



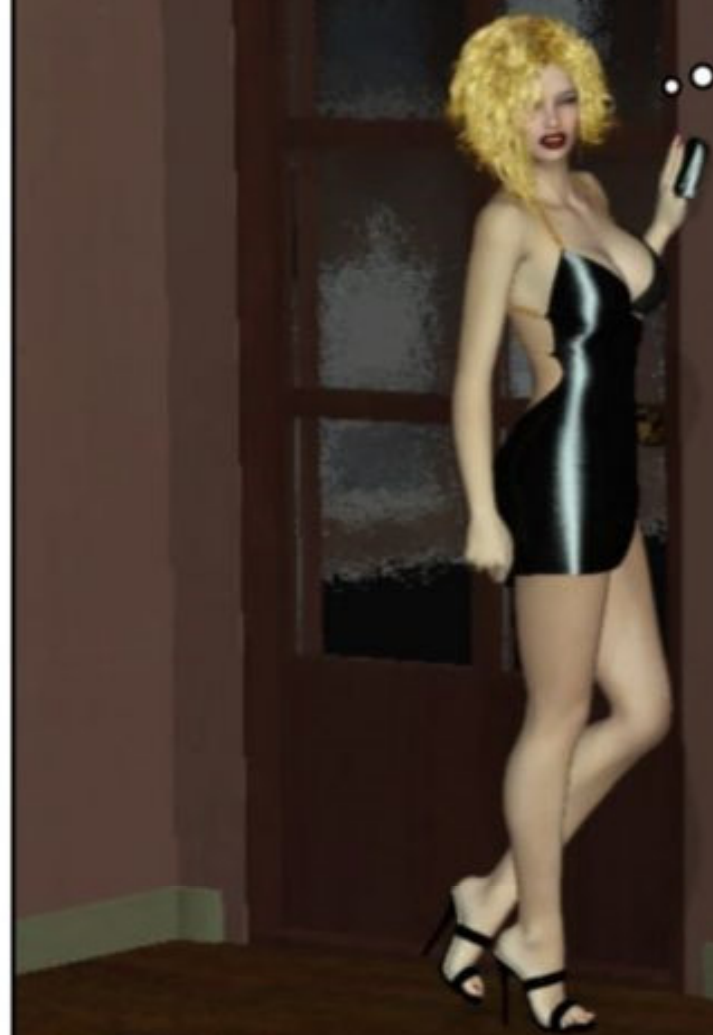
# A Tangled Web

Chapter Four

by CBlack

Later that night...

OH MY! IT...  
IT REALLY  
WORKED! JUST  
LIKE DAVID SAID  
IT WOULD!





HE LOOKS  
SO... SO  
FEMININE!



**BOB?  
HONEY? ARE  
YOU OKAY?**

**HMMM...  
WHATZIT?**



**\*YAWN!\* UH...  
YEAH! I'M FINE!  
WHY WOULDN'T I  
BE? WHAT TIME IS  
IT ANYWAY?**

**IT'S 11:30!  
SO, YOU'VE  
BEEN ON THE  
SOFA SINCE I  
LEFT? HAVEN'T  
BEEN TO THE  
BATHROOM OR  
ANYTHING?**



THAT'S A WEIRD QUESTION, BUT... NO! I MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP SHORTLY AFTER YOU LEFT! DIDN'T WAKE UP 'TIL NOW! WHY?

WELL, UMMM... STAY CALM, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU CHANGED SOME MORE!



WHAT? YOU  
SAID CHANGED  
MORE! NOT  
CHANGED BACK?!  
SHIT! I'VE  
GOTTA SEE!



HOLY  
CRAP!  
I'M...  
I'M...!

YOU'RE VERY  
CUTE, IF THAT  
HELPS!



WAIT!  
WHAT  
ABOUT...?

IT'S  
GONE!  
OH MY  
GOD... IT'S  
TOTALLY  
GONE!

I'M... I'M  
A...!

WELL...  
WELCOME TO  
THE *CLUB*,  
HONEY!



WHY THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN? I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CHANGING BACK!

WELL, DAVID TOLD ME THAT THEY THINK YOU MIGHT'VE TAKEN SOMETHING BESIDES THE ADNS! SOMETHING MORE LIKE WHAT YOU GAVE ME!



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THE F-RHO-DT!?!  
BUT... I WAS YOUNG,  
STRONG... AND MALE  
FIRST! HOW COULD IT  
DO THAT AND THEN  
THIS?

AND... OH MY  
GOD... THAT STUFF  
IS PERMANENT!

NOW, THEY'RE  
NOT SURE ABOUT  
THAT! SINCE ALL THE  
F-RHO-DT PRODUCTS  
WERE DESIGNED FOR  
WOMEN EXCLUSIVELY,  
THEY CAN ONLY  
GUESS AT THE  
EFFECTS ON  
YOU!






WAIT! YOU  
KNOW THAT  
THE F-RHO-DT,  
THE STUFF YOU  
TOOK, WAS FOR  
WOMEN ONLY?  
HOW LONG  
HAVE YOU  
KNOWN?



SINCE THIS AFTERNOON!  
SINCE I WAS ESSENTIALLY THE  
FACE OF F-RHO-DT FOR THE  
BOARD MEMBERS TONIGHT, DAVID  
THOUGHT IT BEST I KNOW  
EVERYTHING ABOUT IT!



