by CBlack

OPPORTUNITIES

by CBlack



Chapter 1

OPPORTUNITIES

A typical happy hour crowd descends upon Rocky's, an established pub in the Harrisburg financial district...

MAN, I AM **SICK** AND FUCKIN' **TIRED** OF THESE BROWN-NOSING **SUCK-UPS** WHO KEEP GETTING THE **PROMOTIONS** THAT **I'M** IN LINE FOR! I MEAN, **SHIT,** I'VE BEEN AT **STEMCORP** LONGER THAN GRIFFIN HAS! WHY THE HELL DID **HE** GET PROMOTED OVER **ME?**

I DON'T KNOW, PAUL! ***MAYBE*** IT'S BECAUSE, UNLIKE YOU, ***HE*** WORKS HIS ***ASS*** OFF!

YEAH! ***HE'S*** ALSO GOT GREAT ***PEOPLE*** AND ***LEADERSHIP*** SKILLS! ***HE*** GETS ALONG WITH ***EVERYONE!***

HEY, I'VE GOT MORE LEADERSHIP SKILLS THAN THE WHOLE STINKING DEPARTMENT PUT TOGETHER! YOU FORGET I USED TO BE THE QUARTERBACK IN COLLEGE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT LEADERSHIP IS UNLESS YOU'VE QB'D A TEAM TO A BOWL GAME!

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT WEREN'T YOU THE BACKUP QB?

YEAH! AND THEY ONLY BROUGHT YOU IN AT THE VERY END OF HUGELY LOPSIDED GAMES TO HAND THE BALL OFF A FEW TIMES TO RUN OUT THE CLOCK!

FUCK YOU BOTH!

BESIDES, IF YOU **REALLY** WANT TO GET **AHEAD** THESE DAYS IT'S **ALL** A MATTER OF **WHO** YOU KNOW AND **WHAT** YOU KNOW **ABOUT** THEM! ALL YOU'VE GOTTA DO IS PICK UP THE **RIGHT PIECE OF INFO** OR THE **JUICIEST BIT OF DIRT** AND YOU'RE **IN LIKE FLYNN!**

THAT'S HOW I GOT WHERE I AM TODAY!

YOU MEAN THE **MIDDLE MANAGEMENT** POSITION IN THE **SECOND-RATE** COMPANY THAT A **FRAT BUDDY** SCORED FOR YOU? THE **SAME** JOB YOU'VE HAD FOR THE LAST **EIGHT YEARS?**

IMPRESSIVE RESUME YOU'VE GOT GOING THERE, DESALLE!

SINGLETON!

SO IS **DESALLE** HERE ONCE AGAIN **REGALING** YOU TWO WITH **LOFTY STORIES** OF PLAYING **SECOND-STRING** QB TO A TEAM THAT SUFFERED THE **WORST DEFEAT** IN **BOWL HISTORY?** REMIND ME AGAIN, PAUL, WHO **WAS** IT YOU ALL LOST TO THAT DAY!

FUCK YOU, SINGLETON!

I GUESS IT **WAS** ME, **WASN'T** IT, SINCE **I** WAS THE **FIRST-STRING** QB ON THE TEAM THAT **WIPED THE TURF** WITH YOU ALL!

SINGLETON, WHY DON'T YOU JUST **CRAWL BACK** UNDER THE TABLE YOU CAME FROM AND GO BACK TO **SUCKING** THE **DICKS** OF ALL THE **OTHER** PRETTY BOYS AT THAT PIECE OF **SHIT** COMPANY YOU WORK FOR?

'CAUSE WE **ALL** KNOW **THAT'S** THE WAY TO GET **AHEAD** AT **RENCORP! HAW!!**


WOW, THAT'S QUITE THE BURN THERE, DESALLE! YOU GET A TWELVE YEAR OLD BOY TO THINK THAT ONE UP FOR YOU?

LATER, GENTLEMEN! YOU TOO, DESALLE!

JESUS! I HATE THAT SON OF A BITCH!

CAN'T IMAGINE WHY! HIS TEAM KICKS YOUR ASS IN COLLEGE AND NOW THE COMPANY HE WORKS FOR IS KICKING OUR BUTTS!

YEAH, HE'S **DEFINITELY** GOT THE **GOLDEN BOY** THING GOING ON FOR HIM! FROM WHAT I HEAR, THE MAN CAN **DO NO WRONG!**

ESPECIALLY WITH THE **LADIES!**

OH **YEAH!** I HEAR HE'S BEEN THROUGH JUST ABOUT **EVERY** HOT LADY AT THAT COMPANY... FROM **SECRETARIES** TO **EXECS!**

I WOULD **LOVE** TO BRING THAT DICKHEAD **DOWN** A FEW PEGS! **NO ONE** IS **THAT PERFECT!** THERE'S **GOT** TO BE SOME **DIRT** ON HIM **SOMEWHERE!**

GOOD LUCK **FINDING** ANY! **EVERYBODY** AT RENCORP **LOVES** PETE SINGELTON!

I DON'T KNOW... IF **I** WENT THROUGH THE LADIES AS **FAST** AS **HE** DOES, I'D HAVE **MORE** THAN JUST A **FEW PISSED OFF PEOPLE** IN MY WAKE!


HEY, THAT'S A GOOD POINT! I'LL BET THERE ARE A FEW SPURNED LADIES IN THAT BUILDING WHO WOULD LOVE TO SPILL THE DIRT ON GOOD OL' PETE! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND ONE!
AND THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO START LOOKING THAN RIGHT NOW!


TWENTY BUCKS SAYS HE'S SHOT DOWN IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES!
MAKE IT TWO MINUTES AND YOU'VE GOT A DEAL!


WELL, HELLO THERE, LADIES! HOW ARE YOU ALL DOING THIS EVENING?
UMM, FINE, I GUESS!
YEAH, WE'RE DOING OKAY!

EXCELLENT! MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

ONLY IF YOUR FIANCÉE WILL BE JOINING US TOO!

MAGGIE! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE! DIDN'T SEE YOUR BROOM PARKED OUTSIDE!

PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S STILL SHOVED UP YOUR ASS! RIGHT WHERE I PUT IT WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE ENGAGED TO SOMEONE ELSE!

HOW IS DAYNA, BY THE WAY?


NO, JUST LIVING TOGETHER FOR, OH... ABOUT SIX YEARS NOW! RIGHT?
REAPING THE BENEFITS WE BOTH ENJOY FROM OUR OPEN RELATIONSHIP! AND WE'RE NOT ENGAGED!
IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE YEARS! AND LIKE I SAID, WE BOTH SEE WHOEVER WE WANT WHENEVER WE WANT!

OKAY! TELL YOU **WHAT**, PAUL... IF YOU LEAVE RIGHT **NOW**, I **WON'T** CALL **DAYNA** AND ASK HER **ALL ABOUT** THIS **"OPEN RELATIONSHIP"** OF YOURS! HOW'S **THAT** SOUND?

FINE! I'LL **LEAVE!** BUT **ONLY** BECAUSE MY **BOYS** OVER THERE ARE **SIGNALING** ME TO COME BACK!


JESUS! WHY ARE ALL THE HOT BABES ALWAYS SUCH BITCHES?


SMOOTH, DUDE! VERY SMOOTH!
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THOSE CHICKS HAVE MORE DIRT ON YOU THAN ON SINGLETON?
YEAH, NO SHIT!


WHY DON'T YOU TWO JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP?!

I AM **SICK** AND FUCKIN' **TIRED** OF ALL THESE **SUPERIOR**-ACTING **ASSHOLES!** AND **PETE SINGLETON** IS THE **WORST** OF THEM!

AND IT'S OBVIOUS **THOSE** STUCK-UP **RENCORP BITCHES** AREN'T GONNA GIVE **ME** THE TIME OF DAY, MUCH **LESS** ANY **DIRT** ON **SINGLETON!**

I'M GONNA *HAVE* TO GET MYSELF A *MOLE* IN THAT COMPANY! BUT *WHO?!*

Meanwhile, across town at the local Super Chicken franchise, home of "The Best Cluck You've Ever Had"...

WHAT TH' ***HELL*** CHEAP-SHIT ***CRAP*** YOU TRYIN' TO PULL? THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ***TWELVE*** CHICKEN FINGERS IN THIS BOX AND THERE WERE ONLY ***ELEVEN!***

I'M **SORRY,** MA'AM! IF YOU WAIT A MOMENT, I'LL GET YOU THE OTHER CHICKEN FINGER, **PLUS** A COUPLE **MORE** FOR YOUR TROUBLE!

JUST A **COUPLE** MORE? HELL, I **OUGHTA** GET THE WHOLE MEAL FOR **FREE** CONSIDERING HOW **CRAPPY** IT WAS!

OF **COURSE,** MA'AM! IF YOU'RE DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR MEAL, I'D BE **HAPPY** TO REFUND YOUR MONEY!

DAMN STRAIGHT YOU WILL! RIGHT **AFTER** YOU GET ME THOSE EXTRA COUPLE OF **CHICKEN FINGERS** YOU PROMISED ME!

BUT...! *SIGH!* OF COURSE, MA'AM! I'LL GET THOSE FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY!

Super Chicken


Super Chicken
WELCOME
YOU KNOW, IF YOU LAZY KIDS KNEW HOW TO COUNT YOU WOULDN'T BE MAKIN' STUPID MISTAKES LIKE THAT IN CRAPPY JOBS LIKE THESE!
YES, MA'AM! HERE YOU GO, MAAM!


STUPID, DUMB-SHIT KIDS!
LOOK GUYS! THAT'S THE THIRD TIME TODAY YOU'VE SCREWED UP AN ORDER... AND YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE AN HOUR!
NOT ONLY AM I THE ONE WHO HAS TO DEAL WITH THE ANGRY CUSTOMERS, BUT IT ALSO MAKES THE STORE LOOK BAD!

WELL, **SHIT!** SINCE IT WAS A **FAMILY** PACK, **I** DIDN'T THINK SHE'D **CHECK** 'TIL SHE GOT **HOME!**

HOW'S **I** SUPPOSED TO KNOW THE FAT BITCH'D **INHALE** THEM ALL **RIGHT HERE?**

WELCOME

'CAUSE IT WAS AN **IN-STORE** ORDER, DUMB-SHIT! YOU ONLY **SHORT-CHANGE** 'EM ON **DRIVE-THRU** ORDERS!

HAVEN'T I TAUGHT YOU **ANYTHING?**

SIGH! DO I **REALLY** HAVE TO ADDRESS THE FACT THAT WE **NEVER** SHORT-CHANGE ORDERS... **EVER?**

HEY, THIS IS THE FIRST **I'VE** HEARD OF IT, MAN!

ME TOO! I THINK YOU'RE JUST **MAKIN' UP SHIT** AS YOU GO!

WELCOME

Super Chicken

JESUS! THE THINGS I'LL PUT UP WITH TO PAY OFF MY STUDENT LOANS!

I MEAN, HOW TH' FUCK WE SUPPOSED TO DO OUR JOBS WHEN HE KEEPS CHANGIN' THE RULES ON US?

NO SHIT! NEXT THING YOU KNOW, HE'LL BE TELLIN' US WE CANT HAVE DOOBIE BREAKS!

Super Chicken

Hi I'm... Daryl

DARYL! CAN I TALK TO YOU A MINUTE?

WELCOME

OH... SURE, STEVE! I'M **GLAD** YOU'RE HERE! THERE ARE SOME THINGS I WANTED TO **TALK** TO YOU ABOUT!

NO! THERE ARE SOME THINGS **I** WANT TO TALK TO **YOU** ABOUT!

YOU'VE BEEN WRITING **LETTERS** TO THE **DISTRICT MANAGER** AND **THAT STOPS NOW!**

BUT, **SUPER CHICKEN** HAS **CONSISTENTLY** BEEN THE **LOWEST PERFORMING** MEMBER IN THE **GRUB** FAMILY OF RESTAURANTS, AND I HAVE **LOTS** OF IDEAS ON HOW TO **IMPROVE** OUR **BOTTOM LINE!**

Super

Hi! I'm...

CHAIN OF COMMAND, DARYL! YOU HAVE IDEAS? YOU RUN THEM PAST ME FIRST!

BUT YOU'RE NEVER HERE!

THAT'S WHY I HAVE YOU AS AN ASSISTANT MANAGER, DARYL! SO I DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE ALL THE TIME!

ICE CREAM CONE CHOCOLATE...
ICE CREAM CONE VANILLA.....
ICE CREAM CONE CARAMEL...

Super Chick'n

HOW ABOUT BEING HERE AT ALL?

WHAT WAS THAT?

I'M JUST *SAYING* THAT IF YOU WERE HERE *MORE OFTEN*, THINGS *MIGHT* BE A LITTLE *BETTER!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY ACT AROUND *YOU*, BUT *THOSE TWO* IN BACK ARE A *DISASTER* AND *DON'T* RESPECT *ME* AT ALL!

Super Chicken

Daryl

WELL **GEE**, DARYL, IF **YOU** CAN'T FIGURE OUT TO EARN A LITTLE **RESPECT** WITH THAT **FANCY BUSINESS SCHOOL DEGREE** OF YOURS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST **ASK** FOR YOUR **MONEY BACK!**

THE **ONLY** REASON I **HIRED** YOU WAS BECAUSE YOUR **BROTHER-IN-LAW** AND I GO **WAY BACK!**

HE'S **NOT** MY BROTHER-IN-LAW...!

I DON'T CARE! IF YOU CAN'T **HANDLE** THINGS AROUND HERE AS AN **ASSISTANT MANAGER,** I'LL **HAPPILY** DEMOTE YOU TO **GREASE-TRAP CLEANER!**


SO QUIT CONTACTING THE DISTRICT MANAGER AND CONCENTRATE ON YOUR OWN DAMN JOB RIGHT HERE! UNDERSTAND?
SURE STEVE... I GET IT!
AND QUIT CALLING ME STEVE! FROM NOW ON YOU'RE TO REFER TO ME AS MR. CREIGHTON!

ICKEN
RIPS

REGULAR | UPSIZE

CHICKEN CHUNKS
CHICKEN STRIPS
FRIES

OKAY... MR. CREIGHTON!

BYE STEVE!

YEAH, BYE STEVE!

WELCOME

Super
Chicken

Hi I'm...
Daryl

REGULAR
UPSIZE
FRIES
SIGH!
Super
Chicken
Hi! I'm...
Daryl
WELC

Later that evening, Paul arrives home at the apartment he shares with his long-time girlfriend, Dayna.

Slam!

JESUS! WHAT A LOUSY FUCKIN' DAY!

THAT YOU, BABE?

YEAH, IT'S ME!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GETTING READY FOR WORK! BE RIGHT OUT!
GET ME A BEER ON THE WAY, WILL YOU?


TOUGH DAY, SWEETIE?
YOU KNOW IT, BABE! I TELL YOU, THEY JUST DON'T APPRECIATE ALL THE HARD WORK I DO FOR THEM!

YOU'D THINK AFTER **ALL** THESE YEARS WITH **STEMCORP**, THEY'D KNOW HOW **VALUABLE** YOU ARE!

HELL, ALL THE **CORPORATE HEADS** CARE ABOUT IS WHY THEY KEEP GETTING THEIR **ASSES KICKED** BY **RENCORP!**

THOSE ASSHOLES **ALWAYS** GET THE **SWEET** CONTRACTS, LEAVING **US** THE **CRUMBS** TO LIVE OFF OF!

WELL, HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN **ANY** THOUGHT TO **APPLYING** FOR A **POSITION** OVER AT **RENCORP?**

I MEAN, IF THEY'RE DOING SO **WELL,** WOULDN'T THEY **LOVE** TO HIRE A BRILLIANT, **SEXY** YOUNG **STUD** LIKE **YOU?** HMMM?

YOU COULDN'T **PAY** ME ENOUGH TO WORK IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THAT **SCUMBAG,** PETE SINGLETON!

THAT **PIECE OF SHIT** LIVES **JUST** TO MAKE **MY LIFE A LIVING HELL!**

WHAT I **REALLY** NEED IS SOMEONE ON THE **INSIDE** OF THAT COMPANY WHO CAN FIND OUT **WHY** THEY'RE **ALWAYS** GETTING THE **PRIME CONTRACTS!**

IF I COULD TAKE INFO LIKE **THAT** TO THE **EXECS** AT **STEMCORP,** I COULD WRITE MY **OWN** TICKET TO THE **TOP!**

WELL, WHAT ABOUT MY **BROTHER?** HE GRADUATED AT THE **TOP** OF HIS CLASS FROM **BUSINESS SCHOOL!**

CONSIDERING HOW **TOUGH** THE JOB MARKET'S BEEN, HE'D **JUMP** AT A CHANCE LIKE **THAT**... EVEN IF IT MEANT A LITTLE **CORPORATE ESPIONAGE** WAS INVOLVED!

NAW! THE ONLY **ENTRY-LEVEL** JOBS THEY HAVE OVER THERE THESE DAYS ARE FOR **SECRETARIES!**

BESIDES, I **ALREADY** GOT HIM THAT JOB AT **SUPER CHICKEN!**

NOT TO MENTION THE **RENT BREAK** I'M GIVING HIM ON THAT **APARTMENT** HE'S BEEN LIVING IN SINCE GRADUATION!

BUT **HEY!** HOW 'BOUT **YOU** CHANGING JOBS AND GOING **UNDERCOVER** FOR ME? WITH THAT **SEXY** CHEERLEADER BOD OF YOURS, **YOU'D** GET HIRED IN **NO TIME!**

HARDLY, BABE! YOU **KNOW** I'D DO **ANYTHING** TO HELP, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD THE **PAY CUT** I'D BE TAKING GOING FROM A REGISTERED **NURSE** TO A **SECRETARY!**

YEAH, BUT IF **I** GET **PROMOTED, YOU** WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK YOUR **CRAPPY** JOB THAT MAKES YOU WEAR SUCH **DUMPY** CLOTHES!

HOW 'BOUT GIVING ME A **TASTE** OF WHAT'S **UNDER** THERE BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT! HMMM, BABE?

WELL... I'LL BE **LATE**, BUT YOU **KNOW** I CAN **NEVER** SAY NO TO **YOU**, SWEETIE!


GIGGLE!

KNOCK KNOCK!!

SHIT!

IGNORE 'EM! THEY'LL GO AWAY!

KNOCK KNOCK!!

GIGGLE!

DAYNA? IT'S ME! YOU IN THERE?

DON'T YOU DARE...!

HE'S MY BROTHER, PAUL! I CAN'T PRETEND WE'RE NOT HERE!

COMING, DARYL!

CRAP!!

HEY, BRO! LONG TIME NO SEE! WHAT'S UP?

SORRY TO DROP IN LIKE THIS, DAYNA, BUT I JUST GOT OFF WORK AND WAS WONDERING IF I COULD USE YOUR SHOWER TO GET THIS LAYER OF GREASE OFF MY BODY!

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT I'M PRETTY DAMN SURE THAT YOUR APARTMENT HAS A SHOWER! WHY CAN'T YOU USE THAT?

WELL, THE HOT WATER'S BEEN OUT FOR ABOUT A WEEK NOW DESPITE ALL MY CALLS TO THE BUILDING'S MANAGEMENT AGENT!

AND **CORRECT** ME IF I'M **WRONG**, BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE **YOU**, PAUL? THE **NEVER-ACCESSIBLE** BUILDING MANAGER WHO'S BEEN **IGNORING** THE PLUMBING, VENTILATION AND RODENT PROBLEMS IN THAT **BROKEN-DOWN APARTMENT** YOU RENTED ME!

BUT **HEY**, THERE ARE SOME **DEFINITE PLUSES** TO LIVING IN A **RAT-TRAP** THAT ONLY GETS **ONE TV CHANNEL**... THE ONE THAT AIRS ALL THE LOCAL **NHL GAMES**... IN **SPANISH!**

BESIDES BECOMING QUITE A **FAN** OF THE GAME, I'M **ALSO** LEARNING A **SECOND LANGUAGE** IN MY SPARE TIME!

Super Chicken

AND YOU'RE LIVING IN IT FOR **PRACTICALLY NOTHING!** SO **STOP YOUR WHINING!**

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THAT **WEEKS** AGO!

HEY, I CALLED IT IN! IT'S NOT **MY** DAMN FAULT IF *THEY* CAN'T FIND THE TIME TO GET OVER THERE!

IF YOU DON'T ***LIKE*** THE RATS, ***WHY*** DON'T YOU JUST GET YOURSELF A ***CAT!***

I ***DID!*** BUT EITHER HE ***RAN AWAY*** OR THE RATS ***ATE*** HIM!

I DON'T **NEED** THIS **SHIT** AFTER THE DAY **I'VE** HAD! I'M GONNA GO CHANGE!

I'M **SURE** PAUL'S DONE **EVERYTHING** HE CAN TO GET THOSE PROBLEMS **FIXED** FOR YOU, DARYL!

YOU **KNOW** HOW **BUSY** HE GETS, AND DEALING WITH SUBCONTRACTORS IS **NEVER** EASY!

WOW! IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH YOU STILL STICK UP FOR THAT GUY! I MEAN, I PUT UP WITH HIM BECAUSE HE GOT ME MY CRAPPY JOB AND IS LETTING ME LIVE PRACTICALLY RENT FREE IN THAT CRAPPY APARTMENT!

BUT, YOU HAVE A CAREER AND ENOUGH MONEY OF YOUR OWN THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO DEPEND ON HIM FOR ANYTHING!

I THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO DOESN'T SEE PAUL FOR THE JERK HE REALLY IS!

Super Chicken

Daryl

HE'S **NOT** A **JERK!** HE'S **JUST** IN A **TOUGH** BUSINESS THAT TAKES A **LOT** OUT OF HIM!

REALLY? DOES HE **STILL** TREAT YOU LIKE **CRAP?** MAKING **YOU** PICK UP AFTER HIM, RUNNING **ERRANDS** FOR HIM, SPENDING **ALL** YOUR TIME ON **HIM?**

IT'S NOT **LIKE** THAT!

OH *YEAH?* WHEN WAS THE **LAST** TIME **YOU** WENT OUT WITH **YOUR** FRIENDS, HMMM? DO YOU STILL SEE **ANY** OF THEM?

Super Chicken

Daryl

WELL... MY **JOB** KEEPS ME **BUSY**, AND HE NEVER **REALLY** LIKED **MY** FRIENDS ANYWAY, SO...!

I KNEW IT!

Super Chicken

Hi! I'm... Daryl


Super
Chicken
Daryl


SIGH! I GUESS THIS IS WHY WE DON'T SPEND THAT MUCH TIME TOGETHER! ALL THE ARGUING!
YEAH! SORRY ABOUT GOING OFF LIKE THAT!
Daryl


Super
Chicken
Daryl
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STILL HAS ALL THAT MONEY OUR FOLKS LEFT US! I USED MINE FOR NURSING SCHOOL!
WHY DON'T YOU USE SOME OF IT TO AT LEAST GET YOURSELF A NICER PLACE TO LIVE!

I'M SAVING IT ALL FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL!

LIKE WHAT?

Super Chicken

Hi I'm... Daryl

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE... BUT WHEN I FIND IT, I'LL KNOW IT!

BESIDES, I'M GETTING BY AS IS... AS LONG AS THE RATS DON'T MIND HAVING ME AS A ROOMMATE!

FUNNY GUY! WELL, YOU ***KNOW*** WHERE THE ***SHOWER*** IS! AND ***PLEASE*** FEEL FREE TO RUN THOSE CLOTHES THROUGH THE LAUNDRY! THEY SMELL ***RANK!***

I HAVE TO HEAD OFF TO WORK! DON'T BE A STRANGER, ***OKAY,*** BRO?

WILL DO! AND... ***THANKS,*** DAYNA!

A few minutes later...

DAYNA?! YOU STILL HERE?

OH GREAT! JUST FUCKIN' GREAT! SHE TAKES OFF AND LEAVES HER GEEK BROTHER BEHIND IN MY SHOWER! JUST HOW I WANTED TO SPEND MY EVENING!

SHIT! THOSE BEERS AT ROCKY'S ARE FINALLY CATCHING UP TO ME! I SHOULD'VE TAKEN A PISS BEFORE THAT LITTLE DWEEB GOT INTO THE SHOWER!

NOT SURE IF I CAN WAIT UNTIL THE LITTLE DIPSHIT IS DONE!


WHAT THE HELL... IF I'M QUIET ENOUGH, HE'LL NEVER KNOW I'M THERE!
UNTIL I FLUSH, THAT IS! HEH-HEH!!

MAN, HOW THE **HELL** AM I GONNA GET A **SPY** INTO **RENCORP?** ALL THE CHICKS **I** KNOW ARE TOO **STUCK UP** AND **FULL OF THEMSELVES** TO DO **ME** ANY FAVORS!

C'MON, PAUL... **THINK!**

AHHHHHH! THAT'S THE TICKET!

NOW, LET'S SEE HOW **LOUD** THE LITTLE SHIT **SCREAMS** WHEN I FLUSH THE...!

WHOA!


HMMMMMM!
LOOKS LIKE THE
LITTLE SHIT MIGHT
BE GOOD FOR
SOMETHING
AFTER ALL!

A short time after that...

AHHHHH! IT FEELS GREAT TO GET THAT LAYER OF SLUDGE OFF MY BODY!


OH... PAUL! I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE! DON'T WORRY... I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR HAIR AS SOON AS MY CLOTHES DRY!
HEY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DARYL! WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN AND HAVE A BEER BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF?
REALLY? WELL... OKAY!

I... I APPRECIATE THAT, PAUL! THANKS!

LOOK, PAL, I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT THE APARTMENT, BUT YOU KNOW HOW BUSY I AM! I PROMISE I'LL CALL THAT PLUMBER FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND GET HIS LAZY ASS OVER THERE!

SO... HOW'S THE JOB GOING? IS STEVE TREATING YOU OKAY OVER THERE AT SUPER CHICKEN?

WELL... AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING ***UNGRATEFUL***... IT'S THE ***WORST*** JOB I'VE ***EVER*** HAD! THE OTHER EMPLOYEES ARE ***WORTHLESS*** AND, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOUR FRIEND, ***STEVE,*** TREATS ***ME*** LIKE ***SHIT!***

IF I ***DIDN'T*** NEED THE ***MONEY,*** AND I COULD FIND SOMETHING ***ELSE***, I'D BE ***OUT OF THERE*** IN A ***FLASH!***

YEAH, I GUESS I **FORGOT** THAT STEVE CAN BE A REAL **DICK** SOMETIMES!

BUT, YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE **REALLY** SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING **OUT OF THERE** AND GETTING A **NEW JOB,** I **THINK** I HAVE AN **IDEA!**

YOU DO? TELL ME, PLEASE! I'LL DO PRETTY MUCH **ANYTHING** TO GET **OUT** OF THAT PLACE!


THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR! 'CAUSE YOU MIGHT NEED TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND WITH WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SUGGEST...!

A few minutes later...

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! THAT'S FUCKING INSANE!

EVEN IN SOME BIZARRE **ALTERNATE UNIVERSE** WHERE I **MIGHT** AGREE TO SOMETHING THAT **LUDICROUS,** THERE'S **NO WAY** I COULD PULL IT OFF! **NO WAY IN HELL!!**

OKAY, **OKAY!** DON'T GET SO **WORKED UP!** I WAS **JUST** TRYING TO DO **YOU** A **FAVOR!**


NO, IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE ME DOING YOU A FAVOR... AT MY EXPENSE!
I'M GONNA GO CHANGE AND THEN I'M OUT OF HERE!
SUIT YOURSELF!


WELL... SHIT!
NOW WHAT?

The next day, after another typically awful day at Super Chicken...


JESUS! I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HAD A MORE ROTTEN DAY THAN TODAY!
IT WAS THE PERFECT STORM OF JOB SHITINESS!
Super Chicken
Daryl

FIRST, WE RUN OUT OF BOTH COLE SLAW AND BAKED BEANS BECAUSE STEVE, I MEAN... MR. CREIGHTON... SCREWED UP THE ORDER!

WHICH THEN RESULTS IN EVERY CUSTOMER TAKING IT OUT ON ME WHEN THEY CAN'T GET THEIR PRECIOUS, ARTERY-CLOGGING SIDES!

BUT I THINK THE KICKER **HAD** TO BE THE **VAT** OF **OLD GREASE** THOSE TWO **IDIOTS** "ACCIDENTALLY" DUMPED **ALL OVER THE FLOOR!** A FLOOR **I** WIPED OUT ON BECAUSE THEY **REFUSED** TO CLEAN IT UP!


MAN, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER NEEDED A SHOWER MORE THAN I DO RIGHT NOW!

SIGH! I JUST **HOPE TO GOD** THAT PAUL WAS **TRUE** TO HIS **WORD** AND GOT THE HOT WATER **FIXED!**



YEEEOOOOOOWWWWWW!!!!
GOD DAMN IT!!

RING!!


$%#&%@$%
RING!!!

WHAT?!

OH, HI STE... I MEAN, MR. CREIGHTON! I SEE YOU GOT MY MESSAGE!

BUT... **TOMORROW'S** MY **DAY OFF!** IT'S THE **ONLY** DAY OFF I'VE HAD OFF IN **TWO WEEKS!** I THOUGHT IT WAS **KAYLA'S** TURN TO...!

A **CONCERT?!** YOU'RE REWARDING A GIRL WHO DOES ABSOLUTELY **NOTHING** BY LETTING HER GO TO A **CONCERT** AT THE EXPENSE OF **MY** ONE AND **ONLY** DAY OFF?!

NO, I **DON'T** HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED! **THAT'S** BECAUSE I **NEVER** HAVE TIME TO **PLAN** ANYTHING! I JUST WANTED TO **RELAX,** AND...!


YOU DON'T CARE?! WELL, GUESS WHAT... STEVE? I DON'T CARE EITHER!
IN FACT, YOU CAN TAKE THIS MISERABLE FUCKING JOB OF YOURS AND SHOVE IT UP YOUR ASS!!

ASSHOLE!!






OH SHIT!
WHAT THE HELL
HAVE I DONE?!



UMMM... *HI!* IT'S ME... *DARYL!* FIRST, I *SO* WANT TO *APOLOGIZE* FOR WHAT I SAID TO YOU!

AND...?


AND, UMMM...!

SIGH! TELL ME *MORE* ABOUT THIS *IDEA* OF YOURS!

by CBlack



Chapter 2

OPPORTUNITIES

The next morning...

YOU'RE KIDDING! DARYL ACTUALLY AGREED TO APPLY FOR A SECRETARY POSITION AT RENCORP? AS A WOMAN?!

HOW DID YOU TALK HIM INTO THAT?

I DIDN'T TALK HIM INTO ***ANYTHING!*** AFTER YOU LEFT THE OTHER NIGHT, I SAW HOW ***MISERABLE*** HE WAS AT HIS JOB AND ***HALF-JOKINGLY*** SUGGESTED THE SECRETARY POSITION! WHICH, AS I EXPECTED, HE ***FLATLY*** TURNED DOWN!

AND I CAME ***THIS*** CLOSE TO ***SMACKING*** THE LITTLE ***SHIT!*** WHERE'S ***HE*** GET OFF SAYING ***"NO"*** TO ***ME?***

HE WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED ME LAST NIGHT AND INSISTED WE GO AHEAD WITH THIS PLAN!

IT SURPRISED THE HELL OUT OF ME, BUT HE SOUNDED SO MISERABLE, I JUST WANT TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP THE POOR GUY!

AND THAT "POOR GUY" IS GONNA HELP ME JUMP TO THE TOP OF THE HEAP AT STEMCORP!


YOU'RE SUCH A SWEETHEART! I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON WHY I LOVED YOU SO MUCH!
ME TOO, BABE! YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR YOU... AND YOUR BROTHER!

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU **FIRST** MENTIONED ALL THIS, I WAS **SKEPTICAL**, TO SAY THE **LEAST!**

I MEAN, **MY** LITTLE BROTHER GOING **UNDERCOVER** AS A **CORPORATE MOLE... AND** AS A **WOMAN!**

IT SOUNDS LIKE A **BAD TV MOVIE!**

BUT IT **DOES** HELP **BOTH** THE MEN IN MY LIFE! AND SINCE **HE'S** ON BOARD WITH THIS, THEN **SO AM I!** WHAT CAN **I** DO TO **HELP?**

BOY, AM I **GLAD** YOU SAID THAT! 'CAUSE **I** DON'T KNOW THE **FIRST THING** ABOUT MAKING A **GUY** LOOK LIKE A **GIRL!**

GOT ANY **IDEAS?**

YOU'RE **KIDDING! RIGHT?** FOR **WEEKS** I'VE BEEN **TELLING** YOU ABOUT THE **NEW DOCTOR** I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH!

A DOCTOR WHO **SPECIALIZES** IN **TRANGENDERED** PATIENTS!

REALLY? SO HE'S GOT SOME SPECIAL **PILLS** OR **SHOTS** OR WHATEVER THAT CAN MAKE HIM ALL **GIRLY?**

WELL, WE **DO**, BUT... **I** WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF SPECIAL ***UNDERGARMENTS!*** I SHOULD HAVE **NO PROBLEM** GETTING **THOSE!**

BUT THE **NEW HORMONE TREATMENT** BEING DEVELOPED IS RESERVED **ONLY** FOR **PATIENTS** ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM!

IT WOULD BE NEXT TO **IMPOSSIBLE** TO GET HIM INTO THE PROGRAM ON SUCH **SHORT NOTICE**... AND **BESIDES,** IT'S FOR **TRANSGENDERED** PEOPLE **ONLY!**

HMMM... THE **UNDERWEAR** THINGS **SHOULD** BE OKAY FOR THE **SHORT TERM**, LIKE GETTING DARYL THROUGH THE **INTERVIEW**, BUT IF HE WANTS TO **KEEP** THE JOB... AND I **THINK** HE **WILL**... HE'S GOING TO NEED **SOMETHING** MORE **PERMANENT!**


AND CONSIDERING THIS IS FOR YOUR BROTHER... AND ME, I'M SURE YOU'LL DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN! RIGHT BABE?
WELL... LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO! BUT NO PROMISES, OKAY?


THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING FOR, BABE!

Later that day...

HI, DAYNA!

HEY THERE, LITTLE BROTHER!


THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I SHOULD START REFERRING TO YOU AS MY LITTLE SISTER INSTEAD, HUH?
OH GOOD! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED WHEN I'M FEELING ABOUT AS LOW AS I POSSIBLY CAN ABOUT MYSELF... MORE DIGS FROM MY LOVING SISTER! THANKS, SIS!

I'M **SORRY,** DARYL! I COULDN'T **HELP** IT! BUT **THAT** WAS THE **LAST** ONE... **I PROMISE!**

SIGH! I DON'T **BLAME** YOU! IT'S A PRETTY **RIDICULOUS** SITUATION I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO! HOW CAN YOU **NOT** MAKE FUN OF IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS ***THINKING*** WHEN I AGREED TO THIS! I MEAN, I KNOW I'M ***HARDLY*** THE MOST ***MASCULINE*** GUY AROUND, BUT PASSING MYSELF OFF AS A ***WOMAN? JESUS!***

THEY'RE GONNA ***LAUGH*** ME OUT OF THE BUILDING IF I ACTUALLY ***TRY*** AND ***APPLY*** FOR THIS JOB!

NOT IF I DO ***MY*** JOB RIGHT, THEY WON'T!


YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN PULL THIS OFF?
HEY, I'VE GOT A LIGHT SCHEDULE THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, SO BETWEEN THE THREE OF US, IT SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE!

THREE OF US?! PAUL'S NOT HERE, IS HE? THIS IS AWKWARD ENOUGH AS IT IS!

HE WON'T BE BACK UNTIL LATER! PAUL'S JOB IS TO PUT TOGETHER YOUR BACKGROUND AND RESUME AND SET UP AN INTERVIEW AT RENCORP!

AND **I'M** THE ONE IN CHARGE OF YOUR **PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION** FROM **DARYL** INTO **"SHERYL"**!

"SHERYL"?! **WHO** DECIDED ON **THAT** NAME?

PAUL AND I DID! WE FIGURED IT WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO YOUR **OWN** NAME THAT YOU'D HAVE AN **EASIER** TIME **ANSWERING** TO IT!


ASSUMING WE GET THAT FAR!
AH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH!


SO... FIRST STEP, OUT OF THOSE CLOTHES, SHOWER AND USE THAT DEPILATORY IN THERE TO GET ALL THAT NASTY HAIR OFF AND MAKE YOUR SKIN NICE AND SMOOTH!
THEN YOU CAN USE PAUL'S RAZOR TO GET THAT UGLY SCRUFF OFF YOUR FACE!
HEY, IT TOOK ME THREE YEARS TO PERFECT THIS "UGLY SCRUFF"!


SIDEBURNS TOO, MISTER!
SIGH! WHATEVER...!

A while later...

LOOKING GOOD, BRO! HOW'S IT FEEL?

WEIRD! WITH ALL THAT BODY HAIR GONE, I FEEL SO... NAKED!


WELL, GET USED TO IT, 'CAUSE FROM NOW ON YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THAT EVERY DAY!
EVERY DAY?! YOU'RE KIDDING!
HEY, IT'S THE PRICE OF BEING A WOMAN IN AMERICA, PAL! DEAL WITH IT!


NOW, LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE CURVES OF YOURS... OR SHOULD I SAY LACK OF CURVES!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA PUT ME IN ONE OF THOSE UBER-TIGHT CORSETS, ARE YOU?
IF WE WERE GOING FOR THE VA-VA-VA-VOOM LOOK, THEN YES! BUT FOR WHAT I HAVE IN MIND, A SIMPLE SHAPER AND SOME PADDED UNDERWEAR SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
THANK GOD!

BESIDES, WHAT WE'RE DOING **NOW** IS **SHORT-TERM,** JUST TO GET YOU THROUGH AN **INTERVIEW!**

WE'LL DEAL WITH A MORE **LONG-TERM** DISGUISE **AFTER** YOU GET HIRED!

AFTER I GET HIRED, HUH? **YOU'VE** GOT A **HELL** OF A LOT MORE **CONFIDENCE** IN THIS CRAZY PLAN THAN **I** DO!

I'VE GOT CONFIDENCE IN YOU! YOU'VE GOT A BRILLIANT MIND FOR BUSINESS AND ANY COMPANY WOULD SEE THAT IF THEY'D JUST GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO SHOW THEM! WE JUST NEED TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR!

AND IF THAT FOOT HAPPENS TO BE WEARING A PUMP, SO BE IT!


SO... EVERYTHING HERE SHOULD GIVE YOU THE CURVES WE'RE LOOKING FOR! I ALSO PICKED OUT A SIMPLE OUTFIT FOR YOU TO WEAR OVER THEM. I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE TO SLIP INTO THEM!
COME ON OUT WHEN YOU'RE READY AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHAT WE REALLY HAVE TO WORK WITH!
OKAY, BOSS!


OH, AND BY THE WAY, DON'T FORGET TO TUCK... EVERYTHING!
JUST WHAT I ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR FROM MY SISTER! THANKS!


OKAY, LET'S DEAL WITH THE EASY PART FIRST! I'D LIKE TO PUT OFF DEALING WITH THE BRA AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!



OOF! **JESUS!** WHY DID I THINK **THIS** WOULD BE **EASY?** THESE THINGS ARE **CRUSHING** MY **NUTS!**


LET'S SEE IF
THIS HELPS...!


AHHH! MUCH BETTER!

ALL RIGHT.. LET'S SEE JUST HOW "SIMPLE" THIS SHAPER REALLY IS!

OH YEAH... IT'S JUST "SIMPLY" ***CRUSHING*** A LOWER ***RIB*** OR TWO ALONG WITH A FEW ***INTERNAL ORGANS!*** ***NOTHING*** TO ***WORRY*** ABOUT THERE!

OKAY... TIME TO TACKLE *THIS* CONTRAPTION...!

SHIT! I ***BARELY*** HAVE ***ANY*** EXPERIENCE AT ***REMOVING*** THESE THINGS, MUCH ***LESS*** PUTTING ONE ***ON!***


CHRIST! THERE HAS GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY OF DOING THIS! OTHERWISE WOMEN WOULD NEVER GO NEAR THE GODDAMN THINGS!

HEY, BABE! WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER? I WANT TO SEE HOW HE TURNED OUT!

HE'S STILL BACK THERE GETTING INTO THE SHAPERS I BROUGHT HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL! HE SHOULD BE OUT ANY MINUTE!

BUT DON'T EXPECT ANY MIRACLES YET! WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED, YOU KNOW!

JUST **SHAPERS?** WE **TALKED** ABOUT THIS! I THOUGHT **YOU** WERE GOING TO GET HIM SOME **HORMONES** AND WHATEVER **OTHER** KIND OF **DRUGS** YOU COULD GET YOUR **HANDS** ON!

HONEY, THE **ONLY** WAY I COULD GET HIM **THOSE** THINGS IS BY **FALSIFYING RECORDS!** IF I GET **CAUGHT** DOING THAT, I'D **LOSE MY JOB**... AND **MIGHT** EVEN **GET ARRESTED!**

BUT **YOU** SAID YOU'D DO **ANYTHING** TO HELP **ME** OUT, BABE! I DON'T KNOW IF **PADDING** ALONE IS GONNA BE **ENOUGH!**

I GOT HIM AN **INTERVIEW** FOR **THIS FRIDAY!** THAT'S ONLY **THREE DAYS** FROM NOW! AND IF HE **CAN'T** PASS AS A **WOMAN,** THIS WHOLE THING'LL **BLOW UP** IN OUR FACES!

I... I **UNDERSTAND,** HONEY! AND I'M **SORRY!** BUT LET'S SEE WHAT I **CAN** DO WITH HIM **WITHOUT** RESORTING TO ANYTHING MORE... **PERMANENT!**

WELL... **ALL RIGHT!** BUT WHERE THE **HELL** IS HE? HOW LONG'S IT **TAKE** TO PUT ON A **PADDED BRA** AND **GIRDLE** ANYWAY?

DARYL! EVERYTHING **OKAY** IN THERE?

I'M COMING! JUST **HOLD YOUR HORSES! OKAY?**

ALL RIGHT... **WHAT'S** THE **VERDICT?** HOW **RIDICULOUS** DO I **REALLY** LOOK?

OH, HONEY, YOU... YOU LOOK **ADORABLE!**

OKAY, THE **WHISPERING** DOES **NOT** FILL ME WITH CONFIDENCE! DO I LOOK **THAT BAD?**

ADORABLE? HE'S *BUTT UGLY!* HE LOOKS LIKE A *BUTT UGLY CHICK!*

BUT AT LEAST HE **DOES** LOOK LIKE A *GIRL*, RIGHT? THAT'S *ALL* I WAS GOING FOR RIGHT NOW!

NONSENSE! BUT I DO THINK WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW ON FRIDAY!

FRIDAY?! BUT THAT... THAT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS OFF! BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE FOR A NORMAL INTERVIEW, MUCH LESS ONE WHERE I'M ALSO TRYING TO PASS MYSELF OFF AS A GIRL!

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I CAN PULL THAT OFF!

OF **COURSE** YOU CAN, BRO! YOU'RE **SMART** ENOUGH TO BREEZE THROUGH **ANY** INTERVIEW YOU **WANT!** I'M ***100% CONFIDENT*** OF THAT!

THE **GIRL** PART IS JUST **DECORATION!** YOU LET **ME** WORRY ABOUT ***THAT*** PART!

I DON'T KNOW...!

OH MY GOD! DO **I** HAVE TO DO ***EVERYTHING*** AROUND HERE?!

TELL YOU WHAT, DARYL! I'LL **SWEETEN** THE DEAL FOR YOU! IF **YOU** CAN PULL THIS OFF AND GET **HIRED** AT **RENCORP** AS "**SHERYL**" **PRUITT**, YOU CAN **KISS** YOUR **RENT PAYMENTS** GOODBYE! HOW'S **THAT** SOUND?

GRRRR! MORE **MONEY** OUT OF **MY** POCKET **JUST** TO CONVINCE THE LITTLE **DWEEB** TO DO THE **SMART** THING!

RENT FREE? SERIOUSLY?

YEAH, BUT A **LOT** OF THAT DEPENDS ON **THEIR** HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, **NOT ME!**

YOU BET! ONCE YOU GET HIRED, YOUR RENT DROPS TO **ZERO** FOR THE **WHOLE TIME** YOU'RE WORKING THERE!

TRUE, BUT...!

SO I'LL **TAKE** THAT DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING **STIPULATION...!**

WHICH IS...?

IF I **DON'T** GET HIRED, I **STILL** GET **THREE MONTHS** RENT FREE! I FIGURE **THATS** A **FAIR** PRICE FOR **EVERYTHING** I'M GOING THROUGH!

WHAT...?!

I THINK THAT'S *EXTREMELY FAIR!* DON'T *YOU* THINK SO, PAUL?

I... I *GUESS* SO!

BUT **YOU'VE** GOTTA BE A **HELL** OF A LOT **MORE** CONVINCING THAN **THIS** BY FRIDAY!

YOU DO **WHATEVER** YOUR SISTER **TELLS** YOU TO DO! **UNDERSTAND?**

OH, **I** UNDERSTAND ALL RIGHT! **THIS** MAY BE MY **ONLY** CHANCE TO WORK FOR A COMPANY LIKE **RENCORP,,** IN **ANY** CAPACITY, AND I'M **NOT** GONNA BLOW IT! **I'LL** DO **WHATEVER** I **HAVE** TO DO!

YOU HEAR THAT, BABE? HE'LL DO WHATEVER HE HAS TO DO! CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, HONEY! BUT NO DRUGS WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOW AND FRIDAY!

BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO AFTER HE GETS THE JOB! OKAY?


WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN! I'VE GOT A, UH... BUSINESS MEETING TO GET TO, SO YOU TWO WILL HAVE THE PLACE TO YOURSELVES!
GOOD!

'CAUSE WE **GIRLS** HAVE A **LOT** OF WORK TO DO!

SIGH!

Over the next couple of days, Daryl undergoes a crash course in Femininity 101...

How to move...

sit...

and walk like a lady...


YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF THIS, HONEY!
I'M IMPRESSED!


I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS! ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE...!


WHOA!!


OH, HONEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH... I'M OKAY!


WHAT SAY WE WORK UP TO THE HEELS LATER!
NO ARGUMENTS FROM ME!

The basics of makeup...

OKAY... LET ME PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON, AND...!

THERE! THINK YOU'RE READY TO GIVE IT A TRY?

WHY NOT? YOU'VE ALREADY SHOWN ME ABOUT A HALF DOZEN TIMES!

AND I *HAVE* ALWAYS BEEN *PRETTY GOOD* AT *ART!*


HECK, IT'S ALMOST PAINT BY NUMBERS! RIGHT?
Paradise Jungle Life


HOW'S THAT?
SIGH!


And, of course, how to speak with a more feminine lilt...
OKAY... ONE MORE TIME! YOU'VE GOT THE TONE DOWN, BUT REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT RHYTHM AND ENUNCIATION!
SIGH! OKAY... FINE! IF MY VOICE HOLDS OUT!


HI! I'M SHERYL PRUITT! IT'S SOO NICE TO MEET YOU!


BY GEORGE, I THINK SHE'S GOT IT!

And Friday arrives...

OKAY, HONEY... I'VE DONE PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING I CAN DO IN THE FEW DAYS WE'VE HAD!

THE REST I'LL LEAVE UP TO THE PROFESSIONALS!

THE PROFESSIONALS? WHAT PROFESSIONALS?

RIGHT HERE! MANICURE, PEDICURE, FACIAL, NEW DO AND MAKEUP!

"SHERYL'S" GOT AN APPOINTMENT TO GET THE WORKS!

SIGH! I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE ***EXPECTED*** THIS HAPPENING AT ***SOME*** POINT!

HEY, DON'T ***KNOCK*** IT! I DON'T THINK THERE'S ***ONE*** WOMAN OUT THERE WHO ***WOULDN'T*** PUT A DAY OF ***PAMPERING*** AT THE ***SALON*** IN THEIR ***TOP FIVE FAVORITE*** THINGS!

DO WE HAVE *TIME* FOR ALL THAT? MY *INTERVIEW'S* AT *TWO!*

PLENTY OF TIME! AFTER A FEW HOURS *HERE*, WE'LL GO BACK TO *MY PLACE* AND GET YOU *CHANGED* INTO THAT *NEW BUSINESS SUIT* WE BOUGHT YOU!

A FEW HOURS?!

HEY, YOU CAN'T RUSH ART... SIS!

WE HAVE APPOINTMENTS! DAYNA AND SHERYL PRUITT!

AH, YES! THE WORKS FOR THE PRUITT SISTERS! COME RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE!

YOU'RE GETTING THE WORKS TOO?

YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO SIT AROUND AND WATCH YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN? I DON'T THINK SO!

EMERGENCY
EXIT

HERE WE ARE, LADIES! HAVE A SEAT AND **MARCO** WILL BE **RIGHT** WITH YOU!


JUST RELAX, SIS... AND ENJOY THE RIDE!
TAKE IT EASY WITH THE SIS STUFF, OKAY!


ALL RIGHT, LADIES! LET'S GET THE MAGIC STARTED, SHALL WE?


And for the next few hours, the last visible traces of Daryl are buffed and polished...

scrubbed and exfoliated...


washed, rinsed and styled...

and painted away...

Until...

WOW, MARCO! I LOOK FABULOUS! PAUL'S GOING TO LOVE THIS!

OF *COURSE* HE WILL! WAS THERE EVER *ANY* DOUBT?

SHALL WE LOOK AT THE EQUALLY *FABULOUS* JOB I DID ON YOUR *SISTER?*

OH MY GOD, MARCO! YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE GENIUSES!

FEH! TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T ALREADY KNOW!

And finally, at one o'clock that afternoon, in the Human Resources department of RenCorp...

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN! WE'LL BE IN TOUCH!

THANK YOU!


NEXT...!

HAVE A SEAT, MISS...!

PRUITT!

University of Greenpoint

SHERYL PRUITT! AND IT'S SOOO NICE TO MEET YOU!

by CBlack



Chapter 3

OPPORTUNITIES

As the interview at RenCorp winds down...

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN, MISS PRUITT! WE'LL BE IN TOUCH!

AND THANK *YOU* FOR SEEING ME, MS. JACKSON! I *SINCERELY* APPRECIATE IT!


HUH?!
OOF!


YOU OKAY, YOUNG LADY? I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!


I'M... I'M SO SORRY! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

NONSENSE, I...! HMMM... THAT'S A VERY INTERESTING CHOKER YOU HAVE THERE!

UMMM... THANK YOU! MY UMMM... SISTER LENT IT TO ME FOR THE INTERVIEW... FOR GOOD LUCK!

WELL, I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T REALLY NEED IT, AND...!


I'M SO SORRY, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GO!


AND... SHE'S GONE! HMMM!

SAY, RHONDA... THE *YOUNG LADY* WHO *JUST* LEFT HERE... WHO *IS* SHE?

A *CANDIDATE* FOR ONE OF THE SEVERAL *EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT* POSITIONS... INCLUDING *YOURS*, MR. GENTRY!

HER NAME IS *SHERYL PRUITT!*

HOW'D SHE DO?

HOW SO?

WELL, SHE'S VERY ***INTELLIGENT*** AND ***OBVIOUSLY*** KNOWS HER WAY AROUND THE ***BUSINESS WORLD***, BUT HER ***INTERVIEWING SKILLS*** LEAVE A ***LOT*** TO BE DESIRED!

SHE WAS VERY ***JITTERY*** AND ***TIMID*** AND HAD A ***HARD*** TIME MAKING DIRECT ***EYE-CONTACT*** WITH ME!

AND THERE WAS JUST ***SOMETHING*** ABOUT HER THAT WAS... ***I*** DON'T KNOW...***QUIRKY!***

I'LL KNOW **MORE** AFTER I CHECK **HER** AND ALL THE **OTHER** APPLICANTS' **REFERENCES** OVER THE WEEKEND!

IT'S NOT **AT ALL** HOW I **WANT** TO SPEND MY **WEEKEND,** BUT EVERYONE WANTS **RESULTS** BY **MONDAY!**

zn-sunny

THEN LET ME **LIGHTEN** YOUR **LOAD** A LITTLE BY SAYING **SHE'S** THE ONE **I** WANT AS MY **ASSISTANT!**

WELL, I **APPRECIATE** THAT, GAVIN, BUT WE'RE **REQUIRED** TO **CHECK** ALL THEIR **REFERENCES** ANYWAY, AND...!

WHICH **I'LL** TAKE CARE OF! **I PROMISE!**

ABSOLUTELY! INTELLIGENT AND QUIRKY IS JUST WHAT I WANT IN AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT!

YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT HER?

OKAY THEN! THAT DOES MAKE MY JOB A LITTLE EASIER!

THANKS, GAVIN!

NO... THANK YOU, RHONDA!

Later, back at Paul and Dayna's apartment...

SO, HOW DID IT GO? DID YOU GET THE JOB? TELL ME EVERYTHING!

TRUTHFULLY, I DON'T THINK IT **WENT** VERY WELL! I WAS JUST SO DAMN **NERVOUS** ABOUT ALL **THIS** THAT I THINK I CAME ACROSS AS LITTLE MORE THAN A **DITZY GIRL** RIGHT OUT OF **SECRETARIAL SCHOOL!**

OH, I'M **SURE** IT WASN'T **THAT** BAD!

YOU DIDN'T SEE THE **LOOK** ON THE INTERVIEWER'S **FACE** DURING MY INTERVIEW! SHE WAS **HARDLY** IMPRESSED!

SIGH! **THIS** WAS A **BAD IDEA** FROM THE **START! WHO** WAS I **KIDDING,** THINKING **I** COULD PASS AS A **GIRL AND** GET A JOB AT A **FORTUNE 500** COMPANY LIKE **RENCORP?**

I **MAY** HAVE FOOLED THE **INTERVIEWER,** BUT I RAN INTO A **GUY** THERE WHO I'M **SURE** SAW **RIGHT THROUGH** MY DISGUISE!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

THE **WAY** HE WAS **LOOKING** AT ME! AND THE WAY HE MADE SUCH A **FUSS** OVER MY **CHOKER!**

I **TOLD** YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T **NEED** THAT THING! YOU'VE **ALWAYS** HAD A VERY **SMALL** ADAM'S APPLE!

IT DOESN'T **MATTER** ANYMORE **ANYWAY!** I WENT THROUGH **ALL THIS** FOR **NOTHING!**

AND **NOW** I HAVE **NO JOB** AT **ALL!**

WELL, IF IT'S ANY **CONSOLATION,** I'VE FELT **CLOSER** TO YOU THESE LAST FEW DAYS THAN I HAVE SINCE WE WERE KIDS! SINCE WE LEFT HOME, WE'VE **BOTH** BEEN VERY **SELF-SUFFICIENT** AND LIVED OUR LIVES **INDEPENDENTLY** OF ONE ANOTHER... UNTIL **NOW,** THAT IS!

YEAH, I'VE KIND OF **MONOPOLIZED** YOUR LIFE THESE LAST FEW DAYS! **SORRY** ABOUT THAT!

ON THE **CONTRARY!** HELPING **YOU** TO BECOME **SHERYL** HAS BEEN A **BLAST!** AND THE FACT THAT IT **ALSO** HELPS **YOU** GET A NEW **JOB** IS ALL THE **MORE** REWARDING FOR **ME!**

WELL, TO BE TRUTHFUL, **DESPITE** MY **WHINING**, I'VE ACTUALLY **ENJOYED** HANGING OUT WITH **YOU** ALSO! I JUST WISH **YOU** WERE GETTING **MORE** OUT OF IT THAN JUST **GOOD FEELINGS!**

BUT I **AM** GETTING MORE OUT OF IT! IF **YOU** GET THE JOB, **THAT** HELPS **PAUL** OUT! AND **ANYTHING** THAT HELPS **PAUL** IS **INDIRECTLY** GOOD FOR **ME!**


BUT I THINK MY CHANCES OF GETTING THIS JOB ARE PRETTY MUCH NON-EXISTENT! IT'S SUCH A SHAME! THE PAY WAS A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN I'VE EVER MADE, AND THE BENEFITS I'D HAVE GOTTEN... WOW!


I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO! 'CAUSE THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I CAN GO CRAWLING BACK TO SUPER CHICKEN!
Ring!


HELLO?
YES, THIS IS SHERYL PRUITT!


YOU'RE KIDDING?! REALLY?!
THANK YOU, MS. JACKSON! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME!
YES! I'LL BE THERE BRIGHT AND EARLY ON MONDAY! THANK YOU AGAIN!


YOU GOT THE JOB?!
I GOT THE JOB!!


YAY!!

OH MY GOD! I GOT THE JOB!

YES! YOU GOT THE JOB!

NO... SHERYL GOT THE JOB! SHE HAS TO SHOW UP ON MONDAY!

I HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY DAY NOW, AND I... I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN!

OF COURSE YOU CAN! LOOK AT WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS! WITH JUST A FEW MORE DAYS OF PRACTICE, WE'LL HAVE YOUR "SHERYL" DOWN PERFECTLY!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!

OF COURSE I AM! IT'LL ALSO GIVE US THE CHANCE TO DO SOME MAJOR SHOPPING OVER THE WEEKEND! I CAN'T WAIT!

THAT MAKES ONE OF US!

UM, THERE'S SOMETHING **ELSE** I THINK WE **NEED** TO CONSIDER!

I **TOLD** YOU HOW I'M WORKING IN THIS NEW CLINIC FOR **TRANSGENDER PATIENTS,** AND, WELL... WHAT IF **WE** STARTED **YOU** ON SOME **FEMALE HORMONES?**

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU **REALLY** THINK IT'S **NECESSARY?** I MEAN, WON'T THAT STUFF **MESS ME UP?**

NOT ONCE YOU STOP TAKING THEM! BUT SINCE WE NEED YOU TO PASS AS A WOMAN FULL-TIME, I REALLY THINK HORMONES CAN HELP IRON OUT THOSE ROUGH PATCHES!

DEFINE "ROUGH PATCHES"!

AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SHAVING YOUR WHOLE BODY EVERY DAY!

HELL, **THAT** IN **ITSELF** IS **WORTH** THE **RISK!** OKAY... **IN** FOR A **PENNY,** IN FOR A **POUND,** I GUESS!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT! I'LL GET SOME **TONIGHT** AT WORK SO **YOU** CAN START **TAKING** THEM OVER THE **WEEKEND!**


IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T YOU GO ON HOME AND GET SOME REST? YOU'VE HAD A HECK OF A DAY AND IT'S GOING TO GET A LITTLE CRAZY THIS WEEKEND!
YEAH, GIVEN THE CHANCE, I THINK I COULD SLEEP FOR A WEEK!
HEY BABE, I...


WHOA! IS THAT YOU, DARYL? HEY, YOU DON'T LOOK HALF BAD!
THANKS... I THINK!

SO?! TELL ME ALREADY! DID YOU GET THE JOB?

YES, HE GOT THE JOB! I'LL FILL YOU IN ON ALL THE DETAILS 'CAUSE I WAS JUST SENDING "SHERYL" HERE HOME TO GET SOME MUCH-DESERVED REST!


HEY, WELL THAT'S GREAT! GOOD JOB, YOU TWO!
YEAH, THANKS PAUL! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, DAYNA! AND THANKS AGAIN!


SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NOT BAD, BUT I WAS HOPING FOR BETTER!


WHAT?!
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I THINK YOU DID A HELL OF A JOB ON HIM, BUT... COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE MORE?
I MEAN, HE DEFINITELY PASSES AS A CHICK, BUT IN ORDER TO DO WHAT I NEED HIM TO DO AT RENCORP, "SHERYL'S" GOING TO HAVE TO BE A LOT MORE CONVINCING THAN WHAT I JUST SAW HERE!


OH, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DARYL!
WELL, YEAH... WHO ELSE WOULD I BE TALKING ABOUT?

RIGHT... **OF COURSE**! WELL, I'VE **ALREADY** TALKED TO HIM ABOUT **HORMONES** AND HE'S **ON BOARD** WITH IT! IF I CREATE A **FALSE ENTRY** IN THE CLINICAL TRIALS **DATA BASE** TONIGHT, I **SHOULD** BE ABLE TO GET DARYL THE **PILLS** HE NEEDS! HE CAN START TAKING THEM **TOMORROW!**

JUST **PILLS,** HUH? DON'T THOSE TAKE A **REALLY** LONG TIME TO HAVE ANY **VISIBLE** EFFECTS?

WELL **YEAH!** THE TRIAL I'M WORKING ON **DOES** HAVE SOME DRUGS THAT WORK **FASTER,** BUT THEY'RE **REALLY POWERFUL!** AND **TOTALLY EXPERIMENTAL!** SOME OF OUR PATIENTS HAVE HAD REALLY **NASTY SIDE-EFFECTS!** I **DON'T** WANT TO PUT DARYL THROUGH **ANYTHING** LIKE **THAT!**

BUT, BABE, YOU **KNOW** HOW **IMPORTANT** THIS IS TO ME! WE **NEED** TO GET DARYL TO DO **WHATEVER** IT TAKES TO MAKE THIS PLAN WORK... **EVEN** IF IT MEANS A LITTLE EXTRA **DISCOMFORT** ON HIS PART!

IF **WE** CAN PULL THIS OFF, IT'S GOING TO BE **GREAT** FOR **ALL OF US!** CAN'T YOU **SEE** THAT? **DARYL** WILL GET HIS **FOOT** IN THE DOOR OF THE **CORPORATE WORLD,** AND **WE'LL** HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO **FINALLY** THINK ABOUT STUFF LIKE... WELL... **MARRIAGE!**

MARRIAGE?! YOU **MEAN** IT?

OF **COURSE** I DO! THAT'S WHY YOU **HAVE** TO GET DARYL THE **GOOD STUFF, OKAY?** I'M **SURE** THAT ONCE HE GETS A TASTE FOR THE **ADVANTAGES** AND **PERKS** OF HIS NEW JOB, HE'LL BE **TOTALLY GRATEFUL!**

WELL... **OKAY,** HONEY! IF **YOU** THINK THAT'S THE **BEST** WAY TO GO, **I'LL DO IT!**

GOOD GIRL!

AND DON'T WORRY, BABE! THAT LITTLE **SHIT** OF A BROTHER OF YOURS **WILL** BE TAKING THOSE **DRUGS**, WHETHER HE **WANTS TO** OR **NOT!**

The next day, at Daryl's apartment...

I CAN'T **BELIEVE** YOU SPENT **SO MUCH** ON ME, DAYNA! AND **TRUST ME**, ONCE I GET MY FIRST **PAYCHECK**, I'LL START PAYING YOU BACK! YOU'LL GET **EVERY PENNY!**

DON'T **WORRY** ABOUT IT, HONEY! ITS THE **LEAST** PAUL AND I CAN DO CONSIDERING EVERYTHING **YOU'RE** DOING FOR **US!**

WELL... **MAYBE!** BUT I **STILL** WANT TO DO **SOMETHING** IN RETURN, IF I **CAN!**

NOW THAT YOU **MENTION** IT, PAUL AND I **DISCUSSED** THIS, AND WE THINK THERE **IS** A LITTLE SOMETHING **ELSE** YOU COULD BE DOING TO MAKE THIS PLAN **COME TOGETHER!**

WHAT ELSE? **NAME IT!**

WELL, LIKE I **TOLD** YOU, IVE GOTTEN A SUPPLY OF **FEMALE HORMONE** PILLS FOR YOU TO TAKE EVERY DAY!

BUT I **ALREADY** AGREED TO TAKING THOSE! **NO PROBLEM!**

I KNOW, BUT... IT **MAY** TAKE **WEEKS** BEFORE THEY START HAVING ANY **OBSERVABLE** EFFECT ON YOU!

