



A Tangled Web

Chapter Eleven

by CBlack

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The next day, in the office
of Jerry Schwarz, middle-
management yutz...



HI JERRY!
YOU BUSY?

ROBIN? WE
DON'T SEE YOU
VERY OFTEN
DOWN HERE!
WHAT'S UP?





WELL, MR.
MITCHELL IS
REDISTRIBUTING
SOME OF **SIMON'S**
PROJECTS THAT MAEVE
DIDN'T WANT! SO WE'RE
JUST KIND OF SPLITTING
THEM UP AT RANDOM
AND **THIS ONE'S**
YOURS!



WHAT
PROJECT
IS IT?

NOT A
CLUE! BUT
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED, HIS
NOTES, SAMPLES,
WHATEVER...
SHOULD BE IN
THERE!

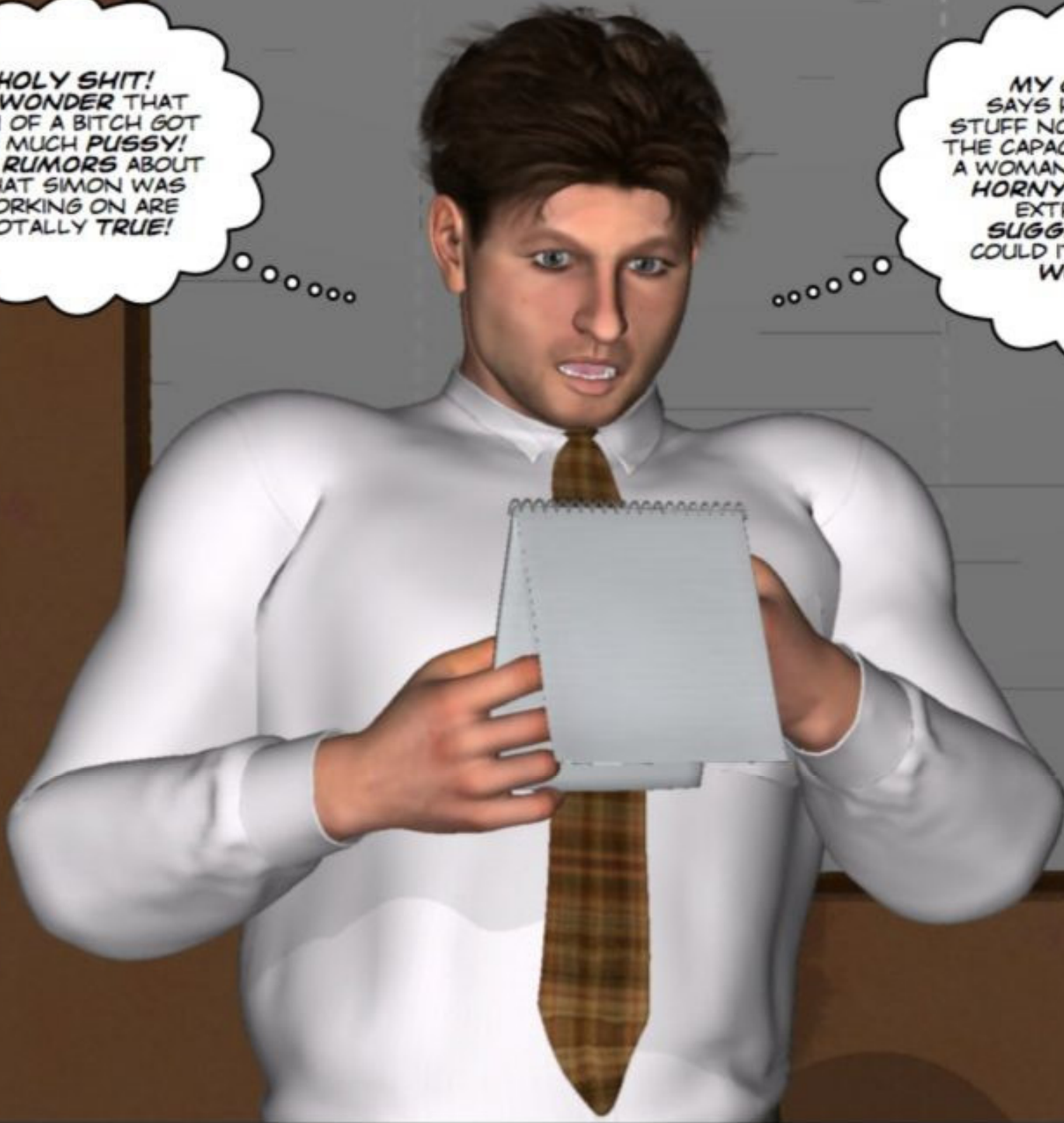
GREAT...
THANKS,
ROBIN!

HAVE
FUN,
JERRY!

*HMPH! LET'S
SEE WHAT
THEY'VE DUMPED
INTO MY LAP
THIS TIME!*

HOLY SHIT!
NO WONDER THAT
SON OF A BITCH GOT
SO MUCH **PUSSY!**
THE **RUMORS** ABOUT
WHAT SIMON WAS
WORKING ON ARE
TOTALLY **TRUE!**

MY GOD! IT
SAYS HERE THIS
STUFF NOT ONLY HAS
THE CAPACITY TO MAKE
A WOMAN EXTREMELY
HORNY, BUT ALSO
EXTREMELY
SUGGESTIBLE!
COULD IT POSSIBLY
WORK?



"LONG AND REPEATED EXPOSURE?" SHIT! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THERE'D BE A DEALBREAKER IN HERE SOMEWHERE! THE ONLY WOMAN I HAVE REPEATED EXPOSURE TO IS THE BUS DRIVER, AND THE LAST THING ON EARTH I'D WANT TO DO IS MAKE HER HORNY!

UMMM...
MR.
SCHWARZ?



HOLY...!

UM, YEAH!
I'M JERRY
SCHWARZ! CAN
I HELP YOU,
MISS...?

COOPER!
AMBER COOPER!
IT SEEMS I'M
YOUR NEW
SECRETARY!

MY... MY
SECRETARY?
YOU? WOW!

SOMEONE UP
THERE MUST
REALLY LIKE ME!

YEAH...
WHATEVER!



GOOD LUCK
WITH THAT!
SHE'S PROBABLY
TOO BUSY
BANGING HER
NEW BOSS!

WHAT?!
AMBER? I... I
CAN'T BELIEVE
SHE'D...!



THIS TOTALLY
SUCKS! JUST
BECAUSE I WON'T DO
STEVEN'S BIDDING, HE
GETS ME DEMOTED
DOWN TO THIS SHIT-
HOLE? SCHWARZ IS A
BOTTOM-FEEDER!

THERE'S NO
WAY I'M PUTTING
UP WITH IT! I'LL
RAISE HOLY HELL
WITH STEVEN... AS
SOON AS I CAN GET
HIM TO RETURN MY
CALL, THAT IS! THE
ASSHOLE IS
DODGING ME!



WELL, COME
ON IN, AMBER
AND GET
COMFORTABLE!
I'M *SURE* WE'LL
GET ALONG
JUST FINE!



A few minutes later, on the other side of the building...

AMBER?
COULD YOU
COME IN HERE,
PLEASE?






AMBER?
ARE YOU OUT
THERE?

