Hugo

Exit to

cBlack

01

Ritorno

cBlack

One late evening, at a bus stop in the less reputable part of the city center, a lone passenger disembarks after a long and tiresome journey...



Meet Dale Hodgkins, a photo-journalist who specializes in stories on government corruption, conspiracy theories and anything else bordering on the sordid and sensational.

JESUS! HOW AM I GONNA EXPLAIN TO MY EDITOR THAT THESE LAST THREE WEEKS PRODUCED NOTHING?

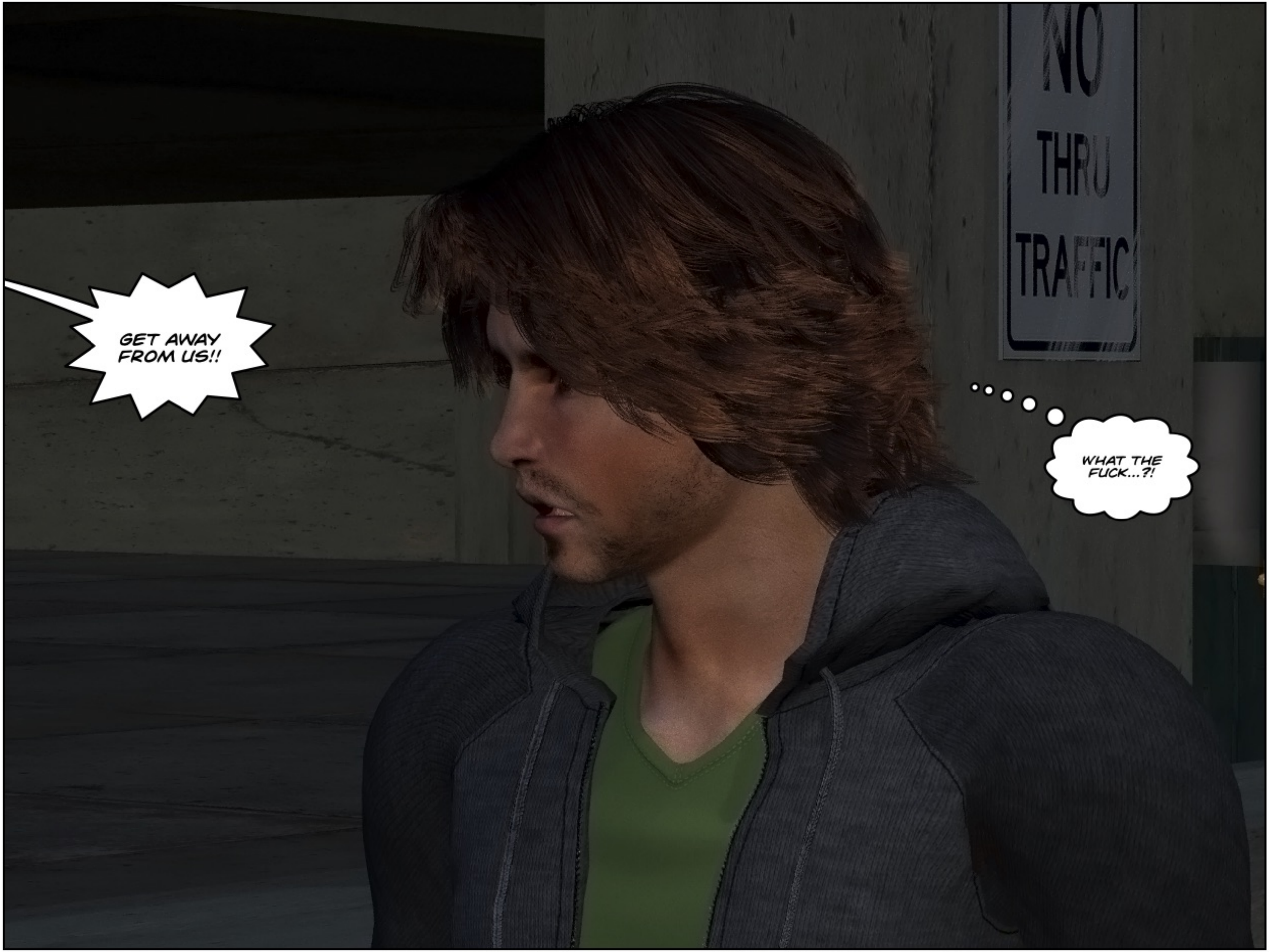
I'M ALREADY ON THIN ICE WITH HIM, SO I JUST MIGHT BE LOOKIN' FOR A NEW JOB IF I'M NOT CAREFUL!

NOT LIKE IT'S **MY** FAULT, THOUGH! MY SOURCES **SWORE** THERE WAS BLACK-MARKET **PLUTONIUM** BEING TRANSPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY BY THAT **TRUCKING COMPANY!** I FOLLOWED THOSE TRUCKS FOR **WEEKS** TRYING TO GET A LOOK INSIDE **EACH** AND **EVERY ONE** OF THEM!

BUT ALL I FOUND WAS **ONIONS!** TRUCKLOADS AND TRUCKLOADS OF **FUCKING ONIONS!** EITHER MY SOURCES WERE **WAY OFF** OR THE TRUCKERS **SOMEHOW** CAUGHT WIND OF ME AND **SWITCHED** THEIR ROUTES AT THE LAST MINUTE!

THERE'S NO WAY ***ANY*** OF THOSE TRUCKERS COULD'VE ***RECOGNIZED*** ME WHILE I FOLLOWED THEM! I WENT THROUGH OVER A ***HALF-DOZEN DISGUISES*** THESE LAST FEW WEEKS! THEY ***MUST'VE*** BEEN TIPPED OFF! BUT ***BY WHOM...?!***

DANGER
HIGH VOLTAGE
KEEP OUT


NO
THRU
TRAFFIC
GET AWAY FROM US!!
WHAT THE FUCK...?!

DO YOU HAVE **ANY** IDEA **WHO** WE ARE?!

OF **COURSE** WE DO, **SENATOR MCDOUGAL!** THAT'S EXACTLY **WHY** WE ABDUCTED YOU AND **CONGRESSMAN GRANGER** AND BROUGHT YOU BOTH **HERE!**

WE WOULDN'T GO TO ALL THIS **TROUBLE** FOR JUST **ANYONE!**

THAT'S RIGHT! ONLY PEOPLE AS IMPORTANT AS **YOU** TWO ARE WORTHY OF **OUR** ATTENTION!

WHAT *IS* IT YOU *WANT* WITH US?

WANT WITH YOU? ACTUALLY WE DON'T *WANT* YOU *AT ALL! THAT'S* THE WHOLE *POINT* OF OUR LITTLE *MEETING* TONIGHT! TO GET *RID* OF YOU!

YOU CAN'T *POSSIBLY* GET AWAY WITH THIS! WE'RE *TOO IMPORTANT!* PEOPLE WILL *NOTICE* THAT WE'RE *GONE!* HELL, THEY PROBABLY *ALREADY* KNOW AND HAVE *ALERTED* THE *AUTHORITIES!*

POSSIBLY! BUT THEY'LL CALL OFF THE SEARCH, TRUST ME!

AND WHY WILL THEY DO THAT?

BECAUSE WE'LL TELL THEM TO!

GASP!!. WHAT THE HELL...?! WHO ARE YOU?!

WHY, I'M SENATOR PAT MCDOUGAL... CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE!

AND I'M CONGRESSMAN KYLE GRANGER... CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE! HEH-HEH!

YOU... YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! NO ONE WILL BELIEVE YOU'RE US!

I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT! WE'RE VERY GOOD AT WHAT WE DO, AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT NO-ONE HAS IDENTIFIED ANY OF OUR OTHER "REPLACEMENTS"!

OTHER REPLACEMENTS?! YOU DON'T MEAN... !

YOU DON'T *REALLY* THINK YOU TWO ARE THE *FIRST*, DO YOU?

WE HAVE *OUR* PEOPLE IN *EVERY* POSITION OF *AUTHORITY*... BOTH *NATIONAL* AND *LOCAL!*

THEN... THEN *WHAT* ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH *US?*


THE SAME THING WE'VE DONE WITH ALL THE OTHERS...

GASP!

Phht!!!

Phht!!

HOLY SHIT! THIS'LL GET ME A PULITZER!

Click! Click! Click!


WHAT WAS THAT?!
OH, SHIT!!

I THOUGHT YOU **SECURED** THE AREA, GODDAMMIT!

DON'T WORRY! **WE'LL** TAKE CARE OF IT!

HEY, YOU! WITH THE CAMERA! C'MERE A MINUTE!

OH SHIT! OH SHIT! OH SHIT!!

NO TRAFFIC

WE JUST WANNA TALK, KID! PROMISE!

NO THRU TRAFFIC

DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE KEEP OUT

YEAH! JUST LIKE YOU "TALKED" TO THOSE TWO DEAD GUYS?! I DON'T THINK SO!

SPORTS UNLIMITED

IF WE DON'T FIND THAT GUY, THE BOSS WILL *LITERALLY* HAVE OUR *HEADS!*

YOU THINK *I* DON'T KNOW THAT?! YOU GO AROUND *THAT* SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND I'LL GO *THIS* WAY!

SPEED LIMIT 25



Several hours later...

Slam!!!

JESUS H. FUCKING CHRIST! I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER MAKE IT BACK HOME SAFELY!

IF I HADN'T SEEN ALL THAT WITH MY OWN EYES, I ***NEVER*** WOULD'VE BELIEVED IT!

KILLING OFF ***HIGH-RANKING*** MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ***REPLACING*** THEM WITH ***IMPOSTERS? SHIT!*** THEY COULD CONCEIVABLY TAKE OVER THE ***WHOLE GOVERNMENT*** IF THEY'RE NOT EXPOSED!

HELL! THEY ALSO SAID THEY'VE INFILTRATED ***LOCAL*** AUTHORITIES SO I ***CAN'T*** EVEN CALL THE ***POLICE*** UNTIL I'M SURE ***WHO*** I CAN TRUST!

I KNOW I'VE **GOT** TO LET SOMEONE **ELSE** KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, AND **I WILL**, BUT I'VE BEEN AWAKE FOR **36 HOURS** AND **CANNOT** KEEP MY EYES OPEN ANYMORE! ANYTHING I TRY AND SEND OUT **NOW** WOULD PROBABLY SOUND LIKE THE **RAMBLINGS** OF A **LUNATIC!**

I'VE **GOTTA** GET MYSELF A FEW HOURS OF **SLEEP! THEN**, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, I'LL PUT **EVERYTHING** TOGETHER AND SEND IT TO MY EDITOR!


MMPH! GOOD THING IT WAS SO DARK OUT THERE TONIGHT... AND THEY NEVER GOT A GOOD LOOK AT ME...
ZZZZZZZZZZ!!!

Late morning, the next day...

Buzzzzz!!

HUH?! WHAT THE HELL *TIME* IS IT?

BUZZZZZ!!

UH, YEAH... HELLO?

HEY, DALE! IT'S BOB... AT WORK!

YEAH... I KNOW! WHAT'S UP?

YOU TELL *ME*, MAN! WHO'D YOU PISS OFF *THIS* TIME?

WHAT THE *HELL* YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

SOMEONE'S **LOOKIN'** FOR YOU, MAN! THERE'S A **PIC** BEING CIRCULATED AROUND SEVERAL NEWS AGENCIES OF **YOU** SAYING YOU'RE A **"PERSON OF EXTREME INTEREST"**!

A **PICTURE**... OF **ME?** WHO... **WHO** SENT IT?

DON'T KNOW! ALL I **DO** KNOW IS THE BOSS CALLED ME IN, **PISSED AS HELL,** SHOWED ME THE PIC AND TOLD ME TO GET YOUR ASS IN HERE **ASAP!**

DO YOU **HAVE** THE PIC? CAN YOU **SHOW** ME WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE?

YEAH! I **JUST** TEXTED IT TO YOU!

OH FUCK! HOW THE HELL DID THEY GET THAT PICTURE?! I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE ELSE AROUND!

cingular

9:41 AM

SO WHAT'S GOIN' ON, DALE? WHAT WERE YOU TAKIN' PICS OF THAT'S GOT SOMEONE SO ALL-FIRED EAGER TO FIND YOUR ASS?

LOOK, BOB! I CAN'T GET INTO IT RIGHT NOW! JUST STALL THE BOSS, OKAY? TELL HIM YOU COULDN'T FIND ME! I... I NEED TIME TO THINK!

WELL OKAY, BUT...

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER! I PROMISE! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME SOME TIME!

I GUESS SO! BUT BE WARNED, THE BOSS IS ALREADY PISSED AS HELL! THE LONGER YOU PUT THIS OFF, THE WORSE HE'S GONNA GET!

THAT'S SOMETHING I'M WILLING TO PUT UP WITH! THANKS, BOB!

SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!! I'VE GOTTA GET MY ASS OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE POINTS THEM IN MY DIRECTION!

WHICH MEANS PACKING **LIGHT**, DITCHING MY **PHONE** FOR A **BURNER**, AND WITHDRAWING AS MUCH **CASH** AS THE BANK'LL LET ME!

AND UNLESS I WANT SOMEONE ***RECOGNIZING*** ME, I'VE GOTTA COME UP WITH A ***DISGUISE***... AND ***QUICK!***

A very short time later...


YOU'RE SURE *THIS* IS THE PLACE? THIS *HELL-HOLE?*
IT *BETTER* BE! THIS IS THE ADDRESS HIS *BOSS* GAVE US! APARTMENT 2B... *LET'S GO!*


HOLY SHIT! THAT WAS CLOSE!

THOSE WERE THE ***SAME TWO*** FROM LAST NIGHT! EVEN IN ***STREET CLOTHES,*** I'D RECOGNIZE THEM ***ANYWHERE!***

AND IT SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE SAYING THAT MY ***BOSS*** GAVE ME UP! ***FUCK!*** THAT ***RAT-BASTARD*** HAS ***ALWAYS*** HATED ME!

I KNOW IT'S ***RISKY,*** BUT I'M GONNA STICK AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN HEAR ANYTHING ***ELSE*** FROM THEM WHEN THEY COME BACK DOWN!

THEY'LL PROBABLY BE ***SUPER-PISSED*** WHEN THEY FIND OUT THEY MISSED ME... ***AGAIN!*** HEH-HEH!

A few minutes later...

WELL SHIT! *THAT* WAS A BUST!

YEAH! IT LOOKED LIKE HE LEFT THERE IN A *HURRY*, TOO! WHAT'S OUR NEXT STEP?

I HAVE AN *IDEA!* GIVE ME YOUR PHONE!

YOU'RE KIDDING? JESUS! THAT'S ALL WE NEED!

SIGH!. ALL RIGHT, BUT SEND US THOSE PICS AS SOON AS FUCKING POSSIBLE! OKAY?!

WHAT'S WRONG?

IT SEEMS OUR "RABBIT" LIKES TO DABBLE WITH ***DISGUISES!*** HIS EDITOR TELLS ME HE'S USED THEM A ***LOT*** IN HIS WORK!

WELL THAT DOESN'T MAKE ***OUR*** WORK ANY EASIER, DOES IT? WHAT ARE WE GONNA ***DO?***

FORTUNATELY, THEY'VE GOT PICS OF ***ALL*** THE DISGUISES HE'S USED IN PAST ASSIGNMENTS AND THEY'RE GOING TO TEXT THEM TO ME!

OKAY, **WHY** WOULD THEY HAVE THOSE PICS ON FILE IF HE WAS **UNDERCOVER?**

HIS BOSS SAYS THE KID'S GOT A **MAJORLY ANNOYING EGO!** LIKES TO **SHOW OFF** TO HIS CO-WORKERS WHEN HE **SCOOPS** THEM!

SO THEY'RE **ALL** MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE **HAPPY** TO **COOPERATE** WITH US!

THAT'LL **DEFINITELY** WORK TO **OUR ADVANTAGE!**


YES... YES, IT WILL!


PARKING
SHIT! I SENT MOST OF THOSE PHOTOS OF MYSELF TO BOB! IF EVEN HE'S COOPERATING WITH THESE PEOPLE, THEN THAT MEANS THERE'S NO ONE I CAN TRUST!
AND SINCE HE'S GOT A PIC OF ME IN THIS GET-UP, I'D BETTER BE LONG GONE BEFORE THOSE TWO SEE IT!

THAT **ALSO** MEANS THAT ANY DISGUISES I USE FROM HERE ON OUT **HAVE** TO BE **BRAND NEW** AND **COMPLETELY DIFFERENT** THAN **ANYTHING** I'VE USED BEFORE!

C'MON, HODGKINS! IT'S TIME TO START **SERIOUSLY** THINKING **OUTSIDE THE BOX!**

A few hours later...



WHEW! I MADE IT! AND NO-ONE, NOT EVEN THE OLD GUY AT THE FRONT DESK, GAVE ME A SECOND LOOK!

THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I CHOSE THIS CHEAP-SHIT HOTEL IN THIS PART OF TOWN... PEOPLE AROUND HERE MAKE IT A POINT NOT TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO WHATEVER'S GOING ON AROUND THEM!

EVEN IF SOMEONE DID THINK I LOOKED A LITTLE TOO MASCULINE FOR A CHICK, THEY'VE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT BY NOW!

DRESSING UP AS A **WOMAN** WAS HARDLY MY **FIRST** CHOICE, BUT IF THEY'VE **SEEN** THOSE PICS, THEY'LL **KNOW** I'VE USED A **WIDE RANGE** OF DISGUISES OVER THE YEARS... BUT THEY **WON'T** BE EXPECTING **THIS!**

I TRIED **THIS** TYPE OF DISGUISE **ONCE** A FEW YEARS BACK AND IT WORKED **WELL** ENOUGH! **UNFORTUNATELY,** I **THINK** I MENTIOEND IT TO **BOB!** THANKFULLY I **NEVER** SENT HIM ANY **PICTURES...** ONLY BECAUSE I WAS **MORTIFIED** AT HOW **WELL** I'D PULLED IT OFF!

4:15

AND I THINK I'VE DONE IT AGAIN! WITH JUST A FEW QUICK STOPS AT A ***DRUG STORE*** AND A ***CONSIGNMENT SHOP,*** I'VE CREATED A PRETTY ***DAMN GOOD DISGUISE!***

IT'LL GIVE ME SOME ***BREATHING ROOM*** AND A SAFE PLACE TO ***HIDE OUT*** WHILE I TRY AND FIGURE A WAY ***OUT*** OF THIS MESS!

UNFORTUNATELY, AS ***GOOD*** AS THIS DISGUISE IS FOR BLENDING IN AROUND ***HERE,*** IT ***WON'T*** BE ENOUGH TO FOOL ANYONE WHO'S ***ACTIVELY LOOKING*** FOR ME!

SIGH!. FOR WHAT I NEED TO DO **NEXT**, THIS **DISGUISE** IS GOING TO NEED A **SERIOUS UPGRADE!**

The next morning, after a good night's sleep and some more ***specialized*** shopping...

OKAY, THIS SHOULD BE THE ***LAST*** OF IT!

10:20

THAT TOOK **LONGER** THAN I'D HOPED! BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN **WORSE!**

IF I'D TRY TO BUY THIS STUFF **WITHOUT** THE DISGUISE I **ALREADY** HAVE ON, I WOULD'VE **DEFINITELY** DRAWN A LOT OF **UNWANTED ATTENTION!**

Fashion

Speedy

Exclusive Wearings


NOW..
LET'S GET
TO WORK!


JESUS CHRIST! THAT BATH WAS COLD! BUT AT LEAST IT GOT THE JOB DONE ON ALL MY BODY HAIR!
NOTE TO SELF.. NEXT TIME YOU'RE RUNNING FROM MURDEROUS THUGS AND PICK A CHEAP HOTEL TO HIDE OUT IN, MAKE DAMN SURE IT HAS A SHOWER... AND FUCKING HOT WATER!


SIGH! ALL RIGHT, THEN...


FIRST, A LITTLE SOMETHING TO FLATTEN THE FRONT AND PLUMP OUT THE BACK...

OH, *MAN!* I'VE GOTTA FEELIN' THIS IS GONNA *HURT* WHEN I GET IT HOOKED ALL THE WAY UP!

OOF!

GODDAMNIT! THAT'S FREAKIN' **TIGHT!** IF I'M FORCED TO **KEEP** HIDING OUT LIKE THIS I'LL NEED TO GO ON A FUCKIN' **DIET!**


SO FAR, SO GOOD! BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT OF WORK TO DO!

THIS HAS **GOT** TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO FOOL **EVERYONE**... INCLUDING MY **SO-CALLED FRIENDS!**

'CAUSE IF IT **DOESN'T**... I'M A **DEAD MAN!**


Later that afternoon, in the busy offices of the Daily Trumpeter...

THANK YOU BOTH AGAIN FOR BEING SO ***COOPERATIVE***! WITH ***YOUR*** HELP, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND MR. HODGKINS ***BEFORE*** EVENTS ***SPIRAL*** OUT OF EVERYONE'S ***CONTROL***!

THINGS COULD GET VERY ***UGLY*** IF ***THAT*** HAPPENS!

TRUST ME, ***NO ONE*** WANTS THIS TO COME TO AN END ***FASTER*** THAN ***ME***... NO MATTER ***WHAT*** IT TAKES!

SAY, HAVE YOU ALL THOUGHT ABOUT USING THAT ***FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE*** THE FEDS ARE USING THESE DAYS? I HEAR AS LONG THEY HAVEN'T HAD ANY ***FACIAL SURGERY*** THE LATEST VERSION CAN ***ID*** THEM, ***EVEN*** IF THEY'RE WEARING A PRETTY ***DAMN*** GOOD ***DISGUISE***... LIKE DALE IS ***PROBABLY*** DOING ***RIGHT NOW!***

ACTUALLY, WE'RE ***ALREADY*** IMPLEMENTING THAT IDEA! AND THE SOFTWARE ***WE*** HAVE IS ***JUST*** AS GOOD AS THE FBI'S, IF NOT ***BETTER!***

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'D LIKE ACCESS TO THE ***SECURITY VIDEO*** IN ***YOUR*** BUILDING... JUST IN CASE ***MR. HODGKINS*** DECIDES TO PAY A VISIT ***HERE!***

NOT A PROBLEM! I'LL HAVE OUR SECURITY ***COORDINATE*** WITH YOU ALL ON THAT!

GODDAMMIT, BOB! I SHOULD'VE FIRED THAT LITTLE SHIT YEARS AGO! HE'S NOT WORTH A FRACTION OF THE TROUBLE HE'S CAUSING US RIGHT NOW!

IF THEY DON'T FIND HIM... IF WE DON'T HELP THEM FIND HIM... IT'LL COST US EVERYTHING!

LISTEN UP! IF I FIND OUT THAT ANYONE HERE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DALE HODGKINS AND NOT TOLD ME ABOUT IT, YOU WILL FIND YOUR SORRY ASSES OUT ON THE SIDEWALK! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?!

YES, CHIEF!

YOU GOT IT, CHIEF!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS!


SIGH!
427 DAYS UNTIL
RETIREMENT...


OH MY GOD! IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT! THEY'VE GOT EVERYONE, EVEN MY COWORKERS, ALL TURNED AGAINST ME!
EVEN IF I TRY TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT WHY I'M RUNNING... WHAT I SAW... THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME!
THOSE MURDERERS HAVE GOT EVERYONE SO SCARED THEY'D TURN ME OVER TO THEM WITHOUT GIVING IT A SECOND THOUGHT!


AND THE LONGER I STAY HERE, THE MORE AT RISK I AM, AND...!
WHAT THE... ?
HEY! WATCH IT! I...


ON SECOND THOUGHT, EXCUSE ME! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!
OH, UMMM... NOT A PROBLEM! I... I SHOULD'VE BEEN WATCHING WHERE I WAS GOING AS WELL!

I THOUGHT I *KNEW* ALL THE *BEAUTIFUL GIRLS* IN THIS OFFICE! *HOW* DID I MISS *YOU?*

OH, *THAT'S* BECAUSE I WORK UPSTAIRS... IN *ACCOUNTS!* I WAS JUST DOWN HERE PICKING UP SOME *PAPERWORK!*

WELL I'VE *DEFINITELY* GOT TO GET UP TO ACCOUNTS *MORE OFTEN!* HEH-HEH!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

SAY, ARE YOU *SURE* WE HAVEN'T MET? YOU LOOK KIND OF *FAMILIAR!*

NO! NO, I... I CAN'T SAY WE HAVE! I'M SORRY! I *HAVE* TO GET BACK TO WORK!

SHIT! EVEN AFTER GOING THROUGH **ALL THIS**, I **STILL** LOOK FAMILIAR TO **BOB!** I'M **SURE** HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT GIVEN ENOUGH TIME!

IF THEY START USING **FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE,** THERE'LL BE **NO PLACE** FOR ME TO HIDE... NO MATTER **HOW GOOD** MY DISGUISE IS!


SIGH! THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE WAY I CAN THINK OF TO KEEP FROM GETTING CAUGHT!
IT MAY BE DRASTIC, BUT IT'S REALLY MY ONLY CHOICE!

The next morning...

Ding!

GOOD MORNING! DR. RODNEY MALCOLM... PLASTIC SURGEON! PLEASE HOLD!

HMPH! THE **GOOD DOCTOR** HAS REALLY **MOVED UP** IN THE WORLD SINCE I DID MY **EXPOSÉ** ON HIM AND HIS TIES TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL **DRUG CARTELS!**

HE WAS VERY, VERY **GOOD** AT PROVIDING **NEW FACES** AND SUCH TO PEOPLE WHO NEEDED TO **DISAPPEAR**... RATHER **QUICKLY!**

BACK **THEN**, HE WAS KNOWN AS **DR. SIDNEY GREENBLAT**... AND HE PULLED OFF A **DISAPPEARANCE** OF HIS **OWN** SHORTLY AFTER MY ARTICLE RAN!

GOOD MORNING! DR. RODNEY MALCOLM... PLASTIC SURGEON! PLEASE HOLD!

FORTUNATELY, BEING THE ***AMAZING REPORTER*** THAT I AM, IT HASN'T BEEN ***TOO DIFFICULT*** FOR ME TO ***TRACK DOWN*** THE DOC AND KEEP ***TABS*** ON HIS ACTIVITIES! I WAS ***PLANNING*** ON USING IT ALL FOR A ***BLOCKBUSTER FOLLOW-UP STORY*** SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE...

SIGH! WHO KNEW ***I'D*** SOMEDAY END UP NEEDING HIS ***UNIQUE SERVICES*** MYSELF?

I'VE PUSHED **THIS** DISGUISE TO THE **LIMIT** TO MATCH MY COVER STORY... THERE'S **NO WAY** HE'LL **RECOGNIZE** ME!

HI! I'M **CARLY MCRAE**... I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH **DR. MALCOLM!**

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT! HE'LL BE **RIGHT** WITH YOU!

THANKS!

NORMALLY, DR. "MALCOLM" HAS A ***FOUR WEEK*** WAITING LIST! BUT AFTER ***NAME-DROPPING*** A FEW OF HIS MORE ***WELL-HEELED*** CLIENTS THAT I UNCOVERED IN MY RESEARCH, HE WAS ***MORE*** THAN HAPPY TO SLIP ***ME*** INTO HIS BUSY SCHEDULE!

MISS MCRAE?

I'M DR. MALCOLM! PLEASE COME IN!

THANK YOU, DOCTOR.!

SO, MISS MCRAE, FROM YOUR CALL YESTERDAY IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE VERY EAGER TO ENGAGE MY SERVICES!

TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND!

WELL DR. MALCOLM, I GUESS THE FIRST THING I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT MY REAL NAME IS CARL AND THAT I'M TRANSGENDERED! BUT I SUPPOSE A PROFESSIONAL LIKE YOU COULD ALREADY TELL THAT!

YES, I CAN, BUT I DOUBT FEW OTHERS COULD! GO ON... !

A HEAVY DOSE OF EGO-STROKING ALWAYS MAKES THE BULLSHIT GO DOWN EASIER!

AND **THAT'S** THE POINT, I'D LIKE THOSE **"FEW OTHERS"** TO BE **"NO OTHERS"**! AND I WAS HOPING THAT SOME **FACIAL WORK** AND SLIGHT **BREAST AUGMENTATION** MIGHT BE **JUST THE TRICK!**

I **WHOLEHEARTEDLY** AGREE! AND I'M SO **GLAD** YOU CHOSE **ME** TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR **TRANSITION**! SOME OF MY **BEST WORK** HAS BEEN WITH YOUNG WOMEN LIKE **YOURSELF,** WHO ARE **ACHING** TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEIR **TRUE SELVES!**

MY ASSISTANT CAN SCHEDULE A **FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATION** APPOINTMENT WITH YOU WHERE WE CAN DISCUSS THE **DETAILS** OF YOUR PROCEDURES! SAY, TWO OR THREE **WEEKS** FROM NOW!

TWO OR THREE **WEEKS? THAT LONG?**

MY... MY **MEDICAL RECORDS?**

WHY **YES**! THAT WILL GIVE ME **AMPLE** TIME TO LOOK OVER YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS AND TRANSITION HISTORY AS **SOON** AS YOU HAVE THEM SENT OVER!

YEAH... I WAS **AFRAID** OF THAT! OKAY... LET'S SEE HOW **GOOD** AN **ACTOR** I **REALLY** AM!

OH GOD, DR. MALCOLM! I SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD YOU THE TRUTH AS SOON AS I WALKED IN INSTEAD OF TRYING TO LIE THE WAY I DID! I'M SO SORRY!

WHAT ARE TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP AFTER ALL?

ON THE CONTRARY! I DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP! BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY FOR THE REASON I TOLD YOU!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALM DOWN AND TELL ME THE TRUTH!

I... I **AM** TRANSGENDERED... I DIDN'T LIE ABOUT **THAT**! I'VE BEEN **ON MY OWN** SINCE I WAS **SIXTEEN** AND RAN AWAY FROM HOME! MY PARENTS ARE **VERY RELIGIOUS**... AND VERY **CLOSE-MINDED!**

MY **JOB** ISN'T MUCH BETTER, BUT IT PAYS **VERY WELL!** THAT'S WHY I'VE STUCK WITH IT, EVEN THOUGH I **CAN'T** LIVE AS A WOMAN **FULL-TIME**, I NOW HAVE **MORE THAN ENOUGH** MONEY TO PAY FOR MY **TRANSITION**!

WELL, I'M **HAPPY** TO HELP YOU BECOME THE PERSON YOU **WANT** TO BE!

I'VE BEEN GOING ***OUT*** AT NIGHT AND ON THE WEEKENDS... LIKE ***THIS***... BEEN DOING IT FOR ***YEARS!*** AND A FEW WEEKS AGO MET A ***MAN*** WHO DIDN'T ***RECOGNIZE*** ME AS WHAT I WAS! IN FACT, HE ***TOLD*** ME I WAS A ***VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...*** SOMETHING I'VE WAITED ***SO LONG*** TO HEAR!

I ***KNOW*** I SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM THE ***TRUTH*** ABOUT MYSELF, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO ***RUIN*** THE ***MAGIC***... AT ***LEAST*** NOT RIGHT AWAY! HE TREATED ME ***SO WONDERFULLY*** I JUST ***COULDN'T*** FIND A WAY TO DO IT!

BUT HE FOUND OUT, ***DIDN'T*** HE?

YES, A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO... WHEN I LET MY ***GUARD*** DOWN WHILE ON A ***DATE*** WITH HIM!

OH, DOCTOR! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE! THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN SO LOVING AND TENDER WITH ME SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A FROTHING BEAST WHO WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO BEAT ME SENSELESS! FORTUNATELY, I MANAGED TO GET AWAY FROM HIM BEFORE HE COULD HURT ME!

IT... IT WAS THE MOST FRIGHTENING THING I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFE! AND I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE THE END OF IT, BUT YESTERDAY I GOT A CALL FROM MY BOSS! HE SAID HE KNEW ALL ABOUT MY PERVERTED LIFESTYLE AND THAT I WAS FIRED!

AND THEN HE CALLED ME,,, BUT ON "CARLS'S" PHONE... NOT THE NUMBER I'D GIVEN HIM AS CARLY! HE BOASTED THAT HE WASN'T DONE WITH ME... AND THAT HE KNEW WHERE I LIVED! HE SAID A FREAK LIKE ME WOULD NEVER POISON HIS OR ANYONE ELSE'S LIFE AGAIN!

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIFYING!

WHY THAT'S AWFUL! DID YOU CALL THE POLICE?

THAT'S THE THING! I *CAN'T!* HE... *HE'S* A *POLICE OFFICER!* A *HIGHLY HONORED* ONE WITH A *WIFE AND KIDS!* THEY'D *NEVER* BELIEVE ME!

AND SINCE I *CAN'T* TURN TO MY *FAMILY* FOR HELP, MY *ONLY* RECOURSE IS TO START MY TRANSITION *NOW*... AND CHANGE MY APPEARANCE *ENOUGH SO NO ONE* RECOGNIZES ME!

C'MON, DOC! HOW COULD YOU *NOT* BUY THIS *OSCAR-WORTHY* PERFORMANCE?

WHEW!. YOU'VE ***TOUCHED*** MY ***HEART***, MISS MCRAE! I CAN'T ***IMAGINE*** GOING THROUGH WHAT YOU'VE JUST DESCRIBED! ***HOWEVER...***

IF YOU'RE ***CONCERNED*** ABOUT MONEY, ***DON'T BE!*** I'VE GOT ***ENOUGH*** TO COVER THINGS! ***I PROMISE!***

AND I CAN PAY YOU IN ***CASH***, SO THERE ***WON'T*** BE A ***MONEY TRAIL!*** I DON'T WANT ***ANYONE*** TO KNOW I'VE ***EVER*** BEEN HERE, YOU SEE!


