HALF SISTERS

Episode 85

Welcome Wagon

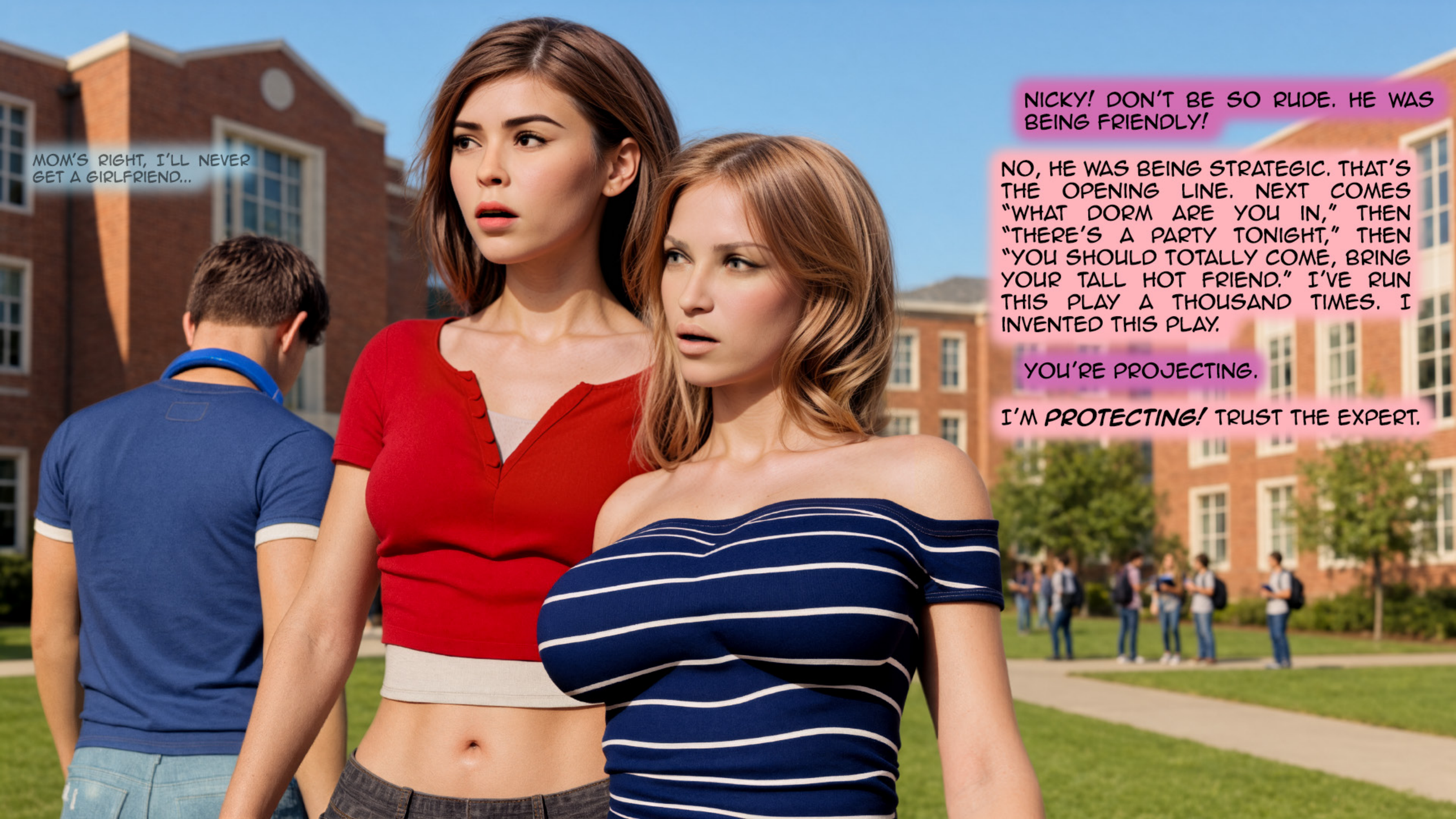

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WALKED IN ON HIM NAKED, RAN THROUGH THE LOCKER ROOM, GOT TRAPPED IN A WEIGHT ROOM HIS PSYCHO DAD BUILT, HAD A SCREAMING FIGHT, CRIED, MADE UP, AND THEN DID BENCH PRESSES TOGETHER. ALL BEFORE EIGHT A.M.
I DID NOT FUCKING CRY.