NOW WHERE
THE HELL DID
SHE RUN OFF TO
THIS TIME?





**REASSIGNED?
JUST LIKE THAT? JEEZ!
NOT THAT I'LL MISS HER!
SHE WAS LAZY AND HAD
WAY TOO MUCH
ATTITUDE!**

**SO, HOW LONG
UNTIL I GET A
REPLACEMENT
FOR HER?**

**I'M SO
GLAD YOU
ASKED!**

**RANDY,
COULD YOU
STEP IN HERE
PLEASE?**



MAEVE,
THIS IS
RANDY... YOUR
NEW ASSISTANT!
SAY HELLO,
RANDY!

HI,
MAEVE!

THANKS,
RANDY! GO ON
BACK OUT THERE
TO YOUR NEW
DESK AND GET
SITUATED!






WOOF!
WHERE DID
HE COME
FROM?

THE GREEDY
OLD **BAT** WHO
HEADS UP **HR** HAD
HIM STASHED
AWAY RUNNING
ERRANDS FOR
HER!

YOU'RE
THE
BEST! YOU
KNOW
THAT?

HEY, WHAT'S
THE **USE** OF
BEING ASSISTANT
TO THE **CEO** IF YOU
CAN'T **ABUSE** THE
POWER TO HELP
OUT YOUR
FRIENDS?





AND BELIEVE
ME... I ENJOYED
DOING THIS A LOT
MORE THAN YOU
MIGHT THINK!

That night, at Steven Chamber's house...



NOW, TELL ME THE TRUTH... WOULD YOU REALLY RATHER HAVE GONE OUT TO A **STUFFY** AND **INSANELY** EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT INSTEAD OF STAYING IN LIKE **THIS**?


CONSIDERING **ANY** RESTAURANT WOULD'VE QUICKLY KICKED US OUT FOR ATTEMPTING WHAT WE'VE DONE **HERE** TONIGHT, I CAN SAFELY SAY I'M **HAPPY** WE STAYED IN!



YOU KNOW,
THERE ARE
STILL A FEW
ROOMS IN THIS
MANSION OF YOURS
WE HAVEN'T
"CHRISTENED" YET!
READY TO CONTINUE
NOW THAT WE'VE
HAD OUR DINNER
BREAK?

DAMN, WOMAN!
YOU'RE GONNA
KILL ME, YOU
KNOW THAT?






DON'T EVEN **JOKE**
ABOUT THAT! I DON'T
EVEN WANT TO **THINK**
ABOUT NOT HAVING
YOU IN MY LIFE!

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT **THAT**,
DARLIN! YOU'RE
STUCK WITH ME
FOR THE **LONG**
HAUL!

MMMM...
I'M
COUNTING
ON IT!

SO IF YOU'LL
JUST GIVE ME A
FEW MORE MINUTES
TO *RECOUP*, WE CAN
GET STARTED ON
THE *UPSTAIRS*!





YOU KNOW, I
THINK THERE ARE
SOME ROOMS UP
THERE I HAVEN'T
BEEN IN FOR
YEARS!

I CAN'T
IMAGINE
LIVING IN A
PLACE LIKE THIS
BY **YOURSELF!**
DON'T YOU GET
LONELY?



OH, I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
LIVING HERE ALONE
ANYMORE!

WH... WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING,
STEVEN?

I'M SAYING I
THINK YOU
SHOULD GIVE UP
THAT **APARTMENT**
OF YOURS AND
MOVE IN HERE
WITH ME!

OH, THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL, STEVEN, BUT HOW WILL THAT LOOK? A SECRETARY SHACKING UP WITH ONE OF THE MAJOR STOCKHOLDERS? TONGUES WOULD BE WAGGING!

TRUE! BUT UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, "SHACKING UP" IS WHAT UNMARRIED COUPLES DO!


YES, BUT...!



OH MY GOD,
STEVEN! DID
YOU JUST...? DID
YOU ASK ME
TO...?

IN MY OWN
ROUNDAABOUT WAY...
YES, I DID! SO... WHAT
DO YOU SAY, ROBIN?
WILL YOU MARRY
ME?






OH YES, STEVEN!
OF COURSE I WILL!
NOTHING COULD
POSSIBLY MAKE ME
ANY HAPPIER!

I DID IT! I
PLAYED THE
PLAYER AND
TOTALLY HOOKED
HIM! I'M GOING TO
BE SET FOR
LIFE!

THEN IT'S
SETTLED! WE
CAN ASK DAVID
AND CELIA TO BE
WITNESSES,
AND...!



UMMM... CAN'T WE
ASK SOMEBODY
ELSE TO BE OUR
WITNESSES?

WELL,
SURE WE
CAN! BUT
WHY?

***SIGH!* I GUESS I SHOULDVE TOLD YOU THIS ALREADY, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BRING IT UP!**

BRING UP WHAT, LOVE?

IT'S DAVID! YOU SEE... HE AND I HAD A BRIEF... ENCOUNTER BEFORE HE AND CELIA GOT MARRIED!

WISH I
COULD TELL HER
I **ALREADY** KNOW
ALL ABOUT IT... SAVE
HER THE TROUBLE! BUT
STILL... IT'LL BE
INTERESTING TO
HEAR **HER** SIDE
OF IT ALL!

BUT THAT WAS
BEFORE THEY WERE
MARRIED AND BEFORE **WE**
EVEN **MET!** SO I DON'T
SEE ANY **PROBLEM!**
UNLESS THERE ARE
STILL FEELINGS...!





NOT FROM ME!
BUT... OH, STEVEN!
I KNOW HE'S YOUR
FRIEND, BUT...!

BUT WHAT,
ROBIN? TELL
ME! IT'S
OKAY!

HE'S CHANGED,
STEVEN! EVER SINCE
THE WEDDING, HE'S BEEN
VERY OBVIOUS ABOUT HIS
FEELINGS TOWARD ME... HOW
HE WANTS TO REKINDLE
OUR AFFAIR! AND I'VE
TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM
IT'S OVER, BUT...!

BUT...?



I STILL DON'T
KNOW HOW IT
HAPPENED! WE WERE
ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, AND
HE WAS BEING VERY
FORWARD, AND... AND... I
COULDN'T SEEM TO HELP
MYSELF! I DON'T KNOW
WHAT CAME OVER ME, BUT
I COMPLETELY LOST
CONTROL!

OH
STEVEN!
I'M SO
SORRY!

THAT SON OF
A BITCH! HE
OBVIOUSLY DOSED
ROBIN WITH THE SAME
SHIT THAT SIMON
USED ON HER! THE
BASTARD WENT
WAY OVER THE
LINE!



IT'S ALL
RIGHT, ROBIN! IT'S
NOT YOUR FAULT...
DAVID MUST HAVE
DRUGGED YOU! HE
PROBABLY USED THE
SAME DRUGS THAT
SIMON USED ON
YOU!

JUST THE
CONCLUSION I
KNEW YOU'D JUMP
TO, STEVEN!

MY GOD! I
KNEW DAVID HAD
CHANGED, BUT
DIDN'T REALIZE HOW
MUCH! IT'S LIKE I
DON'T EVEN KNOW
HIM ANYMORE!




