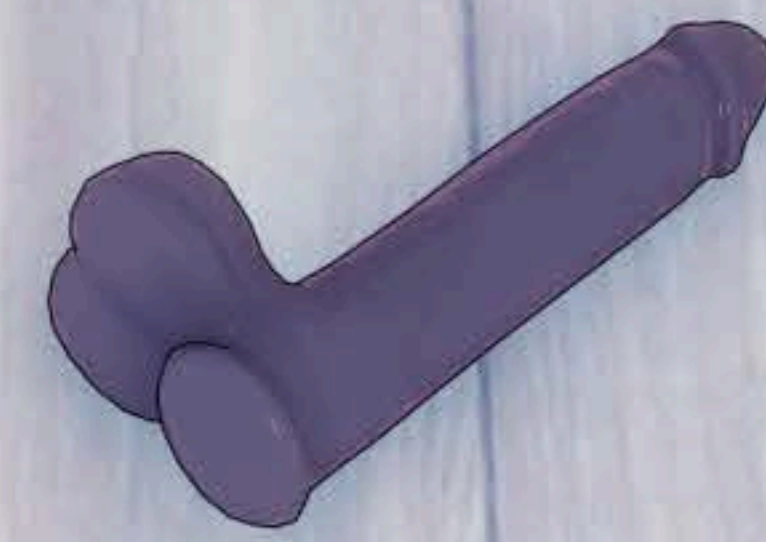


RUNAWAY

CHAPTER-14

BY IZUMISAN



NEXT MORNING...

HUH, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO STAY
A BIT LONGER.





HMM, BUT YOU'RE LEAVING WITHOUT SEEING ANDREW? YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR HIM.

I WANT TOO, BUT YOU KNOW ALL MY LEAVE DAYS ARE ALREADY USED UP, AND KEN STILL GAVE ME ONE MORE DAY OFF, BUT I WASTED THE WHOLE DAY YESTERDAY BECAUSE MY FLIGHT WAS DELAYED.

YEAH, IT WAS MY MISTAKE; I SHOULD HAVE INFORMED YOU ALL BEFORE COMING. LAST TIME TOO, I SHOWED UP OUT OF THE BLUE AND ENDED UP EMBARRASSING HIM.

I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE HOLDING SOMETHING BACK. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

IT JUST EVER SINCE HIS SCHOOL STARTED, WE'VE BARELY TALKED. I-I STARTED OVERTHINKING ABOUT SOME STUFFS, AND SUDDENLY FELT THE URGE TO COME AND SEE HIM. HAHA, I KNOW IT SOUNDS A BIT MUCH, BUT SEEING YOU HAS REALLY MADE ME FEEL BETTER NOW!



HM, YOU'RE RIGHT... OKAY,
I SHOULD GET GOING NOW; MY CAB
SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE..

YOU'RE STRESSING OUT FOR NO REASON.
HE'S JUST BEEN BUSY WITH SCHOOL AND
DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LATELY. DON'T YOU
THINK WE SHOULD LET HIM FOCUS ON HIS
SCHOOL-LIFE FOR NOW?

ALRIGHT, SEE YOU SOON. I SHOULD
ALSO GET READY TO GO PICK HIM UP.

AFTER A WHILE...

KNOCK
KNOCK

MIA, WAKE UP!
CLARA'S HERE TO PICK YOU UP!





OH, LOOK AT YOU! SEEMS LIKE YOU HAD A LOT OF FUN AT THE PARTY.

I'M NOT BEING HARSH, JUST MAKING AN OBSERVATION. AND WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR FACE?



COME ON, DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HER.





ANYWAY, LET'S GET YOU HOME--
WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.

AFTER A WHILE...


SERIOUSLY? NOW YOU'RE BLAMING JACK? UGH, STOP WITH YOUR BULLSHIT. YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HIM, HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT YOU TO AUNT'S PLACE SAFELY!