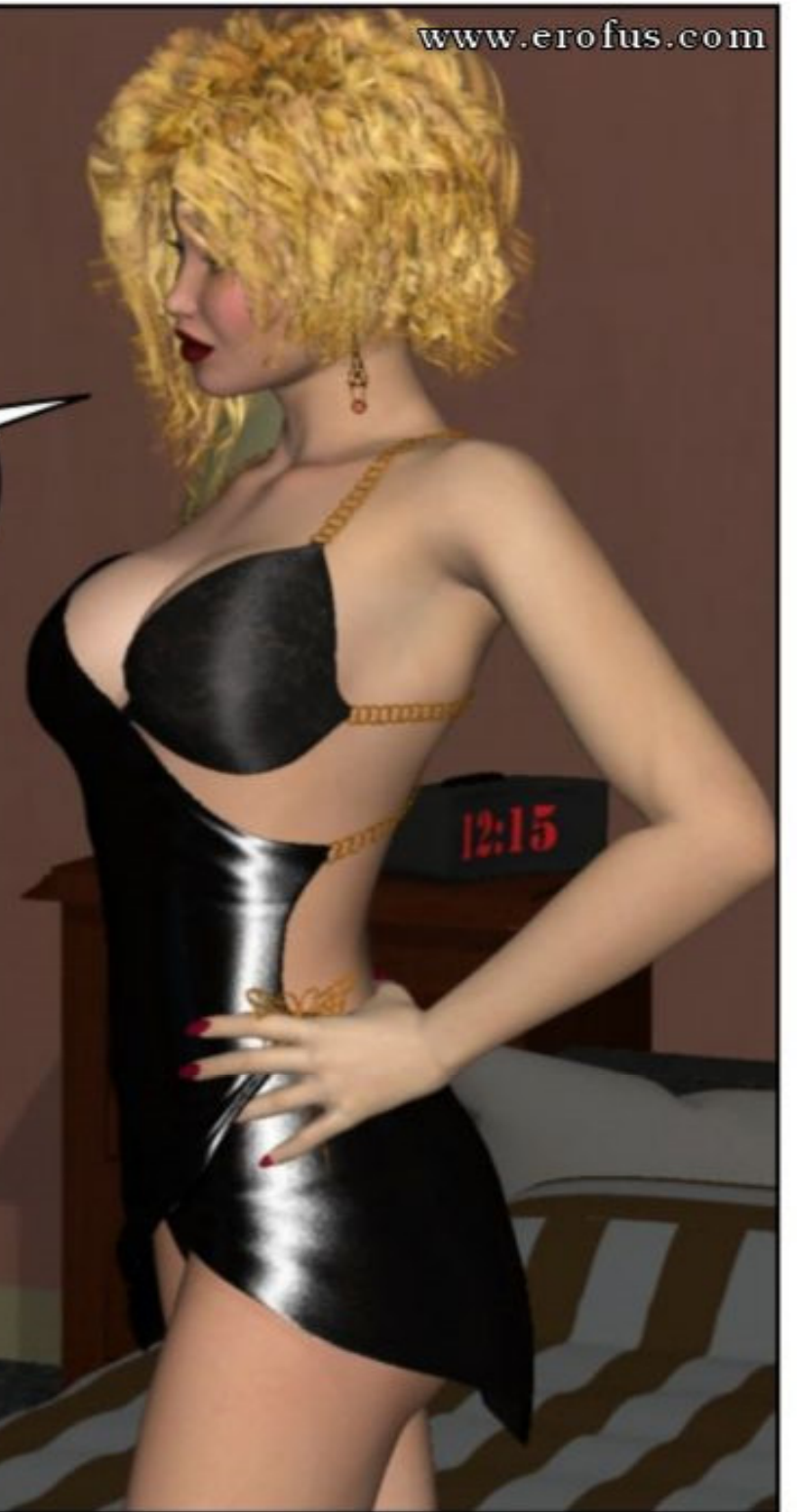
THEN HE  
PROBABLY  
ALSO TOLD  
YOU...!

THAT YOU DIDN'T  
"VOLUNTEER" FOR  
THAT TEST EITHER?  
YES, BOB... AFTER I  
TOLD HIM THE STORY  
YOU TOLD ME!

OH MY GOD,  
CELIA! I'M SOOO  
SORRY! I...!

STOP RIGHT  
THERE, BOB! I'VE  
HAD A LONG TIME TO  
PROCESS ALL THIS AND I  
CAN ALMOST SEE HOW  
YOU CONVINCED  
YOURSELF THAT THIS  
WOULD BE A GOOD  
THING FOR BOTH OF  
US!


I REALLY DID,  
CELIA! BELIEVE  
ME!





AND ALTHOUGH I SHOULD BE **FURIOUS** WITH YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID AND WHAT YOU'VE PUT US THROUGH, THE **PRIMARY** EMOTION I'M FEELING RIGHT NOW IS **DISAPPOINTMENT!**

WE'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR ALMOST **THIRTY-FIVE** YEARS, SO I'M WELL AWARE OF ALL YOUR **CHARACTER FLAWS!** BUT TO RISK YOUR **JOB**, NOT TO MENTION **OUR HEALTH**, ON THESE FORMULAS REALLY SURPRISED ME!



BUT  
WHAT  
HURTS MOST  
IS YOUR  
INABILITY TO TELL  
ME THE TRUTH!  
YOUR LYING HAS  
ALMOST  
COMPLETELY  
RUINED MY  
TRUST IN  
YOU!

BUT...  
YOU'RE  
STILL HERE!  
WHY?



BECAUSE,  
FOR SOME  
**BIZARRE**  
REASON I CAN'T  
**BEGIN** TO  
FATHOM, I **STILL**  
LOVE YOU, BOB! AND  
I'M NOT **ABOUT** TO  
ABANDON YOU...  
ESPECIALLY AT A  
TIME LIKE **THIS**  
WHEN YOU  
NEED ME THE  
**MOST!**



I... I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO  
SAY!

THEN DON'T SAY  
ANYTHING! LET'S  
JUST GO TO BED! I'M  
EXHAUSTED AND WE  
HAVE A LONG DAY  
TOMORROW!



The next day at  
DM Industries...


MR.  
MITCHELL  
WILL SEE YOU  
NOW!

THANK  
YOU!

DO WE  
REALLY HAVE  
TO DO THIS?  
THIS BRA IS  
KILLING ME!  
COULDN'T WE HAVE  
JUST CALLED HIM?  
EVERYBODY'S  
STARING! DO YOU  
THINK THEY  
RECOGNIZE  
ME?


DON'T BE  
RIDICULOUS, BOB! HOW  
COULD ANYONE  
POSSIBLY MISTAKE YOU  
FOR AN OVERWEIGHT,  
MIDDLE-AGED MAN,  
HMM?





AND UNLESS  
YOU **REALLY**  
WANT EVERYONE TO  
STARE, YOU DO **NOT**  
WANT TO GO BRALESS,  
**TRUST ME!** THAT ONE  
WILL DO UNTIL WE GET  
YOU **PROPERLY**  
FITTED LATER  
TODAY!

SOMETHING  
**ELSE** TO LOOK  
FORWARD TO!



AND, *NO*, WE CAN'T JUST  
CALL HIM! I PROMISED  
DAVID WE'D *BOTH* COME IN  
TODAY TO DISCUSS PLANS!  
HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU  
*PERSONALLY!*

DAVID, HUH?  
YOU'RE *ALREADY* ON  
A FIRST NAME BASIS  
WITH THE *CEO*?  
*PRETTY COZY!*

WE'RE ON A  
**FIRST NAME**  
**BASIS** BECAUSE WE  
HAVE A COMMON  
INTEREST... **YOU!** AND  
JUST **REMEMBER**, IF IT  
WEREN'T FOR THE TIME  
HE AND I SPENT  
TOGETHER YESTERDAY,  
**YOU'D BE IN A VERY**  
**SORRY STATE**  
RIGHT NOW!



SO DON'T  
GET BITCHY  
WITH ME...  
MISSY!

OUCH!