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WAS UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF **STRESS** DURING THE TAKEOVER ATTEMPT, BUT **THIS...** THERE'S NO **EXCUSE** FOR SUCH **REPREHENSIBLE** BEHAVIOR! MAYBE IT'S TIME MY **OLD FRIEND** STEPPED DOWN! SUCH A **BLATANT ABUSE** OF POWER CAN'T BE **TOLERATED!**


YOU CAN'T **REALLY** IMAGINE THAT DAVID WOULD **WILLINGLY** STEP DOWN, CAN YOU? HE LIVES AND **BREATHES** DM INDUSTRIES... AND HE'S STILL THE **MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER!**





TELL ME ABOUT IT!
EVEN IF I *COULD*
CONVINCE HARLEY TO
VOTE WITH ME, THERE'S *NO*
GUARANTEE WE COULD VOTE
DAVID *OUT!* AFTER THAT FAILED
TAKEOVER ATTEMPT, A 30%
BLOCK OF STOCK WAS
IMMEDIATELY SOLD, VERY
CHEAPLY, TO ABOUT A *DOZEN*
DIFFERENT INVESTORS!
WHO KNOWS *HOW*
THEY'D VOTE?

WELL,
CAN'T *YOU*
BUY IT ALL
BACK?



I COULD... TO A POINT! THE REVISED COMPANY CHARTER LIMITS ANY ONE PERSON FROM OWNING MORE THAN 31% OF THE STOCK... WHICH IS EXACTLY HOW MUCH DAVID HAS! THE BEST I COULD DO IS MATCH HIS 31% WHICH STILL WOULDN'T GIVE ME ENOUGH TO OVERRIDE HIM AND HARLEY!

SINCE THE TAKEOVER ATTEMPT, DAVID'S BECOME COMPLETELY **PARANOID!** HE'D SEE **ANY** MANEUVER I'D MAKE AS A **POWER PLAY...** AND THEN, CONSIDERING HIS PRESENT **UNSTABLE** CONDITION, WHO **KNOWS** WHAT HE'D DO?

WELL... IS THERE ANYONE **ELSE** YOU KNOW... AND **TRUST...** WHO COULD **BUY UP** THAT 30% FOR YOU?







NO... BUT I
KNOW
SOMEONE I
CAN BUY IT
FOR!

SOMEONE
WHOM I TRUST
IMPLICITLY!



A few days later...

I TOLD YOU I'M
FINE, STEVEN! I'VE
BEEN MAKING SURE THAT
CELIA CALLS OR STOPS BY
AT LEAST A **COUPLE** OF
TIMES A DAY, SO DAVID
DOESN'T **DARE** TRY
ANYTHING WITH ME!



DON'T WORRY,
DARLING! I KNOW
WHAT DAVID IS CAPABLE OF,
BUT I'M ALSO CAPABLE OF
PROTECTING MYSELF! I
HAVEN'T SPENT ANY
EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME
WITH HIM... AND I ALWAYS
MAKE CERTAIN THE TWO
OF US ARE NEVER
ALONE!





I KNOW...
AND I LOVE
YOU, TOO!
SEE YOU
TONIGHT!


zn-sunny

zn-sunny



HIYA, ROBIN!

AMBER?
WOW! THAT'S
A NEW LOOK
FOR YOU!



YOU LIKE IT?
JERRY... I MEAN, MR.
SCHWARZ HELPED ME
PICK IT OUT! HE'S SO
HELPFUL! AND SO NICE! I
DON'T THINK I'VE EVER
MET ANYONE AS NICE
AS HE IS!

OH, I'M
SURE HE IS!
SO, I TAKE IT
YOU LIKE
WORKING FOR
HIM!

**OH YEAH!
HE'S THE BEST!
AND HE'S
5000...!**





OOPS! PAY
NO ATTENTION
TO WHAT I SAID,
OKAY?

IT'S FINE, AMBER!
I **TOTALLY**
UNDERSTAND! SO, WHY
DID YOU STOP BY?

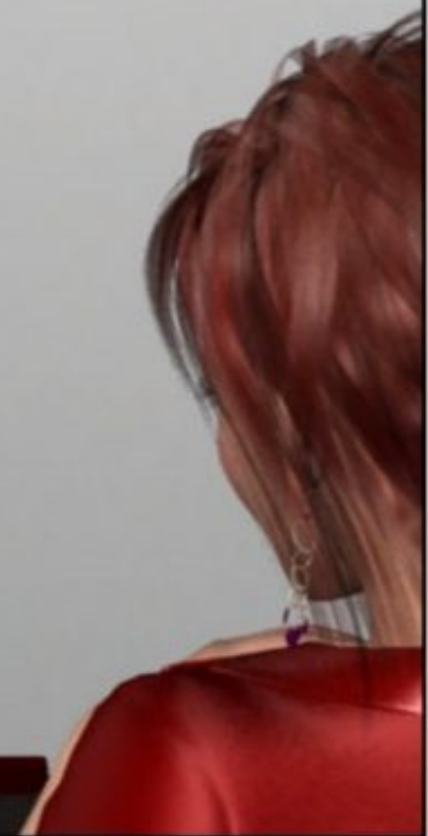
OH, YEAH! HE
WANTED ME TO
BRING THESE
PACKAGES DOWN
TO BE SHIPPED,
AND...!




OOPS! I AM SUCH A BIMBO! I FORGOT THE PACKAGES!

THAT'S OKAY, AMBER! THE COURIER WON'T BE HERE FOR ANOTHER HOUR, SO YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO GO BACK AND GET THEM!

OKAY, I'LL
DO THAT!
THANKS
ROBIN!





***SIGH!* THE
ONLY WAY THAT
COULD BE ANY MORE
PERFECT IS IF SHE
WASN'T SO DAMN
HAPPY ABOUT
IT!**

A 3D rendered woman with long, wavy red hair and blue eyes. She is wearing a bright red, short-sleeved blazer over a dark, patterned top. She is sitting at a desk with a computer monitor and keyboard. Her right hand is resting on her chest. A thought bubble is above her head.


OH WELL!
SCRATCH
SIMON OFF
MY "TO-DO"
LIST!

A short time later...

DAMN IT, CHARLIE! YOU'RE MY STOCKBROKER! IT'S YOUR JOB TO KEEP TRACK OF THAT STOCK! AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT 30% OF DM STOCK IS SUDDENLY UNACCOUNTED FOR?

I'M SORRY DAVID, BUT THE STOCK HAS BEEN EXTREMELY VOLATILE SINCE THE TAKEOVER ATTEMPT! THAT SAME 30% BLOCK HAS BEEN BOUGHT, SOLD AND RESOLD MORE THAN A DOZEN TIMES IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. I SIMPLY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TRACK IT!

zn-sunny

A man with grey hair, wearing a blue suit and tie, is standing in an office. He is holding a mobile phone to his ear with his left hand and pointing towards a computer monitor with his right hand. The office has a dark wood desk with a computer monitor, keyboard, and mouse. There are also some pens and a small orange object on the desk. The background shows a dark wood cabinet and a wall with a light-colored panel.

WELL IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SOMEONE'S **DELIBERATELY** DISGUIISING THEIR TRACKS BY BOUNCING IT AROUND VIA **DUMMY CORPORATIONS!** IF SOMEONE **ELSE** IS NOW TRYING TO BUY UP THAT SAME STOCK, YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHO THIS PERSON IS! **IMMEDIATELY!**


DO I MAKE MYSELF **CLEAR?**

I'LL DO MY **BEST,** DAVID!

