



RUNAWAY

CHAPTER-13

BY IZUMISAN





HA! NO WAY! I JUST SAW HER REJECTING THREE GUYS IN A ROW. SHE SEEMS HARD TO IMPRESS. MORE LIKE HE'S NEXT IN LINE FOR REJECTION.

YOU'RE ON! I BET HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.

DO YOU THINK HE HAS A CHANCE WITH HER?

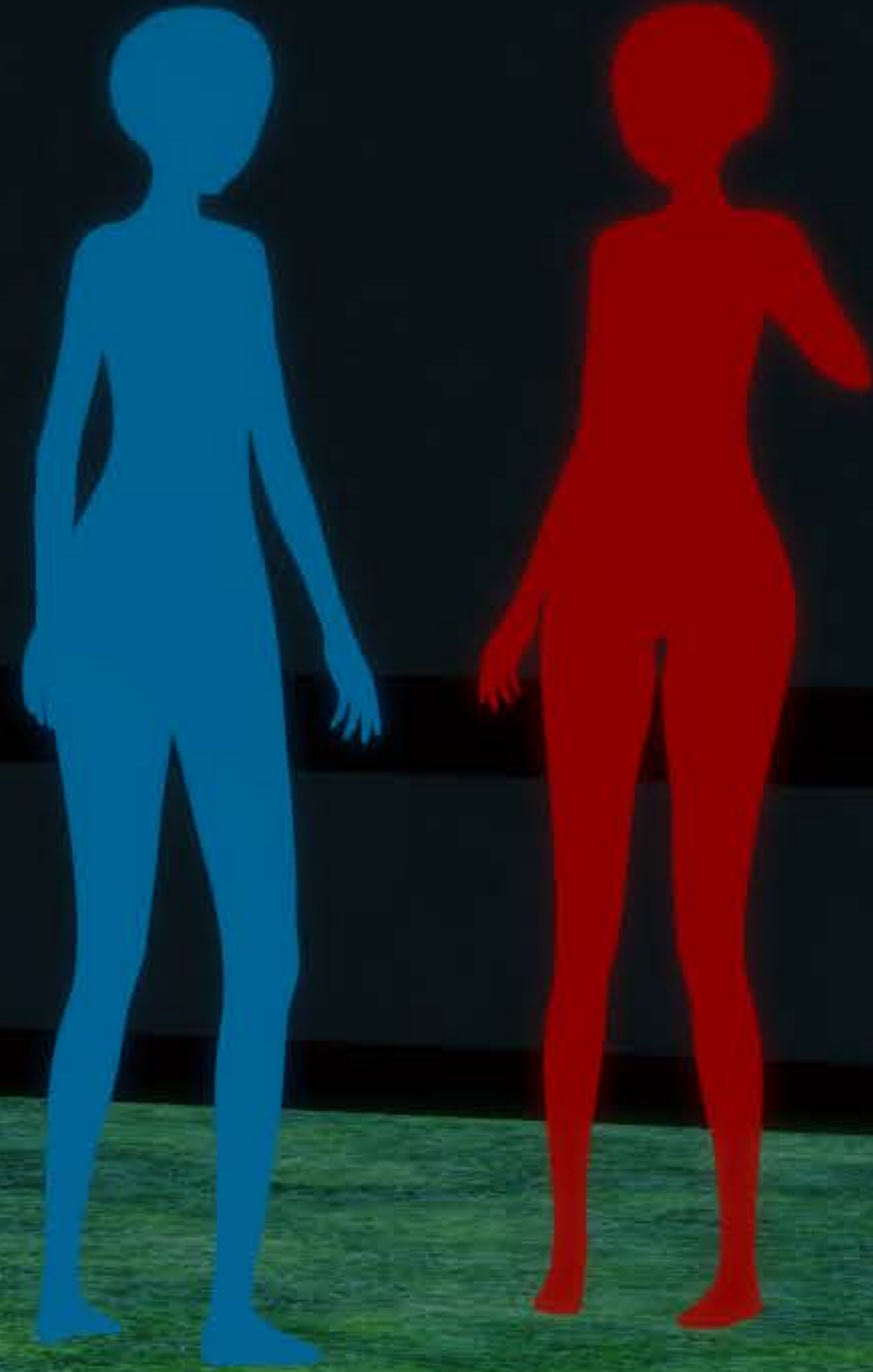
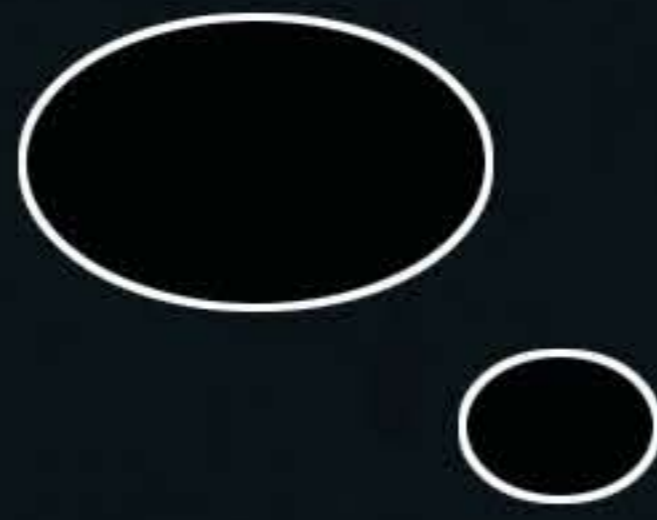
COME ON! HE'S GOT MOVES. YOU WANNA BET? I'M PUTTING MY MONEY ON HIM!





