



# A Tangled Web

Chapter Five

by CBlack


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The next morning...

C'MON HONEY!  
YOU DON'T WANT  
TO BE LATE FOR  
YOUR FIRST *FULL*  
DAY OF WORK, DO  
YOU?


I'M  
COMING,  
I'M  
COMING!






YOU KNOW  
DAMN WELL  
THAT IT'S NOT  
MY FAULT IF I'M  
LATE!

TRUE! BUT I  
JUST WANTED TO  
MAKE SURE I SENT  
YOU OFF WITH A  
SMILE ON YOUR FACE  
THIS MORNING! YOU  
WEREN'T  
COMPLAINING  
THEN!



AND I'M NOT  
NOW! I'M JUST  
SORRY WE RAN OUT  
OF TIME BEFORE I  
HAD A CHANCE TO  
RETURN THE  
FAVOR!

OH, DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
ME! I HAVE  
WAYS OF...  
MAKING DO! IT  
MAY NOT BE AS  
GOOD AS THE  
REAL THING,  
BUT... IT'LL DO  
FOR NOW!



AND WHAT'S  
WITH THE **SLACKS**  
AGAIN? I THOUGHT  
WE DECIDED ON A  
**SKIRT** TODAY! YOU  
DEFINITELY HAVE  
THE **LEGS** FOR IT!

JUST  
BECAUSE YOU  
CAN MAKE ME  
**SQUEAL** LIKE A GIRL  
DOESN'T MEAN I'M  
GOING TO GO CRAZY  
**DRESSING** LIKE  
ONE!




I'LL SEE YOU  
TONIGHT! WISH  
ME LUCK!

GOOD LUCK,  
LOVE! AND  
HAVE A GOOD  
DAY!

Later that morning...

UGH! I'D  
FORGOTTEN HOW  
MUCH LOW PRIORITY  
**JUNK** THEY MAKE THE  
NEWBIES DEAL WITH!  
THIS STUFF IS **MIND-  
NUMBING!**





YOUR  
AVERAGE  
NEWBIE WOULD  
TAKE A COUPLE OF  
**DAYS** TO GET  
THROUGH ALL THIS  
GARBAGE, BUT SINCE  
I'M **NOT** YOUR  
AVERAGE  
NEWBIE...!



DONE! AND  
MY TIMING  
COULDN'T BE BETTER! I  
CAN USE MY LUNCH HOUR  
TO DO A LITTLE  
SNOOPING WITHOUT  
ANYONE ELSE  
AROUND!

HEY ROBIN!  
WANT TO GO  
GRAB SOME  
LUNCH?

UMMM... **NO  
THANKS!** I'M **STILL  
GETTING UP TO SPEED  
ON EVERYTHING AND  
WANT TO KEEP AT IT!  
YOU GO AHEAD!**





OKAY...  
**BROWN-NOSE!**  
SEE YOU LATER  
FOR DRINKS?

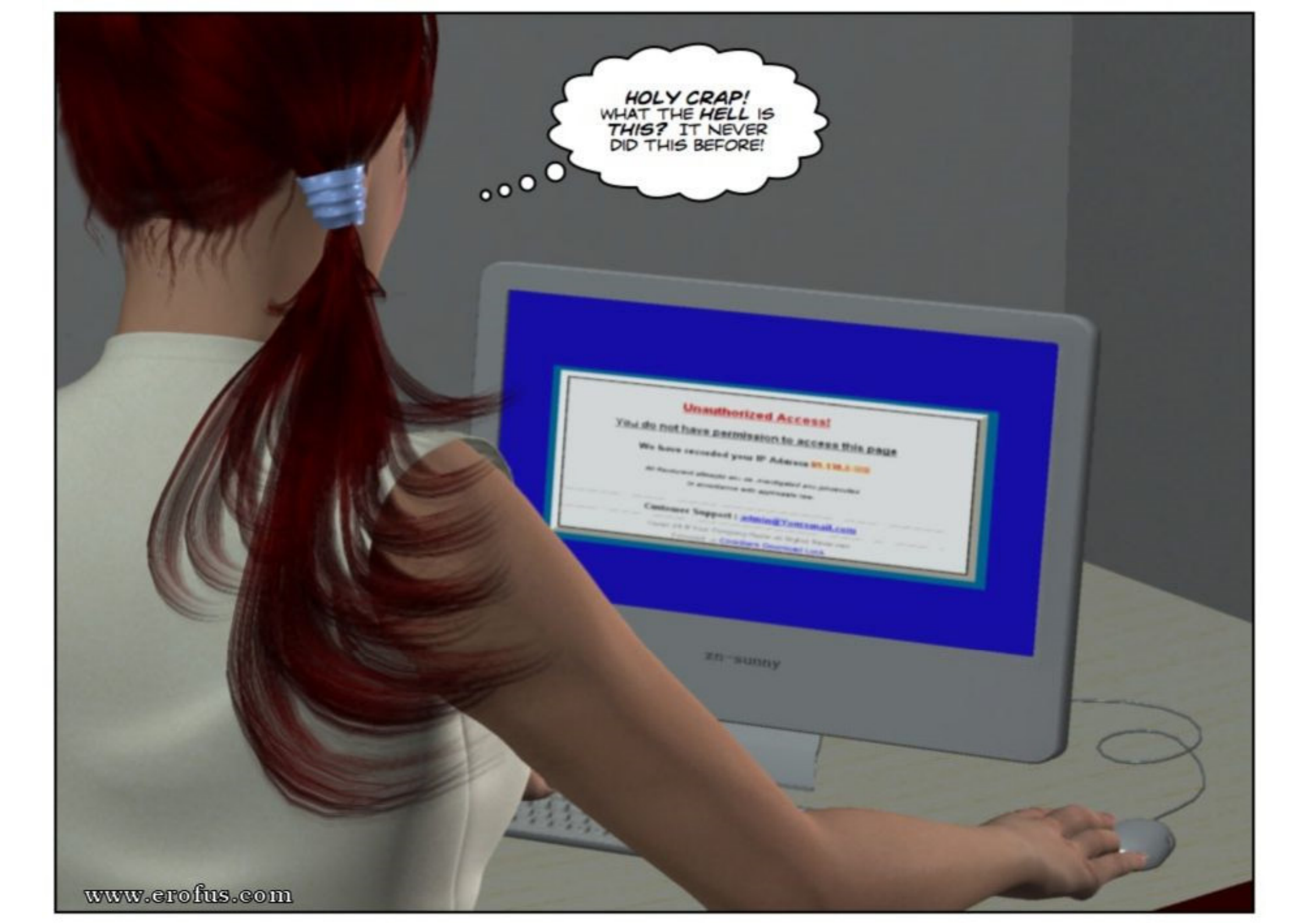
YOU'RE ON!

A woman with short, vibrant red hair is seated at a desk, looking at a computer monitor. She is wearing a white, sleeveless, button-down dress. The computer monitor in the foreground has the text "zn-sunny" printed on its bezel. A thought bubble originates from her head, containing text. The background consists of a window with a grid pattern, showing a dark, blurry outdoor scene.

ALL RIGHT! LET'S  
SEE IF "CARL" KNOWS  
ANYTHING NEW ABOUT  
THE F-RHO-DT  
PROJECT...!