PROBLEMS?

OH, UMMM...
NO! AT
LEAST, I
HOPE NOT!





WELL,
MAYBE THIS
WILL HELP A
BIT! CREAM,
BUT NO
SUGAR!

THANK
YOU, ROBIN!
I REALLY
NEEDED
THIS!

I AM TO
PLEASE!



I'M WELL
AWARE OF THAT!
SPEAKING OF... WE
HAVEN'T HAD MUCH
OF A CHANCE TO...
SEE EACH OTHER
LATELY!

WELL, I
THOUGHT I
WAS PRETTY
SPECIFIC
REGARDING MY
CONDITIONS,
DAVID!



I KNOW... I
KNOW! I JUST
HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE
TO SET ASIDE ENOUGH
TIME! BETWEEN THE
BUSINESS... AND CELIA...
THERE'S ALWAYS
SOMETHING
PREVENTING ME FROM
TAKING A DOSE OF
ADNS!

OH, I
UNDERSTAND,
DAVID! **YOU**
HAVE CERTAIN
PRIORITIES
THAT HAVE TO
COME
FIRST!



I JUST
HOPE YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT **I** HAVE
PRIORITIES AS
WELL!

OF
COURSE,
BUT...!





WHOA!
THAT'S FUNNY!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW
BETTER, I'D THINK I'D
JUST SWALLOWED
SOME...!





ROBIN?!
WHAT DID
YOU DO?

A woman with vibrant red hair, wearing a shiny red blazer over a black lace top and a black skirt, stands facing a man. The man is seen from the back, wearing a dark blue suit jacket and has his hand on his head. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with vertical panels in the background.

I'M SORRY,
DAVID! BUT MY
NEEDS ARE MY
PRIORITIES! AND
RIGHT NOW, I
NEED MITCH!

BUT ROBIN... I
REALLY DON'T
THINK...!



OH MY!
THAT... LOOKS
NEW!

OH IT IS! I
BOUGHT IT
JUST FOR YOU,
MITCH! WANNA
SEE THE REST
OF IT?

OH, YES!
PLEASE!



YOU
LIKE?

LET ME
SHOW YOU
HOW MUCH...!





And, of course, at
that very moment...

DAVID? HAVE
YOU SEEN ROBIN?
WE WERE SUPPOSED
TO MEET FOR
LUNCH, AND...!









**CELIA!
WAIT!
PLEASE!!**





OH MY GOD!
I'VE GOT TO GET
DRESSED AND
FIND HER! TRY
TO EXPLAIN...!


OOPS!
GUESS I
FORGOT ABOUT
OUR LUNCH DATE,
DIDN'T I?




A few hours later...

**SIGH!* THE PLACE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT WITH EVERYTHING BOXED UP!*



A woman with short, layered red hair is shown from the back, sitting at a round wooden table. She is wearing a bright red, long-sleeved jacket. In the background, there are several cardboard boxes stacked on the table. The boxes are white with black text and logos, including the words "International Movers" and a recycling symbol. The scene is set in a room with light-colored walls and a wooden chair is visible to the left of the table.

IT'S BEEN
DAYS SINCE I SET
FOOT IN HERE! I
GUESS THIS PART
OF MY LIFE IS
TRULY OVER...



...OR AT LEAST
IT WILL BE, ONCE I
WRAP UP SOME
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS!




*GO AWAY,
ROBIN!*

*I HAD A
FEELING I'D
FIND YOU HERE,
LICKING YOUR
WOUNDS!*

AND YOU CAME
OVER TO DO WHAT?
RUB SALT IN THEM?
THE PERSON I GREW OLD
WITH WOULD NEVER
HAVE TREATED ME THE
WAY YOU HAVE! BUT I
TRULY HAVE NO IDEA
WHO YOU ARE
ANYMORE, DO I?





BELIEVE IT OR
NOT, I REALLY
DIDN'T DO THIS
TO HURT YOU,
CELIA!

YOU DIDN'T
MEAN TO
HURT ME?
THAT'S YOUR
EXCUSE?
REALLY?



**YOU
SCREWED MY
HUSBAND!!
YOU... YOU
BITCH!!**

WELL CORRECT ME
IF I'M WRONG, BUT
AREN'T YOU THE ONE
WHO TURNED ME INTO A
BITCH? OR DID THAT
LITTLE DOUBLE-DOSING
INCIDENT SLIP YOUR
MIND?

YOU... YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT?



YEAH... I FOUND OUT! BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I DID WHAT I DID TODAY! I WILL ADMIT, IT DID MAKE IT EASIER, BUT THIS WASN'T ABOUT GETTING BACK AT YOU!

REALLY? YOU COULD'VE FOOLED ME!



A comic book panel showing two women. The woman on the left has long, vibrant red hair and is wearing a shiny red blazer over a black top and a black leather skirt. She has her hands on her hips and a confident expression. The woman on the right has voluminous, curly blonde hair and is wearing a white, form-fitting, sleeveless dress. She is looking towards the red-haired woman with a slightly questioning or skeptical expression. The background is a dark, vertically-paneled wall.

LOOK AT
ME, CELIA!
WHAT DO
YOU SEE?

IS THIS
A TRICK
QUESTION?

I'M YOUNG... I'M
HEALTHY... AND I'M
HAPPY! I'M HELL AND
GONE FROM THAT CRUSTY
OLD FART YOU WERE
MARRIED TO! AND IT'S ALL
BECAUSE OF YOU!



WAS THERE SOME DECEPTION ALONG THE WAY? SURE! BUT I'M THE LAST PERSON WHO SHOULD FAULT YOU FOR BEING LESS THAN HONEST!


WELL, IF YOU DIDN'T DO IT TO GET BACK AT ME, WHY THE HELL DID YOU DO IT? AND DON'T TELL ME YOU JUST COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF!





WELL,
YOU'VE GOT
TO ADMIT,
DAVID ON ADNS
IS VERY...
STIMULATING,
TO SAY THE
LEAST!

DON'T
PUSH IT,
ROBIN!



I'M SORRY,
CELIA... THAT WAS
UNCALLED FOR!
YOU DESERVE THE
TRUTH... ALL OF IT!
THEN I'LL LEAVE IT
UP TO YOU TO
DECIDE WHERE WE
GO FROM HERE!

A long, difficult, and surprisingly honest explanation later...

SO... THAT'S
EVERYTHING! ME,
SIMON, AMBER, STEVEN...
AND DAVID!
EVERYTHING!

WHAT ARE YOU
THINKING, CELIA?
TALK TO ME!
SCREAM, SWEAR...
ANYTHING!



YOU KNOW... DAVID HAD
TAKEN ADNS THE FIRST
TIME WE WERE TOGETHER!
IT WAS IN THAT **SAME**
OFFICE... AND ON THAT
VERY **SAME SOFA!**

EW...!



***SIGH!* I GUESS
BEING YOUNG AND
BEAUTIFUL *STILL*
DOESN'T SPARE US
HEARTACHE! IT SEEMS
WE'RE ALL GUILTY OF
DECEPTION IN *ONE*
FORM OR
ANOTHER!**

**SOME OF US
MORE THAN
OTHERS...!**



I DON'T KNOW IF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE TO YOU OR NOT, BUT I'M **QUITTING** MY JOB AT DM! SINCE STEVEN AND I ARE GETTING **MARRIED** THIS WEEKEND, I REALLY **WON'T** NEED TO WORK ANYMORE!


WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE **STILL** GOING TO MARRY HIM? EVEN THOUGH **HE'S** THE ONE WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO TAKE OVER DM, AND THAT HE WANTED TO **USE YOU TO SEDUCE DAVID** IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH HIS GOALS?



WHAT CAN I SAY? I
THINK STEVEN GETS UNDER
MY SKIN BECAUSE HE'S THE
SAME AS ME! SNEAKY...
UNDERHANDED... ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR A **SHORTCUT** TO GET WHAT HE
WANTS! BUT **HE'S** BETTER AT IT
THAN I **EVER** WAS! WHEN I LOOK AT
HIM, I SEE THE PERSON I ALWAYS
IMAGINED **BOB** COULDVE BEEN...
STRONG, SUCCESSFUL,
RESPECTED!

NEITHER ONE OF
US WOULD QUALIFY
AS **ANGELS**, BUT IN
SOME WAYS, I THINK
WE MAY BE
SOULMATES!





CAN YOU BELIEVE
I'D EVER BE SPOUTING
SUCH MUSH? BUT THE
THING IS... I REALLY
THINK I MIGHT LOVE
HIM!

WEIRD,
HUH?


NOT AT ALL,
HONEY! I THINK IT
ACTUALLY MAKES
A LOT OF SENSE!



SO... WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO ABOUT
DAVID?


SIGH!
FORGIVE HIM, I
GUESS! THE TRUTH
IS, NONE OF US
HAVE BEHAVED LIKE
ANGELS IN
RECENT DAYS!

BUT FROM
NOW ON, I'M
GOING TO WATCH
HIM LIKE A
HAWK!

A comic panel featuring two women in a hallway. The woman on the left has voluminous, curly blonde hair and is wearing a shiny, white, sleeveless, form-fitting mini dress. She is pointing her right index finger towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right has long, straight red hair and is wearing a shiny, red, short-sleeved, open-front blazer over a black, shiny, form-fitting mini skirt. She has her left hand on her hip and her right hand resting on her thigh. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a light switch on the left and a dark doorway on the right.

AND THAT
WILL BE A
WHOLE LOT
EASIER WITHOUT
YOU SASHAYING
THAT **SAUCY ASS**
OF YOURS IN HIS
FACE EVERY
DAY!


DOES
THIS MEAN
I'M
FORGIVEN
TOO?



HONEY,
WE'VE BEEN
TOGETHER FOR
OVER THIRTY
YEARS! WE'RE NOT
GOING TO LET THE
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH OUR MEN
GET IN THE WAY
OF THAT!

YOU KNOW,
NEVER IN A
MILLION YEARS
WOULD I HAVE
THOUGHT I'D HEAR
YOU SAY ANYTHING
LIKE THAT TO
ME...

AND MAKE
ME SO DAMN
HAPPY TO
HEAR IT!



AND BEFORE
YOU RUN OFF AND
FORGIVE DAVID, LET
ME RUN SOMETHING
PAST YOU THAT
COULD VERY
DEFINITELY HELP
KEEP HIM IN LINE!

That weekend, in a well-known desert oasis...




HERE WE ARE,
MRS. CHAMBERS!
I HOPE THAT QUICKIE
CEREMONY WASN'T
TOO CHEESY FOR
YOU!



AS LONG AS
THERE'S NOTHING
"QUICK" ABOUT THE
HONEYMOON, I'M
ECSTATIC!





BESIDES, HOW
MANY GIRLS CAN
SAY THEY WERE
MARRIED BY *ELVIS*
AFTER BEING GIVEN
AWAY BY THE ENTIRE
RAT PACK! IT
WAS *PERFECT,*
LOVE!



NOW IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE ME, I
THINK I NEED TO
GO FRESHEN
UP!

BY ALL
MEANS!

A few minutes later...

DAMN IT!
WHERE THE **HELL** IS
AMBER? I GOT A
DESPERATE-SOUNDING EMAIL
FROM DAVID, **CONFESSING**
THAT CELIA HAD CAUGHT HIM
RED-HANDED WITH ANOTHER
WOMAN! I WANTED TO
CONGRATULATE HER FOR
FINALLY DECIDING TO
SPREAD HER LEGS TO
ADVANCE OUR
AGENDA!

I **KNEW**
THAT MY
"TOUGH LOVE"
TREATMENT WOULD GET
THROUGH TO HER, THAT
SHE'D SOON REALIZE HOW
MISERABLE HER LIFE
WOULD BE IF SHE
DIDN'T SEDUCE
DAVID!



I HOPE
THAT'S NOT
BUSINESS!

OH, WOW!


UMM... NO! I
WAS JUST TRYING
TO CALL MY NIECE!
TELL HER THE
GOOD NEWS!



OH, COME OFF IT,
STEVEN! SHE'S AS
MUCH YOUR NIECE
AS I AM AN EX-
CAMPFIRE GIRL!

WHAT ARE
YOU
IMPLYING,
ROBIN?






OH
STEVEN...
LOVE... PUMPKIN...
HUBBY! I KNOW
ALL ABOUT AMBER-
SLASH-SIMON AND
HOW YOU TWO HAVE
BEEN WORKING
TOGETHER FROM THE
GET-GO TO TAKE
OVER DM! IN FACT
I'VE KNOWN FOR
QUITE SOME
TIME!

YOU... YOU KNEW
WHAT I'VE BEEN UP
TO? ALL THIS
TIME? AND YOU
STILL WANTED TO
MARRY ME?

OF COURSE, SILLY!
AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING ABOUT ME...
THE AWFUL THINGS I'VE
DONE... EVEN WHO I USED
TO BE... YET YOU STILL
WANTED TO MARRY ME!
WHY?

GOOD LORD!
DO I HAVE ANY
SECRETS LEFT YOU
HAVEN'T
UNCOVERED?





THE TRUTH IS,
DESPITE THE
FACT THAT YOU
USED TO BE A MAN,
YOU'RE MORE **WOMAN**
THAN **ANYONE** I'VE
EVER KNOWN! THE
MOMENT I LAID EYES
ON YOU, IT WAS A
DONE DEAL! HOW
COULD I NOT
MARRY YOU?


MY
SENTIMENTS
EXACTLY, LOVE!
WE **BELONG**
TOGETHER! **NOW**,
WHY DON'T
WE...

HANG ON A SEC!
I'M CONFUSED
ABOUT SOMETHING!
YOUR COMMENT ABOUT
AMBER! WHERE IS
SHE?

SIGH
DO WE
REALLY
HAVE TO TALK
ABOUT THIS
RIGHT
NOW?

INDULGE ME,
LOVE! PLEASE!





FINE! I JUST SAW
TO IT THAT "AMBER"
GOT A TASTE OF THE
SAME "MEDICINE" SIMON
GAVE ME! FOR THE LAST
WEEK SHE'S BEEN HAPPILY
BANGING HER NEW MIDDLE
MANAGEMENT BOSS AS HIS
NEW BIMBO-IN-
TRAINING!

REALLY? YOU
DID THAT? GOOD
GIRL! SAVES ME THE
TROUBLE OF DEALING
WITH THAT IDIOT!



I'M GLAD
YOU APPROVE!
NOW...!