SLUURP!

I'VE ALREADY WASTED TOO MUCH TIME.
I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET INSIDE THE
HOUSE AND FIND THAT FILE ASAP!




HEY! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN
SCHOOL. DO YOU GO TO THE SAME
SCHOOL AS US?





UGH, HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE.

OH, YOU MUST BE FROM THE JUNIOR CLASSES. I HEARD SOME NEW STUDENTS JOINED RECENTLY, IF I'M NOT WRONG.



SORRY, BUT MY PARENTS ONLY ALLOWED ME TO ORGANIZE THIS PARTY ON THE CONDITION THAT NO ALCOHOL WOULD BE SERVED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PLENTY OF SOFT DRINKS YOU CAN TRY.

YEAH, WE ONLY INVITED A FEW STUDENTS WE KNOW. AND ALICE TOLD ME THAT YOU AND MIA KNOW EACH OTHER. SINCE SHE'S OUR CLASSMATE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO INVITE YOU TOO. BUT, UMM, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU TWO TALKING. UMM, AREN'T YOU TWO FRIENDS?

REALLY, NOT EVEN A BEER?

UHH, ALRIGHT... ANYWAY, THANKS FOR INVITING ME. I HEARD YOU ONLY INVITED A LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS.

HMM, YOU COULD SAY WE'RE FRIENDS, BUT...

... SHE'S BUSY RIGHT NOW.
LOOKS LIKE THOSE GUYS ARE
REALLY GIVING HER A HARD TIME.



THEN I MADE UP THIS RIDICULOUS LIST OF 'CHALLENGES,' LIKE BALANCING A SPOON ON HIS NOSE WHILE RECITING THE SCHOOL'S ANTHEM BACKWARDS. HE TOOK IT ALL SERIOUSLY AND TRIED TO DO IT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. IT WAS SO HILARIOUS.

YEAH, IF YOU WERE THERE AT THAT TIME, YOU'D HAVE BEEN LAUGHING NON-STOP. ANYWAY, I'VE NOTICED YOU'VE BEEN STANDING HERE ALONE. MY FRIENDS AND I ARE ABOUT TO PLAY SOME CARD GAMES. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

OH MY GOSH, THAT'S SO FUNNY!



