



***The
Arrangement***

Meet Daniel Kim. A young man who is currently having the worst day of his life.

BUT I DIDN'T DO IT, FATHER! THOSE OTHER STUDENTS JUST SAID I CHEATED TO GET THEMSELVES OFF THE HOOK!

BUT FATHER..

FROM WHAT THE DEAN TELLS ME, IT WASN'T JUST CHEATING... IT WAS SELLING **STOLEN** FINAL EXAMS!

AND NOT JUST TO ONE OR TWO STUDENTS, BUT TO **ENTIRE** FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES AND DORMITORIES!




YOU TOOK
THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS
FROM THOSE STUDENTS... FOR
WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE
FAKE TESTS!

IF I HADN'T **PAID**
BACK THAT MONEY AND
OFFERED TO IMMEDIATELY
WITHDRAW YOU FROM SCHOOL,
THEY WOULD'VE CHARGED
YOU WITH A **FELONY!**

THE **DISHONOR** YOU'VE
BROUGHT UPON THIS FAMILY IS
UNFATHOMABLE

IT'S ALL A **LIE,**
FATHER! I...



ENOUGH! I'VE LOOKED THE OTHER WAY FOR FAR TOO LONG, HOPING UPON HOPE THAT YOU WOULD COME AROUND AND SEE HOW YOU'VE BEEN WASTING ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES WE'VE GIVEN YOU!

I WILL COME AROUND, FATHER! I WILL! YOU'LL SEE!
I...

WHETHER YOU DO OR NOT IS NO LONGER ANY CONCERN OF MINE! BECAUSE FROM THIS POINT ON, I NO LONGER HAVE A SON!

YOU... YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!

I DO!

BUT FATHER... !!!

THE LAST THING I HAVE TO GIVE YOU IS MY WELL WISHES! GOOD BYE, DANIEL!

**SHIT!!! SHIT,
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!!**

I CAN'T **BELIEVE**
THAT CHEAP,
HYPOCRITICAL, SON
OF A BITCH IS
CUTTING ME OFF!

ACTING ALL
PIOUS AND
HONORABLE WHEN
HE'S MADE **MILLIONS**
CONTRACTING WITH
BIG PHARMA!



WELL, **FUCK HIM!** I DON'T NEED **HIS MONEY** ANYWAY.

I'VE GOT **PLENTY** OF MY OWN SAVED UP FROM MY LITTLE **BUSINESS VENTURES** HERE ON **CAMPUS!** HEH-HEH!

A man with a topknot hairstyle is looking at a smartphone. He is wearing a colorful, patterned short-sleeved shirt and a gold watch. The background is a plain wall with a framed picture on the left. A speech bubble is positioned to the right of his head.

WHAT THE FUCK?!
WHERE'S MY GODDAMN
MONEY?!



THAT MOTHER
FLUCKER! HE EMPTIED MY
ACCOUNT TO REIMBURSE
THOSE SAPS I SCAMMED!

AND HE WONDERS
WHERE I GET MY SENSE
OF "HONOR" FROM!

Knock, knock!!

DANIEL KIM?
THIS IS CAMPUS
SECURITY!

WE'RE HERE TO
ESCORT YOU OFF THE
CAMPUS!

I AM SO
FUCKING
SCREWED!

MR. KIM...!

Knock, knock!!

Six months later...



Now meet **Rex Dawes**. Rising young star in the legal firm of Burns, Harris and Associates.

G'MORNING, REX!

GOOD MORNING, MR. BURNS! HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

FINE, REX! JUST FINE!

Burns, Harris
and associates



Burns, Harris
and associates

AND, LIKE CLOCKWORK, HE
STOPS AND COMPLIMENTS ALICE
ON WHATEVER OUTFIT SHE'S
WEARING TODAY! *CHUCKLE!*




GOOD MORNING,
REX!

MRS. BURNS!
UMMMM... GOOD MORNING
YOURSELF! I **JUST** PASSED
YOUR **HUSBAND** IN THE
HALLWAY!

I'M NOT HERE TO SEE
HIM, REX! I'M HERE TO
SEE **YOU!**

AND WILL YOU **PLEASE** START
CALLING ME **GLORIA!** YOU'VE BEEN
WITH THE FIRM **LONG ENOUGH** TO
PUT US ON A **FIRST-NAME**
BASIS!

OF **COURSE!** SO, UHHH...
WHAT CAN I **DO** FOR YOU...
GLORIA?



IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT YOU'RE THE **ONLY** JUNIOR PARTNER WHO **HASN'T** BEEN TO **ANY** OF THE COMPANY GET-TOGETHERS MY HUSBAND AND I THROW!

THEY'VE BECOME KIND OF A COMPANY **TRADITION** FOR ALL THE PARTNERS, JUNIOR PARTNERS **AND** THEIR SPOUSES TO **MINGLE** AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER **OUTSIDE** OF BUSINESS!

I WAS **HOPING** THAT A MORE **PERSONAL** INVITATION FROM **ME** JUST **MIGHT** PERSUADE YOU TO COME THIS TIME! IT'S TWO WEEKS FROM TOMORROW!

AND BY ALL MEANS, THE INVITATION INCLUDES YOUR WIFE... **OR** GIRLFRIEND... **OR WHATEVER!**



I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, GLORIA!
BUT SINCE I'M **NOT** MARRIED AND HAVEN'T
REALLY HAD THE **CHANCE** TO DATE SINCE I
MOVED HERE A FEW MONTHS AGO, I'D FEEL A
LITTLE **OUT OF PLACE** COMING BY
MYSELF!

I'VE ALSO **JUST** BOUGHT MYSELF A
NEW HOUSE, SO I'M GOING TO BE
RATHER **BUSY** THESE NEXT COUPLE OF
WEEKENDS GETTING MOVED IN AND
SETTLED!

I **HOPE** YOU
UNDERSTAND!



OF *COURSE* I DO, REX! I COMPLETELY *FORGOT* THAT YOU WERE THE *ONLY* UNMARRIED JUNIOR PARTNER IN THE FIRM! PLEASE *FORGIVE* ME IF I SEEMED *INSENSITIVE*!

