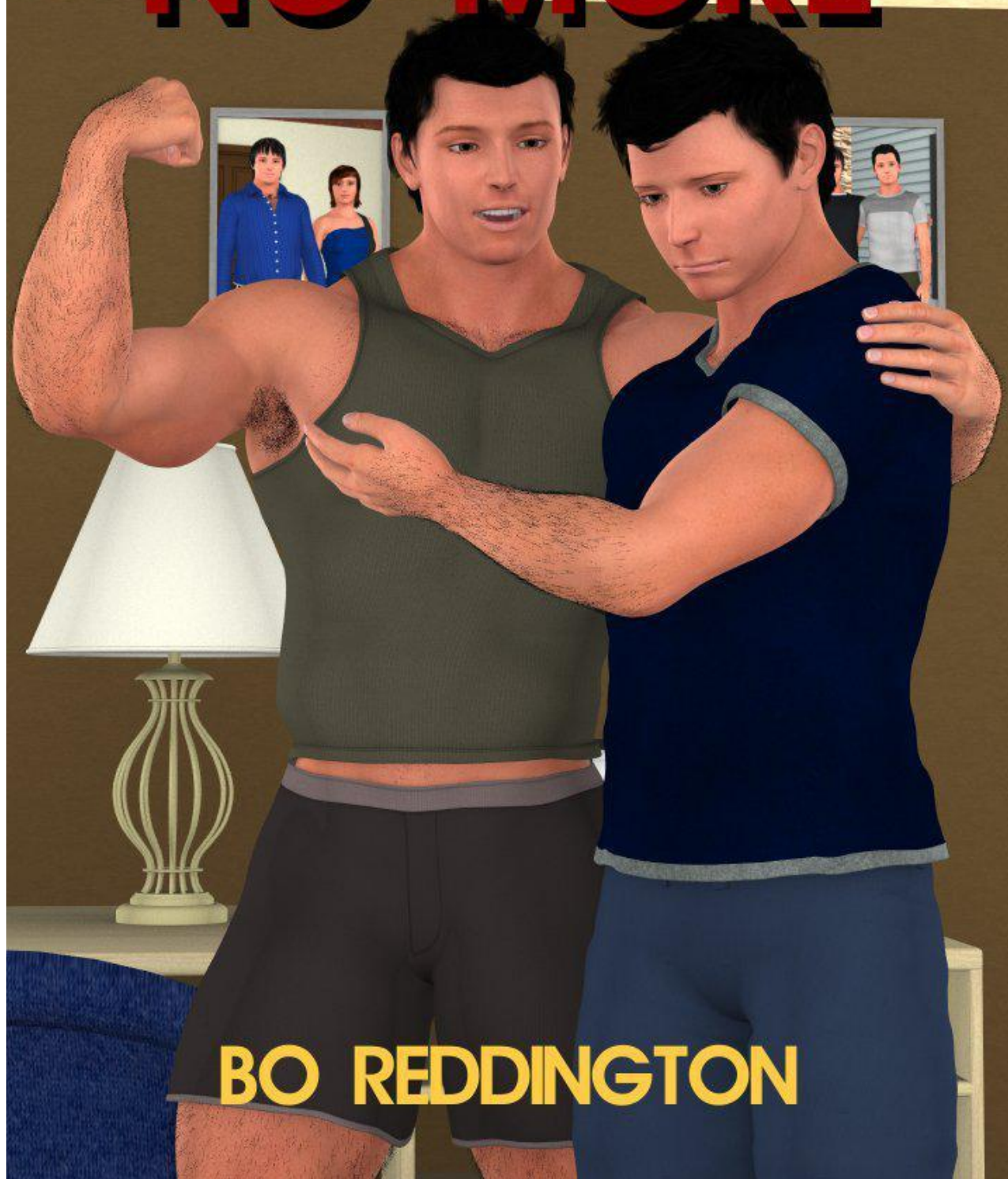


MY TWIN NO MORE



BO REDDINGTON

MY TWIN NO MORE

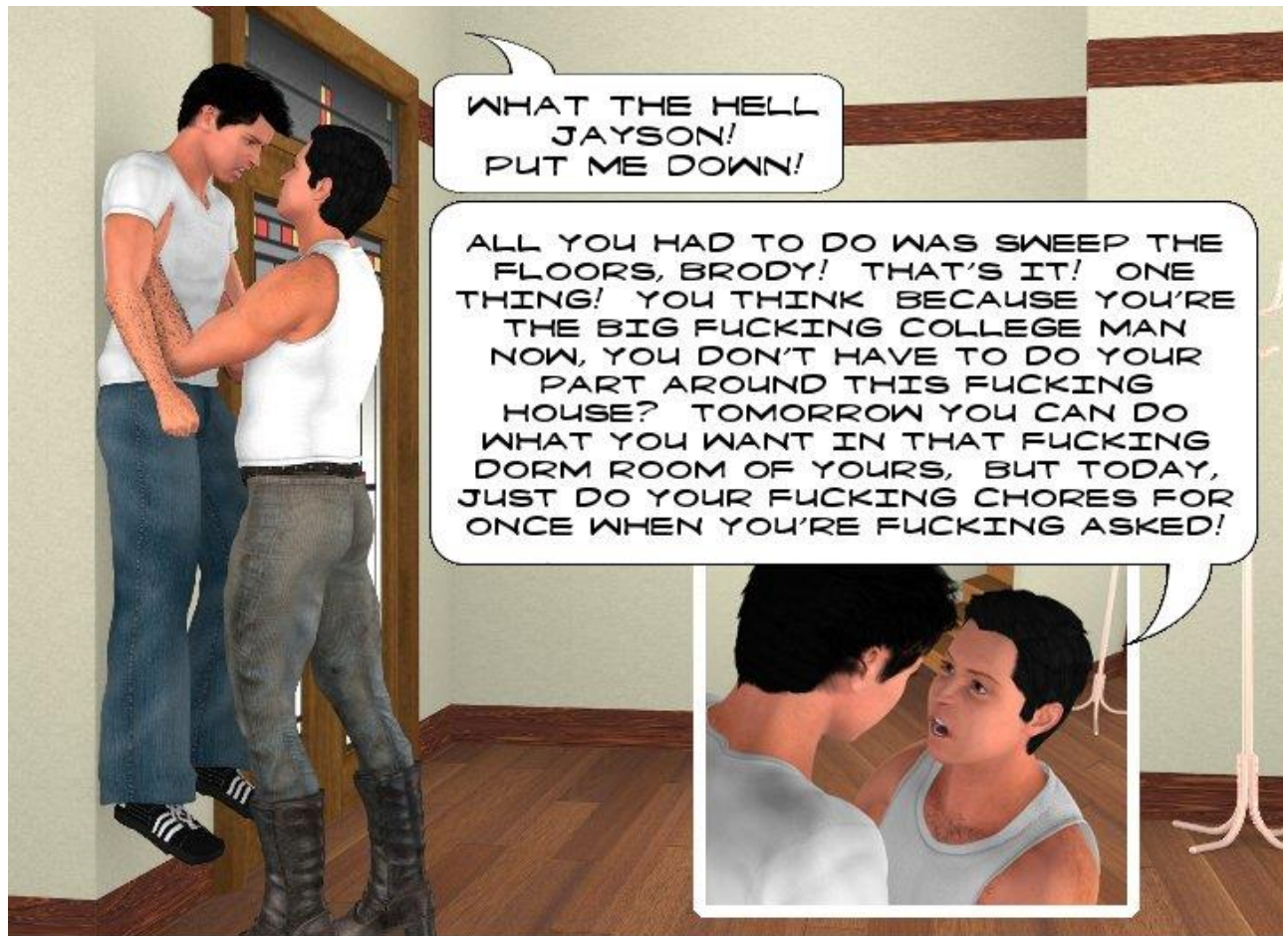
#1 of 6

LIMITED
SERIES



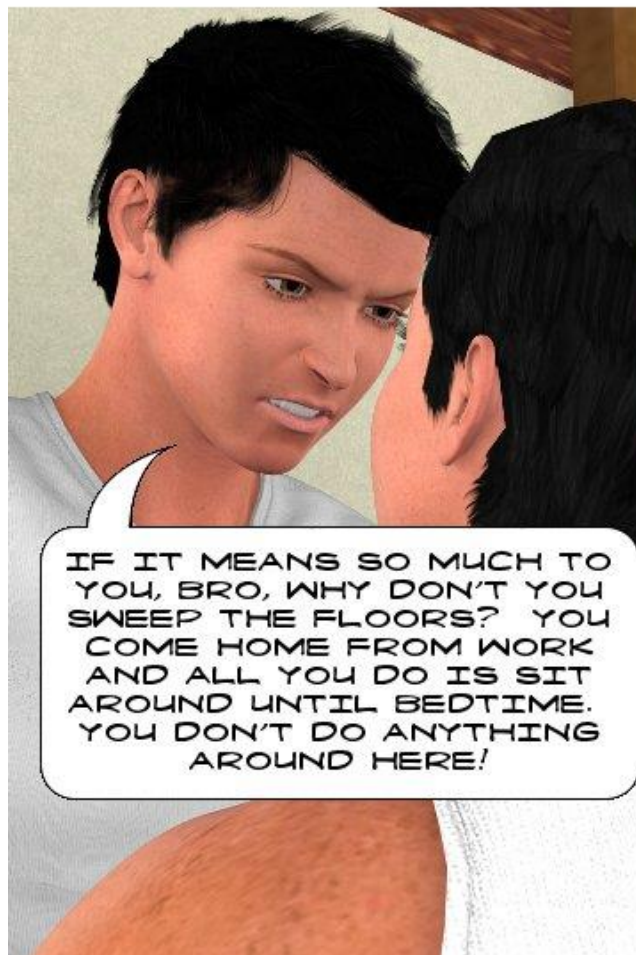
CREATED BY BO REDDINGTON

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WHAT THE HELL
JAYSON!
PUT ME DOWN!

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS SWEEP THE
FLOORS, BRODY! THAT'S IT! ONE
THING! YOU THINK BECAUSE YOU'RE
THE BIG FUCKING COLLEGE MAN
NOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO YOUR
PART AROUND THIS FUCKING
HOUSE? TOMORROW YOU CAN DO
WHAT YOU WANT IN THAT FUCKING
DORM ROOM OF YOURS, BUT TODAY,
JUST DO YOUR FUCKING CHORES FOR
ONCE WHEN YOU'RE FUCKING ASKED!



IF IT MEANS SO MUCH TO
YOU, BRO, WHY DON'T YOU
SWEEP THE FLOORS? YOU
COME HOME FROM WORK
AND ALL YOU DO IS SIT
AROUND UNTIL BEDTIME.
YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING
AROUND HERE!

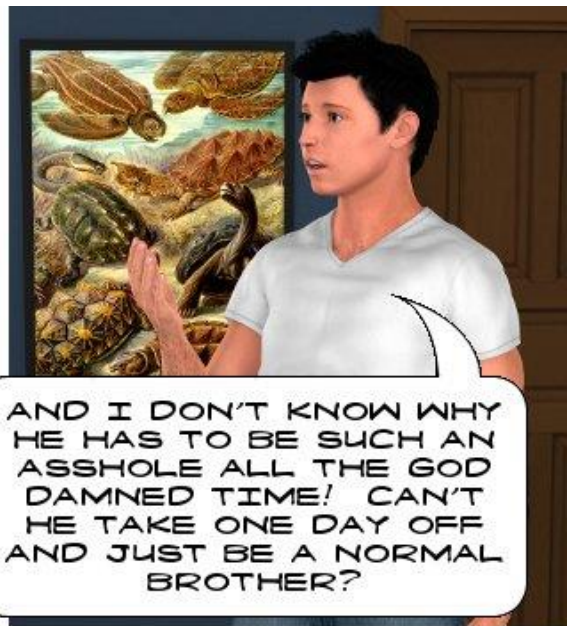


OH I DON'T, DO I?

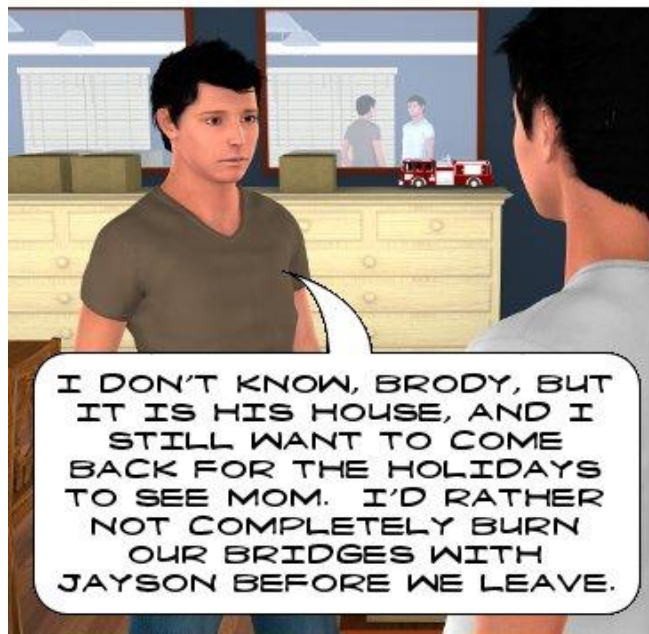




I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAD TO ANTAGONIZE HIM ON OUR LAST DAY HOME.



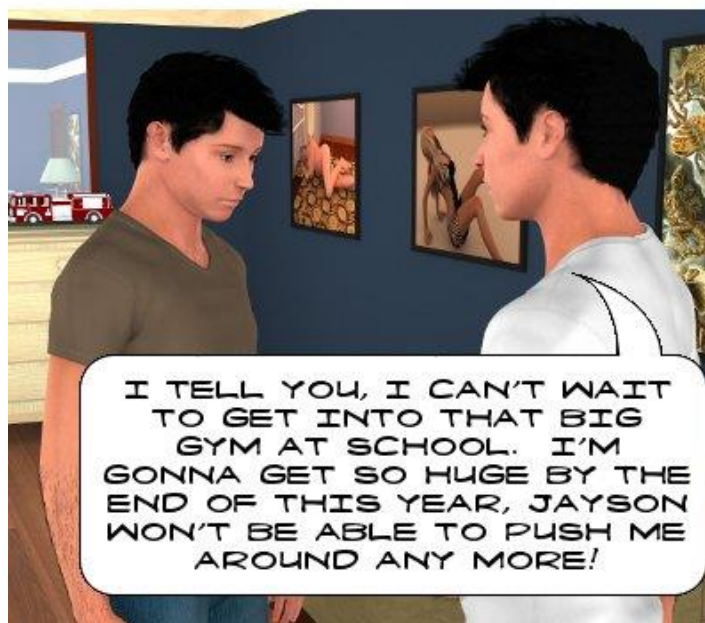
AND I DON'T KNOW WHY HE HAS TO BE SUCH AN ASSHOLE ALL THE GOD DAMNED TIME! CAN'T HE TAKE ONE DAY OFF AND JUST BE A NORMAL BROTHER?



I DON'T KNOW, BRODY, BUT IT IS HIS HOUSE, AND I STILL WANT TO COME BACK FOR THE HOLIDAYS TO SEE MOM. I'D RATHER NOT COMPLETELY BURN OUR BRIDGES WITH JAYSON BEFORE WE LEAVE.



DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THAT AGAIN, RUSS! IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT JERK WORKS HIS CRAPPY JOB, AND HANGS OUT IN THE GYM, ONLY TO COME HOME AND DO LITERALLY NOTHING WITH THE REST OF HIS TIME!



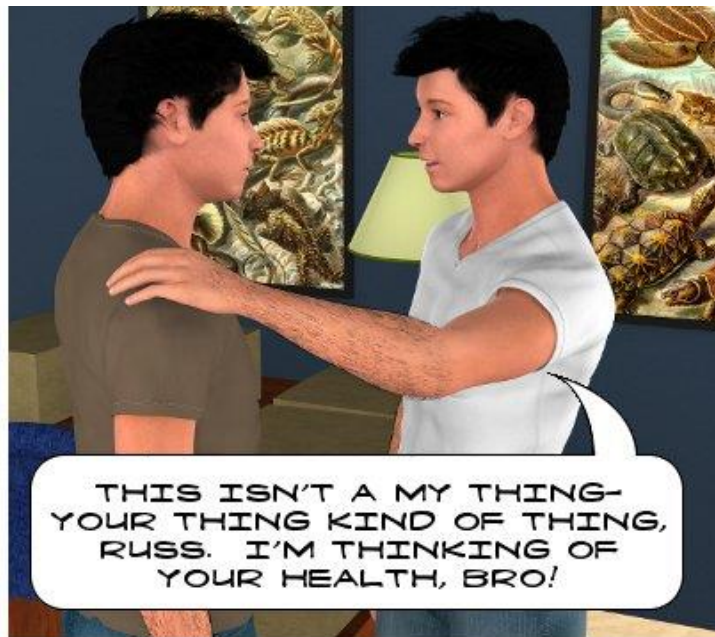
I TELL YOU, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET INTO THAT BIG GYM AT SCHOOL. I'M GONNA GET SO HUGE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, JAYSON WON'T BE ABLE TO PUSH ME AROUND ANY MORE!



SAY! YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME! WE CAN BE WORKOUT PARTNERS! YOU CAN GET SWOLE WITH ME!



AW BRODY,
SPORTS ARE YOUR
THING. THEY'RE
NOT MY THING.



THIS ISN'T A MY THING-
YOUR THING KIND OF THING,
RUSS. I'M THINKING OF
YOUR HEALTH, BRO!



IF I GET SO BIG
JAYSON WON'T TOUCH
ME, HE'S GONNA THROW
ALL THAT ANGER AT
YOU. YOU'LL GET ALL
THE TORMENT INSTEAD
OF JUST HALF!



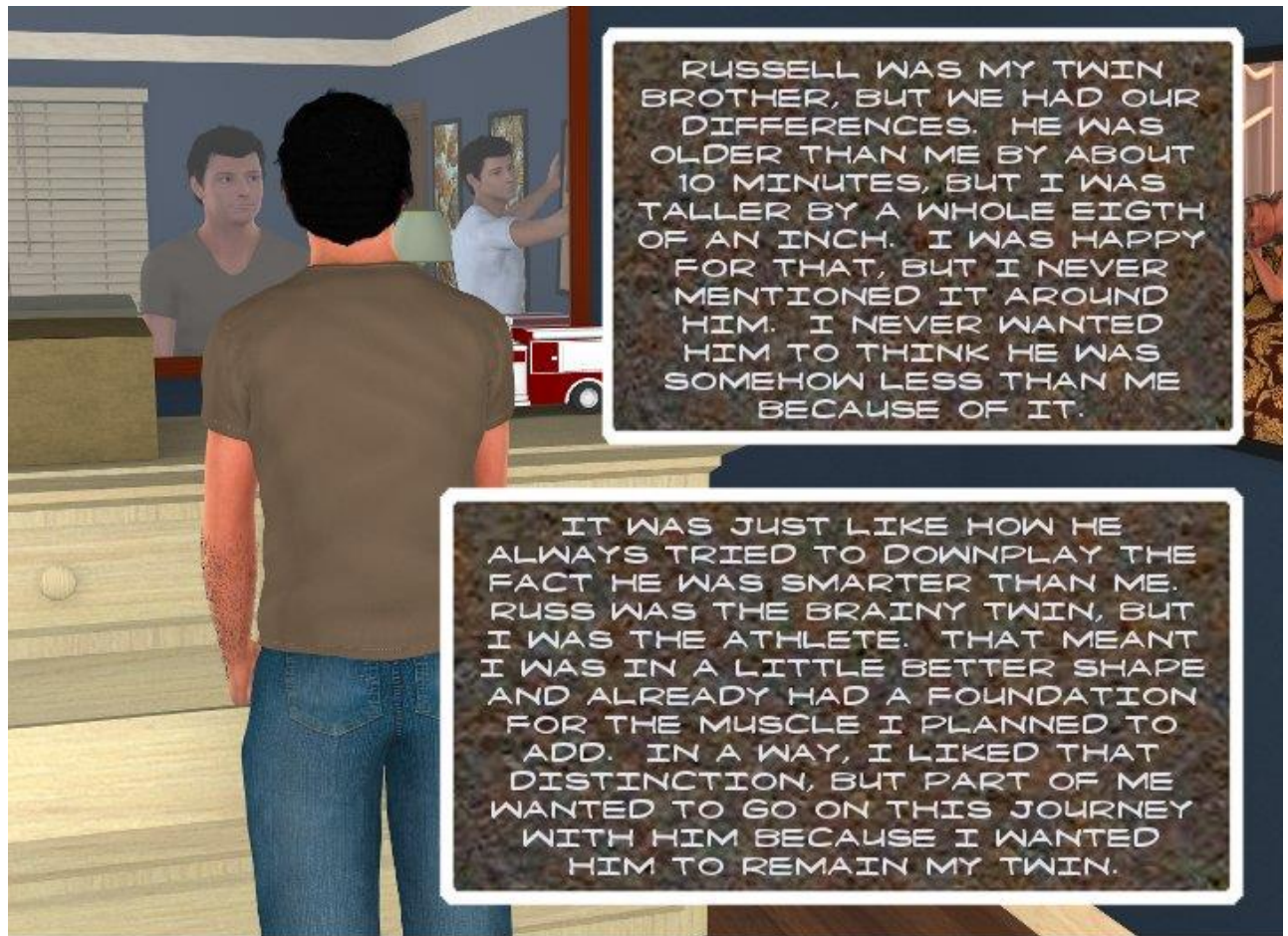
I DON'T WANT THAT TO
HAPPEN, THAT'S WHY
YOU HAVE TO LIFT WITH
ME. WE HAVE TO GET
HUGE TOGETHER OR ONE
OF US WILL ALWAYS BE
HIS PUNCHING BAG!



YEAH, IT MAKES SENSE
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE
THAT. AND AT LEAST
IT WILL GIVE US AN
EXCUSE TO HANG OUT
IN CASE CLASSES GET
TOO BUSY.

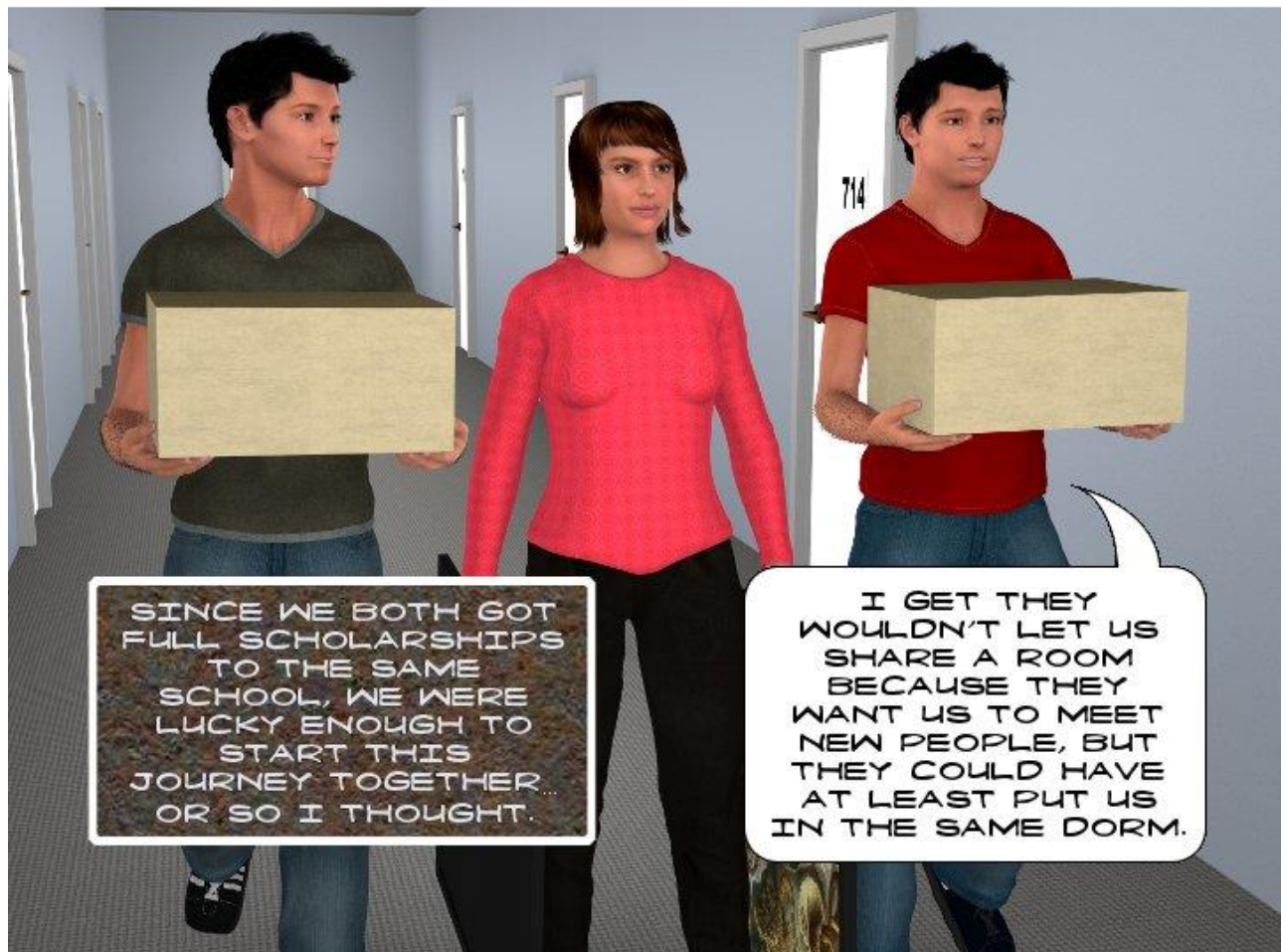


AND THAT'S WHERE
OUR QUEST FOR
MUSCLE BEGAN...



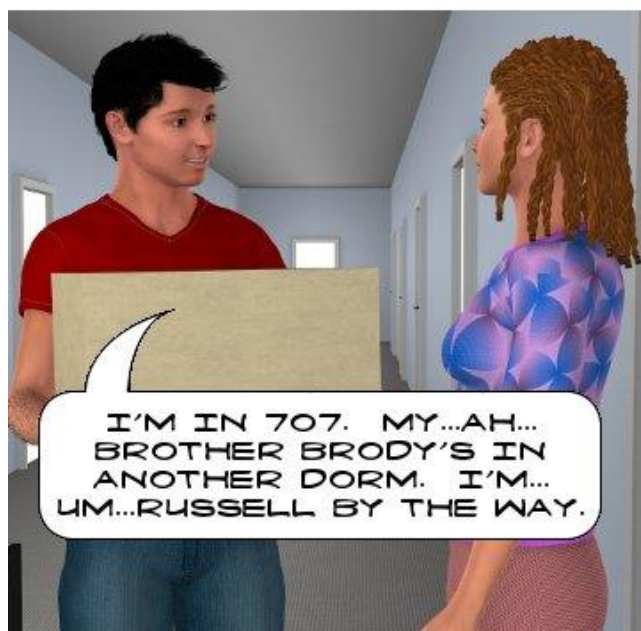
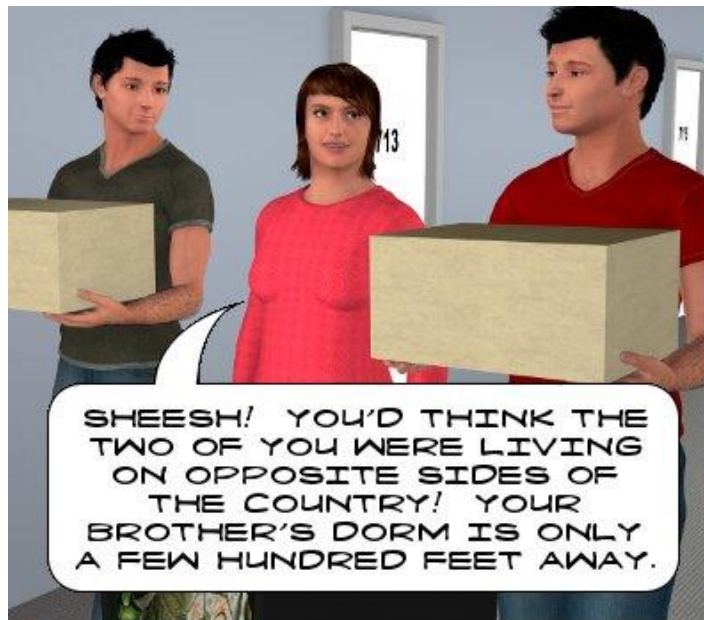
RUSSELL WAS MY TWIN BROTHER, BUT WE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES. HE WAS OLDER THAN ME BY ABOUT 10 MINUTES, BUT I WAS TALLER BY A WHOLE EIGHTH OF AN INCH. I WAS HAPPY FOR THAT, BUT I NEVER MENTIONED IT AROUND HIM. I NEVER WANTED HIM TO THINK HE WAS SOMEHOW LESS THAN ME BECAUSE OF IT.

IT WAS JUST LIKE HOW HE ALWAYS TRIED TO DOWNPLAY THE FACT HE WAS SMARTER THAN ME. RUSS WAS THE BRAINY TWIN, BUT I WAS THE ATHLETE. THAT MEANT I WAS IN A LITTLE BETTER SHAPE AND ALREADY HAD A FOUNDATION FOR THE MUSCLE I PLANNED TO ADD. IN A WAY, I LIKED THAT DISTINCTION, BUT PART OF ME WANTED TO GO ON THIS JOURNEY WITH HIM BECAUSE I WANTED HIM TO REMAIN MY TWIN.



SINCE WE BOTH GOT FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE SAME SCHOOL, WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO START THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER... OR SO I THOUGHT.

I GET THEY WOULDN'T LET US SHARE A ROOM BECAUSE THEY WANT US TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, BUT THEY COULD HAVE AT LEAST PUT US IN THE SAME DORM.





HA! WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE 5 MINUTES AND RUSS ALREADY HAS A DATE!



WHAT! IT'S NOT A DATE...PROBABLY. I'M SURE SHE'S JUST COMING BY TO SAY HI...LIKE ANYBODY ELSE WOULD!



YEAH! RIGHT!

STILL RATHER STAY IN YOUR BROTHER'S DORM?



HECK, I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M IRRESISTIBLE TO THE LADIES!

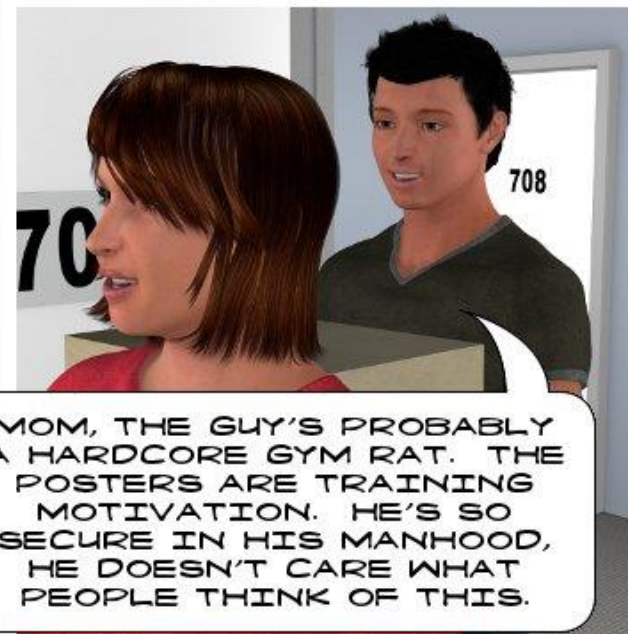


WELL ROMEO, HERE'S THE LITTLE LOVE NEST YOU GET TO CALL HOME FOR THE NEXT 9 MONTHS! SHOULD I LAY ODDS ON WHETHER OR NOT YOUR ROOMMATE'S HERE YET?





I'M NOT CERTAIN, RUSSELL, BUT I THINK YOUR ROOMMATE MIGHT BE GAY.



MOM, THE GUY'S PROBABLY A HARDCORE GYM RAT. THE POSTERS ARE TRAINING MOTIVATION. HE'S SO SECURE IN HIS MANHOOD, HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF THIS.



FINALLY, SOMEONE WHO GETS ME! PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE JEREMY MANSFIELD!



NOW THIS IS TRAINING MOTIVATION!

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HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THE GUYS ON HIS WALL, BUT HE WAS STILL THICK. HE WAS ATTAINABLE. HE WAS WHAT I HOPED TO BE THE NEXT TIME I WENT HOME. THAT RIPPED, COMPETITIVE BODYBUILDING LOOK WAS NOT FOR ME.

JAYSON WASN'T HUGE, BUT HE WAS STILL BIG AND STILL HITTING THE GYM. HE MIGHT PUT ON ANOTHER 5 OR 10 POUNDS BEFORE I GOT THE CHANCE TO CONFRONT HIM. IF I WANTED TO SURPASS HIM, I HAD TO PUT ON SIZE FAST. THIS GUY WAS MY GOAL THIS YEAR, AND HE WAS RUSSELL'S ROOMMATE!



THAT'S ME. I'M YOUR ROOMMATE, BUT I GO BY RUSSELL OR RUSS.



NOT EXACTLY DERIVATIVE OF JEREMY. I'M SKIP CROWDER BY THE WAY.



HA! YEAH. OUR PARENTS DID THE WHOLE SAME FIRST INITIAL THING WITH ME AND MY BROTHERS. BRODY AND I STOPPED THINKING IT WAS CUTE WHEN WE WERE ABOUT 10. WE'VE BEEN USING OUR MIDDLE NAMES EVER SINCE.



I TRIED TO DO THE SAME THING WHEN I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE THEN. COULDN'T GET MY FRIENDS TO STOP CALLING ME SKIP, SO I JUST STUCK WITH IT.



AND ABOUT THE POSTERS...I KNOW WHAT YOUR THINKING, BUT BELIEVE ME, YOU'LL THANK ME THE FIRST TIME YOU BRING A GIRL TO THE ROOM!



...FOR A...UH...BRIDGE TOURNAMENT OF COURSE!



PLEASE, SKIP, I WAS A COLLEGE GIRL ONCE. I KNOW MY BABIES ARE GOING TO HAVE LOTS OF SEX ONCE I'M GONE.



MOM!
PLEASE!



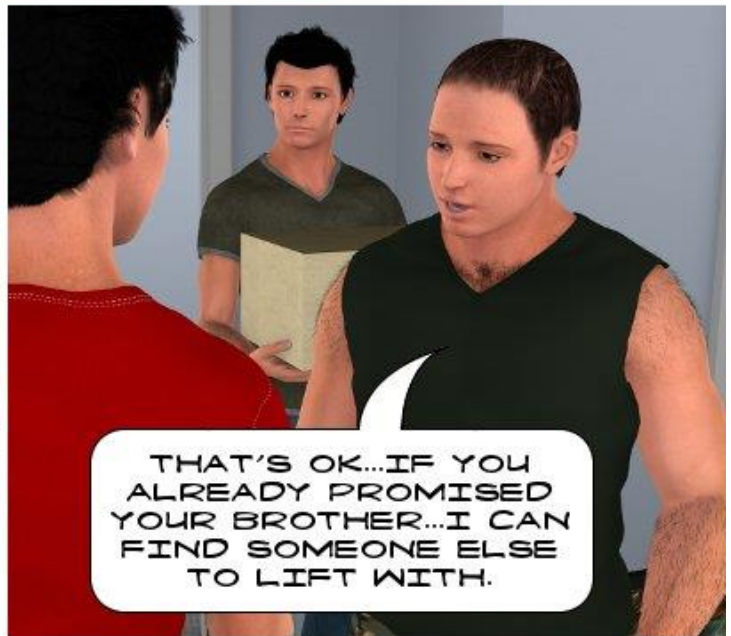
HEH HEH! YOU KNOW WHAT THOUGH, YOU SHOULD COME TO THE GYM AND WORK OUT WITH ME!



I'LL PUT YOU ON A ROUTINE AND GET YOU HUGE IN NO TIME! THE LADIES'LL BE ALL OVER YOU THEN!



I APPRECIATE THAT, SKIP, BUT I ALREADY PROMISED MY BROTHER I'D BE HIS WORKOUT PARTNER.

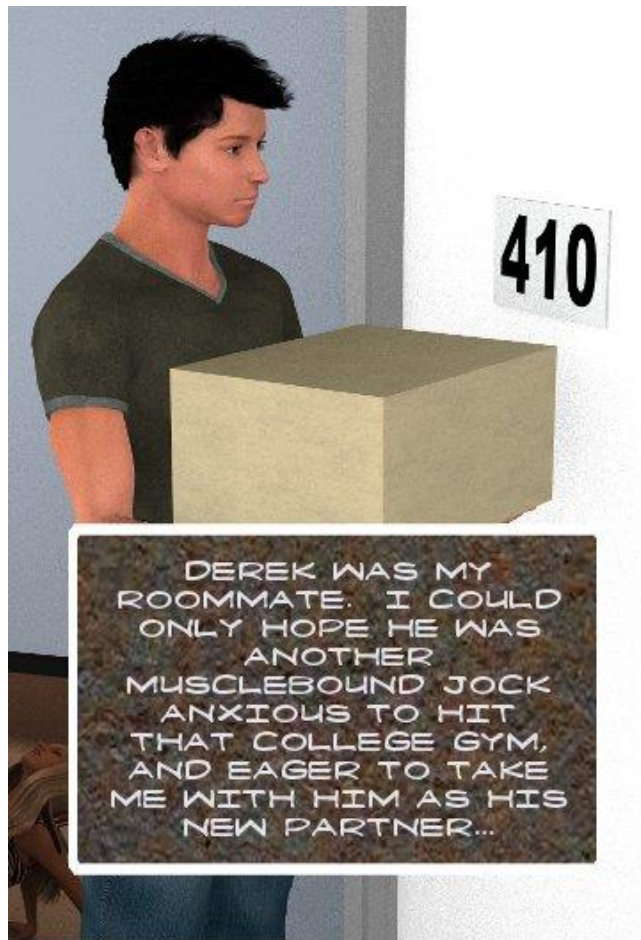


THAT'S OK...IF YOU ALREADY PROMISED YOUR BROTHER...I CAN FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO LIFT WITH.

IT WAS PROBABLY MY FIRST MISTAKE, BUT I COULDN'T DENY MY BROTHER THIS. AS MY WORKOUT PARTNER, HE'D PROBABLY HAVE MADE EXCUSES AND LEFT ME TO LIFT ALONE THIS SEMESTER. IF I LEFT HIM TO HIS MUSCLEBOUND ROOMMATE, THIS GUY WOULD MAKE SURE RUSS GOT HIS ASS IN THE GYM. HE WOULD NOT LET MY BROTHER STAY THIS SMALL, WEAK THING. HE WOULD HELP RUSS GET BIG LIKE ME.