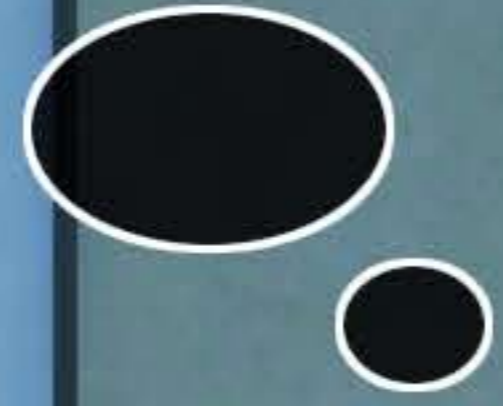
OH, IT'S ALRIGHT... WE'RE JUST OVER THERE, AND IF YOUR FRIENDS WANT TO JOIN, THEY'RE TOTALLY WELCOME TOO.

OH, THANKS, BUT MY FRIENDS ASKED ME TO WAIT HERE. YOU SEE THEM ON THE DANCE FLOOR?

UH, SORRY, WE CAN'T. WE'VE GOT OTHER PLANS. BUT IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU! SEE YOU AROUND.

HUH, WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE...

WHAT A CLOWN... HE THOUGHT HE COULD IMPRESS A GIRL BY MAKING A FUN STORY OUT OF BULLYING A STUDENT.



PHEW!





AM I REALLY BECOMING MORE LIKE A GIRL DAY BY DAY?

WELL, THE GOOD THING IS THAT NOW I CAN EASILY HANDLE THESE TYPES OF GUYS.

UGH, NO, THIS IS ALL JUST PART OF THE ACT.

HEY MIA!

OH HEY, JACK!

WAIT, IS THAT TESSA?
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

WINK

WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE
LOOKS SO DOWN ALL OF A SUDDEN.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?



HUH, YEAH, EVERYTHING'S FINE.

HAHA, DON'T WORRY!
I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN!

HMM, THAT'S GOOD THEN.
HOPE YOU'RE HAVING A GREAT TIME HERE.
OTHERWISE, CLARA'S GOING TO RAIN
DOWN ON ME WITH HER SCOLDING!

LOOK AT THEM, IT SEEMS LIKE
THEY'RE GOING TO BREAK THE
DANCE FLOOR TODAY!

THEN WHAT ARE WE DOING
HERE? LET'S GO JOIN THEM!

HAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T
SEEN THEM STEP OFF THE DANCE
FLOOR SINCE I ARRIVED.

YEAH, LET'S GO. OR ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO JUST STAND AROUND DRINKING JUICE THE WHOLE PARTY? COME, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

HMM, I'VE GOT A FEELING SOMETHING'S OFF. COME ON, TELL ME--ARE YOU HAVING A HEADACHE OR SOMETHING? JUST LET ME KNOW AND I'LL GRAB SOME MEDICINE FROM BETTY'S ROOM FOR YOU.

HUH, JOIN THEM? YOU... YOU MEAN DANCE?

LMM, YOU GO AHEAD. I... I'M NOT FEELING LIKE DANCING.

NO, YOU'RE WORRYING FOR NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING LIKE...



WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY STOP TALKING?
ARE YOU SURE EVERYTHING'S FINE?

WAIT, WHAT AM I DOING?
THIS IS PERFECT CHANCE. I NEED TO COME UP WITH
SOMETHING SO I CAN GET INSIDE THE HOUSE.



UM, ACTUALLY, YOU ARE RIGHT...
I DO HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM...

WELL, YOU KNOW...
IT'S... KIND OF A MONTHLY THING.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU CAN TELL ME.

A MONTHLY THING? I'M NOT
QUITE SURE WHAT YOU MEAN.

YOU KNOW, IT'S... SOMETHING THAT... INVOLVES CRAMPS... AND HAPPENS EVERY MONTH FOR GIRLS. IT'S, UM, RELATED TO THAT TIME OF THE MONTH....

HUH?



WHAT A DUMBASS!

OH, I GET IT NOW. I'M SORRY,
I DIDN'T GET IT EARLIER. THAT MUST BE TOUGH.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING
SOONER. I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO BAD.



OH, UM, THERE'S A BATHROOM IN THE BACKYARD IF YOU NEED IT. JUST FOLLOW THE PATH AROUND THE SIDE.

OH, SURE! NO PROBLEM. JUST FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE IT IS.