IN THE CAR? WHAT? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

BECAUSE EMMA WAS HERE! IT WAS ALREADY TOUGH MANAGING HER. IMAGINE IF SHE SAW YOU IN THAT STATE!

BUT HE GAVE ME THAT DRINK, AND IN THE CAR, HE... HE...

UH, NOTHING! BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO PICK ME UP?



YES, IT'S A GOOD THING SHE LEFT IN THE MORNING. IF SHE'D SEEN YOUR FACE, SHE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAPPENED. SHE SAID SHE EVEN TRIED TO CALL, BUT YOU HUNG UP..

SO, YOU MADE IT TO THE OFFICE. DID YOU FIND THE FILE? OH, YOU DIDN'T? JUST GREAT!

ARGH, STOP WITH YOUR BULLSHIT. THAT FILE WAS SO IMPORTANT... AND DIDN'T I WARN YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM ALL THOSE STUPID STUFF AT THE PARTY? AND YOU...

EM-EMMA WAS HERE?

I WAS IN THE OFFICE-ROOM AT THAT TIME, LOOKING FOR THE FILE.

ACTUALLY, I-I FOUND THAT, BUT I FAILED TO GRAB IT. THE MAID JUST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND...



*I'M REALLY SORRY! BUT
I SWEAR IT WASN'T MY FAULT.*

*WHAT IF SOMEONE HAD
DISCOVERED YOUR REAL IDENTITY?
NOT ONLY WOULD YOU BE IN TROUBLE,
BUT EMMA AND I WOULD ALSO HAVE TO
FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.*

*YOU'VE GIVEN ME A SERIOUS
HEADACHE. I'M NOT GOING TO LET
THIS GO WITHOUT ANY PUNISHMENT.*

*SHUT UP AND BEND OVER NOW.
YOU NEED A PROPER LESSON.*

PU-PUNISHMENT? AGAIN?





TRYING SO HARD TO STAY QUIET?
I CAN SEE YOUR BUTT'S GOTTEN A BIT
MORE CHUBBY. HAHA, THAT EXTRA CUSHION
MIGHT BE SOFTENING THE BLOW A BIT, BUT
IT'S STILL FEELING IT, RIGHT?

NNNGH...

FUCK, MY HAND IS REALLY STARTING TO HURT.
I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S IMPRESSIVE HOW YOU STAYED SILENT
WHILE THOSE CHEEKS WERE GETTING A WORKOUT.

LHH, CAN I PUT MY
BOTTOMS BACK ON NOW?

HOLD ON, SWEETIE! I'M NOT
FINISHED WITH YOU JUST YET!



WHA-WHAT NOW?

JUST ONE CUTE LITTLE THING LEFT, AND THEN WE'RE DONE!



STAY STILL!

WHAT'S LEFT? WAIT...
WHAT'S THAT THING TOUCHING MY...





HUH, WHAT'S THAT? WHY DID YOU PUT THAT IN THERE? THIS IS TOO MUCH. PLEASE TAKE IT OUT.



OH NO, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT PULLING IT OUT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!

UHH!

AHHH!



HE STILL HASN'T REPLIED TO ANY OF MY TEXTS OR CALLS. WHAT'S GOING ON? WAS HE REALLY AT THE PARTY, OR IS CLARA HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?

NO, BUT WHY WOULD SHE HIDE ANYTHING? HOPE IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR VISIT YET.

SO HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY? IT MUST'VE BEEN FUN! AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER. HOW'S SHE DOING?

YOU DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER? WHY?

OH NO, THAT'S AWFUL! YOU WENT ALL THAT WAY AND DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SEE HER... I FEEL SO BAD.

I DIDN'T ACTUALLY GET TO SEE HER.

UM, I WANTED TO SURPRISE HER, SO I DIDN'T TELL HER I WAS COMING. BUT MY FLIGHT WAS DELAYED, AND I DIDN'T GET THERE UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT. BY THEN, SHE WAS OUT AT A HOUSE PARTY WITH HER-HER FRIENDS.

