

THE INTERN

VOLUME 2: WINTER



STORY & ART BY
JACKALOO

18+
CONTAINS SEXUAL
THEMES AND
STRONG LANGUAGE





You have a nice voice... Do you sing?

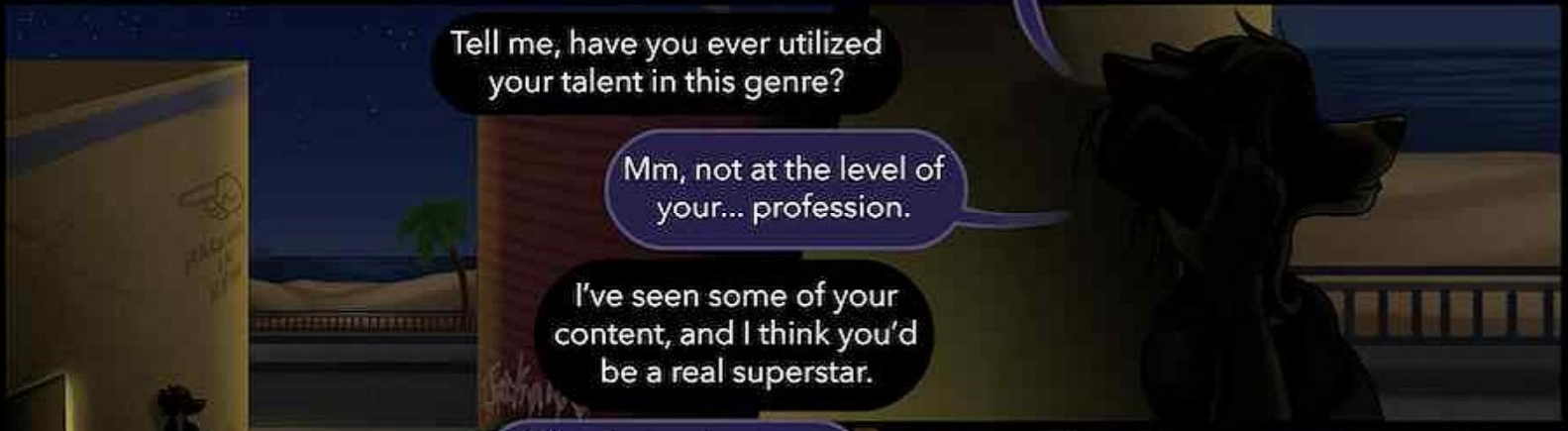
Only if you make me, baby.

Heheh, we'll see about that...
So, you read my email then?

Yes, I did. You have quite an empire you're building...

A real booming industry, and you could be a part of it.

It is... quite an offer.



Tell me, have you ever utilized your talent in this genre?

Mm, not at the level of your... profession.

I've seen some of your content, and I think you'd be a real superstar.

Oh, what a charmer...
Do you really think so?



Heh, until then...

Yes.
Goodnight, sir.

Goodnight.

I know so. Why don't ya come by the office and we can discuss things further?



Sounds lovely.
Where can I find you, handsome?

I'll email you the time and place.
Wear something... flattering.

Just for you...

Now, where were we?

HAPPY NEW YEAR!





Wh- you do? Wait, what?



Yeah...
Whew, slow down a little bit, Sunshine!



Saw you down that last one. You've already had a few, so be careful, alright?

Mmh.



Great turnout this year, Chels.

Right? Everyone came home for the holidays this time!

How's it going over here though? You guys good?



Yeah, totally! We were just... talking.

Yeah.

Oh, awesome!

Haaayyy girl!

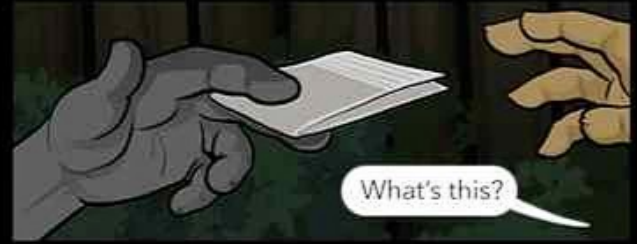
Aah, hey!!



I gotta go do hosting crap, but we'll catch up! If you guys wanna get away from the crowds for a bit and chill, no one is in the backyard.

Yeah, absolutely! Go host!

