

AFTER A WHILE...



GLANCING



HE LOOKS... LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

WHY CAN'T I BELIEVE MY EYES?
ALL THESE CHANGES... ARE THESE REALLY POSSIBLE JUST FROM THOSE HORMONES?

EMMA?!



HUH? WHAT?
YOU SAID SOMETHING?

NO... NOTHING'S WRONG...
I... I WAS JUST--

YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD
SINCE WE MET! WHAT HAPPENED?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

DON'T WORRY,
SHE'S JUST TIRED.



ACTUALLY, SHE JUST ARRIVED
AN HOUR AGO AND THEN CAME STRAIGHT
HERE WITH ME TO PICK YOU.

OH, THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE
BROUGHT HER? SHE SHOULD'VE
RESTED AT HOME.

HAHA! I TOLD HER THAT,
BUT SHE DIDN'T LISTEN.



IT'S ALRIGHT, I'M NOT TIRED,
JUST HAVE A SLIGHT HEADACHE FROM
ALL THE TRAVELING... THAT'S IT.

I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A
NAP FIRST WHEN WE GET HOME. OH, AND
YOU KNOW, MIA MAKES REALLY DELICIOUS
SOUP--IT'LL DEFINITELY HELP YOU
FEEL BETTER!

AFTER A WHILE...



HEY, CALM DOWN...
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS
ALL OF A SUDDEN?

DIDN'T YOU GUYS DO VIDEO CALLS? YOU MUST HAVE ALREADY NOTICED THESE CHANGES.

EXTREME? COME ON! SHE JUST LOOKS LIKE ANY OTHER GIRL IN HER CLASS NOW! ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHAT WE WANTED, SO SHE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE PASSING AS A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?

HOW CAN I CALM DOWN? OH GOD, WHAT HAVE WE DONE... IT'S MY MISTAKE... I SHOULD'VE NEVER AGREED TO THIS!

I DID NOTICE... BUT IT'S DIFFERENT ON CALLS. AND I DIDN'T THINK THE CHANGES WOULD BE THIS EXTREME.

I'M WORRIED... IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO REVERSE ALL THESE CHANGES AND GET HIS BODY BACK TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE?



FTM? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

UH, I DON'T KNOW... I'M JUST REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM. I CAN'T LET HIM SUFFER LIKE THIS ANYMORE. HOW DOES HE HANDLE BEING AROUND THOSE KIDS AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY? AND NOW YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL TERM?

OH, SO THAT'S THE REASON... YOU'RE WORRYING OVER NOTHING. DON'T YOU REMEMBER DR. WILSON ASSURED US THAT THIS IS REVERSIBLE? I'VE BEEN CHECKING IN WITH HER REGULARLY, TOO!

AND YOU KNOW, WHEN I HAD THE SAME CONCERNS, SHE SHOWED ME SOME FTM RESULT PICTURES. I WAS HONESTLY SO SHOCKED AT HOW MUCH MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS ADVANCED TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

IT'S SHORT FOR 'FEMALE TO MALE.' SHE SHOWED ME SOME PICTURES OF ONE OF HER PATIENTS, BEFORE AND AFTER THEIR TRANSITION. I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THE MUSCULAR, ATHLETIC PERSON IN THE PICTURE WAS ONCE A BIOLOGICAL GIRL. SO, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE, HOW COULD IT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANDREW?

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE NOT WRONG... BUT...

THAT GIRL? IS SHE REALLY HIS FRIEND?
HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HER...

BUT WHY? I-I'M HIS GIRLFRIEND,
AND LIKE YOU TOLD ME EARLIER,
I EVEN TRY TO TREAT HIM LIKE MIA...
SOMETIMES.... I GUESS.

WHY DO YOU FEEL LIKE SHE'S HAVING
PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL? DIDN'T YOU SEE
HOW SHE WAS HOLDING HANDS AND
GIGGLING WITH HER FRIEND?


MAYBE SHE STILL FINDS IT
EMBARRASSING TO TALK TO YOU
ABOUT ALL THIS STUFFS.

WELL, THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE. YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE I STARTED TREATING HER LIKE A SISTER, SHE'S BEEN OPENING UP TO ME WAY MORE THAN TO YOU. WHY DON'T YOU TRY DOING THAT TOO? HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED HOW YOU TWO HAVE BEEN TALKING LESS AND LESS ALL THESE PAST MONTHS...

I CANT BLAME HER FOR THAT. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ANDREW'S GIRLFRIEND, YOU'RE STILL NOT THAT CLOSE TO MIA. YOU GET WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT?