YEAH... I HAD TO DEAL WITH MY LEAVE DAYS BEING WASTED TOO, NOW I'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR MONTHS BEFORE I CAN TAKE ANOTHER LEAVE TO VISIT THERE AGAIN.

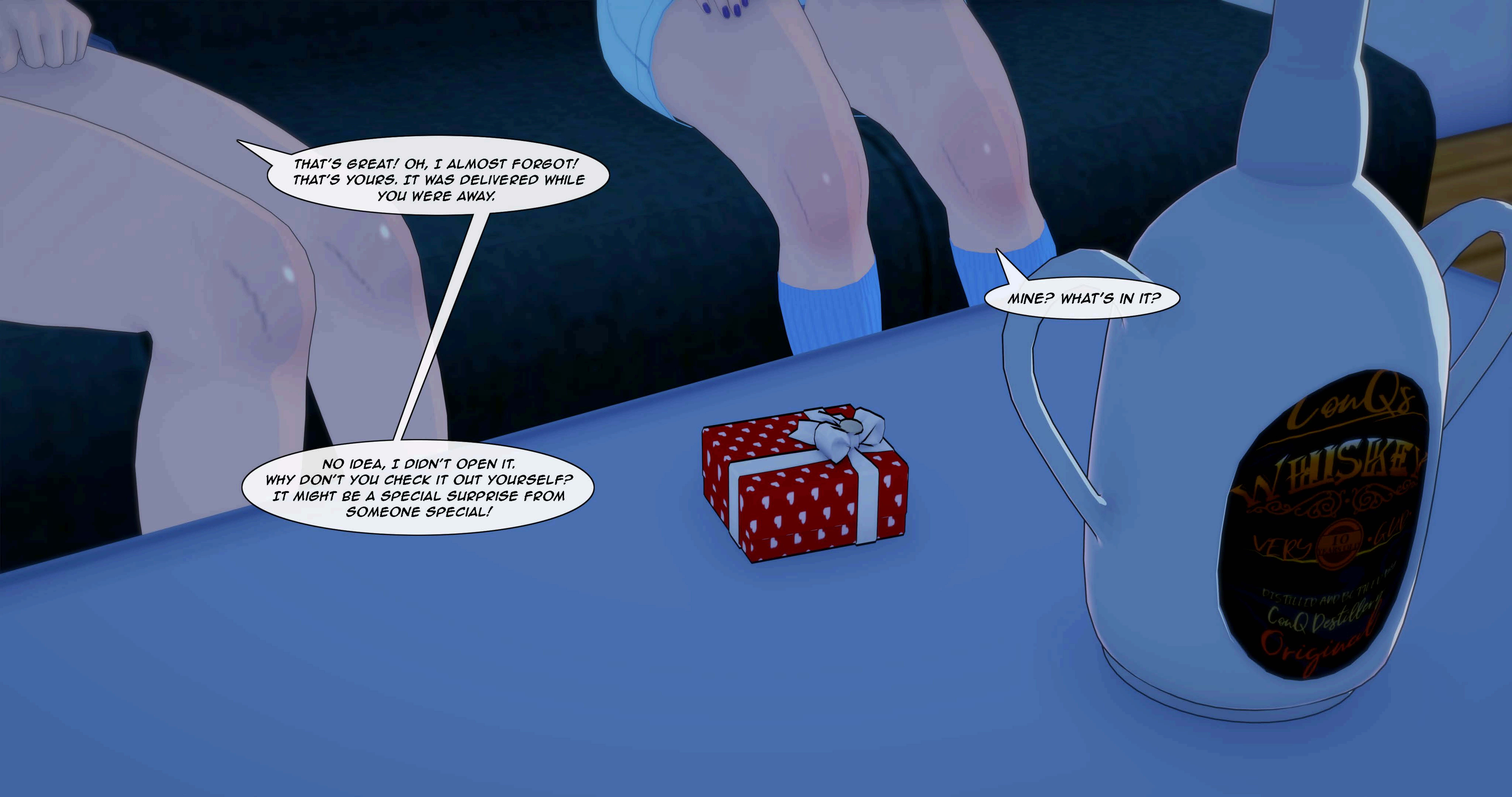


I TOTALLY GET IT. BUT WAIT,
IF YOU CAN'T VISIT HER, WHY NOT
HAVE HER COME HERE INSTEAD?