WAIT A MINUTE!
IF AMBER IS
BANGING HER BOSS,
THEN WHO THE HELL
DID CELIA CATCH
DAVID WITH?


TAKE A
WILD
GUESS,
LOVE!

YOU DID THAT
FOR ME, DIDN'T
YOU? SEDUCED
DAVID... FOR
ME?

OF COURSE!
YOU'RE MY
HUSBAND! I DID
WHAT WAS
NECESSARY TO
FULFILL YOUR
NEEDS... AND
MINE!

IN CASE YOU
HAVEN'T HEARD,
DAVID MITCHELL IS
NO LONGER THE
MAJORITY
STOCKHOLDER AT
DM INDUSTRIES!





YOU KNOW, A
LESSER MAN MIGHT
NOT APPRECIATE WHAT
YOU DID, BUT I FIND IT
EXTREMELY... **AROUSING!** I
APPRECIATE THE **DEPTHS**
YOU'RE WILLING TO GO
FOR ME!

MMMM...
AROUSING
IS GOOD!

AND ONCE I GET CELIA TO SELL ME HER STOCK, I'LL BE THE MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER AND DM WILL FINALLY BE MINE!



A 3D-rendered woman with long, wavy red hair and blue eye makeup is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a black, low-cut, lace bodysuit with a polka-dot pattern. Her expression is neutral as she looks slightly down and to the right. A hand wearing a black, form-fitting glove is reaching up to touch her chest. The background consists of a wall with a repeating decorative pattern. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the woman.


UMMMM... THAT'S
NOT *EXACTLY*
HOW IT PLAYS OUT,
HONEY! YOU SEE, CELIA
DID GET OVER HALF OF
DAVID'S STOCK, BUT
SHE HAS *NO*
INTENTION OF
SELLING IT!



WHAT?!

RELAX, HONEY!
JUST, OOOOOOOO....
JUST STAY PUT WHILE
I DO A LITTLE MULTI-
TASKING! AHHH..
THERE WE GO!

NOW, WHERE
WAS I? OH,
YES...

A 3D-rendered woman with vibrant red, wavy hair and blue eyes is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a black, low-cut bodysuit with a floral pattern. She is looking down and slightly to her left, where the back of a man's head is visible. The man has a very short, grey buzz cut. The background consists of a stone wall with decorative carvings. Two speech bubbles are present: one on the left containing text about a consortium and one on the right containing text about a company's success.


IT SEEMS HARLEY
GAVE ALL HIS STOCK TO
STACY AS A WEDDING
PRESENT, SO WITH HER
STOCK, CELIA'S STOCK AND
THE STOCK YOU PUT IN MY
NAME, THE THREE OF US
HAVE DECIDED TO FORM A
SORT OF
CONSORTIUM!

WE BELIEVE DM
INDUSTRIES WILL
BE A MUCH MORE
SUCCESSFUL COMPANY
WITHOUT ALL THE
CHEST-THUMPING
AND DICK-SWINGING
THAT'S BEEN GOING
ON LATELY!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT! YOU THREE WOMEN NOT ONLY HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF DM AWAY FROM MITCHELL, BUT IN DOING SO YOU'VE ALSO COMPLETELY OUTMANEUVERED ME! IS THAT RIGHT?

'FRAID SO, HONEY!






HOPE YOU'RE NOT
TOO PISSED! I'D HATE
TO LET A LITTLE THING
LIKE *BUSINESS* UPSET
OUR *HONEYMOON*!

PISSED?!
MY GOD,
WOMAN! I'M TOO
DAMN IMPRESSED
TO BE PISSED! YOU
REALLY PULLED
ONE OVER ON
ME!

I'M *GLAD* YOU'RE NOT UPSET! AND IF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE, YOU ARE MARRIED TO THE NEW *MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER* AND I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT *I* CAN BE *EASILY* INFLUENCED... WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF *INDUCEMENTS!*





**THAT'S WHY I MARRIED
YOU, BABY! YOU'RE A WOMAN
AFTER MY OWN HEART!**

**MMMM... IT'S
NOT JUST YOUR
HEART I'M AFTER,
LOVE!**



AND NOW, IF WE'RE **FINALLY** DONE TALKING **BUSINESS**, I'LL SHOW YOU JUST WHAT I MEAN!

A few months later, back
at Club Paradox...

Another girls' night out...





WHEW! THEY ARE DEFINITELY THE HOTTEST OF THE HOT IN THIS PLACE, THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE! I'M SURPRISED THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN HIT ON BY EVERY PUNK HERE!


MAKES YOU WONDER HOW WE WERE SO DAMN LUCKY TO END UP WITH THEM!

**LUCK? HELL!
SOME OF US JUST
USED GOOD OLD
FASHIONED CHARM,
INSTEAD OF RELYING ON
CHEMICALLY INDUCED
"ENHANCEMENTS"
TO HOOK A
WOMAN!**