YES,  
MA'AM!



CELIA! IT'S  
GOOD TO SEE  
YOU AGAIN!

THANK  
YOU, DAVID!  
YOU TOO!



AND... MY  
WORD! IS THAT  
REALLY YOU,  
ROBERT?

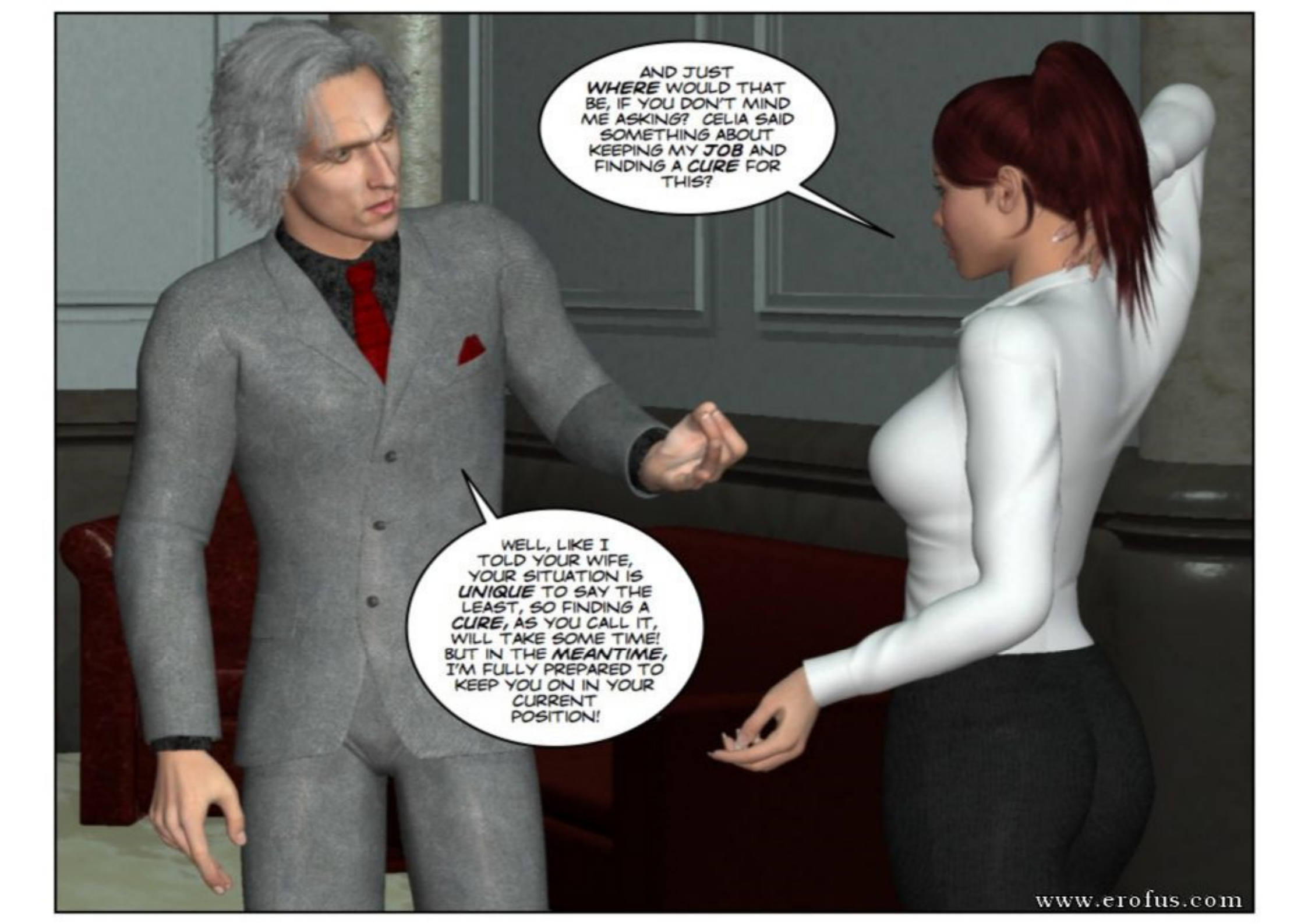
I'M AFRAID  
SO, MR.  
MITCHELL!



AND CAN I SAY  
THAT I'M **REALLY**  
SORRY FOR THE THINGS  
I DID AND I **REALLY**  
**APPRECIATE** THIS  
CHANCE TO MAKE IT  
ALL RIGHT!

THINK **NOTHING**  
OF IT, MY DEAR... I  
MEAN, **ROBERT!**  
WHAT'S PAST IS PAST  
AND ALL THAT  
MATTERS **NOW** IS  
WHERE WE GO FROM  
**HERE!**





AND JUST  
*WHERE* WOULD THAT  
BE, IF YOU DON'T MIND  
ME ASKING? CELIA SAID  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
KEEPING MY *JOB* AND  
FINDING A *CURE* FOR  
THIS?

WELL, LIKE I  
TOLD YOUR WIFE,  
YOUR SITUATION IS  
*UNIQUE* TO SAY THE  
LEAST, SO FINDING A  
*CURE*, AS YOU CALL IT,  
WILL TAKE SOME TIME!  
BUT IN THE *MEANTIME*,  
I'M FULLY PREPARED TO  
KEEP YOU ON IN YOUR  
CURRENT  
POSITION!