Be good, Coop!









Kssh... think!

work...



What the fuck...

Ed!



Wait, I think I heard som-



WHAT THE FUCK?!



No. No! Shit!



Are you fucking serious?!

And at my own party? REALLY?!

Chelsea, I-

I'm so sorry!! It wasn't-



DON'T YOU FUCKING TOUCH ME!

SHOVE!

OOOF!



So...

Are you sober enough yet to talk about this?

No.

You big
bullshitter.

You know what? I've been simmering long enough, so I'm just gonna start! Do you think any of this is okay? Spending all those years acting like a total douche bag to me on and off, and suddenly you just decide to kiss me? Like that makes everything different? News flash, Coop, you're still the same person!

Hey, whatever happened to "I wanna move on" stuff?!

I do! God, I try so hard with you, Coop. I put up with you when I have every reason to walk away. I don't even get an apology for anything you do! Even now!

Wh- I tried! And in case you've forgotten, you kissed back!

AND I WISH I DIDN'T!

Oh.

...I mean...

BOOM!
BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!
BOOM!

Wow. Midnight already?

Guess so... What a way to ring in the new year.

Well... at least it can only go up from here.

Wanna bet?

Har, har.

Happy New Year, jerk...

... Happy New Year, Dee.

Come on. Just one more block...



Wow, lucky that you still hide Froggie.

Ugh, yes, now back off. You smell like a skunk. You're taking a shower as soon as we get in.



I have an unopened toothbrush you can use and I'll find you some clothes.

They might be a little short on you, but you're just gonna have to deal.



Hm.

Alright? ...What is it?



Nothing, it's just... all that stuff you said about me, everything... y'know, that I've done. Why are you still helping me?



Haven't I always? I guess even in the midst of pure bullshit, I still have that impulse.



... Yeah.

I'm done over-thinking tonight though. Just hop in and get clean. I'll be right back.







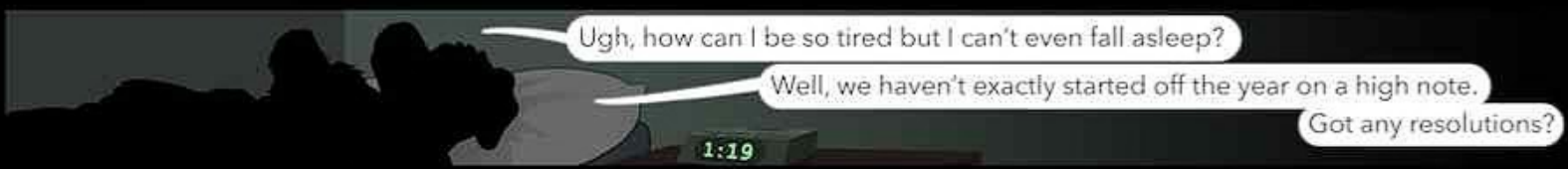
I know this might sound crazy, but... you can sleep in here if you want.



I mean, it's not like we've never shared a bed before and it's way more comfy.



Heh, you're crazy... but alright.



Ugh, how can I be so tired but I can't even fall asleep?

Well, we haven't exactly started off the year on a high note.

Got any resolutions?



Uh... Drink less, smoke more?

It's a start, I suppose.

Whatever. You?

Well, it was gonna be something about more exercise, but now I'm thinking I better shift my priorities...

To what?

Being a better friend?

Meh. You're fine.

No, Coop... not after the party...

Man, I thought we were done talking about that tonight...

Sorry, yeah, we are...



I do have one question though... can you at least clear the air for me about when you grabbed me at the Career Fair? I know it feels like a long time ago, but...

...that was the first time you ever did that to me. Out of all the other ways you've messed with me over the years, why did you do that?



Sigh...I took a fat hit before the event because I was nervous... and thought in my high mind that it'd be funny to play gay chicken with you, or some shit...

But I never meant to, well, I didn't think-- Fuck. What I'm trying to say is...







Okay, that does it.



Gosh, he smells so much better now... even with a bit of lingering musk.





Hah...
Hah...



Uh, I... I'm not sure if I...



You don't have to do anything back... I know this went... really fast, and you're probably tired.



Whew.

So... you got any tissues or something in here?



Oh! I just ran out of the box, but luckily...



Ta-da!