HMMM... THAT'S  
STRANGE! NOTHING  
NEW AT ALL! IN FACT,  
THERE'S NO *NEW*  
CORRESPONDANCE  
HERE AT ALL  
SINCE...!

zn-sunny



HOLY CRAP!  
WHAT THE HELL IS  
THIS? IT NEVER  
DID THIS BEFORE!

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2012-sunny



I THINK NOW  
WOULD BE A  
REALLY GOOD TIME  
TO CATCH UP WITH  
MAEVE, BEFORE...!



**ROBIN?!**


**SHIT!  
NOT FAST  
ENOUGH!**

**YES, MR.  
MITCHELL?**

CAN I SEE  
YOU IN MY  
OFFICE?

YES, MR.  
MITCHELL!






I THINK YOU  
**KNOW** WHY I  
CALLED YOU IN  
HERE, **ROBIN!**

YES, I... I THINK  
I **DO**, MR. MITCHELL!  
THAT SECURITY MESSAGE  
JUST **POPPED UP** ON MY  
COMPUTER! I'M NOT  
SURE **WHY** IT DID  
THAT, I...!

COME NOW, ROBIN!  
IF YOU TRULY WERE A  
**NEW HIRE**, I MIGHT  
BELIEVE YOU, BUT WE  
BOTH KNOW BETTER,  
DON'T WE?

WE'VE BEEN  
**MONITORING CARL'S**  
ACCOUNT EVER SINCE  
YOU "**BORROWED**" HIS  
LOGIN LAST WEEK TO  
OBTAIN THE FORMULAS!  
WHAT WERE HOPING  
TO FIND **THIS**  
TIME?

A woman with vibrant red hair, styled in a short, layered cut, is the central focus. She has wide, light-colored eyes and a slightly open mouth, conveying a sense of surprise or concern. She is wearing a white, sleeveless, button-down dress with a high collar. The background consists of a window with a grid pattern, through which some outdoor foliage is visible. In the bottom left corner, the back of a person's head and shoulder, wearing a dark suit jacket, is partially visible. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

I WASN'T TRYING  
TO TAKE ANYTHING, I  
SWEAR! I WAS JUST  
ANXIOUS TO SEE IF  
THERE WERE ANY NEW  
DEVELOPMENTS  
REGARDING MY  
SITUATION! THAT'S  
ALL... I PROMISE!

IF THIS WERE THE  
*FIRST* TIME IT  
HAPPENED, I MIGHT BE  
INCLINED TO BELIEVE  
YOU, *ROBIN!* BUT  
*THREE* TIMES?

I... I  
TAKE IT  
I'M *FIRE*D  
THEN!





IF THIS HAD  
BEEN REPORTED  
TO SECURITY...  
**UNDOUBTEDLY!**  
HOWEVER, SINCE I  
CAUGHT YOUR LITTLE  
"INDISCRETION"  
BEFORE THEY DID,  
YOUR TERMINATION  
ISN'T A DONE  
DEAL!

YOU MEAN,  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO GIVE ME  
**ANOTHER**  
CHANCE?

UNIQUE SITUATIONS LIKE YOURS, ROBIN, REQUIRE **UNIQUE SOLUTIONS!** AS A FAVOR TO YOU AND YOUR WIFE, I'M NOT GOING TO FIRE YOU!

OH, THANK YOU, MR. MITCHELL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS **MEANS** TO ME! I'LL JUST GET **RIGHT BACK** TO WORK AND YOU **WON'T** HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A **THING** FROM ME **EVER AGAIN!** I **PROMISE!**





THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, ROBIN!  
YOU SEE, ALTHOUGH I'M NOT FIRING YOU, YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED THAT YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED IN DATA OPERATIONS! SO I'M GOING TO REASSIGN YOU!

I WANT YOU TO GO HOME FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY AND CONSIDER HOW FORTUNATE YOU ARE TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS **THIRD** OPPORTUNITY TO **REDEEM** YOURSELF!

BUT REST ASSURED, ROBIN... THERE WILL **NOT** BE A **FOURTH**!

I UNDERSTAND, MR. MITCHELL! I **REALLY** DO!




STOP BY *HUMAN RESOURCES* FIRST THING TOMORROW AND THEY'LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR *NEW POSITION!*

GOOD DAY, *ROBIN!*

YES, MR. MITCHELL! THANK YOU AGAIN!



A woman with long, vibrant red hair tied in a ponytail stands in front of a window with a grid pattern. She is wearing a white, button-up, short-sleeved top and black pants. Her right hand is raised to her forehead, and she has a thoughtful expression. A white thought bubble with a black outline is positioned to her left, containing text. Another similar thought bubble is to her right. The background consists of a window with a grid of panes, some of which are dark, suggesting a view of a building or street at night.

**JESUS!** I  
MUST'VE DONE  
**SOMETHING** RIGHT IN  
A PREVIOUS LIFE TO BE  
SO DAMN **LUCKY** IN  
THIS ONE!

BUT  
LIKE HE SAID,  
THIS IS MY **LAST**  
**CHANCE!** NO MORE  
**SHORT CUTS!** JUST DO  
MY JOB, **WHATEVER** IT  
TURNS OUT TO BE,  
AND BE A GOOD  
GIR...!



*"SIGH!" AND  
JUST BE A  
GOOD GIRL!*

A man with grey hair, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and striped tie, is talking on a mobile phone. He has a serious expression. The background is dark and blurry.

HELLO,  
CELIA? IT'S  
DAVID...!

WE HAVE  
SOMETHING  
**IMPORTANT**  
WE NEED TO  
DISCUSS...!

A short time later...

CELIA! I'M  
SO GLAD YOU  
COULD MAKE  
IT HERE SO  
QUICKLY!



WELL, YOU  
SAID IT WAS  
**IMPORTANT**, SO  
I RUSHED RIGHT  
OVER! BY THE WAY,  
I DIDN'T SEE **BOB**  
OUT FRONT! IS  
EVERYTHING  
**OKAY?**

ACTUALLY,  
ROBIN IS THE  
REASON I  
CALLED YOU HERE!  
I'M AFRAID A  
SITUATION HAS  
DEVELOPED AND I  
HAD TO RELIEVE  
ROBIN OF HER  
POSITION!

WHAT?!  
FIRED?! OH MY  
LORD, WHAT  
HAPPENED?



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WELL, IT SEEMS  
ROBIN WAS UP TO HER  
OLD TRICKS AGAIN  
HACKING INTO THE  
SYSTEM THE WAY SHE DID  
WHEN SHE **STOLE** THOSE  
FORMULAS FROM US FOR  
HER OWN **PERSONAL**  
USE!





**AGAIN?!  
BUT... BUT  
WHY? WHY  
WOULD HE...  
SHE DO THIS  
AGAIN?**


**YOUR  
GUESS IS AS  
GOOD AS OURS!  
WE CAN ONLY HOPE  
IT WAS MERELY A  
LACK OF GOOD  
JUDGMENT AND  
NOT SOMETHING  
MORE...  
UNETHICAL!**



I... I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DID THIS! AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR HER... FOR US! YOU'D ALREADY GIVEN HER A SECOND CHANCE AND I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT CONSIDERING A THIRD CHANCE FOR HER!


IT WOULD BE ASKING WAY TOO MUCH UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!

WELL, ROBIN'S SITUATION IS UNIQUE AND DESERVES SOME RATHER UNIQUE CONSIDERATIONS! IF WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER...!




