

The next morning...

I HOPE I DID THE RIGHT THING NOT CORRECTING THE DOCTORS WHEN THEY ASSUMED "KIM" WAS A PRE-OP TRANSWOMAN!

BUT AT THE TIME, EXPLAINING EVERYTHING WASN'T HIGH ON MY TO-DO LIST!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE I TELL DANIEL WHEN HE WAKES UP!

BUZZ!





GLORIA? UMMM... WHY ARE YOU CALLING SO EARLY... AND ON A SUNDAY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN CANCUN WITH MR. BURNS!

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU HEAR THAT ALREADY?

I STILL AM! BUT I JUST NOW FOUND OUT THAT KIM WAS TAKEN FROM YOUR HOUSE YESTERDAY MORNING IN AN AMBULANCE!

TWO OF MY BEST FRIENDS LIVE ON THE SAME BLOCK AS YOU! BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW!

WHAT THE DEVIL HAPPENED TO KIM?!



HER **APPENDIX** BURST! I FOUND HER **UNRESPONSIVE** IN BED YESTERDAY MORNING WITH A HIGH **FEVER** SO I CALLED THE **EMTS**!

THEY GOT HER TO THE **ER** AND THE DOCTORS GOT HER **ALL TAKEN CARE OF!** SHE'S RESTING **COMFORTABLY**, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO **KEEP** HER HERE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A FEW DAYS **JUST FOR OBSERVATION!**

DON'T BE **RIDICULOUS**, GLORIA! LIKE I SAID, SHE'S GOING TO BE **JUST FINE!** STAY THERE AND ENJOY **YOURSELF!**

I'LL HAVE HER CALL YOU JUST AS **SOON** AS SHE'S UP TO IT!

I'M CATCHING THE **FIRST PLANE** HOME!

WELL... IF SHE'S **REALLY OKAY!** BUT I WANT TO TALK TO HER AS **SOON** AS SHE'S FEELING UP TO IT!

GOOD! NOW YOU TAKE CARE OF KIM, OKAY? YOU KNOW HOW **SPECIAL** SHE IS!



YES... YES, I DO!
I'LL TALK TO YOU
LATER, GLORIA!

UGH! WHAT'S GOING
ON? WHERE AM I?

**YOU'RE AWAKE!
DON'T TRY TO MOVE
TOO MUCH! JUST TAKE
IT EASY!**

**WHY THE FUCK AM I IN
THE HOSPITAL? DID I HEAR YOU SAY
SOMETHING ABOUT A BURST APPENDIX?
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?**


**I'LL EXPLAIN THE
DETAILS IN A MINUTE!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WHAT'S THE LAST
THING YOU
REMEMBER?**

**I FEEL TIRED,
ACHEY AND PISSED! AND
THE LAST THING I
REMEMBER WAS GOING TO
BED LAST NIGHT!**

**ACTUALLY IT WAS
TWO NIGHTS AGO!
TODAY IS SUNDAY!**

**TWO NIGHTS AGO?
WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED, REX?**



A man with dark hair, wearing a grey tank top, is leaning over a woman who is lying in a hospital bed. The woman is wearing a white hospital gown with a blue and black geometric pattern. The background shows a window with vertical blinds and a cityscape. Three speech bubbles are present, containing text about a medical emergency.

YESTERDAY MORNING, I FOUND YOU **UNRESPONSIVE** AND **FEVERISH** SO I CALLED AN AMBULANCE AND THEY **RUSHED** YOU TO THE HOSPITAL!

YOUR CONDITION REQUIRED **EMERGENCY SURGERY**, WHICH WENT **JUST FINE!** YOU'VE BEEN **RECUPERATING** HERE SINCE!

I... I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT! I CAN'T **BELIEVE** I HAD **SURGERY**, AND...




OH SHIT!
DOCTORS?
SURGERY? YOU...
YOU KNOW,
DON'T YOU?

I... I CAN EXPLAIN
THAT, REX!

THAT YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN WEARING A **BODYSUIT**
FOR SOME TIME NOW?
YEAH! I DO NOW!

WELL I FIGURED OUT
MOST OF IT WHEN I FOUND
THOSE **PILLS** IN YOUR
BATHROOM AND GAVE THEM
TO THE **DOCTOR!**

WHAT THE **HELL** WERE
YOU **THINKING?!**




I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, REX! IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE GLORIA WOULD SEE THROUGH THAT RIDICULOUS BODYSUIT! AND LOLA DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER!

SO WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE PILLS?

I KNEW SOME PEOPLE ON THE STREETS WHO TOOK THEM TO HELP INCREASE THEIR "REVENUE", SO TO SPEAK! ONE OF THEM HOOKED ME UP!

ILLEGAL AND UNAPPROVED PILLS FROM THE STREETS? DO YOU REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS?

I NEEDED TO CHANGE MY BODY... AND QUICKLY! THEY WERE THE ONLY OPTION I COULD THINK OF!



BESIDES, THEY WORKED! SO NO REAL HARM DONE, RIGHT?

WHAT? THE DRUGS MESSED UP MY APPENDIX? THAT'S PRETTY BIZARRE!

AND IF THAT WAS THE ONLY SIDE EFFECT, I CAN PUT UP WITH THE PAIN FOR A FEW DAYS!

YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM EMERGENCY SURGERY! OF COURSE THERE WAS HARM DONE!

NO, DANIEL! THOSE DRUGS DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOUR APPENDIX! WHAT THEY DID DO WAS CAUSE A MASSIVE INFECTION IN BOTH YOUR TESTICLES!

WAIT?! MY... TESTICLES?!
ARE THEY OKAY? THEN WHY THE
HELL DID I HAVE AN
APPENDECTOMY?

SIGH! YOUR
SURGERY WASN'T
TO REMOVE YOUR
APPENDIX, DANIEL!

THEN... THEN WHAT
WAS IT FOR?



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT AN
ORCHIECTOMY
IS?

Later that afternoon...

IS IT *OKAY* FOR ME TO COME BACK IN YET?

YEAH! I'M *SORRY* I *BROKE DOWN* LIKE THAT! *GOD!* I DON'T THINK I'VE *CRIED* SINCE I WAS *LITTLE!*


CONSIDERING THE *CIRCUMSTANCES*, AND ALL THE *HORMONES* PUMPING THROUGH YOU, IT WAS VERY *UNDERSTANDABLE!*



I'M SO *SORRY*
THIS HAPPENED TO
YOU, DANIEL!

DON'T BE! THE DOCTOR
EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NO
OTHER CHOICE! IF THE INFECTION HAD
HAD A CHANCE TO *SPREAD*, I
WOULD'VE LOST A LOT MORE!


I KNOW! *THAT'S*
WHAT HE TOLD ME, TOO!
BUT *I'M* STILL THE ONE
WHO TOLD THEM TO GO
AHEAD AND...

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white hospital gown with a blue and black geometric pattern, is sitting up in a hospital bed. She has a thoughtful or slightly distressed expression, looking off to the side. The background shows a hospital room with a white headboard and a wooden cabinet.

NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT, REX! I MADE THE CHOICE TO TAKE THOSE PILLS AND I'M THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO DOUBLE THE DOSAGE!

I KNEW THERE WERE RISKS AND I IGNORED THEM! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT..NO ONE ELSE'S! AND ESPECIALLY NOT YOURS!

IF ANYTHING, YOU PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE, SO... THANK YOU!



WELL, THE **ONE** THING I'VE
LEARNED FROM THIS IS THAT WE
NEED TO **STOP LYING!** THE
CHARADE **ENDS** TODAY!

I'M GOING TO GO OUT THERE
AND GIVE THE DOCTORS YOUR
REAL NAME! THEN I'M TELLING
GLORIA AND MR. BURNS WHO YOU
REALLY ARE AND LET THE CHIPS
FALL WHERE THEY **MAY!**

YOU... YOU
CAN'T DO THAT,
REX!

WHY NOT? LOOK WHAT
ALL THIS **LYING** HAS
DONE TO YOU!



EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME IS A **DIRECT RESULT** OF **MY CHOICES** IN RESPONSE TO **CIRCUMSTANCES** THAT WERE OUT OF **OUR CONTROL!**

IF WE JUST **GIVE UP** AND TELL THE **TRUTH**, THEN **EVERYTHING** WE'VE GONE THROUGH... **EVERYTHING I'VE** GONE THROUGH... WILL **ALL BE FOR NOTHING!**

YOU PUT YOUR **JOB...** YOUR **LIVELIHOOD...** ON THE **LINE** TO HELP **ME!** I'M **NOT** GOING TO LET YOU **LOSE** ALL THAT **JUST** BECAUSE **I** **SCREWED UP!**

HMPH! IF I'D **KNOWN** YOU WERE GOING TO BE **THIS** **STUBBORN**, I **MIGHT'VE** HAD **SECOND THOUGHTS** ABOUT LETTING YOU INTO MY HOUSE THAT DAY! ***CHUCKLE!***

KNOWING WHEN TO DIG IN MY HEELS HAS KEPT ME **ALIVE** THESE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS! IT'S A **TRAIT** I **WON'T** GIVE UP ANYTIME **SOON!**

I'LL **KEEP** THAT IN **MIND!**



NOW, WILL YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

I OWE YOU COUNTLESS FAVORS! NAME IT!