IT'S JUST THAT MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU ALL AS *MORE* THAN JUST *EMPLOYEES*! GETTING TO KNOW ALL YOU YOUNG, *ENERGETIC* PEOPLE HAS BROUGHT GREAT *JOY* TO ME... *TOUS*!

BUT I TOTALLY *RESPECT* YOUR DECISION TO PASS ON OUR INVITATION!

THANK YOU, GLORIA! I APPRECIATE THAT!

I'D JUST HATE
FOR ANYONE TO GET
THE *IMPRESSION* YOU
WEREN'T *HAPPY*
HERE!



A woman with long, wavy blonde hair and blue eyes is the central figure. She is wearing a black, short-sleeved, high-necked lace top and a bright pink, form-fitting skirt. She is looking towards a man in the background. The man is wearing a dark grey suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is standing in a modern office or lounge area with orange armchairs and a grey wall. A speech bubble is positioned to the right of the woman, containing the text: "I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN VERY SOON, REX!"

I HOPE TO SEE
YOU AGAIN VERY
SOON, REX!

A man with brown hair, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and striped tie, stands in a modern office. He has a thoughtful expression, with his right hand resting on his head. Three thought bubbles are positioned to his left, containing text about his realization regarding Mrs. Burns' behavior. The background features a light blue wall, a wooden desk, and two red armchairs.

CRAP! UP TO NOW,
I'VE BEEN WRITING OFF MRS.
BURNS' "PLAYFULNESS" AS
HARMLESS SEXUAL
BANTER!

BUT THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME SHE'S SLIPPED
A BARELYVEILED THREAT
INTO THE SITUATION!

WHAT THE *HELL* AM
I GONNA DO?

Later that night, across town...

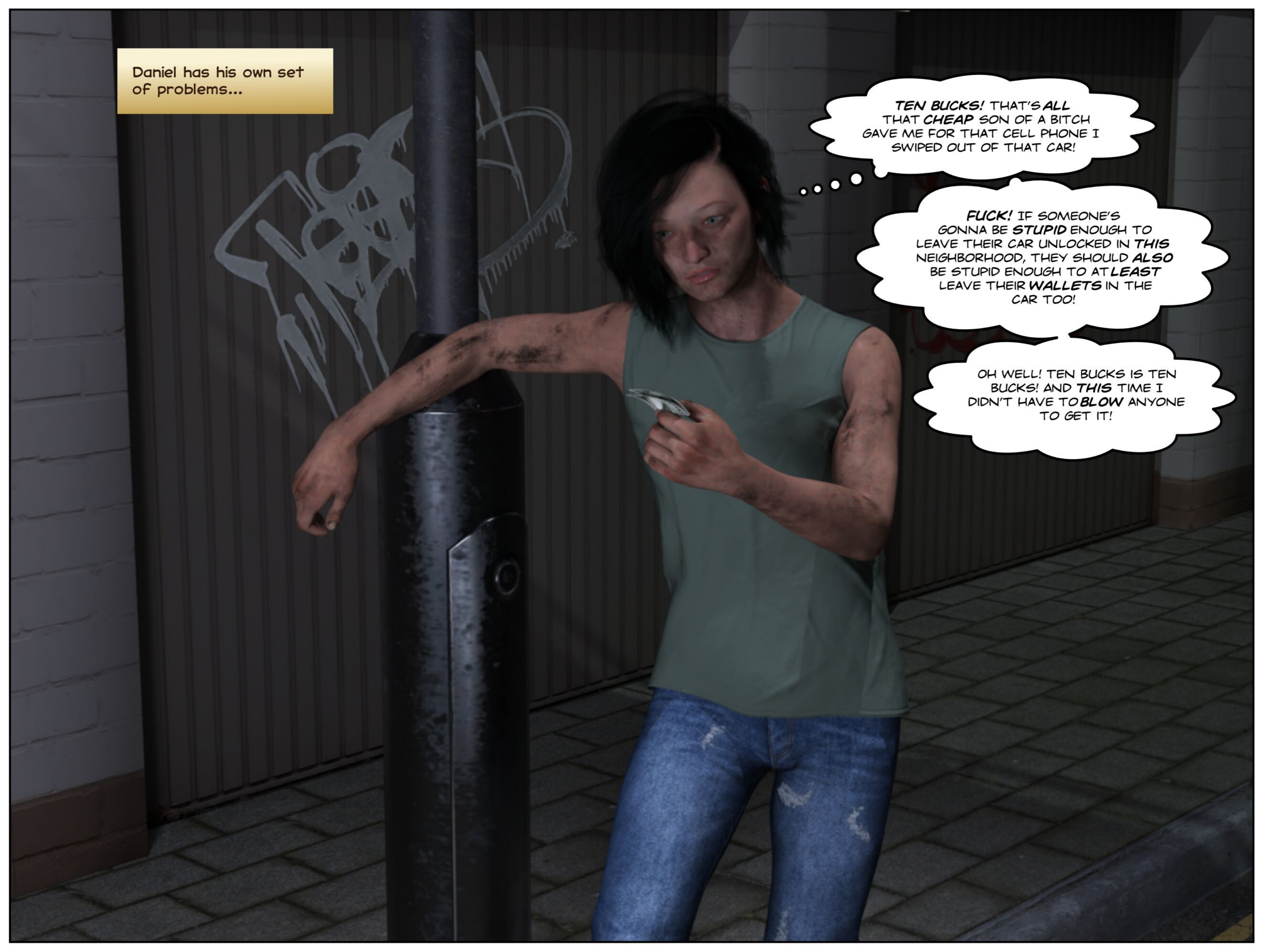


Daniel has his own set of problems...

TEN BUCKS! THAT'S ALL THAT *CHEAP* SON OF A BITCH GAVE ME FOR THAT CELL PHONE I SWIPED OUT OF THAT CAR!

FUCK! IF SOMEONE'S GONNA BE *STUPID* ENOUGH TO LEAVE THEIR CAR UNLOCKED IN *THIS* NEIGHBORHOOD, THEY SHOULD *ALSO* BE STUPID ENOUGH TO AT *LEAST* LEAVE THEIR *WALLETS* IN THE CAR TOO!