GO AHEAD, RUSS. I CAN ALWAYS FIND ANOTHER PARTNER. MAYBE DEREK WASSERMAN WANTS TO BE MY PARTNER LIKE SKIP WANTS TO BE YOURS.



DEREK WAS MY ROOMMATE. I COULD ONLY HOPE HE WAS ANOTHER MUSCLEBOUND JOCK ANXIOUS TO HIT THAT COLLEGE GYM, AND EAGER TO TAKE ME WITH HIM AS HIS NEW PARTNER...

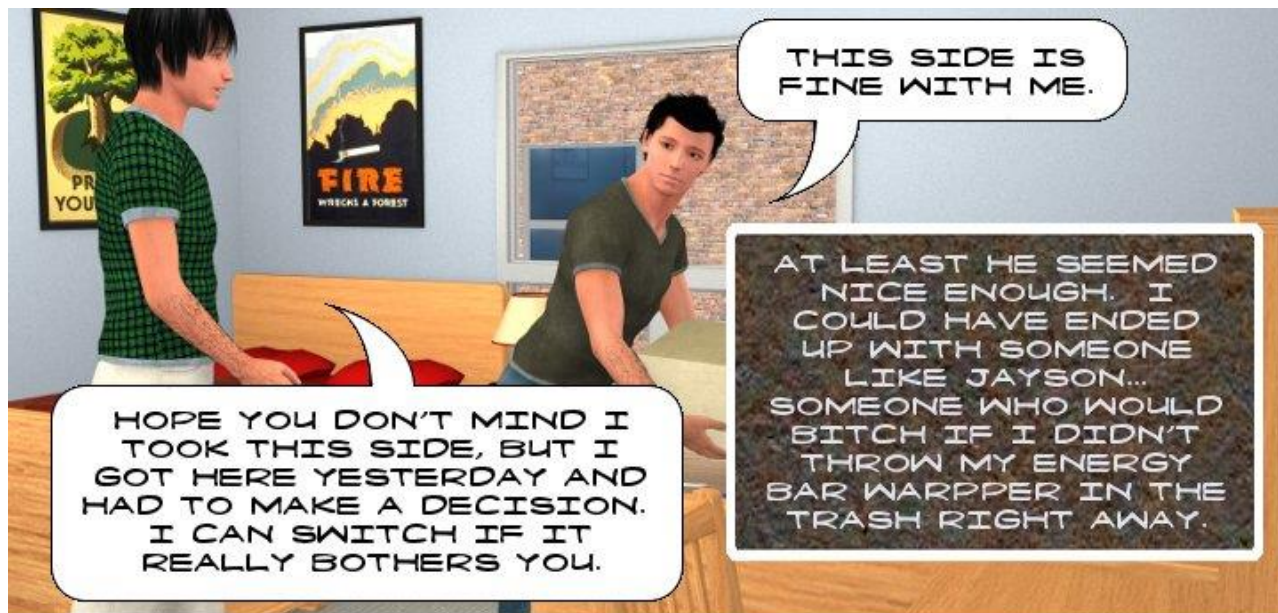


OH HEY! YOU MUST BE JESSE!



UGH...

OOPS, I DID SAY THAT OUT LOUD, BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? THE GUY WAS A BIGGER NATURE GEEK THAN MY BROTHER. IN FACT, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER FIT WITH RUSS, AND I WOULD RATHER SHARE THE ROOM WITH SKIP. I CURSED THE FUNCTIONARY RESPONSIBLE FOR ROOM ASSIGNMENTS, IMAGINING THIS PERSON PAIRED US ON PURPOSE.



THIS SIDE IS FINE WITH ME.

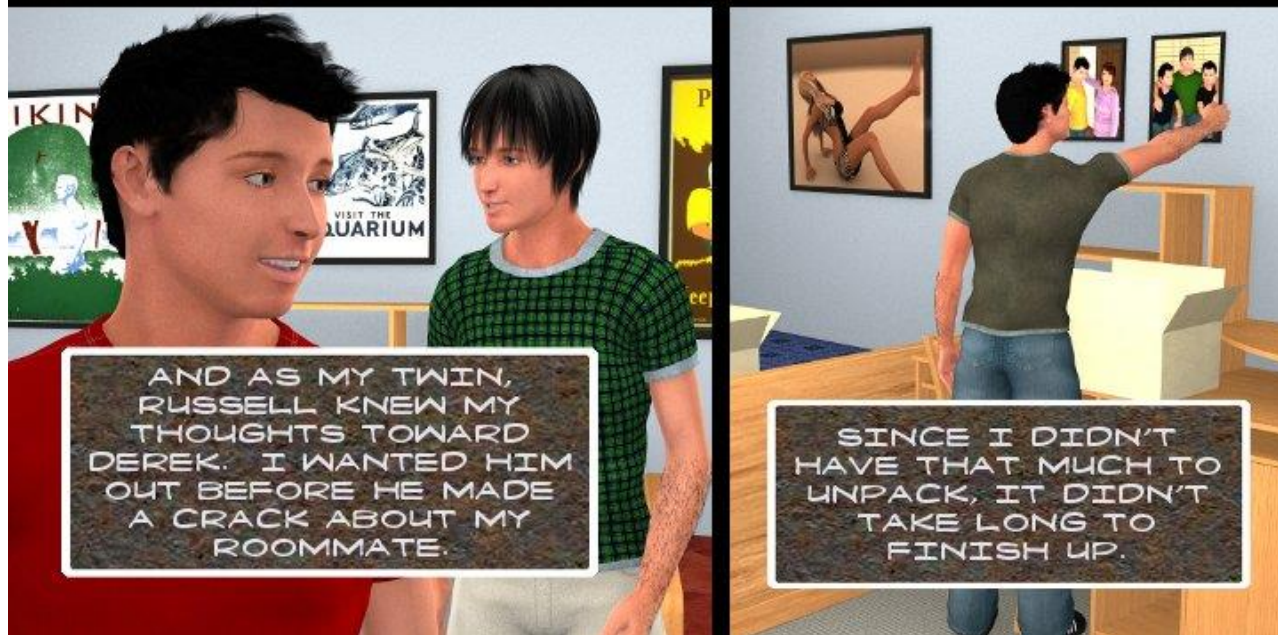
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND I TOOK THIS SIDE, BUT I GOT HERE YESTERDAY AND HAD TO MAKE A DECISION. I CAN SWITCH IF IT REALLY BOTHERS YOU.

AT LEAST HE SEEMED NICE ENOUGH. I COULD HAVE ENDED UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE JAYSON... SOMEONE WHO WOULD BITCH IF I DIDN'T THROW MY ENERGY BAR WAPPER IN THE TRASH RIGHT AWAY.



AND I FIGURED I COULD GET HIM IN THE GYM. WITH HIS BUILD, IT WOULDN'T BE ANY DIFFERENT THAN TRAINING WITH RUSSELL

LATER THOUGH. I STILL HAD A ROOM TO UNPACK. THOUGH I WOULD MISS HER. I WAS ANXIOUS TO GET MOM OUT AND ON HER WAY SO I COULD JUST RELAX AND ENJOY MY NEW FREEDOM.



AND AS MY TWIN, RUSSELL KNEW MY THOUGHTS TOWARD DEREK. I WANTED HIM OUT BEFORE HE MADE A CRACK ABOUT MY ROOMMATE.

SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO UNPACK, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FINISH UP.

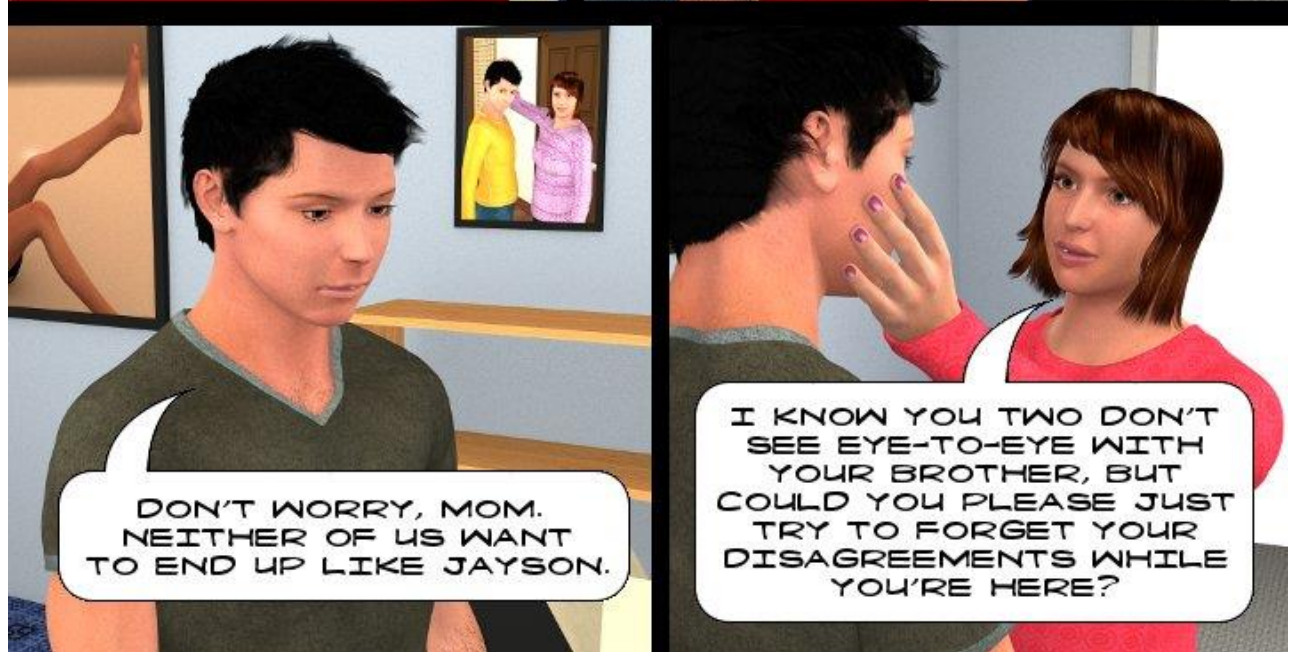


BEFORE I GO, I JUST WANTED YOU BOYS TO KNOW HOW PROUD YOUR DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN TO SEE YOU STANDING HERE, ABOUT TO BEGIN YOUR COLLEGE YEARS.



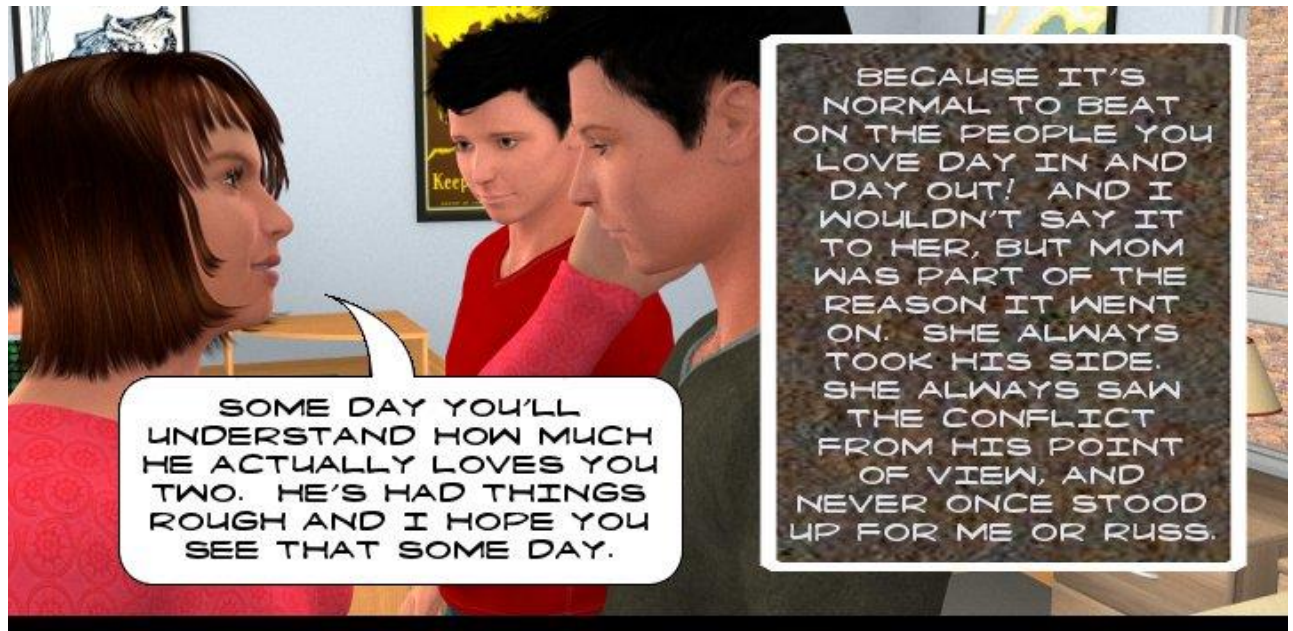
I KNOW, MOM.

YOU BOTH WORKED VERY HARD TO GET HERE, AND YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY. JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR ANY OF THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SLACK.



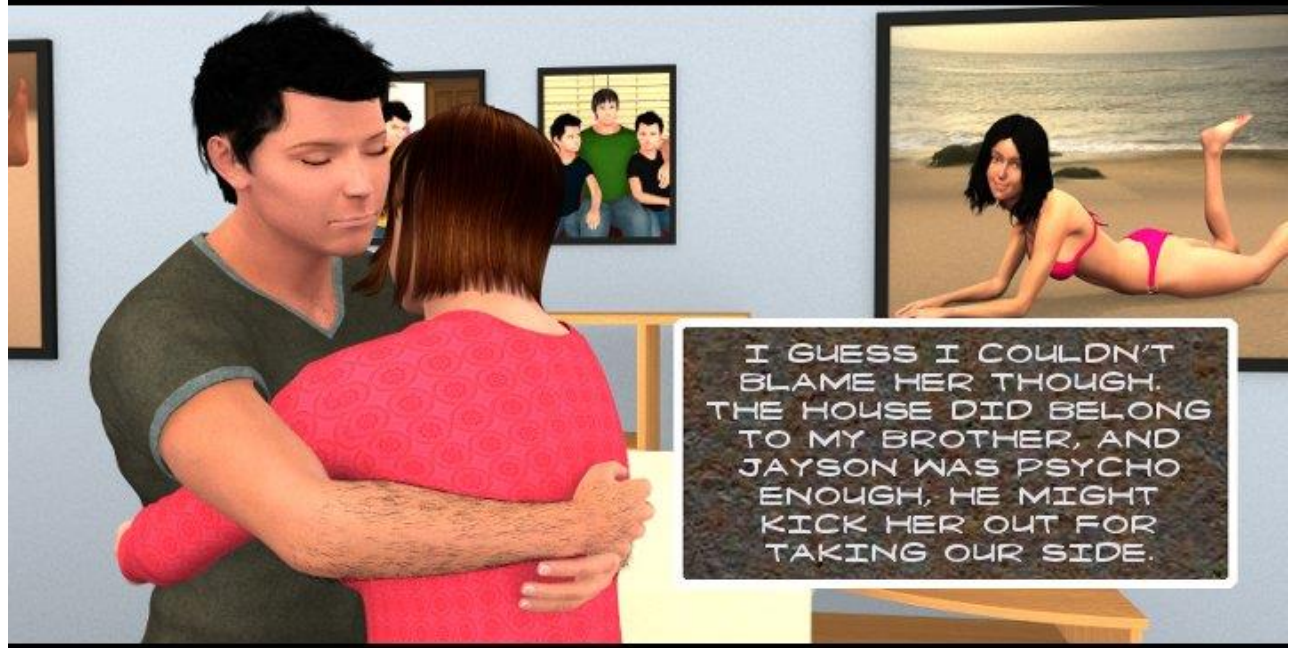
DON'T WORRY, MOM. NEITHER OF US WANT TO END UP LIKE JAYSON.

I KNOW YOU TWO DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE WITH YOUR BROTHER, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE JUST TRY TO FORGET YOUR DISAGREEMENTS WHILE YOU'RE HERE?

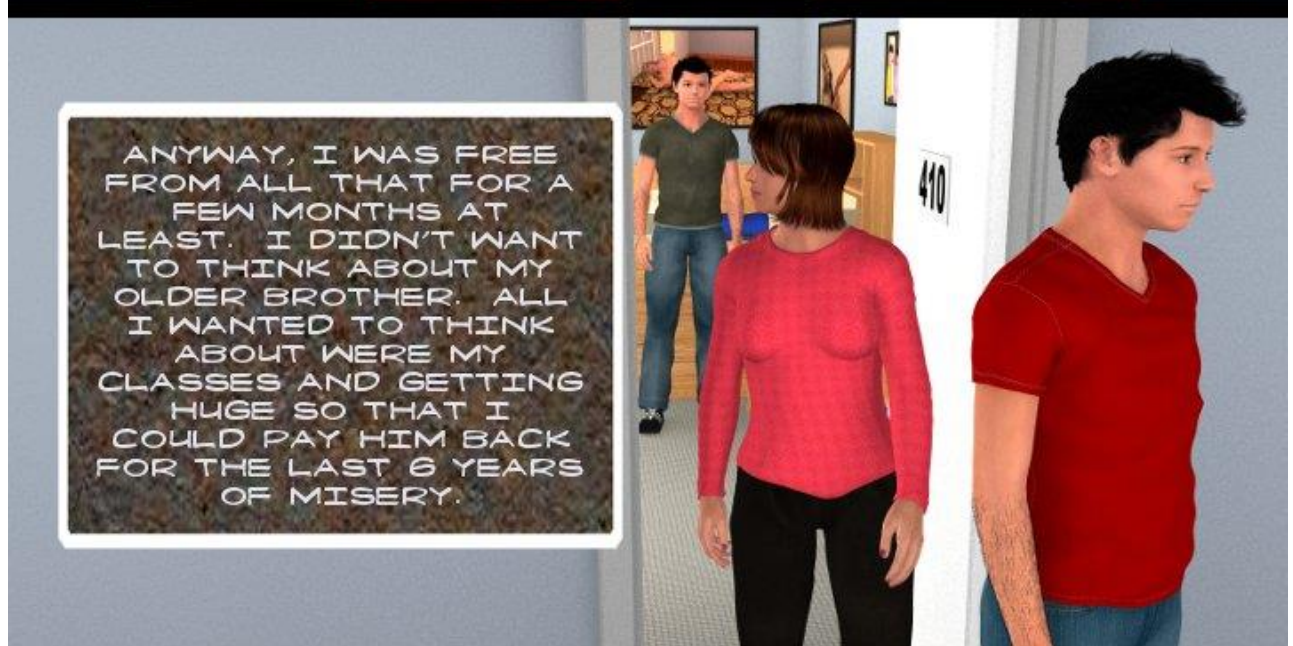


SOME DAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH HE ACTUALLY LOVES YOU TWO. HE'S HAD THINGS ROUGH AND I HOPE YOU SEE THAT SOME DAY.

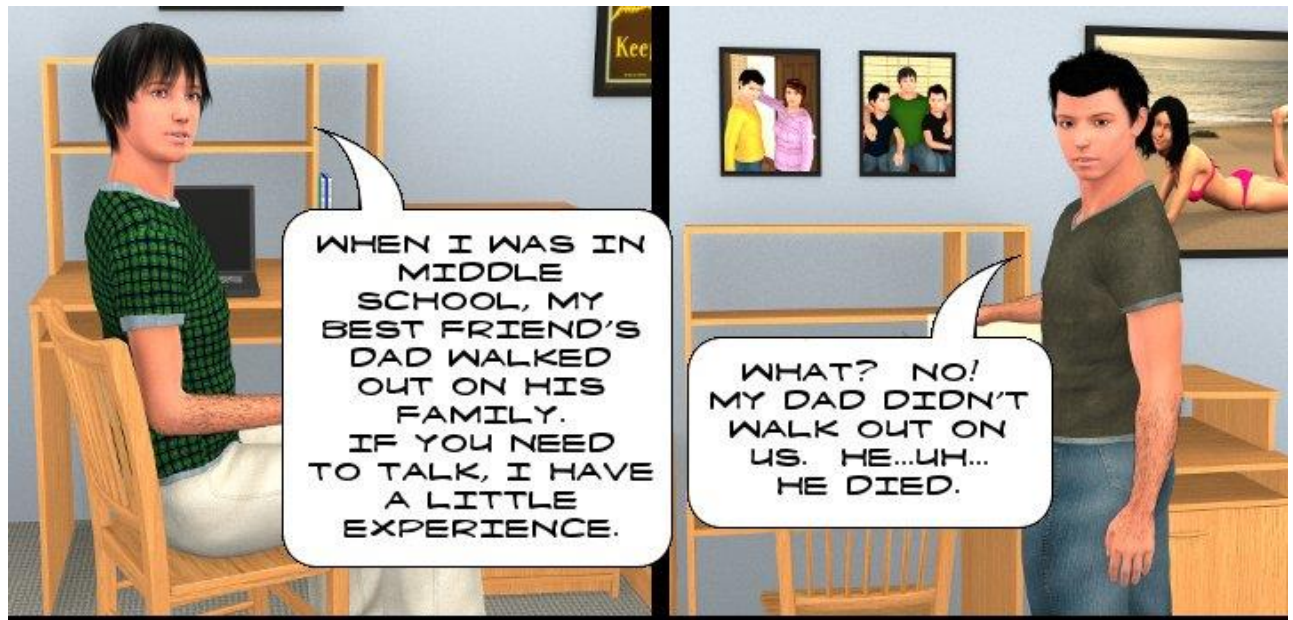
BECAUSE IT'S NORMAL TO BEAT ON THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE DAY IN AND DAY OUT! AND I WOULDN'T SAY IT TO HER, BUT MOM WAS PART OF THE REASON IT WENT ON. SHE ALWAYS TOOK HIS SIDE. SHE ALWAYS SAW THE CONFLICT FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, AND NEVER ONCE STOOD UP FOR ME OR RUSS.



I GUESS I COULDN'T BLAME HER THOUGH. THE HOUSE DID BELONG TO MY BROTHER, AND JAYSON WAS PSYCHO ENOUGH, HE MIGHT KICK HER OUT FOR TAKING OUR SIDE.

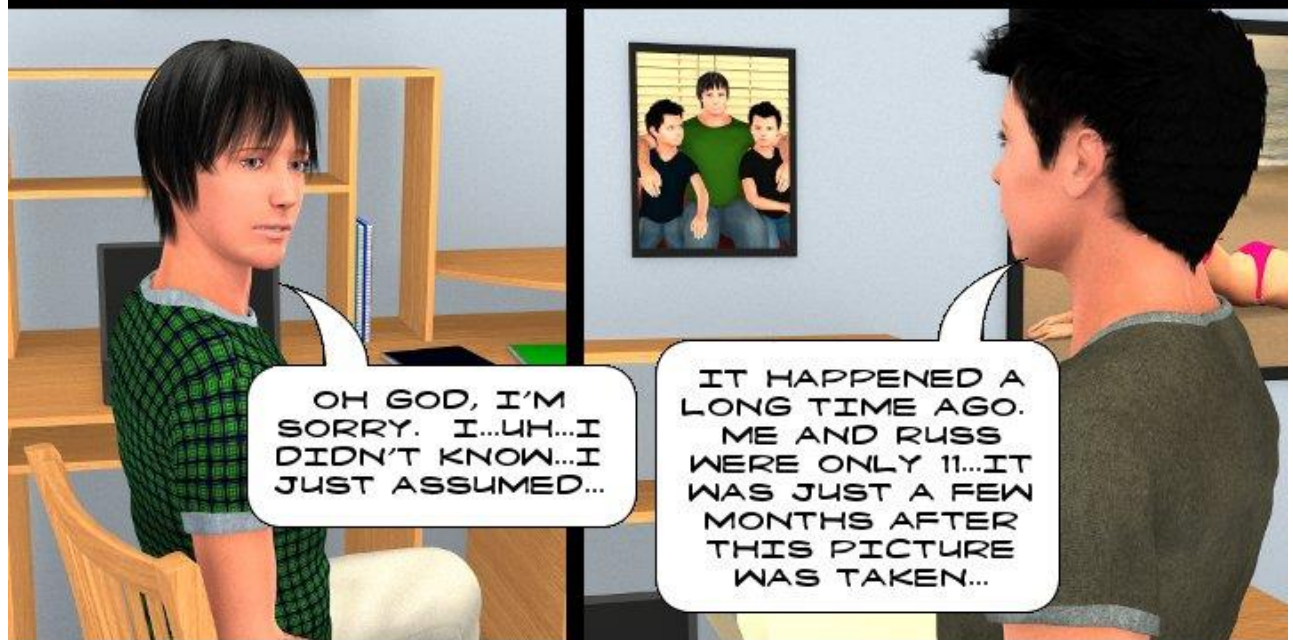


ANYWAY, I WAS FREE FROM ALL THAT FOR A FEW MONTHS AT LEAST. I DIDN'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT MY OLDER BROTHER. ALL I WANTED TO THINK ABOUT WERE MY CLASSES AND GETTING HUGE SO THAT I COULD PAY HIM BACK FOR THE LAST 6 YEARS OF MISERY.



WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY BEST FRIEND'S DAD WALKED OUT ON HIS FAMILY. IF YOU NEED TO TALK, I HAVE A LITTLE EXPERIENCE.

WHAT? NO! MY DAD DIDN'T WALK OUT ON US. HE...UH... HE DIED.



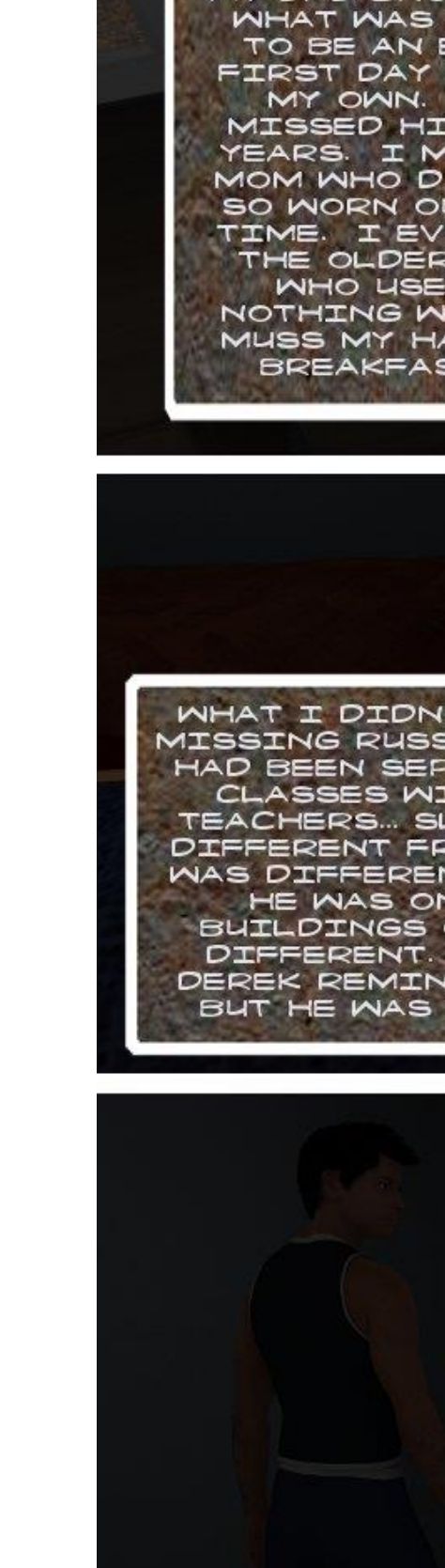
OH GOD, I'M SORRY. I...UH...I DIDN'T KNOW...I JUST ASSUMED...

IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO. ME AND RUSS WERE ONLY 11...IT WAS JUST A FEW MONTHS AFTER THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN...

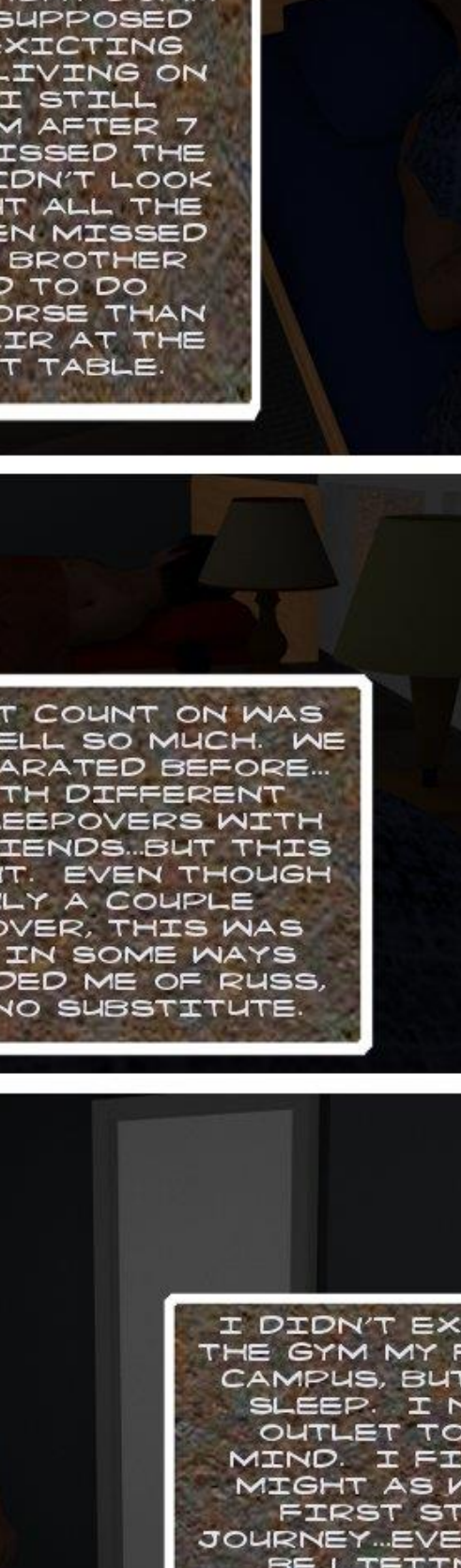


STILL...I'M HERE IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...

I DON'T. I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, DEREK



ALL THE TALK ABOUT MY DAD BROUGHT DOWN WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN EXCITING FIRST DAY LIVING ON MY OWN. I STILL MISSED HIM AFTER 7 YEARS. I MISSED THE MOM WHO DIDN'T LOOK SO WORN OUT ALL THE TIME. I EVEN MISSED THE OLDER BROTHER WHO USED TO DO NOTHING WORSE THAN MUSS MY HAIR AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE.



WHAT I DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS MISSING RUSSELL SO MUCH. WE HAD BEEN SEPARATED BEFORE... CLASSES WITH DIFFERENT TEACHERS... SLEEPOVERS WITH DIFFERENT FRIENDS...BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY A COUPLE BUILDINGS OVER, THIS WAS DIFFERENT. IN SOME WAYS DEREK REMINDED ME OF RUSS, BUT HE WAS NO SUBSTITUTE.



I DIDN'T EXPECT TO HIT THE GYM MY FIRST DAY ON CAMPUS, BUT I COULDN'T SLEEP. I NEEDED THE OUTLET TO CLEAR MY MIND. I FIGURED THIS MIGHT AS WELL BE THE FIRST STEP ON MY JOURNEY...EVEN IF I WOULD BE LIFTING ALONE...



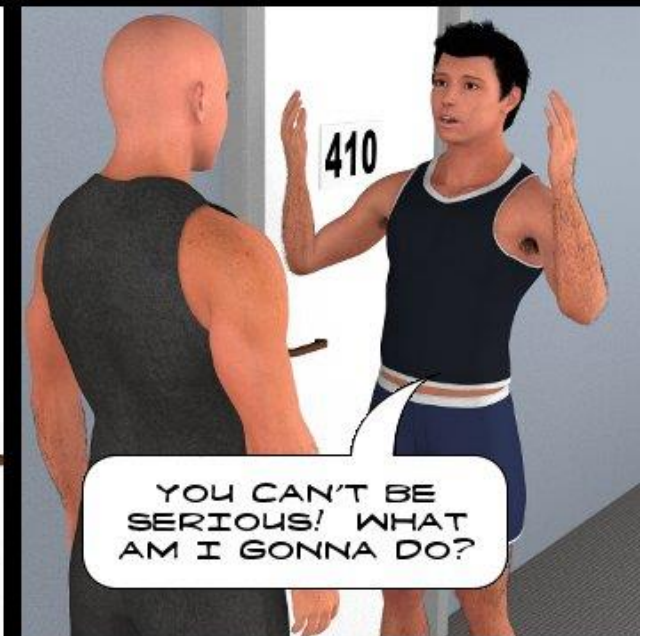
GOING FOR A MIDNIGHT RUN?



NAW, HITTING THE CAMPUS GYM. I WANT TO GET HUGE THIS YEAR.



HATE TO TELL YOU, DUDE, BUT THE GYM DOESN'T OPEN UNTIL MONDAY.



YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! WHAT AM I GONNA DO?



IF YOU WANT TO LIFT WITH ME, I THINK I CAN SHOW YOU SOMETHING YOU'LL LIKE BETTER.



NAME'S TONY, BY THE WAY, TONY SCHULTZ.

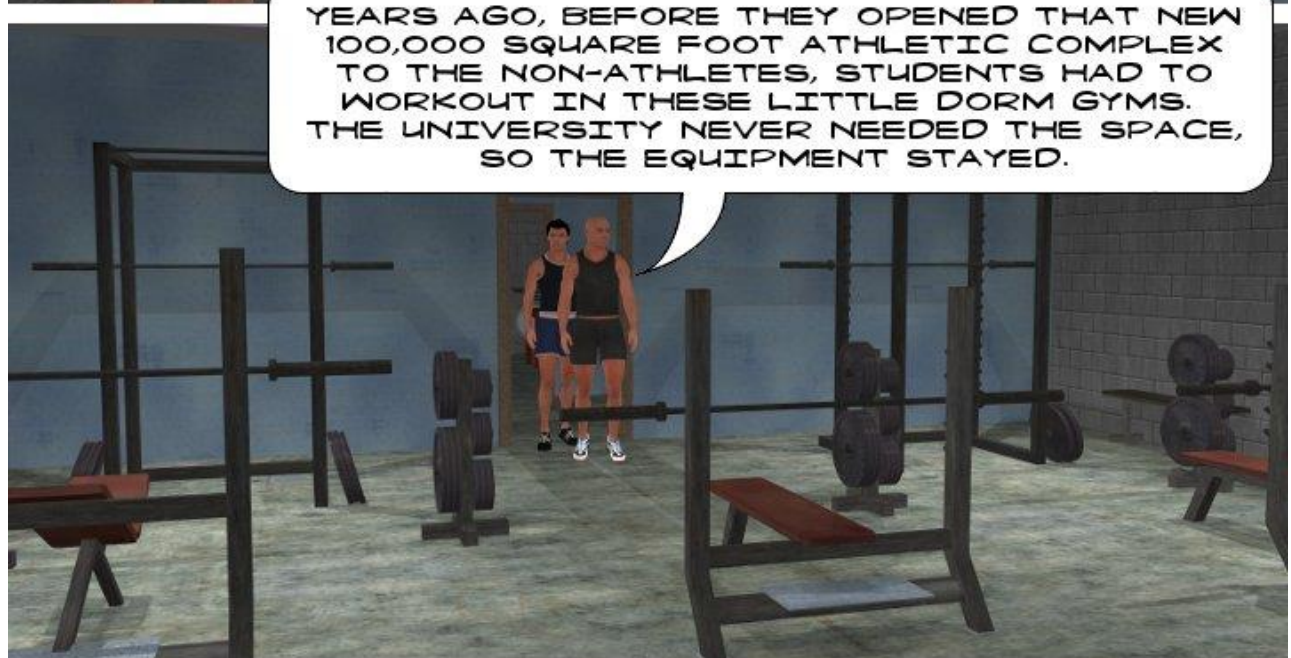
BRODY MANSFIELD



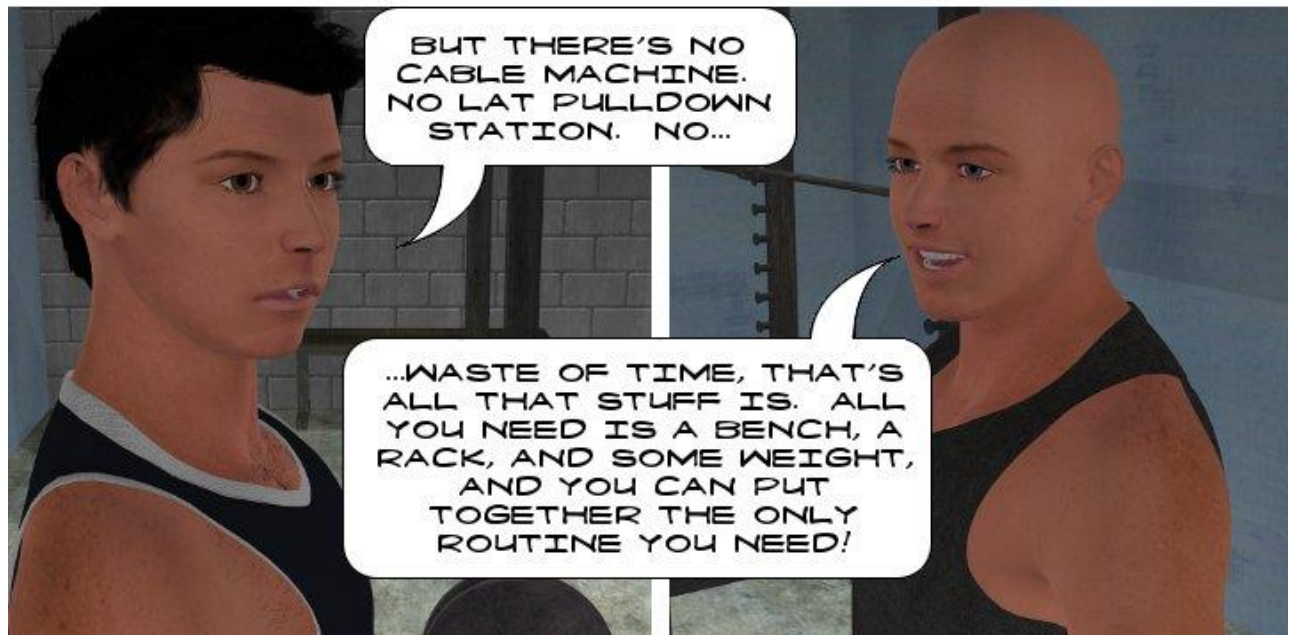
I DON'T GET IT. YOU BROUGHT ME DOWN HERE TO...DO LAUNDRY?