WEEKS?! YOU MEAN I **STILL** HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT **BODY SHAVING** EVERY DAY **FOR THAT LONG?** JESUS!

IF LEFT TO THE PILLS ALONE... **YEAH!** BUT THERE **IS** A WAY WE CAN **SPEED THEM UP!**

THERE *IS?* *HOW?*

THE HOSPITAL IS TESTING A ***NEW DRUG*** THAT ACTS AS A ***CATALYST*** FOR THE HORMONES! ESSENTIALLY, IT ***SPEEDS UP*** THEIR ***EFFECT*** ON THE USER!

TO DATE, ITS BEEN ***VERY EFFECTIVE*** IN ***ALL*** OF ITS TRIALS!

SOUNDS ***GREAT!*** DID YOU GET ME ***THAT*** PILL, TOO?

UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S **NOT** A PILL, DARYL... IT'S AN ***INJECTION!***

AN ***INJECTION?*** YOU MEAN, I'D HAVE TO GIVE MYSELF A ***SHOT EVERY DAY*** AS WELL?!

NO, NO, NO! THE ***PILLS*** ARE EVERY DAY, BUT THE ***SHOT*** IS JUST TO BE TAKEN ***ONCE A WEEK!***

IN FACT, IT'S **ACTUALLY** A RATHER **SMALL** INJECTION! IT'S ADMINISTERED THROUGH THIS SMALL **EPI-PEN** INTO YOUR **HIP**, SO YOU **HARDLY** FEEL A **THING!** JUST A **SMALL PINCH!**

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THE DENTIST **ALWAYS** SAYS RIGHT BEFORE HE **SHOVES** THOSE **HOT POKERS OF DEATH** INTO MY **GUMS!**

IT'S NOWHERE **NEAR** THAT BAD! **TRUST ME!**

TELL YOU WHAT, AFTER WE PUT ALL THESE THINGS AWAY, I'LL **STICK AROUND** AND HELP YOU WITH THE **FIRST SHOT!** YOU'LL SEE IT'S **NO BIG DEAL** AND HOW **EASY** IT'LL BE TO DO IT BY **YOURSELF!**

BUT I **RECOMMEND** TAKING IT IN THE **EVENING** AND ON THE **WEEKENDS** SINCE IT'S BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE **EXTREME DROWSINESS** FOR A FEW HOURS AFTER INJECTION!

GEE, THERE GO MY WEEKEND PLANS OF OPERATING **HEAVY MACHINERY!**

NOW, I'M **NOT** GOING TO BE ABLE TO COME OVER **MONDAY MORNING** AND **HELP** YOU GET READY FOR YOUR **FIRST DAY** BECAUSE **I** HAVE TO WORK, TOO!

SO WE'LL SPEND THE DAY **TOMORROW** AT **MY** PLACE WORKING ON YOUR **MAKEUP SKILLS** AND ANYTHING **ELSE** I CAN THINK OF! **OKAY?**

YOUR PLACE? **WHY** CAN'T WE JUST DO IT **HERE**... WITHOUT **PAUL** HANGING AROUND?

NO OFFENSE, BRO! BUT THIS PLACE OF YOURS IS A DUMP! THE LESS TIME I SPEND HERE, THE BETTER!

NOW YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL! TALK TO YOUR BOYFRIEND ABOUT THAT, OKAY!

SIGH! ONE MORE DAY OF **GIRL SCHOOL** AT YOUR PLACE, AND THEN... ***I'M ON MY OWN!***

YIKES!

Come bright and early Monday morning...

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN ***EARLY*** TODAY, MISS PRUITT! IT'S ALWAYS MUCH ***EASIER*** TO GIVE TOURS TO THE NEW HIRES ***BEFORE*** THE BUILDING STARTS FILLING UP!

IT'S ***NO PROBLEM*** AT ***ALL***, MS. JACKSON! AND THANK YOU ***AGAIN*** FOR GIVING ME THIS ***OPPORTUNITY!*** I ***WON'T*** LET YOU DOWN!


ACTUALLY, IT'S MR. GENTRY YOU'LL NEED TO THANK! HE'S THE ONE WHO INSISTED THAT I HIRE YOU TO BE HIS ASSISTANT!
REALLY? I DON'T THINK I KNOW A MR. GENTRY! ARE YOU SURE HE ASKED FOR ME SPECIFICALLY?

ABSOLUTELY! GAVIN GENTRY IS THE GENTLEMAN YOU RAN INTO JUST OUTSIDE MY OFFICE ON FRIDAY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU TWO TALKED ABOUT, BUT YOU DEFINITELY MADE AN IMPRESSION ON HIM!

THAT WAS MR. GENTRY? AND THAT'S WHO I'M GOING TO BE WORKING FOR?

THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED RIGHT NOW! SO YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO THANK HIM YOURSELF BEFORE HE PUTS YOU TO WORK!

OH MY GOD! **THAT'S** THE GUY WHO MADE SUCH A **BIG DEAL** ABOUT MY **CHOKER!**

I COULD'VE **SWORN** HE HAD ME **FIGURED OUT,** BUT I GUESS HE **DIDN'T!** I MEAN, I CAN'T **IMAGINE** HE'D HAVE **HIRED** ME IF HE KNEW THE **TRUTH!**


I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING I OPTED FOR THE TURTLE-NECK INSTEAD OF THE CHOKER TODAY!
I DON'T CARE WHAT DAYNA SAYS, I'M STILL PARANOID ABOUT MY ADAM'S APPLE, SO THE LESS HE FIXATES ON MY NECK, THE BETTER!

AND **HERE** WE ARE!

MR. GENTRY, I BELIEVE YOU **ALREADY** SOMEWHAT KNOW YOUR **NEW** ASSISTANT, **SHERYL PRUITT!**

THANK YOU, RHONDA! **I'LL** TAKE IT FROM HERE!

THANK YOU **SO MUCH** FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. GENTRY! I CAN'T TELL YOU **HOW MUCH** I APPRECIATE IT!

THE PLEASURE'S **ALL MINE,** SHERYL... OR DO YOU **PREFER** GOING BY **SHERRI?**

WHATEVER **YOU'D** LIKE TO CALL ME, MR. GENTRY! I'LL ANSWER TO BOTH **JUST** AS EASILY!

OKAY... **SHERRI!** AND **PLEASE...** CALL ME **GAVIN!** MISTER GENTRY IS **WAY** TOO **FORMAL** AND **AWKWARD!**

OKAY... **GAVIN!**

WELL, LET'S START WITH A LITTLE **TOUR** OF THE OFFICE HERE! I **HOPE** YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I **PREFER** TO HAVE MY ASSISTANT'S WORKSPACE IN THE **SAME ROOM** INSTEAD OF **OUT** ON THE HALLWAY! IF THAT **BOTHERS** YOU, **PLEASE** LET ME KNOW!

THE DESK IS **FINE** JUST WHERE IT IS, THANK YOU FOR **ASKING!**

IN **REALITY,** YOU'LL HAVE THIS ROOM TO **YOURSELF** MOST OF THE TIME SINCE **I'M** NOT HERE THAT MUCH! WHEN I'M NOT IN **MEETINGS,** I'M USUALLY OUT AND ABOUT THE BUILDING KEEPING **CURRENT** ON WHAT'S GOING ON!

I WANT US TO GET OFF ON THE **RIGHT FOOT**, SO LET ME **START** BY SAYING THAT I **KNOW** THIS IS ALL VERY **NEW** TO YOU AND IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE **DIFFICULT** FOR YOU TO **ADVOCATE** FOR YOURSELF!

SO IF THERE'S **ANYTHING** YOU NEED OR DON'T UNDERSTAND, **SPEAK UP!** I **DON'T** BITE!

THANK YOU, GAVIN! I... I **WILL!** IT MAY **TAKE** ME A LITTLE WHILE, ALL THIS BEING SO **OVERWHELMING** AND ALL, BUT I'LL GET **USED** TO IT... **I PROMISE!**

EXCELLENT! NOW, BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

OF COURSE!

AREN'T YOU UNCOMFORTABLE IN THAT TURTLE NECK? I MEAN, IT'S ALREADY 75 DEGREES OUTSIDE!

UMMM... WHEN I WAS **DRESSING** TODAY, I **REMEMBERED** HOW **COLD** IT WAS IN THE **HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE** DURING MY INTERVIEW! I THOUGHT WEARING **THIS** WOULD KEEP ME FROM **FREEZING** AGAIN **TODAY!**

HMMM! THEY **DO** KEEP IT AWFULLY DAMN **CHILLY** DOWN THERE! I THINK IT'S **MS. JACKSON'S** WAY OF KEEPING ANY PROSPECTIVE **HIRES** FROM GETTING **TOO COMFORTABLE** DURING AN INTERVIEW!

FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, **LARGE** OFFICES LIKE **THIS** HAVE THEIR **OWN** CLIMATE CONTROL SYSTEM! SO, IF YOU'RE EVER **TOO HOT** OR **TOO COLD**, **PLEASE** FEEL FREE TO ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT AS YOU **SO DESIRE!**

THANK YOU, GAVIN! I... I'LL **DO** THAT FROM NOW ON!


OKAY THEN... LET'S GET TO WORK, SHALL WE?

A few days later, in a small cafe near the RenCorp offices...


THANKS FOR MEETING ME, DAYNA! I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE RIGHT NOW!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT! OUT OF ALL THE NURSES ON STAFF, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE DOCTORS PICKED ME TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK! ISN'T IT AMAZING?
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER! I'VE ONLY GOT AN HOUR, AND I'M DYING TO HEAR HOW MY BABY BRO IS DOING AT HIS NEW JOB! I WANT ALL THE JUICY DETAILS!
STOP

UMMM... I **KNOW** I **COMPLAINED** ABOUT IT A FEW DAYS AGO, BUT SINCE WE'RE WITHIN **EARSHOT** OF **RENCORP,** YOU'D BETTER GO BACK TO CALLING ME **"SIS"** OR **SHERYL! JUST** TO MAKE SURE!

OF COURSE! SORRY... ***SIS!*** I ***SHOULD*** KNOW BETTER, BUT SINCE I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY ***THIRD EIGHTEEN HOUR SHIFT*** IN A ROW, I'M NOT ***EXACTLY*** FIRING ON ***ALL CYLINDERS!***

SO... **HOW'S** IT GOING? I HAVEN'T HAD ANY **PANICKED** EMAILS OR TEXTS FROM YOU ALL WEEK, SO I CAN ONLY **ASSUME** THINGS ARE GOING **OKAY** SO FAR! **ARE THEY?**

IT'S GOING **SO** MUCH **BETTER** THAN I'D **HOPED!** MY NEW BOSS, **GAVIN GENTRY,** IS **AWESOME** TO WORK FOR!

HE **ACTUALLY** TREATS ME LIKE AN **ASSISTANT** RATHER THAN A **SECRETARY** OR **RECEPTIONIST!**

THAT'S **GREAT,** SIS!

Come Back

SO, ANY... **PROBLEMS** WE NEED TO WORK ON? **EVERYTHING** I GAVE YOU **WORKING OUT** OKAY?

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I **FINALLY** GOT OVER MY **PARANOIA** REGARDING MY **NECK!** I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE OF THE **MEDS**, BUT I STOPPED TRYING TO **COVER IT UP** AND **NO ONE'S** NOTICED, OR AT LEAST **SAID** ANYTHING!

IT **MAY** HAVE BEEN THE MEDS, BUT I DON'T KNOW! LIKE I SAID, YOUR LITTLE... **THING** WAS PRETTY **SMALL** TO BEGIN WITH!

ANYTHING **ELSE** YOU'VE NOTICED ABOUT YOURSELF THAT'S **DIFFERENT**... BESIDES YOUR **NECK**, THAT IS!

THE **BODY HAIR** THING HAS **DEFINITELY** SUBSIDED, BUT... I **THINK** SOMETHING **ELSE** IS GOING ON WITH MY **HAIR!**

WELL IT **DOES** LOOK A LITTLE **LIGHTER!** BUT I JUST ASSUMED **YOU** DID SOMETHING TO IT OR WENT BACK TO **MARCO** TO GET YOUR ROOTS **TOUCHED UP!**

THAT'S JUST IT! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO IT... OR HAD ANYONE ELSE DO ANYTHING TO IT EITHER!

IT HAS GOTTEN A LITTLE BIT LIGHTER OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS! ALL BY ITSELF! YOU THINK IT'S A SIDE EFFECT OF THE MEDS?

Come Back

TRUTHFULLY, I DON'T KNOW! BUT I'LL FIND OUT AND SEE IF ANYONE ELSE HAS REPORTED SOMETHING SIMILAR! REMEMBER, WE'RE STILL IN THE TESTING PHASE! HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY OTHER SIDE-EFFECTS?


NO, I DON'T THINK SO! BUT YOU REALLY DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT?
YOUR BODY'S GOING THROUGH SOME BIG CHANGES, BUT OVERALL, I'D SAY YOU'RE DOING GREAT! SO DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO MY NEW LITTLE SISTER!


SO... WHAT'S GOOD HERE?
Come to Pizzeria Italia!
For Genuine Italian Pizza
Try Our Delicious
Lunchtime Menu Specials


One week later...

HEY THERE! YOU'RE GAVIN'S NEW ASSISTANT, AREN'T YOU!

UMMM... YEAH! I'M, UH... SHERRI! SHERRI PRUITT!

NICE TO **MEET** YOU, SHERRI! I'M **MAGGIE COLLINS!** GEOFF ANDREWS' **GIRL FRIDAY!**

I'M ALSO THE UNOFFICIAL **WELCOME WAGON** FOR **NEW GIRLS** ON THIS FLOOR! **SORRY** I HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO YOU, BUT IT'S BEEN PRETTY DAMN **BUSY** AROUND HERE LATELY!

TELL ME ABOUT IT! GAVIN'S HAD ME SO **BUSY** THESE LAST TWO WEEKS, I'VE HARDLY HAD TIME TO **CATCH MY BREATH!**

I'M **NOT** COMPLAINING, THOUGH! I **LOVE** THE WORK AND HE'S A **GREAT BOSS!**


GLAD YOU'RE HAPPY HERE!
SPEAKING OF "HAPPY", IT'S TRADITION AROUND HERE FOR THE NEW HIRES TO BUY THE FIRST ROUND OF DRINKS AT ROCKY'S HAPPY HOUR!
WHAT DO YOU SAY? IT IS FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AFTER ALL!


HOW CAN I SAY NO TO A TRADITION LIKE THAT?
GREAT! I'LL COME FIND YOU AT FIVE AND WE'LL HEAD OVER TO ROCKY'S FROM HERE! IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, SO WALKING'S EASY!


OKAY, GREAT! I'LL SEE YOU THEN, MAGGIE!


WHEW!
WHAT A
BABE!


Later, at Rocky's...

MAN, I AM **SO** DAMN GLAD THIS WEEK IS **OVER!** THE **EXECS** ARE REALLY **BREATHING DOWN MY NECK** TO BRING IN **NEW** BUSINESS, BUT THOSE FUCKERS AT **RENCORP ALWAYS** SEEM TO HAVE THE **UPPER HAND!**

YOU GETTIN' THE **SAME** PRESSURE, PAUL?


PAUL?

MAN, YOU'VE BEEN **STARING** OVER AT **MAGGIE'S** TABLE SINCE WE GOT HERE! I THOUGHT SHE **SHOT YOU DOWN** FOR **GOOD!**

HUH...? OH, UH.... **YEAH!**

OR... ARE YOU *CHECKING OUT* THE NEW *TALENT* THAT'S WITH HER! *NOT BAD*, IF YOU ASK *ME!*

WHAT?! OH, *HELL NO!* I WAS JUST... JUST *THINKING* ABOUT SOMETHING! *THAT'S* ALL!

WELL, IF **YOU'RE** NOT GONNA GO OVER THERE, MAYBE **I'LL** INTRODUCE MYSELF BEFORE **MAGGIE** TELLS HER WHAT A **SCHMUCK YOU** ARE AND **I** GET **OSTRACIZED** BY **ASSOCIATION!**

DUDE... YOU **DO NOT** WANT TO DO THAT! **TRUST ME!**

AND **WHY NOT?** YOU **SURE** YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY **DIPPED YOUR WICK** IN **THAT?**

UGH! LET'S JUST SAY I KNOW SOME SHIT ABOUT HER THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN AND LEAVE IT AT THAT! OKAY?

SURE, PAUL! WHATEVER YOU SAY... I GUESS!


HOWEVER, THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM SAYING HELLO TO THIS LOVELY TABLE RIGHT OVER HERE!
HELLO, LADIES!


HMMM... INTERESTING!
WHAT?
WELL, MAYBE HE HASN'T SEEN YOU YET!
THERE'S A GUY UP THERE AT THE BAR WHO HITS ON ME EVERY TIME HE SEES ME! BUT TODAY... NOTHING!

OH, **HE'S SEEN ME!** IN FACT, HE'S BEEN **LOOKING** THIS WAY THE **WHOLE** TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE! IT'S A LITTLE **CREEPY!**

WHICH GUY IS IT?

THAT GUY AT THE **END** OF THE BAR... BLUE TIE, GREASY HAIR, **SMARMY** LOOK ON HIS FACE...!

HIS NAME'S PAUL DESALLE!

PAUL?!

YOU **KNOW** HIM? HE **USUALLY** HITS ON PRACTICALLY **EVERY GIRL** IN HERE! CONSIDERS HIMSELF **GOD'S GIFT** TO **WOMEN!**

UMMM... **NO!** I **DON'T** THINK I **KNOW** HIM, AFTER ALL!

WELL, CONSIDER YOURSELF **LUCKY,** THEN!

OR MAYBE I'M **STARTING** TO GET A **GOOD LOOK** AT WHO PAUL **REALLY** IS!


I'M GOING TO GO FRESHEN UP! ORDER US ANOTHER ROUND, OKAY, SHERRI?
SURE THING, MAGGIE!


WOW! THE HOTTEST WOMAN IN THE BAR, AND SHE'S HAVING DRINKS WITH ME, DARYL PRUITT! WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT?

OF COURSE, FROM **HER** POINT OF VIEW, **SHE'S** JUST HAVING DRINKS WITH CO-WORKER "**SHERYL**" **PRUITT!** BUT HELL... **I'LL** TAKE **WHATEVER** I CAN GET!

ENJOYING YOURSELF?!

SHIT, PAUL!! YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME! DON'T DO THAT!

GEE, I **REALLY** HOPE I'M NOT **INTERRUPTING** YOUR OH-SO-IMPORTANT **GIRL TIME** HERE, BUT I WAS JUST **WONDERING** IF YOU'D **FORGOTTEN** OUR **DEAL!**

YOU KNOW, THE **DEAL** WHERE **I** GET YOU A JOB AT A **FORTUNE 500** COMPANY AND **YOU** GET ME SOME **INSIDER INFO** I CAN USE!

I'VE HELD UP **MY END** OF THE BARGAIN! NOW... **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

YOU **NEVER** GAVE ME ANY KIND OF **TIMELINE** REGARDING **WHEN** YOU WANTED THIS **OH-SO-IMPORTANT** INFORMATION OF YOURS!

I'VE ONLY BEEN THERE **TWO WEEKS!** I'M **STILL** FINDING MY WAY AROUND THE PLACE AND MEETING PEOPLE, **MUCH LESS** GETTING EASY **ACCESS** TO **VITAL CORPORATE DOCUMENTS!**

YOU **HAVE** TO GIVE ME SOME **TIME,** FOR **CHRIST'S** SAKE!

AND... WHILE WE'RE **ALONE,** WHY DON'T WE HAVE A LITTLE **CHAT** ABOUT **YOU** AND **MAGGIE!**

WHAT **ABOUT** ME AND MAGGIE? I **HARDLY** KNOW HER! AND **EVEN** IF I **DID**, I DON'T OWE **YOU** ANY **EXPLANATION**...!

I **SHOULD** HAVE **KNOWN**!


HUH?! OH, UH... MAGGIE! I, UMM... WAS JUST...!
OH, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE DOING! IT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING!

WHAT'S **PATHETIC** ABOUT IT, THOUGH, IS THAT YOU HAVE TO **WAIT** UNTIL **I'M** OUT OF THE ROOM BEFORE YOU HAVE ENOUGH **GUTS** TO HIT ON MY **FRIEND** HERE! THAT'S **PRETTY DAMN SAD! EVEN** FOR **YOU,** PAUL!

YEAH, WELL, I UHHH... JUST THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT A **SHOT!**

LATER, LADIES!


THIS ISN'T OVER YET, DARYL! NOT BY A LONG SHOT!

YOU **OKAY,** SHERRI? THE **SLEAZE-MASTER** LOOKED PRETTY **INTENSE** WHEN I WALKED UP!

OH, I'M **FINE!** I COULD SEE **RIGHT THROUGH** HIS ACT!

YOU'RE **RIGHT!** HE **IS** PRETTY **PATHETIC,** HITTING ON **ME** WHEN THERE ARE GIRLS LIKE **YOU** AROUND WHO ARE **SO** MUCH MORE **GORGEOUS!**

GOING AFTER **ME** SHOWS HOW RIDICULOUSLY **DESPERATE** HE IS!

HEY! DON'T **KID** YOURSELF! **YOU'RE** EVERY BIT AS **BEAUTIFUL** AS **ANY GIRL** IN HERE! **WE** JUST CHOOSE TO **PACKAGE** OURSELVES A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY!

A LITTLE **TWEAK** WITH YOUR **WARDROBE** AND **MAKEUP** AND **YOU'D** BE BEATING GUYS OFF LIKE FLIES! **BELIEVE ME!**

WELL... **MAYBE,** BUT I'M, UHH... **NOT** LOOKING TO **SNAG** A **GUY** RIGHT NOW! I'M JUST **HAPPY** TO HAVE A **JOB** AND I JUST WANT TO CONCENTRATE ON **THAT** FOR NOW!

FAIR ENOUGH! SO, HOW'S IT GOING WORKING WITH **GAVIN!**

IT'S GOING **GREAT! BUSY...** BUT **GREAT!**

YEAH, BE **THANKFUL** YOU WORK FOR **GAVIN** AND **NOT GEOFF!**

WHY'S THAT?

GEOFF'S IN CHARGE OF ALL OF OUR **GOVERNMENT BIDS** AND WE CURRENTLY HAVE ABOUT **SIX** CONTRACTS WE'RE TRYING TO SECURE!

WHY IS THAT A **BAD** THING? IT **SOUNDS** LIKE A **MAJOR COUP** FOR THE COMPANY!

OH, IT IS! BUT GUESS WHO GETS TO DO ALL THE RESEARCH FOR THESE SIX PROJECTS?

I'M GUESSING THAT WOULD BE YOU!

AND YOU'D BE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! IT'S BEEN CRAZY THE LAST FEW WEEKS AND PROBABLY WILL BE FOR A FEW MORE UNTIL WE SUBMIT OUR PROPOSALS!

BUT **ENOUGH** ABOUT THE DAMN **COMPANY!** LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE **MEANINGFUL!**

LIKE WHAT?

LIKE WHY ALL THE **STRAIGHT GUYS** AROUND HERE SEEM TO BE EITHER TOO **SELF-ABSORBED** OR **SMALL-DICKED** TO DO **US** ANY GOOD!

HUH?!


TELL ME, SHERRI... WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A GUY MAKE YOU SCREAM LIKE A BANSHEE?
OH! UMMM... I...!

That evening, as 'Sherri' returns home...

WHEW! GOOD THING I STOPPED DRINKING AFTER TWO GLASSES OF WINE! ONE MORE AND I MIGHT'VE TOLD MAGGIE THE TRUTH ABOUT HER NEW CO-WORKER!

IT WAS **HARD ENOUGH** TRYING TO **REMEMBER** EVERYTHING ABOUT "**SHERRI'S**" PAST, BUT WHEN **MAGGIE** STARTED TALKING ABOUT **SEX**, I ALMOST **LOST IT!**

GOOD THING I WAS ABLE TO **STEER** THE CONVERSATION MORE TOWARDS **HER** SEX-LIFE INSTEAD OF **MINE! THAT** WOULD'VE BEEN A VERY **SHORT** AND **AWKWARD** CONVERSATION!

MAGGIE IS **SO** DAMN **AWESOME!** I'VE ALWAYS BEEN **DUMBSTRUCK,** IF NOT COMPLETELY **TERRIFIED,** OF GORGEOUS WOMEN LIKE HER! I FIGURED THEY WERE ALWAYS **TOO GOOD** FOR **ME**... **WAY** OUT OF **MY** PATHETIC LITTLE LEAGUE!

BUT AFTER SPENDING THE AFTERNOON WITH HER, IT TURNS OUT SHE'S JUST A **NORMAL** PERSON! A **BEAUTIFUL, SEXY** AND **VIVACIOUS** PERSON WHO **I** JUST SPENT THE WHOLE **AFTERNOON** WITH! AND **PROBABLY** WILL **OVER** AND **OVER** AGAIN! **YES!!**

MAN, IF I JUST **LIKED** THIS JOB BEFORE, THEN THIS AFTERNOON **SEALED** THE **DEAL** FOR ME! I CAN'T **IMAGINE** THERE'D BE ANYPLACE **BETTER** TO WORK!

SO WHAT IF I HAVE TO WEAR A **DRESS** AND PRETEND I'M A **GIRL!** IT'S A LITTLE **INCONVENIENT** AND ALL, BUT **HELL**... NOW **I** GET THE CHANCE TO HEAR **EXPLICIT DETAILS** ABOUT THE **AMAZING** THINGS **MAGGIE** DOES IN THE **BEDROOM!** **WOW!**

OH, YEAH! I THINK **I'M** IN THIS FOR THE **LONG RUN!**

WHO THE HECK COULD THAT BE? DAYNA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER COMES OVER HERE, AND SHE'S OUT OF TOWN!

WELL, WHOEVER IT IS, I'M SURE THEY'LL GO AWAY IF I IGNORE THEM!

Knock, knock!!

HONEY...
I'M HOME!

PAUL?!

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? I COULD SWEAR I LOCKED THAT DOOR!

YOU FORGET... I MANAGE THE PLACE!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY, TO FINISH OUR LITTLE CONVERSATION THAT GOT INTERRUPTED BY YOUR NEW GAL-PAL, MAGGIE!

LOOK, I **TOLD** YOU I HAVEN'T HAD **TIME** TO FIND ANYTHING FOR YOU YET! **NOTHING** I'VE SEEN TO DATE WOULD BE **ANY HELP** AT ALL!

MY BOSS JUST **ISN'T** WORKING ON THE **KINDS** OF CONTRACTS **YOU'RE** LOOKING FOR!

THEN MAYBE **YOU** NEED TO FIND YOURSELF A **NEW BOSS!** ONE WHO **DOES** DEAL IN THE CONTRACTS **I** WANT **INFO** ON!

JESUS, PAUL! I'VE ONLY BEEN THERE TWO WEEKS! I CAN'T JUST GO ASKING FOR A TRANSFER ALREADY! BESIDES, I LIKE THE GUY I WORK FOR NOW! HE'S A HELL OF A GOOD BOSS, AND I...!

THEN MAYBE I'LL JUST BRING THIS LITTLE PLAN TO AN END! HOW'S THAT SOUND?

ONCE THEY FIND OUT "SHERYL" IS REALLY A "DARYL", NO MORE 'HELL OF A GOOD BOSS', NO MORE LUNCHES WITH MAGGIE...!

YOU **WOULDN'T** DO THAT! **YOU** TELL **THEM** WHO I **REALLY** AM AND I **GUARANTEE** THEY'LL FIND OUT IT WAS ALL **YOUR** IDEA!

OH, **I** DON'T HAVE TO **TELL** THEM **ANYTHING!** I'LL JUST HAVE DAYNA **STOP** SUPPLYING YOU WITH YOUR **MEDS** AND IT'LL BECOME **OBVIOUS** SOON ENOUGH!

SHE WOULDN'T **DO** THAT TO ME!


OH, THAT SWEET SISTER OF YOURS WILL DO PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING I ASK OF HER! LOOK WHAT I TOLD HER TO DO TO HER OWN BABY BROTHER!
OF COURSE, FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I THINK YOU KIND OF LIKE BEIN' A GIRL, HUH? YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN GOOD AT IT!

WEARING **MAKEUP** AND **DRESSES**... FIXING YOUR HAIR UP **JUST RIGHT** SO YOU CAN GET THE **GUYS** AT **ROCKY'S** ALL **HOT AND BOTHERED!**

YOU **GET OFF** ON THAT SHIT, **DON'T YOU?**

SHUT UP, PAUL! MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT **ROCKY'S**... ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS **I** LEARNED TONIGHT! THE THINGS **YOU'VE** BEEN DOING **BEHIND** MY **SISTER'S BACK!**

COME ON! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE ANY OF THE SHIT MAGGIE SAYS ABOUT ME! SHE'S JUST PISSED BECAUSE I WOULDN'T SLEEP WITH HER, THAT'S ALL! ANYONE WHO SAYS OTHERWISE IS A DAMNED LIAR!

AND GET THIS THROUGH YOUR HEAD, LITTLE SISSY BOY! IF YOU EVER BREATHE A WORD OF THAT NASTY GOSSIP TO DAYNA, YOU'LL REGRET IT! I'LL MAKE YOU PAY IN WAYS YOU CAN BARELY IMAGINE!

LET ME GO, PAUL!

NOT UNTIL I'M SURE WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER! YOU'RE GOING TO BE GOOD AND DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAY WHEN IT COMES TO BOTH DAYNA AND THE JOB, RIGHT?

I GUESS I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, DO I!

THAT'S MY GIRL! I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY!

THE CLOCK'S TICKING, **SWEETHEART!** IF I DON'T GET ANY **ENCOURAGING INFORMATION** NEXT WEEK, **YOU** MIGHT FIND YOURSELF LOOKING FOR A **NEW JOB!**

AND IF I GET **ANY** GRIEF FROM **DAYNA, YOU'LL** BE LOOKING FOR A **NEW LIFE!**

Slam!!


OH MY GOD! HE'S PSYCHO! MY SISTER'S LIVING WITH A FUCKING PSYCHO!

SIGH! RELAX, DARYL! DEEP BREATHS!

I AM **NOT** GOING TO LET THAT **SON OF A BITCH** GET TO ME! I'VE GOT A **GOOD THING** GOING ON AND I'M **NOT** GOING TO LET HIM **RUIN** IT FOR ME!

DAYNA'S AT HER CONFERENCE, SO I CAN'T BOTHER HER RIGHT NOW... NOT THAT I WOULD **DARE** SAY **ANYTHING**... NOT UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW TO **HANDLE PAUL!**


I THINK THE BEST THING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS GET MY MIND OFF OF PAUL'S VISIT! LET'S SEE HOW MY PITBULLS ARE DOING?

Y ESE ES EL *JUEGO!* LOS TITANES *BOSTON 4* Y EL PITBULLS *QUEBEC 3!*


WELL, SHIT! SO MUCH FOR QUEBEC GOING FOR THE STANLEY CUP THIS YEAR!

THERE'S NOTHING **ELSE** WORTH WATCHING ON MY **ONE** TV CHANNEL!

GUESS ILL JUST GET **OUT** OF THESE THINGS, TAKE MY **SHOT** AND **CRASH!**

OW!

DAMN! I MAY BE GETTING **BETTER** AT THIS, BUT IT **STILL STINGS!**

MMMM... I AM TOTALLY **WIPED OUT! DEFINITELY** LOOKING FORWARD TO A GOOD **EIGHT HOURS** OF SLEEP... **AT LEAST!**



DARYL, HONEY? WAKE UP, BABY!

MMMMM...! HUH?


WHAT...?
WHO...?
IT'S ME, BABY! YOU FORGET I WAS COMING OVER?


MAGGIE?!
OF COURSE, SILLY! WHO ELSE WOULD YOU BE EXPECTING?

UMM... **NO ONE!** I GUESS I JUST **DOZED** WHILE WAITING FOR YOU, AND...!

ENOUGH TALK, BABY! **I** CAME HERE FOR **ACTION, NOT** CONVERSATION!

OOOOO, BABY! I JUST **LOVE** THIS **BODY** OF YOURS!

YOU DO??

UH-HUH! AND YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE THE **MOST** ABOUT IT?

WHAT'S *THAT?*


THESE ADORABLE LITTLE TITTIES OF YOURS! GOD! I COULD JUST PLAY WITH THEM ALL NIGHT!
HUH?


MMMMM! I'VE WANTED TO SUCK ON THESE LITTLE CUTIES EVER SINCE WE MET!
OOOOOOHHH!


HMMMM! MAYBE I'LL FINALLY GET YOU TO SCREAM LIKE A BANSHEE, SWEETIE! HOW'S THAT SOUND?
OOOOHHH GOD! OHHHH....!


OOOOOHHHH!

The next morning...

OOOO...! WHAT *TIME* IS IT?

TEN O'CLOCK? JESUS! THAT'S EVEN LONGER THAN LAST WEEK'S SHOT!

IF NOTHING ELSE, THEY COULD MARKET THAT STUFF AS A SERIOUS SLEEP AID!


WHEW! I HAVEN'T HAD DREAMS LIKE THAT IN YEARS! A LITTLE KINKY, BUT DAMNED HOT!

EWWW! AND I HAVEN'T DONE THAT IN YEARS EITHER! GOOD THING IT'S LAUNDRY DAY!

AND, BEING THE WEEKEND WITH ***DAYNA*** OUT OF TOWN, I CAN JUST HANG OUT AS ***MYSELF*** WITHOUT THOSE ***SHAPERS*** FROM ***HELL*** SQUEEZING ME ***EVERY*** WHICH WAY!


OW! WHAT THE HELL?! THIS SHIRT FEELS LIKE IT HAS NEEDLES POKING INTO MY...!

TITS?! WHAT THE...?!


HOLY SHIT! THEY'RE SMALL, BUT... DAMN IT! THOSE ARE DEFINITELY TITS!
DAYNA DID SAY THE DRUGS I'M ON ARE POWERFUL... AND THAT THEY'RE DESIGNED TO FEMINIZE MY BODY, BUT I NEVER DREAMED ANYTHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN!

I SUPPOSE I **COULD** CALL DAYNA AT HER **CONFERENCE**, BUT WHAT GOOD WOULD **THAT** DO EXCEPT **WORRY** HER?

THERE'S **NOTHING** SHE COULD DO ABOUT IT UNTIL SHE GETS BACK ANYWAY! **JEEZ!** TALK ABOUT UNEXPECTED **SIDE-EFFECTS!**

LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE SOME OF THE **PADDING** OUT OF MY **BRAS** UNLESS I WANT EVERYONE AT **WORK** TO ASK ABOUT THE **BOOB JOB** I GOT OVER THE WEEKEND!

YOU KNOW, *MAYBE* IT'S JUST THE NEW *TITS*, BUT IT *ALSO* LOOKS LIKE I MAY NOT *NOT* NEED THAT DAMN *SHAPER* ANYMORE!

THAT... I'M *NOT* GONNA COMPLAIN ABOUT!

OH MAN! AND IT LOOKS LIKE MY HAIR GOT A LITTLE LIGHTER AGAIN AS WELL! THE HORMONES EXPLAIN MY NEW SHAPE, BUT WHY THE HELL IS MY HAIR TURNING BLONDE?

I SURE HOPE DAYNA CAN GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS! SHE'S GOING TO BE AMAZED HOW MUCH I'VE CHANGED!

I NEVER THOUGHT *ANYTHING* LIKE *THIS* WOULD HAPPEN... BUT *MAYBE* IT'S A *GOOD THING!* IT CERTAINLY MAKES THE TASK OF PASSING AS A WOMAN MUCH *EASIER!*

I SUPPOSE IF ANYONE *NOTICES* SOMETHING *DIFFERENT* ABOUT ME COME *MONDAY,* THEN... WELL... I'LL *JUST* HAVE TO *WING IT!*

Monday morning at the office...

GOOD MORNING, GAVIN!

GOOD MORNING, SHERRI! HOW WAS ***YOUR*** WEEKEND?

OH... PRETTY ***LAID BACK!*** I JUST STAYED IN AND WATCHED OLD MOVIES!

SOUNDS ***RELAXING!*** WISH ***I'D*** THOUGHT OF IT!

SAY, IS THAT A *NEW DRESS?*

UMM... *NO!* I'VE HAD IT FOR A WHILE! *WHY* DO YOU ASK?

SOMETHING'S *DIFFERENT* ABOUT YOU TODAY...!

UH-OH!

I KNOW! YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING WITH YOUR HAIR, HAVEN'T YOU?

YES! THAT'S IT! I, UHH... HAD SOME MORE HIGHLIGHTS ADDED! IT WAS MY SISTER'S IDEA!

WELL, IT WAS A VERY GOOD ONE, BECAUSE YOU LOOK LOVELY!

UMMM... THANKS, GAVIN! THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU TO SAY!

SINCE THERE ARE MEETINGS **ALL OVER** THE BUILDING THIS MORNING, I **PROBABLY** WON'T BE BACK IN HERE UNTIL AROUND **LUNCHTIME!**

YOU HAVE **ENOUGH** TO KEEP YOU BUSY UNTIL THEN?

OH GOD, **YES!** AND **THEN** SOME! DON'T YOU WORRY, **I'LL** HOLD DOWN THE FORT UNTIL YOU GET BACK!

I **KNEW** I COULD COUNT ON **YOU,** SHERRI!

SIGH! I **WISH** I **DIDN'T** HAVE **PAUL'S THREATS** HANGING OVER MY HEAD LIKE THIS!

IT'S SO **FRUSTRATING** TO KNOW THAT I COULD BE SCREWED **REGARDLESS** OF WHAT I CHOOSE TO DO!

BUT THERE'S **GOT** TO BE **SOME** WAY I CAN GET **PAUL** HIS **DAMN** INFORMATION WITHOUT **JEOPARDIZING** MY **JOB!**

OOOOOO

A few minutes later...

CRAP! I'D HOPED A LITTLE WALK AROUND THE BUILDING WOULD HELP ME CLEAR MY HEAD ENOUGH TO COME UP WITH AN IDEA OR TWO REGARDING PAUL...

BUT I'VE STILL GOT NOTHING!


HMMM! LOOKS LIKE MAGGIE UP THERE WITH GEOFF!
THEY MUST BE OFF TO A MEETING ON THOSE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS OF HIS!


A MEETING TO DISCUSS SIX CONTRACTS... THAT'LL PROBABLY TAKE ALL MORNING...
MEANING GEOFF'S OFFICE WILL BE UNATTENDED FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS! HMMM...!

A few minutes later...

HEY MAGGIE! YOU IN HERE?

JUST TO MAKE SURE...!


OKAY NOW... WHERE WOULD GEOFF KEEP COPIES OF THOSE CONTRACTS?

AND *OF COURSE* HIS COMPUTER IS *PASSWORD-PROTECTED*... LIKE *EVERY OTHER* COMPUTER IN THIS BUILDING!

IF I HAVE ENOUGH *TIME*, I *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HIS...!



GOD! WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?! I DIDN'T GRADUATE AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS TO BE A FUCKING CORPORATE SPY! THAT'S HOW SLEAZE-BAGS LIKE PAUL DO THINGS... NOT ME!

LOGIN page


THIS COMPANY AND THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT GOOD AND FAIR TO ME! AND THEY DON'T DESERVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN RETURN!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT SOME OTHER WAY TO KEEP MY JOB!

BUT IN THE *MEANTIME*, I'D *BETTER* GET *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE *SOMEONE*...!


SHERRI? WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE?
GASP!

by CBlack



Chapter 4

OPPORTUNITIES


WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN GEOFF ANDREWS' OFFICE, SHERRI? I JUST SAW HIM GO INTO A MEETING UP ON THE 18TH FLOOR!

UMMM... *ACTUALLY*, I WAS LOOKING FOR HIS ASSISTANT, *MAGGIE!* I WANTED TO SEE IF SHE HAD ANY *PLANS* FOR *LUNCH!*

BUT, AS IT TURNS OUT, *SHE* WASN'T HERE *EITHER!*

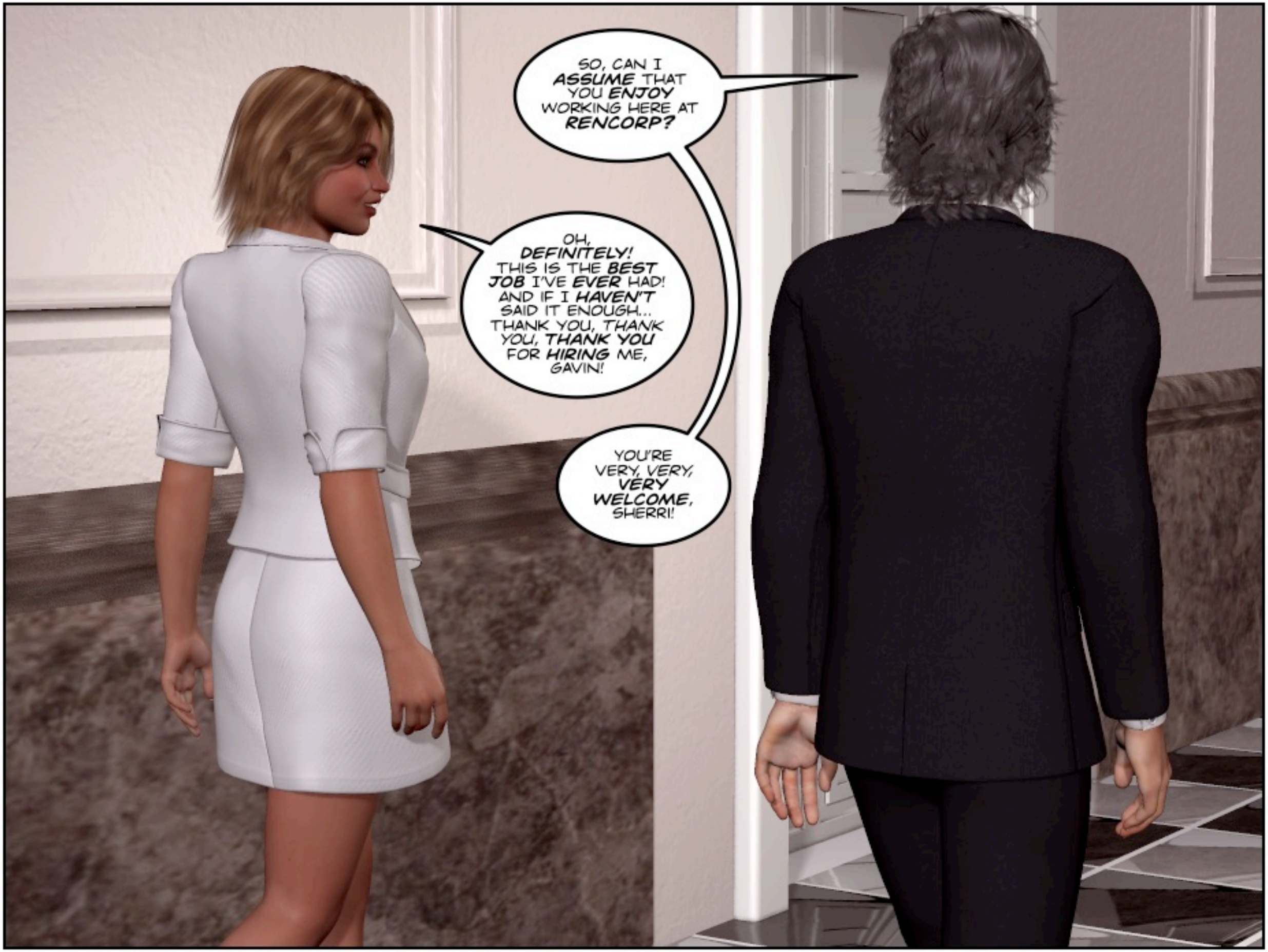
YES, SHE *ACCOMPANIED* HIM TO THE *MEETING!*

HOW **LONG** HAVE YOU KNOWN **MAGGIE?**

EXCELLENT! I'M **GLAD** TO SEE YOU MAKING NEW **FRIENDS** HERE!

OH, WE **JUST** MET THIS LAST **FRIDAY!** BUT WE WENT OUT FOR **DRINKS** AFTER WORK AND WE **HIT IT OFF** PRETTY WELL!

WELL, IT'S KIND OF HARD **NOT** TO, WHAT WITH EVERYONE BEING SO **HELPFUL** AND **FRIENDLY!**


SO, CAN I ASSUME THAT YOU ENJOY WORKING HERE AT RENCORP?
OH, DEFINITELY! THIS IS THE BEST JOB I'VE EVER HAD! AND IF I HAVEN'T SAID IT ENOUGH... THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR HIRING ME, GAVIN!
YOU'RE VERY, VERY, VERY WELCOME, SHERRI!

YOU KNOW, BACK ON MY FIRST DAY, **MS. JACKSON** MENTIONED THAT THE **ONLY** REASON I WAS HIRED WAS BECAUSE **YOU INSISTED** ON HIRING ME!

WHY? I MEAN, MY RESUME IS **HARDLY** THAT SPECTACULAR AND I'M **SURE** MS. JACKSON **WASN'T** VERY IMPRESSED WITH MY **INTERVIEW!** WHY DID **YOU** INSIST ON HIRING AN **UNDER-QUALIFIED** GIRL WHO **ALMOST** KNOCKED YOU OVER?

TRUE!

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY **I** FELT THAT A **GIRL** LIKE **YOU** NEEDED A **BREAK!** SOMEONE WHO'D GIVE HER A **CHANCE** TO **PROVE HERSELF** IN A **VERY COMPETITIVE** ENVIRONMENT!

UMMM... **WHAT** DO YOU **MEAN** WHEN YOU SAY A **GIRL LIKE ME?**

OH, **YOU** KNOW... YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE, INEXPERIENCED...!

...TRANSGENDERED...!

WHAT?!

TH... THAT'S **SILLY!** WH... **WHAT** MAKES YOU THINK **I'M... TRANSGENDERED?**

YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO **WORRY** ABOUT IT, SHERRI! **NO ONE ELSE** HERE KNOWS... AND THEY **WON'T** KNOW UNLESS **YOU** TELL THEM!

AND EVEN IF THEY **DID** FIND OUT, **SO WHAT?** THE **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION** LAWS IN THIS STATE ARE **VERY EXPLICIT** REGARDING **TRANSGENDERED** PEOPLE! YOUR **JOB** IS **SAFE** EITHER WAY!

OH MY GOD! HOW... **HOW** DID YOU FIND OUT?

I **SUSPECTED** ALMOST **IMMEDIATELY** WHEN WE FIRST MET! THE **CHOKER**, AND THEN THE **HIGH NECKED BLOUSES**, TO COVER YOUR **ADAM'S APPLE**, YOUR **UNEASINESS** ON EVEN **SHORT** HEELS, AND SEVERAL *OTHER* GENERAL MANNERISMS... NO **PUN** INTENDED!

ALL THINGS WHICH YOU SEEM TO HAVE **EASILY** OVERCOME, BY THE WAY!

HOLY SHIT! I DIDN'T HAVE HIM FOOLED FOR ONE SECOND!

AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE JUST BEEN A CROSS-DRESSER, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'VE BEEN ON A VERY EFFECTIVE HORMONE REGIMEN, SO THAT LEFT TRANSGENDERED AS THE ONLY OTHER OPTION!

I HOPE MY KNOWING ALL THIS DOESN'T UPSET YOU TOO MUCH!

CATS OUT OF THE BAG NOW! MIGHT AS WELL RUN WITH IT, BUT WITHOUT GIVING HIM MY REAL REASON FOR DOING THIS!

I... I'M JUST TAKEN ABACK BY THE FACT THAT YOU'VE KNOWN ALL THIS TIME AND DIDN'T SAY A WORD!

I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL YOU WERE COMFORTABLE HERE BEFORE I LET YOU KNOW THAT I KNEW!

I HOPE YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH BY NOW TO TRUST ME AND COME TO ME WITH ANYTHING YOU NEED... REGARDING YOUR TRANSITION, OR ANYTHING ELSE!

THANK YOU, GAVIN! I... I WILL! CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING, THOUGH?

YOU SEEM TO KNOW QUITE A LOT ABOUT TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE! WHY IS THAT? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S TRANSGENDERED?

OF COURSE!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO!

YOU SEE, I WAS BORN GRETCHEN GENTRY!

I COMPLETED MY TRANSITION TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO LAST MONTH!

GASP!

UNLESS SOMEONE'S BEEN ***SNOOPING*** INTO MY CONFIDENTIAL ***PERSONNEL*** FILE, ***ONLY*** THE ***CEO*** KNOWS!

WHEN HE ***HIRED*** ME ***TWENTY-FOUR YEARS*** AGO... BACK WHEN ***HE*** WAS THE DIRECTOR OF ***HUMAN RESOURCES!***

THAT'S... INCREDIBLE! I ***NEVER*** WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED! DOES ANYONE ***ELSE*** HERE KNOW?

YOU TOLD THE ***CEO?*** ***WHEN?***

I'M **TELLING** YOU ALL THIS SO YOU'LL **KNOW** THAT I'M FULLY AWARE OF HOW **DIFFICULT** THIS CAN BE FOR YOU AND THAT YOU CAN **ALWAYS** COUNT ON **ME** FOR **SUPPORT!**

THANK YOU FOR **TRUSTING** ME, GAVIN! I... I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** TO SAY!

WHICH IS THE **UNDERSTATEMENT** OF THE **YEAR!** IN THE COURSE OF ONLY A **FEW MINUTES** I'VE GONE FROM **ALMOST** BEING **BUSTED** TO **GAINING** A **CONFIDANT!**

SO IF YOU **DON'T** MIND ME ASKING, HOW **LONG** HAVE YOU BEEN **TRANSITIONING?**

I **KNOW** HOW THAT FEELS! WHAT **KIND** OF **HORMONE THERAPY** ARE YOU ON?

OH! UMMM... **MONTHS,** BUT IT **SEEMS** LIKE **FOREVER!**

WELL, I, UH... CAN'T **PRONOUNCE** THE NAMES OF EVERYTHING, BUT I'M TAKING **PILLS** EVERY DAY AND A **SHOT** ONCE A WEEK!

THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY COME A ***LONG WAY*** SINCE ***MY*** DAY! I'VE NOTICED SOME ***REMARKABLE*** CHANGES IN ***JUST*** THE FEW WEEKS YOU'VE BEEN HERE!

YES, ITS A, UHH.. ***NEW*** CLINICAL TRIAL I GOT ACCEPTED INTO!

WELL YOU'RE ***VERY LUCKY*** TO BE IN SUCH A PROGRAM!

I... I *GUESS I AM!*

DAMN IT! I CAN'T ANSWER ALL THESE QUESTIONS HE'S FIRING AT ME! I NEED TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT... AND QUICKLY!

UMMM... IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, HOW DID YOU KNOW FOR SURE YOU WERE TRANSGENDERED? I MEAN, DID YOU ALWAYS LIKE WOMEN BEFORE AND DO YOU STILL?

FOR ME, SEXUAL PREFERENCE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! I'VE JUST ALWAYS KNOWN A SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN A MAN!

AS FOR WOMEN, **NO!** I'VE NEVER **REALLY** HAD A **PREFERENCE** FOR THEM!

ALTHOUGH I HAVE **EXPERIMENTED** WITH A **FEW** SINCE MY CHANGE, I GUESS I'M *TECHNICALLY* **GAY** NOW SINCE I STILL **PREFER MEN!**

IN FACT, I'M STILL **FRIENDS** WITH MY **EX-HUSBAND**... BUT NO MORE **'BENEFITS'** SINCE HE'S **ALWAYS** BEEN **STRAIGHT!**

I'M NOT **OPENLY** GAY, HOWEVER, SO **PLEASE** KEEP THAT INFORMATION BETWEEN THE **TWO OF US** FOR NOW! OKAY?

OF **COURSE,** GAVIN!

SO WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

ANY... *INCLINATIONS* ONE WAY OR THE *OTHER?*

WHAT *ABOUT* ME?

OH! UMMM... *KIND OF* LIKE *YOU,* BUT *REVERSED!* NO *REAL* INTEREST IN *MEN!*

I UNDERSTAND! HOWEVER, ONCE YOUR TRANSITION IS **COMPLETE**, I **DO** RECOMMEND SOME **'EXPERIMENTATION'**! JUST TO GET THE **FULL PERSPECTIVE**, YOU KNOW!

I'LL, UMM... **CONSIDER** THAT, GAVIN! **WHEN** THE **TIME** COMES!

OF COURSE!

WELL I'M **GLAD** WE HAD THIS TALK, SHERRI! AND I **HOPE** IT'S PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE REGARDING YOUR **SITUATION AND** YOUR **FUTURE** HERE AT **RENCORP!**

OH, IT DEFINITELY **HAS,** GAVIN! I ALSO **SINCERELY** APPRECIATE THE **TRUST** YOU'VE PUT IN ME REGARDING YOUR **OWN** SECRETS! **THANK** YOU, **AGAIN!**

DON'T MENTION IT!


OCEAN
WOW! NO ONE'S EVER TRUSTED ME THE WAY GAVIN DOES!
MORE PROOF THAT WORKING FOR PAUL PUTS ME ON THE WRONG SIDE OF EVERYTHING!


And, several days later, at the regular Friday happy hour at Rocky's...

THAT JUNIOR EXEC FROM THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR? *HARDLY!* ONE DATE WAS **ALL** IT TOOK FOR ME TO SEE WHAT A ***YUTZ*** HE WAS!

YEAH, BUT HE'S **STILL** AWFULLY DAMN ***CUTE!***

JUST 'CAUSE THEY'RE CUTE ***DOESN'T*** MAKE THEM GOOD IN BED, LINDA! ***YOU,*** AS WELL AS ***ANYONE,*** SHOULD KNOW ***THAT!***

SAY'S THE GIRL WHO'S DATED JUST ABOUT *EVERY* GUY IN THE COMPANY!

HEY, DON'T *HATE* ME 'CAUSE I'M POPULAR!

EVERY GUY?

POSSIBLY! I THINK SHE'S GOING FOR A *COMPANY RECORD!*

HOW ABOUT *YOU*, SHERRI? ANY *PROSPECTS* IN THE WORKS YET?

WHO... *ME?* GOD *NO!* I'M *MORE* THAN HAPPY JUST KEEPING *BUSY* AS GAVIN'S *ASSISTANT!*

HE'S *REALLY* BEEN A *GODSEND* FOR LEARNING *EVERYTHING* ABOUT THIS BUSINESS!

UH-HUH! SO YOU *REALLY* LIKE *GAVIN*, DO YOU? THAT'S *INTERESTING!*

WHAT? NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! GAVIN'S BEEN NOTHING BUT PROFESSIONAL TOWARD ME THE WHOLE TIME I'VE WORKED FOR HIM!

AND MAYBE YOU'D LIKE THINGS TO BE NOT QUITE SO PROFESSIONAL, HMM?

HE IS PRETTY DAMN HOT... FOR AN OLDER GUY THAT IS!

WELL, YEAH... HE IS, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, AND...!

MAYBE HE'S ONLY BEEN *ACTING* PROFESSIONAL TOWARD YOU BECAUSE *YOU'RE* NOT SENDING HIM THE *RIGHT SIGNALS!*

I MEAN, YOU'RE *CUTE* AND ALL, BUT MAYBE *HE* LIKES HIS GIRLS A LITTLE *FLASHIER,* IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

I DON'T KNOW... I'VE *NEVER* SEEN HIM LOOK AT *ANY* OF THE GIRLS IN THE BUILDING *THAT* WAY! *EVEN* ONES WHO DRESS LIKE *TINA,* HERE!

HEY...!

LOOK, I'M *REALLY* NOT INTERESTED IN...!

TRUE! YOU KNOW, I THINK HE'S THE ONLY UNMARRIED GUY IN THE BUILDING WHO ISN'T SOCIALLY ACTIVE WITH THE ASSISTANTS!

IN FACT, I OVERHEARD PETE TELLING SOMEONE HE THOUGHT THAT GAVIN MIGHT BE GAY!

WHAT...?!

YOUR BOSS IS HARDLY ONE TO TALK! HE THINKS THAT ANY GUY WHO ISN'T A HORN DOG LIKE HIM IS GAY!

I'M SURPRISED THE COMPANY TOLERATES JERKS LIKE HIM!

THEY **TOLERATE** HIM BECAUSE **HE** BRINGS IN THE **BIG CONTRACTS!** IN FACT, HE'S GOT A **HUGE** GOVERNMENT CONTRACT IN THE WORKS **RIGHT NOW!**

IT'S **SUPPOSEDLY** ONE OF THE **BIGGEST** THIS COMPANY'S SEEN IN **YEARS!**

AND **THAT** JUSTIFIES HIM BEING A **MAJOR JACKASS?**

BOTTOM LINE... **YEAH!**

LOOK! GAVIN'S NOT GAY... TRUST ME ON THAT!

NOW, I'M GOING UP TO THE BAR TO GET A REFILL!

JUST WHAT DO MEAN "DRESS LIKE TINA?"

SHE MEANS GIRLS WHO DRESS LIKE HOOKERS! *GIGGLE!*

BUT HIGH-PRICED HOOKERS, IF THAT'S ANY CONSOLATION!

JESUS! THOSE GIRLS CAN GET PRETTY VICIOUS WHEN THEY DRINK!

ANOTHER ONE, ROCKY!

COMIN' RIGHT UP, SHERRI!

AND THEY'RE AWFULLY DAMN CHATTY!

I'M SURE THE COMPANY WOULDN'T BE TOO CRAZY ABOUT LINDA SPOUTING OFF ABOUT HUGE CONTRACTS IN A PLACE AS PUBLIC AS THIS!

HMPH! JUST THE KIND OF INFO PAUL WOULD LOVE TO HAVE! AND IT WOULD GET HIM OFF MY ASS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BUT THE **LONGER** I WORK FOR **RENCORP**, THE **LESS** I WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO **JEOPARDIZE** THAT! **ESPECIALLY** IF IT MEANS **HELPING PAUL!**

IT'S FUNNY, BUT I **DON'T** REALLY **MIND** BEING SHERRI IN **PUBLIC** ANYMORE! IN FACT, **ONCE** I GET TO **WORK,** I DON'T EVEN GIVE IT A **SECOND THOUGHT!** IT'S LIKE LIVING A **WHOLE NEW LIFE**... ONE THAT'S **SO** MUCH **BETTER** THAN MY **OLD** ONE AS **DARYL!**

HELL, THE **ONLY** PLACE **DARYL** EXISTS IS IN THAT **RAT-TRAP** OF AN APARTMENT! THE **PERFECT ANALOGY** FOR THE KIND OF LIFE I HAD **BEFORE** I BECAME **SHERRI!**


SHERRI'S LIFE IS ALMOST THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF DARYL'S! I'VE GOT A GREAT BOSS WITH GREAT WORKING CONDITIONS, AND I'VE GOT AWESOME NEW FRIENDS LIKE MAGGIE!
GORGEOUS AND SEXY FRIENDS WHO WOULDN'T GIVE POOR DARYL THE TIME OF DAY, BUT NOW INCLUDE ME IN THEIR INNER CIRCLE! LIFE IS GOOD! WHY SCREW IT UP?

HERE YOU GO, SHERRI!

THANKS, ROCKY!

HEY, IT SEEMS KIND OF **SLOW** FOR A FRIDAY AFTERNOON! WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR! I'VE BEEN SLOWLY LOSING MY REGULAR CROWD FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS!

THEY'RE BEING DRAWN AWAY BY NEW, HIP THEME BARS THAT'VE POPPED UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

OH, BUT THOSE PLACES NEVER LAST LONG! THEY'RE JUST A FLASH IN THE PAN UNTIL EVERYONE GETS BORED WITH THEM!

YEAH, I KNOW! BUT THEN THE CUSTOMERS MOVE ON TO THE NEXT NEW THING INSTEAD OF COMING BACK HERE!

YOU EVER THOUGHT OF UPGRADING THE PLACE OR REMODELING? THAT MIGHT BRING THEM BACK!

NAH! I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS TOO LONG AS IT IS! I'M JUST HOLDING ON UNTIL SOME SCHMUCK COMES ALONG AND OFFERS ME ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE PLACE SO I CAN RETIRE TO VEGAS!


WOW! WELL, I HOPE YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT, BUT THEN AGAIN, I CAN'T IMAGINE DOWNTOWN WITHOUT ROCKY'S!
I APPRECIATE THAT, LOVE! NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO GET BACK TO WORK!

AND I GUESS I'LL GET BACK TO THE CAT-FIGHT! *GIGGLE!*

AND REMIND ME AGAIN WHO IT WAS THAT WENT COMMANDO AT LAST YEARS CHRISTMAS PARTY! HMMM?

Later that night, back at Daryl's 'rat-trap'...

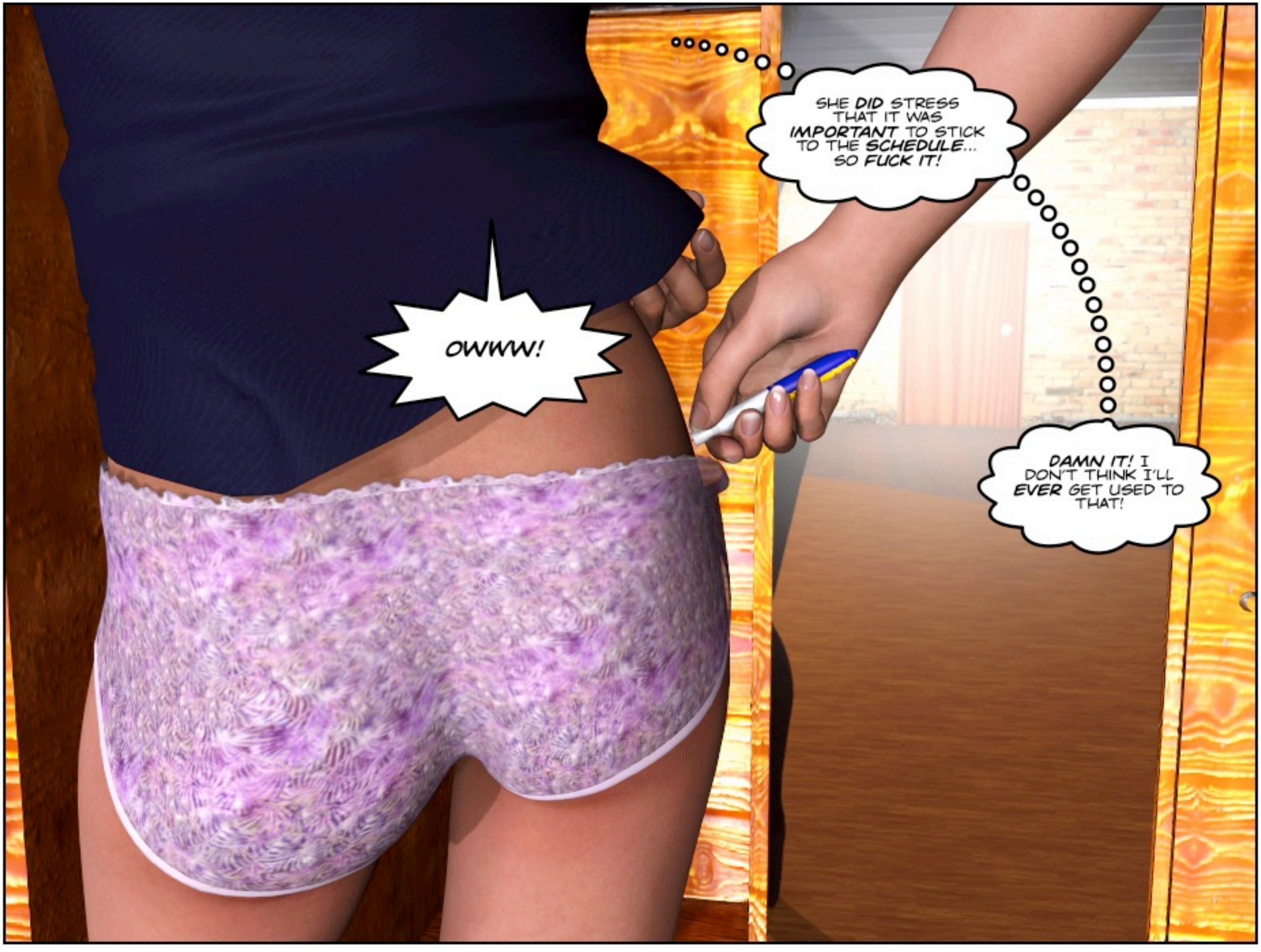
AHH... HOME, CRAP HOME!