UH, YEAH, AND WHENEVER I TRIED TO HAVE A DEEPER CONVERSATION OR ASK ABOUT SCHOOL, HE MOSTLY JUST IGNORED ME AND HUNG UP WITH SOME EXCUSE.

THEN WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? WE'RE ALREADY SO DISTANT BECAUSE OF MY JOB, AND NOW AGAIN FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE ANY LEAVE TO COME BACK HERE.

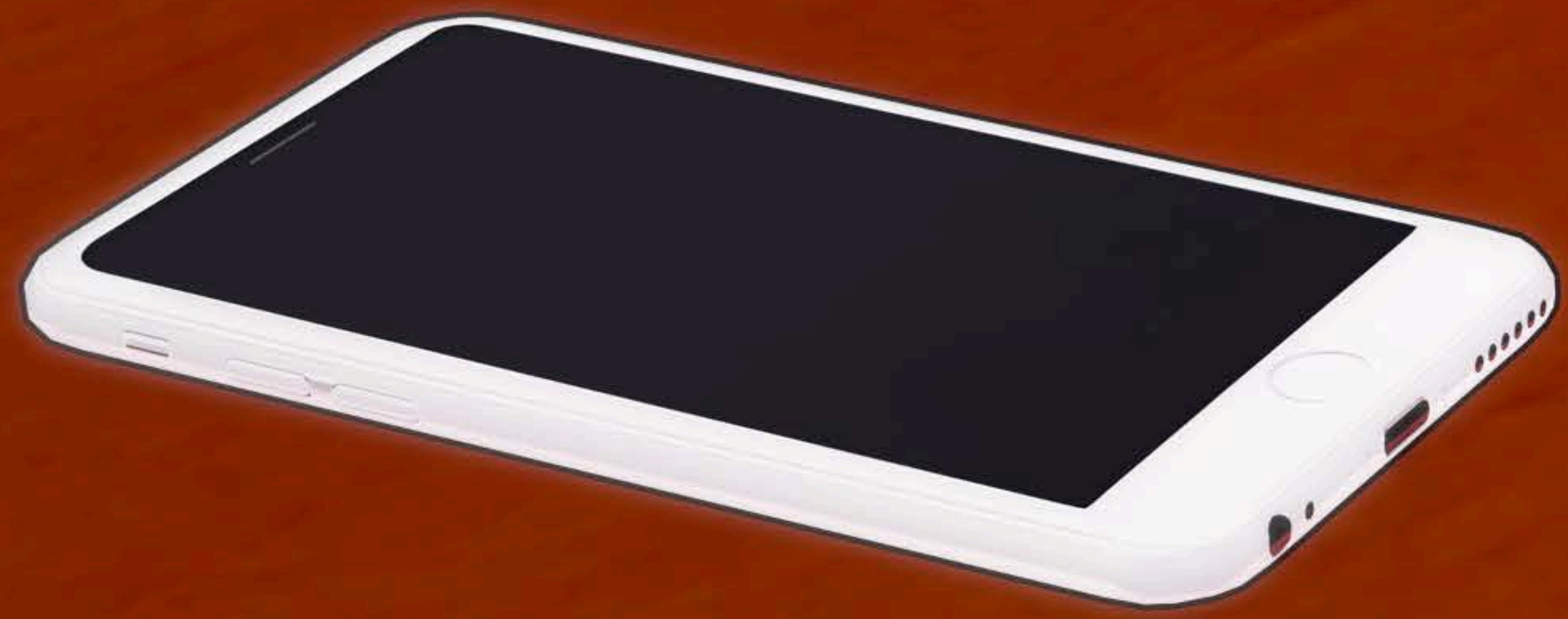


HMM, YOU'RE STAYING HERE FOR
A WEEK, RIGHT?

HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU SOME TIPS
TO TRY? IF YOU KEEP TREATING HER LIKE
THAT WHILE YOU'RE HERE, MAYBE SHE'LL START
FEELING MORE COMFORTABLE WITH YOU AS MIA
AND OPEN UP ABOUT HER CURRENT LIFE.

HAHA, YOU KNOW, AFTER SCHOOL,
SHE'S ALWAYS TELLING ME ABOUT ALL THE
CRAZY STUFF THAT GOES ON WITH THE OTHER
STUDENTS. I BET SHE ALSO WANTS TO SHARE
A TON OF SCHOOL GOSSIP WITH YOU TOO!

