLICE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT! I SAW YOU'D TAKEN YOUR SUITCASE AND FIGURED YOU MUST HAVE TODDLED OFF SOMEWHERE!


DID YOU HAVE A NICE TRIP? WHY DON'T I POUR US A COUPLE GLASSES OF WINE, AND YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT?
BECAUSE THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT! IMPORTANT THINGS!
OH, BUT WHY?
OH, I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREE WITH THAT!


I JUST DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD WASTE OUR TIME TALKING ABOUT MY WEEKEND WHEN YOU ALREADY KNOW PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING ABOUT IT!
PINK
PRINCESS


DON'T YOU... LANA?!


A FORMULA for
by CBlack
RETIREMENT
Chapter Ten


OH MY GOD! HOW IN THE WORLD COULD SHE POSSIBLY KNOW?
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HONEY? AND... AND WHO'S LANA?
WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU THIS FLUMMOXED BEFORE! WHICH JUST VALIDATES WHAT I ALREADY SUSPECTED!


YOU REALLY COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF, COULD YOU? YOU JUST HAD TO SPY ON MY WEEKEND AWAY, DIDN'T YOU?
SPY ON YOU?! NO! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE DOWN THERE! IT WAS JUST A...


SIGH! IT WAS A COINCIDENCE, HONEY! I SWEAR!
WHY DO I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING THAT?


JACK AND I WENT DOWN FOR THE WEEKEND! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU OR ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS WERE THERE UNTIL WE GOT TO THE BEACH!
YET YOU JUST WALKED RIGHT OVER AND STARTED TALKING TO DARLA FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON?
I HAD A VERY GOOD REASON! I GOT A BIG PROMOTION AT WORK AND IT... IT'S GOING TO CHANGE THINGS FOR ME! I'M GOING TO TAKE ON A WHOLE NEW IDENTITY, JUST LIKE YOU! BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD TO ME IN OVER A WEEK!
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT! YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME LANA STEWART ON A PERMANENT BASIS? BUT HOW?
SERUM FGMX STILL ISN'T PERMANENT, AT LEAST NOT FOR ANYONE WHO ISN'T YOU, BUT WITH MY PROMOTION I GET ACCESS TO A CONSTANT SUPPLY! THEY OFFERED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE 24/7 IN A YOUNGER, MORE BEAUTIFUL BODY, AND I'M TAKING IT!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO ERASE THE PAST AND LIVE A NEW LIFE!


IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I NEVER ASKED TO BE THIS WAY!
I'M JUST DEALING WITH THE CARDS I'VE BEEN DEALT! YOU THINK ANY OF THIS HAS BEEN EASY?
I HANDLED IT! I HANDLED THINGS JUST FINE... UNTIL THE LAST FEW YEARS, ANYWAY!
FINE BY ME!
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT YOU'RE LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT!
I THINK YOU'RE HAVING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE, BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T HANDLE BEING A MAN... YOU ONLY PRETENDED ALL THOSE YEARS!
LET'S NOT REHASH THE WAY OUR MARRIAGE CRUMBLED AND FAILED! NOT AGAIN! I'M TIRED OF DWELLING ON IT!


SO... HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT WAS ME?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS ONLY ABOUT 90 PERCENT SURE UNTIL YOU ADMITTED IT JUST NOW! BUT IT WAS A COMBINATION OF THINGS THAT MADE ME SUSPICIOUS!
SUCH AS?
THE GUY YOU WERE WITH ON THE BEACH LOOKED A LOT LIKE JACK! AND MY FRIEND JAYA, WHO WORKS WITH JACK, THOUGHT SO, TOO!


Two days earlier...
HEY, DARLA! THAT GUY WITH LANA LOOKS FAMILIAR! DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?
HMMM... IT'S HARD TO TELL FROM HERE, BUT HE DOES LOOK AWFULLY DAMN FAMILIAR!
YOU KNOW WHO THAT LOOKS LIKE? JACK KELLY! I WORK IN HIS DEPARTMENT!
JACK KELLY! I'M SURPRISED! DIDN'T SEE HIM AS SOMEONE WHO HITS ON THE NEW HIRES... EVEN IF THEY ARE AN EXEC! *GIGGLE!*


SUNBED & UMBRELLA RENTAL
HOW DO YOU KNOW JACK, LILY?
OH, I DON'T! I GUESS I'VE JUST SEEN HIM IN THE HALLS AT WORK, THAT'S ALL!
AND ONE HOTEL BAR IN PARTICULAR!


IT ALSO DIDN'T HURT THAT YOU USED YOUR MAIDEN NAME OF STEWART!
CAN YOU BLAME ME? WITH ALL THE OTHER DRAMATIC CHANGES IN MY LIFE, I WANTED MY NEW NAME TO BE SOMETHING I WAS COMFORTABLE WITH!
TRUE, YOU'VE ALWAYS LIKED HAVING FAMILIAR THINGS AROUND YOU! GUESS THAT'S WHY YOU DECIDED TO SHOW UP AT THE CLUB LAST NIGHT WITH YOUR BFF JACKIE IN TOW!


GASP! YOU MET JACKIE?!
OH, YEAH! SHORTLY AFTER YOU LEFT! AND MEETING "HER" IS WHAT PRETTY MUCH CLINCHED IT FOR ME!
OH MY GOD! HE WAS SO DRUNK WHEN HE GOT BACK TO THE HOTEL! WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?
NOTHING! HE MADE A POINT OF STAYING AWAY FROM ME AND STICKING CLOSE TO DARLA MOST OF THE EVENING!
PROBABLY WHY HE WAS SO DRUNK WHEN YOU SAW HIM! *GIGGLE!*


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TALKED JACK INTO TAKING THE SERUM! HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH OF CHANGING THE MEN IN YOUR LIFE INTO WOMEN?
AND IN ORDER TO HAVE THAT, YOU ONCE AGAIN CHOSE TO LIE AND DECEIVE!
I'M GUESSING JACKIE HAD A VERY EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE, GETTING TO SEE WHAT LIKE IS LIKE FROM THE OTHER SIDE WHILE WEARING A DRESS AND HEELS!
I KNOW IT WAS CRAZY, BUT I WAS A TOTAL MESS AFTER SEEING YOU ON THE BEACH AND I... I NEEDED HIS SUPPORT!
THAT MAY BE, BUT IT'S NOT AN EXPERIENCE HE'S EAGER TO REPEAT, UNLIKE SOME PEOPLE!


I KNOW I SOMETIMES MAKE RECKLESS CHOICES, BUT TRUST ME, I DIDN'T GO DOWN THERE TO SPY ON YOU! IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT WE ALL ENDED UP ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND!
BUT AFTER SEEING YOU ON THE BEACH... IN THAT BIKINI... AND THE WAY YOU WERE ACTING WITH THOSE MEN... I HAD TO DETERMINE JUST HOW FAR IT WENT! I NEEDED TO GO TO THAT CLUB!
WELL, I'D WAGER YOU GOT THE ANSWERS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR... ANSWERS I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF UNTIL THIS WEEKEND!
I DON'T QUITE BELIEVE THAT, PHIL... I MEAN, LILY. YOU ACT LIKE YOUR ATTRACTION TO MEN IS SOMETHING NEW, BUT I SAW ALL THE DOWNLOADED FILES ON YOUR COMPUTER!


YOU ACCUSE ME OF LYING, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN'T ADMIT TO ME... OR PERHAPS EVEN TO YOURSELF... THAT THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
YOU ACCIDENTALLY ENDED UP IN THE BODY OF YOUR FANTASIES... SO NOW YOU'RE FINALLY FREE TO BED THE KIND OF MEN YOU'VE ALWAYS LUSTED AFTER YOUR ENTIRE LIFE!
SIGH! THAT'S NOT TRUE! SURE, I DOWNLOADED SOME STORIES WHERE THE GUYS BECOME MAN-CRAZY SLUTS, BUT THAT WAS MORE FOR LAUGHS, OR BECAUSE I LIKED SOME ASPECTS OF THOSE STORIES! I NEVER GOT OFF ON THAT SCENARIO!
BUT SINCE I'VE BEEN IN THIS BODY, THINGS HAVE... I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO SAY IT.. SHIFTED FOR ME! I'M BECOMING A DIFFERENT PERSON. AND THERE'S NO POINT IN DENYING IT... I'M INTO GUYS NOW! BIG TIME!
PINK
PRINCESS


I KNOW I WITHHELD THINGS FROM YOU FOR A LONG TIME... BUT I JUST THOUGHT IF I KEPT THOSE FEELINGS IN A LOCKED BOX WE'D BE OKAY, THAT THEY'D HAVE NO IMPACT ON OUR MARRIAGE!
I KNOW THAT DIDN'T REALLY WORK, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL I BECAME LILY THAT THE DAM BURST!
I'M NOT SURE I'LL EVER COME TO TERMS WITH THE KIND OF WOMAN YOU'VE CHOSEN TO BE!
PINK
PRINCESS


YOU AND ME BOTH! I ALWAYS DID HAVE A THING FOR BARBIE. BUT I HONESTLY NEVER PICTURED MYSELF BEING A BLONDE GIRLY-GIRL, SOMEONE WITH PAINTED NAILS, BANGLE BRACELETS, AND TONS OF PINK IN HER WARDROBE! BUT ONCE I STARTED HEADING DOWN THIS ROAD, IT'S JUST FELT RIGHT!
AND I'M TRYING TO LEARN TO TRUST MY FEELINGS, YOU KNOW? I THINK IT'S WHY I'VE ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE OPEN TO MY CHANGING SEXUALITY! IT JUST FEELS RIGHT!
I KNOW YOU MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT... OR BELIEVE ME, BUT THE TRUTH IS, I DID LOVE BEING YOUR HUSBAND!
BUT NOT ANYMORE. YOU'RE NO LONGER PHIL JOHNSON!


YOU'RE LILY ROGERS NOW! A VIVACIOUS YOUNG BEACH BUNNY AND ALLURING PARTY GIRL!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD WAY TO DESCRIBE ME... AND MUCH KINDER THAN YOUR USUAL!
WE BOTH HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE FACT THAT THIS IS ME... OR AT LEAST THE "ME" I AM NOW!


AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE SOMEONE ELSE, TOO! LANA STEWART! I'M GLAD YOU'RE GETTING A FRESH START, TOO!
IT'S CHALLENGING, BUT ALSO NICE TO TRY AND DO OVER THE THINGS YOU GOT WRONG THE FIRST TIME OUT IN YOUR LIFE!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T BE AS OPTIMISTIC AS YOU ARE ABOUT ALL OF THIS! FOR ONE THING, YOUR CHANGE IS PERMANENT, WHILE MY NEW IDENTITY IS RELIANT UPON SERUM FGMX, AND WE DON'T KNOW THE RAMIFICATIONS OF LONG-TERM USE!
I COULD BUILD UP A TOLERANCE TO THE SERUM SO IT'S NO LONGER EFFECTIVE! OR THERE COULD BE SIDE EFFECTS FROM USING IT ON A CONSTANT BASIS!
YOU'RE SO LUCKY YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THOSE THINGS!


WELL, YOU'RE HEAD OF RESEARCH NOW, SO YOU'RE IN THE BEST POSITION TO MAKE SURE THE SERUM KEEPS DOING WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO, RIGHT? I'D BE WILLING TO HELP OUT IN ANY WAY I CAN, BUT SINCE I'M NO LONGER EMPLOYED AT GNI, IT DOESN'T SEEM...
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU LOST YOUR JOB?!


WAIT! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
OF COURSE NOT! WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
FRIDAY MORNING! HR CALLED ME IN AND SAID MY TEMP JOB WAS BEING DISCONTINUED!
BUT THAT'S NOT...!


OH SHIT! I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! I HAD THAT TEMP POSITION CREATED TO WORK FOR ME... LAURA JOHNSON!
BUT SINCE I GOT MY PROMOTION AND HR THINKS "LAURA JOHNSON" HAS BEEN REPLACED BY "LANA STEWART", THEY GOT RID OF "LAURA'S" TEMP AS WELL!
I HAD SO MUCH TO DEAL WITH ON FRIDAY, SO MANY DECISIONS TO MAKE! I NEVER DREAMED MY PROMOTION WOULD COST YOU YOUR JOB! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
OH, I DO! THAT LOOK OF SHOCK ON YOUR FACE IS PRETTY CONVINCING!


I CONFESS, I WAS MAD AS HELL AT YOU, THINKING THAT YOU'D CHOSEN TO CUT ME OFF AT THE KNEES SINCE I WASN'T SPEAKING TO YOU! I STEWED ABOUT IT FOR MOST OF THE WEEKEND!
WELL, DON'T WORRY! I CAN HAVE YOUR JOB REINSTATED FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING! AND IT WON'T BE A TEMP POSITION EITHER!
UMMM... ACTUALLY, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!
WHY NOT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
PINK
PRINCESS


WELL, ONE OF THE THINGS IVE COME TO TERMS WITH THIS WEEKEND IN THAT I WANT TO TAKE MY LIFE IN A NEW DIRECTION!
I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT THAT DIRECTION WILL BE, BUT IT'S ONE I NEED TO CHART ON MY OWN!
ON YOUR OWN? BUT YOU... YOU CAN'T JUST...
PINK
PRINCESS


OUR MARRIAGE IS OVER, LAURA! OR SHOULD I SAY "LANA"? WE'RE BOTH DIFFERENT PEOPLE NOW!
I STILL LOVE YOU, AND I HOPE WE CAN STILL BE FIRENDS, BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT I CAN'T START MY NEW LIFE AS LONG AS I'M DEPENDENT ON YOU!
LIVING HERE... WORKING FOR YOU AT GNI... THAT ALL HAS TO CHANGE IF I'M GOING TO CHANGE!
PINK
PRINCESS


MY WHOLE LIFE AS PHIL JOHNSON WAS ABOUT TAKING CARE OF OTHERS... BEING RESPONSIBLE! EVER SINCE I WAS A KID TAKING CARE OF MY SISTERS!
WHEN YOU KEPT GETTING PROMOTED AT GNI AND WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY ANYMORE, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP ME RELAX, BUT THAT WASN'T THE CASE! "WORK" AND "RESPONSIBILITY" ARE ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN... UNTIL NOW!
I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO SEE... WHY THE LIFE OF A PARTY GIRL HOLDS SO MUCH APPEAL FOR YOU!
PINK
PRINCESS


IT MAY SEEM LIKE I'M BEING WILD AND RECKLESS TO YOU... IT SURE FEELS THAT WAY TO ME SOMETIMES, BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING I NEED TO DO... OR AT LEAST GET OUT OF MY SYSTEM!
I... I DON'T SUPPOSE I CAN ARGUE WITH ANY OF THAT, IT'S JUST...
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I FEEL FREE TO DO WHATEVER I WISH! IT'S AN EXHILARATING FEELING, AND I PLAN TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
HAVING SAID ALL THAT, I'M HOPING I CAN STAY ON AS YOUR ROOMMATE FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, UNTIL I FIND A PLACE OF MY OWN!


WE CAN STILL BE IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES! I WANT THAT SO MUCH! IT'S JUST... THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW, AND THE SOONER YOU COME TO TERMS WITH IT, THE BETTER!
REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE ALSO FREE, SO YOU SHOULD FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL TREAT YOU THE WAY YOU DESERVE TO BE TREATED!
AND IF THAT TURNS OUT TO BE JACK, WELL... I GIVE YOU BOTH MY BLESSING!


I JUST WANTED TO SAY, DON'T FEEL OBLIGATED TO RUSH INTO ANYTHING! YOU CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!
IT WILL BE IF I CAN HELP IT! GOOD NIGHT... LILY!
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO UNPACK AND GO TO BED! IT'S BEEN A VERY INTENSE WEEKEND, AND I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP THESE LAST FEW NIGHTS!
THANKS, LAURA! OR I GUESS I HAVE TO GET USED TO CALLING YOU "LANA"! IS THIS THE LAST TIME I'M EVER GOING TO SEE YOU LOOKING THIS WAY?


SO... THAT'S IT? MY MARRIAGE WITH PHIL IS OVER, AND WE'RE GOING TO BE GIRLFRIENDS? FOR FUCK'S SAKE!
WHEN I SET ALL OF THIS IN MOTION BECAUSE OF MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT PHIL'S "HOBBY", I DIDN'T REALLY THINK THINGS WOULD PLAY OUT LIKE THIS!
PRETTY MUCH MY WORST-CASE SCENARIO... *SIGH!*


I KNOW PHIL'S NEVER COMING BACK... BUT DOES LILY REALLY HAVE TO BE SUCH A... A WANTON, SLOVENLY TART?
I STILL CAN'T GET MY HEAD AROUND THE FACT THAT MY HUSBAND... MY FORMER HUSBAND... IS CHOOSING TO TAKE ON AN IDENTITY LIKE THAT... AND LOVING IT SO MUCH!


I'M SO RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT, DESPITE MY SUSPICIONS, LAURA WASN'T THE ONE WHO GOT ME FIRED!
AND I'M GLAD SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A NEW LIFE, TOO! MAKES IT EASIER FOR ME TO WALK AWAY FROM THE ONE WE HAD TOGETHER, THAT'S FOR SURE!
IT'S STARTING TO FEEL LIKE WE CAN FINALLY BE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER!


PINK
PRINCESS
THOUGH NOT TOO HONEST! I'M GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO RUIN EVERYTHING BY TELLING HER THE TRUTH ABOUT JACKIE'S "EYE-OPENING" EVENING!


"I mean, it started out innocently enough..."
I SENT HIM FOR DRINKS! WHO'S THAT?
"JACKIE"? REALLY?
HEY, GIRL! 'BOUT TIME YOU JOINED US! WHERE'S YOUR BLONDE ADONIS?
REMEMBER OUR NEW BOSS-LADY, LANA, WHO WE MET ON THE BEACH TODAY? WELL, YOU JUST MISSED HER, BUT THAT'S HER FRIEND JACKIE!


"But when I realized that the hot little brunette sitting there was really Jack, well..."
OH MY GOD! IF LANA REALLY IS LAURA, THAT MEANS THIS HAS GOT TO BE JACK!
WELL, IF THEY WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE JUST SO JACK COULD SPY ON ME, I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT WORTH HIS TIME! *GIGGLE!*


"I figured it was the perfect chance to have a little fun!"
SO YOU'RE LANA'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
UMM, YEAH!
I'M LILY! I JUST RAN INTO HER DOWNSTAIRS, AND SHE WAS ON HER WAY OUT BECAUSE SHE SAID SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL!
WHAT?
BUT DON'T WORRY! WHEN I TOLD HER WE'D GET YOU BACK TO YOUR HOTEL, SHE SAID TO TELL YOU IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO STICK AROUND AND HAVE FUN!
C'MON, HANDSOME! LET'S GO FIND US A LESS CROWDED SPOT!


"Give Jack a little taste of what Laura did to me that first night!"
SHE REALLY SAID THAT?
WORD FOR WORD! SO LET'S START THE FUN WITH A COUPLE MORE SHOTS BEFORE WE HEAD BACK TO THE DANCE FLOOR!
DANCE FLOOR? I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT DANCING!
WITH YOUR FIGURE, NO ONE'LL GIVE A DAMN! TRUST ME!


BOTTOMS UP!

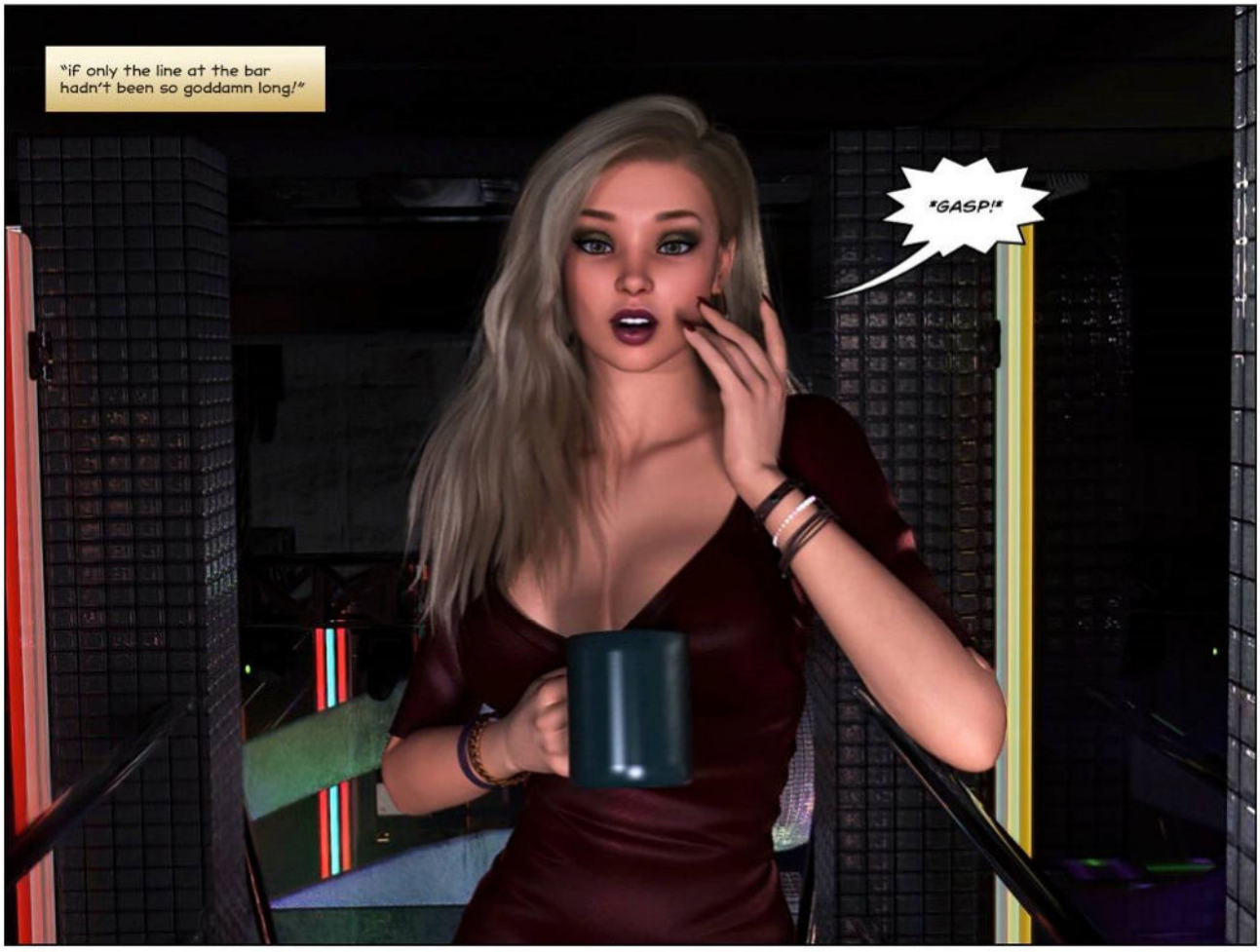

"it just took a couple of Jello shots before "Jackie" started getting into the spirit of the evening!"


"But I didn't realize "she" was such a *lightweight* when it came to holding "her" booze!"
WOO-HOO!!


"A major lightweight!"
OH, YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH I KNOW ABOUT COCKS! *GIGGLE!*
UH-OH!


WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK UP TO THE LOUNGE AND CHILL FOR A BIT? I'LL BRING YOU SOME COFFEE! OKAY?
'KAY!


AS MUCH AS I ENJOY WATCHING "JACKIE" STUMBLE AROUND DRUNK! I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY OF THESE HORNY GUYS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER!
NO ONE DESERVES THAT!


"if only the line at the bar hadn't been so goddamn long!"
GASP!


OH!
OH!! GOD...
YES!!!


"I would've stopped them right there, but at that point, what did it matter?"
HARDER, BABY! HARDER!!


WELL, I FIGURE IF JACK WANTS LAURA TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, ASSUMING HE REMEMBERS ANY OF IT, THAT'S UP TO HIM!


A couple of days later...
YOU BUSY?
ALWAYS! BUT NEVER TOO BUSY FOR YOU! COME ON IN!


I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU CHANGED BACK TO YOUR RUGGEDLY HANDSOME SELF WITH NO ILL SIDE EFFECTS!
YEP! IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY ALMOST TO THE MINUTE YOU SAID IT WOULD!
IF NOTHING ELSE, THE SERUM IS PREDICTABLE! WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL ASSUAGE ANY RESERVATIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE IF I EVER NEED TO ASK YOU TO INDULGE ME AGAIN SOME DAY!
YEAH... WE'LL JUMP OFF THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE GET TO IT, OKAY?
FAIR ENOUGH! *GIGGLE!*


SO, IS THIS LANA STEWART'S NEW STYLE?
DEFINITELY! I THOUGHT ABOUT TRYING A FEW DIFFERENT LOOKS, BUT THIS ONE FEELS JUST PERFECT!
IT'S A PAIN TO HAVE TO CHANGE BACK EVERY COUPLE OF DAYS, BUT IF I TIME IT RIGHT, I NEVER HAVE TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC AGAIN AS AN OLD LADY!


WELL, YOU KNOW I FOUND YOUR FORMER BODY PRETTY DARN APPEALING!
I'M AWARE OF THAT, BABE! AND THAT, AMONG SO MANY OTHER REASONS, IS WHY I THINK I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
DO YOU KNOW THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER SAID THE "L" WORD TO ME?
I KNOW... AND IT'S BEEN LONG OVERDUE!


SO, WHAT'S THE LATEST WITH LILY? YOU SAID YOU TWO HAVE HAD SOME PRETTY GOOD TALKS OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS!
SHE'S STILL INSISTENT ON STARTING A WHOLE NEW LIFE ON HER OWN! I'M SURE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SHE FINDS A NEW JOB AND HER OWN PLACE!
WOW! SHE REALLY IS PULLING AWAY, ISN'T SHE?
IT'S FOR THE BEST! I CAN SEE THAT NOW! I'M NOT SURE WHY I WAS TRYING TO HOLD ON SO HARD TO SOMETHING THAT WAS ALREADY GONE!


HAVE YOU TOLD HER HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME?
REALLY? THAT'S... SURPRISING!
NOT IN SO MANY WORDS, BUT I THINK SHE HAS A PRETTY GOOD IDEA, SINCE SHE DID GIVE US HER BLESSING!


HMMM... LILY OBVIOUSLY DECIDED NOT TO TELL LAURA ABOUT WHAT WENT DOWN AT THE CLUB SATURDAY NIGHT!
I CAN'T HELP WONDERING... IS SHE SAVING IT TO USE AGAINST ME LATER, OR IS SHE JUST BEING NICE?
I TRULY DOUBT SHE'D WANT TO BAIL ME OUT IF SHE KNEW HOW MUCH I'VE DONE TO SABOTAGE HER RELATIONSHIP WITH LAURA!


At about that same time, after a quick lunch not far from GNI...
YOU KNOW, I'M STILL A LITTLE PISSED AT YOU FOR NOT TELLING US RIGHT AWAY THAT YOU WERE FIRED!
AND HAVE OUR WEEKEND IN PADRE SINK INTO A DEPRESSING DRUNK-FEST? WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT'VE DONE?


I KNOW... BUT STILL! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH THAT ALL BY YOURSELF!
HELL YES!
WELL, I DID, AND I SURVIVED! AND I DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT ALONE ANYMORE BECAUSE WE'RE STILL BESTIES, RIGHT?
SO THERE YOU GO!


THEN WE'LL DEFINITELY ALL MEET UP THIS FRIDAY AT THE ROSE AND CROWN AS USUAL! RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE NOT THERE, WE'LL COME LOOKIN' FOR YOU, BITCH! *GIGGLE!*
OH, I KNOW YOU WILL, BITCH! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THE REST OF THE DAY?
I TOLD MYSELF I'D LOOK AT A FEW MORE APARTMENTS THIS AFTERNOON, BUT I THINK I'M JUST GONNA TAKE A BREAK AND CHILL!
HEY, DO WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA DO, GIRLFRIEND!