IT **PISSES ME OFF** BIG TIME THAT LINDA'S **BOSS** IS SPREADING **RUMORS** ABOUT **GAVIN!**

EVEN THOUGH GAVIN **IS** GAY, IT'S UP TO **HIM** TO DECIDE WHEN HE WANTS IT TO GO PUBLIC, **NOT** SOME POMPOUS **JERK** LIKE **PETE SINGLETON!**

I'LL TALK TO **GAVIN** ABOUT IT ON MONDAY! MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO **SHUT** THOSE RUMORS **DOWN!**

DAMN... IT'S BEEN **ANOTHER WEEK** AND I **STILL** HAVEN'T TALKED TO **DAYNA!** SHOULD I TAKE **ANOTHER** SHOT BEFORE I DO? SHE TEXTED THAT SHE'L BE GETTING HOME **TOMORROW!**


SHE DID STRESS THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO STICK TO THE SCHEDULE... SO FUCK IT!
OWWW!
DAMN IT! I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET USED TO THAT!

OH WELL, IF MY BOOBS **DO** GET A LITTLE BIGGER, IT SURE **WON'T** BE THE **END** OF THE **WORLD!**


YAWN! WELL, I HOPE I DON'T REGRET THIS WHEN I WAKE UP! I SUPPOSE I'LL FIND OUT AFTER MY 12-HOUR NAP!


zzzzzzzzzzz!!

Late-morning, the next day...

Knock knock!!

HUH?!
WAZZAT?!

KNOCK KNOCK!!

DARYL?! IT'S ME... DAYNA! I'M BACK FROM MY TRIP!

YEAH, YEAH... I'M COMIN'! HOLD YOUR HORSES!

HEY, DAYNA! SORRY I... !

WHOA! YOU DIDN'T SAY PAUL WAS HERE, TOO!

WELL, SURE! WHY WOULDN'T HE BE?

WHATEVER... COME ON IN!

YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T **HAVE** TO WEAR THOSE SHAPERS **24/7!** IN FACT, YOU REALLY **SHOULD** TAKE THEM **OFF** AT NIGHT!

I'M **NOT** WEARING THEM!

YOU'RE **NOT?** YOU MEAN, THAT'S **ALL YOU?**

YEP!

I **STOPPED** WEARING THEM ABOUT A **WEEK** AGO, RIGHT ABOUT THE SAME TIME MY **HAIR** STARTED TURNING **BLONDE!**

BY THE WAY, DID YOU **EVER** FIGURE OUT **WHY** THAT'S HAPPENING?

UMMM... **YEAH!** YEAH I DID! SORRY, I JUST **CAN'T** GET OVER YOUR **NEW CURVES!**

ME EITHER! NICE JOB, YOU TWO!

EWWW!

UMMM... YEAH! SO... THE BLONDE HAIR DAYNA? WHY?

OH! THE DRUGS ARE PROBABLY TAPPING INTO SOME OF YOUR RECESSIVE GENES! WE'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN IN A COUPLE OF OTHER SUBJECTS!

RECESSIVE GENES?

YEAH?

SO IT'LL **PROBABLY** GET EVEN **MORE** BLONDE? 'CAUSE **SHE** WAS ALMOST A **PLATINUM** BLONDE!

YOU KNOW HOW **I'VE** ALWAYS LOOKED MORE LIKE **DAD** AND **YOU'VE** LOOKED MORE LIKE **MOM?**

WELL, I THINK THAT THE **DRUGS** MIGHT BE **ACTIVATING** MORE OF **MOM'S TRAITS** IN **YOU**... LIKE HER **BLONDE HAIR!**

WELL, YOU'RE **ALMOST** THERE **ALREADY!**

I DON'T KNOW... I'D **STILL** CALL IT A **LIGHT BROWN,** IF **ANYTHING!**

SERIOUSLY? HAVE YOU **LOOKED** AT IT LATELY?


HOLY SHIT! THAT'S A LOT LIGHTER THAN IT WAS JUST LAST NIGHT! IT DOES LOOK ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE MOM'S!

DAMN! MY FIGURE'S BEGINNING TO RESEMBLE HERS AS WELL! I DEFINITELY WASN'T THIS CURVY LAST NIGHT!

I'M NOT COMPLAINING! HEH-HEH!

SETTLE DOWN, TIGER!

MY **POINT** IS, NOW THAT **SHERRI** HERE HAS SOME **NATURAL, WORKABLE CURVES,** SHE SHOULD PUT THEM TO **USE** TO **FURTHER** OUR PLAN!

WHAT DO YOU **MEAN,** HONEY?

YEAH! WHAT **DO** YOU MEAN... PAUL?!

I *MEAN*, JUST *BEING* AT RENCORP *OBVIOUSLY* HASN'T BEEN *ENOUGH* TO GET ANY USABLE INFO!

BUT, *BELIEVE ME*, GUYS ARE *ALWAYS* WAY MORE *FORTHCOMING* WITH *PRIORITY* INFO WHEN IT'S TO *IMPRESS* A *HOT CHICK!*

AND WITH A LITTLE *WORK, I* THINK *SHERRI* CAN BE THE *KIND* OF GIRL GUYS LIKE *PETE SINGLETON* WOULD *HAPPILY* SPILL THEIR *GUTS* TO!

NOW WAIT JUST A DAMN MINUTE...!

REMEMBER HOW WELL IT WORKED FOR YOU IN COLLEGE, BABE? YOU HAD EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR PROFESSORS EATING OUT OF YOUR HAND!

I GUESS I DID FLIRT MY WAY TO A LOT OF B'S! *GIGGLE*!

NOW **LOOK**, YOU TWO! **PRETENDING** TO BE A **GIRL** IS **ONE** THING! BUT **EVEN** IF I **WANTED** TO, THERE'S **NO WAY** IN **HELL** I CAN PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE **THAT!**

OH, **C'MON!** IT'LL BE **SO** MUCH **FUN!** WE'VE **GOT** TO GET YOU **NEW** CLOTHES ANYWAY, SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE THE **OLD** ONES WON'T **FIT** ANYMORE!

YOU'VE **ALREADY** MASTERED THE **HARD** PART... **BEING** A **GIRL!** THE **REST** IS **EASY!** A WEEKEND OF **COACHING** FROM ME, AND YOU'LL BE A **FLIRTING PRO** IN **NO TIME!**

I JUST DON'T WANT TO...!

HOLD THAT THOUGHT, HONEY! I WISH I COULD WAIT LONG ENOUGH, BUT I REALLY NEED TO USE YOUR BATHROOM OR I'LL BURST!

PROMISE ME, YOU'LL BOTH TURN AROUND! OKAY?

LOOK, PAUL! SEXING ME UP IS PUSHING IT! THAT'S NOT WHAT I AGREED TO, AND YOU KNOW IT!

TOUGH SHIT... SHERRI! YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME SQUAT YET, SO SUCK IT UP, GET ON BOARD AND PRODUCE SOME RESULTS!

"SIGH!" OKAY, LOOK! I HEARD THERE'S A BIG GOVERNMENT DEAL IN THE WORKS, BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THE DETAILS YET!

GREAT! THEN THIS NEW PLAN SHOULD MAKE IT VERY EASY FOR YOU TO GET THOSE DETAILS!

SO, YOU WILL GO SHOPPING WITH DAYNA AND YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING SHE TELLS YOU TO DO! GOT IT?

ALL RIGHT! BUT IF **YOU'RE** CHANGING THE RULES, THEN **SO AM I!** INSTEAD OF LETTING ME LIVE **HERE,** IN THIS **RAT-INFESTED CESSPOOL,** I WANT **REDUCED RENT** IN ONE OF THE **OTHER** APARTMENTS **UPSTAIRS!**

WHAT?! YOU HAVE **ANY IDEA** WHAT **THOSE** APARTMENTS **GO FOR?**

THAT'S WHY I'M **STILL** WILLING TO PAY, OH... **HALF** THE GOING PRICE!

WHY YOU **CONNIVING** LITTLE **SHIT!** I OUGHTA...!

EW! EW! EW!! HOW CAN YOU STAND USING THAT BATHROOM? THERE WAS A COCKROACH THE SIZE OF A HAMSTER IN THERE!

YEAH, THAT'S MYRON! DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! HE JUST LIKES TO WATCH!

BUT **HEY, GUESS WHAT?** PAUL JUST TOLD ME THAT FOR ALL MY **EXTRA EFFORT,** HE WAS WILLING TO LET ME LIVE IN ONE OF THE **FURNISHED** APARTMENTS **UPSTAIRS** FOR **HALF** THE GOING RATE!

ISN'T THAT **AWESOME** OF HIM?

WHAT...?!

YOU'D **REALLY** DO THAT, SWEETIE! OH **MY GOD**, I AM **SO** PROUD OF YOU!

AND YOU ARE GONNA GET **SO** **LUCKY** TONIGHT! JUST YOU WAIT!

YEAH... WELL, I FIGURED IT WAS THE **LEAST** I COULD DO!

AND YOU KNOW, **I** THINK WE SHOULD **ALSO** GET **SHERRI** HERE A **WHOLE NEW WARDROBE,** NOT JUST A **FEW** ITEMS!

SERIOUSLY?

SERIOUSLY?

DEFINITELY! IN FACT, LET'S JUST TOSS ALL OF DARYL'S OLD THINGS AND GET EVERYTHING NEW! NEW DRESSES, NEW UNDERWEAR, NEW SLEEPWEAR... EVERYTHING!

HOW'S THAT SOUND, SHERRI?

SOUNDS... WONDERFUL, PAUL! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!

OH, THIS IS **AWESOME!** TELL YOU WHAT, **I'LL** HELP DARYL... I MEAN **SHERRI**, *GIGGLE!*... **PACK UP** OR **THROW AWAY** WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF!

THEN, WHILE **WE'RE** OUT SHOPPING, **YOU** CAN HAVE SOME MEN COME OVER AND MOVE EVERYTHING INTO THE **NEW APARTMENT!**

THROW AWAY...?!

YOU MEAN **TODAY?!**

SHIT!!


THAT WAY, YOU'LL HAVE A WHOLE NEW APARTMENT AND WARDROBE BY THE END OF THE DAY! ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?
WONDERFUL...
YEAH... WONDERFUL!

Later, after Dayna and Sheryl leave for shopping...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT **YOU**, BUT I'M REALLY **LOVING** THESE **SHOPPING EXCURSIONS!**

BEFORE "SHERYL" CAME ALONG, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE FOR DAYS OUT LIKE THIS SINCE COLLEGE!

I KNOW YOU DON'T ENJOY IT ANYWHERE NEAR AS MUCH AS I DO, BUT HOPEFULLY ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU WILL!

YEAH... MAYBE!

LOOK DAYNA, I'M **GLAD** WE HAVE THIS TIME **ALONE** BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO **TALK** TO YOU ABOUT!

SURE, HONEY! YOU CAN TALK TO **ME** ABOUT **ANYTHING!**

GOOD! BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT **PAUL!**

NO MATTER **WHAT** HAPPENS, I **CAN'T** KEEP **QUIET** ABOUT THIS! DAYNA **DESERVES** TO KNOW THE **TRUTH** ABOUT HER **SCUMMY BOYFRIEND!** I JUST **HOPE** SHE'LL **LISTEN!**

STA

THIS WEEK

FORBIDDEN

SIGH! I **KNOW** YOU TWO HAVE **NEVER** SEEN EYE-TO-EYE ON **EVERYTHING**, BUT HE'S BEEN **NOTHING** BUT **SUPPORTIVE** TO YOU!

I MEAN, TAKE THE **NEW APARTMENT** FOR EXAMPLE! HE DID THAT FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN OUT OF THE **KINDNESS** OF HIS **HEART!**

KINDNESS, MY ASS!

ACTUALLY, THIS HAS **NOTHING** TO DO WITH **ME** AND PAUL! IT HAS TO DO WITH SOME **THINGS** I'VE BEEN **HEARING** ABOUT HIM AT **WORK!**

THINGS THAT SOME OF MY **COWORKERS** HAVE BEEN **SAYING** ABOUT HIM!

OH MY GOD! IF THIS ABOUT HIS ALLEGED SCREWING AROUND, I'M TIRED OF HEARING IT!

WHAT I KNOW IS THAT IT'S ALL A PACK OF LIES FABRICATED BY HIS RIVALS AT YOUR COMPANY!

WHAT?! YOU... YOU MEAN, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT IT?

NOT TO BE **INDELICATE**, BUT... HOW DO YOU **KNOW** THEY'RE LIES?

CRAP! THIS IS WHAT I WAS **AFRAID** OF!

BECAUSE PAUL **TOLD** ME ABOUT IT! HOW HIS OLD COLLEGE RIVAL **PETE SINGLETON** CONVINCED SOME OF THE MORE **ETHICALLY CHALLENGED** GIRLS IN YOUR BUILDING TO START SPREADING **RUMORS** ABOUT **PAUL!**

THE **ONLY** REASON BEING TO **RATTLE HIM** AND **DAMAGE** HIS **REPUTATION!**

AND YOU **BELIEVE** PAUL?

OF **COURSE** I BELIEVE HIM! **WHY** WOULD HE LIE TO **ME?**

AND LET'S BE **HONEST**... **WHY** WOULD HE **CHEAT** ON **ME?** WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR **YEARS** AND HE'S **NEVER** HAD A REASON TO LOOK **ELSEWHERE** FOR **ANYTHING!** I'VE SEEN TO THAT!

JESUS! HE'S GOT HER COMPLETELY SNOWED!

WELL, I DIDN'T MEAN TO BRING UP A SORE SUBJECT, DAYNA! IT'S JUST THAT THEY SEEMED SO SURE ABOUT HIM, AND...!

I WOULDN'T BELIEVE ONE WORD THOSE LYING BITCHES SAID, AND I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD EITHER!

MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STARTED HANGING AROUND WITH A DIFFERENT GROUP OF COWORKERS!


OKAY... OKAY! LET'S JUST FORGET THAT I SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT AND GET BACK TO OUR SHOPPING TRIP!
CHRIST! NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER HEAR MYSELF SAY THAT!
GOOD IDEA! AND I KNOW JUST THE PLACE WE CAN START!

Later that afternoon, as Paul finishes moving things into Sherri's new apartment...

GEE, I **SURE** HOPE DARYL WASN'T TOO **ATTACHED** TO ALL HIS **SHIT**, 'CAUSE **MOST** OF IT SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED UP IN THE **TRASH!** *SNORT!*

International Movers


SERVES THE LITTLE FUCKER RIGHT! HE'S COSTING ME A BUNDLE ON THIS APARTMENT, FORCING ME TO CUT THE RENT IN HALF, AND WITH IT MY COMMISSION!
THIS PLACE COULD PROBABLY GO FOR THREE TIMES WHAT I'LL BE CHARGING HIM! THANK GOD THE BUILDING OWNERS HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT CURRENT MARKET RATES!
International Movers
International Movers

SIGH! AND I **REALLY** SHOULD'VE GIVEN IT **MORE** THOUGHT BEFORE **BLURTING OUT** THAT **CRAZY** OFFER TO BUY HIM A **WHOLE NEW FUCKIN' WARDROBE!**

'CAUSE I KNOW **DAMN** WELL THAT **DAYNA'S** TAKEN THAT TO HEART AND PUT A **MAJOR DENT** IN OUR CREDIT CARDS MAKING THAT HAPPEN!

WELL, IT **MAY** COST ME A **SMALL FORTUNE,** BUT AT LEAST I GET THE **SATISFACTION** OF KNOWING IT'LL **ADD** TO THE LITTLE TWERP'S **HUMILIATION!**

AND **THAT,** YOU **CAN'T** PUT A **PRICE** ON!

THEIR LITTLE SHOPPING TRIP ALSO GAVE ME THE CHANCE TO REMOVE **MY STUFF** THAT I WAS STORING IN HERE!

DAYNA PROBABLY **WOULDN'T** UNDERSTAND SOME OF MY... **HOBBIES!** HEH-HEH!


GUESS I'LL BE A GOOD MANAGING AGENT AND GO CHECK OUT THE PLUMBING IN THE BATHROOM BEFORE THEY GET HERE!
GEE, I SURE HOPE NOTHING GETS CLOGGED UP! *HEH-HEH!*

C'MON, SHERRI! THIS IS IT OVER HERE! PAUL SAID HE'D LEAVE IT UNLOCKED FOR US!


OH MY GOD! THIS APARTMENT IS AWESOME! PAUL REALLY CAME THROUGH FOR YOU!
HURRY UP! YOU'VE GOTTA SEE THIS PLACE!
I'M COMING... I'M COMING!

YOU KNOW, I'D BE MOVING A **HELL** OF A LOT **FASTER** IF YOU HADN'T **FORCED** ME TO WEAR THESE HEELS **ALL AFTERNOON!**

YOU **DIDN'T** EVEN GIVE ME AN **OPTION**... YOU JUST HAD THE SHOE SALESMAN **THROW AWAY** MY **PERFECTLY GOOD** PAIR OF **SNEAKERS!**

YOU NEED **ALL** THE PRACTICE IN THOSE YOU CAN **GET,** AND I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE **ANY** TIME **ARGUING** WITH YOU!

AND **TOSSING** MY JEANS AND T-SHIRT OUT WHILE I WAS TRYING **THESE** ON WAS **SNEAKY** AND **UNDERHANDED**, TOO!

IT'S **NOT** LIKE I CAN WEAR SOMETHING LIKE **THIS** TO **WORK!**

HEY, A **WHOLE NEW WARDROBE** MEANS NEW CLOTHES FOR **24/7**, NOT **JUST** FOR WORK! GET **USED** TO IT, **SIS!**

BESIDES, YOUR LEGS **ROCK** THAT MINISKIRT!

WHATEVER! I...!

WOW! THIS PLACE IS EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE!

I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S SO FAR REMOVED FROM THAT CESSPOOL YOU LIVED IN DOWNSTAIRS, THAT IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY!

HARD TO BELIEVE THEY'RE IN THE SAME BUILDING!


AH, I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU TWO OUT HERE! I...!
WHOA!


WELL, WELL, WELL! WILL YOU LOOK AT SHERRI! NICE JOB, DOLL!
THANKS, BABE! WE'VE STILL GOT SOME WORK TO DO, BUT WE GOT A REALLY GOOD START TODAY!


OH YEAH! LITTLE SIS HERE WILL BE BEATING 'EM OFF WITH A STICK!
GREAT. SOMETHING TO REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO. THAT'S JUST HOW I WANT TO SPEND THE DAY AT MY NEW JOB.

BUT AT **LEAST** I HAVE THIS **AWESOME** NEW **APARTMENT** AS CONSOLATION... **AND** AT SUCH A **STEAL!** THANKS **SO** MUCH, PAUL!

YEAH... DON'T MENTION IT...

BUT **HEY**, IF **THIS** IS ALL YOU TWO BOUGHT TODAY, **I** GOT OFF **CHEAPER** THAN I **EXPECTED!**

OH HEAVENS, **NO!** THIS IS JUST THE **FIRST LOAD!** THE CAR'S STILL **FULL** OF STUFF JUST **WAITING** FOR A **BIG, STRONG MAN** TO HELP BRING IT UP!

GRUMBLE! I **KNEW** IT WAS **TOO GOOD** TO BE **TRUE!**

AND SINCE **YOU'VE** BEEN SUCH A **GOOD SPORT,** TAKE A **BREAK** FROM THE HEELS AND **REST** WHILE **WE** GET EVERYTHING FROM THE CAR!

DON'T HAVE TO TELL **ME** TWICE!


OH YEAH! NOW THIS IS THE LIFE!
AND IF I HAVE TO LIVE IT IN HIGH HEELS AND MINISKIRTS, SO BE IT!


OH, DON'T THINK I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, SISSY-BOY!
NO ONE GETS THE BEST OF ME WITHOUT PAYING FOR IT... BIG TIME!

by CBlack



Chapter 5

OPPORTUNITIES


Early Monday morning...


MORNING, BOSS! YOU'RE HERE BRIGHT AND EARLY!
I KNOW! I JUST HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF BECAUSE OF A ...!


MY GOODNESS! LOOK AT YOU!
YEAH, UMMM... WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S NOT TOO... MUCH, IS IT?
NONSENSE! YOU LOOK WONDERFUL!

QUITE THE **CHANGE** FROM THE GIRL WHO LEFT THIS OFFICE ON **FRIDAY!**

ANY PARTICULAR **REASON** FOR THE **NEW LOOK?**

I **HAVE** NOTICED! IT'S **REMARKABLE!**

WELL, AS YOU CAN **PROBABLY** TELL, MY, UMMM... **DEVELOPMENT** HAS **ACCELERATED** A BIT!

AND, WELL... I WAS JUST **EAGER** TO **SHOW OFF** THE NEW CURVES, **THATS** ALL!

YEAH, ABOUT AS **EAGER** AS I AM ABOUT **PROSTATE EXAMS!**

WELL THAT DRESS *CERTAINLY* ACCOMPLISHES *THAT!*

AND IF YOU DON'T *MIND* ME SAYING, I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU *ALREADY* FILL IT OUT SO *WELL* UP HERE!

WELL, I'M STILL *CHEATING* A BIT UP HERE! MY *SISTER* TALKED ME INTO WEARING A *PUSH-UP BRA* WITH *THIS* PARTICULAR DRESS!

YOU *SURE* IT'S NOT TOO *OBVIOUS?*


NOT AT ALL! YOU RESEMBLE A LOT OF THE OTHER PRETTY YOUNG WOMEN IN OUR OFFICES!
THANKS, GAVIN! THAT'S KIND OF WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR!

UMM, **BEFORE** WE GET TO WORK, CAN I **TALK** TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING?

OF **COURSE,** SHERRI! IS THIS ABOUT YOUR **TRANSITION?**

NO, ACTUALLY! IT'S ABOUT **YOU!**

OH, **REALLY?** WHAT **ABOUT** ME?

THERE ARE ***SOME*** PEOPLE IN THIS BUILDING WHO HAVE STARTED ***RUMORS*** THAT ***YOU*** MIGHT BE ***GAY!***

I ***DENIED*** THOSE RUMORS, OF COURSE, BUT... YOU ***KNOW*** HOW RUMORS WORK!

INTERESTING! I ***THOUGHT*** I'D BEEN EXTREMELY ***CAREFUL*** KEEPING MY ***PRIVATE*** LIFE AS FAR AWAY FROM ***HERE*** AS POSSIBLE!

DO THESE ***RUMORS*** PROVIDE ANY ***EVIDENCE*** AS TO ***WHY*** I MIGHT BE GAY?

ACTUALLY IT'S ALL ***SPECULATION*** BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE FACT THAT YOU'RE THE ***ONLY*** MALE EXECUTIVE IN THE BUILDING WHO ***DOESN'T*** HIT ON ***ANY*** OF THE GIRLS HERE!

I WOULD ***THINK*** THEY'D ***APPRECIATE*** YOU FOR BEING A ***GENTLEMAN***, BUT I GUESS NOT! ***SORRY!***

I ***DESPISE*** THE IDEA OF HAVING MY ***SEXUALITY DISCUSSED!*** IT'S REALLY ***NOBODY'S BUSINESS!***

FAR BE IT FOR **ME** TO ADVISE YOU ON THIS, BUT THIS MIGHT BE **JUST** THE RIGHT TIME FOR YOU TO **COME OUT!**

SOCIETY IS A **LOT** MORE **FORGIVING** AND **UNDERSTANDING** THAN IT WAS WHEN **YOU** TRANSITIONED!

MAYBE **SO!** BUT **COMING OUT** IS **ONE** THING... LEARNING I'M **TRANSGENDERED** IS SOMETHING **COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!**

AND I'M JUST AFRAID THAT **ONE** WILL EVENTUALLY **LEAD** TO THE **OTHER!**

PERHAPS IT'S TIME *I* STARTED THINKING ABOUT *RETIREMENT!*

RETIREMENT? THAT SEEMS PRETTY *DRASTIC!* AND I *DO* HAVE AN IDEA THAT COULD *DISPEL* THE *RUMORS...* FOR THE *TIME BEING* AT LEAST!

THERE'S NO NEED TO INVOLVE *YOURSELF* IN *MY PROBLEMS,* SHERRI...!

DON'T BE SILLY! YOU'RE THE ONLY REASON I'M WORKING HERE, SO I WANT TO HELP! AND BESIDES, IT'LL BE EASY! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS START A RUMOR THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HITTING ON THE GIRLS HERE! WELL... ONE GIRL, AT LEAST!

I'M SORRY, BUT I **WON'T** HAVE YOU **SULLY** YOUR **REPUTATION** IN ORDER TO PROTECT **MY PRIVACY!**

YOU **WON'T** BE! **SERIOUSLY,** GAVIN, THE **ATTITUDE** OF **MANY** WOMEN WHO WORK HERE IS RATHER... **BRAZEN! SOME** OF THE GIRLS HAVE **ALREADY** SUGGESTED THAT **I** TRY AND **ENTICE** YOU INTO SOME SORT OF **TRYST!**

WITH MY **NEW** LOOK, IT'LL **SEEM** LIKE I **TOOK** THEIR **ADVICE! ESPECIALLY** IF WE'RE **SEEN** TOGETHER **OUTSIDE** THE BUILDING!

I WAS THINKING WE COULD SET UP A **FAKE DATE** SO WE COULD BE **SPOTTED** SOMEWHERE! THAT'S **ALL** IT WOULD TAKE!

FIGHT ***ONE*** RUMOR WITH ***ANOTHER? INTRIGUING*** IDEA... AND IT ***JUST*** MIGHT WORK! BUT ***INSTEAD*** OF A FAKE DATE, I HAVE SOMETHING ***ELSE*** THAT ***MIGHT*** WORK EVEN ***BETTER!***

WHAT'S THAT?

I'M GOING ON AN OVERNIGHT ***BUSINESS TRIP*** TOMORROW... AND I THINK ***YOU*** SHOULD GO ***WITH*** ME!

REALLY? WELL... ***OKAY,*** BUT ***NO ONE*** WILL ***SEE*** US ***OUT OF TOWN!***

TRUE... BUT ***KNOWING*** WE'RE OUT OF TOWN ***TOGETHER*** WILL BE ***ENOUGH*** TO KEEP THE ***GOSSIP-MONGERS*** HAPPY! DON'T YOU THINK?

AND, TO BE PERFECTLY ***HONEST*** WITH YOU, I HAVE ***ANOTHER*** REASON FOR THIS TRIP!

YOU SEE, I HAVE A '***FRIEND***' THAT I'VE BEEN SEEING FOR SOME TIME THAT I ***ALWAYS*** TRY AND SCHEDULE SOME ***TIME*** FOR WHEN I'M OUT OF TOWN!

I WAS ***PLANNING*** ON ***RENDEZVOUSING*** WITH ***HIM*** AFTER OUR BUSINESS MEETING!

SO YOU SEE, CHECKING INTO A HOTEL WITH AN ***ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN*** SUCH AS ***YOURSELF*** IS THE ***PERFECT COVER*** FOR MY ***ACTUAL TRYST!***

THE RESULTING ***TONGUE-WAGGING*** ITSELF ***MIGHT*** BE ENOUGH TO ***QUELL*** ANY ***FURTHER RUMORS*** REGARDING MY ***SEXUALITY!*** WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S A **PERFECT** IDEA! JUST GIVE ME THE **DETAILS** AND **I'LL** TAKE CARE OF **ALL** THE TRAVEL PLANS!

AND **MAYBE** EVEN DROP A **HINT** OR TWO TO A FEW OF THE MORE **TALKATIVE** GIRLS IN THE BUILDING!

YOU KNOW, **EVERY DAY** YOU GIVE ME A **NEW** REASON TO BE **THANKFUL** THAT I HIRED YOU, SHERRI!

I FEEL THE **SAME** WAY, BOSS!

Later that day...

LET'S SEE... I GOT THE **PLANE TICKETS** AND THE **HOTEL RESERVATIONS** TAKEN CARE OF...!

I **THINK** THAT TAKES CARE OF **EVERYTHING!**


GIGGLE! I EVEN MADE SURE THE HOTEL ROOMS WERE ADJOINING ROOMS, JUST TO ADD A LITTLE MORE SPECULATION TO THE ILLUSION!
Oooooo

WOW! I JUST REALIZED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ON A PLANE SINCE DAYNA AND I WERE LITTLE KIDS!

I JUST HOPE THE I.D. THAT PAUL GOT ME IS GOOD ENOUGH TO GET ME THROUGH SECURITY!

CHUCKLE! DAMN! SOMETIMES I FORGET HOW DIFFERENT I'VE BECOME! I'M DEFINITELY NOT THAT SAME LITTLE BOY WHO WENT ON THAT FAMILY TRIP TO SIX FLAGS! THIS IS GOING TO BE SO MUCH BETTER!

SHERRI?! OH MY GOD, THAT IS YOU!


OH, UHH... HI, MAGGIE! YEAH, IT'S ME! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT DO I THINK? I THINK YOU LOOK AWESOME, GIRL! THAT'S WHAT I THINK!

THANKS! I, UHHH... THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU AND THE OTHER GIRLS SAID ON FRIDAY AND FIGURED I'D GIVE A NEW LOOK A SHOT!

AND YOU DID AN AMAZING JOB! I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR MY HELP! I'M ALWAYS UP FOR A GOOD SHOPPING TRIP AND MAKE-OVER!

WELL, NEXT TIME WE'LL GO TOGETHER! I PROMISE!

I'M HOLDING YOU TO THAT!


I SAY WE START THE WEEK OFF RIGHT AND SHOW YOU OFF AT ROCKY'S THIS AFTERNOON! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'D LOVE TO, REALLY I WOULD, BUT I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO DO THIS EVENING!
GAVIN'S LEAVING ON A BUSINESS TRIP EARLY TOMORROW AND I'M GOING WITH HIM!

LET ME GET THIS **STRAIGHT**... YOU SHOW UP TO WORK TODAY, **LOOKING** LIKE **THIS**, AND GAVIN **ALL OF A SUDDEN** ASKS **YOU** TO **ACCOMPANY HIM** ON AN **OUT OF TOWN** MEETING?

AM I **UNDERSTANDING** THAT CORRECTLY? HMMM?

OKAY... **YES!** I **ADMIT** IT! YOU GUYS WERE **RIGHT!** A LITTLE **PACKAGING CHANGE** CAN DO **WONDERS** FOR THE WORK... **AND** SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT!

LOOK, I WOULD **LOVE** TO CHAT **ALL DAY** WITH YOU ABOUT THIS, BUT I STILL HAVE **LOADS** OF THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE THE TRIP!

OKAY, I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK... **THIS** TIME! BUT YOU **WILL** FILL ME ON **EVERY DETAIL** AS **SOON** AS YOU GET BACK! **GOT IT?**

I'VE **GOT** IT!


SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, MAGGIE!
OKAY! AND... HAVE FUN!
OH, I WILL!

PERFECT! NOW, LET THE RUMORS RUN WILD!

The next afternoon, as Gavin and Sherri check into their hotel...

HERE ARE YOUR KEYS, MR. GENTRY, MS. PRUITT! THE BELL CAPTAIN HAS ***ALREADY*** TAKEN YOUR BAGS TO YOUR ROOMS!

PLEASE ***ENJOY*** YOUR STAY!

THANK YOU! WE CERTAINLY WILL!

SO, **NOW** THAT YOU'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT THROUGH A WHOLE **DAY** OF BUSINESS MEETINGS, **WHAT** DID YOU **THINK,** SHERRI?

YOU DIDN'T FALL **ASLEEP**, SO YOU **COULDN'T** HAVE BEEN **TOO** BORED!

ON THE **CONTRARY,** I THOUGHT THE **WHOLE DAY** WAS **FASCINATING!**

I MEAN, WE **STUDIED** BUSINESS CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES IN **COLLEGE,** BUT TO ACTUALLY **EXPERIENCE** THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION ON A **PERSONAL** LEVEL IS... **EXHILARATING!**

I DON'T THINK I'VE **EVER** HEARD **THAT** WORD USED TO DESCRIBE ANY **BUSINESS MEETING!**

YOU, YOUNG LADY, HAVE A **UNIQUE** AND **VIBRANT** PERCEPTION THAT I **ENVY!**

WELL, I'VE **ALWAYS** BEEN INTERESTED IN THE **BUSINESS WORLD! THAT'S** WHY I WAS SO **EAGER,** NOT TO MENTION **THANKFUL,** TO COME WORK FOR **YOU** AT **RENCORP!**

EVEN AT THE **LOWEST** LEVELS OF THE COMPANY, THERE ARE **ALWAYS** THINGS TO LEARN!


YOU ARE INDEED A GEM, SHERRI!
WELL... THANK YOU, GAVIN!

SO, I HEARD SOME OF THE **GUYS** AT THE MEETING INVITE YOU FOR A **DRINK** IN THE HOTEL BAR? ARE YOU **GOING?**

BUT **WHY?**

I WASN'T **PLANNING** ON IT!

I'VE BEEN COMING OUT HERE FOR **YEARS** AND HAVE HEARD **EVERYTHING** THOSE GENTLEMEN HAVE TO SAY! BESIDES, I'M MEETING MY FRIEND LATER AT **ANOTHER HOTEL** AND WANT TO GET READY!

WELL, IF YOU'RE WILLING TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS SLIGHTLY, I ***THINK*** I HAVE A WAY WE CAN ***PERPETUATE*** OUR LITTLE ***CHARADE*** WITHOUT ***TOO*** MUCH EFFORT!

AS LONG AS I CAN MAKE MY ***OWN*** RENDEZVOUS ON ***TIME,*** I'M ALL IN!

GREAT! ***HERE'S*** WHAT WE'LL DO...!

A while later at the hotel bar...

GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US FOR A DRINK AFTER ALL, GAVIN!

IT'S NOT ***EVERY DAY*** WE GET TO RUB ELBOWS WITH YOU FOLKS FROM THE ***MAIN OFFICE!***

YEAH! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD ***PLANS*** THIS EVENING!

WHAT HAPPENED? DID THEY FALL THROUGH?

NO, I JUST ***REARRANGED*** THEM, THAT'S ALL!

WELL **HELL**, I KNOW WHAT **MY** PLANS WOULD BE IF **I** WAS TRAVELING WITH A SECRETARY THAT LOOKED LIKE **YOURS**, GAVIN! HEH-HEH!

YEAH, **I'D** BE HAVING A NICE, **LONG** NIGHT OF **DICTATION!** HEH-HEH!

ACTUALLY, SHE'S **NOT** MY **SECRETARY**, SHE'S MY **BUSINESS ASSISTANT!**

SECRETARY... ASSISTANT... WHAT'S THE ***DIFFERENCE?*** IT'S ALL JUST ***SEMANTICS*** AS FAR AS ***I'M*** CONCERNED!

SHERRI IS ***INFINITELY*** MORE ***QUALIFIED*** THAN YOUR AVERAGE ***OFFICE MANAGER!*** I ENTRUST HER WITH TASKS I WOULDN'T ***DREAM*** OF LETTING ANY ORDINARY ***SECRETARY*** ATTEMPT!

ALL RIGHT! I ***LIKE*** THE SOUND OF ***THAT!*** WHERE DO I GET ***ME*** ONE OF THESE ***ASSISTANTS*** OF YOUR'S? HEH-HEH!

SIGH! THIS IS *JUST* AS *DISTASTEFUL* AS I *THOUGHT* IT WOULD BE... AND GOING DOWNHILL *FAST!*

OKAY SHERRI... *ANY TIME* NOW...!

GEE, IT'S KIND OF A *WASTE* THINKING OF THAT *POOR GIRL* UPSTAIRS... *ALL ALONE*... PROBABLY *BORED* OUT OF HER MIND!


YEAH! MAYBE WE NEED TO CALL UP THERE AND SEE IF SHE'D LIKE TO JOIN US!
WHOA! UMMM... LLOYD?

YEAH, GIVE 'ER A CALL, GAVIN! WE'LL SHOW THAT ASSISTANT OF YOURS HOW WE PARTY IN THIS TOWN! RIGHT, WALT?

DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE TO DO THAT, LLOYD! LOOK!


HUH?!
WHOA!


GAVIN, DID YOU MAKE THE RESERVATION FOR DINNER?
I DID, BUT WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME, SHERRI!


WELL THEN, I GUESS I HAVE TIME FOR A DRINK AS WELL!
A GLASS OF CHARDONNAY, PLEASE!


GENTLEMEN, I THINK YOU REMEMBER MY ASSISTANT, SHERRI PRUITT!
AND IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, YOU TWO ARE LLOYD FRANKLIN AND WALTER OATS!
RIGHT ON BOTH COUNTS! YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT MEMORY, SHERRI!
WELL, IT HELPS IN OUR BUSINESS, DOESN'T IT!

SO... WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BUSINESS ASSISTANTS AND SECRETARIES!

HMMM! I WONDERED WHY MY EARS WERE BURNING!

SO LET ME GUESS... **TWO** OUT OF **THREE** MEN HERE FEEL THAT BUSINESS ASSISTANTS ARE **LITTLE MORE** THAN **GLORIFIED SECRETARIES** WITH **FANCIER TITLES!**

AM I GETTING **WARM**, LLOYD? **WALTER?**

WELL, THAT'S NOT **EXACTLY** WHAT I WAS SAYING...!

YEAH, **ME EITHER!** I WAS JUST, UMMM...!


WELL... SINCE WE SEEM TO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME, WHY DON'T I TRY TO CONVINCE YOU TWO OTHERWISE...!

A drink or two later...

I *HATE* TO CUT THIS SHORT, GENTLEMEN, BUT IF *SHERRI* AND I DON'T LEAVE *NOW*, WE'RE GOING TO *LOSE* OUR RESERVATION!

WELL HELL, IF THE *LADY'S* LEAVING, WHAT'S THE POINT OF *STAYING?* I THINK *I'LL* HEAD *HOME!*

YEAH, ME TOO, LLOYD! *NO POINT* IN HANGING OUT IN A PLACE THAT *DOESN'T* HAVE SOMEONE AS LOVELY AS *SHERRI* IN IT!

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU TWO WOULD MIND IF WE ***TAGGED ALONG*** WITH YOU FOR DINNER, HMM?

THAT'S VERY ***SWEET*** OF YOU TWO TO SAY THAT, BUT WE HAVE KIND OF A... ***SPECIAL*** EVENING PLANNED!

I ***HOPE*** YOU UNDERSTAND!


WE UNDERSTAND ALL TOO WELL! YOU'RE A DISGUSTINGLY LUCKY MAN, GAVIN!
GUILTY AS CHARGED!

SEE YOU NEXT TIME, GAVIN! BUT **ONLY** IF YOU BRING **SHERRI!**

BETTER YET... **SHERRI** COMES AND LEAVES **GAVIN** AT THE MAIN OFFICE!

GOODBYE, BOYS!


WELL, THEM LEAVING MAKES THINGS A LOT EASIER! NOW I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SNEAKING BACK INTO MY ROOM UNSEEN WHILE YOU GO MEET UP WITH YOUR FRIEND!
AND AS FAR AS THOSE TWO TALKATIVE GENTLEMEN ARE CONCERNED, I'M JUST ANOTHER LECHEROUS BOSS HAVING A TORRID AFFAIR WITH HIS SECRETARY!

AS **STRANGE** AS THIS SOUNDS... **THANK YOU** FOR THAT, SHERRI!

IT WAS **MY PLEASURE,** BOSS!

YES, I THINK IT **WAS!** YOU **DEFINITELY** SEEMED TO BE **ENJOYING** YOURSELF!

I HAVE TO **ADMIT, I DID** GET A **KICK** OUT OF IT!

ARE YOU ***SURE*** YOU'VE NEVER DONE ***ANYTHING*** LIKE THIS BEFORE?

BECAUSE THE ***WAY*** YOU ***PRESENTED*** YOURSELF WHEN YOU CAME DOWN THOSE STAIRS WAS ***EXQUISITE!***

I'M ***SURPRISED*** YOU BROUGHT A DRESS LIKE ***THAT*** WITH YOU! THEY ***NEVER*** TOOK THEIR ***EYES*** OFF YOU!

ACTUALLY, I ***DIDN'T*** BRING ANYTHING ***SEXIER*** THAN MY ***BUSINESS SUIT*** AND ***THIS*** WAS THE ***ONLY*** THING THEY HAD IN THE SHOPS HERE THAT ***FIT*** ME!

I WAS A LITTLE ***HESITANT*** TO BUY IT, BUT ONCE I HAD IT ***ON,*** I JUST FELT SOO... ***CONFIDENT,*** I GUESS!

AND ***SEEING*** WHAT IT ***DID*** TO ***THOSE GUYS*** JUST ***AMPLIFIED*** THAT FEELING!

IS... IS THAT ***NORMAL?***

OF **COURSE** IT'S NORMAL! IT JUST SHOWS THAT YOU'RE **EMBRACING** YOUR **FEMININITY** AND ENJOYING THE **WOMAN** YOU'RE **BECOMING!**

I MEAN, **WHAT** BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN **DOESN'T** RELISH THE **ATTENTION** SHE COMMANDS OVER A **ROOM FULL** OF **MEN?**

IF YOU DON'T **MIND** ME ATTEMPTING SOME **MODERN VERNACULAR...**

YOU **OWNED** THEM, GIRLFRIEND! SO, **GO WITH IT!**

GIGGLE!


AND ON THAT NOTE, I BELIEVE I HAVE A DATE I'M ALMOST LATE FOR!
MAY I SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM BEFORE I GO?
THAT'S OKAY, GAVIN! YOU GO ON AND MEET YOUR FRIEND! I'D LIKE TO FINISH MY WINE BEFORE I TURN IN!


ALL RIGHT THEN! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
SINCE WE HAVE A LATE RETURN FLIGHT, MAYBE THE THREE OF US CAN MEET SOMEWHERE FOR LUNCH!
I'D LIKE THAT! SEE YOU TOMORROW, GAVIN, AND... HAVE FUN!

HMMM... IS GAVIN **RIGHT?** AM I **EMBRACING** THIS **MORE** THAN I'VE BEEN **WILLING** TO ADMIT?

LET'S **FACE IT,** I **DID** ENJOY HAVING THOSE TWO YUTZES **WRAPPED** AROUND MY **FINGER!** BUT **THEY** WERE **EASY**... THEY **NEVER** LOOKED PAST MY **CLEAVAGE!**

I COULD'VE BEEN READING THEM **WAR AND PEACE**... IN **PIG-LATIN**... AND THEY **STILL** WOULD'VE BEEN **ENTHRALLED!**


AND YET... BEING OGLED LIKE THAT IS KIND OF A TURN-ON!
THINK I'LL JUST FINISH MY WINE, GO BACK TO MY ROOM AND HAVE A LITTLE... ALONE TIME! *GIGGLE!*
EXCUSE ME, IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?


HUH?! OH, UH... NO IT ISN'T! BUT I WAS JUST...!

OH MY GOD! AREN'T YOU OWEN MANNING, THE LEFT WINGER FOR THE QUEBEC PITBULLS?

UMM... GUILTY AS CHARGED! I TAKE IT YOU'RE KIND OF A HOCKEY FAN!

ABOUT AS MUCH AS YOU'RE **KIND OF** A HOCKEY **LEGEND!**

YOU WON THE **CALDER TROPHY** AS A ROOKIE AND HAVE SCORED OVER **50 GOALS** IN **EACH** OF THE LAST **SIX SEASONS** SINCE!

AND IF **SCHWARTZKOPF** HADN'T TAKEN THAT **CHEAP SHOT** AT YOU DURING **GAME SIX** OF THE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE FINALS, **YOU ALL** WOULD BE PLAYING FOR THE **STANLEY CUP** RIGHT NOW!


I'M SORRY... I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY! I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE FAMOUS BEFORE!
WELL, FAMOUS IS A RELATIVE TERM, BUT I DO APPRECIATE THE ENTHUSIASM!


SO... I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING OR ANYTHING! I NOTICED THAT THE GENTLEMEN YOU WERE WITH SEEM TO HAVE LEFT, BUT IF YOU ARE EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE, OR HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE YOU HAVE TO BE...!
NO! YOU'RE NOT INTRUDING AT ALL! I WAS GOING TO GO BACK TO MY ROOM, BUT HOW OFTEN DO I GET THE CHANCE TO MEET SOMEONE LIKE YOU! PLEASE... HAVE A SEAT!

THANKS! WELL YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW MY NAME, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOURS!

OH! I'M SORRY! IT'S DAR... I MEAN SHERRI... SHERRI PRUITT!

NICE TO MEET YOU SHERRI!

AND IT'S GREAT TO MEET YOU, OWEN!

JESUS! I'M SO DAMN FLUSTERED ABOUT ACTUALLY SITTING HERE WITH OWEN MANNING THAT I ALMOST FORGOT MYSELF!

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE... SHERRI!

I'M A BUSINESS ASSISTANT FOR ***RENCORP!*** MY ***BOSS*** AND I ARE IN TOWN FOR A ***BUSINESS MEETING!***

OH! WE, UMMM... WE HAD ***PLANS*** TO GO OUT, BUT ***HE*** GOT ***CALLED AWAY!***

SO, WHAT DO ***YOU*** DO, SHERRI?

IF ***THAT'S*** WHAT ALL THE ***ASSISTANTS*** GET TO WEAR TO ***BUSINESS MEETINGS*** AT RENCORP, ***I'M*** IN THE ***WRONG BUSINESS!***

AH! SO, ARE YOU AND YOUR BOSS, UMMM... CLOSE?

WHAT? OH, NO... IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T TRAVEL VERY MUCH AND HE OFFERED TO SHOW ME SOME OF THE NICER PLACES IN TOWN!

I, UMMM... SPILLED COFFEE ON MY BUSINESS SUIT EARLIER AND THIS WAS THE ONLY OTHER THING I PACKED BESIDES A NIGHTGOWN!


LIKE I SAID, I DON'T TRAVEL VERY MUCH AND OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T PACK VERY WELL!
OKAY, NOW YOU'RE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME!
ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK YOU DID AN AMAZING JOB OF PACKING! IN FACT, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE THAT DRESS WHEREVER YOU GO!
OH, I'M DEATHLY SERIOUS! BELIEVE ME!

MAN, OH MAN! I JUST CAN'T GET OVER THE FACT THAT I'M SITTING HERE SHOOTING THE SHIT WITH ONE OF THE ROCK GODS OF THE NHL!

NOT JUST A ROCK GOD, BUT, IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, THE MOST AWESOME PLAYER THE NHL'S SEEN IN YEARS!

OF COURSE I KNOW DAMN WELL WHY HE'S HERE WITH ME! A GUY LIKE HIM WOULDN'T GIVE DARYL PRUITT A SECOND LOOK, OR EVEN A HALF-HEARTED AUTOGRAPH!

HE'S HERE BECAUSE I'M SHERRI PRUITT! AND RIGHT NOW, I COULDN'T BE ONE BIT HAPPIER!

SO OWEN, I TOLD YOU WHAT ***I'M*** DOING HERE, BUT WHAT ABOUT ***YOU?*** WHAT ARE ***YOU*** IN TOWN FOR?

BLAME SCHWARTZKOPF! THAT ***HIT*** HE PUT ON ME IN GAME 6 MESSED UP MY ***KNEE*** SOMETHING FIERCE!

I'M HERE TO HAVE SOME ***SPECIALIST*** TAKE A LOOK AT IT TOMORROW! ***HOPEFULLY*** GET IT BACK IN SHAPE BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS BACK UP IN OCTOBER!


LEAVE IT TO SCHWARTZKOPF TO WAYLAY YOU LIKE THAT! THAT PRICK HAS MADE A CAREER OUT OF PLAYING DIRTY!
YEAH! HE AND I HAVE A BIT OF HISTORY GOING BACK QUITE A FEW YEARS!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BORE YOU WITH THOSE DETAILS!

OH, ON THE CONTRARY! I'D *LOVE* TO HEAR *ALL* ABOUT IT!

A few hours later...

YOU'RE ***KIDDING!*** I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ***POSSIBLE*** TO DO SOMETHING LIKE ***THAT*** ON ***ICE SKATES!***

OH, YOU'D BE ***SURPRISED*** WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU PUT YOUR ***MIND*** TO IT!

OKAY, SO MAYBE A **BETTER** QUESTION IS WHAT **HAVEN'T** YOU DONE ON ICE SKATES?

BUT **WHAT?** C'MON, OWEN! **SPILL IT!**

OH HELL... THERE ARE **LOTS** OF THINGS! **MOST** OF THEM AREN'T WORTH THE **EFFORT!**

BUT... THERE **ARE** A FEW THAT I'VE ALWAYS **WANTED** TO TRY, BUT...!


A FEW THINGS JUST NEED THE RIGHT PARTNER!
OH?

OH!

GEE, UMMM... WHERE'D THAT **BARTENDER** GO? DID SHE **FORGET** ABOUT OUR **DRINKS?**

THE BARTENDER **CLOSED UP SHOP** AND LEFT AN **HOUR** AGO, SHERRI! **REMEMBER?**

OH MY GOD! IS IT REALLY THAT LATE?

I'M SO SORRY! I HAD NO IDEA WE'D BEEN TALKING THIS LONG!

I'M NOT SORRY ONE LITTLE BIT!


THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY, OWEN, BUT I REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING TO BED!
I THINK WE BOTH HAVE LONG DAYS TOMORROW!
WELL... OKAY, SPOILSPORT!

I CAN'T **TELL** YOU HOW **MUCH** I ENJOYED MEETING YOU, OWEN!

I DON'T THINK **ANY** OF MY FRIENDS WILL **BELIEVE** ME WHEN I TELL THEM ABOUT THIS EVENING!

MY **PHONE?**

OH, **I** CAN THINK OF **ONE WAY** TO CONVINCE THEM! LET ME SEE YOUR PHONE!


OH...
DUH!


OKAY... GET IN HERE CLOSE!
UMMM... ALL RIGHT!

SAY "FROMAGE"!

GIGGLE! FROMAGE!

Click!


WOW! I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS, OWEN! MY FRIENDS WILL BE SOOOOO JEALOUS!


I CAN'T WAIT TO...!


UH...!


"GASP!"
UH-OH!!


OH... SHIT!

UMMM... WOW! I, UHHH... I REALLY SHOULD BE GOING, OWEN!

UH, YEAH! I HAD A GREAT TIME TONIGHT, TOO!

YEAH... ME TOO, SHERRI!

IT WAS REALLY NICE MEETING YOU!


BY THE WAY, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I LEFT MY NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE!
JUST IN CASE YOU EVER GET TO MONTREAL... OR ANY OTHER TOWN WE HAPPEN TO BE PLAYING IN!


OH... THANKS! I'LL... I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!
BYE, OWEN!


HOLY SHIT!!

A few minutes later, in the hotel room...

STUPID, STUPID, STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!!

JESUS H CHRIST! I SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING!

ALL THAT GODDAMN **FLIRTING**, WEARING A DRESS LIKE **THIS**, WITH MY **TITS** HANGING OUT **ALL OVER** THE PLACE...?!

WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?!

SIGH! I WASN'T THINKING, THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

OWEN MANNING CAME UP AND STARTED TALKING TO ME AND I JUST... LOST IT!

HE WAS SMILING AT ME... TALKING TO ME... AND I DIDN'T WANT IT TO END!


I'M GETTING TOO DAMN GOOD AT THIS SHIT!


WHAT I NEED IS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP TO TRY AND FORGET THAT KISS!


ARGH! THIS DAMN TANKTOP ISN'T STAYING UP WORTH SHIT!
BUT IT STILL BEATS THE HELL OUTTA THOSE FLIMSY NIGHTIES DAYNA WANTED ME TO BUY!
OH WELL... MAYBE, IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE WET DREAMS ABOUT MAGGIE!


YEAH... THAT'D DO IT!
AND THIS IS THE PERFECT WAY TO GET IT STARTED!


MMMMMMMM!


MMMMMMMM!


OOOOOO, MAN! THAT FEELS SO...!


MAGGIE?!


YOU EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE, BABY? BETTER NOT BE!
YOU KNOW HOW POSSESSIVE I AM WHEN IT COMES TO THIS BOD OF YOURS!
NO WAY, BABE! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE!

GOOD! 'CAUSE I JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU!

THIS HOT LITTLE BOD OF YOURS JUST GETS SEXIER AND SEXIER EVERY TIME I SEE YOU!


MMMMMM! I'VE GOT THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS RIGHT HERE BENEATH ME!
A WONDERFUL COCK AND A PAIR OF THE MOST ADORABLY SENSITIVE TITTIES I'VE EVER GOTTEN HOLD OF!
OOOOOOOOOHHH!


I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU, BABY! TRUST ME?
OH GOD, YES!
GOOD!

HOPE YOU **LIKE** IT! JUST A LITTLE **SOMETHING** TO KEEP **YOU** HAPPY WHEN **I** NEED A BREAK!

WHAT... WHAT **IS** IT?

SEE FOR YOURSELF!


HEY THERE, HOT STUFF!
OWEN?!

I JUST **COULDN'T** LET OUR EVENING **END** WITH THAT **KISS**, SHERRI! AND I CAN TELL **YOU** WANTED MORE, TOO!

NO! YOU... YOU **DON'T** UNDERSTAND, OWEN! I... **I CAN'T!** I'M **NOT** WHAT YOU **THINK** I AM! I... I **DON'T** HAVE A...!


MMMMM! AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED IN A WOMAN, BABY!
FROM THESE PERFECT LITTLE TITS OF YOURS...
OWEN, STOP! PLEASE, I...

... DOWN TO THE *CUTEST* LITTLE *PUSSY* I'VE *EVER* SEEN!

WHAT?! BUT, I DON'T... I...!

GASP! OHHHHHH...!


OH YEAH! YOU ARE A SENSITIVE LITTLE THING! AND EVEN THOUGH I LOVE FOREPLAY AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY, I JUST CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!
WAIT, OWEN! I... YOU CAN'T...!


OOOOOHHHHH!
GOD!!!


OH GOD, OWEN!! THAT FEELS... AMAZING!!


OH GOD... OH GOD... OH...
MY... GOD...!!!


HARDER,
OWEN! OH GOD...
HARDER...!


HUH?! WHAT THE...?!


JESUS! IT WAS JUST A DREAM!
THANK GOD IT'S STILL THERE, AND IT WAS JUST A FUCKING DREAM!

DIDN'T MEAN A *GODDAMN* THING... JUST A *SILLY DREAM!*


SIGH!



by CBlack



Chapter 6

OPPORTUNITIES

A couple of days later, at the usual Friday after-work happy hour...



C'MON, SHERRI! YOU'VE GOTTA DO BETTER THAN THAT! DETAILS, GIRL... DETAILS!

FORGET IT, GIRLS! I'VE BEEN INTERROGATING HER EVER SINCE SHE AND GAVIN GOT BACK FROM CHICAGO, AND THIS IS ALL I'VE GOTTEN OUT OF HER!

LOOK LADIES, I'M JUST NOT THAT COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT!

ALL I WILL SAY, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, BUT... IT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN! ANYTIME SOON, AT LEAST!

THEN YOU'RE SAYING GAVIN IS...!

GIGGLE! OH, HE'S **STRAIGHT** ALL RIGHT! **TRUST ME** ON **THAT!** *SIGH!*

AND **THAT** SHOULD TAKE CARE OF **GAVIN'S** LITTLE **RUMOR** PROBLEM, **ONCE** AND **FOR ALL!**


OKAY, FINE! BUT SHE WHO WON'T PROVIDE DETAILS MUST BUY THE NEXT ROUND!
GLAD TO! BE RIGHT BACK!

Meanwhile, on the other side of the bar...

HEY, **DESALLE!** WHATCHA UP TO OVER HERE **ALL BY YOURSELF?** FINALLY **SCARE OFF** ALL **TWO** OF YOUR FRIENDS? HEH-HEH!

FUCK OFF, SINGLETON! JUST HAVIN' A **DRINK** BEFORE HEADING HOME! SO WHY DON'T YOU **SLITHER** ON TO YOUR **OTHER** CORPORATE CRONIES OVER **THERE?**

OOOO! A LITTLE TOUCHY, AREN'T WE, DESALLE? COULD IT BE THE STRESS OF WORKING FOR A SECOND RATE COMPANY WHOSE QUARTERLY EARNINGS ARE IN THE TOILET?

OR IS IT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE PERSONAL? LIKE THE INABILITY TO SCORE WITH ANY OF THE LOVELY LADIES I HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY SINGLE DAY?

I'VE **SEEN** THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN **STRIKING OUT** IN HERE LATELY, **DESALLE!** IT'S PRETTY **PATHETIC!** I SUGGEST YOU **STICK** WITH YOUR **OWN HERD** OVER AT **STEMCORP!** HEH-HEH!

I'LL SAY IT **AGAIN,** SINGLETON... **FUCK OFF!**

WELL GEE, IF **THAT'S** THE BEST I'M GONNA GET OUT OF **YOU** TODAY, DESALLE, I MIGHT AS WELL JUST **LEAVE** YOU **ALONE!**

THERE'S **LOTS** OF OPPORTUNITIES OUT THERE FOR **ME!** HEH-HEH!


JESUS FUCKING CHRIST! I AM SICK AND FUCKING TIRED OF THAT ASSHOLE LOOKING DOWN HIS SNOUT AT ME!

I'VE BEEN **TOO** FUCKING **LENIENT** WITH SHERRI! IT'S **TIME** SHE STARTED **PRODUCING** SOME **GODDAMN RESULTS!**

SO, ANY LUCK FINDING A **BUYER** FOR THIS PLACE YET, ROCKY?

NOPE! NO ONE'S **STUPID** ENOUGH TO GET INTO THE **BAR BIZ** THESE DAYS!

THAT'S TOO BAD! THIS PLACE HAS **SO** MUCH **POTENTIAL!**

YEAH, WELL... **WHAT** ARE YOU GONNA DO?

I'LL HAVE YOUR **DRINKS** SENT OVER WHEN THEY'RE READY, DARLIN'!

THANKS, ROCKY! YOU'RE A **SWEETIE!**

WELL, WELL, **WELL!** IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOT **ROCKY** EATING OUT OF YOUR **HAND!** SO **HOW COME** YOU HAVEN'T PUT ANY OF YOUR **SISSY CHARMS** TO GOOD USE BACK AT **WORK?** HMMM?

YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR **WEEKS** NOW AND I HAVEN'T GOTTEN **ONE SINGLE BIT** OF INFO I CAN USE FROM YOU! WHAT THE **HELL** ARE YOU **DOING** OVER THERE ANYWAY?

LOOK PAUL, I KNOW IT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU, BUT I REALLY LIKE THIS JOB AND WANT TO KEEP IT!

IF I CAN FIND YOU SOME INFO, I WANT TO GET IT TO YOU IN A WAY SO THAT I DON'T LOSE MY JOB!

BECAUSE IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I COULD GET CAUGHT, FIRED AND MAYBE EVEN GO TO JAIL! WHAT GOOD WOULD I BE TO YOU THEN?

YOU'RE RIGHT, SHERRI! I DON'T CARE!

SO DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO! LIE, CHEAT, STEAL, BLOW SOMEBODY... HELL! I DON'T GIVE A FLYING FUCK!

JUST GET ME THAT INFORMATION! AND SOON! GOT IT?


JESUS! HE JUST KEEPS GETTING CRAZIER AND CRAZIER!


I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO GET OUT OF THIS DEAL WITH HIM... AND STILL KEEP MY JOB!
BUT HOW?!


HEY! WHERE ARE THE DRINKS?
OH, ROCKY SAID HE'D SEND THEM OVER IN A FEW MINUTES!

I SEE OUR OLD FRIEND **PAUL** WAS **HITTING** ON YOU AGAIN!

DID HE NOT **RECOGNIZE** YOU OR DID HE JUST FIGURE YOUR **NEW LOOK** DESERVED A NEW **SAD ATTEMPT** AT GETTING INTO YOUR **PANTIES?**

OH, HE **RECOGNIZED** ME ALL RIGHT! LIKE YOU SAID, IT WAS JUST ANOTHER **PATHETIC** ATTEMPT TO **GET** TO ME! **THAT'S** ALL!

WELL, IF HE **KEEPS** ANNOYING YOU, LET **ROCKY** KNOW AND HE'LL **KICK HIM OUT** OF THE PLACE!

THE GUY IS **DEFINITELY** BAD NEWS! *RIGHT*, TINA?

SHIT! **PLEASE** DON'T REMIND ME OF THAT!

WAIT! WHAT DID HE **DO** TO YOU?

OH, **NOTHING** I DIDN'T **ASK** FOR AT THE TIME!

IT WAS A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO AND I WAS **JUST** COMING OFF ANOTHER **FAILED** RELATIONSHIP WITH SOME **SCHMUCK!**

IT **WASN'T** YOUR FAULT, TINA! DON'T **SAY** THAT!

MAYBE **NOT**, BUT I **WAS STUPID** ENOUGH AT THE TIME TO **FALL** FOR PAUL'S **PATHETIC** PASSES AT ME!

YOU **DIDN'T!?**

I DID! FOR A COUPLE OF **WEEKS,** ACTUALLY, BEFORE I ***FINALLY*** CAME TO MY SENSES AND ***BROKE IT OFF!***

THE RELATIONSHIP... ***NOT*** HIS DICK! ***UNFORTUNATELY!***


WAIT A MINUTE! THIS HAPPENED JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO?
YEAH! LAST FEBRUARY! WHY?
JUST... WONDERING, THAT'S ALL!


DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT, TINA! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY VULNERABLE GIRL THAT SLEAZEBAG'S TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF!
I'VE SEEN HIM LEAVE HERE WITH ABOUT A HALF-DOZEN DIFFERENT GIRLS OVER THE LAST YEAR OR TWO! WHO KNOWS WHAT HE DOES OUTSIDE THIS PLACE?
HMMPH! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE DOES!


WHAT WAS THAT, SHERRI?
OH... NOTHING! JUST THINKING OUT LOUD!


AND TRYING TO THINK OF A WAY TO GET THAT ASSHOLE AWAY FROM MY SISTER!

A while later...

Slam!!

FUCK, FUCK, FUCK!! WHY DOES A SHITHOLE LIKE SINGLETON GET ALL THE BREAKS AND I GET NOTHING?!

SHIT! CALM DOWN, DESALLE! DAYNA MIGHT BE HOME!

UMM... DAYNA?! YOU HERE, BABE?

PHEW! GUESS I BEAT HER HOME! AT LEAST I GOT THAT GOIN' FOR ME!

Ding!!


THAT'S PROBABLY HER TEXTING RIGHT NOW, TELLING ME SHE'S RUNNING LATE!


SHERRI?! WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT TWERP WANT?
NEED TO TALK LATER THIS WEEKEND!

I'VE LEARNED THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE GIRLS YOU'VE BEEN FUCKING ON THE SIDE, AND I'VE GOT CONCRETE PROOF THAT YOU'VE BEEN CHEATING ON MY SISTER!

HOLY FUCK!!


THAT BLACKMAILING LITTLE BITCH!!
UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO TELL DAYNA THE DETAILS, YOU'D BETTER CLEAN UP YOUR ACT AND SERIOUSLY RENEGOTIATE OUR AGREEMENT!

FUCK, FUCK, FUCK,
FUCK, FUCK!!!