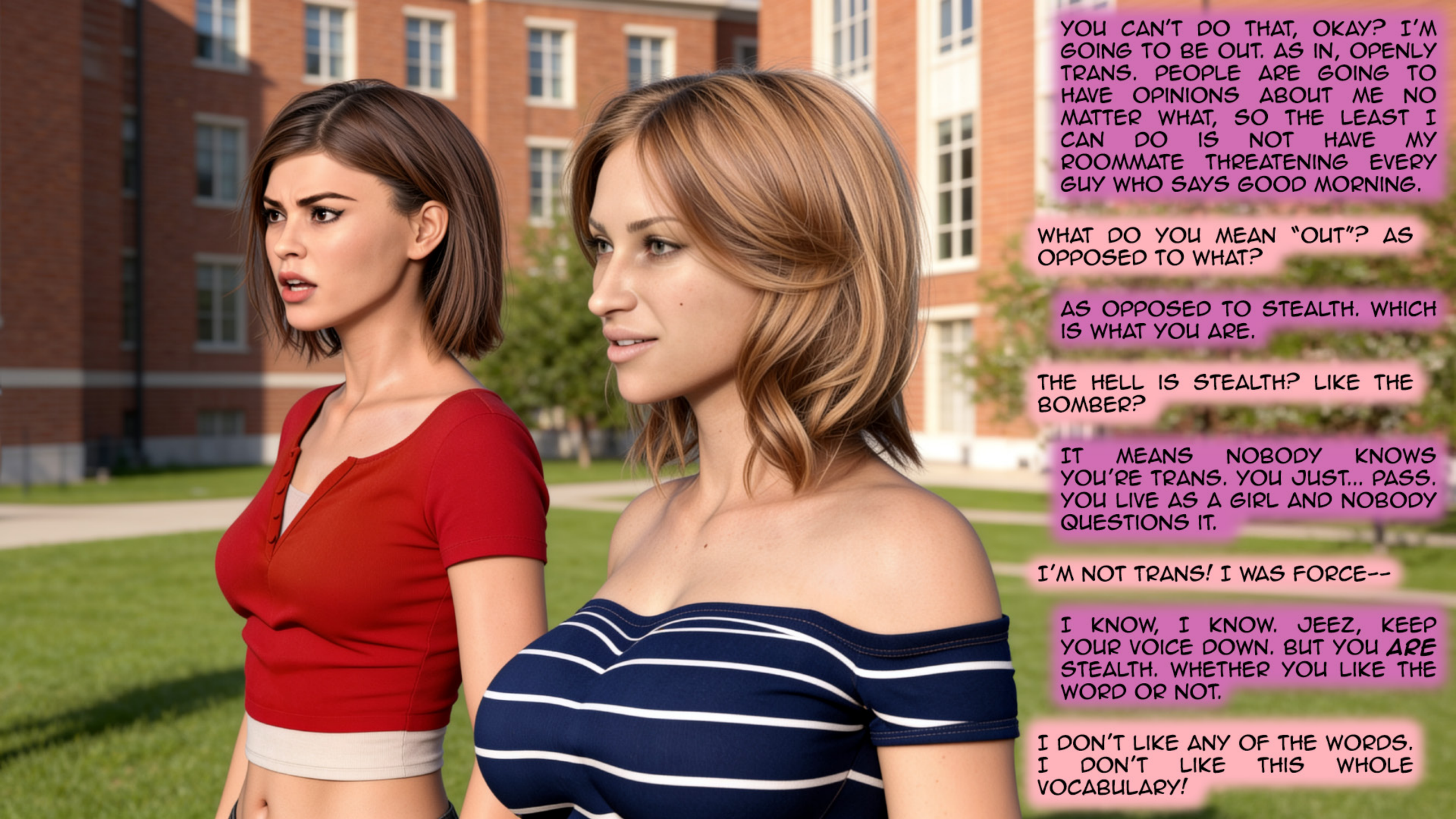

WELL, I'M REALLY GLAD YOU TWO WORKED IT OUT. I THINK HE'S A GOOD GUY, JUST A LITTLE TRAPPED.
HE CAN JOIN THE CLUB.


