



¿Carlos, has perdido la cabeza?!

I just spoke with Martin, and he says that you abruptly quit your job and didn't even give a two-week notice!



I was being serious, Dad. Everything Martin just told you is true.

But it's not what you think it is, I promise.

Not what I think?! You just quit your job and made everyone else's job more difficult!



¿En que estabas pensando, Carlos?

I know that you've enjoyed being a free spirit since college, but this is going way too far.

Since your mother left, I've worked very hard to support you and give you a good life.

I even got you this job, but you seem hellbent on undoing all that hard work.

God, this is just another gut punch after what just happened with Martin.

But all I have to do is stall him until sunset.



It's just that... it's difficult to explain without sounding crazy.

I swear that I have an explanation, Dad.

So it's better if I just show you.



What do you mean 'show me'?

Wait, something's happening to your arms! Why are they getting smaller?!



Oh good, it's starting. I was wondering if I'd timed that right.

"It's starting"? What does that mean?!

And what happened to your chest? We need to call a hospital, now!



It's alright, Dad. Believe it or not, I'm going to be just fine.

Just fine?! Look at you! You're withering away!



What if I told you this isn't...

-the first time this has happened to me?

Your face! Even your voice is changing! What is going on here?!



I promise that this is really happening. I'm turning into a woman, Dad.

You can't be serious... can you? I must be hallucinating all this. Or dreaming.



As difficult as this is to believe, you're not dreaming, Mr. Rivera.

Carlos has been changing into Carmen for the last couple nights, and he has no control over it.

You know about this too, Gabriella? And who is this Carmen?

I came clean to Gabby about everything yesterday when I changed in front of her, like I am with you right now.

Trust me, Carlos isn't in any danger.



As for who Carmen is, that's the name of Carlos' female self.

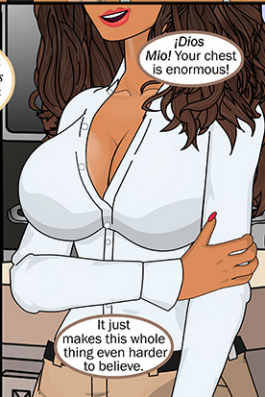
It wasn't my first idea for a female name...

Then again, if it were up to me, I wouldn't be turning into a woman at all.



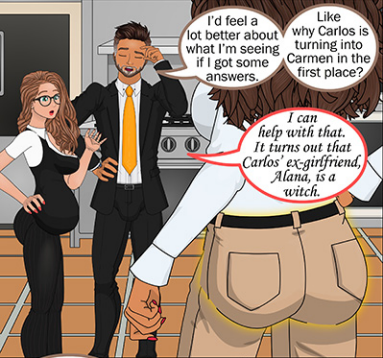
I have so many questions and concerns for your safety.

Don't worry, I had a lot of questions when this first started, too.



¡Dios Mio! Your chest is enormous!

It just makes this whole thing even harder to believe.



I'd feel a lot better about what I'm seeing if I got some answers.

Like why Carlos is turning into Carmen in the first place?

I can help with that. It turns out that Carlos' ex-girlfriend, Alana, is a witch.



She put an actual curse on Carlos the other day.

Now, he'll turn into a woman at sunset, and turn back into Carlos at dawn.



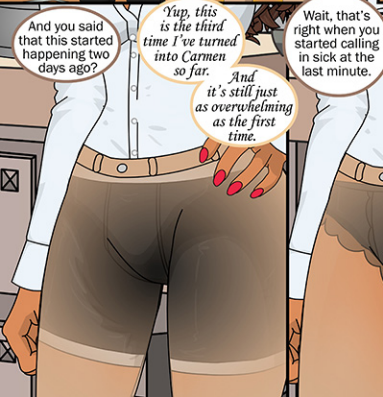
Alana did this to you? I thought she was a nice girl.

According to her, this is my punishment for cheating on her.



Gabby and I talked to her this morning, and she finally explained everything.

Dad doesn't need to know about me cheating on Alana with eight different women, or precisely how I can remove this curse.

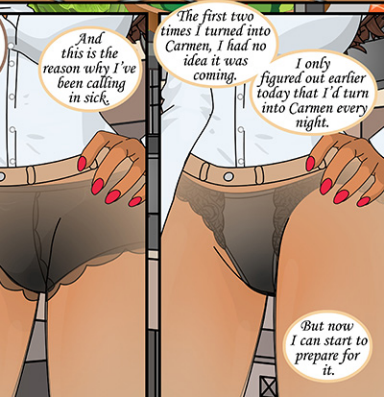


And you said that this started happening two days ago?

Yup, this is the third time I've turned into Carmen so far.

And it's still just as overwhelming as the first time.

Wait, that's right when you started calling in sick at the last minute.



And this is the reason why I've been calling in sick.

The first two times I turned into Carmen, I had no idea it was coming.

I only figured out earlier today that I'd turn into Carmen every night.

But now I can start to prepare for it.