THE *NURSE* SAID YOU'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THEY BROUGHT ME IN! SO, PLEASE GO HOME, TAKE A *SHOWER*, SHAVE, CHANGE CLOTHES AND TRY AND GET SOME REST!

YOU LOOK AND SMELL LIKE CRAP!

AM I THAT RIPE?


YES!



OKAY, I'LL **GO!** BUT I'M GOING TO **CALL** LATER TO SEE **HOW** YOU'RE DOING!

GOD! IT'S ALMOST **UNIMAGINABLE** EVERYTHING HE'S PUT HIMSELF THROUGH... TO HELP **ME!** I HAVE **GOT** TO DO **SOMETHING** TO MAKE IT UP TO HIM! SOMETHING **BIG!**

FAIR ENOUGH! THANKS AGAIN, **REX!**




YEAH... THANKS
FOR GIVING THEM
PERMISSION TO CUT
MY BALLS OFF, REX!

I DON'T CARE IF IT
WAS A MEDICAL
EMERGENCY CAUSED BY MY
MISUSE OF AN UNTESTED
DRUG!

'CAUSE WHEN IT COMES
RIGHT DOWN TO IT,
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
ESSENTIALLY SAID, "OKAY! GO
AHEAD! CUT OFF HIS
BALLS!"


YOU COST ME
MY MANHOOD, REX!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO
PAY FOR IT!



FORTUNATELY FOR YOU,
HOWEVER, I'M NOT A PARTICULARLY
VIOLENT PERSON! AND SINCE YOU'VE GOT
VERY DEEP POCKETS, I'M MORE THAN
HAPPY TO EXACT MY PAYMENT THROUGH
MORE CREATIVE AND MONETARY
MEANS!

I'D ALWAYS ASSUMED THIS
CON I WAS RUNNING ON YOU
WOULD COME TO AN END
SOONER OR LATER! BUT NOW,
I'M NOT SO SURE!

MY NEW *CONDITION*
MAY NECESSITATE AN EVEN
LONGER CON THAN WHAT
I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED!



*I'VE GOTTA FACE
FACTS! GOING BACK TO
ANY KIND OF LIFE AS DANIEL
IS PRETTY MUCH OFF THE
TABLE NOW!*

*WITH MY BALLS GONE, I'M
FUCKING IMPOTENT! NOT THAT I
WAS EVER A HUGE MASS OF
MASCULINITY BEFORE, BUT WITHOUT
MY NUTS, MY BODY'S HEADED IN
THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!*

*I EVEN ASKED THE
DOC WHAT IT'D TAKE TO GET MY
BODY BACK TO AT LEAST
RESEMBLING A MALE ONE, IF I
DECIDED TO GO THAT ROUTE, AND HE
SAID IT'D TAKE MASSIVE DAILY
DOSES OF MALE HORMONES FOR
THE REST OF MY LIFE!*

*SOUNDS EXPENSIVE,
INCONVENIENT AND
UN-FUCKIN'-LIKELY!*

*SO IT LOOKS LIKE "KIM"
IS HERE FOR THE
DURATION!*



SO, WHAT ARE
THE
ADVANTAGES
I'VE GOT AS
"KIM"?

I DON'T HAVE TO
TAKE THOSE LITERAL
GUT-WRENCHING ILLEGAL
PILLS ANYMORE! IN FACT, THE
DOCTOR SAID HE'D EVEN
PRESCRIBE ME LEGAL
HORMONES TO SAFELY
CONTINUE MY
"TRANSITION"!

HMMM! DOCTOR
APPROVED, NO MORE
DEBILITATING CRAMPS
AND IT'S ALL PAID FOR BY
REX'S INSURANCE! A
TRIPLE PLUS!



AND "KIM" HAS THE
UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF
BOTH REX AND GLORIA! TWO VERY
WELL-HEELED PEOPLE WHO DON'T
MIND **THROWING** THEIR **MONEY**
AROUND!

THE ONLY **KINK** IS REX,
WHO WILL **ALWAYS** THINK OF
ME AS "**DANIEL**"... UNLESS I CAN
BRING HIM AROUND TO
OVERLOOKING WHO I **USED** TO
BE!

NORMALLY, **THAT**
WOULD BE NEXT TO
IMPOSSIBLE! BUT WITH
GLORIA'S HELP IT MAY **NOT**
BE THAT HARD AFTER ALL!

BUT AM I REALLY
WILLING TO GO **THAT FAR...** TO
REINVENT MYSELF THAT MUCH...
JUST TO PULL OFF SUCH A
LONG CON?



WELL... THERE'S
REALLY ONLY **ONE**
WAY TO FIND OUT!

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white hospital gown with a blue and black pattern, is sitting up in a hospital bed. She is holding a gold smartphone to her ear with her right hand and gesturing with her left hand. The bed has white linens and a blue blanket. The background shows a hospital room with a window and a headboard.

HEY, GLORIA! HOW'S CANCUN?

KIM DEAR! HOW ARE YOU? ARE THEY TREATING YOU OKAY? YOU'RE NOT SHARING A ROOM ARE YOU? IF SO, THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE AND MY NEXT CALL IS TO THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR!

SLOW DOWN, GLORIA! SLOW DOWN! I'M FINE, THEY'RE TREATING ME LIKE A QUEEN AND REX MADE SURE THEY GOT ME INTO A PRIVATE ROOM!

THE DOCTORS SAY I'LL BE SORE FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEY'RE ONLY KEEPING ME HERE FOR A FEW DAYS FOR OBSERVATION!

WELL, THAT'S GOOD! I OFFERED TO FLY HOME IMMEDIATELY BUT REX INSISTED WE STAY ON OUR VACATION!

I KNOW, HE TOLD ME! AND HE WAS RIGHT! DON'T LET MY STUPID APPENDIX RUIN YOUR ROMANTIC GETAWAY!

A woman with dark hair is lying in a hospital bed, wearing a white hospital gown with a blue and black geometric pattern. She is holding a blue smartphone to her ear and looking upwards with a slightly annoyed or exasperated expression. The background shows a wooden door and a white pillow. The scene is framed as a comic book panel with several speech bubbles.

SPEAKING OF **ROMANTIC**, IT SOUNDS LIKE **REX** HAS BEEN **EXTRA ATTENTIVE** SINCE YOU'VE BEEN THERE!

UGH! **THEY** ARE THE **WORST!** THAT'S **WHY** I'M HAVING SOME THINGS **SENT OVER** TO YOU AT THE HOSPITAL!

WHAT DOES A **MAN** KNOW? I'D BE **SURPRISED** IF HE SHOWED UP WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A **TOOTHBRUSH** AND A PAIR OF **FLANNEL PAJAMAS!**

WELL, HE **HAS** BEEN ATTENTIVE, BUT THERE'S BEEN NOTHING **ROMANTIC** ABOUT IT! NOT WITH **HIM** UNSHAVEN, UNBATHED AND IN THE SAME CLOTHES FOR ALMOST **TWO DAYS** AND **ME** IN THIS GOD-AWFUL **HOSPITAL GOWN!**

YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO DO THAT, **GLORIA!** **REX** SAID **HE'D** BRING SOME ITEMS FROM HOME!

YOU'RE **PROBABLY** RIGHT! *GIGGLE!*

A woman with dark hair pulled back is sitting in a hospital bed. She is wearing a white hospital gown with a blue and black geometric pattern. She is holding a mobile phone to her ear with her right hand. The background shows a plain white wall and a light-colored wooden door frame on the right.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO
THINK I'M *UNFEELING* ABOUT
YOUR CONDITION, DEAR, BUT THIS IS
A *RIPE OPPORTUNITY* FOR YOU
TO GET EVEN *CLOSER* TO
REX!

MEN LIKE REX JUST CAN'T
HELP THEMSELVES WHEN IT
COMES TO THE CLASSIC
"DAMSEL IN DISTRESS"!

YOU KNOW, *I* WAS
THINKING THE *VERY*
SAME THING!



SO... LET'S TALK
STRATEGY!

The next day, around noon...

HEY... *KIM!* YOU
PRESENTABLE?
CHUCKLE!

I *BROUGHT* A FEW
THINGS FOR YOU, LIKE I
SAID I WOULD!

SURE!
C'MON IN,
REX!



**SORRY I
DIDN'T COME BY UNTIL
NOW, BUT I HAD TO GO
INTO WORK EARLY
AND...**

UHHHH!

**NOT A PROBLEM!
GLORIA HAD A FEW
THINGS DROPPED OFF
FOR ME EARLIER
TODAY!**

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a red sports bra and red shorts, is crawling on a hospital bed. She is looking back over her shoulder towards the camera. The bed has white metal rails and a grey mattress. In the background, there are blue vertical blinds covering a window, and a grey carpeted floor is visible. Two speech bubbles are positioned above her, containing text.

OH, YEAH! I'M OUT OF
BED! **DON'T** TELL THE
NURSES... THEY'LL JUST
GET **PISSED** AT ME
AGAIN!

IT'S THEIR **OWN**
DARN FAULT THOUGH, FOR
NOT LEAVING THE TV
REMOTE IN HERE!