OH WELL! TEN BUCKS IS TEN BUCKS! AND *THIS* TIME I DIDN'T HAVE TO *BLOW* ANYONE TO GET IT!





IF I WAS **SMART**
, I'D USE THIS AS **SEED**
MONEY TO EVENTUALLY
GET A BUS TICKET **OUT** OF
HERE!

BUT WHAT **GOOD**
WOULD **THAT** DO ME? I'D
JUST BE TOTALLY **BROKE**
AGAIN BUT SOMEWHERE
ELSE!

AT LEAST STICKING AROUND HERE
I **KNOW** THE **TERRITORY**... WHERE
TO **SLEEP**, WHERE TO FIND **FOOD**, AND
THE **EASIEST** PLACES TO **STEAL**
SHIT FROM!

HUH? WHAT'S
A CAR DOING DOWN
HERE **THIS** TIME
OF NIGHT?



*OH, SHIT! IT
LOOKS LIKE THE CAR
I SWIPED THE
PHONE OUT OF!*

*THOSE FUCKERS
MUST BE PRETTY DAMN
PISSED IF THEY'RE
SPENDING THIS MUCH
TIME LOOKING FOR
ME!*



WHERE YA GOIN',
KID?! JUST GIVE US THE
PHONE BACK AND NO
ONE GETS HURT!
PROMISE!

OH, FUCK! THAT
SOUNDS LIKE THE **SIKORSKY
BROTHERS!** THEY'RE THE BIGGEST
DRUG AND GUN RUNNERS IN THIS
PART OF THE CITY!

THAT PHONE **PROBABLY** HAD
SOME REALLY IMPORTANT AND
SENSITIVE **SHIT** ON IT!


WHICH MEANS I'M
FUCKIN' **TOAST** IF THEY
GET THEIR HANDS ON ME!

LOOKS LIKE STICKING
AROUND HERE *ISN'T*
SUCH A GOOD IDEA
ANYMORE!



A couple of days later, in a much nicer part of town...





WHEW! EVEN AFTER SPENDING ALL OF LAST WEEKEND UNPACKING BOXES, I'VE ONLY PUT A DENT IN THEM!

IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE ME A GOOD MONTH OF WEEKENDS TO GET IT ALL PUT AWAY SOMEWHERE!

BUT IT'S WORTH IT! I LOVE THIS HOUSE!

IT'S GOT MORE ROOM THAN I'LL EVER NEED, BUT THAT'S OKAY!

I LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING A *GUEST ROOM*... OR TWO, AND ROOM FOR A *HOME OFFICE*!

THIS PLACE HAS SO MANY POSSIBILITIES, I HARDLY KNOW *WHERE* TO START!



ONE THING I'D
LOVE TO DO
SOMEDAY IS PUT A SMALL
POOL IN THIS
BACKYARD!

THERE'S **PLENTY**
OF ROOM AND THERE'S
ALREADY A **PRIVACY WALL**
AROUND THE WHOLE YARD,
SO **WHY NOT?**

BESIDES, I'VE NEVER
HAD TO **DEAL** WITH A **LAWN**
BEFORE, SO MIGHT AS WELL
DIG UP THE GRASS AND THOSE
TWO BUSHES BEFORE THEY **DIE**
FROM **LOW MAINTENANCE**
ANYWAY! HEH-HEH!



WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT'S THAT
BEHIND THE
BUSHES?

IS THAT A
PERSON BACK
THERE?!



HEY, YOU! BACK THERE BEHIND THE BUSHES! ARE YOU OKAY?

HUH?



I SAID, ARE YOU
OKAY?

OH SHIT! IT'S ALREADY
MORNING! I WAS HOPING TO BE
LONG GONE BEFORE ANYONE
SAW ME BACK HERE!

AT LEAST THIS GUY'S
NOT SCREAMING AT ME OR
THREATENING TO CALL THE
COPS... AT LEAST NOT YET!

LET'S SEE IF I CAN
KEEP IT THAT WAY!

I... I'M *SO*
SORRY! SOME MEN
WERE CHASING ME AND I
NEEDED A PLACE TO
HIDE!

I GUESS I FELL ASLEEP!



PLEASE
DON'T CALL THE
POLICE! I... I'LL
LEAVE RIGHT
AWAY!

WHOA! SLOW
DOWN THERE, BUDDY!
I'M NOT CALLING
ANYONE!

YOU SEEM TO BE IN
PRETTY *ROUGH* SHAPE!
WHY DON'T YOU COME
INSIDE AND I CAN GET YOU
SOMETHING TO EAT!



SOMETHING TO
EAT?

YEAH! WHEN
WAS THE LAST
TIME YOU ATE?


UMM... A
COUPLE OF
DAYS!

THAT SETTLES IT!
COME INSIDE AND I'LL
SEE WHAT I CAN FIND
FOR YOU!

OKAY, I'VE DEALT WITH
GUYS LIKE THIS BEFORE! ALL
SWEET TALK WITH PROMISES OF
FOOD TO KNOCK ME OFF MY
GUARD!

NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M
ON MY KNEES GIVING HIM A
BLOWJOB!

WELL... I'VE DONE
WORSE FOR A MEAL...



SORRY ABOUT THE MESS! I JUST MOVED IN AND MOST THINGS ARE STILL IN BOXES!

BUT I THINK I'VE UNPACKED ENOUGH KITCHEN GEAR TO WHIP UP SOME BACON AND EGGS! THAT SOUND OKAY?

THAT WOULD BE AWESOME!

WOW! SWEET DIGS! EVEN NICER THAN THE PLACE THE OLD MAN SET UP HIS SECOND EX-WIFE IN AFTER THEY SPLIT!

OR WAS IT HIS THIRD?

THIS'LL JUST TAKE ME A FEW MINUTES! HAVE A SEAT!

OKAY, TIME TO FEEL THIS GUY OUT AND SEE WHAT I CAN EXPECT FROM HIM!

I HAVE TO ASK... WHY ARE YOU BEING SO NICE TO ME? I MEAN, MOST PEOPLE WOULD'VE JUST CALLED THE COPS ON ME BY NOW! BUT INSTEAD, YOU'RE ACTUALLY INVITING ME IN AND FEEDING ME!