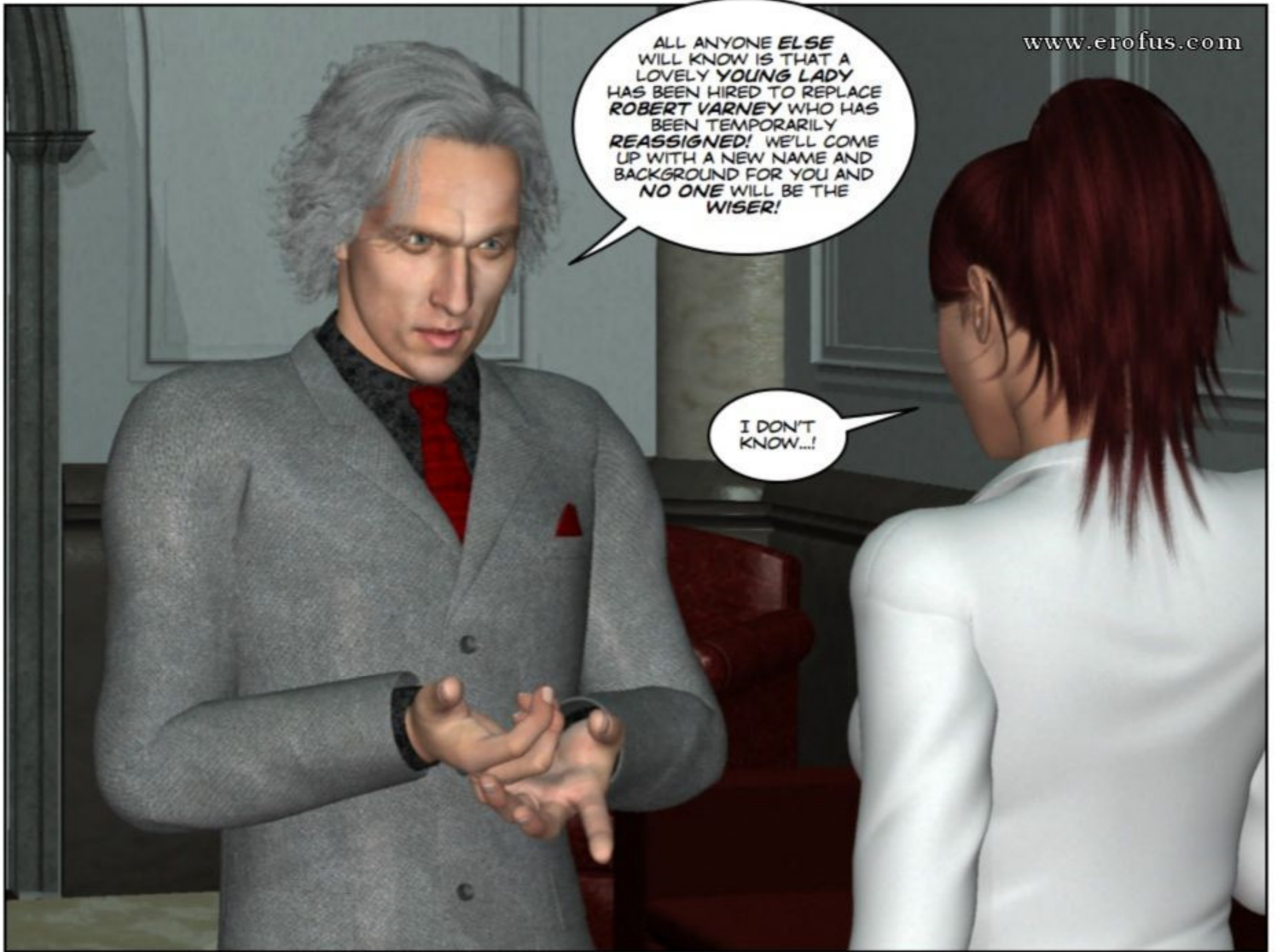
YOU MEAN  
RIGHT BACK OUT  
**THERE?** WITH  
EVERYONE I'VE BEEN  
WORKING WITH FOR  
YEARS? I... I'M NOT  
SURE I CAN DO THAT!  
THEY'LL ALL  
**KNOW...!**


THEY'LL  
ALL KNOW  
**NOTHING!**



ALL ANYONE *ELSE* WILL KNOW IS THAT A LOVELY *YOUNG LADY* HAS BEEN HIRED TO REPLACE *ROBERT VARNEY* WHO HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY *REASSIGNED!* WE'LL COME UP WITH A NEW NAME AND BACKGROUND FOR YOU AND *NO ONE* WILL BE THE *WISER!*

I DON'T KNOW...!






IT'S THE *PERFECT*  
SOLUTION, HONEY! YOU  
GET TO KEEP YOUR *JOB*  
AND YOU'RE RIGHT HERE  
CLOSE BY ALL DAY IN  
CASE THERE ARE ANY  
*BREAKTHROUGHS!*

HMMM... WHAT SHOULD WE CALL YOU? "BOBBI" IS TOO CUTE AND TOO CLOSE TO "BOB"! OOO... HOW ABOUT "ROBIN"? IT'S KIND OF LIKE "ROBERT"! WHAT DO YOU THINK, HONEY?

"ROBIN"? REALLY?





AND LET ME STRESS  
THAT ONLY THE **THREE**  
OF US WILL KNOW WHO YOU  
**REALLY** ARE! THE PROJECT  
TEAM WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO  
IDENTIFY YOU AS A NUMBER! ANY  
INFORMATION THEY NEED WILL  
COME THROUGH **ME**, SO I  
EXPECT THEY'LL NEVER  
ACTUALLY HAVE TO MEET  
**YOU** IN PERSON!

I GUESS  
WHEN YOU  
PUT IT **THAT**  
WAY...! BUT I  
STILL...!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT THIS, HONEY! DAVID... MR. MITCHELL, HAS BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO HELP! CONSIDERING WHAT YOU DID TO GET TO THIS POINT, I THINK IT BEST WE LISTEN TO HIM AND TAKE HIS ADVICE... NO MATTER HOW UNCOMFORTABLE IT MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL!

AND BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS EMOTIONAL STRESS OUR PRODUCT HAS PLACED ON YOU, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU'RE "HIRED" AT A PAY GRADE HIGHER THAN WHAT "BOB" EARNED!

MORE MONEY?!



WELL, SINCE IT SEEMS MY  
**OPTIONS** ARE PRETTY  
**LIMITED**, AND YOU ARE BEING  
SURPRISINGLY **UNDERSTANDING**,  
I GUESS WE'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!  
AT LEAST UNTIL THEY COME  
UP WITH THE ANTIDOTE!

**WONDERFUL!**  
I'LL GET THE  
NECESSARY PAPERWORK  
UNDERWAY AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE!



CELIA, I'D LIKE A MOMENT TO DISCUSS THE FEEDBACK WE GOT FROM THE BOARD LAST NIGHT! ROBERT, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND WAITING *OUTSIDE*? THIS SHOULD ONLY TAKE A MOMENT OR SO!

OH! UH...  
**SURE!**





SO, WHAT DID THE  
BOARD MEMBERS  
THINK OF ME?

OH... THEY WERE  
**DEFINITELY**  
IMPRESSED BY YOU,  
NO DOUBT! BUT WE'LL  
TALK ABOUT THAT AT A  
**LATER** TIME! I JUST  
FELT WE NEEDED TO  
TALK A BIT WITHOUT  
**YOUR HUSBAND**  
PRESENT!





SO, FROM THE LOOKS  
OF THINGS, IT APPEARS  
EVERYTHING WENT AS  
PLANNED!


YES, I... I  
SLIPPED THE  
FORMULA INTO  
HIS TEA BEFORE I  
LEFT LAST NIGHT  
AND WHEN I  
RETURNED, IT  
WAS ALL  
OVER!

AND HE  
DOESN'T  
KNOW THAT  
YOU DID  
THIS?