PLEASE, DR. MALCOLM! YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE! WON'T YOU HELP ME?



BREE, RESCHEDULE MY **LOCKHORN** AND **PEABODY** APPOINTMENTS!

RIGHT AWAY, DOCTOR!


THOSE TWO ARE IN HERE SO OFTEN FOR "TOUCH-UPS" A FEW DAYS' DELAY WON'T HURT THEM!
SO... LET'S SPEND A LITTLE TIME TOGETHER AND SEE WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU!
OH, DOCTOR! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HAPPY YOU'VE MADE ME!


YEAH, "HAPPY" IS HARDLY THE REAL WORD I'D USE, BUT CONSIDERING MY SITUATION, IT'LL HAVE TO DO!

A few hours later, in Dr. Malcolm's operating room...

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

A LITTLE *GOOFY*! WHAT WAS *IN* THAT SHOT YOU GAVE ME?

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO *RELAX* YOU BEFORE THE *MAIN EVENT*!

I KINDA *LIKE* IT! CAN I GET SOME *TO GO*? *GIGGLE!*


HEH-HEH! ALL MY PATIENTS SAY THAT!
WE'LL GIVE IT A FEW MORE MINUTES BEFORE I ADMINISTER THE MAIN ANESTHETIC THAT'LL PUT YOU UNDER!
THE LONGER THE BETTER, DOC! I'M REALLY ENJOYIN' THIS! *GIGGLE!*

SO, WHILE WE'RE WAITING, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME A LITTLE **MORE** ABOUT YOURSELF? LIKE... WHY YOU **REALLY** WANT THIS SURGERY **SO BADLY?**

UMMM... LIKE I SAID... TO *HIDE* **OUT** FROM THEM! CAN'T LET 'EM **FIND** ME... THEY... THEY WANNA **KILL** ME!

THEY WANT TO **KILL** YOU? **WHO** ARE **THEY?** YOUR **FAMILY?**

NO... IT'S THE **MURDERERS...** THE ONES I **SAW!** **THEY** WANNA KILL **ME!**

MantEx, Inc.

No records were found that met your criteria.

OK

YOU WITNESSED A MURDER? DO THE POLICE KNOW?

THEY'RE IN ON IT... THEY'RE ALL IN ON IT... ALL WANNA TURN ME IN... WANNA KILL ME!

BUT THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME... NOT IF I LOOK LIKE A CHICK... *GIGGLE!*

WELL **SHIT!** AND **HERE** I THOUGHT MY DAYS OF DOING **SECRET OPERATIONS** TO GIVE SOMEONE A **NEW IDENTITY** WERE **BEHIND** ME! THE **LAST** THING I NEED IS TO DRAW UNWANTED **ATTENTION** TO THIS **CUSHY** NEW **SET-UP** OF MINE!

I SHOULD DIG A LITTLE **DEEPER** BEFORE I DECIDE WHAT TO **DO** WITH YOU!

SO, YOU'RE **SURE** WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN **ACTUAL MURDER?**

HELL YEAH! GOT PICTURES AN' **EVERYTHING!** BUT SAW **ME** TOO... BEEN **CHASIN'** ME SINCE!

DO YOU KNOW **WHO'S** CHASING YOU?

EVERYONE! GOT PEOPLE IN **COPS, FEDS,** EVEN MY **JOB!** THEY'RE **EVERYWHERE!**


SHIT! IF HE'S GOT THE COPS AND THE FEDS LOOKING FOR HIM, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY TRACK HIM HERE! AT THIS POINT IT REALLY WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHAT I DO... OPERATE OR KICK HIM TO THE STREET!
I SUPPOSE MY BEST BET IS TO DO THE PROCEDURES HE WANTS AND GET HIM OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS FUCKING POSSIBLE!
OR...

WELL, CARLY DON'T YOU FRET ***ONE LITTLE BIT!*** I'M GOING TO TAKE ***VERY*** GOOD CARE OF YOU!

'K...!

WHEN *I'M* DONE, YOU'LL *NEVER* HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT *ANYONE* RECOGNIZING YOU *EVER AGAIN!*

Some time later...

MOAN... !

WELL, **HELLO THERE,** SLEEPY HEAD! **WELCOME BACK!**

HUH? WAZZA...?!

NOW DON'T TRY TO **TALK** OR **GET UP** YET! YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF IT FOR **QUITE SOME TIME!** YOU NEED TIME TO GET YOUR **STRENGTH** BACK!

SHHHHHH! YOU JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP AND LET **US** TAKE **GOOD** CARE OF YOU!

BUT **WHERE...?** **WHO...?**

YOU DIDN'T TELL HER ABOUT DR. MALCOLM, DID YOU?

IN *HER* CONDITION? *OF COURSE NOT!* WE'LL WAIT UNTIL SHE'S *FULLY RECOVERED* FROM THE SURGERIES!

WHY IS SHE *AWAKE* ANYWAY? DIDN'T *DR. KAPOOR* WANT HER TO REMAIN *SEDATED* UNTIL SHE WAS *FULLY HEALED?*

YES, HE *DID*! IT LOOKS LIKE THE *IV* WAS LEFT *UNATTENDED*, BUT I'VE REFILLED IT!


THE NEXT TIME SHE OPENS HER EYES, SHE'LL BE COMPLETELY HEALED!
THEN, AND ONLY THEN WILL WE TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR DR. MALCOLM!



OOHHH... WHAT TIME IS IT? AND WHERE THE HELL AM I?


OH YEAH... THE PLASTIC SURGERY! MUST BE THE RECOVERY ROOM!


UGH! MY MOUTH FEELS LIKE I'VE EATEN A CASE OF COTTON BALLS! AND...
WAIT A SEC! MY FACE DOESN'T HURT... AT ALL! AND THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY BANDAGES!
DID HE EVEN DO THE SURGERY ON MY FACE YET? MAYBE HE JUST DID THE TITS FIRST, AND...

HOLY SHIT!

THAT **BETTER** JUST BE POST-SURGERY **SWELLING**, 'CAUSE **THOSE** SURE AS **FUCK** DON'T LOOK LIKE THE **A CUPS** I TOLD THE DOCTOR TO GIVE ME!

AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH MY ***HAIR***... AND MY ***FINGERNAILS***? DID THEY GIVE ME ***EXTENSIONS*** AND ***PRESS-ONS*** WHILE I WAS OUT?

I MEAN, IT SAVES ***ME*** THE TROUBLE OF DOING IT MYSELF LATER, BUT... I ***CERTAINLY*** DON'T ***REMEMBER*** ASKING ***THEM*** TO DO IT!


ENOUGH OF THIS PIECEMEAL SHIT, I'VE GOTTA SEE WHAT ALL HE ACTUALLY DID TO ME!
UGH! I HATE THESE GODDAMN HOSPITAL GOWNS!

HO-LY SHIT!!

HE **DID** DO MY FACE! AND EVEN **MORE** THAN I...

WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT THE...?! WHERE'S MY...?!


NURSE!!!
GET THAT
GODDAMN DOCTOR
IN HERE...
NOW!!


MY WORD! WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS?
DOCTOR MALCOLM! WHERE IS HE?!
THE DOCTOR CAN'T, UMMM... BE HERE RIGHT NOW, MISS MCRAE!
AND WHY THE HELL NOT?!

BECAUSE DOCTOR MALCOLM WAS IN A TERRIBLE *ACCIDENT*, AND... I'M AFRAID *HE PASSED AWAY!*

A FEW WEEKS AGO!

HE... HE'S *DEAD? WHEN* DID THIS HAPPEN?

A FEW *WEEKS?!* THAT... *THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!* WHAT *DAY* IS IT?

IT'S *THURSDAY*, MAY 14!

MAY?! IT *CAN'T BE!* THE *LAST* THING I REMEMBER WAS BEING IN THE *DOCTOR'S OFFICE* AND IT WAS *FEBRUARY*... FEBRUARY 5TH!

ARE YOU TELLING ME I'VE BEEN HERE... *UNCONSCIOUS*, FOR OVER *THREE MONTHS?*

THOSE WERE THE *DOCTOR'S ORDERS!*

LOOK, HONEY, I'M SURE THIS IS VERY **CONFUSING** AND YOU HAVE A **LOT** OF QUESTIONS!

GEE... YA **THINK**?

BUT MAYBE **THIS** WILL HELP!

WHAT IS IT?

A **LETTER** FOR YOU... FROM **DOCTOR MALCOLM!**

A *LETTER*? FROM THE DOCTOR? *WHY* FOR CHRIST'S SAKE WOULD HE WRITE ME A *LETTER?*

I... *I DON'T KNOW!* IT WAS FOUND IN HIS DESK... *AFTER* HIS *ACCIDENT*... ADDRESSED TO *YOU!*

I'LL LEAVE YOU *ALONE* TO READ IT! JUST BUZZ ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING!

THIS BETTER BE A **DAMN GOOD LETTER,** DOC, 'CAUSE YOU'VE GOTTA **HELLUVA** LOT OF **EXPLAINING** TO DO!

Carly, I sincerely hope you're not reading this letter, because if you are, that means that for one reason or another I'm unable to be there to tell you all this in person.

While you were still in recovery from the initial procedures, two people claiming to be federal agents paid me a visit. They were looking for a young man and showed me a picture that looked a lot like you.

Just before you went under, you muttered something about witnessing a murder, and that the authorities were involved. That's why I told these men I'd never seen anyone who looked like you.

Because of the way they tried to intimidate both me and my staff, I became convinced that you were in serious trouble and wanted to so anything I could to help.

JESUS! THEY WERE HERE?! HOW THE HELL...?!

I figured the best way to hide you would be to change your appearance as much as I could... which included completing your transition.

However, since I'm not qualified for full SRS, I had you transferred to another facility here in town where an acquaintance of mine could perform that part of your transition and then bring you back here so I could do the remaining work on your face and body.

That way, your SRS will never show up on any records here, in case anyone tried to get hold of them.

I know it sounds extreme, but I feel certain that my office and home have been watched since the day you walked into the clinic. I hope you understand that I tried to do what I thought was best and had to make numerous monumental decisions on the fly.

HE... HE WAS TRYING TO ***HELP*** ME? ***GREENBLAT?!*** I ***NEVER*** WOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT OF ***HIM!***

OH MY GOD! THIS IS JUST TOO FUCKING SURREAL!

I no longer know who to trust... not even the people on my staff. None of them know the truth, only your cover story.

They thought it strange that I ordered you kept sedated until you were fully recovered from your surgeries, but since you'd already blurted out things about the murder once, I couldn't risk that happening again. Again, I hope you understand.

if you're reading this letter instead of talking to me in person, I think it's proof enough that the steps I took were warranted.

You should know that those same men came back to the clinic seveal times over the last few months. I believe they have determined that you came to my clinic, but have not managed to figure out which patient you are.

I want you to remain safe, but you won't be if you remain in my clinic one minute longer than necessary. I left a small suitcase for you with clothes and a few other items you can use to start your new life.

Good luck, Carly... and be careful.

I NEED TIME TO WRAP MY HEAD AROUND ALL THIS! BUT I CAN'T DO *THAT* UNTIL I'M OUTTA HERE!

Buzz!!

YES, MISS MCRAE? WHAT DO YOU NEED?

I UNDERSTAND DR. MALCOLM LEFT A ***SUITCASE*** AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! CAN YOU GET IT FOR ME PLEASE?

OF COURSE, BUT MAY I ASK ***WHY?***

BECAUSE I'M ***LEAVING!***

SIGH!. I **KNOW** DR. KAPOOR **ISN'T** GOING TO BE **THRILLED** ABOUT THIS, AND **I MYSELF** WOULD RECOMMEND ANOTHER **DAY** FOR OBSERVATION, BUT DR. MALCOLM **DID** LEAVE **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS** THAT WE **ALLOW** YOU TO **LEAVE** AS SOON AS YOU WERE **PHYSICALLY ABLE!**

GOOD! NO OFFENSE, BUT I'M **DYING** TO GET OUT OF HERE AND BACK **OUT** INTO THE **WORLD**, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

I UNDERSTAND **COMPLETELY**! BIT IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A MINUTE TO DIG OUT YOUR BAG, SO I **STRONGLY** SUGGEST YOU USE THAT TIME TO GET **CLEANED UP!**

UM, **YEAH!** THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA!

BY THE WAY, YOU SAID THE DOCTOR DIED IN AN ***ACCIDENT!*** WHAT ***KIND*** OF ACCIDENT?

IT WAS A ***CAR*** ACCIDENT ON ONE OF THE MOUNTAIN ROADS OUTSIDE OF TOWN! HIS CAR WENT ***OVER THE SIDE*** AND ***CAUGHT FIRE!*** BY THE TIME THE POLICE GOT TO IT, THERE WAS HARDLY ***ANYTHING*** LEFT! THEY THINK HE ***FELL ASLEEP*** AT THE WHEEL!

SUCH A ***WASTE!*** DID YOU KNOW HIM ***WELL***?

NO... NOT REALLY! I'D ***JUST*** MET HIM BEFORE THIS SURGERY! ***THANKS*** FOR LETTING ME KNOW!


"FELL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL," HUH? YEAH, SURE HE DID!


THEY MUST'VE FIGURED OUT HE WAS LYING ABOUT KNOWING WHERE I WAS! HE PROBABLY RAN OFF THAT ROAD WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE!
NO BIG LOSS TO THE WORLD, BUT IT STILL REINFORCES HOW FUCKING DANGEROUS THEY ARE!

IT ALSO MEANS I'VE GOTTA BE ***EXTRA CAREFUL!*** IF THEY WERE WATCHING ***HIM***, THAT MEANS THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCHING ***ANYONE*** WHO HE CAME IN ***CONTACT*** WITH!

AND EVEN THOUGH GREENBLAT DID A ***SHIT-LOAD*** OF ***WORK*** ON ME, THAT ***DOESN'T*** MEAN THEY'LL JUST ***IGNORE*** ME WHEN I LEAVE HERE!




SO... LET'S SEE WHAT THE GOOD DOCTOR LEFT ME!

02

NIGHT

CLUB

cBlack



I DIDN'T BOTHER LOOKING THROUGH **ALL** THE CLOTHES DOC LEFT ME, 'CAUSE ONCE I SAW **THESE** I FIGURED IT WAS **JUST** WHAT I NEEDED!

IT'S NOT TOO **FLASHY** BUT STILL MAKES IT **OBVIOUS** I'M **NOT** JUST SOME **GUY** IN **DRAG!**

SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT **DR. SIDNEY GREENBLAT,** BUT THESE **CURVES** HE GAVE ME ARE THE **BEST DISGUISE** I COULD HAVE **ASKED** FOR!

PROBLEM IS, THOUGH, **NOW** I HAVE EVEN **MORE EYES** ON ME THAN BEFORE! AND I **DON'T KNOW** IF THEY'RE WATCHING ME BECAUSE OF MY **CURVES** OR BECAUSE THEY SUSPECT **WHO** I **REALLY AM!**

LIKE **THAT GUY** BACK THERE WHO'S BEEN **WATCHING** ME SINCE I WALKED OUT THE DOOR! FOR ALL **I** KNOW, **HE** COULD BE ONE OF THE "**FEDS**" THAT KNOCKED OFF THE DOC AND IS TAKING NOTE OF **EVERY PATIENT** THAT COMES OUT OF THAT BUILDING!

NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M **SHOVED** INTO A BLACK VAN AND JOIN **GREENBLAT** AT THE **CITY MORGUE!**

OKAY, GET A **GRIP** ON YOURSELF, "CARLY"! **DON'T** LET YOUR **PARANOIA** GET THE BETTER OF YOU!

JUST GRAB A **CAB** AND GET THE HELL **OUT OF HERE**... AND I KNOW THE **PERFECT PLACE** TO GO!

Click, click, click!

A lengthy taxi ride later...

HOLY SHIT! THE LAST TIME I STAYED AT THE SUN PALMS, WHEN I'D GONE UNDERCOVER TO TRACK A RING OF HUMAN TRAFFICKERS, IT WAS A TOTAL DUMP! I GUESS SOMEONE MUST'VE BOUGHT THE PLACE AND SUNK SOME SERIOUS CASH INTO IT!

WELCOME TO THE SUN PALMS HOTEL, MISS! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

UM... I'M WONDERING IF YOU HAVE ANY ROOMS AVAILABLE! I KNOW I SHOULD'VE CALLED AHEAD! SORRY!

I WAS THINKING OF STAYING HERE FOR A WEEK!

LET ME CHECK AND SEE WHAT'S AVAILABLE!