EW!

I DIDN'T USE IT! I keep a clean one under my pillow when I don't feel like getting up after!









Hey...



Coop?
You in here?

Oh! My keys!
and...



"Dee, sorry I left. Got your keys.

Do not contact me, I don't want to talk right now"?!
"



OH SURE! RUN,
COOPER! JUST
LIKE YOU ALWAYS
DO! UGH!!

GREAT JOB IF
THIS IS YOUR
WAY OF "FIXING
THINGS"!

COWARD!!



"uhh"



-Sigh



No... I really
shouldn't be
surprised.

But...

What do I do now...?





Oh, I can push it more...



But the real question, sir...



... is how far you want to pull me...





Ah!

That's enough. Now that I know you have the nerve to take it where I want you to, my decision is that much easier.

Oh? Does that mean...?

It sure does, cutie.



You're a real talent. Welcome to the Rail family, River.

I'll set you up with a time slot during rehearsal mornings.

Oh! Thank you, sir. I look forward to it...

Good...

THREE WEEKS LATER



I've told you time and time again, you need to start knocking! Quit startling me when I have all this work to do!

Damn! I'm sorry, okay?! Yeesh!!



I'm just gonna leave the material samples here. I would have given them to Andy, but I dunno where-

Getting coffee. That'll do, Charlie, thank you.

Aight.





That was crazy! A few more seconds and you could have been walked in on mid-nut! Haha!

No more under-the-desk surprises, okay? This needs to be a little more planned. Shit, that could have been so bad...



Well, the surprise has passed. Now how about I just take care of the rest of that?

No, that's enough for today. You know how much we need to get done this week, and Kate's on vacation.

Mmhm...

Gah, where is that nut??



Another time, please. We are really backed up here-

Who cares? You're the boss, make someone else do the work...

I extended your internship to cover Heidi's maternity leave, not for more romping around. Can't you see I need your help?

Oh, I know how I can help you...



ANDY. STOP. You're not listening to me.

Your work-play balance has tanked this quarter. What's gotten into you?



Alright, alright. You're not interested, I get it. Sorry...

That's not it! I just- Look, is there something on your mind? Something we need to talk about?



Well, actually... No, that's okay. Here. Sorry, I'll focus more. I promise.

Are you sure?

Yeah...

... And then he got back to work, but these last couple of days have been a bit awkward. I mean, he's doing what I ask now, but there's still something off. Something must have happened over the holidays.



You should'a let him go last quarter. Quit while you were ahead.

Yeah, probably... but we are understaffed right now, and he is a good worker when he applies himself.

Do ya think he might have caught romantic feelings?

No, I don't think that's it. He hasn't behaved differently toward me till I had to put my foot down.

Well, what'd you expect with fraternizing with children?

He's 25, thank you.



Heheh, poor Wally. If your little boy is getting to be too much for you, why don't you send him my way? I'm looking for management help at Rail, and wouldn't mind the benefits you got goin' on either...



Oh, god. Why do I hang out with any of you? Fuckin' sleaze bags...

Ha! Andy at Rail? That's definitely not his style. Sorry, Fletcher.

Hey, ya never know.

Aw, even me?

Extra help though, eh? Working on something new maybe? Hopefully?

Not you, Noah. Just these creeps.

Don't worry about it. I got my employees scouting for me anyway...

MEANWHILE...

Wow. So how did it go after the whole... kiss thing?

It was really weird. He came back at like the ass-crack of dawn the next morning for his and Andy's keys. Obviously, I let him have them, but I was really hungover and still mad so I just gave them to him and shut the door.

I wasn't ready to deal with anything yet. I bet Andy is the one that made Cooper go get them from me. There's no way he would have gone back on his own.

So it's definitely over then?

At this point, I don't even know if it ever began in the first place.

I mean, I never met him in the four-ish months that you guys were going out except for at the party. Is that why you didn't bring him around? Thought he wouldn't last?

No, not for that reason.

That's cute.

Yeah, it is.

He just never wanted to go out. He changed when we started to be more than friends. It's like an emotional wall went up when it was supposed to come down.

Yeah, that's kinda weird.

I wish I could say it was unexpected, but now that I'm looking back, I feel like an idiot.

You're not an idiot. How could you have known? You said he didn't give any hints that he was gay.

