HALF SISTERS

Episode 83

Glimpses


PLEASE, GOD...


HAVE MERCY. I NEED SLEEP.


HRRRNNNKKKK -- HHHHH -- HRRRNNNKKKKKK!
NO, NO, NO! AND HOW? HOW!? SHE WEIGHS LIKE A HUNDRED AND TEN POUNDS, SHE'S FIVE FOOT THREE! WHERE IS IT COMING FROM? WHAT ORGAN MAKES THAT SOUND? IS THIS A FUCKING MEDICAL CONDITION? SHOULD I CALL SOMEONE? SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE? IT'S LIKE SLEEPING NEXT TO A CHAINSAW THAT LEARNED TO BREATHE.
HRRRNNNKKK -- PFFFLLLBBBT -- HRRRNNNNKKKKK
OH MY GOD, SHE JUST ADDED A NEW NOISE. IT HAS LAYERS. THIS IS SURROUND SOUND SNORING. THIS IS DOLBY ATMOS SNORING.
I SURVIVED TWO YEARS ON A TRANSFORMATION TORTURE ISLAND, I SURVIVED DAVIS, I SURVIVED HUTCHINSON AND HIS STUPID GELDING KNIFE AND HEAT STROKE AND MY DAD AND A CHASTITY CAGE AND A KISS I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT. BUT THIS IS WHAT FINALLY KILLS ME.


OKAY, NEW PLAN. I'M GOING TO SMOTHER HER. NOT TO DEATH, JUST A LITTLE. JUST TO QUIET HER. A JURY WOULD UNDERSTAND. ANY JURY THAT HEARD THIS WOULD ACQUIT IN THIRTY SECONDS.
NO, NO, NICK. THAT'S A BAD THOUGHT!
HRRRRRNNNNNKKKKKKK!
I'M NOT GOING TO SMOTHER MY ROOMMATE. I'M NOT GOING TO SMOTHER MY ROOMMATE. I'M NOT GOING TO SMOTHER MY BEST FRIEND WHO PICKED A LOCK OFF MY DICK TWELVE HOURS AGO.


GOOOD MORNING! HAPPY FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE! OH MY GOD, NICKY, I HAVE GEOLOGY AT NINE! I'M GOING TO TOUCH ROCKS! PROFESSIONALLY! WELL, AS A STUDENT, BUT YOU KNOW
UH-HUH.
DID YOU SLEEP OKAY? YOU LOOK A LITTLE TIRED.


I LOOK A LITTLE TIRED.
YEAH, JUST AROUND THE EYES. YOU MIGHT BE DEHYDRATED. THE DOCTOR SAID TO WATCH FOR THAT, REMEMBER? AFTER THE HEAT STROKE?
JOSH MUST REALLY, TRULY LOVE YOU.
AWW! THAT'S SO SWEET? I THINK? WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
NO REASON. JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW BRAVE HE IS. LIKE, AS A PERSON. ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT.
OKAY, WEIRDO. I'M GONNA GRAB A SHOWER BEFORE THE BATHROOM GETS CRAZY. YOU COMING?
YEAH. YEAH, I GUESS. GIVE ME ONE SEC TO GET MY SHIT...



SO THE TRICK IS YOU SHAMPOO FIRST, OBVIOUSLY, BUT THEN YOU LEAVE THE CONDITIONER IN FOR AT LEAST THREE MINUTES WHILE YOU DO YOUR BODY WASH. AND THEN AFTER YOU RINSE, YOU PUT IN THE LEAVE-IN TREATMENT WHILE YOUR HAIR IS STILL WET BECAUSE THE CUTICLE IS OPEN AND THAT'S WHEN IT ACTUALLY ABSORBS THE BEST.

UH-HUH.

AND THEN TWICE A WEEK I DO THIS COCONUT OIL MASK THAT JESSICA ACTUALLY TOLD ME ABOUT, BACK WHEN SHE DIDN'T HATE MY GUTS. YOU WRAP YOUR HAIR IN A TOWEL TURBAN AND JUST LET IT SIT. IT'S A WHOLE THING BUT HONESTLY MY HAIR HAS NEVER BEEN SOFTER. FEEL IT LATER, YOU'LL SEE.

THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN FINE.

WAIT, IS THAT IS BODY WASH, SHAMPOO, AND CONDITIONER? ALL TOGETHER!?

IT'S EFFICIENT.

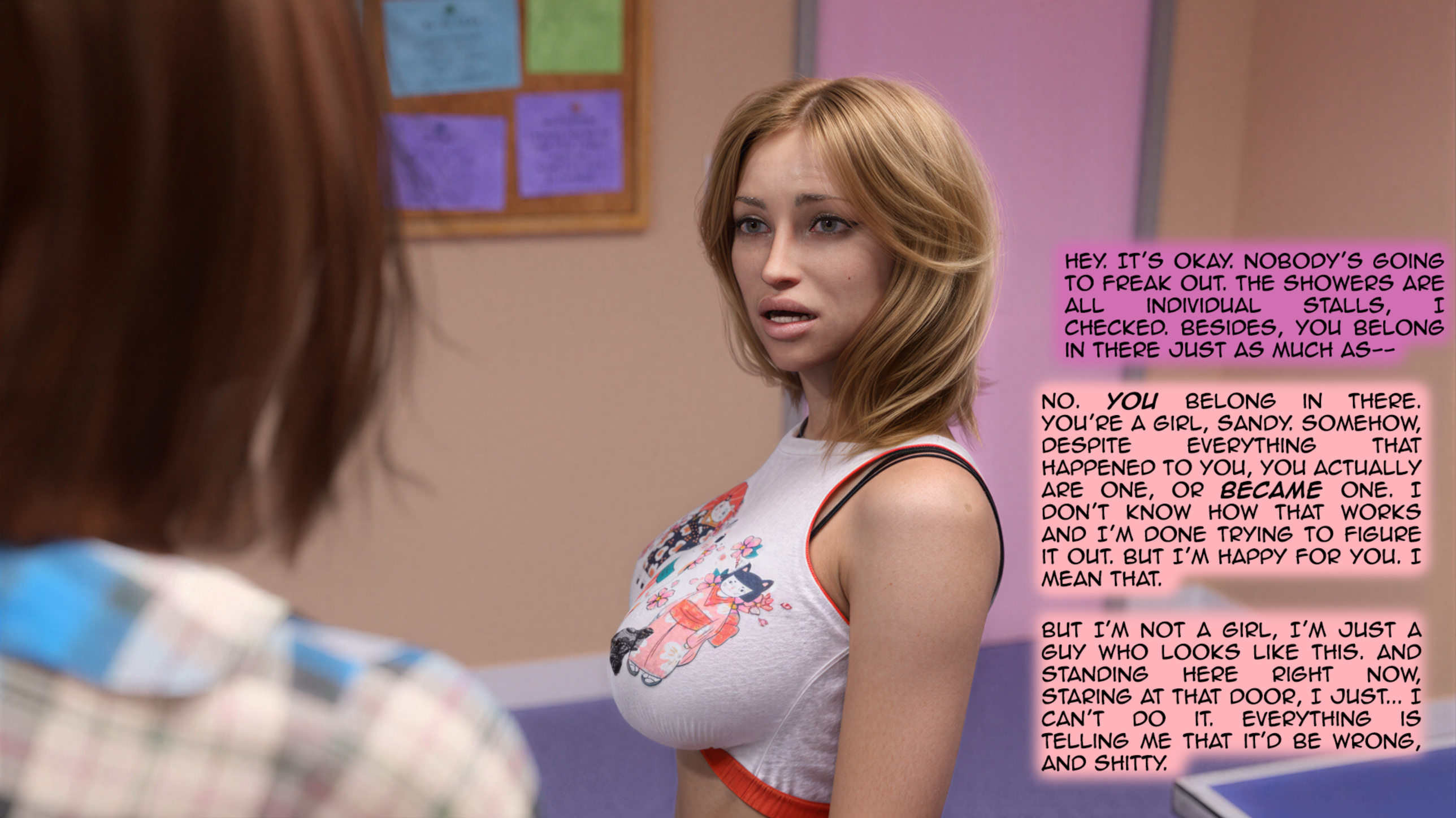
NO, IT'S THREE KINDS OF WRONG IN ONE BOTTLE! NICKY, THAT IS WHY YOUR HAIR IS SO DRY! YOU'RE WASHING IT WITH THE SAME STUFF YOU USE ON YOUR ARMPITS!