OH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! WE CAN HAVE AN OFFICIAL COLLEGE CLUB! NEXT YEAR WE CAN SHOW UP WITH A LITTLE TABLE OF OUR OWN. WHAT WOULD WE CALL IT? HMM. HOW ABOUT "STUDENTS WHO GOT CHEMICALLY FUCKED BY RICH PSYCHOPATHS." ROLLS RIGHT OFF THE TONGUE.
CATCHY. HARD TO FIT ON A BANNER, THOUGH.
WE'D NEED A LOGO. MAYBE A SYRINGE WITH A SAD FACE ON IT.


I HAVE GEOLOGY 101 AND BIO THIS SEMESTER, AND IF I SURVIVE BOTH I CAN PETITION INTO THE PALEO TRACK SOPHOMORE YEAR. THERE'S A PROFESSOR HERE WHO EXCAVATED A NEW SPECIES OF HADROSAUR IN BIG BEND! I EMAILED HIM SIX TIMES OVER THE SUMMER. HE FINALLY WROTE BACK AND SAID "PLEASE STOP EMAILING ME AND JUST ENROLL." SO I DID!
OKAY, BUT... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? AND DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY.
THAT'S NEVER A GOOD START WITH YOU.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO INHERIT, LIKE, A DISGUSTING AMOUNT OF MONEY. MRS. FERRIS IS LOADED. WHY DO YOU EVEN NEED A DEGREE? YOU COULD JUST... BE RICH. PROFESSIONALLY.
BECAUSE THIS WAS THE DREAM, NICKY. BEFORE THE STEALING, BEFORE MRS. FERRIS, BEFORE ANY OF THIS. WHEN MY PARENTS WERE ALIVE, COLLEGE WAS JUST... WHAT CAME NEXT. DAD USED TO QUIZ ME AT DINNER. MOM HAD A SAVINGS ACCOUNT NAMED "SCOTT'S TUITION."
SCOTT'S...
YEAH. AND THEN THEY DIED AND THE MY SHITTY UNCLE GOT THE ACCOUNT TO 'HELP TAKE CARE OF ME' - WHICH HE DRANK AWAY - AND I JUST... STOPPED THINKING IT WAS POSSIBLE. SO NO, I'M NOT SKIPPING THIS. I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE A BILLION DOLLARS. I'M GOING TO SIT IN THAT LECTURE HALL AND TOUCH THOSE ROCKS.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
UH... I DON'T THINK THAT ONE REALLY WORKS.


HEY, LADIES! GORGEOUS MORNING, HUH?
OH, HI! YEAH, IT'S REALLY--
KEEP WALKING, BRO.
I WAS JUST SAYING--
YOU WERE JUST *LEAVING*. BYE!


MOM'S RIGHT, I'LL NEVER GET A GIRLFRIEND...
NICKY! DON'T BE SO RUDE. HE WAS BEING FRIENDLY!
NO, HE WAS BEING STRATEGIC. THAT'S THE OPENING LINE. NEXT COMES "WHAT DORM ARE YOU IN," THEN "THERE'S A PARTY TONIGHT," THEN "YOU SHOULD TOTALLY COME, BRING YOUR TALL HOT FRIEND." I'VE RUN THIS PLAY A THOUSAND TIMES. I INVENTED THIS PLAY.
YOU'RE PROJECTING.
I'M *PROTECTING!* TRUST THE EXPERT.


YOU CAN'T DO THAT, OKAY? I'M GOING TO BE OUT. AS IN, OPENLY TRANS. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE OPINIONS ABOUT ME NO MATTER WHAT, SO THE LEAST I CAN DO IS NOT HAVE MY ROOMMATE THREATENING EVERY GUY WHO SAYS GOOD MORNING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "OUT"? AS OPPOSED TO WHAT?
AS OPPOSED TO STEALTH. WHICH IS WHAT YOU ARE.
THE HELL IS STEALTH? LIKE THE BOMBER?
IT MEANS NOBODY KNOWS YOU'RE TRANS. YOU JUST... PASS. YOU LIVE AS A GIRL AND NOBODY QUESTIONS IT.
I'M NOT TRANS! I WAS FORCE--
I KNOW, I KNOW. JEEZ, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN. BUT YOU ARE STEALTH. WHETHER YOU LIKE THE WORD OR NOT.
I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THE WORDS. I DON'T LIKE THIS WHOLE VOCABULARY!