A man in a dark blue suit, white shirt, and striped tie stands in a hospital room. He has his right hand behind his head and is looking at a woman. The woman is sitting on the edge of a hospital bed, wearing a red bikini. She is looking away from him, with her left hand on her head. The room has a wooden door in the background and a trash can to the left.

SO, WHAT DID YOU BRING ME?

UMMM... JUST YOUR TOOTHBRUSH AND A FEW **OTHER** THINGS FROM YOUR BATHROOM AND SOME PAJAMAS! BUT I **SEE** YOU **ALREADY**...

ARE YOU **WARM** ENOUGH IN **THOSE**?

AND **THAT'S** WHAT YOU CHOSE?

OH YEAH! THEY KEEP IT **LINGODLY** HOT IN HERE! FORTUNATELY, **GLORIA** SENT OVER A **COUPLE** OF OPTIONS FOR **SLEEPWEAR**!

I DIDN'T THINK THE **OTHER** WAS **APPROPRIATE** FOR WEARING AROUND THE HOSPITAL, IF YOU **KNOW** WHAT I MEAN! *GIGGLE!*


A woman with dark hair, wearing a red bikini, is sitting on a white hospital bed. She is looking towards a man who is standing with his back to the camera. The man is wearing a dark blue, textured suit jacket and has his right hand on his head. The background shows a window with vertical blinds and a cityscape. There are four speech bubbles on the left side of the image, connected to the woman.

THAT SOUNDS
LIKE GLORIA!

TELL ME ABOUT IT!
SHE SENT OVER ALL
KINDS OF STUFF... EVEN AN
OUTFIT TO WEAR WHEN I
CHECK OUT!

OH, YEAH! I DIDN'T
EVEN THINK OF THAT! YOU
PROBABLY WOULDN'T WANT TO
WEAR THE SAME SWEATY
NIGHTSHIRT YOU WERE
WEARING WHEN WE CHECKED
YOU IN!

NOT LIKELY! *GIGGLE!*

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red bikini, is sitting on a hospital bed. She is looking towards a man who is standing with his back to the camera. The man is wearing a dark blue suit. They are in a room with large windows overlooking a city skyline. The scene is presented in a comic book style with speech bubbles.

SHE OBVIOUSLY **ALSO** SENT YOU SOME **EARRINGS** AND **MAKEUP**, WHICH YOU'RE ACTUALLY **WEARING**... IN THE **HOSPITAL!** WHAT'S UP WITH **THAT?**

DID YOU KNOW THAT **GLORIA** IS **FRIENDS** WITH THE **HOSPITAL'S** **ADMINISTRATOR?**

AS A MATTER OF FACT, **I DID!** SHE **MENTIONED** IT WHEN SHE **CALLED** YESTERDAY!

YEAH, SHE **MENTIONED** IT TO **ME**, TOO! SO I **FIGURED** I'D **BETTER** MAKE USE OF **EVERYTHING** **GLORIA** SENT JUST IN CASE HE **STOPPED BY** TO CHECK ON ME AND REPORT **BACK** TO HER!

AND, OF COURSE, **HE DID!** HE JUST LEFT HERE ABOUT **30 MINUTES** AGO.

UH-OH! DID HE KNOW **WHY** YOU WERE **REALLY** ADMITTED?

NO! AND I SURE WANT IT TO **STAY** THAT WAY!

WELL, EVEN IF HE **DOES** FIND OUT, LET'S HOPE THAT **DOCTOR-PATIENT** **CONFIDENTIALITY** HOLDS OUT!



I KNOW YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK, BUT THERE'S **SOMETHING** I WANTED TO RUN PAST YOU FIRST!

SHOOT!

BECAUSE OF THIS LATEST "DEVELOPMENT" AND MY **GROWING** RELATIONSHIP WITH **GLORIA**, IT **REALLY** LOOKS LIKE "**KIM**" IS GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A LOT **LONGER** THAN WE'D PLANNED!

YEAH... I WAS COMING TO THE **SAME** CONCLUSION MYSELF! HOW DO **YOU** FEEL ABOUT THAT?

IT **STILL** BEATS THE **HELL** OUT OF LIVING ON THE **STREETS!** SO I CAN **ADJUST!**

BUT THERE'S **SOMETHING** WE NEED TO **CONSIDER!**

WHAT WOULD **THAT** BE?


I **REALLY** THINK I NEED **SOME** KIND OF **ID!**



NOW, I KNOW SOME PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT GETTING FAKE IDS! I'M SURE IF I GO BACK DOWNTOWN, I CAN FIND THEM, AND...

NO! NO WAY ARE YOU GOING BACK DOWN THERE!


BUT...

A man in a blue suit and striped tie stands in a bathroom, gesturing with his right hand. He is speaking to a woman with dark hair in a red top who is sitting on the floor. The background shows a wooden door and a sink.

I SAID **NO!** EVEN THOUGH THOSE **THUGS** PROBABLY WON'T RECOGNIZE YOU NOW, IT'S **STILL** TOO **DANGEROUS** FOR YOU!

AND **I** DON'T WANT YOU **ASSOCIATING** WITH **ANYONE** FROM THE **STREETS** **AGAIN!**

THAT PART OF YOUR LIFE IS **OVER!** **PERIOD!**



YOU JUST LET ME
TAKE CARE OF THE ID!
OKAY?

BUT I DON'T WANT
YOU TO GET INTO
TROUBLE!

I HAVE A LOT MORE
RESOURCES THAN YOU
DO! AND SOME OF THEM
ARE ACTUALLY LEGAL!

SO DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME!

WELL... OKAY!

A man in a dark blue suit and tie stands in a bathroom, gesturing with his hands as he speaks to a pregnant woman. The woman is seen from the back, wearing a maroon tank top. The bathroom features a white sink, a mirror, and a wooden door. A speech bubble originates from the man, and two other speech bubbles are positioned to the right, indicating a conversation.

I'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON ANYTHING I FIND OUT! REGARDLESS, I'LL STILL STOP BY TONIGHT AFTER WORK TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING!

YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO STOP BY ALL THE TIME, REX! AS YOU CAN *SEE*, I'M DOING *JUST FINE*!

UMMMM... YEAH! BUT I'M *STILL* GOING TO COME BY!



SEE YOU
LATER... KIM!


BYE REX!



WOW! I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM SO WORKED UP ABOUT ANYTHING BEFORE!

GLORIA WAS RIGHT! GUYS LIKE REX REALLY DO GET ALL WORKED UP WHEN THEY GET THE CHANCE TO GO INTO "PROTECTOR-MODE"!

OF COURSE, GLORIA HAS NO IDEA HOW MUCH HARDER IT IS FOR REX WHEN IT COMES TO THINKING OF ME AS HIS "DAMSEL"!



THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO MILK
EVERY LAST DROP OF THE **GUILT** HE
FEELS FOR MY SITUATION AS WELL AS USE
EVERY TRICK GLORIA CAN TEACH ME TO GET
WHAT I WANT OUT OF REX!

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE
WHAT IT IS I WANT OUT OF HIM
SPECIFICALLY! BUT I'M SURE IT'LL
COME TO ME... **EVENTUALLY!**
GIGGLE!

Later that afternoon...

DON'T IGNORE ME, SIMON! I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT I SAW BETWEEN YOU AND ESTHER AT THE POOL!

Try new things!
BE HAPPY
Show compassion!
BE GRATEFUL
DREAM BIG
Respect the authority!
LAUGH OUT LOUD



"There is no excuse for delivering poor care."



KIM DANIELS?

UMMMM... YES! AND YOU ARE...?

click



I'M DOCTOR
LEO SHAPIRO!
GLORIA BURNS ASKED ME
TO STOP BY AND
INTRODUCE
MYSELF!

OH, SHIT! IF SHE
SENT SOME APPENDIX
SPECIALIST TO CHECK UP
ON ME, I'M SCREWED!

OH, UHH... OKAY!
IT'S NICE TO MEET
YOU! CAN I ASK WHY
SHE SENT YOU?