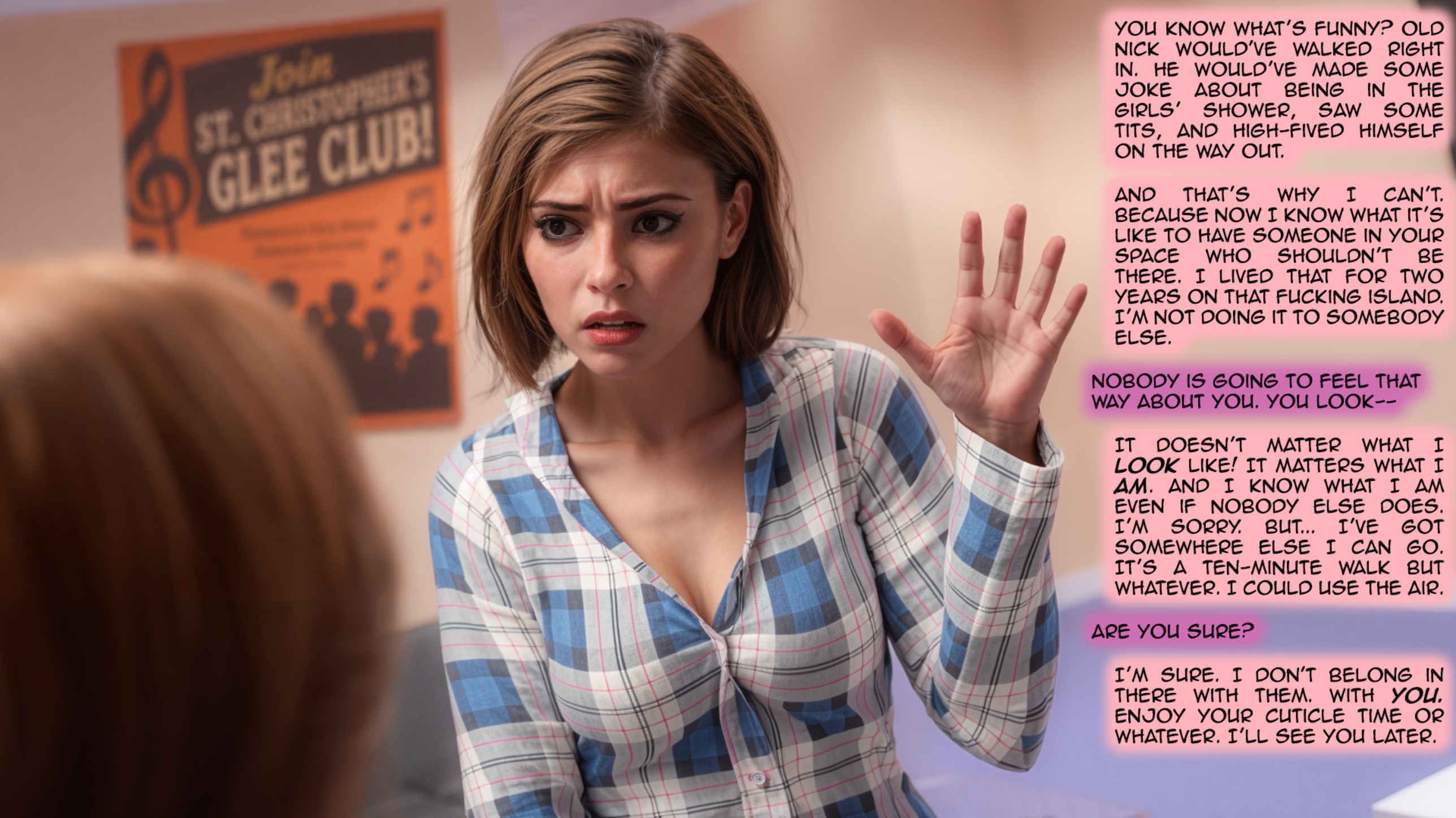
IT SMELLS GOOD, THOUGH. HERE, SNIFF.