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING. YOU KNOW IT'S JUST A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE... AND I REALLY NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM RIGHT NOW.


ACTUALLY, THE BATHROOM IN THE BACKYARD IS FULL OF OTHER STUDENTS. I CHECKED SEVERAL TIMES AND IT'S STILL OCCUPIED. UM, I HATE TO ASK, BUT... COULD I MAYBE USE THE BATHROOM INSIDE YOUR HOUSE? IT'S KIND OF URGENT.



OH, NO, THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOUR TIME HERE. I CAN FIND IT MYSELF. YOU SHOULD STAY AND ENJOY THE PARTY.

FEW MINUTES LATER...





FINALLY, I'M INSIDE THE HOUSE,
BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M DOING IS EVEN
RIGHT OR WRONG. IF ANYONE FINDS OUT I'M
HERE TO STEAL A FILE, I'M IN TROUBLE.

NO, NO, WHY WOULD ANYONE SUSPECT
A SCHOOLGIRL? AND CLARA SAID THIS FILE IS REALLY
IMPORTANT TO HER. SHE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR US,
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HELP HER WITH THIS.



AH, HERE ARE THE STAIRS.

CLARA SAID THAT AFTER GOING UP
THE STAIRS, I JUST NEED TO TURN LEFT, AND
JACK'S UNCLE'S OFFICE WILL BE RIGHT THERE.

HMM, HOW DOES SHE KNOW
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE?

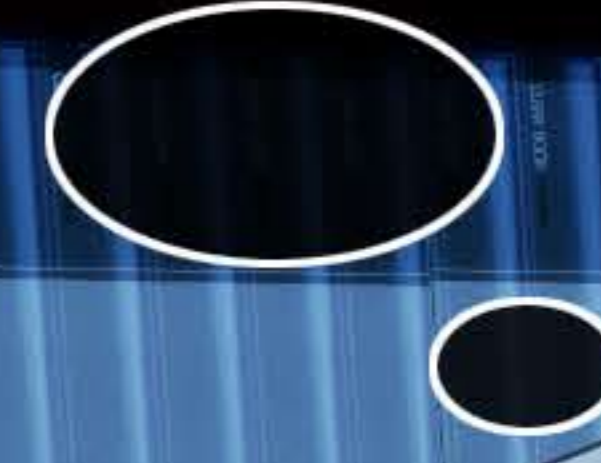


SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE AND BETTY USED TO BE VERY GOOD FRIENDS. HMM, SHE MIGHT HAVE VISITED HERE MANY TIMES BEFORE.

HERE I'M! NOW I JUST
NEED TO FIND THAT FILE.



HUH! THERE ARE FILES PILED UP EVERYWHERE! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND THAT ONE FILE IN ALL THIS MESS?





AH~ ALRIGHT, I'M ALREADY HERE NOW.
LET'S JUST START SEARCHING FROM ONE CORNER.







THUD!

THUD!



UGH, I'VE SEARCHED HALF
THE ROOM AND STILL HAVEN'T FOUND
THAT FILE.

LOOKS UP

AND STILL THERE'S A WHOLE MASSIVE
RACK OF FILES LEFT TO GO THROUGH.
THIS IS SO OVERWHELMING!

WAIT, THAT'S THE ONLY FILE WITH A RED COVER IN THIS ENTIRE ROOM. I SHOULD GO CLOSER AND TAKE A PROPER LOOK AT IT.





I CAN SEE THE COMPANY LOGO AND YEAR ON THAT FILE, JUST AS CLARA MENTIONED. THIS MUST BE THE FILE I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

YES, I FINALLY FOUND IT! BUT IT'S ON THE TOP RACK. I NEED TO FIND A CHAIR OR SOMETHING TO GET TO IT.

MEANWHILE DOWNSTAIRS...

WELL, AT LEAST THAT BITCH KEEPS JACK FROM MAKING A MESS INSIDE THE HOUSE. OTHERWISE, CLEANING UP AFTER THE PARTY WOULD BE A TOTAL NIGHTMARE.

UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE BETTY MADE ME WORK OVERTIME JUST BECAUSE OF THIS KIDS' PARTY TODAY.