FUCK, OBVIOUSLY,
SHE SAW ALICE HOLDING MY HANDS.



HOPE SHE DOESN'T
GET ANY WRONG IDEA.

UM, OR... I SHOULD PROBABLY
JUST EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO HER SO
THERE'S NO MISUNDERSTANDING.

BUZZZZ...

BUZZZ...



A SONG...



HMM, LET'S CHECK THIS OUT.

I SEE THE WAY YOUR EYES LIGHT
UP WHEN YOU SMILE ♪

IT'S LIKE THE WORLD JUST STOPS
FOR A LITTLE WHILE ♪

EVERY LAUGH, EVERY TOUCH, IT'S
A SPARK I CAN'T IGNORE ♪

YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR, THE ONE I ADORE ♪

AND I DON'T NEED THE STARS,
I DON'T NEED THE MOON ♪

I JUST NEED TO BE RIGHT HERE
WITH YOU ♪

THIS SONG! ISN'T IT "MY WORLD
BEGINS WITH YOU" BY J DREAMERS? THE ONE
WHOSE LYRICS LEAKED ONLINE... THEY LATER
ANNOUNCED THEY WOULDN'T RELEASE IT.
AND NOW, IT'S FINALLY HERE...

I REMEMBER READING THESE
LYRICS WHEN THEY FIRST LEAKED...

UM, LET'S SEE IF I STILL
REMEMBER THEM.

HEEERM!

*YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING, MY
HEART, MY HOME ♪*

WITH YOU, I'VE NEVER FELT ALONE ♪

EVERY MOMENT FEELS SO TRUE ♪

*MY WORLD BEGINS AND ENDS
WITH YOU ♪*

*THE WAY YOU SAY MY NAME,
IT'S A MELODY ♪*

*A LITTLE SONG THAT KEEPS
REPLAYING INSIDE OF ME ♪*

*EVERY STEP WE TAKE, IT'S A
DANCE I WANT TO STAY IN ♪*

*WITH YOU, IT FEELS LIKE MY
LIFE'S JUST BEGINNING ♪*



*YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING, MY
HEART, MY... HOME ♪*

WITH YOU, UM NEVER FELT ALONE ♪

EVERY MOMENT FEELS... SO...

*MY WORLD BEGINS AND ENDS
WITH YOU ♪*

*THE WAY YOU SAY MY NAME,
IT'S A... MELODY*

*A LITTLE... THAT KEEPS ME
NO... REPLAYING INSIDE OF ME ♪*

*EVERY STEP I... WE TAKE, IT'S A
DANCE WE WANT TO STAY IN ♪*

*WITH YOU, IT FEELS LIKE OUR...
UH, MY LIFE'S JUST B-BEGINNING*

AND I DON'T NEED THE S-STARS,
I DON'T NEED THE... MOON

I JUST NEED TO BE RIGHT THERE
UH... HERE WITH YOU ♪

YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING, MY
HOME... HEART, MY HOME ♪

WITH YOU, I'VE NEVER FELT...

UGH, I THOUGHT I REMEMBER THE
LYRICS... BUT I KEEP FORGETTING.


WHOA, MIA! NOT A BAD TRY...
YOU JUST NEED TO LISTEN THE
LYRICS PROPERLY.

YOU'RE UP ALREADY? I THOUGHT YOU WENT TO TAKE A NAP... HOW'S YOUR HEADACHE NOW?

UM, ARE YOU SURE? I THINK YOU SHOULD REALLY REST A BIT.

DON'T WORRY, MY HEADACHE'S GONE NOW! THE SOUP YOU MADE WAS SO YUMMY AND WORKED WONDERS!

COME ON, I TOLD YOU... I'M FINE NOW! DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME, OR DO YOU JUST NOT WANT ME LISTENING TO YOU SING?



HAHA, YEAH, I REMEMBER--
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A BATHROOM SINGER!
WHENEVER YOU'D SING IN THE SHOWER, IT
SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE SCREAMING, SO
I'D HAVE TO SHUSH YOU.

BUT NOW, WITH YOUR NEW VOICE,
YOU ACTUALLY SOUND PRETTY GREAT,
EVEN IF YOU'RE MESSING UP THE
LYRICS!

WHAT? HAHA, DON'T TWIST MY
WORDS! HOW COULD I HATE YOUR
VOICE? IT'S JUST... A LITTLE, EXTRA
LOUD SOMETIMES!

NO, IT'S NOT THAT... BUT YOU
NEVER SEEMED TO LIKE WHEN
I SING.