WHERE THE *HELL* DOES THAT LITTLE *SHITBAG* GET OFF TALKING TO *ME* LIKE THAT?!

RENEGOTIATE?! NO FUCKING WAY!!

SHIT! IF DAYNA GETS HARD EVIDENCE OF MY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY DUMP ME!

AND WITHOUT HER INCOME, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP UP THE PAYMENTS ON EVERYTHING I'VE GOT GOING!

CRAP!!

WHAT'S WRONG, BABE?

OH, DAYNA! I... I DIDN'T SEE YOU COME IN!

SORRY! I JUST HAD A PRETTY CRAPPY DAY, THAT'S ALL! HAD TO LET OFF A LITTLE STEAM!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! MINE WASN'T TOO GREAT EITHER!

SO HOW THE **FUCK** AM I GONNA KEEP THAT LITTLE **SISSY BOY** FROM RUINING **EVERYTHING** FOR ME?

.....

WELL, SINCE YOU **ASKED**...!

HUH?!

WE HAD A **MAJOR** SETBACK IN OUR PROGRAM TODAY! ONE OF OUR PATIENTS **OVERDOSED** ON THE NEW **MEDICATION** WE'VE BEEN TESTING!

IT'S THE **SAME** MEDICATION THAT **DARYL'S** BEEN TAKING!

REALLY? WHAT **HAPPENED** TO YOUR PATIENT? IS HE, SHE... **IT** OKAY?

SIGH! NO! SHE'S IN A COMA AND WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG SHE'LL BE LIKE THAT!

AND EVEN IF SHE DOES COME OUT OF IT, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'LL BE LIKE AFTERWARD!

THERE COULD BE SIGNIFICANT BRAIN DAMAGE!

OH, REALLY?!

OH HONEY, THAT'S ***TOO BAD!*** THEY'RE NOT ***SHUTTING DOWN*** THE PROGRAM, ARE THEY?

NO, BUT I'D BETTER TALK TO ***DARYL*** TOMORROW AND MAKE ***SURE*** HE ***KNOWS*** ABOUT THIS!

HE ***NEEDS*** TO ***STICK*** TO THE ***SCHEDULE!*** IF HE GIVES HIMSELF A SHOT EVEN ***ONE DAY EARLY,*** HE COULD BE IN ***TERRIBLE DANGER!***

THAT'S A **GOOD** IDEA, BABE! WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO **HAPPEN** TO YOUR **BROTHER** NOW, **WOULD WE?**


And shortly thereafter, over at Sherri's apartment...
I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE COOLED OFF A BIT BEFORE SENDING THAT TEXT TO PAUL, BUT I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING UNDER HIS THUMB!
I'M READY TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER SHIT HE TRIES TO SLING MY WAY!

I MAY **NOT** HAVE ANY **REAL PROOF** ABOUT HIM SLEEPING AROUND, BUT PAUL **DOESN'T** HAVE TO **KNOW** THAT!

MAYBE I **DID** GO **TOO FAR**, CONSIDERING HOW **UNSTABLE** HE'S BEEN LATELY! I MEAN, THAT **TEXT** MUST HAVE THE PSYCHO **FROTHING** AT THE **MOUTH** BY NOW!

OH WELL, HE HAD IT **COMING!** I'LL JUST MAKE SURE TO **AVOID HIM** FOR A DAY OR TWO UNTIL HE **CALMS DOWN** SOME!

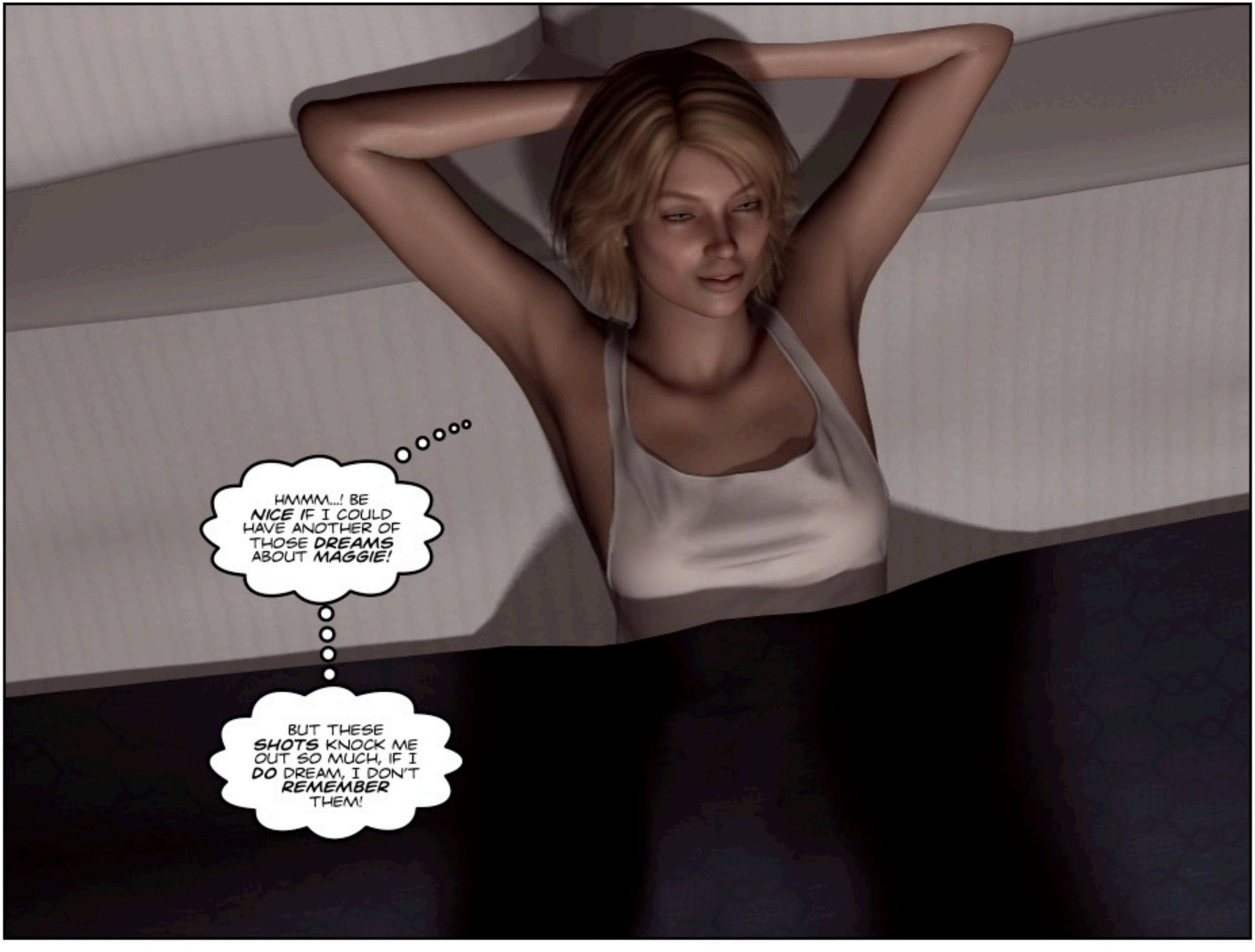
THEN, I'LL **REOPEN** OUR DEAL AND MAYBE **FINALLY** GET HIM **OFF** MY **BACK!**

A few minutes later, after her weekly injection...

I WONDER HOW **LONG** I'LL NEED TO **KEEP** TAKING THOSE SHOTS!

I MEAN, CONSIDERING HOW **MUCH** THEY'VE **CHANGED** ME SO FAR, I ASSUME I'LL BE ABLE TO **STOP** AT SOME POINT!


OH WELL... I'LL TALK TO DAYNA ABOUT IT TOMORROW! LATER TOMORROW, AFTER I SLEEP OFF THIS LATEST SHOT...!


HMMM...! BE NICE IF I COULD HAVE ANOTHER OF THOSE DREAMS ABOUT MAGGIE!
BUT THESE SHOTS KNOCK ME OUT SO MUCH, IF I DO DREAM, I DON'T REMEMBER THEM!


JUST AS WELL, I GUESS! WOULDN'T WANT *OWEN* POPPING UP IN THERE AGAIN!


STILL...! IT...
IT SURE WAS...
PRETTY DAMN...
EROTIC...!

Later that night...

AHHH! ONE OF THE MANY **PERKS** OF BEING THE **MANAGING AGENT** OF THIS BUILDING! I'VE **ALWAYS** GOT A **KEY!**

OKAY, OVERHEARING THEM TALK, THE KID **ALWAYS** TAKES THE SHOT ON **FRIDAY NIGHTS** 'CAUSE IT KNOCKS HIM OUT COLD 'TILL LATE SATURDAY MORNING!

LET'S **HOPE** THE LITTLE **FUCKER** STAYS **TRUE** TO FORM!

ZZZZZZZZZZ ZZZZ!

OH *YEAH!* IF HE CAN SLEEP THROUGH *THAT* SHIT, THERE'S NO WAY *I'M* GONNA WAKE HIM UP!


NOW... LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIND WHERE HE KEEPS HIS...!
BINGO!!

DAYNA DIDN'T SAY HOW ***MANY*** OF THESE HER PATIENT TOOK, BUT I FIGURE ***THESE THREE*** OUTTA BE ***MORE*** THAN ENOUGH TO DO THE TRICK!

.....


JESUS! THESE THINGS REALLY ARE AMAZING TO MAKE A PUNK KID LIKE DARYL LOOK LIKE THAT!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D BE ALL OVER THAT SHIT! HEH-HEH!

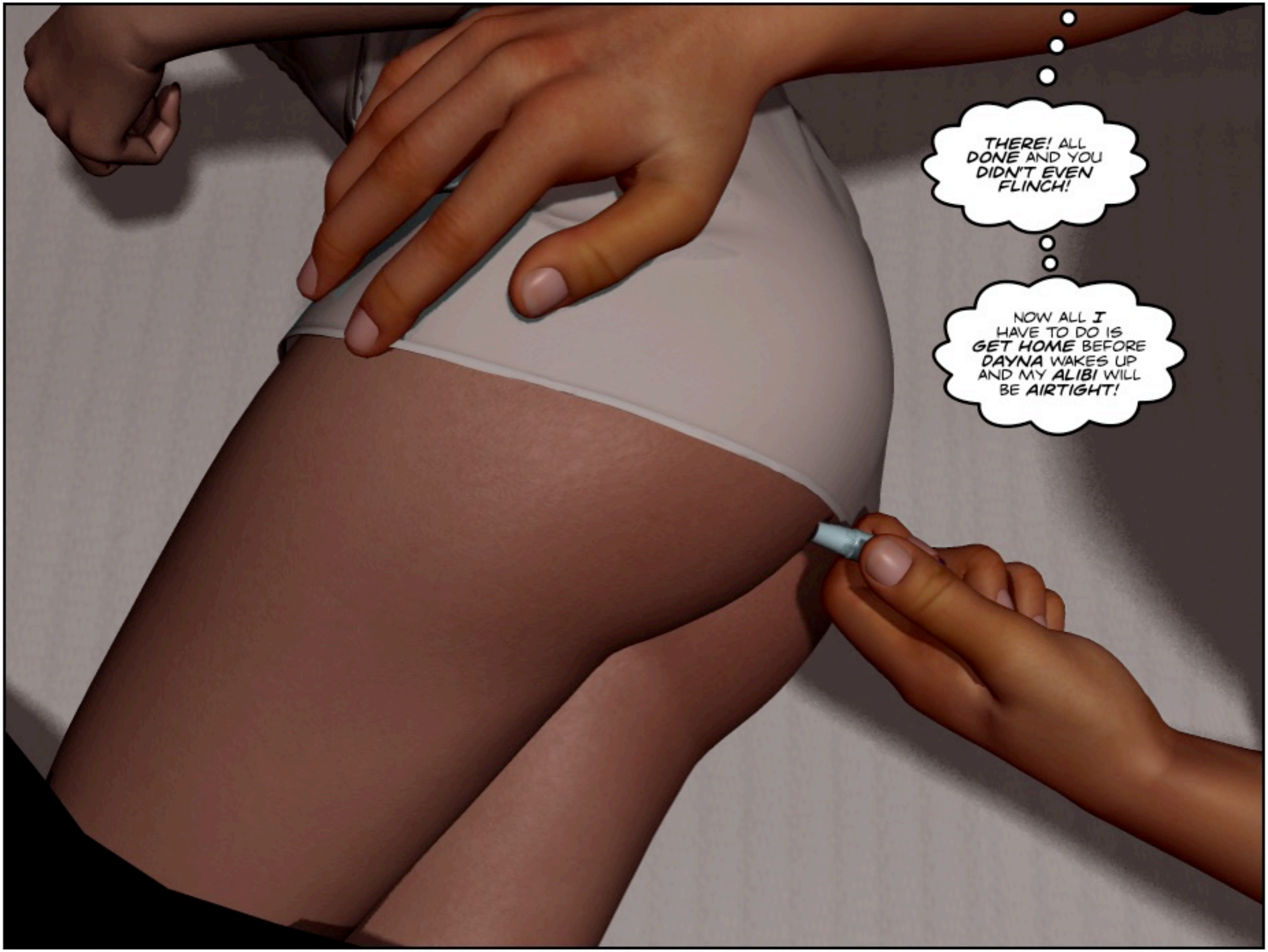
YOU KNOW, ***YOU*** BROUGHT THIS ON ***YOURSELF***, KID! ***NEVER*** FUCK WITH ***PAUL DESALLE***, 'CAUSE I ***ALWAYS WIN!***

I'LL JUST FIGURE OUT SOME ***OTHER*** PLAN TO ADVANCE MY CAREER WHILE ***YOU*** LIE IN A HOSPITAL BED ***DROOLING*** ALL OVER YOURSELF!

DAYNA WILL BE SO ***CONSUMED*** WITH ***GUILT*** OVER WHAT ***SHE*** DID TO HER ***BELOVED*** LITTLE BROTHER! SHE WOULDN'T ***DREAM*** THAT ***I*** MIGHT HAVE HAD ***ANYTHING*** TO DO WITH IT! AND ***YOU*** WON'T BE ABLE TO ***TELL*** HER!

AND WHILE SHE'S ***BUSY*** TAKING CARE OF YOU, ***I'LL*** BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE IN A LOT MORE ***"EXTRA-CURRICULAR"*** TIME WITH ***WHOEVER*** I WANT... ***TOTALLY UNNOTICED!*** HEH-HEH!


ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAY ASLEEP THROUGH ALL THREE OF THESE INJECTIONS AND I'M HOME FREE!


THERE! ALL DONE AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET HOME BEFORE DAYNA WAKES UP AND MY ALIBI WILL BE AIRTIGHT!

LET'S SEE...! IF **DAYNA** FINDS HIM SOMETIME **TOMORROW** AND GETS HIM ADMITTED TO THE **VEGGIE WARD**, OR **WHATEVER** IT'S CALLED, I **COULD** HAVE THIS PLACE READY TO RENT OUT FOR THE **FULL PRICE** BY **MONDAY!**


OH YEAH, LIFE IS GOOD!

But after a few hours, the overdose of drugs starts having a very powerful effect...


UUHHHHHHH!!



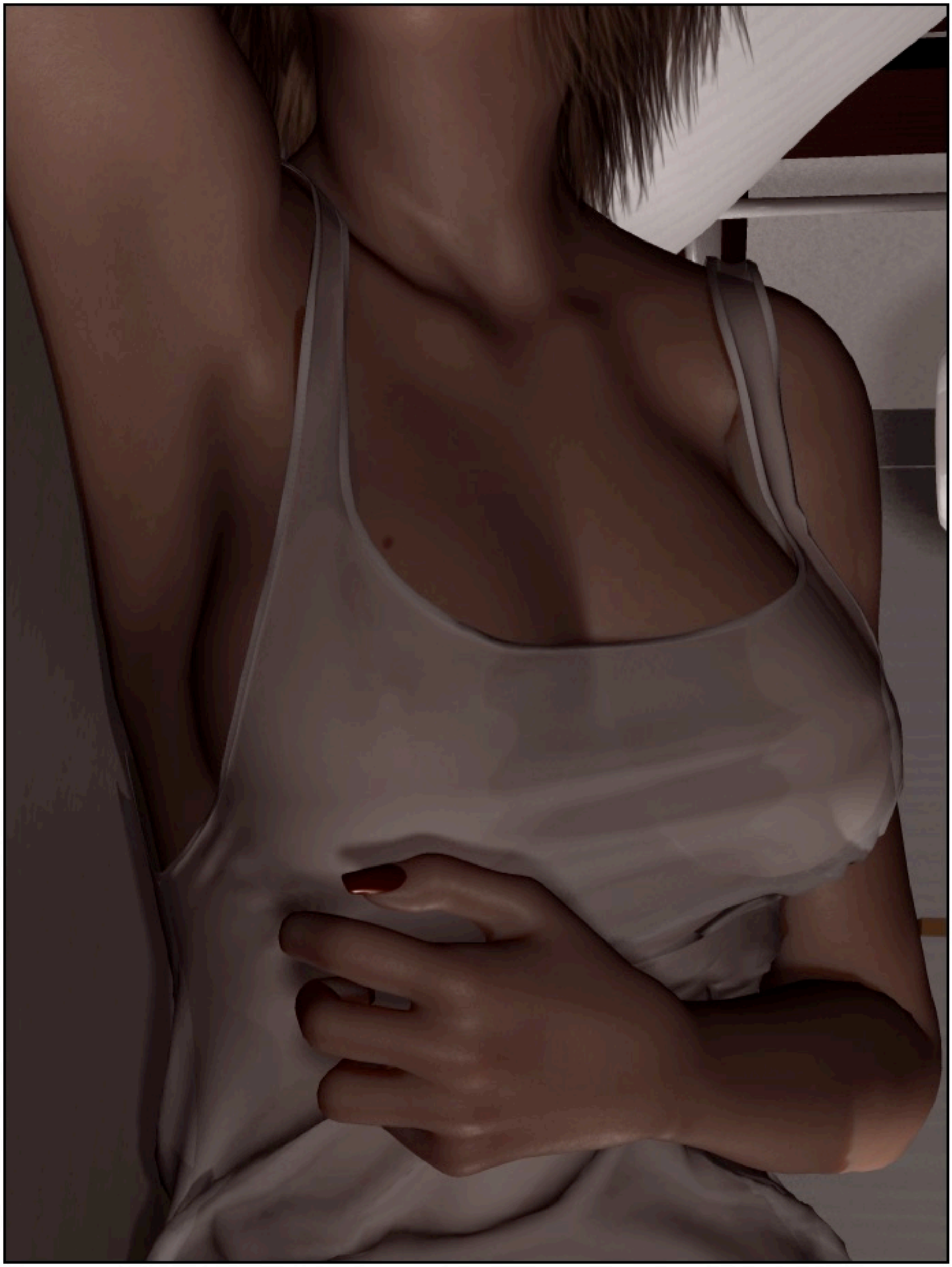




















The next day, late Saturday morning...

SIGH! JUST **ONCE**, I'D LIKE TO GET THROUGH AN **ENTIRE WEEKEND** WITHOUT FEELING **COMPELLED** TO COME IN HERE AND **WORK!**

BUT THOSE CHANGES ON THE **ANDERSON CONTRACT** KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT, AND IF I **DON'T** TAKE CARE OF THEM **NOW** I WON'T SLEEP TONIGHT **EITHER!**

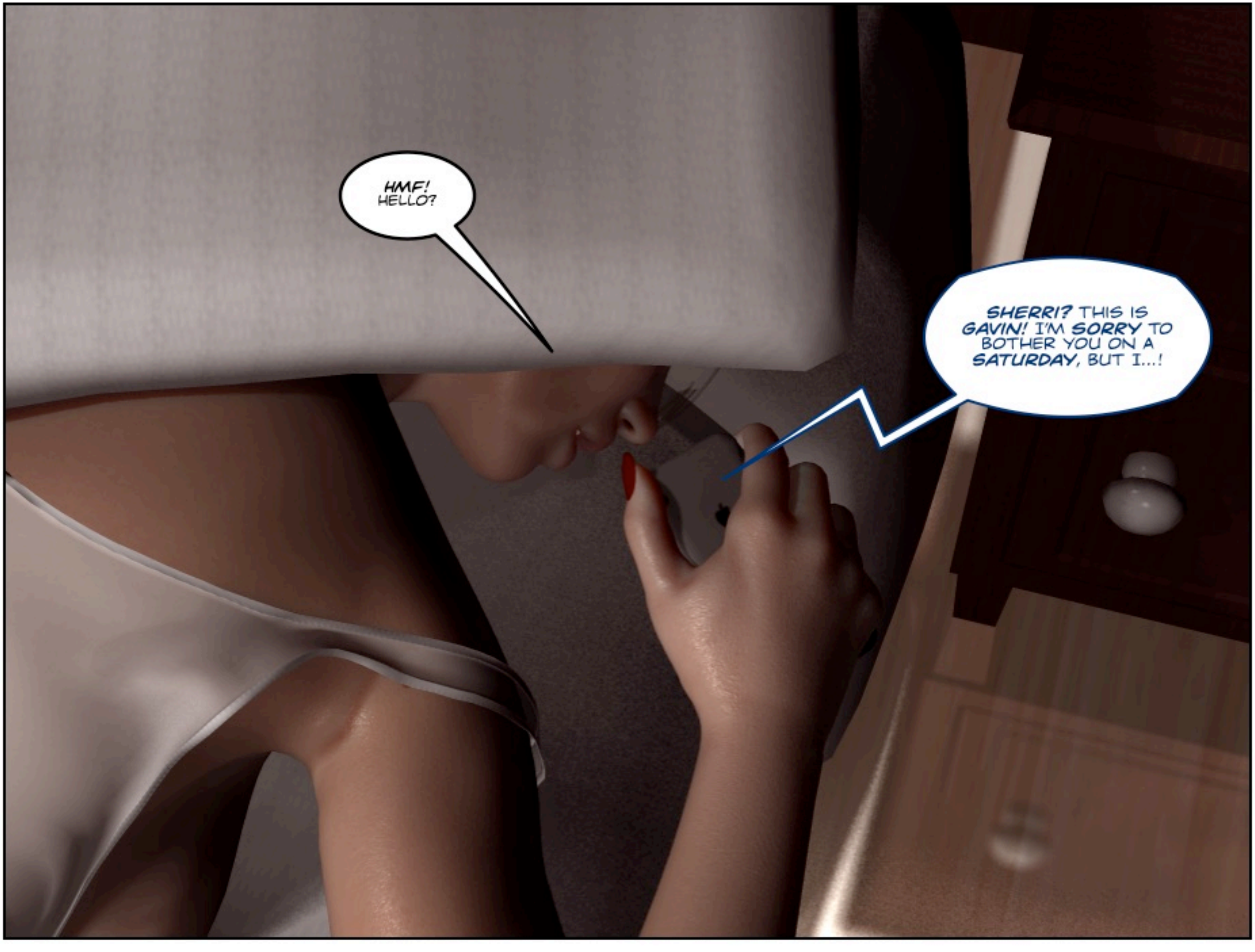
AND, *OF COURSE*, THEY'RE *NOT* IN THE SYSTEM YET BECAUSE *I* TOLD *SHERRI* WE DIDN'T NEED THEM UNTIL *NEXT WEEK*! *GREAT!*

AND BEING TOTALLY ***UNFAMILIAR*** WITH HER SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATION, I HAVE ***NO CLUE*** WHERE TO START ***LOOKING*** FOR THE CONTRACT!

SIGH! I *HATE* TO DO THIS TO YOU ON A *SATURDAY*, SHERRI, BUT MY *SANITY* IS AT STAKE!


Ring!!!


Ring!!!
UUUUHHH!


HMF! HELLO?
SHERRI? THIS IS GAVIN! I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU ON A SATURDAY, BUT I...!

HUH? GAVIN? IS THAT YOU?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SHERRI? YOU DON'T SOUND VERY GOOD!

DONT **FEEL** VERY GOOD...! **GROGGY**... WHOLE BODY ALL **ACHY**...!

MAYBE A BAD **REACTION** TO SHOT!

THEN YOU NEED TO **CONTACT** YOUR DOCTOR **RIGHT AWAY!** I **KNOW** HOW **TRICKY** THOSE HORMONE TREATMENTS CAN BE!

DO THAT AS **SOON** AS I HANG UP, OKAY?

UHHH... OKAY!


UGH! WHY DO I FEEL SO SHITTY? COULD BE THE SHOT... BUT I DOUBT IT!


PROBABLY THE FLU! GREAT! THAT'S ALL I NEED!


WHAT THE...?!


SCREECH!!

A few moments later...

WILL **YOU** GET THAT, BABE? I **JUST** GOT OUT OF THE **SHOWER!**

Ring!!

PAUL?!

Ring!!

OH YEAH... HE ALREADY *LEFT* FOR THE GYM! *SIGH!*

Ring!!


HELLO?
DAYNA? IT... IT'S ME! YOU... YOU HAVE TO COME OVER HERE... RIGHT NOW!!

SHERYL? IS THAT YOU? WHAT'S WRONG?

I... I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT OVER THE PHONE! YOU JUST... YOU JUST HAVE TO GET OVER HERE!

YOU'RE SCARING ME, HONEY! ARE YOU OKAY?


JUST GET OVER HERE... NOW!!!


WHAT IN THE WORLD...?!

And, after a frantic drive across town...

SHERYL?! WHERE ARE YOU, HONEY? ARE YOU OKAY?!

SHERRI?!

I'M... I'M IN THE *BEDROOM*, BUT *DON'T COME IN!*

YOU'RE **SCARING** ME, HONEY! **PLEASE** TELL ME **WHAT'S WRONG!**

I... I THINK **SOMETHING** WENT **WRONG** WITH THE **SHOT** I TOOK LAST NIGHT!

WHAT? **WHAT HAPPENED?** PLEASE **COME OUT HERE** SO **I** CAN **SEE** YOU!

WELL... ALL RIGHT!


I TOOK MY USUAL SHOT LAST NIGHT BEFORE GOING TO BED, BUT WHEN I WOKE UP...!
OH MY...!

... I... I LOOKED LIKE THIS!

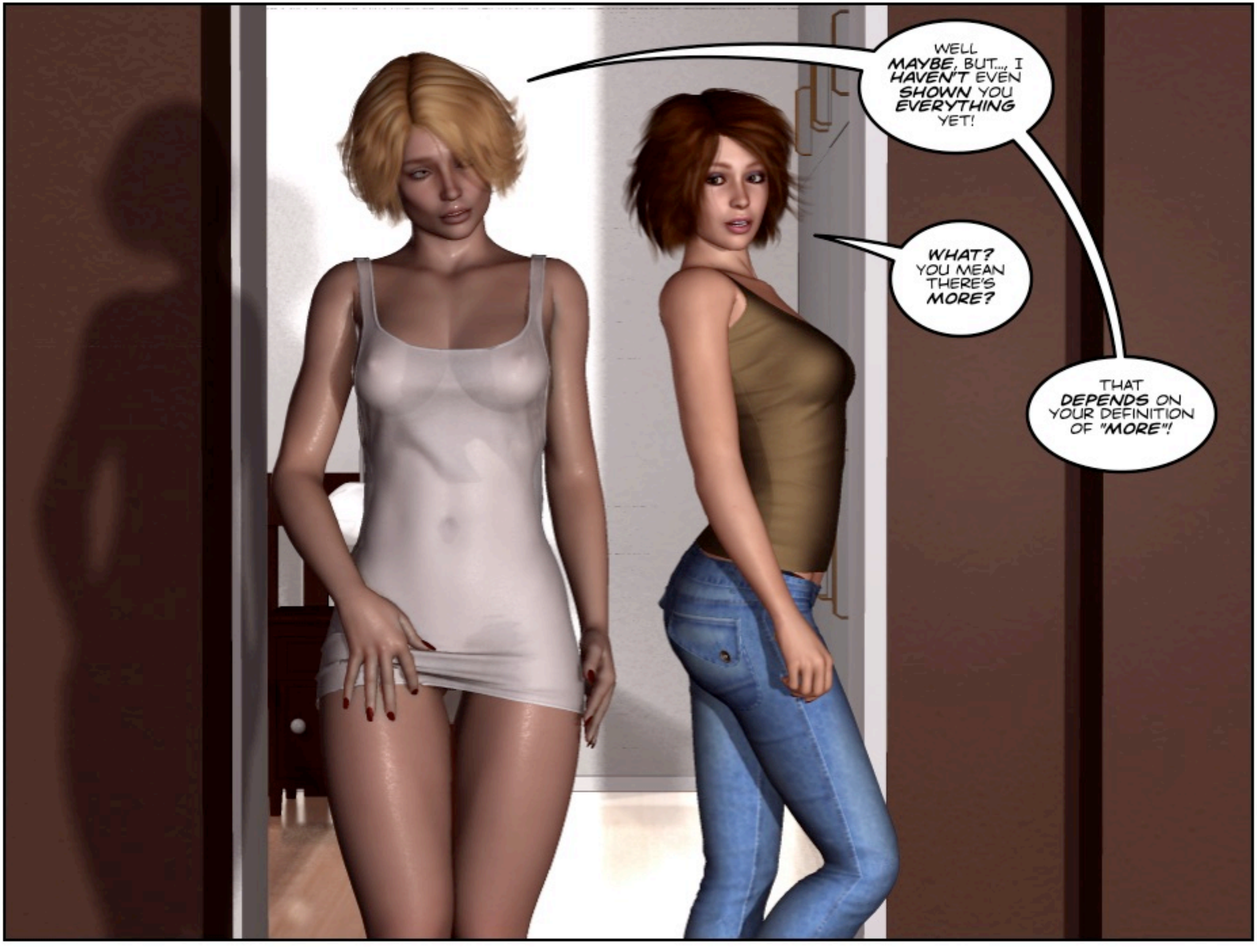
THAT... THAT'S *AMAZING!* WE HAVEN'T SEEN *ANYTHING* LIKE THIS HAPPEN WITH *ANY* OF OUR *OTHER* SUBJECTS!

AND IF IT'S *ANY* CONSOLATION, YOU LOOK *FABULOUS!*

FABULOUS?! I... I'M HUGE! I'M A FREAK!

I'M STICKING OUT EVERYWHERE!

YOU'RE HARDLY A FREAK, HONEY! JUST VERY... VOLUPTUOUS!


WELL MAYBE, BUT..., I HAVEN'T EVEN SHOWN YOU EVERYTHING YET!
WHAT? YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE?
THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR DEFINITION OF "MORE"!

SEE?

OH MY...! IS THAT REALLY A ...?

YEAH... PRETTY *SURE* IT IS!

I... I HAVE NO IDEA **HOW** THIS COULD'VE HAPPENED!

ARE... ARE YOU **SURE** YOU TOOK THE **REGULAR** SHOT? AND **ONLY ONE?**

I'VE BEEN DOING THE **SAME** THING **EVERY FRIDAY** SINCE WE STARTED! **ONE SHOT** RIGHT BEFORE BED... **NO CHANGES!**

BUT...!

BUT WHAT?

I KNOW I HAD THESE THREE *UNUSED* SHOTS IN THE *CABINET* WHEN I WENT TO BED LAST NIGHT, BUT *NOW*... NOW THEY'RE *HERE*... AND *EMPTY!*


EMPTY?! SO YOU TOOK THEM ALL LAST NIGHT? ALL FOUR?
OH MY GOD, HONEY! WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
I DON'T REMEMBER DOING IT! ALL I REMEMBER IS TAKING THE ONE SHOT... AND ONLY ONE, GOING TO SLEEP AND THEN WAKING UP LIKE THIS!
IF I TOOK MORE THAN ONE, THEN I MUST HAVE DONE IT IN MY SLEEP! IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?

I... I DON'T KNOW! ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE STANDING HERE TALKING TO ME!

WE NEED TO GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

BUT IF WE DO THAT, THEY'LL FIND OUT HOW I GOT THE DRUGS AND YOU'LL GET FIRED... OR MAYBE EVEN ARRESTED!

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME! YOU NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND NOW!

MAYBE, BUT...!

Ring!!


LET IT RING!
IT'S MY BOSS! HE CALLED EARLIER! I NEED TO ANSWER OR HE'LL WORRY!
Ring!!

UMMM... HI, GAVIN!

WELL, YOU SOUND BETTER! WHAT DID YOUR DOCTOR SAY?

I, UHHH... I DIDN'T CALL HIM!

WHAT? WHY ON EARTH NOT?

WELL, GAVIN, I'M NOT **ACTUALLY** UNDER A **DOCTOR'S** CARE!

WHAT? BUT YOU **TOLD** ME...!

SIGH! TO TELL YOU THE **TRUTH,** EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN TAKING I'VE GOTTEN **NOT QUITE LEGALLY** FROM A **FRIEND** IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION! AND GOING TO THE **DOCTOR** WOULD GET HER INTO SOME **SERIOUS TROUBLE!**

HARGO

THEN **WE'LL** GO SEE **MY** DOCTOR! HE'S **VERY DISCREET** AND OWES ME **SEVERAL** FAVORS!

BUT GAVIN...!

NO ARGUMENTS FROM **YOU**, YOUNG LADY! I'LL BE THERE IN **FIVE MINUTES** TO TAKE YOU THERE **MYSELF!** SEE YOU THEN!

WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE'S COMING ***HERE*** TO TAKE ME TO SEE ***HIS*** DOCTOR! SO YOU'D BETTER ***LEAVE*** BEFORE HE GETS HERE!

I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW THAT ***YOU'RE*** MY "FRIEND" IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION!


NOT A CHANCE! I'M NOT LEAVING YOUR SIDE UNTIL I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
TH... THANKS, SIS!

A short time later, in the office of Doctor James McNally...

YOU **REALIZE**, OF COURSE, THE **ONLY** REASON I'M DOING THIS IS BECAUSE I'M A **SWEETHEART** OF A GUY AND MY FOURSOME **CANCELED** ON ME!

I KNOW, JIM... I KNOW! AND WE **SERIOUSLY** APPRECIATE IT!


OKAY THEN... WHO'S THE PATIENT?
UMMM... I AM!
AND YOU ARE?
RIGHT! SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
HER SISTER!

WELL, I UMMM... I'VE BEEN TAKING SOME **NEW MEDICATIONS** FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO MAKE ME MORE, UHHH... **FEMININE!**

MORE FEMININE? PARDON MY **BLUNTNESS,** YOUNG LADY, BUT **PHYSICALLY** I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH **MAXED OUT** IN THE **FEMININITY DEPARTMENT!**

THAT'S JUST **IT,** DOCTOR! YESTERDAY, I **DIDN'T** LOOK LIKE **THIS!** I WAS MUCH... **FLATTER,** AMONG OTHER THINGS!

AMONG **OTHER** THINGS, HUH?

OKAY, **YOU TWO**... WAIT IN THE OUTER ROOM UNTIL I COME GET YOU!

YOU... STAY HERE AND SLIP INTO THAT **LOVELY** LITTLE BACKLESS NUMBER OVER THERE!

BUT...!

I'M A **DOCTOR**, NOT A **PEEPING TOM!**

I'VE SEEN IT **ALL**, YOUNG LADY, SO STOW YOUR **BASHFULNESS** AND CHANGE SO I CAN **EXAMINE** YOU AND **MAYBE** STILL SALVAGE **PART** OF MY **SATURDAY!**


JIM MAY BE BRUSQUE, BUT HE'S THE BEST! DON'T WORRY ABOUT SHERRI, SHE'S IN EXCELLENT HANDS!
I... I HOPE SO! I JUST FEEL SO... SO RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING!


MM-HMM! THEN I TAKE IT YOU'RE THE "FRIEND" WHO GOT HER THOSE MEDICATIONS!
I'M AFRAID SO! YOU SEE, I'M A NURSE... BUT OBVIOUSLY NOT A VERY GOOD ONE CONSIDERING WHAT I'VE DONE!
WELL, LET'S JUST CONCERN OURSELVES WITH SHERRI RIGHT NOW, OKAY?
OKAY!

SINCE WE'LL BE OUT HERE FOR A WHILE, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT ***YOU AND SHERRI*** GROWING UP... AND A LITTLE ***SOMETHING*** ABOUT THIS ***TREATMENT*** YOU'VE BEEN GIVING HER!

A while later...

HOW IS SHE, JIM?

YES, HOW'S MY SISTER?

IF *THIS* IS SOME ELABORATE *JOKE*, I'M *NOT* AMUSED!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


SO YOU'RE STICKING TO YOUR CLAIM THAT THE YOUNG LADY GETTING DRESSED IN THERE USED TO BE A MAN! IS THAT CORRECT?
WELL... YES! ALTHOUGH SHE HAS DEVELOPED SOME SECONDARY FEMALE CHARACTERISTICS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, UNTIL LAST NIGHT, SHE STILL HAD HER MALE GENITALIA! DON'T YOU BELIEVE US?

LETS JUST SAY THAT AS FAR AS *I* CAN TELL, YOUR *SISTER* IS *100% FEMALE!* AND THERE'S *NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER* THAT SHE WAS *EVER* ANYTHING *BUT!*

GASP!

OF COURSE, IT WAS JUST A ***CURSORY*** EXAMINATION AND THE ***BLOOD WORK*** WON'T BE BACK UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK!

BUT ***IF*** WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME IS EVEN ***PARTIALLY TRUE***, I ***HIGHLY*** RECOMMEND A MORE ***THOROUGH*** EXAM ***AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!***

BUT, LIKE I TOLD **HER** A FEW MOMENTS AGO, FROM WHAT **I** CAN TELL, SHE'S A PERFECTLY **HEALTHY YOUNG LADY!**

NO **OBVIOUS** HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT **I** CAN DETECT!

THANK YOU, DOCTOR! THAT'S **GOOD** NEWS!

IT **IS?!**


OF COURSE IT IS! NO PROBLEMS AND HEALTHY ARE ALWAYS GOOD NEWS!
MAYBE, BUT IT'S THE YOUNG LADY PART THAT'S THROWING ME FOR A LOOP!

THANKS AGAIN, JIM! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW *MUCH* WE APPRECIATE THIS!

UH-HUH!

GRUMBLE! MAYBE I CAN *STILL* GET IN *NINE* HOLES OF *MINIATURE* GOLF IF I'M *LUCKY!*

THANK YOU *SO MUCH* FOR ALL THIS, GAVIN!

ANYTHING FOR SHERRI! AND IF IT HELPS *YOU* KEEP YOUR JOB, *THAT'S* A BONUS!

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU *TOLD* GAVIN *HOW* I GOT THE HORMONES?

CONSIDERING **EVERYTHING** HE'S DONE FOR US, I FIGURED HE **DESERVED** TO KNOW!

DID YOU TELL HIM THE **REAL** REASON **WHY** WE DID THIS?

WELL... **NO!** HE DIDN'T **ASK!**

YOU MEAN IT **WASN'T** FOR THE REASONS **YOU** TOLD ME, SHERRI?


SIGH! I THINK IT'S TIME I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, GAVIN!

A short time later...

SO, YOU CAN SEE, I NEVER REALLY **WAS** TRANSGENDERED... AT LEAST, **NOT** ON **PURPOSE!** I HAD **NO INTENTION** OF **EVER** BECOMING **FULLY FEMALE!**

I GUESS **THIS** IS THE **KARMA** I **DESERVE** FOR ALL THE **LIES** I'VE TOLD YOU!

I AM SO, **SO** SORRY FOR **NOT** TELLING YOU THE TRUTH **SOONER!**

AND OF COURSE I'LL **RESIGN IMMEDIATELY!**

SINCE I'D RATHER **NO ONE** SAW ME LIKE **THIS**, I'D **APPRECIATE** IT IF YOU'D LET ME GO BY THE OFFICE **TODAY** AND CLEAN OUT MY DESK!

YOU CAN TELL EVERYONE **WHATEVER** YOU LIKE TO EXPLAIN **WHY** I'M GONE!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S **FAIR** TO EVERYONE YOU'VE **INGRATIATED** YOURSELF WITH? **OR** TO **ME?**

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST **FEEL** ABOUT ALL THIS, GAVIN!

NO, I REALLY **DON'T** THINK YOU POSSIBLY **CAN,** CONSIDERING **WHAT** YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME!

I WENT OUT ON A **LIMB** TO **HIRE** YOU, SHERRI! I **MENTORED** YOU, **BEFRIENDED** YOU... **ALL** BASED ON THE **LIE** THAT YOU WERE FULLY **TRANSGENDERED!**

CONSIDERING **MY** HISTORY, WHICH I **FREELY** REVEALED TO **YOU,** DO YOU **REALLY** THINK **YOU** CAN UNDERSTAND HOW **BETRAYED** I FEEL RIGHT NOW?

YOU'RE **RIGHT!** I... I **CAN'T!**

THEN MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING YOU **CAN** TELL ME!

OF **COURSE,** GAVIN... I'LL TELL YOU **WHATEVER** YOU WANT TO KNOW!

GOOD! BECAUSE, I'M **CURIOUS...!**

HOW DOES IT **FEEL** NOW THAT YOU'RE A **WOMAN?** WHAT ARE YOU **THINKING?**

AS SOMEONE WHO **WILLINGLY** AND **EAGERLY** WENT THROUGH THE **REVERSE** PROCESS, I'M **CURIOUS** HOW IT **FEELS** FOR SOMEONE LIKE **YOU** WHO **NEVER WANTED** TO CHANGE!

ARE YOU SCARED, **TERRIFIED,** CURIOUS? I **REALLY** WANT TO KNOW!

CAN I CHECK "**ALL THE ABOVE**" AND ADD ABOUT A **DOZEN MORE** EMOTIONS? I THINK I'VE **RUN THROUGH** EVERY ONE OF THEM... AT LEAST **TWICE** EACH... SINCE I WOKE UP THIS MORNING!

I JUST **HAVEN'T** HAD TIME TO **PROCESS** EVERYTHING YET!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'VE BEEN **VERY HAPPY** AS **SHERRI** WITH NO REAL **REASON** TO GO **BACK** TO BEING **DARYL!**

I HAVE **WONDERFUL** FRIENDS, A **GREAT** JOB AND AN **AWESOME** BOSS! **WHY** WOULD I WANT TO GIVE **THAT** UP?

BUT NOW THAT **THIS** HAPPENED AND **YOU** KNOW **EVERYTHING,** I'M GOING TO **LOSE** IT **ALL!** BOTH **THIS** LIFE **AND** MY LIFE AS **DARYL!**


YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION, THOUGH! HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CHANGING INTO A WOMAN?
TO BE TRUTHFUL, GAVIN, RIGHT NOW I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH HOW I'VE LIED TO YOU AND MY FRIENDS THAN WITH THESE PHYSICAL CHANGES!
AFTER ALL, I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT ALL OF THAT, SINCE I'LL PROBABLY BE FEMALE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

WELL, BY ALL **RIGHTS** AND **REASONS** I SHOULD **FIRE** YOU ON THE **SPOT** FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR!

I KNOW! AND I'M PREPARED TO **ACCEPT** THAT, GAVIN!

BUT, AS **YOU** KNOW,, **I** AM THE **LAST** PERSON WHO SHOULD FAULT YOU FOR **MISLEADING** YOUR COWORKERS AS TO **WHO** OR **WHAT** YOU REALLY ARE!

WH... **WHAT** ARE YOU SAYING?


WHAT I'M SAYING IS, NOW THAT EVERYTHING IS OUT IN THE OPEN BETWEEN US, LET'S FORGET ABOUT WHAT GOT US HERE AND CONCENTRATE ON HELPING YOU MOVE FORWARD!
YOU'VE EARNED SOME VACATION TIME, SO I SUGGEST TAKING A WEEK OR TWO TO FIGURE THINGS OUT AND DECIDE WHO SHERRI REALLY IS!
HOW'S THAT SOUND TO YOU?




OH GAVIN! I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
SAY YOU'LL CALL ME EVERY DAY AND LET ME KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING OR IF YOU NEED ANYTHING FROM ME!
SNIFF! I WILL!
GOOD! OF COURSE THE REALLY HARD PART OF ALL THIS IS ME TRYING TO SURVIVE TWO WEEKS WITHOUT THE BEST ASSISTANT I'VE EVER HAD!

I'LL BE READY TO TAKE YOU TWO HOME IN A FEW MINUTES AFTER I TRY AND **SMOOTH** THINGS OVER WITH JIM!

WE'LL BE RIGHT HERE!

OKAY, BABE! I'LL SEE YOU AT HOME LATER!

THAT WASN'T **PAUL** YOU WERE TALKING TO WAS IT?

UMM, **YEAH!** WHY?

PLEASE TELL ME YOU DIDN'T TELL **HIM** ABOUT ALL THIS!

WELL, WHY **WOULDN'T** I? I **JUST** WANTED HIM TO KNOW THAT YOU HAD A **SCARE** BUT YOU'RE **ALL RIGHT!**

JESUS, DAYNA! ARE YOU KIDDING ME? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW PERSONAL ALL THIS IS FOR ME? BUT YOU HAVE NO TROUBLE RUNNING RIGHT OUT AND TELLING HIM ALL ABOUT IT!

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK THAT MAYBE I DON'T WANT HIM INVOLVED IN THIS?

oooooo

FOR SO MANY REASONS I WISH I COULD TELL YOU WITHOUT CRUSHING YOU!

WELL MAYBE **YOU** NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT **PAUL** IS **MY FIANCÉ**, AND **WHATEVER** CONCERNS **ME** CONCERNS **HIM** AS WELL!

AND YOU MAY **NOT** BELIEVE THIS, BUT PAUL **CARES** ABOUT YOU AND WOULD BE **DEVASTATED** IF SOMETHING **EVER** HAPPENED TO YOU!

SO I THINK IT'S **YOU** WHO NEEDS TO **GET OVER** HER RESERVATIONS AND **ACCEPT** PAUL AS PART OF **OUR FAMILY!**

DAMN IT! DAYNA'S NEVER GOING TO BE CONVINCED ABOUT PAUL UNTIL I CAN PROVE IT TO HER... AND ALL I'VE GOT SO FAR IS THE TESTIMONY OF MY CO-WORKERS!

SIGH! OKAY, I'M SORRY I FLEW OFF THE HANDLE LIKE THAT! BUT AS YOU CAN GUESS, I'M PRETTY DAMNED STRESSED RIGHT NOW!

I UNDERSTAND, HONEY, AND I FORGIVE YOU!

BUT **LOOK** DAYNA, UNTIL I **FIGURE** THINGS OUT FOR MYSELF, I'D **REALLY** PREFER IT IF **NO ONE** SAW ME... **EVEN PAUL!**

JUST **HUMOR** ME, OKAY? **PLEASE?!**

WELL I CAN **UNDERSTAND** EVERYONE ELSE, BUT **WHY NOT PAUL?** LIKE I SAID, **HE'S** PART OF THIS **TOO,** YOU KNOW!

ALL **RIGHT**... I GUESS! FOR **NOW!**

AND **PLEASE** DON'T TELL HIM THAT **GAVIN** KNOWS ALL ABOUT **EVERYTHING!**

HE'D BE **FURIOUS** IF HE KNEW THAT **I'D** TOLD **GAVIN** HIS NAME! HE'LL THINK GAVIN IS GOING TO COME **AFTER HIM** AND **FREAK OUT!**

I... I CAN **SEE** THAT!

FINE! I DON'T SEE ANY REASON TO **UPSET** MY **HONEY BUNNY!**

OKAY... **MUM'S** THE WORD ABOUT YOUR BOSS!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING **NOW?**

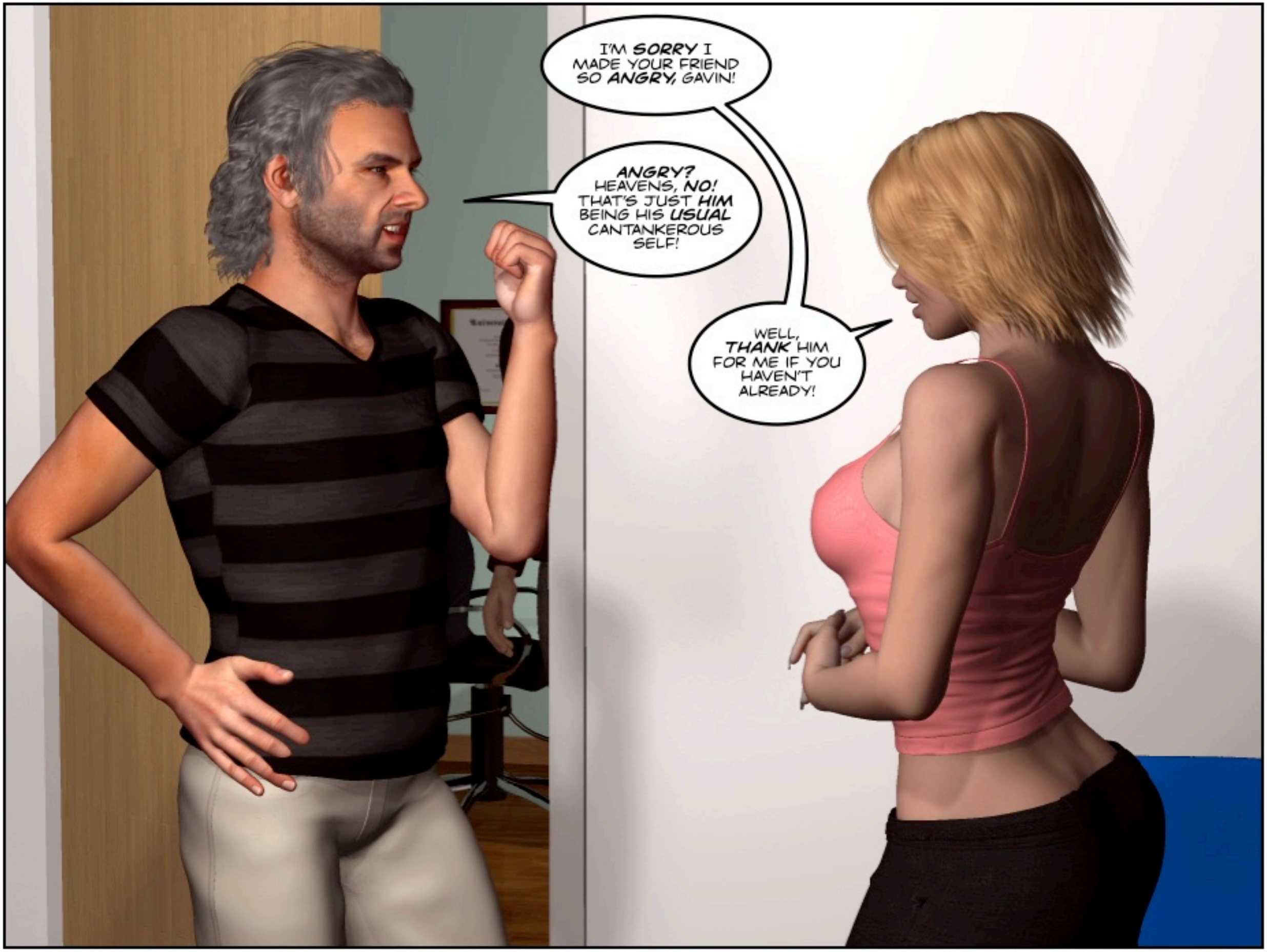
THE **HOSPITAL!** GONNA CALL IN **SICK** SO I CAN STAY WITH **YOU** FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!

DON'T DO **THAT!** THE PEOPLE AT THE **HOSPITAL** NEED YOU A LOT **MORE** THAN **I** DO!

GO TO WORK! I'LL BE **JUST** FINE!

BUT...!


OH, IT WAS ALL MY PLEASURE, GAVIN, BELIEVE ME! I'M JUST SORRY IT WASN'T CLOSER TO 3 AM INSTEAD! YOU KNOW WHAT A MORNING PERSON I AM!
LET'S GO, LADIES!
ALL RIGHT! BUT I'M GOING TO STOP BY ON MY WAY HOME IN THE MORNING!
DEAL!


I'M SORRY I MADE YOUR FRIEND SO ANGRY, GAVIN!
ANGRY? HEAVENS, NO! THAT'S JUST HIM BEING HIS USUAL CANTANKEROUS SELF!
WELL, THANK HIM FOR ME IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY!


YOU CAN THANK ME YOURSELF, YOUNG LADY, WHEN I SEE YOU IN THIS OFFICE AT 8 AM SHARP WEDNESDAY MORNING FOR A FULL AND PROPER PHYSICAL!
AND DON'T YOU DARE BE ONE MINUTE LATE! GOT IT?


YES, DOCTOR! AND... AND THANK YOU!

A short while later...

THANK **GOD** I'M HOME! I COULD SWEAR THAT **EVERYONE**... MEN **AND** WOMEN... WERE ALL **STARING** AT ME!


WHO CAN BLAME THEM, THOUGH? I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THEY ALL MUST THINK WHEN SOMEONE WITH A BOD LIKE THIS STRUTS AROUND TOWN IN TIGHT CLOTHES LIKE THESE!

BUT **THESE** WERE THE ONLY THINGS I HAD **STRETCHY ENOUGH** TO FIT **WITHOUT** MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A GODDAMN **PORN STAR!**

AHHH, *MUCH* BETTER! I CAN FEEL THE *CIRCULATION* RETURNING TO MY LEGS!

SIGH! LOOKS LIKE DAYNA AND I ARE *DESTINED* FOR ANOTHER *LONG* SHOPPING TRIP!

I SURE **HOPE** SHE KEPT THE **RECEIPTS** FOR THAT **LAST** BATCH OF CLOTHES SHE BOUGHT ME!

I HARDLY GOT TO WEAR **ANY** OF THEM, AND THEY SURE AS **HELL** WON'T FIT **NOW**!

HOLY SHIT! THAT'S REALLY ME, ISN'T IT?

I WAS TOO FREAKED OUT THIS MORNING TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT MYSELF!

BUT NOW I... ! WOW!


JESUS! I REALLY AM A WOMAN NOW... WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT!

NOW THAT I CAN SEE IT **CLEARLY,** I CAN **DEFINITELY** SEE WHY THE DOCTOR'S **EXAM** FELT SO... **WEIRD!**

NO MORE "TURN YOUR HEAD AND COUGH" IN **MY** IMMEDIATE FUTURE, **THAT'S** FOR DAMN SURE!


WHOA!


DAMN! NO WONDER THEY USE A COLD METAL PROBE! IF THE DOC USED HIS FINGERS, THE EXAM WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A GOOD DEAL LONGER!


GASP!


OOOOO! AND A WHOLE LOT MESSIER!


HMMM! I THINK I'M DUE FOR A NICE, LONG SHOWER!




MMMMMM! THANK GOD I'VE FINALLY GOT ALL THE HOT WATER I NEED!


OOOOO! DEFINITELY A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LITTLE ONES I HAD BEFORE! THESE PUPPIES FEEL AMAZING!


GASP! JESUS!
GOD! IS IT ALWAYS THAT SENSITIVE?


MMMMMMMMMM!
I SURE AS FUCK HOPE SO! 'CAUSE THIS IS A PERK I WASN'T EXPECTING!


OH GOD!!
DEFINITELY WORTH IT... WORTH THE... OH... OHHH... OHHHH...!


OOOOOOOOHHH
GOD!!!

After that nice, long shower...

WOW! THAT... WAS INCREDIBLE!

I DEFINITELY NEED TO MAKE THAT A NEW PART OF MY DAILY ROUTINE!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A PRETTY GOOD TIME IN THERE! HEH-HEH!


PAUL?! WHAT THE FUCK?!
IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO KNOW THAT MY TENANTS ARE GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THEIR... PLUMBING!

HOW DID YOU...?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

WELL, FROM I HEAR **AND** WHAT I **SEE,** IT SEEMS OUR **PLAN** HAS TAKEN A LITTLE **DETOUR!**


AND I'M HERE TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS!

by CBlack



Chapter 7

OPPORTUNITIES

Paul has unexpectedly shown up at Sherri's apartment...

DAMN! FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, IT SEEMS OUR PLAN JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT EASIER!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ARE YOU KIDDING? LOOK AT YOURSELF! OH, WAIT A MINUTE... YOU JUST WERE... A LOT, FROM WHAT I HEARD! HEH-HEH!

FUCK YOU, PAUL!

CAREFUL, I MIGHT JUST TAKE YOU UP ON THAT... NOW THAT YOU'RE SO DAMN DOABLE!

EWWW!!

SO... IS IT **TRUE?** ARE YOU **REALLY** ONE HUNDRED PERCENT **GIRLIFIED** NOW?

NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF **YOUR** BUSINESS!

OH, BUT IT **IS** MY BUSINESS! 'CAUSE IF IT'S TRUE, AND I **KNOW** IT **IS** THANKS TO YOUR **SISTER**, YOUR **DELECTABLE** NEW **ASSETS** CAN GET US PRETTY MUCH **ANY INFO** WE WANT!


NO WAY! WE ARE SO DONE WITH THIS INSANE PLAN OF YOURS!
JUST LOOK WHAT IT'S DONE TO ME! THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO! PERIOD!

OH, I'M **LOOKIN'** ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART! AND **WE'RE** GONNA GO A **HELL** OF A LOT **FURTHER,** IF YOU **KNOW** WHAT'S **GOOD** FOR YOU!

AT **THIS** POINT, WHAT ELSE CAN **YOU** POSSIBLY DO TO ME THAT **I** HAVEN'T **ALREADY** DONE TO **MYSELF?**

MAYBE TELL THE HOSPITAL **WHERE** YOU GOT THOSE **DRUGS,** AND THEN WATCH YOUR BELOVED **SISTER'S CAREER** GO **UP IN SMOKE!**

YOU'D **DO** THAT... TO **DAYNA?**

TO GET WHAT **I** WANT? AND TO KEEP **YOUR** MOUTH **SHUT** ABOUT **ME?** YOU **BET** YOUR SWEET **ASS** I WOULD!

AND **WITHOUT** GIVING IT A **SECOND THOUGHT!**

YOU ARE SUCH A SCUMBAG!

MAYBE SO! BUT I'M A SCUMBAG WITH A PLAN!

AND THAT PLAN IS FOR YOU TO USE THAT HOT NEW BOD OF YOURS TO GET ME WHAT I WANT!

WHEN YOU RETURN TO THAT BUILDING, ***YOU'RE*** GONNA BE A HOT-TO-TROT ***SEXPOT*** THAT ***EVERY GUY*** WILL WANT TO GET HIS ***HANDS*** ON!

AND YOU ***KNOW*** GUYS'LL DO JUST ABOUT ***ANYTHING***, INCLUDING ***BRAG*** ABOUT THEIR ***JOBS***, TO GET INTO THE ***PANTIES*** OF A ***HOT CHICK*** LIKE ***YOU!***

AND ***YOU'D*** KNOW ***ALL*** ABOUT THAT, ***WOULDN'T*** YOU?

DAMN STRAIGHT! BUT OF COURSE **YOU'RE** NEVER GOING TO BREATHE A **WORD** TO DAYNA ABOUT **ANY** OF THAT... OR SEND ME ANY MORE **THREATENING TEXTS**, AM I **RIGHT?**

LET ME **GUESS**... IF I DO, THEN **YOU'LL** TURN HER IN TO HER **BOSSES!**

SMART GIRL!

LOOK, I **CAN'T** JUST WALK BACK INTO THAT BUILDING ON MONDAY LOOKING LIKE **THIS!** I'VE **ALREADY** PUT IN FOR A WEEK OR TWO **OFF** SO I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO **EXPLAIN** MY CHANGE IN APPEARANCE!

SO YOUR ALMIGHTY **PLAN** IS JUST GOING TO HAVE TO **WAIT** A WHILE!

HMMM... MAKES SENSE! **I KNOW...** YOU CAN TELL THEM YOU TOOK THE TIME OFF TO GET A **TITS AND ASS JOB!** BUT MAKE IT **ONE WEEK** ONLY!

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, **DOCS** CAN DO PRETTY **AMAZING THINGS** IN **THAT** AMOUNT OF TIME!

AND I'M NOT **ABOUT** TO SIT AROUND ANY LONGER THAN **THAT** WHILE **SINGLETON** SENDS MY **CAREER** INTO THE **TOILET!**

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE EXPECTING **ME** TO HAVE **SEX** WITH THESE GUYS! YOU... YOU **KNOW** I **CAN'T** DO THAT!

I KNOW **NO SUCH THING,** SWEET-CHEEKS! **YOU'LL** DO **WHATEVER** YOU **HAVE** TO DO TO GET **RESULTS!**

PUT OUT, OR **DON'T...** I DON'T CARE! BUT **REGARDLESS,** YOU **WILL** GET WITH THE PROGRAM OR **BIG SIS** STARTS **LOOKING** FOR A **NEW CAREER!**


SO HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN MY NEW "BEHAVIOR" TO DAYNA?
YOU CAN TELL HER IT'S ANOTHER SIDE EFFECT OF THE DRUGS! GIVE HER A SOB STORY THAT YOU'RE TURNING INTO A TOTAL NYMPHO! WHATEVER! I DON'T CARE!

DAYNA WILL **DEFINITELY** BUY IT! I MEAN, **BEFORE** SHE GOT ALL **SERIOUS** ABOUT NURSING SCHOOL, **DAYNA** WAS THE **CAMPUS TEASE!** SHE **MIGHT** EVEN GIVE YOU A FEW **POINTERS** ON YOUR NEW LIFESTYLE! **HEH-HEH!**

oooooo


HOW DID MY SISTER NEVER SEE THIS PART OF YOU?
LIKE YOU SAID, SWEETIE... I'M A SCUMBAG!

I'LL LET YOU KNOW THE **DETAILS** LATER THIS WEEK! ALL **YOU** NEED TO KNOW **RIGHT NOW** IS THERE'S THIS ONE **PARTICULAR** EXEC AT RENCORP **I'D** LIKE YOU TO **HOOK UP** WITH!

ONE PARTICULAR **DOUCHEBAG** WHOSE NAME IS **PETE SINGLETON...!**

Later, after Paul finally leaves...

SHIT!

I WAS **DELUDING** MYSELF, THINKING THAT I'D BE ABLE TO CONVINCE **PAUL** TO LET ME **OFF THE HOOK!**

I WAS OPTIMISTIC AFTER MY TALK WITH GAVIN TODAY... HOPING TO USE MY TIME OFF TO FIGURE OUT WHAT DIRECTION TO TAKE MY LIFE!

I ACTUALLY STARTED THINKING THAT I COULD EASE MYSELF INTO LIFE AS A FULL-FLEDGED WOMAN! TAKING IT SLOWLY... ONE DAY AT A TIME!

BUT NOT NOW! PAUL'S NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN!


HE'S FORCING ME TO THROW MYSELF TITS FIRST INTO A LIFESTYLE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
A LIFESTYLE HE THINKS WILL PRESENT HIM WITH ALL SORTS OF OPPORTUNITIES... REGARDLESS OF HOW IT AFFECTS ME!

THE ***ONLY*** WAY TO ***OUTWIT*** THAT ***SLEAZEBALL*** IS TO ***BEAT HIM*** AT HIS ***OWN GAME!***

AND THE ***ONLY*** WAY TO DO THAT IS TO ***PLAY ALONG*** WITH HIS PLAN! ***HOPEFULLY*** THAT'LL CAUSE HIM TO LET HIS ***GUARD*** DOWN ENOUGH SO HE'LL START ***MAKING MISTAKES!***

I ***HATE*** TO ADMIT IT, BUT PLAYING ***PAUL'S GAME*** MIGHT ALSO BE THE ***ONLY*** WAY ***I*** CAN COME OUT ***AHEAD*** IN ALL OF THIS!

I GUESS I'LL **HAVE** TO CONVINCE **EVERYONE,** INCLUDING **DAYNA**, THAT I CAN'T **HELP** BUT ACT LIKE A TOTAL **SEX KITTEN!**

SIGH! I SUPPOSE THE **SOONER** I THROW MYSELF INTO THE ROLE, THE SOONER I CAN **HOPEFULLY** GET PAUL OUT OF OUR LIVES **ONCE** AND **FOR ALL!**

The next morning...