That's the thing though, I really don't think he is... Like, if anything, he might be bi. When we first started banging, he was all for it. Looking back now though... his happiness went downhill around the same time that Andy started messing around with someone.

I just... I feel like it would have been different if it wasn't Andy. I dunno, is it weird that Andy's part in the whole thing hurt more? Like, how long had one of my best friends been lying to me?

No, you have every right to be upset.
Your boys really betrayed you.

I just didn't peg Andy
as that type of friend...

Thanks

The important thing is that we can't have you falling into a slump,
especially on your birthday! Tonight's gonna be awesome, trust me.

Ugh. I'm trying not to
slump, but the whole
thing really fucking
sucked... and since
hours have been down
at Chip, I've had way
too much time to
brood and sulk.

Is this too
bright? I like
the shape,
though...

Oh! How about this? My boss is looking for a
management intern to help out while he works on
other projects. You're a strong, savvy businesswoman.
You should apply for it! It'll get your mind off things
and you'd get to meet SO many cute guys.

Oh god, with the crazy
hours you work? Sorry Jenn,
but no thanks. I'm trying for
that entry level position at
Channel Four, remember?

Come oooooonnn, we could
work together! It'd be so
much fun! You'd be my sexy
boss lady for a while.

Gee, as enticing as
your opportunity
sounds, I think I'm
good. I'd rather go
to a club to have
fun, not work.

Heh, fair enough.

You sure you don't
need any internship
experience though?
I've made some
pretty decent
connections there.

Ooh, these
aren't bad
actually!

Sigh No, but...
I know somebody
who does.

If you wanna give me
his contact info for
the job, I could see
if they want it.

Yeah, I can
give you his
number.

Thanks...

TWO DAYS LATER



Hello, hello! Welcome to this week's episode of Dog-Dayz! A Podcast dedicated to motivation and encouragement for your daily life!

I'm your host, Courtney!

And I'm your co-host, Jason!



Alright, we like to kick things off with a fan request for one of our topics. This week, we have a request from a fan who chooses to remain anonymous. This individual wrote to us asking for us to cover the concept of recovery.

Ooh!

The listener says he can't seem to stop making mistakes in his life and that it's destroying his relationships. He goes on to talk a little about thinking he may be coping via substance abuse and he's worried about his future.

Oh, dear.

Yeah, that's a very tempting mechanism when times get hard. I would know.



How old is he?

Uh, let's see... mid twenties.

Ah, yeah. That can be a very tumultuous time.

Boy, do I hear that. Felt like nobody teaches you the real important things to prepare for.

Right? Luckily though, it's also a great time for positive change and really taking charge of how you want to set the stage for your adult life.

That's very true! Any suggestions off the top of your head?





Well, the first thing that comes to mind is to stop and take a breather.

I'm no real expert, but it's a whole lot easier to handle the craziness of adult life when you have a support system, so let's talk about the healing process a bit.

It's good to acknowledge your mistakes, but how you move forward is just as important. Remember that your loved ones aren't obligated to forgive you, either.

Aw, who has time for that?

Haha! But in all seriousness, let me start with the problem at hand, which seems to be these failing relationships.



Exactly! You wanna be better for the people you love no matter what? It's been a long standing statement that change must start from someone WANTING to change.

Yes! Hold on to this! Work out! Try something new!

Do whatever you need to do to put yourself in the mindset of "I am growing, I am changing. I am becoming the best version of myself not just for my loved ones, but for myself too".



Listen, this is just a chapter in your life. It's not your life's entire story.

Listen to the inner voice that wants to write a better next chapter for you.



It won't let you down.

RIPPING!
RIPPING!





I mean... I guess so.
What do I have to do?

Just give the guy a call and tell him you're
calling about the intern opportunity.
I'll text you all the info.

Okay.



I know I could have just
texted you all this in the
first place, but... I didn't
wanna be a coward and
avoid speaking to you.

Yeah, that's fair...
I understand.

... Look, I know we
need to have a
conversation about
everything that
happened so that this
is... less awkward, but
it can wait. Just look
into the job and go
from there.



... Did you... talk to
Andy already?

No, I haven't spoken
to him since... Wait,
wouldn't you know that?



I haven't seen him
since New Years.

What? You haven't??
I thought you guys were-



Actually, never mind.
It's none of my
business anymore.
I gotta go to work,
so I'll talk to you
later, Coop.