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN ***TOTALLY*** TRANSFORMED... ***JUST LIKE ME!*** I SHOULD ***REALLY*** FIND SOMEWHERE WITH A LOT ***LESS*** FOOT TRAFFIC TO HOLE UP IN... BUT I CAN'T THINK OF A HOTEL THAT FITS THE BILL... ONE THAT HAS A ***DECENT BATHROOM*** WITH RUNNING ***HOT WATER!***

WELL, ***I*** CAN SWING IT! DR. MALCOLM LEFT ***ALL*** THE CASH I GAVE HIM FOR THE ***ORIGINAL PROCEDURES*** IN AN ENVELOPE IN THE SUITCASE! THAT WAS ***MIGHTY GENEROUS*** OF HIM! I ***TOTALLY MISJUDGED*** THAT GUY! OR ***MAYBE*** HE HAD SOME KIND OF ***RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE*** OR SOMETHING!

WHATEVER THE CASE, I CAN ***AFFORD*** THIS LITTLE ***SPLURGE*** AFTER THE HELL ***I'VE*** BEEN THROUGH!

AH, YES! WE ***DO*** HAVE A ROOM AVAILABLE!

HAVE YOU STAYED WITH US BEFORE, MISS...?

MCRAE! CARLY MCRAE! NOPE, FIRST TIME!

WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO **LOVE** IT HERE! WE HAVE A **BAR** AND A **RESTAURANT** THAT ARE PRETTY **POPULAR!** YOU'LL **ALSO** HAVE ACCESS TO OUR **GYM** AND **MASSAGE** SERVICES! I'LL GIVE YOU A **BROCHURE** WITH ALL THE **AMENITIES** WE OFFER!


THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT ALL I'M REALLY AFTER IS SOME PEACE AND QUIET!
WELL, THEN YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE SUNRISE YOGA CLASS! AND THERE'S A MEDITATION STUDIO! AND...
YEAH, I GET IT! TRANQUILITY AND ALL THAT CRAP! BUT ALL I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN IS SOME GOOD ROOM SERVICE! YOU DO HAVE THAT, DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE! IT'S AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY!

WELL, THATS GOOD! I'LL PROBABLY JUST...

WHAT THE...?! IS THAT THE SAME GUY WHO WAS WATCHING ME DOWNTOWN?

FUCK! IT IS! SAME CLOTHES, SAME HAIR, SAME BUILD... EVERYTHING!

AND NOW HE'S EVEN TAKING GODDAMN PICTURES OF ME! WHICH MEANS HE PROBABLY WAS DOING THAT DOWNTOWN TOO!

HE'S DEFINITELY BEEN FOLLOWING ME! SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!!

WHY DID I COME STRAIGHT HERE? I SHOULD'VE SWITCHED CABS A COUPLE OF TIMES TO MAKE SURE NOBODY WAS TAILING ME!

R504

ROAD RANGER

OKAY... STOP AND ***THINK*** ABOUT THIS FOR A SEC! THE DOC'S NOTE SAID THEY SUSPECTED HIM OF OPERATING ON THE GUY IN THE PICTURE... NAMELY ***ME***, BUT THEY ***DIDN'T*** KNOW ***WHICH*** PATIENT ***I*** WAS... WHICH MEANS THEY'RE ***PROBABLY*** FOLLOWING ***ALL*** OF DR. MALCOLM'S PATIENTS! ***NOT JUST ME!***

IF ***THAT'S*** THE CASE, ***I*** JUST NEED TO ***PLAY IT COOL!*** AND ***MAYBE*** THIS WILL ALL ***STILL*** BE OKAY!

HOLY SHIT! THE DUDE IS CHECKING IN? ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?!

I CAN'T HANDLE ANY FACE-TO-FACE SHIT YET! I'M NOT READY! I NEED TO GET MY ACT TOGETHER FIRST!

AND HERE'S YOUR KEYCARD, MISS MCRAE! YOU'RE IN ROOM 222!

THANK GOD!


THE ELEVATOR IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! HAVE A WONDERFUL STAY!
YEAH... THANK YOU!


WELCOME TO THE SUN PALMS HOTEL, SIR! CHECKING IN?
I SURE HOPE SO! YOU SEE, I DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A RESERVATION...

A few moments later...

SHIT! SHIT! FUCKING SHIT!!

MY WHOLE PLAN OF JUST **LAYING LOW** IN MY HOTEL ROOM **ALL WEEK** JUST GOT **SHOT TO HELL!**


MY "SHADOW" WILL NO DOUBT EXPECT ME TO BEHAVE LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN WHO JUST GOT HER TITS, ASS AND FACE DONE... AND THAT MEANS FLAUNT THEM!
AND IF I DON'T ACT THAT WAY, HE'LL KNOW SOMETHING'S FISHY!

GUESS I'LL **FINALLY** HAVE TO LOOK THROUGH **ALL** THESE CLOTHES AND SEE WHAT THE DOC **PICKED OUT** FOR ME!

CONSIDERING HOW FORM-FITTING **THIS** LITTLE OUTFIT IS, I'M HOPING **WHATEVER** HE'S GOT IN THERE WILL GET THE JOB **DONE!**


HOLY SHIT! THERE WASN'T A POOL OUT BACK THE LAST TIME I STAYED HERE!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOT QUITE THE LITTLE SCENE GOING ON!

WELL, WELL, WELL! **LOOK** WHO'S **ALREADY** DECIDED TO JOIN THE PARTY!

I GUESS EVEN **HIT-MEN** NEED TO WORK ON THEIR **TANS** SOMETIMES, TOO!


SIGH! OKAY, CARLY... MIGHT AS WELL GET THIS OVER WITH!

Later...

YES, I CHECKED IN ABOUT AN HOUR AGO!

OF *COURSE* I LET HER SEE ME! *THAT* WAS THE WHOLE *IDEA*, WASN'T IT?

NO, I *WON'T* LOSE HER! IN FACT I GAVE THE *CONCIERGE* A *HEALTHY TIP* TO LET ME KNOW WHEN OUR MISS MCRAE *LEAVES* THE PREMISES!


SPEAK OF THE DEVIL... I'LL GET BACK TO YOU LATER!

WELL, DARLIN', WHATEVER YOU LOOKED LIKE ***BEFORE*** YOUR OPERATION, I ***DO*** APPRECIATE THE ***END RESULT!*** HEH-HEH!

AND HOW *THOUGHTFUL* OF YOU TO CHOOSE A SPOT THAT'LL AWARD ME A *PRIME VIEW!*

.....

YEAH, I ***KNOW*** YOU'RE BACK THERE ***WATCHING ME***, BUB! ***THAT'S*** WHY I PICKED ***THIS*** PARTICULAR LOUNGER!


WANTED TO MAKE DAMN SURE YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, GET A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THIS LITTLE PERFORMANCE OF MINE!

HARDLY MY FIRST CHOICE FOR SWIMWEAR MY FIRST TIME OUT, BUT THIS MICROSCOPIC LITTLE THING WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE SUITCASE!!

SO WHATEVER "RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE" THE DOC MAY HAVE HAD, IT OBVIOUSLY CAME AFTER HE PACKED THAT BAG FULL OF CLOTHES FOR ME... THE PERV!


AND NOW... IT'S SHOWTIME!

ALL I NEED TO DO **NOW** IS LIE HERE... IN VARIOUS **PROVOCATIVE** POSES OF COURSE, WORK ON MY **TAN** AND CONSUME ONE OR TWO **TROPICAL BEVERAGES!** JUST WHAT ANY **NORMAL** GIRL WITH A **BOD** LIKE **THIS**, WOULD DO!

AND IF MY "SHADOW" **IS** WATCHING, AND HOW COULD HE **NOT**, HE'LL **HAVE** TO ACCEPT THAT WHAT HE **SEES** IS WHAT I **AM**... ONE SUPER HOT **BABE** IN A PRACTICALLY **NOTHING-THERE BIKINI!**

AND I **SUPPOSE** I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME VERY DIFFERENT **TAN LINES** BEFORE TOO LONG!

YOU KNOW, IT'S **GORGEOUS** WOMEN LIKE **YOU** WHO INSPIRE **ME** TO BE THE **KIND** OF GUY I **AM!**

UH-OH! I WAS SO BUSY "**PERFORMING**" FOR MY "SHADOW", I **FORGOT** ABOUT ALL THE **OTHER** GUYS **LURKING** AROUND THE POOL! LOOKS LIKE MY PERFORMANCE WAS A LITTLE **TOO GOOD!**

AND ABRUPTLY **BRUSHING** THIS GUY **OFF** AFTER ALL **THAT** JUST MIGHT SET OFF SOME **ALARMS** IN MY "SHADOW!"


SHIT! I'M DOG-PADDLING IN UNCHARTED WATERS HERE!
SO LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO DISSUADE THIS GUY WITHOUT APPEARING TOO... FRIENDLY!
AND JUST WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD THAT BE?
OOOH, CRAP! THAT DID NOT COME OUT THE WAY I WANTED IT TO!

OH, DARLIN', ***I'M*** THE KIND OF GUY WHO APPRECIATES THE ***ARTISTRY*** THAT ***IS*** THE HUMAN BODY! ***ESPECIALLY*** A BODY AS TRULY ***MAGNIFICENT*** AS ***YOUR OWN!***

WELL, ***THANK YOU! YOURS*** IS PRETTY ***IMPRESSIVE*** AS WELL! *GIGGLE!*

SIGH! SINCE I'VE ALREADY ***SCREWED UP*** AND STEERED THIS CONVERSATION DOWN A PATH I DIDN'T ***WANT*** TO GO DOWN, I MIGHT AS WELL KEEP IT ***GOING*** UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO ***REDIRECT*** IT!

DON'T HAVE TO ***BULLSHIT*** ABOUT ***THAT***!. HE ***IS*** PRETTY GODDAMN ***BUFF*** AND THAT ***TAT WORK*** IS ***AWESOME!***


MY NAME IS LANCE... LANCE CARLYSLE! AND I WOULD TRULY LOVE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, MISS...
UMM, MCRAE... CARLY MCRAE!
WELL, CARLY... WHAT SAY YOU AND I ORDER UP A COUPLE OF DRINKS AND GO FIND SOMEPLACE A LITTLE MORE PRIVATE, SO WE CAN... EXPLORE THESE FINE BODIES OF OURS, HMMM?

IT *FIGURES*! JUST AS *LANCE* HERE *HITS* ON ME, MY *SHADOW* DECIDES TO MOVE *CLOSER*! GUESS HE WANTED TO *HEAR* WHAT WE'RE SAYING... AND NOW IS JUST *WAITING* TO SEE HOW *I RESPOND*! MAYBE HE EXPECTS *ME* TO GET ALL *FLUSTERED* OR SOMETHING!

WELL, *TOO BAD* FOR *YOU*, ASSHOLE, 'CAUSE I *JUST* CAME UP WITH THE *PERFECT RESPONSE* THAT'LL SATISFY EVEN *YOUR* SKEPTICISM WHILE GIVING *ME* A *WAY OUT* OF *MISTER TATTOO'S* PROPOSAL OF MUTUAL *BODY EXPLORATION*!

I THINK THAT SOUNDS LIKE A ***WONDERFUL*** IDEA, LANCE! AND IF IT WERE ANY ***OTHER*** DAY, I'D TAKE YOU UP ON IT IN A ***HEARTBEAT!***

OKAY, TIME TO BRING HIM IN ***CLOSER,*** SO SHADOWMAN ***WON'T*** BE ABLE TO ***HEAR*** US CLEARLY! HE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON BY OUR ***BODY LANGUAGE*** ALONE... WHICH SHOULD BE ***PRETTY DAMN OBVIOUS!***

BUT...?

BUT I **JUST** ARRIVED AND WAS REALLY **COUNTING** ON SOME QUIET **ME-TIME** THIS AFTERNOON, SO I'D BE **WELL-RESTED** FOR TONIGHT!

'CAUSE, YOU **SEE**, LANCE... **I'M** A **NIGHT-TIME** KIND OF GIRL! **THAT'S** WHEN I LIKE TO COME OUT, THROW **ALL** MY INHIBITIONS TO THE **WIND**, AND HAVE SOME **SERIOUS FUN!**

BY STANDING **YOU** UP **AWAY** FROM THE PRYING EYES OF MISTER **SEE-NO-EVIL** OVER THERE!

MOAN!

AND REST ASSURED, BABY, EXPLORING **EVERY ONE** OF THESE **WORKS OF ART** IS AT THE VERY **TOP** OF MY LIST! *GIGGLE!*

AND THE CROWD GOES **WILD** AS CARLY MCRAE **SEALS THE DEAL** WITH ANOTHER **OSCAR-WINNING PERFORMANCE!** HEH-HEH!

DAMN! THIS GUY IS BUILT EVERYWHERE!

SO, WHERE ARE THE **HOT SPOTS** AROUND HERE WHERE A COUPLE OF **GORGEOUS PEOPLE** LIKE **US** CAN GO OUT AND **GET CRAZY,** HMMM?

JUST TELL ME THE **TIME** AND THE **PLACE**, HANDSOME, AND I'LL **MEET** YOU THERE IN THE **SEXIEST OUTFIT** I CAN RUSTLE UP!

SORRY, LANCE... BUT THE **ONLY** PERSON WHO'S GONNA **SEE** THAT OUTFIT UP CLOSE WILL BE THE **CAB DRIVER** WHO'LL BE WORKING OFF MY **HEFTY TIP** TO DRIVE ME AROUND TOWN, **LOSE** ANY POTENTIAL TAILS AND THEN BRING ME **BACK HERE!**

NO DATE, NO TAIL, **NO PROBLEM!**


WELL, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, DARLIN', THE HOTTEST SPOT AROUND TONIGHT IS RIGHT HERE AT THE SUN PALMS!
ARE... ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OH, I AM! THIS WHOLE POOL AREA TURNS INTO ONE BIG PARTY WITH LIVE MUSIC, AN OPEN BAR AND LOTS OF WAYS FOR GORGEOUS PEOPLE LIKE US TO GO A LITTLE CRAZY! HEH-HEH!


SO NO NEED FOR EITHER OF US TO DO ANY TRAVELING!, I'LL MEET YOU RIGHT HERE, TONIGHT, AT EIGHT!
UMMM, BUT...

AND I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU COULD ***POSSIBLY*** LOOK ANY ***SEXIER*** THAN YOU DO ***NOW***, BUT I'M SURE I'LL FIND OUT ***TONIGHT***, RIGHT ***HERE*** AT ***EIGHT***! SEE YOU THEN, GORGEOUS!



SIGH!

WELL, SHIT! *THAT* WENT SOUTH AWFULLY FUCKING *QUICK!*

NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

Later...

CRAP, CRAP, CRAP! EVERY TIME I THINK I HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, SOMETHING HAPPENS TO SCREW IT ALL UP!

I THOUGHT THAT ***PARADING AROUND*** IN THIS LITTLE ***MICRO-BANDAID*** WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE MY SHADOW TO ***BACK OFF!*** BUT IT ONLY ***EXACERBATED*** THE PROBLEM!

NOW, I NOT ONLY HAVE ***HIM*** TO TIPTOE AROUND, I ALSO HAVE A ***GODDAMN DATE*** TO DEAL WITH!

AND I'VE ONLY GOT A COUPLE OF FUCKING **HOURS** TO FIGURE OUT **HOW** TO TAKE CARE OF **BOTH!**

That evening, around eight-thirty...


TALK AT YOU LATER, SKIP! GOT A HOT DATE! HEH-HEH!

WHOA! STEADY THERE, FELLA!

Bump!

OH! I'M SORRY! I SHOULD'VE WATCHED WHERE I WAS GOING!

WELL, NO HARM DONE! NAME'S **LANCE,** BY THE WAY!

UMM... **JOHN!** SAY, **DIDN'T** I SEE **YOU** BY THE POOL THIS AFTERNOON **CHATTING IT UP** WITH THAT **AMAZING** YOUNG BLONDE?

WHY **YES,** I **WAS** ENGAGED IN SOME RATHER **STIMULATING** CONVERSATION WITH SAID POOLSIDE **GODDESS!** HEH-HEH!

I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT **EVERY GUY** OUT HERE TODAY WAS SERIOUSLY **ENVIOUS** OF **YOU,** MY MAN!

SO, I HATE TO **PRY**, BUT INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW, DID YOUR **CONVERSATION** EVOLVE INTO ANYTHING MORE... **MEANINGFUL?**

NOT YET, BUT SHE **SHOULD** BE ARRIVING **ANY TIME** NOW, TO **CONTINUE** OUR... **DISCUSSION!**

AND FROM WHAT I'M SEEING, I BELIEVE THAT DISCUSSION MAY GO VERY, VERY WELL! TAKE A LOOK!

HMMM...?

OH, MY!

THAT, MY FRIEND, LOOKS LIKE A YOUNG LADY WITH ONE THING ON HER MIND! HEH-HEH!

MAKE US **PROUD**, MY MAN! MAKE US **ALL** PROUD!