SEE YOU FRIDAY, LILY!
LATER, DARLA!


I GUESS I COULDVE TOLD DARLA THE REAL REASON I'M NOT DOING ANY MORE JOB-HUNTING OR APARTMENT-HUNTING TODAY IS BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO MISS MY DANCE CLASS!
I'VE ENJOYED MY AFTERNOON SESSIONS WITH MARGO SO MUCH! HOPEFULLY, WHATEVER JOB I EVENTUALLY END UP DOING WILL GIVE ME THE FLEXIBILITY TO CONTINUE MY WORKOUTS WITH HER!
SOMEDAY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO THANK WHOEVER DECIDED TO PUT "DANCE MAJOR" ON MY RESUME! I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A REAL PASSION OF MINE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!


A few hours later, at *Club Exotica*...


I *KNOW* I SAID IT YESTERDAY *AND* THE DAY BEFORE, BUT YOUR *IMPROVEMENT* IS *AMAZING!*
THANKS! MY FRIENDS AND I HIT A FEW *CLUBS* OVER THE WEEKEND, AND I GOT TO *SHOW OFF* A FEW OF MY *NEW MOVES!* *GIGGLE!*
WELL, I *HOPE* THEY WERE *IMPRESSED*, BECAUSE *I* SURE AM!


I'M IMPRESSED, TOO!
OH, HEY THERE, TESS! I'M SORRY WE RAN LATE TODAY!
I'LL LET IT SLIDE, BUT ONLY IF YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THIS TALENTED YOUNG STUDENT OF YOURS!


SURE! LILY ROGERS, THIS IS TESS MARCUM, THE OWNER OF THE CLUB!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TESS!
YOU TOO, LILY! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ONE OF MARGO'S STUDENTS?
WELL, ACTUALLY ONLY ABOUT A WEEK AND A HALF, BUT WE'VE BEEN MEETING PRETTY MUCH EVERY WEEKDAY, SO IT'S BEEN SEVEN LESSONS TOTAL!


EVERY WEEKDAY, HUH? THAT'S A PRETTY SERIOUS COMMITMENT! ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU'RE WORKING SO HARD?
WELL, I MUST SAY: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
INITIALLY IT WAS JUST TO GET GOOD ENOUGH TO NOT LOOK SILLY!
THANKS! AND I GUESS I KEEP COMING BECAUSE I ENJOY IT SO MUCH, AND THE FACT THAT MARGO IS SUCH AN AWESOME TEACHER!


SO NO LOFTY DREAMS OF BEING A PROFESSIONAL DANCER?
I DISAGREE! BESIDES, NOT ALL MY GIRLS STRIP ON THE MAIN STAGE! MANY OF THEM DANCE, FULLY CLOTHED AND WITH NO CUSTOMER CONTACT, ON THE SIDE STAGES!
YOU MEAN LIKE WHAT MARGO DOES? OH, I DON'T KNOW! BESIDES, I'M NOWHERE NEAR GOOD ENOUGH!
OH! I... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!


I ONLY ASK BECAUSE ONE OF MY NITWIT DANCERS WENT SKIING OVER THE WEEKEND AND CAME BACK WITH A BROKEN LEG!
SO NOW I HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY WHO KNOWS HOW TO MOVE! SOMEONE QUITE LIKE YOURSELF!
IT WOULD BE A TEMPORARY POSITION AT FIRST, BUT... WHO KNOWS?


ME? DANCE UP ON ONE OF THOSE STAGES? HOW COULD I POSSIBLY...
WHY NOT?
IT'S JUST THAT... I MEAN I... I WOULD NEVER...


DON'T WORRY, TESS! I'LL WORK A DOUBLE SHIFT IF THAT'LL HELP, AND...
I'LL DO IT!


WHAT?! REALLY?
YEAH... YEAH, I'LL DO IT!
FABULOUS!


I EXPECT YOU TO BE CLEANED UP AND BACK HERE BY SEVEN THIRTY, SINCE THE DOORS OPEN AT EIGHT!
MARGO AND THE OTHER GIRLS CAN FILL YOU IN ON ALL THE DETAILS!
WELCOME TO THE TEAM, LILY!


WOW! I'M NOT SURPRISED SHE OFFERED YOU A JOB! I TOLD YOU SHE WOULD IF SHE SAW YOU DANCE!
BUT I'M AMAZED THAT YOU ACCEPTED IT... ESPECIALLY AFTER YOUR COMMENTS LAST WEEK!
WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
I... I'M NOT REALLY SURE!


NORMALLY I WOULD'VE GIVEN A DECISION LIKE THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT!
BUT LATELY, INSTEAD OF OVERTHINKING EVERYTHING, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GO WITH MY GUT FEELINGS, AND IT'S ALL BEEN TURNING OUT PRETTY DAMN WELL!
SO WHEN MY FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO SAY YES TO TESS, I WENT WITH IT!
THAT'S AWESOME!


SINCE IT'S ALREADY SEVEN, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME TO MY PLACE TO GET CLEANED UP? I LIVE JUST A COUPLE OF BLOCKS AWAY!
THAT WAY I CAN "FILL YOU IN ON ALL THE DETAILS" WHILE HELPING YOU GET READY FOR YOUR BIG DEBUT!
THAT WOULD BE GREAT, MARGO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU!


Barely a half hour later, in the *Club Exotica* dressing room...
SO TELL ME AGAIN HOW **TIPS** WORK HERE IF THE CUSTOMERS **CAN'T** TOUCH US!
EVERY TABLE, AND THE BAR, HAS **TIP JARS** FOR **EACH** OF THE DANCERS! AND THE **COLOR** OF THE JAR INDICATES IF THE DANCER IS AVAILABLE FOR **LAP DANCES** OR **NOT!**
SO THERE **ARE** LAP DANCES HERE!
SURE, BUT **ONLY** IN WHAT WE CALL THE **ALCOVE**... A PART OF THE CLUB **YOU** PROBABLY **DON'T** WANT TO VISIT QUITE YET! **OR**, THEN AGAIN, **MAYBE** YOU **DO!** *GIGGLE!*
NO! THAT'S OKAY! **REALLY!**


HOW ARE YOU **DOING** BACK THERE, LILY? FIND ANYTHING YOU **LIKE?**
REMEMBER, IT'S YOUR **FIRST NIGHT**. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FIND **SOMETHING** YOU'RE **COMFORTABLE** WITH!
I THINK I FOUND **JUST** THE THING!


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK THE AUDIENCE IS GONNA EAT YOU UP! *GIGGLE!*


THANKS! I KNOW IT'S NOT AS RACY AS WHAT THE OTHER GIRLS ARE WEARING, BUT IT GETS THE JOB DONE! *GIGGLE!*


I'VE STILL GOT TO GET DRESSED, SO IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS, KYLIE AND DONNA HERE CAN HELP YOU OUT!
OKAY!


JESUS! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M REALLY DOING THIS!
I MEAN, IT'S ONE THING TO DANCE PROVOCATIVELY AT A NIGHTCLUB! YOU'RE DOING IT FOR FUN, AND EVERYONE ELSE THERE IS DOING IT TOO!
BUT HERE... I'M ONE OF ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL OF GIRLS DANCING... AND WE'RE DOING IT STRICTLY FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF A ROOM FULL OF HORNY MEN!
ODDLY ENOUGH, I FIND THE NOTION OF BEING ON DISPLAY LIKE THAT PRETTY... EXCITING! I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHY, BUT LIKE I TOLD MARGO, I'M NOT GOING TO OVERTHINK IT... AT LEAST NOT UNTIL MY SHIFT IS OVER!

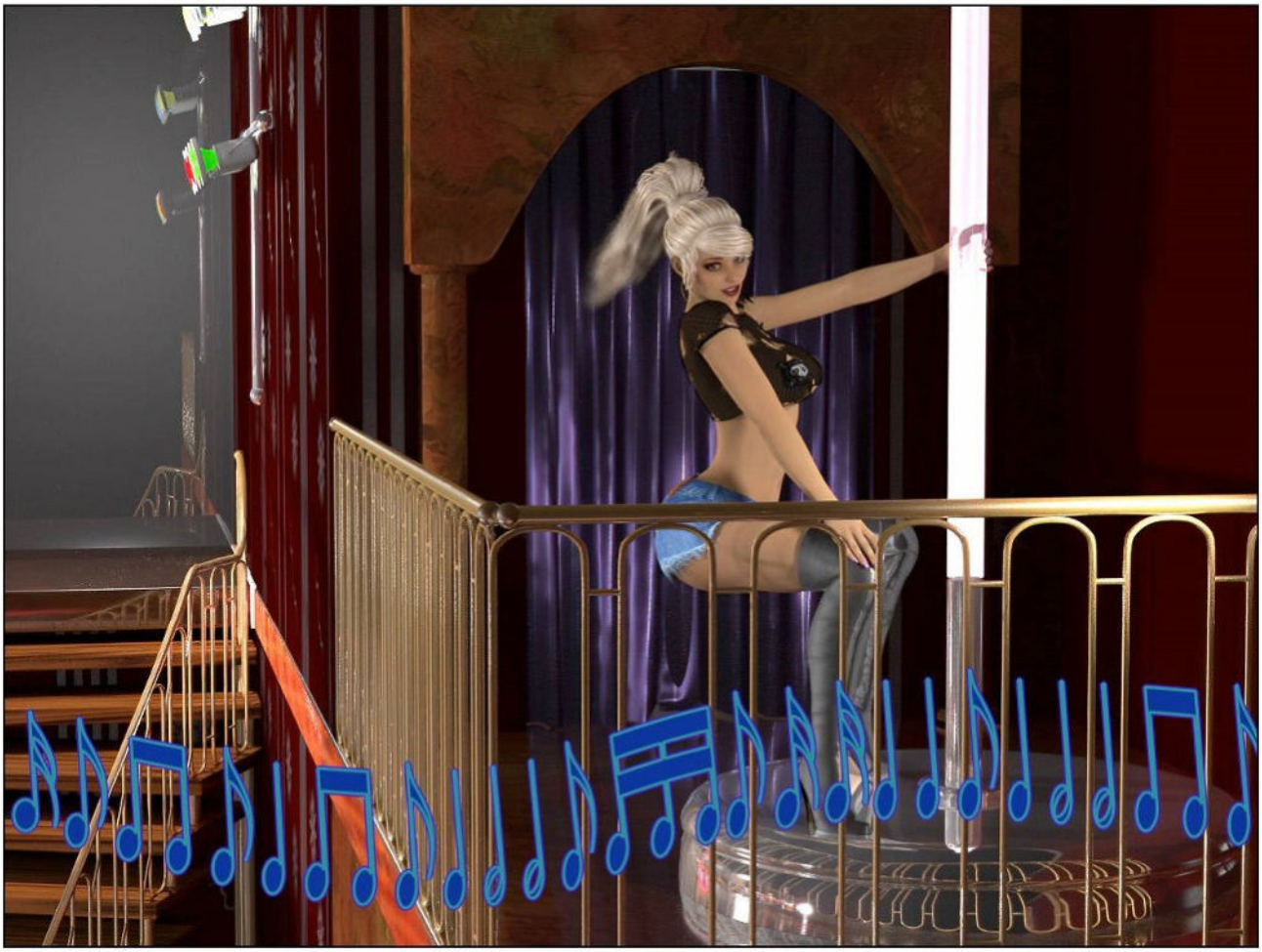

SO, GOT ANY LAST-MINUTE QUESTIONS BEFORE WE HEAD OUT THERE, LILY?
I DON'T THINK SO! MARGO WAS PRETTY THOROUGH IN WHAT LITTLE TIME I'VE HAD TO GET READY!
JUST REMEMBER THAT WE'RE ESSENTIALLY THE BACK-UP DANCERS! DANCE YOUR HEART OUT OVER ON THE SIDES ALL YOU WANT, BUT WHEN THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE MAIN STAGE, DIAL IT BACK!
BUT EVEN DURING TIMES YOU'RE NOT DANCING, THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF WAYS TO KEEP THE CUSTOMERS INTERESTED, EVEN FROM WAY UP ON THE UPPER STAGES!
AND INTERESTED CUSTOMERS LIKE TO TIP! *GIGGLE!*


THE DOORS ARE OPEN, LADIES! SO LET'S HIT THOSE POLES!
BREAK A LEG, LILY!
THANKS, KYLIE!
SIGH! OKAY... HERE WE GO!


WOW! THAT'S A LOT OF PEOPLE FOR JUST EIGHT O'CLOCK... AND ON A TUESDAY!


WELL... HERE GOES SOMETHING!


Clap, Clap!!!
Clap, Clap!!!
Woo-hoo!!







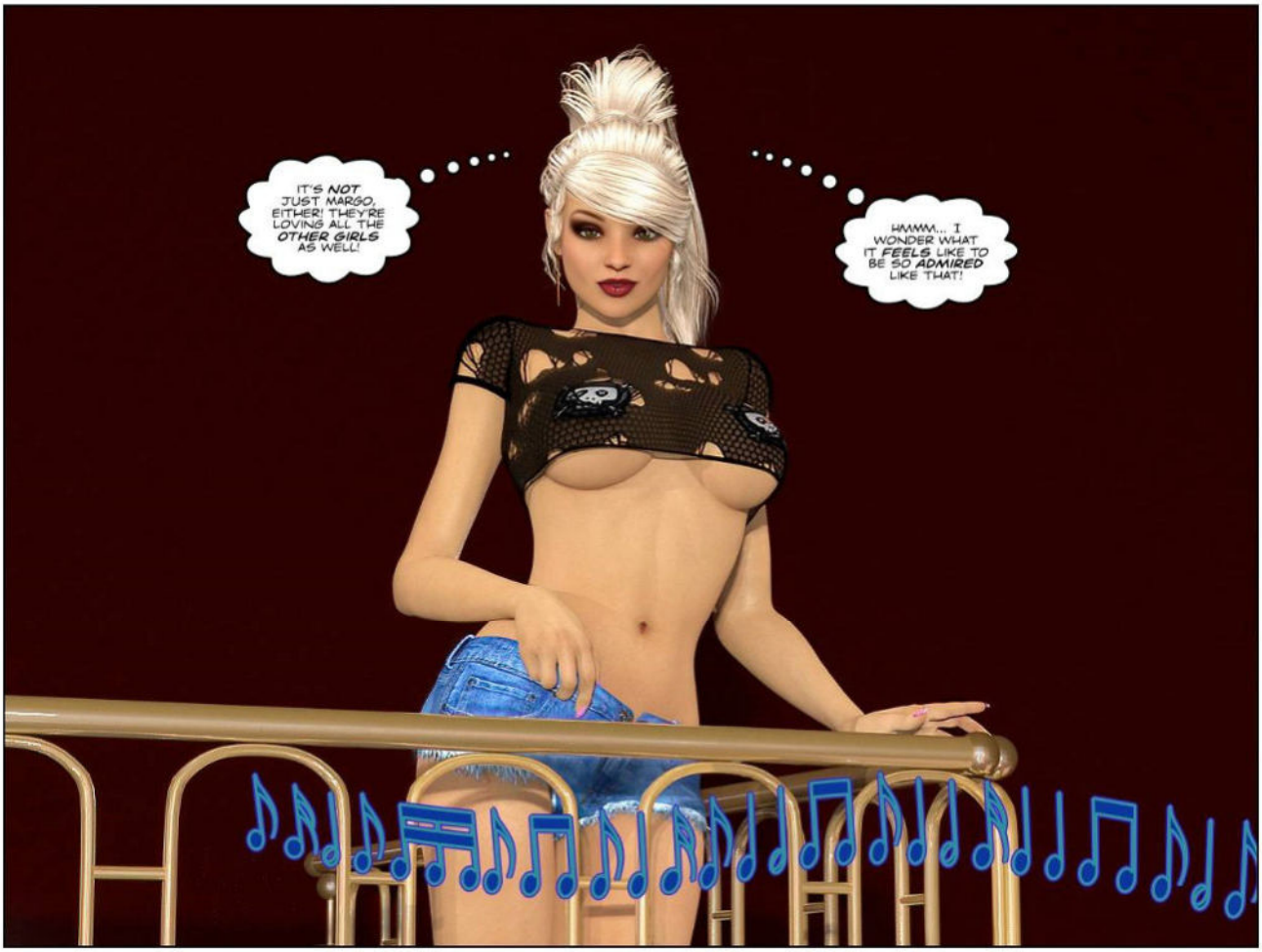

AND NOW, EVERYONE PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR MARGO!!
Clap, Clap!!!
Oh, yeah... Margo!!
Clap, Clap!!!

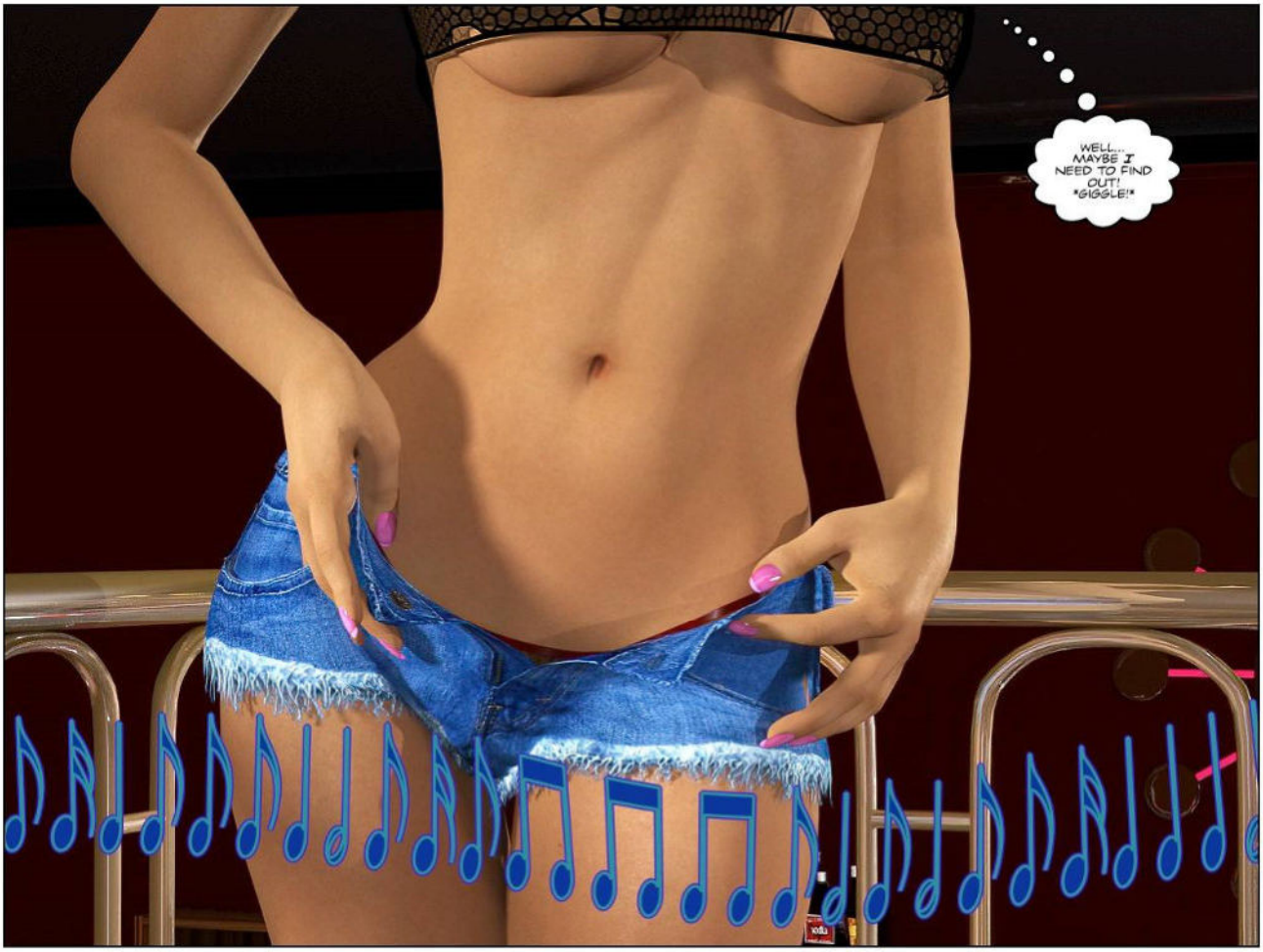



WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN HER DANCE OUTSIDE OF CLASS! SHE REALLY IS AMAZING, AND MAKES IT LOOK SO EASY!


THE AUDIENCE SEEMS TO KNOW IT, TOO! I THINK THEY'RE HERE NOT JUST TO WATCH SOME SKANK TAKE HER CLOTHES OFF! THEY'RE HERE BECAUSE THEY ACTUALLY APPRECIATE THE QUALITY OF THE SHOW!


LET'S GIVE MARGO A BIG HAND! AND DON'T WORRY, SHE'LL BE BACK LATER!
THEY REALLY CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HER, CAN THEY?


IT'S NOT JUST MARGO, EITHER! THEY'RE LOVING ALL THE OTHER GIRLS AS WELL!
HMMM... I WONDER WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE SO ADMIRED LIKE THAT!


WELL... MAYBE I NEED TO FIND OUT! *GIGGLE!*


HEY, TESS! WHO'S THE NEW GIRL ON THE UPPER POLE?
THAT'S LILY! SHE'S FILLING IN FOR STELLA FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS!
TRY AND SEND HER A LITTLE EXTRA ENCOURAGEMENT IF YOU GET THE CHANCE, BECAUSE SHE'S NEW AT THIS!
REALLY? I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?


SEE FOR YOURSELF!


There we go!!!
Woo-hoo!!


What a doll!!
Clap, Clap!!!
Clap, Clap!!!


Clap, Clap!!!
Clap, Clap!!!
Gorgeous!!


I GUESS SOME GIRLS JUST LEARN FASTER THAN OTHERS!


I SEE HER TIP JAR IS BLUE! ANY IDEA WHEN IT MIGHT CHANGE TO RED? ASKING FOR A FRIEND! HEH-HEH!
WHEN, OR IF, MY GIRLS ARE AVAILABLE FOR LAP DANCES IS TOTALLY UP TO THEM, CARL! NO PRESSURE FROM ME OR ANYONE ELSE! GOT IT?
YES, MA'AM!


BUT IN THE MEANTIME, HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO HELP HER MAKE UP HER MIND!


And, at the end of the night...
WELL, WELL, WELL! THE NEW GIRL ISN'T AS PRISTINE AS SHE LED US TO BELIEVE!
YEAH! I THINK TESS HIRED A RINGER TO MAKE US LOOK BAD!


OH MY GOD, I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET ANYONE! I... I JUST GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT ALL AND LET MYSELF CUT LOOSE!
I'M SO SORRY IF I STEPPED ON ANYONE'S TOES!


THEY'RE PULLING YOUR LEG, LILY! YOU DID GREAT OUT THERE, AND THEY KNOW IT!
HELL YES, WE DO! I WISH I'D BEEN THAT CONFIDENT MY FIRST TIME ON THE POLE! I WAS A COMPLETE MESS!
I'M STILL SURPRISED TO THIS DAY THAT TESS DIDN'T FIRE MY ASS AFTER THAT DISASTER!


THAT'S BECAUSE I SAW PROMISE IN YOU, SWEETIE... AS I DO WITH ALL MY GIRLS!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY I RUN THIS PLACE THE WAY I DO... TO TAKE CARE OF YOU ALL AND FOSTER YOUR TALENT!


AND THAT NOW INCLUDES YOU, YOUNG LADY! I KNEW YOU COULD DANCE, BUT THE WAY YOU PERFORMED ONCE YOU GOT WARMED UP SURPRISED EVEN ME!
UMMM... THANKS! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHERE IT CAME FROM!
I JUST KNEW THAT AFTER SEEING HOW AMAZING EVERYONE ELSE WAS OUT THERE, I DIDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT ANYONE... ESPECIALLY YOU ALL!
SO I GUESS I JUST THREW CAUTION TO THE WIND AND LET MYSELF GO!
WELL I'M GLAD YOU DID!


AND IF YOU DECIDE YOU'D LIKE OUR ARRANGEMENT HERE AT CLUB EXOTICA TO BE MORE THAN TEMPORARY, JUST LET ME KNOW AND WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN!
OF COURSE, DEAR! TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED... AS LONG AS YOU KEEP FILLING IN FOR STELLA IN THE MEANTIME, OF COURSE!
YOU... YOU'RE KIDDING! REALLY?! WOW! I'M... FLATTERED YOU WANT TO KEEP ME ON LONGER, BUT... IT'S SOMETHING I'VE DEFINITELY GOT TO THINK ABOUT!
I MEAN, EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST TODAY, I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO REALLY PROCESS ANY OF IT!


OH, I'LL DEFINITELY DO THAT, TESS! THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY, AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW MY DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
WONDERFUL! SO GO HOME, GET SOME REST, AND I'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE TOMORROW AT 7:30 SHARP!
I'LL BE HERE! DON'T WORRY!


WOW! I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING AT ALL!
OH, I DID! IN FACT, TESS RAN IT BY ME BEFORE SHE ASKED YOU, AND I GAVE HER A BIG THUMBS UP!
I.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
DON'T SAY ANYTHING YET! JUST GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT AND KNOW THAT WE ALL WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU HERE FULL TIME!
THANKS, MARSO! THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME!


JESUS! WHAT A CRAZY, INSANE DAY THIS HAS BEEN!
I WONDER WHAT DARLA WILL SAY WHEN I TELL HER ALL ABOUT IT!
HELL, KNOWING HER, SHE'LL PROBABLY WANT A JOB HERE, TOO! *GIGGLE!*


BUT IS THIS REALLY SOMETHING I WANT TO KEEP DOING AFTER STELLA COMES BACK?
IT'S ONE THING TO GO OUT DANCING FOR FUN! BUT DOING IT AS A PROFESSION... WITH THE PRIMARY GOAL OF SEXUALLY STIMULATING MEN...
WELL... THAT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT THING!


BUT THE TRUTH IS, I ENJOYED IT! HELL... WHO AM I KIDDING? I LOVED IT!
I'VE LOVED EVERYTHING THAT'S EVEN REMOTELY INVOLVED WITH SEX SINCE I FULLY EMBRACED BEING LILY!
ANY CHANCE I'VE HAD TO SHOW OFF THIS INCREDIBLY SEXY NEW BODY OF MINE, I'VE TAKEN... WITHOUT HESITATION!
FACE IT, GIRL! YOU'VE BECOME AN EXHIBITIONIST! *GIGGLE!*


I KNOW I'VE ONLY BEEN AT IT FOR ONE NIGHT, BUT IT'S ALREADY INFINITELY BETTER THAN MY PREVIOUS PROFESSION OF THIRTY YEARS!
AS AN EMT, I RARELY GOT CONGRATULATED WHEN THINGS WENT WELL, EVEN WHEN I SAVED SOMEONE'S LIFE! BUT I ALWAYS GOT A BOATLOAD OF CRAP PILED ON ME WHENEVER THINGS WENT WRONG!
AND MY BOSS'S WAY OF "THANKING" ME FOR ALL THOSE YEARS OF WORKING MY ASS OFF? KICKING ME TO THE CURB THE FIRST CHANCE THEY GOT!
BUT HERE... TONIGHT... EVERYTHING WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE!


EVERY ONE OF MY COWORKERS HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF ME, AND MY BOSS NOT ONLY HAD KIND WORDS FOR ME, SHE'S ALREADY OFFERED ME A FULL-TIME POSITION!
AND THE CUSTOMERS, WELL... THEY OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED MY WORK, AS EVIDENCED BY THEIR RATHER ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE! *GIGGLE!*
GOD... THAT APPLAUSE! IT'S INTOXICATING! AND I REALLY, REALLY WANT MORE!


OF COURSE, IT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT THE KIND OF JOB I CAN DO FOR THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS, BUT IT IS SOMETHING TO KEEP ME BUSY FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE!


But the "next few weeks"...
Lily


Woo-hoo!!
Oh, yeah!!
Clap, Clap!!