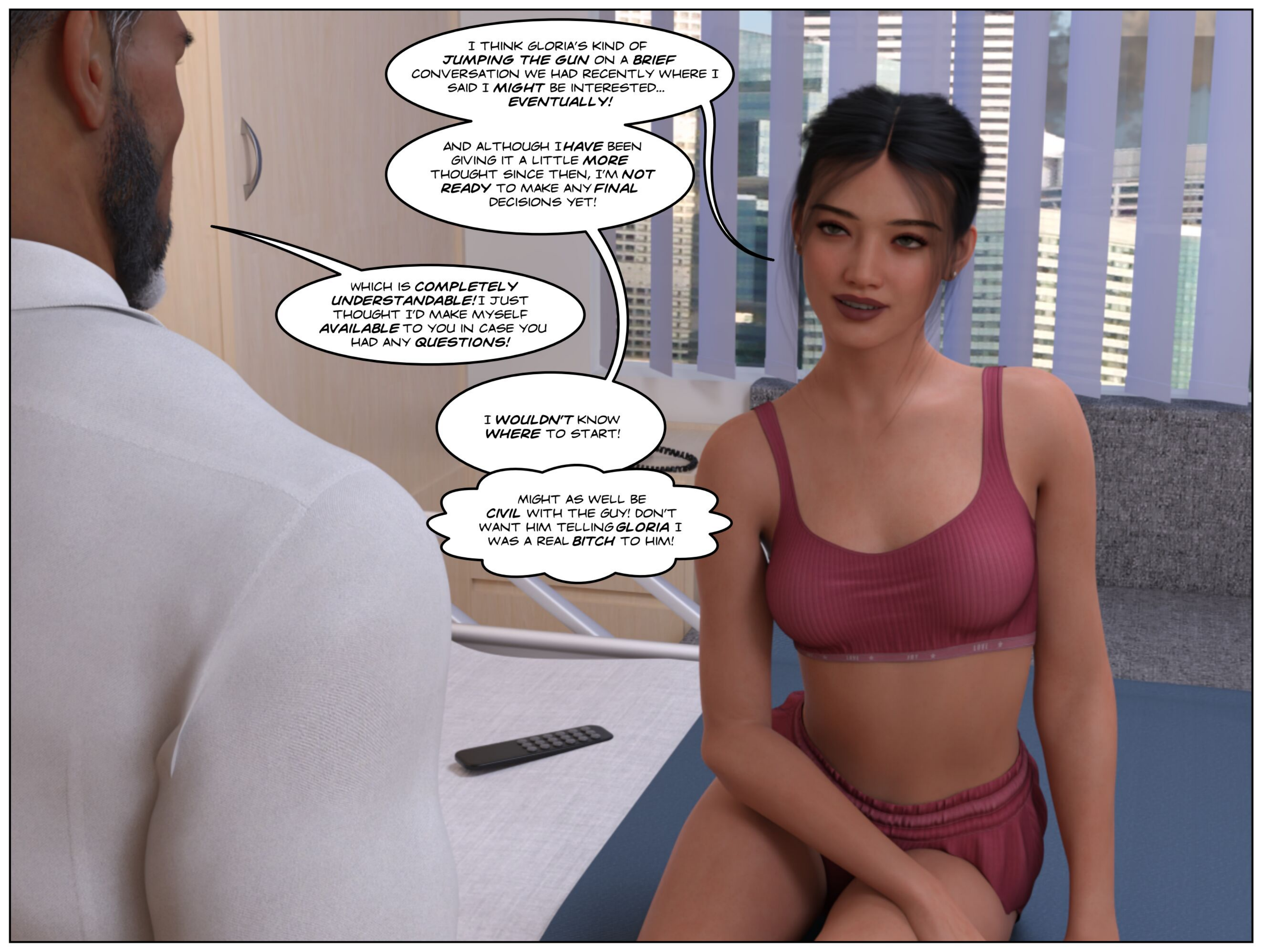
SHE SAID YOU
MIGHT BE INTERESTED
IN MY SERVICES!

YOUR SERVICES?
FORGIVE ME, DOCTOR
SHAPIRO, BUT WHAT KIND
OF DOCTOR ARE YOU?

WHY I'M A PLASTIC
SURGEON! YOU REALLY
HAD NO IDEA I WAS
COMING BY, DID YOU?

NO, I DIDN'T! BUT THAT'S
GLORIA FOR YOU!

JESUS, GLORIA! YOUR
PLASTIC SURGEON?
REALLY?



I THINK GLORIA'S KIND OF **JUMPING THE GUN** ON A **BRIEF** CONVERSATION WE HAD RECENTLY WHERE I SAID I **MIGHT** BE INTERESTED... **EVENTUALLY!**

AND ALTHOUGH I **HAVE** BEEN GIVING IT A LITTLE **MORE** THOUGHT SINCE THEN, I'M **NOT** **READY** TO MAKE ANY **FINAL** DECISIONS YET!

WHICH IS **COMPLETELY** **UNDERSTANDABLE!** I JUST THOUGHT I'D MAKE MYSELF **AVAILABLE** TO YOU IN CASE YOU HAD ANY **QUESTIONS!**

I **WOULDN'T** KNOW **WHERE** TO START!

MIGHT AS WELL BE **CIVIL** WITH THE GUY! DON'T WANT HIM TELLING **GLORIA** I WAS A REAL **BITCH** TO HIM!



WELL, LET ME JUST SAY THAT I
HAVE **EXTENSIVE** EXPERIENCE IN **BOTH**
FACIAL **AND** BODY ENHANCEMENTS AND
MODIFICATIONS!

ALTHOUGH MY CLIENTELE IS
WIDE-RANGING, **MOST** OF MY WORK
IS DONE ON WOMEN... AND
TRANSWOMEN, SUCH AS
YOURSELF!

WAIT!
WHAT?!



NO ONE TOLD ME ANYTHING! THAT IS, GLORIA SAID SHE HAD A FRIEND, A YOUNG WOMAN, IN THE HOSPITAL FOR ME TO VISIT! AND WHEN I **GLANCED** AT YOUR CHART, IT SAID YOU **JUST** HAD AN **ORCHIECTOMY!** I JUST PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER!

I'M **SORRY** IF I PRESUMED **TOO MUCH** AND HAVE **UPSET** YOU!

HO... **HOW** DID YOU **KNOW** I WAS A... ? I MEAN, **WHO** TOLD YOU THAT I... ?

IT'S **NOT** YOUR **FAULT**, DOCTOR! IT'S **JUST** THAT... I **HAVEN'T** **REALLY**...

GLORIA DOESN'T
KNOW THAT ABOUT
ME... YET!


SHE AND I HAVE **ONLY**
KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A FEW
WEEKS! AND ALTHOUGH WE'VE
BECOME **GOOD FRIENDS**, I JUST
HAVEN'T FOUND THE **RIGHT TIME** TO
TELL HER THAT I'M A, UMM...
TRANSWOMAN!

I, UHHH... HAVE HAD SOME
BAD EXPERIENCES RECENTLY
WHEN **TELLING** PEOPLE THE
TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!

IT'S **JUST** THAT I **VALUE** HER
FRIENDSHIP MORE THAN
ANYTHING AND **DON'T WANT** TO
DO **ANYTHING** TO **JEAPORDISE**
IT! I **HOPE** YOU UNDERSTAND!

OH! I
SEE!

OF
COURSE I
DO!




AND ALTHOUGH YOU'RE NOT **TECHNICALLY** MY PATIENT, AND THEREFORE **NOT** PRIVY TO THE PROTECTIONS OF **DOCTOR-PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY**, REST ASSURED THAT **ANYTHING** YOU'VE TOLD ME WILL **NOT** GO **BEYOND** THIS ROOM!

THANK YOU **SO** MUCH, DOCTOR SHAPIRO! THAT MEANS THE **WORLD** TO ME!

I CAN SEE **NOW** WHY **GLORIA** RECOMMENDED YOU **SO** HIGHLY!

BUT I'VE LEARNED THROUGH **EXPERIENCE** THAT A PERSON'S WORD **USUALLY** DOESN'T MEAN **SHIT** UNLESS THERE ARE SERIOUS **LEGAL** RAMIFICATIONS ATTACHED TO IT! **SO...**



WHICH IS WHY I'VE DECIDED TO
TAKE HER ADVICE AND LET YOU BE
MY SURGEON OF CHOICE WHEN THE
TIME COMES!

THAT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR,
KIM! JUST CONTACT MY OFFICE
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO SCHEDULE A
CONSULTATION!

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a maroon sports bra and matching shorts, stands in a hospital room. She is looking towards a man in a white lab coat, whose back is to the camera. A speech bubble originates from her. In the background, there is a hospital bed with white linens, a bedside table with a black telephone, and a window with vertical blinds showing a cityscape.

WELL, WHAT'S
WRONG WITH A
LITTLE CHAT **NOW**? A
NICE LITTLE
DOCTOR-PATIENT
CHAT!

A few days later...

OKAY, YOU GO ON UPSTAIRS AND RELAX WHILE I GO GET THE REST OF YOUR THINGS!

DOCTOR'S ORDERS!

I'M NOT AN INVALID, REX!

UGH! FINE!





OKAY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


OH, UMMM... I'M HAVING A PATIO BUILT OUT THERE! THE BOARDS ARE *PRIMARILY* THERE TO *PROTECT* THE GLASS!

AND ALTHOUGH I'M NOT HERE MUCH DURING THE DAY, IT *DOES* GIVE YOU A BIT OF *PRIVACY* WHILE THE WORK'S GOING ON!



SO GET ON UP THERE
AND *CHILL* UNTIL I
CALL YOU DOWN FOR
DINNER! OKAY?

YES, SIR!
GIGGLE!



MAN, I THOUGHT I'D
NEVER GET OUT OF
THAT GODDAMN HOSPITAL!
ESPECIALLY WITH MY
CON **STILL** INTACT!

SIGNIFICANTLY
MODIFIED, BUT
INTACT!

REX MAY NOT HAVE
REALIZED IT AT THE TIME, BUT
TELLING THE HOSPITAL **I** WAS
TRANS IS **PROBABLY** WHAT **SAVED**
MY ASS!

SINCE TREATING
TRANS-PEOPLE HAS BECOME
PRETTY MUCH **ROUTINE** THESE DAYS, AT
LEAST AT **MOST** HOSPITALS, NO ONE
SEEMED **SURPRISED** BY MY CONDITION
OR **ASKED** TOO MANY
UNNECESSARY QUESTIONS!