UH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
HATED MY VOICE THIS MUCH.

*SHE WAS ACTING OFF A WHILE AGO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER ALL OF A SUDDEN?*

*MAYBE IT REALLY WAS BECAUSE OF
HER HEADACHE. SHE SEEMS TO BE IN A
GOOD MOOD NOW, I SHOULD PROBABLY
TALK TO HER ABOUT IT.*

*BY THE WAY, EMMA, I WANT TO CLEAR
UP WHAT YOU SAW AT SCHOOL. THAT GIRL...
THE ONE YOU SAW WITH ME... WAS...*

*UM, Y-YES, BUT ONLY AT SCHOOL.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR ME.*

*SEEMS LIKE SHE'S YOUR FRIEND,
RIGHT?*

*THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA. IT'S NICE
TO SEE YOU'VE MADE SOME FEMALE
FRIENDS AT SCHOOL!*

YOU'RE NOT ANGRY THAT I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THIS BEFORE?


HUH, DID SHE JUST CALL ME A GIRL... AND HOW IS SHE ACTING SO CHILL ABOUT IT ALL?

SHE WAS CHECKING MY NAILS... AND, UM, THEN OFFERED TO DO THEM FOR ME, BUT I QUICKLY SAID NO.

UH-OH, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO.

WHY WOULD I BE? YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING, JUST SHARE WHAT YOU'RE COMFORTABLE WITH. UMM, BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT YOU GIRLS WERE REALLY TALKING ABOUT.

OH, I JUST NOTICED YOUR NAILS ARE GETTING PRETTY LONG! WANT ME TO DO THEM FOR YOU? HOPE YOU WON'T SAY NO TO ME!



I SAID I'D DO YOUR NAILS!
CUTTING IS PART OF IT, BUT THIS LENGTH
LOOKS PRETTY GOOD. BY THE WAY, DO
YOU LIKE THIS COLOR?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE
JUST GOING TO CUT THEM.

UM, YEAH, IT LOOKS KINDA GOOD, I GUESS.

OH, A FRENCH MANICURE...

YOU KNOW, THIS STYLE IS CALLED A FRENCH MANICURE. IT'S A CLASSIC LOOK--USUALLY, THE TIPS OF YOUR NAILS ARE PAINTED WHITE, AND THE REST IS A NEUTRAL SHADE.



NOT GONNA LIE, THIS STUFF LOOKS SO PRETTY ON OTHER GIRLS, BUT IT FEELS SO WEIRD TO TRY IT MYSELF.

THANKS FOR THE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE. BUT IN A MONTH OR TWO, IT'S ALL GOING TO THE RECYCLE BIN ANYWAY, ISN'T IT?

A-ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...



SORRY... I WAS SO EXCITED AT THE TIME AND DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT THROUGH BEFORE TELLING YOU.

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER THAN WHAT I SAID EARLIER.

WELL, I THINK...



OH, IT'S ALRIGHT. EVEN IF IT TAKES ONE MORE EXTRA MONTH, DON'T STRESS SO MUCH!

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO FINISH THE WHOLE SCHOOL TERM. RIGHT?

IF YOU, UH, MANAGE TO GET THROUGH
THE WHOLE TERM, IT COULD... ACTUALLY BE
BETTER FOR US.

WHAT... BUT WHY? DIDN'T YOU SAY
YOU'D HAVE ENOUGH SAVINGS TO PAY
OFF MY DEBT? THEN WHY DO I NEED
TO CONTINUE SCHOOL?


YES, BUT IT'S NOT JUST
ABOUT PAYING OFF YOUR DEBT...



OBVIOUSLY, BY NEXT MONTH, WE'LL
HAVE ENOUGH SAVINGS TO PAY THAT OFF.

BUT THE ISSUE IS THAT MY COMPANY
DOES REGULAR CHECKS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE
ATTENDING SCHOOL. IF YOU SUDDENLY STOP
GOING, THEY'LL INVESTIGATE, AND WE COULD
END UP IN A LOT OF TROUBLE AGAIN.

WE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE ANYTHING
LEFT TO SETTLE SOMEWHERE ELSE AFTER
PAYING OFF THE DEBT. PLUS, FINDING A JOB WITH
THE SAME PAY, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT ENOUGH
EXPERIENCE, WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.



LOOK, WE'VE ALREADY PUT OURSELVES THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE, BUT NOW WE NEED TO ACT WISELY. AND YOU'VE ALREADY MADE IT THROUGH THE MIDTERM, COMPLETING THE REST OF THE TERM SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT, RIGHT?