Turn into a few more weeks...
Lily


Oh, yeah!!
Clap, Clap!!
Clap, Clap!!
Go, Lily!!


Until, eventually...
Lily


Woo-hoo!!
Clap, clap!!


Clap, Clap!!
Oh, yeah!!
Do it, Lily!!


Clap, Clap!!
Woo-hoo!!
Oh, man!!


One night, between sets...
YOU WERE REALLY SMOKING OUT THERE TONIGHT!
HOW COULD I NOT WITH AN AWESOME TEACHER LIKE YOU?
HEY, LEARNING THE MOVES IS ONLY PART OF THE JOB! YOU REALLY SEEM TO HAVE THE HEART FOR IT AS WELL!


I DON'T THINK IT'S MY HEART THE GUYS ARE PAYING TO SEE! *GIGGLE!*
OBVIOUSLY! *GIGGLE* BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!


IN A LITTLE LESS THAN SIX WEEKS, YOU'VE GONE FROM A DANCE NEWBIE TO ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ATTRACTIONS AT THIS CLUB!
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?
THE ONLY SECRETS I CAN THINK OF HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAY I DANCE! TRUST ME ON THAT, MARGO!


THEN WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GOOD AT IT?
TRUTHFULLY? I HAVE NO IDEA! BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT IT NEVER OCCURED TO ME I'D BE DOING ANYTHING LIKE THIS UNTIL VERY RECENTLY!


REALLY? A GIRL WITH YOUR LOOKS? AND IT NEVER ONCE CROSSED YOUR MIND?
I FIND THAT HARD TO IMAGINE!
OH, I, UMMM... I DIDN'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS! I WAS A VERY, VERY LATE BLOOMER, AS WELL AS THE QUINTESSENTIAL TOMBOY!
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU? EVEN AFTER I FINALLY.. BLOSSOMED, SO TO SPEAK, IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO SHAKE OFF MY TOMBOY TENDENCIES!


I KNOW! MAYBE THAT'S WHY I ENJOY DANCING HERE SO MUCH!
AFTER YEARS OF BEING IGNORED AND OVERLOOKED, I'M THE CENTER OF ATTENTION!
AND I LIKE THAT... I LIKE IT A LOT!
WELL, NO ONE WOULD EVER MISTAKE YOU FOR A TOMBOY NOWADAYS!
SO DO OUR CLIENTELE! *GIGGLE!*


WHAT'S THE HOLDUP, LADIES? THERE ARE SEVERAL WELL-HEELED PATRONS OUT HERE WHO WOULD LOVE TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH YOU TWO!
SO LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT!
ON OUR WAY, TESS!
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT, TESS!


I'VE GOT THAT BACK-STORY OF MINE SO FINE-TUNED THAT EVEN I'M HAVING TROUBLE REMEMBERING IT'S ALL A FANTASY!
BUT THEN, NOTHING I JUST TOLD MARGO IS AN OUT-AND-OUT LIE! JUST VAGUE ENOUGH TO SKIRT THE ACTUAL TRUTH A WEE BIT! *GIGGLE!*
BUT TELLING HER THE FULL REASON I LOVE DOING THIS SO MUCH WOULD REQUIRE FAR TOO MUCH INFO ABOUT MY TRUE BACK-STORY!
AND THAT'S SOMETHING I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE COMFORTABLE DOING!


I CAN'T TELL HER HOW A LIFE BURDENED BY RESPONSIBILITY SUCKED THE LIFE OUT OF ME!
HOW UNAPPRECIATED AND INSIGNIFICANT I FELT NO MATTER HOW HARD I WORKED!
BUT EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT NOW!
I'VE COME TO LEARN AND EMBRACE THE INHERENT ADVANTAGES OF BEING YOUNG, SEXY, AND FEMALE!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ENTER A ROOM, AND MY LOOKS ALONE COMMAND THE ATTENTION OF PRACTICALLY EVERYONE!
THAT, IN ITSELF, IS EXTREMELY INTOXICATING!


Lily!
Over here, Lily!
Lily!
BUT AS A DANCER... ESPECIALLY AN EXOTIC DANCER, EVERYTHING IS DIALED UP TO ELEVEN!
LOOK AT THEM! ESSENTIALLY COMPETING WITH ONE ANOTHER... CALLING MY NAME... LITERALLY THRUSTING MONEY AT ME... JUST TO SPEND A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS IN MY PRESENCE!
IT'S ALMOST RIDICULOUS THE WAY I HAVE SO MUCH CONTROL OVER THEM ALL!
BUT IT'S ALSO VERY, VERY ADDICTIVE! I'M NOT SURE HOW I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO GIVE THIS UP!


AND NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THEM ALL IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND, IT'S TIME TO MAKE SOMEONE'S DREAM COME TRUE! *GIGGLE!*


Margo!
Lily!
Over here!
No! Over here!


HMMM... DECISIONS, DECISIONS!


CHOICES... WHAT A CONCEPT! FOR FIFTY YEARS, THEY WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN! CIRCUMSTANCES AND FATE STEERED MY LIFE DOWN ONE MUNDANE AND UNREMARKABLE PATH!
BUT NOW... NOW THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER! A WORLD WHERE A HOT YOUNG BLONDE CAN USE HER BANKABLE ASSETS TO DO PRETTY MUCH WHATEVER SHE WANTS!


AND, LUCKY FOR US GIRLS, TESS'S PLACE DRAWS AN UPSCALE AND RATHER HANDSOME CLIENTELE!
BUT AS MUCH AS I MAY BE TEMPTED, I CAN'T MAKE MY DECISION BASED SOLELY ON HOW CUTE THE GUY IS!


THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS I NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, ESPECIALLY SINCE I NO LONGER HAVE A PENSION TO RELY ON ANYMORE... NOT SINCE PHIL JOHNSON "DIED!"


LOOKS LIKE I'M THE LUCKY WINNER OF ONE OF YOUR STORIED PRIVATE DANCES! HEH-HEH!
ACTUALLY, I'M THE LUCKY ONE, SINCE THE HIGHEST BIDDER TURNED OUT TO BE SO HANDSOME! *GIGGLE!*


OH, BUT IS HE THE HIGHEST BIDDER?
EXCUSE ME?


OH MY!
JESUS! THAT LOOKS LIKE FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS HE'S WAVING AT ME!

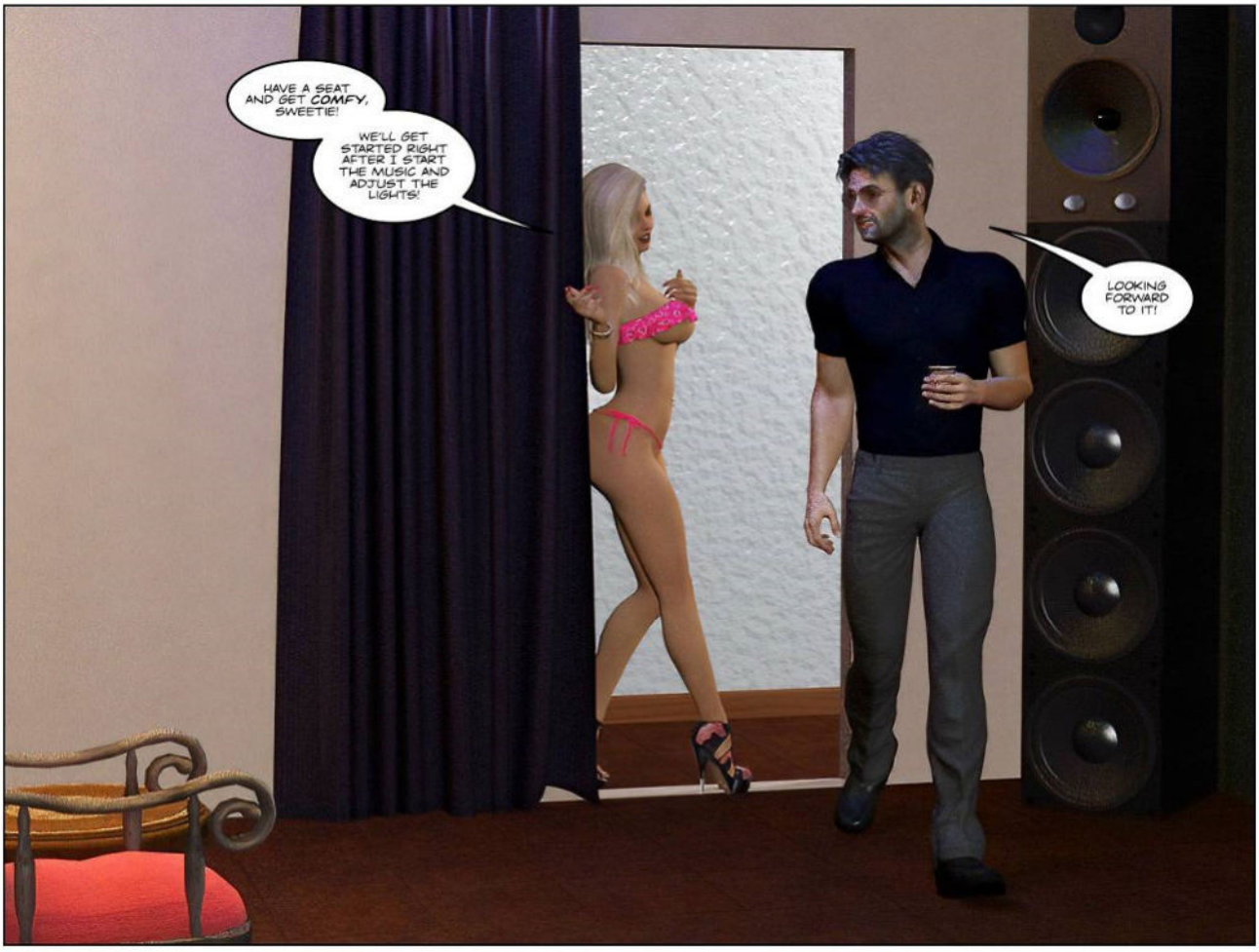

SORRY, HANDSOME! IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL... JUST ECONOMICS! I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND!
GRUMBLE! YEAH... YEAH, I GUESS SO!


OKAY, LET'S SEE WHO THIS HIGH ROLLER IS! I WAS SO DAZZLED BY THAT WAD OF HUNDREDS HE FLASHED THAT I NEVER GOT A LOOK AT HIS FACE! *GIGGLE!*
WELL, I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, HANDSOME!


SO I'LL JUST PUT THIS IN A SAFE PLACE, THEN WE CAN.. *GASP*
HOLY SHIT! IT... IT'S GRANT!


IS SOMETHING WRONG, MY DEAR?
LET'S HOPE IT DIDN'T DO TOO MUCH DAMAGE TO THAT LOVELY SKIN OF YOURS!
UMM, NO! NOT AT ALL! I JUST, UHHH... POKED MYSELF WITH A NAIL, THAT'S ALL!
I... I'LL SURVIVE! *GIGGLE!*
OH MY GOD! HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME!


INFAMOUS
BUT, THEN AGAIN, WHY SHOULD HE? IT'S BEEN ALMOST THREE MONTHS SINCE WE HAD OUR LITTLE ONE-NIGHT STAND... AND I WAS A REDHEAD BACK THEN!
SO THE QUESTION IS, DO I WANT HIM TO REMEMBER ME?
FOLLOW ME, GOOD LOOKING, AND WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
YES, MA'AM!


HAVE A SEAT AND GET COMFY, SWEETIE!
WE'LL GET STARTED RIGHT AFTER I START THE MUSIC AND ADJUST THE LIGHTS!
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!


SEEING HIM AGAIN CONJURES UP SOME VERY VIVID MEMORIES OF THAT EXTRAORDINARY NIGHT WE SPENT TOGETHER!
I'VE SLEPT WITH A COUPLE OF GUYS SINCE THEN, BUT NONE HAVE EVEN COME CLOSE TO PUSHING MY SEXUAL BUTTONS THE WAY GRANT DID!
WHEW! I'M ALREADY TURNED ON JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!

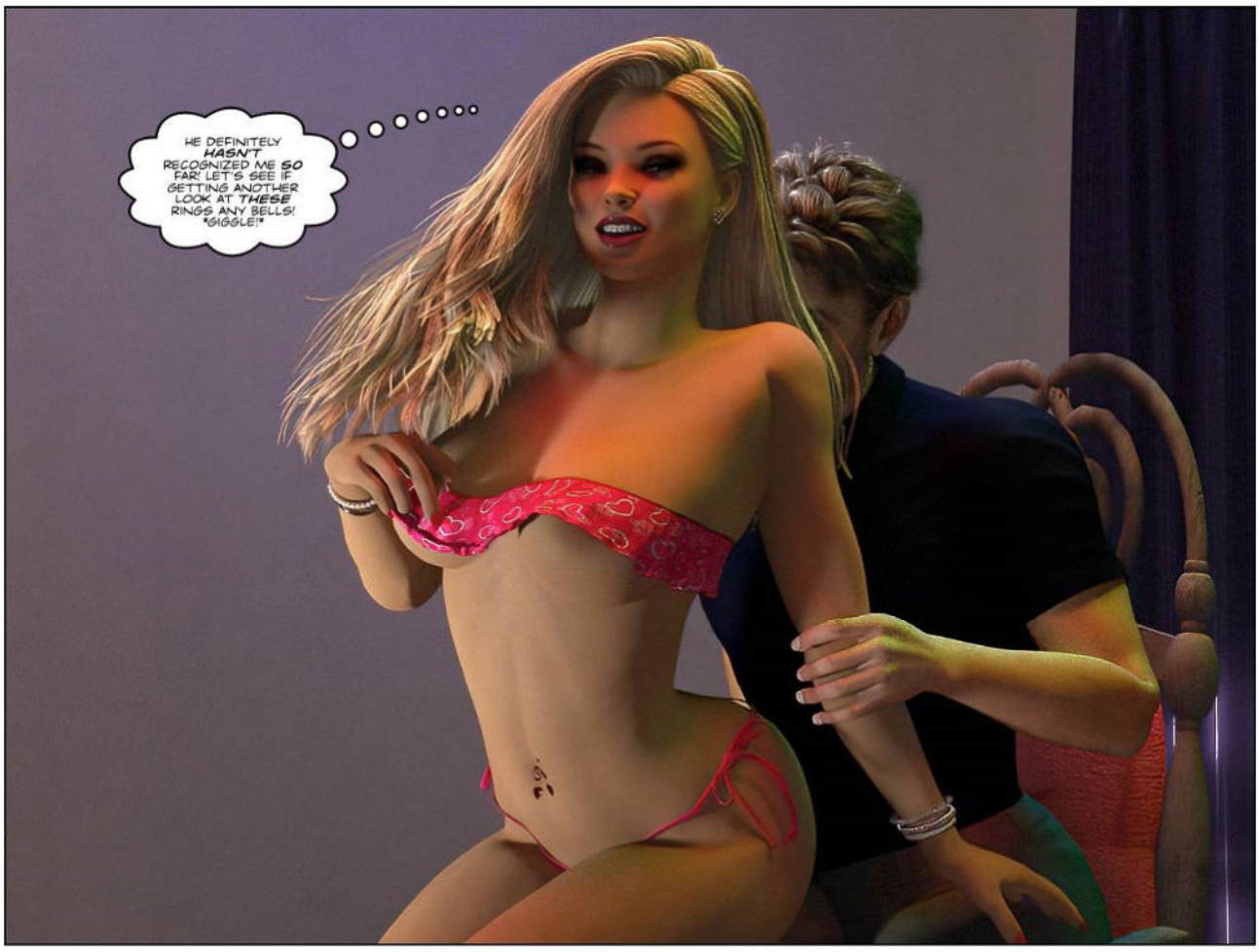

AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO JUMP HIM RIGHT HERE AND NOW, I CAN'T DO THAT TO TESS!
LAP DANCES ARE ONE THING, BUT IF WORD GOT OUT THAT TESS'S GIRLS WERE SCREWING CUSTOMERS BACK HERE, SHE'D BE SHUT DOWN FOR GOOD!
BUT THERE'S NO LAW OR CLUB POLICY THAT DICTATES WHAT WE DO ON OUR OWN TIME! *SIGGLE!*

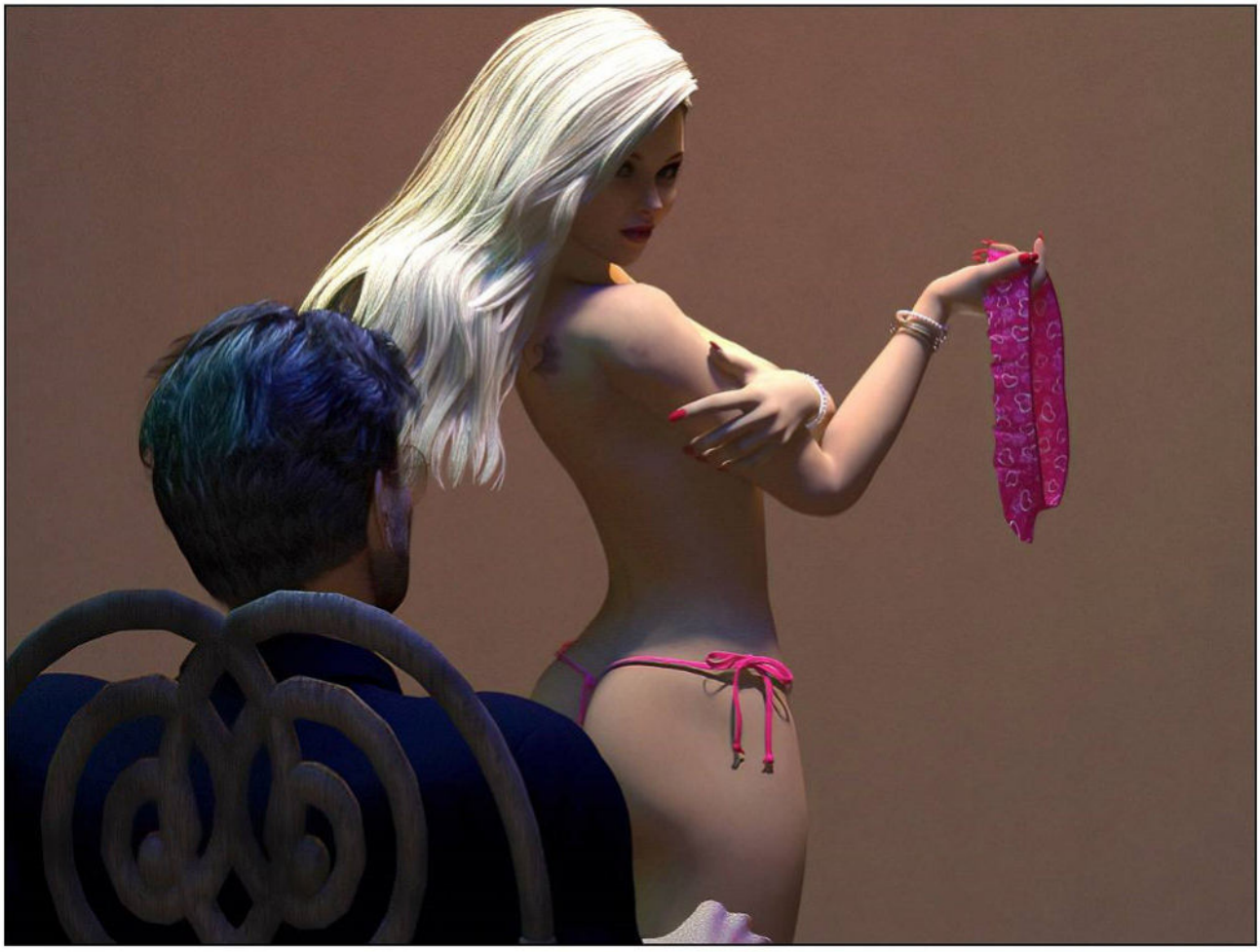

SO, IF HE REALLY DOESN'T REMEMBER ME, DO I TELL HIM AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS?
OR, DO I JUST GIVE HIM THE KIND OF LAP DANCE THAT SAYS, "TAKE ME HOME, DADDY, SO I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN REALLY DO!"
YEAH... THAT'S NOT REALLY MUCH OF A CHOICE AT ALL, IS IT! *GIGGLE!*
YOU READY FOR ME, SUGAR?
OH, MOST DEFINITELY!
THEN HOLD ON, 'CAUSE THIS IS GONNA GET GOOD! *GIGGLE!*








HE DEFINITELY HASN'T RECOGNIZED ME SO FAR! LET'S SEE IF GETTING ANOTHER LOOK AT THESE RINGS ANY BELLS! *GIGGLE!*











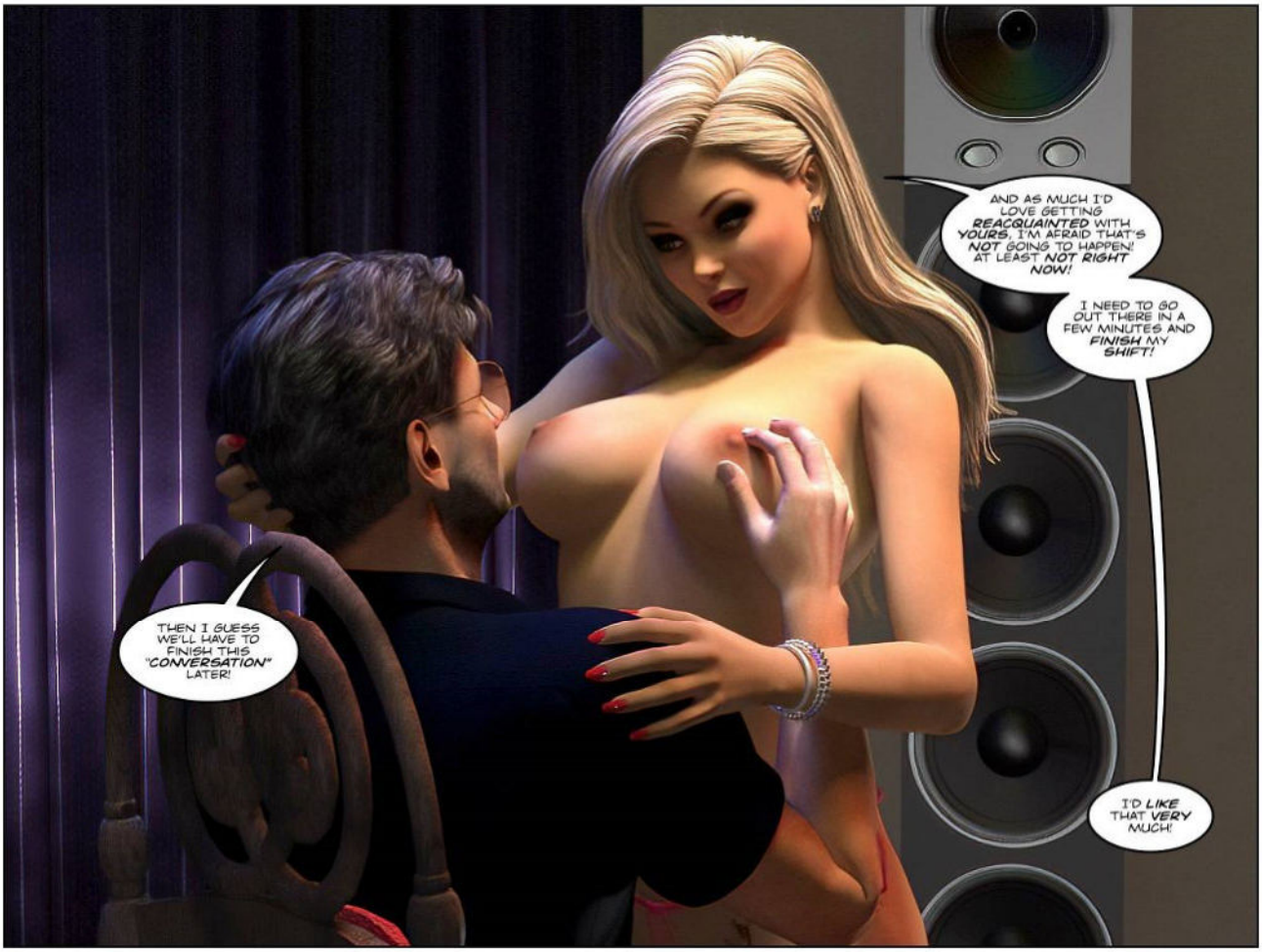

HMMM... I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT A HANDSOME MAN GRANT IS!
HE'S THE ONE WHO TRULY MADE ME LOVE MY BODY... AND BEING WITH A MAN!


MMMM... REMEMBERING WHAT THIS MAN DID TO ME THAT ONE SPECIAL NIGHT IS GETTING ME ALL REVVED UP!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SAY "FUCK IT!" AND TELL HIM WHO I AM! THEN, ONCE THE SHOCK WEARS OFF, WE CAN GO BACK TO HIS HOTEL ROOM AND...


YOU KNOW, AS MUCH AS I LOVED YOU AS A REDHEAD, I THINK I CAN REALLY GET USED TO THE NEW BLONDE YOU!
WHAT?!

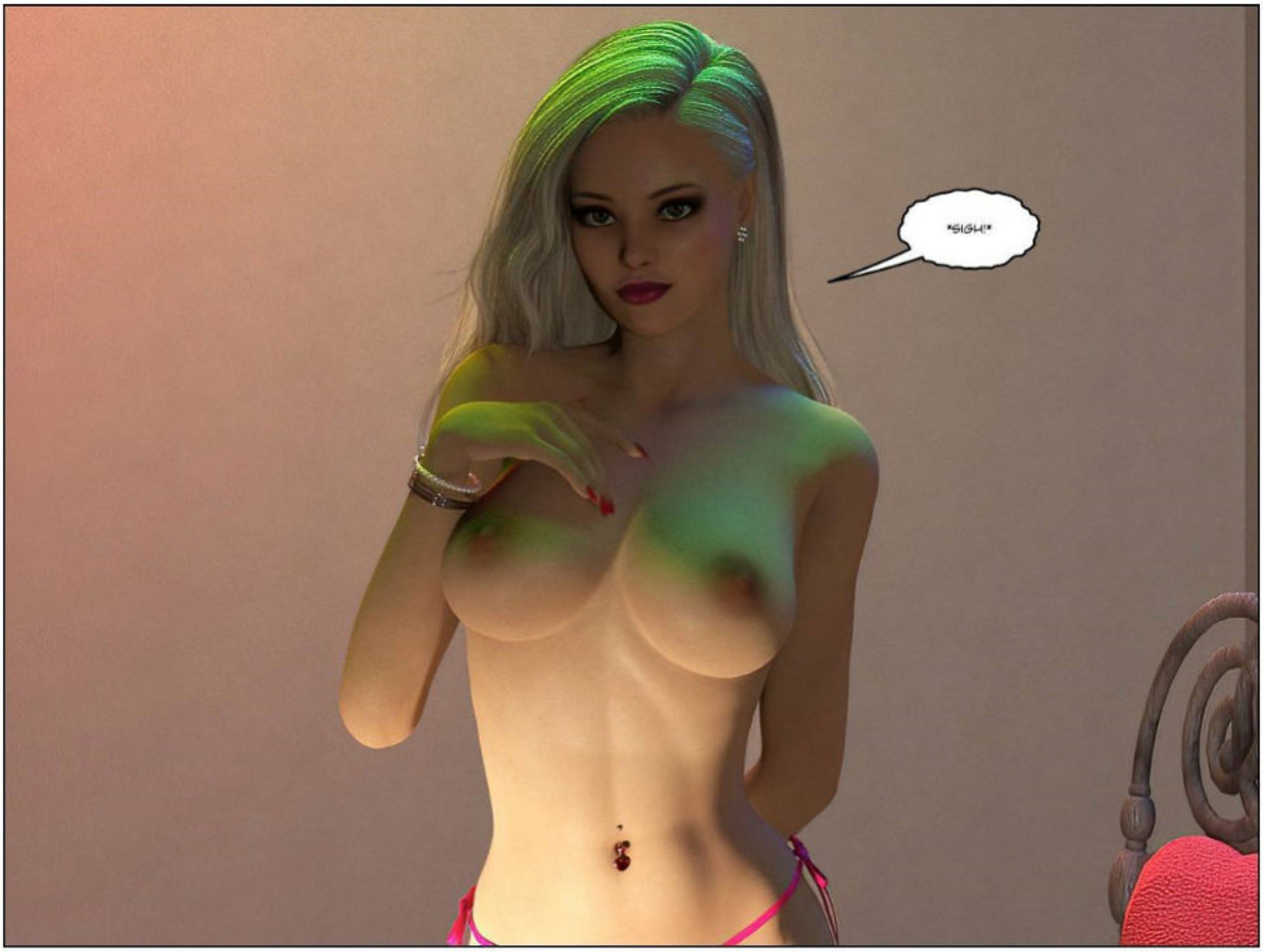

HOW... HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?
LONG ENOUGH! IT WOULD TAKE MUCH MORE THAN A DYE JOB AND A LITTLE BODY ART TO KEEP ME FROM RECOGNIZING YOU, LILY!


OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW INTIMATELY FAMILIAR I AM WITH EVERY INCH OF THIS DELECTABLE BODY OF YOURS?
NO... NO I HAVEN'T! *GIGGLE!*


AND AS MUCH I'D LOVE GETTING REACQUAINTED WITH YOURS, I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN! AT LEAST NOT RIGHT NOW!
I NEED TO GO OUT THERE IN A FEW MINUTES AND FINISH MY SHIFT!
THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH THIS "CONVERSATION" LATER!
I'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH!


WHAT TIME DO YOU FINISH HERE?
I'LL HAVE A CAR WAITING FOR YOU!
YES... JUST LIKE THAT!
IN ABOUT TWO HOURS!
JUST LIKE THAT, HUH?


I'LL SEE YOU THEN!
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!


SIGH!


About three hours later...
OKAY, THAT MAN IS FULL OF SURPRISES! NOT ONLY IS HE STAYING AT THE SAME HOTEL WHERE WE FIRST MET, BUT HE ACTUALLY SCORED THE EXACT SAME ROOM AS WELL!
NOT TO MENTION THAT THE "CAR" HE SENT FOR ME WAS A FREAKING BENTLEY!
NOTE TO SELF. ASK GRANT WHAT THE HELL HE DOES FOR A LIVING, BECAUSE WHATEVER "BUSINESS" HE'S IN, IT'S OBVIOUSLY DOING VERY WELL!


IT'S REMARKABLE HOW MUCH I'VE CHANGED SINCE THAT NIGHT LAURA DRAGGED ME HERE! I'D ONLY BEEN A WOMAN FOR A FEW HOURS THEN, AND WAS IN WAY OVER MY HEAD!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HOW COMPLIANT I WAS, GOING ALONG WITH EVERYTHING LAURA HAD PLANNED IN A PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO MAKE HER HAPPY... INCLUDING GOING TO THE ROOM OF THAT QUICK-TRIGGERED SLEAZEBALL!
ONLY ONE GOOD THING CAME OUT OF THAT DISAGREEABLE EVENING... AND THAT WAS GRANT NEWSOME!


THAT FIRST EVENING AT THE BAR, I THINK I WAS DRAWN TO HIM BECAUSE OF HIS AGE AND HIS MATURITY! SOMEONE A LOT LIKE "PHIL", BUT WITH THE KIND OF CONFIDENCE I NEVER POSSESSED!
LOOKING BACK, I THINK THAT PLAYED A BIG PART IN ME CHOOSING TO RETURN THE NEXT NIGHT AND THROWING MYSELF AT GRANT THE WAY I DID!
MY MALE SELF COULD NEVER HANDLE SOMEONE AS YOUNG AND GORGEOUS AS ME... BUT I WAS ITCHING TO SEE HOW THINGS MIGHT PLAY OUT WITH SOMEONE WHO WAS UP TO THE CHALLENGE!
IT SURE DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO DISCOVER THAT AGE WAS PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY THING GRANT AND PHIL HAD IN COMMON! *GIGGLE!*


MY GOD! I REALLY HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT MY OLD LIFE FOR WEEKS! BUT THEN AGAIN, WHY SHOULD I?
I SEE LITTLE UPSIDE DWELLING ON HOW MISERABLE I USED TO BE... OR THE WAY I'D FANTASIZE ABOUT LIVING A LIFE LIKE THIS ONE!
THE STORIES I USED TO READ WHERE AN OLDER GUY WOULD BECOME A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL EXOTIC DANCER ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE UNOBTAINABLE FANTASIES... BUT NOW I'M LIVING THE DREAM!


SIGH! AT LEAST IT WOULD BE A DREAM IF THERE WASN'T ONE OF "PHIL'S" RESIDUAL TRAITS THAT KEEPS NAGGING AT ME!
AS ILLUMINATING AND LIFE-CHANGING AS THESE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN, I KNOW DEEP DOWN THIS ISN'T A WAY OF LIFE I CAN CONTINUE INDEFINITELY!
BEING ONE OF TESS'S DANCERS IS SOMETHING I'VE GROWN TO LOVE, BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN COUNT ON YEARS DOWN THE ROAD!
AS MUCH AS I HATE TO THINK ABOUT IT, AT SOME POINT I HAVE TO PLAN FOR MY FUTURE!


PROBLEM IS, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE I MIGHT WANT TO DO IF IT DOESN'T INVOLVE DANCING, PARTYING, AND SEX! AFTER GETTING A TASTE OF THIS LIFESTYLE, IT'S GOING TO BE AWFULLY HARD TO LET IT GO!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN NOW OR JUST BECAUSE I'M YOUNG AGAIN, BUT TRYING TO HAVE COMMON SENSE PRIORITIES IS SURE A HELL OF A LOT HARDER THAN IT USED TO BE!


HMMM! EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS THAT GRANT DOES, HE'S OBVIOUSLY VERY GOOD AT IT AND PROBABLY HAS SOME SERIOUS CONNECTIONS!
THE PRAGMATIST IN ME SAYS I SHOULD PROBABLY BRING THAT UP WITH HIM BEFORE DIVING TITS-FIRST INTO WHAT'S SURE TO BE AN EPIC BOOTY CALL! OTHERWISE, HE MAY NOT TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!
15
Knock, Knock!!


HI THERE!
HELLO YOURSELF!
502


SO... WHERE WERE WE?
IF MEMORY SERVES CORRECTLY, RIGHT OVER THERE!
ONEX


OH, FUCK PRAGMATISM!










MMMMM! THAT WAS EVEN BETTER THAN I REMEMBER!
INDEED! I THINK YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING!
WELL, PRACTICE DOES MAKE PERFECT! *GIGGLE!*


I DIDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE, BUT YOU'RE EVEN MORE VIBRANT AND EXCITING THAN YOU WERE THAT FIRST NIGHT WE SPENT TOGETHER!
EVEN WITH THE "DYE JOB" AND THE "BODY ART"?
ESPECIALLY WITH THEM! THEY ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE THIS TOTAL "REPACKAGING" OF YOURSELF YOU'VE DONE!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING FOR! JUST WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO TOUCH UP MY ROOTS EVERY OTHER DAY!


YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE THAT SERIOUS ABOUT IT, THERE IS A NEW PROCEDURE THAT ALLOWS A PERSON TO PERMANENTLY CHANGE THE COLOR OF THEIR HAIR!
REALLY? I'VE LOOKED INTO IT, BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING ALONG THOSE LINES... ANYTHING SHORT OF GENETIC MANIPULATION, THAT IS!
MIND IF I BORROW A SHIRT?
HELP YOURSELF!

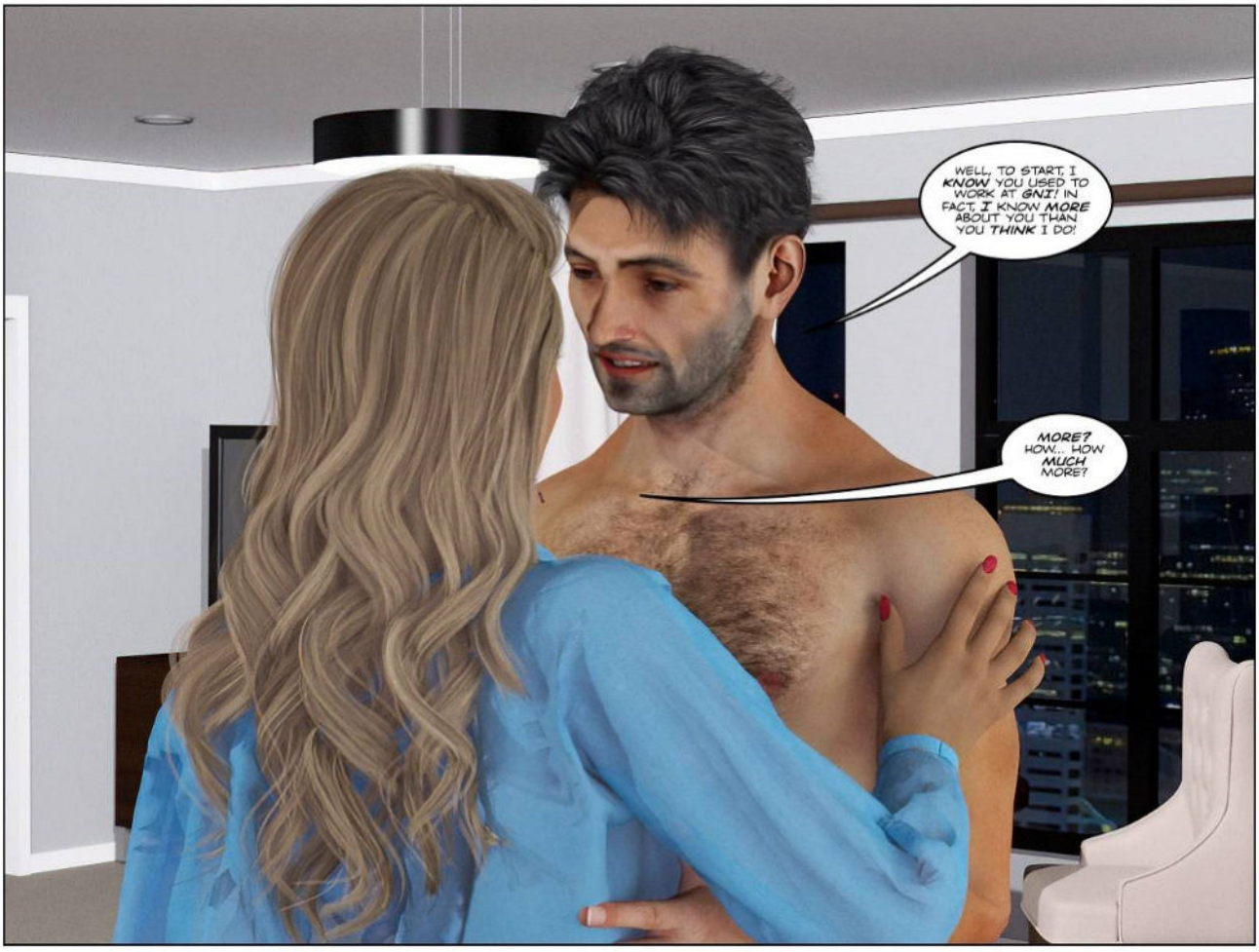

AS A MATTER OF FACT, GENE MANIPULATION IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS REFERRING TO! ONE OF MY COMPANIES DABBLES IN GENETICS!
THAT'S INTERESTING! BECAUSE I USED TO WORK FOR A COMPANY THAT DABBLED IN THAT, TOO! I THOUGHT THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO...


WAIT A MINUTE...


THE COMPANY I WORKED FOR WAS CALLED GNI...
G... N... I!
GRANT NEWSOME... INCORPORATED?!


HOLY SHIT! ARE YOU... ?!
AM I GNI? GUILTY AS CHARGED!


OH MY GOD! YOU ACTUALLY OWN THE COMPANY I USED TO WORK FOR! I KNOW SO MANY PEOPLE... SO MANY FRIENDS THERE!
IT'S SUCH A WILD COINCIDENCE THAT YOU AND I WOULD HOOK UP LIKE THIS, AND...
ACTUALLY... IT'S NOT QUITE AS MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE AS YOU MIGHT THINK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


WELL, TO START, I KNOW YOU USED TO WORK AT GNI! IN FACT, I KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU THAN YOU THINK I DO!
MORE? HOW... HOW MUCH MORE?


LET'S JUST SAY I KNOW ALL ABOUT PHIL JOHNSON!
WHAT?!


I MEAN... WHO'S PHIL JOHNSON? AND WHY SHOULD I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HIM?
WHO I REALLY AM? I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
WE BOTH KNOW WHY! THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU... I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER!
SIGH! FINE! THEN LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE LAST FEW MONTHS FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, AND THEN YOU CAN DECIDE IF I'M MAKING IT ALL UP OR NOT!


YOUR CURRENT LIFE IS A RESULT OF TAKING A FEMALE GENOME MODIFIER, OR, AS IT'S MORE COLLOQUIALLY KNOWN, SERUM FGMX!
BECAUSE WE ONLY DESIGNED A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF VARIATIONS, IT WASN'T TOO DIFFICULT TO RECOGNIZE YOU TWO WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU IN THE BAR DOWNSTAIRS!
YOU... YOU KNEW WHO WE WERE THAT NIGHT?
NO... AT THE TIME I ONLY KNEW THAT YOU HAD BOTH TAKEN THE SERUM! IT WASN'T UNTIL YOUR WIFE BROUGHT YOU IN TO GNI THAT I DISCOVERED WHO YOU REALLY WERE!

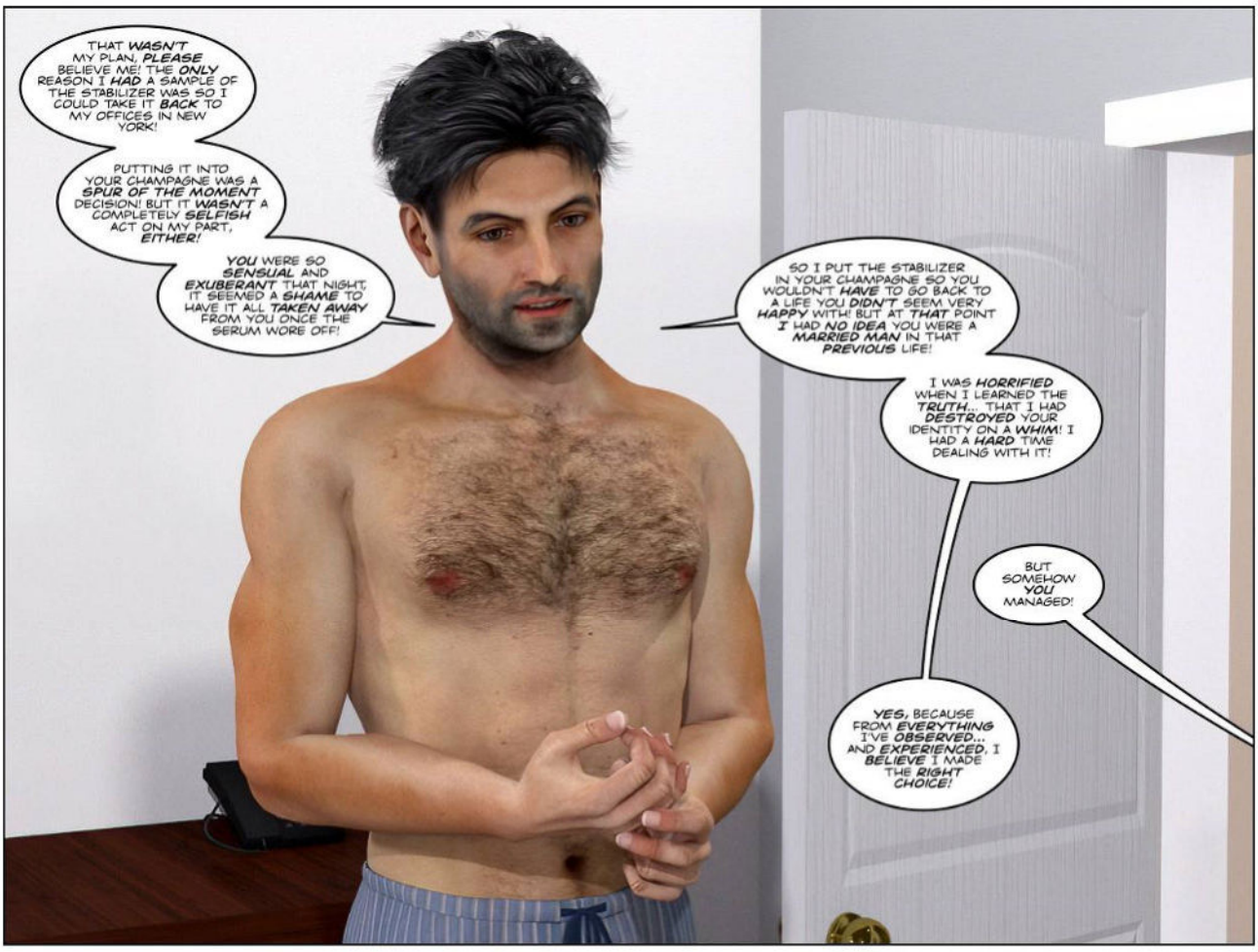

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU'VE KNOWN EVERYTHING ABOUT ME... WHO I USED TO BE... ALL THIS TIME? AND YOU DIDN'T REACH OUT OR SAY ONE FUCKING WORD TO ME UNTIL NOW?
I MEAN, I REALIZE YOU AREN'T THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO ME, BUT IT WAS YOUR COMPANY THAT DEVELOPED THE SERUM, SO I REALLY THINK...
ACTUALLY... THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE! BECAUSE, YOU SEE... IT WAS MY FAULT!


LOOK, JUST BECAUSE IT'S YOUR COMPANY, DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO TAKE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THINGS GO WRONG! LAURA TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD NO IDEA WHY MY CHANGE TURNED OUT TO BE PERMANENT, AND LIKELY NEVER WILL!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT AND LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU FOR MONTHS!


IN TERMS OF WHY YOUR CHANGE IS PERMANENT, I HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT! A VERY SELECT FEW OF US HAVE KNOWN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
YOU KNOW?! WHAT IS IT? AND WHY THE HELL HAVEN'T YOU TOLD ANYONE?
ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, WE DEVELOPED A STABILIZER TO COMPLEMENT SERUM FSMX! WHEN GIVEN TO SOMEONE WHO'S TAKEN THE SERUM, IT MAKES THE CHANGES PERMANENT!
WE HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE AT THE COMPANY THAT WE QUITE ACCIDENTALLY FOUND THE ANSWER... BECAUSE IT'S NOT EXACTLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF GNI! ONCE THE SERUM IS RELEASED PUBLICLY, IT WILL BE FAR MORE PROFITABLE IF PEOPLE NEED TO TAKE IT ON A REGUALR BASIS INSTEAD OF RECEIVING ONE PERMANENT DOSE!
THAT'S WHY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE STABILIZER, INCLUDING YOU, COULD FIT ON ONE HAND!
SO YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE GAVE ME THE STABILIZER! OH MY GOD, WAS IT LAURA?
NO! SHE HAS NO IDEA IT EXISTS! IT WAS ME!


WHAT?! YOU DID IT?! HOW?! WHEN?!
BUT... WHY?!
THAT MORNING AFTER OUR NIGHT TOGETHER! IT WAS IN YOUR CHAMPAGNE!
SIGH! THE REAL REASON I WAS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE YOU SO EASILY THAT NIGHT IN THE BAR WAS BECAUSE THE PARTICULAR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN YOUR VERSION OF THE SERUM WERE BASED ON MY PERSONAL PREFERENCES!
YOU WERE MY IDEAL WOMAN BROUGHT TO LIFE! HOW COULD I NOT BE ATTRACTED TO YOU?


WHEN YOU LEFT THE BAR THAT FIRST NIGHT, I TRULY NEVER EXPECTED TO EVER SEE YOU AGAIN! I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT RUNNING INTO SOMEONE FROM MY OWN COMPANY WHO HAD CHOSEN THAT PARTICULAR SERUM WAS A FLUKE AND I SHOULDN'T PURSUE IT!
BUT WHEN YOU CALLED THE NEXT DAY, ALL THAT CHANGED! FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, I NOW HAD A DATE WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD!
AND YOU DIDN'T DISAPPOINT! YOU NOT ONLY FULFILLED EVERY ONE OF MY EXPECTATIONS, YOU ECLIPSED THEM!
SO THAT MADE IT OKAY FOR YOU TO JUST SLIP ME A MICKEY THAT WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE FOREVER?


THAT WASN'T MY PLAN, PLEASE BELIEVE ME! THE ONLY REASON I HAD A SAMPLE OF THE STABILIZER WAS SO I COULD TAKE IT BACK TO MY OFFICES IN NEW YORK!
PUTTING IT INTO YOUR CHAMPAGNE WAS A SPUR OF THE MOMENT DECISION! BUT IT WASN'T A COMPLETELY SELFISH ACT ON MY PART, EITHER!
YOU WERE SO SENSUAL AND EXUBERANT THAT NIGHT, IT SEEMED A SHAME TO HAVE IT ALL TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU ONCE THE SERUM WORE OFF!
SO I PUT THE STABILIZER IN YOUR CHAMPAGNE SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO A LIFE YOU DIDN'T SEEM VERY HAPPY WITH! BUT AT THAT POINT I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE A MARRIED MAN IN THAT PREVIOUS LIFE!
I WAS HORRIFIED WHEN I LEARNED THE TRUTH... THAT I HAD DESTROYED YOUR IDENTITY ON A WHIM! I HAD A HARD TIME DEALING WITH IT!
BUT SOMEHOW YOU MANAGED!
YES, BECAUSE FROM EVERYTHING I'VE OBSERVED... AND EXPERIENCED, I BELIEVE I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!


I DIDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE, BUT YOU'VE ACTUALLY IMPROVED ON MY "IDEAL WOMAN"! NOT ONLY IN YOUR APPEARANCE, BUT EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!
YOUR ENTIRE AURA EXUDES A CONFIDENCE AND A SENSUAL FEMININITY THAT COULD ONLY COME FROM SOMEONE WHO IS TRULY HAPPY WITH WHO THEY ARE!
JUST LOOKING AT YOU NOW... THE WAY YOU HOLD YOURSELF... YOUR UNABASHED COMFORT WITH THE WAY YOU DISPLAY YOUR EXQUISITE BODY... IT'S INTOXICATING!
YOU MAY ONCE HAVE BEEN A MAN, BUT FROM EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT YOUR LIFE, AND I'VE LEARNED QUITE A BIT THANKS TO THE SERIES OF EXTENSIVE REPORTS BY YOUR FORMER WIFE, I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIS IS THE PERSON YOU WERE MEANT TO BE!
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO FINALLY COME FORWARD AND ADMIT WHAT I'VE DONE... BECAUSE THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND WHATSOEVER!
BUT IF I'M FILLED WITH HUBRIS AND UTTERLY MISTAKEN, PLEASE TELL ME, AND I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY EXTENSIVE POWER TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION!


WELL, LUCKY FOR YOU, I REACHED THAT VERY SAME CONCLUSION A FEW WEEKS BACK!
I MAY HAVE ONCE BEEN PHIL JOHNSON, BUT I'M VERY HAPPY WITH WHO I'VE BECOME!


BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING OFF SCOT-FREE AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!
OH, I HAVE NO DELUSIONS REGARDING MY GUILT IN THIS MANNER! AND I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF PAYING WHATEVER PENANCE YOU DEEM NECESSARY!



A FORMULA for RETIREMENT

by CBlack

Chapter Eleven


One month later...
OH MY GOD! IF THAT'S WHAT CONCERTS ARE LIKE THESE DAYS, WE HAVE GOT TO GO MORE OFTEN!
I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THAT BAND BEFORE, BUT WHO CARES... IT WAS A BLAST!
BLAST IS RIGHT! MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING AND PROBABLY WILL BE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS!


OH, YOU PUT ON A GREAT GRUMPY ACT NOW, BUT YOU WERE YELLING AND DANCING AND HAVING JUST AS MUCH FUN AS I WAS! DON'T EVEN TRY TO DENY IT!
SIGH! OKAY, FINE! I DID HAVE A GOOD TIME! BUT COULDN'T WE HAVE HAD JUST AS MUCH FUN IF I'D GONE AS JACK INSTEAD OF JACKIE?
OH, PLEASE! THAT KIND OF EVENT WAS TAILOR-MADE FOR HOT, YOUNG CHICKS LIKE US, NOT STUFFY OLD FUDDY-DUDDIES LIKE JACK! NO OFFENSE, BABE!
I ♥ rock
UMMM... OFFENSE TAKEN, BABE!


I'M NOT TRYING TO PUT YOU DOWN, SWEETIE, BUT THESE GIRLS-ONLY WEEKENDS ARE A CHANCE FOR ME TO CUT LOOSE, LET MY HAIR DOWN, AND REALLY ENJOY BEING A GIRL AGAIN!
THAT'S PRETTY HARD TO DO WITH A LATE THIRTY-SOMETHING DAD-FIGURE HANGING ON MY ARM! I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT!
YOU COULD'VE FOOLED ME! I'M PRETTY SURE THERE WERE MORE GUYS HITTING ON YOU THAN ME! AND YOU WEREN'T DOING A WHOLE LOT TO DISSUADE THEM, EITHER! *GIGGLE!*
I'M SORRY FOR KVETCHING SO MUCH, LANA! AND I DO UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT ALL THIS IS TO YOU!
IT'S JUST NOT AS EASY FOR ME TO BE A SEXY YOUNG GIRL AS IT IS FOR YOU!


EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, WHICH IT ISN'T, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF THIS SEXY BOD YOU GAVE ME AND THE WAY YOU DRESSED ME UP TONIGHT!
YOU KNOW DAMNED WELL HOW GUYS WILL REACT WHEN THEY SEE BODS LIKE THESE DRESSED LIKE THIS!
AND THAT'S HALF THE FUN, FOR US REAL GIRLS AT LEAST... TURNING THEM ON AND THEN TURNIN' 'EM DOWN! *GIGGLE!*


WELL, I AM EXHAUSTED AND AM GOING TO CRASH! REMEMBER, FIRST ONE UP MAKES THE COFFEE!
SWEET DREAMS, BABE!
YEAH... YOU TOO, LANA!


AND ONCE AGAIN, DREAMS WILL BE ALL I'VE GOT TO GET ME THROUGH THE NIGHT, SINCE SHE REFUSES TO SLEEP IN THE SAME BED WITH JACKIE!
HELL, SHE WON'T EVEN DISCUSS IT! ALL SHE TOLD ME IS SHE HAD A "BAD EXPERIENCE" WITH SOMEONE NAMED MARGIE IN COLLEGE AND NOT TO EVER BRING IT UP AGAIN!
SHIT! THAT'S THREE WEEKENDS IN A ROW! IF I HAD ANY BALLS RIGHT NOW, THEY'D BE BLUE AS HELL!


AT LEAST I'VE GOT A PLACE TO STAY SINCE HER BLONDE BOMBSHELL OF A HUSBAND MOVED OUT A FEW WEEKS AGO!
CORRECTION, HER OLD FRIEND "JACKIE" HAS A PLACE TO STAY, BUT NOT HER MAIN SQUEEZE "JACK"! SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T WANT TO RISK HER NEW PROMOTION BY SHACKING UP WITH ONE OF HER UNDERLINGS!
NOT HER EXACT WORDS, OF COURSE, BUT I KNEW WHAT SHE MEANT THE SECOND SHE SAID IT!


THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT HOW I ENVISIONED THIS ENDING UP WHEN I STARTED THIS PLAN TO GET LAURA ALL TO MYSELF!
I JUST WANTED HER TO DUMP THE GUY FOR BEING A PERV, BUT SHE TOOK IT TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL... ONE THAT'S PUT A SERIOUS KINK INTO OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP!
"KINK" BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE!