WHY WOULD IT BE A PROBLEM?
HAHA! IT'S YOUR SISTER, NOT LIKE
YOU'RE BRINGING YOUR BOYFRIEND
OVER IN DISGUISE OR ANYTHING!

HUH, HERE? I-I MEAN, WOULDN'T
THAT BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

HUH, YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHE...SHE'S JUST MY SISTER.
THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTION!
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.



THAT'S GREAT! OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
THAT'S YOURS. IT WAS DELIVERED WHILE
YOU WERE AWAY.

NO IDEA, I DIDN'T OPEN IT.
WHY DON'T YOU CHECK IT OUT YOURSELF?
IT MIGHT BE A SPECIAL SURPRISE FROM
SOMEONE SPECIAL!

MINE? WHAT'S IN IT?

ConQ's
WHISKEY
VERY
DISTILLED AND BOTTLED
ConQ Distillery
Original



MONDAY MORNING...






I DON'T WANT TO GO TODAY...
I'M NOT FEELING WELL.

STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE ASLEEP!
I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE. NOW, GET UP;
YOU'RE ALREADY LATE FOR SCHOOL!

YOU CAN'T JUST SKIP SCHOOL WITH
THAT EXCUSE! I'M NOT BUYING IT, SO
GET YOUR ASS UP RIGHT NOW!



PLEASE... JUST ONE DAY. I WENT TO SCHOOL ALL LAST WEEK WITHOUT MISSING A SINGLE DAY. CAN'T YOU JUST LET ME STAY HOME TODAY? I HAVEN'T HAD PROPER SLEEP FOR THE PAST TWO NIGHTS... I JUST NEED TO REST.

ALRIGHT, FINE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO DRAMATIC. BUT JUST THIS ONCE, REST UP, AND I'LL LET YOUR TEACHER KNOW THAT YOU'RE TAKING A SICK DAY TODAY.

LATER AT SCHOOL...

UH, NO, SHE WASN'T EVEN IN HER RIGHT MIND. I SHOULD'VE STOPPED HER INSTEAD OF JUST GOING ALONG WITH IT. SHE DIDN'T EVEN COME TO SCHOOL TODAY. WHAT MUST SHE BE THINKING OF ME NOW? SHIT, I REALLY MESSED UP.

FUCK, WHAT HAVE I DONE... BUT SHE STARTED LICKING MY FINGER, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE WANTED IT...

一年間行事予定

...

HMM, THEY MIGHT HAVE ALREADY TALKED TO HER. I SHOULD PROBABLY ASK THEM IF SHE'S ALRIGHT.

WHAT IF SHE TOLD THEM ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT? NO WAY... IF SHE HAD, THEY'D HAVE ALREADY TORN ME APART BY NOW.



WE'RE OFF TO THE CANTEEN.
NEED TO GRAB SOMETHING BEFORE
THE NEXT CLASS. WANT TO JOIN US?

YEAH, SURE! I'M STARVING TOO.
BY THE WAY, I DIDN'T SEE MIA IN
CLASS TODAY. DO YOU KNOW WHY
SHE'S ABSENT?

WE DON'T KNOW THE EXACT REASON,
BUT I NOTICED IN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER
THAT SHE'S ON SICK LEAVE TODAY. SEEMS LIKE
SHE INFORMED THE CLASS TEACHER.

HEY, WHERE ARE
YOU GUYS HEADING?



OH, HAVEN'T YOU GUYS TALKED TO EACH OTHER YET?