NOPE! I BROUGHT YOU DOWN HERE FOR THIS!

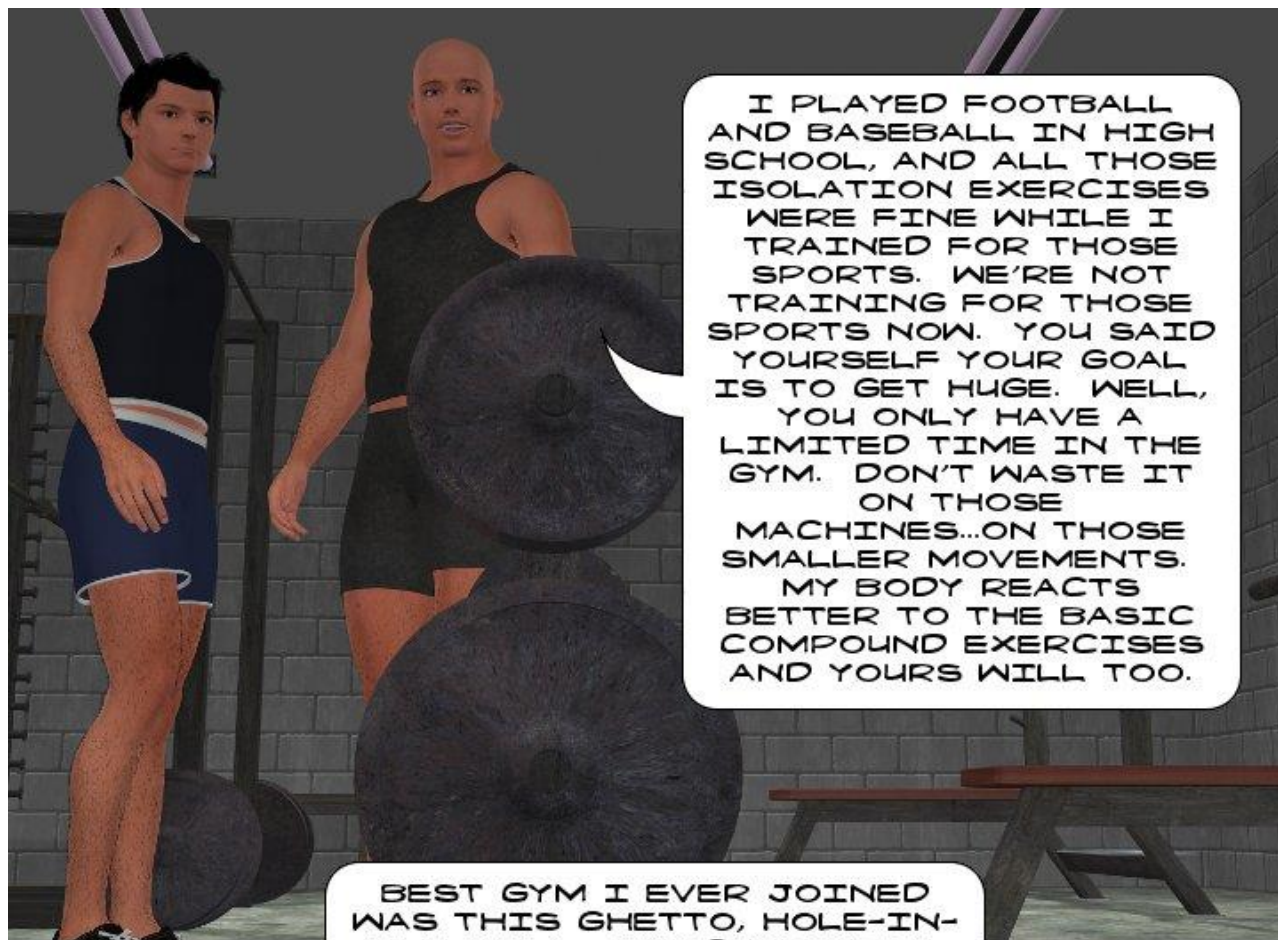


YEARS AGO, BEFORE THEY OPENED THAT NEW 100,000 SQUARE FOOT ATHLETIC COMPLEX TO THE NON-ATHLETES, STUDENTS HAD TO WORKOUT IN THESE LITTLE DORM GYMS. THE UNIVERSITY NEVER NEEDED THE SPACE, SO THE EQUIPMENT STAYED.

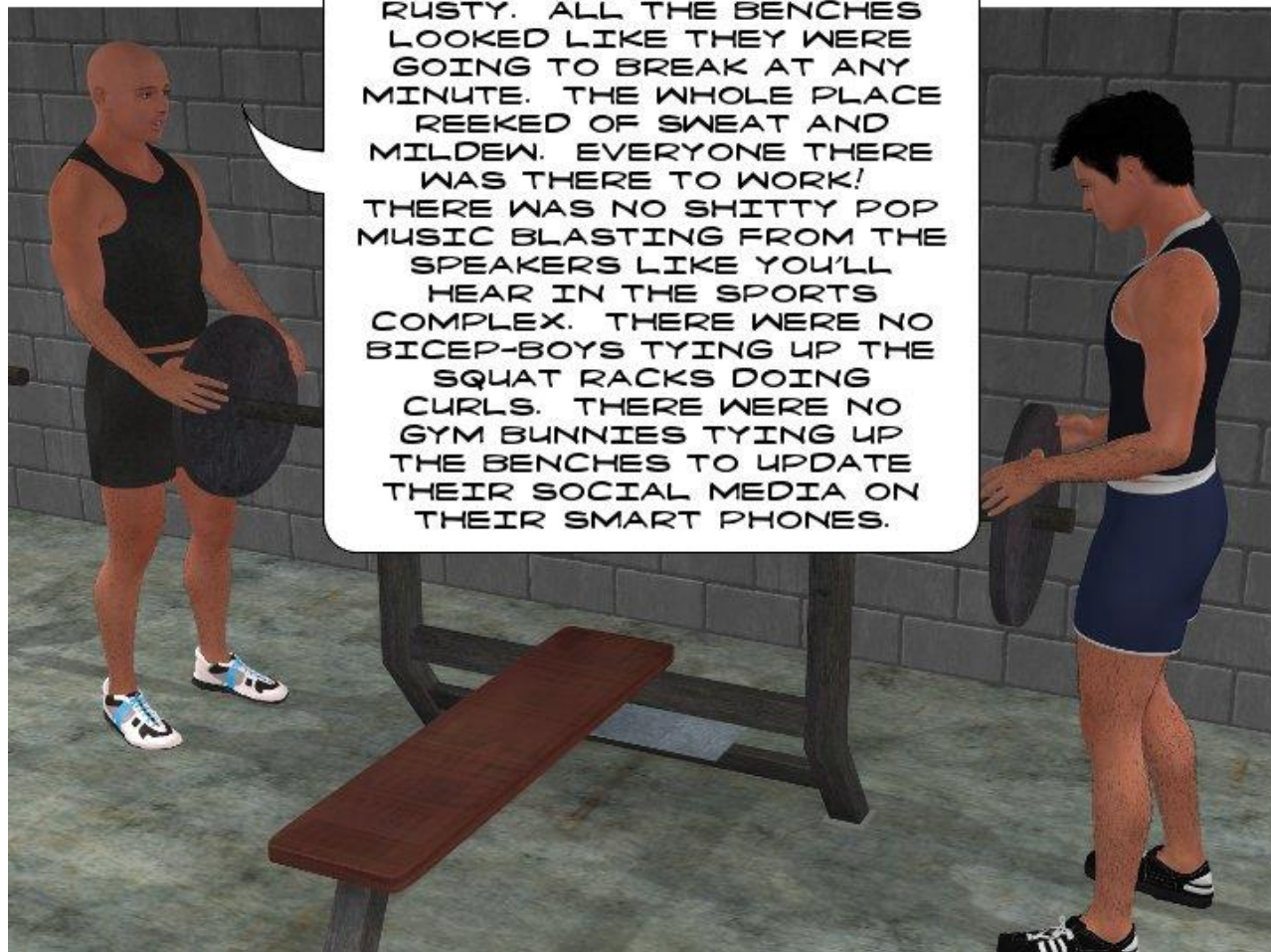


BUT THERE'S NO CABLE MACHINE. NO LAT PULLDOWN STATION. NO...

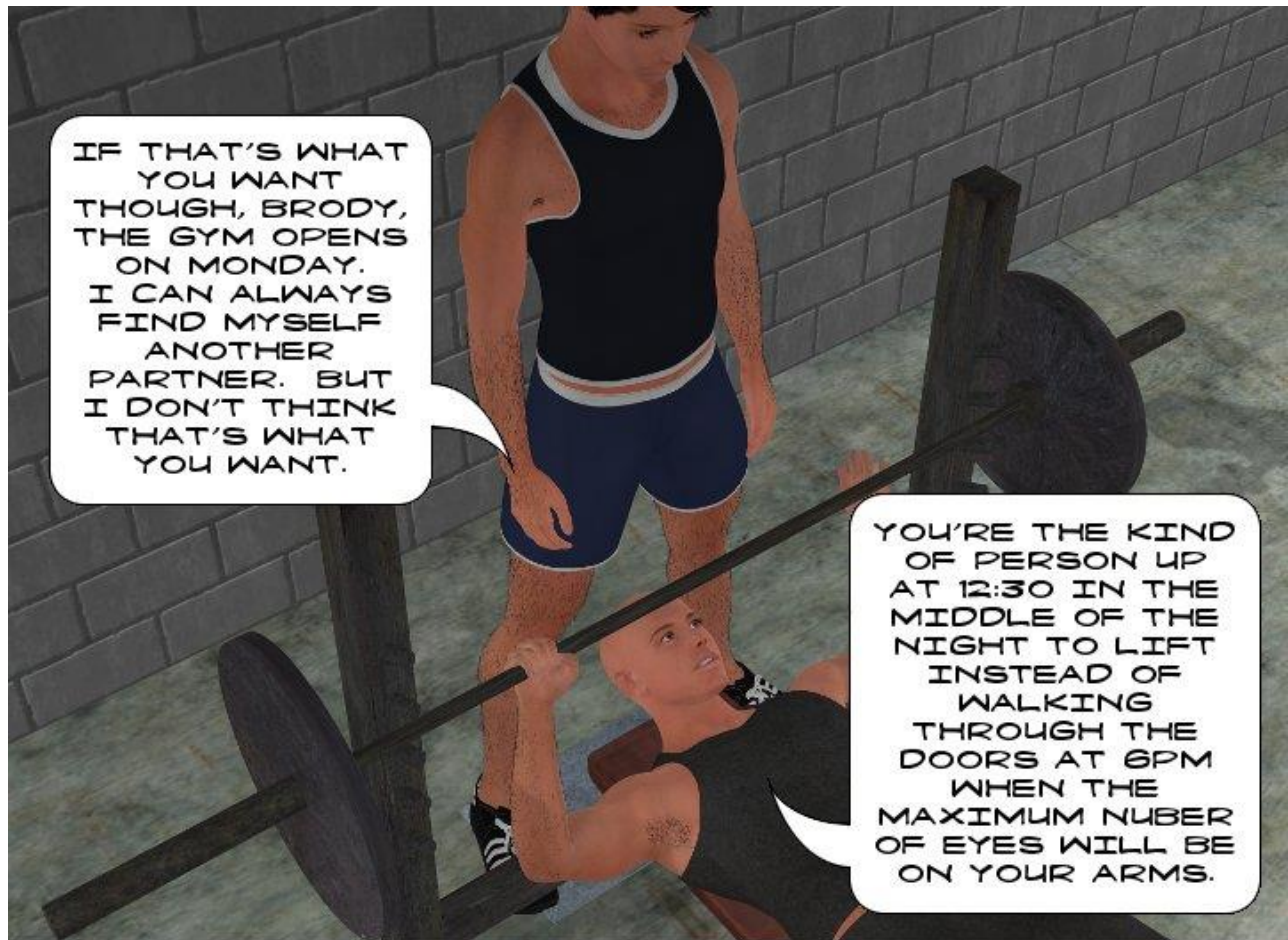
...WASTE OF TIME, THAT'S ALL THAT STUFF IS. ALL YOU NEED IS A BENCH, A RACK, AND SOME WEIGHT, AND YOU CAN PUT TOGETHER THE ONLY ROUTINE YOU NEED!



I PLAYED FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND ALL THOSE ISOLATION EXERCISES WERE FINE WHILE I TRAINED FOR THOSE SPORTS. WE'RE NOT TRAINING FOR THOSE SPORTS NOW. YOU SAID YOURSELF YOUR GOAL IS TO GET HUGE. WELL, YOU ONLY HAVE A LIMITED TIME IN THE GYM. DON'T WASTE IT ON THOSE MACHINES...ON THOSE SMALLER MOVEMENTS. MY BODY REACTS BETTER TO THE BASIC COMPOUND EXERCISES AND YOURS WILL TOO.



BEST GYM I EVER JOINED WAS THIS GHETTO, HOLE-IN-THE-WALL. WEIGHTS WERE RUSTY. ALL THE BENCHES LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO BREAK AT ANY MINUTE. THE WHOLE PLACE REEKED OF SWEAT AND MILDEW. EVERYONE THERE WAS THERE TO WORK! THERE WAS NO SHITTY POP MUSIC BLASTING FROM THE SPEAKERS LIKE YOU'LL HEAR IN THE SPORTS COMPLEX. THERE WERE NO BICEP-BOYS TYING UP THE SQUAT RACKS DOING CURLS. THERE WERE NO GYM BUNNIES TYING UP THE BENCHES TO UPDATE THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA ON THEIR SMART PHONES.

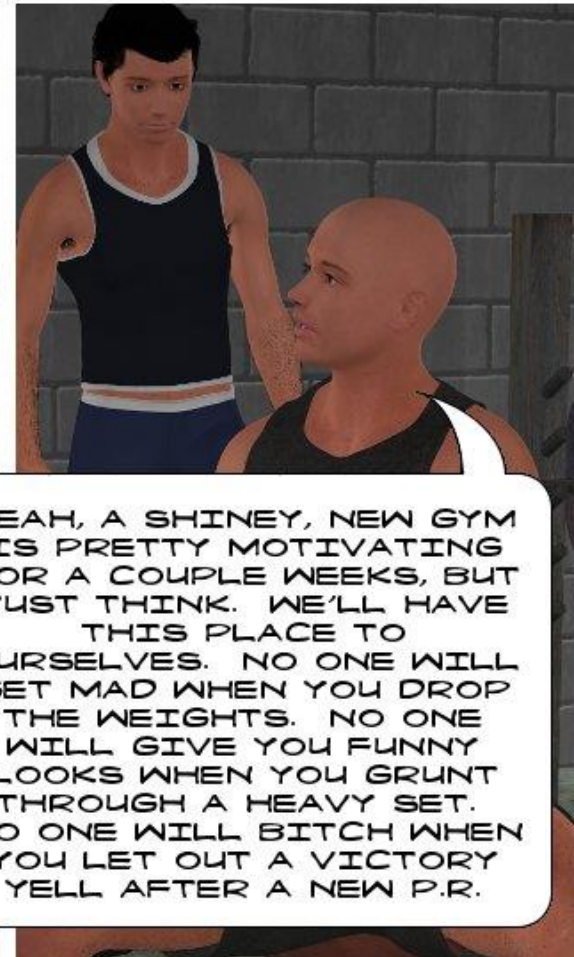


IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT THOUGH, BRODY, THE GYM OPENS ON MONDAY. I CAN ALWAYS FIND MYSELF ANOTHER PARTNER. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

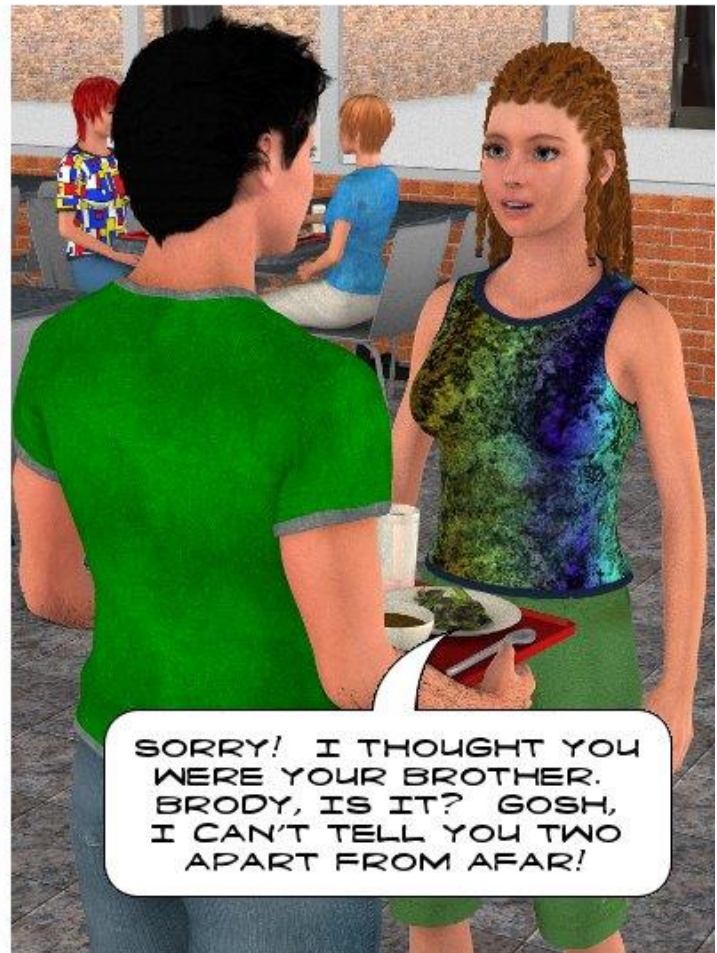
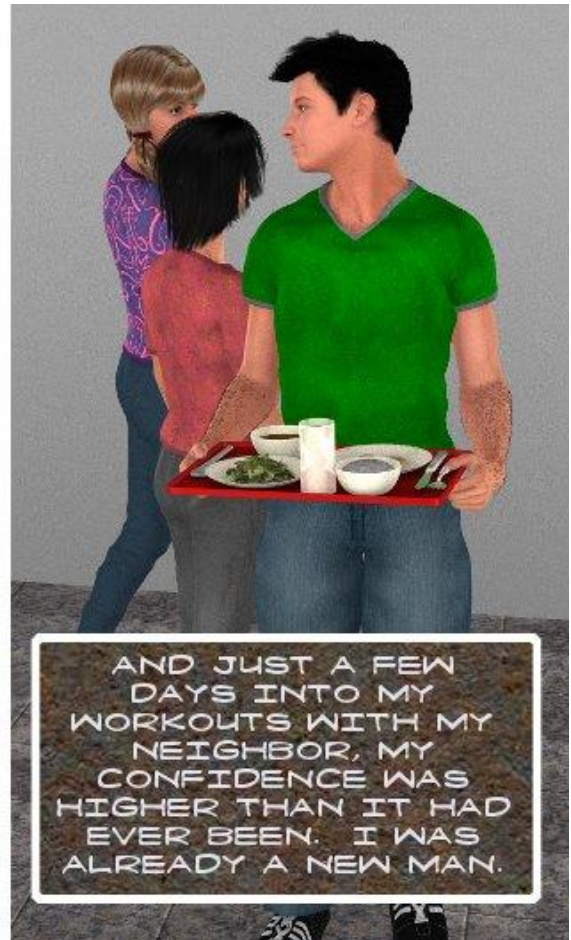
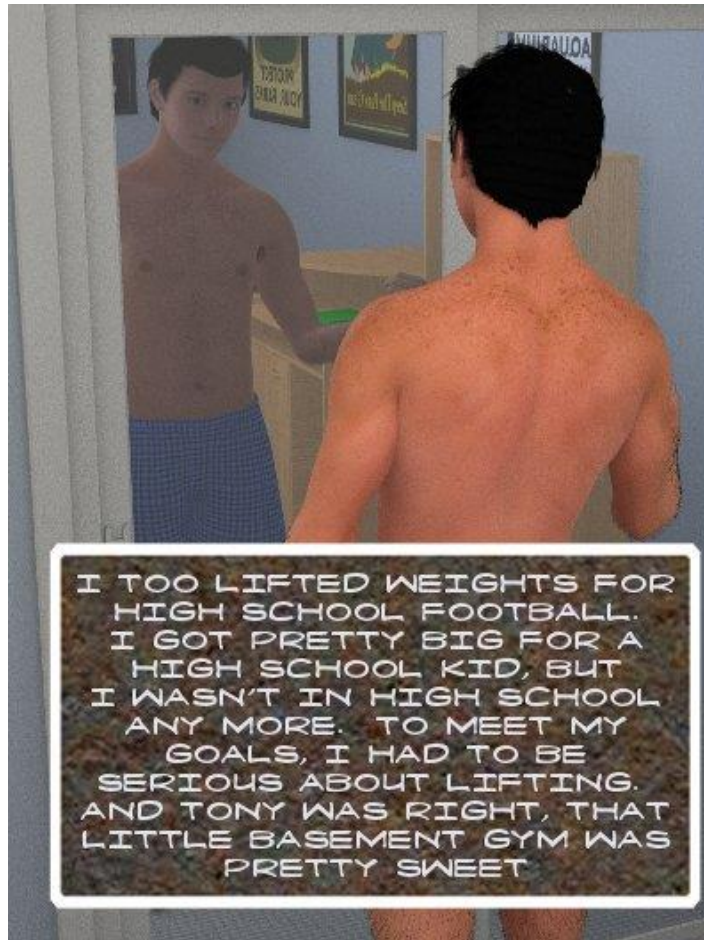
YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON UP AT 12:30 IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO LIFT INSTEAD OF WALKING THROUGH THE DOORS AT 6PM WHEN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EYES WILL BE ON YOUR ARMS.



YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S JUST I WAS EXCITED ABOUT USING A NEW GYM.



YEAH, A SHINEY, NEW GYM IS PRETTY MOTIVATING FOR A COUPLE WEEKS, BUT JUST THINK. WE'LL HAVE THIS PLACE TO OURSELVES. NO ONE WILL GET MAD WHEN YOU DROP THE WEIGHTS. NO ONE WILL GIVE YOU FUNNY LOOKS WHEN YOU GRUNT THROUGH A HEAVY SET. NO ONE WILL BITCH WHEN YOU LET OUT A VICTORY YELL AFTER A NEW P.R.





BUT YOU CAN TELL US APART UP CLOSE?



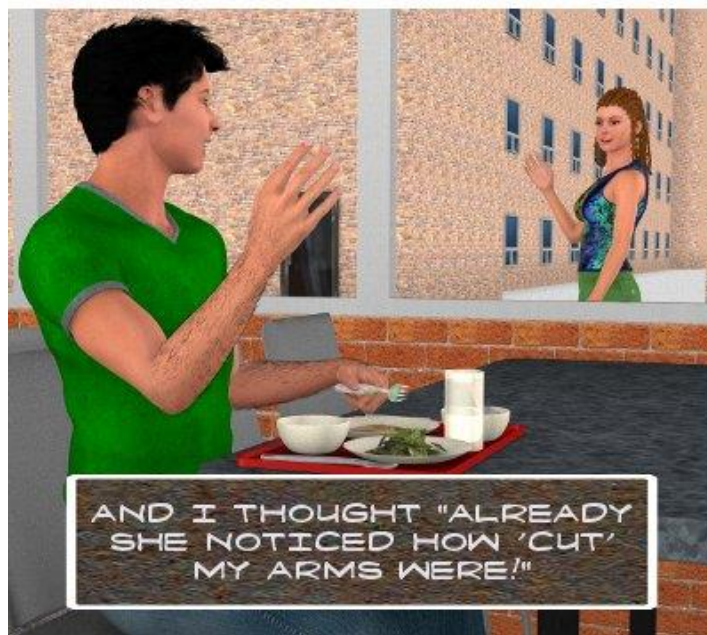
OF COURSE! YOUR JAW IS SHARPER. RUSSELL'S FACE IS A LITTLE ROUNDER. AND OF COURSE YOUR ARMS ARE MORE CUT THAN HIS.



WELL I WAS MORE OF AN ATHLETE IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT HEY, RUSS AND HIS ROOMMATE ARE GETTING THEIR FOOD NOW. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US FOR LUNCH?



I WISH I COULD, BUT I ALREADY PROMISED ANOTHER FRIEND I'D MEET HER FOR LUNCH AT THE WALKER DINING HALL. TELL YOUR BROTHER I SAID "HI" THOUGH.



AND I THOUGHT "ALREADY SHE NOTICED HOW 'CUT' MY ARMS WERE!"



WAS THAT CANDICE?



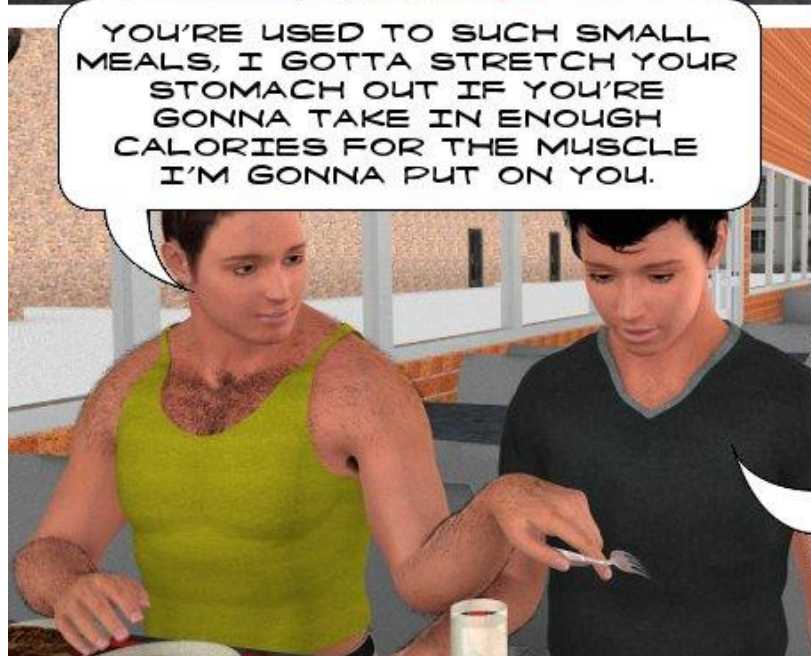
YEAH, SHE...
UH...DAMN! DID YOU
TWO LEAVE
ANYTHING FOR THE
REST OF THE
CAMPUS?



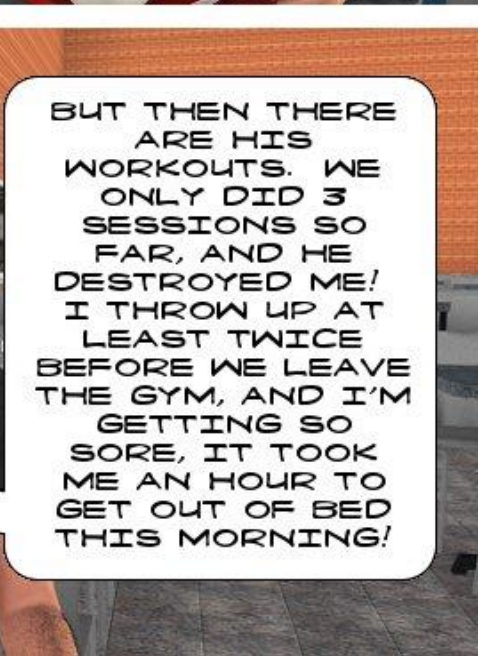
GOTTA EAT BIG
TO GET BIG, BRO!



SKIP IS A
MONSTER!
WHATEVER I PUT ON
MY PLATE, HE ADDS
MORE! HE MADE ME
BUY A TUB OF WHEY,
AND FORCEFEEDS IT
TO ME ALL THE TIME!



YOU'RE USED TO SUCH SMALL
MEALS, I GOTTA STRETCH YOUR
STOMACH OUT IF YOU'RE
GONNA TAKE IN ENOUGH
CALORIES FOR THE MUSCLE
I'M GONNA PUT ON YOU.



BUT THEN THERE
ARE HIS
WORKOUTS. WE
ONLY DID 3
SESSIONS SO
FAR, AND HE
DESTROYED ME!
I THROW UP AT
LEAST TWICE
BEFORE WE LEAVE
THE GYM, AND I'M
GETTING SO
SORE, IT TOOK
ME AN HOUR TO
GET OUT OF BED
THIS MORNING!



DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO QUIT ALREADY!



THE OPPOSITE IF ANYTHING! I WANT MORE!



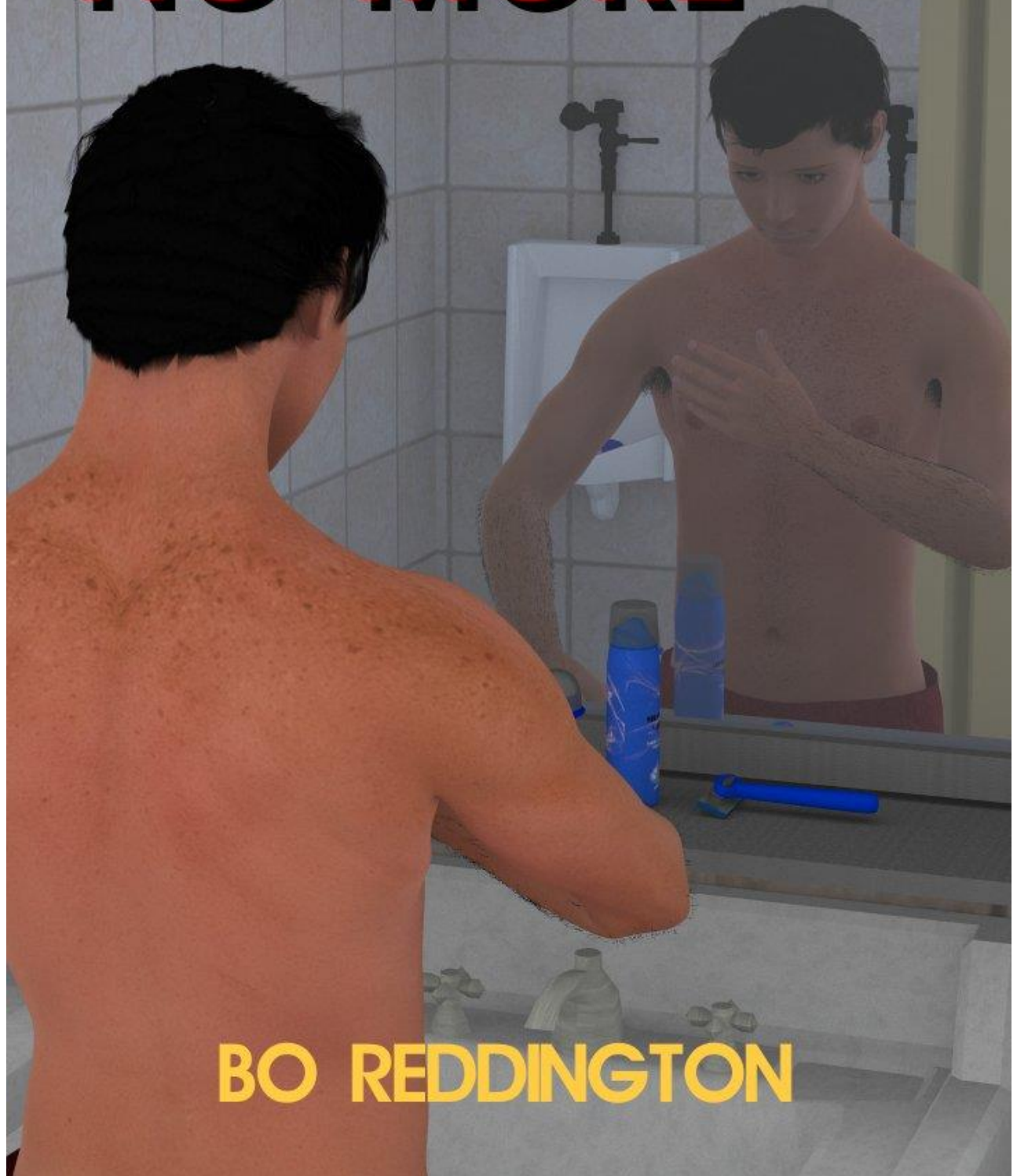
I WANT TO GET BIG LIKE SKIP! BIGGER! I WANT TO GET HUGE! OH BRODY, YOU HAVE NO IDEA. WE HAVEN'T BEEN LIFTING A FULL WEEK AND ALREADY I'M ADDICTED! I SHOULD HAVE LIFTED WITH YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL. IMAGINE HOW BIG I'D BE IF I PUSHED MYSELF LIKE SKIP'S PUSHING ME NOW!



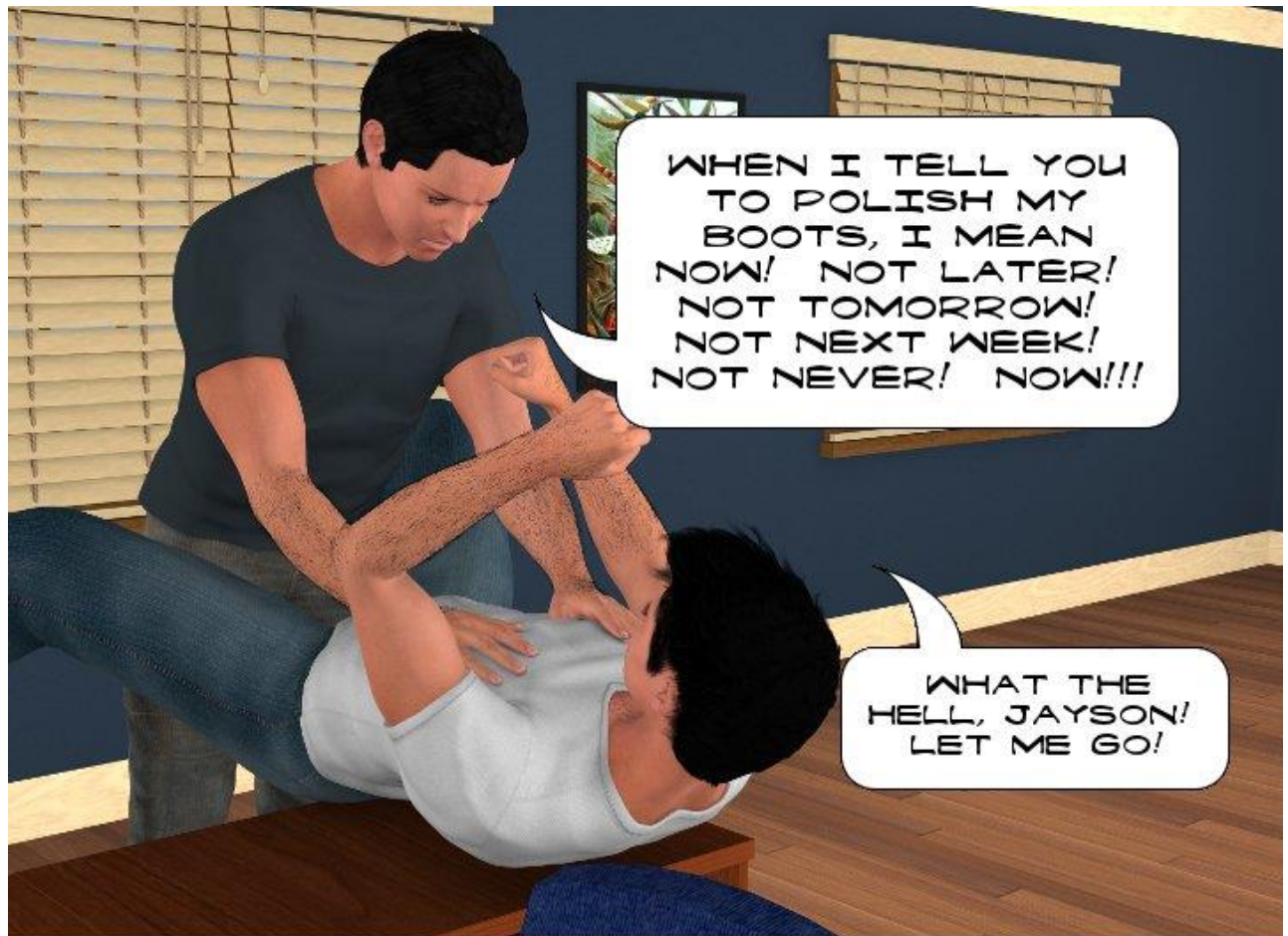
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD MY TWIN WAS THIS EXCITED ABOUT WEIGHTLIFTING, BUT I WASN'T. SOMETHING ABOUT HIS ATTITUDE UNSETTLED ME, AND I COULDN'T PLACE IT.

MY TWIN NO MORE

#2 of 6
LIMITED
SERIES



BO REDDINGTON



WHEN I TELL YOU
TO POLISH MY
BOOTS, I MEAN
NOW! NOT LATER!
NOT TOMORROW!
NOT NEXT WEEK!
NOT NEVER! NOW!!!

WHAT THE
HELL, JAYSON!
LET ME GO!




NO! JAYSON,
PLEASE!