WHEN SHE IMPLIED THAT SHE MIGHT ASK ME TO "INDULGE" HER AGAIN BY BECOMING JACKIE, I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT AT THE TIME BECAUSE I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST BEING CUTE WITH ME!
BUT EVER SINCE "BARBIE" MOVED OUT, I'VE BEEN SPENDING EVERY WEEKEND AS LANA'S NEW BFF! AND EVERY TIME I'VE SURREPTITIOUSLY COMPLAINED, IT SEEMS TO FALL ON DEAF EARS!
I'D BE MORE AGGRESSIVE ABOUT IT, BUT WE'VE GOT A GREAT THING GOING, AND I DON'T WANT TO DRIVE HER AWAY!
"SIGH!" I HAVE A FEELING SHE MISSES HAVING ANOTHER GIRL AROUND NOW THAT LILY IS GONE, AND I'M HER GODDAMN REPLACEMENT!


AND AS HORNY AND UNFULFILLED AS THE SITUATION HAS LEFT ME THESE LAST FEW WEEKENDS, IT'S ONLY BEEN COMPOUNDED BY HAVING TO LOOK AT THIS INCREDIBLY HOT BOD EVERY TIME I LOOK IN A MIRROR!
JESUS! I WANT TO FUCK THAT SO BAD, IT HURTS!


THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME SANE THROUGH ALL THIS IS THE FACT THAT SHE'S SUCH A DEEP SLEEPER AND IS COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO ME RELIEVING MYSELF IN THE ROOM NEXT TO HERS!
HELL, EVEN IF I DID MAKE MUCH NOISE, HER SNORING WOULD DROWN IT OUT!
Zzzzz...


OH, FUCK... THAT FEELS GOOD! THIS BODY IS AMAZING! IT'S SO MUCH BETTER THAN WHACKING OFF!
STILL NOT AS INTENSE AS THAT NIGHT AT THE CLUB, BUT... SHIT! I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT THAT!
I DON'T... I DON'T... I... I...


OH, GOD YES!! HARDER, BABY.. HARDER!!


The following week, at an out-of-the-way bar on the outskirts of town...
Steve's


I CAN'T BELIEVE I AGREED TO THIS!
OH, STOP IT! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BLAST! YOU'LL SEE!


I THINK THIS'D BE A HELLUVA LOT MORE FUN IF YOU HADN'T DRESSED ME UP LIKE DAISY FREAKING DUKE!
WHEN IN ROME, SWEETIE! *GIGGLE!*


YEAH... AND DIDN'T THE ROMANS THROW PEOPLE TO THE LIONS? 'CAUSE I'M KINDA GETTING THAT VIBE HERE!
OH, DON'T WORRY, HONEY! I WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU HERE! PROMISE!
C'MON, LET'S SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR SOME GUYS TO BUY US DRINKS!


LAURA, WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'VE BEEN USING THE FGMX FOR MONTHS, BUT FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE IT'S ALL BRAND NEW TO YOU!
HITTING ALL SORTS OF CLUBS AND BARS, WEARING SOME OF THE SKIMPIEST OUTFITS I'VE EVER SEEN, AND FLIRTING WITH PRETTY MUCH EVERY GUY YOU SEE!
I REALLY WISH YOU'D TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
SIGH! YOU'RE RIGHT! I HAVEN'T BEEN VERY FAIR TO YOU, HAVE I? AND I'M SORRY!
51% Angel


BEFORE I GOT PROMOTED, MY OCCASIONAL SERUM-INDUCED WEEKEND EXCURSIONS AS A BUBBLY BLONDE WITH YOU WERE JUST THAT... OCCASIONAL!
BUT WITH THIS PROMOTION, I'VE GOT A WHOLE NEW LIFE AS LANA STEWART... A STRONG, POWERFUL YOUNG WOMAN! OCCASIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL FLINGS WITH THE FGMX WERE OVER! I HAD TO PICK A BODY THAT REFLECTED WHO LANA STEWART WOULD BE GOING FORWARD!
I GUESS THESE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN ALL ABOUT ME TRYING TO SEE IF I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!
51% Angel


BUT HOW DOES GOING TO ROCK CONCERTS, CRUISING COUNTRY-WESTERN BARS, AND ESSENTIALLY ACTING LIKE A TWENTY-SOMETHING PARTY GIRL PROVE ANY OF THAT?
IF ANYTHING, THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR DETRACTS FROM THE POWERFUL BUSINESSWOMAN IMAGE YOU'RE TRYING TO MAINTAIN!
IT PROVES I CAN BE BOTH, SWEETIE! I HAD NO DOUBTS THIS BODY COULD PULL OFF THE STRONG, FEMALE EXECUTIVE LOOK!
BUT AFTER OUR WEEKEND IN PADRE AND SEEING LILY AND ALL HER YOUNG FRIENDS CAVORTING AROUND, WELL... I WAS A LITTLE ENVIOUS!


THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN DRAGGING "JACKIE" AROUND TO ALL THESE BARS AND CONCERTS! I NEEDED YOU THERE FOR SUPPORT AND ALSO TO HELP KEEP ME FROM DOING ANYTHING TOO CRAZY!
EXACTLY! I CAN FLIRT ALL I WANT, BUT KNOWING YOU'D NEVER AGREE TO LEAVE WITH ANY OF THESE STUDS KEEPS ME IN CHECK!
OH, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT, BUT IT'S NICE TO HAVE MY BEST GIRLFRIEND HERE JUST IN CASE! *GIGGLE!*
CRAZIER THAN DRIVING OUT TO A DIVE ON THE EDGE OF TOWN AND STRUTTING IN DRESSED LIKE THIS?
SO WITHOUT ME HERE, YOU THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY GIVE IN AND BANG ONE OF THESE GUYS?
YOUR BEST GIRLFRIEND, HUH? *SIGH!* OKAY.. I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET!


HAVE I EVER BEEN ABLE TO SAY NO TO YOU? *GIGGLE!*
IF YOU PLAY ALONG TONIGHT, I PROMISE TOMORROW NIGHT WILL BE MUCH MORE LOW-KEY! OKAY?
YOU'RE THE BEST!




The next evening...
HOLY SHIT!


YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU SAID TONIGHT WOULD BE "LOW-KEY", THIS IS HARDLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND! IT'S A FREAKING INVITATION-ONLY, HIGH-CLASS, EXECUTIVE PARTY!
THE PEOPLE IN HERE AREN'T JUST MY BOSSES, THEY'RE YOUR BOSSES! STOCKHOLDERS, BOARD MEMBERS, CEOS, CFOS... YOU NAME IT!
I KNOW! IT'S THE FIRST COMPANY SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT SINCE MY PROMOTION, AND THE VERY FIRST TIME EVERYONE WILL GET TO MEET "LANA!"
I DESPERATELY NEEDED YOU HERE FOR MORAL SUPPORT! I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU AHEAD OF TIME, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BAIL ON ME IF I DID!


I WOULD NEVER BAIL ON YOU, BABE! BUT WHY INSIST ON ME BEING "JACKIE" FOR THIS THING INSTEAD OF "JACK?"
TRUTHFULLY... FOR THIS KIND OF SITUATION I STILL NEEDED THE SUPPORT OF A GIRLFRIEND, NOT A BOYFRIEND!
BESIDES, AND NO OFFENSE, BUT "JACK'S" STATUS IN THE COMPANY WOULDN'T ALLOW HIM ACCESS TO AN EVENT LIKE THIS!
BUT NO ONE HERE, ESPECIALLY THE MEN, WOULD BALK FOR ONE SECOND AT ME FOR BRINGING MY HOT FRIEND "JACKIE" ALONG!
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE! AND ANY OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU, BABE, IS WORTH IT!


I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT! BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO STAY OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT HERE, I SUGGEST YOU WATCH THE "BABE" LANGUAGE! OKAY?
SORRY! HARD HABIT TO BREAK!
I'M GOING TO GO TALK TO STUART FOR A BIT! GRAB A COUPLE OF CHAMPAGNES AND MEET ME OVER THERE!
YOU GOT IT... GIRLFRIEND! *GIGGLE!*


I GUESS LANA IS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, THOUGH! THERE'S NO WAY A MID-LEVEL SCHMUCK LIKE JACK KELLY WOULD EVER GET THE CHANCE TO HOBKNOB WITH THE RICH AND POWERFUL LIKE THIS!
THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM AREN'T JUST GNI EXECS! I RECOGNIZE A COUPLE OF CEOS FROM OTHER WORLD-CLASS FIRMS!
HELL, THIS PARTY IS A WHO'S WHO OF THE FORTUNE 500, AND I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!


TWO CHAMPAGNES, PLEASE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LOOSE THE BUSINESS TALK GETS AT THESE THINGS, BUT IT DOES SEEM LIKE A PRIME OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMEONE WITH A KEEN EAR TO PICK UP A JUICY TIDBIT OR TWO!
TIDBITS THAT POSSIBLY COULD ADVANCE SOMEONE'S CAREER, OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, IMPROVE THEIR STOCK PORTFOLIO! HEH-HEH!
COMING RIGHT UP, MISS!


AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED THESE LAST FEW WEEKS, IT'S THAT MEN LOVE BRAGGING ABOUT THEMSELVES... ESPECIALLY TO SEXY YOUNG CHICKS!
AND FROM THE LOOKS I'M ALREADY GETTING AROUND HERE, IT WON'T TAKE MUCH EFFORT AT ALL TO COAX ONE OR TWO CORPORATE SECRETS OUT OF A FEW OF THESE FAT CATS!


HERE YOU GO, LAURA!
THANKS, JACKIE! STUART DAVIS, THIS IS JACKIE LEWIS, ONE OF MY OLDEST AND CLOSEST FRIENDS!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, JACKIE!
LIKEWISE, MR. DAVIS!
PLEASE... CALL ME STUART!
STUART HERE IS MY IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR AT GNI!


SO, CAN I ASSUME YOU'RE ENJOYING OUR PRODUCT AS MUCH AS LAURA HAS BEEN?
I... I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, STUART!
THE FGMX! THE RESULTS ON YOU ARE QUITE STRIKING, IF I MAY SAY SO!
FGMX? RESULTS? I... I...
HOLY SHIT! HE KNOWS! I AM SO FUCKING BUSTED!


RELAX, JACKIE! STUART'S THE ONE WHO GAVE ME PERMISSION TO LET YOU USE THE FGMX FOR THE FIRST TIME BACK IN PADRE!
SINCE THAT WEEKEND TURNED OUT SO WELL, AND I'VE ASSURED HIM YOU CAN BE TRUSTED, HE'S AGREED TO LET YOU KEEP USING IT!
HE... HE HAS?
WE MAKE CERTAIN ALLOWANCES FOR SPECIAL FRIENDS OF SOME OF OUR EXECUTIVES!
AND SINCE YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TIGHT AS SISTERS SINCE OUR SORORITY DAYS, YOU DEFINITELY QUALIFY!
THAT'S... GOOD TO KNOW!


SPEAKING OF EXECUTIVES, THERE'S SOMEONE OVER HERE I WANT YOU TO MEET!
YOU GO ON OVER! WE'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE!
OKAY, BUT DON'T BE LONG!
WE WON'T!


SHIT, LAURA! WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU GIVE ME A HEADS UP ABOUT HIM KNOWING ABOUT ME? I ALMOST BLEW IT!
I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE, TRUTHFULLY, I FORGOT! BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU DID JUST FINE!
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR NORMAL BACKSTORY AND WHAT I TOLD STUART IS THAT HE THINKS WE WERE SORORITY SISTERS BACK IN THE '80S, NOT WITHIN THE LAST TEN YEARS LIKE WE TELL EVERYONE ELSE!
STILL, IF WE'RE GONNA KEEP DOING THIS, YOU HAVE GOT TO KEEP ME UPDATED ON WHO KNOWS WHAT!
I WILL FROM NOW ON... PROMISE!


SO HE'S THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO KNOWS I'M NOT WHO I APPEAR TO BE?
OF COURSE! YOU KNOW HOW TIGHT-LIPPED EVERYONE IN THIS COMPANY IS! STUART ESPECIALLY! HE WON'T TELL ANYONE!
SIGH! OKAY... GOOD! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR ANY MORE SURPRISES!
COME ON! HE'S OVER THERE!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU!


WELL, AS LONG AS OLD MAN DAVIS, OR ANYONE ELSE HERE, DOESN'T KNOW WHO I REALLY AM, IT SHOULDN'T THROW A KINK INTO MY PLANS ON CHATTING UP A FEW OF THESE HORNY OLD GOATS FOR A LITTLE INSIDER INFO!
I FIGURE LAURA WILL WANT TO SCHMOOZE FOR A WHILE WITH HER BOSS AND WHOEVER IT IS HE WANTS HER TO MEET! THAT'LL GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO EXCUSE MYSELF AND DO A LITTLE CIRCULATING! HEH-HEH!


SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, HERE'S THE YOUNG LADY WHO WE JUST HIRED TO RUN THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT HERE IN HOUSTON!
LANA STEWART, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE CEO AND FOUNDER OF GNI... GRANT NEWSOME!
WONDERFUL TO MEET YOU, LANA!


AND THIS IS HIS LOVELY, UMMM... COMPANION...
GASP!
NO FUCKING WAY!

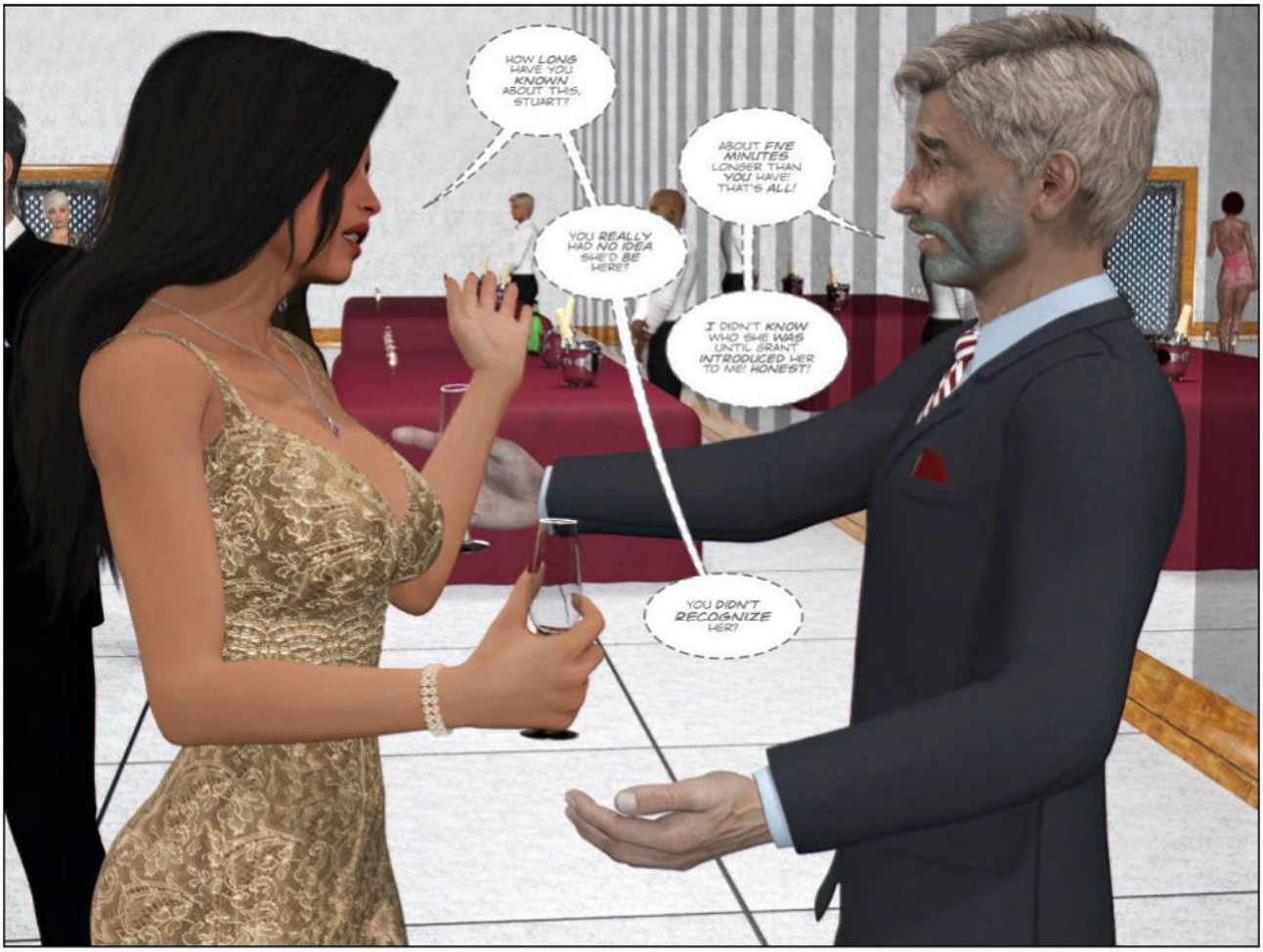

LILY... LILY ROGERS! IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, LANA! STUART HAS DONE NOTHING BUT RAVE ABOUT YOU!
UMM... NICE TO, UHHH... MEET YOU, TOO, LILY!


SO, UMMM... HOW LONG HAVE YOU AND MR. NEWSOME KNOWN EACH OTHER, LILY?
A COUPLE OF MONTHS?
OH, WE FIRST MET A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO!
UH-HUH! WE MET WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR A FRIEND IN A HOTEL BAR HERE IN TOWN, AND WE JUST KIND OF HIT IT OFF!
YOU... YOU MET IN A HOTEL BAR?
YES... THE BAILEY! DO YOU KNOW IT?


AND YOU TWO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE THAT WEEKEND?
OH, HEAVENS NO! TO BE TRUTHFUL, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO EVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
BUT THEN HE SURPRISED ME A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO BY SHOWING UP WHERE I WORK, AND, WELL... THE REST IS HISTORY!
REALLY? WHERE YOU WORK? AND JUST WHERE WOULD THAT BE?


A LITTLE CLUB DOWN ON POLK STREET! I'M AN EXOTIC DANCER THERE!
!?!!


STUART... CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?


HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN ABOUT THIS, STUART?
ABOUT FIVE MINUTES LONGER THAN YOU HAVE! THAT'S ALL!
YOU REALLY HAD NO IDEA SHE'D BE HERE?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO SHE WAS UNTIL GRANT INTRODUCED HER TO ME! HONEST!
YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER?


I'VE NEVER MET YOUR HUSBAND... OR LILY! I ONLY KNOW WHICH VARIANT OF THE FGMX YOU INITIALLY GAVE HIM!
SO EVEN IF I'D BEEN TOLD SHE WAS GOING TO BE HERE, I'D BE LOOKING FOR A REDHEAD, NOT A BLONDE!
"SIGH!" SHE WENT BLONDE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY! PART OF HER "REBRANDING" HERSELF!


OH MY GOD! DO YOU THINK MR. NEWSOME KNOWS WHO SHE REALLY IS?
CONSIDERING HE KNOWS EVERYTHING I DO AND THEN SOME, I DON'T SEE HOW HE COULDN'T!
THEN WHY THE HELL WAS SHE PUTTING ON THAT LITTLE ACT BACK THERE... LIKE SHE'D NEVER MET ME BEFORE?
PROBABLY FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FRIEND JACKIE! UNLESS YOU TOLD HER ABOUT EVERYTHING!
NO! NO... OF COURSE NOT! THAT WOULD BE A BREACH OF PROTOCOL!


"Jackie doesn't know anything about Lily!"
SO... THAT'S SOME PRETTY SERIOUS JEWELRY YOU'RE SPORTING!
I KNOW! GRANT IS JUST WAY TOO GENEROUS! *GIGGLE!*


IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, LILY, I'M GOING TO DRAG STUART AWAY TO TALK BUSINESS FOR A BIT! I WON'T BE LONG!
BETTER NOT BE!


OKAY, BEFORE LANA GETS BACK... I HAVE TO KNOW! WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL HER EVERYTHING ABOUT PADRE ISLAND?
ONE WORD FROM YOU ABOUT THAT NIGHT AND SHE WOULD'VE SENT ME PACKING! OR ARE YOU JUST SAVING IT IN CASE YOU NEED IT LATER... FOR LEVERAGE?
YOU'VE GOTTA TELL ME, LILY! IT'S BEEN DRIVING ME NUTS FOR OVER A MONTH!


FIRST OFF, YOU UNDERESTIMATE LANA! YOU'D BE SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH SHE'LL ACCEPT FROM SOMEONE WHEN SHE CARES ABOUT THEM! TRUST ME, I KNOW!
EVEN AFTER PADRE ISLAND, WHEN SHE SAW FIRSTHAND THE PERSON I'D BECOME, SHE WAS STILL RELUCTANT TO CALL IT QUITS!
IT WASN'T UNTIL I CONVINCED HER THAT WE WERE BETTER OFF LEADING SEPARATE LIVES THAT SHE FINALLY LET ME GO!
OF COURSE, SHE AND I HAVE A LOT MORE HISTORY THAN YOU TWO, BUT IT STILL DEMONSTRATES HER TENACITY AND ABILITY FOR FORGIVENESS!


SECOND OF ALL, I DIDN'T TELL HER ABOUT YOUR WILD NIGHT DOWN THERE BECAUSE THAT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO WORK THROUGH ON YOUR OWN!
AND THEN, IF YOU DECIDE YOU WANT LANA TO KNOW ABOUT IT, THAT'S YOUR DECISION... NOT MINE!
I... I APPRECIATE THAT, LILY!
WOW! I... I REALLY MAY HAVE MISTUDGED LANA'S EX!


FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, HOWEVER, FROM WHAT I SAW THAT NIGHT AND THE WAY YOU'RE SO COMFORTABLY STRUTTING AROUND HERE TONIGHT, I THINK YOU MIGHT ENJOY BEING JACKIE A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU'RE WILLING TO ADMIT!
WHAT?! I AM NOT!
HEY, JUST A LITTLE FRIENDLY ADVICE FROM SOMEONE WHO SPENT WAY TOO MUCH TIME DENYING IT HERSELF!
BUT I'M NOT...


OKAY, NOW THAT THOSE TWO ARE BUSY TALKING SHOP, YOU AND I NEED TO CLEAR THE AIR ABOUT SOMETHING!
WHO... ME?
AND THAT'S MY CUE TO GET ANOTHER DRINK AND MINGLE!


HEY, LANA! WHAT'S UP?
WHAT'S UP?! OH MY GOD, WHERE THE HELL DO I START?
YOU MOVE OUT A MONTH AGO AND DON'T CALL ME ONCE SINCE?
YOU FINALLY SHOW UP TONIGHT, BUT ON THE ARM OF MY COMPANY'S OWNER, WHO IT TURNS OUT, YOU'VE KNOWN FOR MONTHS?
AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT LAST LITTLE TIDBIT... YOU'RE A FREAKING STRIPPER?
WHAT THE HELL, LILY?!


I MEAN, YOU COULD'VE JUST CALLED ME... SET UP A LUNCH DATE SO WE COULD CATCH UP!
BUT NO! YOU CHOSE TO DUMP IT ALL ON ME IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, IN PUBLIC, IN FRONT OF MY BOSSES!
I THOUGHT WE'D GOTTEN PAST ANY PETTY BITTERNESS BETWEEN US!
AND WE HAVE, LANA! I WASN'T TRYING TO BE MEAN! I SWEAR I WASN'T!


WHEN GRANT INVITED ME TO THIS PARTY, I ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE AND IT'D GIVE US A CHANCE TO CATCH UP!
BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME AND STUART "INTRODUCED" US, IT WAS SUCH A SILLY SITUATION THAT I COULDN'T RESIST BEING A LITTLE MISCHIEVOUS AND BLURT EVERYTHING OUT ALL AT ONCE... JUST TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE! WHICH WAS PRICELESS, BY THE WAY!
IT WASN'T PLANNED... JUST A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT KIND OF THING!
I AM! WITH THIS NEW BODY COMES A NEW WAY OF APPROACHING LIFE... A LIFE OF SPONTANEITY AND JUST A WEE BIT OF RECKLESS ABANDON!
SIGH! "MISCHIEVOUS" AND "SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT" ARE TWO PHRASES THAT I NEVER WOULD HAVE USED TO DESCRIBE PHIL! YOU REALLY ARE A COMPLETELY NEW PERSON, AREN'T YOU?


A WEE BIT? MY GOD, GIRL... IN THE COURSE OF A FEW MONTHS, YOU'VE GONE FROM A GRUMPY, OLD RETIRED EMT TO A QUIET, YOUNG OFFICE TEMP TO A STRIPPER WHO'S HOOKED UP WITH ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE COUNTRY!
NOT QUITE THE NORM, HUH?
YA THINK?!


SO, I HAVE TO ASK... DOES GRANT KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU?
UMMM... WHAT DOES "COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY" LOOK LIKE?
HOLY SHIT! YOU'RE A KEPT WOMAN, AREN'T YOU?
YET YOU'RE HERE WITH HIM TONIGHT! AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, IT SURE SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO ARE DATING... FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD!
OF COURSE! AND BEING THE CEO OF GNI AND A GENTLEMAN, HE ASSUMED COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!
LET'S JUST SAY I LIVE BEYOND THE MEANS OF YOUR AVERAGE EXOTIC DANCER! *GIGGLE!*
NOT AT ALL! THE CONDO I LIVE IN AS WELL THE STOCK OPTIONS IN GNI ARE ALL IN MY NAME... WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED!


HEAVENS, NO! DATING IMPLIES A REGULAR AND EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT'S NOT WHAT WE HAVE!
HE LIVES IN NEW YORK AND ONLY GETS TO HOUSTON ONCE OR TWICE EVERY MONTH OR SO! WE GET TOGETHER WHEN HE'S IN TOWN... IF I'M AVAILABLE!
TO DATE, NO REASON! MAINLY BECAUSE HE'S THE BEST FUCK I'VE EVER HAD! *GIGGLE!*
IF YOU'RE AVAILABLE? WHY THE HELL WOULDN'T YOU BE AVAILABLE FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT?


LILY!?! JESUS! I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU TALK LIKE THAT... EVER!
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'VE HAD SEVERAL PARTNERS, BUT NONE HAVE MADE THIS BODY SING THE WAY THAT MAN HAS! *GROWL!*


CHRIST! I THINK I NEED ANOTHER DRINK!
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU! STAY HERE AND I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!


I DON'T BLAME HER FOR STILL BEING PISSED AND A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE TOWARD ME!
BUT SHE'LL GET OVER IT... AND SOON! I'M ALMOST 100% SURE OF IT!


TWO CHAMPAGNES, PLEASE!
COMING RIGHT UP, MISS!
OH MY GOD, THAT IS, LIKE, SOOO INTERESTING!


I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT STOCK FUTURES ARE, BUT, LIKE, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT 'EM THEY SOUND SO... SEXY! *GIGGLE!*


I COULD LISTEN TO YOU TALK ABOUT THEM ALL NIGHT! *GIGGLE!*
THAT COULD BE ARRANGED! HEH-HEH!


AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE IN THIS VERY HOTEL!
OH! UHHH... AWESOME!
CAREFUL, JACKIE! DON'T WAN'T A REPEAT OF PADRE NOW, DO WE? *GIGGLE!*


HERE YOU GO!
THANKS!


BY THE WAY, YOU MAY NEED TO GO RESCUE "JACKIE" FROM AN OVERZEALOUS BOARD MEMBER!
REALLY? WELL, OKAY... IF YOU SAY SO!
OH, "SHE'LL" BE OKAY! SHE'S GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT DODGING GUYS LIKE THAT!


TO NEW BEGINNINGS!
"SIGH" TO NEW BEGINNINGS!




NOW... ABOUT THIS "EXOTIC DANCING" THING OF YOURS...