AND WHEN **THINGS** ARE
JUST **ROUTINE**, THE
CHANCES OF **RUMORS** OR
GOSSIP GETTING OUT ARE
PRETTY MUCH **NIL!**

I **COULD'VE** DONE
WITHOUT THE **THERAPIST**
THE HOSPITAL SENT ME! **GOD,**
WAS **THAT** A PAIN IN THE ASS
AND A **HUGE** WASTE OF TIME!

I **WOULD'VE** LIED
WHEN THEY ASKED IF I HAD
MY **OWN** THERAPIST TO HELP
ME THROUGH MY "**TRANSITION**",
BUT I FIGURED MAKING ONE UP
WOULD'VE CAUSED **MORE**
TROUBLE THAN ANYTHING
ELSE!

I'VE NEVER **BEEN** TO
A **SHRINK** BEFORE **OR** HAD
ANYONE **EVER** ASK ME SUCH
PERSONAL QUESTIONS, BUT I **THINK**
I CONVINCED HER I WAS **SINCERE!**
THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE **ALWAYS**
BEEN **PRETTY DAMN GOOD**
AT! ***CHUCKLE!***



Knock knock!!

PROBABLY THE *ONE* THING THAT *FREAKED* ME OUT THE MOST WAS WHEN GLORIA'S DR. SHAPIRO SHOWED UP! *SHIT!* I THOUGHT I WAS *BUSTED* BUT *GOOD!*

BUT AS LONG AS I'M HIS "*PATIENT*", AND KEEP *STRINGING* HIM ALONG WITH MANY, MANY CONSULTATIONS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL *GLORIA*, OR ANYONE *ELSE*, THAT I'M NOT A *BIOLOGICAL* WOMAN!

AT LEAST *NOT* IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO *LOSE* HIS *LICENSE* AND A VERY *LUCRATIVE* PRACTICE!

GLORIA?

WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE IS OUR
POOR GIRL?

WELL, SHIT!
SHE WASN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE
BACK UNTIL
TOMORROW!

I'LL BE RIGHT
DOWN, GLORIA! GIVE
ME ONE MINUTE!

NEED TO MAKE
ONE LITTLE
ADJUSTMENT BEFORE
THE INTERROGATION
STARTS!



A man in a dark blue suit stands with his back to the camera, facing a woman in a bright yellow, off-the-shoulder, form-fitting dress. They are in a modern interior space with a staircase on the left and a large window in the background. The woman has her hand on her hip and is looking at the man. The scene is lit with soft, indoor lighting.

SO YOU LOOK,
UHHH... **WELL**
RESTED, GLORIA! WHEN
DID YOU GET BACK?

WE? IS MR.
BURNS WITH YOU?

CUT HIM SOME
SLACK, GLORIA! IT
WASN'T HIS FAULT!

ABOUT TWENTY
MINUTES AGO! IN FACT,
WE **JUST** CAME
FROM THE AIRPORT!

HE'S OUT IN THE CAR
CATCHING UP ON
CALLS!

HOW ON EARTH
COULD YOU LET THIS
HAPPEN TO HER,
REX?


KIM, DARLING!
HOW ARE YOU?

OF COURSE
THEY DID, DEAR!
YOU'RE JUST TOO
PRECIOUS TO LET
ANY HARM COME
TO YOU!

I'LL, UHHH...
TAKE YOUR BAG
UPSTAIRS SO YOU
TWO CAN TALK!

I'M JUST FINE,
GLORIA! REALLY I
AM!

EVERYONE TOOK
VERY GOOD CARE OF
ME... ESPECIALLY
REX!



SO NOW THAT
HE'S OUT OF THE
ROOM, HOW ARE YOU...
REALLY?

AN **EMERGENCY**
APPENDECTOMY!

LIKE I SAID...
JUST FINE! IT WAS
JUST AN
APPENDECTOMY!

YEAH, BUT STILL,
THERE'S **HARDLY** EVEN
GOING TO BE A **SCAR!**



SEE?
EVERYTHING
COVERED UP BY ONE
LITTLE BANDAGE!

AH, THE
MARVELS OF
LAPAROSCOPIC
SURGERY!

SPEAKING OF
SURGERY...



YES, I GOT THE SURPRISE VISIT FROM YOUR DR. SHAPIRO, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HOW DID IT GO?

WE CHATTED FOR A WHILE AND I TOLD HIM I'D KEEP HIM IN MIND... JUST IN CASE!

WELL HE DOES FABULOUS WORK, AS YOU CAN SEE! SO WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GET SERIOUS, JUST SAY THE WORD! I'LL EVEN FOOT THE BILL!

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY ACCEPT THAT, GLORIA! IT'S WAY TOO GENEROUS!

YES... YES IT IS, ISN'T IT! *GIGGLE!*



SO BEFORE I GO, LET ME POINT OUT THAT THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT ON THE PHONE!

STAY HOME FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND LET REX BE THE MAN AND TAKE CARE OF YOU!

BUT NOW THAT THERE ARE NO NURSES OR DOCTORS POPPING IN AND OUT ALL THE TIME, YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO RELAX AROUND THE HOUSE IN SOME OF THE MORE RISQUE LOUNGE-WEAR I BOUGHT YOU!

ONE LOOK AT YOU IN THAT TEDDY I BOUGHT YOU AND ALL "SISTERLY" THOUGHTS WILL DRAIN RIGHT FROM REX'S HEAD... AND TO ANOTHER PART OF HIS ANATOMY! *GIGGLE!*


THAT WON'T BE HARD TO DO!
GIGGLE!



UMMMM, I'M
REALLY NOT SO
SURE I CAN...

OF COURSE, IT'S *YOUR*
DECISION, DEAR! BUT IF YOU'RE
SERIOUS ABOUT ACHIEVING THE *GOALS*
WE TALKED ABOUT, THEN LISTENING TO THE
ADVICE FROM AN *EXPERIENCED MENTOR*
WITH A *SPOTLESS* TRACK RECORD JUST
MIGHT BE THE *YOUR BETTER*
CHOICE!

JUST
SAYING!



I'LL STOP BY
TOMORROW TO SEE
HOW YOU'RE DOING!
TAKE CARE, DEAR!

I WILL, GLORIA!
AND THANKS FOR
COMING BY!

ASK HIM
WHAT?

SIGH! AND WHY DO
YOU NEED TO TAKE
TIME OFF?

OH, ARE THEY
GONE ALREADY? I
WANTED TO ASK MR.
BURNS SOMETHING!

IF I COULD TAKE
THE NEXT COUPLE OF
DAYS OFF!

TO BE HERE
WHILE YOU'RE
RECOVERING, OF
COURSE!



I WISH EVERYONE
WOULD GET IT THROUGH THEIR
HEADS THAT I'M OKAY AND DO
NOT NEED ROUND THE CLOCK
CARE!

THE DOCTORS GAVE ME A
CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AND
JUST SAID TO TAKE IT EASY FOR
A FEW DAYS! THAT'S ALL!

IT WAS JUST A **SIMPLE**
PROCEDURE! A **VERY SIMPLE** AND
COMMON PROCEDURE!




YOU DON'T
THINK I KNOW
THAT?

NO, IT WASN'T! YOU'VE BEEN
TELLING GLORIA THAT SO MUCH THAT
YOU'RE STARTING TO BELIEVE IT
YOURSELF!

YOU HAD AN ORCHIECTOMY, DANIEL!
THAT'S HARDLY AS SIMPLE AS HAVING
YOUR APPENDIX REMOVED!

I THINK YOU KNOW IT, BUT YOU
HAVEN'T COME TO TERMS WITH IT
YET! AND THAT'S WHAT I'M MOST
CONCEREND ABOUT!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IS
HUGE, AND I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE
HAD A CHANCE TO HEAL EMOTIONALLY
YET!

A woman with dark, curly hair and a purple short-sleeved top is talking to a man in a white shirt. She has a bandage on her waist. The background shows a modern interior with wood-paneled walls and windows.

IF I TOOK THE TIME TO "HEAL EMOTIONALLY" FROM ALL THE SHIT I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, I'D STILL BE CURLED UP IN A FETAL POSITION IN A CARDBOARD BOX SOMEWHERE DOWNTOWN!

I'M NOT WIRED THE WAY MOST PEOPLE ARE, REX! I'VE LEARNED TO ADAPT TO BAD SITUATIONS ON THE FLY! I'VE HAD TO IN ORDER TO SURVIVE!

THIS... PROCEDURE... WAS JUST THE LATEST IN A STRING OF SITUATIONS THAT I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH!

AND I'LL DEAL WITH IT LIKE I ALWAYS...



SNIFF! LIKE I ALWAYS...



****SOB!****

*OH! OKAY...!
I... I DIDN'T
EXPECT THIS!*



NEITHER DID I, DAMN IT! IT'S JUST ALL THESE GODDAMN HORMONES, THAT'S ALL!

I'D HOPED THE NEW ONES THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBED ME WOULD SPARE ME THIS CRAP! BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG!

*THIS IS SO FUCKING EMBARRASSING!
*SNIFF!**

GOD, REX! THE LAST THING I WANT IS FOR YOU TO SEE ME CRY LIKE THIS! SO PLEASE GO TO WORK TOMORROW! I'LL BE FINE!