Oh.
Okay...



Good luck with
everything.

You too,
Chels.



'Ey! You must be Cooper!

I'm Fletcher, the guy from the phone. Welcome to your first night.

Damn son, you're not half bad looking! Better than how you sounded on the phone! Haha!

Uh, thanks?

Come on, I'll give you the grand tour.

Alright, listen up. Basically, you'll be taking over my usual job while I work on... development projects. Lights down at seven-thirty, doors open at eight.

Performers get a half-hour to warm-up on stage after light check.

Get these bitches on and off stage, *on time*, before and during open hours.

And **don't** put up with no diva shit.

Don't be afraid to be a prick if anyone gives you lip.

So, what kinda shows do you do, anyway? I've never actually heard of this place...

You've been missing out then! Burlesque, drag, go-go... depends on the time of the year. Always a lotta hot babes though, as you can see.

They need more time, they can fuckin' practice in the alley for all I care.

Yeah, really...

So! Wednesday through Sunday are the nights you'll be needed.

Mondays and Tuesdays are now closed for private parties...

Alright, I'll try to adjust my schedule. How many hours we talking?

Eh, somewhere between thirty to forty. Give'er take.

Woah. Isn't that practically full time? I mean, I'm getting paid for this, right?

...This is an *internship*. A learning experience. We can talk about pay after you've proven to me that you're competent enough to work here.

Dude, no, I got rent to pay. This would be cutting into my hours at my other job, and I still have two more semesters of school to-

So take a semester off! Coop, my man, this is a lifetime opportunity and I wanna help you be successful.

Uhh-

mimph

Tell-

You could grow into becoming a Talent Agent someday! A Producer! Somebody who doesn't need to scrape by delivering pizzas with a useless degree...

Through *this*? You think so?

Kid, I've been in the industry long enough to know that connections are what matter the most.

I don't want you to lose out on a position that never opens up like this...

If you're waiting for a sign from the universe to change your life, this is it.

Whaddaya say?

Okay. Let's do this.

"OMG!"

Smart boy. Head backstage where Tech will get you one of our shirts and teach you about calling times!

ONE HOUR LATER

Bim-Tss!
Bim-Tss!

Got the first big night jitters?

Oh my god, totally.

It's fine, it looks like a pretty young crowd so far... Hey, you heard them call five, right?

...No?

Yo, they did that like three minutes ago. We're almost on.

SERIOUSLY?



Ah, fuck! My boa is back in the green room!

Sorry!! I need it for my routine!

Riv, no!
The Bay Jewels already took the green rooms!

Woah, woah, woah! Back off, new girl. Your prep time is up. Headliners get first priority now at the mirrors.

Scuze me, sorry, I just need-

No, see, I just need to find my feather boa! It's gotta be around here somewh-

Did you not hear her? You're done. Just go dance.

What the hell are your problems? It's not like you own the green rooms! I just-



Alright, listen, sir... Until you earn these time slots, your basic ass doesn't get to say jack shit.

You're just an opener for the dead hours, so your shit doesn't matter. Fuck outta here.

And quit stealing our look, you wannabe poser.



Okay, so... Go-go Set One, last call for places! That's Christie Ball, Lola Bombshell, Mark Turf, and, uh... River Lakes?

I-I'm coming!

Ha, sorry sweetie.

Bye, girl!

Hehe, whoops!





Hey, hang on!

Hey, 'sup?

Have you seen any boas backstage?

Oh shit, you brought a snake to perform?? Badass.



Oh my god, no. A feather boa? Those fluffy scarves?? Tell me you're joking.

OH! Uhh, well, I wouldn't know where to, uh, find that yet...

Gee, I couldn't tell.

Yeah, I'm kinda new. Like, two hours new.



ARE YOU GUYS READY FOR A FUCKIN' AWESOME TIME?!

GOOD! 'CAUSE WE BROUGHT THE PAAAAARTAY!!!

AH! Dammit! That's our cue!

Gotta go!

Fuck it, I'll improvise.



Thanks anyway!

Hey! Wait!



I can't stay! I'm ON!



I just wanted to say you don't need stupid feathers! You're really hot all by yourself, so you got this!!



Hehe, pretty confident for a straight boy. Thanks, babe!