YOU WOULD DO  
THAT, DAVID?  
EVEN AFTER SHE  
VIOLATED YOUR  
TRUST LIKE  
THAT?

THE WAY I SEE  
IT, SHE'S VIOLATED  
**YOUR** TRUST AS  
WELL! BUT AFTER  
FURTHER THOUGHT,  
**ABANDONING** HER  
MAY NOT BE THE  
**BEST** SOLUTION!




YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE! SHE LIED TO BOTH OF US! BUT... IT'S NOT LIKE HIM, THE BOB I MARRIED, TO BE SO DECEITFUL! COULD IT BE THE FORMULA? MAYBE IT DID SOMETHING TO HIS MIND AS WELL!



I WISH THAT WERE THE CASE! IT WOULD EXPLAIN HER BEHAVIOR, BUT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN EITHER OF THE FORMULAS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE MIND OF THE USER!

I WISH I COULD BE SO SURE!



THEN LET  
ME *PROVE*  
IT TO YOU!


DAVID? WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING?  
THAT ISN'T...!



THE ADNS?  
YES... THE  
FORMULA THAT  
YOUR HUSBAND  
TRIED TO STEAL  
THE SECOND  
TIME!

BUT WHY,  
DAVID?







**YOU, CELIA  
ARE PROOF OF  
THE SAFETY OF  
THE F-RHO-DT  
AND AS FAR AS THE  
ADNS, WELL... I'M  
RELUCTANT TO  
ADMIT IT, BUT I  
TAKE IT  
REGULARLY!**

A 3D rendered man with long, wavy grey hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is looking slightly to the left. To his left, the back of a woman's head with voluminous, curly blonde hair is visible. A speech bubble points to the man from the right. The background is a simple office setting with a dark window and wood paneling.

WEEKENDS,  
SOME EVENINGS,  
BUT **THIS** IS THE  
FIRST TIME **EVER**  
HERE AT THE  
**OFFICE!**




THE POINT IS  
I WANTED TO  
PROVE TO YOU HOW  
SAFE THESE  
FORMULAS ARE!



NOW THAT I  
THINK ABOUT IT,  
YOU'RE RIGHT, DAVID!  
I JUST **DESPERATELY**  
WANTED TO BELIEVE  
SOMETHING **ELSE** WAS  
CAUSING BOB'S  
**DEPLORABLE**  
BEHAVIOR!

I KNOW IT'S  
DIFFICULT WHEN  
A LOVED ONE  
TURNS OUT TO BE  
LESS THAN WE  
EXPECTED!

A man with long dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie, stands on the right side of the frame. He is looking towards a woman on the left. The woman has voluminous blonde curly hair and is wearing a bright pink top with a white heart pattern. She is seen from the back. The background consists of a light-colored wall with a grid of dark rectangular panels.

UMMM... IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME FOR A MOMENT, CELIA! THIS SUIT WASN'T *TAILORED* TO FIT *THIS* PARTICULAR PHYSIQUE!

SINCE I'M GOING TO BE LIKE THIS FOR A FEW HOURS, I'D LIKE TO GO *CHANGE* INTO SOMETHING THAT FITS A LITTLE *BETTER!*




PLEASE  
WAIT HERE! I  
WON'T BE A  
MINUTE!

OF... OF  
COURSE!  
I'LL BE RIGHT  
HERE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE BOB DID THIS AGAIN! HE SWORE TO ME THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE LIES AND NO MORE DECEIT! YET AS SOON AS HE GETS A CHANCE, HE THROWS ALL THAT RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW!

I... I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVER TRUST HIM AGAIN!





THANK GOD  
FOR DAVID! IF HE  
WEREN'T SO  
SUPPORTIVE AND  
UNDERSTANDING,  
I... I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT I'D DO!

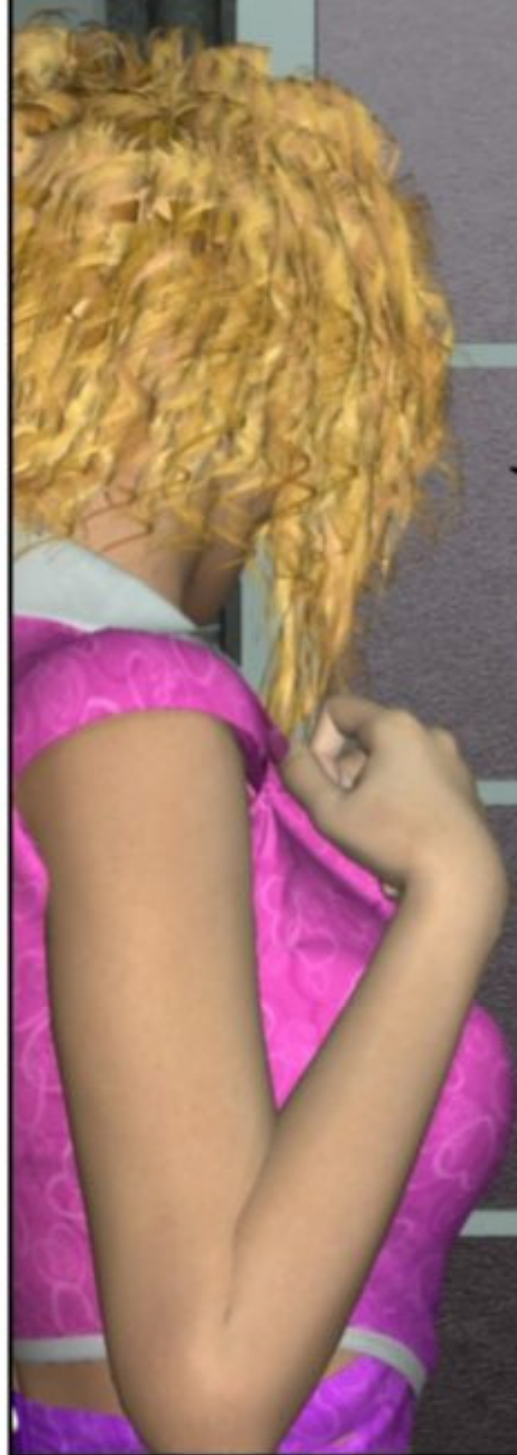
IT LOOKS LIKE  
THE ONLY WAY WE  
CAN KEEP BOB FROM  
TOTALLY SELF-  
DESTRUCTING IS TO  
KEEP WORKING  
TOGETHER!

zp-sunny

I HOPE I DIDN'T  
TAKE TOO LONG!


NO... NOT  
AT ALL!

WOW!  
I MEAN...!



DAVID! I'M JUST  
**AMAZED** AT WHAT  
THAT FORMULA CAN DO! I  
GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING  
YOU HAD A CHANGE OF  
CLOTHES BACK THERE! I  
DON'T THINK YOUR SUIT  
COULD'VE **HANDLED**  
ALL... **THIS!**





WELL, TO BE  
TRUTHFUL, I HAD A  
BAG PACKED FOR AN...  
APPOINTMENT I HAD  
SCHEDULED FOR THIS  
AFTERNOON!



OH! I... I  
SEE! YOU  
OBVIOUSLY HAD  
PLANS THAT I'M  
INTERFERING  
WITH!




WELL, DON'T  
WORRY! WE CAN  
DO THIS  
ANOTHER TIME,  
DAVID!