DAMN THESE LONG AND BUSY SHIFTS! I NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO CALL SHERRI SINCE I LEFT HER HERE YESTERDAY!

Knock, knock!!

.....

I SURE **HOPE** SHE'S **OKAY!** EVEN THOUGH SHE PUT ON A **GOOD FRONT,** I CAN'T IMAGINE **ANYONE** GOING THROUGH WHAT **SHE** WENT THROUGH WITHOUT AT **LEAST** SOMEONE TO **TALK** TO!

C'MON, HONEY! ANSWER THE DAMN DOOR! I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE OKAY!

KNOCK, KNOCK!!!


COMING!
SIGH! THANK GOD!

HEY, DAYNA! HOW WAS WORK?

GEEK

GASP!

OH MY GOD! WHAT ARE YOU WEARING? AND WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE WAS AT THE DOOR?

OH, DON'T WORRY, SIS! I KNEW IT WAS YOU! AND THIS IS THE CLOSEST I HAVE TO CLOTHES THAT FIT!

YOU CALL THAT FITTING? WHAT ABOUT THE CLOTHES YOU HAD ON YESTERDAY?

AFTER THE DAY I HAD? THEY WERE PRETTY GROSS AND ARE CURRENTLY FERMENTING IN THE CLOTHES HAMPER!

I DON'T **REMEMBER** EVER BUYING YOU A **TOP** LIKE **THAT!** DID YOU MAKE IT?

YEAH, IT WAS AN OLD T-SHIRT BUT WAS **SUFFOCATING** ME SO I TRIED CUTTING IT DOWN SOME!

GUESS I'M **NOT** VERY **GOOD** WITH SCISSORS! *GIGGLE!*

UMMM... AND YOU ***ARE*** AWARE THAT THOSE ***PANTIES*** ARE PRETTY MUCH ***STRETCHED*** TO THEIR ***LIMIT,*** AREN'T YOU?

YEAH, THEY'RE ***DEFINITELY*** RIDING UP, WHICH ***BOTHERED*** ME A BIT AT ***FIRST,*** BUT I'VE GOTTEN TO A POINT WHERE I KIND OF ***LIKE IT!***

AND I ***DON'T*** HAVE TO ***TUCK AWAY*** ANYTHING ANYMORE, WHICH IS KIND OF ***COOL!***

WOW! HERE I WAS ALL WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING A MENTAL BREAKDOWN AFTER YOUR BIG CHANGE!

BUT YOU SEEM TO BE HANDLING IT PRETTY DAMN WELL! ALMOST TOO WELL, IF YOU ASK ME!

I KNOW, IT'S WEIRD! I WOKE UP THIS MORNING FEELING BETTER THAN I HAVE IN A LONG TIME!

I MEAN, NOT JUST PHYSICALLY BETTER, BUT EMOTIONALLY BETTER AS WELL!


DEEK
MAYBE IT'S A SIDE-EFFECT FROM THE DRUGS... I DON'T KNOW! BUT I FEEL VERY... COMFORTABLE LIKE THIS!
THE WAY THESE CLOTHES, WHAT THERE IS OF THEM, SQUEEZE AND MOLD TO MY BODY FEELS... DAMN SEXY!
AND WHEN I LOOK AT MYSELF IN THE MIRROR, I FEEL ALMOST... GIDDY!

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T **HELP** THINKING... I **FEEL** SO **NATURAL** LIKE THIS... DO YOU THINK **MAYBE** I WAS **SUPPOSED** TO BE THIS WAY?

NOW I DO! THE **AMAZING** THING IS THAT **PAUL** OBVIOUSLY FIGURED **YOU** OUT A **LONG** TIME AGO! **THAT'S** WHY HE CHOSE **YOU** FOR THIS PLAN OF HIS!

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN **SO** PERCEPTIVE AND SENSITIVE TO **OTHER PEOPLE** THAT **HE** COULD SEE WHAT YOU NEEDED **BEFORE** EITHER ONE OF **US** COULD!

THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE **MANY** THINGS I'VE ALWAYS **LOVED** ABOUT HIM!

OOOOO! I HOPE I DON'T **THROW UP** RIGHT HERE!


ANSWER ME ONE THING, THOUGH!
SURE!
HAVE YOU TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO, UMMM... EXPERIMENT YET?

UMMM... A *LITTLE!*

UH-HUH... I *THOUGHT* SO! DEFINE 'A LITTLE!' *WHEN* DID YOU *FIRST* DO IT?

WELL... SHORTLY *AFTER* YOU LEFT YESTERDAY!

AND *WHEN* WAS THE *LAST* TIME YOU DID IT?

A FEW MINUTES *BEFORE* YOU GOT HERE! *GIGGLE!*

JESUS, SHERRI! NO WONDER YOU'RE "GIDDY"! YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF YOURSELF!

OF COURSE, I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED CONSIDERING YOU'VE GOT A GUY'S BRAIN CONTROLLING THAT HOT FEMALE BOD!

I JUST HOPE YOU GET ALL THAT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM BEFORE WE PUT YOU BACK OUT INTO THE WORLD!

MMMM... THE **WAY** I FEEL RIGHT NOW... I DON'T THINK I **EVER** WANT IT **OUT** OF MY SYSTEM! MAYBE I CAN ASK GAVIN FOR A FEW **EXTRA** "COFFEE BREAKS" EVERY DAY! *GIGGLE!*

OH MY GOD! YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE!

WELL, **FIRST** THINGS **FIRST!** OBVIOUSLY WE NEED TO GET YOU SOME NEW CLOTHES... **AGAIN!**

HOPE YOU KEPT ALL THE **RECEIPTS** ON THE **LAST** BATCH!

DON'T WORRY, I **DID!**

AND **THEN** WE'LL SPEND THE **BULK** OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS GETTING YOU **ACCLIMATED** TO BEING A **REAL** WOMAN!

I CAN'T ASK YOU TO WASTE WHAT **LITTLE** FREE TIME YOU HAVE ON **ME!**

YOU'RE **NOT** ASKING, **I'M VOLUNTEERING!** THERE'S **NOTHING** I'D RATHER DO THAN **HELP OUT** MY **LITTLE SISTER!**

GEEK

I... IT'S ONE OF THE **BEST** THINGS ABOUT ALL THIS, DAYNA! HOW IT'S MADE US **CLOSE** AGAIN!

I KNOW! BEFORE THIS HAPPENED, MY WORLD REVOLVED **SOLELY** AROUND **WORK** AND **PAUL!**

NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING **WRONG** WITH THAT, BUT IT FEELS **GOOD** TO HAVE YOU **BACK** IN MY LIFE! AND SINCE WE'RE **BOTH** GIRLS NOW, I JUST **KNOW** WE'RE GOING TO BE **CLOSER** THAN **EVER!**


ME TOO! IN FACT, I THINK WE ALREADY ARE!
DAMN STRAIGHT!


OKAY, WHILE I GO HOME AND CHANGE, YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOME LAUNDRY!
AND WHEN I GET BACK, WE'LL HIT THE STORES! HOW'S THAT SOUND, ... SIS?
SOUNDS PERFECT... SIS!
DEEK

WOW! I JUST CANT GET OVER THE FACT THAT SHE USED TO BE MY BROTHER, DARYL!

IF I HADN'T BEEN WITH HER EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT!

AND I'M JUST **BLOWN AWAY** BY HOW **WELL** SHE'S TAKING EVERYTHING AND **ADAPTING!**

MAYBE SHE'S **RIGHT**... MAYBE SHE **WAS** MEANT TO BE A GIRL **INSTEAD** OF A BOY!

IT WOULD **SURE** EXPLAIN A **LOT** OF HER BEHAVIOR... AS BOTH SHERRI **AND** DARYL!

SEEING THE WAY SHE WAS ***REACTING*** TO HER NEW BODY ***SURPRISED*** ME AT FIRST! BUT NOW THAT I ***THINK*** ABOUT IT, IT ***SHOULDN'T*** BE ALL THAT SURPRISING... TO ***ME*** ESPECIALLY!

I REMEMBER WHEN I ***FINALLY*** AND ***SUDDENLY*** ***BLOSSOMED*** IN COLLEGE, I TOOK TO MY NEW CURVES WITH A ***GUSTO*** AND MADE UP FOR A ***LOT*** OF ***MISSED*** ***OPPORTUNITIES*** IN ***RECORD TIME!***

SIGH! THOSE WERE A GREAT COUPLE OF YEARS!

SO IF SHERRI **WANTS** TO **EMBRACE** HER NEW LIFE AS A **GIRL**, WHO AM **I** TO DENY **HER** THE OPPORTUNITY TO **EXPERIMENT** WITH HER NEW '**HARDWARE**'!

HELL, WHO **BETTER** TO GUIDE HER INTO HER **NEW LIFE** THAN **A BIG SISTER** WHO WENT THROUGH A SOMEWHAT **SIMILAR**, BUT NOWHERE **NEAR** AS INTENSE, **METAMORPHOSIS?**


ANYWAY...I'M SURE SHE'LL GROW OUT OF IT... JUST LIKE I DID!


I FEEL HORRIBLE ABOUT LYING TO DAYNA LIKE THAT, BUT WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?
THE FUNNY THING IS HOW EASILY SHE BOUGHT IT! THAT'S SCARY!
GEEK

I MEAN, IF I CAN FOOL ***DAYNA*** SO ***EASILY*** BY THROWING ON THIS ***RIDICULOUS*** OUTFIT AND ACTING LIKE A ***TOTAL SEX KITTEN***, THEN I CAN ***DEFINITELY*** FOOL ***ANYONE ELSE!***

SIGH!. ***PART*** OF ME WAS HOPING I'D ***FAIL MISERABLY*** SO I WOULDN'T ***HAVE*** TO GO ANY FURTHER WITH THIS ***CHARADE!*** I GUESS ***NOT!***

MAYBE... ***MAYBE*** IT'S BECAUSE IT'S ***NOT*** ALL LIES! I MEAN, WHEN I ***THINK*** ABOUT HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN ***GETTING OFF*** LATELY! ***DAMN!*** I THINK MY ***LIBIDO'S*** BEEN AMPED UP ***TWENTY-FOLD!***

MAYBE PAUL WAS INADVERTENTLY **ON** TO SOMETHING... MAYBE THE DRUGS **HAVE** MESSED WITH MY SEX DRIVE!

HELL, IF **THAT'S** THE CASE, IT'LL MAKE MY ROLE AS THE **OFFICE FLOOZY** A **LOT EASIER!**

I CAN'T **BELIEVE** IT'S COME TO THIS... THAT **THIS** IS MY LIFE NOW!


NOW... WHERE DID I PUT THAT LAUNDRY HAMPER?


Some days later...


OH YEAH, GO FOR IT, SWEET CHEEKS! I KNEW YOU WERE THAT KIND OF GIRL FROM THE GET GO!
HEH-HEH!!


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME GO INTO THAT PLACE, DAYNA! HAVE YOU NO SHAME? *GIGGLE!*
HEY! EVERY GIRL NEEDS ONE... TRUST ME! YOU'LL DISCOVER THAT SOON ENOUGH! *GIGGLE!*
SHIT!
slap!

YOU TWO SOUND ***AWFULLY*** DAMN ***GIDDY!*** WHAT ARE YOU ***UP TO?***

NOTHING, HONEY! JUST ENJOYING ANOTHER ***WONDERFUL*** DAY OUT WITH MY ***LITTLE SISTER!***

YEAH, YOU'RE ***SO SUSPICIOUS!*** WHAT'S ***UP*** WITH THAT?

HEY, I JUST...!


WHOA! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU WEAR ANYTHING LIKE THAT SINCE COLLEGE! WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
BLAME IT ON HER! I GOT TIRED OF BEING PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE NEXT TO SAUCY SHERRI HERE, SO I DECIDED A WARDROBE UPDATE WAS DUE!
HEY! DON'T HATE ME 'CAUSE I'M STACKED!


I TAKE IT YOU APPROVE!
GIGGLE!
DAMN STRAIGHT I DO, HOT STUFF!


SO, IT'S GETTIN' PRETTY LATE, SHERRI! YOU'D PROBABLY LIKE TO BE GETTIN' ON HOME, WOULDN'T YOU?
NONSENSE! I'VE ALREADY CONVINCED HER TO STAY OVER!
WHY DRIVE ALL THE WAY ACROSS TOWN WHEN WE HAVE A PERFECTLY GOOD SOFA RIGHT HERE?

YOU'RE **SURE** I WON'T BE A **BOTHER?**

WELL... IF WE'RE BEING **HONEST...!**

NOT AT ALL! I WANT TO GET AN **EARLY START** TOMORROW SO WE CAN HIT A FEW STORES BEFORE I GO TO WORK!


THIS MAY SOUND MUSHY, BUT I'VE BEEN HAVING A BLAST HANGING OUT WITH MY LITTLE SIS! I REALLY HAVEN'T HAD ANY REAL GIRLFRIENDS SINCE I STARTED NURSING SCHOOL WAY BACK WHEN!
I... I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED IT UNTIL SHERRI CAME ALONG!

I MEAN, DARYL AND I **NEVER** HAD A **GOOD** RELATIONSHIP... **ESPECIALLY** AFTER MOM AND DAD DIED!

BUT NOW, I'VE GOT **BOTH** THE **LITTLE SISTER** I **ALWAYS** WANTED AND A **NEW BEST FRIEND**... ALL ROLLED INTO **ONE!**

I... **I** FEEL THE **SAME** WAY, SIS! *SNIFF!*

YEAH, BUT... BUT *WHAT* ABOUT *ME?* THIS NEW *SISTER ACT* ISN'T GOING TO EAT UP *ALL* YOUR TIME, IS IT?

NO... BUT *YOU'RE* GOING TO HAVE TO GET USED TO *SHARING,* BABE!


BUT DON'T YOU WORRY! I'LL MAKE SURE I KEEP GIVING YOU EVERYTHING YOU'RE USED TO GETTING! *GIGGLE!*
DAMN STRAIGHT YOU WILL! HEH-HEH!


NOW, IF YOU TWO WILL EXCUSE ME, I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A NICE LONG SHOWER AND THEN GET READY FOR BED! I'M EXHAUSTED!
ME TOO! CAN I USE YOUR BEDROOM TO CHANGE?
GO AHEAD!


OH, AND BABE, CAN YOU GET SOME BLANKETS AND PILLOWS FOR SHERRI? THANKS LOVE!
YEAH! THANKS... LOVE! *GIGGLE!*


YEAH BABE, I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT!
WHEN PIGS FLY OUTTA MY ASS!


A few minutes later...
AW, C'MON! FLIP HIM AROUND, HONEY! I DON'T WANNA SEE HIS ASS!


WELL, SHIT! WHAT'S THE POINT?
SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR LAPTOP?


WHAT?! OH, UHHH... NO! JUST, UMMM... DOING SOME WORK! NUMBERS WEREN'T ADDING UP, THAT'S ALL!
UH-HUH! IF YOU SAY SO!
slap!

SPEAKING OF **WORK**... WHEN THE HELL ARE **YOU** GOING BACK TO **RENCORP?** IT'S BEEN A **WEEK** ALREADY AND **I** NEED YOU BACK THERE **ASAFP!**

WELL, TODAY'S **FRIDAY**, SO I'LL BE GOING BACK TO WORK ON **MONDAY**... LIKE WE **AGREED!** DON'T GET YOUR **PANTIES** IN A **BUNCH**, PAUL!

MY PANTIES? HELL! I'M NOT THE ONE WEARING TIGHT LITTLE NOTHING PANTIES THAT CRAWL UP MY ASS LIKE... LIKE...!


JESUS! DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SLEEP IN?
WELL, ACTUALLY I PREFER SLEEPING IN THE NUDE! BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT'D BE APPROPRIATE HERE!


AND NONE OF DAYNA'S NIGHTIES WOULD FIT ME! THEY'RE JUST TOO DARN TIGHT!
GROAN!

OKAY, **WHATEVER!** LOOK... I'VE HEARD THERE'S A **HUGE** PROJECT IN THE WORKS AND **I** NEED TO KNOW **ALL** THE DETAILS ABOUT IT **BEFORE** IT GOES PUBLIC!

SO **YOU'VE** GOTTA DO **WHATEVER** IT TAKES TO **GET** THAT INFORMATION FROM **SINGLETON!** YOU **KNOW** WHAT I **MEAN,** DON'T YOU?

OF **COURSE** I DO!

YOU WANT ME TO GET HIM **INTERESTED** BY GETTING **REAL** CLOSE TO HIM, MAKING **SURE** HE GETS A **GOOD LONG LOOK** AT MY NEW, IMPROVED **TITTIES!**

LOOK, UMMM... YOU DON'T HAVE TO... I MEAN...!

JUST **PRACTICING,** PAUL! YOU **DO** WANT ME TO GET THIS **RIGHT,** DON'T YOU?

YEAH, BUT...!

AND OF **COURSE** HE'LL ASK ME OUT, UNLESS... **OOOOOOOO!**

UNLESS... MAYBE I'LL LET HIM TAKE ME **RIGHT THERE** IN HIS **OFFICE!**

NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING...!


MMMMMM! FEELING HIS HANDS PULLING UP MY SKIRT AND SLIDING MY SOPPING WET PANTIES DOWN TO THE FLOOR!
STOP IT!


AND THEN I'LL LEAN OVER HIS DESK, SPREAD MY LEGS AND LET HIM TAKE ME FROM BEHIND!
OOOO... I CAN'T WAIT!
REALLY! JUST STOP IT!

BUT ISN'T IT **EVERY** GIRL'S **DREAM** TO **LOSE** HER **VIRGINITY** LIKE **THAT**... **SPREAD OUT** ON AN **OFFICE DESK** WITH HER PANTIES **TANGLED** UP AROUND HER **ANKLES?** IT SOUNDS SOOO... **MAGICAL!**

HEH! I **KNEW** YOU WERE A **VIRGIN!**

AS A **GIRL**, ANYWAY! BUT **NOT** FOR MUCH **LONGER**... NOT IF YOUR FRIEND **PETE** HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!


AND I'LL BET HE'S HUGE, TOO!
JESUS! I'VE CREATED A FUCKING MONSTER DICK-TEASE!
I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO YOUR BULLSHIT! I'M GOIN' TO BED!


HEY, BABE! I WAS JUST COMING OUT TO...!
DON'T BOTHER! C'MERE!

OH **WOW! LOOK** AT **HIM!** YOU MUST HAVE **REALLY** LIKED MY NEW OUTFIT! I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM **THAT** LONG AND HARD IN QUITE SOME TIME!

YEAH... **THAT'S** WHAT DID IT!

GIGGLE! BUT WHAT IF **SHERRI** HEARS US?

WHO CARES? **SPREAD EM,** BABE!

HMPH! THAT WAS JUST AS **EASY** AS DAYNA **SAID** IT'D BE!

OF COURSE, I **DON'T** THINK SHE PLANNED ON ME TRYING IT OUT ON **HER** MAIN SQUEEZE!


HELL, THANKS TO WHAT DAYNA'S TAUGHT ME THIS WEEK, IF THIS SINGLETON CHARACTER IS HALF AS EASY AS PAUL, I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE HANDLING HIM!
OH... OH... OH MY GOD!!!
GIGGLE! HOPE DAYNA APPRECIATES THAT!


HMMM! PAUL WAS IN SUCH A HURRY IT LOOKS LIKE HE FORGOT TO SHUT DOWN HIS LAPTOP!
BEING A GOOD AND PROPER GUEST, I SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR HIM!
I MEAN, WOULDN'T WANT HIS BATTERY TO DIE NOW, WOULD WE? *GIGGLE!*


OH, VERY CLASSY, PAUL! LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S HOMEMADE PORN, WITH NO SOUND AND A GRAINY PICTURE!
WHAT? YOU TOO CHEAP TO GO TO THE PAY SITES? *SHEESH!*

WAIT A MINUTE! I... I THINK I KNOW THAT GIRL!


OH MY GOD! I DO KNOW HER! SHE LIVES IN MY BUILDING!
MY NEIGHBOR IS RUNNING A PORN SITE? LOVELY!


LOOKS LIKE SHE SHOT EVERYTHING FROM A NANNY-CAM, OR SOMETHING LIKE IT!
I WONDER WHAT HER WEBSITE IS... OUT OF CURIOSITY ONLY, OF COURSE?


HUH? THIS ISN'T A WEBSITE... IT'S A VIDEO STORED ON HIS LAPTOP!
AND HE'S GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF HER VIDEOS IN THIS FOLDER TITLED... 305? WEIRD NAME FOR A FOLDER...!


WAIT...! 305? THAT'S HER APARTMENT NUMBER!
AND THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER FOLDERS HERE TITLED JUST LIKE THAT! ALL OF THEM FULL OF VIDEO FILES!
402... 512... 207...! THOSE ARE ALSO APARTMENT NUMBERS IN MY BUILDING! YOU DON'T THINK...!

GASP!

607!? THAT... THAT'S **MY APARTMENT**! AND... AND THERE ARE VIDEO FILES IN **HERE** AS WELL!

WHAT THE HELL... ?


OH MY GOD! THAT... THAT'S MY BEDROOM!
AND... THAT'S ME... GETTING DRESSED!!


THAT FUCKING PERV HAS MY ROOM BUGGED!! HE'S BUGGED ALL THOSE BEDROOMS!!
JESUS FUCKING CHRIST!!


GOD! I JUST... I FEEL SO... SO DAMN DIRTY KNOWING THAT HE'S BEEN WATCHING ME!
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD JUST RUN IN THERE AND START WHALING ON HIM OR CALL THE POLICE!

OKAY... I NEED TO JUST **CALM DOWN** AND **THINK THIS OVER!**

ANYTHING I DO RIGHT NOW, **MAY** OR **MAY NOT** GET HIM **BUSTED!** HE'LL COME UP WITH SOME **BULLSHIT** WAY TO **EXPLAIN** THE VIDEOS AWAY, AND IN **DAYNA'S** CURRENT FRAME OF MIND, SHE'LL **PROBABLY** SUPPORT HIM **REGARDLESS!**

SHE'S SO DAMN **TAKEN** BY THAT **SCUMBAG** SHE'LL BELIEVE **HIM** OVER ANYONE ELSE! **EVEN ME!**

I NEED TO FIGURE OUT A **FAIL-SAFE** WAY TO **BUST HIM** FOR THIS IN A WAY THAT DAYNA **CAN'T HELP** BUT SEE HIM FOR THE **SLEAZY CROOK** HE **REALLY** IS!

IT **WON'T** BE EASY, BUT SEEING THESE VIDEOS JUST **INTENSIFIES** MY **HATRED** FOR PAUL **AND** MY **DETERMINATION** IN GETTING MY SISTER **AWAY** FROM HIM!

AND THERE'S *NOTHING* I *WON'T DO* TO MAKE THAT *HAPPEN!*

The following Monday...

AND THERE SHE IS! WELCOME BACK, YOU!

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK, BOSS! I WAS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE STIR CRAZY WITH ALL THAT TIME OFF!


WELL, DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE! STAND UP AND LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT YOU!
SIGH! OH, ALL RIGHT!

MY WORD! THAT REALLY DOES SHOW OFF YOUR NEW FIGURE! I HOPE THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GOING FOR!

OH, IT IS! CONSIDERING I'VE BEEN TELLING EVERYONE THAT I TOOK THE TIME OFF TO "HAVE SOME WORK DONE", IT'D SEEM PRETTY SILLY TO TRY AND HIDE IT!

BESIDES, I FOUND OUT THAT TRYING TO ***COVER UP*** A FIGURE LIKE ***THIS*** IS ***PRETTY DAMN HARD!*** SO ***WHY*** FIGHT IT?

I KNOW WE'VE **TALKED** ABOUT IT OVER THE PHONE SEVERAL TIMES THIS WEEK, BUT I'M **STILL** NOT CONVINCED **THAT'S** THE **ONLY** REASON YOU'VE DECIDED TO ADOPT THIS **LOOK** SO... **FERVENTLY!**

WHAT **ELSE** IS GOING ON, SHERRI? **PLEASE**... TELL ME THE **TRUTH!**

WELL... IT'S **PAUL!** HE WANTED, **NO**... HE **INSISTED** THAT I GO **ALL OUT** AND USE MY NEW "DEVELOPMENTS" TO **FURTHER** HIS PLAN!

I HAD A **FEELING...!**

LOOK, SHERRI! THIS IS GOING TOO FAR! NOT ONLY IS HE MANIPULATING YOU AND YOUR SISTER, BUT HE'S ENGAGING IN CORPORATE ESPIONAGE! AND IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, YOU COULD GO TO JAIL RIGHT ALONG WITH HIM!

THAT'S SOMETHING I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET HAPPEN! SO I'M STEPPING IN, WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT!

TRUST ME, GAVIN! I KNOW HOW DANGEROUS PAUL IS AND I'M WORKING ON A PLAN TO GET HIM OUT OF OUR LIVES ONCE AND FOR ALL!

I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU INVOLVED, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU TO SUFFER IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG!

THAT'S WHY I'M STEPPING IN TO HELP! TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE... SO I'VE HEARD!

BESIDES, I'VE BEEN AT THIS COMPANY TOO LONG TO JUST SIT IDLY BY AND LET SOMEONE TRY AND SABOTAGE IT!

I UNDERSTAND! BUT I **SHOULD** LET YOU KNOW THAT PAUL **ALREADY** EXPECTS ME TO START PUTTING THE **MOVES** ON **PETE SINGLETON!**

THERE'S BEEN **BAD BLOOD** BETWEEN THEM SINCE **COLLEGE,** AND PAUL WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO USE **PETE** TO FURTHER HIS **OWN** AMBITIONS!

PETE, HUH? MAKES SENSE! HE'S A **RISING YOUNG STAR** IN THE COMPANY AND PRIVY TO QUITE A BIT OF **TOP-LEVEL INFORMATION!**

I HAVE AN ***IDEA,*** BUT TO MAKE IT WORK ***YOU*** NEED TO ***GO AHEAD*** WITH ***PAUL'S PLAN*** FOR THE TIME BEING!

I ***KNOW*** IT'S ASKING A ***LOT*** OF YOU, AND I ***PROMISE*** TO EXPLAIN THE DETAILS ***LATER,*** BUT FOR NOW DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ***TRUST ME*** ON THIS?

OF ***COURSE,*** BOSS! KNOWING ***YOU*** HAVE MY BACK MAKES ***ALL*** THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

NOW, I JUST *HOPE* I HAVE IT IN *ME* TO PULL IT OFF!

Oooo

Later that morning...

OH **YEAH!** IF THESE NUMBERS ARE **RIGHT,** WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A **KILLING** ON THAT...!


WHOA!


♪♫♪♫♪♫♪♫♪
HMMMM...!

OKAY... I THINK I'VE *ENJOYED* THE *VIEW* LONG ENOUGH!

CAN I *HELP* YOU, MISS?


OH! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE!
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, MISS...?

PRUITT! **SHERRI** PRUITT! I... I WORK FOR **GAVIN GENTRY!**

I WAS LOOKING FOR **LINDA,** BUT COULDN'T FIND HER SO I WAS **LEAVING** HER A **NOTE!**

YOU MUST BE HER **BOSS,** MR. **SINGLETON!**

YES, I *AM*, BUT *PLEASE* CALL ME *PETE!*

AND I'M AFRAID *LINDA'S* OUT OF *TOWN* FOR A FEW DAYS! SOMETHING ABOUT HER SISTER'S *WEDDING* SHE *INSISTED* ON ATTENDING!

OH... POO! I COULD SWEAR WE HAD PLANS TO GO OUT TONIGHT! BUT I GUESS I GOT MY DAYS MIXED UP... AGAIN!

I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, TOO!

I'M SURE SHE'D BE HERE IF SHE COULD! WAS THIS A SPECIAL OCCASION YOU TWO HAD PLANNED OR JUST A REGULAR GIRLS' NIGHT OUT?

WELL, I'VE BEEN HERE AT **RENCORP** EXACTLY **TWO MONTHS TODAY** AND **LINDA** WAS GOING TO TAKE ME OUT FOR **DRINKS** TONIGHT TO **CELEBRATE!**

BUT I **GUESS** WE CAN CELEBRATE MY TWO MONTH ANNIVERSARY **NEXT MONTH** INSTEAD! **RIGHT?**

YEAH, I UMMM... I GUESS YOU **COULD!** *SNICKER!*

TELL YOU WHAT! INSTEAD OF ***WAITING*** A WHOLE MONTH, HOW ABOUT IF ***I*** TAKE YOU OUT FOR DRINKS ***AND DINNER*** TO CELEBRATE YOUR ANNIVERSARY HERE?

WHAT? OH, I ***COULDN'T*** ASK THAT OF ***YOU,*** MR. SINGLETON! YOU... YOU HARDLY ***KNOW*** ME!

YOU'RE NOT ***ASKING,*** ***I'M*** OFFERING! AND WHAT ***BETTER*** WAY TO GET TO ***KNOW*** YOU? HMMM?


PLEASE, SHERRI! I'VE HEARD SUCH GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR BOSS, I FEEL IT'D BE A TRAVESTY TO LET YOUR ANNIVERSARY GO UNREWARDED!
WELL... I DON'T KNOW!
BUT... HIS NAME'S GAVIN, NOT TRAVIS!
I... STAND CORRECTED!

PLEASE LET ME DO THIS FOR YOU, SHERRI! I INSIST!

WELL... IF YOU INSIST, I REALLY CAN'T SAY NO, CAN I? I MEAN YOU ARE ONE OF THE BOSSES AND EVERYTHING!

GREAT! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN... SHARP!

OKAY! HERE'S MY ADDRESS!

UMMM... WHY DON'T YOU WRITE IT ON A PIECE OF PAPER INSTEAD?


OOPS!
SILLY ME!




HERE YOU GO!
THANK YOU, SHERRI! I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT!

YEAH, I'LL SEE YOU THEN!


OH YEAH! JUST LIKE SHOOTING FISH...!


.... IN A
BARREL!

by CBlack



Chapter 8

OPPORTUNITIES

After her 'encounter' with Singleton, Sherri stops by Maggie's desk...

OH MY GOD! LOOK AT YOU!


YOU DON'T THINK I OVERDID IT, DO YOU?
HONEY, I ALREADY THOUGHT YOU WERE GORGEOUS BEFORE, BUT NOW?
VA-VA-VA-VOOM! SEXY TO THE NTH DEGREE, GIRLFRIEND!

THANKS, MAGGIE! THAT MEANS A LOT COMING FROM YOU!

I'M STILL SURPRISED, THOUGH! YOU NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT WANTING TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

AT LEAST NOT UNTIL YOU GAVE ME A CALL LAST WEEK AND TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT AFTER THE FACT!

I MEAN, I'M JUST **AMAZED** AT WHAT THOSE DOCTORS CAN **DO** THESE DAYS! **WOW!**

YEAH, UMMM... **ME TOO!**

WELL WE HAVE JUST **GOT** TO GO OUT TONIGHT AND **SHOW YOU OFF** TO THE **WORLD!**

WHAT DO YOU THINK? **ROCKY'S**... OR SOMETHING A LITTLE **SEXIER?**

ACTUALLY... I'VE **ALREADY** GOT **PLANS** TONIGHT! I'M **SORRY!**

BUT **ANY OTHER** TIME, I AM **SO** THERE WITH YOU!

PLANS, HUH? YOU GOT A **NEW BEST FRIEND** I DON'T KNOW ABOUT... OR SOME **HOT DATE** INSTEAD? *GIGGLE!*

WELLL...!

OH MY GOD! THAT'S IT! YOU'VE GOT A DATE TONIGHT, DON'T YOU?

GUILTY AS CHARGED!

THEN DISH THE DETAILS, GIRL! WHO IS IT? WHERE DID YOU MEET HIM?

ACTUALLY, IT JUST HAPPENED A *FEW MINUTES AGO!*

THEN IT'S SOMEONE *HERE* IN THE BUILDING? *OOOO!* THE PLOT *THICKENS!*

WHO IS IT? *WHO IS IT? WHO IS IT?*

IT'S WITH *LINDA'S* BOSS... *PETE SINGLETON!*

PETE SINGLETON? WHOA! HE'S THE BIG LEAGUES!

HOW DID YOU RUN INTO HIM? HE NEVER COMES DOWN TO THIS FLOOR!

WELL, WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER WHEN I WENT UP THERE LOOKING FOR LINDA!

BUT... LINDA'S OUT OF TOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS! YOU KNEW THAT!

YES... YES I DID!

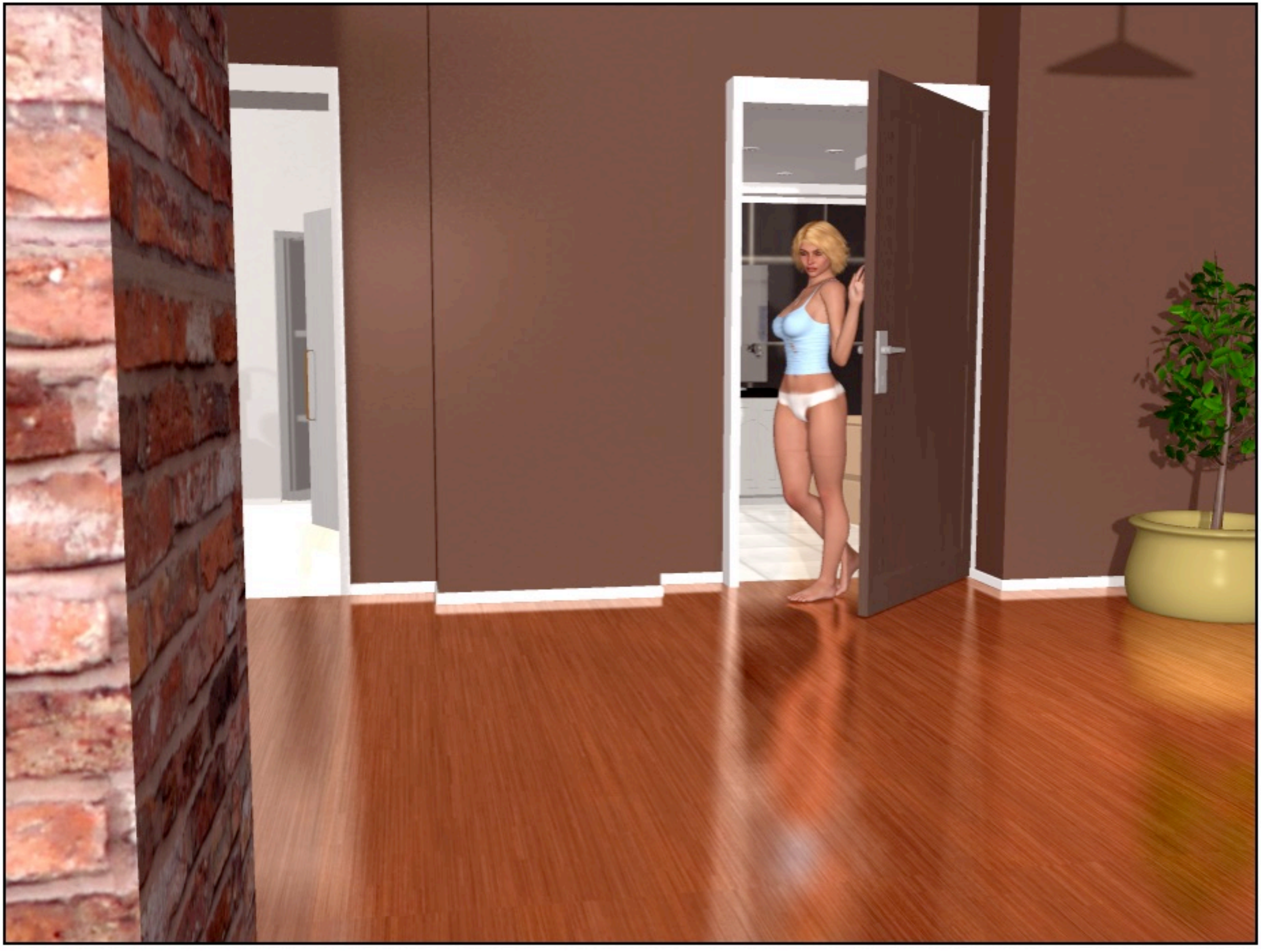
WHY YOU LITTLE **MINX!** **YOU** DIDN'T GO THERE LOOKING FOR **LINDA**... **YOU** WENT THERE LOOKING FOR **PETE!**

AND **WHATEVER** IT WAS YOU **DID** UP THERE OBVIOUSLY **WORKED** LIKE A **CHARM,** DIDN'T IT?

MUST HAVE, SINCE HE'S PICKING ME UP AT **SEVEN!**


ATTA GIRL! BUT... WHY PETE? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU KNEW ABOUT HIM!
LET'S JUST SAY I'VE HEARD A FEW THINGS ABOUT HIM AND... I'M CURIOUS!
CURIOUS, HUH? I'VE BEEN 'CURIOUS' WITH HIM A FEW TIMES MYSELF!
REALLY?


GET COMFORTABLE GIRL, WHILE I GIVE YOU THE LOWDOWN ON MR. PETE SINGLETON...!
OH, I'M ALL EARS!




DAMN IT! I ALMOST WISH I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT DAMN CAMERA IN MY BEDROOM!
THEN I WOULDN'T FEEL SO DAMN PARANOID IN MY OWN APARTMENT!

FROM THE VIEWING ANGLE OF THAT **GODDAMN VIDEO**, IT WAS PRETTY **EASY** FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT PAUL'S CAMERA IS **HIDING** UP THERE IN THE **CEILING LIGHT!**

AS MUCH AS I WANT TO **RIP IT OUT** AND **TOSS IT** OUT THE **WINDOW**, I'VE GOT TO **LEAVE IT** THERE OR PAUL WILL GET **SUSPICIOUS!**

I'VE ALSO **GOT** TO BE **CAREFUL** TO **KEEP** DOING THINGS I **NORMALLY** DO AROUND HERE!

BUT **SUSPICIOUS** OR **NOT**, I AM **NOT** GOING INTO **THAT** ROOM **NAKED** UNTIL THAT CAMERA IS **GONE!**

FORTUNATELY, FROM WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE ON ALL THOSE **VIDEOS**, PAUL **ONLY** HAS THEM IN THE **BEDROOMS!**

ONE THING I **DID** NOTICE ABOUT THE CAMERA, THOUGH, IS THAT IT'S CONNECTED TO THE **RECEIVER** BY **WI-FI,** WHICH **MEANS** THAT RECEIVER'S **GOT** TO BE HIDING IN **THIS BUILDING** SOMEWHERE!

AND AFTER A LITTLE **EXCURSION** TO **RADIO HUT,** I **SHOULD** BE ABLE TO **TRACE** THAT WIFI SIGNAL TO THE RECEIVER!

BUT **THAT'S** GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR **ANOTHER** DAY, BECAUSE I'VE ONLY AN **HOUR** TO GET READY FOR MY **DATE** WITH **PETE!**

NOT SOMETHING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO, BUT NECESSARY IF I'M TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES!

BUT IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT AND GET THE INFORMATION I NEED FROM PETE TONIGHT, THIS'LL BE A ONE-TIME THING!

AND HOPEFULLY IT'LL KEEP PAUL OFF MY BACK LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING HIM OUT OF MY AND DAYNA'S LIVES FOR GOOD!

SO... WHAT DOES YOUR AVERAGE DITZY BLONDE BOMBSHELL WEAR ON A DATE?

oooooooooooo




SO, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF DINNER, SHERRI?
MMMM...! IT WAS THE YUMMIEST POT ROAST I'VE EVER HAD!
BUT WHY'D THEY GIVE IT SUCH A FUNNY NAME?

*SIGH! YOU'RE **RIGHT!** MAYBE WE SHOULD WRITE THE **RESTAURANT** A LETTER AND SUGGEST **RENAMING** IT 'YUMMIEST POT ROAST EVER' **INSTEAD** OF **OSSO BUCCO!**

THAT **WOULD** MAKE A **LOT** MORE SENSE!

WOW! HE **ACTUALLY** SAID THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE! **I'M IMPRESSED!**

I'M **ALSO** IMPRESSED WITH HOW **MUCH** HE'S **SHELLING OUT** FOR THIS DATE!

OSSO BUCCO IS **NEVER** CHEAP, AND AS **GOOD** AS IT WAS AT **THAT** RESTAURANT, IT MUST'VE COST A PRETTY PENNY... **ESPECIALLY** FOR **TWO!**

AND THAT **WINE** HE CHOSE! I **SAW** THE **PRICE TAG** ON THAT BOTTLE! **IT** COST **MORE** THAN THE **ENTIRE DINNER!**

BUT **DAMN**, WAS IT **WORTH** IT! I WASN'T **PLANNING** ON DRINKING AT **ALL** TONIGHT, BUT **ONE SIP** OF THAT **BARBARESCO** AND I WAS **HOOKED** FOR **TWO** GLASSES!


DAMN! ANY MORE BOOZE AND I WON'T HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE A DITZY BLONDE!
SO I BETTER MAKE DAMN SURE MY DRINKS STAY VIRGIN AND HIS ARE NICE AND STRONG!
THAT SHOULD HELP LOOSEN HIS TONGUE UP A LITTLE!


SO, HERE WE ARE! WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?
OOOO! I DON'T KNOW! I'M NOT SURE WHAT I FEEL LIKE TONIGHT!

WELL ORDER ME A **VODKA ROCKS,** WILL YOU? I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!

A **ROCKY VODKA?** *GIGGLE!* THAT'S **CUTE** 'CAUSE **THIS** PLACE IS **CALLED ROCKY'S!** **GET IT?**

YEAH, YOU BET!

WOW! I SURE CAN PICK 'EM!


WOW! SHERRI? IS THAT REALLY YOU?
YEAH, IT'S ME, ROCKY! HOW ARE YOU DOING TONIGHT?
A LOT BETTER NOW THAT YOU'VE COME IN! DANG! YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD!

YEAH, I UMMM, HAD A LITTLE **WORK** DONE!

A LITTLE? **DAMN GIRL,** YOU'VE GOT MORE **CURVES** NOW THAN **QUEEN MEY** AND **K LO** PUT **TOGETHER!**

THANKS! IT'S, UMMM... SOMETHING I'VE **WANTED** TO DO FOR A **LONG TIME!**

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT DONE ***SOONER!*** BUSINESS WOULD'VE BEEN A WHOLE LOT ***BETTER*** IF I'D HAD ***MORE*** GIRLS IN HERE WHO LOOKED LIKE ***YOU!***

I ALWAYS ***THOUGHT*** THIS PLACE NEEDED MORE ***SEX APPEAL,*** AND ALL THESE SKINNY ***OFFICE GIRLS*** JUST ***AREN'T*** GETTING IT DONE IN MY OPINION!

OH WELL, **THAT'S** ENOUGH OF **THIS** OLD MAN'S RAMBLING! WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

A VODKA ROCKS AND SOMETHING **FRUITY** WITH **NO BOOZE!**

HOW ABOUT A VIRGIN **'GIRLS NEXT DOOR'?** FRUIT, SYRUP, MINT, LEMON JUICE AND **USUALLY** VODKA... HOW'S **THAT** SOUND?

SOUNDS *PERFECT!* OH, AND... CAN YOU *KEEP* MINE VIRGIN, EVEN IF I DON'T *ORDER* IT THAT WAY? I *THINK* YOU KNOW WHY!

YOU *GOT* IT, HONEY! I'LL HAVE THEM OVER RIGHT AWAY!

THANKS, ROCKY!


ALL RIGHT, PETE! STAGE IS SET FOR ACT TWO!
LET'S HOPE THIS LITTLE PRODUCTION OPENS AND CLOSES ON THE SAME NIGHT!

HI THERE! MISS ME?

OF COURSE! HEY, LOOK! LITTLE UMBRELLA! ISN'T IT ADORABLE?

NOT HALF AS ADORABLE AS YOU, SHERRI!

AWWW! YOU'RE SWEET!


SO... WHERE WERE WE?
GIGGLE!

After some conversation and a couple of rounds...

WOW! YOU MUST REALLY BE IMPORTANT TO KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE COMPANY!

BUT NOTHING SPECIFIC ENOUGH YET TO MAKE PAUL HAPPY, UNFORTUNATELY!

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT RENCORP APPRECIATES GOOD TALENT WHEN THEY SEE IT!

JUST LIKE I DO!


GIGGLE! I HAVE TO GO TO THE LITTLE GIRL'S ROOM! CAN YOU ORDER US ANOTHER ROUND WHILE I'M GONE?
YOU BET, SHERRI!

HMMM! FROM THE WAY **MAGGIE** TALKED ABOUT **PETE**, I **EXPECTED** HIM TO BE A HECK OF A LOT **SLEAZIER** THAN HE'S BEEN TONIGHT!

BUT IN FACT, HE'S **ACTUALLY** BEEN KIND OF **NICE** TO BE WITH... A **PERFECT GENTLEMAN**, SO TO SPEAK!

ANOTHER ROUND OF THE SAME, ROCKY!

COMING UP!


IT'S ALMOST A SHAME I HAVE TO GET HIM A LOT DRUNKER AND A LITTLE HORNIER SO HE'LL START GIVING UP MORE USEFUL INFO!
HE ALMOST SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY!

MAN, THIS CHICK SURE CAN HOLD HER BOOZE! MOST DATES WOULD BE STUMBLING AND SLURRING BY NOW AFTER FOUR DRINKS, BUT SHE'S HARDLY FEELING IT!

'COURSE WHEN THEY'RE THAT DITZY, IT'S PRETTY DAMN HARD TO TELL!

I WONDER WHAT'S IN THOSE DRINKS SHE'S BEEN DOWNING?

LET'S SEE... SOME KIND OF SYRUP... LEMON JUICE... FRUIT... BLENDING...

WAIT A SECOND! WHERE'S THE DAMN BOOZE?

HERE YOU GO, PETE!

THANKS, ROCKY!

NO **WONDER** SHE'S NOT ***FEELIN'*** THE BOOZE! SHE'S NOT ***DRINKIN'*** ANY!


WELL... I THINK I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT LITTLE OVERSIGHT! 'CAUSE I SURE DON'T MIND SHARING!


HIYA!
MISS ME?
ALWAYS,
SHERRI!

HERE YOU GO! JUST LIKE YOU WANTED IT!

THANKS!


MMMMMM! MORE YUMMY!
YES, I'M SURE IT IS!

And after a couple more rounds...

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHERRI? ARE WE **DONE** HERE?

YEAH, I THINK SO! TOMORROW'S A **WORK DAY,** AFTER ALL!


AND I THINK THOSE TWO GLASSES OF WINE ARE FINALLY CATCHING UP WITH ME!
BETTER GET HOME WHILE I CAN!


WHAT DO YOU SAY... A NIGHT CAP AT MY PLACE?
OH! THAT SEEMS SILLY SINCE I LIVE JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, AND...!
YOUR PLACE IT IS, THEN! GREAT!

WELL, SHIT! THAT CAME OUT TOTALLY WRONG!

I JUST WANTED HIM TO TAKE ME HOME, BUT THE WAY I SAID IT MADE IT SOUND A LOT LIKE AN INVITATION!

MY PLACE, HER PLACE... HELL, DOESN'T MATTER TO ME! JUST AS LONG AS I GET A PIECE OF THIS DYNAMITE BOOTY OF HERS!

I'LL JUST MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT I MEANT WHEN WE GET TO MY APARTMENT!

A short drive later...

WHEW! I'VE *NEVER* FELT *THIS* DRUNK FROM JUST *TWO* GLASSES OF WINE!

MAYBE ALL THE *SUGAR* IN THOSE DRINKS AT ROCKY'S MADE IT *WORSE!* I DUNNO!


I JUST NEED TO END THIS DATE NOW... WHILE I'M STILL ON MY FEET!


THANKS A LOT, PETE! I HAD A REALLY GREAT TIME TONIGHT!
I'M GLAD! 'CAUSE I DID, TOO!


WELL... I'LL SEE YOU AT WORK! GOODNIGHT!
BEFORE WE CALL IT A NIGHT, I WAS REALLY HOPING I COULD GET A QUICK CUP OF COFFEE FROM YOU!
I GOTTA DRIVE ACROSS TOWN, YOU KNOW, AND WANT TO STAY SHARP SO I GET HOME SAFELY!

DAMN IT! I WISH I WASN'T SO FUZZY-HEADED RIGHT NOW SO I COULD THINK OF A WAY OUT OF THIS!

...

WELL I...!

PLEASE, SHERRI! IT COULD EVEN BE INSTANT! I JUST DON'T FEEL 100% FOR THAT LONG DRIVE!

SIGH! I **CAN'T** JUST SEND HIM AWAY AND **PISS HIM OFF!** I DIDN'T **LEARN** ANYTHING FROM HIM TONIGHT, WHICH MEANS I'LL **PROBABLY** HAVE TO DO THIS **ALL OVER AGAIN!**

WELL... **OKAY!** BUT JUST **ONE CUP!** IT'S GETTING PRETTY **LATE** AND WE **DO** BOTH HAVE TO **WORK** TOMORROW!

ONE CUP'LL BE **PERFECT!** THEN I'M OUTTA HERE! **PROMISE!**


WHY DOES THIS SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE A VERY BAD IDEA?


WOW! THIS IS A NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE!
THANKS! I REALLY LIKE IT!


I'M AFRAID ALL I HAVE IS INSTANT, IF THAT'S OKAY!
MORE THAN OKAY!


HOLSON
OKAY, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS ZAP THE WATER, MIX THE COFFEE AND THEN KEEP HIM TALKING AND AT ARMS LENGTH UNTIL I CAN GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD... I HOPE!

YOU KNOW, **GAVIN** MUST BE PAYING **YOU** A **LOT** MORE THAN **I** PAY **LINDA** TO AFFORD A PLACE LIKE **THIS!**

ACTUALLY, IT DOESN'T COST **THAT** MUCH 'CAUSE I GOT A **SWEET** PRICE BREAK ON IT!

Whrrrr!

PRICE BREAK, HUH? HOW'D YOU WORK THAT OUT, AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW?

OBVIOUSLY A VERY CLOSE FRIEND... WHO LIKES TO DO NICE THINGS FOR BEAUTIFUL GIRLS!

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! THE MANAGING AGENT IS A, UMMM... FRIEND OF THE FAMILY!

WELL... MAYBE, BUT I...!

YOU KNOW, **I'M** ALSO THE KIND OF GUY WHO **LOVES** DOING NICE THINGS FOR BEAUTIFUL GIRLS LIKE **YOU,** SHERRI!

I HOPE THAT **SOMEDAY**... MAYBE VERY **SOON**, YOU'LL CONSIDER **ME** AS ONE OF YOUR VERY **CLOSE** FRIENDS AS WELL!

I... I'D LIKE THAT TOO, PETE!

UH-OH! HE'S NOT **WAITING** FOR THE COFFEE! ***DAMN!*** WHAT AM I GONNA **DO?**

OOOOO! HE'S GIVING ME **GOOSEBUMPS!**

THAT'S **GOOD** TO HEAR! 'CAUSE **I** CAN IMAGINE ALL **SORTS** OF WAYS OUR **FRIENDSHIP** CAN **DEVELOP!**

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU DON'T REALLY **WANT** ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU!

JUST **SAY** THE WORD, AND I'M ***OUT*** THAT DOOR!

THERE IT IS! MY ***OPENING!*** JUST HAVE TO ***THINK*** OF A WAY TO ***SAY*** THIS WITHOUT PUTTING HIM OFF ***TOO MUCH!***

IT... IT ***SHOULDN'T*** BE ***THAT*** HARD, BUT... HEAD SO... ***FUZZY...!***

AND ***NO ONE'S*** EVER ***TOUCHED*** ME LIKE ***THIS*** BEFORE! IT FEELS ***SOOO...!***

C'MON, DARYL! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! FOCUS!

GOD! AT LEAST HE'S NOT TOUCHING ME ANYWHERE MORE SENSITIVE, LIKE MY...!


GASP!


OOOOOOOO!
OH GOD, I WISH HE HADN'T DONE THAT!

AND FROM WHAT **I** CAN SEE, HEAR... AND **FEEL**, LEAVING IS **NOT** SOMETHING **YOU** WANT ME TO DO!

OR AM I TOTALLY **MISREADING** YOUR SIGNALS?

I... I...!


YEAH... I THOUGHT SO!
BUT...!


MMMPH!


MMMMMMMM!


GOD! WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME? I SHOULDN'T BE GETTING INTO THIS... BUT I AM!
I... I SHOULDN'T BE THAT DRUNK! WHY AM I LETTING HIM DO THIS?
.....


OH, BABY! YOU FEEL JUST AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK! MAYBE EVEN BETTER, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!
TH... THANKS, BUT... I DON'T KNOW IF WE SHOULD...!
I MEAN... IT'S OUR FIRST DATE AND EVERYTHING...! MAYBE WE SHOULD... YOU KNOW... SLOW DOWN!


MAYBE... BUT, I DON'T THINK YOUR BODY AGREES WITH YOU!


LET'S SEE WHAT IT HAS TO SAY!
WAIT! I...!
HOLSON


Ding!
OH YEAH! JUST AS I THOUGHT! NICE AND JUICY! THE BODY NEVER LIES!
OOOOOOOO!

JESUS! HOW'D HE GET MY **PANTIES** OFF SO DAMN FAST? IT'S LIKE HE...!

OOOOOHHH GOD!

HMMM... SOUNDS TO **ME** LIKE **SLOWING DOWN** IS THE **LAST THING** YOU WANT ME TO DO!

SHIT! THIS... THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TONIGHT, BUT... OOOOOOO! HE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW TO TOUCH ME AND ... MMMMM... MAKE ME WANT MORE...!

I... I DON'T THINK I CAN BRING MYSELF TO STOP HIM... OR... OR EVEN STOP MYSELF! MMMMMMMM!

SINCE IT SEEMS I'VE GOTTEN YOU INTO THE MOOD SO WELL, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO RETURN THE FAVOR!

HOLSON


zzzzip!


I THINK YOU'LL LIKE WHAT YOU FIND!

GOD! I'M NOT EVEN TRYING TO FIGHT THIS ANYMORE! ONE SUGGESTION FROM HIM AND I'M PUTTING MY HAND ON HIS...!

HOLSON


OH MY GOD, HE'S HUGE!
OH YEAH! THAT'S MY GIRL!


11:42
Ding!
HOLY SHIT! THIS IS GONNA HAPPEN!
MY PANTIES ARE OFF... HIS DICK IS IN MY HAND...! IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!


I... I FIGURED I'D EVENTUALLY DO THIS... SOMEDAY, BUT... NOT WITH HIM! AND NOT LIKE THIS!
BUT... I'M SO GODDAMN HORNY RIGHT NOW THAT... THAT I DON'T CARE!
I... I THINK I WANT THIS NOW... ALMOST AS MUCH AS HE DOES!

Ding!

BUT NOT HERE! NOT IN MY KITCHEN...!

AND NOT WITH THAT DAMN MICROWAVE BEEPING EVERY FEW SECONDS!

YOU READY FOR THIS, BABY?

UH-HUH!

GOTTA GET THAT CUP OUT OF THE MICROWAVE FIRST... BEEPING DRIVING ME NUTS...!

BUT FIRST I...!

HOLSON

OH YEAH! YOU READ MY MIND, BABY!

HUH?

GASP!


WAIT! I...!
HOLSON
WHA...?!

YOWCH!!
JESUS FUCKING
CHRIST!!

OH MY GOD, PETE! I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?

HOLSON

NO, I AM NOT FUCKING OKAY! MY COCK HAS JUST BEEN SCALDED!

WH... WHAT CAN I DO?

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH! I'M GONNA GRAB SOME ICE AND GO INTO THE BATHROOM!

BUT YOU STAY OUT HERE!

O... OKAY, PETE!

HOLY CRAP! I DIDN'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE... DID I?

AT LEAST, I DON'T THINK I DID!

HOLSON

HELL! MY BODY AND HEAD ARE SO SCREWED UP TONIGHT THAT I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE FUCK I'M DOING!

HOLSON

BUT NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY GOT A MOMENT TO ***SETTLE DOWN*** AND GATHER MY THOUGHTS, I ***DO*** KNOW THAT I'VE PROBABLY JUST BLOWN ***ANY CHANCE*** I HAD OF GETTING ANY ***INTEL*** FROM PETE!

SHIT! AFTER WHAT JUST HAPPENED, HE MAY ***NEVER*** WANT TO COME WITHIN ***TEN FEET*** OF ME ***EVER AGAIN!***

BUT SINCE I DIDN'T LEARN ***SQUAT*** FROM HIM TONIGHT, I'VE EITHER GOT TO TRY AND ***BULLSHIT*** PAUL OR MAKE ***SURE*** I LEAVE MYSELF OPEN FOR A ***SECOND DATE*** WITH PETE!

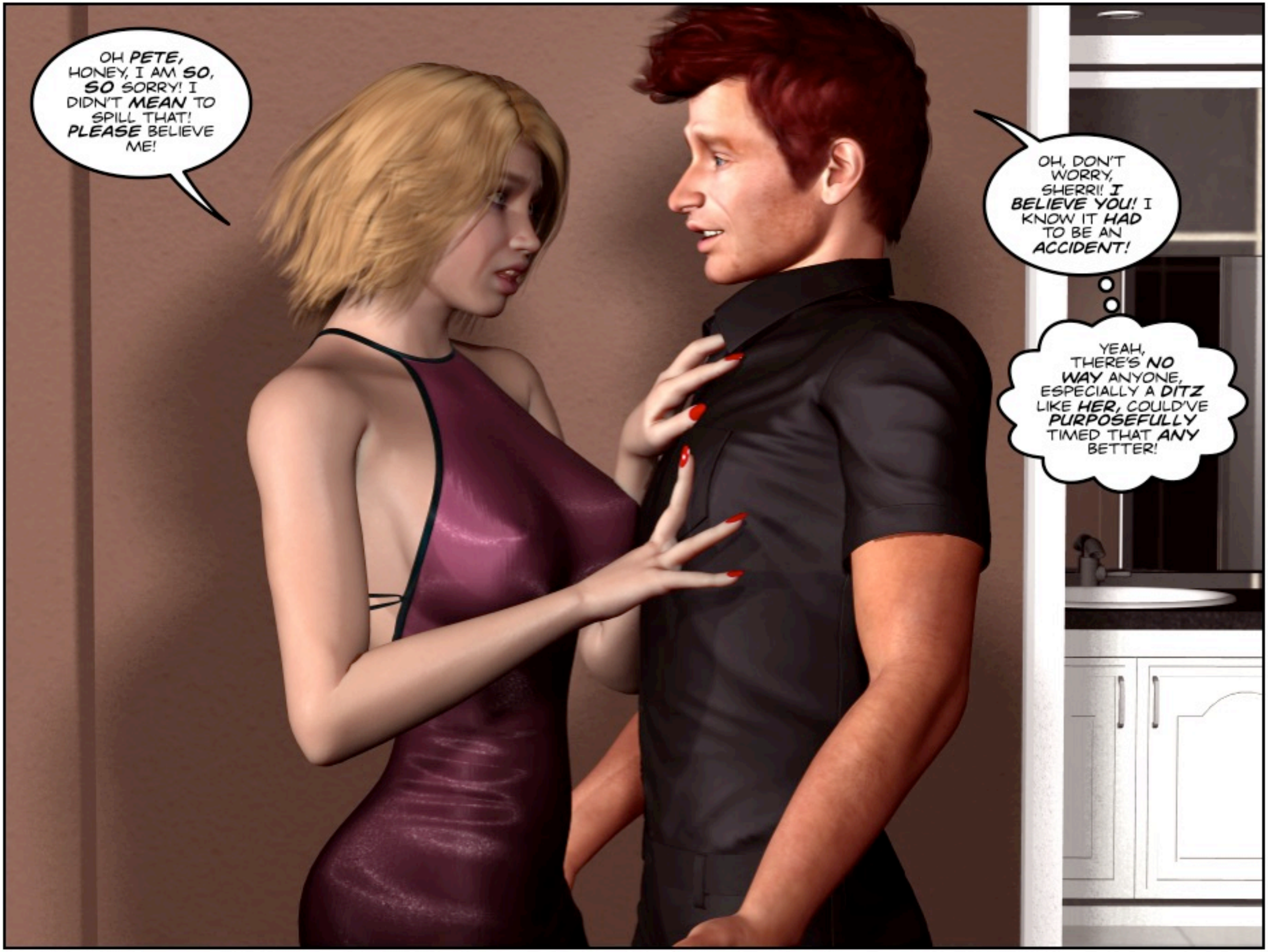
THAT MEANS I'VE GOTTA MAKE **SURE** PETE LEAVES HERE **STILL INTERESTED!**

NORMALLY I COULD DO THAT **EASY ENOUGH** WITH A LITTLE **SMILE** AND **WIGGLE**, BUT CONSIDERING THE **STATE** OF HIS **DICK** RIGHT NOW, I DON'T THINK THAT'D BE **ENOUGH!**


HOLSON
LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO AMP IT UP AND REALLY SELL IT OR I'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER SHOT!

Several handfuls of ice later...

GROAN!


OH PETE, HONEY, I AM SO, SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPILL THAT! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!
OH, DON'T WORRY, SHERRI! I BELIEVE YOU! I KNOW IT HAD TO BE AN ACCIDENT!
YEAH, THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE, ESPECIALLY A DITZ LIKE HER, COULD'VE PURPOSEFULLY TIMED THAT ANY BETTER!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE **STILL** IN **PAIN!** ANYTHING **I** CAN DO TO **HELP?**

NO! NO... PLEASE! **THAT** SHIP HAS, UH.. **SAILED** FOR TONIGHT, HONEY! **TRUST** ME!

OH, POO! I GUESS I REALLY RUINED EVERYTHING, DIDN'T I? I'M SUCH A KLUTZ!

HEY, IT COULD'VE HAPPENED TO ANYONE!

BUT WHY THE FUCK DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME? SHIT! I'M GONNA BE SORE FOR DAYS!

BUT I JUST FEEL SO ***TERRIBLE*** ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED! I REALLY, ***REALLY*** HOPE THERE'S NO ***PERMANENT*** DAMAGE!

OH, I'M SURE ***EVERYTHING*** WILL BE JUST ***FINE*** IN A DAY OR TWO!

THAT'S ***VERY*** GOOD TO KNOW!

DAMN! HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO STAY PISSED AT HER WHEN SHE'S RUBBING HER TITS UP AGAINST ME LIKE THIS?

FIGURES! I SPEND ALL NIGHT TRYING TO GET HER ALL HOT AND HORNY... AND IT WORKED! BUT NOW I CAN'T DO A FUCKING THING ABOUT IT!

OH **SHIT!** AND THE **LAST** THING I NEED OR **WANT** RIGHT NOW IN **MY CONDITION** IS A **GODDAMN BONER!**

UMM... **SHERRI**, HONEY... I REALLY **APPRECIATE** THE ATTENTION, BUT I THINK THE **BEST** THING FOR ME RIGHT NOW IS TO HEAD HOME! **YOU** UNDERSTAND, **RIGHT?**


YEAH... I GUESS I DO! BUT I JUST HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU!
OF COURSE, BABE! JUST GIVE ME A FEW DAYS TO RECOUP AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU!
MAYBE...! IF YOU'RE LUCKY!


WELL, I SUPPOSE I'LL SEE YOU AROUND THE OFFICE!
THAT'LL BE NICE!


I KNOW WE'RE ON DIFFERENT FLOORS, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE WE KEEP BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER!


WHOA!!

BYE, PETE!

°°°°°

WHEW! I GUESS A CHICK LIKE THAT **DESERVES** A SECOND CHANCE AT ME! BUT NOT FOR A FEW DAYS... **AT LEAST!**

OWWW!