BELIEVE ME, I'M VERY GRATEFUL, BUT... IT'S UNUSUAL!

FAIR QUESTION!



DURING COLLEGE AND LAW SCHOOL, I SPENT A LOT OF TIME **VOLUNTEERING** IN THE LOCAL **COMMUNITY SHELTERS!**

IT GAVE ME A LOT OF **PERSPECTIVE** THAT MOST PEOPLE WILL **NEVER** HAVE!

AT THE TIME, I **PROMISED** MYSELF I WOULD **KEEP WORKING** WITH DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE **AFTER** I GRADUATED!

UNFORTUNATELY, MY CURRENT JOB HASN'T ALLOWED ME ENOUGH TIME TO DO THAT!

SO I FIGURE **THIS** IS THE **LEAST** I CAN DO TO MAKE UP FOR A **FAILED PROMISE** I MADE TO MYSELF!

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHAT PUT **YOU** ON THE STREETS? YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO ANSWER, IF YOU **DON'T WANT** TO!

HMMM! A RICH GUY WITH A HEART OF GOLD AND A GUILTY CONSCIENCE! THE PERFECT MARK!

HE'S WORTH MY PRIMARY, GRADE-A BACK-STORY OF BULLSHIT! HEH-HEH!

MY PARENTS SENT ME HERE FOUR YEARS AGO FROM OUR HOME IN CHINA TO STUDY IN ONE OF YOUR UNIVERSITIES!

BUT TWO YEARS AGO, MY FATHER WAS FALSELY ACCUSED OF SPYING AND IMPRISONED! I WANTED TO GO BACK AND HELP HIM, BUT HE INSISTED I STAY HERE WHERE I'D BE SAFER AND COULD CONTINUE MY STUDIES!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO SEIZED MY FAMILY'S ASSETS, INCLUDING THE MONEY I HAD HERE FOR COLLEGE! AS A RESULT, I HAD TO DROP OUT OF COLLEGE AND WAS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR A STUDENT VISA!

I'VE PRETTY MUCH BEEN ON THE STREETS, HIDING FROM THE INS, AND ON MY OWN, SINCE THEN!





YOU'VE BEEN OUT THERE,
ON YOUR OWN, FOR **TWO**
YEARS? THAT'S BOTH SAD
AND IMPRESSIVE!

DON'T BE **TOO**
IMPRESSED! THERE ARE **MANY**
THINGS I'VE **HAD** TO DO TO
SURVIVE THAT I'M **NOT** VERY
PROUD OF!

ONE OF WHICH HAS
GOTTEN ME INTO A LOT OF
TROUBLE **RECENTLY!**

THE **MEN** WHO YOU
SAID WERE **AFTER**
YOU?

A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, I
STOLE A PHONE FROM THEM TO
TRADE FOR **FOOD!** UNFORTUNATELY,
IT TURNS OUT THEY **AREN'T** THE
KIND OF PEOPLE WHO **LIKE** BEING
ROBBED!

NOTHING LIKE MIXING A
LITTLE BIT OF **TRUTH**
INTO THE STORY TO MAKE IT
MORE **BELIEVABLE!**

IF THEY'VE BEEN AFTER
YOU FOR A COUPLE OF
DAYS THEN **THEY** MUST
MEAN **BUSINESS** AND IT'S
NOT SAFE OUT THERE
FOR YOU RIGHT NOW!

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT STAYING **HERE**... FOR A FEW DAYS! AT **LEAST** UNTIL THEY'VE GIVEN UP **LOOKING** FOR YOU!

BINGO!!

THAT... THAT IS WAY TOO MUCH TO ASK! I COULDN'T POSSIBLY ACCEPT SUCH A KIND OFFER!

OF **COURSE** YOU COULD! THERE ARE **FOUR BEDROOMS** UPSTAIRS THAT I **DON'T** KNOW WHAT TO **DO** WITH!

BESIDES KEEPING YOU **SAFE**, IT WOULD **ALSO** GIVE YOU TIME TO **CLEAN UP** AND GET YOUR **STRENGTH** BACK!

THEN WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT OUR **NEXT STEPS** WILL BE TO GET YOU **BACK** ON YOUR FEET AGAIN!

YOU... YOU WOULD DO **ALL THAT** FOR ME?

OF **COURSE!**



THEN I WOULD BE A
FOOL **NOT** TO ACCEPT
YOUR VERY **KIND**
OFFER!

BUT **ONLY** FOR A
FEW DAYS! BY THEN,
I'M **SURE** YOU'LL BE
HAPPY TO BE **RID** OF
ME!

NONSENSE!
YOU'LL STAY AS
LONG AS
NECESSARY!

BY THE WAY, **MY**
NAME IS **REX...**
REX **DAWES!**

I AM **FOREVER** IN
YOUR **DEBT**, MR. **DAWES!**

PLEASE, YOU HAVE **GOT** TO
CALL ME **REX!** AND **WHAT**
SHOULD I CALL YOU?

MY *GIVEN* NAME IS JUN HIE JIN! BUT MY CLASSMATES AND PROFESSORS COULDN'T *PRONOUNCE* IT CORRECTLY, SO I TOLD THEM TO *JUST* CALL ME *DANIEL*! IT WAS THE NAME OF A CHARACTER FROM A *MOVIE* I LIKED *VERY* MUCH!

SINCE I WASN'T *SURE* HOW INTERESTED *INS* WAS IN ME, I DECIDED TO *ALSO* CHANGE MY *LAST* NAME FROM *JIN* TO SOMETHING MUCH MORE *COMMON*!

SO I *NOW* GO BY *DANIEL KIM*! BUT, OF COURSE, *YOU* MAY CALL ME *DANIEL*!

A LITTLE *ELABORATE*, BUT I ALWAYS HAVETROUBLE KEEPING TRACK OF *FAKE* NAMES AND *THIS'LL* KEEP HIM FROM DOING ANY *SEARCHES* FOR INFO ON "*DANIEL KIM*"! HEH-HEH!