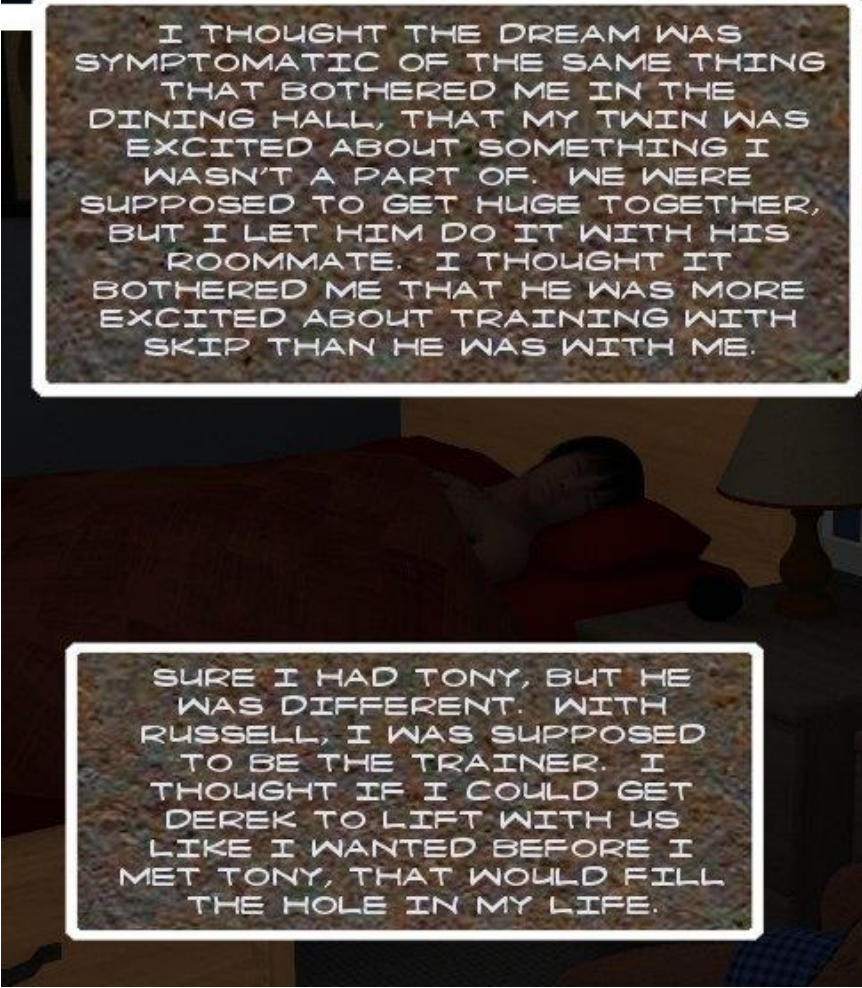





GASP!



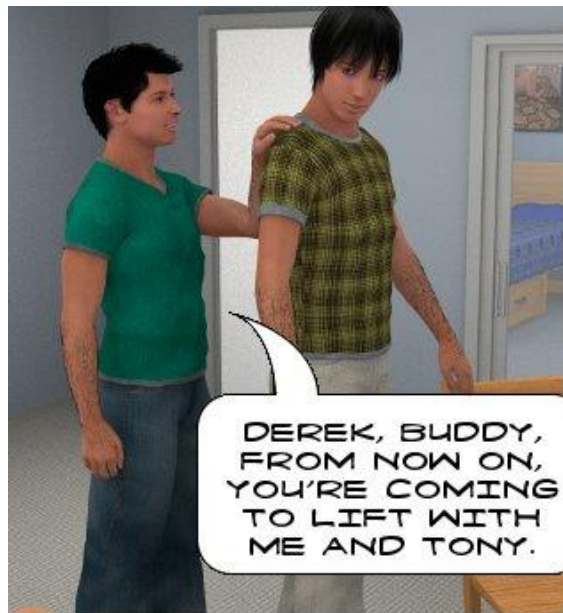
IT HAD BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE MY BROTHER INVADED MY DREAMS. HE HAD TORMENTED ME AND RUSS SO BADLY, I COULD NOT EVEN ESCAPE HIM IN SLEEP. IN FAIRNESS, HE NEVER MADE ME DO ANYTHING SO DEMEANING AS POLISH HIS BOOTS, BUT THAT DIDN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I WAS VERY INTIMATE WITH HIS FISTS.



I THOUGHT THE DREAM WAS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE SAME THING THAT BOTHERED ME IN THE DINING HALL, THAT MY TWIN WAS EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING I WASN'T A PART OF. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET HUGE TOGETHER, BUT I LET HIM DO IT WITH HIS ROOMMATE. I THOUGHT IT BOTHERED ME THAT HE WAS MORE EXCITED ABOUT TRAINING WITH SKIP THAN HE WAS WITH ME.



SURE I HAD TONY, BUT HE WAS DIFFERENT. WITH RUSSELL, I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE TRAINER. I THOUGHT IF I COULD GET DEREK TO LIFT WITH US LIKE I WANTED BEFORE I MET TONY, THAT WOULD FILL THE HOLE IN MY LIFE.



DEREK, BUDDY, FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE COMING TO LIFT WITH ME AND TONY.

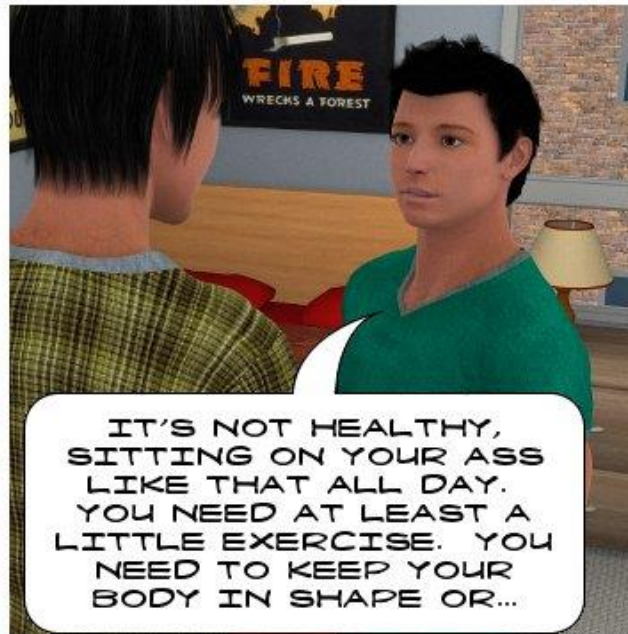


I AM?

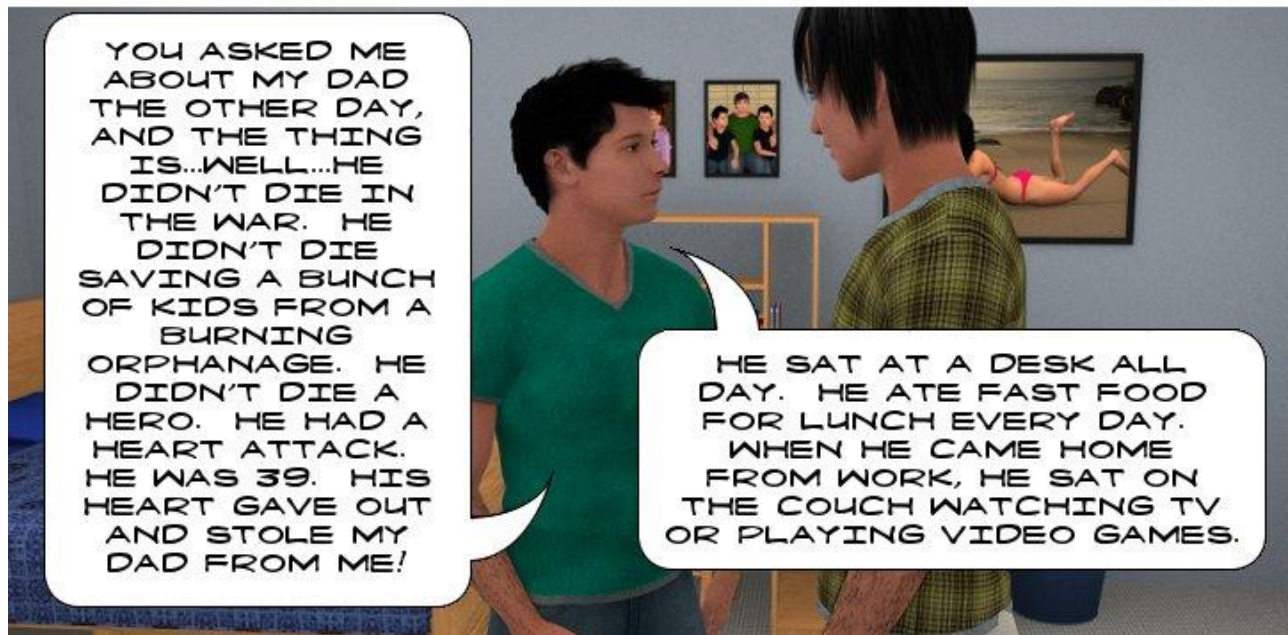
YUP! I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU ON THAT COMPUTER ALL THE TIME, PLAYING YOUR GAMES OR CHATTING ON THOSE MESSAGE BOARDS WHENEVER I COME IN HERE.



BUT I LIKE PLAYING ON MY COMPUTER.

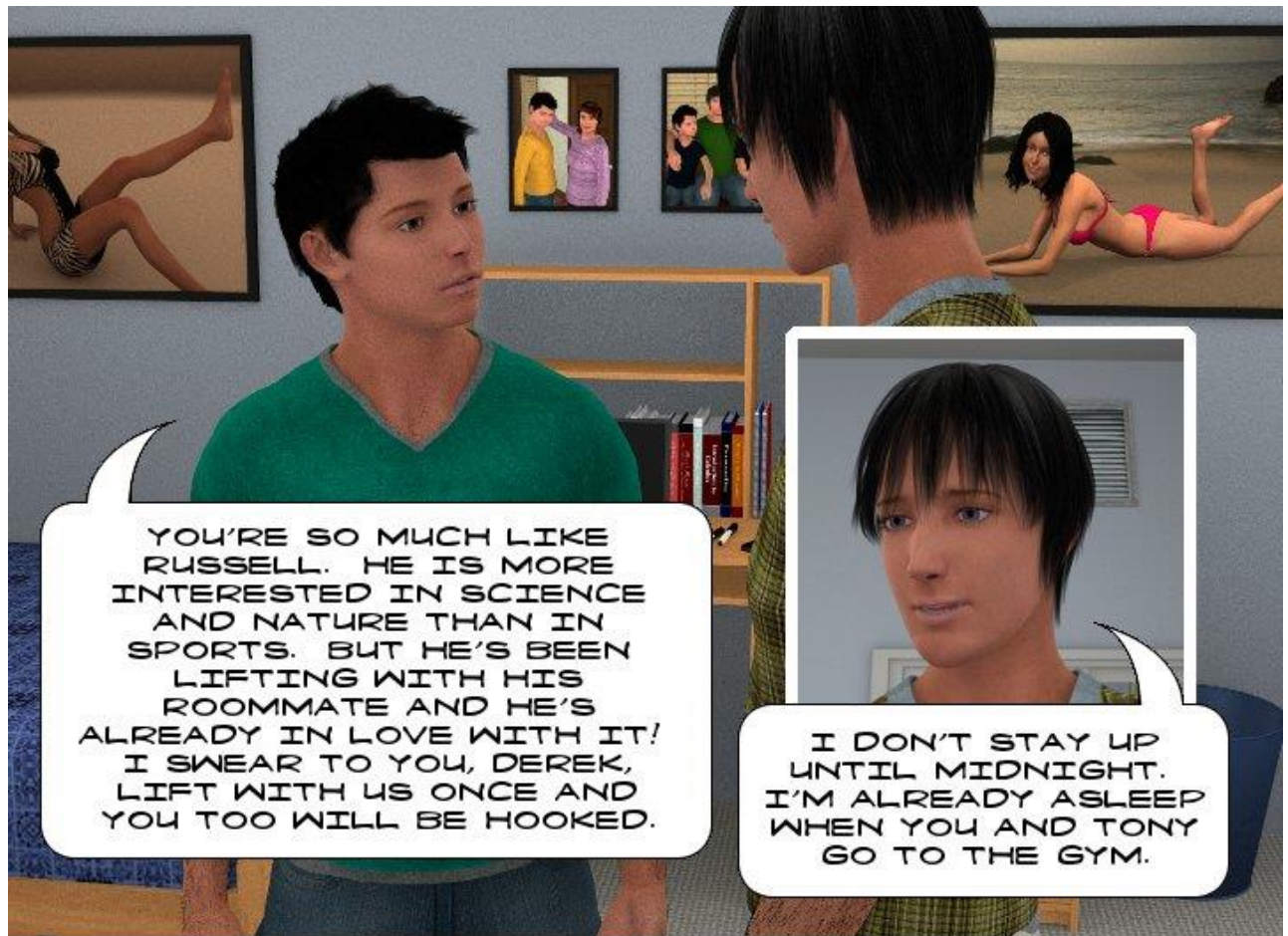


IT'S NOT HEALTHY, SITTING ON YOUR ASS LIKE THAT ALL DAY. YOU NEED AT LEAST A LITTLE EXERCISE. YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR BODY IN SHAPE OR...



YOU ASKED ME ABOUT MY DAD THE OTHER DAY, AND THE THING IS...WELL...HE DIDN'T DIE IN THE WAR. HE DIDN'T DIE SAVING A BUNCH OF KIDS FROM A BURNING ORPHANAGE. HE DIDN'T DIE A HERO. HE HAD A HEART ATTACK. HE WAS 39. HIS HEART GAVE OUT AND STOLE MY DAD FROM ME!

HE SAT AT A DESK ALL DAY. HE ATE FAST FOOD FOR LUNCH EVERY DAY. WHEN HE CAME HOME FROM WORK, HE SAT ON THE COUCH WATCHING TV OR PLAYING VIDEO GAMES.



YOU'RE SO MUCH LIKE RUSSELL. HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN SCIENCE AND NATURE THAN IN SPORTS. BUT HE'S BEEN LIFTING WITH HIS ROOMMATE AND HE'S ALREADY IN LOVE WITH IT! I SWEAR TO YOU, DEREK, LIFT WITH US ONCE AND YOU TOO WILL BE HOOKED.



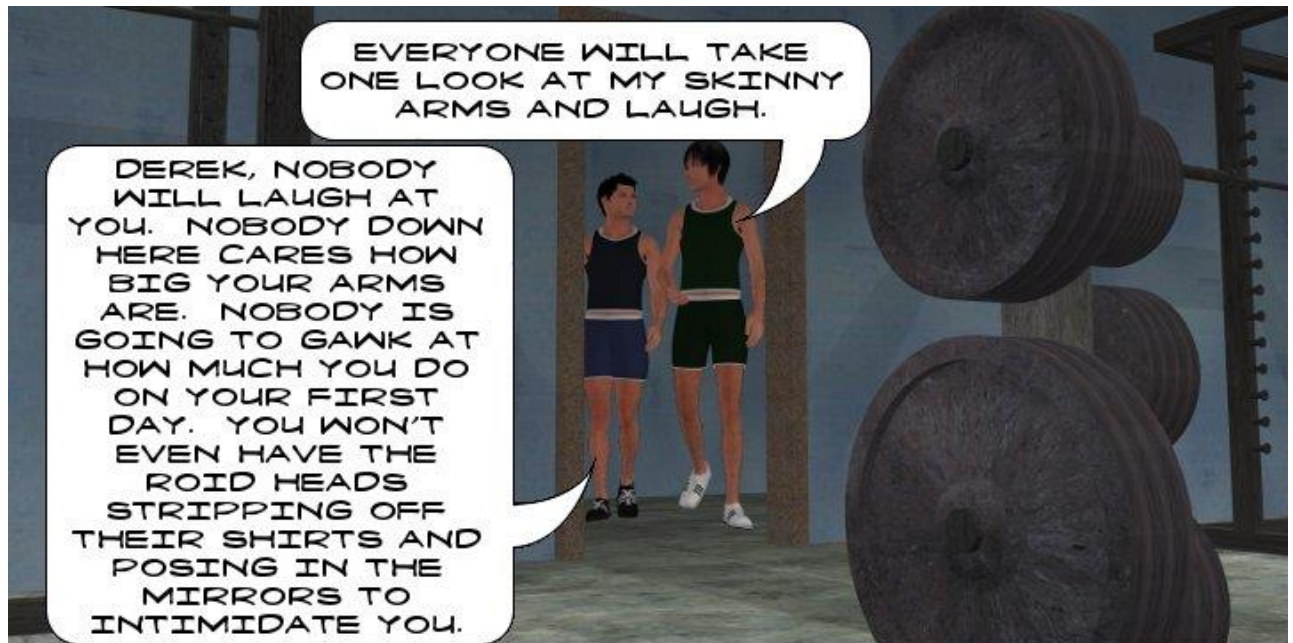
I DON'T STAY UP UNTIL MIDNIGHT. I'M ALREADY ASLEEP WHEN YOU AND TONY GO TO THE GYM.



WITH CLASSES STARTING TOMORROW, WE'LL BE IN THE GYM AT 4:00. SINCE YOUR LATEST CLASS GETS OUT AT 2, YOU'LL HAVE NO EXCUSES! WE JUST HAVE TO GET YOU A SET OF WORKOUT CLOTHES!

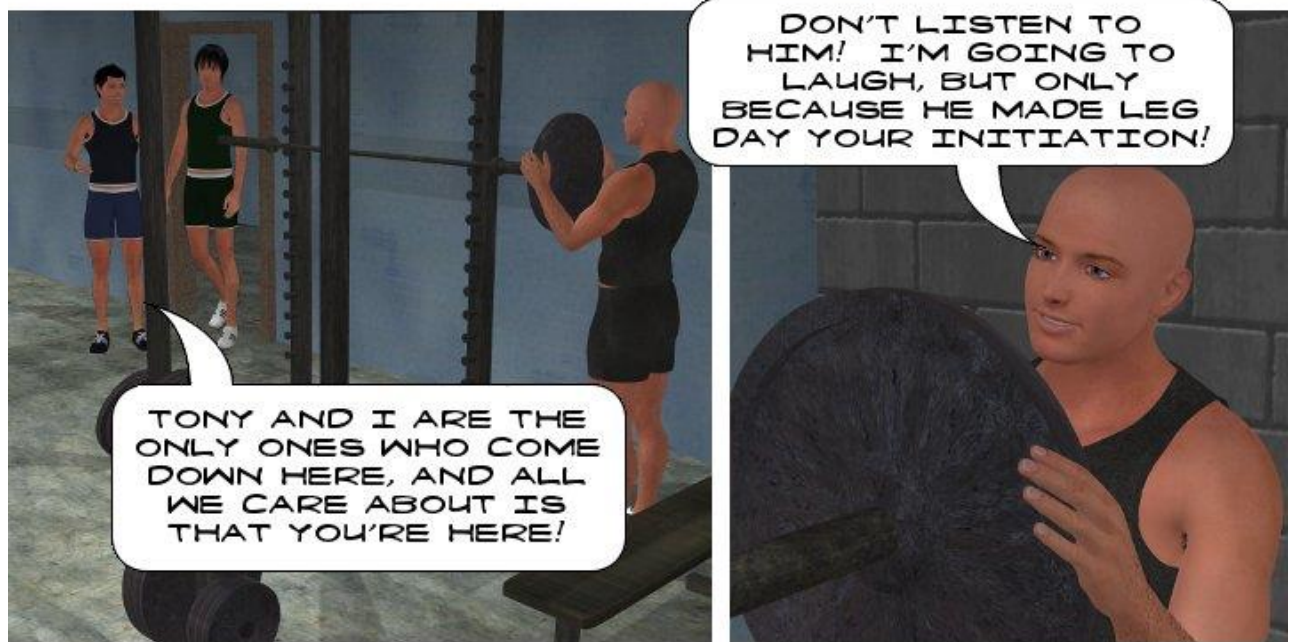


YEAH, I LOOK STUPID.



EVERYONE WILL TAKE ONE LOOK AT MY SKINNY ARMS AND LAUGH.

DEREK, NOBODY WILL LAUGH AT YOU. NOBODY DOWN HERE CARES HOW BIG YOUR ARMS ARE. NOBODY IS GOING TO GAWK AT HOW MUCH YOU DO ON YOUR FIRST DAY. YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE THE ROID HEADS STRIPPING OFF THEIR SHIRTS AND POSING IN THE MIRRORS TO INTIMIDATE YOU.



DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! I'M GOING TO LAUGH, BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE MADE LEG DAY YOUR INITIATION!

TONY AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO COME DOWN HERE, AND ALL WE CARE ABOUT IS THAT YOU'RE HERE!



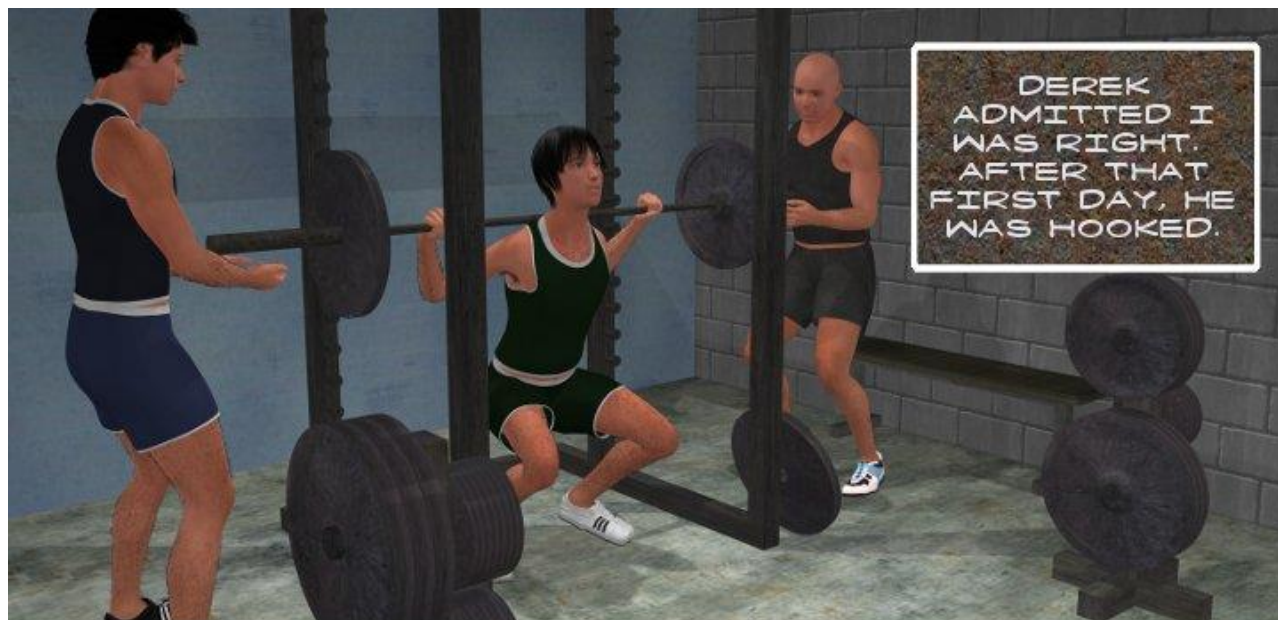
IS THAT A BAD THING?

NOPE! GOOD ACTUALLY. IT MEANS WE'RE STARTING YOU OFF RIGHT!

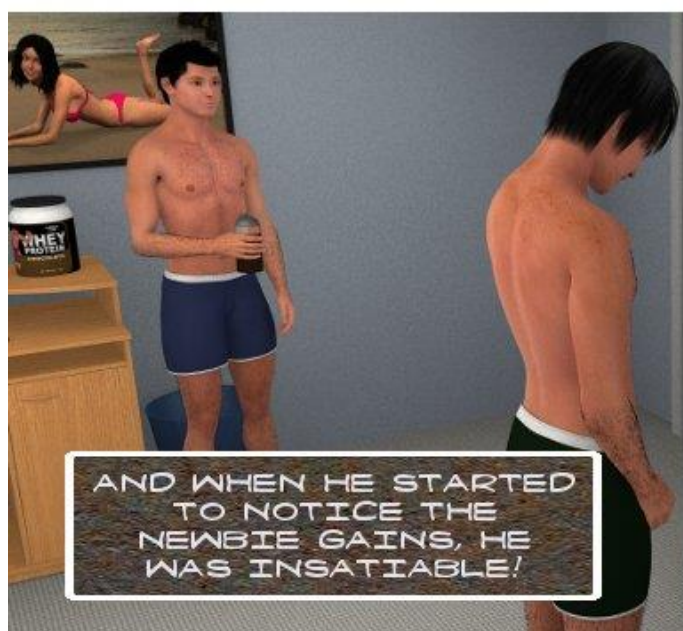


HOW WAS THAT ONE?

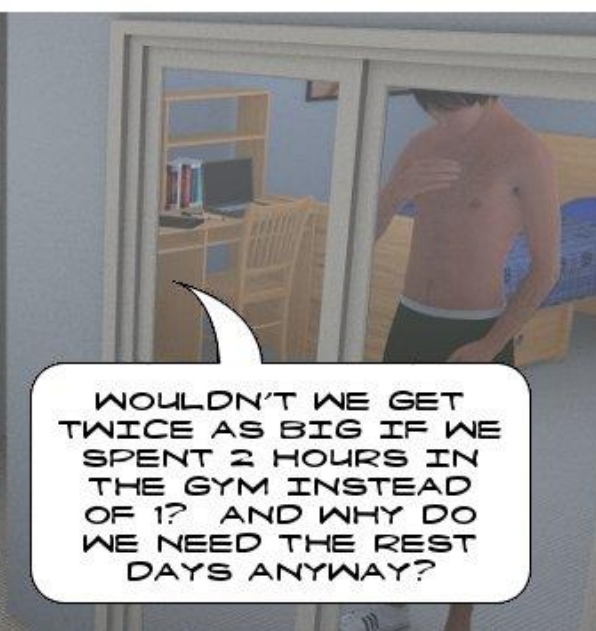
A LOT BETTER, BUT YOU'RE STILL BENDING YOUR BACK TOO MUCH.



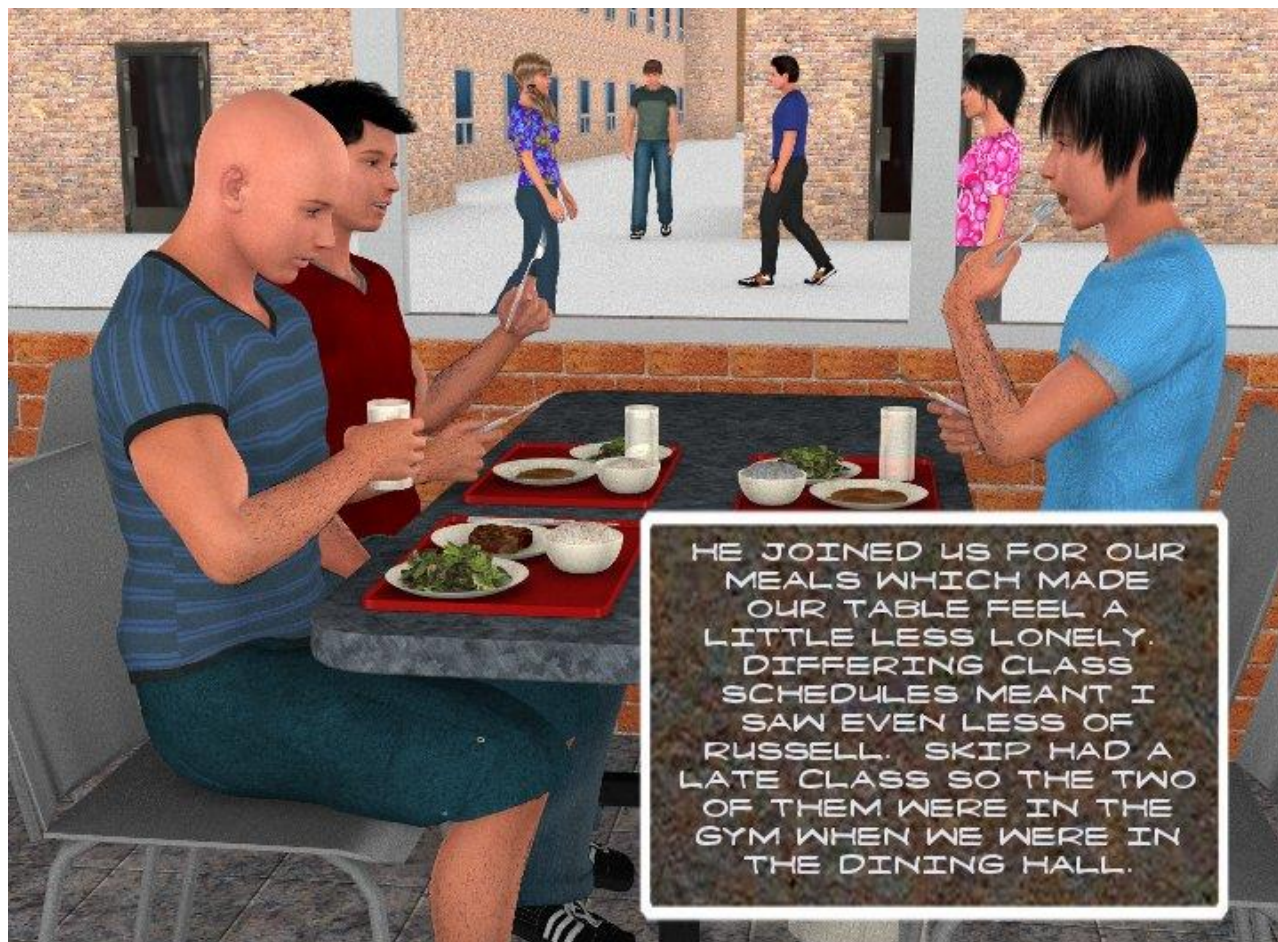
DEREK
ADMITTED I
WAS RIGHT.
AFTER THAT
FIRST DAY, HE
WAS HOOKED.



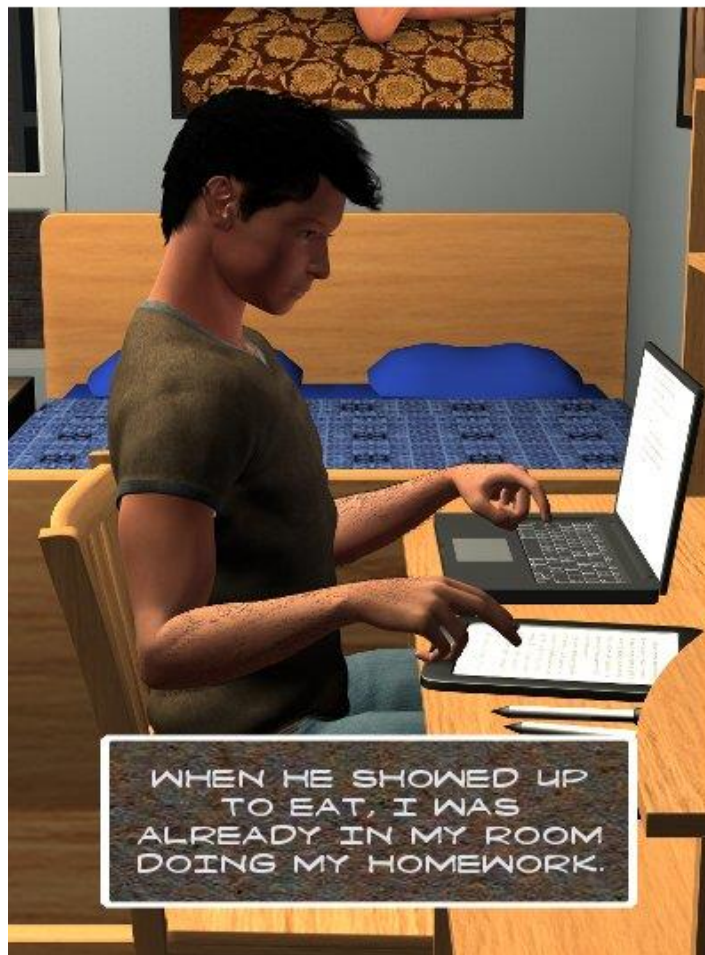
AND WHEN HE STARTED
TO NOTICE THE
NEWBIE GAINS, HE
WAS INSATIABLE!



WOULDN'T WE GET
TWICE AS BIG IF WE
SPENT 2 HOURS IN
THE GYM INSTEAD
OF 1? AND WHY DO
WE NEED THE REST
DAYS ANYWAY?



HE JOINED US FOR OUR MEALS WHICH MADE OUR TABLE FEEL A LITTLE LESS LONELY. DIFFERING CLASS SCHEDULES MEANT I SAW EVEN LESS OF RUSSELL. SKIP HAD A LATE CLASS SO THE TWO OF THEM WERE IN THE GYM WHEN WE WERE IN THE DINING HALL.

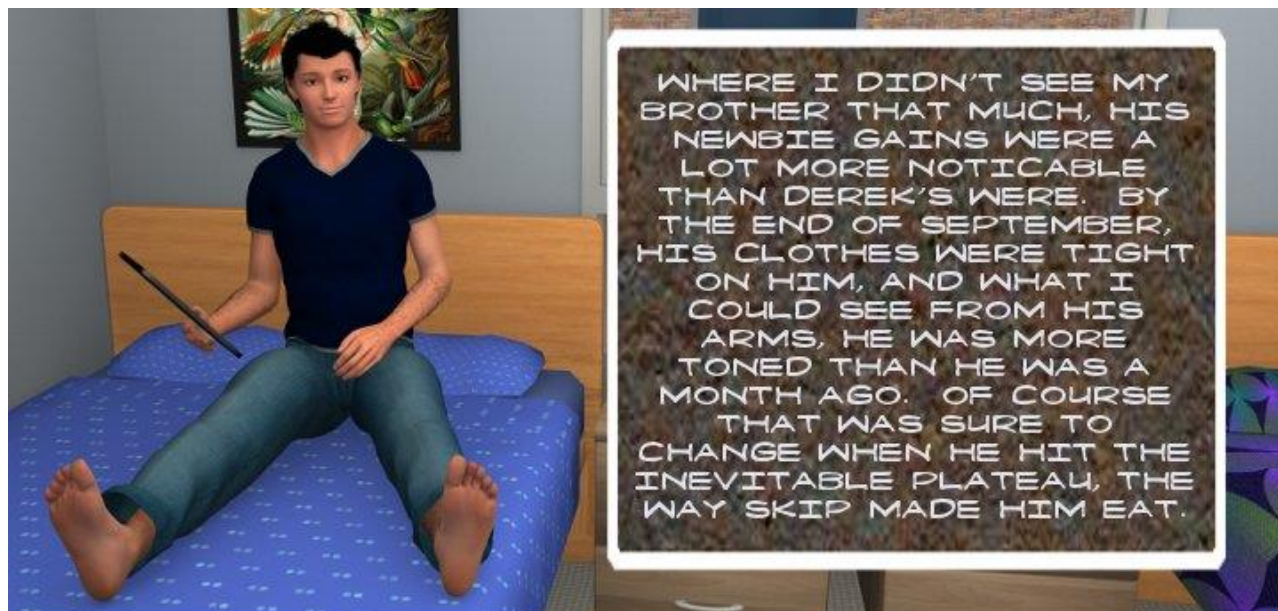


WHEN HE SHOWED UP TO EAT, I WAS ALREADY IN MY ROOM DOING MY HOMEWORK.

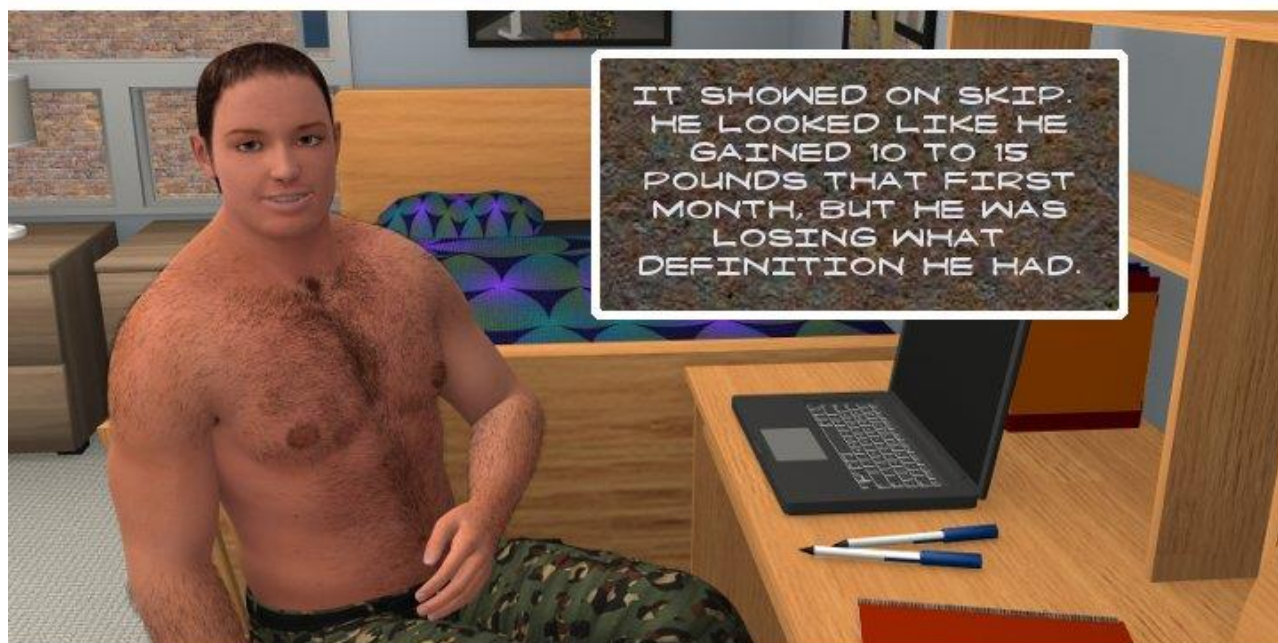


COME IN!

THE ONLY TIME I SAW MY TWIN WAS DURING THE WEEKENDS. EVEN THAT WASN'T GUARANTEED WITH THE DEMANDS OF OUR FRIENDS...



WHERE I DIDN'T SEE MY BROTHER THAT MUCH, HIS NEWSIE GAINS WERE A LOT MORE NOTICABLE THAN DEREK'S WERE. BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, HIS CLOTHES WERE TIGHT ON HIM, AND WHAT I COULD SEE FROM HIS ARMS, HE WAS MORE TONED THAN HE WAS A MONTH AGO. OF COURSE THAT WAS SURE TO CHANGE WHEN HE HIT THE INEVITABLE PLATEAU, THE WAY SKIP MADE HIM EAT.



IT SHOWED ON SKIP. HE LOOKED LIKE HE GAINED 10 TO 15 POUNDS THAT FIRST MONTH, BUT HE WAS LOSING WHAT DEFINITION HE HAD.



WHY DOES IT SMELL LIKE VANILLA IN HERE?

HA! WITH ALL THE GYM INSPIRATION IN THIS ROOM, LEAVE IT TO DEREK TO THINK ABOUT THE VANILLA SCENT THAT'S BEEN AROUND SINCE THESE TWO MOVED IN!

PROBABLY SKIP'S PROTEIN.



DAMN RUSS, YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK SWOLE THERE! DID YOU LOSE THAT LITTLE POT BELLY OF YOURS?



THAT'S FROM ALL THE "CARDIO" HE AND CANDICE PERFORM!



THAT SERIOUS, HUH!



EVERY NIGHT! I TOLD YOU, IT'S THE POSTERS. THEY PUT HER IN THE MOOD, THEN SHE LOSES IT THE SECOND HE TAKES HIS SHIRT OFF!



IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. WE DON'T DO IT "EVERY" NIGHT.