NO, SHE HASN'T REPLIED TO ANY OF OUR TEXTS YET. HOPE EVERYTHING IS OKAY.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DROPPED HER OFF THAT DAY. DID YOU MAKE SURE SHE GOT HOME SAFELY?

UM, YEAH, HAHA. OF COURSE, I DROPPED HER OFF WITHOUT ANY ISSUES.

WELL, YOU KNOW I PROMISED HER THAT MIA WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS AT THE PARTY. I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO...

HM, YOU HAVE CLARA'S CONTACT NUMBER, RIGHT? WHY DON'T YOU CALL HER AND ASK ABOUT MIA?

AH, OKAY I GET IT. JUST GIVE ME HER CONTACT NUMBER, AND I'LL CONTACT HER AFTER SCHOOL.



TAP


TAP

WHY AM I NOT FEELING
HAPPY ABOUT IT?





UGH, I JUST CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING ELSE RIGHT NOW. WITH EVERY STEP I TAKE, I KEEP FEELING THAT THING INSIDE ME.



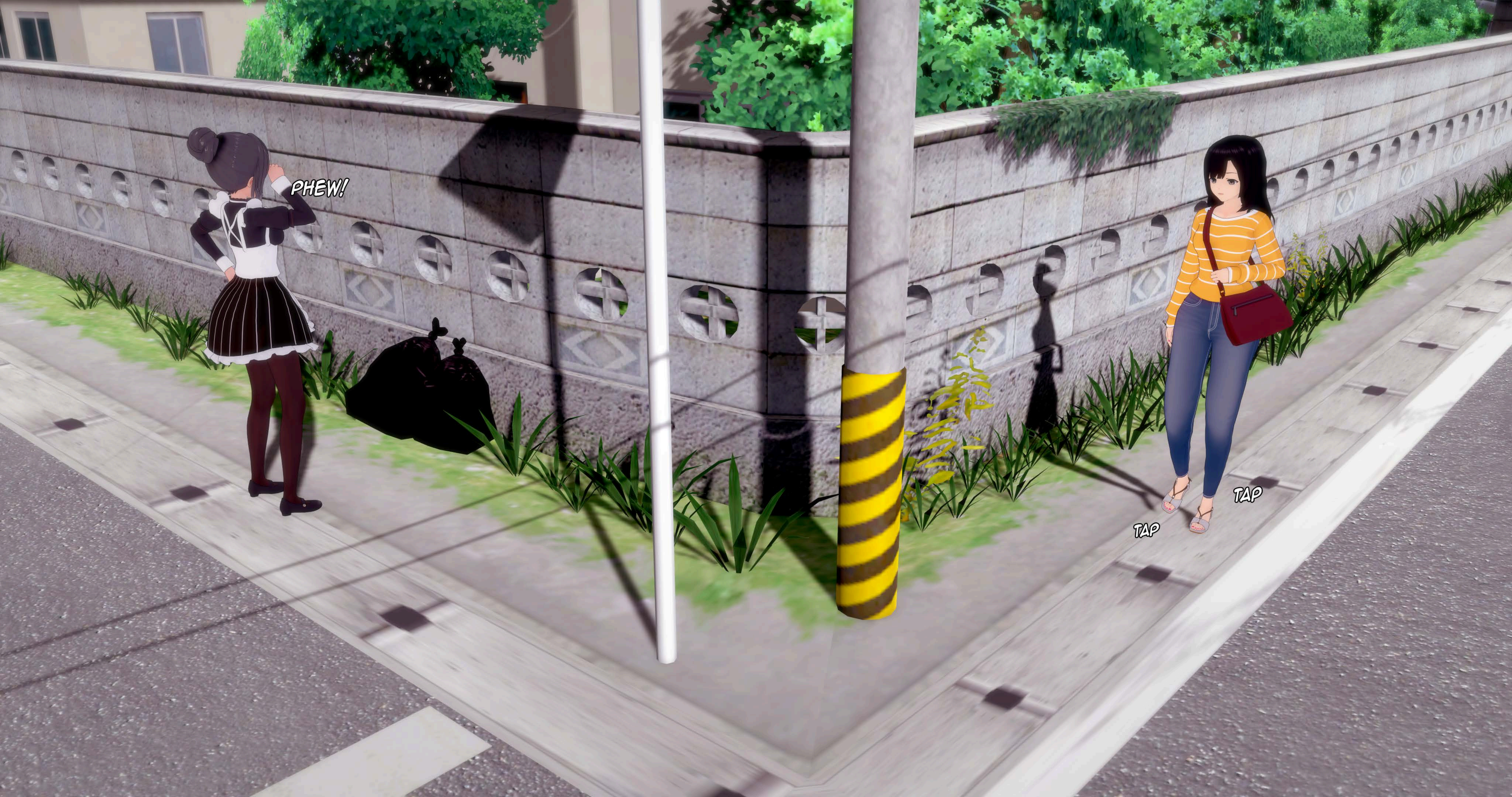
ALRIGHT, HOPE THAT AT THIS TIME, THERE MUST BE NO ONE AT JACK'S HOUSE EXCEPT THE MAID. NOW I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THAT FILE IS KEPT. I JUST NEED TO COME UP WITH SOME EXCUSE TO GET BACK INTO THAT ROOM, GRAB THE FILE QUICKLY, PUT IT IN MY BAG, AND GET OUT OF THERE BEFORE SHE GETS SUSPICIOUS.