At the end of the evening...
I'M SO SORRY IF IT SEEMED LIKE I ABANDONED YOU TONIGHT, BABE! BUT LILY AND I HAD A LOT TO DISCUSS!
HEY, I UNDERSTAND! SHE DROPPED QUITE A FEW BOMBSHELLS ON YOU ALL AT ONCE! I FIGURED YOU TWO WOULD NEED SOME TIME ALONE TO HASH THINGS OUT!


BESIDES, YOU KNOW ME... I CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMEONE INTERESTING TO TALK TO!
YES, YOU HAVE ALWAYS HAD THAT KNACK! AND I CAN ONLY IMAGINE IT'S A LOT EASIER FOR JACKIE! *GIGGLE!*
YEAH... ALMOST TOO EASY! HEH-HEH!


SO, SINCE TOMORROW'S SUNDAY AND WE'LL BOTH BE CHANGED BACK BY MORNING, WHAT SAY WE SPEND THE DAY IN BED? THAT SOUND GOOD TO YOU, BABE?
ALONE? BUT WHY?
HEY, I FELL IN LOVE WITH "OLD LAURA", SO YOU KNOW THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME! BUT IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH, WHY NOT JUST TAKE ANOTHER DOSE RIGHT AFTER YOU WAKE UP?
AS LOVELY AS THAT SOUNDS, HONEY, WOULD YOU BE OFFENDED IF I ASKED YOU TO LEAVE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING SO I CAN SPEND THE DAY ALONE?
I'VE GOTTEN SO USED TO BEING YOUNG LANA THAT I JUST CAN'T STAND ANYONE, EVEN YOU, SEEING ME AS OLD LAURA!

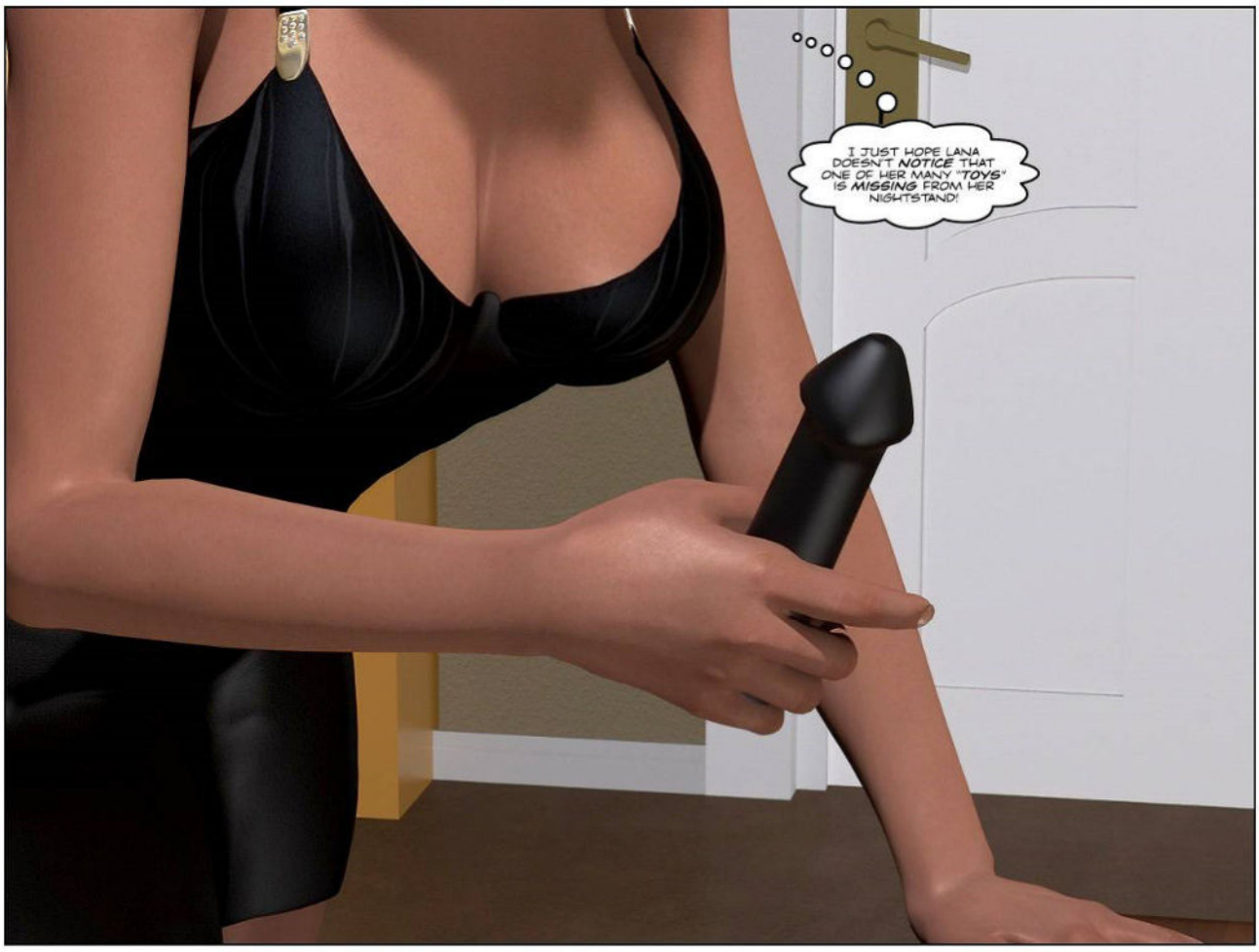

SIGH! RESEARCH CONCLUDED A STUDY THIS WEEK STATING THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERUM FGMX DIMINISHES OVER TIME IN PEOPLE WHO USE IT REPEATEDLY!
AND THE ONLY WAY TO COUNTER THAT EFFECT IS TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF ITS USE! WHICH MEANS SPENDING TOMORROW, AND PROBABLY OTHER TIMES DURING THE WEEK, BEING REMINDED WHO AND WHAT I REALLY AM!
AND, TRUST ME, EVEN YOU DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND ME DURING THOSE TIMES!


SIGH! AS MUCH AS I DISAGREE WITH YOU, I'LL RESPECT YOUR WISHES AND HEAD OUT BEFORE YOU WAKE UP!
BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE YOU'LL CALL ME LATER IN THE DAY! OKAY?
I WILL! THANK YOU, BABE! YOUR SUPPORT MEANS THE WORLD TO ME!


SLEEP TIGHT, HONEY, AND I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW!
OKAY! GOOD NIGHT, BABE!


WELL, THAT SUCKS! I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A WHOLE DAY IN BED WITH HER!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M RELEGATED ONCE AGAIN TO FULFILLING MY OWN "NEEDS" FOR THE REST OF THE WEEKEND! *SIGH!*

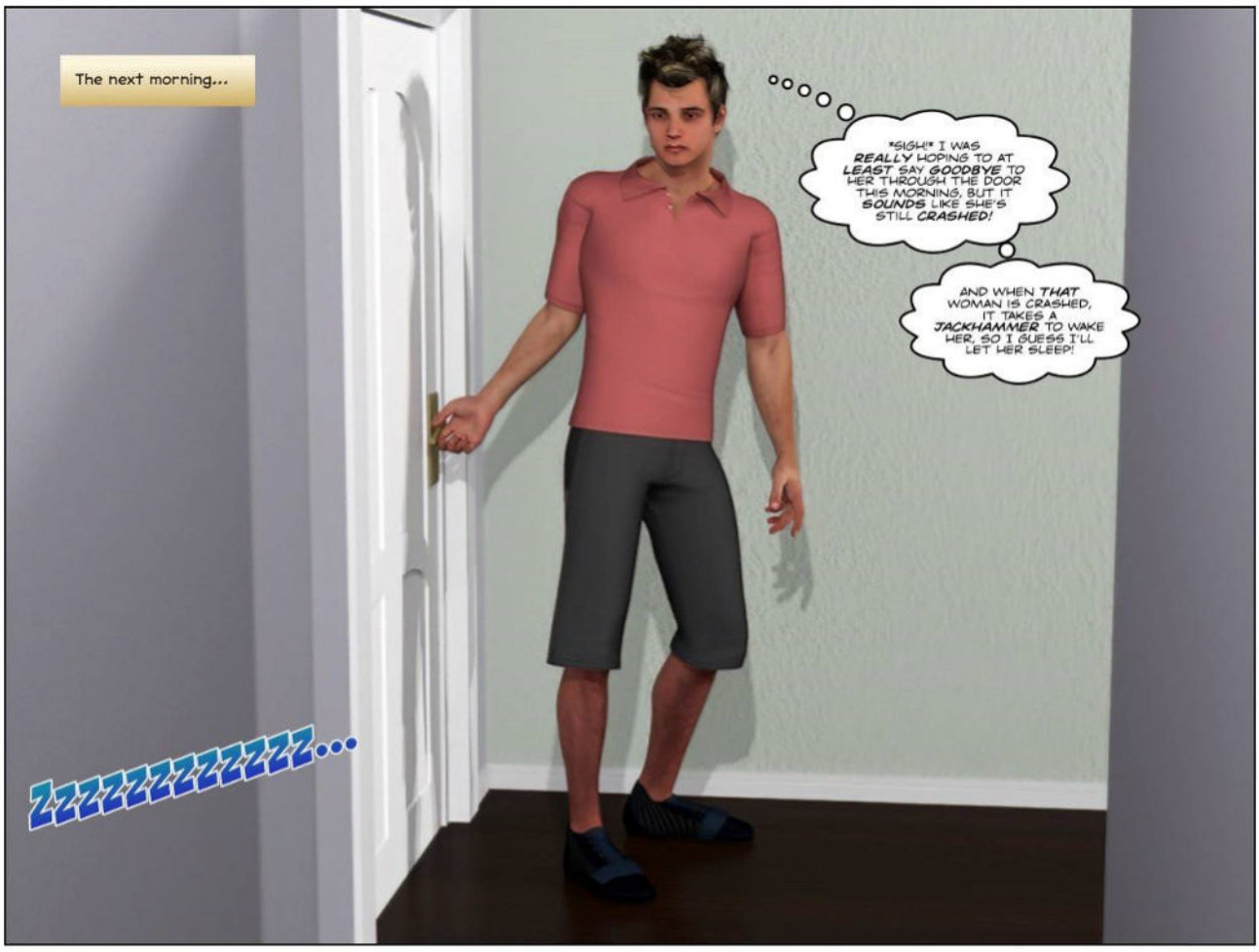

AND SINCE I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL GET THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THIS HOT BOD AGAIN, I'M SURE AS FUCK GONNA GET THE MOST OUT OF IT TONIGHT!

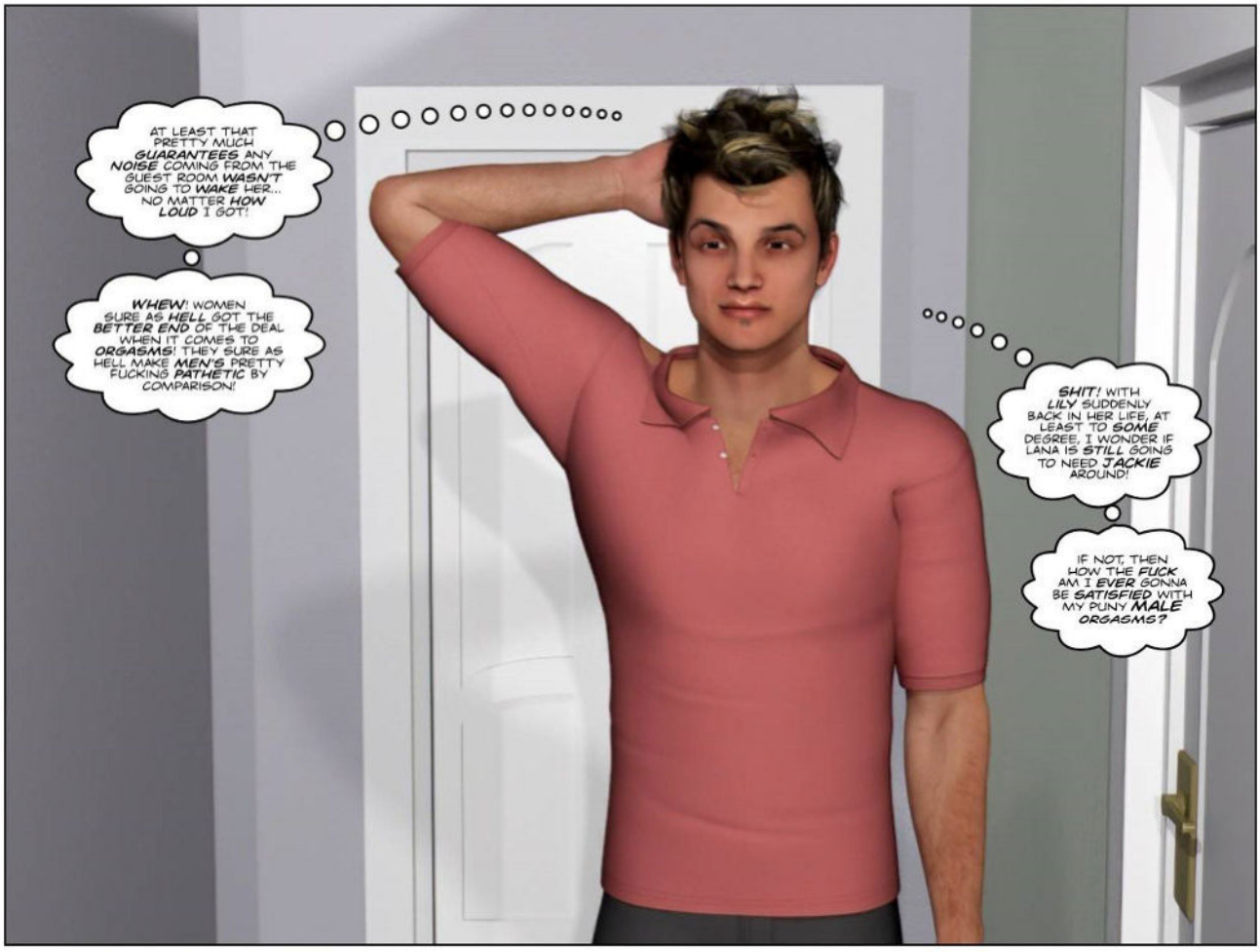

I JUST HOPE LANA DOESN'T NOTICE THAT ONE OF HER MANY "TOYS" IS MISSING FROM HER NIGHTSTAND!


OOOHH, GOD, YES!
OH, FUCK YEAH! THAT'S THE TICKET!!


OOOOHHHHH!!
MMMM... ALMOST AS BIG AS THAT GUY IN PADRE!

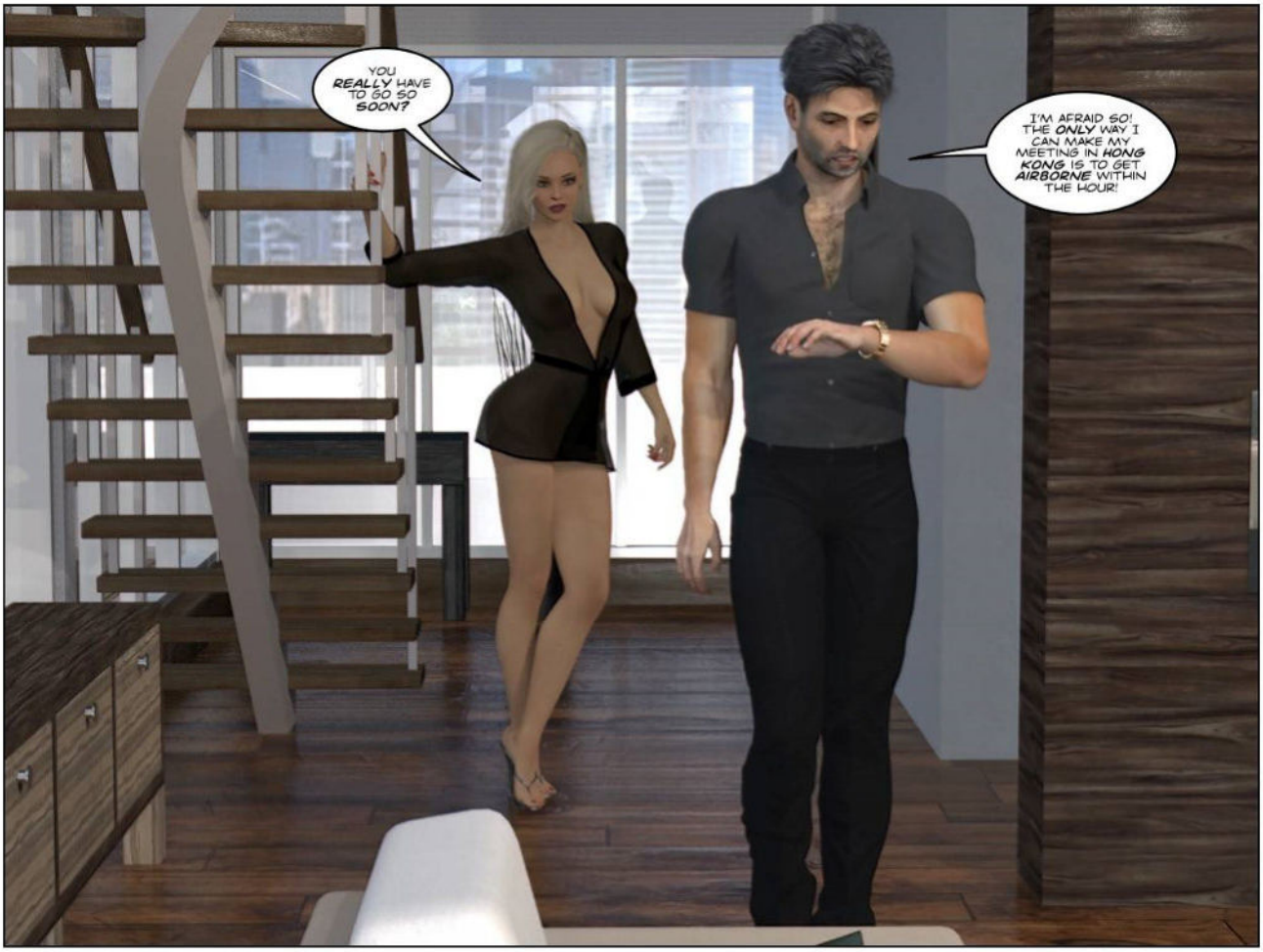

OH, YEAH, BABY! RIGHT THERE! GIVE IT TO ME! JUST LIKE THAT!!


The next morning...
SIGH! I WAS REALLY HOPING TO AT LEAST SAY GOODBYE TO HER THROUGH THE DOOR THIS MORNING, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S STILL CRASHED!
AND WHEN THAT WOMAN IS CRASHED, IT TAKES A JACKHAMMER TO WAKE HER, SO I GUESS I'LL LET HER SLEEP!
ZZZZZZZZZZZ...


AT LEAST THAT PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEES ANY NOISE COMING FROM THE GUEST ROOM WASN'T GOING TO WAKE HER... NO MATTER HOW LOUD I GOT!
WHEW! WOMEN SURE AS HELL GOT THE BETTER END OF THE DEAL WHEN IT COMES TO ORGASMS! THEY SURE AS HELL MAKE MEN'S PRETTY FUCKING PATHETIC BY COMPARISON!
SHIT! WITH LILY SUDDENLY BACK IN HER LIFE, AT LEAST TO SOME DEGREE, I WONDER IF LANA IS STILL GOING TO NEED JACKIE AROUND!
IF NOT, THEN HOW THE FUCK AM I EVER GONNA BE SATISFIED WITH MY PUNY MALE ORGASMS?


I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE SHE KNOWS THAT "JACKIE" IS AVAILABLE FOR HER WHEREVER AND WHENEVER SHE WANTS! HEH-HEH!

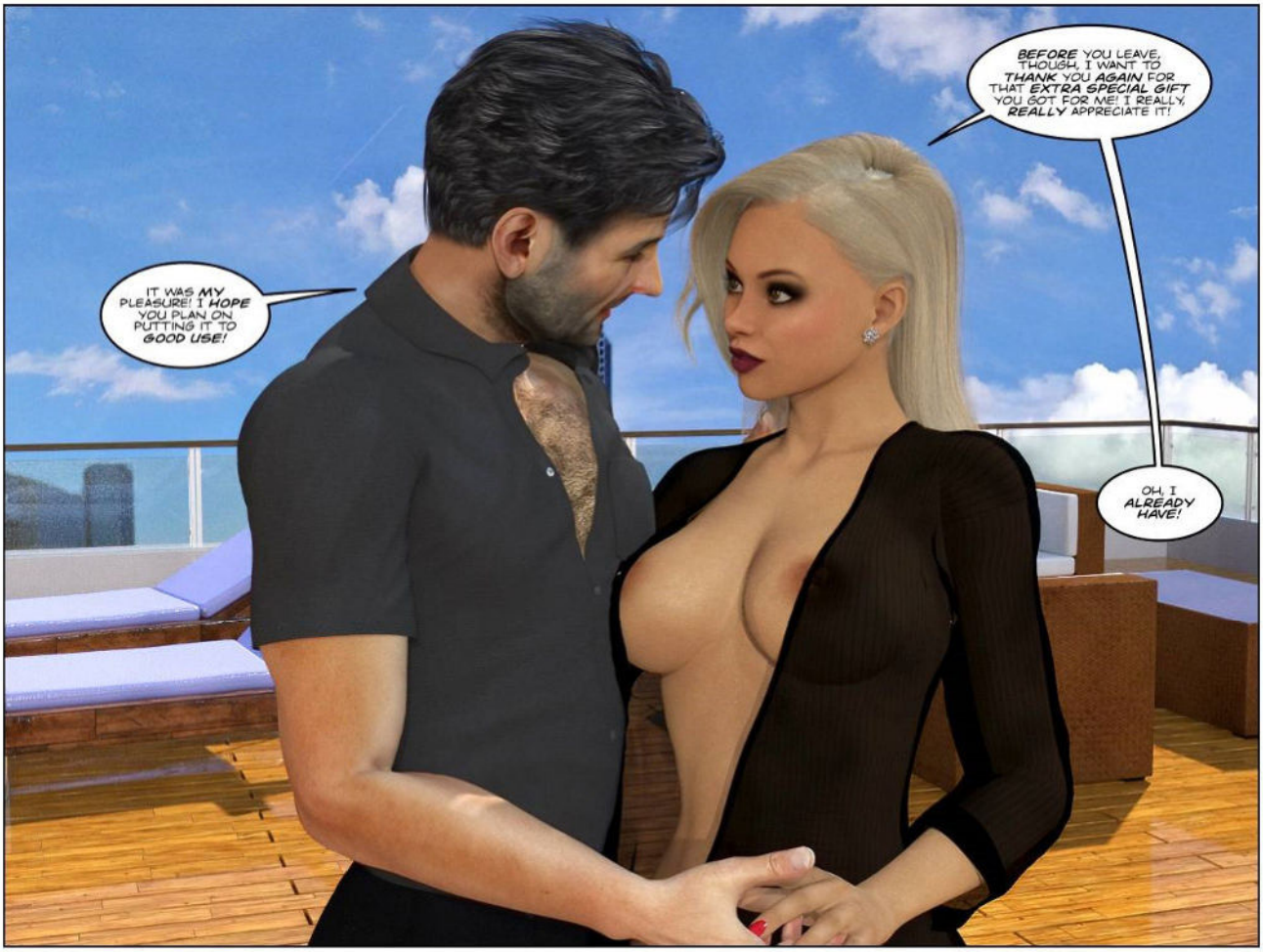

At about that same time, in a not-so-modest condo in downtown Houston...


YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO SO SOON?
I'M AFRAID SO! THE ONLY WAY I CAN MAKE MY MEETING IN HONG KONG IS TO GET AIRBORNE WITHIN THE HOUR!


WELL, LET'S SEE... YOUR DRIVER CAN GET YOU TO THE AIRPORT IN THIRTY MINUTES! IF YOU CALL AHEAD AND HAVE THE PLANE PREPPED BEFORE YOU GET THERE, THAT GIVES US AT LEAST FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES!
WHADDAYA SAY, SAILOR? WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO WASTE TIME GOING ALL THE WAY BACK UPSTAIRS!
I SAY YOU'RE INSATIABLE AND INCORRIGIBLE! ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ALL THE GLASS WALLS YOUR APARTMENT HAS!
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS MIGHT THINK?


HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING? *GIGGLE!*
BESIDES, I THINK MOST OF THEM ARE USED TO MY MID-MORNING SKINNY DIPS BY NOW! SPEAKING OF..


DO ME A FAVOR AND SAVE YOUR LATENT EXHIBITIONIST TENDENCIES FOR AFTER I LEAVE, WILL YOU?
I'D LIKE TO MAKE MY MEETING ON TIME AND DON'T THINK I COULD HANDLE YOUR AMPLE DISTRACTIONS!
OH, POO! YOU'RE NO FUN!


IT WAS MY PLEASURE! I HOPE YOU PLAN ON PUTTING IT TO GOOD USE!
BEFORE YOU LEAVE, THOUGH, I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THAT EXTRA SPECIAL GIFT YOU GOT FOR ME! I REALLY, REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
OH, I ALREADY HAVE!


I'M NOT SURE WHEN I'LL BE BACK IN HOUSTON AGAIN, BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL CALL BEFORE SHOWING UP!
HEAVEN FORBID! HEH-HEH!
YOU'D BETTER! DON'T WANT YOU SCARING OFF SOME HANDSOME YOUNG STUD I'M HAVING PERFECTLY ADEQUATE SEX WITH! *GIGGLE!*


SPEAKING OF THAT "EXTRA SPECIAL GIFT"...


...SHE SHOULD BE WAKING UP RIGHT ABOUT NOW!


Meanwhile, back across town...
zzzzzzzz...


"SNORT!"
HUH?
BZZZZZZ


"SIGH!" JESUS, JACK! WHY THE HELL DO YOU HAVE TO TEXT ME SO GODDAMN EARLY? I TOLD YOU I'D CALL LATER!
BZZZZZ


UGH! THINK I'LL JUST LEAVE MY GLASSES OFF ALL DAY SO I WON'T ACCIDENTALLY SEE MYSELF IN ANY MIRRORS!


BUT THEN I'D BE BUMPING INTO SHIT ALL DAY! FINE, I'LL WEAR THE FUCKING GLASSES!
NOW, WHERE THE HELL DID I PUT THEM?
Click!


THERE THEY ARE ON THE DRESSER! RIGHT WHERE I...