DON'T BELIEVE IT. THE TWO ARE ANIMALS! HALF THE FLOOR CAN HEAR THEM WHEN THEY GO AT IT!

EH, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. SKIP LIKES TO EXAGGERATE. ANYWAY, WHAT ABOUT YOU? I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T HOOKED UP WITH ANY OF THE CO-EDS ON YOUR FLOOR.



WELL, ACTUALLY...



...HER NAME WAS ALYSSA. WE DIDN'T TECHNICALLY "HOOK UP," BUT WE WERE SEEING EACH OTHER IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.



SHORTLY AFTER CLASSES STARTED, SHE RAN INTO ME IN THE HALL ON MY WAY TO MY POST-WORKOUT SHOWER. SHE ACTED LIKE SHE WASN'T INTERESTED, AND TURNED DOWN MY INVITE TO COME TO DINNER WITH ME, BUT EVERY DAY SINCE, SHE WAITED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR TO "CONVENIENTLY" RUN INTO ME OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

OFF TO THE SHOWERS AGAIN, BRODY?

USUALLY I DON'T LIKE THE GAMES. IF A GIRL WANTS ME, THEN I EXPECT HER TO ACCEPT WHEN I ASK HER OUT. OTHERWISE, SHE'S NOT THAT INTERESTED, SO I'LL MOVE ON TO A GIRL WHO IS. BUT I SENSED ALYSSA WAS JUST SHY. FOR SOME REASON, I FOUND IT CUTE. FOR SOME REASON, I WAS WILLING TO PLAY HER GAME UNTIL SHE FOUND THE COURAGE SHE WAITED FOR.



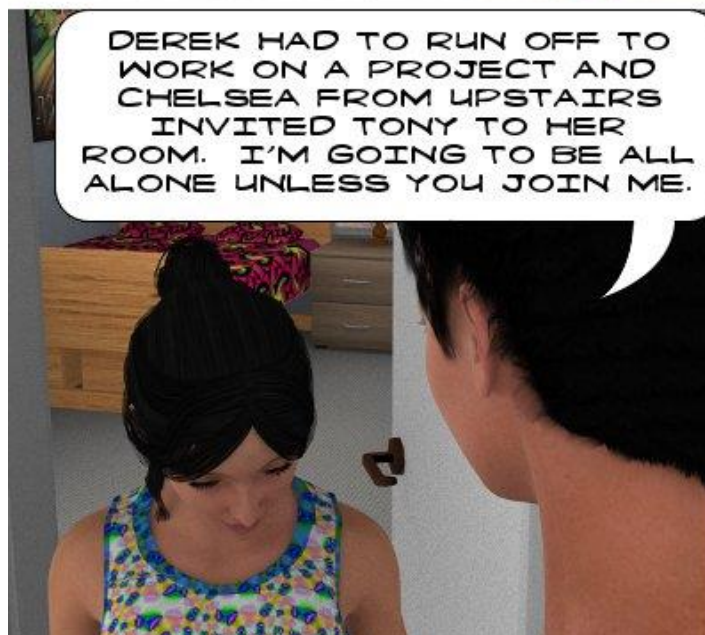
YOU...UH...SURE LIKE TO BE CLEAN!

IT ALSO HELPED I LIKED THE FLATTERY HER EYES LAID ON ME. AFTER ALL, I PUT ON 3 POUNDS IN THAT FIRST MONTH, AND I WAS GLAD TO HAVE SOMEONE NOTICING MY HARD WORK

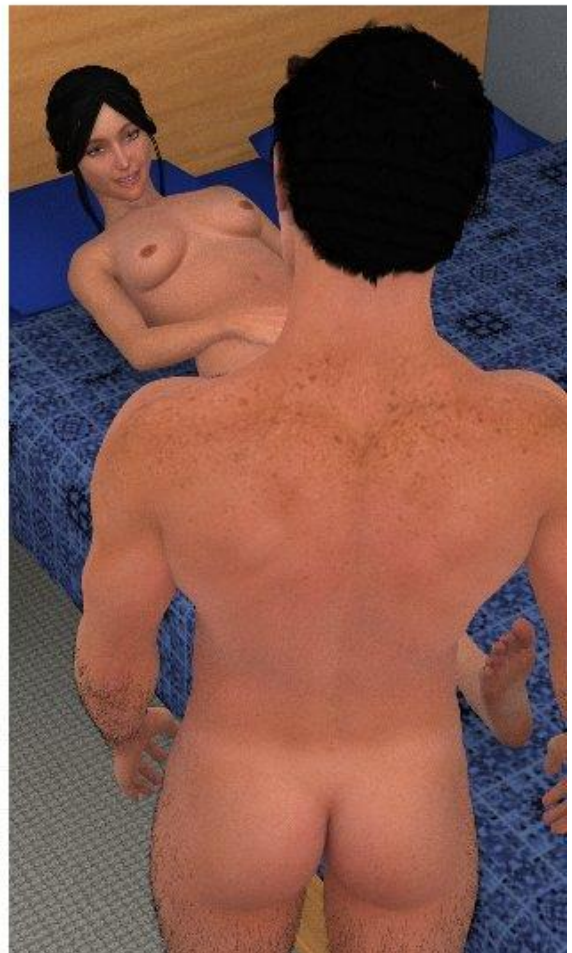
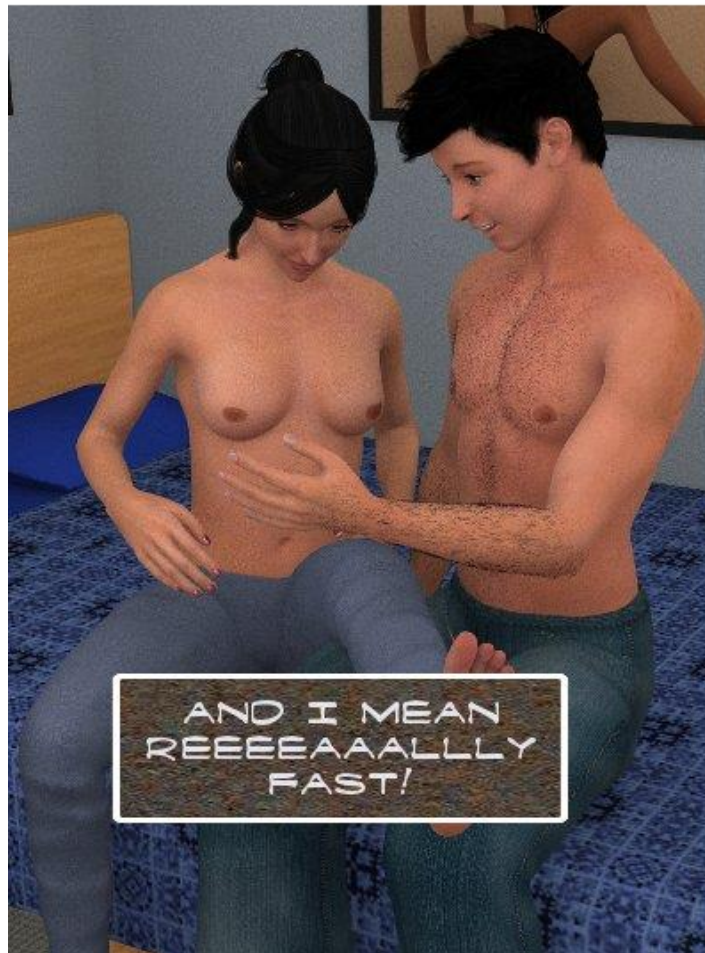
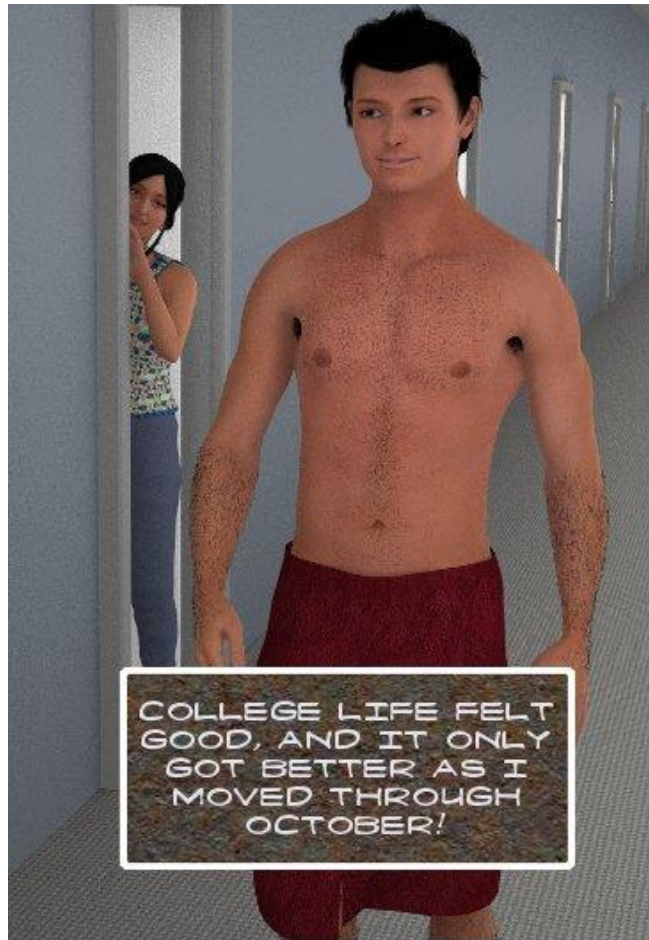


CAN I CONVINCE YOU TO PUT OFF HEADING TO THE DINING HALL FOR 20 MINUTES?

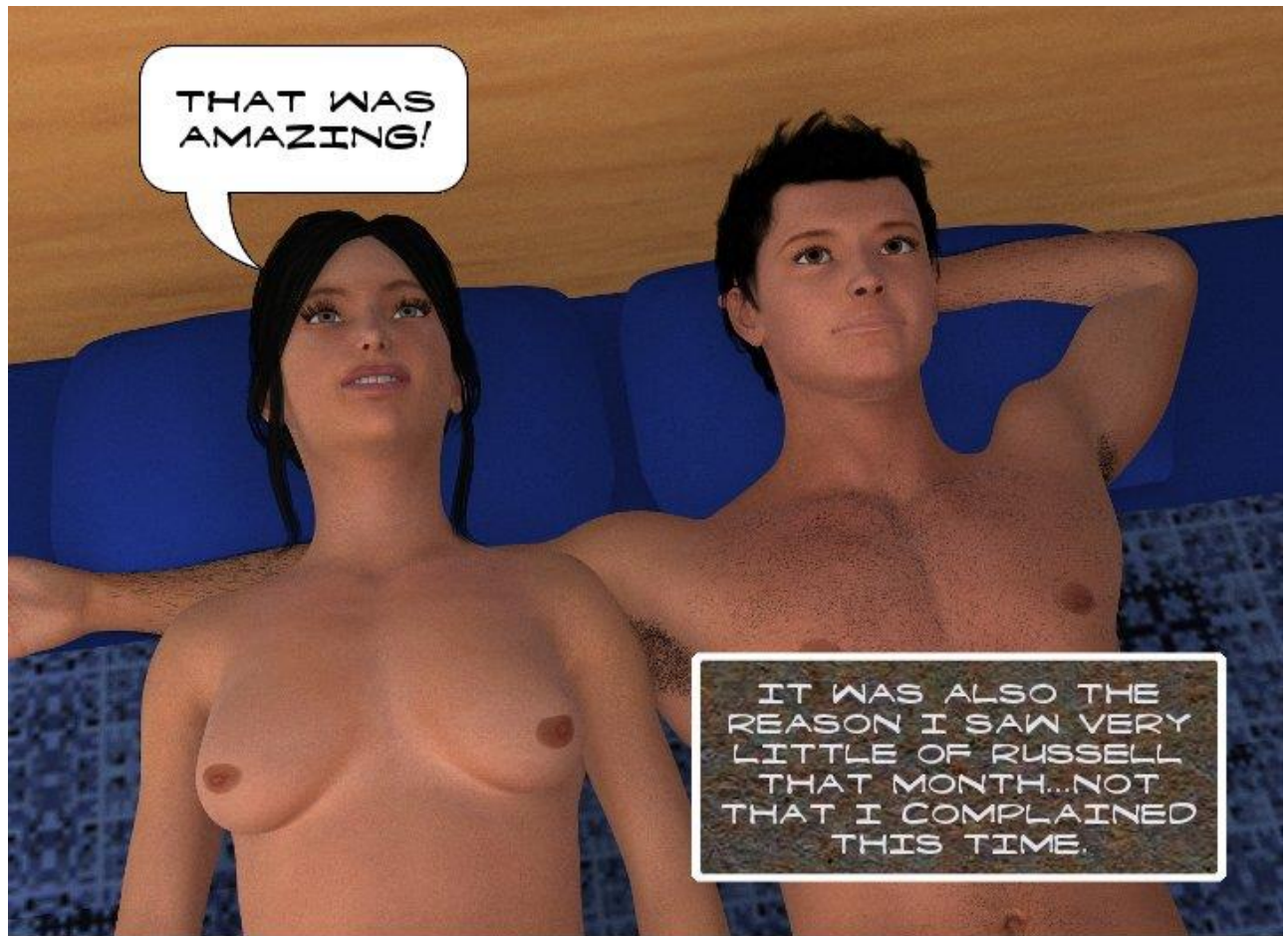
DEREK HAD TO RUN OFF TO WORK ON A PROJECT AND CHELSEA FROM UPSTAIRS INVITED TONY TO HER ROOM. I'M GOING TO BE ALL ALONE UNLESS YOU JOIN ME.



YEAH...SURE...I MEAN, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALONE OTHERWISE...







THAT WAS AMAZING!

IT WAS ALSO THE REASON I SAW VERY LITTLE OF RUSSELL THAT MONTH...NOT THAT I COMPLAINED THIS TIME.



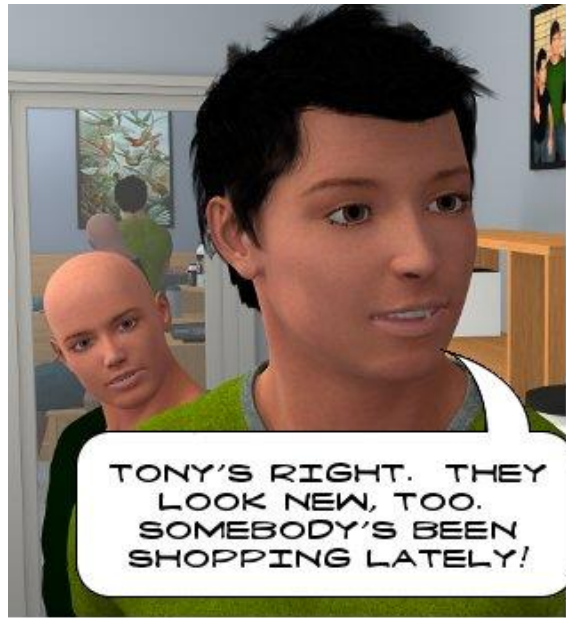
WE WENT MOST OF THE MONTH APART ACTUALLY. WHEN WE FINALLY GOT TOGETHER AND SOMETHING SEEMED OFF WITH MY TWIN, I DISMISSED IT AS THE SAME LONELINESS I FELT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER.



I KNOW IT'S GETTING COLDER OUTSIDE, BUT AREN'T YOU JUST A LITTLE OVERDRESSED IN HERE?



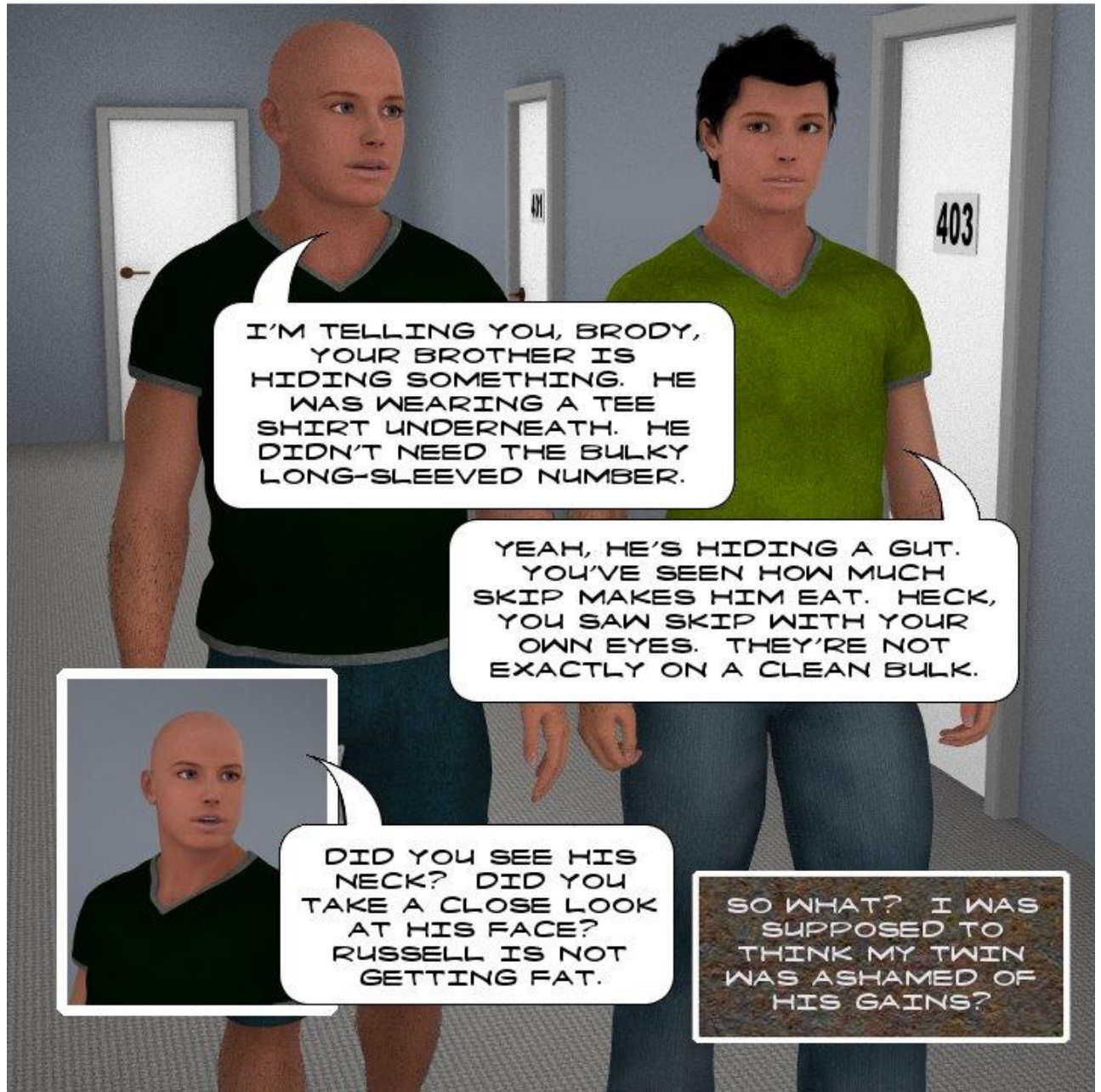
HMMM...



TONY'S RIGHT. THEY LOOK NEW, TOO. SOMEBODY'S BEEN SHOPPING LATELY!



MY OLD CLOTHES WERE GETTING TIGHT. I DON'T LIKE TIGHT CLOTHES LIKE YOU DO. I LIKE MY CLOTHES LOOSE. BY THE WAY, ARE YOU TWO GOING TO THE CAMPUS HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION?



I'M TELLING YOU, BRODY, YOUR BROTHER IS HIDING SOMETHING. HE WAS WEARING A TEE SHIRT UNDERNEATH. HE DIDN'T NEED THE BULKY LONG-SLEEVED NUMBER.

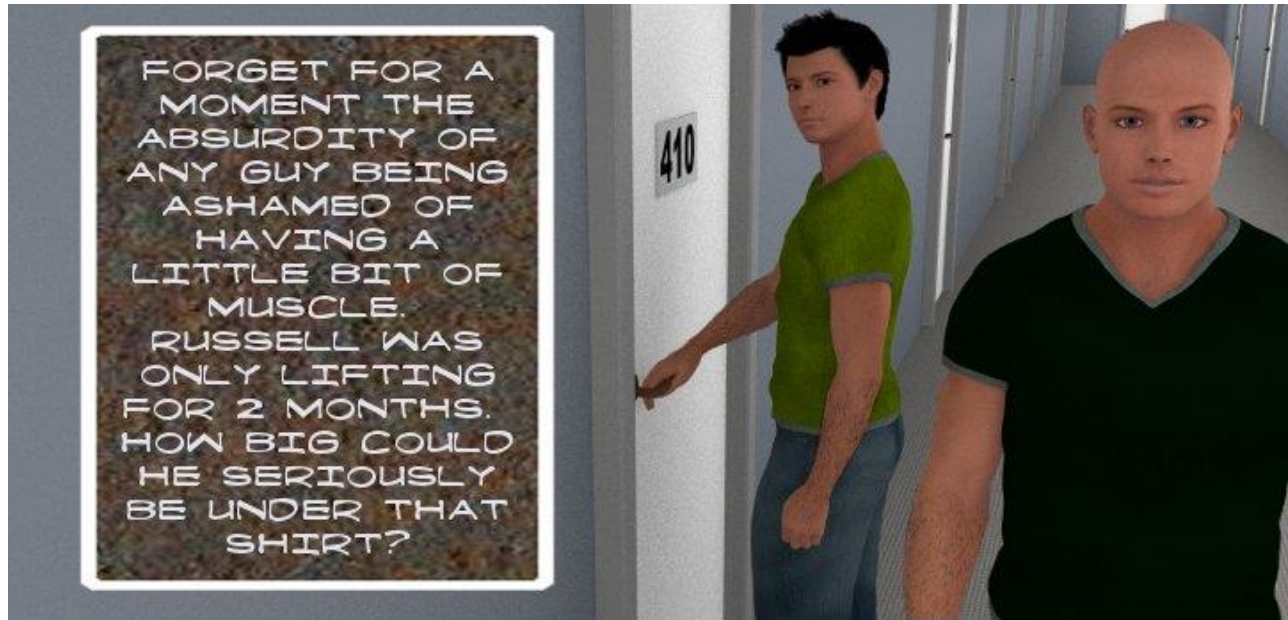
YEAH, HE'S HIDING A GUT. YOU'VE SEEN HOW MUCH SKIP MAKES HIM EAT. HECK, YOU SAW SKIP WITH YOUR OWN EYES. THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY ON A CLEAN BULK.



DID YOU SEE HIS NECK? DID YOU TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT HIS FACE? RUSSELL IS NOT GETTING FAT.

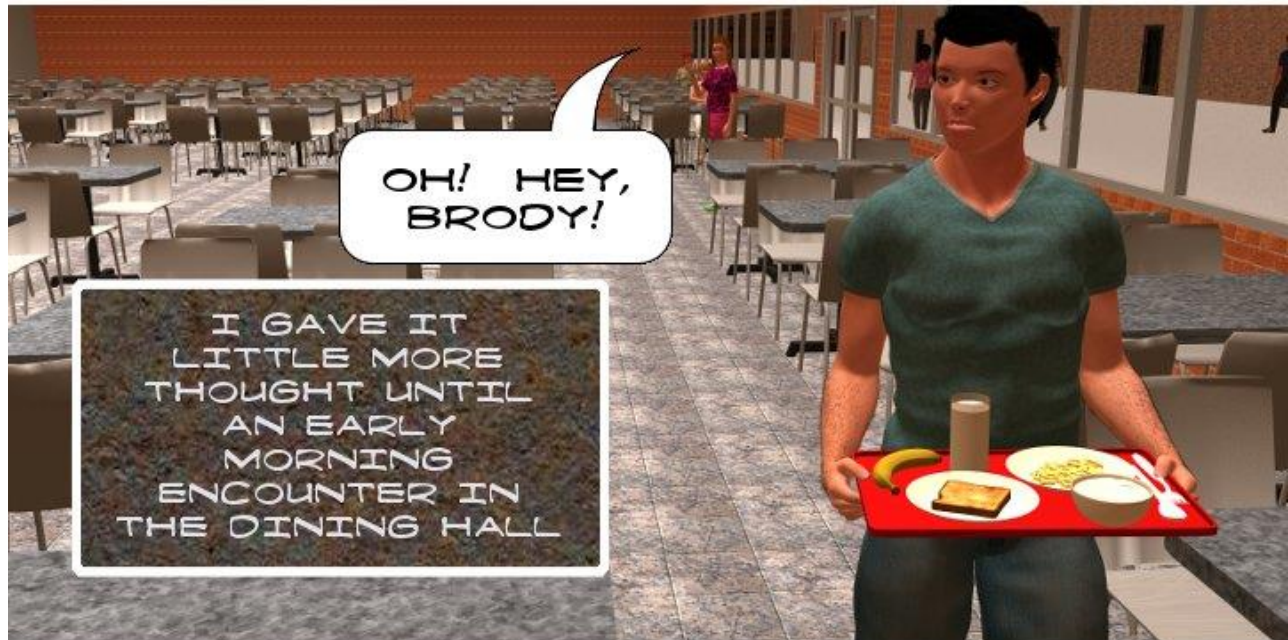
SO WHAT? I WAS SUPPOSED TO THINK MY TWIN WAS ASHAMED OF HIS GAINS?

FORGET FOR A MOMENT THE ABSURDITY OF ANY GUY BEING ASHAMED OF HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF MUSCLE. RUSSELL WAS ONLY LIFTING FOR 2 MONTHS. HOW BIG COULD HE SERIOUSLY BE UNDER THAT SHIRT?

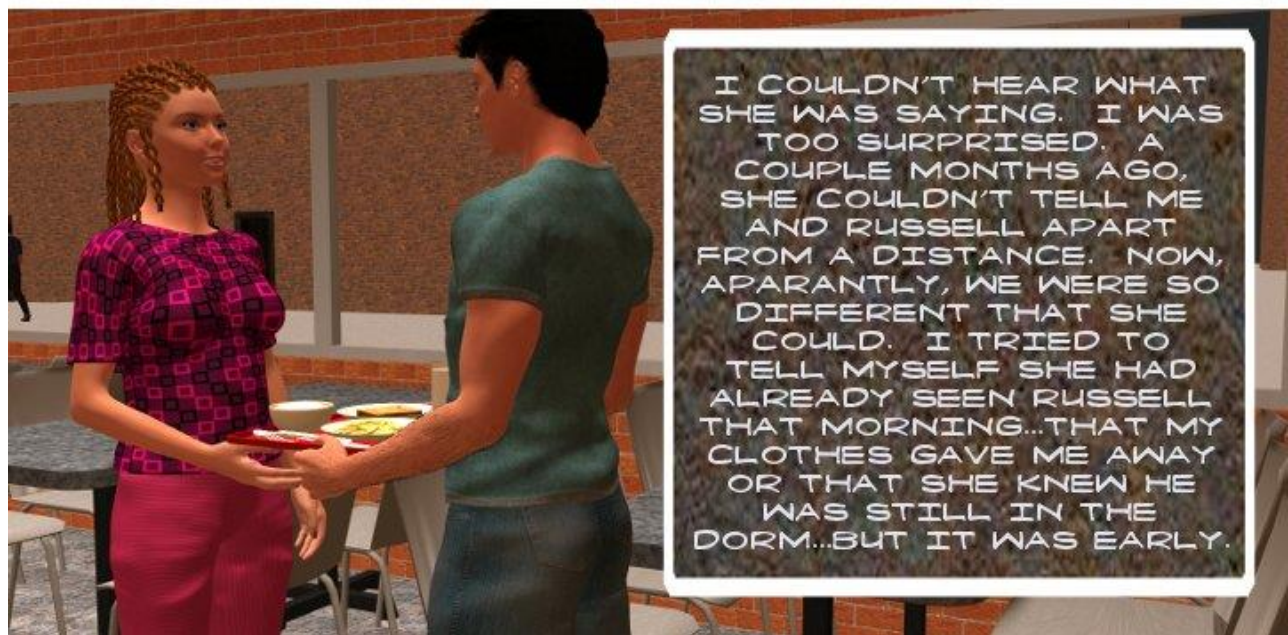


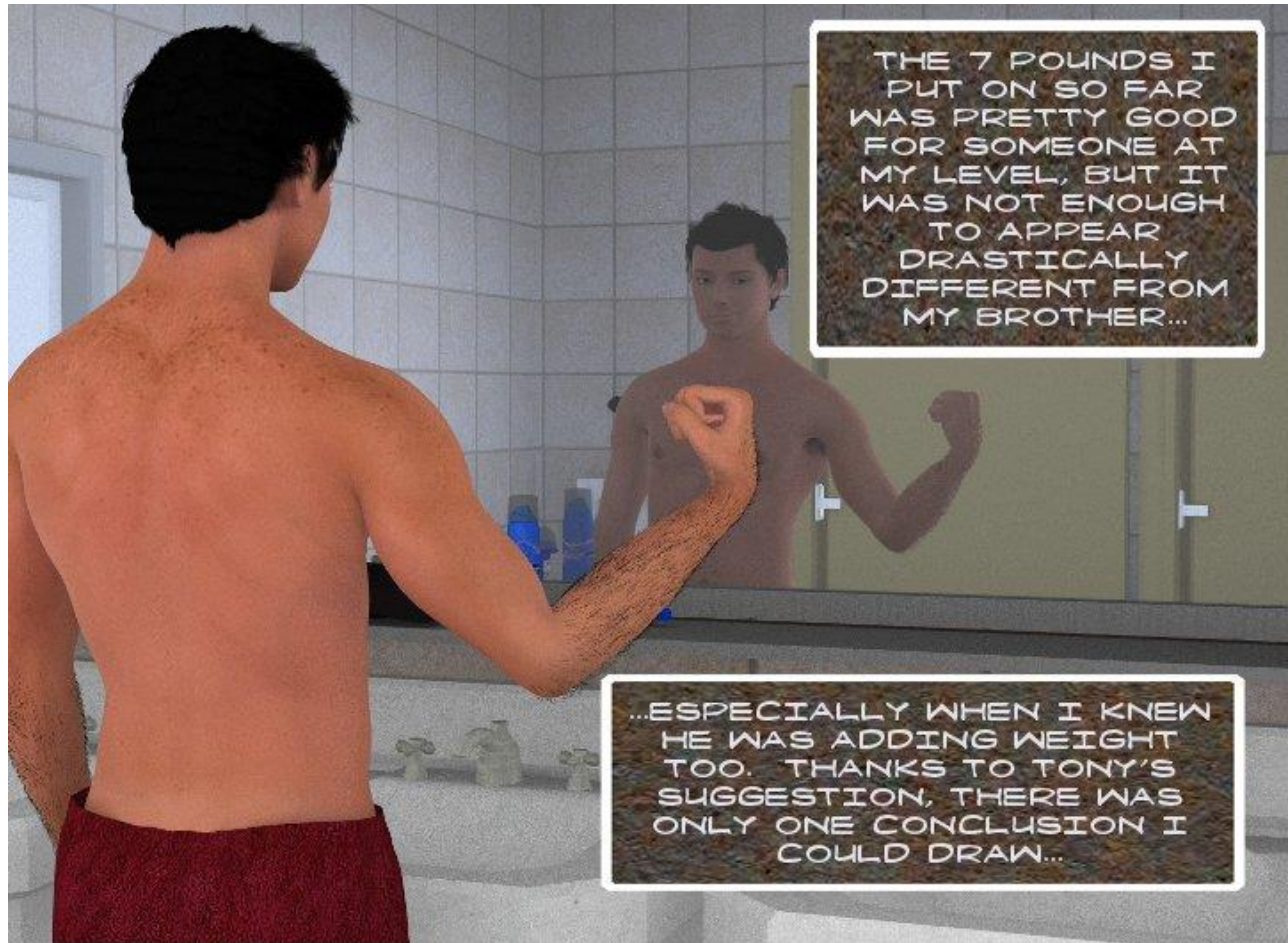
OH! HEY, BRODY!

I GAVE IT LITTLE MORE THOUGHT UNTIL AN EARLY MORNING ENCOUNTER IN THE DINING HALL



I COULDN'T HEAR WHAT SHE WAS SAYING. I WAS TOO SURPRISED. A COUPLE MONTHS AGO, SHE COULDN'T TELL ME AND RUSSELL APART FROM A DISTANCE. NOW, APARANTLY, WE WERE SO DIFFERENT THAT SHE COULD. I TRIED TO TELL MYSELF SHE HAD ALREADY SEEN RUSSELL THAT MORNING...THAT MY CLOTHES GAVE ME AWAY OR THAT SHE KNEW HE WAS STILL IN THE DORM...BUT IT WAS EARLY.





THE 7 POUNDS I PUT ON SO FAR WAS PRETTY GOOD FOR SOMEONE AT MY LEVEL, BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO APPEAR DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT FROM MY BROTHER...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN I KNEW HE WAS ADDING WEIGHT TOO. THANKS TO TONY'S SUGGESTION, THERE WAS ONLY ONE CONCLUSION I COULD DRAW...



RUSSELL IS BIGGER THAN ME, ISN'T HE? THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY LAST WEEK, ISN'T IT?

C'MON DEREK! YOU GOT THIS!

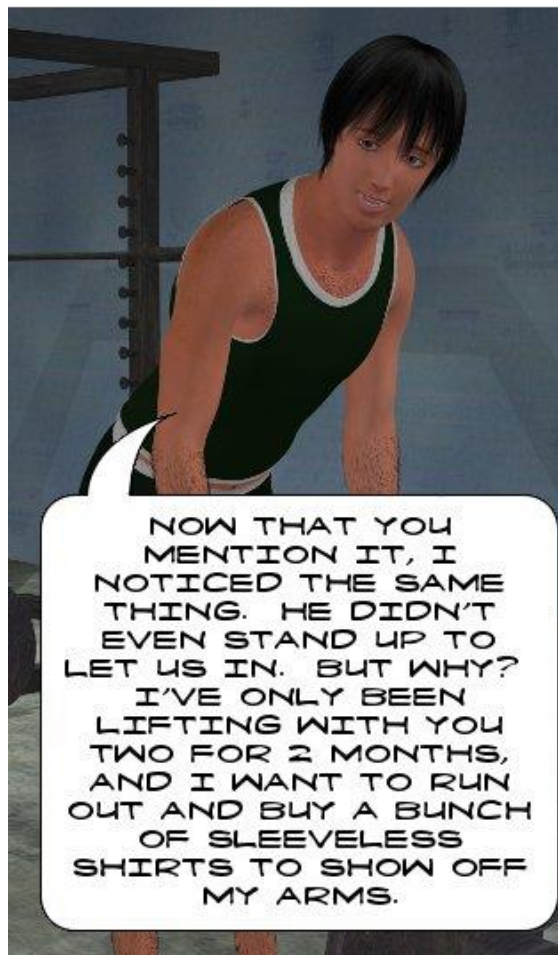
NNNNGGGG...



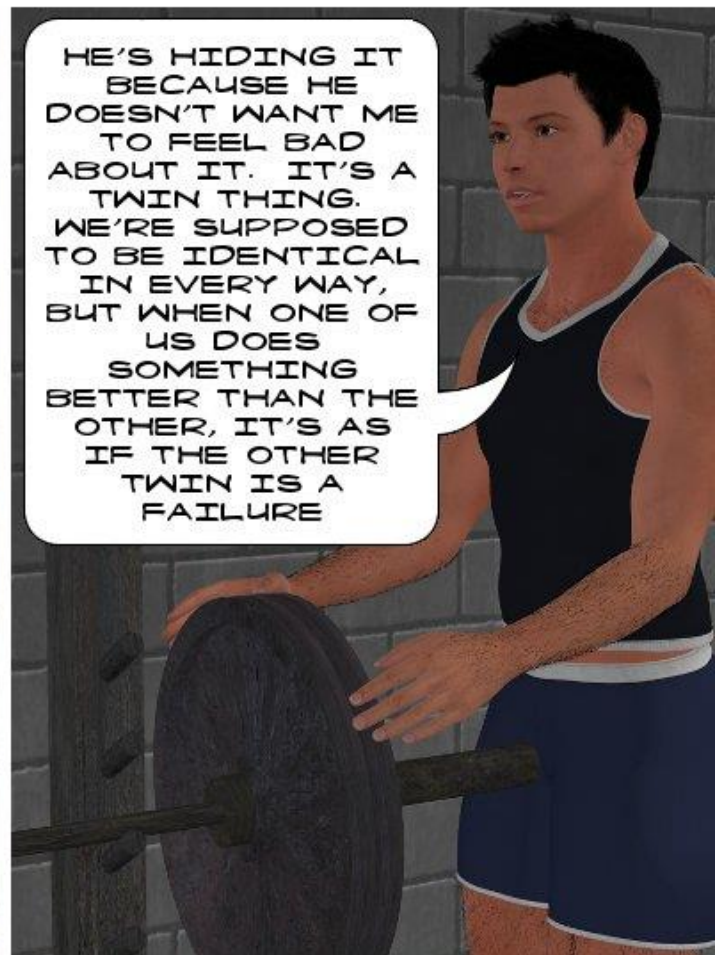
ALL I KNOW IS
RUSSELL WAS HIDING
HIS GAINS.



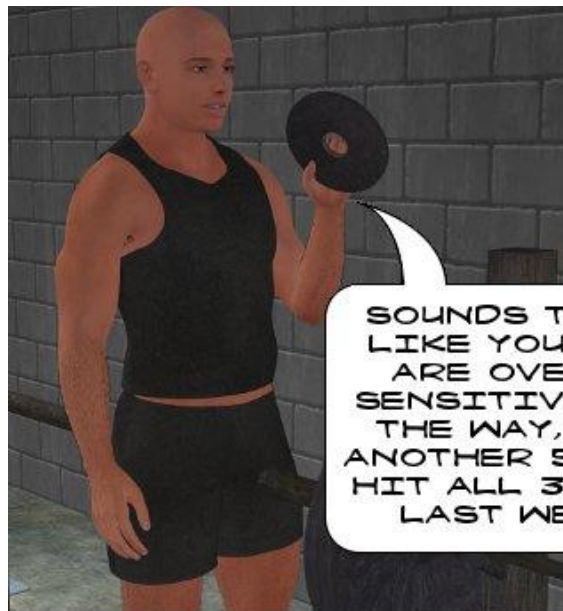
IT WASN'T JUST THE
BAGGY SHIRT. HE
WAS SLOUCHING ON
HIS BED THE WHOLE
TIME WE WERE
THERE. NOT ONCE
DID HE EVER GET UP.