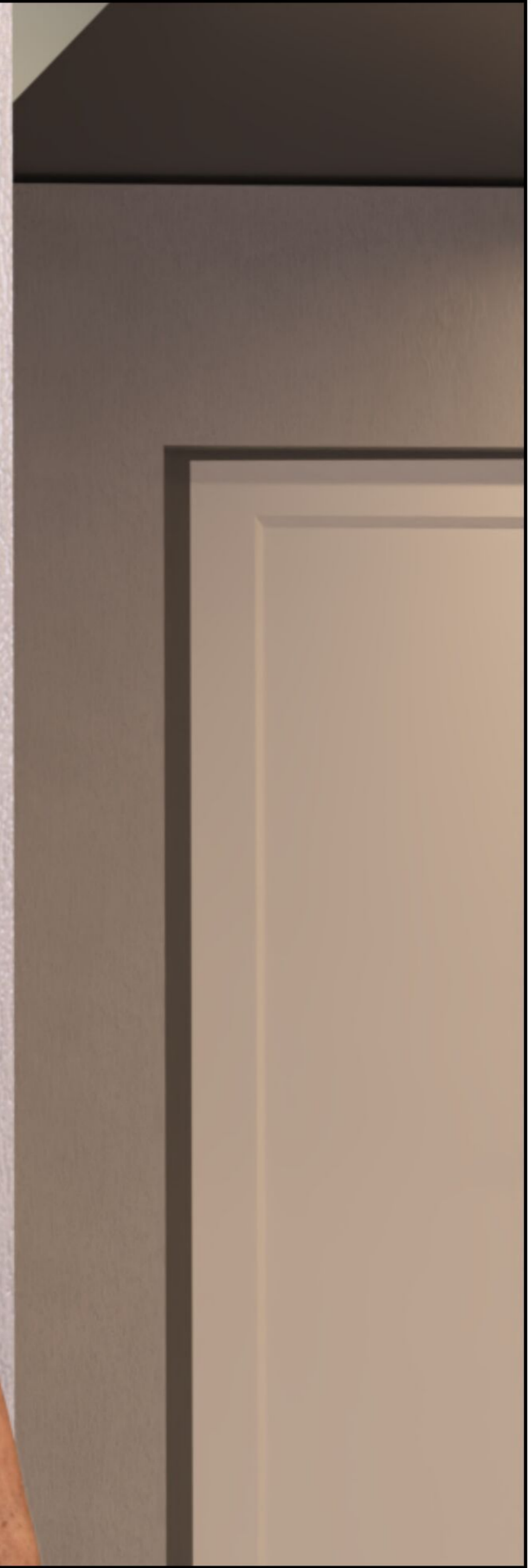
ALL RIGHT,
DANIEL! AFTER WE
GET SOME **FOOD** IN YOU,
WE'LL GO PICK OUT A
BEDROOM!

I SLEEP IN THE
MAIN BEDROOM DOWN
HERE, SO **YOU'LL** HAVE
THE WHOLE **UPSTAIRS**
TO YOURSELF!

YOU'LL EVEN HAVE
YOUR OWN **BATHROOM**
UP THERE!

YOUR **KINDNESS** IS
OVERWHELMING, REX!

A KINDNESS
I PLAN TO TAKE
EXTREME
ADVANTAGE OF!
HEH-HEH!



Later on, after breakfast
and a chance to clean up...

OH, MAN! I'D
FORGOTTEN WHAT A
LONG, HOT SHOWER FELT
LIKE! IT WAS AMAZING!

AND I THINK I LOST
THREE POUNDS OF
NOTHING BUT FILTH!




A young man with dark hair is sitting on a bed, looking down with a thoughtful expression. He is shirtless and wearing dark shorts. The bed has a grey sheet and two white pillows. A red shirt and a blue shirt are lying on the bed in front of him. A teal towel is visible on the right side of the bed. The background is a wall with horizontal wood paneling. A thought bubble is positioned above his head, containing text.

AND THIS *BED* IS THE
SOFTEST THING I'VE LAID
ON SINCE THE OLD MAN SENT
ME OFF TO COLLEGE!



MAN! HE'S EVEN GIVING ME
SOME OF HIS CLOTHES TO WEAR!
NOT THAT THEY'LL FIT, BUT THEY'RE
SURE AS FUCK A LOT BETTER THAN
THOSE DISGUSTING RAGS I WAS
WEARING!

A man with long, wet, black hair is shown from the chest up, shirtless, in a shower. He has a thoughtful expression and is looking slightly to the right. His right hand is behind his head. The background consists of light-colored tiled walls and a white door with a gold handle. A thought bubble is positioned in the upper left corner of the frame.

SO, UNLESS I WANT
ALL THIS TO GO AWAY IN
A FEW DAYS, I'D BETTER
DO SOME **SERIOUS**
THINKING!


A little while later...

Knock, knock!

YES, I DID!
PLEASE, COME ON
IN!

DID YOU
FIND
EVERYTHING YOU
NEED IN THERE,
DANIEL?





WELL, YOU
DEFINITELY LOOK A
LOT BETTER THAN YOU
DID A FEW HOURS AGO!

AND I **FEEL**
SO MUCH
BETTER, TOO!

I WISH THE CLOTHES
FIT BETTER, BUT IT'S THE
BEST I COULD COME UP
WITH SINCE WE'RE OBVIOUSLY
NOT THE SAME SIZE!

THEY'RE **STILL**
WONDERFUL! THANK
YOU **SO** MUCH!

NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT I REALLY THOUGHT THE BATHROOM WOULD BE A LOT MESSIER AFTER YOUR SHOWER... CONSIDERING HOW DIRTY YOU WERE!

OH, IT WAS! FORTUNATELY, ONE OF THE BOXES HERE WAS MARKED **CLEANING SUPPLIES**, SO I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO **CLEAN UP** THE MESS I LEFT!

AND WHILE I WAS AT IT, I FOUND A FEW **OTHER** THINGS FOR THE BEDROOM! I **HOPE** YOU DON'T **MIND**!

NOT AT ALL! IN FACT, I'M **IMPRESSED** YOU HAD THE INITIATIVE TO DO SO!