Heh... Wait, what'd she say?

Whatever, I'll catch her later.



Damn...

I think I'm gonna like it here.



KNOCK!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!



The fucking fuck, man?!

KNOCK!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!



Oh, shit, uhh... Hey, Lloyd.

Sorry to disturb you, Mister Cooper...



...But you knew this was coming.

Mmph. What is it?



Your Three Day Notice.



My--



I know you keep telling me that you'll catch up on rent, but I cannot afford to wait any longer.

I don't want to bring the law into this, so figure it out before things get more serious... please.

LATER

He said he's not gonna file an "unlawful detainer" or whatever as long as I get my shit out in a week.

What the hell happened, bro? How'd you get so behind on rent?

I was... going through some shit. Didn't notice Dad's inheritance draining. Not that there was much to begin with...

Ox Beach Diner

Sorry, man. I'd offer you a place, but I'm shackin' up myself. Time's are tough all around.

S'alright, Gary. I'll figure something out.

But hey, we don't need to be all focused on the bad stuff. Tell me about your new job! You're a bouncer at some club now, right? That's why you bulkin' up?

No, I do like stage manager shit. Like call times, help with light prep, yada yada.

Aw, sweet! Way close to the action! Get any stripper numbers yet?

Heh, naw... but there is this one girl there that's super hot. I've only seen her a couple times in the club, but she's cool as fuck.

Ohh shiiiiit! Ha! Think she's into you?

I think so. If I had the chance I'd totally-

Sorry for the wait, guys!

We're a little short staffed right now and-- oh.



Hey there! Fancy seeing you here. Cooper, right?



No. No no no no no. Please tell me you have a sister. Ah-A cousin! Something!



Uh, sorry? I mean, I know I look pretty different without all the makeup on, but I'm not--



Uh--!!

WHOOSH!



Huh. Well, that sucks. I think. Should I... go after him? Nah. Might make it worse.



He'll be a'ight. So, can I get the Omlette Special? Extra peppers?

TWO
WEEKS
LATER



Huh?

Cooper's
truck!

Oh shit, is he
in the store?

Did he
see me??

Wait a minute...

Smoke?

What th--
Cooper?!

WUH?!



Okay, that's everything from the truck.

Cool.



Uh. What-wait... What is this. What are you doing.

Er... Hugging. For thanks.

Why are you making it so weird??



Oh, whatever. just come here.

Idiot.

It's good to see you.



And just look at this... I've never seen you so... beardy.

Mm..



hchh hchh.



...



...Where have you really been all this time, Coop?



Why did you have to go?

...





35 MINUTES LATER

What am I hearing?
He must've-
Hey.

Nice TV. Finally decided to put that job money to good use eh?

Wha--??

He's still here?!

Eheh, I, uh... Yeah, I guess so.

Mind if I join you?

It's your house, dude.
Don't need my permission.

I'm... surprised you're still here. But glad.

Mm.

Can I... is this okay?

Alright.

...

"sniff"

Uh... Do I still stink?

Wah-Mrk?

N-No, in fact...



Heh. Sorry.
Just makes
me wanna...



Mmph...



N-Now
hold on--



No, you hold on!
Before we do--
Before anything--

What you said
to me earlier!
Wh- Is
it true?





There. Now it doesn't matter, right?

Uh, I guess?



I won't say anything, and you don't have to do anything... except tell me if I go too far.

No big deal, no pressure. Just a little...

Gay Chicken.

Well, I was gonna say "fun", but potato-tomato I suppose.



Heh, I probably should have done this first. Sorry.

There we go!



Oh-!



Holy--

Jeeze, Coop. Have you been working out like... non-stop or something?

Your body...



Hey, I thought you were done talking...



I think I'd rather...

As much as I wanna sass you back...



Be real... while you can't see.



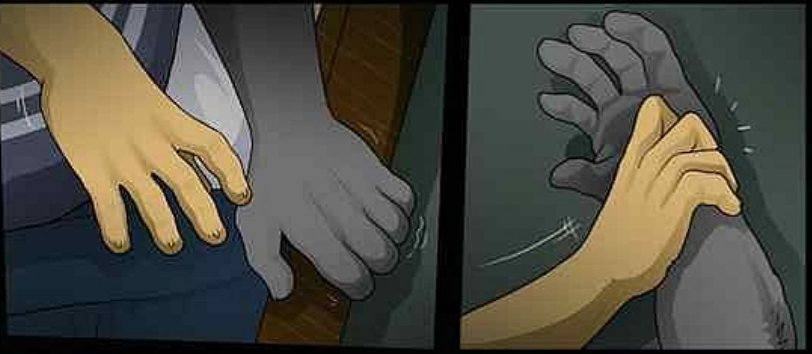
... my only chance.