NO! I ALMOST TOLD HIM, BUT I NEED HIM TO TRUST ME IF WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER! THAT'S WHY I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING ELSE... THAT YOU AND I KNOW HE STOLE BOTH FORMULAS AND HOW MY "ACCIDENT" WAS ANYTHING BUT!

THAT'S GOOD, ACTUALLY! NOW THAT HE RECOGNIZES HOW FORGIVING YOU ARE, HE SHOULD BE MORE COMPLIANT WITH YOUR WISHES AS YOU HELP HIM ADJUST TO HIS NEW SITUATION!






I DO HOPE SO!  
I'M STILL FEELING  
VERY **CONFLICTED**  
ABOUT SPIKING HIS  
TEA THAT WAY! AT  
THE TIME, I WAS  
**ANGRY AND**  
**FRUSTRATED,**  
BUT NOW...!

IT WAS  
**NECESSARY, CELIA!**  
LIKE I SAID, ROBERT'S  
"INTERMEDIATE" PHASE  
WAS EXTREMELY  
**UNSTABLE!** NUMEROUS  
**COMPLICATIONS** MIGHT  
HAVE OCCURRED...  
POTENTIALLY **FATAL**  
ONES!

IT'LL BE MUCH  
**EASIER** FOR US TO  
FIND AN ANTIDOTE  
NOW THAT HE'S A  
**WOMAN!** HE'LL BE FAR  
**HEALTHIER** THIS  
WAY! **MUCH**  
BETTER OFF!



IF YOU SAY  
SO, DAVID. I JUST  
HOPE HE NEVER  
FINDS OUT WHAT  
I'VE DONE!

*GOD!  
HOW AM I GOING  
TO BE ABLE TO  
WORK OUT **THERE**  
AGAIN LOOKING LIKE  
**THIS?***

*TO  
EVERYONE OUT  
THERE, I'LL BE SOME  
FRESH-FACED YOUNG  
KID JUST STARTING OUT,  
BUT TO **ME**, THEY'LL  
STILL BE ALL THE  
**SAME** PEOPLE I'VE  
KNOWN FOR  
**YEARS!***



HMMM... I  
HADN'T  
THOUGHT OF IT  
THAT WAY!

I'M NOT  
SURE YET,  
BUT THERE  
MIGHT BE SOME  
SMALL POSITIVE  
SPIN TO THIS  
AFTER ALL!

WELL,  
HELLO  
THERE!

ARE YOU  
WAITING FOR  
SOMEONE? ME,  
HOPEFULLY!

OH, SHIT!  
OF ALL THE  
PEOPLE...!

UM... NO!  
JUST FINISHING  
UP AN INTERVIEW  
AND WAITING FOR  
MY... MY  
FRIEND!



INTERVIEW?  
**EXCELLENT!** I  
KNOW FOR A **FACT**  
WE'RE GOING TO BE  
NEEDING AT LEAST ONE  
MORE **SECRETARY!** I  
COULD DEFINITELY SEE  
**YOU** FITTING THE  
BILL!

**A SECRETARY?!**  
I'VE BEEN A **DATA-**  
**ANALYST** FOR  
ALMOST **TWENTY...!**



I MEAN... I'M A  
DATA-ANALYST,  
NOT A  
SECRETARY!

REALLY?  
WELL THAT'S  
COOL, TOO!  
JUST AS LONG  
AS THEY HIRE  
YOU, RIGHT?

AND THEN WE'LL  
DEFINITELY GET THE  
CHANCE TO KNOW  
EACH OTHER MUCH  
BETTER! CIAO,  
BABE!



ARROGANT,  
SLIME MOLD,  
PIECE OF...!

HMPH! A  
LITTLE BITCHY  
AND A TOUCH  
DYKEY, BUT HELL...  
SHE'S GOT  
GREAT TITS!



READY TO GO,  
HONEY? WE HAVE A  
LOT TO DO THIS  
MORNING! DAVID THOUGHT  
IT BEST YOU COME BACK  
TO WORK THIS  
AFTERNOON!

THIS  
AFTERNOON?  
WHY SO DAMN  
SOON?



WELL, WE BOTH  
THOUGHT THE  
**SOONER** THE BETTER!  
BESIDES, HE WANTED TO  
**INTRODUCE** YOU  
DURING **TODAY'S**  
STAFF MEETING AT  
THREE!


**\*SIGH!\***  
FINE... **NO**  
**PRESSURE!**  
WHERE TO?



FIRST OFF,  
WE NEED TO  
COME UP WITH A  
LITTLE BACKGROUND  
FOR "ROBIN" AND  
SEND IT TO DAVID SO  
HE CAN SET UP  
YOUR PERSONNEL  
FILE!

SO...  
"ROBIN"  
IT IS, I  
GUESS!





THEN WE HAVE  
SOME **SERIOUS**  
SHOPPING TO DO!  
THIS IS THE **ONLY**  
OUTFIT YOU HAVE SO  
FAR AND IT JUST  
**WON'T DO** FOR  
THE OFFICE!

GREAT...  
FINE... IS  
THAT IT?

OH,  
HARDLY! A  
TRIP TO THE  
SALON IS A MUST!  
THAT HAIR IS A  
MESS AND YOU'VE  
GOT TO LEARN A  
LITTLE ABOUT  
MAKEUP AND  
SUCH!

JESUS!  
I'M IN  
HELL!

\*SIGH!\*  
ANYTHING  
ELSE?






OH, I'M  
SURE I'LL  
THINK OF  
SOMETHING  
ALONG THE  
WAY!  
\*GIGGLE!\*

GREAT!

That afternoon, at 3 PM...


I CALLED THIS BRIEF MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO LET YOU ALL IN ON A FEW **STAFFING CHANGES** RESULTING FROM A BIT OF CORPORATE REORGANIZATION, AND DON'T WORRY, **NO ONE IS BEING LET GO!**





FIRST OFF, *SIMON GREELY* HERE HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO *ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT* IN CHARGE OF *DATA-ANALYSIS*! HE'S DONE SUCH A *GOOD JOB* AS *PROJECT MANAGER*, THAT WE *COULDN'T HELP* BUT NOTICE! *GOOD JOB, SIMON!*

THANKS,  
MR. M!



NEXT, YOU'VE  
PROBABLY NOTICED  
THAT **BOB VARNEY** SEEMS  
TO HAVE GONE AWOL THIS  
WEEK, BUT NOTHING COULD BE  
**FURTHER** FROM THE TRUTH!  
HE'S BEEN **TEMPORARILY**  
**RELOCATED** TO OUR NEW  
DIVISION IN **SINGAPORE** TO  
HELP JUMP START  
OPERATIONS OVER THERE!  
I'M **SURE** HE'LL BE  
MISSED!