MAYBE WE CAN MEET FOR **DRINKS** TOMORROW AND YOU CAN TELL ME **ALL** ABOUT IT! HEH-HEH!

THAT, I **WILL!** HAVE **NO DOUBT** ABOUT IT!

SIGH! WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT **SMALL CHANCE** THAT HE **WOULDN'T** SHOW UP!

WHO AM I KIDDING? WHAT GUY IN HIS **RIGHT MIND** WOULD **STAND UP** A GIRL WHO LOOKED LIKE **ME**... WEARING AN OUTFIT LIKE **THIS?**

SO I CAN'T FAULT **HIM** FOR THE SITUATION I'M IN! **HE'S** JUST **FOLLOWING** HIS **DICK**, LIKE ANY NORMAL STRAIGHT GUY **WOULD!**

SHOWING UP **HERE** TONIGHT IN AN OUTFIT THAT SCREAMS "**FUCK ME!**" WAS **HARDLY** MY FIRST CHOICE, BUT TRY AS I MIGHT, I JUST **COULDN'T** COME UP WITH **ANY OTHER OPTION!**

AS LONG AS THAT GODDAMN **SHADOW** OF MINE, OR ANYONE **ELSE** THEY MAY SEND, IS **WATCHING** ME, I'VE **GOTTA** STAY IN **CHARACTER!**

AND, **UNFORTUNATELY,** THANKS TO **THIS BOD** THE DOC GAVE ME AND THE WAY I **CAME ON** TO **LANCE** THIS AFTERNOON, MY "**CHARACTER**" IS AN UNABASHEDLY **SEXY, BLONDE BOMBSHELL** WHO IS **ON THE PROWL!**

HEY THERE, GORGEOUS!

HEY *YOURSELF*, HANDSOME! SORRY I KEPT YOU *WAITING!*

AND THE CURTAIN RISES ON *ACT TWO!*

YOU'RE ***DEFINITELY*** WORTH THE WAIT, DARLIN'! I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ***POSSIBLE*** FOR YOU TO LOOK ANY ***SEXIER*** THAN YOU DID IN THAT BIKINI, BUT ***YOU'VE*** MANAGED TO PULL IT OFF WITH ***THIS*** OUTFIT! ***DAMN!***

GIGGLE! THAT'S ***EXACTLY*** THE REACTION I WAS ***HOPING*** FOR WHEN I PICKED IT OUT!


SO, WHAT CAN I GET THE LADY TO DRINK?
SOMETHING FRUITY, WITH AN UMBRELLA BUT NOT TOO STRONG!
I WANNA HAVE FUN TONIGHT, BUT I ALSO WANT TO REMEMBER EVERY SECOND OF IT... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!


I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN, MY EXQUISITE LADY! SO, I'LL RETURN SHORTLY WITH YOUR DRINK OF CHOICE!
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE!

SO **FAR**, SO **GOOD**! I'VE **ALREADY** GOT LANCE **WRAPPED** AROUND MY **LITTLE FINGER**, AND, **FORTUNATELY**, HE SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF GUY WHO **WON'T** GO **BALLISTIC** WHEN I SUDDENLY GET A **HEADACHE** AT THE END OF THE EVENING!

UNTIL **THEN**, I'LL KEEP HIM **REVVED UP**... EXPECTING THE BIG **PAY-OFF!** AND **ANYONE** WATCHING WILL HAVE **NO CHOICE** BUT TO ASSUME THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHAT WE **BOTH** WANT!

AND, OF COURSE, "ANYONE WATCHING" WOULD BE **YOU, ASSHOLE!**

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST **ACCEPT** ME FOR WHAT YOUR EYES **TELL YOU** SO I **DON'T** HAVE TO GO **THROUGH** THIS FUCKING **CHARADE?**

NOT TO ***MENTION*** WHAT I'M PUTTING ***LANCE*** THROUGH! SO FAR HE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT A ***GENTLEMAN*** AND KIND OF ***SWEET!*** THE BIG LUG ***ACTUALLY*** GOT ME AN ***UMBRELLA*** IN MY DRINK!

AND HOW'M ***I*** GONNA ***REPAY*** HIM? BY BEING A ***COCK-TEASE*** ALL EVENING AND THEN LEAVING ***HIM*** WITH A ***MASSIVE*** CASE OF ***BLUE-BALLS*** WHEN I ***BAIL*** ON HIM AT THE LAST MINUTE! ***VERY NICE!***

HERE YOU GO, DARLIN'! THEY DON'T ***NORMALLY*** PUT UMBRELLAS IN ***THIS*** PARTICULAR DRINK, BUT I ***ASKED*** HER TO ANYWAY! HOPE YOU ***LIKE*** IT!

YOU ARE JUST ***TOO SWEET!*** AND I'M ***SURE*** I'LL JUST ***LOVE IT!***

I'D SURE AS HELL PREFER A ***PRB LONGNECK,*** BUT ***THAT'D*** BE JUST A ***WEE*** BIT OUT OF CHARACTER!

MMMMM! THAT IS SOOO YUMMY!

HMPH! NOT A BAD DAIQUIRI! A LITTLE WEAK, BUT THAT IS JUST WHAT I ASKED FOR, AFTER ALL!

DAMMIT! I WAS REALLY HOPING THIS GUY WOULD BE A TOTAL JERK! THAT WAY I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY QUALMS ABOUT DITCHING HIM!

SIGH!. OH WELL, HE'S A **BIG BOY!** HE'LL GET OVER IT!

IN THE MEANTIME, **I** JUST NEED TO **PLAY THE PART** AND **TRY** AND ENJOY THE EVENING!

AND, SINCE **YOU-KNOW-WHO** IS **WATCHING**, I GUESS THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO **START!**

DID I ALREADY TELL YOU HOW **SWEET** YOU ARE FOR GETTING ME THAT DRINK **JUST** THE WAY I LIKE IT?

I BELIEVE YOU **DID** TELL ME THAT **VERY THING!**

WELL THEN, MAYBE I NEED TO **SHOW** YOU AS WELL!

I WAS GONNA HAVE TO DO THIS AT **SOME** POINT TONIGHT... MIGHT AS WELL DO IT ON **MY TERMS!**



WHEW! DARLIN', YOU ARE ***ONE DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE,*** WRAPPED UP IN A PACKAGE I JUST ***CANNOT*** KEEP MY EYES ***OFF*** OF!

WELL, ***PLEASE*** FEEL ***FREE*** TO KEEP YOUR EYES, OR ***ANYTHING ELSE***, ON ME JUST AS ***LONG*** AS YOU'D ***LIKE!*** *GIGGLE!*

AN INVITATION I AM ***MORE*** THAN HAPPY TO ***COMPLY*** WITH, BEAUTIFUL!

PERFECT! WITH HIS HANDS ***ALL OVER ME*** WE LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR EVERYDAY ***HORNY YOUNG COUPLE***, ENJOYING A LITTLE ***PUBLIC NIGHTLIFE*** BEFORE THE CULMINATING ***MAIN EVENT!***

WHEN I STEPPED THROUGH THOSE DOORS EARLIER I ***ALMOST*** DID AN IMMEDIATE ***ABOUT-FACE*** BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH I ***DREADED*** THIS PLAN... ESPECIALLY ***THIS PART*** OF IT!

LETTING, ***NO...*** ***ENCOURAGING*** SOME GUY TO ***GROPE*** ME WHENEVER HE ***WANTED*** WAS UNDOUBTABLY ONE OF MY MOST ***CRINGEWORTHY IDEAS!***

BUT GIVEN THE ***TIME CONSTRAINTS*** AND THE ***EQUIPMENT*** I'VE NOW GOT, IT WAS THE ***ONLY*** THING I COULD COME UP WITH!

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS ***WHIRLWIND DAY*** I'VE HAD, WITH NO TIME TO FULLY ***PROCESS*** ANYTHING, BUT THIS ***DOESN'T*** SEEM AS ***HORRIBLE*** AS I ***THOUGHT*** IT'D BE!

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE LANCE ***ISN'T*** A TOTAL ***DOUCHEBAG!*** THAT WOULD ***CERTAINLY*** HAVE MADE THIS "***DATE***" A LIVING NIGHTMARE... BUT ***IT'S NOT!*** IT'S NOT ONLY BEEN ***TOLERABLE***, IT'S ***ACTUALLY*** BEEN KIND OF... ***NICE!***

USUALLY WHEN I'M UNDERCOVER, I'M HANGING OUT WITH ***DRUG DEALERS*** AND OTHER ***SCUM OF THE EARTH!*** SPENDING TIME WITH SOMEONE WHO IS ***INTERESTING*** AND ***SEMI-INTELLIGENT*** IS A ***BREATH*** OF ***FRESH AIR!***


OF COURSE, WHEN YOU ADD A LITTLE GRAB-ASS TO THE ENCOUNTER, IT TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW COMPLEXION!
NOT THAT I'VE FELT A LOT OF OTHER GUY'S ASSES BEFORE, BUT HIS DEFINITELY FEELS A HELL OF A LOT MORE TONED AND MUSCULAR THAN MINE EVER WAS!
AND, SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, HAVING THIS BOUNTIFUL NEW ASS OF MINE FONDLED ACTUALLY FEELS PRETTY NICE!

AND IT'S **NOT** JUST WHEN HE GRABS MY **ASS!** THE WAY HE RUNS HIS BIG STRONG HANDS OVER MY **SKIN** IS MAKING ME **TINGLE ALL OVER!**

PROBABLY JUST THE **NATURAL REACTION** OF THIS NEW, **FEMALE** BOD TO CERTAIN... **STIMULI!** HELL, I WAS ESSENTIALLY **COMATOSE** FOR **MONTHS** WHILE MY BODY WAS PUMPED **FULL** OF **FEMALE HORMONES!**

IT'S MY FIRST DAY **AWAKE** AND OUT IN THE **REAL WORLD,** AND MY BODY'S **ACHING** FOR CONTACT OF **ANY KIND**... IT'S SO GODDAMN **RESPONSIVE!**


AND, DAMN! SOME OF THESE REACTIONS ARE GETTING PRETTY FUCKING HARD TO IGNORE!
THIS PLAYFUL LITTLE GAME I'VE INSTIGATED WITH HIM IS MAKING ME FEEL THINGS I'VE NEVER FELT... IN PLACES I'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE!
AND I WISH I COULD SAY I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT... I CAN'T!

WHEW!. I WISH I'D TAKEN THE ***TIME*** EARLIER TO ***EXPLORE*** THIS NEW BODY OF MINE! MAYBE ***THEN*** I WOULDN'T BE FEELING SO ***FLUSTERED*** BY THIS ONSLAUGHT OF ***HORMONES*** AND, LET'S FACE IT... ***AROUSAL!***

AND IT'S ***NOT*** LIKE I'M ***ATTRACTED*** TO HIM, OR ANYTHING ***GAY*** LIKE THAT, BUT I'M SURE AS ***FUCK*** NOT GOING OUT OF MY WAY TO ***STOP HIM*** FROM... FROM...


OH, WHAT THE HELL...



HOLY SHIT! DEFINITELY GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY THERE!

WASN'T PLANNING ON DOING THE TONGUE DANCE WITH LANCE, BUT ONCE I COULD FEEL THAT BULGE OF HIS PRESSING AGAINST ME LIKE IT WAS, SOMETHING WENT "CLICK", AND I DIDN'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ANYMORE!

HOPE YOU SAW ALL THAT, SHADOW-BOY! 'CAUSE IF I HAVE TO DO THAT AGAIN, I MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE STANDING UP!

AND WITH THAT IN MIND, I THINK IT'S TIME TO BRING THIS EVENING, AND THIS LITTLE GAME, TO AN END!

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE MOVE THIS TO SOMEWHERE A LITTLE MORE PRIVATE? LIKE MY ROOM, HMMM?

GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE! *LEAD ON,* M'LADY!

FINALLY! ONCE MY SHADOW SEES LANCE AND ME DISAPPEARING INSIDE AFTER THAT LITTLE SHOW WE JUST PUT ON, HE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE CONVINCED ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT I AM AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN CARLY MCRAE, A HORNY LITTLE BLONDE WHO HAS NEVER EVER THOUGHT ABOUT DOING ANYTHING REMOTELY LIKE WRITING AWARD-WINNING EXPOSES AND RATTLING PEOPLE'S CAGES!

IT'S ALMOST OVER! ONCE WE GET TO THE ELEVATOR, I'LL TELL LANCE I'M FEELING A LITTLE NAUSEOUS... "PROBABLY FROM THAT SUSHI I HAD DELIVERED EARLIER!"

I'LL HAPPILY OFFER HIM A RAINCHECK FOR TOMORROW NIGHT, NOT REMEMBERING THAT HE ALREADY TOLD ME THAT HE'S CHECKING OUT OF THE SUN PALMS TOMORROW AFTERNOON TO CATCH A FLIGHT HOME! SOME HOOK-UPS WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE! HEH-HEH!

I AM TRULY SORRY TO HAVE TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THIS WITH NO PAYOFF, LANCE! BUT, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, YOUR EFFORTS WON'T GO TO WASTE!

THANKS TO YOU, I'M SO FUCKING WORKED UP AND AROUSED THAT WHEN I GET TO MY ROOM AND LOCK THAT DOOR, MY FIRST SELF-EXPLORATION OF THIS NEW BODY OF MINE WILL SURELY BE EPIC!

SORRY, BABY, BUT I'M HAVING A ***REAL HARD TIME*** WAITING TILL WE GET UPSTAIRS! HEH-HEH!

OH, I'D CALL ***THAT*** A ***HARD*** TIME AND ***A HALF!*** *GIGGLE!*

OOOHHH! I ***REALLY*** SHOULDN'T BE LETTING HIM ***DO*** THIS, BUT IT FEELS ***SOOO DAMN FINE!***

I GUESS THE ***LEAST*** I CAN DO IS ***LET*** THE POOR GUY HAVE HIS ***FUN,*** CONSIDERING THE WAY I'M ABOUT TO LET HIM DOWN!

IT ***IS*** A ***SLOW*** ELEVATOR, AFTER ALL, I CAN JUST GO INTO MY ***SICK ACT*** ONCE WE GET ***UPSTAIRS!***

HOLD THE DOOR, PLEASE!

GASP! WHAT THE FUCK?!

THANKS! MY FRIEND HERE SEEMS TO HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE WALKING TONIGHT! HEH-HEH!

WELL I WOULDN'T IF YOU'D STOP TICKLING ME LIKE THAT! *GIGGLE!*

WHY, HEY THERE, LANCE! LOOKS LIKE WE ALL HAD THE SAME IDEA AT JUST ABOUT THE SAME TIME! HEH-HEH!

THAT WE DID, JOHN! HEH-HEH! THAT WE DID!

THEY... THEY KNOW EACH OTHER?! ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?!


WE STILL ON FOR THAT DRINK TOMORROW?
YOU BET! HOW'S ONE SOUND?
PERFECT!


YOU TWO ENJOY YOURSELVES, YOU HEAR? I KNOW WE WILL! HEH-HEH!
OH, STOP IT, YOU! *GIGGLE!*

NOT REALLY... IN FACT I **JUST** MET HIM AT THE PARTY RIGHT BEFORE **YOU** CAME DOWN! SEEMED LIKE A **DECENT** SORT OF BLOKE!

CHATTED FOR A BIT AND DECIDED TO MEET UP FOR A **DRINK** TOMORROW!

OKAY, **HOLD IT TOGETHER,** CARLY! PLAY IT **COOL** AND FIGURE OUT **WHAT THE HELL** JUST **HAPPENED!**

A **FRIEND** OF YOURS?

SO **YOU TWO** CAN COMPARE **NOTES** ON TONIGHT'S **CONQUESTS,** HMMM?

I REALIZE WE'VE ONLY **KNOWN** EACH OTHER FOR A FEW **SHORT HOURS,** BUT REST ASSURED, I'M **NOT** THE KIND OF GUY WHO **KISSES AND TELLS!**

YOUR HONOR IS **SAFE** WITH ME!

BULLSHIT! YOU'RE A **GUY!** ALL GUYS **BRAG** ABOUT THEIR **ONE-NIGHT STANDS** WITH **OTHER** GUYS! IT'S A **RITUAL!**

THAT'S **UNDOUBTABLY** WHY "JOHN", OR **WHATEVER** HIS **REAL** NAME IS, **BUDDIED UP** TO YOU... TO **FOLLOW UP** ON OUR LITTLE **LIAISON** TO MAKE **SURE** I'M ALL I **APPEAR** TO BE!

IT'S NICE TO KNOW I'M WITH SUCH A **GENTLEMAN!** *GIGGLE!*

WHICH PRESENTS **ME** WITH ONE **SERIOUS PROBLEM!**

REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH OF A "GENTLEMAN" LANCE IS, WHEN I LEAVE HIM STANDING **OUTSIDE** THIS DOOR, **HIGH AND DRY,** HIS "CHAT" TOMORROW MIGHT RAISE **ALARM BELLS** WITH "JOHN!"