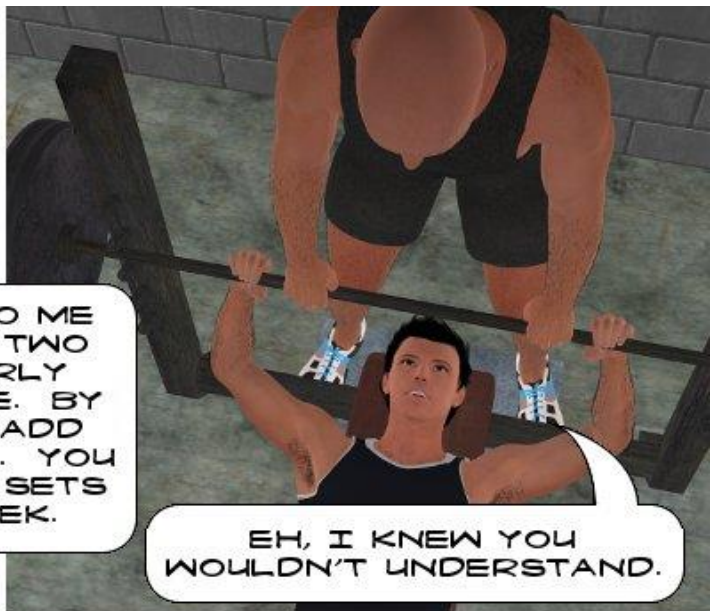
NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT, I
NOTICED THE SAME
THING. HE DIDN'T
EVEN STAND UP TO
LET US IN. BUT WHY?
I'VE ONLY BEEN
LIFTING WITH YOU
TWO FOR 2 MONTHS,
AND I WANT TO RUN
OUT AND BUY A BUNCH
OF SLEEVELESS
SHIRTS TO SHOW OFF
MY ARMS.



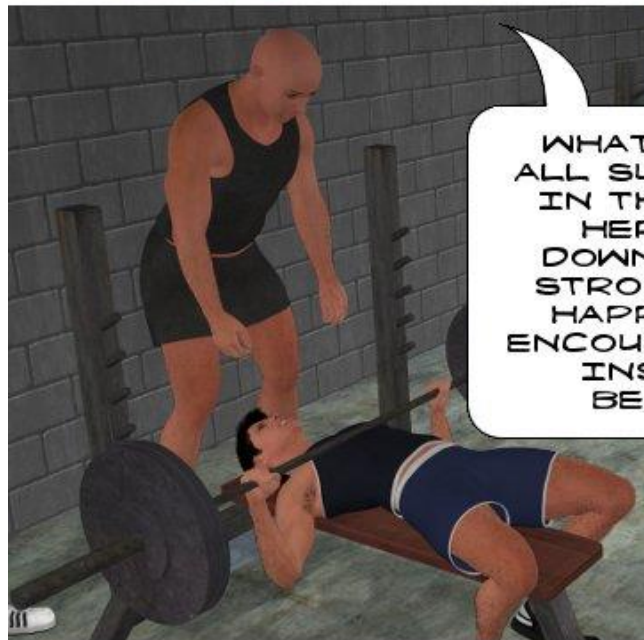
HE'S HIDING IT
BECAUSE HE
DOESN'T WANT ME
TO FEEL BAD
ABOUT IT. IT'S A
TWIN THING.
WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE IDENTICAL
IN EVERY WAY,
BUT WHEN ONE OF
US DOES
SOMETHING
BETTER THAN THE
OTHER, IT'S AS
IF THE OTHER
TWIN IS A
FAILURE



SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU TWO ARE OVERLY SENSITIVE. BY THE WAY, ADD ANOTHER 5. YOU HIT ALL 3 SETS LAST WEEK.



EH, I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.



WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS WE'RE ALL SUPPORTIVE OF EACH OTHER IN THIS SPORT. WE'RE NOT IN HERE TO TEAR EACH OTHER DOWN. IF RUSSELL IS SEEING STRONG GAINS, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR HIM. YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE HIM TO KEEP GOING. INSTEAD YOU'RE SKULKING BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS.

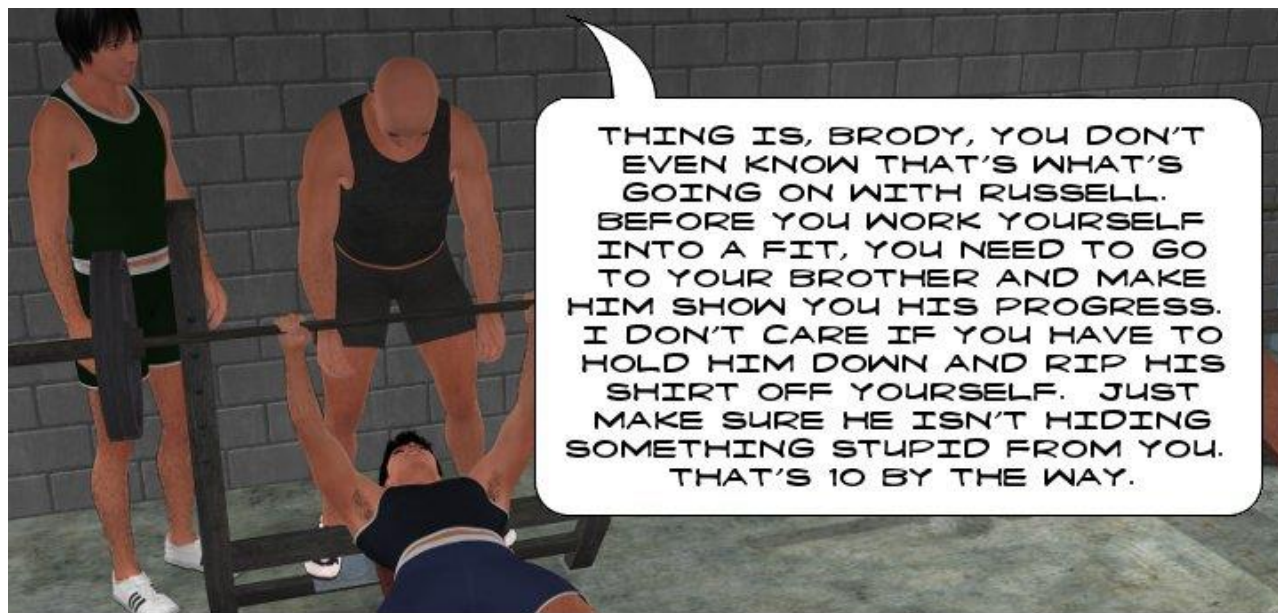
DEREK, ARE YOU JEALOUS OF ME BECAUSE I'M BIGGER THAN YOU?



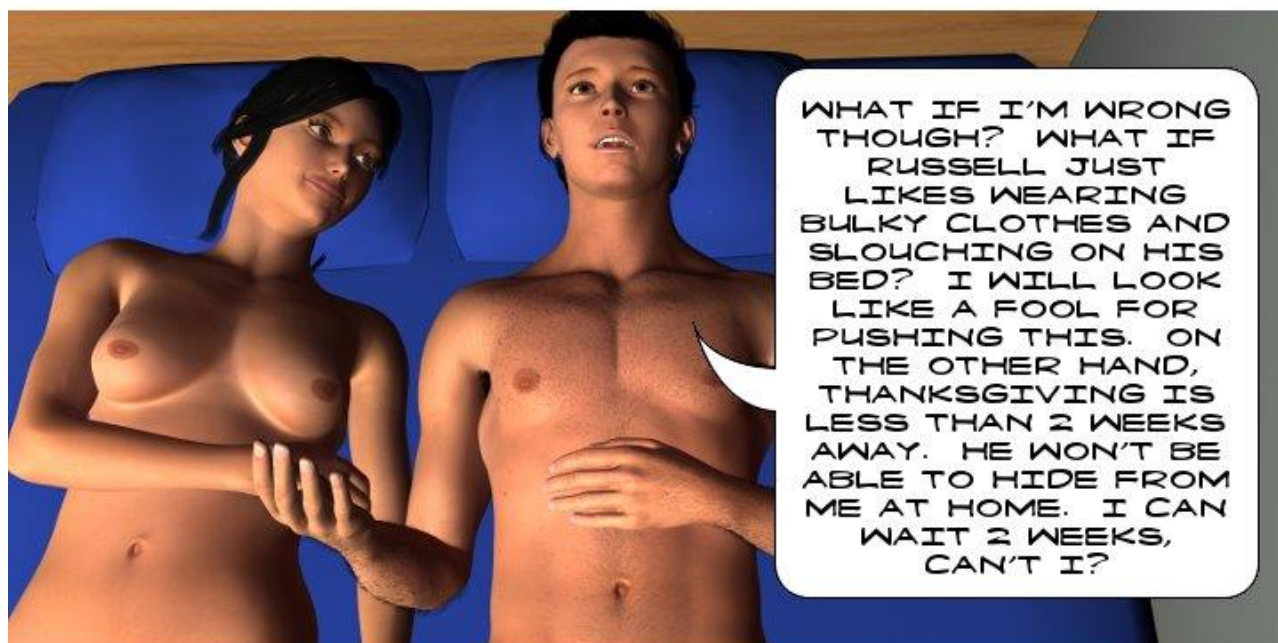
WELL...YEAH...A LITTLE...BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME WORK HARDER WITH YOU GUYS...SO THAT ONE DAY I WILL BE AS BIG AS YOU.



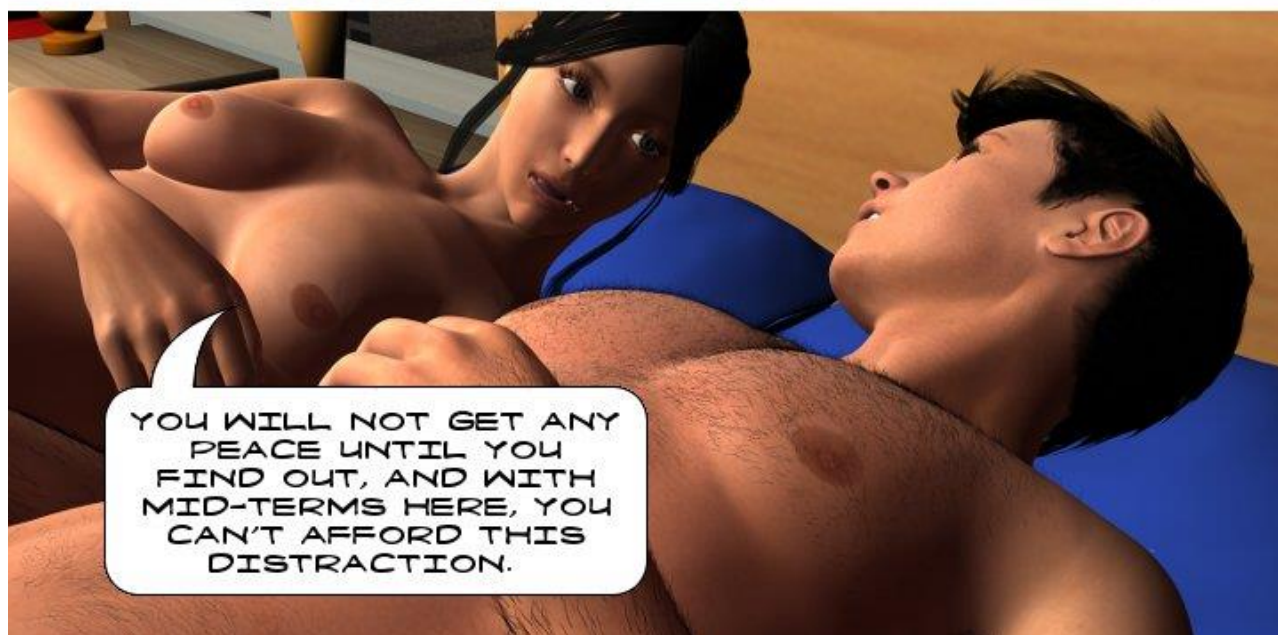
NOT THE POINT I WAS TRYING TO MAKE, BUT THAT WORKS TOO.



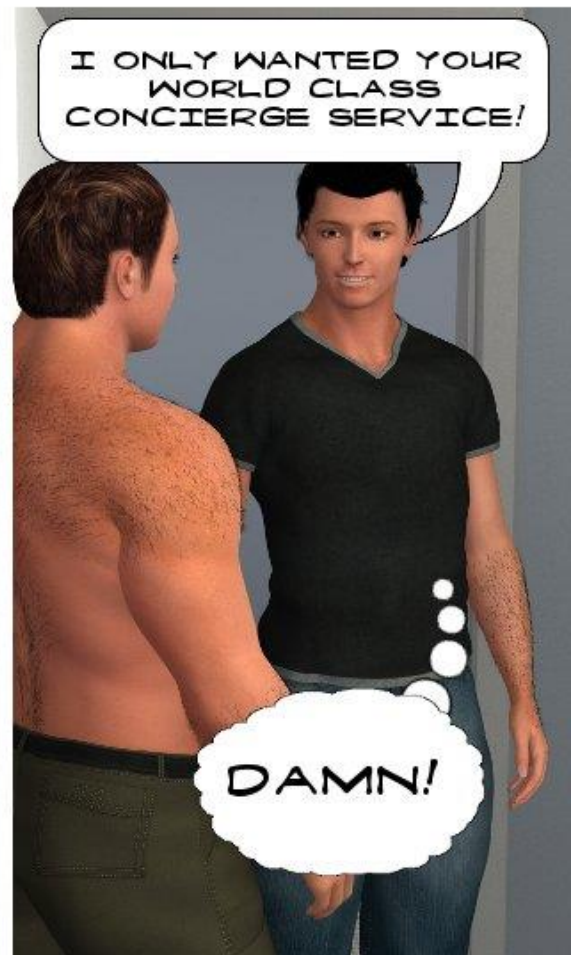
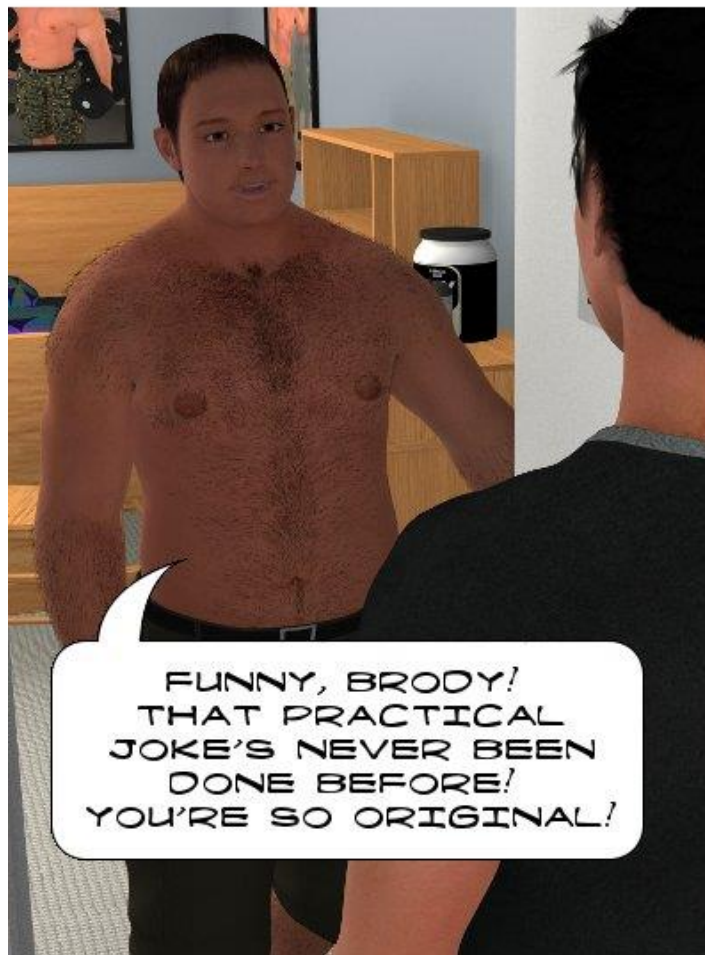
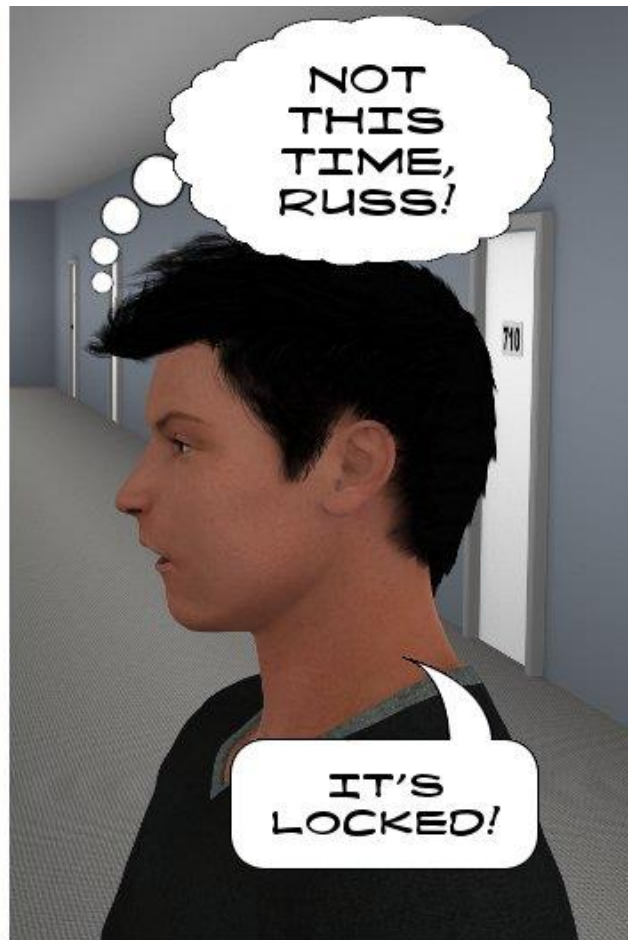
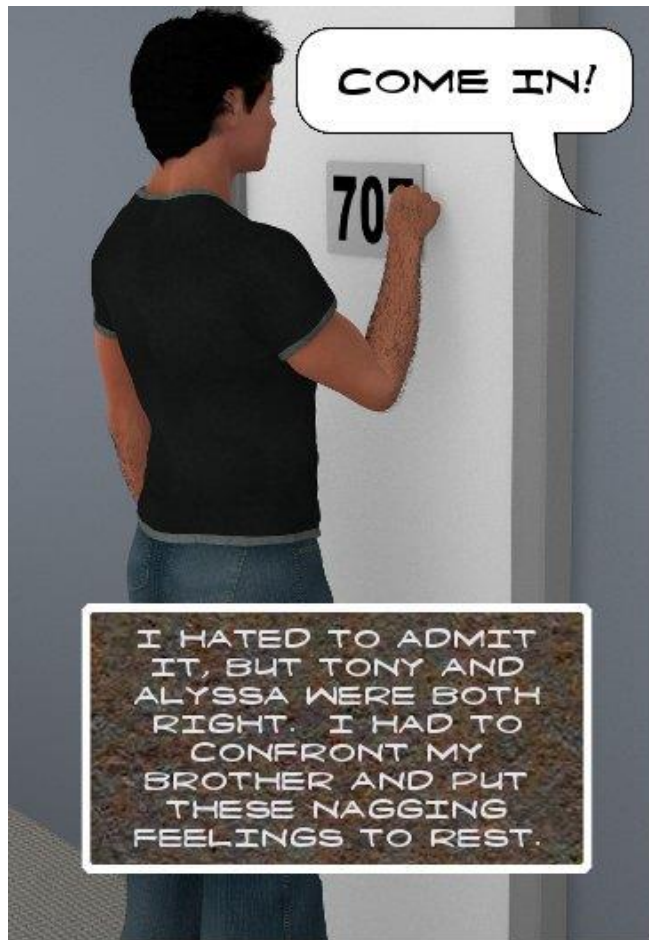
THING IS, BRODY, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON WITH RUSSELL. BEFORE YOU WORK YOURSELF INTO A FIT, YOU NEED TO GO TO YOUR BROTHER AND MAKE HIM SHOW YOU HIS PROGRESS. I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO HOLD HIM DOWN AND RIP HIS SHIRT OFF YOURSELF. JUST MAKE SURE HE ISN'T HIDING SOMETHING STUPID FROM YOU. THAT'S 10 BY THE WAY.



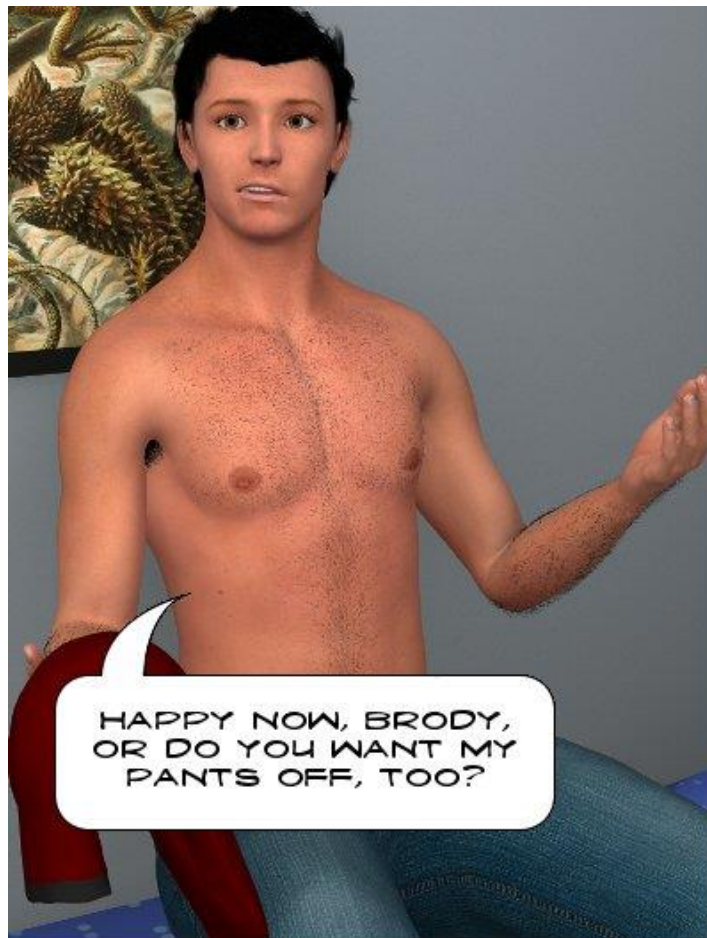
WHAT IF I'M WRONG THOUGH? WHAT IF RUSSELL JUST LIKES WEARING BULKY CLOTHES AND SLOUCHING ON HIS BED? I WILL LOOK LIKE A FOOL FOR PUSHING THIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THANKSGIVING IS LESS THAN 2 WEEKS AWAY. HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HIDE FROM ME AT HOME. I CAN WAIT 2 WEEKS, CAN'T I?



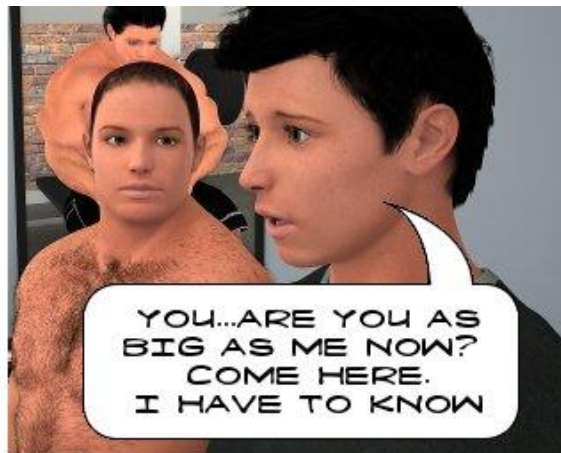
YOU WILL NOT GET ANY PEACE UNTIL YOU FIND OUT, AND WITH MID-TERMS HERE, YOU CAN'T AFFORD THIS DISTRACTION.







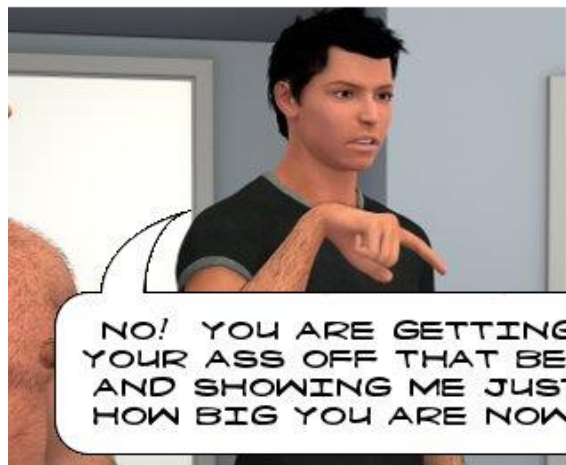
HAPPY NOW, BRODY,
OR DO YOU WANT MY
PANTS OFF, TOO?



YOU...ARE YOU AS
BIG AS ME NOW?
COME HERE.
I HAVE TO KNOW



I AM NOT GETTING UP
TO GIVE YOU A
PRIVATE EXHIBITION!



NO! YOU ARE GETTING
YOUR ASS OFF THAT BED
AND SHOWING ME JUST
HOW BIG YOU ARE NOW!



DO YOU REALLY
WANT TO DO THIS AT
HOME AROUND THE
FAMILY INSTEAD?



FINE, BRODY. YOU WANT
TO BE RIDICULOUS, I'LL
LET YOU BE RIDICULOUS.



WHAT THE...?!? YOU GOT YOURSELF A PAIR OF BOOTS LIKE JAYSON HAS, DIDN'T YOU?



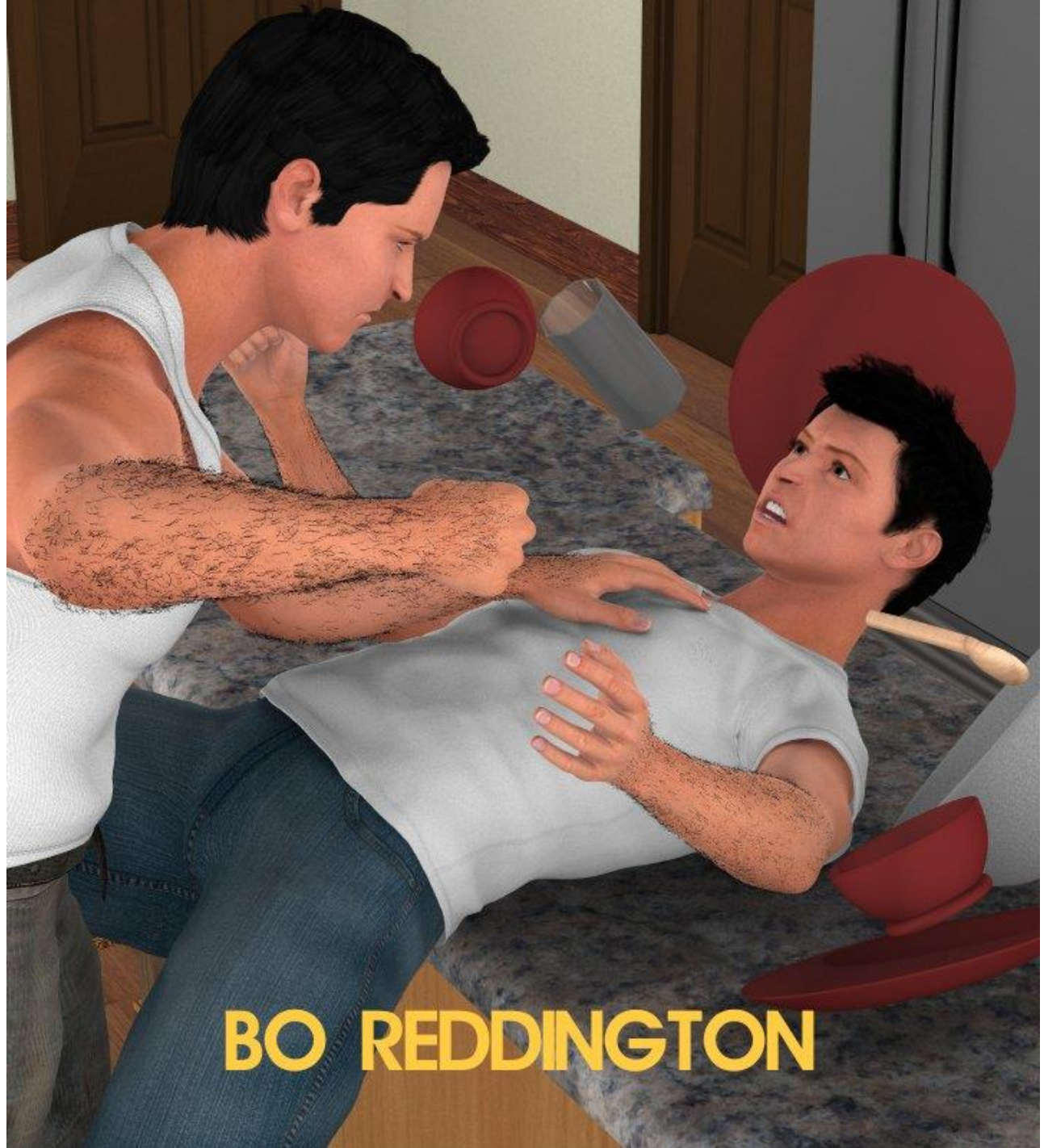
YOU DIDN'T. YOU'RE NOT EVEN WEARING SHOES AND I'M LOOKING... UP AT YOU?



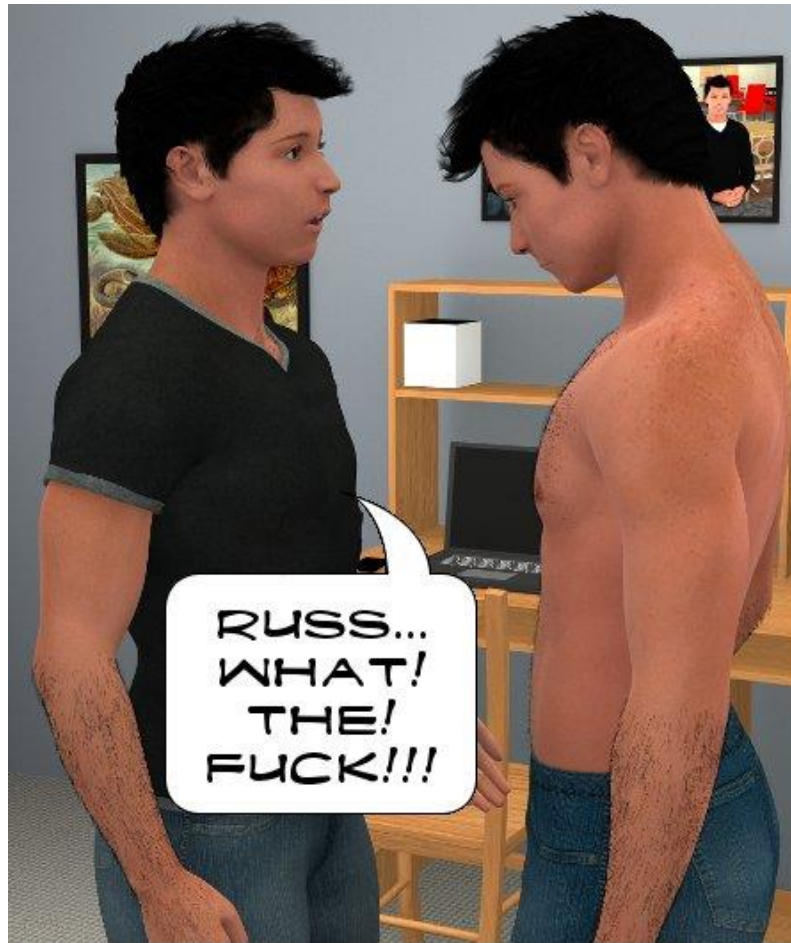
YOU...YOU'RE FUCKING TALLER THAN ME, TOO!!!

MY TWIN NO MORE

#3 of 6
LIMITED
SERIES



BO REDDINGTON



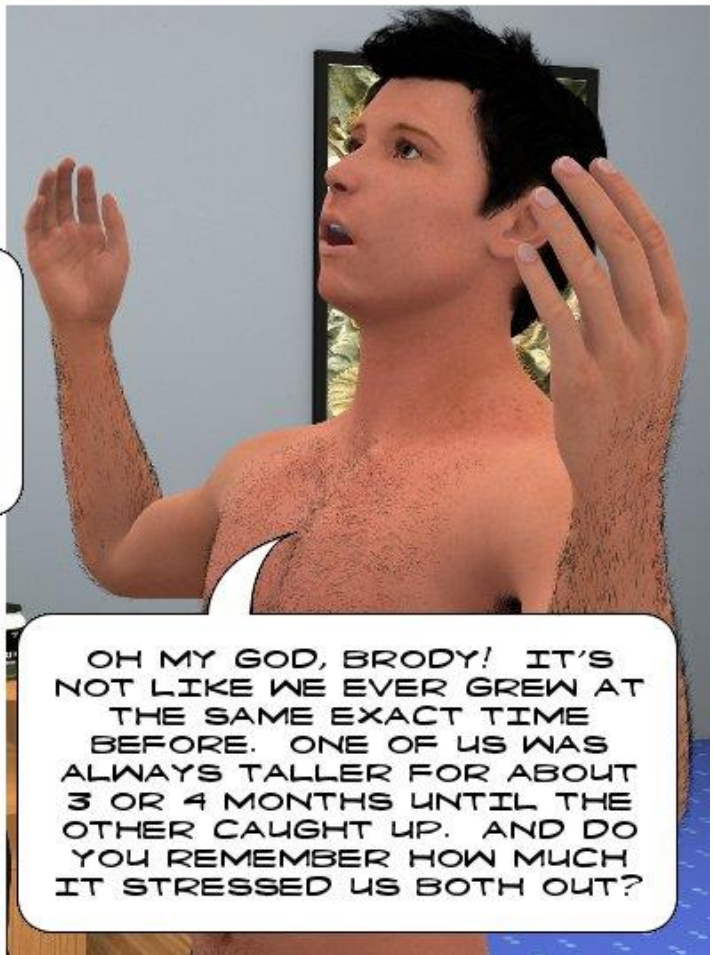
**RUSS...
WHAT!
THE!
FUCK!!!**



**THIS IS WHY I
DIDN'T WANT YOU
TO KNOW, BRODY,
BECAUSE I KNEW
YOU'D OVERREACT.**



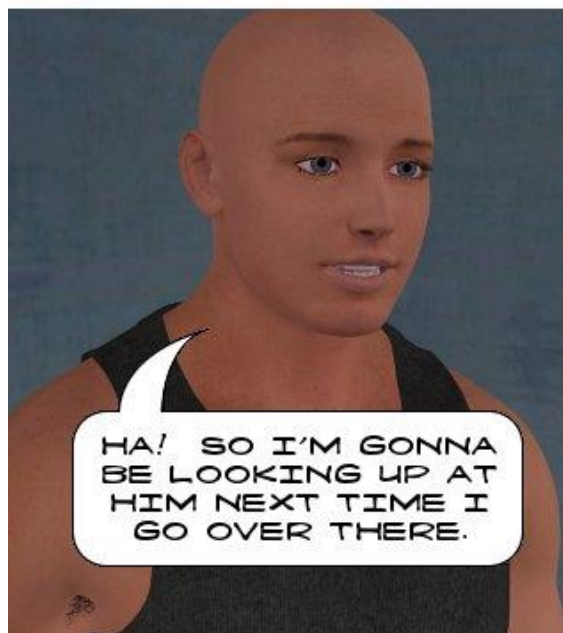
**DO YOU HEAR THIS,
SKIP? MY BROTHER
HIDES HIMSELF FROM
ME BECAUSE HE DOESN'T
WANT ME TO KNOW HE'S
BIGGER THAN ME NOW,
BUT I'M THE ONE
OVERREACTING!**



**OH MY GOD, BRODY! IT'S
NOT LIKE WE EVER GREW AT
THE SAME EXACT TIME
BEFORE. ONE OF US WAS
ALWAYS TALLER FOR ABOUT
3 OR 4 MONTHS UNTIL THE
OTHER CAUGHT UP. AND DO
YOU REMEMBER HOW MUCH
IT STRESSED US BOTH OUT?**

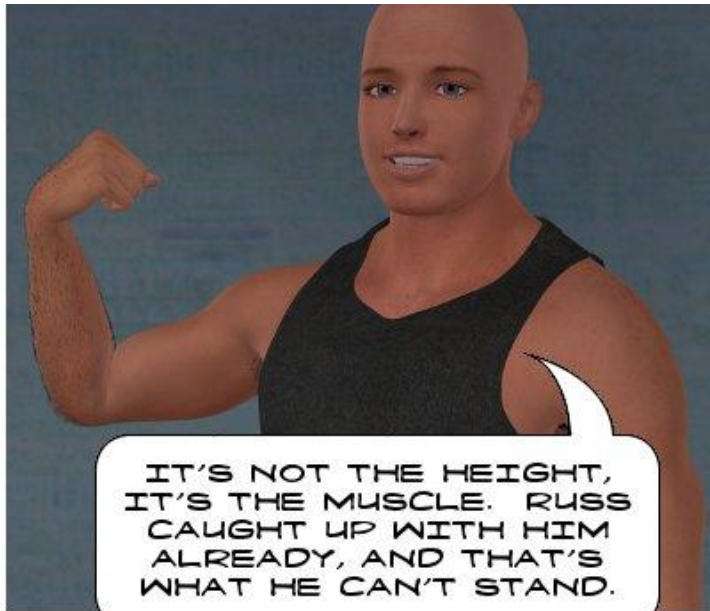


**TO BE HONEST, YOU'RE
HANDLING IT A LOT
BETTER THAN HE
SAID YOU WOULD.**





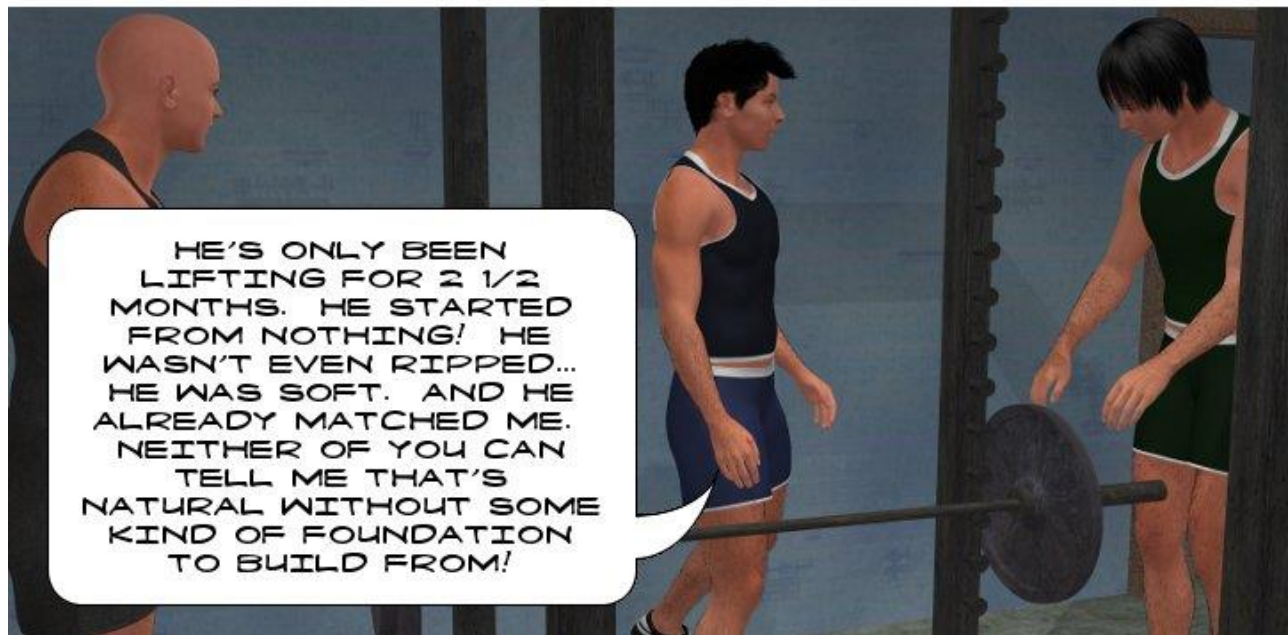
IF YOU AND RUSSELL ARE IDENTICAL, THEN AREN'T YOU GOING TO BE 5'10"...AND 3/4... EVENTUALLY?