PLANS  
THAT I  
CANCELED  
IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER CALLING  
YOU HERE, CELIA!  
THIS MEANS  
MUCH MORE TO  
ME, BELIEVE  
ME!

I... I DO,  
DAVID! I'M  
SORRY FOR  
JUMPING TO  
CONCLUSIONS LIKE  
THAT! I GUESS I'M  
JUST A LITTLE...  
**FLUSTERED** BY  
EVERYTHING  
RIGHT NOW!

I UNDERSTAND  
**COMPLETELY**,  
CELIA! YOU'VE BEEN  
PUT THROUGH MORE  
THAN ANY WOMAN  
COULD **POSSIBLY**  
IMAGINE!






THE  
REMARKABLE, YET  
UNSOLICITED,  
CHANGES YOUR BODY  
WENT THROUGH AND  
THEN DISCOVERING IT  
WAS ALL DUE TO  
YOUR HUSBAND'S  
DECEPTION!

AND HIS  
CONTINUED  
DECEPTIONS ROBBED  
HIM OF HIS MANHOOD  
AND SADDLED YOU WITH  
THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF DEALING WITH HIS  
CHANGES AS  
WELL!


WELL, IT  
HASN'T ALL  
BEEN BAD!



MAYBE NOT! BUT  
WHAT IF I HAD NO  
CHOICE AND HAD TO  
FIRE ROBIN! CONSIDERING  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES,  
SHE'D MOST LIKELY  
**FORFEIT** HER  
COMPANY PENSION  
AS WELL!

WHERE  
WOULD THAT  
LEAVE YOU?  
AND WHY DIDN'T  
THIS OCCUR TO  
HER BEFORE SHE  
DECIDED TO  
RISK IT ALL?


I... I DON'T  
KNOW! IT'S  
ALMOST LIKE  
I'M MARRIED TO  
A COMPLETE  
**STRANGER!**



I CAN ONLY  
**IMAGINE** THE TOLL  
THIS IS TAKING ON YOU  
**EMOTIONALLY!** BESIDES  
ALL THE **STRESS** CAUSED BY  
YOUR **HUSBAND**, YOU'RE ALSO  
A YOUNG, VIBRANT AND  
**SENSUAL** WOMAN WHO  
HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN  
**ABANDONED** BY HER  
HUSBAND!

THE STRONG,  
**CARING** PERSON YOU  
**NEED** TO TURN TO...  
TO **SUSTAIN** YOU... TO  
FULFILL YOUR **NEEDS**...  
IS NO LONGER THERE  
FOR YOU!

HE... HE  
ISN'T, **IS**  
HE?



BUT I DON'T  
WANT YOU TO FEEL  
**ALONE** THROUGH  
THIS, CELIA! I WANT  
YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU  
CAN TURN TO ME FOR  
**ANYTHING!** GUIDANCE,  
FRIENDSHIP...  
**WHATEVER** YOU  
NEED...!

I... I  
**APPRECIATE**  
THAT, DAVID!  
YOU HAVE NO  
IDEA HOW  
**MUCH!**



AND I...  
I...!




















At that very moment, back  
at the apartment...

CELIA?  
YOU HERE,  
HONEY?




CELIA?



**PHEW!**  
SHE'S NOT  
HERE! NOW I  
DON'T HAVE TO  
EXPLAIN WHY I'M  
**HOME** IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE AFTERNOON  
AND IT GIVES ME MORE  
TIME TO DECIDE  
WHAT, OR IF I TELL  
HER ABOUT  
WORK!

HELL,  
I CAN'T KEEP  
THIS FROM HER!  
SHE'S BOUND TO FIND  
OUT EVENTUALLY! I  
GUESS IT'S BEST  
SHE HEARD IT  
FROM ME!





CONSIDERING  
THE DAY I'VE HAD, I  
WAS **REALLY** HOPING FOR  
MORE OF THAT "**ONE-ON-  
ONE**" TIME CELIA  
INTRODUCED ME TO  
LAST NIGHT!

**WHEW!** IF  
I'VE GOT STAY A  
WOMAN FOR AWHILE,  
THAT IS **DEFINITELY**  
SOMETHING I NEED  
TO PARTAKE OF...  
**AND OFTEN!**

HMMM...  
JUST BECAUSE  
SHE'S NOT HERE  
DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T  
DO A LITTLE **SELF-  
EXPLORATION!** SHE  
DID SAY I NEEDED TO  
GET TO KNOW MY  
BODY!



MMMM... NOT  
QUITE AS GOOD  
AS WHEN SHE  
DOES IT, BUT  
DEFINITELY  
NICE!




**OOOOO!  
THAT'S  
AMAZING! MY  
COCK NEVER  
FELT ANYTHING  
LIKE THIS!**


**SCREW THE  
MIRROR... IT'S  
TIME TO GET  
SERIOUS!**







**HOLY SHIT!  
THAT IS WILD!  
AND WHAT'S EVEN  
WILDER IS I DON'T  
WANT TO ROLL OVER  
AND FALL ASLEEP... I  
WANNA DO IT  
AGAIN!**



WAIT A  
MINUTE... WHAT'S  
THAT?



WHOA!  
SO THIS IS  
HOW SHE  
"MAKES DO"  
NOW THAT MY  
COCK IS ON  
HIATUS!



OH... WHAT THE HELL!

.....  
ALL RIGHT, **BIG  
FELLA!** LET'S  
SEE WHAT YOU'VE  
**GOT!**



OH MY GOD...!  
OH MY  
GOD...!!