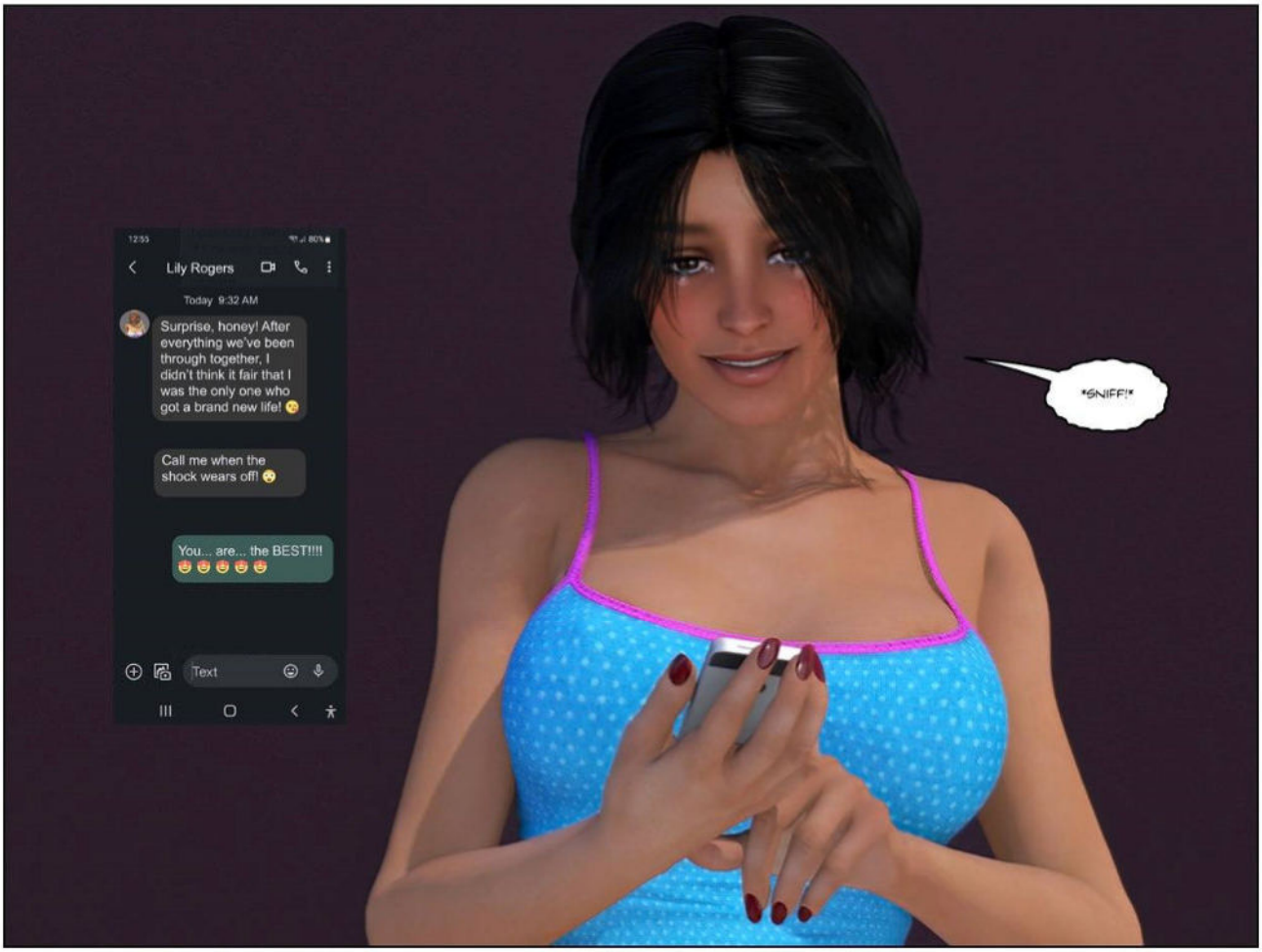

GASP!

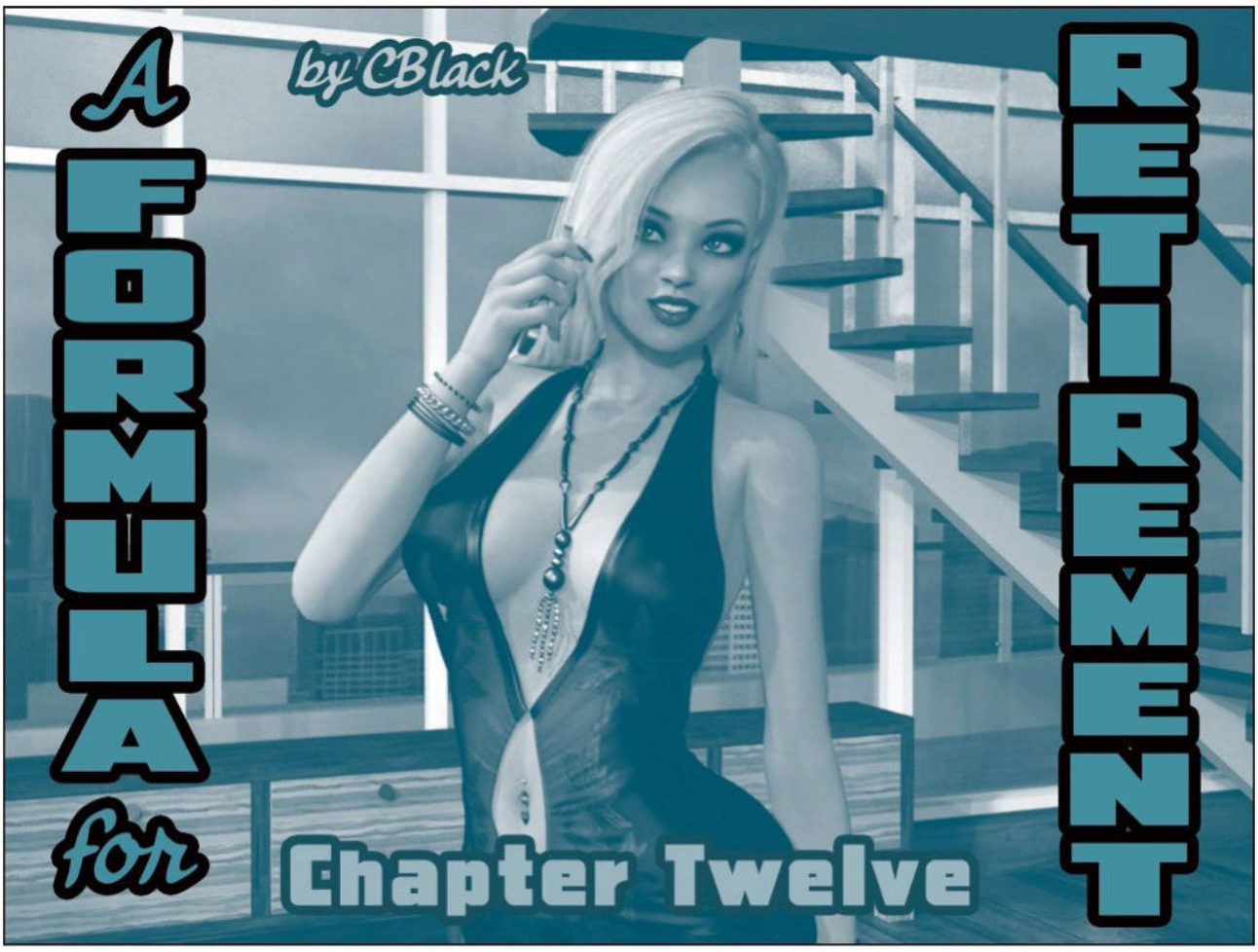

WHAT IN THE WORLD?! I... I SHOULD'VE CHANGED BACK HOURS AGO!
I'VE NEVER LASTED PAST THE 60-HOUR LIMIT BEFORE... NOT EVEN BY A MINUTE!


I... I NEED TO CALL STUART! LET HIM KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED, SO WE CAN...


HUH? THE TEXT I GOT... IT'S NOT FROM JACK! IT'S FROM LILY!
WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY WANT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?


Lily Rogers
Today 9:32 AM
Surprise, honey! After everything we've been through together, I didn't think it fair that I was the only one who got a brand new life!
Call me when the shock wears off!
Text


Lily Rogers
Today 9:32 AM
Surprise, honey! After everything we've been through together, I didn't think it fair that I was the only one who got a brand new life!
Call me when the shock wears off!
You... are... the BEST!!!!
Text
SNIFF!


A Formula for
by CBlack
Retirement
Chapter Twelve


A few weeks later...


SO HOW MUCH LONGER ARE THEY KEEPING YOU IN L.A.?
ABOUT A WEEK! IT'LL TAKE THAT LONG TO GET THE NEW RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OUT HERE UP AND RUNNING!
ANOTHER WEEK? WOW! THAT'S A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY, LANA! YOU STILL HAPPY ABOUT THE PROMOTION?
OH, HELL YES! I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!

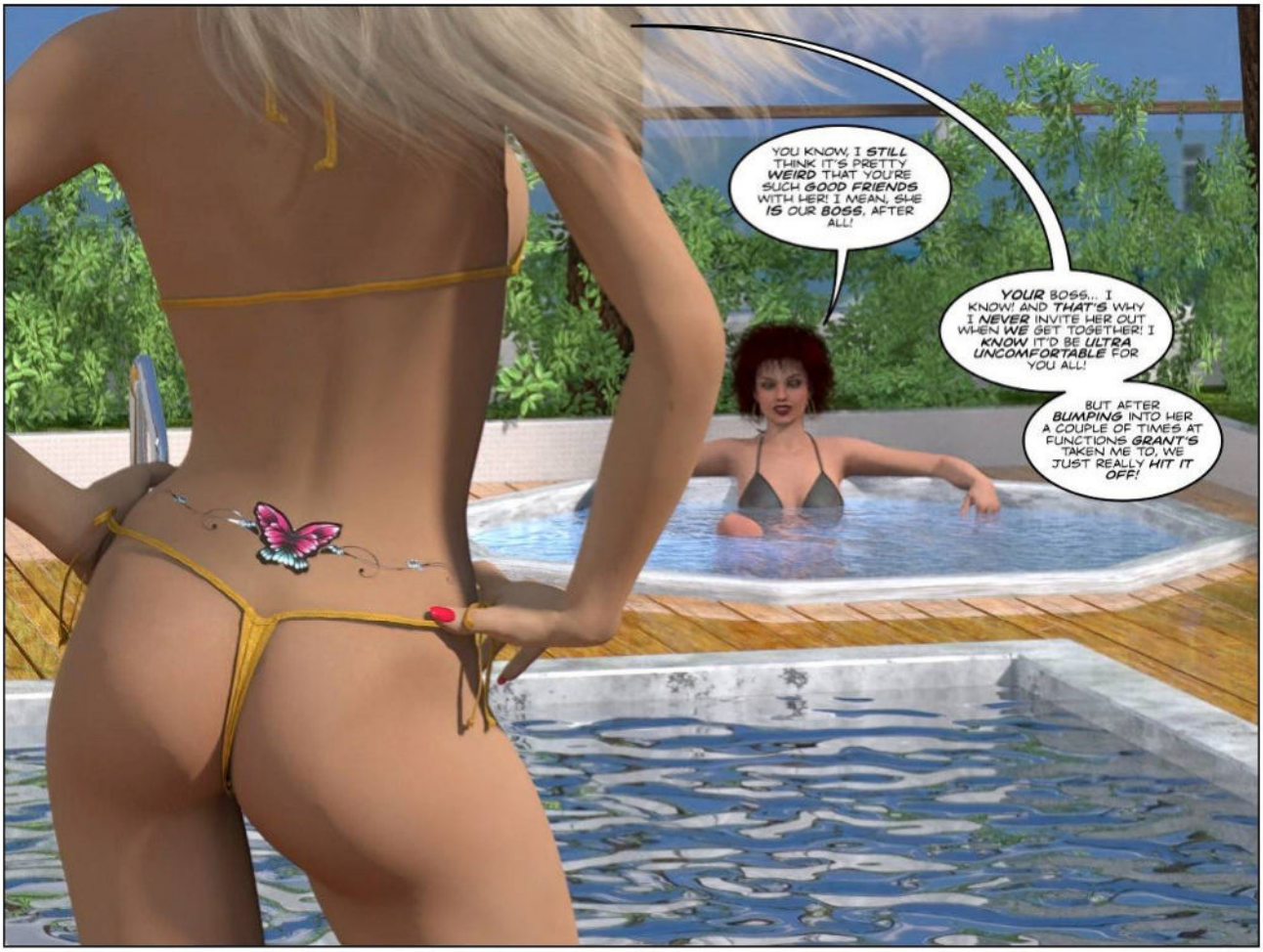

THAT'S GREAT, HONEY! SO, IS JACK GOING TO JOIN YOU OUT THERE AT ALL?
NO... SINCE I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO TELL HIM I'M NOW LANA PERMANENTLY, HAVING HIM ACCOMPANY ME ON THESE EXTENDED TRIPS WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC AT BEST!
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR AGREEING TO THAT! THE FEWER PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE FGMX STABILIZER, THE BETTER!


OH, I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY! IN FACT, I'VE MADE A POINT TO SCHEDULE MY TIME WITH JACK SO HE NEVER HAS TO SEE ME AS "OLD LAURA", SO HE'S NONE THE WISER!
SMART THINKING!
I ALSO TOLD HIM I THOUGHT WE SHOULD KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP AS NON-PUBLIC AS POSSIBLE, AT LEAST UNTIL I'VE BEEN AT THIS POSITION FOR A FEW MORE MONTHS!
BY THEN, I'LL HAVE SHOWN EVERYONE THAT I'M SO GOOD AT THIS JOB, THEY WON'T CARE HOW I CARRY ON WITH MY PERSONAL LIFE! *GIGGLE!*
I DON'T THINK ANYONE AT THAT COMPANY IS STUPID ENOUGH TO EVER LET YOU GO, SWEETIE!


SO, SINCE YOU'RE GONNA BE GONE FOR YET ANOTHER WEEK, DO YOU NEED ME TO GO BY YOUR APARTMENT AND WATER THE PLANTS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
I COULD STOP BY ON MY WAY TO THE CLUB!
STOP BY? YOU LIVE JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE CLUB, AND MY APARTMENT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN! SO, NO, YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT!
BESIDES, I'VE GOT JACK TAKING CARE OF ALL THAT FOR ME!
WELL, OKAY! BUT LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING FROM ME WHILE YOU'RE GONE!
I WILL! THANKS, SWEETIE!


SO, ANY BIG PLANS FOR YOUR A FRIDAY NIGHT IN LA.?
THE SAME THING I'VE BEEN DOING EVERY NIGHT SINCE I GOT HERE! THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE A SURPLUS OF CUTE YOUNG MEN IN THE BAR DOWNSTAIRS, AND THERE'S A FITNESS GEAR. CONVENTION IN TOWN THIS WEEKEND... SO THE BOYS DOWNSTAIRS ARE ALL VERY FIT!
I'LL SPEND AN HOUR OR TWO DECIDING WHICH ONE IS THE HUNKIEST AND THEN BRING HIM BACK TO MY ROOM, SAME AS ALWAYS!
THAT'S MY GIRL!


I'M GLAD YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME, EVEN IF YOU DO SEEM TO HAVE PICKED UP A FEW BAD HABITS FROM YOUR EX! *GIGGLE!*
WHY SHOULD YOU GET TO HAVE ALL THE FUN? *GIGGLE!*
I BETTER LET YOU GO, BECAUSE I'M DUE AT THE CLUB IN ABOUT AN HOUR! CALL ME WHEN YOU GET BACK AND WE'LL HAVE LUNCH!
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN! BYE, SWEETIE!
BYE, LANA!


YOU KNOW, I STILL THINK IT'S PRETTY WEIRD THAT YOU'RE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS WITH HER! I MEAN, SHE IS OUR BOSS, AFTER ALL!
YOUR BOSS... I KNOW! AND THAT'S WHY I NEVER INVITE HER OUT WHEN WE GET TOGETHER! I KNOW IT'D BE ULTRA UNCOMFORTABLE FOR YOU ALL!
BUT AFTER BUMPING INTO HER A COUPLE OF TIMES AT FUNCTIONS GRANT'S TAKEN ME TO, WE JUST REALLY HIT IT OFF!


BUT DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND THAT MY FRIENDSHIP WITH HER TAKES ANYTHING AWAY FROM WHAT WE'VE GOT!
YOU BITCHES ARE MY BESTIES... AND NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE THAT! GOT IT?
100%!!
HELL, YEAH!
DAMN STRAIGHT!


AND WITH THAT BEING SAID, I'VE GOTTA GO GET READY FOR MY SHIFT AT THE CLUB!
IF YOU DECIDE TO GO OUT TONIGHT, LET ME KNOW AND I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU WHEN I GET OFF!
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU ALL CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE! JUST LOCK UP WHEN YOU LEAVE!


LEAVE? WHY THE HELL WOULD WE EVER LEAVE? *GIGGLE!*
BEATS ME! SHE MUST HAVE US CONFUSED WITH SOME OTHER GROUP OF FREELOADERS! *GIGGLE!*
UH-HUH! BITCH BE CRAZY! *GIGGLE!*


Meanwhile, across town...
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY I COULDN'T JOIN LANA ON HER TRIP! I WASN'T ASKING TO BE THERE THE WHOLE TIME... JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS, TOPS!


BUT, NO... I GET STUCK BACK HERE... ALONE, WATERING HER DAMN PLANTS WHILE SHE GALLIVANTS AROUND L.A. FOR TWO WEEKS!
FUNNY HOW THESE BUSINESS TRIPS OF HERS ARE GETTING LONGER AND MORE FREQUENT!

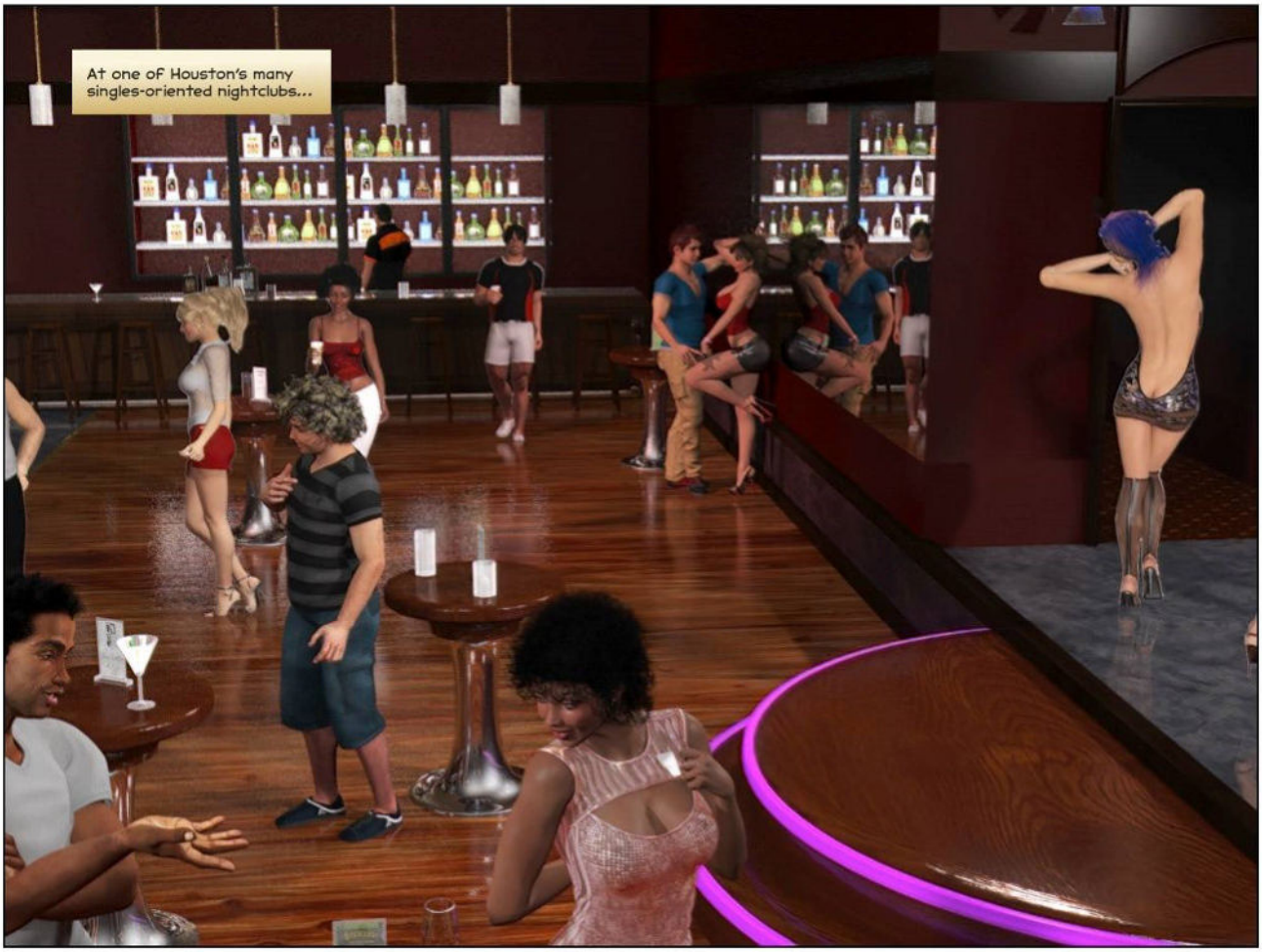

IN FACT, EVEN WHEN SHE'S NOT OUT OF TOWN, WE'RE SPENDING LESS AND LESS TIME TOGETHER! UNLESS I'M JACKIE, THAT IS! OUR "GIRLS' WEEKENDS" HAVE PICKED UP MOMENTUM, WHILE OUR ONE-ON-ONE TIME HAS DIMINISHED TO THE POINT OF NON-EXISTENCE!
WHICH BRINGS ME BACK TO MY BIGGEST FEAR... NOW THAT LAURA IS LANA, SHE'S NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN CONTINUING OUR RELATIONSHIP!
I'VE BEEN WORRIED FROM THE START THAT HER BEING YOUNG AND SEXY ON A FULL-TIME BASIS WOULD CHANGE HER PERSPECTIVE ON THINGS!
HMMPH! I CAN CERTAINLY SEE HOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN!


HMMM... SPEAKING OF...


OH, YEAH! RIGHT WHERE I THOUGHT THEY'D BE!
LUCKY FOR ME, SHE ALWAYS PLANS AHEAD AND STOCKS UP!


MAYBE IT'S TIME TO LET "JACKIE" OUT OF THE BOTTLE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT WHAT LANA MIGHT THINK! HEH-HEH!


Later that night...


At one of Houston's many singles-oriented nightclubs...


A new face is on the prowl...
WHADDAYA SAY WE BOLT THIS PLACE, GORGEOUS, AND SEE HOW NASTY WE CAN GET? HEH-HEH!
MMMM! WORKS FOR ME, HANDSOME! AND MY PLACE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!


HOPE YOU'RE UP FOR IT, STUD! 'CAUSE I'VE GOT ALL WEEKEND TO SEE JUST WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF! *GIGGLE!*


A very short time later, back at Lana's apartment...
OH, YES... OH, GOD YES... RIGHT THERE, BABY.. HARDER... HARDER...


OH, FUCK YES!!!!!


OOOHHHHH.. FUCK, YEAH... *GIGGLE!*


One week later...
COULD YOU JUST SEND UP THE REST OF MY LUGGAGE TOMORROW? I JUST DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO DEAL WITH IT ALL TONIGHT!
THANK YOU, GREG! YOU'RE A SWEETHEART!


AS MUCH AS I ENJOYED MY TIME IN L.A., IT'S STILL NICE TO BE HOME!
AND MY PLANTS AREN'T DEAD! GOOD TO KNOW I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON JACK WHEN I NEED SOMEONE TO PLANT SIT! *GIGGLE!*


I KNOW I TOLD HIM I'D CALL AS SOON AS I GOT HOME, BUT... *SIGH*... AFTER THESE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, I'D REALLY RATHER HAVE A NICE, QUIET NIGHT TO MYSELF FOR A CHANGE!
I'VE SPENT TOO MANY EVENINGS WORKING IN THE OFFICE UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT! I DON'T NEED JACK FAWNING OVER ME! NOT TONIGHT!


I'LL CALL HIM TOMORROW AND TELL HIM I GOT IN TOO LATE TO CALL, AND...
WAIT A MINUTE! ARE THOSE THE APARTMENT KEYS I GAVE JACK?


IS HE HERE? GOD, I HOPE HE HASN'T PLANNED SOME INSIPID SURPRISE FOR ME! I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD!


OR HAS HE ACTUALLY BEEN *STAYING HERE* THE *WHOLE TIME* I'VE BEEN GONE?
SIGH! WE'VE *HAD* THE *"NOT MOVING IN TOGETHER"* TALK *SEVERAL TIMES*, AND HE *KNOWS* HOW *I* FEEL ABOUT *THAT* IDEA!


WELL HE'S *NOT* IN *THERE!* IN FACT, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ROOM *HASN'T* BEEN *TOUCHED* SINCE THE LAST TIME *"JACKIE"* STAYED OVER!
BUT THE FRONT DOOR WAS *LOCKED!* HOW IS THAT *POSSIBLE* IF HIS *KEYS* ARE ON THE...
OH, YEAH...


WHAT THE HELL?! DID THAT COME FROM MY BEDROOM?!
FUCK ME, BABY!!


OH, FUCK YEAH! JUST LIKE THAT!!
DID THAT SONUVABITCH BRING SOME SKANK INTO MY APARTMENT? AND IS HE ACTUALLY BONING HER IN MY BED?!
I'LL KILL HIM!!


JESUS! SHE SOUNDS LIKE A MAJOR SLUT! I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS INTO THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR!
WELL, I HOPE HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED OUT OF HER, BECAUSE I'M ABOUT TO PUT AN END TO IT RIGHT NOW!
OH, GOD YES!! FUCK ME, BABY! FUCK ME GOOD!!


GASP!


OH YEAH...
OH YEAH!
ALMOST, BOYS...
ALMOST...


YES!!!
OH, FUCK
YES!!


WHEW! YOU BOYS REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GIRL FEEL GOOD!


NOW... LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO RETURN THAT FAVOR! *GIGGLE!*


I THINK THESE BOYS HAVE GOTTEN ALL THE FAVORS THEY'RE GOING TO GET TONIGHT!
HUH?!
WHAT THE...?!
OOPS! BUSTED!


YOU "GENTLEMEN" WILL LEAVE AND FORGET THIS ADDRESS, BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER BE COMING BACK!
AND YOU, "YOUNG LADY," GET DRESSED AND JOIN ME OUT IN THE LIVING ROOM AS SOON AS FUCKING POSSIBLE!


A few minutes later, after two very hasty retreats...
JESUS! IF I HADN'T SEEN THAT WITH MY OWN EYES, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT!
WHAT THE HELL WAS JACK THINKING?! AND HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN THINKING IT?


SO... HOW WAS L.A.?
OH MY GOD! YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY WEAR THAT OUT IN PUBLIC, DID YOU? IT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A STREETWALKER!


REALLY? BECAUSE IT'S HARDLY ANY MORE RISQUÉ THAN SOME OF THE OUTFITS YOU'VE HAD ME DRESSED UP IN!
BUT THIS TIME IT WAS MY CHOICE... TO DO WHAT I WANTED TO DO!


WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO? I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT SHOULD BE PRETTY OBVIOUS! I WANTED TO GET LAID! AND, AS YOU SAW, IT TURNED OUT PRETTY DAMN WELL! *GIGGLE!*


JESUS, JACK! WHAT THE HELL'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU ALWAYS GRIPED AND COMPLAINED WHENEVER I ASKED YOU TO GO OUT AS JACKIE!
BUT THIS... GOING OUT ON YOUR OWN, AND HAVING SEX WITH MEN?! I MEAN, WHAT THE FUCK, JACK?!


LET'S GET ONE THING CLEAR... YOU'VE NEVER REALLY "ASKED" WHEN YOU NEEDED ME TO BE JACKIE!
YOU'VE ESSENTIALLY JUST MANIPULATED ME INTO DOING SO BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SAY "NO" TO YOU!
WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE PISSED AT ME? REALLY?!


PUTTING ASIDE THE SEE-THRU-VINYL-CLAD ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM FOR A MOMENT, LET'S TALK ABOUT WHO SHOULD REALLY BE PISSED HERE!
YOU BRING TWO STRANGERS INTO MY APARTMENT AND LET THEM SCREW YOU SENSELESS IN MY BEDROOM!
YOUR PLACE WAS CLOSER... AND IT'S ALSO A HELL OF A LOT NICER THAN MINE!
AND YOU'RE PISSED AT ME?!


I MEAN, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT ELSE YOU MIGHT'VE LET THOSE TWO DO TO YOU IF I HADN'T INTERRUPTED YOU!
I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING YOU FORGOT I WAS COMING HOME TODAY, AND...


WAIT A MINUTE! HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY FORGET THAT? I TEXTED YOU FROM L.A. THIS MORNING AND TOLD YOU WHEN I'D BE HOME! AND YOU RESPONDED TO MY TEXT!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I THINK I DO REMEMBER THAT TEXT!
JESUS! YOU WANTED ME TO CATCH YOU ALL IN THERE, DIDN'T YOU? FOR GOD'S SAKE, WHY?!
TO FORCE A CONVERSATION THAT'S BEEN LONG OVERDUE!
A CONVERSATION? OH, GOD! PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A WOMAN, TOO!