UGH. GOD, IT SMELLS LIKE A MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE.

I GUESS. BUT IT COSTS FOUR DOLLARS. ANYWAY, WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I'M CLEAN.


...AND THE EXFOLIATOR HAS THESE LITTLE MICROBEADS THAT ARE ACTUALLY MADE FROM WALNUT SHELLS, NOT PLASTIC, SO IT'S ECO-FRIENDLY, WHICH I KNOW YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT BUT--
SHIT. SHIT, FUCK.
NICKY? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I... I CAN'T GO IN THERE.
WOMEN


HEY. IT'S OKAY. NOBODY'S GOING TO FREAK OUT. THE SHOWERS ARE ALL INDIVIDUAL STALLS, I CHECKED. BESIDES, YOU BELONG IN THERE JUST AS MUCH AS--
NO. YOU BELONG IN THERE. YOU'RE A GIRL, SANDY. SOMEHOW, DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO YOU, YOU ACTUALLY ARE ONE, OR BECAME ONE. I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT WORKS AND I'M DONE TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT. BUT I'M HAPPY FOR YOU. I MEAN THAT.
BUT I'M NOT A GIRL, I'M JUST A GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE THIS. AND STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW, STARING AT THAT DOOR, I JUST... I CAN'T DO IT. EVERYTHING IS TELLING ME THAT IT'D BE WRONG, AND SHITTY.



YOU KNOW WHAT'S FUNNY? OLD NICK WOULD'VE WALKED RIGHT IN. HE WOULD'VE MADE SOME JOKE ABOUT BEING IN THE GIRLS' SHOWER, SAW SOME TITS, AND HIGH-FIVED HIMSELF ON THE WAY OUT.

AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T. BECAUSE NOW I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE IN YOUR SPACE WHO SHOULDN'T BE THERE. I LIVED THAT FOR TWO YEARS ON THAT FUCKING ISLAND. I'M NOT DOING IT TO SOMEBODY ELSE.

NOBODY IS GOING TO FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT YOU. YOU LOOK--

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I ***LOOK*** LIKE! IT MATTERS WHAT I ***AM***. AND I KNOW WHAT I AM EVEN IF NOBODY ELSE DOES. I'M SORRY. BUT... I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE ELSE I CAN GO. IT'S A TEN-MINUTE WALK BUT WHATEVER. I COULD USE THE AIR.