DON'T BE EMBARRASSED! CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL!

IN FACT, I'D BEWORRIED IF I DIDN'T SEE THIS KIND OF REACTION FROM YOU!

AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I THINK I SHOULD BE HERE FOR YOU THE NEXT FEW DAYS!

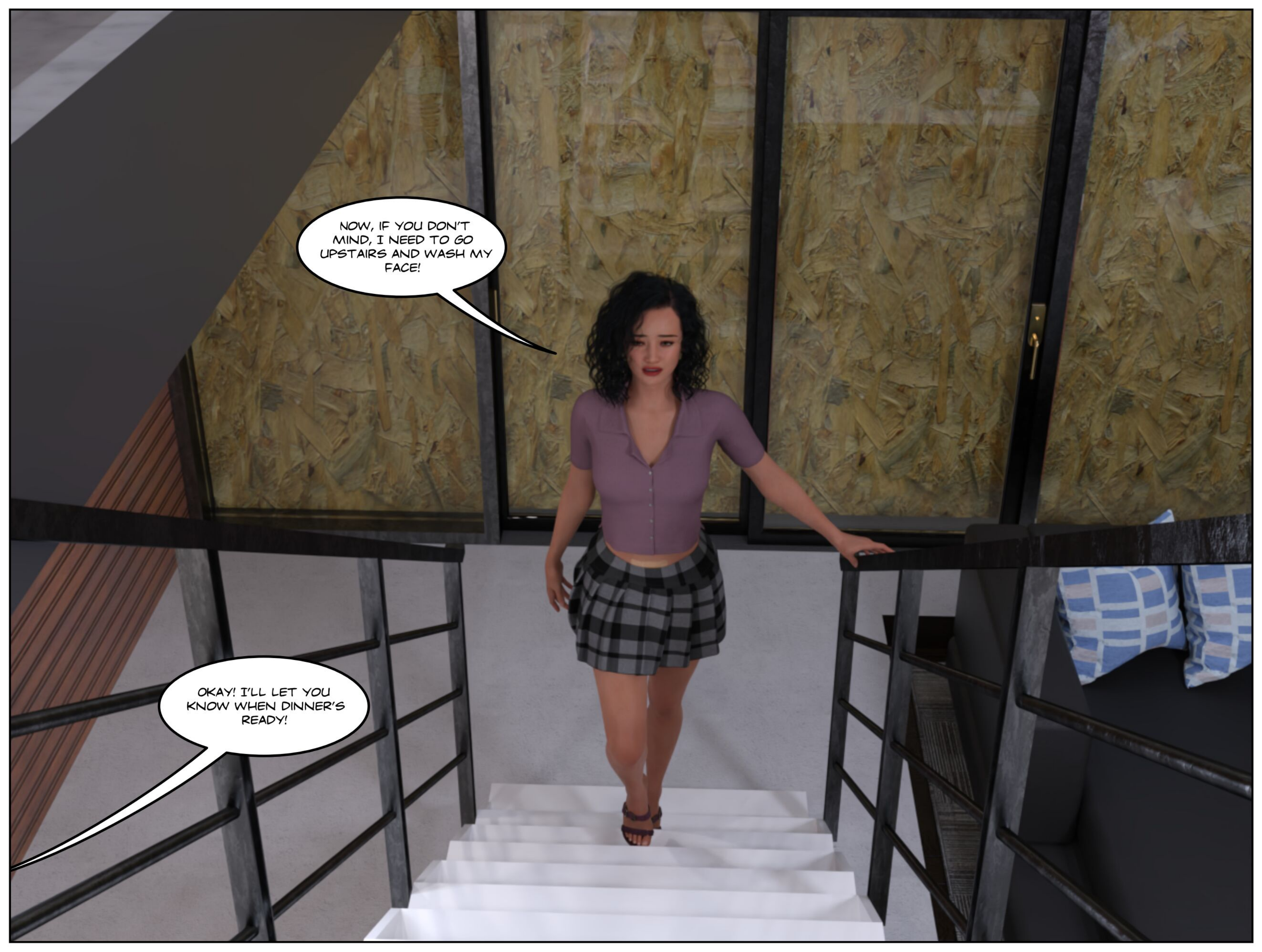
AND ON THE **OUTSIDE**
CHANCE I FEEL THE NEED TO
TALK TO SOMEBODY, THE **HOSPITAL**
HOOKED ME UP WITH A
THERAPIST I CAN CALL!

YEAH! ONE TO HELP ME THROUGH
MY "**TRANSITION**"! I **ALREADY** MET
WITH HER ONCE AT THE HOSPITAL!
SHE'S... **OKAY!**

I **WILL!**
TRUST ME!

A
THERAPIST?
REALLY?

WELL... IF YOU'RE
SURE YOU THINK
YOU'LL BE **OKAY**...



NOW, IF YOU DON'T
MIND, I NEED TO GO
UPSTAIRS AND WASH MY
FACE!

OKAY! I'LL LET YOU
KNOW WHEN DINNER'S
READY!







AND THE OSCAR
FOR BEST
PERFORMANCE IN A
MELODRAMA GOES TO...
KIM DANIELS!
GIGGLE!

A PERFORMANCE
DANIEL KIM **NEVER**
COULD'VE GOTTEN AWAY
WITH!



I WAS ORIGINALLY
SKEPTICAL ABOUT GLORIA'S
SUGGESTION THAT I **LOUNGE**
AROUND THE HOUSE IN
"SKIMPY" OUTFITS!

I MEAN, OF **COURSE**
IT MADE SENSE TO **HER**,
BUT REX **KNOWS** WHO I
REALLY AM, SO NORMALLY IT
WOULDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY
EFFECT ON HIM **HERE** AT
HOME!


BUT AFTER **SEEING**
HIS **REACTION** TO MY
DISPLAY DOWNSTAIRS,
THAT MAY **NOT** BE THE
CASE AFTER ALL!

AS NOTICEABLY
AWKWARD AS IT WAS FOR
HIM, HE **STILL** FELL FOR MY
ACT AND **COMFORTED** ME AS
IF I WERE A **REAL** GIRL!



SO *MAYBE* GLORIA'S IDEA
ISN'T SO CRAZY AFTER ALL,
SINCE ME BEING ALL "*GIRLY*"
AROUND REX *OBVIOUSLY* KEEPS
HIM *OFF-BALANCE*!

ADD THAT TO THE *GUILT*
HE FEELS BECAUSE OF MY
"*CONDITION*", AND *I'LL* HAVE HIM
WRAPPED AROUND MY LITTLE
FINGER IN *NO TIME*!



PLUS, IT COULD
LAY THE **GROUNDWORK**
FOR ANY **DECISIONS** I
MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE

LIFE-CHANGING
DECISIONS!

A few more days
pass...





YEAH, I
KNOW YOU'RE
BACK THERE
STARING AT MY
ASS, DUDE!

WHY THE HELL
ELSE WOULD I BE LYING
HERE IN *FULL VIEW* OF
YOU DIPSHITS AT
QUITTING TIME?

WHAT *BETTER*
WAY TO SEE HOW MY
CHOICE IN *CLOTHING*
MIGHT EFFECT REX
WHEN HE GETS HOME?

OF COURSE, HE
OBVIOUSLY WON'T BE AS
BLATANT AS YOU LOWLIFE
CHUCKLEHEADS, BUT I'LL AT
LEAST HAVE A PRETTY GOOD
IDEA OF *WHAT HE'S*
THINKING!

*SPEAK OF
THE DEVIL... THAT
SOUNDS LIKE HIS
CAR PULLING UP
NOW!*

*TIME TO TEST
MY LITTLE
HYPOTHESIS!*

A man in a black pinstriped suit, white shirt, and grey tie is walking through a doorway. He is carrying a brown briefcase in his left hand. The doorway is framed by wood-paneled walls with glass inserts. The floor is light-colored carpet. A speech bubble is positioned above him, and another speech bubble is to his right.

I'M HOME,
DANIEL! ARE YOU
UPSTAIRS?

NO, I'M IN THE
KITCHEN!



WHAT THE...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING UP
THERE?

I WAS *GOING* TO HAVE A GLASS
OF WINE *READY* FOR YOU WHEN YOU
GOT HOME, BUT I'M JUST *NOW*
FINDING THE WINE *GLASSES!*

YOU KNOW, PUTTING THINGS WAY UP HERE
MAY WORK FOR TALL GUYS LIKE YOU! BUT FOR
US MORE NORMAL-SIZED PEOPLE, YOU MIGHT
WANT TO THINK ABOUT PUTTING THE IMPORTANT
THINGS A LITTLE MORE WITHIN OUR REACH!
GIGGLE!

NOW, LET'S *SEE* IF
STANDING IN FRONT OF AN
OPEN FRIG FOR A FEW
MINUTES HAS THE *DESIRED*
EFFECT!

YOU NEED TO GET
DOWN FROM THERE,
DANIEL... *RIGHT NOW!* YOU
COULD *REALLY* GET HURT
IF YOU FELL!

THEN YOU'D **BETTER** HELP ME DOWN FROM THIS **TOWERING** 12 INCH PEDESTAL! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CALL THE **EMTS** AND KEEP THEM ON **STAND-BY!**

I, UHH... JUST **DON'T** WANT YOU TO TAKE ANY **CHANCES** SINCE YOUR SURGERY!