NO... BUT YOU'VE GOTTA ADMIT, I MAKE A PRETTY GODDAMN GOOD ONE! JUST ASK THOSE TWO YOU CHASED OUT! *GIGGLE!*
OH, C'MON, HONEY! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD FIND THIS A LITTLE FUNNY! IT IS, AFTER ALL, YOUR FAULT!
I'M SO GLAD YOU FIND THIS AMUSING, JACK, BECAUSE I DON'T!
MY FAULT?! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY BLAME THIS ON ME?!


REALLY? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO TALKED WHO INTO TAKING THE SERUM THAT FIRST TIME ON PADRE... AND HAS CONTINUED TO DO SO PRETTY MUCH EVERY WEEKEND SINCE?
WELL, THAT MAY BE, BUT I NEVER ENCOURAGED THE KIND OF BEHAVIOR I SAW FROM YOU TONIGHT!
DIDN'T YOU? THEN WHAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR DID YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU DRESSED UP A BODY LIKE THIS IN THE REVEALING OUTFITS YOU'VE HAD ME WEARING?
HEY, FLIRTING WITH GUYS WAS ONE THING, BUT WE NEVER LET ANY OF THEM LAY A FINGER ON US!
ANOTHER DECISION YOU MADE WITHOUT CONSIDERING HOW I FELT!


HOW YOU FELT? YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY WANTED GUYS MANHANDLING YOU?
I WANTED SOMETHING! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR A RED-BLOODED MAN TO SUDDENLY BE WRAPPED UP IN A LUSCIOUS BOD LIKE THIS... BEING AROUSED IN PARTS HE'S NEVER HAD BEFORE!
BUT EVERY NIGHT I HAD THE WILLPOWER TO CONTAIN MYSELF UNTIL WE GOT HOME! BUT SINCE YOU WOULDN'T LET ME ANYWHERE NEAR YOU, I WAS LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF MY PENT-UP URGES ON MY OWN!
YOU MEAN, EVERY NIGHT... IN THE GUEST ROOM... YOU WERE...
PADDLING THE PINK CANOE? YOU BET YOUR SWEET ASS I WAS!


THAT'S SO MUCH MORE INFORMATION THAN I WANTED TO KNOW!
AND LET ME TELL YOU, THE PAYOFF IS SO MUCH BETTER FOR WOMEN! IT'S RIDICULOUS!
I WOULDN'T KNOW!


WELL I DO! AND THAT'S THE MAIN REASON I KEPT AGREEING TO TAKE THE SERUM AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR 'GIRLS' WEEKENDS!"
I'M NOT ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT TEASING ALL THOSE GUYS GOT ME MORE THAN A LITTLE WORKED UP OVER THE COURSE OF AN EVENING!
AND I ALSO GOT HOOKED ON THAT SWEET RELEASE I'VE MANAGED TO ACHIEVE IN THE PRIVACY OF MY BEDROOM AFTER WE COME HOME!
WHICH OBVIOUSLY WASN'T ENOUGH, CONSIDERING WHAT I SAW HERE TONIGHT!
SO JUST HOW LONG HAVE THESE SOLO OUTINGS OF YOURS BEEN GOING ON?


NOT LONG! MY FIRST TIME WAS A LITTLE OVER A WEEK AGO! WHEN THAT TURNED OUT SO WELL, I DECIDED I NEEDED TO INDULGE MYSELF A LITTLE MORE!
I TOOK THE LAST WEEK OFF FROM WORK, AND EXCEPT FOR A FEW HOURS IN BETWEEN DOSES, I'VE BEEN GOING OUT AS JACKIE THE ENTIRE WEEK!
PROBABLY BEST I KEEP THE DETAILS OF MY ACTUAL FIRST TIME TO MYSELF!
CHRIST, JACK! WHY DON'T YOU JUST STOMP ON MY HEART A LITTLE MORE NOW THAT YOU'VE RIPPED IT OUT OF ME?


I'M NOT TRYING TO BE CRUEL, LANA! I'M JUST BEING HONEST!
YOU AND I HAVEN'T HAD SEX SINCE OUR FIRST NIGHT AT PADRE... ALMOST TWO MONTHS AGO!
SINCE THEN, YOU'VE PUT ME IN SITUATIONS THAT'VE PUSHED MY LIBIDO TO THE EDGE... AND BEYOND! I NEEDED RELIEF! AND I WASN'T GETTING IT FROM YOU!
WHAT I'M WONDERING IS... WOULD YOU RATHER I'D HAVE SOUGHT RELIEF AS "JACK" OR AS "JACKIE?"
YOU SEEM TO HAVE MADE THAT DECISION ON YOUR OWN!


AND I'M SURE THE FACT THAT YOU OBVIOUSLY ENJOY SLUTTING IT UP AS JACKIE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
YES, I DID! MAINLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK "JACKIE" CHEATING ON YOU WOULD BE AS MUCH OF A BETRAYAL!
TOUCHÉ!


LOOK, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHY MY MARRIAGE FELL APART! I DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE LOSING MY BOYFRIEND FOR THE SAME GODDAMN REASON!
WELL, CONSIDERING YOUR "BOYFRIEND" HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS, I THINK YOU'VE BEEN COPING PRETTY DAMN WELL!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! EVER SINCE MY PROMOTION, I HAVEN'T HAD...
HAVEN'T HAD WHAT? TIME FOR A BOYFRIEND? OR THE NEED FOR ONE?


CAN'T YOU BE HONEST WITH ME FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE? WHEN WE FIRST HOOKED UP, YOU CONSTANTLY REMINDED ME THAT I WAS YOUR SECONDARY CONCERN, THAT PHIL ALWAYS CAME FIRST! AND I WAS OKAY WITH THAT!
AND THEN, WHEN THAT BLEW UP IN YOUR FACE AND THINGS ENDED BETWEEN YOU TWO, I THOUGHT THAT WAS MY CHANCE! YOU ACTED LIKE YOU WERE READY TO TOTALLY COMMIT TO ME! I WAS OVER THE MOON WHEN YOU FINALLY TOLD ME THAT YOU LOVED ME!
BUT EVER SINCE THEN, YOU'VE BEEN CONSTANTLY AVOIDING ME! YOU'RE ONLY WILLING TO SPEND TIME WITH ME IF I'M JACKIE!
WHY IS THAT, LANA? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME! I'M LEFT TO WONDER IF YOU REALLY WANT A MAN IN YOUR LIFE AT ALL!


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OF COURSE I WANT A MAN IN MY LIFE! I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND ONE! MY FORMER HUSBAND IS STRIPPING FOR A LIVING AND SPENDS ALL HER FREE TIME PARTYING WITH HER GIRLFRIENDS... AND MY CURRENT BOYRIEND IS STANDING IN FRONT OF ME WEARING A SKIN-TIGHT MINIDRESS AND NO UNDERWEAR RIGHT AFTER I CAUGHT HER IN BED WITH TWO MEN!
I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN ANY POSITION TO SPECULATE ON WHAT I WANT OUT OF LIFE UNTIL YOU ASK YOURSELF THAT VERY SAME QUESTION!


WELL... I GUESS WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, THEN!
YOU WANT TO START THE COFFEE?


Another week later...
HEY, TESS! IF IT'S OKAY, I'D LIKE TO REARRANGE MY SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK! GRANT WANTS TO TAKE ME WITH HIM TO A CONVENTION IN VEGAS FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS!
IT'LL BE TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY! I CAN WORK EXTRA THE WEEK AFTER TO MAKE UP FOR IT, IF THAT'S OKAY!


THANKS, HON! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT! AND I'M SORRY FOR THE LATE NOTICE!
ARE YOU KIDDING? NO ONE IN VEGAS EVEN KNOWS MY NAME! AND IF THEY DID OFFER ME A JOB, THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER CONSIDER LEAVING HOUSTON!
I GOTTA RUN! THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR! THANKS AGAIN, TESS!
Ding!


Ding!


HI, LILY! SORRY FOR BARGING IN UNANNOUNCED!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'RE ABOUT THE LAST PERSON I EVER EXPECTED TO COME KNOCKING ON MY DOOR!


I JUST... I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGES LATELY... AND I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
CALL ME JACKIE, OKAY? I... I HAVEN'T BEEN JACK MUCH AT ALL FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS!
TOO LATE? THAT SOUNDS AWFULLY CRYPTIC, ALMOST LIKE... ARE YOU OKAY, JACK? WHAT'S GOING ON?
DID YOU AND LANA FINALLY TALK ABOUT SOUTH PADRE ISLAND? IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?


LOOK, LANA OFTEN OVERREACTS WHEN SHE FIRST GETS A PIECE OF SHOCKING NEWS, BUT SHE'LL CALM DOWN!
AND IF SHE DOESN'T, MAYBE I CAN TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER! I WANT THINGS TO WORK OUT BETWEEN YOU TWO!
WELL, AT THIS POINT, YOU MIGHT BE THE ONLY ONE!


YOU SEE.. WE BROKE UP!
WHAT THE...? LANA DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT WHEN I TALKED TO HER THE OTHER DAY! WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
A WEEK AGO... RIGHT AFTER SHE GOT BACK FROM L.A.!
WE HAD A HUGE FIGHT, THEN A LONG, VERY OPEN DISCUSSION, AND, AS A RESULT, MUTUALLY DECIDED THAT BREAKING UP WOULD BE THE BEST THING FOR BOTH OF US!


WOW! THAT IS HUGE! WHAT DID YOU TWO FIGHT ABOUT THAT CAUSED THIS TO HAPPEN?
WELL... YOU SEE, THE FIGHT STARTED BECAUSE OF ME AND WHAT I'D BEEN DOING AS JACKIE WHILE SHE WAS OUT OF TOWN!
HOLY SHIT! SO SOUTH PADRE WASN'T THE ONLY TIME YOU'VE HOOKED UP AS JACKIE, AND LANA FOUND OUT ABOUT IT?


OH... IT'S SO MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, LILY! TRUST ME!


A Few minutes later...
WOW! I MEAN, TRUTHFULLY, I'M NOT THAT SURPRISED YOU STARTED SLIPPING OUT ON YOUR OWN! AFTER WITNESSING YOUR DEBUT ON PADRE, I FIGURED IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!
BUT SETTING IT UP SO SHE'D CATCH YOU IN THE ACT WAS ONE BALLSY MOVE... PUN INTENDED!
I KNOW! BUT I NEEDED TO FORCE A CONVERSATION WITH HER AND FIGURED IT WAS THE BEST WAY!
AND IT WORKED! ONCE SHE CALMED DOWN, WE HAD ONE HELL OF A LONG TALK! ONE THAT FINALLY ALLOWED ME TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH!
PART OF ME ALWAYS KNEW THAT LANA NEVER TRULY LOVED ME, BUT I NEVER WANTED TO BELIEVE IT!
I'VE QUIT MY JOB AT GNI! EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T WORK IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT, I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK RUNNING INTO HER! IT'S JUST TOO PAINFUL!


IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN TURNED COMPLETELY UPSIDE DOWN! BECAUSE YOU TOOK THE SERUM! I CAN CERTAINLY RELATE TO THAT!
I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE A BEAUTIFUL BLONDE BOMBSHELL WHO STRIPS FOR A LIBVING. BUT NOW THAT I'VE LIVED THIS LIFE, I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY!
I LIKE WHO I'VE BECOME... I LIKE IT A LOT!


AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU HOOKED ON BEING JACKIE?
DOES IT MATTER? LANA GAVE ME THE REMAINING DOSES OF FGMX SHE HAD ON HAND, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET ANY MORE! RIGHT NOW, I'M ON MY LAST ONE!
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO SEE YOU, LILY! BECAUSE THIS IS GOING TO BE JACKIE'S FINAL NIGHT TO PARTY, AND NOBODY PARTIES HARDER THAN DARLA AND HER POSSE!
I KNOW YOU ALL GO OUT EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT... AND I WANTED TO SEE IF IT WOULD BE OKAY IF I JOINED YOU!


YOU WANT TO PARTY WITH ME AND THE GIRLS?
MORE THAN ANYTHING! TOMORROW I'LL GO BACK TO BEING SAD, UNEMPLOYED JACK, BUT TONIGHT I'M STILL JACKIE, AND I WANT TO HAVE THE TIME OF MY LIFE!
THOUGH AFTER SEEING YOU, I'M FEELING A BIT UNDER-DRESSED!
DON'T BE SILLY! YOU LOOK HOT, GIRL! AND OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME TO PARTY WITH US!
DARLA AND THE GANG WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT JACKIE FROM L.A. IS BACK IN TOWN!
THANKS, LILY! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!


I SHOULD ALSO MENTION THAT IF YOU'RE HANKERING TO KEEP "JACKIE" AROUND FOR A WHILE LONGER, I DO HAVE A PRETTY SOLID CONNECTION WHEN IT COMES TO GNI! *GIGGLE!*
YOU'D DO THAT? FOR ME?
SURE! WE CAN START OUR OWN CLUB... "GUYS WHO WERE TURNED INTO HOT CHICKS BY LANA!" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!


TELL THE TRUTH... DID YOU USED TO FANTASIZE ABOUT BEING A GIRL BEFORE IT HAPPENED?
NOPE! IT HONESTLY NEVER OCCURED TO ME!
BUT EVER SINCE I GOT MY FIRST TASTE, IT'S BEEN KIND OF HARD TO RESIST!
AND I'M GUESSING YOU WERE LIKE ME, NO REALIZATION THAT YOU HAD ANY INTEREST IN BEING WITH A GUY UNTIL YOU BECAME A GIRL!


AND NOW YOU CAN DO IT IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT WAY, RIGHT?
YOU AND ME BOTH, SISTER! I STILL LIKE GIRLS, BUT BEING WITH A GUY IS A HELLUVA LOT MORE FUN, AT LEAST FOR ME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EVEN LANA? SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A STRAIGHT WOMAN! SHE'S JUST A YOUNGER, HOTTER VERSION NOW!
NOT REALLY! IV'E COME TO SEE THAT THERE WAS THIS SIDE OF MYSELF THAT I NEVER REALLY ACKNOWLEDGED! I MEAN, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED PLEASING PEOPLE!
YEAH! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D PUT A COCK IN MY MOUTH, OR ANYWHERE ELSE, FOR THAT MATTER! BEING JACKIE HAS CERTAINLY OPENED MY EYES TO A WHOLE NEW WORLD!
I GUESS WE'VE ALL LEARNED TO BE MORE HONEST ABOUT OUR SEXUALITY... EVEN LANA!


I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE TRUE! A LOT OF THINGS CAME OUT WHEN LANA AND I HAD OUR BIG BLOWUP!
I THOUGHT THE REASON SHE KEPT TURNING ME INTO JACKIE WAS IN ORDER TO AVOID JACK, BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T FACE THE FACT SHE DIDN'T LOVE ME!
BUT THEN SHE BROKE DOWN AND TOLD ME SOMETHING ABOUT HERSELF! SOMETHING I'M GUESSING YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE WERE TOGETHER FOR THIRTY YEARS! I THINK I KNOW PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WOMAN!


ARE YOU SURE? DID SHE EVER MENTION THE NAME REBECCA FOSTER TO YOU?
OF COURSE SHE DID! I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT ONE AWKWARD, OFF-PUTTING LESBIAN ENCOUNTER! IT'S THE REASON I HAD TO SLEEP IN A SEPARATE BEDROOM AFTER I BECAME LILY!
SAME HERE, WHENEVER I WAS JACKIE!
BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WITH REBECCA WASN'T QUITE AS AWKWARD AND OFF-PUTTING AS LANA LED US TO BELIEVE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT ONE-NIGHT STAND WAS SO HORRIBLE THAT IT NOT ONLY DESTROYED THEIR FRIENDSHIP, BUT PUT LANA OFF WOMEN FOR LIFE!


YEAH, THAT'S WHAT SHE'S ALWAYS MAINTAINED... BUT THE TRUTH IS, LANA AND REBECCA ACTUALLY HAD A LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIP!
WHAT?! NO WAY! I'D KNOW ABOUT IT IF THAT WERE THE CASE!
BUT HOW? ALL OF IT HAPPENED BEFORE YOU TWO EVER MET!


THAT'S RIDICULOUS! IF THERE'S ONE THING MY EX-WIFE HAS MADE CLEAR TO ME OVER THE YEARS, IT'S THAT SHE HAS NO SEXUAL INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN OTHER WOMEN!
A STATEMENT SHE'S REITERATED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS... ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST YEAR!
I KNOW! BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HEARD THIS SECOND-HAND... SHE TOLD ME HERSELF!


BUT WHY WOULD SHE TELL YOU AND NOT ME?
BECAUSE I INITIATED THE CONVERSATION! I WANTED TO CLEAR THE AIR OF EVERYTHING... FINALLY LAY ALL OF OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE AND GET EVERYTHING OUT IN THE OPEN SO WE COULD MOVE FORWARD!
I GUESS SHE SAW IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY... OR EVEN A RESPONSIBILITY TO FINALLY ADMIT TO SOMETHING THAT SHE'S KEPT HIDDEN FOR A VERY LONG TIME!
I FULLY EXPECTED HER TO ADMIT THAT SHE NEVER LOVED ME... BUT IN THE END, SHE HAD A LOT MORE THAN THAT TO SAY!


I... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! SO JUST WHAT DID SHE ACTUALLY TELL YOU ABOUT REBECCA?
THAT THEY MET IN COLLEGE AND BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY!
AFTER A FEW MONTHS, THEIR RELATIONSHIP EVOLVED INTO A MORE SEXUAL ONE! AND IT STAYED THAT WAY FOR THEIR REMAINING YEARS AT COLLEGE... RIGHT UP UNTIL GRADUATION!


REBECCA HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THEY'D BE STAYING TOGETHER EVEN AFTER COLLEGE, BUT LAURA HAD ASPIRATIONS TO SUCCEED IN THE BUSINESS WORLD AND DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF SHE WAS OUTED AS A LESBIAN!
SO SHE ABRUPTLY BROKE UP WITH REBECCA, MOVED TO HOUSTON, AND STARTED TO ESTABLISH HERSELF AS A PERFECTLY NORMAL, HETEROSEXUAL BUSINESSWOMAN!
WHERE SHE MET ME... THE PERFECT SCHMUCK TO HELP HER LIVE OUT HER LIE!


TO BE FAIR TO HER, I DON'T THINK IT WAS THAT CUT AND DRIED! I REALLY BELIEVE SHE TRULY LOVED YOU, AND...
AND THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE THE FACT SHE'S BEEN LYING TO ME FROM DAY ONE AND ALL THROUGH OUR THIRTY YEARS OF MARRIAGE!
AND SHE ONLY MADE IT WORSE WHEN SHE COULD'VE HELPED EASE ME THROUGH MY... TRANSITION, BUT INSTEAD CHOSE TO PERPETUATE HER LIE AND DISTANCE HERSELF FROM ME!
SHE LIED TO MY FACE WHEN I NEEDED HER THE MOST!


YES... YES, SHE DID! BUT I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE'D BEEN LIVING WITH THAT LIE FOR SO LONG THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO REACT!
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, IT'S A SHITTY EXCUSE!
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST HER... THAT WE COULD BE FRIENDS!
EVERYTHING COULD HAVE GONE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION IF SHE'D ONLY BEEN HONEST WITH ME!


I'M SORRY, JACKIE, BUT I WON'T BE PARTYING WITH THE GIRLS TONIGHT! GO AHEAD AND JOIN THEM IF YOU WANT! TELL THEM I SENT YOU!
I NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH MY EX-WIFE!


A short while later...
WHAT THE HELL?!!
Bam, Bam, Bam!!


SETTLE DOWN! I'M COMING!
Bam, Bam, Bam!!


LILY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
HOPING UPON HOPE THAT I MIGHT JUST POSSIBLY, FINALLY GET AN HONEST ANSWER OUT OF YOU!
REBECCA FOSTER! DOES THAT NAME RING A BELL?


SHIT! YOU TALKED TO JACK, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU BET YOUR ASS I DID! AND IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I LEARNED THAT HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT YOUR PAST THAN I DO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY TOLD YOU ABOUT IT!
AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT? HOW JACK BETRAYED YOUR TRUST? ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?


I DIDN'T TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT REBECCA BECAUSE IT HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH US!
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!
OH, REALLY? THEN REMIND ME AGAIN WHAT EXCUSE YOU USED AFTER I TURNED INTO A WOMAN TO KEEP ME OUT OF YOUR BED!
WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS THAT YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME FOR THIRTY YEARS, ABOUT YOUR PAST AND WHO YOU REALLY ARE!


YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON WHO SHOULD BE CRITICIZING ME FOR LYING ABOUT WHO THEY ARE!
OH, I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT! THE BLATANT IRONY OF THE SITUATION IS NOT LOST ON ME!
BUT CAN'T YOU SEE HOW DIFFERENTLY THINGS MIGHT HAVE GONE IF YOU'D ONLY BEEN HONEST WITH ME? WE COULD HAVE BEEN TOGETHER AS TWO WOMEN... THE WAY I'D ALWAYS DREAMED OF!
I MIGHT HAVE MADE DIFFERENT DECISIONS HAD I KNOWN THERE WAS STILL HOPE FOR US TO BE TOGETHER!


PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT DRIVEL! LOOK AT THE KIND OF CHOICES YOU'VE MADE! LOOK AT THE KIND OF WOMAN YOU'VE BECOME! DO YOU THINK I'D EVER WANT TO BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
A SLUT WHO CHOOSES TO STRIP FOR A LIVING AND LETS ANY MAN WITH A BIG DICK FUCK HER SILLY?


I'VE TRIED TO MAKE THE BEST OF MY SITUATION, AND YOU DAMN WELL KNOW THAT! I DON'T REGRET WHO I'VE BECOME, AND I WON'T APOLOGIZE FOR MY LIFESTYLE!
BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME! WE'VE ALREADY HASHED THAT OUT MANY TIMES BEFORE!
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU CHANGED ME INTO LILY TO FIND OUT HOW INTERESTED I WAS IN BEING A WOMAN... BUT I NOW THINK YOU DID IT BECAUSE OF UNRESOLVED FEELINGS YOU HAVE ABOUT BEING WITH A WOMAN!
BUT ONCE I WAS HERE, IN THE FLESH, YOU COULDN'T HANDLE IT! AND THEN YOU PRETTY MUCH DID THE EXACT SAME THING WITH JACK!


CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU'VE BURIED THE PAST SO DEEP... AND EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED IS REALLY ABOUT YOU AND REBECCA?
IF YOU CAN'T BE HONEST WITH ME, AT LEAST BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF!
FINE! YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH? HERE IT IS!
I LOVED BECCA... I LOVED HER WITH ALL MY HEART! BUT BACK THEN, I JUST WASN'T READY TO LIVE THE KIND OF LIFE SHE WANTED TO!
WE GRADUATED AND HAD PLANS TO LIVE TOGETHER, OPENLY, AS A GAY COUPLE! BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE, I GOT COLD FEET, BROKE UP WITH HER, AND MOVED AWAY! WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN SINCE!


THERE! ARE YOU HAPPY NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE WHOLE GODDAMN TRUTH?
SOB!


SIGH! WE WERE TOGETHER FOR THIRTY YEARS! I LOVED YOU, AND I STILL DO! YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME! I'D HAVE UNDERSTOOD!
WHAT YOU USED TO BE AND WHAT YOU ARE NEVER WOULD HAVE BOTHERED ME, AND THEY STILL DON'T!
TO BE HONEST, I'M MORE UPSET WITH THE WAY YOU LEFT THINGS WITH REBECCA! I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A STRONGER PERSON THAN THAT!
SNIFF! I LOVE YOU, TOO, HONEY. IT'S JUST... I DIDN'T WANT TO RUIN WHAT WE HAD BY TELLING YOU I USED TO BE A LESBIAN!
I GUESS I DISAPPOINTED ALL OF US, THEN!


LOOK, I'VE HAD MY SAY, BUT I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH ONE THOUGHT BEFORE I GO!
WE'VE BOTH BEEN GIVEN DO-OVERS! I'M VERY HAPPY WITH MY NEW LIFE AS LILY ROGERS AND WOULDN'T WANT TO CHANGE ANYTHING!
I JUST WANT YOU TO FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT BEING LANA STEWART!
74


SIGH! I WISH IT WERE THAT EASY!
74
Slam!


A couple of weeks later back at Club Exotica...


The main draw continues to wow the crowds...
Clap, Clap!!!
Woo-hoo!!
Go, Lily!!


As does a Fresh, *new* Face...


One who is especially *popular* when it comes to *private* dances...


...for one reason
or another...


And, at a familiar South Padre Island hotel...
Golden Flower


GOOD AFTERNOON, MA'AM! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
YES, I UMMM... THINK I HAVE A RESERVATION HERE!
YOU THINK YOU DO? AREN'T YOU SURE?


Golden
YOU SEE, I WON THIS TRIP IN A CONTEST! SINCE I'VE NEVER WON ANYTHING BEFORE, I'M JUST A LITTLE SKEPTICAL!
WELL, LET ME LOOK AND SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT FOR YOU! WHAT WAS THE NAME?
FOSTER! REBECCA FOSTER!


HERE IT IS! YOU'VE GOT ONE OF OUR PENTHOUSE SUITES FOR THE WHOLE WEEK!
WELL, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A VERY GENEROUS CONTEST!
A WHOLE WEEK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? WOW! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO WITH MYSELF!
I GUESS SO! FUNNY THING IS, I DON'T REMEMBER EVER ENTERING IT!


IS ANYONE CHECKING IN WITH YOU?
NO... JUST ME, I'M AFRAID!
THAT'S FINE! THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS TO DO HERE BY YOURSELF AS WELL AS ACTIVITIES TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, IF YOU DECIDE THAT'S SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU!
WELL... WE'LL SEE!


HONEY, AFTER SUFFERING THROUGH FOUR DISASTROUSLY FAILED RELATIONSHIPS, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT MY DAYS OF "MEETING NEW PEOPLE", AS YOU SO GRACEFULLY WORDED IT, ARE OVER AND DONE WITH!
MY ONLY PLANS FOR THIS WEEK INCLUDE WORKING ON MY TAN, FINDING THE PERFECT MAI-TAI, AND, *SIGH-I*, REFLECTING ON A LIFE THAT COULD'VE BEEN!


OKAY, MISS FOSTER, I'VE GOT YOU ALL CHECKED IN! I'LL HAVE SOMEONE DOWN MOMENTARILY TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR LUGGAGE!
THANK YOU, DEAR!
REBECCA FOSTER?


THAT'S ME!
I'M A REPRESENTATIVE OF GNI... YOUR CONTEST CONCIERGE, IF YOU WILL! I'M HERE TO HELP COORDINATE YOUR WEEK AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE!
WONDERFUL! BECAUSE I DO HAVE QUITE A FEW QUESTIONS, MISS...


STEWART... LANA STEWART! AND IT'S SO VERY NICE TO MEET YOU!
LIKEWISE, DEAR! MY... AREN'T YOU A LOVELY YOUNG THING!
THANK YOU! THAT... MEANS A LOT COMING FROM SOMEONE AS GRACIOUS AS YOU!


WHILE THEY TAKE YOUR BAGS TO YOUR ROOM, WHY DON'T WE GO HAVE A DRINK, AND I CAN ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS?
THEY MAKE AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD MAI-TAI HERE!
JUST A LUCKY GUESS, BECCA! *GIGGLE!*
NOW HOW ON EARTH DID YOU KNOW I WAS A MAI-TAI KIND OF GAL?


OH MY WORD, NO ONE'S CALLED ME BECCA SINCE COLLEGE! THAT'S A NAME FOR A VIBRANT, YOUNG WOMAN... NOT A TIRED OLD WOMAN LIKE ME!
WELL... LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT!
The END