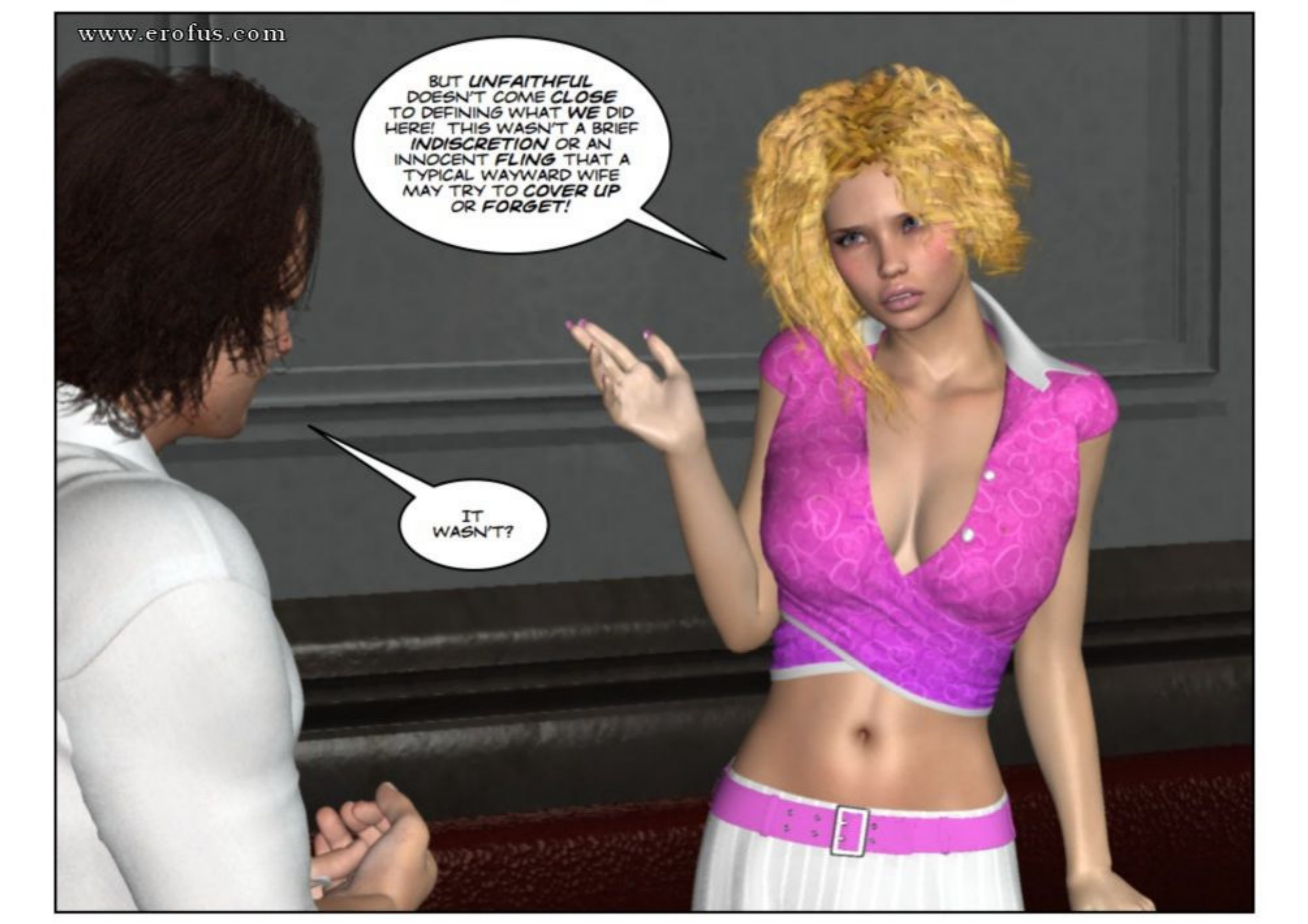


OH MY  
FUCKING  
GOD\_!!!

Back at the office, an hour... or so... later...


YOU'RE VERY QUIET, CELIA! DO YOU REGRET WHAT WE DID?

REGRET?! IT'S ONE THING TO BE UNFAITHFUL TO MY HUSBAND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER THIRTY YEARS OF MARRIAGE...!



BUT *UNFAITHFUL*  
DOESN'T COME *CLOSE*  
TO DEFINING WHAT WE DID  
HERE! THIS WASN'T A BRIEF  
*INDISCRETION* OR AN  
INNOCENT *FLING* THAT A  
TYPICAL WAYWARD WIFE  
MAY TRY TO *COVER UP*  
OR *FORGET!*

IT  
WASN'T?



YOU KNOW IT WASN'T! WE BOTH WANTED THIS... YOU COULD FEEL IT IN THE AIR! AND WHEN WE FINALLY GAVE IN TO IT, WE... WE DEVoured EACH OTHER!

I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THAT BEFORE! SO... SO WANTON, SO... DECADENT! EVEN THE OTHER NIGHT WHEN BOB WAS YOUNG AND STRONG! IT WAS WONDERFUL, BUT THIS... THIS JUST WASN'T THE SAME!

SO, YOU DO REGRET IT!

THAT'S JUST IT! I  
DON'T! I DON'T REGRET  
WHAT WE DID HERE! NOT ONE  
BIT! IN FACT, IT'S TAKING EVERY  
OUNCE OF WILLPOWER I'VE  
GOT NOT TO DO IT ALL OVER  
AGAIN RIGHT THIS MINUTE!

WHAT KIND  
OF PERSON  
DOES THAT  
MAKE ME?

A WARM,  
CARING,  
EXTREMELY  
SEXUAL PERSON  
WHOSE LIFE HAS  
SUDDENLY BEEN  
TURNED UPSIDE  
DOWN AND  
INSIDE OUT!

OF COURSE  
YOU CRAVE NEW  
EXPERIENCES!  
BECAUSE OF YOUR  
HUSBAND, YOU HAVE AN  
ENTIRELY NEW LIFE  
AHEAD OF YOU... AS  
DOES HE!


BUT... I  
CAN'T JUST  
ABANDON  
HIM!



AND YOU WON'T!  
BUT IF WE CAN FIND  
AN ANTIDOTE FOR HIM,  
MONTHS OR EVEN  
YEARS DOWN THE ROAD,  
WHO WILL HE **BE** BY THEN?  
WILL HE **STILL** BE  
SOMEONE YOU REALLY  
WANT TO **COMMIT**  
YOUR LIFE TO?

BUT HE...  
HE'S MY  
**HUSBAND!**






**BOB VARNEY** WAS YOUR HUSBAND... AND THERE'S **NOTHING** YOU CAN DO FOR HIM! **ROBIN GLEASON**, HOWEVER, NEEDS YOUR HELP! THE **SOONER** SHE ACCEPTS HER NEW LIFE, THE **BETTER** FOR HER... AND **EVERYONE** AROUND HER!

BE THERE FOR **HER** AS YOU WOULD FOR A LITTLE SISTER, A ROOMMATE, A **BEST FRIEND**! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?



I GUESS I HAVE TO, DON'T I? REGARDLESS OF HOW I FEEL ABOUT BOB, IT'S **ROBIN** WHO NEEDS OUR HELP NOW!

**SHE'S** THE ONE WHO'S THE MOST **CONFUSED** IN ALL THIS SO IT'S UP TO **US** TO SEE THAT SHE COMES OUT OF IT INTACT!




**EXACTLY! FOR MY PART, I'LL CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES AND FIND A NEW POSITION FOR HER HERE! WE CAN'T TRUST HER IN DATA ANALYSIS ANYMORE, BUT WE'LL FIND HER SOMETHING!**

**AND I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP HER ADJUST TO HER NEW LIFE! AND IF THAT MEANS LETTING GO OF HER OLD ONE, THEN SO BE IT!**

AND AS  
FOR US...!

WHAT  
ABOUT US?





WELL, LET'S  
CONCENTRATE ON  
ROBIN FOR THE TIME  
BEING! SHE'S OUR  
PRIORITY! YOU AND I...  
WELL, LET'S JUST SEE  
WHAT HAPPENS,  
SHALL WE?

AGREED!  
BUT FIRST...!



A short time later,  
after Celia leaves...



WELL, YOU'LL  
HAVE YOUR NEW  
**SECRETARY** FIRST  
THING TOMORROW,  
JUST LIKE I  
PROMISED! **GO EASY**  
ON HER, THOUGH!  
SHE'LL BE A LITTLE  
**SKITTISH** FOR  
AWHILE!



BY THE WAY, THE  
NEW **ADNS** WORKS  
LIKE A **CHARM!** I JUST  
GAVE IT A TEST RUN AND  
THE YOUNG LADY NEVER  
**KNEW WHAT HIT HER!**  
THE **PEREMONE**  
**ENHANCEMENTS**  
WERE A **BRILLIANT**  
IDEA!






YOU'VE EARNED  
EVERY BIT OF  
THAT *PROMOTION!*  
THANK YOU AGAIN,  
*SIMON!*

I'VE HAD THE ENTIRE TRIP HOME TO THINK ABOUT HOW TO ADDRESS ROBIN'S LATEST DRAMA, BUT STILL HAVEN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING!