HUH, WHAT'S THAT SOUND COMING FROM UPSTAIRS? I SAW JACK OUTSIDE FROM THE WINDOW JUST A MINUTE AGO, THEN WHO COULD BE UP THERE?





FLUCK, I FORGOT TO PUT MY PHONE ON SILENT.

EMMA

Remind Me

Message

Decline

HANG UP

CLEAR BOOK

CLEAR BOOK

CLEAR BOOK

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CLEAR BOOK

WHY IS SHE CALLING ME AT THIS HOUR?

UH, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW. LET'S JUST PUT THE PHONE ON SILENT.

I NEED TO QUICKLY GRAB THAT FILE AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE COMES UP.



LIGHTS ON

LIGHTS ON

SHIT!

WHO ARE YOU, AND
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?

TO BE CONTINUED...



I'M NOT A SAINT LIKE YOU WHO CAN JUST FORGET BEING INSULTED LIKE IT'S NOTHING.

DUDE, SERIOUSLY, IT'S BEEN A WEEK! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP DWELLING ON THAT SAME THING?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CLINGING TO GRUDGES? THEY JUST DRAG YOU DOWN.

I CAN'T STAY HERE MUCH LONGER.
I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO IN THE MORNING,
SO I'M OUT.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE
HAVING FUN HERE.

UH, FINE...
BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WAIT, YOU'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE
ME HERE AT THIS BORING PARTY?

FUN? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE PROPER DRINKS
IN HERE.

HMM, COULD YOU WAIT OUTSIDE?
I JUST REMEMBERED THERE'S SOMETHING
REALLY IMPORTANT I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.
I'LL BE OUT IN A BIT.

LET'S GET GOING THEN.
I'LL DROP YOU OFF ON MY WAY.

OKAY, JUST DON'T TAKE TOO LONG.



HEY BUDDY! I'VE GOT
A LITTLE FAVOR TO ASK.





SEE THAT GIRL OVER THERE? WHEN SHE COMES BACK FOR ANOTHER DRINK, MAKE SURE YOU GIVE HER THIS CUP.

WAIT, YOU MEAN TESSA? FROM THE SENIOR CLASS? MAN, SHE'S NOT SOMEONE I WANT TO MESS WITH.

COME ON, IT'S JUST A LITTLE FUN.
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WELL, IF YOU PUT IT
THAT WAY... I GUESS I'M IN.

SLIDE



OH, SO YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR THE BATHROOM?

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP





HMM, I'M STILL SURPRISED TO FIND YOU IN THAT ROOM. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR THE BATHROOM, OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?

Y-YES, THAT'S RIGHT. JACK GAVE ME DIRECTIONS, BUT THE HOUSE IS JUST SO BIG, AND I GUESS I GOT A BIT CONFUSED. UMM, I... I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE HOW I ENDED UP IN THERE.

HAHA, I'M JUST KIDDING.
FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU THE
WAY TO THE BATHROOM.

**GASP* NO... THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING ELSE. I... I WAS REALLY JUST...*





OKAY, STOP! IF WE KEEP DANCING LIKE THIS, MY LEG IS GOING TO SNAP RIGHT OFF!

BY THE WAY, I CAN'T SEE MIA ANYWHERE. WHERE DID SHE GO?

OH, SHE WENT INSIDE TO USE THE BATHROOM.

WHEW! WE CAN TAKE A BREAK. I NEED TO RECHARGE A BIT ANYWAY!



HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, ACTUALLY. SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL EITHER. WAIT, I SHOULD GO CHECK ON HER.



HOW LONG AM I SUPPOSED TO WAIT HERE?
SHE'S PROBABLY NOT COMING BACK FOR ANOTHER
DRINK. WHATEVER, I'VE ALREADY GOT THE MONEY.
BETTER TO JUST LEAVE AND GET OUT OF HERE.

HOPE SHE'S ALRIGHT. SHE'S BEEN OFF SINCE SHE GOT HERE, JUST STANDING AROUND AND DRINKING JUICE NON-STOP.