SHIT! IT COULD VERY WELL BE ENOUGH TO **PERSUADE** HIM TO START LOOKING A LOT **CLOSER** INTO THE **BACKGROUND** OF ONE "CARLY MCRAE!"


UNLESS...


SO...


...WHERE WERE WE?
RIGHT ABOUT HERE, I BELIEVE!


SHIT! I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE A HELLUVA LOT TOUGHER TO GET RID OF HIM NOW THAT I'VE LET HIM IN MY ROOM, BUT IT'S THE ONLY OPTION I CAN THINK OF!
AT LEAST THIS WAY I'LL LET HIM HAVE A SMALL TASTE OF WHAT HE REALLY WANTS BEFORE I COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE TO BRING THE EVENING TO A SCREECHING HALT!
NOT SURE HOW SUDDENLY "WOMEN'S PROBLEMS" CAN COME ON, BUT THAT EXCUSE HAS ALWAYS WORKED ON ME IN THE PAST! LET'S HOPE HE'LL BUY IT, TOO!

MMMMMMM!

OH, **SHIT!** I DIDN'T MEAN FOR **THAT** TO SLIP OUT! BUT FEELING HIS HAND **DIRECTLY** ON MY **ASS** LIKE THAT FEELS **WAY TOO GOOD!**

I NEED TO **SLOW HIM DOWN...** GIVE ME TIME TO **THINK...**

OOHHHHH! AND GRINDING HIS CROTCH AGAINST MINE IS NOT HELPING!

I WAS ALREADY DESPERATE TO GET RID OF HIM SO I COULD TAKE CARE OF THESE NEW URGES MYSELF! BUT...

CHRIST! WHAT HE'S DOING HAS DIALED THOSE URGES UP TO AN ELEVEN!

GASP!

EVERY INCH OF YOUR BODY IS SO **EXQUISITE** AND SO... **RESPONSIVE!** I COULD SPEND **DAYS** EXPLORING IT... GIVING IT THE **PROPER ATTENTION** IT DESERVES!

OOHHH, **FUCK!** AND I'M GETTING **VERY TEMPTED** TO LET HIM DO **JUST THAT!**

'CAUSE HE SURE AS **HELL** SEEMS TO KNOW **MORE** ABOUT THIS BODY THAN **I** DO! MMMMMMMMM!

OOOOHHH, NO! IS HE REALLY GOING TO...

AND FROM WHAT I CAN SENSE, THERE'S ONE PART OF YOU THAT NEEDS SOME EXTRA SPECIAL ATTENTION!


OOOHHHHH... GOD!
AND IF THAT'S JUST HIS TONGUE... THROUGH MY PANTIES...
IMAGINE WHAT...


FUCK IT! IF THIS GUY WANTS TO MAKE ME SCREAM LIKE A BANSHEE, WHO AM I TO STOP HIM?
I'LL DEAL WITH ANY SHAME OR GUILT LATER... MUCH LATER!


OH, JESUS!
THAT'S... THAT'S
SOOO...
OOOOHHHHH!

FUCK THE GUILT! LETTING HIM IN HERE WAS THE BEST DECISION I COULD'VE MADE!

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I COULD EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO MYSELF! GOD!!

AND NOW THAT THE LADY IS *PROPERLY PRIMED*, IT'S TIME FOR THE *MAIN EVENT!*

HUH? WHAT?! HE'S NOT *REALLY* GOING TO...

HOLY SHIT! LOOK AT THE *SIZE* OF THAT...


GASP!!!




OOOOHHHH...
YES!!


OH, GOD! OH, GOD!
OH, OH, OH...!!


OH... GOD...

UNNGGHHH!!

MMMMMMMMM!

OH MY GOD! **THIS** IS THE MOST **MIND-BLOWING** THING I'VE EVER **FELT!**

WHERE THE **HELL** HAVE ORGASMS LIKE **THIS** BEEN ALL MY LIFE? *GIGGLE!*

I THINK I CAN *TRUTHFULLY* SAY I'VE *NEVER* FELT ANYTHING LIKE *THAT* BEFORE IN MY *LIFE!*

YOU... ARE *AMAZING!*

WHY *THANK YOU,* MY LADY! LET'S JUST SAY I WAS TRULY *INSPIRED!*

BUT IF YOU THINK THAT'S **ALL** I HAVE TO OFFER, YOU'D BE **SADLY MISTAKEN!**

WHAT? **AGAIN?**

OH... **MOST DEFINITELY!** HEH-HEH!


WELL, YOU'LL GET NO ARGUMENT FROM ME! *GIGGLE!*
GIMME WHAT YOU GOT, BIG GUY!
OH, I PLAN TO!





The next morning...

OHHHHH!

I THINK I PULLED *MUSCLES* I DIDN'T EVEN *KNOW* I *HAD!*


BUT BEING A LITTLE SORE THE NEXT DAY IS WELL WORTH WHAT I EXPERIENCED LAST NIGHT!
I WAS SCARED AS HELL, SHOWING UP FOR THAT DATE LAST NIGHT, AFRAID I'D HAVE TO DO ALL SORTS OF GAY SHIT TO GET THROUGH THE NIGHT!
BUT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN MY SECOND AND THIRD ORGASM LAST NIGHT, I HAD AN EPIPHANY!

AS LONG AS THERE'S NO **EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT** INVOLVED, THERE'S NOTHING **GAY** ABOUT **ANY** OF THIS **AT ALL!**

AND EVERYTHING **I** DID LAST NIGHT WAS JUST FULFILLING THE **PHYSICAL NEEDS** OF THIS NEW BODY OF MINE... NOTHING **MORE** AND NOTHING **LESS!**

IT WAS **ALL** ABOUT THE **SEX!** THE **REALLY, REALLY GOOD SEX!** *GIGGLE!*


AND IF I'M GOING TO STAY HIDDEN FROM THESE PEOPLE... WHOEVER THEY ARE, I CAN'T JUST OCCASIONALLY ACT LIKE "CARLY MCRAE, BLONDE SEXPOT"! I HAVE TO BE HER... 24/7!
THAT MEANS EMBRACING ALL THE PERKS THAT COME WITH THIS BODACIOUS NEW BOD OF MINE... AS WELL AS LEARNING HOW TO USE IT TO MY ADVANTAGE!

HEY, **GORGEOUS**, I WAS GOING TO JUMP INTO THE **SHOWER!** CARE TO **JOIN** ME?


OH, BUT WHY WASTE A PERFECTLY GOOD SHOWER WHEN I PLAN ON GETTING SWEATY AND STICKY ALL OVER AGAIN?
A VERY VALID POINT! HEH-HEH!
C'MERE!


GIVE MAMA SOME SUGAR, BABY!

Later that afternoon...

WELL, FROM WHAT THE GUY TOLD ME, SHE WAS A *TIGER* IN THE SACK!

YEAH, OF *COURSE* HE *COULD'VE* BEEN LYING, BUT THAT *SHIT-EATING GRIN* ON HIS FACE TOLD ME HE *WASN'T!* HEH-HEH!

NO, I HAVEN'T SPOTTED HER YET! BUT I ***JUST*** GOT DOWN HERE TO THE POOL AREA MYSELF AND HAVEN'T HAD A ***CHANCE*** TO LOOK AROUND!

OH, DON'T WORRY! ***I'LL*** SEE HER WHEN SHE SHOWS UP! ***THAT*** CHICK IS ***VERY HARD*** TO ***MISS!*** HEH-HEH!

GOOD! HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET TO HIS USUAL SPOT, HE DIDN'T NOTICE I WAS ALREADY HERE!

WHICH IS JUST THE WAY I WANTED IT!


'CAUSE I THINK IT'S ABOUT FUCKIN' TIME I WENT ON THE OFFENSIVE FOR A CHANGE!


OF COURSE I'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PAYING ME FOR, ISN'T IT?
RIGHT! I'LL CHECK BACK IN LATER!


HELLO THERE!
OH! UHH... HI!
MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
NOT AT ALL!

IT'S JOHN, RIGHT?

UMM, YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT... JOHN!

I'M CARLY! BUT, OF COURSE, YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THAT!

I DO?

OH, I'M SURE **MY** NAME MUST'VE COME UP ONCE OR TWICE WHEN **YOU** HAD THAT **DRINK** WITH MY FRIEND **LANCE** EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON!

OR DID HE JUST REFER TO **ME** AS "THAT **BLONDE** WITH THE IMPRESSIVE **RACK**" OR SOMETHING ELSE EQUALLY **DESCRIPTIVE?**

CHUCKLE! ON THE **CONTRARY,** HE WAS VERY **RESPECTFUL** WHEN HE TALKED OF YOU... **BY NAME!**

AND, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO, HE WAS ALSO VERY... ***COMPLIMENTARY*** AND ***APPRECIATIVE*** OF YOUR SHORT TIME TOGETHER!

I DON'T MIND AT ALL! *GIGGLE!*

IN FACT, I'M ACTUALLY ***GLAD*** HE TOLD YOU THAT ABOUT ME!

MMM-HMM! I DIDN'T JUST ***HAPPEN*** TO WALK BY AND ***BUMP INTO*** YOU, JOHN... I'VE BEEN OVER THERE ***WAITING*** FOR YOU TO SHOW UP!

OH ***REALLY?***

THIS IS GETTING ***BETTER*** BY THE ***SECOND!*** HEH-HEH!

OH, IT'S GOING TO GET BETTER... ***I PROMISE!***


YOU SEE, I CAME TO THIS HIPSTER HOTEL FOR ONE REASON, AND ONE REASON ONLY! AND AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION WITH LANCE, YOU CAN PROBABLY FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT REASON WAS!
PRETTY MUCH THE SAME REASON AS EVERYONE ELSE HERE!
EXACTLY! BUT NOW THAT LANCE IS GONE, I NEED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR MY... ENTERTAINMENT! AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN!
ME?!


LOOK, JOHN, SOMETIMES I LIKE TO PLAY THE GAME, BUT THIS ISN'T ONE OF THOSE TIMES!
I'M A GIRL WHO'S USED TO GETTING WHAT SHE WANTS! SO... ARE YOU IN OR ARE YOU OUT?


I THINK THE BEST, AND ONLY, WAY FOR ME TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION IS BY SAYING YOUR ROOM OR MINE?


YOURS! I'M AFRAID WE LEFT THE "DO NOT DISTURB" SIGN UP A LITTLE TOO LONG THIS MORNING, SO MY ROOM'S A LITTLE... MESSY! *GIGGLE!*


MY PLACE IT IS THEN! LET ME SHOW YOU THE WAY, GORGEOUS!

A while later...

OH, COME ON, BABY! GIVE ME ONE MORE! JUST ONE MORE, OKAY?!

UNGH!!


OHHH, THAT'S IT! KEEP IT NICE AND HARD FOR ME, BABY, 'CAUSE IT'S RIGHT WHERE I WANT IT!
OH YEAH! RIGHT THERE... RIGHT... THERE... RIGHT...


OOOOHHHHHH, YES!!!
OOOHHHHH!!


MAN! LANCE WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE A TIGER! *CHUCKLE!*
ROWR! *GIGGLE!*


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT *I* NEED A SHOWER! CARE TO *JOIN* ME?
TEMPTING! BUT, IF YOU DON'T MIND, *I'M* JUST GOING TO RELAX *HERE* FOR A FEW MINUTES AND THEN GO BACK TO *MY* ROOM TO GET CLEANED UP! IT'S *JUST* DOWN THE HALL!


MAYBE WE CAN HOOK UP AGAIN LATER THIS EVENING FOR DRINKS AND... WHATEVER! HEH-HEH!
OH, YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT! *GIGGLE!*


AND I'M NOT BULLSHITTING YOU EITHER, JOHNNY-BOY! SEX AS A WOMAN IS JUST FUCKING AMAZING! WHY WASTE MY TIME AND ENERGY LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE WHEN I'VE GOT A SURE THING LIKE YOU ON THE HOOK!
BUT UNTIL THEN, I NEED TO DO WHAT I REALLY CAME HERE FOR!

AND LOOK AT WHAT HE SO ***THOUGHTFULLY*** LEFT SITTING RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN... ***HIS PHONE!***

CONSIDERING HOW ***CLOSE*** WE'VE BECOME, I'M ***SURE*** HE WOULDN'T MIND IF I ***PERUSED*** THROUGH IT A BIT... WITH ALL HIS ***EMAILS, CONTACTS,*** AND ***TEXT MESSAGES!*** *GIGGLE!*


HMPH! PHONE CALLS ARE ALL FROM UNLISTED NUMBERS AND HIS CONTACT LIST IS EMPTY! I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED... IT'S PROBABLY A BURNER PHONE ANYWAY!
HE'S GOT PLENTY OF TEXT MESSAGES, THOUGH! HMMM, THIS ONE'S FROM JUST TWENTY MINUTES AGO!

CONSIDERING YOUR REPORTED STATUS CHANGE WITH SUBJECT, CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE NO LONGER NECESSARY. RETURN TO HQ FOR REASSIGNMENT...

IT WORKED! I FOOLED THEM ALL!

...PERIODIC SURVEILLANCE BY ROTATING PERSONNEL WILL CONTINUE FOR ALL OF DR. MALCOLM'S PATIENTS UNTIL HODGKINS LOCATED AND/OR LIQUIDATED.

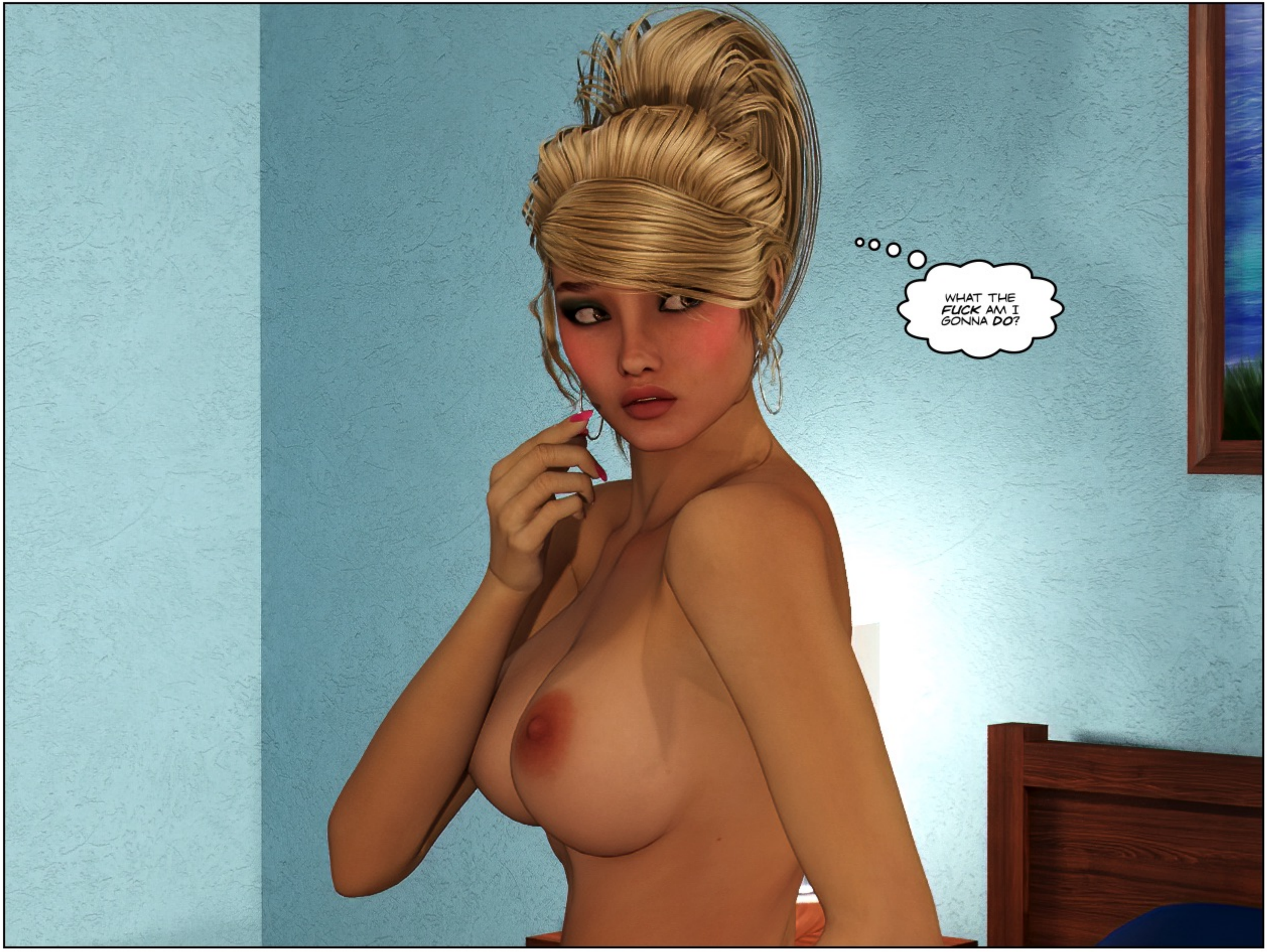
WHAT THE FUCK...?!