I MEAN,  
WHO AM I TO  
LAY INTO HER  
ABOUT **DECEIT** AFTER  
WHAT **I** DID THIS  
AFTERNOON? TALK  
ABOUT THE **POT**  
CALLING THE  
KETTLE  
**BLACK!**





PART OF ME  
THINKS I SHOULD  
COME RIGHT OUT AND  
TELL HER **EVERYTHING**  
ABOUT ME AND DAVID, BUT  
SHE'D BE **DEVASTATED!**  
AND THAT'S THE LAST  
THING SHE NEEDS  
RIGHT NOW!

I GUESS I'LL  
JUST HAVE TO  
PLAY IT BY EAR!





WOW!  
SINCE WHEN  
ARE YOU  
COOKING?

SINCE I  
FIGURED I WAS  
DUE, AND THIS  
WOULD GIVE US A  
CHANCE TO SIT AND  
TALK FOR AWHILE!  
SOMETHING I  
HAVEN'T BEEN  
VERY GOOD AT  
LATELY!

THAT'S  
UNDERSTANDABLE  
CONSIDERING EVERYTHING!  
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO  
TALK ABOUT?

WELL... I GUESS  
IT'S *BEST* TO  
JUST COME RIGHT  
OUT AND *SAY THIS*...  
I *SCREWED UP* AT  
WORK TODAY!  
*BIG TIME!*

*I KNOW!*



YOU KNOW?  
HOW?

DAVID... MR. MITCHELL  
CALLED ME DOWN TO THE  
OFFICE AND TOLD ME  
EVERYTHING! AND BEFORE  
YOU GET ANGRY, UNDERSTAND  
THAT HE DID THIS BECAUSE HE  
WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU  
AND WANTED MY... IDEAS ON  
HOW TO HELP!






HE TOLD YOU?  
EVERYTHING?

YES, BUT  
WHAT YOU DID  
DOESN'T MATTER!  
YOU... WE'VE BEEN  
THROUGH A LOT OF  
CHANGES THE LAST  
COUPLE OF DAYS!  
THERE WAS BOUND TO  
BE A LOT OF  
CONFUSION... HOW TO  
ACT AND REACT TO  
ONE ANOTHER...  
AND TO  
OTHERS!




AS YOU AND I  
CONTINUE THROUGH  
ALL THIS, WE'RE GOING  
TO HAVE TO MAKE A LOT  
OF TOUGH DECISIONS!  
DO YOU UNDERSTAND  
WHAT I'M SAYING,  
ROBIN?

"ROBIN?" SO  
EVEN HERE AT  
HOME, BY  
OURSELVES,  
IT'S "ROBIN"?




**THAT'S  
WHAT I WANTED  
TO TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT! EVEN THOUGH  
THEY'RE TRYING TO  
FIND A WAY TO CHANGE  
YOU BACK, DAVID TELLS  
ME IT WILL TAKE  
MONTHS, IF NOT  
YEARS... AND THAT'S  
EVEN IF THEY  
CAN DO IT!**

**YEARS? I  
COULD BE LIKE  
THIS FOR  
YEARS?**



OR  
**LONGER!**  
WHICH IS WHY WE  
**BOTH** THINK THE  
**BEST** COURSE OF  
ACTION IS FOR YOU  
TO **BE** ROBIN  
**24/7**... EVEN  
HERE AT  
**HOME!**

BUT...!



LOOK AT IT **THIS**  
WAY, HONEY! TO THE  
WORLD, **BOB VARNEY** IS  
A **62-YEAR-OLD MAN**  
CURRENTLY IN  
**SINGAPORE!** THAT  
ISN'T YOUR LIFE  
ANYMORE!

YOU'RE **ROBIN**  
**GLEASON**, A YOUNG,  
ATTRACTIVE WOMAN  
WHO, THANKS TO **DAVID**,  
STILL HAS A **NEW JOB**  
WAITING FOR HER AT **DM**  
**INDUSTRIES** TOMORROW  
MORNING! THAT'S THE  
LIFE YOU NEED TO  
CONCENTRATE ON...  
WITH **MY HELP** OF  
COURSE!



SO, IF I'M  
NOT YOUR  
**HUSBAND**  
ANYMORE, WHAT  
DOES THAT MAKE  
**US?** ROOMIES?  
GIRLFRIENDS?  
BFFS?

I KNOW IT'S A  
LOT TO DEAL  
WITH, BUT WE'LL  
WORK IT ALL OUT  
**TOGETHER!**

BUT FIRST,  
LET'S EAT! I'M  
**STARVING!**  
THEN AFTER  
DINNER, MAYBE I  
CAN **TEACH** YOU  
A FEW THINGS  
ABOUT BEING A  
**WOMAN!**

OH JOY!



AND IF YOU'RE A  
GOOD STUDENT, I  
MIGHT JUST INCLUDE  
A FEW MORE OF THOSE  
INTIMATE PERKS WE  
WOMEN SHARE!  
HOW'S THAT  
SOUND?




BETTER!  
MUCH  
BETTER!

OKAY,  
SOUNDS LIKE A  
DEAL! LET'S  
EAT!

The next morning...

AM I GOING  
TO BE HARPING  
ON YOU *EVERY*  
MORNING FROM  
NOW ON? *HURRY*  
UP OR YOU'LL BE  
*LATE!*



CUT ME SOME  
SLACK, OKAY? I'M  
WEARING THE DAMN  
SKIRT YOU PRACTICALLY  
FORCED ME TO WEAR,  
AREN'T I? IT JUST FEELS  
A LITTLE WEIRD WALKING  
AROUND IN IT!

YOU LOOK  
GREAT! AND  
YOU'LL GET USED TO  
IT IN NO TIME! IN  
FACT, YOU MAY DECIDE  
YOU NEVER WANT  
TO GO BACK TO  
PANTS!




FAT CHANCE  
OF THAT!

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?




I SAID, THIS THING IS **DRAFTY!** I FEEL **EXPOSED**, LIKE ANYONE COULD LOOK RIGHT UP MY SKIRT AND SEE PRETTY MUCH **EVERYTHING!**

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE **PANTYHOSE** I PUT OUT FOR YOU! BESIDES ALLEVIATING THAT "**EXPOSED**" FEELING, THEY ALSO CUT DOWN ON THE **DRAFT** YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT!



THEY'RE ALSO  
CONSIDERED  
**"PROPER"** OFFICE  
WEAR, SO I **HIGHLY**  
RECOMMEND WEARING  
SOME KIND OF HOSE OR  
PANTYHOSE TO WORK...  
**ESPECIALLY** UNTIL  
WE GET THOSE  
**LEGS SHAVED!**

**FINE!** YOU  
SOLD ME,  
OKAY?



BUT YOU'RE  
GONNA HAVE TO  
GIVE ME A HAND,  
'CAUSE I ALREADY DID  
TRY TO PUT THEM  
ON AND TORE  
THEM TO  
SHREDS!




**\*SIGH!\*  
JUST  
ANOTHER  
RITE OF  
PASSAGE,  
SWEETIE!**

After a brief visit to  
Human Resources...