HMM, I THINK I HEARD THAT GIRLS OFTEN GET CRAVINGS DURING THOSE DAYS. MAYBE THAT'S WHY SHE'S BEEN DRINKING SO MUCH.





I SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE ANOTHER DRINK ALONG FOR HER.

I WAS SO CLOSE TO GETTING THAT FILE!
IF THAT MAID HADN'T SHOWN UP RIGHT THEN,
I WOULD'VE COMPLETED MY TASK.

GOOD THING SHE DIDN'T GET SUSPICIOUS,
OR I WOULD'VE BEEN IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
NOW I KNOW WHERE THE FILE IS. I'LL JUST HAVE
TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET IT.

MIA, HOW ARE
YOU FEELING NOW?



GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
HERE, TAKE THIS--I BROUGHT
YOU A STRAWBERRY DRINK.

OH, UM, YEAH, I'M FEELING
MUCH BETTER NOW...

I NOTICED YOU WERE JUST HAVING JUICE EARLIER, SO I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS STRAWBERRY FLAVOR TOO. GIVE IT A TRY--IT MIGHT HELP YOU FEEL EVEN BETTER.

STRAWBERRY DRINK?

OH, UM, THANKS!
I GUESS...

UHH, WHO LIKES THIS FLAVOR?

THERE SHE IS!

SIPS MMM... IS THIS REALLY STRAWBERRY?
I'M GETTING ANOTHER TASTE IN THERE TOO. I'VE
NEVER HAD MUCH OF IT BEFORE. MAYBE THIS IS
JUST HOW STRAWBERRY JUICE TASTES.

HEY GIRL! WHERE HAVE YOU
BEEN? COME OVER HERE FAST!



MEANWHILE AT HOME...

STILL NO CALL OR TEXT FROM HIM.




HLIH, WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS TIME?

DING
DONG



EMMA? YOU HERE!
I MEAN... I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO
ARRIVE AT THIS HOUR.



I THOUGHT ANDREW WOULD OPEN THE GATE SINCE HE SLEEPS IN THE LIVING ROOM. I'M SORRY I MUST HAVE DISTURBED YOUR SLEEP.



I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU AND ANDREW. I THOUGHT I'D ARRIVE BY THE AFTERNOON, BUT MY FLIGHT GOT DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE BAD WEATHER.



IT'S ALRIGHT, BUT YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING EARLIER.

WELL, I'M SURPRISED. BUT IF YOU HAD INFORMED US EARLIER, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE TOO.

ACTUALLY, SOME OF HIS SCHOOL FRIENDS ARE HAVING A HOUSE PARTY TODAY, SO HE'S THERE.

HUH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S NOT HERE... THEN WHERE IS HE?



YEAH, DIDN'T HE TELL YOU?
HAHA... ANYWAY, HE ASKED ME TO COME PICK HIM
UP AFTER THE PARTY. YOU SHOULD GO FRESHEN
UP; IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL CONTACT HIM.



SCHOOL FRIENDS?



WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
THAT? DO YOU THINK I DID SOMETHING?

I JUST GAVE HER A STRAWBERRY DRINK.
MAYBE SHE CONSUMED SOMETHING ELSE
THAT CAUSED THIS.

WE SAW YOU GIVE HER THAT DRINK,
AND SINCE THEN, SHE HASN'T
STOPPED THROWING UP.



NO, I CHECKED THE CUP, AND THE SMELL WAS OFF. IT DEFINITELY HAD SOMETHING MIXED IN. IS IT POSSIBLE ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS DARED YOU TO DO THIS?

BLUURGH

HOW CAN YOU BOTH ACCUSE ME? YOU'VE KNOWN ME FOR YEARS. ARGH... YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? JUST WAIT...



LOOK, I TOLD YOU
THERE'S NOTHING IN IT.

LET'S STOP ARGUING
AND HELP ME WITH HER HERE.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY AREN'T YOU PICKING UP YOUR PHONE?





HE-HELLO CLARA...

SHE'S RIGHT HERE...
BUT THERE'S BEEN A BIT OF
A PROBLEM.