CLARA SAID THAT FILE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HER. IF I MANAGE TO GET IT, I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'LL REMOVE THESE WEIRD THINGS THEN.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT BITCH? FIRST, SHE MADE ME WORK OVERTIME, AND NOW SHE'S TOLD ME TO CLEAN THE ENTIRE HOUSE ALONE. I'M NOT THE ONLY MAID IN HER HOUSE. WHAT'S HER GRUDGE AGAINST ME?

FUCK HER. IF I GET THE CHANCE, I WOULDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT BETRAYING HER.







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UM, HE-HELLO!



I REMEMBER YOUR FACE; YOU'RE THE SAME GIRL WHO WAS WANDERING AROUND THE HOUSE THAT NIGHT. UH, AND THEN YOU EVEN WENT AND PUKED IN THE YARD! YOU KNOW, I HAD TO CLEAN UP ALL THAT MESS AFTER YOU.

OH, UM, I-I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED.

IT'S ALRIGHT. BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DO YOU LIVE NEARBY? I KNOW ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, YET I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE.



YOU MEAN IN HIS UNCLE'S OFFICE-ROOM? BUT I ALREADY CLEANED THAT ROOM THOROUGHLY, AND I DIDN'T FIND ANY EARRINGS. MAYBE YOU LOST IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

I WAS JUST TO COMING TO JACK'S HOUSE. ACTUALLY, THAT NIGHT, I... UM, I LOST ONE OF MY EARRINGS, AND, WELL, I THINK IT MIGHT HAVE FALLEN IN THE SAME ROOM WHERE YOU FOUND ME.

IT MIGHT HAVE, UM, SLIPPED UNDER A TABLE OR CHAIR WHILE YOU WERE CLEANING. I KNOW YOU MUST BE BUSY, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, I COULD SEARCH FOR IT MYSELF TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT THERE. I'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL!



HUH, NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN... I REALLY DID LOSE MY EARRING. IT... IT WAS A GIFT FROM MY AUNT AND REALLY EXPENSIVE, SO SHE'D BE VERY UPSET IF SHE FOUND OUT I LOST IT.

I WAS A BIT SUSPICIOUS AT FIRST, BUT NOW I'M CONVINCED YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING ELSE IN THAT ROOM.

HEY, STOP WITH THE LIES. HAHA, YOU KNOW IT'S NOT EASY TO STEAL SOMETHING FROM THAT ROOM. BUT IF YOU WANT, I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT.