**A  
SECRETARY?!**  
TWENTY-TWO YEARS  
IN DATA ANALYSIS  
AND NOW I'M A DAMN  
**SECRETARY?**  
MITCHELL'S GOT  
HIMSELF A **WARPED**  
SENSE OF  
HUMOR!

I GUESS I  
CAN'T COMPLAIN  
TOO MUCH, THOUGH!  
AT LEAST I'VE **STILL** GOT  
A **JOB!** THEY EVEN WENT  
AHEAD AND GAVE ME MY  
**PAY BUMP!** AND WITH MY  
SKILLS, AND ANY **LUCK,** I  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK  
MY WAY OUT OF THE  
SECRETARIAL POOL  
IN **NO TIME!**





H.R. DIDN'T TELL  
ME **WHO** I'D BE  
WORKING FOR, JUST  
GAVE ME AN OFFICE  
NUMBER! AND **THIS**  
LOOKS LIKE THE  
PLACE RIGHT HERE!

**WOW!  
WHAT A SETUP!  
AT LEAST THEY  
HAVE ME WORKING  
FOR SOME  
EXECUTIVE!**



HMMM... I  
ACTUALLY  
HAVE **MORE**  
SPACE HERE THAN I  
DID AS A **DATA**  
**ANALYST!** THIS  
MAY NOT BE SO  
**BAD** AFTER  
ALL!





THE DESK  
LOOKS *GREAT*  
ON YOU! I'LL  
HAVE TO SEND HR  
A GREAT BIG  
THANK YOU  
NOTE!

**SIMON?**  
I'M... I'M  
**YOUR**  
**SECRETARY?**

IT'S MR.  
**GREELEY** FOR  
THE TIME BEING,  
ROBIN! BUT I'M  
**SURE** WE'LL BE ON  
A **FIRST NAME**  
BASIS IN NO  
TIME!





THIS IS  
YOUR OFFICE?  
AND I'M  
WORKING FOR  
YOU?

PRETTY  
SWEET, DON'T  
YOU THINK? IT'S  
ALL PART OF MY  
NEW PROMOTION!  
GOLDEN BOY  
MAKES GOOD,  
EH!



AND I JUST  
COINCIDENTALLY  
GOT ASSIGNED TO  
YOU?

COINCIDENCE  
HAD NOTHING TO  
DO WITH IT! DAVID  
SAID HE NEEDED A  
FAVOR AND I  
JUMPED AT THE  
CHANCE TO HELP  
YOU OUT!

SO, WHAT DID MR. MITCHELL TELL YOU ABOUT ME?

HE SAID THEY HAD TO FIND A NEW POSITION FOR YOU BECAUSE OF SOME... SECURITY ISSUES! I TOLD HIM WE'D BE A PERFECT FIT!

NO HIGH SECURITY DOCUMENTS GO THROUGH YOUR STATION! JUST GENERAL OFFICE MANAGEMENT PLUS THE OCCASIONAL PERSONAL ERRAND OR TWO!






**PERSONAL  
ERRANDS?**

**OH, YOU KNOW...  
COFFEE, DRY  
CLEANING... THE  
USUAL STUFF! OH  
YEAH, HE ALSO  
MENTIONED YOU WERE  
ON INDEFINITE  
PROBATIONARY  
STATUS!**

**BUT I'M SURE  
NEITHER ONE OF  
US WILL HAVE  
ANYTHING TO  
COMPLAIN ABOUT,  
RIGHT?**



I MEAN, ALL IT  
WOULD TAKE IS  
**ONE COMPLAINT TO  
END YOUR PROBATION...  
AND YOUR  
EMPLOYMENT HERE AT  
DM INDUSTRIES! I'D  
SURE HATE TO SEE  
THAT HAPPEN!  
WOULDN'T YOU?**

**NO, MR.  
GREELEY... I  
DEFINITELY  
DON'T WANT  
THAT TO  
HAPPEN  
EITHER!**

*SUPER! SOUNDS LIKE WE'LL GET ALONG GREAT! TELL YOU WHAT, TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO GET YOURSELF SITUATED OUT HERE, THEN GO GET ME A DOUBLE SHOT LATTE!*

*WHEN YOU GET BACK WE'LL DISCUSS SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE JOB! DUTIES, EXPECTATIONS, APPEARANCE...!*



APPEARANCE?  
WH... WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH MY  
APPEARANCE?

*NOTHING,  
SWEETHEART! YOU  
LOOK JUST FINE... FOR  
A DATA ANALYST! BUT  
OUT HERE YOU'RE MY  
REPRESENTATIVE TO  
THE WORLD AND THAT  
REQUIRES A LITTLE  
DIFFERENT...  
PRESENTATION!*



DON'T  
WORRY! WE'LL  
HAVE A NICE  
LONG TALK ABOUT  
IT LATER! WHEN  
YOU BRING ME  
LUNCH!



WHAT THE  
HELL HAVE I  
GOTTEN MYSELF  
INTO?

A short while later, a friendly face appears...

HI THERE,  
**STRANGER!**  
WE WERE  
BEGINNING TO  
**WONDER**  
ABOUT YOU!



OH, HI STACY! UMM...  
YEAH! I KIND OF GOT...  
**REASSIGNED!**

SO I HEARD!  
DIDN'T KNOW YOU  
ENDED UP **HERE** TILL  
JUST A FEW MINUTES  
AGO! WHAT **HAPPENED**,  
IF YOU DON'T MIND  
ME ASKING?

IT'S A  
LONG,  
**BORING**  
STORY!



THEN YOU CAN GIVE  
US ALL THE *GORY*  
DETAILS AFTER WORK!  
MAEVE AND I WILL COME BY  
TO GET YOU AT FIVE,  
BECAUSE YOU'RE *NOT*  
SKIPPING OUT ON US  
*THIS TIME!*

I'LL BE HERE  
THIS TIME!  
*PROMISE!*





WELL HELLO  
THERE, STACY! I  
THOUGHT I HEARD  
YOUR LOVELY VOICE  
OUT HERE! YOU'RE  
HERE TO SEE ME,  
I HOPE?

JUST STOPPED  
BY TO MAKE SURE  
ROBIN WAS OFF TO A  
GOOD START! YOU  
BE GOOD TO HER,  
YOU HEAR?

OF COURSE!  
I'LL TREAT HER  
AS I'D TREAT YOU  
IF YOU WERE MY  
SECRETARY!

IN YOUR  
DREAMS,  
SIMON!

SEE YOU  
LATER,  
ROBIN!

OKAY!  
BYE  
STACY!





NOW THAT IS A SECRETARY! WHICH REMINDS ME, HAVE YOU ORDERED MY LUNCH YET?

IT'S ON THE WAY UP, MR. GREELEY!

GREAT! THEN NOW WOULD BE A PERFECT TIME TO DISCUSS THOSE DETAILS I MENTIONED EARLIER! PLEASE STEP INTO MY PARLOR...!






5:20 at the  
corner bar...

... AND HE **ACTUALLY**  
E-MAILED ME **PICTURES**  
OF HOW HE WANTED ME TO  
**DRESS** FROM NOW ON!  
**CAN YOU BELIEVE**  
**THAT?**







WELL, HIS METHODS ARE CRUDE, TO SAY THE LEAST, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING!

HE MAY BE A PUTZ, BUT SIMON GREELEY IS A RISING STAR IN THIS COMPANY AND STICKING WITH HIM IS THE SMART MOVE... BELIEVE ME!