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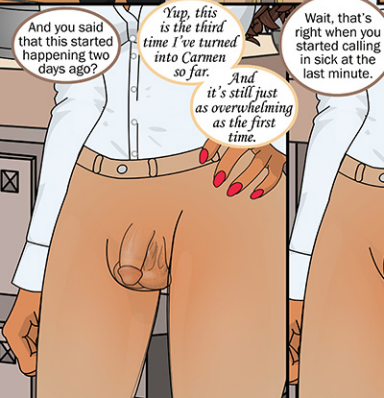
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I can't believe what I'm seeing. Your face looks so different, but similar at the same time.

You look like the daughter I never had.

Trust me, this takes some getting used to. I'm honestly still adjusting, too.

So wait, does anyone else know about what's happening to you?

Nope. Besides you and me, no one else knows the truth.



And honestly, I'd like to keep it to just the three of us for now.

You guys are the only ones I know who wouldn't treat me differently as a chick.

I appreciate that you felt you had to tell me all this.

And given what you're going through, I want you to feel comfortable above all else.

So if keeping your secret will make you feel at ease, then I promise not to tell another soul.

But I do have one more question: Is this also why you quit your job?



Absolutely. I love working here at the Eclipse, and normally would never quit.

But if I can't be myself at night anymore, then I can't work at a night club as a bartender.

At least, not as Carlos.

I'm not sure what you mean.

Gabby and I have come up with a plan, and we need your help.

If this goes right, then I'll get my job as a bartender back, I'll just work here as Carmen, instead.



I'd like to hear about this plan of yours first.

When I told Martin that I quit, I mentioned that my cousin Carmen could replace me.

I told Martin a little bit about her: that she just moved to Miami from Puerto Rico, and that she's looking for a job.

So you lied to Martin about all this?

Sometimes a lie is better than the truth. Especially when the truth is unbelievable.

Besides, if I had told Martin the truth, then he would have told the entire staff about me turning into a woman.

And the last thing I need is for Aaron to give me more shit than he already does.

Alright... But let's not make lying a habit, okay?

We'll see. Anyway, after I mentioned Carmen, Martin seemed interested.

He's willing to interview me as Carmen, but only if you vouch for me.

So please, Dad. I know I'm asking you to lie to your boss, but it's the only way I'll get retired.

I really love this job. I don't want to lose it, and I'm willing to work here as Carmen.

Well, this is all a lot to take in at once. It's a little overwhelming just to see you like this.

But I can tell this matters a lot to you.

So of course I'll help, Son. You can always count on me for support.



Really? You'll actually help me?!

I might not fully understand what's happening to you, and it pains me that I can't stop you from changing into a woman.

But being there for you when you need help is the least I can do.



Because whether you're a man or a woman, I'll always be your father.

Oh, thank you so much, Dad! You're the best!



But uh... as great of a father as you are, while I'm Carmen, we'll need to pretend like you're not my dad.

Remember, Carmen is supposed to be your niece.

I guess that means I'll have to start calling you 'Uncle Diego' when I'm like this.



Right... That is going to take some getting used to.

I can fill you in on the specifics while we head to Martin's office.

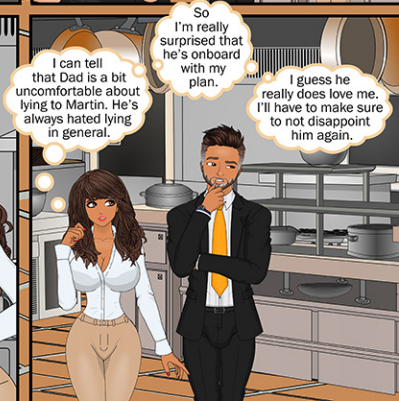
We have to hurry and do this interview before the club opens up.



Are you sure you don't want to join us for the interview, Gabby?

Thanks, but I've got more work to do here before we open. Now, go nail that interview!

I definitely will! See you soon.



I can tell that Dad is a bit uncomfortable about lying to Martin. He's always hated lying in general.

So I'm really surprised that he's onboard with my plan.

I guess he really does love me. I'll have to make sure to not disappoint him again.



So you... I mean, Carmen has three years of experience as a bartender?

Yup, I'll tell Martin that she worked at one of the biggest bars in San Juan.

I guess that could work. Do I call you Carlos or Carmen while you're like this?

In public, you'll have to call me Carmen.

That's not quite what I meant. I mean which do you prefer? Do you... like being a woman?



Oh, absolutely not! This body is so bizarre. I can't get used to the way these tits jiggle every time I walk.

And it feels so weird when I can tell that dudes are checking me out.

I might look like a chick, but I'm still a guy where it matters.



Yeah, you're definitely still acting like my son. I wonder... are you really alright with being a female bartender?

Of course. Why wouldn't I be alright with that?



Customers are going to act differently around you when you're like this.

And you just said that you're uncomfortable with the way men check you out as Carmen.

You might get a lot of guys hitting on you and trying to get your number.



I appreciate the concern, Dad, but I've got that under control.

Guys hit on Gabby and Hope all the time, but they never go out with any of them.

I'll just try to act like them around the customers, and I'll be fine.

How different could it be?