LATER AT NIGHT...

HMM, YEAH, IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT... THIS TIME WILL PASS QUICKLY AS WELL.

EMMA'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING SHE SAID. DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T THINK OF ANY OF THAT. IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN SO CAUGHT UP IN GETTING OUT OF THE PRESENT INSTEAD OF THINKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

OKAY, ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. IT'S BEEN MORE THAN SIX MONTHS SINCE WE LAST MET. I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THIS TIME.



MAYBE TOMORROW, I'LL JUST SKIP SCHOOL AND TAKE HER OUT TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME TOGETHER.



ARE YOU AWAKE?

HUH?

WHAT HAPPENED?

I KNEW YOU'D HAVE A PROBLEM,
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO SLEEP
WITH CLARA.

SORRY, I CAN'T SLEEP... THIS
BED IS WAY TOO UNCOMFORTABLE.

I JUST WANTED TO BESIDE YOU...

I CAN'T TELL HER I DON'T SLEEP
HERE BUT WITH CLARA IN THE SAME BED.

HAHA, I-I'VE JUST
GOTTEN USED TO IT.

OKAY, I'LL... YOU SEEM REALLY
TIRED. WHY DON'T YOU GO SLEEP
WITH CLARA?

BUT SERIOUSLY, HOW DO
YOU MANAGE TO SLEEP ON
THIS EVERY DAY?

THAT'S NOT GOOD... LISTEN,
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME EXTRA POCKET
MONEY THIS MONTH, SO PLEASE GET
YOURSELF A BETTER MATTRESS WITH
PROPER CUSHIONING!

NO, I DON'T WANT TO... AND YOU
KNOW, I'M NOT REALLY TIRED. SO...



HOW ABOUT A LITTLE WORKOUT BEFORE SLEEP?

SLIDE

GRAB



GULP

WHY HAVEN'T YOU TAKEN
YOUR CLOTHES OFF YET...?

J-JUST GIVE ME A SECOND.

SHOULD I JUST MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE, LIKE I'M NOT IN THE MOOD OR SOMETHING? UGH, NO... SHE'D FEEL BAD.

I WANT TO DO IT TOO, BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET HARD...

COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

UHM, MAYBE I SHOULD DO IT WITH MY MOUTH AGAIN... SHE REALLY LOVED IT LAST TIME.

IS HE GOING TO
USE HIS MOUTH FIRST?







LICK

LICK

AHH

OHHH

YESSS

FASTER YESS!

ARGH... I CAN'T KEEP MOVING MY TONGUE THIS FAST FOR MUCH LONGER.

LICK *LICK*

MMM, BABE! PLEASE DON'T SLOW DOWN... KEEP MOVING YOUR TONGUE FASTERRR...



FUCK, THAT'S IT.
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE...

WHAT... SHE WANTS MORE...
UH, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

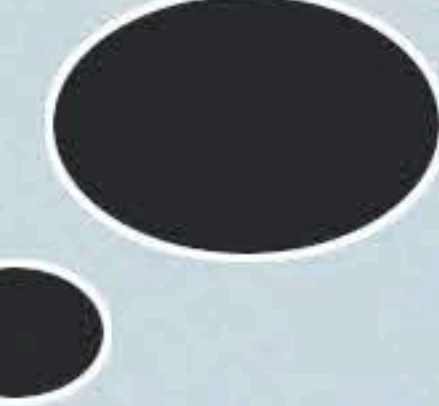
WHY DID YOU STOP?
ARE YOU GOING TO PUT IT IN NOW?

HUFF

HUFF



HMM, I GUESS SHE
MIGHT LIKE IT AS WELL...





HUH... WHAT IS HE...




WHHAA... TAKE IT OUT!



WHAT WERE YOU DOING? YOU
KNOW THAT'S THE WRONG HOLE...

I THOUGHT YOU'LL... UM,
NOTHING, I'M SORRY. IF YOU WANT,
I CAN CONTINUE WITH MY MOUTH...

IT'S OKAY... JUST LEAVE IT.
LET'S JUST GO TO SLEEP...



THAT'S WEIRD. HE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE... THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING GOING ON, BUT I KNOW HE'S NOT GOING TO TELL ME, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I ASK.

MAYBE CLARA'S RIGHT... IF I FOLLOW ALL THOSE TIPS SHE GAVE ME, HE MIGHT START FEELING COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO SHARE EVERYTHING WITH ME.

TO BE CONTINUED...