AND  
[www.groius.com](http://www.groius.com)  
THE VOID LEFT BY  
BOB'S DEPARTURE, I'D  
LIKE TO INTRODUCE  
**ROBIN GLEASON** WHO  
COMES TO US FROM  
PORTLAND, WHERE SHE  
WORKED FOR SEVERAL  
YEARS AS A TOP-NOTCH  
DATA-ANALYST! I HOPE  
YOU ALL WILL JOIN ME  
IN MAKING HER FEEL  
VERY WELCOME  
HERE!

UMM...  
HI!



WELL, THAT'S  
ALL I HAVE!  
ENJOY THE REST  
OF YOUR DAY!  
AND MAEVE?

YES, MR.  
MITCHELL?

COULD YOU  
SHOW ROBIN TO  
THE STATION  
NEXT TO YOURS  
AND GET HER  
SITUATED?

OF COURSE,  
MR. MITCHELL!





WELCOME,  
ROBIN! I KNOW  
I'M DEFINITELY  
LOOKING FORWARD  
TO SEEING MUCH  
MORE OF YOU!

C'MON  
ROBIN! IT'S  
RIGHT OVER  
HERE!






SO,  
SIMON  
ALREADY  
HITTING  
ON YOU?

YEAH!  
ANYONE EVER  
**COMPLAIN**  
ABOUT THAT?

NOT REALLY! HE'S A RISING **STAR** IN THE COMPANY, AFTER ALL. BUT DON'T WORRY! THE **GUY'S ALL TALK!** HE'LL GO AWAY IF YOU DON'T ENCOURAGE HIM! AT LEAST **THAT'S** WHAT'S WORKED FOR **ME!**

BUT HE SEEMS **AWFULLY PERSISTENT** TO ME!






I THINK HE'S  
JUST IN A  
PARTICULARLY *FEISTY*  
MOOD BECAUSE OF HIS  
PROMOTION! JUST TREAT  
HIM *COOLY* AND HE'LL  
LOST INTEREST...  
*EVENTUALLY!*

I SURE  
*HOPE* SO!


WELL, HERE WE ARE! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ALREADY SET YOU UP, SO YOU'RE READY TO LOGIN AND ROCK AND ROLL! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'M RIGHT NEXT DOOR!

THANKS, MAEVE!





WELL,  
LET'S SEE  
WHAT I'VE  
MISSED THE  
LAST FEW  
DAYS!



**HMPH!**  
DOESN'T SURPRISE  
ME THEY'VE GOT  
"ROBIN" WORKING THE  
**LOW-PRIORITY STUFF!**  
DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S  
MITCHELL'S DOING OR  
JUST **S.O.P.** FOR  
THE **NEWBIE!**

EITHER WAY,  
I **STILL** KNOW  
HOW TO FIND  
WHAT I **NEED**  
WHEN THE TIME  
COMES!



... ..

BUT FOR NOW, I'LL  
JUST PLAY IT *COOL*  
AND BLEND INTO THE  
BACKGROUND... *JUST*  
*LIKE ALWAYS!*

Five o'clock  
rolls around...

HEY ROBIN,  
QUITTING  
TIME! WANT  
TO GO GRAB A  
DRINK?

UMMM, A  
DRINK?  
WELL, I DON'T  
KNOW...!



YOU DON'T HAVE  
A **HUSBAND**... OR  
**KIDS** WAITING FOR  
YOU AT HOME, DO  
YOU?

**\*GIGGLE!\***  
OH GOD, NO!  
NO WAY!

THEN C'MON!  
**ONE DRINK!** IT'S  
RIGHT AROUND THE  
CORNER AND I'M  
**BUYING!**





WELL...  
OKAY!  
BUT JUST  
ONE!

THAT'S  
MY GIRL!  
I KNEW WE  
WERE GOING  
TO GET  
ALONG!

A few minutes later, right around the corner...


SO, HOW WAS YOUR FIRST QUARTER DAY? EVERYTHING YOU DREAMED IT WOULD BE?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REALLY HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN I SHOWED UP TODAY! BUT IT ALL WENT PRETTY SMOOTHLY, THANKS IN LARGE PART TO YOU!






WELL, AS  
YOU MAY OR  
MAY **NOT** HAVE  
NOTICED YET, OUR  
DIVISION AT DM IS  
RATHER...  
**TESTOSTERONE**  
HEAVY! SO WE FEW  
GIRLS NEED TO  
**STICK**  
**TOGETHER!**

A 3D rendered scene in a bar. On the left, a woman with red hair in a ponytail, wearing a blue cardigan, is seen from the side. In the center, a man with brown hair in a white short-sleeved shirt stands behind a wooden bar. On the right, a woman with red hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a grey vest, is looking towards the man. Three speech bubbles contain text. The background shows a bar counter with bottles and a stone wall.

HI SAL! GIVE US  
TWO MARGARITAS,  
WILL YOU?

YOU GOT  
IT, MAEVE!

WHY DO  
I GET THE  
FEELING  
YOU'VE BEEN  
HERE **MORE**  
THAN JUST  
A FEW  
TIMES?



WHAT CAN I SAY?  
IT'S NICE AND  
CONVENIENT FOR OUR  
REGULAR LADIES' POST-WORK  
DETOX SESSIONS! BESIDES,  
THEY HAVE DYNAMITE  
MARGARITAS AND THE  
SCENERY'S NOT TOO  
SHABBY EITHER!

YOU KEEP  
SAYING "LADIES!"  
I DON'T RECOGNIZE  
ANYONE ELSE HERE  
FROM DM!

HEY MAEVE!  
SORRY I'M LATE!  
LAST MINUTE  
GARBAGE TO DEAL  
WITH... AS USUAL!

STACY?!






I HAD NO IDEA  
YOU TWO WERE  
FRIENDS! I  
MEAN....!

YOU MEAN  
YOU COULDN'T  
FIGURE IT OUT  
AFTER WORKING HERE  
TWO WHOLE  
HOURS? GEEZ  
ROBIN, YOU WEAR  
BLINDERS OR  
SOMETHING?

EXPLAIN IT  
TO HER, STACY!  
I'LL BE RIGHT  
BACK!

EXPLAIN  
WHAT?





MAEVE AND I  
HAVE BEEN FRIENDS  
FOR A COUPLE OF  
YEARS, BUT DECIDED TO  
KEEP IT *OUT* OF THE  
OFFICE! KNOWING THE  
*GUYS* AT THE OFFICE,  
THEY'D PROBABLY READ A  
*LOT* MORE INTO IT  
THAN THERE  
REALLY IS!


*IS* THERE  
ANYTHING  
ELSE GOING ON?  
I MEAN, YOU *ARE*  
KEEPING IT A  
SECRET!  
*WHY?*

JESUS! YOU  
SOUND JUST LIKE  
ONE OF THEM!