WHEW! TONIGHT DID **NOT** GO AT **ALL** LIKE I'D PLANNED!

I **REALLY** THOUGHT I WAS GONNA BE ABLE TO HANDLE **HIM** AS **EASILY** AS I DID **PAUL** THE OTHER NIGHT!

BUT **SOMETHING** WENT **WRONG** AND I'M NOT SURE **WHAT** IT WAS!

I *HOPE* IT WAS JUST THE *WINE* THAT MADE ME *LOSE CONTROL* LIKE THAT!

I'VE *NEVER* BEEN MUCH OF A DRINKER ANYWAY, SO THOSE *TWO* GLASSES MAY HAVE JUST BEEN *MORE* THAN I COULD HANDLE!

CONSIDERING HOW GODDAMN *HORNY* I'VE BEEN *ANYWAY* SINCE MY CHANGE, BEING A LITTLE BIT *DRUNK* JUST ADDED *FUEL* TO THE *FIRE!*

AND ALTHOUGH PETE'S LEFT, I *STILL* HAVE *ONE* LITTLE PROBLEM...!

I'M **STILL** SO FUCKING **HORNY** I CAN'T **STAND** IT!

CHRIST! I THINK THE **ONLY** WAY I COULD BE **ANY HORNIER** IS IF **OWEN** HAD BEEN THE ONE DOING THOSE THINGS TO ME AND...!


OH SHIT! DID I JUST SAY THAT?
GOD! HAVING THIS BODY IS OBVIOUSLY CHANGING THE WAY I THINK! I GET THE FEELING MAGGIE WON'T BE THE FOCUS OF MY FANTASIES AS MUCH ANYMORE!


WELL, WHOEVER COMES TO MIND, THEY BETTER BE DAMN QUICK ABOUT IT! I'M PRACTICALLY BURSTING HERE!
TOO BAD I DIDN'T GO "TOY" SHOPPING WITH DAYNA LIKE SHE SUGGESTED! I'M SURE IT WOULD MAKE MY LITTLE "MENAGE A MOIS" A LOT MORE INTERESTING! *GIGGLE!*


WHOA! WHAT AM I DOING? I CAN'T DO THIS IN THERE!
NOT WITH THAT FUCKING CAMERA OF PAUL'S STILL HIDING IN THE CEILING!

I **SWEAR**... I'VE GOTTA **DEAL** WITH HIM AS **SOON** AS FUCKIN' **POSSIBLE** OR **I'M** GONNA **LOSE IT!**




SIGH! LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE SHOWER AGAIN FOR ME!


BUT TOMORROW... "TOY" SHOPPING!

The next morning...

WELL, **THIS** IS A SURPRISE! **USUALLY** SHERRI'S **ALREADY** HARD AT WORK BY THE TIME **I** SHOW MY FACE IN HERE!

°°°O

I HOPE SHE'S ALRIGHT!

And at that very moment...

WELL, **CRAP!** SO MUCH FOR MY **PERFECT ATTENDANCE!** FIRST TIME **LATE** SINCE I STARTED HERE!

DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THE **WINE** LAST NIGHT OR JUST **STAYING UP** SO LATE, BUT I SLEPT RIGHT **THROUGH** MY ALARM THIS MORNING! SOMETHING **I** HAVEN'T DONE IN **YEARS!**

I HOPE **GAVIN** WON'T BE **TOO** UPSET!

AND I PROBABLY *WOULD'VE* GOTTEN HERE ON TIME IF I HADN'T *GIVEN IN* TO ANOTHER *MOAN FEST* ALONG WITH MY MORNING SHOWER!

JESUS! YOU'D *THINK* I'D HAVE HAD *ENOUGH* BY NOW, BUT IT *FEELS* SO *DAMN GOOD*, I *CAN'T* SEE MYSELF *TAPERING OFF* ANYTIME SOON!

HI GAVIN! SORRY I'M LATE!

NOT A PROBLEM, SHERRI! I'M JUST SURPRISED! YOU'RE USUALLY HERE A LOT EARLIER THAN THIS!

I KNOW! I HAD A, UMMM... LATE NIGHT AND SLEPT RIGHT THROUGH MY ALARM!

LATE NIGHT HMMM? OBVIOUSLY OUR MR. SINGLETON WAS RATHER TAKEN WITH YOU! I ASSUME YOUR FRIEND'S ADVICE WAS SOMEWHAT HELPFUL!

MOST DEFINITELY! IF HE LIKES HIS GIRLS STACKED AND STUPID, THEN HE MUST'VE LOVED ME LAST NIGHT!

REALLY? SO THE DATE WAS A SUCCESS?

WELL, **WITHOUT** GOING INTO THE **DETAILS**, IT WAS **NOT** WHAT I WAS EXPECTING! IT PROBABLY WASN'T FOR **HIM** EITHER!

BUT, THE **GOOD NEWS** IS THAT **PETE** DIDN'T SAY **ANYTHING** SUPER-SENSITIVE ABOUT THE COMPANY! SO, **WHATEVER** HE **MAY** BE, HE **IS** A GOOD **COMPANY MAN!**

BUT ON THE **OTHER** HAND, IT **WILL** MAKE THINGS MORE **DIFFICULT** WITH PAUL! I'M **NOT** SURE HOW I'M GOING TO HANDLE THAT!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! EVERYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME SO FAR FITS IN PERFECTLY WITH MY PLAN!

YOU WERE OUT IN ***PUBLIC*** WITH ***PETE,*** AND PAUL WILL ***NO DOUBT*** FIND OUT ABOUT THAT! HE'LL ***KNOW*** THAT YOU'RE AT LEAST ***TRYING!***

OKAY, BUT ***WHAT*** DO I DO WHEN I TELL PAUL I'VE COME UP ***EMPTY-HANDED?*** HE'S ***NOT*** GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THAT!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ***WON'T*** TELL HIM ***ANY*** SUCH THING! ***YOU'RE*** GOING TO TELL HIM ***JUST*** WHAT HE ***WANTS*** TO HEAR! THE FACT THAT IT'LL BE ***FALSE INFORMATION*** IS JUST ***ICING*** ON THE CAKE!

WE'LL GIVE HIM SOMETHING SO ***JUICY*** THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST IT! SOMETHING THAT'LL RESULT IN HIM GETTING ***ARRESTED***... OR AT THE VERY LEAST ***DISCREDITED*** ENOUGH SO THAT NO ONE WILL ***BELIEVE*** HIM IF HE TRIES TO TURN YOUR ***SISTER*** IN!

I ACTUALLY HAD THE **SAME** IDEA, BUT DO YOU **REALLY** THINK IT WILL BE THAT EASY?

PAUL MAY BE A **SLEAZEBAG**, BUT HE'S A VERY **SMART** SLEAZEBAG!

BELIEVE ME, I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR A **LONG** TIME... **UNFORTUNATELY!**


THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE SMARTER!

by CBlack



Chapter 9

OPPORTUNITIES

Later that evening...

FINALLY! IT LOOKS LIKE LITTLE SIS FINALLY TOOK MY WORDS TO HEART AND MADE SOME PROGRESS WITH SINGLETON LAST NIGHT!

FROM WHAT SHE TOLD ME ON THE PHONE AND FROM WHAT I HEARD AT ROCKY'S, HER DATE WAS VERY PRODUCTIVE!

I *KNOW* SHE *HATES* IT WHEN I JUST *WALK IN* LIKE THIS, BUT... WHAT CAN I SAY? *I'M A JERK!* HEH-HEH!


HUH?! WHAT TH' HELL?!
Click, click!!


SHERRI! IT'S ME... PAUL! OPEN UP!
Boom, boom!!


I SAID OPEN UP!!
Boom, boom, boom!!


I CAN HEAR YOU IN THERE! OPEN THIS GODDAMN DOOR!
HMM-MM-HMMM!


WHAT'S THE MATTER? KEY NOT WORKING ANYMORE?
YOU KNOW GODDAMN WELL YOU CAN'T PUT A NEW LOCK ON THIS DOOR WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE MANAGING AGENT AND GIVING HIM A KEY!
IT'S IN YOUR LEASE!

YEAH, ISN'T THERE **ALSO** A LITTLE **SOMETHING** ABOUT THE **MANAGING AGENT** JUST **WALKING INTO** THE APARTMENTS **UNANNOUNCED?**

SO, CONSIDER YOURSELF **NOTIFIED!** AND **I'LL** GET THAT **KEY** TO YOU... WHEN I DAMN WELL **FEEL** LIKE IT!

WHY YOU **PUSHY** LITTLE...!

DO YOU **REALLY** WANT TO KEEP ARGUING OVER A **STUPID LOCK** OR HEAR WHAT **I** FOUND OUT FROM **PETE?**

SO, YOU **REALLY** DID IT! IT **ONLY** TOOK YOU **TWO MONTHS,** BUT **HOPEFULLY** IT'LL BE **WORTH** THE **WAIT!**


IMAGINE ALL YOU'D LIKE, PAUL! BUT DO YOU WANT THIS INFO OR NOT?
AND KNOWING PETE, I CAN IMAGINE WHAT YOU HAD TO DO TO GET HIM TO TALK! HEH-HEH!
OH YEAH! LET'S HEAR WHAT YOU'VE GOT FOR ME!

WELL, HE SPENT ***ALL EVENING*** SPOUTING ABOUT HOW ***HE*** WAS ON THE ***VERGE*** OF BECOMING A ***SENIOR*** EXECUTIVE BECAUSE HE WAS ABOUT TO CLOSE A ***MAJOR DEAL*** THAT'D MAKE ***RENCORP*** A ***FORTUNE!***

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH! I'VE ***ALREADY*** HEARD HIM SPOUTING THAT ***CRAP*** FIRSTHAND! BUT WHAT THE HELL ***IS*** THIS ***MAJOR DEAL*** AND ***WHO'S*** IT WITH?

IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER, ON AFTER A FEW DRINKS, THAT HE ***FINALLY*** LET THAT INFO SLIP!

SO... ***TELL ME*** ALREADY!


SETEC AEROSPACE! PETE SAID HE'S JUST DAYS FROM CLINCHING A CONTRACT WITH THEM!
BUT THAT SHOULD BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOU TO UNDERBID PETE AND GET THE CONTRACT FOR STEMCORP! DON'T YOU THINK?


SETEC AEROSPACE? REALLY? WOW! I HAD NO IDEA IT'D BE SOMETHING THAT BIG!
SO, IT'S JUST WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, RIGHT? AND YOU'RE FINALLY GOING TO LET DAYNA AND ME OFF THE HOOK?
OH, SURE! SURE I WILL! EXCEPT FOR ONE LITTLE THING...!


THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SETEC AEROSPACE, YOU STUPID CUNT!
WHAT?!

IT'S A **FAKE** COMPANY **RENCORP** USES TO **TEST** EMPLOYEE **LOYALTIES** AND TO TRY AND **SETUP** SUSPECTED **CORPORATE SPIES!**

I'VE KNOWN ABOUT IT FOR **YEARS! LOTS** OF COMPANIES LIKE OURS HAVE THEM! THE ONE **WE** MADE UP AT **STEMCORP** IS CALLED **NIGMA DATA SYSTEMS!**

SO WHENEVER SOMEONE STARTS ASKING **SUSPICIOUS QUESTIONS**, WE FEED 'EM **FALSE INTEL** ABOUT NIGMA!

THEN, IF **RED FLAGS** START POPPING UP ABOUT SOMEONE MAKING **INQUIRIES** ABOUT **NIGMA**, WE **KNOW** WE'VE GOT A **MOLE!**

BUT...
BUT... HE...
I...!

YOU MUST'VE DONE A **PISS-POOR** JOB WORMING **INTEL** OUT OF HIM! **JESUS!** YOU'VE GOT TO BE **SUBTLE** ABOUT THIS SHIT!

WHAT'D YOU **SAY** TO HIM, "GOT ANY NICE **SECRETS** YOU CAN SHARE WITH ME THAT I CAN **PASS ALONG** TO MY **SISTER'S BOYFRIEND?**"

I... I **THOUGHT** I WAS HANDLING IT WELL, GOT HIM NICE AND DRUNK **BEFORE** I EVEN BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP!

WELL, YOU **MUST'VE** SAID **SOMETHING** TO MAKE THAT FUCKER SUSPICIOUS! **THAT'S** FOR **DAMN SURE!**


BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK FOR US!
'CAUSE, THANKS TO ME KNOWING THEIR BULLSHIT TRICKS, YOU'RE GONNA PASS THEIR LITTLE LOYALTY TEST WITH FLYING COLORS! AND THEN SINGLETON WILL REALLY LET HIS GUARD DOWN!

OH MAN! NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS ACTUALLY GONNA WORK OUT BETTER THAN I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT I MEAN IS HE'S GONNA BE A LOT LESS TIGHT-LIPPED AROUND YOU NOW THAT HE WON'T SEE YOU AS ANY KIND OF THREAT!

SIGH! SO I TAKE IT YOU WANT ME TO ARRANGE ANOTHER DATE WITH HIM, DON'T YOU?

OH, **NOT** JUST A **DATE**, CUPCAKE! A WHOLE FUCKIN' **RELATIONSHIP!**

YOU'RE GONNA GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO MAKE YOURSELF **AVAILABLE** TO HIM FOR **ANYTHING** HE WANTS... **ANYTIME** HE WANTS IT!

THIS LITTLE **ENDEAVOR** OF OURS JUST EVOLVED FROM A **ONE-TIME THING** INTO A **CONTINUOUS PIPELINE** OF **INFORMATION** FOR ME! AND **I**, FOR ONE, **COULDN'T** BE **HAPPIER!** HEH-HEH!

YOU MEAN YOU WANT **ME** TO TRY AND BECOME HIS **GIRLFRIEND? SERIOUSLY?**

OH, **NOTHING** SO **PURITANICAL-SOUNDING** AS HIS **'GIRLFRIEND'!**

I THINK **'FUCK-TOY'** IS A MUCH MORE **APT** DESCRIPTION OF WHAT **I** HAVE IN MIND! **HEH-HEH!**


WHAT?!!

YOU... YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR FUCKING MIND IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GO ALONG WITH THIS!

GO ALONG WITH IT? HELL, DARLIN'! I EXPECT YOU TO LIVE IT! AND, WHO KNOWS... YOU MIGHT EVEN LEARN TO LOVE IT!

'CAUSE UNLESS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I HOLD ALL THE CARDS HERE!

ALL IT TAKES IS **ONE** ONLINE **INQUIRY** ABOUT **SETEC AEROSPACE** AND YOU'RE **FIRED** AS A **CORPORATE SPY!**

AND **ONE** LITTLE **PHONE CALL** TO THE HOSPITAL AND YOUR **SISTER** GETS **BUSTED** FOR **STEALING DRUGS!**

DO I NEED TO GO ON?

NO, I... I GUESS YOU DON'T!


GOOD! THEN I EXPECT TO BE HEARING SOME JUICY THINGS ABOUT YOU WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK!
'CAUSE SINGLETON LOVES TO BRAG ABOUT HIS CONQUESTS... ESPECIALLY WHEN HE THINKS HES RUBBING IT IN MY FACE!


BUT NOT THIS TIME! HEH-HEH!

Slam!!


HOLY SHIT! THAT DID NOT GO WELL AT ALL!


DAMN IT! IT'S A GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE WITH PAUL... AND I ALWAYS SEEM TO BE THE MOUSE!

Back at work the next day...

YOU'RE KIDDING! HE... HE KNEW THAT SETEC ASTRONOMY WAS A TRAP?

YEP! I TOLD YOU THE SON OF A BITCH WAS SMART!

I'M SO **SORRY**, SHERRI! **MY** OVERCONFIDENCE SEEMS TO HAVE PUT **YOU** INTO AN EVEN **WORSE** POSITION!

DON'T BLAME **YOURSELF**, GAVIN! **I** THOUGHT IT WOULD WORK, TOO!

WELL, AT **LEAST** HIS **THREAT** OF GETTING YOU FIRED AS A **CORPORATE SPY** DOESN'T HOLD WATER!

THERE'S **NO WAY** YOU COULD GET FIRED FOR TELLING HIM ABOUT **SETEC** SINCE **I'M** THE ONE WHO **AUTHORIZED** YOU TO DO SO!

TRUE! BUT HE CAN **STILL** RUIN **DAYNA'S** CAREER AND **THAT'S** ENOUGH TO KEEP **ME** IN LINE WITH WHAT **HE** WANTS... FOR **NOW,** AT LEAST!

LOOK SHERRI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS! I HAVE CONNECTIONS OVER AT STEMCORP... I CAN SEE TO IT THAT PAUL GETS CANNED AND NEVER WORKS IN THIS TOWN AGAIN!

BUT EVEN IF HE'S FIRED, HE CAN STILL MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR DAYNA! I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING, BUT I THINK IT'S BEST I STICK WITH PAUL'S PLAN FOR NOW AND STRING PETE ALONG UNTIL I COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER!

BUT...!

AND DON'T WORRY! EVEN IF PETE DOES LET SOMETHING SLIP, WHICH I DOUBT HE WILL, THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'M PASSING ON ANY INFORMATION ABOUT RENCORP TO PAUL!

THE **ONE** SAVING GRACE IN ALL THIS IS THAT THE **TIMELINE** HAS BEEN **EXTENDED!** PAUL'S NOT LOOKING FOR AN **IMMEDIATE TURNAROUND** FROM ME... MORE OF A **LONG TERM INVESTMENT** INSTEAD!

THAT'LL GIVE ME **MORE TIME** TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO FINALLY **OUTSMART** HIM AND **SOMEHOW** GET DAYNA **FREE** AND **CLEAR** OF HIM!

CONSIDERING HOW **INEFFECTIVE MY** IDEA WAS, I UNDERSTAND IF YOU'RE **RELUCTANT** TO SEEK OUT **MY** HELP AGAIN!

JUST KNOW THAT *I'M HERE* FOR YOU *NO MATTER WHAT* YOU NEED GOING FORWARD!

AND *THAT'S* THE *BEST THING* YOU COULD *POSSIBLY* OFFER ME, GAVIN! KNOWING *YOU'RE* THERE FOR ME IS WHAT *KEEPS ME GOING!*


I JUST HOPE THAT, WHATEVER YOU HEAR ABOUT ME IN THE COMING WEEKS, THAT YOU'LL STILL FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME!


Later that afternoon...

SIGH!
I **ALMOST** WISH IT **WASN'T** SUCH A **LONG TREK** TO PETE'S OFFICE! IT GIVES ME **WAY** TOO MUCH TIME TO **THINK ABOUT** WHAT I'M GETTING MYSELF INTO!


HOWEVER, IT ALSO GIVES ME PLENTY OF TIME TO SLIP INTO MY DITZY SHERRI MODE!
MAYBE IF I CONCENTRATE ON THAT INSTEAD, I WON'T WORRY SO MUCH!


THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
HUH?


OH, HIYA MAGGIE! WATCHA DOIN'?

UMMM... LOOKING FOR YOU! LIKE I JUST SAID! YOU FEEL OKAY?

OH, YEAH... SORRY, MAGGIE! I'M JUST A LITTLE OUT OF IT TODAY! WHAT'S UP?

"WHAT'S UP", SHE ASKS! YOU HAD A DATE WITH ONE OF THE HOT RISING STARS OF THE COMPANY TWO NIGHTS AGO AND I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD ANY DETAILS FROM YOU!

WHAT KIND OF BESTIE ARE YOU ANYWAY?

I'M SORRY, MAGGIE! I GUESS I'M THE KIND OF BESTIE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT HOW BADLY SHE SCREWED UP HER DATE!


OH, C'MON! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT BAD!
OH YEAH? I THINK PETE MIGHT DISAGREE WITH YOU ON THAT! ESPECIALLY RIGHT AFTER I ACCIDENTALLY DUMPED A CUP OF BOILING WATER ON HIS CROTCH!


OH NO! YOU DIDN'T!
I DID! NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT PUT A QUICK END TO THE EVENING!
HE CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE!
HE SAID HE DIDN'T, BUT I THINK THAT LITTLE INCIDENT MAY HAVE LEFT HIM A LITTLE GUN SHY AROUND ME!

WELL, THAT'S **HIS** LOSS! **TRUST ME,** THERE ARE **LOTS** OF OTHER GUYS OUT THERE WHO'D **KILL** TO BE WITH YOU!

MAYBE, BUT... TO TELL YOU THE **TRUTH,** I REALLY **DON'T** WANT TO **GIVE UP** ON PETE **THAT** EASILY!

I... I THINK HE'S **WORTH** THE EFFORT!

REALLY? YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT PETE SINGLETON, RIGHT?

RISING YOUNG CORPORATE STAR WITH SMOLDERING GOOD LOOKS? YET A NOTORIOUS WOMANIZER? THAT PETE SINGLETON?

CALL ME CRAZY! BUT I JUST CAN'T GET OVER THAT CONFIDENCE HE EXUDES! IT'S A HELL OF A TURN-ON FOR ME!

IN FACT, I WAS ***JUST*** ON MY WAY TO HIS OFFICE RIGHT NOW TO, UMMM... TRY AND SET UP A ***DO-OVER!***

HELL, THE ***ONLY*** WAY HE COULD ***POSSIBLY*** SAY ***NO*** TO YOU IN ***THAT*** OUTFIT IS IF THAT HOT WATER DID SOME ***PERMANENT DAMAGE*** TO HIM!

THAT'S KIND OF WHAT ***I*** WAS THINKING, TOO!

WELL, GO GET 'EM, GIRLFRIEND! AND LET ME KNOW HOW IT TURNS OUT!

WITHOUT MAKING ME WAIT TWO WHOLE DAYS! OKAY?

OKAY! SEE YOU LATER, MAGGIE!


SHIT! I HATE LYING TO MAGGIE LIKE THAT, BUT IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK I NEED BUY-IN FROM EVERYONE AROUND ME!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANYONE HERE AT RENCORP, BESIDES GAVIN, KNOW THE REAL REASONS I'M THROWING MYSELF AT PETE LIKE THIS!
MAYBE... SOMEDAY... WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I CAN TELL MAGGIE THE TRUTH!


SIGH!
EVEN IF THAT TRUTH SEEMS TO GET BLURRIER AND BLURRIER EVERY DAY!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I KNOW WHAT THE TRUTH IS ANYMORE!


LOOK LARRY, I'M NOT GONNA TELL YOU GUYS IN MARKETING HOW TO DO YOUR JOB, BUT I DO NEED YOU TO DO IT RIGHT!
I'VE BEEN GETTING CALLS FROM SOME OF MY TOP CLIENTS AND THEY'RE NOT AT ALL HAPPY WITH THE IDEAS YOUR TEAM HAS BEEN COMING UP WITH!

NEED I **REMIND** YOU, THE **REASON** RENCORP HAS ITS **OWN** MARKETING DEPARTMENT IS TO **CUT OUT** THE **MIDDLE MAN?**

IF WE **HAVE** TO GO SOMEWHERE **ELSE** TO GET RESULTS, THAT KIND OF MAKES YOUR DEPARTMENT **OBSOLETE,** DOESN'T IT?

YEAH! **NOW** YOU'RE PAYING ATTENTION!


WHEW!
OKAY, TIME TO
SUCK IT UP
AND GET YOUR
BIMBO ON!


AND, ON THE OUTSIDE CHANCE HE NEEDS A LITTLE EXTRA INCENTIVE...!

BECAUSE I'M ***MEETING*** WITH THOSE CLIENTS ***THIS WEEKEND,*** AND IF I DON'T HAVE SOMETHING ***BETTER*** TO SHOW THEM THAN THE CRAP ***YOU'VE*** COME UP WITH SO FAR, THEN WE JUST ***MIGHT*** BE LOOKING FOR A ***NEW MARKETING DIRECTOR*** NEXT WEEK!

GOT IT, LARRY?

GOOD!


INCOMPETENT MORONS...!

HIYA! AM I INTERRUPTING ANYTHING IMPORTANT?

SHERRI?! UMMM... NO! NOT ANYMORE! COME ON IN!


YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE NOT BUSY? I MEAN, I CAN LEAVE IF YOU WANT ME TO!
NOW WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO A CRAZY THING LIKE THAT?


WELL... CONSIDERING HOW OUR DATE ENDED THE OTHER NIGHT, I WASN'T SURE IF YOU'D EVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN!
HEY, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT AND ACCIDENTS HAPPEN!
AND BESIDES, SEEING YOU RIGHT NOW, LOOKING LIKE THIS, IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY DAY!


THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW! ESPECIALLY SINCE I WAS KINDA HOPING FOR A DO-OVER THIS WEEKEND!
THAT IS, IF YOU'RE ALL BETTER AND UP FOR IT!
DARLIN', I'M UP FOR ANYTHING THAT INVOLVES YOU!


THEN HOW ABOUT SATURDAY NIGHT? THAT'LL GIVE ME ALL DAY SATURDAY TO PICK OUT THE SEXIEST DRESS I CAN FIND!
HONEY, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DATE! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN!

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT... A LOT!

GASP!

BYE-YA!

YEAH... BYE, SHERRI! *WHEW!*


DAMN! AND HERE I WAS THINKING OF KEEPING MY DISTANCE FROM THAT?!
NO FUCKIN' WAY, MAN! NO FUCKIN' WAY!

OH SHIT! I FORGOT! I HAVE THAT CLIENT MEETING SATURDAY NIGHT AND I DON'T DARE BLOW THEM OFF!

THEIR CONTRACT IS THE CROWN JEWEL GUARANTEEING MY FUTURE AT RENCORP! I HAVE TO KEEP THAT APPOINTMENT!

HMMM! BUT WHO SAYS I CAN'T BRING A **DATE** TO THE MEETING? HAVING SOME SERIOUS **EYE-CANDY** LIKE **SHERRI** THERE CAN ONLY **HELP** THE SITUATION!

IF THEY DON'T **LIKE** WHAT THEY'RE **HEARING** FROM **ME,** AT LEAST THEY'LL LIKE WHAT WHAT THEY'RE **SEEING!** **HEH-HEH!**


And when Saturday finally arrives...
OHH YES!! GOD, YES!! RIGHT THERE!!
OH GOD... OH GOD... OOOHHH GOD!!!

oooooooooooooo!!!

Now Playing

Song: Raise Your Glass

Album: Raise Your Glass (Radio...

Artist: Pink

Pink Radio

Stations

QuickMix

will.i.am Radio

OneRepublic Radio

JESUS! THAT WAS THE BEST ONE YET!

Pandora

Now Playing

Song: Raise Your Glass

Album: Raise Your Glass (Radio...

Artist: P!nk

BUYING MY LITTLE **FRIEND** HERE WAS ONE OF THE **SMARTEST** THINGS I'VE DONE SINCE BECOMING **100% SHERRI!**

CONSIDERING THE **STRESS** I'VE BEEN UNDER LATELY, HE'S BEEN A LITTLE **GODSEND!**

HE'S **ALSO** HELPED ME COME TO A **REALIZATION** ABOUT MYSELF SINCE MY **NEAR MISS** WITH **PETE** LAST WEEK...!

I REALLY *LIKE* HAVING SOMETHING *HARD* BETWEEN MY LEGS!

FINGERS WERE *FINE* AT FIRST... THAT IS, UNTIL I GOT A TASTE OF WHAT *THIS* BAD BOY COULD TO TO ME! *WHEW!*

I SURE HOPE THESE *WALLS* ARE NICE AND *THICK!* *GIGGLE!*

THESE LAST FEW DAYS WITH MY NEW '**TOY**' HAVE **ALSO** HELPED ME BECOME A **LOT** LESS **APPREHENSIVE** ABOUT WHAT'LL **PROBABLY** HAPPEN TONIGHT!

'CAUSE I KNOW **EXACTLY** WHAT PETE'S **EXPECTING** FROM ME! HELL, I PRACTICALLY **GUARANTEED** IT TO HIM WHEN I WENT TO HIS OFFICE THE OTHER DAY! SO I HAVE **NO ONE** TO BLAME BUT **MYSELF!**

OF COURSE, THAT'S **NOT** EXACTLY **TRUE!** I WOULDN'T **BE** IN THIS SITUATION AT **ALL** IF IT WEREN'T FOR **PAUL!** THE **DEMANDS** HE'S PLACED ON ME MAKE IT PRACTICALLY **IMPOSSIBLE** TO PURSUE ANY **OTHER** ROUTE OTHER THAN THE ONE I'M ON **NOW!**

SO UNTIL I CAN COME UP WITH A **FOOL-PROOF** WAY TO **BUST HIM** FOR THOSE **CAMERAS,** I HAVE TO DO WHAT **HE** SAYS AND STAY **CLOSE** TO **PETE!**


AND THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE WAY I CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT!
SO I'D BETTER START GETTING READY!

After a long shower...

YOU KNOW, DESPITE HOW MUCH I'VE ***CHANGED*** SINCE I ***FIRST*** AGREED TO BECOME ***"SHERRI"***, I'VE KEPT THE SAME ***SAFE*** HAIRSTYLE THAT MARCO GAVE ME! ALL THAT'S CHANGED IS THE ***COLOR***, AND ***I*** HAD ***NO*** CONTROL OVER THAT!

MAYBE I'LL TRY AND ***SHAKE THINGS UP*** A BIT FOR TONIGHT AND THEN SEE IF MARCO CAN DO SOMETHING ***EXTRA SPECIAL*** WITH IT LATER THIS WEEK!

IT'S NOT AS IF THIS DRESS I FOUND WON'T BE ENOUGH TO ***KNOCK HIS SOCKS OFF,*** BUT I MIGHT AS WELL PULL OUT ***ALL THE STOPS*** AND MAKE ***SURE*** THIS EVENING GOES THE WAY ***I*** WANT IT TO!

IT'S TIME I ***STOPPED*** BEING ***USED*** BY EVERYONE AND WENT ON THE ***OFFENSIVE!***

I KNOW I **SHOULD** BE TOTALLY **FREAKED** OVER WHAT I'M **PROBABLY** GOING TO END UP DOING TONIGHT, BUT **PART** OF ME IS, I **HAVE** TO ADMIT, **EXCITED!** I MEAN, IF THAT **DILDO** WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME **SCREAM** LIKE A **CHIMP ON FIRE**, THEN **WHAT'S** IT GOING TO BE LIKE WITH A **STUD** LIKE **PETE SINGLETON?**


I GUESS, DEEP DOWN, I'VE FINALLY AND COMPLETELY ACCEPTED MY NEW LIFE AND THE DIRECTION IT SEEMS TO BE TAKING ME!
JUST AS WELL, I GUESS, SINCE, ACCORDING TO DR. MCNALLY, THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER BE A GUY AGAIN IS THROUGH EXTENSIVE SURGERY!

AND WHY THE *HELL* WOULD I PUT MYSELF THROUGH ALL THAT *JUST* TO GO BACK TO A LIFE THAT WAS TAKING ME *NOWHERE?*

NO FUCKING WAY!

OF COURSE, IF I'M GOING TO **SUCCEED** IN WHAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR TONIGHT... **AND** FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I NEED TO DO **MORE** THAN JUST **ACCEPT** MY LIFE AS SHERRI! I **NEED** TO **EMBRACE** IT!

NO MORE PRETENDING! I'M NOT **DISGUISED** AS A WOMAN ANYMORE... **ACTING** LIKE SOMEONE **I'M NOT!**

I **AM** SHERRI PRUIT!


I'M A WOMAN... AND A VERY SEXY AND DESIRABLE WOMAN AT THAT!
SHE IS WHO I AM NOW!



SIGH!
IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU, **DARYL!** BUT IT'S TIME FOR ME TO **LET GO!**

RIGHT ON TIME! JUST AS I FIGURED!

Knock, knock!!


IT'S SHOWTIME!
Oooo

COMING!!

Knock, knock!!

HIYA!

WOW! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, BABE, BUT YOU LOOK HOTTER EVERY TIME I SEE YOU!

GIGGLE!

THAT'S GOOD! 'CAUSE I GET ALL **TINGLY** WHEN GUYS THINK I'M **HOT!**

WELL THEN, BETWEEN **ME** AND EVERY **OTHER GUY** WHO SEE YOU TONIGHT, **YOU'RE** GONNA BE "**TINGLING**" UP A **STORM!**

MMMM, GOODY! 'CAUSE DATES ARE SOO MUCH MORE FUN WHEN I'M ALL TINGLY INSIDE!

I'LL BET THEY ARE, SWEETHEART! I'LL BET THEY ARE.

OH, HONEY, I ***PROMISE*** THAT, ***TONIGHT,*** YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH ***FUN*** I CAN BE ON A DATE!

by CBlack



Chapter 10

OPPORTUNITIES

Later that evening, at a small, out-of-the-way bar...

SO, YOU THINK SINGLETON'S GOT ANYTHING NEW FOR US, OR IS HE JUST STALLING FOR TIME?

PROBABLY STALLING, BUT I'M WILLING TO GIVE HIM ONE MORE CHANCE! WE'VE INVESTED TOO MUCH IN THIS PROJECT TO SWITCH HITTERS NOW!

I HEAR YOU! RENCORP'S OUR FIRST CHOICE, BUT IF THEY CAN'T DELIVER, WELL... THEN WE'VE GOTTA MAKE SOME CHANGES!

SAME HERE! BUT HE PROMISED WE'D BE IMPRESSED TONIGHT, SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE!

Corona


MICHELOB
Light
I WONDER WHAT HE'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVE?

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!

WOW!

THERE YOU ARE, SINGLETON! WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO...!

WHOA!

SORRY I'M A LITTLE LATE! BUT I HAD A CONCURRENT ENGAGEMENT THAT INVOLVED MISS PRUIT HERE, AND COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO CANCEL IT! I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND!

HELL YES! IN FACT, I'M SURPRISED YOU SHOWED UP HERE AT ALL IF THIS LITTLE LADY WAS THE REASON!

GIGGLE!

JOE DENTON AND KYLE COPPOLA, THIS IS MISS SHERRI PRUIT... A CLOSE FRIEND AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE RENCORP TEAM!

SHERRI... THIS IS JOE AND KYLE!

HIYA! IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU TWO!

THE PLEASURE IS ALL OURS, SHERRI!

MOST DEFINITELY!


WELL YOU SAID WE'D BE IMPRESSED TONIGHT, PETE, AND YOU'VE DEFINITELY ACCOMPLISHED THAT!
NOW PLEASE TELL ME THAT THIS YOUNG LADY IS ON THE MARKETING TEAM THAT WE'LL BE WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH!
WELL, ALTHOUGH SHE'S NOT EXACTLY ON THE MARKETING TEAM PER SE, IF YOU WANT HER AT ALL OF OUR MEETINGS, THEN I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN!
Corona


MICHELOB
Light
HOW'S THAT SOUND TO YOU, SHERRI?
IT SOUNDS GREAT! *GIGGLE!*
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I'VE JUST BEEN SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER?

WHILE I **WHOLEHEARTEDLY** AGREE THAT **SHERRI** HERE BRINGS A CERTAIN **QUALITY** TO THE MEETING, I'D **STILL** LIKE TO HEAR SOME **GOOD IDEAS** FROM **YOU,** PETE! 'CAUSE WE SURE **HAVEN'T** HEARD THEM COMING FROM YOUR **MARKETING PEOPLE!**

I **SECOND** THAT! HOPE YOU PLAN ON IMPRESSING US **THAT** WAY AS WELL!

OF **COURSE** I DO, BOYS! JUST GIVE ME A **MOMENT** AND I'LL BE **RIGHT** WITH YOU!

OKAY, BABE, WHAT *I* NEED ***YOU*** TO DO RIGHT NOW IS ***SIT HERE*** AND LOOK ***SEXY!*** THAT SHOULD BE A ***PIECE OF CAKE*** FOR ***YOU!***

BUT GO AHEAD AND PUT A LITTLE EXTRA ***OOMPH*** INTO IT WHENEVER ONE OF ***THEM*** IS LOOKING YOUR WAY... WHICH ***SHOULD*** BE ***MOST*** OF THE TIME!

THINK YOU CAN ***DO*** THAT FOR ME?

SURE, HONEY, NO PROBLEM! BUT ***WHY?***

LET'S JUST SAY IT'LL *HELP*, OKAY?

WELL... OKAY!

HMPH! IN *OTHER* WORDS, HE'S GOT *NOTHING* AND NEEDS *ME* TO *DISTRACT THEM* AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

SIGH! IF *THAT'S* WHAT IT TAKES, THEN *THAT'S* WHAT IT'LL TAKE!

And, for the next hour...

YEAH, BUT NONE OF ***THEIR*** IDEAS COME EVEN ***CLOSE*** TO WHAT ***WE'RE*** LOOKING FOR!

MMMMMM... YUMMY!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, GUYS! THAT'S WHY I'M PUTTING EVEN MORE OF OUR TOP PEOPLE ON IT!

OOOO! CAN I HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THESE CHERRIES?

UMMM, **YEAH...!** OUR SOFTWARE PACKAGE ALLOWS PRETTY MUCH **ANY** COMPUTER PROGRAM TO RUN ON **ANY OS PLATFORM** BY TAKING CARE OF ANY CONFLICTS **AS** THEY HAPPEN!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE THINKING OF CALLING IT "***THE NEGOTIATOR***"! ***GET IT?***

IT'S **FAST, ROBUST** AND TO DATE, **IMPOSSIBLE** TO HACK! **JUST START THERE!**

I **HEAR** YOU, JOE, AND OUR **FIRST** THOUGHT WAS USING **SPORTS METAPHORS** WITH **PROFESSIONAL JOCKS!** BUT IN **THIS REGION,** WE JUST **DON'T** HAVE OUR **OWN** PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL, BASEBALL **OR** BASKETBALL TEAM THAT'S **CLOSE ENOUGH** OR **GOOD ENOUGH** TO DRAW FROM!

OH PETE, YOU HAVE **GOT** TO BE KIDDING!


SO, OUR SECOND THOUGHT WAS...!
HOCKEY!


WHAT WAS THAT, SHERRI?
OH, UMMM... YOU KNOW, THAT SPORT WITH THE BIG CUTE GUYS ON SKATES! THAT'S HOCKEY, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, THAT'S HOCKEY ALL RIGHT! WHAT ABOUT IT?
Corona

WELL, IN JUST ABOUT **EVERY** BAR I'VE BEEN TO AROUND HERE... AND **I'VE** BEEN TO **A LOT!** *GIGGLE!* ... THERE'S **ALWAYS** SOME PEOPLE **REALLY** GETTING INTO ONE OF THOSE **HOCKEY GAMES** ON TV! AND THEY **SEEM** TO BE ON ALMOST **ALL YEAR LONG!** **EVEN** IN THE **SUMMER!**

C'MON GUYS! PICK UP ON IT! DON'T MAKE **ME** DO **ALL** THE WORK AROUND HERE!

AND SINCE THIS IS THE **OFF-SEASON**, THAT GIVES US A COUPLE OF **MONTHS** TO DEVELOP A **SOLID CAMPAIGN** WITH THE **PRIME** ATHLETES BEFORE THEY START UP THE SEASON AGAIN!

I MEAN, **WHERE** DO THEY FIND **ALL** THAT **ICE** IN **JUNE?**

YOU KNOW, **SHE'S RIGHT!** THE **PHL'S** SEASON LASTS AS LONG AS **BASKETBALL!** AND WE'RE **SMACK DAB** IN THE **MIDDLE** OF ONE THE MOST **HEATED RIVALRIES** IN THE LEAGUE... **BOSTON AND QUEBEC!**

IT COULD BE A HUGE **UNTAPPED MARKET** FOR US!


SHERRI, YOU'RE BRILLIANT! I COULD JUST KISS YOU!
GIGGLE!
ACTUALLY IT WAS A NO-BRAINER IF YOU ALL HAD JUST THOUGHT OUTSIDE THE BOX A LITTLE!

BUT TO BE FAIR, I GUESS I **AM** A BIT MORE **VESTED** IN HOCKEY THAN YOUR **AVERAGE** SPORTS FAN!

HMMM... THAT GIVES ME A *THOUGHT...!*

OOOO! DOES THAT MEAN I MAY GET TO MEET SOME OF THOSE AWESOME HOCKEY PLAYERS?

LIKE THAT TEAM WITH THE CUTE RED AND BLACK UNIFORMS... THE CANADIEN POODLES, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

I THINK YOU MEAN THE QUEBEC PITBULLS, HONEY! AND, HELL YES! FOR COMING UP WITH SUCH A GREAT IDEA, YOU CAN MEET AS MANY AS YOU WANT!

YAYY!!!

SCORE!

MEET THEM? **HELL!** PUT HER **IN** THE ADS **WITH** THEM! SPORTS AND SEX **ALWAYS SELLS!** AM I **RIGHT,** PETE?

YOU **READ** MY **MIND,** KYLE! SHE'S THE **PERFECT BLEND** OF **SEXY** AND **INNOCENT** THAT'LL MATCH UP **JUST RIGHT** NEXT TO SOME BIG **JOCK!**

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT...?!

HOW'S THAT SOUND TO **YOU,** HONEY? WE'LL HAVE PICTURES OF YOU **AND** THE PLAYERS UP **ALL OVER** THE PLACE!

HELL, **MAYBE** EVEN A **COMMERCIAL** OR TWO!

WOW! REALLY?! *UMMM... COOL!*

WHOA!! HOW THE HELL DID ***THAT*** HAPPEN? THEY ***CAN'T*** BE SERIOUS! ***CAN THEY?***


THAT'S A REMARKABLE LITTLE LADY YOU'VE GOT THERE, PETE! I'D KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HER IF I WERE YOU!
OH, I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF KEEPING MY LITTLE GOOD LUCK CHARM HERE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE! BELIEVE ME!
NOW... LET'S ORDER ANOTHER ROUND AND WORK OUT SOME DETAILS, SHALL WE?
GIGGLE!


WELL GENTLEMEN, I THINK WE'VE HAMMERED OUT SOME REALLY GOOD IDEAS TO GET THIS CAMPAIGN OFF AND RUNNING!
BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, IT'S TIME I GOT THIS YOUNG LADY HOME!
As the evening draws to a close...

YOUR HOME OR HER HOME? HEH-HEH!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW THAT TURNS OUT, JOE! HEH-HEH!

JESUS! DO YOU TWO REALLY THINK I CAN'T HEAR YOU?

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DITZY, NOT DEAF! *SIGH!*

I'M **SORRY** I'VE BEEN SO **BUSY** THIS EVENING, SHERRI! BUT I **PROMISE** YOU MY **UNDIVIDED ATTENTION** FROM HERE ON OUT!

GOOD! 'CAUSE I WAS **STARTING** TO GET A LITTLE **BORED!**

I **UNDERSTAND!** HOPEFULLY THE **REST** OF THE EVENING WILL BE ANYTHING **BUT** BORING!

GIGGLE!

A short time later, back at Sherri's apartment...

YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY **SURPRISED** EVERYONE TONIGHT, **INCLUDING ME,** WITH THAT **AMAZING** IDEA OF YOURS!

YOU'RE NOT ONLY **BEAUTIFUL,** BUT ALSO VERY **INSIGHTFUL!**

THANKS! MY **EYE DOCTOR** THINKS SO TOO! I'VE **NEVER** HAD TO WEAR GLASSES OR CONTACTS **EVER!**

I JUST FIND IT *REMARKABLE* THAT *YOU* WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IN *ONE EVENING* WHAT OUR *ENTIRE MARKETING TEAM* COULDN'T DO IN A *MONTH!*

YOU REALLY *ARE* FULL OF *SURPRISES!*

UH-OH! SOMEONE'S GOING *FISHING!* TIME FOR A LITTLE *DEFLECTION!*


WANNA COME IN? I PROMISE I WON'T MAKE ANY COFFEE THIS TIME!
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY REFUSE?


I HAVE TO USE THE LITTLE GIRLS' ROOM! BE RIGHT BACK!
I'LL JUST MAKE MYSELF COMFORTABLE OVER HERE! OKAY?
OKAY!


OKAY SHERRI, DECISION TIME! YOU'VE BEEN LEADING HIM ON ALL WEEK AND NOW HE'S EXPECTING THE BIG PAY-OFF!
DO YOU GO THROUGH WITH IT OR CHICKEN OUT?


IF I DO CHICKEN OUT AND SEND HIM PACKING, THEN ALL MY PLANS FALL APART AND I PUT DAYNA AT RISK OF BEING EXPOSED!
BUT GOING THROUGH WITH IT CHANGES EVERYTHING! WHO I AM... AND WHO I'M GOING TO BE!


BUT AFTER TAKING A GOOD LONG LOOK AT MYSELF, I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER...!

ALL RIGHT, SINGLETON, **NO SCREW UPS** TONIGHT! THIS IS **GONNA** HAPPEN!

MAYBE I CAN FIND A LITTLE *MUSIC* TO SET THE MOOD...!

YEAH... MAYBE ON THE FLOOR OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE, BUT NOT HERE!

91) Talk2Desk

Tradebook Strategy Analyzer

	Order Qty	Fill Qty	Rem. Qty	Limit	Avg Px vs Arr Px	Part Rate
13:01-16:00	50,000	22,992	27,008	85.000	84.998 -0.351bp	30.779%

		Size	Bid	Ask	Size	Ord	Total
1	1	1	84.99	85.00	2.02	1	2.02
6	1	5	84.98	85.01	3.50	1	5.52
8	1	2	84.97	85.03	2	1	7.52
12	1	4	84.96	85.04	1	1	8.52

LD 81.30 - Security Price Limits - LU 89.86

Predictive Analytics

Est Rem Volume	1M	Est Close Auction	142.2k
Price Predictor	-0.006		
Horizon Minutes	1.0		

Intraday Tracker — % of Order

	Volume vs Market		Avg Px vs Interval VWAP		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	84.998	0.011	1.3bp
Open Auct	--	--	--	--	--
Continuous	100.0%	100.0%	84.998	0.011	1.3bp
	1.2%	1.8%	84.999	0.007	0.8bp
	08	29.4%	84.996	0.013	1.5bp
	%	14.8%	85.000	0.020	2.3bp
		--	--	--	--
		--	--	--	--
Da	13.0%	16.2%	84.998	0.010	1.2bp

Analysis Charts

Overlay With SPX Index — Participation — Cost

HARGO

THAT'S BETTER...!

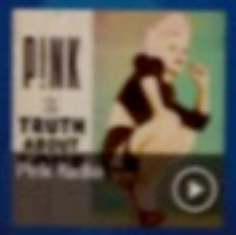
Pandora

Now Playing



Song: Raise Your Glass
Album: Raise Your Glass (Radio...
Artist: Pink
00:11 03:24

Pink Radio



Stations

QuickMix
will.i.am Radio
OneRepublic Radio
Katy Perry Radio
Pitbull Radio

HARGO

HUH! SHE'S GOT A *SURPRISING* AMOUNT OF *READING MATERIAL* AROUND THIS PLACE!

SHE DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS *THAT* MUCH OF A *READER!* HMMMM! SHE'S NEVER SAID *ANYTHING* ABOUT A *ROOMMATE!*


OOOOO! I LOVE THIS SONG!
IT'S YOUR PLAYLIST! WHY WOULDN'T YOU?
OH YEAH! *GIGGLE!*
Pink Radio
HARGO

SAY, YOU DON'T HAVE A **ROOMMATE,** DO YOU?

NOPE, I LIVE **ALL ALONE!** WHY DO YOU ASK?

OH... JUST **CURIOUS,** THAT'S ALL!

OKAY, **THAT'S** WEIRD! WHY WOULD HE ASK **ME** ABOUT A **ROOMMATE?**

I GOT RID OF **EVERYTHING** THAT EVEN **HINTS** AT MY PAST LIFE AS **DARYL!** SO WHAT'S HE...?

SO **YOU'RE** THE ONE READING "**THE WALL STREET POST**"?

OH SHIT! NOT EXACTLY SOMETHING 'DITZY' SHERRI WOULD BE READING!

LOOKS LIKE NOW IS THE TIME TO DISTRACT HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WHOSE POST? LIKE, I HAVEN'T BEEN ON FACEPLACE ALL DAY, SO I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE'S POSTS!

ART LIFE

LOOK THIS UP

I'VE JUST BEEN **TOO BUSY** GETTING READY FOR AND **THINKING** ABOUT OUR **DATE** TONIGHT!

AND **WHAT** WOULD **HAPPEN** WHEN YOU BROUGHT ME **HOME...!**

OH, I'VE GOT SOME **PRETTY GOOD** IDEAS ON **THAT!**


ME TOO!
AND HERE WE GO...!
Mix
ARGO




Stations
QuickMix
will.i.am Radio
OneRepublic Radio
Katy Perry Radio

WOW! YOU ARE ONE SEXY TIGER, YOU KNOW THAT!

MMMM! I CAN'T HELP MYSELF! I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU NON-STOP SINCE LAST WEEK!

TWO STATEMENTS THAT ARE ALMOST 100% COMPLETELY TRUE!

Pandora
Now Playing
Pink Radio
Song: Raise Your Glass
Album: Raise Your Glass (Radio...
Artist: Pink
HARGO


OOOOOOOO!!
OH YEAH! STILL JUST AS WET AS I REMEMBER!


WHAT SAY WE TAKE THIS INTO THE BEDROOM, HMMM?
WELL... I...!


OH SHIT! PAUL'S CAMERA! I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET HIM ADD ME TO HIS PORN COLLECTION!
ONLY ONE THING I CAN THINK OF..!


OH, BUT WHY GO ALL THE WAY IN THERE, BABY! COUCHES AREN'T JUST FOR RELAXING ON, YOU KNOW!
HARDLY THE WAY I WANTED MY FIRST TIME TO GO, BUT... A GIRL'S GOTTA DO WHAT A GIRL'S GOTTA DO!


I JUST WANT YOU TO FUCK ME! RIGHT HERE... RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE, BABY!
DAMN! I LIKE A WOMAN WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO TELL A MAN EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTS! ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO SEX!

AND WHAT THE LADY *WANTS*, THE LADY *GETS!*

OHHHHHHHHH!!!

OH GOD!!

JESUS! HE... HE'S NOT WAITING AROUND AT ALL! HE'S ALREADY **INSIDE ME!** AND HE... **HE'S HUGE!**

MMMMMM! AND IT FEELS **SOOO** MUCH **BETTER** THAN MY TOY!


HMMM! IF YOU LIKE THAT, I THINK YOU'LL LOVE THIS!
OOOOOOOHHHHH! YOU'RE SOOO RIGHT!
OH CHRIST! HE'S PRACTICALLY HOLDING ME UP WITH HIS DICK! EVERY MOVE HE MAKES GRINDS HIM DEEPER AND DEEPER INSIDE ME! IT'S... IT'S INCREDIBLE!

MMMMMM! I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY **WHAT** HE'S DOING, BUT **I DON'T CARE!** THIS ALL FEELS SO **GOOD** I CAN **HARDLY THINK STRAIGHT!**

Pandora

Now Playing


HOW YOU LIKE THE RIDE SO FAR, GORGEOUS?
MMMMMM! I LOVE IT! AND I SURE HOPE YOU DON'T PLAN ON STOPPING ANYTIME SOON!
NOT UNTIL WE GET TO WHERE I'M TAKING YOU! BUT THEN THE MAIN EVENT STARTS!

OOOOOO! THAT SOUNDS LIKE *FUN!* BUT *WHERE* ARE YOU...?

GASP!

OH SHIT! NOT IN THERE!


BUT... I THOUGHT... THE COUCH... WHY AREN'T WE...?
GORGEOUS, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SINCE I FIRST MET YOU! I AM NOT GOING TO WASTE IT ON A DAMN SOFA!
YOU'RE JUST TOO BEAUTIFUL AND TOO SPECIAL TO NOT MAKE SURE THAT YOU ENJOY THIS JUST AS MUCH AS I KNOW I'M GOING TO!

YOU... YOU *REALLY* THINK I'M *SPECIAL?*

WOW! THAT MAY BE ONE OF THE *BEST LINES* I'VE *EVER* HEARD! AND EVEN IF IT *IS* JUST A LINE, IT *STILL* MAKES ME FEEL ALL *GOOEY* INSIDE!

TELL YOU *WHAT,* LOVE... WHY DON'T YOU ASK ME THAT QUESTION *AGAIN...!*


RIGHT AFTER I GET DONE SHOWING YOU!
GASP! BUT...!


OH SHIT!
THE CAMERA!
I'VE GOT TO...!


YEAH... THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN AN ATTENTION GRABBER!
OOOOOOHHH GOD!

YOU SEEMED A LITTLE **DISTRACTED** THERE FOR A MINUTE AND WANTED TO BRING YOU **BACK** TO THE **PARTY!**

I... I'M SORRY! I WAS JUST...!

AAAAAAAAHHHHH!

NO **EXPLANATIONS** NECESSARY, BABE! NOW'S THE TIME TO JUST **HOLD ON** AND **ENJOY** THE **RIDE!**


MMMMMMMMM!
GOD, THAT FEELS SOOOO....!


BUT... THE CAMERA...!
PAUL MIGHT... HE MIGHT...! HE...!


OH, WHO GIVES A FLYING FUCK WHAT PAUL SEES!
MMMMM! C'MON, BABY! GIVE MAMA EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!


OHHHH
YESSS!!!
YOUR WISH IS
MY COMMAND,
M'LADY!


oooooooooooo!!

An hour, or so, later...

OH **MAN**, I **REALLY** HOPE THE **NEIGHBORS** AREN'T HOME! 'CAUSE I'VE **NEVER** MADE NOISES LIKE **THAT** BEFORE... AND **ESPECIALLY** THAT **LOUD**... AND **THAT MANY TIMES!**

DAMN... HE'S **GOOD!**

AND AFTER ALL THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STILL HORNY!

OF COURSE, THE WAY HE'S PLAYING WITH MY NIPPLES MAY HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT!

"GIGGLE!"

TICKLISH?

A LITTLE! WHY? THINKING OF TICKLING ME SOMEPLACE ELSE WITH SOMETHING BESIDES YOUR FINGERS?

AGAIN? CHRIST WOMAN! YOU'RE INSATIABLE!

CAN'T HELP IT! I JUST SEEM TO BECOME A **HORNY** LITTLE **BITCH** IN **HEAT** WHEN I'M AROUND YOU!

HMMM! *MIGHT* BE A GOOD IDEA TO USE SOME OF THAT "HORNY LITTLE BITCH" *ATTITUDE* OF YOURS IN THE *AD CAMPAIGN!*

IF NOTHING ELSE, IT'D *SURE* AS *HELL* MAKE PEOPLE, *ESPECIALLY MEN*, SIT UP AND *TAKE NOTICE!* HEH-HEH!

YOU WEREN'T REALLY *SERIOUS* ABOUT PUTTING *ME* IN THOSE *ADS* WERE YOU? *I'M* NO *ACTRESS!*

FIRST OFF, THESE'LL MOST LIKELY BE PRINT AND WEB ADS! NO LINES, NO MOVING AROUND... JUST POSING AND LOOKING SEXY! WHICH YOU'RE A NATURAL AT!

WELL, MAYBE! BUT...!

BESIDES, I THINK WE **BOTH** KNOW THAT **YOU'RE** AN **EXCEPTIONAL ACTRESS!**

HUH?! WH... **WHAT** DO YOU **MEAN?** I... I'VE NEVER EVEN **BEEN** TO THE THEATRE, MUCH LESS **PARTICIPATED** IN IT!

THAT'S **NOT** WHAT I MEAN AND YOU DAMN WELL **KNOW IT,** CUPCAKE!

UH-OH!

I ASKED AROUND THE **OFFICE** ABOUT YOU! AND **EVERY TIME** I DESCRIBED YOU USING WORDS LIKE **"DITZY"** OR **"DIM"**, PEOPLE WOULD LOOK AT ME LIKE **I** WAS **CRAZY** OR SOMETHING! THAT STARTED ME THINKING THAT MAYBE **YOU** WEREN'T SHOWING **ME** WHO YOU **REALLY** WERE!

OH SHIT!!

YOU THINK I'M **DITZY? GEE!** THAT'S **NOT** VERY **NICE,** PETE! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER **GO...!**

OH, **I'M** NOT DONE **YET,** DARLIN'!

THE **CLINCHER** WAS WHEN WE GOT **HERE!** YOUR **TV** WAS SET TO **THE FINANCIAL CHANNEL,** THE **WALL STREET POST** AND OTHER FAIRLY **INTELLECTUAL MAGAZINES** ARE SPREAD OUT ON YOUR TABLE...!

AND... THE **BOOKS** IN YOUR BOOKCASE ARE **CLASSIC** BUSINESS SCHOOL **TEXTBOOKS! I** STILL HAVE **MINE** GATHERING DUST IN THE BACK OF A CLOSET AT **MY PLACE!**

UMM, I THINK A **FRIEND** LEFT THEM HERE...!


OH, CUT THE SHIT, SHERRI! YOU'RE AS MUCH A BIMBO AS I AM A CHOIRBOY! AND I REALLY DON'T CARE!
JUST FESS UP, SO WE CAN GET THIS ACT BEHIND US AND MOVE ON!
WELL... I... I...!

OH, WHAT THE FUCK...! **YES!** OKAY? I'VE BEEN PUTTING ON A **STUPID ACT** FOR YOU THIS **WHOLE TIME!**

FROM WHAT I'D **HEARD** ABOUT YOU, IT SEEMED THE **BEST** WAY TO GET **CLOSE** TO YOU!

HMMM! SOUNDS LIKE **YOU'VE** BEEN TALKING TO SOME OF THE **LADIES** AROUND THE OFFICE WHO **OBVIOUSLY** DON'T THINK TOO **HIGHLY** OF ME!

I GUESS I SHOULD BE **FLATTERED** THAT YOU'D GO TO **ALL** THAT TROUBLE **JUST** TO GET ME INTO **BED** LIKE THIS!

HATE TO BURST YOUR **BUBBLE**, PETE, BUT THIS **WASN'T** ABOUT **SEX!**

REALLY? FUNNY... IT SURE **SOUNDED** LIKE IT THE WAY YOU WERE **SCREAMING** A LITTLE EARLIER!


WELL... IT WASN'T ALL ABOUT SEX! *GIGGLE!*
THEN WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT, PRAY TELL!

OKAY... LET'S SEE IF I CAN **BULLSHIT** MY WAY THROUGH THIS!

SIGH! WHEN YOU **LOOK** LIKE **ME,** BEING TAKEN **SERIOUSLY** IN THE **BUSINESS WORLD** IS NEXT TO **IMPOSSIBLE!** THE **ONLY** WAY TO SEE **ANY** FRONT LINE **ACTION** IS TO HITCH A RIDE WITH **SOMEONE** WHO HAS ACCESS TO **ALL** THE **MOVING** AND **SHAKING** IN THE INDUSTRY!

AND AT RENCORP, **THAT** PERSON IS **YOU!**

I KNOW I ***MISREPRESENTED*** MYSELF TO YOU, BUT IT WAS ***NOTHING PERSONAL!*** IT WAS ***ALL*** ABOUT ADVANCING MY ***CAREER... NOTHING MORE!***

AND ***NOW*** THAT YOU KNOW THE ***TRUTH,*** I GUESS ***I'LL*** JUST HAVE TO GO ***BACK*** TO THE ***SECRETARIAL POOL*** WHERE I BELONG AND ***TRY*** AND BE ***CONTENT*** THERE!

I ***HOPE*** I HAVEN'T ***SCREWED UP*** ANYTHING FOR YOU! IF I HAVE, I'M VERY, VERY ***SORRY!***

C'MON PETE! ***HOW*** CAN YOU ***RESIST*** THIS POUTY FACE?

WAIT A MINUTE, SHERRI...!

YES! HE BOUGHT THE *WHOLE* THING! HOOK, LINE AND *SINKER!*

YES PETE?

OF *COURSE* I ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY! BUT ON *ONE* LITTLE CONDITION...!

ANYTHING PETE!


ADMIT THAT YOU'RE **REALLY** ONLY SORRY YOU GOT **CAUGHT!**
I MEAN, YOU WERE DOIN' **GREAT** RIGHT UP UNTIL THAT "POOR LIL OL' ME BACK IN THE SECRETARIAL POOL" BIT!
I'D HAVE TO BE EITHER REALLY **STUPID** OR AT LEAST **STUPID DRUNK** TO FALL FOR **THAT**... NO MATTER **HOW** WELL YOU **SELL IT!**



SIGH!
I GUESS I **WAS** SPREADING IT ON A BIT ***THICK*** THERE AT THE END, WASN'T I?

JUST A *BIT!*

SO... **WHAT** HAPPENS ***NOW?***

THAT ***DEPENDS***... WAS EVERYTHING ***ELSE*** YOU TOLD ME ***PURE BULLSHIT*** AS WELL?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT WAS **ALL** THE **TRUTH!** AND I REALLY **DON'T** REGRET **ANYTHING** I DID! **ESPECIALLY** WHAT **WE** DID HERE TONIGHT, AS YOU COULD **PROBABLY** TELL!

I HAD A **HELL** OF A GOOD TIME WITH YOU, PETE, AND **EVEN** GOT MY FOOT IN THE DOOR, **BUSINESS-WISE!** AND IF **YOU** WANT TO **SLAM** THAT DOOR IN MY FACE, **SO BE IT!** I CAN **ACCEPT** THAT!

NOW **WHY** THE **HELL** WOULD I WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE **THAT** TO SOMEONE AS **SEXY, GORGEOUS** AND **BUSINESS SAVVY** AS **YOU?**

AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE **ALSO** AT LEAST A LITTLE **ETHICALLY-CHALLENGED** MAKES YOU AN EVEN BIGGER **ASSET** IN **MY** BOOK!

YOU **THINK SO?! SO I** GET TO BE PART OF THE **TEAM?**


I WOULDN'T GO AS FAR AS SAYING THAT! I MEAN, YOUR IDEAS TONIGHT HELPED SAVE MY PROJECT, AND YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS ONE AS WE GO FORWARD! BUT TO SAY YOU'RE AN ACTUAL "TEAM MEMBER"... I DON'T KNOW!