THE DOC SAID FOR ME TO TAKE IT EASY, **NOT** "STAY IN BED AND DON'T MOVE FOR A MONTH!"

I **KNOW**, BUT, UMMMM... BUT...

HEY, DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE **STILL** WEARING THAT **FAKE BANDAGE** YOU PUT ON FOR **GLORIA** YESTERDAY?

YEAH, THEY'RE CALLED "**NIPPLES**", REX! TAKE A GOOD **LONG LOOK!**



**SURE DO! I PUT
IT ON *RIGHT*
BEFORE SHE CAME
OVER!**

**NO... LUCKY
FOR *US*,
CONSIDERING YOU'VE
BEEN CALLING ME
DANIEL SINCE YOU
GOT HOME!**

**CAME
OVER?**

**SHE'S *NOT*
STILL *HERE*
IS SHE?**



AT **SOME POINT, YEAH!** BUT SHE **NEVER CALLS BEFORE** SHE COMES OVER, SO BEING "**KIM**" IS PRETTY MUCH A **24/7 COMMITMENT** NOW!

WHICH MEANS YOU'VE **REALLY GOT TO STOP CALLING** ME "**DANIEL**"... **EVEN IN PRIVATE!** WE'VE TALKED ABOUT HOW **IMPORTANT** THAT IS!

OH, SO **THAT'S** WHY YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE... **THIS**, AND WEARING **MAKEUP EVEN AT HOME!** YOU **KNEW** GLORIA WAS COMING BY!

I **KNOW!** AND I'LL TRY **HARDER...** I PROMISE!

*GOOD! NOW,
YOU STILL WANT
THAT GLASS OF
WINE?*

*MOST
DEFINITELY!*



The next day...

Slam!



THAT
LOOKS...
FUN?

THEN WHY
DO IT?

DON'T KID YOURSELF! IT'S
HARDER THAN IT LOOKS! ONE
SLIP AND YOUR WHOLE TOE IS
PEACH BLOSSOM PINK!

OUT OF SHEER
BOREDOM!



ACTUALLY, THAT'S
NOT 100% TRUE!

GLORIA STOPPED BY
EARLIER AND AT SOME POINT
MENTIONED HOW *GOOD* THIS
COLOR WOULD LOOK WITH A PAIR
OF *SANDALS* SHE BOUGHT
ME!

DID I SAY "SHE
MENTIONED"? I
SHOULD'VE SAID SHE
"*STRONGLY SUGGESTED*"
I TRY THIS COLOR!

SO I'VE BEEN CURLED UP
HERE FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF
HOURS DOING A *LOT* OF TRIAL
AND ERROR WITH THIS *ITTY*
BITTY PAINT BRUSH!



crack!

OH... IT FEELS GOOD TO GET UP AND STRETCH! I SAT THERE FOR WAY TOO LONG!

pop!



SO, HOW WAS
WORK TODAY?

UHMM... THE
USUAL!

I THINK I'M
GOING TO TAKE A
SHOWER BEFORE
DINNER!

GOOD IDEA!

GIGGLE!



And a few days later...

HEY, DAN... I
MEAN, KIM! I'M
HOME!

I'M UP HERE,
PUTTING AWAY A FEW
THINGS *GLORIA*
BROUGHT ME! DOWN
IN A SEC!





**UGH! I'M ALL
RESTED OUT!**


**DON'T MAKE A
SPECIAL TRIP DOWN ON
MY ACCOUNT! YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING,
REMEMBER?**

BESIDES, WHO
COULD GET ANY REST WITH
GLORIA STOPPING BY AT
RANDOM TIMES EVERY
DAY? *GIGGLE!*



UUHHH...






WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU'VE GOT THAT FUNNY
LOOK ON YOUR FACE
WHENEVER YOU...

OH MY GOD! I
FORGOT I WAS WEARING
THIS! I'M SO SORRY, REX! NO
WONDER YOU'RE FREAKED
OUT!

GLORIA BROUGHT
THIS BY THIS MORNING AND
INSISTED I TRY IT ON! IT
WAS SO COMFY, I GUESS I
JUST FORGOT I HAD IT
ON!

IT'S, UHH... IT'S
OKAY, KIM! IT'S JUST
THAT I, UHHH...



**JESUS!
WHAT IS WRONG
WITH ME? I'LL GO
CHANGE RIGHT
NOW!**

**YOU DON'T
HAVE TO...KIM! I
MEAN, IF YOU
DON'T WANT
TO...**

**NO, I'LL
CHANGE! THEN I'LL
POUR US SOME WINE
BEFORE DINNER!**



I THINK
I'LL CHANGE,
TOO... AFTER I
TAKE A
SHOWER!

A woman with dark hair and blue eyes, wearing a red lace dress and a light-colored shawl, stands on a staircase. In the background, a man in a blue suit and tie is leaning against a railing. The scene is set in a modern building with large windows and a brick wall.

A VERY
LONG
SHOWER!

And... a few days after that...

*KIM? IT'S ME! I
HAD AN APPOINTMENT
NOT FAR FROM HERE SO I
THOUGHT I'D STOP BY
FOR LUNCH FIRST!*

*AND BRING YOU A
LITTLE **SURPRISE** I'VE
BEEN WORKING ON FOR
ALMOST TWO WEEKS!*



A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie stands in a modern office hallway. He is holding a brown briefcase in his left hand. To his left is a staircase with white steps and a dark metal railing. Behind him is a wooden door with glass panels. The floor is light-colored wood. Three speech bubbles and a thought bubble are present. The first is a speech bubble on the left. The second is a thought bubble above his head. The third is a speech bubble on the right. The fourth is a speech bubble below the second one on the right.

**KIM?
ARE YOU
HERE?**

**HMMM! MAYBE
GLORIA STOPPED
BY AND THEY WENT
OFF SOMEWHERE!**

**BUT I JUST SAW
GLORIA AT THE OFFICE!
HOW COULD SHE HAVE
BEAT ME HERE?**



I CAN HEAR
HIM MOVING
AROUND UPSTAIRS!

MUST HAVE
THOSE DANG
HEADPHONES ON
AGAIN!

KIM?

YEAH, HE'S
DEFINITELY GOT THE
HEADPHONES ON BECAUSE I CAN
SEE A **SHADOW** MOVING
AROUND IN THERE!

NORMALLY I
WOULDN'T BARGE IN LIKE
THIS, BUT **THIS** SURPRISE
CAN'T WAIT!

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie, stands in front of a light-colored wooden wall. He has a surprised expression on his face. Two speech bubbles are present: one on the left and one on the right. The left bubble contains the text "HEY, KIM! I KNOCKED, BUT...". The right bubble contains the text "*GASP!*".

HEY, KIM! I
KNOCKED,
BUT...

GASP!

HOLY...

♪ HMM-HMMM-
HUM-HUM! ♪




♪ HUMM- HMMM -
HUM- HMMM! ♪





♪...WATCHING WHAT
YOU SAY, GIRL... ♪♪



OH MY GOD!
REX? HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
THERE?

UMMM... JUST
A FEW
SECONDS!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO
SCARE YOU! I CALLED
OUT WHEN I GOT
HOME, BUT...

A man in a black suit, white shirt, and striped tie stands with a confused expression, his right hand on his head. A woman in a white lace dress is seen from the back, looking at him. Two speech bubbles are positioned to the left of the man.

WHAT...*WHY*
ARE YOU WEARING
THAT?

AND... AND
DANCING?



NO... IT'S OKAY! JUST PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON... **BEEN** GOING ON WITH YOU LATELY?

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES TO CHANGE INTO SOMETHING ELSE!

GOD! THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING!

OKAY... BUT PLEASE BEAR WITH ME, BECAUSE THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO EXPLAIN!



WHAT?
YOU'RE OKAY,
AREN'T YOU?

THEN WHAT
IS IT?

YOU SEE... I'VE
BEEN **KEEPING**
SOMETHING FROM YOU
SINCE I LEFT THE
HOSPITAL!

I'M FINE! IT'S
NOTHING **PHYSICAL!**



YEAH! YOU SAID SHE WAS OKAY!

SO YOU REALLY DID HAVE SOME LINGERING ISSUES ABOUT THE OPERATION! WELL, I'M GLAD SHE WAS THERE FOR YOU!

IT WASN'T? THEN WHY DID YOU CALL HER?

REMEMBER I TOLD YOU THE HOSPITAL ASSIGNED ME A TRANSITION THERAPIST AND I HAD TO MEET WITH HER WHILE I WAS THERE?

SHE WAS! IN FACT I'VE ACTUALLY CALLED AND TALKED WITH HER A COUPLE OF TIMES SINCE THEN!

ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT WHY I CONTACTED HER!



AND WHAT DID SHE SAY?

AT OUR *FIRST* MEETING, SHE ASKED ME *ALL KINDS* OF QUESTIONS ABOUT MY "*TRANSITION*"! AT THE TIME I WAS PRETTY *VAGUE* AND *EVASIVE* WITH MY ANSWERS!

BUT SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN GIVING THOSE QUESTIONS A *LOT OF THOUGHT*... WONDERING IF THERE'S A *REASON* IT'S BEEN SO *EASY* FOR ME TO IMPERSONATE A WOMAN!