JACK, WHERE'S MIA? I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO REACH HER, AND SHE'S NOT
ANSWERING HER PHONE.

PROBLEM?
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?



CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I... I WANT TO GO HOME...EE...

ARGH... I TOLD THAT IDIOT TO
BE CAREFUL WITH ALL THIS STUFF.

AND NOW EMMA'S HERE TOO...
IF I BRING HIM IN THAT CONDITION,
IT COULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.

CLARA? ARE YOU THERE?



ALRIGHT, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER. RIGHT NOW,
DO YOU HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE?

UH, YEAH, I DO. I JUST TURNED 18
LAST MONTH AND GOT MY LICENSE.

GOOD. NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY...



WHY AM I STRESSING ABOUT THIS SO MUCH?
HE'S PLAYING THE ROLE OF A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL,
SO OF COURSE, HE HAS TO ACT LIKE ONE. IT'S ALL
JUST PART OF THE ACT.

BUT HOW COULD HE FORGET TO WISH ME TODAY? AND HE STILL HASN'T TOLD ME WHAT SURPRISE HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. DID HE REALLY FORGET EVERYTHING?

OH, YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN A SHOWER?



I JUST CALLED HIM, AND HE SAID THEY'RE STILL DISCUSSING SOME GROUP PROJECTS FOR SCHOOL. AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE A BIT LONGER.

HUH, YOU'RE STILL HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO PICK UP ANDREW.

OH, DID YOU TELL HIM I'M HERE?



YEAH, I DID. HE GOT REALLY EXCITED AND SAID HE'D TEXT ME WHEN HE'S DONE SO I CAN GO PICK HIM UP.

HAHA, BUT YOU KNOW HIGH SCHOOL PARTIES DON'T END UNTIL THE SUN COMES UP. INSTEAD OF WAITING, WE MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME REST. IT'S ALREADY QUITE LATE.



DAMN IT, YOU RECKLESS JERK!
YOU ALMOST MADE ME CRASH!



A character with short brown hair and a black jacket is sitting in the driver's seat of a car. The car has red leather seats. The character has a distressed expression, with sweat drops on their face. A large thought bubble above their head contains text. Two smaller, empty thought bubbles are positioned above the main one. The background shows a dark, modern building at night with a white car parked nearby.

ALICE WAS RIGHT--THERE DEFINITELY WAS
SOMETHING IN THAT DRINK. ARGH., MY HEAD IS POUNDING.
AND BETTY FINDS OUT I TOOK HER CAR WITHOUT
ASKING, I'M DEAD.



BECAUSE OF ME, SHE'S IN THIS CONDITION NOW. I NEED TO GET HER TO CLARA'S AUNT'S PLACE. CLARA MENTIONED THAT EMMA IS HERE, AND IF SHE SEES MIA LIKE THIS, SHE'LL BE FURIOUS AND MIGHT NEVER LET US HANG OUT AGAIN.

HMM, EMMA DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A STRICT PERSON, BUT MAYBE SHE'S TOUGH ON HER SISTER, JUST LIKE BETTY AND KEN ARE WITH ME.

AFTER SOMETIME...





OKAY, THIS IS THE
ADDRESS CLARA SENT ME.