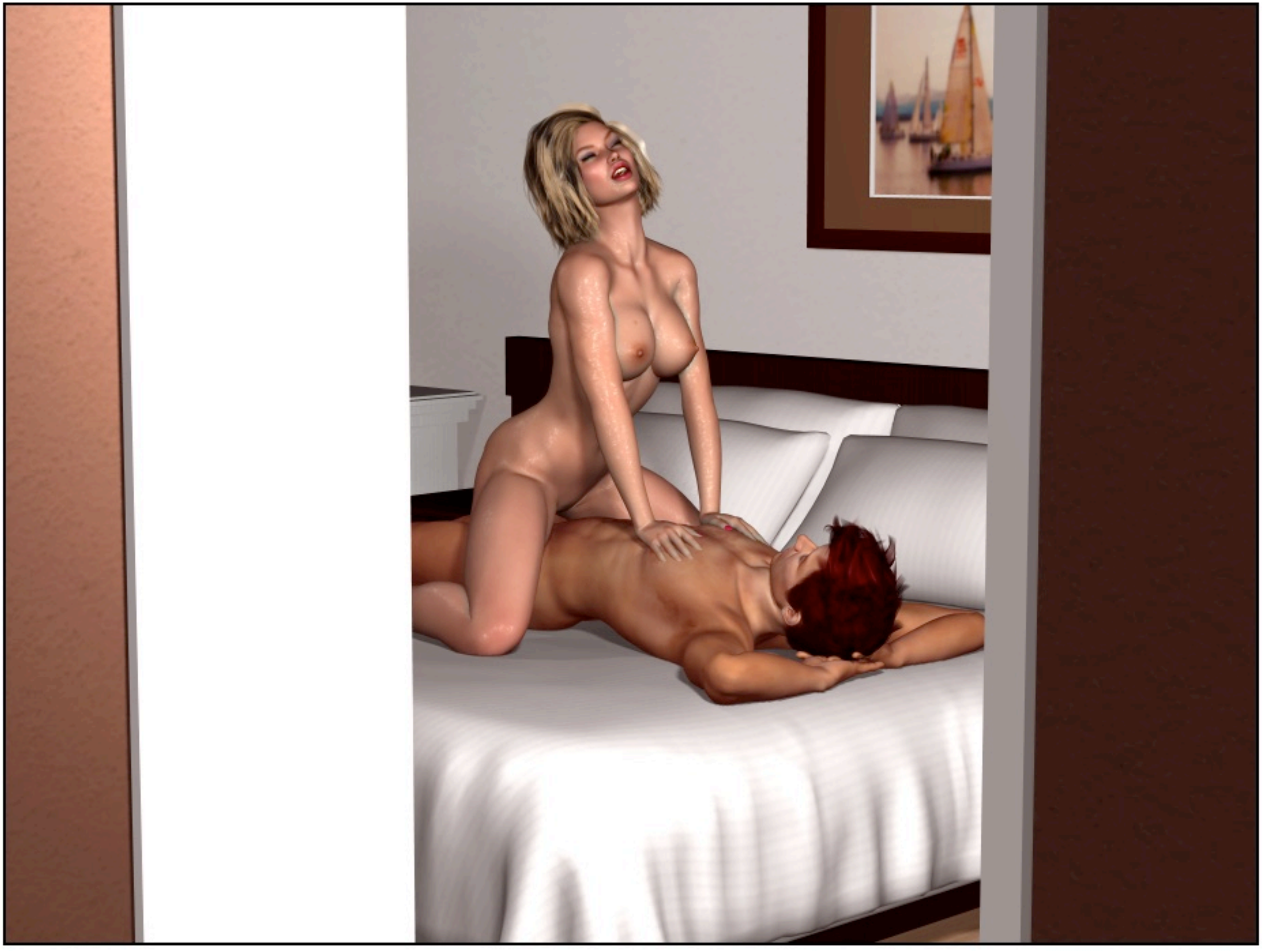
OH... REALLY?!

FUCK THAT! I DID **NOT** GO THROUGH ALL THIS... **AND** LETTING MY **GUARD** DOWN THE WAY I HAVE... **JUST** TO BE "INVOLVED"!


SO, YOU DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING I COULD DO TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?
MAYBE BECOME A "TEAM MEMBER... WITH BENEFITS"? HMMM?


MMMMM! MAYBE I DO NEED TO RETHINK IT! I DO LIKE WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO SHOW A LOT OF INITIATIVE!


OH, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF THAT, BABY! NOW RELAX WHILE I SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH!



The next morning, long after Pete has left...

OOOOOO! I *DEFINITELY* THINK I PULLED A FEW *MUSCLES* LAST NIGHT!


AHHH, COFFEE! DRINK OF THE GODS!!


WELL... I HAVE TO SAY THAT WAS AN EVENTFUL EVENING!
PETE SAW THROUGH MY "DITZY SHERRI" ACT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM! GUESS I'M NOT AS SMART AS I THOUGHT I WAS!

AND I DIDN'T ***JUST*** LOSE MY VIRGINITY LAST NIGHT, I ***TIED IT UP*** IN A BURLAP BAG, ***DROVE IT*** TO THE EDGE OF TOWN AND ***THREW IT*** OUT OF THE CAR!

DAMN! I NEVER IMAGINED ***I*** WAS ***CAPABLE*** OF DOING WHAT I DID WITH PETE! THE ***WAY*** I ***ACTED***... THE ***THINGS*** WE DID! ****WHEW!****

GUESS ***THAT*** ANSWERS ANY LINGERING ***QUESTIONS*** I MIGHT'VE HAD ABOUT MY ***SEXUALITY!***

BUT IN DOING SO, I'VE ENDED UP IN THE LAST PLACE I EVER WANTED TO BE... PAUL'S VIDEO PORN COLLECTION!

I KNEW THAT FUCKING CAMERA WAS THERE, BUT MY LIBIDO TOOK OVER AND I JUST DIDN'T CARE!

AND AFTER THAT, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF HIDING ANYMORE? MY ASS, AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE, HAD ALREADY BEEN DIGITIZED FOR HIS DISGUSTING PERUSAL!

ABOUT THE ONLY **GOOD** THAT'LL COME OF IT IS WHEN **DAYNA** FINALLY SEES ALL THOSE **VIDEOS**, AND GOD HELP ME, **SHE WILL!**

SEEING **OTHER** GIRLS CAPTURED ON PAUL'S COMPUTER IS **ONE** THING, BUT WHEN SHE SEES THAT HE'S **ALSO** BEEN SPYING ON **ME**, WELL... **THAT** SHOULD SEND HER OVER THE EDGE... **FINALLY!**

BUT BEFORE *THAT* HAPPENS, *I* NEED TO FIGURE OUT *WHERE* THE *HELL* HE'S BEEN KEEPING THAT GODDAMN *SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT!*

IT'S *GOT* TO BE HERE IN THE BUILDING *SOMEWHERE!* THE CLEANING STAFF HAS ACCESS TO *ALL* THE *JANITORS' CLOSETS* AND *MAINTENANCE ROOM,* SO HE *WOULDN'T* PUT IT *THERE!* AND SINCE I'VE MOVED IN HERE, ALL THE *APARTMENTS* HAVE BEEN *OCCUPIED!*

SO WHERE THE HELL... ?


WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S ONE "APARTMENT" THAT I KNOW IS STILL EMPTY!

A few minutes later...

OH *PLEASE* DON'T HAVE CHANGED THE LOCK! PLEASE, PLEASE, *PLEEEASE!*

YES!!

Click!


I FUCKING KNEW IT!


OH, PAUL... YOUR ASS IS MINE NOW!

by CBlack



Chapter 11

OPPORTUNITIES

First thing Monday morning...

I KEEP **SECOND-GUESSING** MYSELF FOR **NOT** TOSSING PAUL'S SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT INTO THE **DUMPSTER** YESTERDAY!

BUT AS **MUCH** AS I **WANTED** TO, I **CAN'T** LET HIM KNOW I'M ONTO HIM UNTIL I'M **READY** TO **LOWER THE BOOM!**

SHERRI! THERE YOU ARE! HOLD UP!

AND IT WON'T BE LONG, PAUL... I GUARAN-FUCKING-TEE YOU OF THAT!


OH... HI PETE! HOW WAS YOUR WEEKEND? HMMM?
UPLIFTING, TO SAY THE LEAST!
GIGGLE!

SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWN TO **OUR** FLOORS THIS **EARLY** IN THE DAY? I'M SURPRISED **YOU'RE** EVEN IN THE **BUILDING** AT THIS HOUR!

I'M LOOKING FOR **YOU!** I WAS UP 'TIL **THREE** LAST NIGHT ON A CONFERENCE CALL WITH **JOE AND KYLE** ABOUT THE **AD CAMPAIGN!** WE'VE GOT IT **ALL** PLANNED OUT AND **READY** TO START SHOOTING LATER **THIS WEEK!**

THAT'S **GREAT!** BUT WHAT DO YOU NEED **ME** FOR?

HAVE YOU **FORGOTTEN** ALREADY? **YOU'RE** GOING TO BE ONE OF THE **STARS** OF THE AD CAMPAIGN!

WHAT?! I THOUGHT WE ALREADY SETTLED THIS, PETE!

MAYBE WE DID, BUT JOE AND KYLE STILL THINK YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THE GIG! IN FACT, THEY'RE INSISTING ON YOUR PARTICIPATION!

AND WHAT THE CLIENT WANTS...!

YEAH, YEAH... ***I KNOW!*** THE CLIENT ***GETS!*** BUT THIS GOES ***WAY BEYOND*** WHAT ANY ***RENCORP*** EMPLOYEE WOULD BE ***EXPECTED*** TO DO FOR A CLIENT... ***DOESN'T*** IT?!

SOMETIMES WE ***HAVE*** TO DO STUFF THAT GOES ***BEYOND*** THE ***HR HANDBOOK*** TO ***SATISFY*** A CLIENT! ***I'VE*** DONE SOME THINGS THAT HAVEN'T MADE ME FEEL ***GREAT*** ABOUT MYSELF... AND ***NOW*** IT'S ***YOUR TURN!***

IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE ***TEAM,*** THAT IS! IT'S UP TO ***YOU***... WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE ***READY*** TO PLAY IN THE ***BIG LEAGUES!***

I... ***I DON'T KNOW!*** IF I ***DO*** THIS, THEN ***NO ONE*** WILL ***EVER*** TAKE ME ***SERIOUSLY*** AGAIN WHEN IT COMES TO ***BIG BUSINESS DEALS!***

PLEASE...! IT'S JUST A LITTLE CHEESECAKE! NOBODY'S ASKING YOU TO DO ANYTHING BEYOND THE PALE!

AND FAR FROM HURTING YOUR REPUTATION, I THINK IT'LL ENHANCE IT! THE BUSINESS WORLD IS STILL RUN MOSTLY BY MEN, AGGRESSIVE MACHO MEN WHO ARE BUSY 24-7, BUT WILL ALWAYS FIND THE TIME FOR A MEETING WITH THE SEXY GAL WHO LOOKED SO ENTICING IN THOSE SOFTWARE ADS!

SO DON'T GET YOUR PANTIES IN A BUNCH, HONEY! YOUR LOOKS ARE AN ASSET! LEARN TO USE THEM!

SIGH!. AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, YOU DO HAVE A POINT!

BUT IT **STILL** FEELS TO ME LIKE I'M... **SELLING MYSELF!** THE WHOLE THING FEELS A LITTLE **SLEAZY!**

MAYBE **SO,** BUT IT'S **THE WAY** DEALS ARE **CLOSED!** AND IT **WON'T** BE SO BAD... **I PROMISE!**

I'LL SEND YOU **EVERYTHING** I KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCT **AND** THE AD CAMPAIGN BEFORE LUNCH, **JUST** TO MAKE **SURE** YOU'RE **COMFORTABLE** WITH IT!

AND I'LL MAKE **SURE** JOE AND KYLE **CC** YOU ON ALL **EMAILS** GOING FORWARD... SO YOU'LL BE A **VISIBLE** MEMBER OF THE **TEAM!** SOUND GOOD?

WELL... LET ME **LOOK OVER** THE CAMPAIGN AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU!


FAIR ENOUGH! IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL HAVE LINDA BOOK YOUR TRAVEL PLANS SO EVERYTHING'S IN PLACE!
TRUST ME, DOING THIS IS THE RIGHT DECISION, OKAY?
WE'LL SEE...!


MAYBE PETE IS RIGHT! I DO HAVE DIFFERENT ASSETS NOW, AND IF USING MY LOOKS OPENS A FEW DOORS IN MY CAREER, WHO AM I TO SAY NO?
NOW I KNOW I DON'T HAVE TO ASK YOU HOW YOUR WEEKEND WENT!


HUH?! OH... HI, MAGGIE! HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT HALF AS WELL AS IT'S GOING FOR YOU FROM WHAT I HEAR!
DAMN GIRL! THAT MUST'VE BEEN SOME DATE YOU HAD WITH PETE IF IT SCORED YOU A MODELING JOB!

WHAT?! NO! IT... IT WASN'T LIKE THAT! I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING A MODEL! IT'S JUST... I MEAN...!

HEY! RELAX, GIRLFRIEND! I'M APPLAUDING, NOT CRITICIZING!

BUT... HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT IT SO QUICKLY? PETE JUST NOW TOLD ME HIMSELF!

YEAH, BUT HE TOLD LINDA **FIRST!** AND YOU **KNOW** WHAT HAPPENS WHENEVER **LINDA** GETS SOME **JUICY INFO!**

THE **WHOLE BUILDING** FINDS OUT! **GREAT!** I'LL BE THE OFFICE **PINUP GIRL** BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

MAYBE... BUT AT LEAST **YOU** GOT THE **HOTTEST** GUY IN THE BUILDING OUT OF THE DEAL! *GIGGLE!*

I DON'T "*HAVE*" PETE! I WAS ***JUST*** TRYING TO ***USE*** HIM TO GET INVOLVED IN ***MORE PROJECTS!***

BUT THAT'S ALL ***BACKFIRED*** ON ME WITH THIS ***MODELING*** THING! TELL ME THE ***TRUTH,*** DO YOU THINK, ***IF*** I DO IT, THAT IT'LL ***RUIN*** ANY ***CHANCE*** OF BEING TAKEN ***SERIOUSLY*** AROUND HERE?

THE WAY ***I*** SEE IT, MY ***CAREER*** IN ***BUSINESS*** MIGHT BE ***OVER*** BEFORE IT EVEN ***STARTS!***

I DON'T KNOW, SHERRI! **EVERY** JUNIOR PERSON IS **DESPERATELY** TRYING TO **CLAW** THEIR WAY TO A **SENIOR POSITION! ANYTHING** THAT MAKES YOU **STAND OUT,** GETS YOU **NOTICED,** IS A **GOOD** THING! RIGHT?

YEAH, BUT IF **I'M** SEEN AS A **BIMBO SEXPOT,** THEN...!

GIVE YOURSELF SOME **CREDIT,** GIRL! IT'S **OBVIOUS** THAT YOU'RE **SMART** AND **ARTICULATE!** IF YOU DO A LITTLE **MODELING** ON THE **SIDE,** THEN YOU'LL BE SEEN AS... I DON'T KNOW... **MULTI-FACETED!** I THINK THERE'S **WAY** MORE **UPSIDE** THAN DOWNSIDE TO DOING IT!


HMMM... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! MAYBE I'M FREAKING OUT BECAUSE I'M STRESSED! I'VE NEVER DREAMED OF EVER DOING ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
SOMETIMES I THINK IT'S GOOD TO PUSH YOURSELF BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONES! DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL DO GREAT!


THE FUNNY THING IS, I *FEEL* LIKE I'VE BEEN DOING *JUST THAT* SINCE I GOT HERE!
AND *HASN'T* IT BEEN WORKING OUT? YOU'RE *BLOSSOMING,* GIRL!
BY THE WAY, *LOVE* THE NEW *HAIRDO!*
THANKS!

A while later...

HI BOSS!

THERE'S MY ASSISTANT-SLASH-SUPERMODEL!

OBVIOUSLY PETE'S **ALREADY** CONTACTED YOU ABOUT THE **PHOTOSHOOT** FOR HIS PROJECT!

YES, HE **HAS!**

AND **YOU** THINK IT'S A **GOOD** IDEA?

I DO! BUT **YOU** SEEM TO HAVE ***MISGIVINGS!***

I **WORRY** THAT **NOBODY** WILL EVER TAKE ME **SERIOUSLY** IF I DO THIS!

ON THE **CONTRARY! ANYONE** WHO CONTRIBUTES TO THIS PROJECT'S **SUCCESS** WILL BE SEEN IN A **GOOD LIGHT! EVEN** SOMEONE WHO MODELS IN **SKIMPY CLOTHES** AND BARES HER **CLEAVAGE!**

THERE ARE **MANY PATHS** TO **SUCCESS!** THIS GETS YOU OFF TO AN **UNUSUAL** START, BUT **IF** YOU DO THIS, **REST ASSURED** THAT UPPER MANAGEMENT'S REACTION WILL BE **WHOLLY POSITIVE! YOU'LL** BE SEEN AS **SOMEONE** WHO IS WILLING TO DO **WHAT IT TAKES** TO **GET THE JOB DONE!**

BUT **I** HAVE A **DIFFERENT QUESTION** FOR YOU... THIS **PROJECT** IS A **VALID BUSINESS CONCERN** OF THIS COMPANY, AND I **NEED** TO **KNOW** IF **YOUR** PARTICIPATION IS IN ANY WAY **CONNECTED** TO YOUR **DESIRE** TO GET **PAUL** OUT OF YOUR LIFE!


WHAT?! NO! I PROMISE YOU THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PAUL!
THOUGH I HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN THAT AREA! IN FACT, I COULD PROBABLY HAVE HIM ARRESTED RIGHT NOW IF I WANTED TO!


THEN WHY ON EARTH DON'T YOU?
BECAUSE HE'S A SLIPPERY SON OF A BITCH! I NEED TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE WAY OF TAKING HIM DOWN TO BE SURE HE'S OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER!

I JUST *HAVEN'T* COME UP WITH A GOOD *PLAN B* YET! I HAVE SOME *IDEAS*, BUT NOTHING *DEFINITE!*

BE *CAREFUL*, SHERRI! AND IF YOU WANT A *SOUNDING BOARD*, REMEMBER THAT *I'M HERE* FOR YOU!

THANKS! BUT IF I'M *GOING* TO DO THIS MODELING JOB *PROPERLY*, I THINK I'LL NEED TO PUT *PAUL* ON *HOLD* FOR THE MOMENT!

YOU **REALLY** THINK IT'LL BE **OKAY** IF I DO THIS? IT JUST SEEMS SO... **DEMEANING!**

IT'S **ONLY** DEMEANING IF **YOU** LET IT BE! YOU'RE A **STRONG-WILLED, INTELLIGENT** AND VERY **BEAUTIFUL** YOUNG WOMAN!

TAKE **CONTROL** OF THE SITUATION AND **MAKE IT** WHAT **YOU** WANT! WHO KNOWS, YOU **MIGHT** EVEN HAVE **FUN!**

ONE LAST THOUGHT! IT'S ***YOUR*** FACE AND ***YOUR*** IMAGE, SO ***YOU*** SHOULD HAVE ***FINAL APPROVAL*** ON THE FINAL PRODUCT! ***I'LL*** TALK TO ***PETE*** ABOUT THAT IF YOU'D LIKE!

I... I'D ***APPRECIATE*** THAT!


THANKS GAVIN! IT'S NICE TO KNOW I HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S ALWAYS IN MY CORNER!

Thursday morning, in Bay City...

SO **THIS** IS WHERE THE **TRAWLERS** PLAY, HUH! NOT **BAD** FOR A **MINOR LEAGUE** TEAM!

YEAH, BUT IT'S A **FAR CRY** FROM A **MAJOR LEAGUE** RINK! STILL, WE CAN MAKE IT **LOOK** LIKE ONE! THE OWNERS GAVE US PERMISSION TO USE **WHATEVER** PROPS WE NEEDED AS LONG AS WE DIDN'T MAKE ANY **PERMANENT** CHANGES!

AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER **ASSURES** ME THAT WITH **JUST** THE RIGHT CAMERA ANGLES, **NO ONE** WILL KNOW THE **DIFFERENCE!**

AND I **HAVE** TO TELL YOU **AGAIN** HOW **MUCH** JOE AND KYLE **LOVE** YOUR IDEAS REGARDING THEIR SOFTWARE **AND** THE PHOTOSHOOT!

RENAMING THE SOFTWARE **"REFEREE"** WAS A STROKE OF **GENIUS!** IT **REALLY** HELPED **PUSH** THE AD CAMPAIGN INTO A MORE **COHESIVE** DIRECTION!

WELL **"REFEREE"** JUST **SEEMED** TO MAKE MORE **SENSE** THAN *"THE NEGOTIATOR"* CONSIDERING HOW MUCH **EVERYONE** WANTED TO USE **SPORTS FIGURES** TO SELL IT!

IT **ALSO** ELEVATES **MY** PART IN THE SHOOT TO **MORE** THAN JUST TOKEN **CHEESECAKE!** NOT **MUCH** MORE, BUT A **LITTLE** AT LEAST!

HEY! NOTHING **WRONG** WITH A LITTLE **CHEESECAKE,** GORGEOUS!

AND, **SPEAKING** OF **CHEESECAKE,** IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR **BEAUTY SQUAD** IS READY FOR YOU!

"BEAUTY SQUAD"? REALLY?


SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, SHERRI! WE SHOULD HAVE EVERYTHING SET UP AND READY TO GO BY THEN!
ALL RIGHT... SEE YOU THEN!

SIGH! IT'S TOO BAD **OWEN** COULDN'T BE ONE OF THE HOCKEY PLAYERS I'LL BE WORKING WITH TODAY!

I WAS **REALLY** HOPING TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

SO, WHAT DO YOU *THINK*, GENTLEMEN?

TRUTHFULLY PETE? WE WERE *EXPECTING* SOMETHING A *LOT BIGGER!*

YEAH, THIS IS PRETTY DAMN *SMALL* IF IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A *PHL ARENA!*

TRUE! BUT, LIKE I TOLD YOU ALL EARLIER THIS WEEK, THEY'LL ADD BACKGROUNDS AND CROWDS DURING POST-PRODUCTION!

ALL WE REALLY NEED RIGHT HERE IS AN INDOOR ICE RINK AND THE ACTORS!

SPEAKING OF ACTORS, WHERE ARE THEY?

YEAH! ESPECIALLY SHERRI! WHERE IS SHE?

SHERRI **JUST** WENT INTO WARDROBE AND MAKEUP, SHE SHOULD BE IN THERE FOR A **COUPLE** OF **HOURS!**

THE **PLAYERS** ARE HERE **SOMEWHERE,** THOUGH! I SAW **MAX SCHWARTZKOPF** WARMING UP EARLIER!

I'VE **READ** ABOUT THIS **SCHWARTZKOPF** CHARACTER! IS HE AS **PSYCHO** AS THEY **SAY** HE IS?

YEAH, AND TELL ME **AGAIN** WHY WE **COULDN'T** GET THIS **MANNING** GUY AS WELL! **THOSE** TWO ARE SUPPOSED TO **HATE** EACH OTHER'S **GUTS!** IT WOULD'VE BEEN **AWESOME** TO CAPTURE THAT **ANIMOSITY** IN THE AD!

I KNOW! *THAT* WOULD'VE BEEN THE *ICING* ON THE *CAKE!* BUT MANNING'S *REP* TOLD US THAT HE HAD SOMETHING *ELSE* GOING ON IN *CHICAGO* THAT HE *COULDN'T* GET OUT OF!

BUT WE *DID* GET A *MINOR LEAGUE* KID WHO LOOKS A *LOT* LIKE HIM! FROM A *DISTANCE* YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL IT *ISN'T* MANNING! WE'RE ALSO TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF *"DUBBING"* HIM INTO THE SHOTS DURING *POST-PRODUCTION!*

NOT *SURE* IF IT'LL WORK, BUT IT'S THE *BEST* WE'VE GOT RIGHT NOW!

About two hours later...

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK... LONG SHOTS **FIRST** AND CLOSEUPS **LAST?**

THAT'S **MY** RECOMMENDATION! BUT IF YOU WANT TO GET THIS **ALL** DONE IN **ONE DAY,** WE **NEED** TO GET **STARTED!**

WELL, THE **KID'S** HERE, BIT I DON'T KNOW WHERE **SCHWARTZKOPF** DISAPPEARED TO!

SO, DOES THIS GUY LOOK **ENOUGH** LIKE **MANNING** TO PULL IT OFF?

HOW THE **HELL** WOULD **I** KNOW? **I** DON'T KNOW WHAT **MANNING** LOOKS LIKE **EITHER!**

HEY, THAT LOOKS LIKE SHERRI COMING NOW! AWWW! SHE'S WEARING A ROBE OVER HER COSTUME! DAMN!

AND IS THAT SCHWARTZKOPF BEHIND HER? JESUS! HE'S HUGE!

HEY! WATCH THAT STICK, GODDAMN IT!

JUST GETTIN' A PEEK AT THE GOODS, SWEET CHEEKS! HEH-HEH!


WELL THAT'S AS CLOSE AS ANY STICK OF YOURS IS GETTING TO THESE CHEEKS, DICKHEAD! SO WATCH IT!


OOOO! FEISTY! I LIKE THAT! I AM SO LOOKIN' FORWARD TO INTRODUCING YOU TO MY PERSONAL PATENTED SLAPSHOT! HEH-HEH!

SO I SEE YOU TWO HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN ACQUAINTED!

UNFORTUNATELY!

WE'LL FINISH THIS AFTER THE SHOOT, SWEET CHEEKS!

WOW! YOU LOOK GREAT, SHERRI! HOW'S THE COSTUME FIT?

WELL, CONSIDERING IT'S PRACTICALLY PAINTED ON, IT FITS FINE... WHAT LITTLE THERE IS OF IT!

AND WHOSE IDEA WAS THE BIG HAIR LOOK? EXTENSIONS ARE ONE THING, BUT DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO DAMN POOFY?

WE WANTED THE **PERFECT** LOOK FOR YOU, SO WE RAN **SEVERAL HAIRSTYLES** PAST A **FOCUS GROUP** AND **THIS** IS THE ONE THEY PICKED... HANDS DOWN, **THE WINNER!**

SIGH! **OKAY,** BUT DON'T GET MAD IF I'M PULLING **HAIR** OUT OF MY **MOUTH** ALL DAY!

SO, SINCE YOU **COULDN'T** GET **OWEN MANNING** AS THE OTHER PLAYER, WHO **DID** YOU GET?

ONE OF THE **TRAWLERS'** PLAYERS WHO LOOKS **ENOUGH** LIKE MANNING TO **PASS** FOR HIM AT A DISTANCE! THAT'S **HIM** OUT THERE!

HMPH! I GUESS HE **DOES** LOOK A **LITTLE** LIKE OWEN... FROM **HERE** AT LEAST!

OKAY! NOW THAT EVERYONE'S **FINALLY** HERE, WHY DON'T WE TRY A FEW **TRIAL RUNS** AND SEE HOW THIS PLAYS OUT! OKAY?

WITHOUT THE ROBE, I SUPPOSE!

DEFINITELY!

OH YEAH!

WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY!

SIGH!
FINE!

I DON'T SEE WHY THEY COULDN'T HAVE SETUP **HERE** INSTEAD OF **WAY OVER THERE!** I'LL BE **LUCKY** IF I DON'T **BREAK** MY **ANKLES** NAVIGATING THIS **ICE** IN THESE **HEELS!**

I DON'T SEE **WHY** I COULDN'T WEAR **SKATES** LIKE **EVERYONE ELSE!**

WOW! THAT GUY REALLY DOES LOOK A LOT LIKE OWEN!

WAIT A MINUTE! IS THAT...?!


OH MY GOD! OWEN?! YOU'RE HERE! I THOUGHT THAT...!
...I'D BE OUT OF TOWN? AND I WAS!

BUT WHEN I HEARD **YOU** WERE PART OF ALL THIS, I **CHANGED** THOSE PLANS IN A **HEARTBEAT!**

I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD **THESE** GUYS! I JUST **PAID OFF** THE KID THEY HIRED AND **TOOK HIS PLACE!**

I'M **SO** GLAD YOU **DID!**

SO AM I, 'CAUSE... LOOK AT YOU! WOW!!

YEAH, I'LL... UMM, EXPLAIN ALL THIS LATER!

MAYBE, IF YOU'D LIKE, WE CAN GET TOGETHER AFTER THE SHOOT?

OH, I'D LIKE! DEFINITELY!

HOPE YOU LIKE SLOPPY SECONDS, MANNING! 'CAUSE THAT'S ALL YOU'LL GET... IF YOU'RE LUCKY! HEH-HEH!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SWEET CHEEKS?

UGH! IGNORE HIM... PLEASE!

THAT'S GONNA BE KINDA **HARD** TO DO WITH ME **SLAMMING** **HIM** TO THE **ICE** ALL AFTERNOON! **HAW!**

THIS ISN'T A REAL MATCH, GODDAMN IT!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **HIM**, SHERRI! SCHWARTZKOPF HAS **ALWAYS** BEEN MORE **BARK** THAN **BITE!**

IF YOU SAY SO!

OKAY, YOU THREE... **LET'S DO THIS!** GET INTO POSITIONS!

IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, *I'M* PRETTY DAMN *NERVOUS* ABOUT ALL THIS!

DON'T *WORRY*, SHERRI! YOU'LL DO *GREAT!* I'M *SURE* OF IT!

I'M JUST GLAD THAT ***YOU'RE*** HERE, OWEN! I DON'T THINK I COULD DO IT ***WITHOUT*** YOU!

HEY, YOU CAN THANK ME LATER!

OH, I ***PLAN*** TO!

DEFINITELY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT!

WOW!!

And, as the photoshoot begins...

OH YEAH! NOW THAT'S A MONEY SHOT!

HAW!!

Whack!!

UGH!!

OH YEAH! I'M ALREADY ENJOYING THE HELL OUTTA THIS!

HEH-HEH!!

OWEN?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

WHOA! YEAH... I'M OKAY!


AREN'T YOU GOING TO *RETURN* THE FAVOR TO THAT... THAT *ANIMAL!*
HE'S NOT *WORTH* IT! BESIDES, I'M *SURE* YOUR BOSSES WOULDN'T WANT A FULL-BLOWN *FIGHT* BREAKING OUT IN THE *MIDDLE* OF THEIR PHOTOSHOOT!
I'LL JUST BE *ON MY GUARD* FROM NOW ON!

But, as the photoshoot continues...

OH, NOW THAT'S HOT!

OH YEAH! I WANT TO SEE MORE LIKE THAT!

HEY!!

OOF!

HEH-
HEH!


PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING ALL THIS!
OH YEAH!

HOCKEY STICK

HOCKEY STICK

BEAUTIFUL!
JUST
BEAUTIFUL!

I KINDA *LIKE* THIS SHOT!

HMMM... I CAN *TELL!* *GIGGLE!*

OKAY, LET'S **FLIP** THAT ONE AROUND! **SHERRI...** GET OVER WITH **MAX** THIS TIME!

OH YEAH! **C'MERE,** SWEET CHEEKS!

EWWW!


C'MON, SWEETIE! YOU CAN GET A LOT CLOSER THAN THAT! HEH-HEH!
2
YEAH, BUT WHY THE HELL WOULD ANYONE WANT TO? UGH!

UMM... CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE *FRIENDLIER* SMILE THAN *THAT*, SHERRI?

I'M *TRYING!*

HOCKEY STICK

2


OKAY... WE GOT IT!
THANK GOD!

I GOT IT, TOO! HEH-HEH!

WHAT THE...?!

YOU FUCKING BASTARD!!

JUST A LITTLE FOREPLAY, SWEET CHEEKS! HEH-HEH!

YOU CAN'T *TELL* ME YOU DIDN'T *LIKE* IT! *HAR-HAR!!*

HUH?!


Wham!!


YEAH, THAT'S, UHHH... LUNCH EVERYBODY!


Later that evening, at the Bay City Inn...
I THINK THAT WAS THE BEST CHICKEN SPIEDINI I'VE EVER HAD!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT!

HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT PLACE?

WELL, LIKE MOST EVERYONE, I STARTED OUT MY CAREER IN THE MINORS! AND WHEN YOU TRAVEL AROUND AS MUCH AS WE DID, YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE ALL THE BEST PLACES TO EAT ARE!

YOU OBVIOUSLY GOT TO BAY CITY MORE THAN ONCE, DIDN'T YOU?

YES... YES WE DID!


SO, LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE ABOUT TO SEE A SPECIALIST ABOUT YOUR KNEE! HOW DID THAT TURN OUT?
WELL... ACTUALLY THAT'S WHY I ALMOST WASN'T ABLE TO BE HERE! I'M HAVING SURGERY DONE ON IT!
OH MY GOD! HOW EXTENSIVE IS THE SURGERY?
IF SUCCESSFUL, I COULD MAYBE SQUEEZE IN ONE MORE SEASON! BUT AFTER THAT... !

ONLY ONE MORE SEASON? WHO ALL KNOWS ABOUT THAT?

OF... OF COURSE, OWEN! YOU CAN TRUST ME!

BESIDES THE DOC? COACH, THE TEAM'S OWNER, AND NOW... YOU!

SO IF YOU COULD KEEP THIS UNDER YOUR HAT, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT!

I KNOW I CAN!

SPEAKING OF **TRUST**, YOU'VE BEEN VERY.. **GENTLEMANLY** IN THE WAY YOU'VE **AVOIDED** ASKING **ME** ABOUT MY OBVIOUS **CHANGES** SINCE WE FIRST MET!

WELL... I FIGURED YOU'D **TELL ME** WHEN YOU WERE **GOOD** AND **READY!**

AND FOR THE **RECORD**, I THOUGHT YOU WERE **ALREADY** ONE OF THE MOST **BEAUTIFUL WOMEN** I'D **EVER** SEEN WHEN WE MET LAST TIME! BUT **NOW... WOW!**


YOU DEFINITELY KNOW ALL THE RIGHT THINGS TO SAY TO ME, DON'T YOU?
IT JUST COMES NATURALLY WHEN I'M WITH YOU!
SIGH! AND NOW IT'S MY TURN TO TRUST YOU WITH SOMETHING!


I KNOW! BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE TO IT THAN THAT! AND I REALLY WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
REALLY?
YOU KNOW, A LOT OF WOMEN HAVE WORK DONE, SHERRI! IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF OR SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT! ESPECIALLY WITH ME!
YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING AND IT WON'T CHANGE THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU!
REALLY!

MMMMMM! THEN I **REALLY** NEED **YOU** TO COME UP TO **MY ROOM** SO I CAN **TELL YOU**... AND **SHOW YOU**... **EVERYTHING** THE **RIGHT** WAY!

YOU HAVE **NO IDEA** HOW MUCH I **WISH** I **COULD!** BUT I **RESCHEDULED** MY **SURGERY** FOR **TOMORROW MORNING** AND MY **FLIGHT** TO **CHICAGO** LEAVES IN ABOUT **AN HOUR!**


AN HOUR? BUT... BUT THAT DOESN'T LEAVE US TIME FOR... ANYTHING!
I KNOW! AND I'M SORRY!


BUT AT LEAST WE DO HAVE TIME FOR THIS...!





OHHHHH! YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO?

'FRAID SO! THIS IS THE LAST FLIGHT OF THE NIGHT AND I ALREADY POSTPONED THE SURGERY ONCE TO BE HERE!

THE DOCS WON'T LET ME POSTPONE IT AGAIN!


BUT I PROMISE I'LL CALL YOU IN A COUPLE OF DAYS AND LET YOU KNOW HOW EVERYTHING WENT!
AND HOW SOON I CAN GET BACK TO YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS!
YOU'D BETTER!


WOW! THAT... THAT WAS SURREAL! I WAS REALLY READY TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING!
I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES... I JUST SUDDENLY, DESPERATELY WANTED HIM TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME!


WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS GUY THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DO CRAZY INSANE THINGS LIKE THAT!
HMPH! SHE ASKS HERSELF AS SHE WATCHES HIS CUTE BUTT WALK OFF INTO THE NIGHT! *SIGH!*


GOD! LISTEN TO ME! I SOUND LIKE A FAN GIRL FAWNING OVER HER FAVORITE JOCK SUPERSTAR!
WHICH, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I AM! *GIGGLE!

I MAY HAVE CROSSED THE **THRESHOLD** INTO **WOMANHOOD** WITH **PETE**, BUT THAT WAS JUST **RAW SEX**... NOTHING MORE!

BUT WITH **OWEN** IT'S **SO** MUCH **DIFFERENT!** THE WAY HE **TREATS** ME, I FEEL SO... **FEMININE!** DOWNRIGHT **GIRLY!**

OF COURSE THE FACT THAT HE'S **ALSO** BUILT LIKE A **GREEK GOD** DOESN'T HURT!

SIGH! AND I WAS **SO CLOSE** TO SEEING IF **ALL** OF HIM WAS BUILT THAT WAY! *GIGGLE!*


OH WELL... IT'S A GOOD THING I BROUGHT MY LITTLE TOY WITH ME ON THIS TRIP!


HOPE THE BATTERIES HOLD OUT! *GIGGLE!*

A few days later, at Paul and Dayna's apartment...

Knock, knock!!

BABE? CAN YOU GET THAT?

UH-HUH!

OKAY, FINE! I'LL GET IT!

HEAVEN FORBID I COME BETWEEN YOU AND "THE KIMDASHIANS"!

Knock, knock!!

UH-HUH!


HEY THERE, SIS!
THERE'S MY FAVORITE SUPERMODEL! COME ON IN, YOU!

OH MY GOD! LOOK AT YOU! THIS HAIR IS... SPECTACULAR! IS IT REAL?

YEAH, IT'S MOSTLY MINE... WITH EXTENSIONS! IT'S THE STYLE THEY INSISTED I HAD TO HAVE IN THE PHOTOS!

I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO DO ANYTHING WITH IT YET SINCE WE JUST GOT BACK!

I LOVE IT! I THINK YOU SHOULD KEEP IT JUST LIKE THAT!

REALLY? I THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE... TOO WILD AT FIRST! BUT IT'S STARTING TO GROW ON ME!

YOU REALLY THINK I SHOULD KEEP IT LIKE THIS?

DEFINITELY!


GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES TO GET READY AND THEN WE'LL HEAD OUT!
I'M JUST DYING TO HEAR ALL THE DETAILS OF YOUR TRIP TO BAY CITY AND THE LIFE OF A SUPERMODEL!
TAKE YOUR TIME! I'LL BE IN HERE WITH YOUR OH-SO-CHARMING SIGNIFICANT OTHER!

AND **STOP** CALLING ME A **SUPERMODEL!**

NOT A CHANCE!

SO... **THIS** IS HOW YOU **ENTERTAIN** YOURSELF AT HOME! **SAD!**

YOU **DO** REALIZE THAT THE ONLY **REAL** PARTS OF **ANY** OF THEM ARE THEIR **SINGLE-DIGIT IQS!**

LOOK WHO'S TALKING ABOUT WHAT MAKES A **REAL WOMAN!** HEH!


WHOA! WHERE'D YOU GET THE FRIGHT WIG?
SAME PLACE YOU GOT YOUR LOOKS... YOUR MOMMA!

LOOK, WE COULD STAND HERE AND TOSS **INSULTS** BACK AND FORTH UNTIL **DAYNA** COMES BACK, **OR** WE COULD TALK ABOUT SOME VERY **LUCRATIVE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES!**

THAT **IS,** AFTER ALL, WHAT YOU'RE **BLACKMAILING** ME TO DO **ISN'T IT?**

HEY, KEEP TALKING LIKE **THAT** WITH **DAYNA** NEARBY AND YOU'LL **WISH** OUR ARRANGEMENT IS AS **COZY** AS IT **IS** RIGHT NOW!


OKAY, NOW THAT WE'RE BOTH DONE THROWING OUR METAPHORICAL DICKS AROUND, CAN I TELL YOU WHAT I FOUND OUT THIS WEEK?
SURE... SPILL IT!

SO, I'M SURE YOU **ALREADY** KNOW ABOUT THIS COMPANY I DID THE **PHOTOSHOOT** FOR AND THEIR NEW **REFEREE** SOFTWARE!

OF COURSE! I'VE **DONE** MY RESEARCH! THEY'RE **EXPECTED** TO DO **PRETTY DAMN WELL!**

NOT JUST "PRETTY DAMN WELL"... THIS NEW SOFTWARE OF THEIRS IS GOING TO MAKE THEM **HUGE!**

SO WHAT? THEY'RE A **PRIVATELY HELD** COMPANY! **NO WAY** TO **BUY IN!** SO **WHAT'S** THE **BIG DEAL?**

THE **BIG DEAL** IS, THEY'RE IN TALKS TO **BUY UP** ONE OF THEIR SMALLER COMPETITORS... **VINO SOFTWARE!** AND VINO IS **PUBLICLY** TRADED!

WHICH MEANS **ANYONE** OWNING **VINO STOCK** WILL WATCH IT **SKYROCKET** WHEN **REFEREE** BUYS THEM OUT!

EXACTLY!

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST TAKE YOUR WORD FOR ALL THIS, HUH? IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THE LAST LITTLE PIECE OF INFO YOU BROUGHT ME WAS TOTALLY BOGUS!

THAT WASN'T MY FAULT! I TOLD YOU THAT!

WHATEVER! SO IF THIS IS SUCH A GREAT DEAL, HOW MUCH VINO STOCK ARE YOU BUYING UP?

SERIOUSLY? I'M TOO CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE COMPANY! I'D GET BUSTED FOR INSIDER TRADING AS SOON AS THE ACQUISITION WAS MADE PUBLIC!

AW, C'MON! A SMART GIRL LIKE YOU COULD FIGURE A WAY TO GET IT DONE! YOU WERE IN THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS, WEREN'T YOU?

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT YOUR SISTER KEEPS TELLING ME!

CONSIDERING HOW LITTLE I HAVE TO INVEST, IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK! BUT FOR SOMEONE WITH MORE MONEY AND NO TIES TO THE COMPANY, WELL...!

OKAY! I'M READY TO GO!

GREAT! LET'S DO THIS!

THEY'RE *ANNOUNCING* IN A FEW DAYS! JUST SAYIN'!

SEE YOU LATER, HONEY!

YEAH, YEAH! YOU GO DO **WHATEVER** IT IS YOU **GIRLS** DO! I'LL SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET HOME!

GOD, I CAN'T GET **OVER** HOW **GORGEOUS** YOUR HAIR IS NOW!

MAKES ME WISH **I'D** KEPT **MINE** LONG... LIKE IT WAS IN **COLLEGE!**

WHO SAYS YOU **CAN'T** HAVE IT LONG AGAIN? MAYBE WE NEED TO SCHEDULE A LITTLE **TRIP** TO SEE **MARCO** TOMORROW FOR SOME **HAIR EXTENSIONS?** HMMM?

SALON AND **SHOPPING** ALL DAY? WE'LL MAKE IT A **SISTERS' DAY OUT!**

MAYBE... BUT FOR **TONIGHT,** I JUST WANT TO HEAR ALL THE **JUICY DETAILS** OF YOUR TRIP!

ANYTHING IN **PARTICULAR** YOU WANT TO **TELL** ME AFTER SPENDING A COUPLE OF **DAYS** HANGING ALL OVER **BEEFY JOCKS?** *GIGGLE!*

WELL... **MAYBE!** BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO **WAIT** A BIT FIRST! THERE'S SOMETHING **ELSE** I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!

REALLY? LIKE **WHAT?**


I THINK I MAY HAVE FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING TO INVEST MY INHERITANCE MONEY ON!
REALLY? DO TELL...!

Slam!!

SO... SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO INVEST, HUH?

I KNEW SHE'D HAVE SOME WAY TO CASH IN ON THIS ACQUISITION!

AND THE FACT THAT SHE'S TRYING TO KEEP IT FROM ME TELLS ME EVERYTHING I WANT TO KNOW!

EVEN IF I HAD ***MORE TIME***, I PROBABLY ***WOULDN'T*** BE ABLE TO SCROUNGE UP ***ENOUGH MONEY*** OF MY OWN TO REALLY ***CASH IN*** ON THIS ***GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!***

BUT WHO SAYS I ***HAVE*** TO USE MY ***OWN*** MONEY?

I DIDN'T PUT IN ***ALL*** THESE ***YEARS*** AT ***STEMCORP*** WITHOUT ***LEARNING*** A THING OR TWO ABOUT ***CREATIVE MONEY MANAGEMENT***... BOTH PERSONAL ***AND*** CORPORATE!

LUCKY FOR ME, ***STEMCORP*** HAS SEVERAL OLD ***SLUSH FUNDS*** FLOATING AROUND JUST ***ASKING*** TO BE DIPPED INTO... ***TEMPORARILY,*** OF COURSE!

AND, IF I ACT ***FAST*** ENOUGH, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH ***VINO STOCK*** LEFT FOR LITTLE MISS ***SHERRI*** TO EVEN ***LOOK*** AT!

AND, IF I **ACCESS** THOSE FUNDS FROM ONE OF OUR **OUT OF STATE** SUBSIDIARIES, I CAN HAVE TO BACK IN PLACE **LONG** BEFORE **ANYONE** EVEN **NOTICES** IT'S **GONE!**

SIGH! **GOD,** I **LOVE CRUSHING DREAMS!** HEH-HEH!

The following night...

GIGGLE! HAVING A LITTLE ***TROUBLE*** WITH THE ***KEYS*** THERE, SIS?

HUSH YOU! I ONLY HAD ***ONE DRINK***... MAYBE TWO... ***TOPS!***


I FIND THAT A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE, CONSIDERING HOW MANY GUYS WERE SENDING DRINKS OVER TO YOU TONIGHT!
HEY, THEY WERE SENDING THEM TO BOTH OF US!
MAYBE SO, BUT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS FLIRTING UP A STORM! ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE LAST TWO GUYS!
WHAT CAN I SAY? THEY WERE DAMN CUTE! *GIGGLE!*

SEEING **YOU** IN **ACTION** TONIGHT CONFIRMS A **SUSPICION** I'VE HAD FOR AWHILE!

WHICH IS?

YOU'RE TOTALLY INTO **GUYS** NOW, AREN'T YOU? OR MAYBE... HAVE YOU **ALWAYS** LIKED THEM?

OH, IT'S **DEFINITELY** A **RECENT** DEVELOPMENT! *GIGGLE!*

WOW! MY "LITTLE BROTHER" HAS BECOME THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN THE CLUBS! THAT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO!

I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN WHILE WE WERE GROWING UP! I WOULD'VE DEVELOPED A MAJOR INFERIORITY COMPLEX, LOSING ALL MY BOYFRIENDS TO YOU!

YOU SHOULD **NEVER** FEEL INFERIOR TO **ANYONE**, DAYNA... **ESPECIALLY ME!**

YOU HAVE **ALWAYS** BEEN MY **BEAUTIFUL, SMART** AND **DRIVEN BIG SISTER**! SOMEONE I'VE ALWAYS **LOOKED UP TO** AND **MODELED** MYSELF AFTER!

BUT **MY** "DEVELOPMENT" IS RECENT, AND AS WE **BOTH** KNOW, **ARTIFICIAL!** THE WOMAN **I'VE** BECOME IS A RESULT OF **NECESSITY** MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE! I DIDN'T **CHOOSE** TO BE THIS WAY!

AND EVEN THOUGH **SHERRI** IS A **FAR CRY** FROM **DARYL**, SHE **STILL** BASES HER LIFE ON EVERYTHING SHE **OBSERVED** AND **LEARNED** FROM HER BIG SISTER... **YOU!**

AND, BEFORE THIS DEVOLVES INTO A **MUSHY CRYING FEST,** LET ME POINT OUT AGAIN THAT GUYS WERE HITTING ON **BOTH** OF US ALL NIGHT, **NOT JUST ME!**

IF **YOU'D** HAVE **LOOSENED UP** A LITTLE BIT, YOU COULD'VE HAD **ANY ONE** OF THOSE GUYS... **EVEN** THAT GORGEOUS **FIREFIGHTER** I **KNOW** YOU HAD YOUR EYE ON! *GIGGLE!*

THAT'S **ONLY** BECAUSE OF THIS **MAKEOVER** YOU AND **MARCO** PUT ME THROUGH TODAY!

I **LOVE** THE **HAIR,** BUT I STILL CAN'T **BELIEVE** I LET YOU TALK ME INTO WEARING A **DRESS** LIKE **THIS!**

WHY NOT? YOU LOOK ***AMAZING*** IN IT! AND YOU ***KNOW*** THAT ***EVERY GUY*** AT THE BAR THOUGHT SO ***TOO!***

MAYBE, BUT THAT'S ***NOT*** MY LIFE ANYMORE! I'M A RESPECTABLE ***NURSE*** NOW... WITH A ***FIANCÉ***... KIND OF!

A "FIANCÉ... KIND OF" WHO'S BEEN STRINGING YOU ALONG FOR ***HOW*** MANY YEARS NOW?

LET'S NOT ***GO*** THERE, SHERRI! ***OKAY?***


YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M SORRY! WE'LL JUST AGREE TO DISAGREE ON OUR RESPECTIVE VIEWS OF PAUL AND LEAVE IT AT THAT!
DEAL!


BUT... BEFORE PAUL GETS BACK INTO TOWN AND YOU GO BACK TO YOUR "RESPECTABLE NURSE" LIFE, I WANT A PICTURE OF US TONIGHT!
EVIDENCE THAT THE REAL DAYNA STILL EXISTS, EVEN IF SHE IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY NURSE RATCHET!
OKAY!


CHEESE!


WOW! WE'RE GORGEOUS, AREN'T WE?
DAMN STRAIGHT WE ARE!

YOU KNOW, **THIS** IS THE KIND OF PICTURE THAT NEEDS TO GO IN THE **FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM!** ALONG WITH ALL THE **OTHER** PICS OF US **GROWING UP!**

OF COURSE, THERE'LL BE AN OBVIOUS LITTLE **DISCONTINUITY,** BUT... **WHO CARES?** THIS IS **JUST** FOR **US!**

GREAT IDEA! BUT, **I** DON'T HAVE OUR OLD PHOTO ALBUMS! DO **YOU?**


YOU KNOW, I THINK THEY MAY STILL BE IN A BOX DOWNSTAIRS IN MY OLD APARTMENT!
OH DAMN! PAUL'S OUT OF TOWN FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU STILL HAVE A KEY...?


AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO! LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK!

by CBlack



Chapter 12

OPPORTUNITIES

A few moments later, in the basement...

ARE YOU **SURE** YOUR OLD PLACE IS **STILL** VACANT?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT WE'RE **ABOUT** TO FIND OUT! *GIGGLE!*


YEP! STILL VACANT! I'M PRETTY SURE NOTHING'S BEEN TOUCHED SINCE I MOVED OUT!
EWWW! IT'S STILL PRETTY NASTY!


HEY, DID YOU LEAVE ANY ELECTRONICS DOWN HERE? LIKE YOUR COMPUTER?
NOT HARDLY! WHY DO YOU ASK?
'CAUSE THERE'S A LAPTOP AND SOMETHING THAT LOOKS A ROUTER OVER THERE!

NO SHIT? *THAT'S* WEIRD! IT DEFINITELY WASN'T *HERE* WHEN I MOVED OUT!

I WONDER *WHOSE* IT IS?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT *WHOEVER* IT BELONGS TO LEFT IT *ON!*


OH, IT'S A SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM! I DIDN'T KNOW THIS BUILDING HAD ONE OF THESE!
I DIDN'T EITHER! AT LEAST I'VE NEVER NOTICED ANY CAMERAS POSTED ANYWHERE!


IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL CONTROLLED THROUGH THE LAPTOP!
WELL, CAN YOU TELL WHICH PARTS OF THE BUILDING IT'S WATCHING?
NOT YET! IT'S PASSWORD PROTECTED! GIVE ME A SEC...!

YEP! IT'S **DEFINITELY** SOMETHING **PAUL** HAD INSTALLED!

'CAUSE IT USES THE **SAME OLD** TIRED **PASSWORD** PAUL USES ON **EVERYTHING!** "SUPERSTAR06"!

UH-HUH!

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

SERIOUSLY?


SO, CAN YOU TELL WHERE IT'S "SURVEILLING"?
ALMOST THERE...! ONE MORE TAB TO OPEN AND...!


OH MY GOD!
WHAT? IS IT A COUPLE GOING AT IT IN ONE OF THE STAIRWAYS? LEMME SEE! *GIGGLE!*


WHOA! THAT'S NOT A STAIRWAY! WHERE THE HELL IS THAT?
IT SAYS HERE... 306! BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
OH MY GOD! I KNOW THAT GIRL! SHE LIVES ON THE 3RD FLOOR! THEN THIS MUST BE HER...!


WE CAN'T JUST WATCH HER! LET ME TRY ANOTHER CAMERA INSTEAD!
NOBODY IN THAT ONE, BUT... IT'S STILL SOMEONE'S BEDROOM! THAT'S WEIRD...!
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME MISTAKE! THEY CAN'T ALL BE BEDROOMS...! CAN THEY?


LOOK! WE OBVIOUSLY NEED TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ALL THIS BEFORE WE JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS!
LET'S TAKE THIS ALL UP TO MY PLACE, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, TO AVOID GETTING EATEN BY RATS!
YOU CARRY THE LAPTOP AND I'LL GET THE REST! OKAY?
O... OKAY!


FINALLY, DAYNA! YOU'RE FINALLY ABOUT TO SEE THAT ASSHAT FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS!

A short time later, back in Sherri's apartment...

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WHAT'S WRONG!

THIS SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE A LIVE FEED FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT CAMERAS, BUT...!

BUT WHAT, DAYNA?

SO FAR, THEY'RE ALL IN BEDROOMS!

ALL OF THEM?

EVERY ONE I'VE LOOKED AT SO FAR! AND FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, THEY'RE ALL WOMEN'S APARTMENTS... YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE WOMEN ONLY!

UH-OH! THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD!

I NEED TO LET **DAYNA** FIGURE THINGS OUT ON HER **OWN**, SO...!

BUT YOU KNOW, **MAYBE** IT **WASN'T** PAUL! **ANYONE** WITH **ACCESS** TO **ALL** THE APARTMENTS **COULD'VE** DONE THIS!

AND THE **PASSWORD THING** COULD JUST BE A... A **COINCIDENCE!** IT'S **POSSIBLE!**

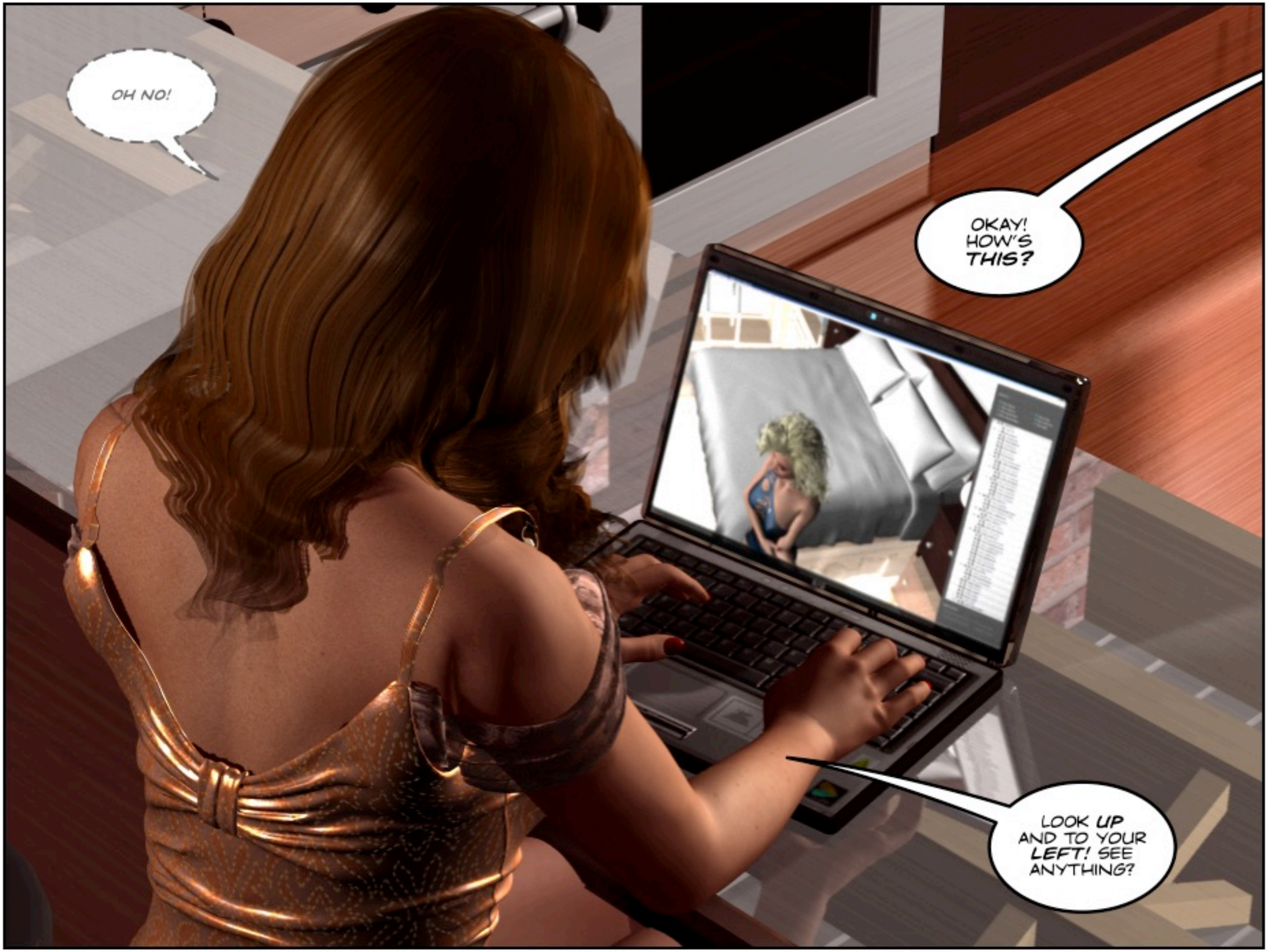
OH GOD...!!

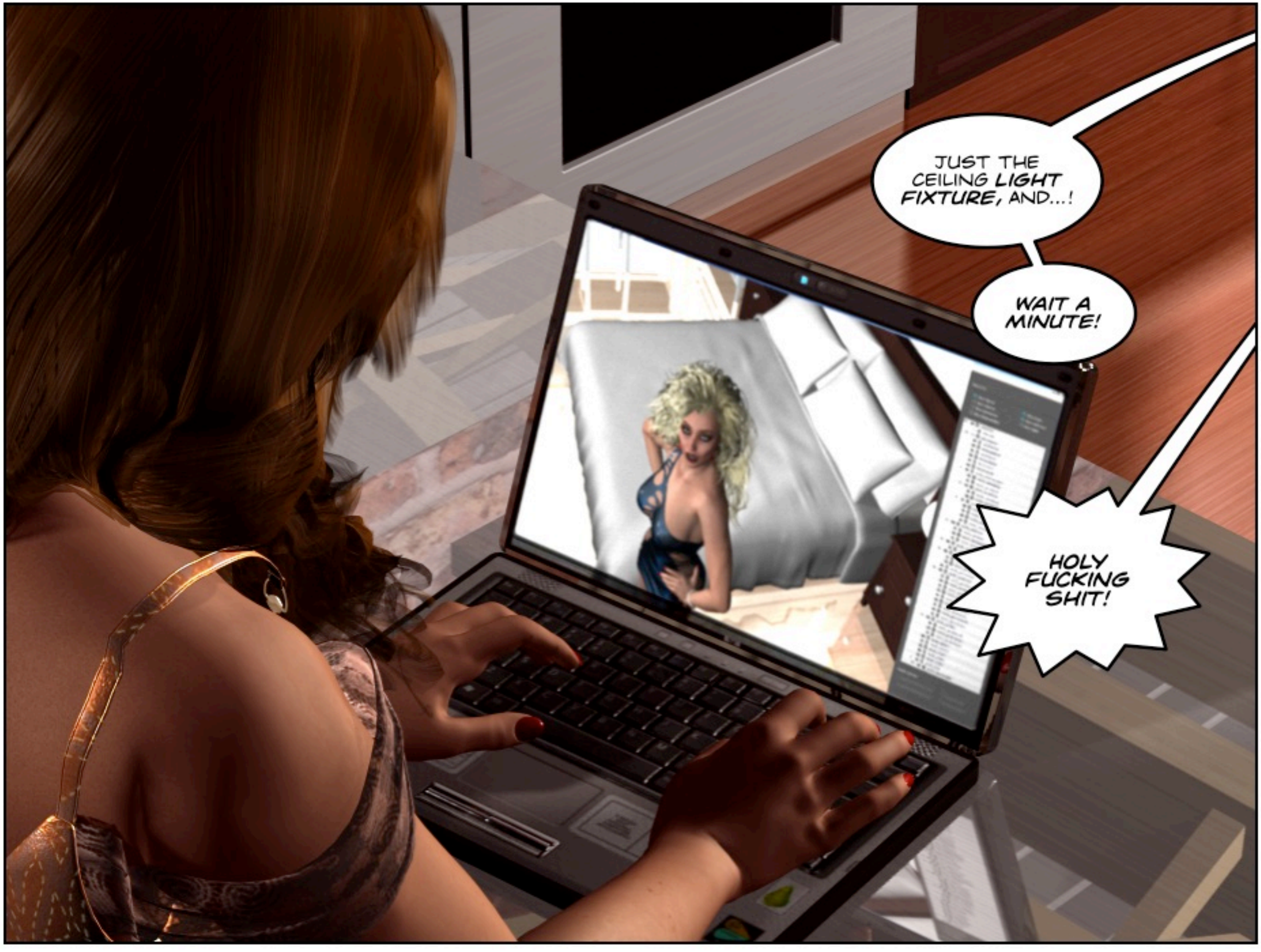
UMMM... HONEY? WALK INTO YOUR **BEDROOM** FOR A MINUTE... OKAY?

MY **BEDROOM?** BUT...!

JUST **DO** IT, PLEASE!

OH, SHIT!! YOU'RE **KIDDING!!**


OH NO!
OKAY! HOW'S THIS?
LOOK UP AND TO YOUR LEFT! SEE ANYTHING?


JUST THE CEILING LIGHT FIXTURE, AND...!
WAIT A MINUTE!
HOLY FUCKING SHIT!

MY BEDROOM, TOO? CHRIST! HOW LONG HAS THIS GODDAMN THING BEEN UP THERE... WATCHING ME?

I... I DON'T KNOW, SWEETIE! THERE'S A LOT OF STORED VIDEO ON HERE AS WELL! MAYBE THAT'LL TELL ME!

OH GOD! IT MIGHT'VE TAPED ME CHANGING CLOTHES, AND... AND OTHER THINGS! UGH!!

WELL, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE CAMERA PER APARTMENT, IF THAT'S ANY CONSOLATION!

I HOPE THAT'S TRUE, BECAUSE I SUDDENLY FEEL VERY DIRTY AND NEED TO CHANGE CLOTHES!

I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW MINUTES!

O... OKAY! I'M GOING TO KEEP LOOKING TO SEE HOW FAR BACK THESE VIDEOS GO!

MAYBE THERE'S PROOF IN HERE THAT SOMEONE ELSE DID THIS... AND NOT PAUL!

YEAH, **GOOD LUCK** WITH **THAT,** SIS! IT LOOKS LIKE **EVERY SINGLE VIDEO** IS **STILL** STORED ON THAT LAPTOP!

BY THE TIME YOU SEE JUST A **FRACTION** OF THOSE, YOU'RE GOING TO **SEE** WHAT A DEPRAVED **PSYCHO** YOUR BOYFRIEND **REALLY** IS!

AND NOW THAT I'VE **FINALLY** PULLED **THIS** FUCKING THING OUT OF MY CEILING, I DON'T HAVE TO FEEL **VIOLATED** IN MY **OWN APARTMENT** ANYMORE! **THANK GOD!**

OF COURSE, **PAUL** WON'T BE **HAPPY** ABOUT THIS, BUT **FUCK HIM!**

CONSIDERING WHAT **DAYNA'S** LOOKING AT **RIGHT ABOUT NOW,** PAUL'S GONNA HAVE A **LOT** MORE TO **WORRY** ABOUT THAN JUST **ME!** *GIGGLE!*


OH!
OH MY!


WHAT'S THE MATTER, SIS? FIND SOME MORE VIDEOS OF 306 AND ONE OF HER DATES?
UMMM... NO! IT'S NOT THE GIRL IN 306!


LOOK, SHERRI! I THINK WE SHOULD JUST SHUT THIS DOWN AND TURN IT ALL OVER TO THE POLICE!
WE REALLY HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE WATCHING THESE VIDEOS... VIOLATING EVERYONE'S PRIVACY LIKE THIS!
I JUST THINK WE SHOULD STOP RIGHT NOW!
UH-HUH! WHAT DID YOU FIND? SOMETHING JUICY, I'LL BET!
PLEASE SHERRI! I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD...!


WHOA! LOOK AT THOSE TWO GO AT IT! NOW THAT GIRL'S DEFINITELY...!

ME! OH MY GOD! THAT'S, UMMM... THAT'S ME!

I'M AFRAID IT IS, HONEY!

IT'S A VIDEO OF ME... RIDING THAT GUY LIKE A PORN STAR!

I'M SO SO SORRY, SHERRI!

WOW! I... I EXPECTED HER TO FIND THIS, BUT... I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS!