WILL YOU... REALLY HELP ME?

I'LL, BUT DON'T EXPECT IT TO BE FREE. LET ME KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED FROM THAT ROOM, AND I'LL TELL YOU THE PRICE. ONCE YOU HAND OVER THE CASH, I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET THAT ITEM FOR YOU.

AFTER A WHILE...

YOU UNDERSTAND VERY WELL
HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR YOU TO
ATTEND THIS MEETING.

I KNOW, DAD. I'LL BE THERE
RIGHT ON TIME, DON'T WORRY.



I NEED TO CATCH AN EVENING FLIGHT TO GET THERE ON TIME.

AND THIS NUISANCE, HE WAS MAKING SUCH EXCUSES THIS MORNING. THEN HE LEFT WITHOUT EVEN TELLING ME, AH, IT'S BEEN SO LONG, AND HE STILL HASN'T COME BACK YET.

DON'T KNOW WHAT HE MIGHT BE UP TO NOW. I SHOULD PROBABLY GET SOMEONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

UNLOCK



I'M COMPLETELY BROKE.
HOW AM I GOING TO GET THE MONEY
SHE'S ASKING FOR THAT FILE?

IF I TELL CLARA ABOUT IT,
SHE'LL GIVE ME THE MONEY RIGHT AWAY SINCE
SHE SAID THIS FILE IS SO IMPORTANT TO HER. BUT
IF I TAKE HER HELP, THEN I DOUBT IF SHE'LL EVEN
CONSIDER REDUCING MY PUNISHMENT. WHAT'S THE
POINT OF ALL THIS EFFORT, THEN. I NEED TO
FIGURE THIS OUT ON MY OWN.



SO, YOU'RE FINALLY BACK...



IN THE MORNING, YOU MADE SUCH A FUSS ABOUT NOT FEELING WELL, BUT THEN YOU VANISHED ALL DAY WITHOUT BOTHERING TO INFORM ME. CARE TO EXPLAIN WHERE YOU'VE BEEN ALL THIS TIME?

UHM, I... I WAS JUST OUT FOR...

ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?

ARGH, YOU KNOW WHAT, JUST FORGET IT.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW.
SINCE YOU'RE HERE, HELP ME PACK MY STUFF
SO I CAN GET READY QUICKLY.

YEAH, I JUST GOT A CALL FROM
MY DAD, AND I HAVE TO GO THERE URGENTLY.
I'LL PROBABLY STAY FOR A FEW DAYS THERE.
IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN DROP YOU OFF AT
AUNT'S PLACE.

CAN I JUST STAY HERE, PLEASE?
I PROMISE I WON'T SKIP A SINGLE
DAY OF SCHOOL.

FINE, AS YOU WANT. JUST MAKE
SURE TO KEEP THE HOUSE IN ORDER
AND DON'T CREATE ANY MESS.

LATER AT NIGHT...


I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD THAT BUTT PLUG IN ALL THIS TIME. NOW THAT SHE'S GONE FOR A FEW DAYS, I DON'T HAVE TO WEAR IT ANYMORE UNTIL SHE COMES BACK.



WISH I COULD UNLOCK THIS TOO...

UGH, NO, I CAN'T--WHAT REASON
WOULD I EVEN GIVE HER?

FIRST, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO
ARRANGE THAT MUCH MONEY TO GET THE FILE.
UM, SHOULD I ASK EMMA...



SHIT, I COMPLETELY FORGOT THOSE THINGS ARE STILL IN MY BAG. OKAY, I'LL JUST TOSS THEM SOMEWHERE ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.





NO, WHY AM I EVEN THINKING ABOUT THIS? I PROMISED MYSELF I'D STAY AWAY FROM ALL THIS...

BUT I'VE ALREADY DONE THIS ONCE, AND IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO DO IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE THIS TIME. SO, I GUESS I WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS...



TO BE CONTINUED...