EVERYONE IS STARING, I KNOW THEY'RE STARING.
SOME PEOPLE ARE, YEAH. BUT IT'S PROBABLY NOT FOR THE REASON YOU'RE AFRAID OF.
SANDY, I'M AFRAID OF *EVERY* REASON THEY'RE STARING.
FAIR. HEY! ISN'T THAT...
OH MY GOD...


HORNETS
HORNETS
Welcome to
St. Chris,
Bitches
(affectionate)


SO THROUGH HERE IS THE MAIN STUDENT CENTER. FOOD COURT'S ON THE LEFT, STUDY LOUNGES UPSTAIRS, AND THE GOOD COFFEE CART IS HIDDEN BEHIND THE BOOKSTORE - NOT THE ONE OUT FRONT, THAT ONE'S A SCAM.
WE DIDN'T NEED A TOUR, LAUREN. I WENT HERE FOR WHOLE YEAR.
AW, DON'T YOU *WANT* TO FOLLOW ME AROUND, NIKKI?
EVIE! I... NO!


EXIT
EXIT
WELL, I APPRECIATE THE TOUR! EVERYTHING IS SO BIG. THAT STATUE... IS THAT A... A... WHAT THE HECK IS IT?
I, UH, THINK IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SISYPHUS. AND, YES, THE ADMINISTRATION SPENT AN OBSCENE AMOUNT OF MONEY ON IT.


OKAY, SO, REAL TALK - WE ACTUALLY HAD A REASON FOR AMBUSHING YOU GUYS.
I PREFER THE TERM "STRATEGIC INTERCEPTION."
I KNEW IT. I FUCKING KNEW IT!


YOU WANT ME TO JOIN THE SQUAD. WELL, FORGET IT. NOT HAPPENING. NOT IN A MILLION YEARS. A BILLION!
EVIE, SERIOUSLY - OF ALL PEOPLE, I'D THINK YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO PRESSURE SOMEONE INTO BEING SOMETHING THEY'RE NOT. DO I LOOK *PEPPY* TO YOU?
FIRST OF ALL, I LOOK PEPPY TO ABSOLUTELY NO ONE AND YET HERE I AM. SECOND OF ALL, WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU.
Y-YOU'RE NOT?


NOPE.
WE'RE ASKING SANDY.