YEAH, GOOD LUCK TRYING TO FIND A CAREER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, I'M SORRY... ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT... WHO ISN'T WEARING A MINISKIRT, LOW-CUT BLOUSE, OR BOTH.

I PRESENT  
AS EXHIBIT A,  
OUR VERY OWN  
CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT,  
STACY  
MONAGHAN!


NOTE IF YOU  
WILL, THE LONG  
SHAPELY LEGS  
EXPOSED TO WELL  
ABOVE THE LOWER  
THIGH REGION!





ALSO  
OBSERVE THE  
OPEN  
DISPLAY OF  
HER AMPLE  
BOSOM!

SOME WOULD  
CALL IT  
SCANDALOUS,  
BUT SHE'S BEEN  
THE CEO'S  
ASSISTANT FOR  
YEARS! YOU  
DO THE MATH!



**SERIOUSLY? YOU DON'T CONSIDER IT DEMEANING OR AT LEAST SOME KIND OF HARASSMENT?**

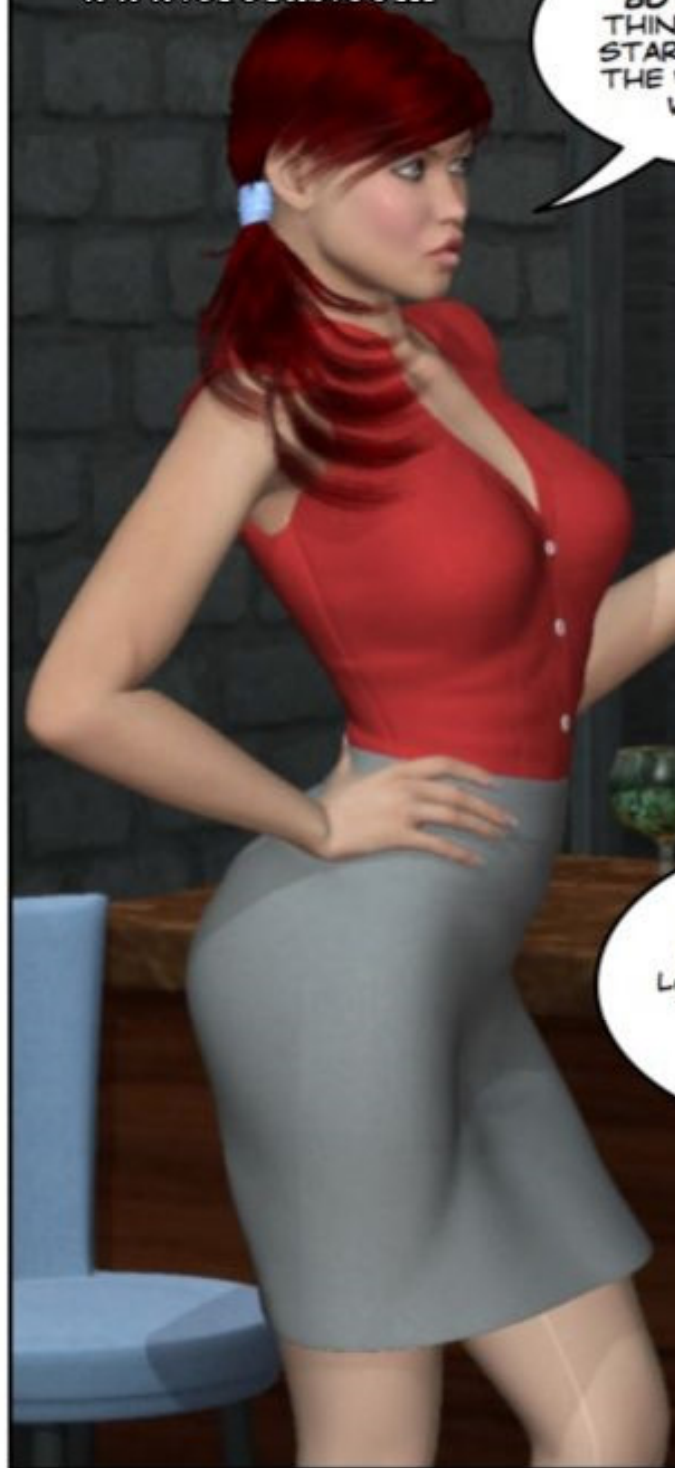
**DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW! HOW WE ACT AND HOW WE DRESS CAN MAKE OUR BOSSES HAPPY, UNCOMFORTABLE OR DOWNRIGHT SWEATING THROUGH TO THEIR SKIVVIES! SO YOU TELL ME, WHO'S DOING THE HARASSING?**

**YEAH! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT NOW THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER A NUMBER-CRUNCHER! LOOKS COUNT!**

**GREAT! SO BOTH OF YOU THINK I SHOULD START DRESSING THE WAY SIMON WANTS?**

**IF YOU WANT TO HOLD ONTO YOUR PRESENT POSITION LONGER THAN YOU DID THE LAST ONE, YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD!**

**WHAT HAPPENED THERE, ANYWAY? DIDN'T YOU HAVE THE CHOPS TO DO THE WORK?**



UMMM.... I  
WAS IN WAY  
OVER MY HEAD!  
I'M JUST HAPPY  
THEY OFFERED ME  
THE **TRANSFER**  
SO I STILL  
HAVE A JOB!

**TRUST ME,  
THERE'S NO  
SHAME IN BEING AN  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT!**

**IN FACT,  
WE SHOULD  
CELEBRATE! GIRLS'  
NIGHT OUT!  
TONIGHT!**






WHAT? OH,  
UMM... I CAN'T!  
I'VE ALREADY GOT  
PLANS!

OOOO...  
A HOT  
DATE?

NO, JUST  
GOING TO A  
MOVIE WITH  
ANNIE!



A MOVIE? BORING?  
HELL, BRING HER ALONG!  
THE MORE THE MERRIER!

REALLY,  
GUYS... I  
CAN'T! I  
APPRECIATE THE  
OFFER, BUT  
SOME OTHER  
TIME, OKAY?


PARTY  
POOPER!

NOW MAEVE, LET UP ON HER! ROBIN'S NEW IN TOWN AND BEEN THROUGH SOME MAJOR WORK TRAUMA! SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO GO HOME, CURL UP IN BED WITH A BOX OF CHOCOLATE AND CRY IN HER PILLOW!

NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I JUST...!

DON'T SWEAT IT, ROBIN! WE UNDERSTAND! REALLY WE DO!





OH WOW!  
I'D BETTER BE  
HEADING HOME!  
THANKS FOR THE  
DRINK GUYS! WE'LL  
GO OUT SOME  
OTHER TIME,  
OKAY? SEE YOU  
MONDAY!


BYE  
ROBIN!

YEAH,  
BYE!

WHAT'S THE  
**BIG IDEA**  
LETTING HER OFF  
THE HOOK SO  
EASILY? I THINK  
SHE'LL BE A GAS  
TO PARTY WITH  
ONCE WE GET  
HER TO  
LOOSEN UP!

WHO SAYS I LET  
HER OFF THE HOOK?  
YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT  
POOR GIRL DEFINITELY  
NEEDS TO LET HER  
HAIR DOWN!





HI HON, IT'S  
ME! I'M WILLING  
TO BET YOU'VE  
GOT A PHONE  
NUMBER I  
NEED...!