SORRY! I  
DIDN'T MEAN  
ANYTHING BY  
IT!

LOOK! OFFICE  
POLITICS IS A WEIRD  
THING! IF THE GUYS  
PERCEIVE US SIMPLY AS  
INDIVIDUAL "GIRLS," WE'RE  
NO THREAT! JUST EYE-  
CANDY THAT PRETTIES  
UP THE PLACE!





IF THEY KNEW WE  
HUNG OUT TOGETHER,  
TALKED, COMPARED NOTES  
AND SUCH, THEN THEY'D  
START FEELING  
**THREATENED...** AS WELL  
THEY **SHOULD!**

**WOW!** IT  
ALMOST SOUNDS  
LIKE A FEMALE  
UNDERGROUND!  
**COOL!**



IT'S NOT AS  
UNUSUAL AS IT  
MAY SOUND...  
TRUST ME!

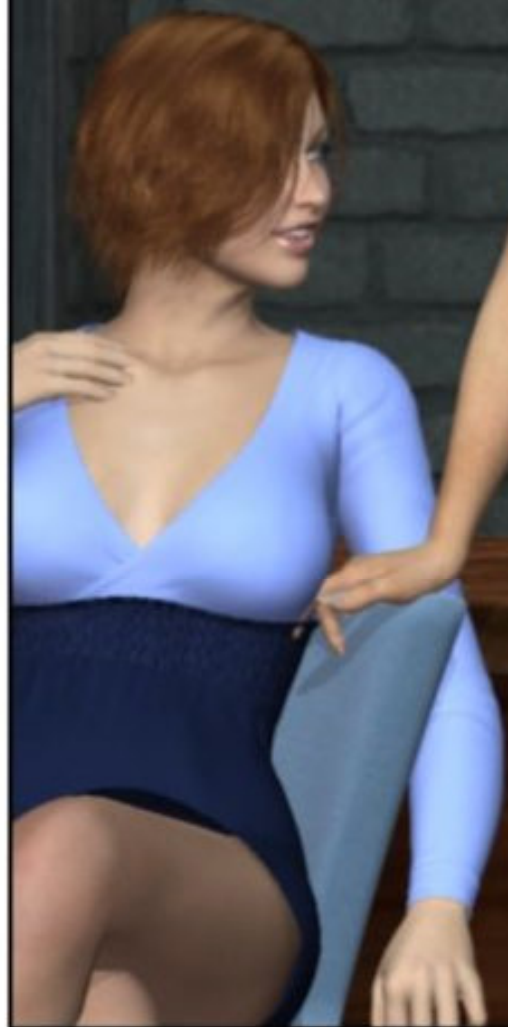
SO,  
WHAT'D I  
MISS?

WOW,  
MAEVE! LOOK  
AT YOU!

YEAH WELL,  
I LEARNED A  
LONG TIME AGO  
THAT WHEN YOU  
HANG OUT WITH  
FRIENDS WHO LOOK  
LIKE THIS, YOU NEED  
TO MAKE SOME  
ADJUSTMENTS TO  
AVOID BEING  
COMPLETELY  
INVISIBLE!



HMMM, AND IF  
YOU START  
HANGING WITH US  
REGULARLY, I MAY  
HAVE TO **DOUBLE** MY  
EFFORTS! IT'S TOUGH  
TO COMPETE WITH  
**TWO** RACKS LIKE  
THAT!



SO, ROBIN...  
I'VE GOT A  
QUESTION FOR  
YOU! THAT HOT  
BLONDE THAT CAME  
WITH YOU TO MEET  
MR. MITCHELL THIS  
MORNING...  
WHAT'S HER  
STORY?

UMMM,  
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?



WELL, SHE  
FIRST SHOWS UP A  
COUPLE DAYS AGO  
ASKING FOR **BOB VARNEY!**  
SINCE THEN SHE'S MET  
WITH MITCHELL **TWICE...**  
ONCE YESTERDAY BY  
HERSELF WITH **NO**  
**APPOINTMENT** AND  
THEN THIS MORNING  
WITH **YOU!** SO...  
**WHAT'S UP?**

**OH SHIT!**  
**THINK FAST**  
**VARNEY!**

UMMM...  
SHE **NEVER**  
GAVE YOU HER  
**NAME?**

NO, SHE NEVER  
GAVE IT TO ME! MR.  
MITCHELL JUST SAID HE  
HAD AN APPOINTMENT  
THIS MORNING WITH  
TWO YOUNG WOMEN...  
NOTHING ELSE!

HERE  
GOES...!



OH WELL... THAT'S **ANNIE MCCLURE!** SHE'S AN OLD **COLLEGE** FRIEND! WHEN I DECIDED TO MOVE BACK FROM PORTLAND, SHE LET ME MOVE INTO HER SPARE BEDROOM, SO WE'RE **ROOMMATES** NOW! SHE ALSO KNOWS **BOB VARNEY** AND STOPPED INTO THE OFFICE THE OTHER DAY TO PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME! BOB TOLD HER SHE NEEDED TO TALK TO **MITCHELL!** SOMEHOW, SHE MANAGED TO PULL THAT OFF, AND THAT'S HOW **I** GOT AN INTERVIEW!

YOU COULD SAY THAT **ANNIE MCCLURE** IS THE REASON I'M HERE!





HMMM...  
THAT'S  
QUITE A  
FRIEND YOU GOT  
THERE! LUCKY  
FOR YOU  
MITCHELL HAS A  
WEAKNESS  
FOR YOUNG  
BLONDES!

HE... HE  
DOES?

OH YEAH! THE LAST  
THREE EX-MRS. MITCHELLS  
LOOKED A LOT LIKE YOUR FRIEND!  
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE PRE-  
NUPS, HE'D BE TOTALLY  
BROKE BY NOW!

THREE EX-WIVES? ALL SEXY, YOUNG  
BLONDES LIKE CEL... I MEAN ANNIE?

OH YEAH! HE  
DEFINITELY HAS A  
FAVORITE "TYPE",  
THAT'S FOR SURE! NOT  
TO TAKE ANYTHING AWAY  
FROM YOUR FRIEND, BUT I  
DOUBT SHE HAD TO TRY  
VERY HARD BEFORE SHE  
HAD HIM WRAPPED  
AROUND HER LITTLE  
FINGER!

HEY, IF SHE  
PLAYS HER CARDS  
RIGHT, YOU COULD BE  
CLOSE FRIENDS WITH  
THE CEO'S NEXT  
WIFE! HOW COOL  
WOULD THAT BE?