THAT'S WHY I CALLED HER BACK! I WANTED TO *TALK* WITH HER ABOUT THOSE QUESTIONS *AGAIN*... BUT *THIS* TIME ANSWER THEM MORE *TRUTHFULLY*!

SHE FELT THAT IN ORDER TO "TEST MY COMMITMENT" TO MY TRANSITION, I SHOULD IMMERSE MYSELF IN FEMININITY FOR A FEW DAYS AND SEE HOW I FEEL ABOUT EVERYTHING AFTERWARDS!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN DRESSING THE WAY YOU HAVE THE LAST FEW DAYS!

THAT'S PART OF THE REASON, YEAH! AND WHEN I FOUND THIS LITTLE GET-UP THAT GLORIA DROPPED OFF THE OTHER DAY, WELL... I JUST COULDN'T RESIST GIVING IT A TRY!

YOU REALLY SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING IT!

YEAH... I GUESS I DID, DIDN'T I?



SO, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?


THAT I THINK I LIKE BEING A WOMAN, AND I MAY WANT TO KEEP ON BEING ONE!

BUT YOU'RE NOT SURE?

NOT 100%... AT LEAST NOT YET!

WOW! THAT'S ... HUGE!



A man in a black suit, white shirt, and striped tie stands in a doorway, handing a small card to a woman. The woman is wearing a white lace bra and underwear, with her hair in a bun. She is looking at the card with a questioning expression. The man has a confident, slightly smug look. The background shows a grey wall and a white door.

WELL THEN, I
GUESS IT'S A *GOOD*
THING I MADE SURE *THIS*
WAS AS *LEGIT* AS
POSSIBLE!

YOUR *NEW*
ID!

WHAT
IS IT?

OH MY GOD!
THIS LOOKS
JUST LIKE THE
REAL THING!

THAT'S BECAUSE
IT IS... ALMOST!

ALMOST?

IT'LL PASS *SCRUTINY*
PRETTY MUCH *ANYWHERE*
YOU TRY TO USE IT! BUT I
RECOMMEND SHOWING IT
SPARINGLY AND *ONLY*
WHEN *NECESSARY!*



ALSO, PLEASE
DON'T ASK ME
HOW I GOT IT!

I WON'T! THANK
YOU, REX! THIS
MEANS A LOT TO
ME!

WELL, IT'LL DO FOR NOW... AT
LEAST UNTIL WE NEED TO GET
"KIM" A REAL FLORIDA ID, IF
THAT'S WHAT YOU DECIDE YOU
WANT TO DO!



A man in a dark suit and tie stands on the left, gesturing with his hands. A woman in white lace lingerie stands on the right, looking at him. Three speech bubbles are positioned between them, containing text. The background is a plain grey wall with a white door on the left and a black and white striped wall on the right.

I... I **DON'T KNOW!**
LIKE I SAID, I'M NOT
SURE **WHAT** I WANT TO
DO YET!

BUT **EVEN** IF I **DO**,
WON'T THAT BE A LOT OF
TROUBLE TO ACCOMPLISH?
I MEAN, I'D NEED A
PERMANENT ADDRESS,
AND...

YOU COULD USE **THIS**
ADDRESS! THERE'S **PLENTY** OF
ROOM HERE, AND IT'S THE **BEST** PLACE
TO BE IF YOU **DO** DECIDE TO GO
THROUGH WITH YOUR
TRANSITION!

A woman with dark hair and green eyes, wearing a white lace top, is looking surprised in a closet. She has her hand near her face. In the background, there is a closet with a grey stone wall, a wooden cabinet, and a rack of clothes including a purple shirt, a plaid dress, a black dress, and a yellow dress. A man's profile is visible on the left side of the frame.

IN OTHER
WORDS... THIS IS
YOUR HOME FOR AS
LONG AS YOU
WANT IT!



YOU'RE, UHHH...
VERY WELCOME!


OH, GOD,
REX! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO
SAY!

THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!



UHHH... **YEAH!**
THAT **WOULD** BE A
GOOD IDEA!


OH! I, UHHH...
SHOULD PROBABLY
CHANGE INTO
SOMETHING **ELSE** FOR
LUNCH!

A man in a dark suit and tie stands on the left, looking towards a woman on the right. The woman is wearing a white lace bodysuit and stockings, standing in a closet with a wooden chest and hanging clothes. She has her hand near her face, looking at the man with a slight smile. The scene is set in a room with grey stone walls and a wooden floor.

TELL YOU WHAT,
WHY DON'T I TAKE
YOU *OUT* FOR LUNCH...
IF YOU FEEL *UP* TO
IT!

GOOD! I'LL WAIT FOR
YOU DOWNSTAIRS!

GOD, YES! I'VE
BEEN UP TO *GETTING*
OUT SINCE I LEFT
THE HOSPITAL!

A woman with dark hair and green eyes is standing in a closet, wearing a white lace bikini. She has her hand on her chin and another on her hip. The closet has a grey brick wall and a wooden dresser. Several clothes are hanging on a rack behind her. Two thought bubbles are present: one above her head and one to her left.

*WOW! THAT
WENT INFINITELY
BETTER THAN I
THOUGHT IT
WOULD!*

*ALL THOSE WASTED
YEARS BUSTING MY ASS AS
DANIEL TO GET WHAT I
WANTED... WHEN IT TURNS OUT ALL
IT REALLY TAKES IS A TIGHT
ASS, A LITTLE CLEAVAGE AND
SOME DOE EYES!*



HE *EVEN* BELIEVED THE
CRAP ABOUT THE DEEP,
MEANINGFUL CHATS I'VE BEEN
HAVING WITH MY THERAPIST!

AND, AS IT TURNS OUT,
HAVING HIM THINK I'M
SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING
TRANSITIONING IS THE *BEST*
WAY TO *GUARANTEE* MY
CONTINUED RESIDENCY HERE!

AS EVIDENCED BY HIS
MOST *RECENT*
REMARKS! *GIGGLE!*

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white lace bikini, is talking on a black smartphone. She is standing in a room with a grey wall and a white door with a gold handle. The scene is overlaid with a comic book-style speech bubble conversation.

HEY, GLORIA!
IT'S ME, KIM!

SO... HOW
DID IT GO?

COULDN'T HAVE
GONE ANY BETTER!
SEEING ME IN THIS LITTLE
GET-UP YOU GOT ME
REALLY THREW REX FOR
A LOOP!

THANKS FOR THE
HEADS UP THAT HE
WAS COMING HOME FOR
LUNCH!



THREW HIM FOR
A **LOOP**, HUH?
TELL ME
EVERYTHING!

A
CONVERSATION?

AND
THEN?

WELL, INSTEAD OF
IMMEDIATELY LEAVING THE ROOM
WHEN HE "**SURPRISED**" ME, HE
STAYED AND WE HAD A LITTLE
CONVERSATION!

AND EVEN THOUGH HE
STUTTERED AND **TRIPPED** OVER
HIS WORDS, HE NEVER **ONCE** TOOK
HIS EYES **OFF** ME!

AND **NOW** HE'S GOING TO
TAKE ME **TOLUNCH!**

THAT'S IT?
LUNCH?

FOR *SLINKING* AROUND
IN FRONT OF HIM IN YOUR
UNDERWEAR... IT'S NOT
NEARLY ENOUGH!

WHERE'S HE
TAKING YOU FOR
LUNCH?

WELL, *TEXT*
ME AS SOON AS
YOU KNOW!

HEAVENS *NO*,
DEAR! BUT JUST MAKE
SURE YOU LOOK
NICE... FOR *REX*!

AND REST ASSURED,
WE'LL HAVE OUR *OWN*
LITTLE *CONVERSATION*
ABOUT THIS *TOMORROW*!
CLICK!

YEAH... *WHY?*
ISN'T THAT
ENOUGH?

I DON'T
KNOW YET!

OKAY... BUT *WHY?*
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
SHOW UP, ARE YOU?



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white lace bodysuit, stands in a closet. She is looking down at her smartphone in her right hand, with her left hand on her hip. The closet has a grey brick wall and a wooden door. Clothes are hanging on a rack in the background.

OKAY, SHE
PRACTICALLY SOUNDED
PISSED THAT REX WAS
ONLY TAKING ME TO
LUNCH!

WHAT DID SHE **THINK**
WAS GOING TO HAPPEN... HE
WAS GOING TO **THROW ME**
DOWN ON THE BED AND
SCREW ME RIGHT HERE
AND NOW?

EVEN IF I WAS A
REAL WOMAN, THAT'S
HARDLY REX'S STYLE!

BUT AS LONG AS I KEEP
DANGLING MY "**TRANSITION**" IN
FRONT OF HIM, I CAN **KEEP REX**
INTERESTED... AND **MAYBE EVEN**
MORE!

AND AS LONG AS **HE**
SHOWS INTEREST, **GLORIA**
WILL BE **HAPPY...** TO **SOME**
POINT AT LEAST! WHICH WAS **ONE**
OF THE REASONS **BEHIND THIS**
WHOLE **CHARADE** IN THE
FIRST PLACE!

SO... WHAT TO WEAR FOR AN "INNOCENT" LUNCH DATE? *GIGGLE*