WELL, **ONE** THING I'VE LEARNED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS IS TO MAKE THE **BEST** OF **WHATEVER** SITUATION YOU FIND YOURSELF IN!

THAT'S A VERY **WISE** MANTRA TO LIVE BY!




IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT, I
THOUGHT WE'D GO GET YOU
SOME **BETTER FITTING**
CLOTHES! HOW'S THAT
SOUND?

THAT'S VERY KIND
OF YOU BUT
UNNECESSARY! THESE
ARE **MORE THAN**
ENOUGH!

NONSENSE! THEY'RE
PRACTICALLY **HANGING ON**
YOU!

WELL, IF YOU **INSIST**, I
CAN JUST **GIVE** YOU MY
SIZES! I **REALIZE** YOU MAY BE
A LITTLE **RELUCTANT** BEING
SEEN WITH ME!

I NOTICED THERE
ARE SEVERAL
CONSIGNMENT SHOPS
BETWEEN HERE AND
DOWNTOWN...




WHY ON
EARTH WOULD I
HAVE A **PROBLEM**
BEING SEEN WITH
YOU?

THESE ARE GOING TO BE
YOUR CLOTHES AND **YOU**
SHOULD BE THE ONE TO PICK
THEM OUT! SO I **REALLY**
THINK **YOU SHOULD**
COME ALONG!

AND I THINK WE CAN DO A
LITTLE **BETTER** THAN A
CONSIGNMENT STORE!

I'LL MEET YOU
DOWNSTAIRS IN **FIVE**
MINUTES!



YEAH... HE'S
STILL NOT SURE IF
HE WANTS TO LEAVE ME
ALONE IN THE
HOUSE!

DON'T **BLAME**
HIM! **I** SURE AS
FUCK WOULDN'T
TRUST ME! HEH-HEH!

SO IT LOOKS LIKE
BUILDING SOME **TRUST**
IS MY **FIRST** HURDLE IN
EXTENDING MY STAY
HERE!

A while later, outside a mall in a different part of town...

I *HOPE* YOU DON'T PLAN ON BUYING ANY *MORE* CLOTHES FOR ME, REX! THIS IS *ALREADY* MORE THAN ENOUGH!

YOU'RE BEING SO *GENEROUS* IT'S ALMOST *OVERWHELMING*!

I ONLY BOUGHT YOU A *COUPLE* OF OUTFITS AND A BUNCH OF *UNDERWEAR*! I WAS PLANNING ON SEVERAL *MORE* STOPS OUT HERE BEFORE WE WERE DONE!

IT'S *NOTHING*, REALLY!
I...





UH-OH! THAT LOOKS LIKE
DAVE SEYMOUR FROM THE
OFFICE! JUST THE KIND OF PERSON
WHO WOULD MISUNDERSTAND THE
SITUATION IF HE SAW ME WITH
DANIEL!

UMMM, DANIEL! WHY
DON'T YOU GO ON **BACK** TO
THE CAR! I'LL BE THERE IN
JUST A MINUTE!

OF COURSE,
REX!



JUST AS I THOUGHT!
AS SOON AS I SAW THAT
PANICKED LOOK ON HIS FACE I
COULD TELL SOMEONE HE
KNEW WAS NEARBY!

YES, WHY **WOULD** YOU
HAVE A PROBLEM BEING SEEN
WITH **ME**, REX? NOT QUITE AS
ALTRUISTIC AS YOU THINK
YOU ARE, EH?

IT DOESN'T **SEEM** LIKE
YOUR **FRIEND** SAW ME, SO IT
LOOKS LIKE YOU **DODGED** THE
BULLET **THIS** TIME!

MAKES ME **WONDER**
WHAT REX **WOULD'VE** SAID IF
HE **HAD** SEEN ME!

A few minutes later...

I NEED TO
APOLOGIZE FOR
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



HOLY SHIT!
THE TRUTH?
HE REALLY IS
A BOY SCOUT!

WELL, I *GET* WHY, OF
COURSE! HANGING AROUND
WITH THE HOMELESS IS
HARDLY GOOD FOR YOUR
IMAGE!

NO, THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I
MEAN! IT'S MY *COWORKERS*
THAT ARE THE PROBLEM!

I *DON'T*
UNDERSTAND!

I SENT YOU OUT HERE
AHEAD OF ME BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT ONE OF MY
COWORKERS TO SEE YOU
WITH ME!





THE LAW FIRM I WORK FOR
TOUTS ITSELF AS BEING VERY
LIBERAL, BUT IN REALITY, MOST
EVERYONE THERE HAS VERY
CONSERVATIVE VALUES!

IF ANY OF THEM SAW ME
WITH YOU, REGARDLESS OF WHAT
I TELL THEM, THEY'D JUMP TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS
SOMETHING... UNSEEMLY GOING
ON BETWEEN US!

JUST BECAUSE
WE'RE BOTH MEN?
THAT'S
RIDICULOUS!

THAT'S THE WAY THEY
THINK! ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M
UNMARRIED AND HAVE NO
GIRLFRIEND! I'M SURE THERE ARE
PROBABLY ALREADY RUMORS
FLOATING AROUND ABOUT ME
BEING GAY!

ARE YOU?

NO... I'M NOT! I'M JUST TOO
WORK-ORIENTED TO HAVE
TIME FOR A SOCIAL LIFE!
SOMETHING THEY DON'T
SEEM TO UNDERSTAND!

WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO **LOSE** YOUR **JOB** BECAUSE OF **ME!** SO MAYBE STAYING AT YOUR PLACE **ISN'T** SUCH A **GOOD** IDEA AFTER ALL!

ARE YOU **SURE?**

IF **YOU'RE** OKAY WITH DOING THAT, THEN I GUESS I AM TOO!

AND **WITHOUT** EVEN **TRYING**, MY STAY HAS GONE FROM A COUPLE OF **DAYS** TO "**AS LONG AS NECESSARY!**"

THIS IS ALMOST **TOO EASY!**
HEH-HEH!

I'M **NOT** GOING TO LET A BUNCH OF **NARROW-MINDED** PEOPLE KEEP ME FROM DOING WHAT'S **RIGHT!**

HELL, YOU CAN STAY AT **MY PLACE** FOR AS LONG AS **NECESSARY!**

WE'LL JUST **HAVE** TO BE A LITTLE MORE **CAREFUL** ABOUT BEING **SEEN** TOGETHER IN PUBLIC! **THAT'S** ALL!