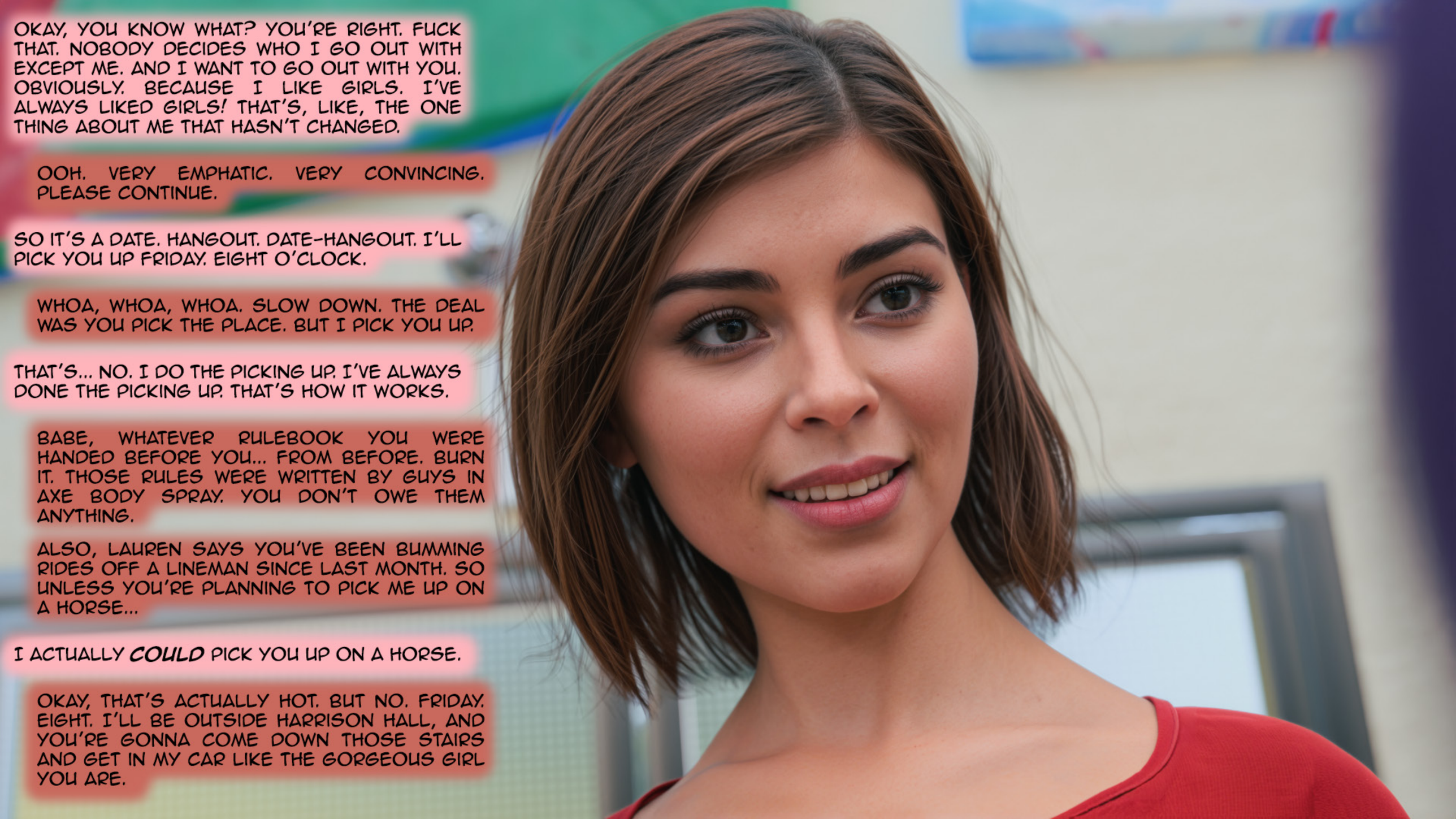

...ME!?
HER!? SHE DOESN'T HAVE AN ATHLETIC BONE IN HER BODY. NO OFFENSE.
UM... LOTS TAKEN?
I'VE SEEN YOU TRIP GOING UP STAIRS.
THAT WAS ONE TIME! AND THE CARPET WAS WEIRD!
DON'T LISTEN TO NICK - UH... NIKKI, I MEAN. C'MON, LET'S CHAT...


AWW. YOU LOOK LIKE A KID WHO DIDN'T GET PICKED FOR DODGEBALL.
WELL, GUESS WHAT, I LITERALLY *DID* GET PICKED FOR DODGEBALL! LAST WEEK.
AND YET HERE YOU ARE, POUTING BECAUSE YOUR ROOMMATE MIGHT WEAR A SKIRT AND SHAKE POM-POMS WITHOUT YOU.
I'M NOT POUTING! I NEVER POUT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? HATE TO TELL YOU, BUT POUTING IS LIKE YOUR *WHOLE THING.* EVERYONE SAYS SO.
WHO'S EVERYONE?
EVERYONE. IT'S CUTE, THOUGH. VERY KISSABLE.
EVIE!


HEY. I'M JUST FUCKING WITH YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGH. TOUGHER THAN MOST PEOPLE ON THIS CAMPUS.
I'M, UH, WORKING ON IT.
I CAN TELL. SO. REMEMBER OUR LITTLE HANGOUT? THE ONE YOU AGREED TO? OUT LOUD? IN FRONT OF A WITNESS?
LAUREN DOESN'T COUNT AS A WITNESS. SHE WAS YELLING AT YOU.
SHE COUNTS. ANYWAY, I WANT TO LOCK IT IN BEFORE THE SEMESTER EATS US ALIVE. BECAUSE ONCE MIDTERMS HIT, I TURN INTO A GREMLIN WHO LIVES IN THE LIBRARY AND ONLY COMMUNICATES IN SCREECHES.
UH....