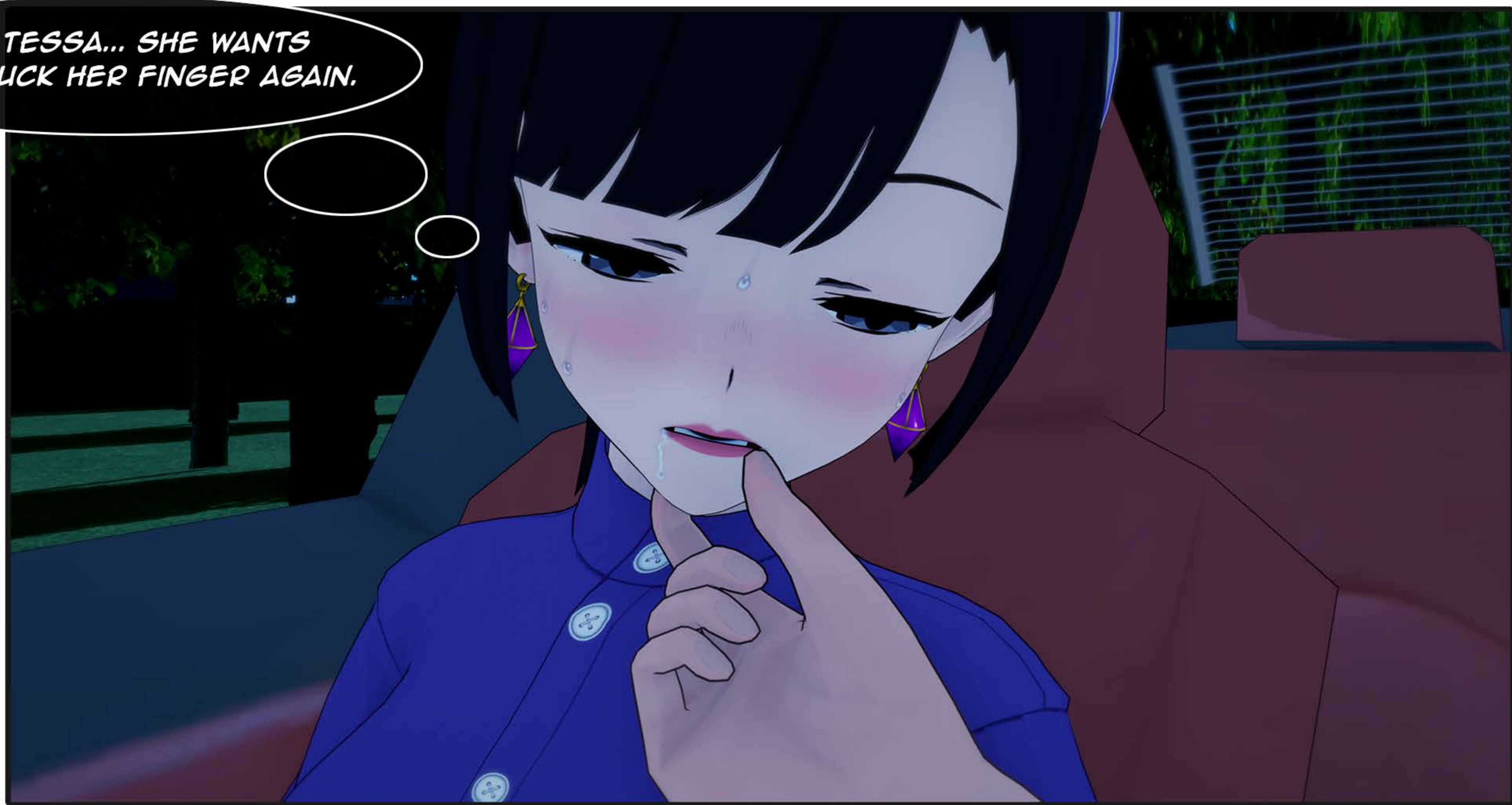
MIA, WAKE UP, WE'RE HERE...

HUH, WHAT'S ON HER FACE?





LMM, TESSA... SHE WANTS ME TO SUCK HER FINGER AGAIN.





HUH, WHAT DOES SHE IS DOING NOW?

GRAB

GRAB





KISS

WHY DOES THIS FEEL SO DIFFERENT TODAY?
SHE'S ACTING LIKE IT'S HER FIRST KISS, AND HER
LIPS FEEL SO STIFF.

KISS







DING

DONG





CLARA SAID SHE MIGHT BE A BIT GLOSSY,
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER ALL OF SUDDEN...

RUN

RUN



THIS IS NOT REAL,
THIS IS NOT REAL...

WHY DID I ALLOW MYSELF TO KISS ANOTHER MAN?
HOW DID I GET IN HIS CAR? WHY DID HE DROP ME OFF HERE?
WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER ANYTHING? YEAH, THIS ISN'T REAL.
IT'S JUST A DREAM.



THIS IS JUST A DREAMM...

TO BE CONTINUED...