I... I'M SUDDENLY  
NOT *FEELING* VERY  
WELL! I THINK I  
NEED TO *GO!*

YEAH, I  
SHOULD'VE  
*WARNED* YOU...  
SAL REALLY LIKES  
TO *LOAD UP* HIS  
MARGARITAS! YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO  
LEAVE, THOUGH!  
WE'LL GET  
SOMETHING TO  
EAT... *THAT'LL*  
MAKE YOU FEEL  
BETTER!



I'D REALLY LIKE TO... I MEAN IT! IT'S JUST... I HAVE A LOT OF UNPACKING STILL TO DO... NEW APARTMENT AND ALL! AND IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG DAY! CAN I TAKE A RAIN CHECK?

YOU BET!

ANYTIME!



ALL RIGHT  
THEN, I'LL SEE  
YOU TWO  
TOMORROW!  
AND THANKS  
AGAIN!





SO IS  
THAT WHY  
MITCHELL IS BEING  
SO UNDERSTANDING  
AND HELPFUL? HE  
HAS THE HOTS FOR  
MY WIFE? BUT..  
SHE'S MARRIED...  
TO ME! HE  
KNOWS  
THAT!

MAYBE... MAYBE  
I'M JUST BEING  
PARANOID!



**WHATEVER  
THE CASE, I  
THINK I'LL SPEND  
SOME TIME  
TOMORROW DOING  
A LITTLE...  
RESEARCH!**

A short while  
later, back at  
the apartment...


HONEY, IS  
THAT YOU?

YEAH,  
IT'S ME!

SO... HOW'D  
IT GO? HOW  
WAS "ROBIN'S"  
FIRST DAY?

CONSIDERING  
IT ONLY  
LASTED A FEW  
HOURS, IT WENT  
SURPRISINGLY  
WELL!





I TOLD YOU  
IT WOULD!

YEAH, YOU  
**ALSO** TOLD  
ME I'D GET USED  
TO THESE  
**SHOES!** YOU'RE  
ONE FOR TWO,  
HONEY!

BE  
**PATIENT,**  
BOB! THEY  
LOOK **GREAT**  
ON YOU!  
**HUNGRY?**


STARVING!  
BUT I HAVE TO  
GET OUT OF  
THESE THINGS  
FIRST!

OKAY, I'LL  
HAVE DINNER  
READY IN A  
MINUTE!



SHOULD I  
TELL HER ABOUT  
MITCHELL AND HIS  
THREE EX-WIVES?  
HELL, SHE'LL PROBABLY  
LAUGH IT OFF AS  
COINCIDENCE... AND  
IT PROBABLY IS!



A woman with long, dark red hair is shown from the waist up. She is wearing a light blue lace bra and matching light blue lace underwear. Her hands are on her hips, and she has a serious, somewhat concerned expression. A thought bubble is positioned to her right, containing text. The background is a dark, textured brown.

BUT WHAT  
IF HE **DOES**  
HAVE THE HOTS  
FOR HER AND  
STARTS **HITTING** ON  
HER? SHE MIGHT  
FEEL **OBLIGATED**  
TO HIM FOR NOT  
PRESSING  
CHARGES!

OR WHAT IF  
IT'S **NOT** BECAUSE  
OF OBLIGATION, BUT  
BECAUSE OF HER  
**NEEDS!** NEEDS THAT  
**I** OBVIOUSLY  
**CAN'T...**



**STOP IT,  
VARNEY!  
BEFORE YOU  
MAKE YOURSELF  
CRAZY!**


After a subdued dinner...

YOU WERE  
AWFULLY *QUIET*  
DURING DINNER,  
HONEY! IS  
EVERYTHING  
OKAY?



YEAH, I'M JUST,  
UH... TIRED! A LONG,  
WEIRD DAY, YOU  
KNOW!

MENTAL  
PICTURES OF YOU AND  
MITCHELL TOGETHER  
AREN'T HELPING  
EITHER!



POOR THING!  
YOU'VE BEEN  
THROUGH SO MUCH  
THE LAST COUPLE OF  
DAYS! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN  
HAD A CHANCE TO GET  
TO KNOW THIS NEW  
BODY OF YOURS,  
HAVE YOU!

UHM, NO... NO I  
HAVEN'T! I  
HAVEN'T **REALLY**  
GIVEN IT MUCH  
THOUGHT!



HMMM!  
WELL, LET'S  
INTRODUCE YOU,  
SHALL WE?

WHAT? YOU  
MEAN RIGHT NOW?  
LOOK CELIA, I DON'T  
KNOW IF I'M...!

NOW IS THE  
PERFECT TIME,  
HONEY! YOU'VE JUST  
GONE THROUGH SOME  
EXTREME AND **CONFUSING**  
CHANGES AND WHETHER YOU  
WANT TO ADMIT IT OR NOT,  
YOU NEED TO COME TO  
TERMS WITH THE **FACT**  
THAT FOR THE TIME  
BEING... **YOU'RE A  
WOMAN!**





NO DUH!

WHAT I  
MEAN IS, THE  
MORE  
COMFORTABLE  
YOU ARE WITH  
YOURSELF, THE  
EASIER ALL  
THIS WILL BE  
FOR YOU!

AND THE *FIRST*  
STEP IS TO LEARN  
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO  
*FEEL* LIKE A WOMAN!  
ALL THE *SENSATIONS*  
THAT ARE *UNIQUELY*  
*FEMALE!*





OH!!  
THAT FEELS  
EVEN BETTER  
THAN LAST  
TIME!



I THOUGHT  
IT MIGHT! AND  
I'LL **BET** I CAN  
**TOP** THIS!

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
THINKING, BUT I  
DON'T THINK  
I'M **READY**  
FOR...!





MMM-HMMM!  
WANT ME TO  
STOP?

OH HELL  
NO! GOD, IF  
IT FEELS THIS  
GOOD, WHY THE  
HELL DIDN'T YOU  
HAVE ME DOING  
THIS TO YOU  
EVERY  
NIGHT?

WELL, YOU DID  
DO IT EVERY  
ONCE IN A WHILE,  
BUT... LET'S JUST  
SAY I'VE ALWAYS  
KNOWN MY BODY A  
LITTLE BETTER  
THAN YOU  
HAVE!



HMMM...  
NOW YOU'VE  
GOT ME MORE  
THAN A LITTLE  
CURIOUS ABOUT  
ALL THE THINGS  
YOU REALLY  
KNOW!





WELL, JUST  
FOLLOW ME TO  
THE BEDROOM, LOVE,  
AND I'LL **SATISFY**  
THAT CURIOSITY OF  
YOURS! **I**  
**PROMISE!**

Hours pass...



And "Robin's" curiosity is piqued  
and sated... repeatedly...





And before they both finally succumb to exhaustion, Robin learns that being a woman isn't all bad...

In fact, there are  
some very definite  
perks...