**ARE YOU
IMPLYING
SOMETHING,
STEVEN?**

**WHATEVER WOULD
MAKE YOU SAY THAT, ...
MITCH?**



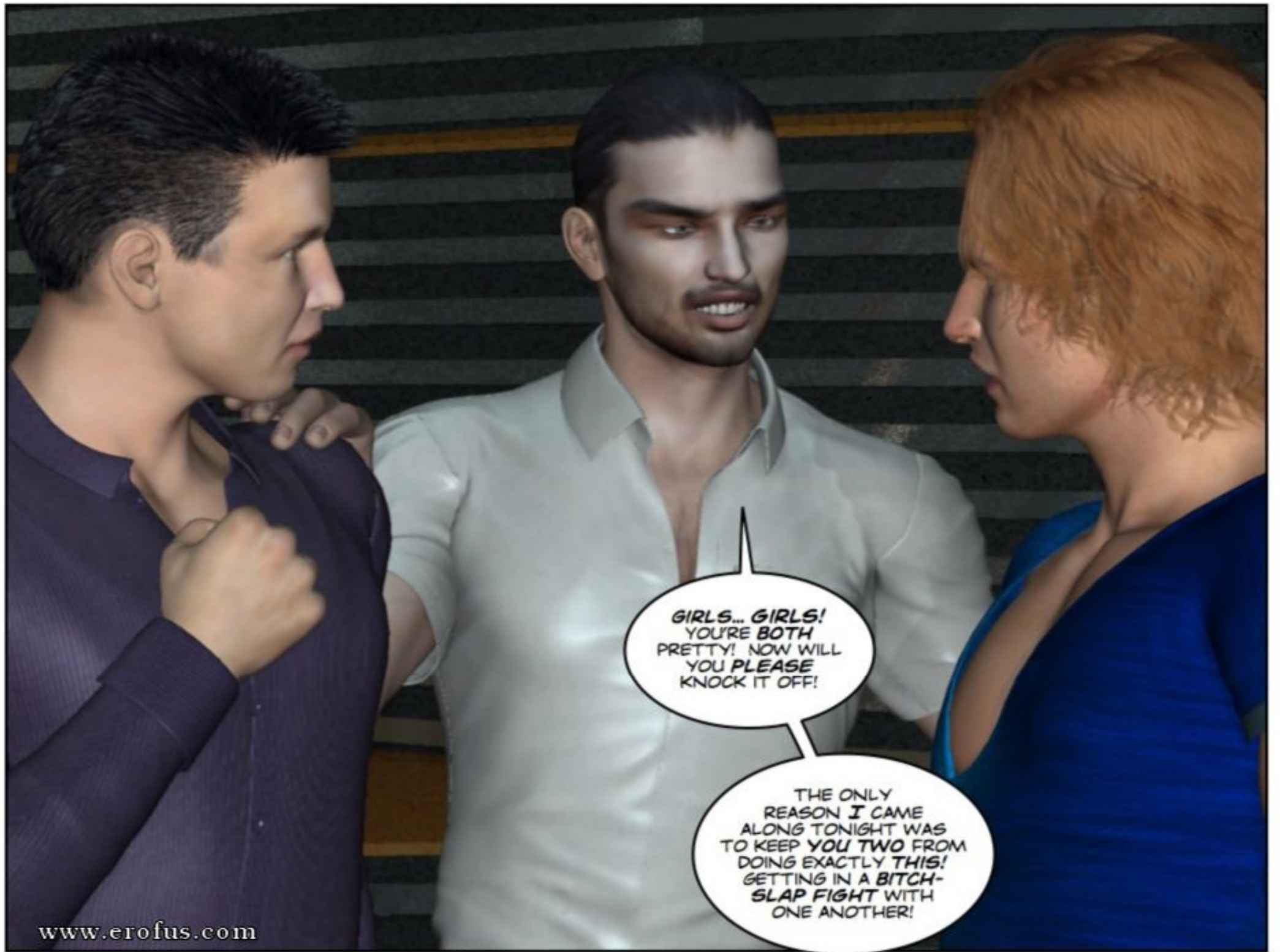


**YOU ARE THE
LAST PERSON TO
LECTURE ME ON
ETHICS, OLD FRIEND!
JUST HOW LONG WERE
YOU PLOTTING TO TAKE
OVER MY COMPANY,
HMM? MONTHS?
YEARS?**



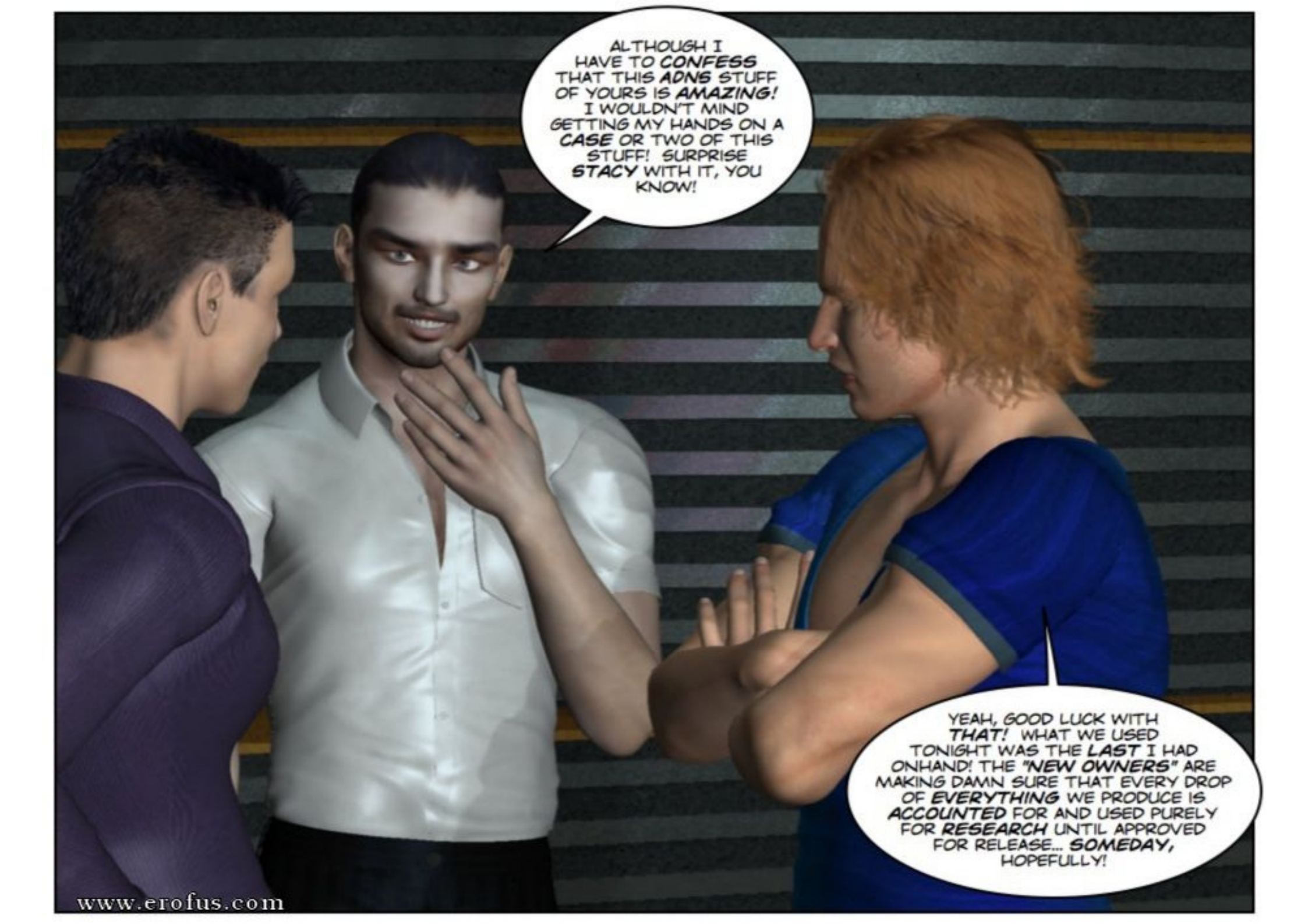
**THIS FROM THE
GUY WHO TRIED TO
SEDUCE MY FIANCEE
LESS THAN A WEEK
AFTER HIS OWN
FREAKING
WEDDING!**

**I DIDN'T
KNOW SHE
WAS YOUR
FIANCEE AT
THE TIME!**




**GIRLS... GIRLS!
YOU'RE BOTH
PRETTY! NOW WILL
YOU PLEASE
KNOCK IT OFF!**

**THE ONLY
REASON I CAME
ALONG TONIGHT WAS
TO KEEP YOU TWO FROM
DOING EXACTLY THIS!
GETTING IN A BITCH-
SLAP FIGHT WITH
ONE ANOTHER!**




ALTHOUGH I
HAVE TO **CONFESS**
THAT THIS **ADNS** STUFF
OF YOURS IS **AMAZING!**
I WOULDN'T MIND
GETTING MY HANDS ON A
CASE OR TWO OF THIS
STUFF! SURPRISE
STACY WITH IT, YOU
KNOW!

YEAH, GOOD LUCK WITH
THAT! WHAT WE USED
TONIGHT WAS THE **LAST** I HAD
ONHAND! THE "**NEW OWNERS**" ARE
MAKING DAMN SURE THAT EVERY DROP
OF **EVERYTHING** WE PRODUCE IS
ACCOUNTED FOR AND USED PURELY
FOR **RESEARCH** UNTIL APPROVED
FOR RELEASE... **SOMEDAY,**
HOPEFULLY!