Just...

In case this is...







MMH...

MM

"BITE"

AH..

HRAPPL

TWITCH

BOING!









What? I can't understand what you're saying...

N-Nothing! It's-it's fine.



SIGH

Okay...



Hey...
...Hey.

Maybe this is going too fast. We don't have to go all the way yet if you're not ready. You're allowed to say no.



Look, it's not like I can't, alright? I've done it plenty-

But this is different for you, I get it... and that's okay.

Where you goin'?

I mean, not with, like, a fuckin', uh, you know-
I know. I know.

Still though..



Or we could just **TOOF!**



I didn't say I was ready to quit...

Oh...



Your blindfold...?

Forget about it.

Just shut up before I change my mind.



Mmm...



AH!

AHH!

Mmph!

HUMP
HUMP



FUCK...



Mm!

Maybe he'll let me get away with...





HUUUUH~



W-Woah!

GRUNT



AHH!

AH!



CHOMP!



GROW!

OW!!!!



Bastard!

S-Shut up!
Fuck, I'm so close-



GAH!

THRUST!



HOLY FU--

GHAAAHH!

AHH...!

AHH...



MMH!

YEAH...

*SPURT!



TWITCH

TWITCH

OHH...

Good boy.







Gah... oh, wow...

That was--



Here, slut.



Gee, thanks. I can't believe you really... did that to me.



Really? Was I-- was it... good?

Yes. It was very good. Very good. Do you need to hear it again?

Heh, shut up.



Y'know, I really did mean it... a-about staying here, I mean. As long as you like.

Thanks, Dee... I'm gonna pay you back for the stay.

Oh, you don't have to--

Naw, I'm gonna talk to my boss tomorrow about pay. I've had enough of this shit.

Okay... just be careful.

Hey man, can I talk to you about moving on to a more permanent job here? Money's tight. Thanks bro.

Yo
Internship aint over homie

Yeah but idk if I can stay. I really need the moenu

**money
Rent to pay

u kno what? Come by the upstairs office at like 8. Might have a solution

Sounds good, see you then



Oh! Hey, stranger. You, uh... here to see Fletcher too?

I see you shaved. Looks good.



Um...

SIGH
... Okay. I know you've been avoiding me.

No I'm not.

Wh- yes you are!
You literally walk out of the room when I walk in!



Ever since you saw me at the diner, you've been a total cold asshole. But okay, whatever!

UGH!
It's not like that, dammit!
It's not you, I just, it- well- fuck!

Bu-!! Then just tell me!

Did I embarrass you or something?!

Go ahead and keep being that shallow! No loss for me!





I didn't fucking know who I had a *crush* on, alright?! I thought you were just some really pretty *girl* that I was chatting up! I know, I'm stupid! And seeing you-

It reminded- it made me feel... I don't know!



I just... I don't know anything about me anymore.

I'm sorry



...

...



Do you still think I'm pretty?



Ahoy, bitches! Get in here, let's pre-game!

Kschk!

I called you both here at the same time for a reason. Apparently, there have been... *multiple* requests for more compensation for their time here.

Time that I generously offered to give you a platform; a, uh, jumping point in their careers...



Now, gotta say, I was pretty fucking annoyed at first, but then I remembered a recent legal acquirement of mine for the club. I'm gonna announce it to the rest of the crew soon, but I guess you two are gonna be the first to know so I don't have your asses walkin' out on me.



Rail's getting re-branded. There's untapped talent here and a hunger for something fresh and fuckable.

A new opportunity is coming that requires more star power. The two of you ought to consider broadening their horizons and maximize your true potential.

I'd been workin' on this for a while, which is why I recruited some of you in the first place...



I see two sexy individuals before me in need of a quick buck.

It's time to put it all on the line and start makin' real coin off that ass.

Ya feel me so far?





TO BE CONTINUED