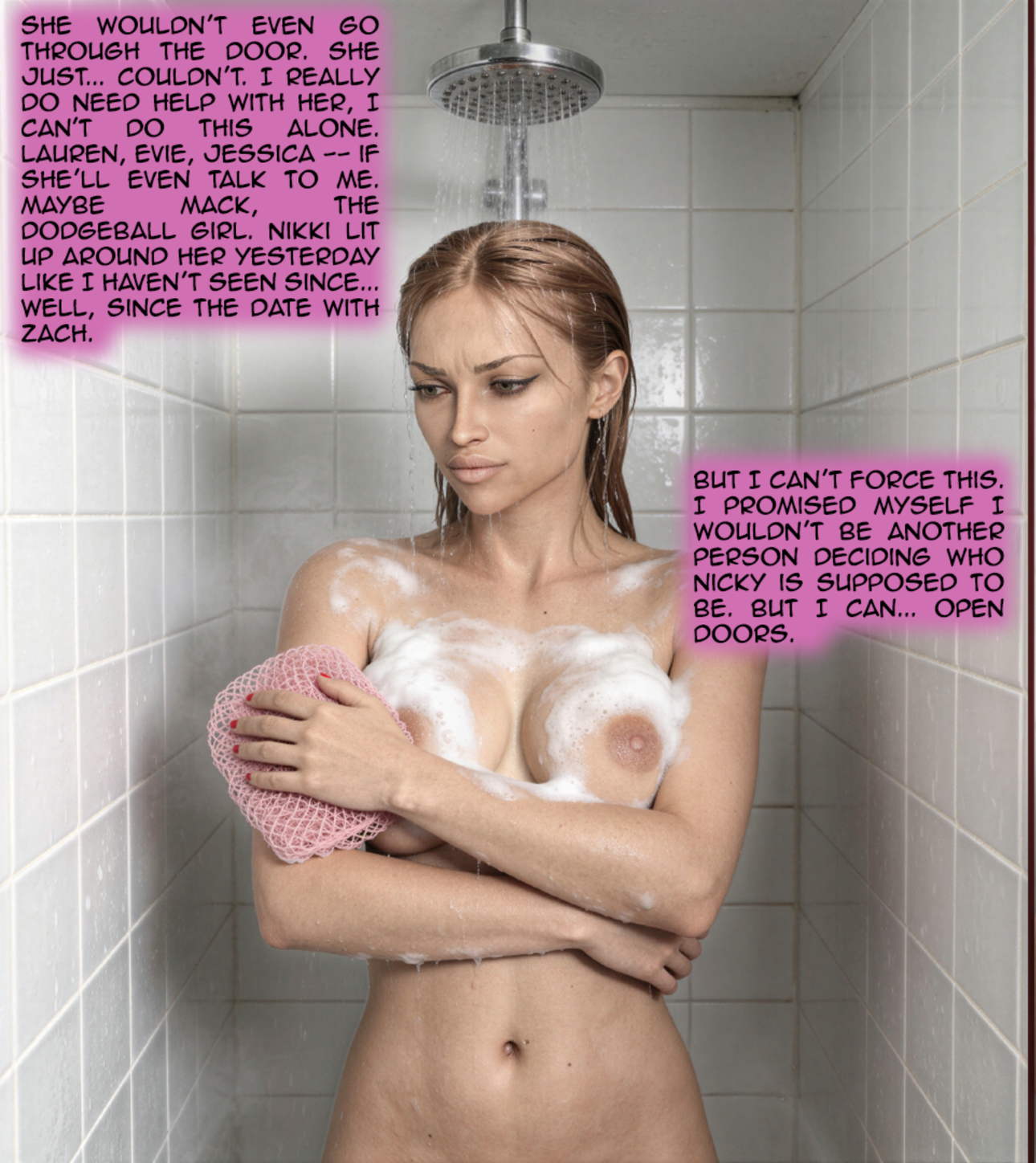
ARE YOU SURE?

I'M SURE. I DON'T BELONG IN THERE WITH THEM. WITH ***YOU.*** ENJOY YOUR CUTICLE TIME OR WHATEVER. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