JUST AS WELL!
THE ONLY REASON I
TOOK THE STUFF WAS
BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE
LESS *CONSPICUOUS* WHILE
SATISFYING MY CURIOSITY
ABOUT THESE "*GIRLS'*
NIGHTS OUT" THEY'RE
SO DAMN *PROTECTIVE*
OF!



ACTUALLY, IT'S
KIND OF A KICK
WATCHING ROBIN **STRUT**
HER STUFF LIKE THIS...
KNOWING FULL WELL
SHE'S COMING HOME
WITH **ME**, AND **ME**
ALONE!

**EAT YOUR
HEARTS OUT, YOU
YOUNG AND HORNY
WANNABES!**

WELL, IF THIS IS
THE **LAST** OF THIS
STUFF WE'LL SEE FOR A
WHILE, I SAY WE MAKE
THE **BEST** OF IT!
SHALL WE,
GENTLEMEN?





SO, IS
MAEVE EVER
COMING IN OFF
THE DANCE
FLOOR? SHE'S
BEEN OUT
THERE SINCE
WE GOT
HERE!

SHE
SAYS SHE
DOESN'T
WANT TO BE
SEEN HANGING
WITH A BUNCH OF
"OLD MARRIED
LADIES", AS SHE
PUT IT! IT
MESSES UP
HER
"MOJO!"

REALLY? WELL
IF SHE'S NOT
CAREFUL, I'LL HAVE
DAVID PROMOTE HER
AGAIN! THAT'LL
SHOW HER!



HE'D DO THAT FOR YOU?

OH YES! HE'S BECOME VERY RECEPTIVE TO MY WANTS AND NEEDS SINCE HE REALIZED WE CAN FIRE HIM AT THE DROP OF A HAT!

SPEAKING OF DAVID, DID HE REALLY THINK A BAD DYE JOB WOULD KEEP US FROM RECOGNIZING HIM AND THE OTHER GUYS OVER THERE?

WELL, AT LEAST THEY'RE ALL DOING SOMETHING TOGETHER FOR A CHANGE! IT'S A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!




SO STACY,
HOW'S THE NEW
ADDITION ON THE
HOUSE COMING?

THEY'RE
BREAKING
GROUND NEXT
WEEK AND
ESTIMATING
COMPLETION IN A
COUPLE OF MONTHS,
DEPENDING ON THE
WEATHER! BUT I'LL
STILL HAVE *PLENTY*
OF TIME TO PICK OUT
FURNITURE, DECORATE
AND PICK OUT A
COLOR PATTERN...
*PINK... OR
BLUE!*

HOW'S
HARLEY
FEEL ABOUT
BEING A DADDY
AT HIS AGE?
DOES IT
FREAK HIM
OUT?


HE COULDN'T BE
MORE THRILLED! I'M
AFRAID HE'S GOING TO
SPOIL THIS CHILD
ROTTEN!





REALLY?

OH YEAH! HE
JOKES ABOUT BEING
BOTH THE **PROUD**
FATHER AND THE **DOTING**
GRANDPA... ALL **ROLLED**
INTO ONE!



IT'S FUNNY... THE
FIRST TIME WE WERE
MARRIED, WE TRIED LIKE
RABBITS TO GET PREGNANT,
BUT *COULDN'T!* THE
DOCTORS FINALLY TOLD US
THAT IT *WASN'T*
POSSIBLE FOR ME!

IF THOSE OLD
QUACKS WERE STILL
ALIVE, I'D SEND THEM
EACH A COPY OF MY
SONOGRAMS!

YOU KNOW, IT
MAY NOT BE THAT
THOSE DOCTORS
WERE WRONG!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

I HAD A FULL
CHECKUP THE OTHER
DAY AND THE DOCTOR
TOLD ME I WAS IN
PERFECT HEALTH!
EVERYTHING WORKS
JUST FINE!

WELL,
THAT'S
GREAT!





**WAIT A
MINUTE...
EVERYTHING?
BUT... THAT
MISCARRIAGE!
AND THE...!**

**AND THE
RESULTING
HYSTERECTOMY?
NO SIGN OF IT!
EVERYTHING'S BACK
THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE!**



SO YOU THINK
THE F-RHO-DT DID
MORE THAN JUST
MAKE US YOUNG!
IT... RESTORED
US?

IT'S
POSSIBLE!
AND IF THAT'S
THE CASE, THIS
MAY BE A NEW
DIRECTION TO
TAKE RESEARCH
AT DM! WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?




I THINK IT'S A
FABULOUS IDEA!
SWITCH FOCUS FROM
YOUTH AND BEAUTY TO
HEALTH! I LOVE
IT! WHAT DO YOU
THINK, ROBIN?

OH, UMMM...
YEAH! IT
SOUNDS GREAT!
LET'S DO IT!

WELL, I THINK I'LL **DRAG** DAVID ONTO THE DANCE FLOOR FOR AWHILE, GET HIM HAPPY AND **HORNY**, AND THEN **SPRING** OUR LATEST PROPOSITION ON HIM ONCE WE'VE **CONCLUDED** THE EVENING'S ACTIVITIES AT HOME! HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY **RECEPTIVE** TO OUR BUSINESS IDEAS WHEN HE'S IN A **POST-COITAL** STATE!

LATER, GIRLS!


BYE CELIA!



I THINK I'LL BE
HEADING OUT TOO! I'VE
NEVER SEEN HARLEY ON
ADNS BEFORE, AND I HAVE TO
SAY, HE LOOKS AWFULLY
GOOD! BESIDES, I NEED TO GET
HIM AWAY FROM THAT
TRAMP WHO'S MANAGED
TO DRAPE HERSELF ALL
OVER HIM!

UMM, STACY!
BEFORE YOU GO,
CAN I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

OF
COURSE,
HONEY! WHAT
IS IT?



DO YOU REALLY
THINK HARLEY IS
HAPPY ABOUT THE
BABY, OR COULD HE BE
PUTTING UP A
FRONT FOR YOUR
BENEFIT?

I MEAN...
HOW DO YOU
KNOW FOR
SURE?

OH HONEY,
BELIEVE ME!
WHEN YOU TELL A
MAN HE'S GOING TO
BE A FATHER, THE
LOOK ON HIS FACE
TELLS YOU
EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW!
AND... **I**
KNOW!

WHY DO
YOU ASK?



OH... JUST
WANTED TO MAKE
SURE YOU WERE
BOTH **HAPPY**...
THAT'S ALL!

OH WE ARE...
MOST
DEFINITELY!



HAVE A
GOOD
EVENING...
STEVEN!





HEY THERE,
HANDSOME!
COME HERE
OFTEN?

HMPH! GUESS WE
WEREN'T AS
"INCONSPICUOUS"
AS WE THOUGHT!

NOT HARDLY! BUT WE DID HAVE FUN WATCHING YOU THREE BE "STEALTHY"! SO, WHAT NOW? GONNA TRY AND PICK ME UP WITH SOME SMOOTH AND SLAVE LINE?

SURE! HOW ABOUT... CAN I BUY YOU A DRINK, HOT STUFF?



HMMM...
MAYBE A CLUB
SODA! BUT I
WANT TO TALK
FOR A MINUTE
FIRST!

ANYTHING
YOU WANT,
BABY!





HMMM...
FUNNY YOU
SHOULD PUT
IT *THAT*
WAY!







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The end is nothing but
an opportunity...



...for a new beginning.