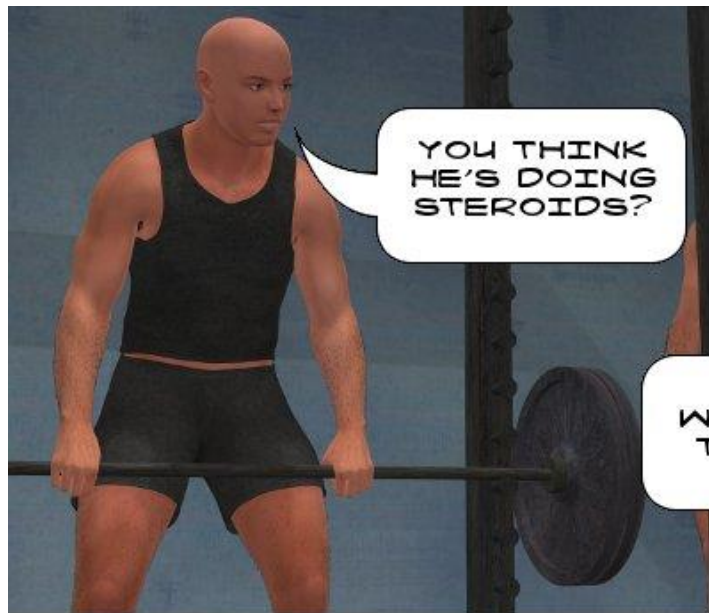
IT'S NOT THE HEIGHT, IT'S THE MUSCLE. RUSS CAUGHT UP WITH HIM ALREADY, AND THAT'S WHAT HE CAN'T STAND.



LAUGH ALL YOU WANT, BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT'S NOT SUSPICIOUS. I LIFTED 2 YEARS FOR FOOTBALL IN HIGH SCHOOL. YES, MAYBE I DIDN'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY, BUT I CAME DOWN HERE WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION.



HE'S ONLY BEEN LIFTING FOR 2 1/2 MONTHS. HE STARTED FROM NOTHING! HE WASN'T EVEN RIPPED... HE WAS SOFT. AND HE ALREADY MATCHED ME. NEITHER OF YOU CAN TELL ME THAT'S NATURAL WITHOUT SOME KIND OF FOUNDATION TO BUILD FROM!



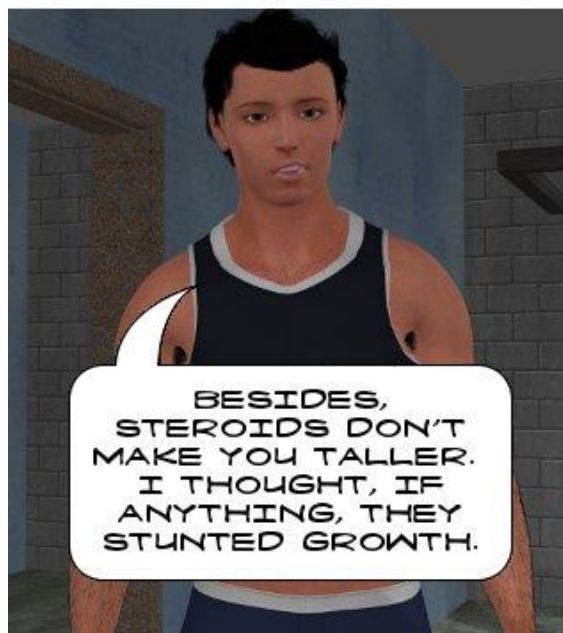
YOU THINK HE'S DOING STEROIDS?



NO! RUSS WOULD NEVER TOUCH THAT STUFF!



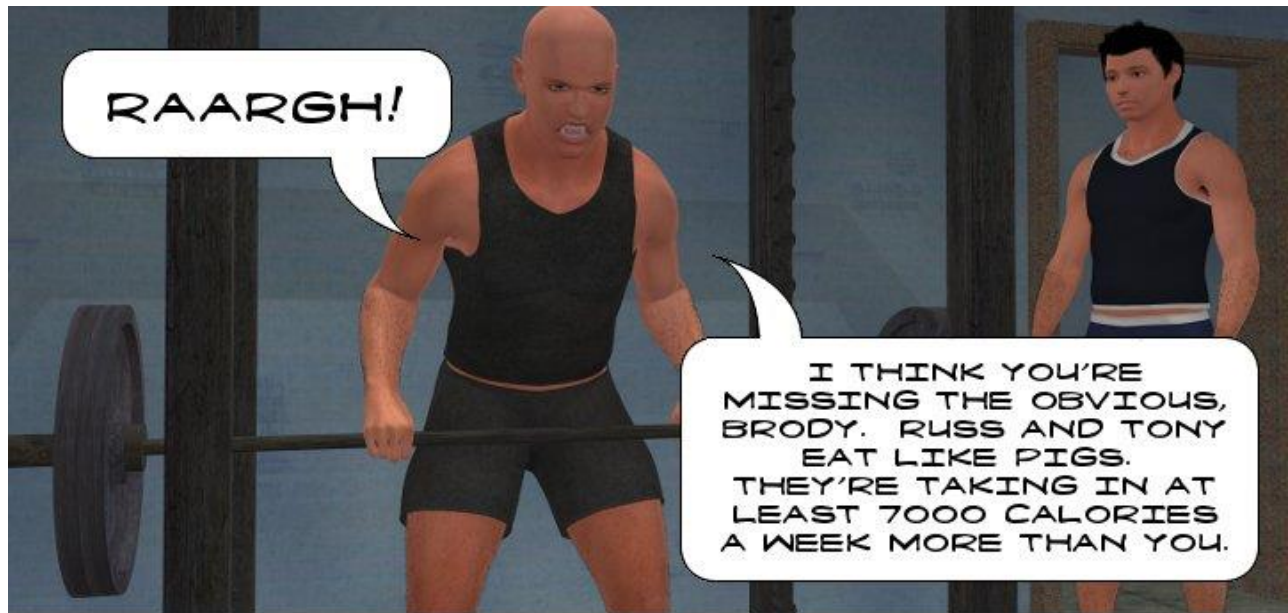
WITH OUR DAD..WELL, WE BOTH TRY TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T END UP LIKE HE DID. RUSS MIGHT NOT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PHYSICALLY ACTIVE, BUT HE DID WATCH WHAT HE ATE BEFORE.



BESIDES, STEROIDS DON'T MAKE YOU TALLER. I THOUGHT, IF ANYTHING, THEY STUNTED GROWTH.

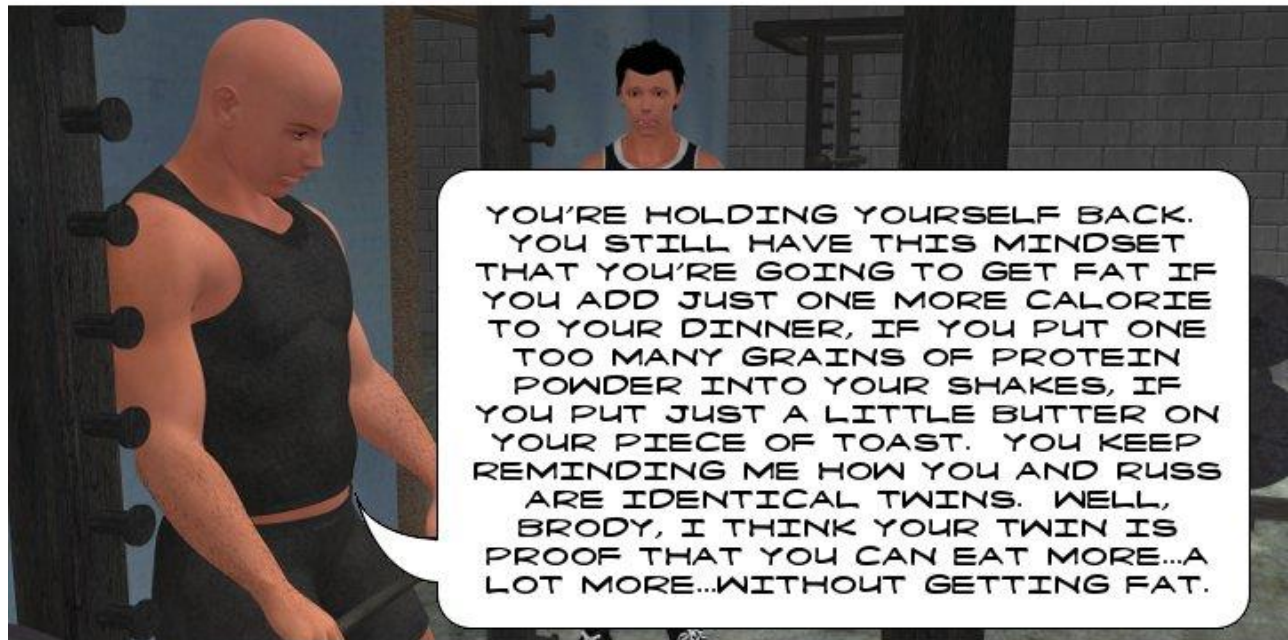


WHAT ABOUT GROWTH HORMONE? THEY GIVE THAT STUFF TO SHORT KIDS TO MAKE THEM TALLER. WOULDN'T IT DO THE SAME TO YOUR BROTHER?



RAARGH!

I THINK YOU'RE MISSING THE OBVIOUS, BRODY. RUSS AND TONY EAT LIKE PIGS. THEY'RE TAKING IN AT LEAST 7000 CALORIES A WEEK MORE THAN YOU.



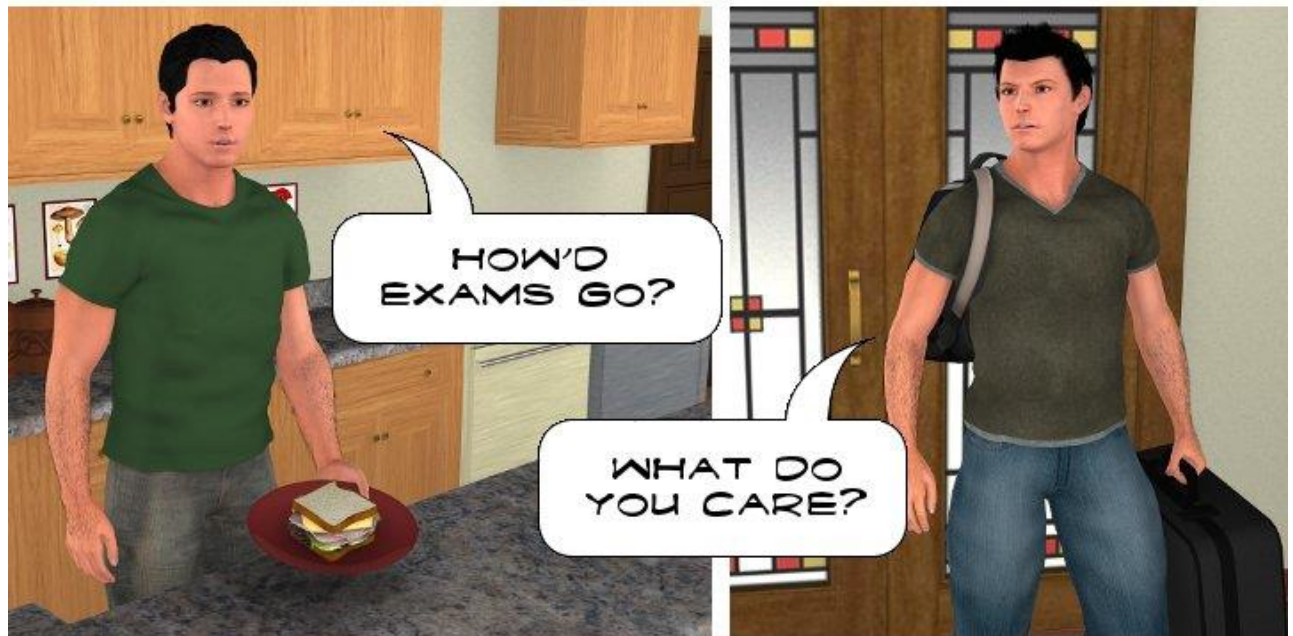
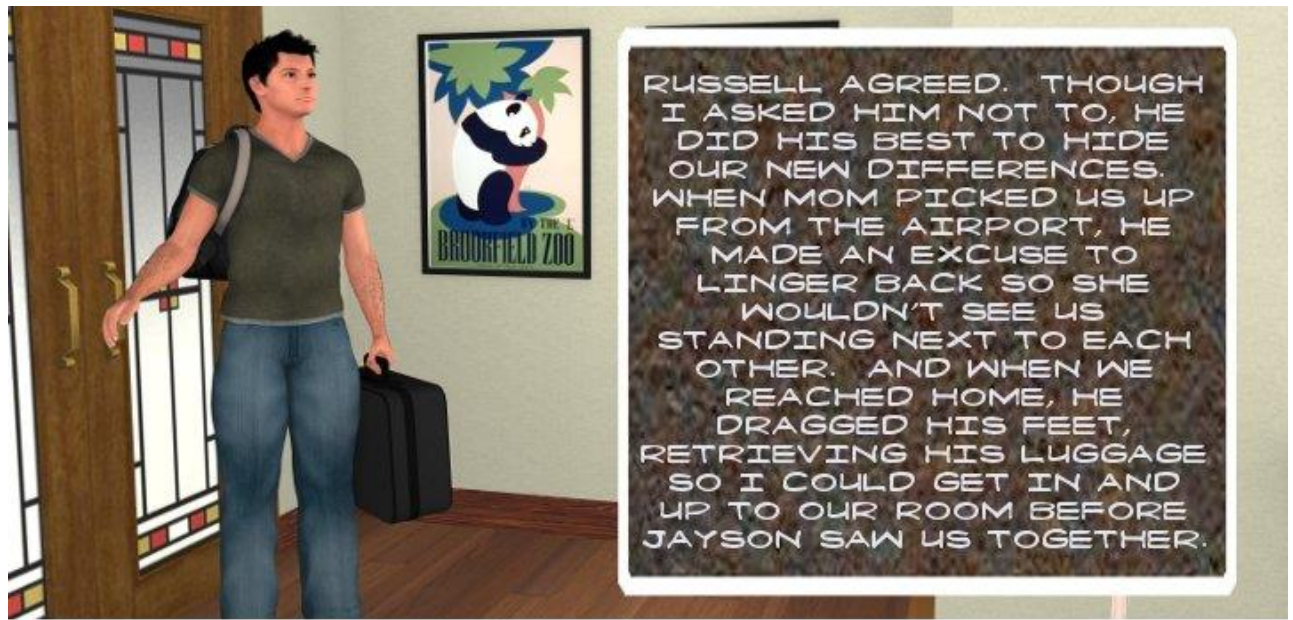
YOU'RE HOLDING YOURSELF BACK. YOU STILL HAVE THIS MINDSET THAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET FAT IF YOU ADD JUST ONE MORE CALORIE TO YOUR DINNER, IF YOU PUT ONE TOO MANY GRAINS OF PROTEIN POWDER INTO YOUR SHAKES, IF YOU PUT JUST A LITTLE BUTTER ON YOUR PIECE OF TOAST. YOU KEEP REMINDING ME HOW YOU AND RUSS ARE IDENTICAL TWINS. WELL, BRODY, I THINK YOUR TWIN IS PROOF THAT YOU CAN EAT MORE...A LOT MORE...WITHOUT GETTING FAT.



BUT...



MAN, ALL I KNOW IS IF YOU'RE STILL LIKE THIS NEXT WEEKEND, IT IS GONNA BE AWKWARD AROUND YOUR HOUSE!





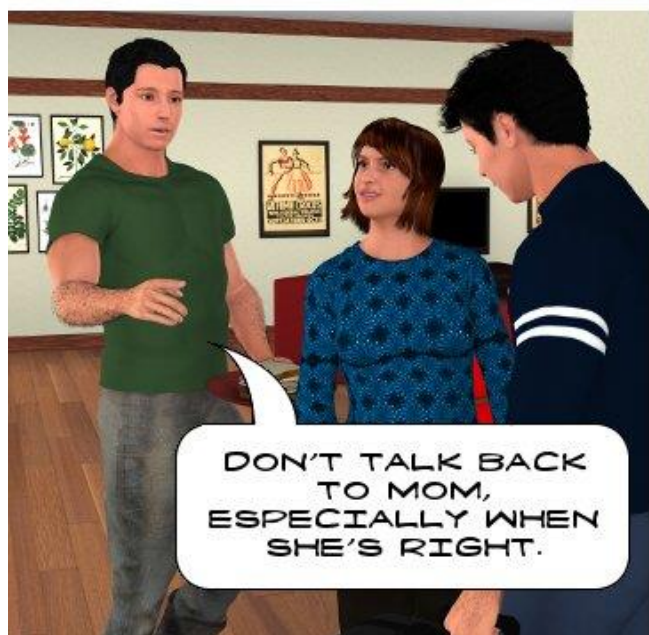
HEY, DON'T BLAME ME! YOU CAN'T READ THE HINT OF SARCASTM ON HIS VOICE. SO MAYBE I WAS MORE OF A DICK THAN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN, BUT JAYSON DIDN'T DESERVE ANYTHING FROM ME. DID HE THINK I WOULD LIKE HIM IF HE WAS HALF-NICE TO ME? FUCK HIM BACK! AND FOR THE RECORD, I GOT THREE B'S, AN A, AND A C ON MY MID-TERMS. MY GRADES WEREN'T SUFFERRING ONE BIT BECAUSE OF MY FRUSTRATIONS WITH RUSSELL AND THE GYM.



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HOW STRONG MY BABY HAS GOTTEN!



AW MOM, I'M NOT THE BABY. AND I'M NOT THAT STRONG.



DON'T TALK BACK TO MOM, ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE'S RIGHT.



IT'S GOOD TO SEE ONE OF YOU FINALLY BECOMING A REAL MAN. WELCOME TO THE GENDER, RUSS.



I DON'T BELIEVE...HE WAS ACTUALLY NICE TO RUSS.



THE WEEKEND WAS AWKWARD ENOUGH BETWEEN JAYSON AND MY MOM, BUT I COULDN'T ESCAPE IT IN MY OWN BEDROOM!

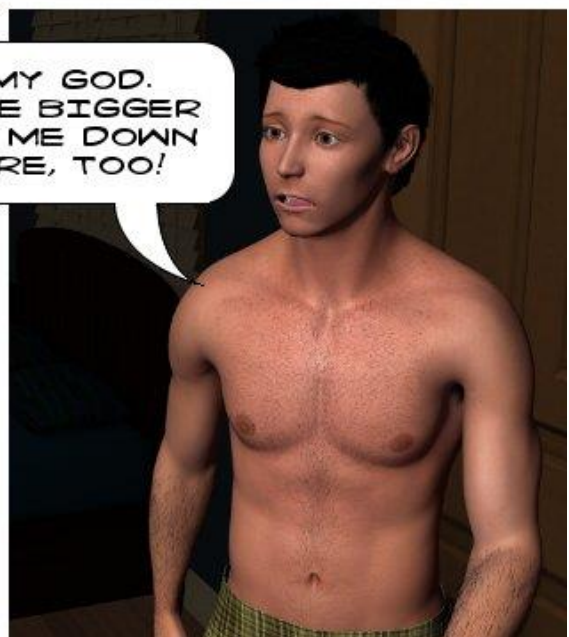


NOT ONLY DID RUSS WAKE BEFORE ME SO HE COULD BE DOWNSTAIRS AND SEATED BEFORE I JOINED THE FAMILY, BUT HE WOULDN'T TAKE HIS CLOTHES OFF AROUND ME. HE SLEPT IN HIS JEANS AND HIS BAGGY SHIRT, AND DRESSED ONLY BEHIND THE BATHROOM DOOR. IN HIS MIND, HE CONTINUED TO HIDE HIS SIZE SO AS NOT TO REMIND ME. BUT IN MINE, IT WAS A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT WE WERE NO LONGER IDENTICAL



WHAT THE HELL, BRODY?

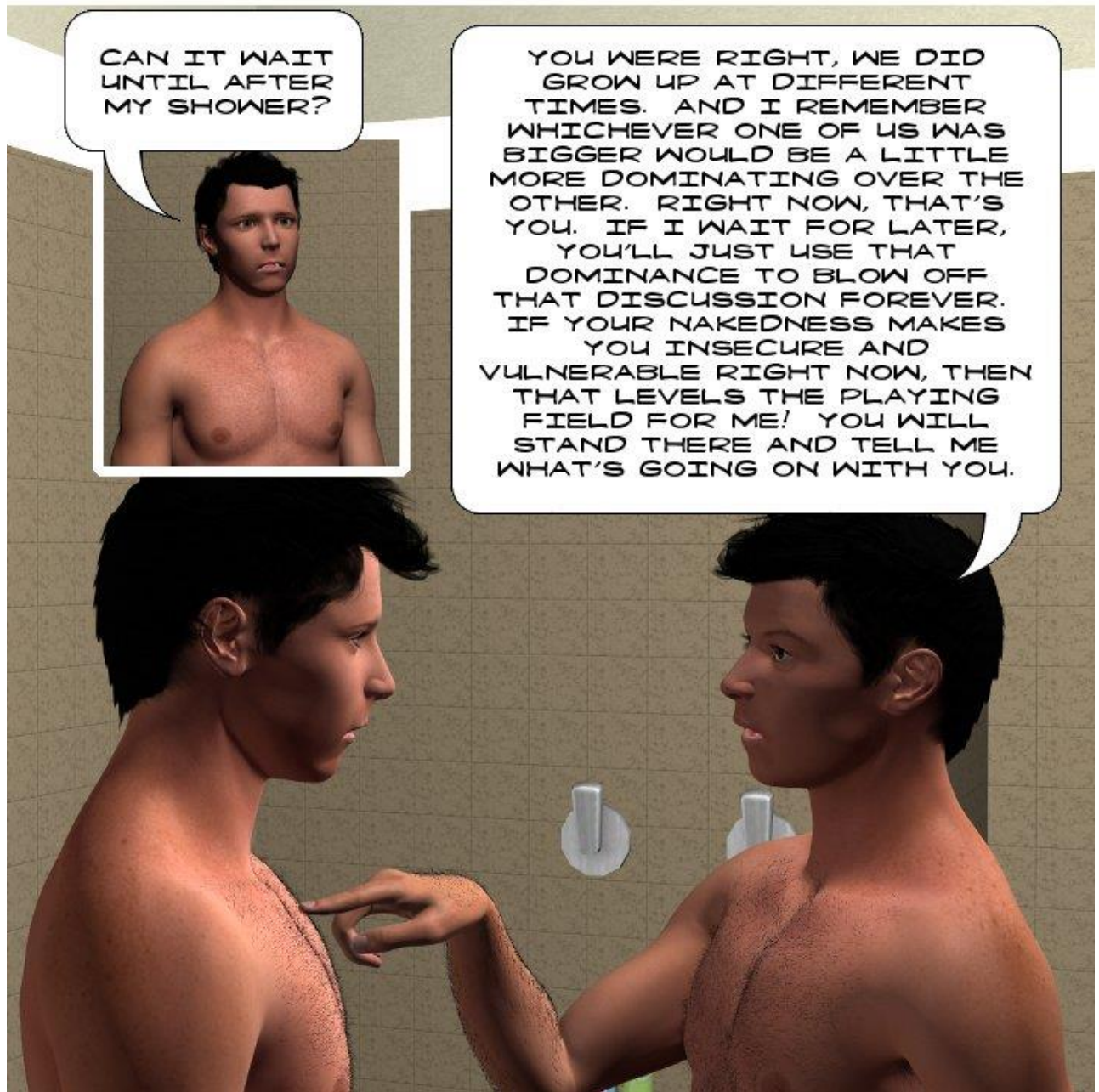
OH MY GOD. YOU'RE BIGGER THAN ME DOWN THERE, TOO!





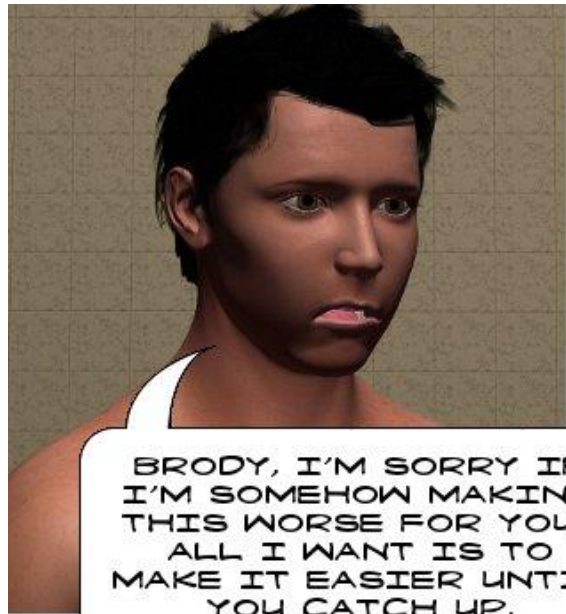
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU BARGED IN HERE JUST TO CHECK OUT MY JUNK?

I BARGED IN SO WE CAN HAVE THE TALK YOU KEEP DANCING AROUND.



CAN IT WAIT UNTIL AFTER MY SHOWER?

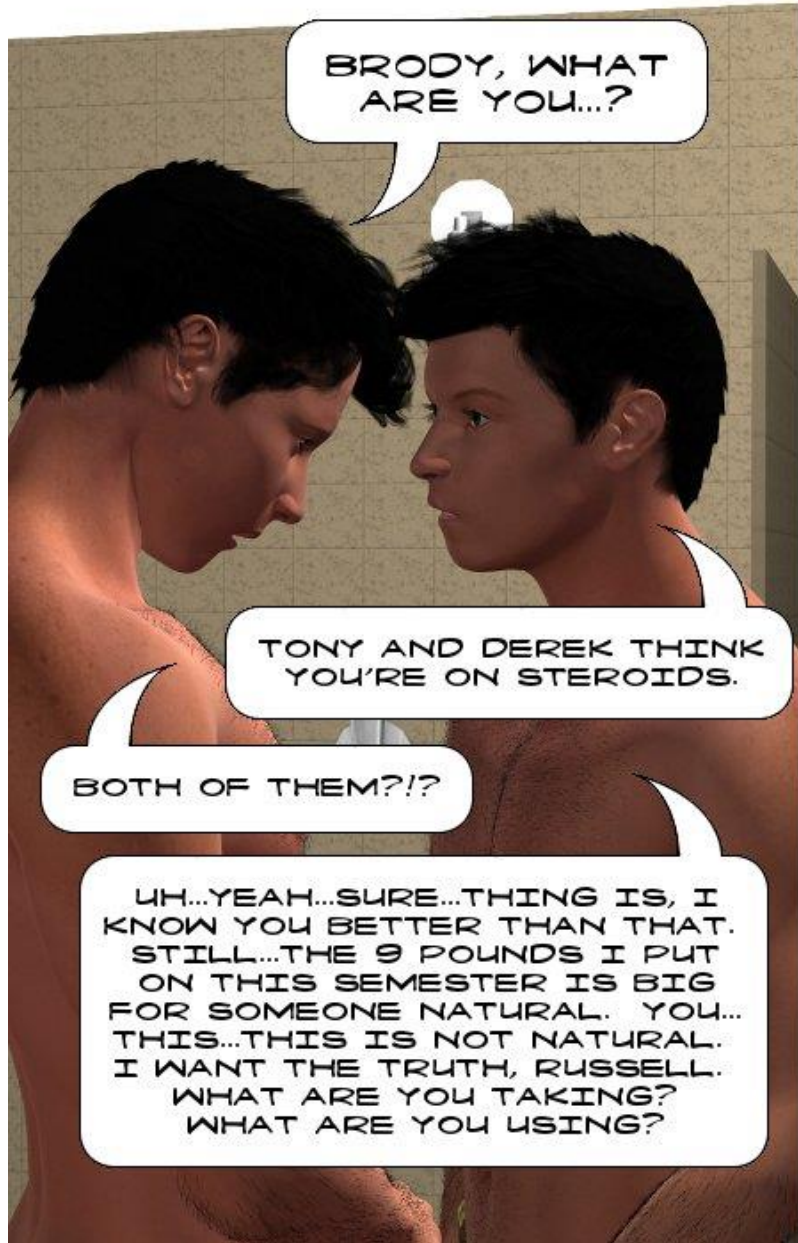
YOU WERE RIGHT, WE DID GROW UP AT DIFFERENT TIMES. AND I REMEMBER WHICHEVER ONE OF US WAS BIGGER WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE DOMINATING OVER THE OTHER. RIGHT NOW, THAT'S YOU. IF I WAIT FOR LATER, YOU'LL JUST USE THAT DOMINANCE TO BLOW OFF THAT DISCUSSION FOREVER. IF YOUR NAKEDNESS MAKES YOU INSECURE AND VULNERABLE RIGHT NOW, THEN THAT LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD FOR ME! YOU WILL STAND THERE AND TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU.



BRODY, I'M SORRY IF I'M SOMEHOW MAKING THIS WORSE FOR YOU. ALL I WANT IS TO MAKE IT EASIER UNTIL YOU CATCH UP.



FIRST OF ALL, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. SECOND, WE BOTH KNOW I'M NOT CATCHING UP THIS TIME, AM I?



BRODY, WHAT ARE YOU...?

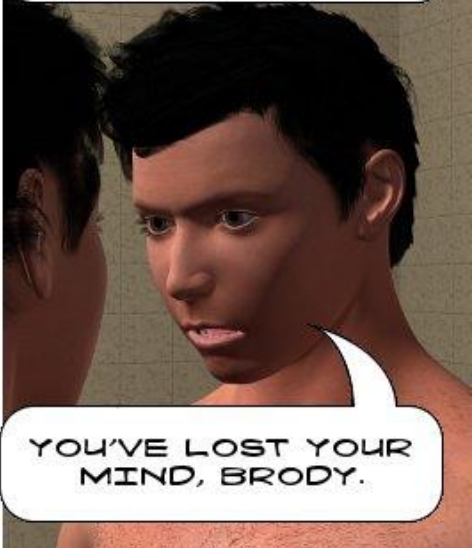
TONY AND DEREK THINK YOU'RE ON STEROIDS.

BOTH OF THEM?!?

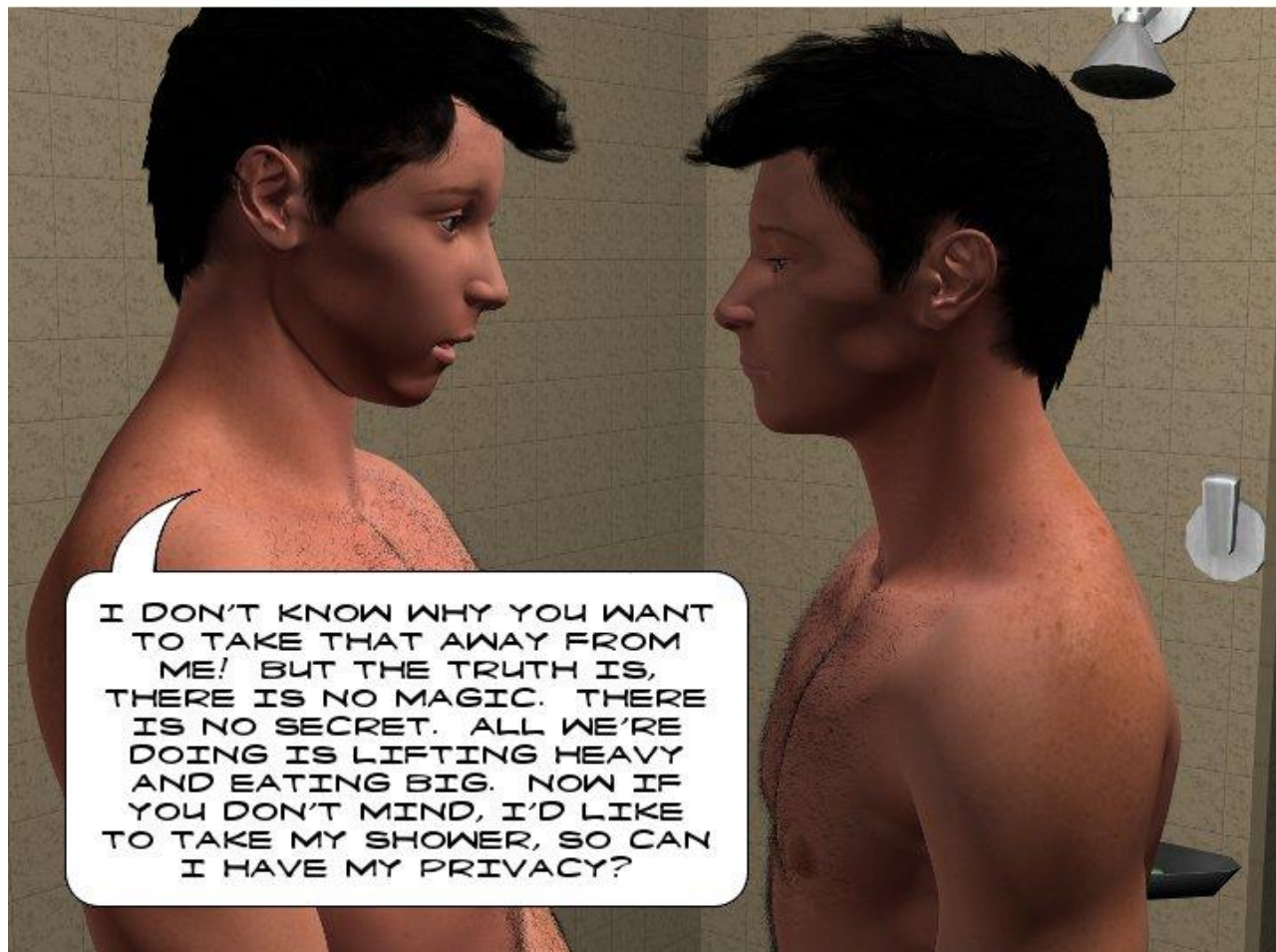
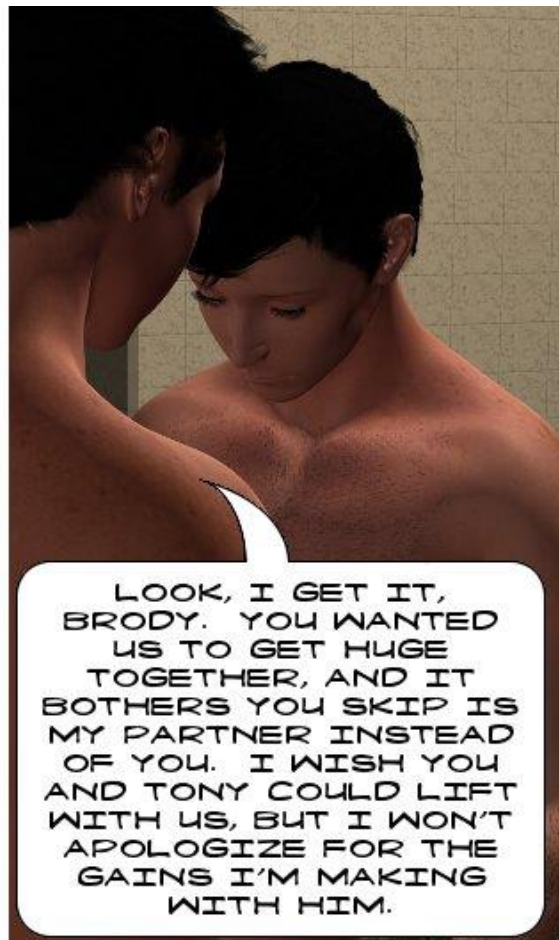
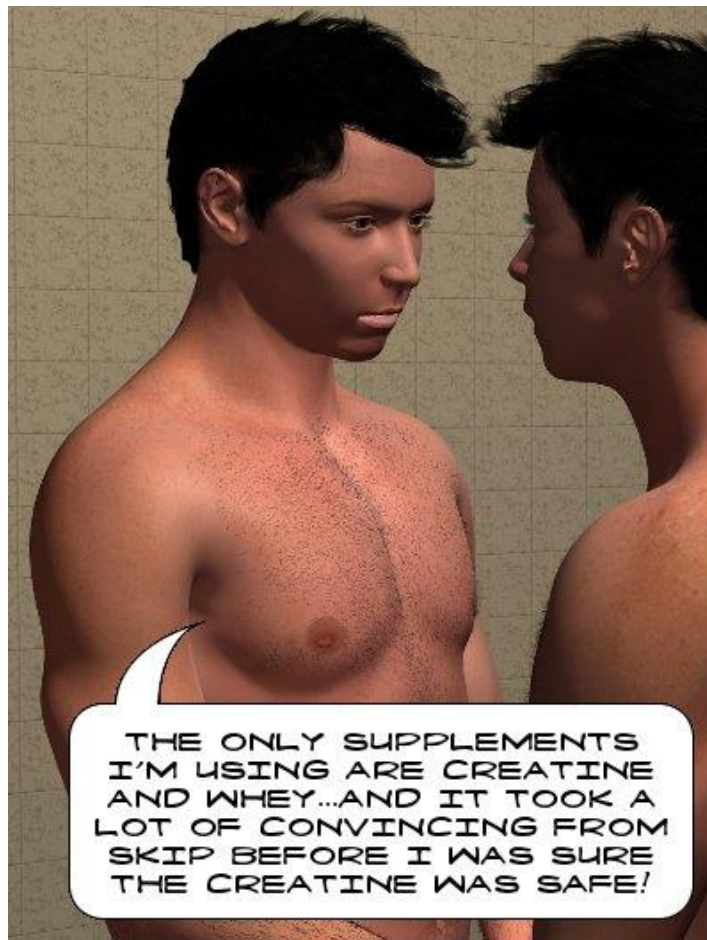
UH...YEAH...SURE...THING IS, I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN THAT. STILL...THE 9 POUNDS I PUT ON THIS SEMESTER IS BIG FOR SOMEONE NATURAL. YOU... THIS...THIS IS NOT NATURAL. I WANT THE TRUTH, RUSSELL. WHAT ARE YOU TAKING? WHAT ARE YOU USING?