LOOK, I'M NOT GONNA PLAY IT COOL, BECAUSE I PHYSICALLY CAN'T. I LIKE YOU. LIKE, A LOT. YOU'RE HOT, OBVIOUSLY, BUT YOU'RE ALSO FUNNY AND MEAN IN THE GOOD WAY AND YOU YELLED AT A FOOTBALL COACH FOR A GUY YOU BARELY KNEW. THAT'S... RARE.
ALSO, LIKE, HOLY SHIT YOUR ASS IS A GIFT FROM A GODDESS. I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE SO I CAN SWITCH CULTS. ANYWAY, HOW ABOUT FRIDAY NIGHT?


I MEAN... I WANT TO. PROBABLY. MAYBE. BUT THERE'S THE WHOLE... ZACH THING.
THE FUCK-BOYFRIEND.
STOP CALLING HIM THAT.
YOU CALLED HIM THAT! I'M JUST RESPECTING YOUR TERMINOLOGY.
THE POINT IS, I'M TECHNICALLY DATING HIM.
OKAY, SO ARE YOU TWO EXCLUSIVE?
I'M SURE HIS DAD THINKS WE ARE.
HIS DAD. NIKKI. BABE. LIGHT OF MY WEEK. I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO HEAR YOURSELF. YOU JUST TOLD ME THE PERSON WHO DECIDES WHETHER YOU'RE ALLOWED TO GO OUT WITH ME IS YOUR BOYFRIEND'S FATHER. NOT YOU. NOT EVEN YOUR BOYFRIEND. *HIS FUCKING DAD.*
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT--
THEN WHAT IS IT LIKE? BECAUSE FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME HANDMAID'S TALE BULLSHIT, AND I DIDN'T DYE MY HAIR THIS COLOR TO SIT QUIETLY WHILE SOME RICH OLD MAN IN A BOLO TIE RUNS YOUR LOVE LIFE.


OKAY, YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE RIGHT. FUCK THAT. NOBODY DECIDES WHO I GO OUT WITH EXCEPT ME. AND I WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU. OBVIOUSLY. BECAUSE I LIKE GIRLS. I'VE ALWAYS LIKED GIRLS! THAT'S, LIKE, THE ONE THING ABOUT ME THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
OOH. VERY EMPHATIC. VERY CONVINCING. PLEASE CONTINUE.
SO IT'S A DATE. HANGOUT. DATE-HANGOUT. I'LL PICK YOU UP FRIDAY. EIGHT O'CLOCK.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA. SLOW DOWN. THE DEAL WAS YOU PICK THE PLACE. BUT I PICK YOU UP.
THAT'S... NO. I DO THE PICKING UP. I'VE ALWAYS DONE THE PICKING UP. THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
BABE, WHATEVER RULEBOOK YOU WERE HANDED BEFORE YOU... FROM BEFORE. BURN IT. THOSE RULES WERE WRITTEN BY GUYS IN AXE BODY SPRAY. YOU DON'T OWE THEM ANYTHING.
ALSO, LAUREN SAYS YOU'VE BEEN BUMMING RIDES OFF A LINEMAN SINCE LAST MONTH. SO UNLESS YOU'RE PLANNING TO PICK ME UP ON A HORSE...
I ACTUALLY *COULD* PICK YOU UP ON A HORSE.
OKAY, THAT'S ACTUALLY HOT. BUT NO. FRIDAY. EIGHT. I'LL BE OUTSIDE HARRISON HALL, AND YOU'RE GONNA COME DOWN THOSE STAIRS AND GET IN MY CAR LIKE THE GORGEOUS GIRL YOU ARE.


LAUREN, SERIOUSLY, THANK YOU. NOBODY'S EVER ASKED ME TO JOIN ANYTHING. WELL, NOBODY BESIDES THE ZETA REDS.
THE ZETAS WANT YOU? WOW. UH, THAT'S... REALLY?
I THINK SO? ANYWAY ACTUALLY... I HAVE AN OFFER FOR YOU, TOO.
FOR ME?
IT'S ABOUT NICKY.
WHAT ABOUT HIM? HER. UGH. SHIT, SORRY
YEAH, IT'S... KINDA ABOUT THAT. OKAY. JUST... PROMISE YOU'LL HEAR THE WHOLE THING BEFORE YOU SAY IT'S CRAZY.