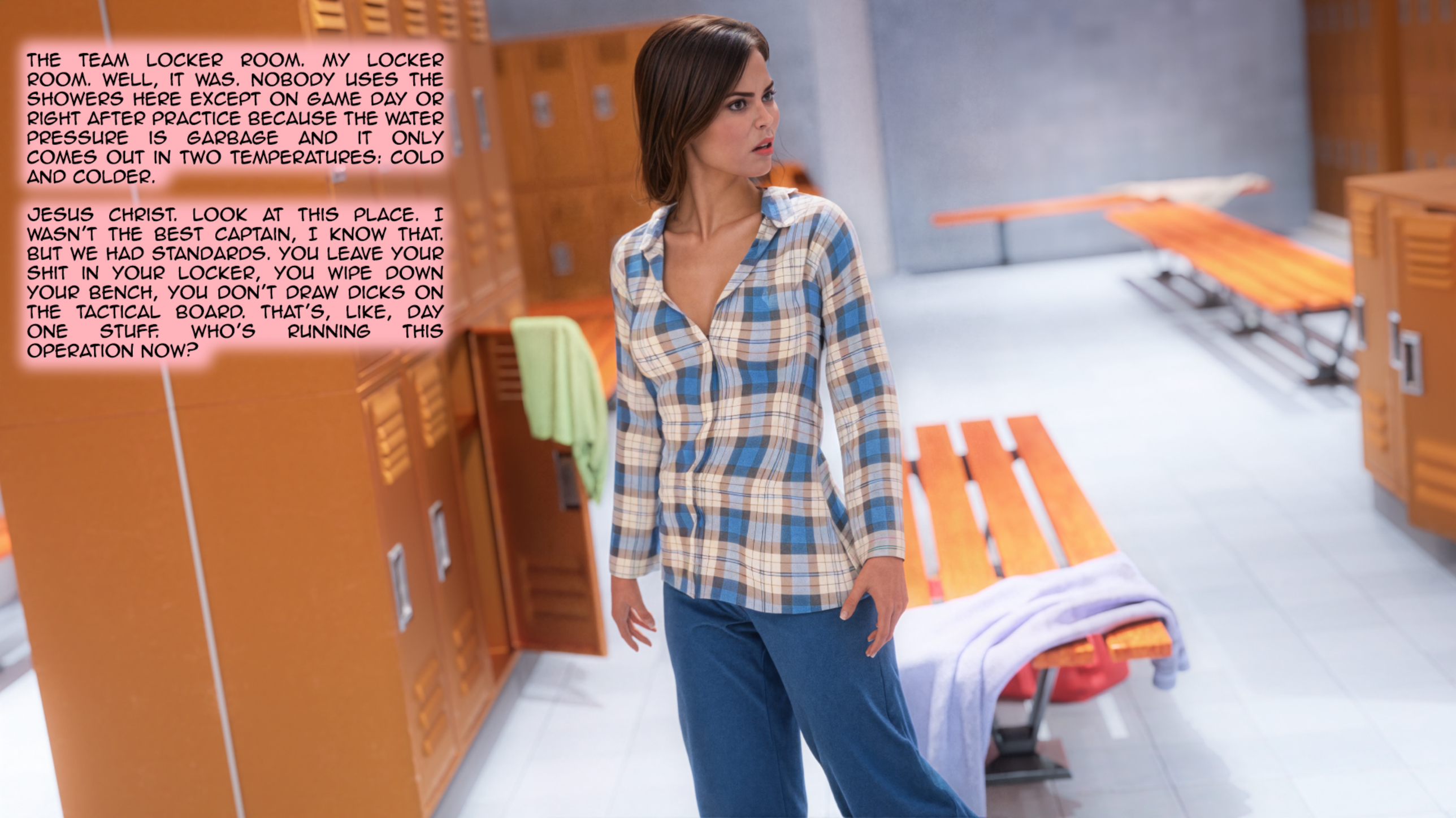

TEN-MINUTE WALK, NO BIG DEAL. I USED TO RUN THIS ROUTE IN FOUR MINUTES FLAT, BACK WHEN I HAD BIG QUADS AND A REASON TO HURRY. NOW I'VE GOT NEITHER. JUST A GIRL LOOKALIKE IN PAJAMAS HOLDING A BOTTLE OF 3-IN-1 AT SEVEN IN THE MORNING LIKE THE WORLD'S SADDEST COMMERCIAL.
OOH, WALK OF SHAME ALREADY? SEMESTER HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET. THAT'S GOTTA BE A RECORD.


MOTHERFUCKER.


FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT. BUT THERE'S NOTHING SHAMEFUL ABOUT GETTING LAID -- WHICH YOU CLEARLY DON'T KNOW BECAUSE YOU NEVER HAVE AND NEVER WILL. SECOND OF ALL, I'M FRIENDS WITH THE CHEERLEADING CAPTAIN. LAUREN? SO IF YOU DON'T APOLOGIZE RIGHT NOW AND PROMISE TO NEVER SAY SHIT LIKE THAT TO ANYONE EVER AGAIN, I'LL MAKE ONE TEXT AND THE WORD WILL SPREAD SO FAST YOU WON'T GET A DATE UNTIL YOU'RE THIRTY.
I... I WAS JUST JOKING--
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M FUCKING LAUGHING SHIT-HEAD? APOLOGIZE.
SORRY. I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN--
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE EVER *MEANT* ANYTHING IN YOUR WHOLE PATHETIC LIFE. BUT FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT BEFORE LUNCH. WE GOOD?
YEAH. YEAH, WE'RE GOOD.
GREAT. HAVE A BLESSED DAY.