DAMN IT! THEY KNOW I'M ONE OF DR. MALCOLM'S PATIENTS, AND THIS MEANS THEY WON'T STOP WATCHING ME... NO MATTER WHAT I DO!

FUCK ME! ROTATING PERSONNEL? THEIR RESOURCES MUST BE PRETTY GODDAMN EXTENSIVE, IF NOT UNLIMITED... WHAT IF... WHAT IF THEY KEEP THIS UP FOR YEARS?

I THOUGHT FOOLING **JOHN** WOULD BE **ENOUGH**... AND I'VE **DEFINITELY** DONE **THAT**, BUT HOW CAN I **POSSIBLY** DEAL WITH **THIS** SHIT?

THERE'S **NO WAY** I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT **WHO'S** WATCHING ME... AND **WHEN**! THIS IS **UTTER HELL! HOW** CAN I **NOT** LIVE IN A STATE OF **COMPLETE PARANOIA** FOR THE **REST** OF MY **LIFE?**

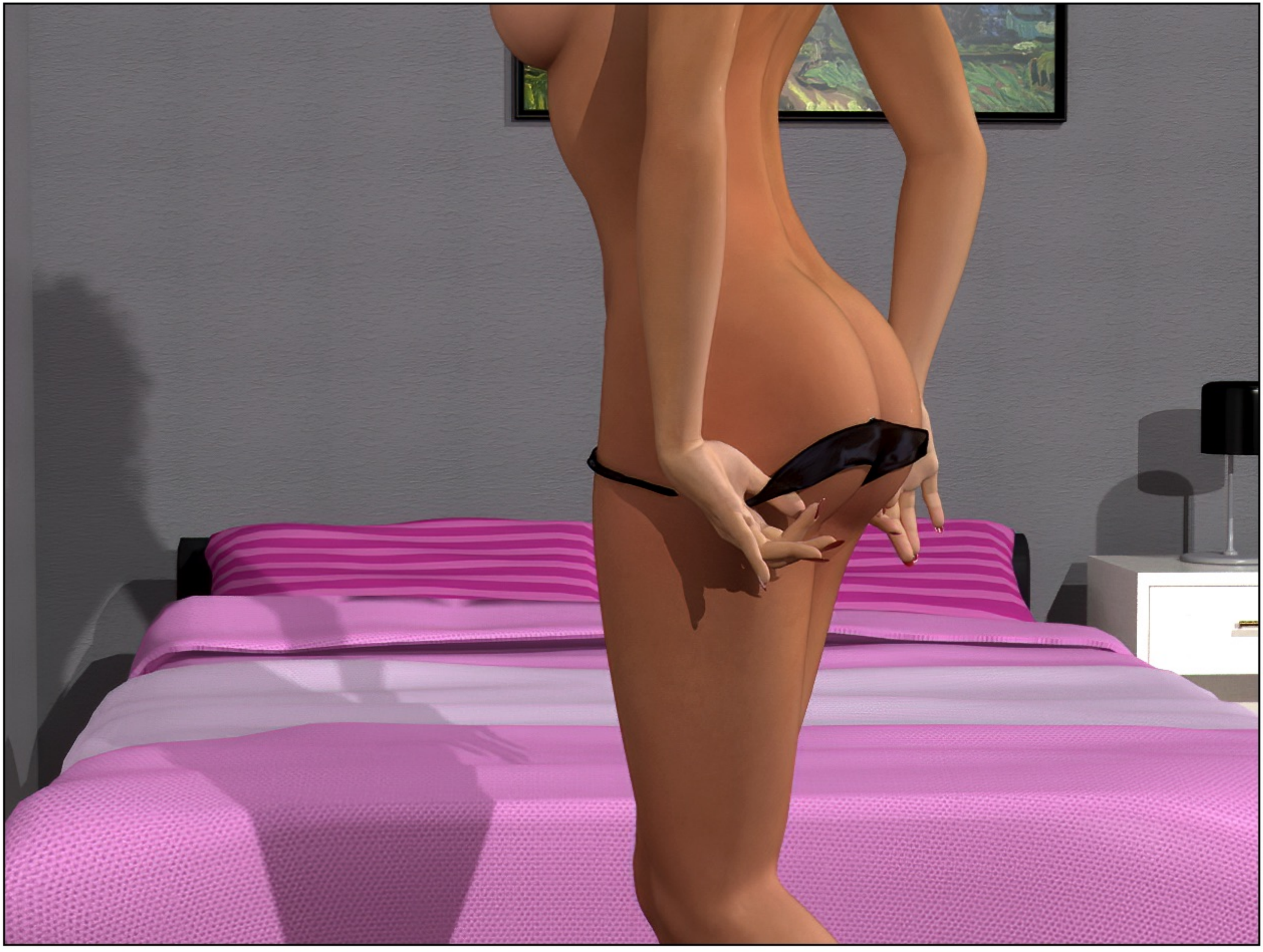

WHAT THE FUCK AM I GONNA DO?

03

TOKYO

cBlack

About two years later...














Knock Knock!!

Knock Knock!!

JUST A MINUTE, I'M COMING!


YES? CAN I HELP YOU?
ARE YOU STACI ALBRIGHT?


UMM, YES... YES I AM! AND WHO ARE YOU?

SPECIAL AGENT MORRIS! MAX MORRIS!

AGENT MORRIS? WHA... WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, AGENT?

I NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS, MISS... ALBRIGHT!

WELL, I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT...

EXCUSE ME, BUT I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD COME IN!

I NEVER ASKED FOR PERMISSION!

WELL, I... I GUESS I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, DO I?

THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE VERY LONG... IF YOU COOPERATE!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

HOW **LONG** HAVE YOU LIVED HERE, MISS ALBRIGHT?

I... I MOVED IN A **FEW MONTHS** AGO!

WHERE DID YOU LIVE **BEFORE**?

SEVERAL PLACES... I'VE MOVED AROUND **A LOT** THE LAST FEW YEARS. MOST RECENTLY **NEW YORK!**

ANY **ROOMMATES**?

NO! **WHAT** IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

JUST **ONE MORE QUESTION...**

WHEN DID YOU CHANGE YOUR NAME TO STACI ALBRIGHT?

WHAT?! WHY, UHHH... WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I... !

I MEAN, I'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS NAME!

THEN WHY ARE THERE NO RECORDS OF A STACI ALBRIGHT PRIOR TO A FEW MONTHS AGO, HMMM?

I DON'T KNOW! I... I...

DID YOU **REALLY** THINK WE WOULDN'T **FIND** YOU, **MISS ALBRIGHT?**

I ADMIT YOU **DID** LEAD US ON A **MERRY CHASE,** BUT YOU **HAD** TO KNOW IT WAS ONLY A **MATTER** OF **TIME** BEFORE WE'D **CATCH UP** TO YOU!

OH GOD!!

AND **NOW** THAT I'VE **GOT** YOU, I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT YOU **DON'T** SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS **EVER AGAIN!**

YOU... YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO **DO** THIS! YOU DON'T HAVE TO **TELL THEM** YOU **FOUND ME!**

OH, **REALLY?** AND **WHY**, PRAY TELL, WOULD I **NOT** TELL ANYONE?

BECAUSE I... **I** CAN MAKE IT **WORTH YOUR WHILE!**

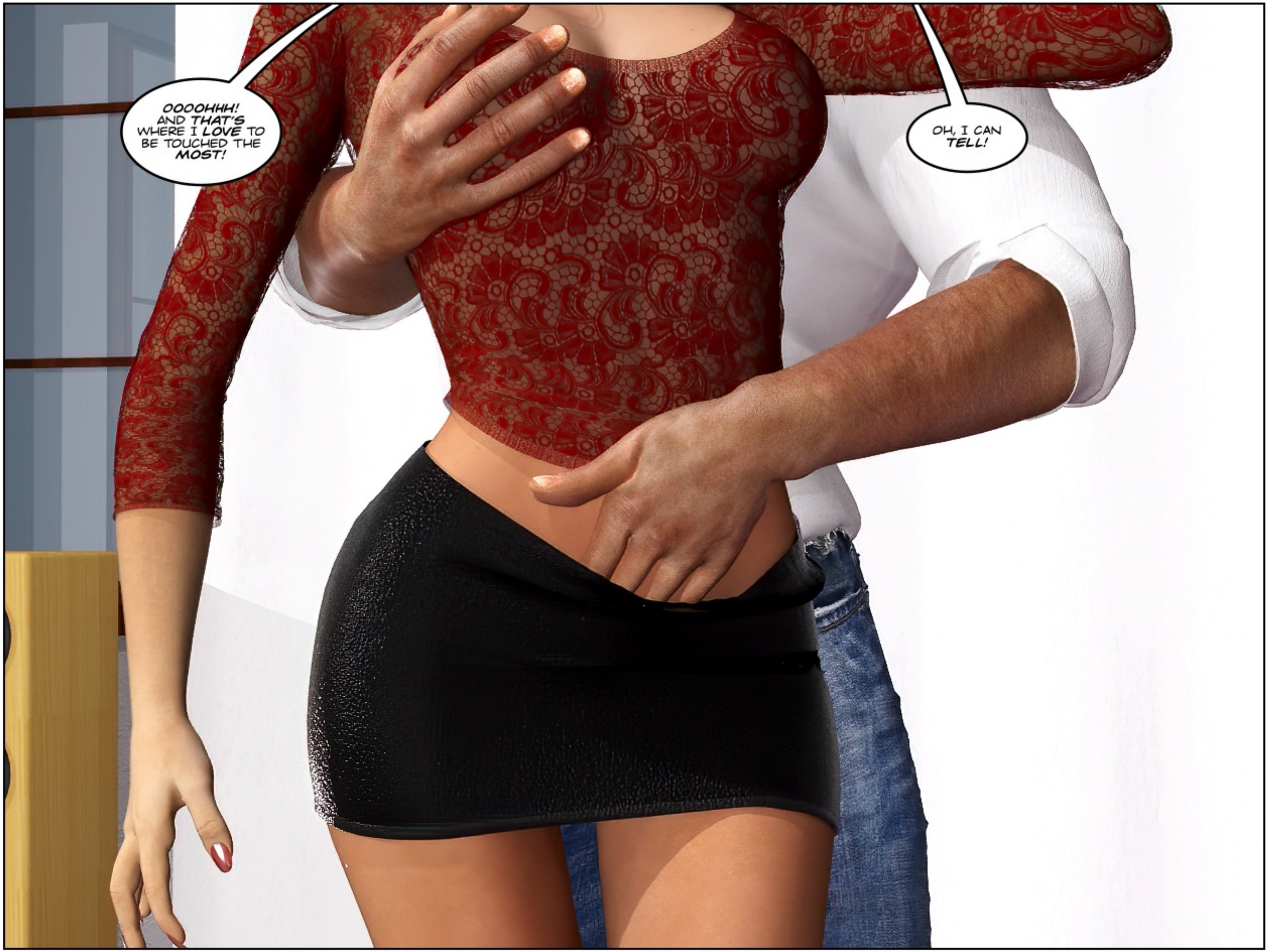
GET SERIOUS! FROM THE **LOOKS** OF THIS PLACE, I HIGHLY **DOUBT** YOU'RE **ROLLING** IN **DOUGH!**

I'M **NOT** TALKING ABOUT **MONEY!**

I'M TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN MONEY!

MMMMM! THAT'S RIGHT, BABY! YOU CAN TOUCH ME ANYWHERE YOU WANT... ANY WAY YOU WANT!

WELL I AM A MAN WHO LIKES TO HAVE PLENTY OF OPTIONS! HEH-HEH!


OOOOHHH! AND THAT'S WHERE I LOVE TO BE TOUCHED THE MOST!
OH, I CAN TELL!

DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS **ALREADY** A LOT **BETTER** THAN HAULING ME OFF TO **WHO KNOWS WHERE?** HMMM?

OH, AND I'M **JUST GETTING STARTED!**

I GOTTA ADMIT, YOU **DO** MAKE A **GOOD CASE** FOR YOURSELF!


MMMM! I'M SO GLAD THEY SENT YOU AFTER ME, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A MAN WITH A REAL COCK! I CAN'T WAIT TO FEEL IT POUNDING AWAY INSIDE ME!

OKAY, BABY... *WHERE* DO YOU WANT ME, AND *HOW?*

AS MUCH AS I *LOVE* LOOKING AT THIS *GORGEOUS FACE* OF YOURS, SWEETHEART, I'VE BEEN EYEIN' THAT *LUSCIOUS BOOTY* OF YOURS EVER SINCE I WALKED IN THAT DOOR!

SO *WHY* DON'T WE START *THERE,* HMM?


OOOH, I WAS RIGHT! THAT COCK OF YOURS IS PURE HEAVEN!
AND I'M NOT EVEN ALL THE WAY IN YET! GET READY FOR A SURPRISE, BABY!


OOOH, GOD! YOU ARE A MONSTER... AND I LOVE IT!
YEAH, I GET THAT A LOT! HEH-HEH!


OOHHH... OOHHH...
OOOHHH GOD
YES!!!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT **YOU**, BUT **I** THINK AN ARRANGEMENT LIKE **THIS** IS **MUCH** MORE... **PRODUCTIVE** THAN **LOCKING ME UP** WHERE **NO ONE** CAN **FIND** ME!

WHAT DO **YOU** THINK, **SPECIAL AGENT MORRIS,** HMMM?

THIS MAY **COST** ME MY **JOB**... OR EVEN **WORSE**... BUT I THINK. A BABE AS **HOT** AS **YOU** MIGHT ACTUALLY BE **WORTH** IT!

OH BABY, I WILL **SO** MAKE THIS **WORTH IT!**

I'LL BE AT YOUR BECK AND CALL **24/7** FOR **WHATEVER** YOU WANT!

CONSIDER ME YOUR VERY OWN PERSONAL **FUCKTOY**... YOUR **WHORE**... YOUR **SLUT**! 'CAUSE I **LIVE** FOR THAT SHIT!

MMMM! YOU'VE **ALMOST** GOT ME CONVINCED, HOT STUFF!

ALMOST, HUH? THEN WHAT'VE I GOT TO DO TO CONVINCE YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL?

COME ON, BABY! I'M GAME FOR ANYTHING!

THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW...


'CAUSE RIGHT NOW I'D LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO WATCH MY WHOLE COCK DISAPPEAR BETWEEN THOSE LUSCIOUS LIPS OF YOURS!

UMMM... WHAT?!

CUT!!

WHAT'S THE **PROBLEM,** CARLY?

A **BLOWJOB,** DAN? ***YOU'VE*** BEEN WORKING WITH ME LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW I ***FEEL*** ABOUT **BLOWJOBS!**

NO ONE EVER SAID ***ANYTHING*** ABOUT IT AND IT'S ***NOT*** IN MY ***SCRIPT!***

SIGH! OKAY, I'LL LOOK INTO THAT FOR YOU, CARLY!

TAKE TEN, EVERYONE!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, CARLY! I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ABOUT THE SCRIPT CHANGE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MIKE... I KNOW IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!

SIGH!. IT'S BULLSHIT LIKE ***THIS*** THAT SOMETIMES MAKES ME ***SECOND GUESS*** MY DECISION TO ENTER ***THIS*** LINE OF WORK!

BUT I'VE ***MADE*** MY BED, AND NOW I HAVE TO ***LIE*** IN IT... AND GET ***FUCKED REPEATEDLY!*** HEH-HEH!

IT SEEMED LIKED THE BEST IDEA AT THE TIME! I MEAN, NOBODY WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT DALE HODGKINS WOULD EMBARK ON A CAREER MAKING ADULT FILMS!

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING FURTHER FROM BEING A SERIOUS JOURNALIST... OR A STRAIGHT MAN!

EVERYTHING CHANGED AFTER I GOT THIS BODY... AND SAW THAT TEXT! I REALIZED THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY I COULD SURVIVE WITHOUT GOING COMPLETELY BONKERS!

PUTTING MYSELF OUT THERE, EVERY INCH OF ME, SEEMED LIKE THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THINGS! IF YOU'RE WILLING TO BE BARE NAKED WITH ALL YOUR NAUGHTY BITS ON DISPLAY FOR THE WORLD TO SEE, EVERYONE'S GONNA SEE THAT YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE!

NOBODY HAS TO COME SKULKING AROUND, CHECKING UP ON ME, WHEN ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT MY SOCIAL MEDIA, THE TABLOIDS, OR ANY OF THE FIVE FILMS I'VE DONE THIS YEAR TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO! *GIGGLE!*

I'M MAKING **TEN TIMES** THE MONEY I EARNED AS A REPORTER AND GETTING THAT NEW **"ITCH"** OF MINE **SCRATCHED** WITH NO **EMOTIONAL** ATTACHMENT **WHATSOEVER!**

NOT TO MENTION IT'S GETTING DONE WITH SOME OF THE **LARGEST** AND MOST **"TALENTED" COCKS** OUT THERE! **NOT** TOO **SHABBY** A TRADE OFF, IF YOU ASK ME!