A few days later...

FINALLY, THE LAST BOX UNPACKED! I KNOW REX DIDN'T ASK ME TO DO THIS, BUT IF HE FEELS THAT I'M JUST LYING AROUND FREELOADING, HE MAY START TO REGRET HAVING ME AROUND!



BUT I FIGURE THE MORE **USEFUL** I MAKE MYSELF, **WITHOUT** BEING IN HIS **WAY** ALL THE TIME, WILL GO A **LONG WAY** INTO **EXTENDING** MY STAY HERE!

HELL, I'VE **EVEN** STARTED DOING A LITTLE **COOKING** HERE AND THERE! NOTHING **GOURMET** OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, BUT **JUST ENOUGH** TO BE **CONVENIENT** FOR HIM!

SO CONVENIENT, IN FACT, HE MAY JUST **UPGRADE** MY **TEMPORARY** STATUS TO SOMETHING MORE **PERMANENT**!

THE **ONE DRAWBACK** IS HAVING TO **STAY PUT** ALL THE TIME, THANKS TO REX'S **FUCKING HOMOPHOBIC COWORKERS**!

AT **LEAST** HIS TV STREAMS PRETTY MUCH **EVERY CHANNEL AVAILABLE**! BUT WHAT **GOOD** IS INTERNET ACCESS WITHOUT MY **OWN** COMPUTER OR PHONE?

SIGH! ALL IN GOOD TIME, DANIEL! **ALL** IN GOOD TIME!



SOUNDS LIKE
HIM GETTING
HOME NOW!

TIME TO MAKE
MYSELF A LITTLE
SCARCE SO I'M NOT
ALWAYS THE FIRST THING
HE SEES WHEN HE
GETS HOME!

ALSO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO
NOTICE, ON HIS OWN, THAT
ALL THE BOXES HAVE BEEN TAKEN
CARE OF BY HIS EXTREMELY HELPFUL
AND INDISPENSABLE
HOUSEMATE! HEH-HEH!

YEAH, THAT'S HIM! I'D KNOW THE SOUND OF THAT ENGINE PURRING A MILE AWAY!

SIGH! JUST COUNTIN' THE DAYS TILL HE LETS ME DRIVE THAT BEAUTY, AND...

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT THE FUCK!



*PLEASE TELL ME I'M
SEEING THINGS!
PLEASE TELL ME I'M
SEEING THINGS!*





**IT IS! FUCK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT!**

**IT'S THE GODDAMN
SIKORSKY BROTHERS!
HERE! IN THIS PART
OF TOWN!**

**THEY CAN'T
STILL BE LOOKING
FOR ME... CAN
THEY?**



UH...
THANKS.

OH MY GOD,
DANIEL! THE PLACE
LOOKS AMAZING!

I CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU DID THIS ALL BY
YOURSELF!



WHAT'S THE
MATTER? YOU
LOOK LIKE YOUR
BEST FRIEND JUST
DIED!

NOT
EXACTLY... BUT,
YOU'RE *NOT* FAR
OFF!



THERE'S
SOMETHING I
NEED TO TELL YOU!

A few minutes later, After a little bit of *uncharacteristic* truth from Daniel...

I KNOW I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU MORE ABOUT WHO WAS CHASING ME AND WHY, BUT I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LET ME STAY!

AND NOW THAT THEY'RE STILL LOOKING FOR ME... EVEN WAY OUT HERE, IT MEANS I'M ALSO PUTTING YOU IN DANGER!

SO I THINK THE BEST THING IS FOR YOU TO JUST DRIVE ME TO THE FAR SIDE OF TOWN AND DROP ME OFF!

NO... I DON'T THINK I WILL!

A man with short brown hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a blue and white striped tie, is sitting on a set of stairs. He is looking towards a woman whose back is to the camera on the right. The background shows a wooden wall and a window with a view of trees. There are four speech bubbles in the scene.

ALTHOUGH I **AGREE** THAT YOU **SHOULD'VE** TOLD ME ABOUT THOSE DRUG-RUNNERS **SOONER**, THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE! THE **MAIN** THING **NOW** IS KEEPING YOU **SAFE**!

FIRST THING TOMORROW, I'LL HAVE A **SECURITY SYSTEM** INSTALLED! AND WE'LL **ALSO** JUST **DOUBLE** OUR EFFORTS AT KEEPING YOU **OUT OF SIGHT**!

FOR AS **LONG** AS IT **TAKES** UNTIL WE'RE **SURE** YOU'RE **SAFE**!

FOR... FOR HOW LONG?

A few days later...

HMPH! NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT THE NEW, SHAVED LOOK! BUT AS REX POINTED OUT, THE LESS I LOOK LIKE **STREET SCUM**, THE BETTER!





MAN! I **KNEW** IT WAS A RISK
TELLING REX THE **TRUTH** ABOUT
THE SIKORSKYS, BUT IT'S REALLY
PAID OFF.. IN SPADES!

AFTER DOING A LITTLE
RESEARCH, HE FOUND OUT
JUST HOW DANGEROUS THEY
REALLY **ARE** AND HAS
DOUBLE-DOWNED ON KEEPING ME
HERE **SAFE... INDEFINITELY!**

HE SAID HE ALSO **TIPPED**
OFF A FRIEND OF HIS IN THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT ABOUT **WHERE**
THEY COULD FIND THE **CELL**
PHONE I STOLE AND PAWNED!

I DON'T HAVE ANY
ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE COPS
SHUTTING DOWN THE
SIKORSKYS, BUT HOPEFULLY IT'LL
AT LEAST KEEP THEM **TOO BUSY**
TO WORRY ABOUT **ME!**

OH YEAH!
LIFE IS GOOD!



A woman with long brown hair, seen from behind, is wearing a red, form-fitting, mesh-style dress. She is standing in front of a stone wall. In the background, a large window shows a woman in a blue dress standing with her back to the camera, holding a large blue cloth. The scene is lit with soft, ambient light, and a blue car is partially visible in the bottom right corner.