SHE WOULDN'T EVEN GO THROUGH THE DOOR. SHE JUST... COULDN'T. I REALLY DO NEED HELP WITH HER, I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. LAUREN, EVIE, JESSICA -- IF SHE'LL EVEN TALK TO ME. MAYBE MACK, THE DODGEBALL GIRL. NIKKI LIT UP AROUND HER YESTERDAY LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE... WELL, SINCE THE DATE WITH ZACH.
BUT I CAN'T FORCE THIS. I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULDN'T BE ANOTHER PERSON DECIDING WHO NICKY IS SUPPOSED TO BE. BUT I CAN... OPEN DOORS.


MMM. GOD, THE SENSITIVITY IS STILL INCREASING. JOSH WASN'T KIDDING WHEN HE SAID THE--
SHIT! NOPE! CLASS IN FORTY MINUTES! THINK ABOUT ROCKS. SEDIMENTARY, IGNEOUS, METAMORPHIC. ROCKS DON'T HAVE NERVE ENDINGS, ROCKS ARE NOT SENSITIVE, ROCKS ARE APPROPRIATE SHOWER THOUGHTS.
...OKAY BUT AFTER CLASS I'M CALLING JOSH.


THE TEAM LOCKER ROOM. MY LOCKER ROOM. WELL, IT WAS. NOBODY USES THE SHOWERS HERE EXCEPT ON GAME DAY OR RIGHT AFTER PRACTICE BECAUSE THE WATER PRESSURE IS GARBAGE AND IT ONLY COMES OUT IN TWO TEMPERATURES: COLD AND COLDER.
JESUS CHRIST. LOOK AT THIS PLACE. I WASN'T THE BEST CAPTAIN, I KNOW THAT. BUT WE HAD STANDARDS. YOU LEAVE YOUR SHIT IN YOUR LOCKER, YOU WIPE DOWN YOUR BENCH, YOU DON'T DRAW DICKS ON THE TACTICAL BOARD. THAT'S, LIKE, DAY ONE STUFF. WHO'S RUNNING THIS OPERATION NOW?


WHAT THE-- WHY DO I HEAR THE SHOWER? WHO THE HELL COULD BE HERE AT SEVEN A.M. ON A NON-PRACTICE DAY? GOD, I BET SOMEONE LEFT THE DAMN SHOWER...


....RUNNING...
REMINDER
PLEASE TURN OFF WATER IN SHOWERS WHEN DONE!
OH NO...


OH NO.
WHY IS HE HERE? OF ALL THE LOCKER ROOMS IN ALL THE ATHLETIC BUILDINGS ON ALL THE CAMPUSES IN TEXAS, HE'S SHOWERING IN MINE. AT SEVEN IN THE MORNING. SHIRTLESS. WELL, DUH, OBVIOUSLY SHIRTLESS, HE'S IN A SHOWER, WHY WOULD HE HAVE A SHIRT ON. STOP THINKING ABOUT THE SHIRT. STOP THINKING ABOUT THE--


WHY ARE HIS SHOULDERS LIKE THAT? WERE THEY ALWAYS LIKE THAT? NO, THEY WERE NOT ALWAYS LIKE THAT. THOSE ARE NEW SHOULDERS! AND HIS CHEST...
REMINDER
PLEASE TURN OFF WATER IN SHOWERS WHEN DONE!


LEAVE. TURN AROUND. WALK AWAY. YOUR LEGS WORK. USE THEM! GO. GO! AND DEFINITELY DON'T...


...PEEK


REMIN
PLEASE
OFF WAT
SHOW
WHE
OH. OH MY GOD.
I... I MEAN, IT MAKES SENSE. IF THE SHITTY SUPER-ESTROGEN DID WHAT IT DID TO ME.... THEN THE... THE SUPER-T HUTCHINSON'S BEEN PUMPING INTO HIM HAS, UH...
THAT IS... I MEAN, THAT'S JUST... IMPRESSIVE. FROM A, UM, MEDICAL STANDPOINT.
OKAY. OKAY, NOW LEAVE!


DID I HEAR SOMETHING...?


NICK!?


I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!


REMINDER
REMINDER
ST. CHRISTOPHER
HORNETS
NICK, WAIT! WAIT! IT'S OKAY! JUST STOP!
IT IS NOT OKAY! NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS OKAY! I'M LEAVING! GOODBYE FOREVER!