AND I'M **STILL** DOING A LITTLE **INVESTIGATING**, MAKING **NOTES** HERE AND THERE! BUT I **HAVE** TO BE SO **CAREFUL**! KEEP IT ON THE **DOWN LOW**... NEVER KNOW **WHO'S** WATCHING!

BUT **SOMEDAY**, IF I KEEP AT IT, I'M GOING TO **BREAK** THIS STORY **WIDE OPEN!** IT'S **INEVITABLE!** MY REPORTER INSTINCTS **ALREADY** SAVED MY ASS AND GOT ME **THIS** FAR, AFTER ALL!

And just how did they do that? Oh yes... that *email* in that hotel room...

Slam!!

WELL... *THAT* DIDN'T TAKE VERY LONG!

HMPH! MY PHONE'S BEEN MOVED, SO SHE ***OBVIOUSLY*** CHECKED IT OUT, JUST LIKE MY EMPLOYER ***FIGURED*** SHE WOULD!

WONDER WHAT IT WAS HE WANTED HER TO SEE!

"RETURN TO HQ?"... "ROTATING PERSONNEL?"... "LIQUIDATED?!"

MAN! THIS GUY IS SURE PLAYING SOME **WEIRD** AND **FUCKED UP MIND-GAMES** ON HIS EX!

GUESS THIS MEANS WE PROBABLY **WON'T** BE **HOOKING UP** AGAIN LATER, AFTER ALL! **DAMN!**

SO, YEAH... SHE SAW THE **TEXT** YOU SENT WHILE I WAS IN THE SHOWER... **JUST** LIKE YOU **THOUGHT** SHE WOULD!

THERE WAS **NO DOUBT** IN MY MIND! SHE'S **ALWAYS** BEEN AN **INQUISITIVE** LITTLE MINX!

THAT TEXT WAS **PRETTY BIZARRE,** TO SAY THE LEAST! ANYTHING YOU CARE TO **SHARE** ABOUT IT?

PLEASE! IT WAS JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO ***TRIGGER*** HER ***OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION!*** HEH-HEH!

OKAY THEN! SO I TAKE IT **MY JOB** HERE IS ***DONE?***

YES, IT IS! I'M TRANSFERRING YOUR ***FINAL PAYMENT*** TO YOUR ACCOUNT AS WE SPEAK! ***THANK YOU*** FOR DOING SUCH A ***MARVELOUS*** JOB!

IT WAS ***MY*** PLEASURE, ***BELIEVE*** ME! ANY CHANCE YOU MIGHT BE NEEDING ME IN THE ***FUTURE?***

IN REGARDS TO MY "*EX-WIFE*", ***DOUBTFUL!*** BUT IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES UP, ***YOU'RE*** AT THE ***TOP*** OF MY LIST!

WELL, THANKS AGAIN! AND NEXT TIME YOU RUN INTO YOUR EX-WIFE, THANK HER FOR ***ME*** AS WELL! HEH-HEH!

OH, I **SERIOUSLY** DOUBT I'LL BE SEEING HER ANYTIME **SOON**! IN FACT, AFTER **THIS** LITTLE EPISODE, I DON'T THINK OUR PATHS WILL **EVER** CROSS AGAIN!

THAT WOULD BE A LITTLE **AWKWARD** SINCE I "DIED" IN THAT CAR WRECK A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO! HEH-HEH!

IT WAS TIME FOR "RODNEY MALCOLM" TO DISAPPEAR ANYWAY! I'D MILKED ENOUGH FROM ALL THOSE RICH SOCIALITES TO ADD ANOTHER COUPLE OF YEARS TO MY RETIREMENT NEST-EGG!

THE FACT THAT THAT ANNOYING LITTLE REPORTER WAS ABLE TO FIND ME SO EASILY MERELY ACCENTUATES MY NEED FOR A BETTER COVER STORY NEXT TIME I SET UP SHOP!

WHICH IS WHY I LET HIM OFF THE HOOK SO EASILY, CONSIDERING WHAT I COULD'VE DONE TO HIM... UNCONSCIOUS... ON MY OPERATING TABLE!

SO, HERE'S TO **YOU**, **DALE HODGKINS**, OR SHOULD I SAY, **CARLY MCRAE!** I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** IT WAS YOU **ACTUALLY SAW** THAT **SPOOKED** YOU SO MUCH, AND I **DON'T REALLY CARE!**

BUT **WHATEVER** IT WAS, IT PROVIDED ME THE **PERFECT OPPORTUNITY** TO GET YOU **OUT** OF MY LIFE, **ONCE AND FOR ALL**, AND **FORCE** YOU DOWN A PATH INTO A **LIFE** THAT'S **COMPLETELY FOREIGN** TO YOU!

A LIFE WHERE YOU'LL **ALWAYS** BE **LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER...** FOR A **PURSUER** WHO IS **NEVER THERE!** HEH-HEH!

I ***ALMOST*** WISH I COULD ***TRACK YOU DOWN*** SOMEDAY AND LET YOU KNOW ***WHO*** DID THIS TO YOU!

AND ***HOW*** I ***FOUND OUT*** WHAT ***YOU*** DID TO ME!

And, just how *did* he find out?

SO, YOU'RE *SURE* WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN *ACTUAL MURDER?*

HELL YEAH! GOT *PICTURES* AN' *EVERYTHING!* BUT SAW *ME* TOO... BEEN *CHASIN'* ME SINCE!

DO YOU KNOW *WHO'S* CHASING YOU?

EVERYONE! GOT PEOPLE IN *COPS, FEDS,* EVEN *MY JOB!* THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE!*

SHIT! IF HE'S GOT THE COPS **AND** THE FEDS LOOKING FOR HIM, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF **TIME** BEFORE THEY TRACK HIM **HERE!** AT **THIS** POINT IT REALLY **WON'T** MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE **WHAT** I DO... **OPERATE** OR **KICK HIM** TO THE **STREET!**

I SUPPOSE MY **BEST BET** IS TO DO THE **PROCEDURES** HE WANTS AND GET HIM **OUT** OF HERE AS **SOON** AS FUCKING **POSSIBLE!**

OR...

WHILE THE ***ANESTHESIA*** HAS HIM IN A VERY ***AGREEABLE*** AND ***UNINHIBITED*** STATE OF MIND...

TELL ME, CARLY... THOSE ***NAMES*** YOU USED AS REFERENCES... YOU DON'T ***REALLY*** KNOW ANY OF THEM, ***DO*** YOU!

NOPE! *GIGGLE!* I ***FIBBED*** A LITTLE SO YOU'D SEE ME!

I UNDERSTAND! SO WHY ***DID*** YOU CHOOSE ***ME*** AS YOUR DOCTOR? THERE ARE ***LOTS*** OF OTHER PLASTIC SURGEONS YOU ***COULD'VE*** PICKED!

'CAUSE I KNEW ***YOU*** WERE ***REAL GOOD*** AT HELPIN' PEOPLE ***HIDE!***

REALLY? AND ***WHY*** WOULD YOU THINK ***THAT?***

'CAUSE I DID AN ***ARTICLE*** ON YOU A COUPLE A YEARS AGO... BACK WHEN ***YOU*** GAVE ***DRUG*** GUYS ***NEW FACES*** AND ALL THAT!

SO **THIS** IS THE **LITTLE SHIT** WHO COST ME **MILLIONS** AND FORCED ME TO **UPEND** MY LIFE AND GO INTO HIDING FROM **BOTH** THE FEDS **AND** THE CARTEL?

HE MUST BE **DESPERATE** TO PUT HIMSELF ON **MY TABLE** LIKE THIS! LET'S SEE JUST **HOW** DESPERATE!

SO... **CARLY**, YOU'RE NOT **REALLY** TRANSGENDERED AT ALL, **ARE** YOU? YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO **HIDE** FROM **EVERYONE** WHO'S CHASING YOU, **RIGHT?**

YEAH! NEW **FACE** AND LITTLE **TITTIES**... ENOUGH TO **HIDE** ME!

THEN I CAN **UNDO** IT ALL WHEN TH' **COAST** IS **CLEAR**! PRETTY **SMART**, HUH?

YES! VERY, **VERY** SMART INDEED!


WELL, CARLY! DON'T YOU FRET ONE LITTLE BIT! I'M GOING TO TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF YOU!
'K...!

WHEN I'M DONE, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYONE RECOGNIZING YOU EVER AGAIN!

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT BUILDING A WHOLE NEW LIFE FROM SCRATCH LIKE I HAD TO... ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

All things considered, she *seems* to have done fairly well...

SORRY, CARLY, BUT THE DIRECTOR *DEFINITELY* WANTS TO KEEP THE BLOWJOB *IN* THE SCENE!

JESUS, DAN! IF I'D *KNOWN* ABOUT THE GODDAMN *BLOWJOB* I'D HAVE ASKED FOR *MORE MONEY!*

YEAH... I'M PRETTY *SURE* HE *KNEW* THAT! PROBABLY WHY HE LEFT IT *OUT* OF YOUR SCRIPT! GUY'S ALMOST *PATHOLOGICAL* WHEN IT COMES TO THE *BUDGET!*

THIS IS *BUSH LEAGUE*, DAN, AND *YOU KNOW IT!* WHERE THE *HELL* DID THE STUDIO *GET* THIS ASSHOLE *ANYWAY?*

JESUS! WHAT THE HELL'S A "BIG NAME DIRECTOR" FROM HOLLYWOOD DOING DIRECTING ADULT FILMS WAY OUT HERE?

HOW LUCKY FOR US!

HE'S AN EX-HOLLYWOOD BIG NAME DIRECTOR! THE STUDIO IS THRILLED TO HAVE A NAME LIKE THAT ON ONE OF OUR PRODUCTIONS!

HIS LAST COUPLE OF FILMS WERE HUGE BUSTS! LOST THE BIG STUDIOS MAJOR AMOUNTS OF MONEY! HE'S BOX-OFFICE POISON FOR MAINSTREAM MOVIES, BUT BRINGS PRESTIGE TO AN ADULT FILM!

I EVEN SAW HIS *LAST* STINKER! SOME *CONVOLUTED* THING ABOUT AN ATTEMPTED *TAKEOVER* OF THE *WHOLE COUNTRY* BY...

I DON'T EVEN *WANT* TO KNOW! CONSIDERING THE WAY *HE'S* BEEN *TREATING* ME, I HAVE *NO INTENTION* OF WATCHING *ANY* OF HIS *SORRY-ASS* FLICKS... *EVER!*

SO, LET'S GET BACK TO THIS SO I CAN GET IT *OVER WITH!*

SO, IS THE BLOWJOB *IN* OR *OUT*?

THAT *SUCKS*! NO PUN INTENDED!

GRUMBLE! ***IN!*** THE ***ASSHOLE*** DIRECTOR "***FORGOT***" TO MENTION IT TO ME *SO* HE COULD ***SAVE*** A FEW BUCKS!

I'LL LIVE.

YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR, THOUGH.

NAME IT!

REMEMBER OUR "COWGIRL" SCENE FROM "SOME LIKE IT ON TOP"?

HOW COULD I FORGET? WHEW! I'VE NEVER HAD ANY GIRL RIDE ME THE WAY YOU DID!

ALL RIGHT... EVERYONE INTO POSITION...

WELL, IF **YOU** CAN KEEP FROM **SHOOTING** YOUR **SPUNK** DOWN MY **THROAT** FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, I'LL **HAPPILY** GIVE YOU **ANOTHER** ONE OF MY **WORLD-CLASS RIDES!**

AND **THIS** TIME, I'LL DIAL IT UP TO **ELEVEN!**

DARLIN', I'D HOLD MY SPUNK FOR A FEW **HOURS** FOR ONE OF **YOUR** RIDES! HEH-HEH!

AND... **ACTION!**


YOU WANNA SEE THAT BIG DICK OF YOURS DISAPPEAR BETWEEN THESE LIPS? THEN WATCH CLOSELY, BABY! 'CAUSE THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE HELL OF A DISAPPEARING ACT! *GIGGLE!*
MY FAVORITE KIND, GORGEOUS!

CARLY SEEMED PRETTY PISSED BEFORE. HOW'D YOU GET HER *ON BOARD* WITH THE SCRIPT CHANGE?

IT TOOK A LITTLE CONVINCING, BUT SHE'S A *PROFESSIONAL!* SHE *KNOWS* THESE THINGS HAPPEN!

GOOD! I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* DEALINGS WITH *AMATEURS* TO LAST A *LIFETIME!*

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE ***INCOMPETENCE*** OF ***SO MANY*** WHO WORKED FOR ME IN THE PAST, ***I*** WOULDN'T BE ***FORCED*** TO ACCEPT ***DEMEANING*** JOBS LIKE ***THIS!***

ESPECIALLY THAT LAST ***CLUSTER-FUCK*** A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO...

A couple of years ago...

HEY KID, COME BACK HERE! WE JUST WANT TO TALK!

UH-OH!

CUT!!!

UMMM... WHAT HAPPENED?

SOME GUY WITH A CAMERA... PROBABLY PAPARAZZI!

YOU'RE ASKING ME?

YEAH, ABE AND JUNE JUST TOOK OFF AFTER HIM!

CUT! CUT! FUCKING CUT!!

WHY DO I BOTHER?! WHY DO I FUCKING BOTHER?!

IF WORD GETS OUT THAT WE'RE DOING GUERRILLA FILMMAKING ON THE STREETS OF THE CITY WITHOUT ANY PERMITS, THE STUDIO IS GOING TO FREAK OUT! HOW THE HELL DID SOMEONE SNEAK UP AND SNAP PICTURES?

JUST KILL ME!!

THIS IS **EXACTLY WHY** MY **LAST** PICTURE **FLOPPED! LEAKED PHOTOS, SPOILERS, LOST FUNDING!** I **WON'T** LET **THAT** HAPPEN **AGAIN!**

I'M NOT GOING TO FILM **ONE MORE FRAME** UNTIL WE GET THOSE PICTURES **BACK!** AND **THAT** MEANS **NO ONE HERE** GETS **PAID** UNTIL THAT HAPPENS!

SO **FIND THAT GUY! BRIBE HIM, SCARE HIM, THREATEN** HIS EMPLOYERS WITH **LEGAL ACTION...** I DON'T CARE **WHAT** YOU HAVE TO DO! JUST **GET THOSE PICTURES!**

SIGH! I'LL BET **BRUCKHEIMER** NEVER HAD TO PUT UP WITH THIS **SHIT!**

AND EVEN THOUGH, FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE **PICTURES** THAT KID TOOK WERE **NEVER PUBLISHED!** BUT THE **DELAY** CAUSED THE STUDIO TO **FIND OUT** WHAT I WAS DOING AND THEY **PULLED THE PLUG...** FORCED **ME** TO SHOOT ON **SETS** AND USE A TON OF **CHEESY CGI EFFECTS!**

THE FILM ENDED UP BEING ABOUT AS **GRITTY** AS **"ANNE OF GREEN GABLES"!** NO **WONDER** IT WENT **STRAIGHT** TO THE DVD "BARGAIN BIN" AT **BETTER BUY!**

SIGH! IF THEY'D LET ME MAKE THE FILM **MY WAY**, IT **WOULD** HAVE BEEN A **MASTERPIECE**! I'M **SURE** OF IT, BUT I GOT **WAYLAID** BY **ONE** RANDOM ACT **BEYOND MY CONTROL!**

....

BUT I'M **STILL** AN **AUTEUR!** THIS MAY BE AN **ADULT** FILM, BUT **I'VE** GOT **FULL CONTROL**... **FINALLY**... LIKE I **ALWAYS WANTED!**

IT'S A **TINY BUDGET,** TO BE SURE, BUT **THAT'S** NEVER STOPPED **ME** BEFORE! IN FACT, I THINK IT **SUITS** ME!

MY VISION CAN **STILL** BE **REALIZED!** I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE A FEW **ADJUSTMENTS** IN MY METHODS!

MAKE USE OF THE **RESOURCES** I HAVE ON HAND...

I DEFINITELY HAVE THE RIGHT LEADING LADY! UNLIKE THE REST OF THIS SO-CALLED TALENT, THIS GIRL CAN TRULY ACT! I'M BETTING I CAN MAKE HER A STAR!

SIGH! OF ADULT FILMS, AT ANY RATE!

A GOVERNMENT INFILTRATED AND BEING DESTROYED FROM WITHIN...

ONLY ONE WOMAN HAS THE SKILL AND THE BODY TO HANDLE IT...

Monty Horowitz presents
Carly McRae in....

Agent of SeX*

*(Seduction and eXtermination)

Rated X-hilirating!