WELL NOW...
ISN'T *THAT*
INTERESTING!

Ding, dong!

COMING!

HUH?!
WHAT THE DEVIL
IS *SHE* DOING
HERE?!




A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red, form-fitting, sleeveless dress, stands in a doorway. She has her hands on her hips and is looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man has short brown hair and is wearing a black t-shirt. In the background, a red sports car is parked on a stone-paved area. The scene is set in a house with wood-paneled walls and a stone fireplace.

MRS. BURNS!
THIS IS QUITE THE
SURPRISE!

FORGIVE ME! SO,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE...
GLORIA?

REX, DEAR... IF YOU CALL ME "MRS.
BURNS" ONE MORE TIME I'M GOING TO
TELL MY HUSBAND THAT WE'VE BEEN
SNEAKING OFF TO THE SUPPLY ROOM
TOGETHER EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST
MONTH!

ASK ME IN AND I'LL
TELL YOU!



I'M SORRY IF IT SEEMS I'M **INTRUDING** ON YOUR FREE TIME, BUT **YOU** DIDN'T GIVE ME **ANY CHOICE!**

BY BEING CONSPICUOUSLY **UNAVAILABLE** WHENEVER I STOPPED BY YOUR OFFICE! IF I DIDN'T **KNOW** BETTER, I'D SAY **YOU WERE AVOIDING ME!**

UMMM...
SURE! PLEASE,
COME IN!

AND HOW DID I
DO THAT?

CRAP! LET'S
HOPE DANIEL **HEARS**
OUR VOICES AND STAYS
UPSTAIRS AND **OUT OF**
SIGHT!

WELL, YOU'RE HERE NOW! SO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, GLORIA?

YOU CAN TELL ME THE REAL REASON YOU REFUSE TO ATTEND ANY OF OUR GET-TOGETHERS... LIKE THE ONE WE'RE HAVING NEXT WEEKEND!

I TOLD YOU WHY! I HAVE SO MUCH WORK TO DO ON THE NEW HOUSE!

REALLY? THE HOUSE LOOKS WONDERFUL AND I DON'T SEE ANY BOXES THAT NEED UNPACKING!

TRY AGAIN, DEAR!





THAT MUST BE THE
BOSS'S HOT WIFE THAT'S
BEEN TRYING TO GET INTO
REX'S SHORTS!

GO FOR IT, MAN! I KNOW
I WOULD! HEH-HEH!

WELL, YOU SAID IT
YOURSELF, GLORIA... I'M
THE ONLY UNMARRIED
JUNIOR PARTNER IN THE
FIRM!

I'D JUST FEEL A LITTLE
OUT OF PLACE BEING THE
ONLY ONE THERE WHO CAME
ALONE!

OH, IS THAT ALL?
WELL I HAVE THE
PERFECT SOLUTION
FOR THAT!

WHICH IS?

YOU COULD
JUST BRING YOUR
LITTLE **FRIEND**
FROM
UPSTAIRS

OH SHIT!!

UMMM...
WHO?





OH SHIT! SHE
MUST'VE **SEEN** ME
THROUGH THE **WINDOW**
WHEN SHE PULLED UP!

FUCK, FUCK, FUCK!
REX IS ABOUT TO GET INTO
SOME **BIG TROUBLE** WITH
THAT **BITCH**, AND IT'S MY
FAULT!

I'VE GOTTA DO
SOMETHING... AND DO IT
FAST, OR I'M GONNA FIND
MYSELF **BACK OUT** ON THE
STREETS!

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE SO ADAMANTLY DENYING IT, REX! BECAUSE I DEFINITELY SAW SOMEONE IN ONE OF YOUR UPSTAIRS BEDROOMS THROUGH THE WINDOW!

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU! BUT EVEN THROUGH THE TINTED WINDOW, I COULD TELL THE PERSON I SAW TOWELING OFF UP THERE WAS DARK-HAIRED AND SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER!

DAMN IT! SHE OBVIOUSLY SAW DANIEL UP THERE! I CAN ONLY HOPE SHE'S MORE OPEN-MINDED THAN EVERYONE ELSE AT THE FIRM!




SO 'FESS UP,
DEAR! JUST WHO
ARE YOU HIDING UP
THERE? HMMMM?

IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
THINK, GLORIA!
YOU SEE, I...

REX, HONEY!
HAVE YOU SEEN MY
PANTIES?



A woman wearing a pink towel and a matching headwrap stands on a balcony with a metal railing. She is looking towards the camera. In the foreground, the backs of two people's heads are visible, suggesting they are watching her. The background shows a building with wooden doors and a light-colored wall.

I COULD
SWEAR THEY WERE
AT THE FOOT OF THE
BED THIS MORNING,
AND...

A woman with a surprised expression stands on a balcony. She is wearing a pink towel with white polka dots wrapped around her head and another matching towel around her body. Her right hand is raised to her face. In the background, there is a wooden door and a grey wall. A metal railing is in the foreground. A speech bubble is positioned to her right.

*OH MY GOD!
I DIDN'T KNOW
SOMEONE ELSE WAS
HERE!*

THIS IS **SO**
EMBARRASSING! PLEASE,
JUST PRETEND I WAS
NEVER HERE!



Slam!

ACTUALLY,
THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT I THOUGHT!
GIGGLE!

SHE'S
ADORABLE, REX! I
CAN'T IMAGINE WHY
YOU WERE TRYING TO
HIDE HER!

WELL, UHHH... I
WASN'T REALLY
TRYING TO HIDE HER!
IT'S JUST THAT...





TUT, TUT! YOU CAN TELL ME
ALL THE JUICY DETAILS WHEN
YOU BRING HER TO OUR PARTY NEXT
WEEKEND!

AND I **ABSOLUTELY,**
POSITIVELY WILL NOT TAKE
"NO" FOR AN ANSWER!

A man with dark hair and a serious expression is sitting on a dark grey outdoor sofa. He is wearing a dark green t-shirt. The setting is a modern outdoor patio with a grey brick wall and greenery in the background. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the man's head.

**SIGH!* GREAT!
JUST GREAT!*