BESIDES **MIRRORS**, I'VE REALLY **NEVER** GOTTEN A GOOD **LONG LOOK** AT MYSELF SINCE I BECAME **SHERRI!** UNTIL **NOW**, THAT IS!

AND **SEEING** MYSELF LIKE **THIS**... WITH **PETE!** THE WAY I'M **MOVING**... THE **EXPRESSIONS** ON MY FACE!

I LOOK **SO**... **SO**...!

...MAYBE NO ONE ELSE WILL SEE THIS, AND...

I LOOK SO **DAMN HOT!!**

I **AM** RIDING PETE LIKE A **PORN STAR**... AND **LOOK LIKE** I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR **YEARS!**

WHEW! I MAY HAVE TO SAVE **MYSELF** A **COPY** OF THIS!

OF COURSE IT'S **DISGUSTING** TO THINK THAT PAUL PROBABLY **BEATS OFF** TO THIS EVERY CHANCE HE GETS, BUT... **WHO** CAN **BLAME** HIM?

DAMN! I AM SMOKIN'!!

HONEY? ARE YOU OKAY...?

HUH?

YOU HAVEN'T SAID A **WORD** IN THE LAST MINUTE OR SO! ARE YOU **OKAY?**

OH, UMMM... **YEAH!** I'M OKAY! I GUESS I'M JUST A LITTLE BIT **SHOCKED** KNOWING THAT SOMEONE **ELSE** HAS PROBABLY **SEEN** THIS!

COME TO THINK OF IT, **YOU** MUST BE A LITTLE **SHOCKED** YOURSELF... SEEING **ME**, YOUR "LITTLE BROTHER", IN A SITUATION LIKE **THAT!**

WELL, YOU **DID** TELL ME YOU'D BECOME **INTERESTED** IN GUYS, AFTER ALL! I JUST HADN'T **REALIZED** YOU'D ALREADY **ACTED** ON THOSE, UMMM... **INTERESTS!**

YEAH... I GUESS I **SHOULD'VE** MENTIONED THAT TO YOU!

WELL, **THAT'S** NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! WHAT **IS** IMPORTANT IS MAKING SURE **NONE** OF THESE VIDEOS IS **SEEN** BY **ANYONE ELSE!**

BUT **I'M** NOT SURE IF I KNOW **HOW** TO DO THAT!

UMMM... ISN'T THAT A **"DROPBOX"** ICON UP THERE? IF IT **IS,** IT **MIGHT** TELL US ONCE AND FOR ALL **WHO'S** BEEN **DOWNLOADING** THESE **VIDEOS!**

IT COULD BE **PAUL,** BUT... IT **MIGHT** BE SOMEONE **ELSE!**


YOU'RE RIGHT! *SIGH!* SO... LET'S SEE WHO THIS "DROPBOX" BELONGS TO...!
Click!




DAMN HIM!
OH, HONEY! I'M SO SORRY!
FINALLY! SHE SEES THAT SCUMBAG FOR WHAT HE IS! BUT... I JUST WISH IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO HARSH FOR HER!


NO! I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING TO YOU! YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A FEELING ABOUT PAUL AND TRIED TO WARN ME ABOUT HIM, BUT I CHOSE TO IGNORE YOU!
MAYBE IF I'D LISTENED TO YOU, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!

ALL THAT'S **REALLY** IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT WE **BOTH** KNOW THE **TRUTH** ABOUT **PAUL** AND WE'VE **SHUT DOWN** HIS LITTLE **PEEP SHOW!**

I **ALSO** THINK THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, **YOU** COME STAY **HERE** WITH **ME!** WHO KNOWS **HOW** HE'LL REACT WHEN HE COMES HOME AND **DISCOVERS** WHAT WE'VE DONE!

YOU CAN STAY HERE TONIGHT AND THEN WE'LL GO OVER **FIRST THING** TOMORROW AND GET THE **REST** OF YOUR THINGS!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A ***WONDERFUL*** IDEA, HONEY! I JUST ***HOPE*** THAT...!

GASP!

WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S A ***VIDEO*** OF ***PAUL*** ... IN ***YOUR APARTMENT*** ... WHILE ***YOU'RE ASLEEP!***


WHAT THE HELL?!


WHAT'S HE DOING?!
HOLY SHIT! LOOK WHAT HE'S GOT IN HIS HANDS!

GASP! OH MY GOD! YOU DIDN'T ACCIDENTALLY OVERDOSE ON THAT MEDICATION! IT WAS PAUL! HE GAVE YOU MULTIPLE INJECTIONS THAT NIGHT!

THAT SON OF A BITCH! HE LET ME THINK I DID THIS TO MYSELF!


I GUESS HE JUST COULDN'T WAIT FOR ME TO "FILL OUT" NORMALLY AND TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO SPEED THINGS UP!
ASSHOLE!


YOU... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SHERRI! ACCORDING TO THE DATE ON THIS VIDEO, I'D JUST TOLD HIM ABOUT ANOTHER PATIENT WHO HAD OVERDOSED ON THE SAME MEDICATION YOU WERE TAKING... AND THEY'D GONE INTO A COMA!

YOU MEAN HE **WASN'T** JUST TRYING TO **CHANGE** ME **FASTER?!** HE... HE WANTED TO PUT **ME** INTO A **COMA?!**

I... I'M AFRAID **SO,** HONEY! AND I'M **SO, SO SORRY** I MADE IT **POSSIBLE** FOR HIM TO **ATTEMPT** THAT!

I HAD **NO IDEA** HE WAS **CAPABLE** OF SOMETHING SO... **SO HORRIBLE!** AND TO **MY BROTHER!?**


ARE... ARE YOU OKAY, HONEY?

SHERRI...?!

THE... THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!

WHEN DOES PAUL GET BACK FROM HIS TRIP?


THEN WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO BETWEEN NOW AND THEN!

Two days later...

AHHH! A *PRODUCTIVE* AND SOON TO BE VERY *PROFITABLE* BUSINESS TRIP COMES TO AN END!

I'VE NEVER "BORROWED" ***THAT*** MUCH FROM THOSE ***SLUSH FUNDS*** BEFORE, BUT AS LONG AS I PUT IT BACK ***BEFORE*** THE MONTHLY ***AUDIT,*** NO ONE WILL BE THE ***WISER!***

AND ACCESSING THOSE ACCOUNTS FROM OUR ***WEST-COAST SUBSIDIARY*** INSTEAD OF ***HERE*** WILL GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE ***LEEWAY*** ON THE ***OUTSIDE CHANCE*** SOMEONE ***DOES*** NOTICE THE ***DISCREPANCIES!***


BUT WHEN REFEREE MAKES THEIR BIG ANNOUNCEMENT IN A FEW DAYS, MY VINO STOCK WILL SKYROCKET!
AFTER SELLING IT FOR ABOUT TEN TIMES WHAT I BOUGHT IT FOR, I'LL PUT THE COMPANY'S MONEY BACK AND START PLANNING MY RETIREMENT! HEH-HEH!

AHHH...! ONE NICE THING ABOUT BEING AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS IS HAVING A GOOD, LONG LIST OF NEW VIDEOS TO DOWNLOAD AND PERUSE!

I WONDER IF SHERRI'S STILL BANGIN' SINGLETON! HEH-HEH!


WHAT TH' HELL?!

GODDAMN IT! GO AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS AND EVERYTHING GOES TO SHIT!

PROBABLY HAD A POWER OUTAGE THAT CAUSED THE DAMN THING TO SHUT OFF, AND NOW I'VE GOTTA GO ALL THE WAY OVER THERE AND TURN IT BACK ON!

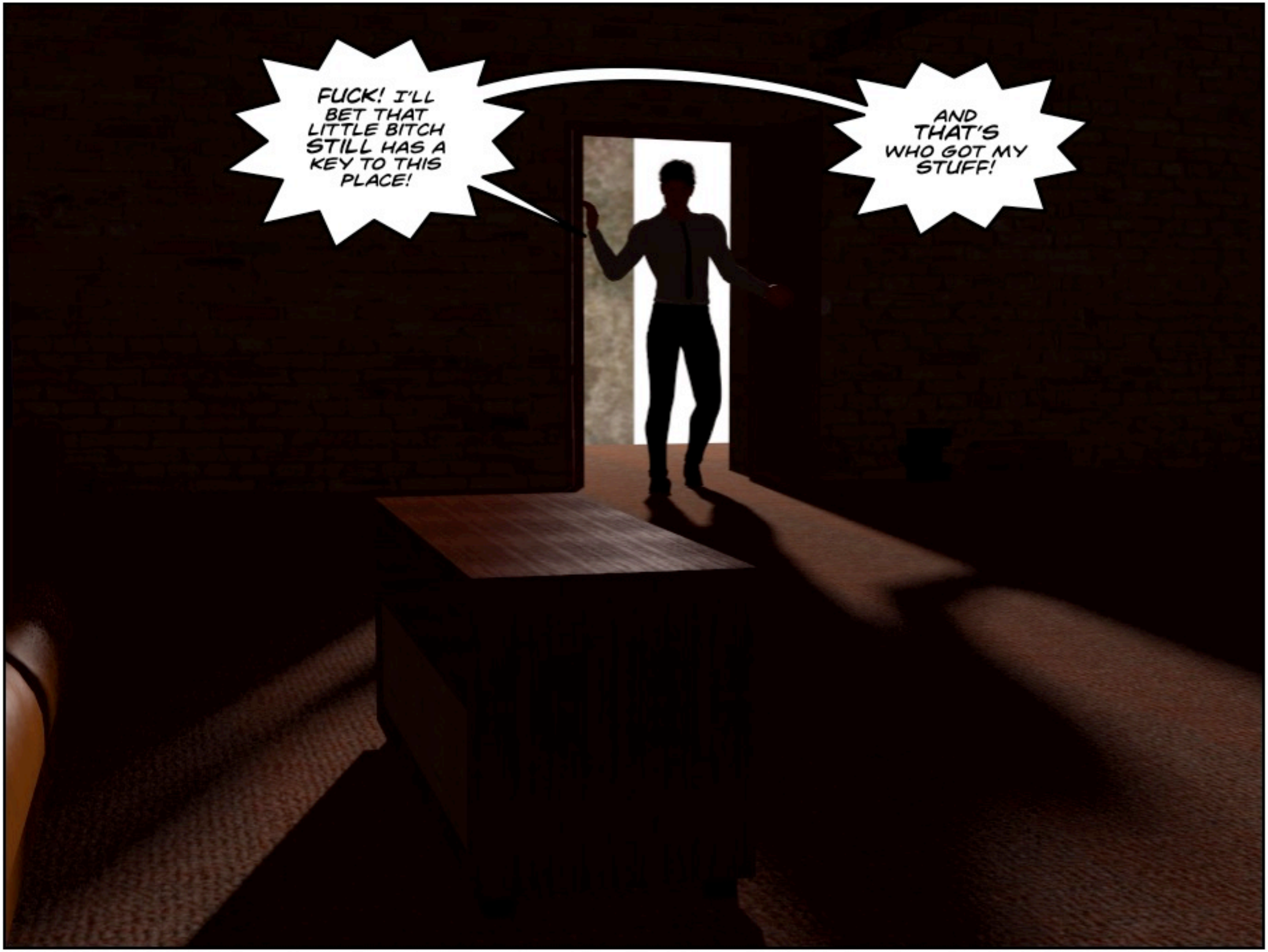
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MIGHT AS WELL GET THIS *SHIT* TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE I DO ANYTHING ELSE!

A short while later, outside Daryl's old apartment...

FUCKIN' *PAIN IN THE ASS* TECHNOLOGY!


WHAT THE FUCK?!
WHERE THE HELL'S MY EQUIPMENT?!


FUCK! I'LL BET THAT LITTLE BITCH STILL HAS A KEY TO THIS PLACE!
AND THAT'S WHO GOT MY STUFF!


WELL... SHE'LL REGRET THAT SOON ENOUGH!

A seething elevator ride later...

Bang, bang, bang!!


OPEN UP, GODDAMN IT! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
Bang, bang, bang!!

I SAID, OPEN THE FUCK UP!!

Bang, bang, bang!!

I'M THIS CLOSE TO CALLING THE FUCKING POLICE!

Bang, bang, bang!!

OPEN... THIS FUCKING... !!

...DOOR!!

ABOUT FUCKING TIME!

I WAS **WONDERING** WHEN YOU'D STOP BY FOR A **CHAT!**

WHY THE **FUCK** HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN ME A **KEY** TO THAT NEW **LOCK** YET? I **AM** YOUR **MANAGING AGENT,** AFTER ALL!

UMMM... HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR **MESSAGES** LATELY?

MY PHONE DIED **YESTERDAY** AND I HAVEN'T **RECHARGED** IT YET! **WHY?**

OH... **THIS** COULD BE **FUN!**

OKAY, **FUCK** THE KEY FOR NOW! **WHERE** THE **HELL'S** THE **EQUIPMENT** I'VE BEEN STORING IN THE **BASEMENT?**

I **KNOW** YOU TOOK IT, SO DON'T EVEN **TRY** TO **DENY** IT!

OH, I WASN'T **ABOUT** TO DENY IT!


YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT I'VE TOLD A FEW INTERESTED PARTIES ABOUT YOUR LITTLE PEEP SHOW VIDEOS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
OH PLEASE, PAUL! ALL THE SECRET VIDEOS YOU TOOK OF ME AND THE OTHER GIRLS IN THIS BUILDING!

YOU KNOW, THE ONES TAKEN FROM THE HIDDEN CAMERAS IN THE CEILING LIGHT FIXTURES OF OUR BEDROOMS! THOSE VIDEOS!

HOW THE HELL DID YOU FIND THOSE? THEY WERE PASSWORD PROTECTED!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD'VE ACCESSED THEM!

NO... BUT I COULD!

DAYNA? BABE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT WORK... OR AT HOME?

OH MY GOD! YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT ALL MY STUFF WAS GONE FROM THE APARTMENT?

JESUS, PAUL! NOW THAT I'M FINALLY SEEING YOU WITH MY EYES OPEN, I'M REALLY GETTING TO SEE THE REAL YOU!

AND THE MORE I LOOK, THE MORE DISGUSTED I GET!

LOOK BABE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR CRAZY BROTHER... SISTER... WHATEVER... HAS BEEN TELLING YOU, BUT I HAVEN'T...!

OH SHUT UP, PAUL! I'VE SEEN THE VIDEOS! WE FOUND THE CAMERAS! I ACCESSED EVERYTHING WITH YOUR RIDICULOUS PASSWORD!

SO STOP WASTING OUR TIME BY TRYING TO DENY ANY OF IT!


WE'RE THROUGH! YOU ARE OUT OF OUR LIVES FOR GOOD! AND IF YOU TRY TO MAKE ANY TROUBLE, WE HAVE ENOUGH VIDEO EVIDENCE TO HAVE YOU ARRESTED ON THE SPOT! UNDERSTAND?!


SNORT! YOU LITTLE BITCHES DON'T HAVE SQUAT! HAVING ME ARRESTED WILL LET THOSE VIDEOS GO PUBLIC AND I GUARANTEE NONE OF THE OTHER GIRLS WANT THAT TO HAPPEN!
AND HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW WE GOT THOSE MEDICATIONS FOR YOUR BROTHER? I'M SURE THE HOSPITAL WOULD JUST LOVE TO KNOW THAT ONE OF THEIR NURSES IS INTO DRUG THEFT!

THE HOSPITAL **ALREADY** KNOWS! SHERRI AND I WENT IN **YESTERDAY** AND TOLD THEM **EVERYTHING** I'D DONE!

BUT WHEN THEY SAW THE **RESULTS,** NAMELY **MOI,** THEY WERE SUDDENLY **MUCH** MORE INTERESTED IN **STUDYING** THE **EFFECTS** OF THEIR **MEDICATION** THAN SENDING **DAYNA** OFF TO **JAIL!**

SINCE SHERRI **AGREED** TO LET THE DOCTORS **STUDY** HER, THE HOSPITAL LET ME OFF WITH A **FOUR WEEK UNPAID SUSPENSION** AND **REASSIGNMENT** OF **DUTIES** WHEN I RETURN!


SO, YOU LITTLE GIRLS LUCKED OUT AND THINK EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE JUST FINE FROM HERE ON OUT, DON'T YOU?
WELL, I HOPE YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO LIVE, 'CAUSE I'M KICKING YOU TWO BITCHES OUT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!


YEAH... ABOUT THAT...! YOU SEE, ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF US NOT SUING THE OWNERS OF THIS BUILDING FOR YOUR "ACTIVITIES" IS THAT BOTH OF US GET OUR OWN APARTMENT HERE... RENT FREE... INDEFINITELY!
IT SEEMS THERE ARE SEVERAL SUDDEN VACANCIES FOR SOME REASON! AND THE OWNERS AREN'T REAL HAPPY ABOUT THAT!


THE OTHER CONDITION IS THAT YOU'RE FIRED AS MANAGING AGENT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY! WHAT THE BUILDING OWNERS PLAN TO DO WITH YOU BEYOND THAT, WE DON'T KNOW AND WE DON'T CARE!
SO I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE... NOW, BEFORE WE CALL THE AUTHORITIES AND HAVE YOU REMOVED!

OOOO! THINK HE MIGHT **RESIST ARREST?** I'D **LOVE** TO SEE THAT!

HELL, I'D **PAY** TO SEE **THAT!** PEPPER SPRAY, HANDCUFFS, **WRESTLING** TO THE **GROUND...! AWESOME!**

YOU TWO MAY **THINK** YOU'VE **WON,** BUT I WAS ABOUT TO **QUIT** THIS CRUMMY JOB **ANYWAY!**

LET THOSE TWO **BITCHES** HAVE **THIS** ROUND! THEY **WON'T** BE LAUGHING AFTER **I** MAKE MY **BIG SCORE!**

HELL, I COULD **PROBABLY** EVEN **BUY THIS PLACE** AND PUT 'EM BOTH **OUT** ON THE **STREET**! HEH-HEH!

HUH? HEY, **MOVE IT** PAL! YOU'RE **BLOCKIN'** THE HALLWAY!

I SAID...!


Bam!!



UMMM... SORRY ABOUT THE DOOR! I'LL GET IT FIXED IF IT BROKE!

OWEN?!

NO... DIFFERENT GUY!

IS HE THE GUY FROM THE...?

REALLY!? NICE WORK, SIS! *GIGGLE!*

YAY!! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU UNTIL TOMORROW!

I TALKED THE DOCS INTO GIVING ME MY WALKING PAPERS A DAY EARLY AND GRABBED THE FIRST FLIGHT HERE!

HOPE YOU'RE NOT DISAPPOINTED!

NOT POSSIBLE WHEN IT COMES TO YOU!

OHHHH! WHAT THE HELL...?

OH, **BY THE WAY** PAUL... PRACTICALLY **EVERY ONE** OF THE GIRLS THAT MOVED OUT HAS A **BOYFRIEND!**

AND, **THANKS** TO **ME,** EVERY **ONE** OF THEM KNOWS **YOUR NAME** AND **WHERE YOU LIVE!**

WHA...?!

SEE YA, PAUL!

SMACK!!

OWW!!!


UMMM... MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE!

I'M **SORRY,** DAYNA!

OWEN, THIS IS MY SISTER, **DAYNA!** DAYNA, **THIS** IS **OWEN MANNING!**

THE **HOCKEY PLAYER!?**

HI DAYNA! IT'S NICE TO ***FINALLY*** MEET YOU!

YOU TOO, OWEN! ***WOW!*** SHERRI ***TOLD*** ME ABOUT YOU, BUT SEEING YOU IN ***PERSON*** IS MUCH MORE... ***IMPRESSIVE!***

AND AS MUCH AS I'D **LOVE** TO STAY AND GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, IT'S **OBVIOUS** YOU TWO HAVE SOME **CATCHING UP** TO DO! SO **I'LL** JUST BE ON MY WAY!

I'LL TALK TO YOU **TOMORROW**, SHERRI... **OR** THE DAY **AFTER!** *GIGGLE!*

OKAY! **BYE,** SIS!

AS MUCH AS I **LOVE** HAVING YOU HERE A **DAY EARLY,** YOU **RUINED** MY PLANS FOR A **ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS!**

HMMM! WHAT **KIND** OF PLANS?

WELL **FIRST OFF,** I WAS **PLANNING** ON DRESSING A LITTLE **BETTER** THAN **THIS!**

I MEAN, **CUT OFFS** AND A **T-SHIRT** ARE **NOT** HOW I WANTED TO **GREET** YOU!


WELL THEN, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, WON'T WE!


RIGHT BACK ATCHA, BIG GUY!




MMMMM! PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, MISTER! WHAT NEXT?


GIGGLE!
WHY DON'T I JUST SHOW YOU?

GASP! OOOOO!

AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS!


THEN I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU GET ME INTO THAT BEDROOM AND FINISH THE JOB!


AS THE LADY WISHES!




The next morning...


SIGH! I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD EVER TOP LAST NIGHT! BUT WAKING UP LIKE THIS DEFINITELY GIVES LAST NIGHT A RUN FOR ITS MONEY!
I COULD REALLY GET USED TO IT!

BUT **BEFORE** I GO MAKING ANY **LONG-RANGE PLANS**, I **NEED** TO TELL OWEN THE **TRUTH** ABOUT ME!

HE'S TRUSTED ME WITH SO MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF... IT'S MY TURN TO TRUST HIM!


AND IF THAT MEANS I LOSE HIM, THEN SO BE IT!
AT LEAST WE HAD THIS ONE INCREDIBLY WONDERFUL NIGHT TOGETHER FIRST!


HEY GORGEOUS! WHAT YOU DOIN' WAY OVER THERE?
WELL WHY DON'T YOU COME CLOSER FOR A BETTER LOOK?
JUST LOOKING!
IF YOU INSIST!


NOW... WHERE WERE WE?
UMMM... AS MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST NIGHT, I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT SOMETHING!
SOMETHING IMPORTANT!


"SOMETHING IMPORTANT?" UH-OH! THAT DOESN'T BODE WELL!
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED, ARE YOU?
NO!
PREGNANT?
NO!
ALREADY HAVE KIDS?
HARDLY!


FUNNY HOW ALL THOSE THINGS WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIER TO TELL YOU! ALL VERY CUT AND DRIED!
OKAY, I'M OFFICIALLY WORRIED NOW! PLEASE TELL ME WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT TO TELL ME!
I GUESS JUST SAYING IT IS THE BEST WAY TO START! SO... HERE GOES...!


I... I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN A WOMAN!



I ASSUME YOU'RE **NOT** REFERRING TO HOW YOU **USED** TO BE A **GIRL**, BUT **NOW** YOU'VE BECOME A **WOMAN**... RIGHT?

YEAH, I UHHH... I WISH THAT **WERE** THE CASE!

OKAY THEN... TELL ME **MORE!**

OKAY... SEE THAT *PICTURE* ON THE NIGHTSTAND? IT WAS TAKEN *TWO YEARS AGO!*

ISN'T THAT YOUR SISTER, *DAYNA*, ON THE RIGHT?

YES IT IS!

AND, THE PERSON ON THE *LEFT...?*

THAT'S **ME!** I WAS BORN **DARYL WAYNE PRUITT**... DAYNA'S LITTLE **BROTHER!**

WELL... I GUESS WE **DO** HAVE SOMETHING ***IMPORTANT*** TO TALK ABOUT!

AND I THINK IT'S ***BEST*** THAT ***YOU*** GO ***FIRST...!***

An hour or so later...

...AND IT **ALL** PRETTY MUCH **CULMINATED** IN YESTERDAY'S **FACE-OFF** WITH **PAUL!**


SO... ? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
I'M THINKING I'D LIKE A DO-OVER "MEETING" WITH PAUL YESTERDAY! HE GOT OFF WAY TOO DAMN EASY!
HARDLY!
IS THAT ALL?

YOU KNOW, *INCLUDING* THAT *FIRST TIME* WE MET, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER *THREE TIMES*... AND IT'S *NEVER* OCCURRED TO ME FOR *ONE INSTANT* THAT YOU WERE EVER *ANYTHING* BUT *100% WOMAN!*

I AM *NOW*, IF THAT MAKES *ANY* DIFFERENCE!

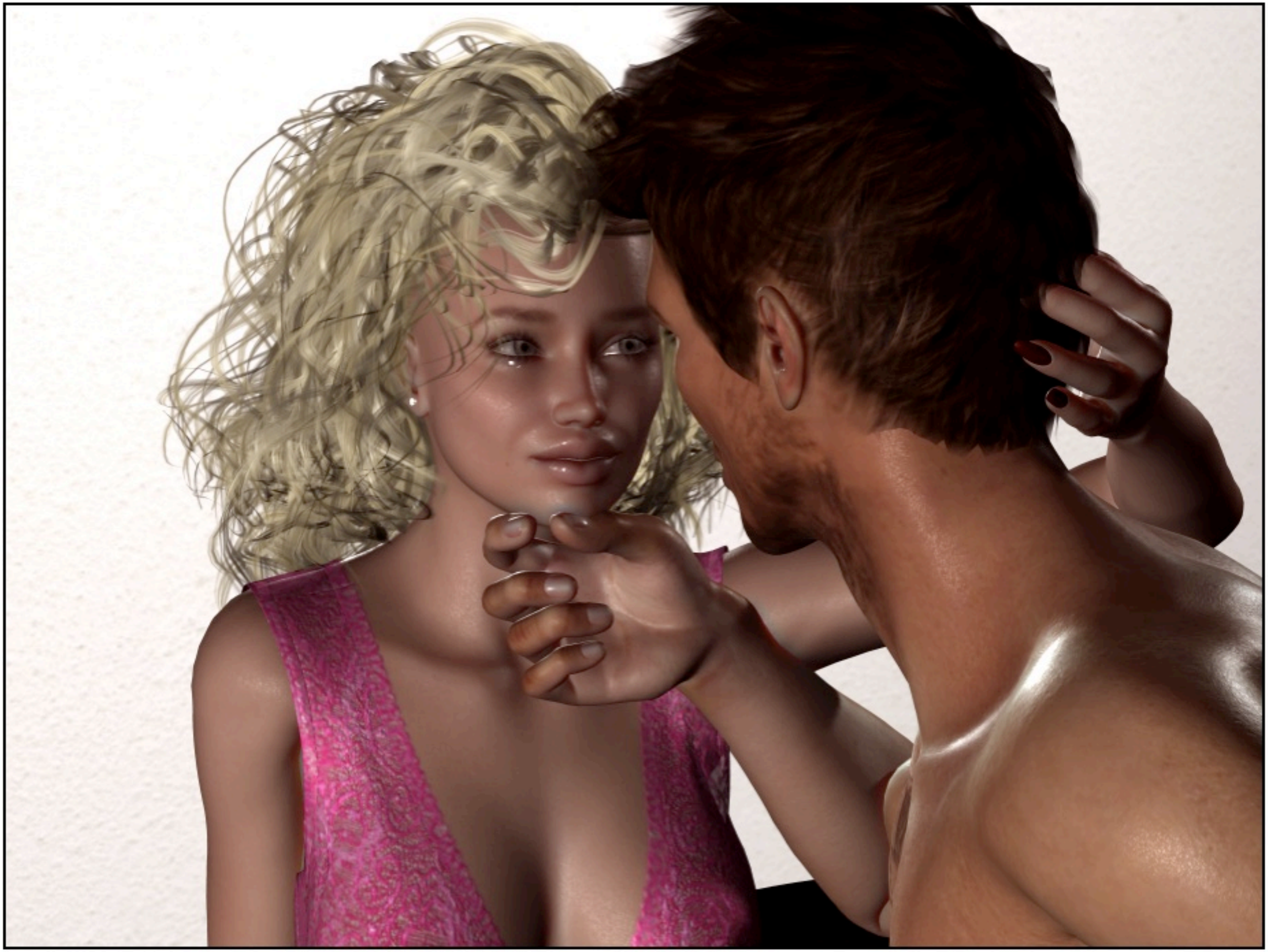
OH, I'M *WELL AWARE* OF *THAT! ESPECIALLY* AFTER *LAST NIGHT!*


YOU WANTED TO TELL ME ALL THIS LAST WEEK IN BAY CITY, DIDN'T YOU?
UH-HUH! I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH BEFORE THINGS WENT ANY FURTHER BETWEEN US!
WELL, IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO KNOW SOONER, BUT I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER NOW!
WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN... I FELL FOR YOU BACK IN THAT HOTEL BAR IN CHICAGO! AND I FELL HARD!

I DON'T CARE WHO YOU USED TO BE OR WHERE YOU CAME FROM! WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, ALL I SEE IS THE BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT WOMAN I MADE LOVE TO LAST NIGHT!

AN ACT I HOPE TO REPEAT WITH HER OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN... IF SHE'LL LET ME!







I TAKE IT THIS MEANS YOU *WILL* LET ME, HUH?

LET YOU? BABY, *TRY* AND *STOP ME!*


HOPE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER PLANS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, LOVE!
IF I DID, CONSIDER THEM CANCELLED!


MMMMMMM, GOOD! 'CAUSE THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A VERY GOOD DAY!

by CBlack



Chapter 13

OPPORTUNITIES

And The following morning...

YOU'RE **SURE** YOU **HAVE** TO GO?

I DON'T **WANT** TO, BABE, BUT I REALLY **SHOULD!**

I PROMISED THE DOCS, COACH AND **MYSELF** THAT I'D GET BACK **ASAP** TO START THE **REHAB** ON MY **KNEE!**

IF **THIS** IS GONNA BE MY **LAST SEASON,** I WANT IT TO BE A **GOOD ONE!**

AND YOU'RE *REALLY* SURE YOU HAVE TO GO *NOW?*

MAYBE YOU SHOULD CATCH A *LATER* FLIGHT? LIKE *NEXT TUESDAY'S?*

KEEP PRANCING AROUND LIKE *THAT* AND *YOU'LL* HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO MY TEAMMATES *WHY* I'LL BE PLAYING WITH ONLY *ONE* GOOD KNEE!


BESIDES, DON'T YOU HAVE TO GET TO WORK? IT IS MONDAY, AFTER ALL!
OOPS! I GUESS I DO! *GIGGLE!*


BUT I DO HAVE A VERY UNDERSTANDING BOSS!
AND EVEN IF HE DID DOCK MY PAY FOR BEING LATE, I'M SURE IT'D BE WORTH IT!
WHADDYA SAY, SAILOR? ONE FOR THE ROAD?
YOU, GIRL, ARE INCORRIGIBLE... AND INSATIABLE! YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

UH-HUH! AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?

OOOHHHH! YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE THIS EASY, ARE YOU?

NOT BY A LONG SHOT!

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE **I** HAVE TO BE THE **RESPONSIBLE GROWN-UP** HERE AND **INSIST** YOU GO **BACK** IN THERE AND **GET READY FOR WORK!**

OH, POOH! **YOU'RE** NO FUN!

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL **ANY** BETTER, WE'LL PICK UP **RIGHT** WHERE WE LEFT OFF WHEN **YOU** COME UP TO **QUEBEC** NEXT WEEK! **OKAY?**

MM-HMM! AND THE WEEK AFTER **THAT** WHEN **YOU** COME BACK **HERE!** AND **SO ON**, AND **SO ON...!**

IT **WON'T** BE EASY, YOU KNOW! I HAVE TO TRAVEL **A LOT!**


WELL THEN, I'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING TO MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS COME BACK TO ME!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, YOU...! I SAID...!


MMMMM!
MMFFF!


SIGH!


WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK!
GIGGLE!

Later that day...

♪♫♫♫♫♫

♪♪♫♩♯♫♯♬


SIGH!
YOU'VE BEEN IN A VERY GOOD MOOD ALL DAY!

ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

OH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT! *GIGGLE!*

WELL I WON'T **PRY** FOR **DETAILS!** I'M JUST **HAPPY** TO SEE THINGS ARE **FINALLY** WORKING OUT FOR YOU!

OH, **THEY ARE,** GAVIN! THEY MOST **DEFINITELY** ARE!

EVEN YOUR PROBLEMS WITH **PAUL?**

ESPECIALLY OUR PROBLEMS WITH **PAUL!**

REALLY? **EVERYTHING** TAKEN CARE OF?

WELL, HE NO LONGER HAS **ANYTHING** TO **BLACKMAIL** ME **OR** DAYNA WITH, WE GOT HIM **FIRED** AS **MANAGING AGENT** OF MY BUILDING, **AND,** THE MOST **IMPORTANT** THING, **DAYNA** IS **FREE** OF HIM **FOR GOOD!**

I **ALSO** EVEN MANAGED TO PUT A LITTLE **DING** IN HIS **FINANCES** AS **PAYBACK** FOR ALL THE **TROUBLE** HE'S CAUSED!

A "DING" IN HIS FINANCES, HMMM? I PROBABLY **DON'T** WANT TO HEAR ANY **DETAILS** ON **THAT** EITHER, DO I?

NO, YOU PROBABLY **DON'T!**

OKAY, BUT TELL ME **THIS**... DOES IT HAVE **ANYTHING** TO DO WITH VINO SOFTWARE'S **ANNOUNCEMENT** TODAY?

I HEAR THE **STOCKHOLDERS** ARE **FURIOUS** WITH THE FOUNDER'S DECISION, BUT SINCE **HE** OWNS **51%** OF THE STOCK, THERE'S NOT **MUCH** THEY CAN **DO** ABOUT IT... EXCEPT WATCH **ALL** THEIR STOCK TURN TO **CONFETTI!**

YOU MEAN THEIR DECISION TO **DISSOLVE** THE **COMPANY** INSTEAD OF TRYING TO **COMPETE** WITH **REFEREE?** IT **MIGHT!**

YEAH... **I** HEARD THAT TOO!

YOU KNOW, THERE WERE EVEN A FEW **RUMORS** THAT **REFEREE** WAS TRYING TO **BUY UP VINO!** SINCE **YOU** WORKED SO **CLOSELY** WITH THE **REFEREE** PEOPLE, DID YOU HEAR **ANYTHING** ABOUT THAT?

WELL... I MIGHT'VE **ACCIDENTALLY** OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION WHERE THE **FOUNDER** OF **VINO** SWORE HE'D RATHER LET HIS COMPANY **GO DOWN THE TUBES** THAN **SELL IT!**

SO... **YEAH!** I **MIGHT'VE** KNOWN A **LITTLE** SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

AND WHEN PAUL **PRESSED** ME FOR INFORMATION, IT'S **POSSIBLE** I MIGHT'VE **MISLED** HIM JUST A **TEENSY LITTLE BIT!**

GEE, I **SURE** HOPE HE DIDN'T INVEST **TOO MUCH!** *GIGGLE!*

OHHH... I WAS **RIGHT!** I REALLY **SHOULDN'T** HAVE ASKED ABOUT THE **DETAILS!** HEH-HEH!


SO, I'VE SEEN THE NEW ADS FOR REFEREE! YOU LOOK AMAZING! AS IF YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT KIND OF THING FOR YEARS!
AWWW! THANKS, BOSS!
ANY THOUGHTS OF DOING MORE MODELING IN THE FUTURE?
NOTHING PLANNED! BUT I ALWAYS WANT TO KEEP MY OPTIONS OPEN!
SMART GIRL!

OCEAN
PACIFIC
OCEAN
BUT... SINCE **YOU** BROUGHT UP THE TOPIC OF MY **FUTURE**, THERE **IS** SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO **TALK** WITH YOU ABOUT!

A few weeks later in the StemCorp offices, a few days after their monthly audit...


JOHNSON, HAVE YOU SEEN PAUL DESALLE TODAY?
UMMM, NO! IN FACT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS! WHY?

JUST LET US **KNOW** IF YOU **HEAR** FROM HIM!

WE HAVE A FEW **QUESTIONS** FOR HIM!

SO **WHAT** DO WE DO **NOW?** OUR **"BACKERS"** WON'T BE HAPPY WHEN THEY DISCOVER THEIR **"LAUNDRY"** ACCOUNT HAS BEEN **EMPTIED!**

"WON'T BE HAPPY?!" ARE YOU FUCKING **KIDDING ME?** THE LAST TIME **ANYONE** CROSSED OUR **"BACKERS,"** AS YOU SO **ELOQUENTLY** CALL THEM, **PEOPLE DISAPPEARED**... AND THEN **PARTS** STARTED **SHOWING UP** A FEW WEEKS LATER!

THAT'S **NOT** GOING TO HAPPEN TO **ME!**

WE'LL JUST **POINT THEM** IN **DESALLE'S** DIRECTION! **THEY'LL** TAKE IT FROM **THERE!**

YOU **REALLY** THINK **DESALLE** TOOK THEIR MONEY?

PROBABLY! BUT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T, **WHO CARES?** NO ONE AROUND **HERE'S** GOING TO **MISS** HIM, **THAT'S** FOR SURE!

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THE GUY!

SERIOUSLY?

NO... NOT REALLY!

Almost one year later...

LIKE I SAID, **REFEREE VERSION THREE** TAKES CARE OF **ALL** THE NEW DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN **WINDOWS** // AND THE NEW **MAC BUENA VISTA** OS!

THE **ENGINEERS** HAVE MADE ANY **FUTURE** UPDATES PRACTICALLY **AUTOMATIC!**

GUYS, YOU **KNOW** I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS **HOW** THIS STUFF WORKS! ALL THAT MATTERS TO **ME** IS THAT YOU **KEEP DOING** WHAT YOU'RE **DOING!**


IT'S WHAT'S MADE REFEREE GO GLOBAL, AND I WANT IT TO STAY THERE!
HELL, AS LONG AS WE KEEP LISTENING TO SHERRI AND HER MARKETING IDEAS, WE'RE AS GOOD AS GOLDEN!
BRINGING HER IN AS A PARTNER WAS THE SMARTEST THING WE COULD'VE DONE!
.25

AND THE **SECOND** SMARTEST WAS INVESTING IN THIS **PLACE** OF HERS!

MAN, **UMPIRES** HAS BEEN THE **HOTTEST PLACE** IN **TOWN** SINCE SHE BOUGHT OUT ROCKY! THAT GIRL **REALLY** KNOWS HER **CLIENTELE!**

NOT TO MENTION THE **FREE** PUBLICITY **REFEREE** GETS FROM THE **OBVIOUS TIE-INS!**

YEP, IT'S ALL BEEN A WIN-WIN SCENARIO!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT!

YOU'LL DRINK TO ANYTHING!

THERE'S THE LADY OF THE HOUR!

HEY, I THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY LEFT!

I'M STILL WAITING FOR OWEN! ANYONE SEEN THAT MAN YET?

'FRAID **NOT,** HONEY! BUT **DON'T WORRY,** I'M **SURE** HE'LL BE HERE **SOON!**

HE **BETTER** BE!

UMMM... I THINK I **FOUND** HIM! LOOK UP **THERE!**

WHAT THE...?!

SO **OWEN**, THIS HAS BEEN **QUITE** A **YEAR** FOR YOU, HASN'T IT? FIRST THE **KNEE SURGERY** THAT HAD **MOST** THINKING YOU'D **NEVER** LAST THE SEASON, MUCH **LESS** END UP THE **MVP** IN THE PITBULL'S **STANLEY CUP WIN!**

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

YEAH, WELL, I **WORKED** MY **ASS** OFF, DAN, DURING THE **OFF-SEASON** TO GET **READY** FOR IT! AND I HAD **LOTS** OF **SUPPORT** ALONG THE WAY!

AND **THEN,** EVEN BEFORE THE **CELEBRATORY CHAMPAGNE** HAD LOST ITS FIZZ, **YOU** ANNOUNCED YOUR **RETIREMENT!**

WAS THAT **PLANNED** ALL ALONG, OR ONLY **IF** YOU **WON** THE CUP?

I KNEW , AND THOSE **CLOSE** TO ME KNEW, THAT **THIS** WOULD BE MY **LAST SEASON,** BEFORE IT EVEN STARTED! **THAT'S** WHY I WORKED SO **HARD** TO MAKE IT A **GOOD ONE!**

WELL, IT **CERTAINLY WAS!**

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

AND FOR **THOSE** OF YOU WHO HADN'T **HEARD** YET, WE **HAVEN'T** SEEN THE **LAST** OF **OWEN MANNING!** IT TURNS OUT HE'LL BE JOINING OUR **VERY OWN** SPORTS ANNOUNCING TEAM **STARTING** IN **SEPTEMBER!**

CONGRATULATIONS, OWEN!

THANKS, DAN! IT'S SOMETHING I'M **REALLY** LOOKING FORWARD TO! BESIDES **NOT** GETTING **BANGED UP** AS MUCH, IT'LL GIVE ME A LOT **MORE TIME** WITH **FRIENDS** AND **FAMILY!**

AND **SPEAKING** OF **FAMILY,** WE HAVEN'T EVEN **STARTED** TALKING ABOUT SOME **MONUMENTAL CHANGES** IN YOUR **PERSONAL LIFE** AS WELL!

AND THOSE'LL HAVE TO **WAIT** FOR **ANOTHER** TIME, DAN! BECAUSE I **PROMISED** SOMEONE A **NICE, LONG HONEYMOON** AND I DON'T **DARE** BE **LATE!**

DAMN **RIGHT** YOU DON'T, **MISTER!**


OOOOOHHH! THAT BETTER HAVE BEEN PRE-RECORDED, OR THAT MAN WILL...!


BE RIGHT WHERE HE PROMISED HE'D BE AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME! I WOULDN'T DARE DISAPPOINT MY NEW BRIDE SO SOON!
HMPH! SMART GUY! *GIGGLE!*


SO, YOU READY TO GO HIT THOSE WARM CARIBBEAN BEACHES, HOT STUFF?
THE QUESTION IS, ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEW BIKINI AND OTHER FUN THINGS I BOUGHT JUST FOR THIS TRIP?


HEY, I'M AN ATHLETE! I CAN TAKE IT!
WE'LL SEE! *GIGGLE!*

A few days later, in a less than reputable hotel room across town...

I'VE **ELUDED** THOSE **FUCKERS** FOR ALMOST A **YEAR** NOW... LIVING IN **SHIT-SHACKS,** COLORING MY **HAIR,** WORKING THE **CRAPPIEST** TEMP JOBS **IMAGINABLE**... JUST **BARELY SURVIVING!** AND I JUST **CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE!** THEY'RE **STILL** CLOSING IN ON ME!

THIS **BETTER** FUCKING **PAN OUT,** 'CAUSE MY **OPTIONS** ARE DOWN TO PRACTICALLY **NONE!**


FUCK! IF I'D KNOWN THE RUSSIAN MOB LAUNDERED ITS MONEY THROUGH STEMCORP, I'D NEVER HAVE "BORROWED" FROM THOSE GODDAMN ACCOUNTS!
AND IF ONLY I HADN'T GOTTEN SCREWED ON THAT VINO STOCK DEAL... NO ONE WOULD'VE BEEN THE WISER! I'D BE LIVING THE HIGH-LIFE RIGHT NOW INSTEAD OF THIS MISERABLE DAY TO DAY EXISTENCE!

THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID BECOMING FISH FOOD IS FOR PAUL DESALLE TO TOTALLY DISAPPEAR! I NEED A NEW IDENTITY... AND A NEW LIFE!

BUT WITH LIMITED RESOURCES, MY CHOICES HAVE WHITTLED DOWN TO JUST THIS ONE!

IT'S DRASTIC AS FUCK, BUT... WHAT THE HELL ELSE CAN I DO?

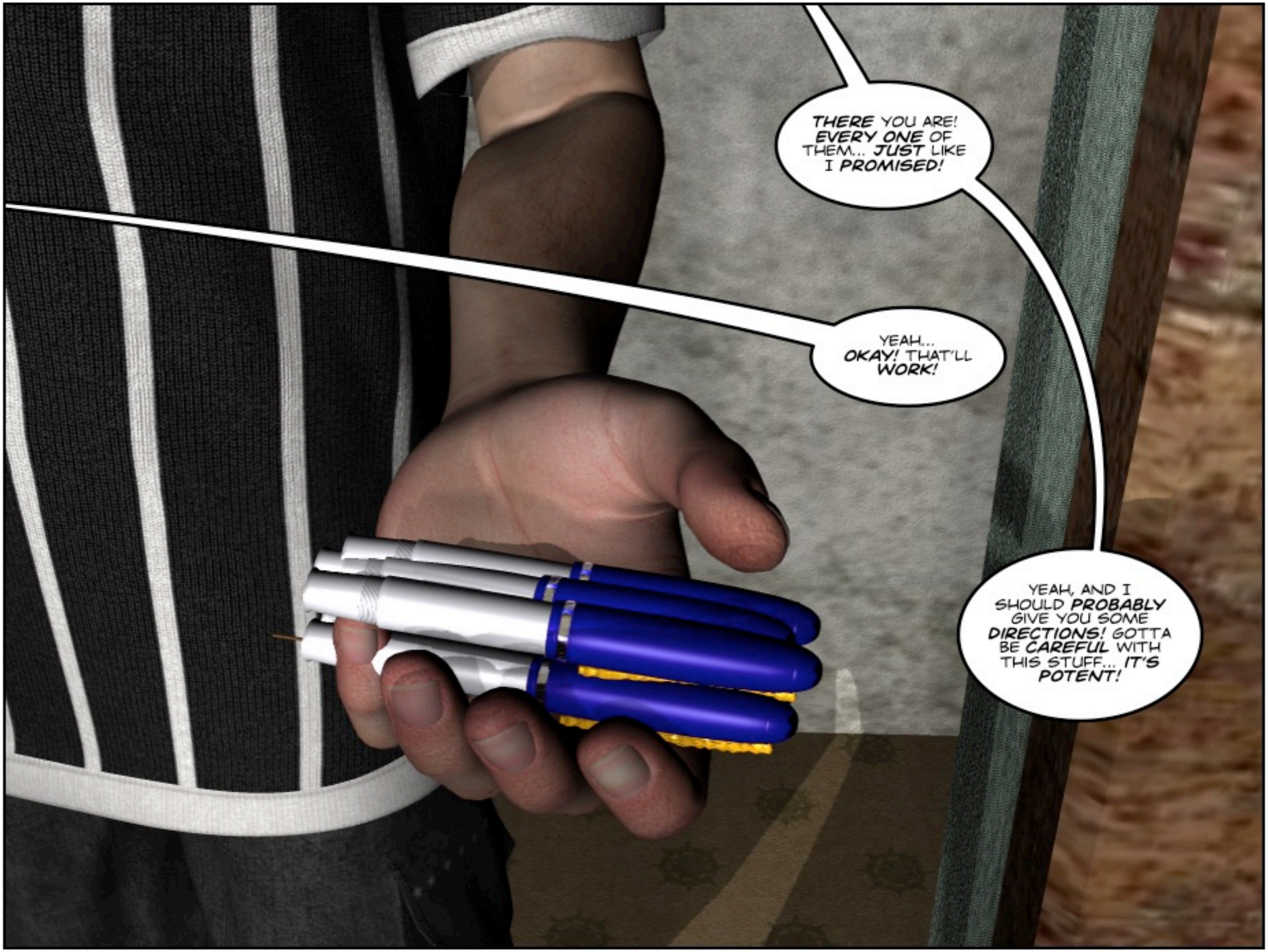

Knock, knock, knock!!
FINALLY!

'BOUT DAMN *TIME* YOU GOT HERE!

THE *BUS* WAS LATE, DUDE! *CHILL!*

SO, YOU GOT THE *CASH?*

YEAH, *I'VE* GOT THE CASH! LEMME *SEE* 'EM!


THERE YOU ARE! EVERY ONE OF THEM... JUST LIKE I PROMISED!
YEAH... OKAY! THAT'LL WORK!
YEAH, AND I SHOULD PROBABLY GIVE YOU SOME DIRECTIONS! GOTTA BE CAREFUL WITH THIS STUFF... IT'S POTENT!


DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I KNOW HOW THIS STUFF WORKS!
SUIT YOURSELF, DUDE! AND THANKS FOR THE BUSINESS!


YEAH... I KNOW EXACTLY HOW THIS STUFF WORKS!
A COUPLE SHOTS A WEEK OF THIS STUFF AND NO ONE WILL EVER RECOGNIZE ME!
OW!!

HIDING OUT AS A **SISSY-BOY** TURNS MY **FUCKIN' STOMACH,** BUT AT **LEAST** I'LL BE ABLE TO **FINALLY STOP RUNNING** AND GET **FAR ENOUGH AWAY** THAT THEY'LL **NEVER** FIND ME!

THEN IT'LL BE JUST A MATTER OF **WAITING** FOR THIS **SHIT** TO **WEAR OFF** AND RE-ESTABLISH MYSELF **SOMEWHERE ELSE!**


WHAT THE FUCK...?!
Crash!!

AND THERE YOU ARE... FINALLY!

YOU HAD A PRETTY GOOD RUN THERE, DESALLE, BUT ALL GOOD THINGS DO COME TO AN END... EVENTUALLY!

LOOK, I... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MONEY WAS YOURS! I WANT TO PAY IT BACK! I REALLY DO, BUT... BUT...!

BUT **YOU** DECIDED TO SPEND YOUR MONEY ON **THIS** SHIT **INSTEAD** OF PAYING **US** BACK!

TSK, TSK! THAT'S **NOT** VERY **ETHICAL**, DESALLE! WHAT **ARE** WE GONNA **DO** WITH YOU?

I'M GONNA GO OUT ON A **LIMB** HERE AND SAY WHY DON'T WE **LET** HIM HAVE HIS LITTLE **FIX** FIRST!

I MEAN, HE **DID** ALREADY **PAY** FOR IT AND EVERYTHING! **RIGHT?**

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WHY THAT'S **AWFULLY THOUGHTFUL** OF YOU, DIMITRI! AND I **WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREE!**

LET'S **HELP** HIM FINISH OFF HIS **STASH** HERE **BEFORE** WE DO ANYTHING **ELSE!**

WAIT! I... I ALREADY **TOOK** ONE! AND... AND IT'S **NOT** WHAT YOU **THINK** IT IS!

owww!!

OH, WE KNOW **EXACTLY** WHAT THIS STUFF IS, DESALLE! AND WE HAVE **PLENTY MORE** WHERE THIS CAME FROM!

AND DON'T YOU **WORRY!** THANKS TO **THIS** STUFF, YOU'LL **FINALLY** BE ABLE TO PAY BACK **ALL** THE MONEY YOU OWE US... **WITH INTEREST,** OF COURSE!

owwwwww!!

WELL, **WORK OFF** THE DEBT WOULD PROBABLY BE A **BETTER** DESCRIPTION, DON'T **YOU** THINK, URI?

HEH-HEH!

YES, I GUESS THAT **WOULD** BE A LITTLE **CLOSER** TO THE TRUTH! HEH-HEH!

OOOOWWWWW!

A few more shots later...

HOW **RUDE!** THE LITTLE WEASEL **PASSED OUT** ON US!

JUST AS WELL, IT WAS THE **LAST** OF **HIS** SHOTS ANYWAY!

TOSS HIM ONTO THE **BED** FOR THE TIME BEING!


DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG WE HAVE TO WAIT?
SHE DIDN'T SAY, BUT...!

OHOOIET'!

ARE YOU SEEING THIS?

I AM BUT I'M NOT BELIEVING IT!

KYU-YA-SYE!* THAT IS FUCKING AMAZING!!

* Holy shit!

I AGREE, URI! THAT IS ALSO A FUCKING GOLD MINE FOR US!

Meanwhile, on a private beach in the Caribbean...

THAT'S **GREAT NEWS,** RONNIE! .... NO, **YOU** KEEP THE PAYOFF MONEY! YOU **EARNED** IT!

I DON'T CARE IF IT **WAS** MY IDEA! **YOU'RE** THE ONE THAT **TIPPED ME OFF** WHEN PAUL **FIRST** CONTACTED **YOU!** AND **YOU** HAD TO DO **ALL** THE LEG WORK **AND** TAKE ALL THE **RISKS,** SO **YOU** KEEP **ALL OF IT!**

JUST BE CAREFUL *HOW* YOU SPEND IT! *NOTHING* TOO *FLASHY* THAT'LL DRAW *ATTENTION* TO YOURSELF, OKAY?

NOTHING WOULD SEND UP *RED FLAGS* FASTER THAN A *HOSPITAL INTERN* BUYING A *NEW SPORTS CAR!*


YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP TO BOTH ME AND DAYNA THROUGH ALL THIS, RONNIE, AND WE WON'T FORGET IT! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!


SO... ALL TAKEN CARE OF?
YEP! PAUL'S BEING DEALT WITH AS WE SPEAK!

I KNOW HE'S A SCUMBAG, BUT YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS A BIT MUCH? EVEN FOR HIM?

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MAKES ME LOVE YOU EVEN MORE! BUT REMEMBER WHAT HE TRIED TO DO TO ME!


BESIDES, YOU KNOW THEY WOULD'VE EVENTUALLY FOUND HIM AND KILLED HIM! WE JUST FOUND A WAY FOR HIM TO REPURPOSE HIS LIFE!

REMIND ME NEVER TO PISS YOU OFF!

EVERY CHANCE I GET, MY LOVE!



A few months later, back in that same little hotel room...

OH GOD, YES, BABY!


THAT'S IT!
HARDER BABY!
HARDER...!!


OH
YESSS!!!
BABY, YOU ARE
SO GOOD!


HERE YOU GO, SWEET CHEEKS! AND AS USUAL, WORTH EVERY PENNY! SAME TIME NEXT WEEK?
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, BABY!

SIGH! NEXT TIME THAT **CHEAP** SON OF A BITCH SLIDES THAT IN **THERE**, I'M CHARGING HIM **DOUBLE!**

HE **KNOWS** MESSIN' WITH **THAT** IS **EXTRA!**


FUCK! WITH THIS NEW KILLER BOD I SHOULD BE PULLING IN FIVE TIMES THIS MUCH!
BUT THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN AS LONG AS THEY KEEP ME IN THIS SHIT-HOLE!

UNLESS DAYNA WAS ***LYING'*** TO THAT PIECE OF CRAP ***BROTHER*** OF HERS, ***THIS SHIT*** IS ***PERMANENT!*** THERE'S ***NO GOING BACK*** FOR ***PAUL DESALLE!***

BUT THERE'S ***NO WAY*** IN FUCKIN' ***HELL*** I'M LIVING OUT ***MY*** DAYS IN THIS ***CRAP PALACE!*** AND I ***THINK*** I'VE GOT ***JUST*** THE PLAN TO ***IMPROVE*** MY SITUATION!


IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOUR CUSTOMERS LEAVE WITH SUCH HAPPY FACES, SASHA! HAPPY CUSTOMERS MEANS REPEAT BUSINESS!
AND MORE BUSINESS MEANS I PAY OFF MY DEBT SOONER, RIGHT, URI?

OF COURSE, MY LITTLE FLOWER! THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE WANTS!

AND AT THIS RATE YOU'LL HAVE YOUR DEBT PAID OFF IN SAY... SIX MORE MONTHS!

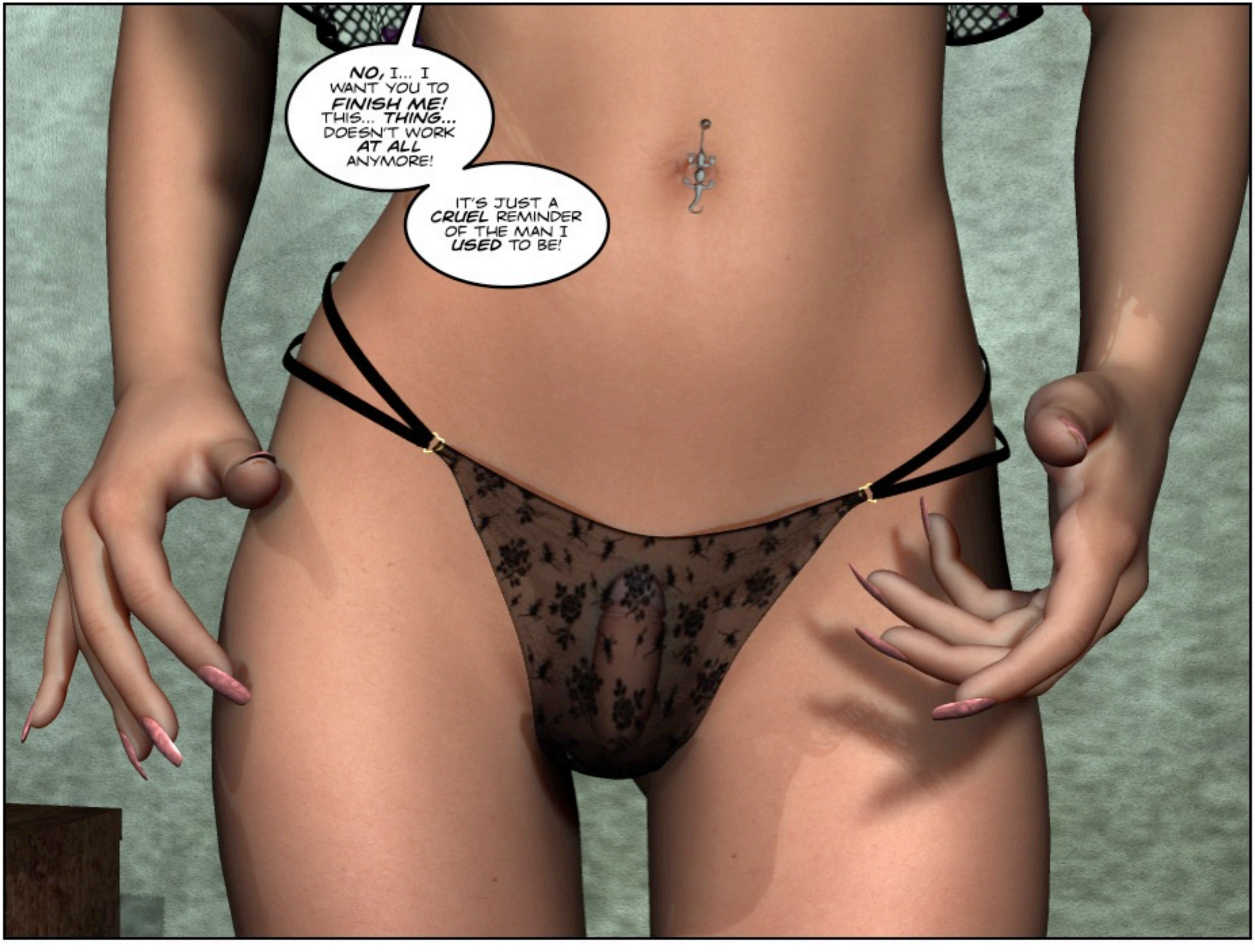
SIX MORE MONTHS?

LOOK, UMMM... I'VE BEEN GIVING THIS A **LOT** OF **THOUGHT,** URI, AND... I, UMMM...!

SPIT IT OUT, GIRL!

I REALLY, **REALLY HATE** GETTING IT IN THE **ASS** ALL THE TIME! IT **HURTS** AND IT'S **DEGRADING** AS HELL!

SO WHAT? YOU **REALLY** THINK YOU CAN RELY ON THOSE **LOVELY** COCK-SUCKING LIPS **ALONE** TO BRING IN THE **SAME MONEY?**


NO, I... I WANT YOU TO FINISH ME! THIS... THING... DOESN'T WORK AT ALL ANYMORE!
IT'S JUST A CRUEL REMINDER OF THE MAN I USED TO BE!

CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE ME MORE STUFF SO IT GETS REPLACED BY A PUSSY?

I'LL ENJOY IT MORE AND IT'LL GIVE THE JOHNS MORE OPTIONS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

AND I WON'T BE A FUCKING FREAK WHEN I FINALLY GET OUT OF THIS HELL HOLE!

I THINK THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHAT YOU'LL ENJOY, MY LITTLE SISSY! IT'S ONLY ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR US!

BUT, URI...!

LISTEN, SASHA... THE BOSSES ARE GRATEFUL THAT BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HAVE FOUND A DRUG THAT CAN CREATE BEAUTIFUL SISSIES LIKE YOU! WE'RE USING IT TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY AROUND THE WORLD!

BUT RIGHT NOW, YOUR UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY IS WHAT MAKES YOU SO POPULAR WITH THE CLIENTELE! WHO'S TO SAY YOU'D EARN AS MUCH IF YOU WERE ALL GIRL?

SIGH!. I **KNEW** URI WOULD BE A **HARD SELL!** BUT **I** KNOW **JUST** HOW TO SOFTEN HIM UP!

I UNDERSTAND, URI! BUT IF **YOU** GIVE ME A **PUSSY,** I'LL WORK **HARDER,** AS **HARD** AS I **CAN!** AND I'LL **STILL** BE **POPULAR,** BECAUSE **I** KNOW **EXACTLY** WHAT **GUYS LIKE!**

WELL... **MAYBE...!**

YOU **KNOW** I'M YOUR **SPECIAL GIRL**, URI! I **LOVE** DOING **WHATEVER YOU WANT!**

AND WOULDN'T IT BE EVEN **MORE SPECIAL** IF YOU COULD **FUCK** MY TIGHT, JUICY **CUNT?**

HMMM... THAT **DOES** SOUND **NICE!** BUT I'D HAVE TO CLEAR IT WITH THE **BOSSES** FIRST!

THINK ABOUT IT, BABY, HOW MUCH MORE YOU'LL LIKE ME WHEN I'M ALL WOMAN!

I SUPPOSE, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU'RE WOMAN ENOUGH FOR ME RIGHT NOW, MYSHKA*!

* little mouse

THAT'S **SWEET** OF YOU TO SAY! I KNOW YOU **LOVE** MY **TITS...!**

BUT WITH A **PUSSY,** WE COULD HAVE EVEN **MORE** FUN! JUST **IMAGINE! ANOTHER HOLE** FOR YOU TO **FILL!**

I **DO** LIKE FUCKING YOU, MALYSH*!

* baby


AND I LOVE YOUR COCK, BABY! WHENEVER I GET TO PUT IT BETWEEN THESE BIG BEAUTIFUL TITS YOU GAVE ME, IT TURNS ME ON BIG TIME!

MMMMMM! JUST **PICTURE** IT, **FUCKING** MY **TITS** AND THEN **FINISHING OFF** INSIDE MY **WET PUSSY!** WOULDN'T **THAT** BE **HEAVENLY?**

OOOOOOOOO! THAT FEELS SOOO GOOD!

I AM STILL **AMAZED** THAT THOSE INJECTIONS WE GAVE YOU PRODUCED A **BODY** LIKE **THIS!** SUCH **MAGNIFICENT BREASTS!**

THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO FINISH ME OFF! GIVE ME MORE INJECTIONS UNTIL I'M COMPLETE! WON'T YOU DO THAT FOR ME, BABY?

ENOUGH, LAPOCHKA*! WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER!

RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON OTHER THINGS, LIKE FINISHING ME OFF!

* sweetie pie

IT'S TIME YOU PUT THOSE **COCK-SUCKING LIPS** TO **BETTER** USE!

YES, BABY!

I **DO** THINK YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT **ONE THING!** YOUR **FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE** OF WHAT **MEN** LIKE MAKES YOU **EXTREMELY VALUABLE!**

TOO VALUABLE TO **EVER** LET GO, I'M AFRAID!


PERFECT! I'M BREAKING HIM DOWN! HE DIDN'T SAY "NO" THIS TIME!
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL I GET WHAT I WANT, 'CAUSE I KNOW JUST HOW THIS GUY THINKS!

PERHAPS I **SHALL** GIVE YOU THE PUSSY YOU **CRAVE**, MY SWEET LITTLE **SASHA!**

BUT NO MATTER **WHAT** HAPPENS, **YOU'LL** BE STAYING HERE **FAR LONGER** THAN **SIX MONTHS!** WE'LL KEEP YOU **WORKING** FOR US UNTIL YOU ARE NO LONGER OF **ANY** USE TO US!

AND WITH THAT **BODY** AND THAT **FACE**, IT WON'T BE FOR **MANY, MANY YEARS!**

The END