IS IT SOME NEW MIRACLE SUPPLEMENT? ARE YOU TESTING SOMETHING FOR THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT? DID YOU FALL INTO A VAT OF TOXIC WASTE?



YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND, BRODY.





BATHROOM'S YOURS.

BOY WAS I ACTUALLY GLAD RUSS BUNDLED UP AFTER THAT DISCUSSION. THOUGH I GOT A LOT OF THINGS OFF MY CHEST THAT MORNING, I LEFT FEELING WORSE INSTEAD OF BETTER...



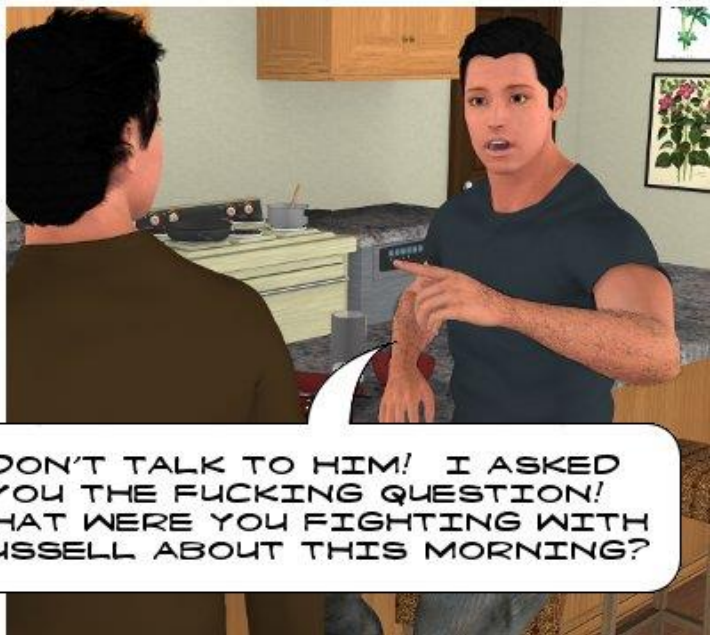
DAMN! FUCKING LEAVE ANYTHING FOR BRODY?



HERE'S NUMB-NUTS NOW! WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU TWO FIGHTING ABOUT THIS MORNING?



RUSS? WHAT DID YOU...

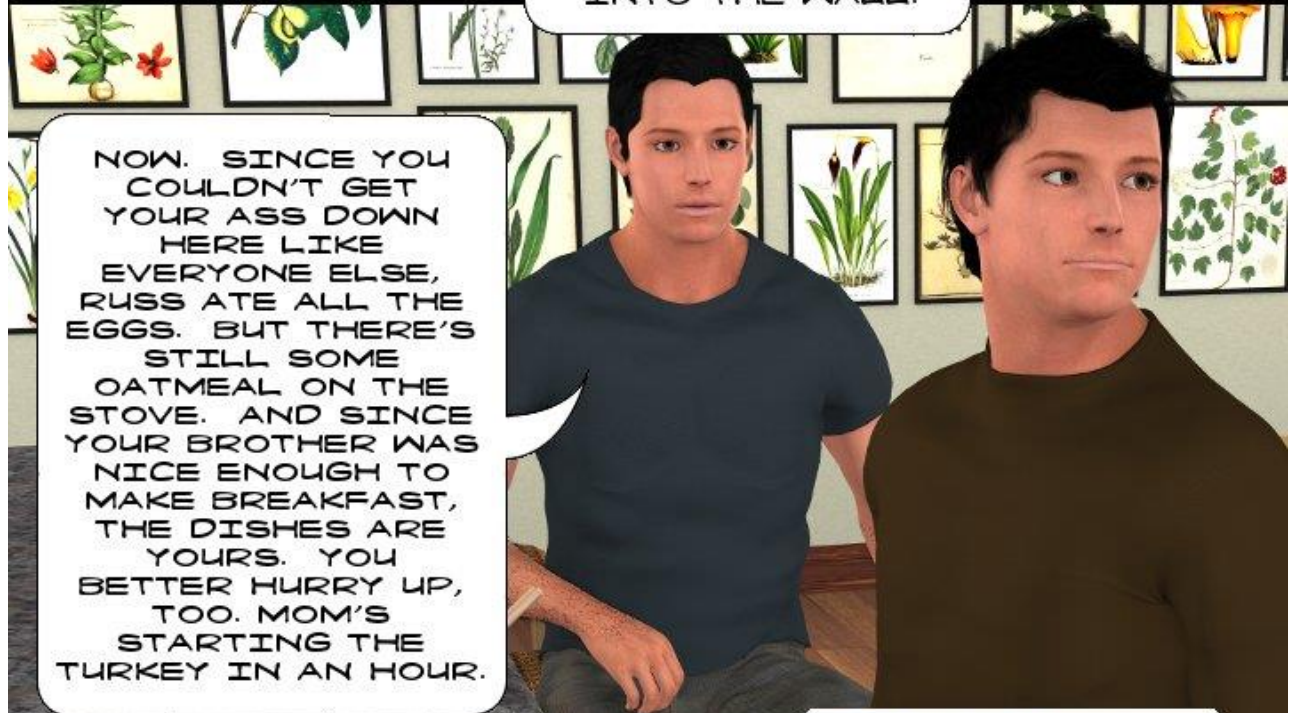


DON'T TALK TO HIM! I ASKED YOU THE FUCKING QUESTION! WHAT WERE YOU FIGHTING WITH RUSSELL ABOUT THIS MORNING?



NOTHING!
GOD, JAYSON,
WE WEREN'T
FIGHTING!

YEAH...WELL
YOU'RE LUCKY
I WAS ALREADY
UP. YOU MAKE
THAT KIND OF
NOISE WHEN I'M
TRYING TO SLEEP,
AND I'LL COME
IN THERE AND
THROW YOU BOTH
INTO THE WALL.



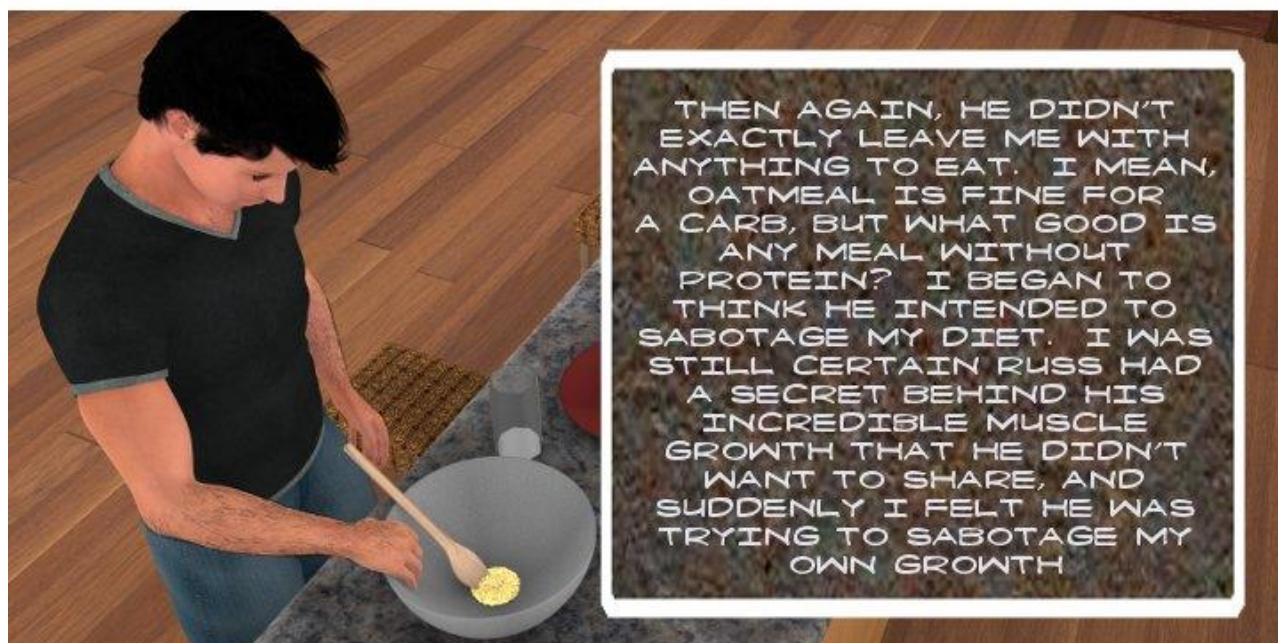
NOW. SINCE YOU
COULDN'T GET
YOUR ASS DOWN
HERE LIKE
EVERYONE ELSE,
RUSS ATE ALL THE
EGGS. BUT THERE'S
STILL SOME
OATMEAL ON THE
STOVE. AND SINCE
YOUR BROTHER WAS
NICE ENOUGH TO
MAKE BREAKFAST,
THE DISHES ARE
YOURS. YOU
BETTER HURRY UP,
TOO. MOM'S
STARTING THE
TURKEY IN AN HOUR.

MY INSTINCT WAS TO
SNAP. AFTER ALL, WE
WERE TECHNICALLY
GUESTS, SO IT PISSED ME
OFF HOW HE EXPECTED US
TO STILL DO OUR
CHORES. THEN I SAW HIS
FIST, READY TO STRIKE.
AND I SAW RUSSELL
SITTING BESIDE HIM
LIKE HIS BEST FRIEND.
NOTHING SEEMED TO
MATTER AND ALL THE
FIGHT LEFT MY HEART.





AS IF THE WHOLE SCENE WASN'T BAD ENOUGH, I WATCHED MY TWIN GO OFF WITH THE ENEMY TO WATCH SOME STUPID PRE-PARADE NONSENSE ON TV. I MEAN, HE DIDN'T WANT TO HANG OUT WITH ME WHILE I GRABBED A BITE.



THEN AGAIN, HE DIDN'T EXACTLY LEAVE ME WITH ANYTHING TO EAT. I MEAN, OATMEAL IS FINE FOR A CARB, BUT WHAT GOOD IS ANY MEAL WITHOUT PROTEIN? I BEGAN TO THINK HE INTENDED TO SABOTAGE MY DIET. I WAS STILL CERTAIN RUSS HAD A SECRET BEHIND HIS INCREDIBLE MUSCLE GROWTH THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO SHARE, AND SUDDENLY I FELT HE WAS TRYING TO SABOTAGE MY OWN GROWTH



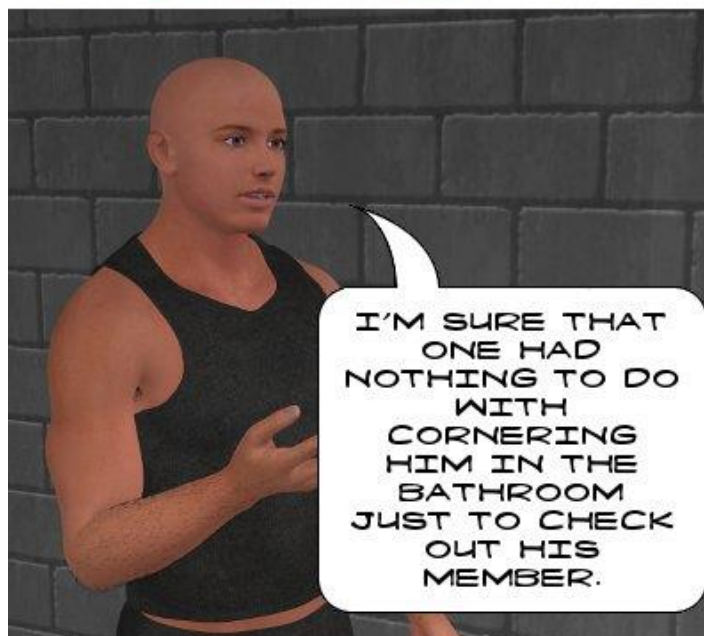
HOW WAS YOUR WEEKEND?

I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY HAPPIER TO SEE IT ALL END..TO BE BACK IN MY DORM ROOM WITH MY FRIENDS.

UGH! DON'T ASK. PLEASE DON'T ASK.



I'M LOSING MY BROTHER. HE'S KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME, AND NOW HE'S GETTING CLOSER TO JAYSON. THAT GUY...THAT ASSHOLE HAS BEEN TERRORIZING AND TORTURING US SINCE OUR DAD DIED, AND RUSS SAID MORE TO HIM THIS WEEKEND THAN HE DID TO ME!



I'M SURE THAT ONE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CORNERING HIM IN THE BATHROOM JUST TO CHECK OUT HIS MEMBER.

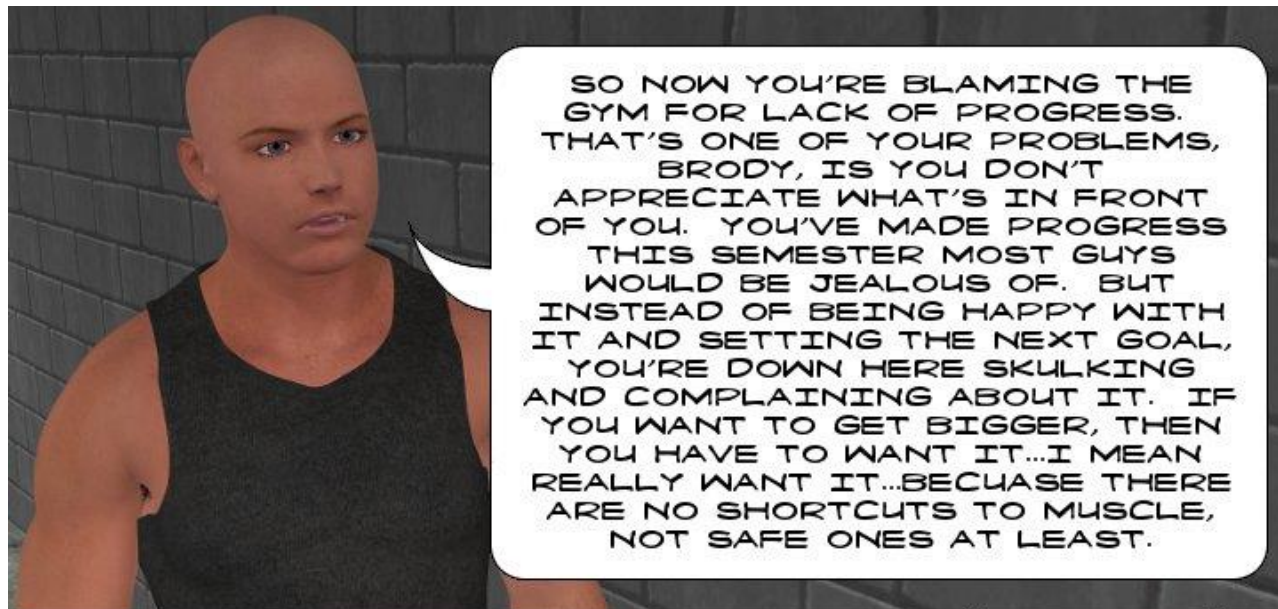


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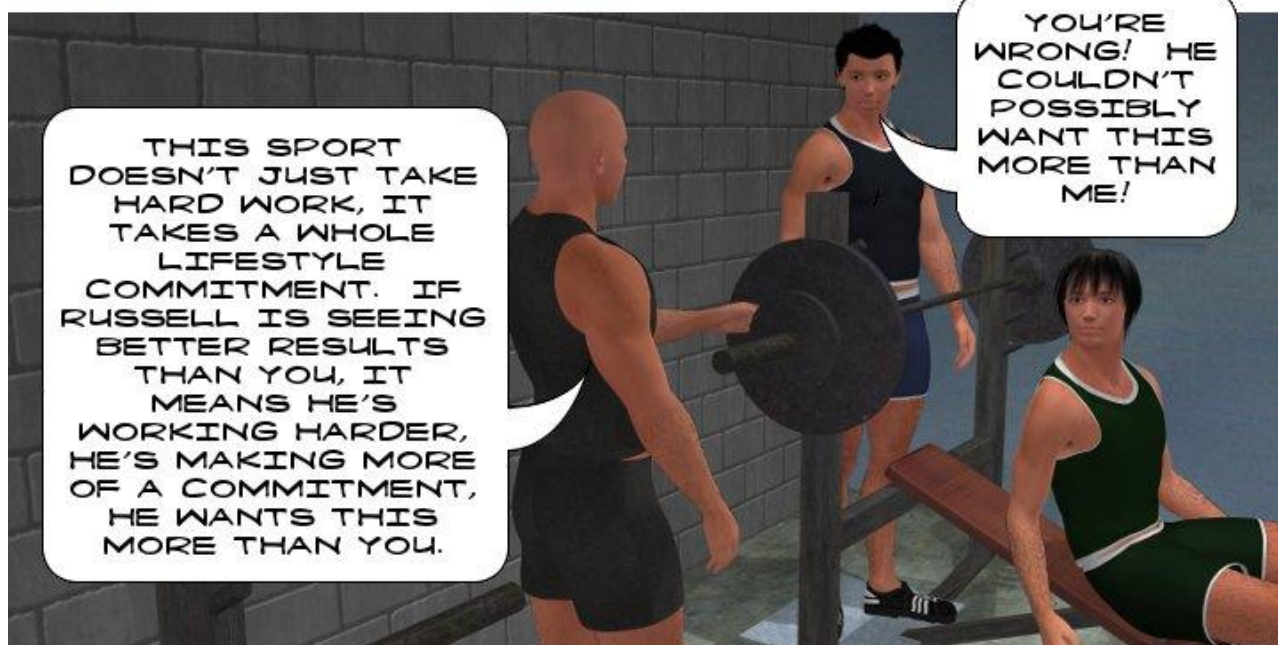


QUIET, YOU. WE KNOW YOU'RE A BEAST.

OH MY GOD! THAT'S NOT WHAT I...YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND! IT'S THAT GYM! THAT'S THE SECRET! I HAD TO JOIN YOU DOWN HERE INSTEAD OF USING ALL THAT EQUIPMENT IN THE SPORTS COMPLEX!

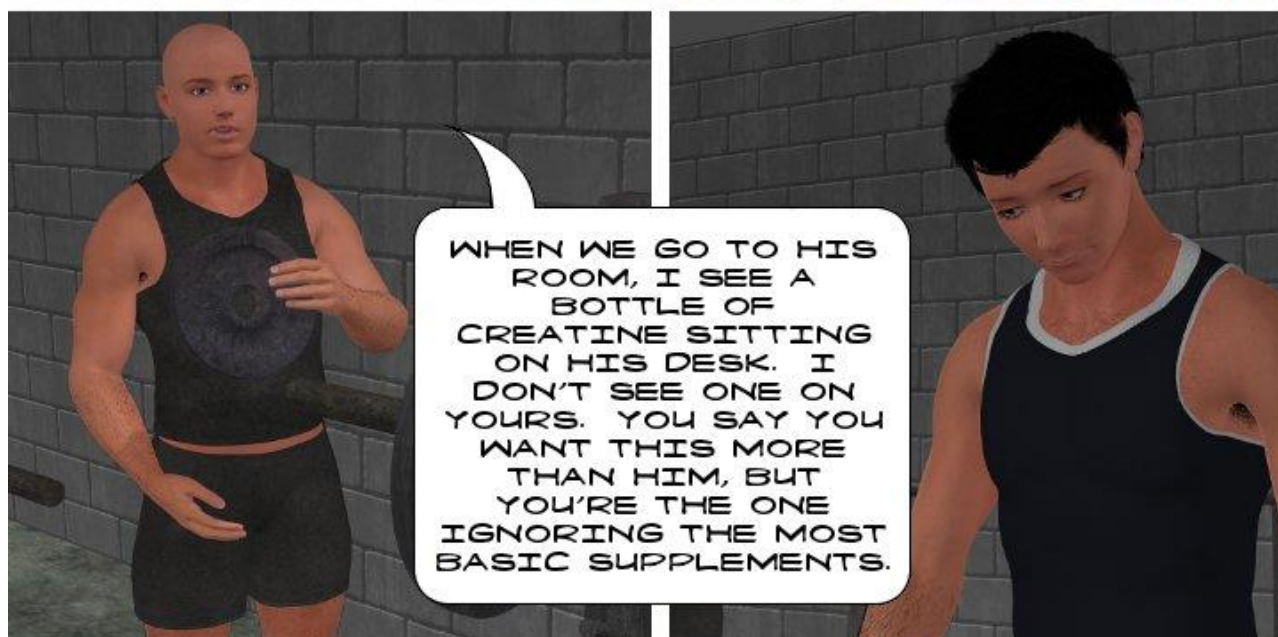


SO NOW YOU'RE BLAMING THE GYM FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. THAT'S ONE OF YOUR PROBLEMS, BRODY, IS YOU DON'T APPRECIATE WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU. YOU'VE MADE PROGRESS THIS SEMESTER MOST GUYS WOULD BE JEALOUS OF. BUT INSTEAD OF BEING HAPPY WITH IT AND SETTING THE NEXT GOAL, YOU'RE DOWN HERE SKULKING AND COMPLAINING ABOUT IT. IF YOU WANT TO GET BIGGER, THEN YOU HAVE TO WANT IT...I MEAN REALLY WANT IT...BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO MUSCLE, NOT SAFE ONES AT LEAST.

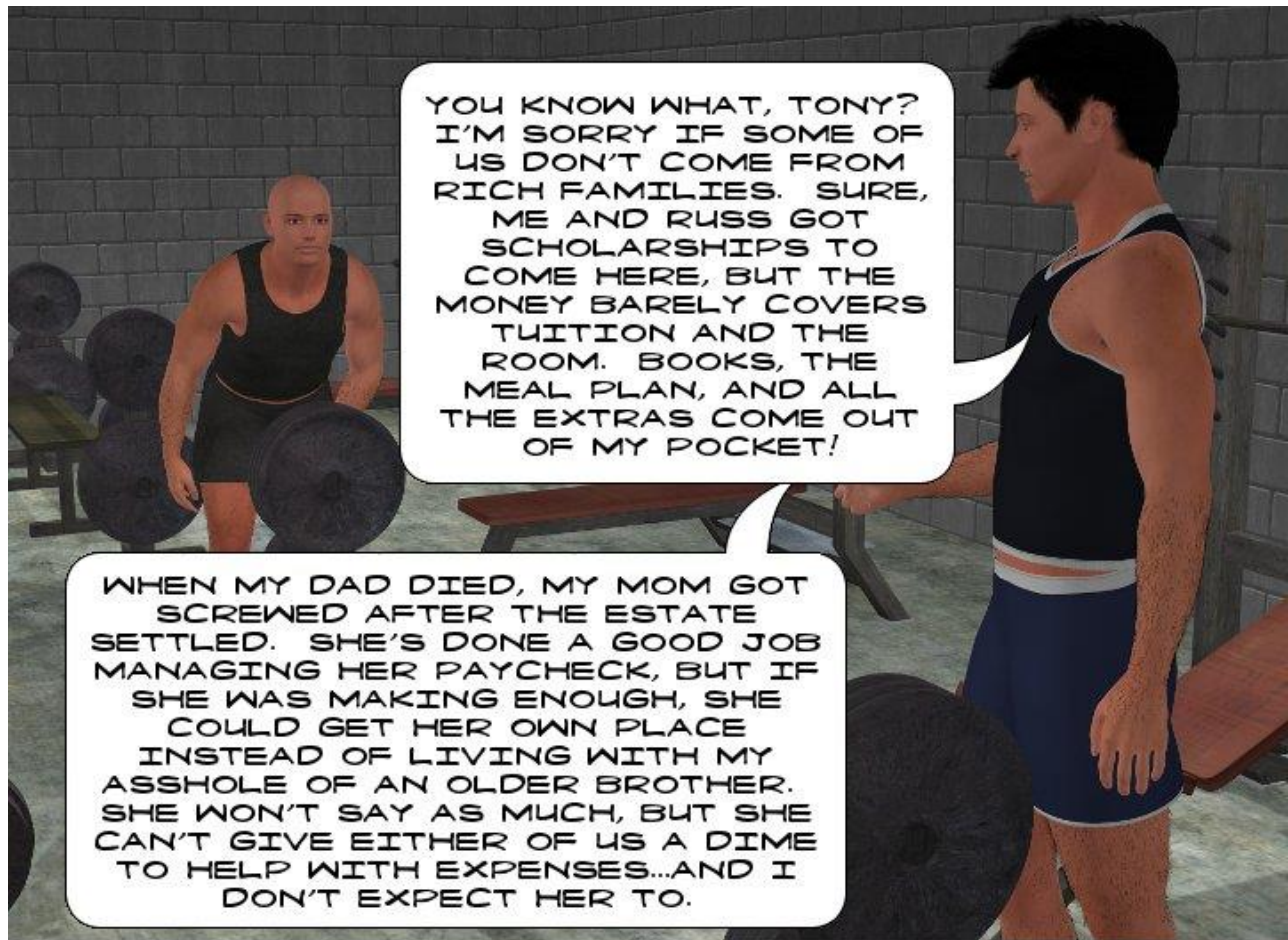


THIS SPORT DOESN'T JUST TAKE HARD WORK, IT TAKES A WHOLE LIFESTYLE COMMITMENT. IF RUSSELL IS SEEING BETTER RESULTS THAN YOU, IT MEANS HE'S WORKING HARDER, HE'S MAKING MORE OF A COMMITMENT, HE WANTS THIS MORE THAN YOU.

YOU'RE WRONG! HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY WANT THIS MORE THAN ME!

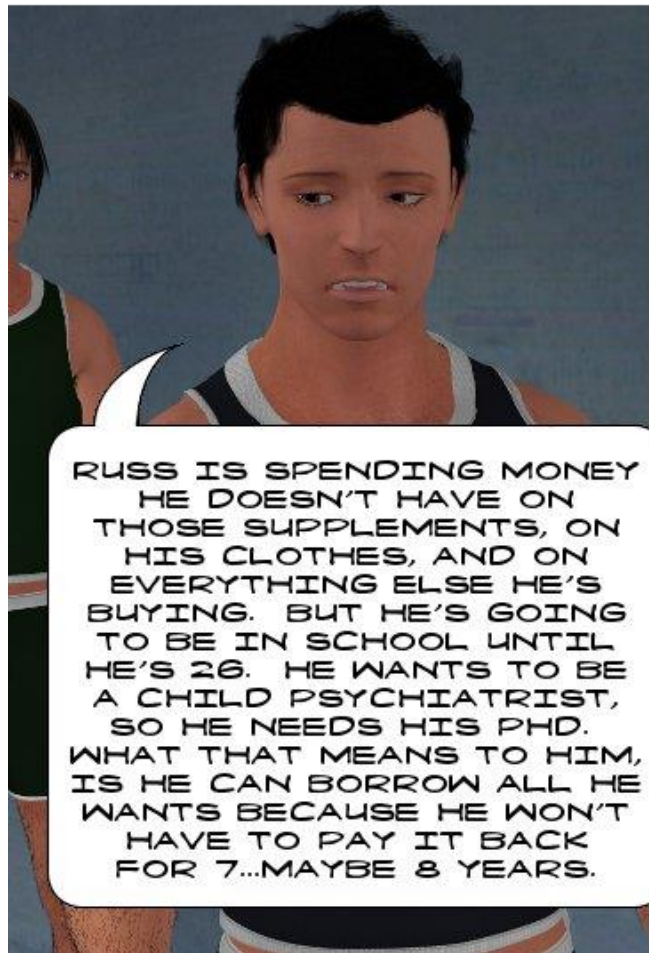


WHEN WE GO TO HIS ROOM, I SEE A BOTTLE OF CREATINE SITTING ON HIS DESK. I DON'T SEE ONE ON YOURS. YOU SAY YOU WANT THIS MORE THAN HIM, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE IGNORING THE MOST BASIC SUPPLEMENTS.

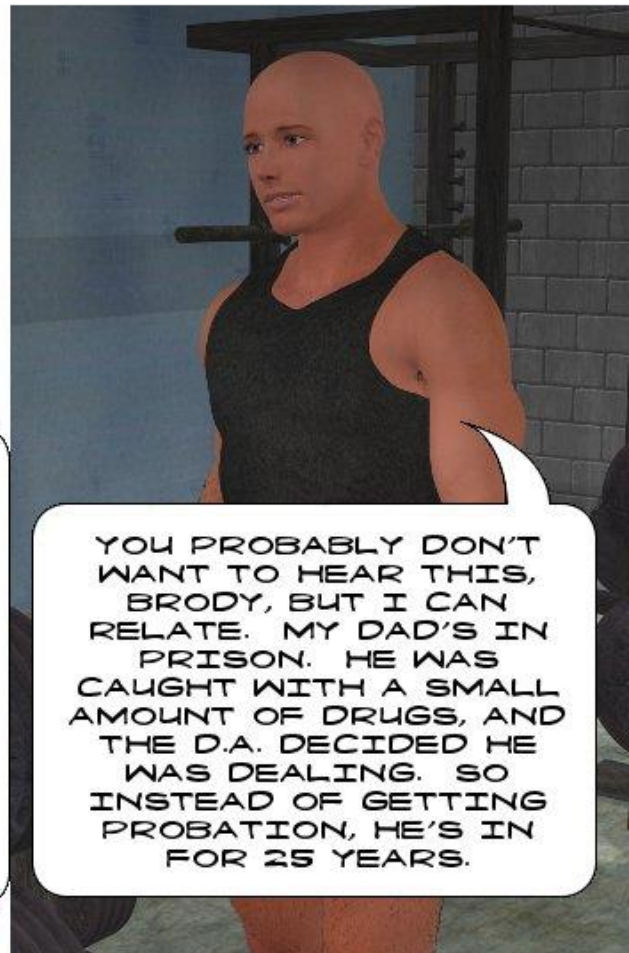


YOU KNOW WHAT, TONY?
I'M SORRY IF SOME OF
US DON'T COME FROM
RICH FAMILIES. SURE,
ME AND RUSS GOT
SCHOLARSHIPS TO
COME HERE, BUT THE
MONEY BARELY COVERS
TUITION AND THE
ROOM. BOOKS, THE
MEAL PLAN, AND ALL
THE EXTRAS COME OUT
OF MY POCKET!

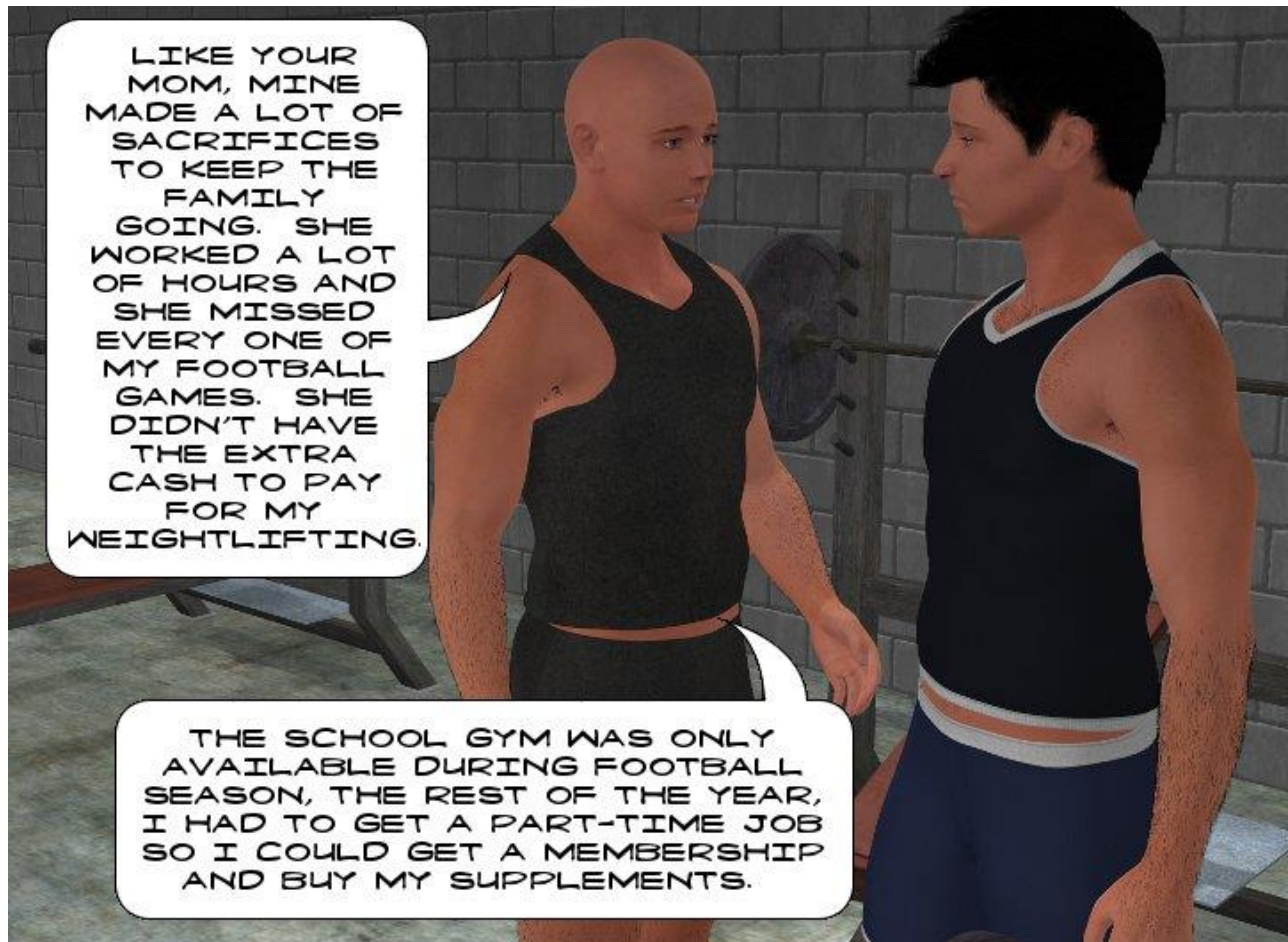
WHEN MY DAD DIED, MY MOM GOT
SCREWED AFTER THE ESTATE
SETTLED. SHE'S DONE A GOOD JOB
MANAGING HER PAYCHECK, BUT IF
SHE WAS MAKING ENOUGH, SHE
COULD GET HER OWN PLACE
INSTEAD OF LIVING WITH MY
ASSHOLE OF AN OLDER BROTHER.
SHE WON'T SAY AS MUCH, BUT SHE
CAN'T GIVE EITHER OF US A DIME
TO HELP WITH EXPENSES...AND I
DON'T EXPECT HER TO.



RUSS IS SPENDING MONEY
HE DOESN'T HAVE ON
THOSE SUPPLEMENTS, ON
HIS CLOTHES, AND ON
EVERYTHING ELSE HE'S
BUYING. BUT HE'S GOING
TO BE IN SCHOOL UNTIL
HE'S 26. HE WANTS TO BE
A CHILD PSYCHIATRIST,
SO HE NEEDS HIS PHD.
WHAT THAT MEANS TO HIM,
IS HE CAN BORROW ALL HE
WANTS BECAUSE HE WON'T
HAVE TO PAY IT BACK
FOR 7...MAYBE 8 YEARS.

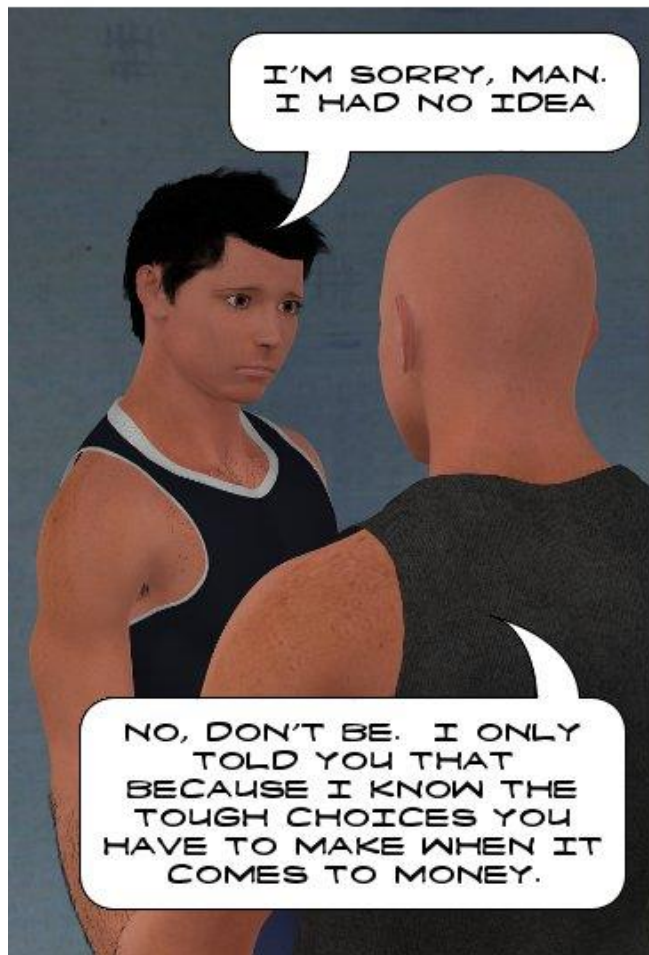


YOU PROBABLY DON'T
WANT TO HEAR THIS,
BRODY, BUT I CAN
RELATE. MY DAD'S IN
PRISON. HE WAS
CAUGHT WITH A SMALL
AMOUNT OF DRUGS, AND
THE D.A. DECIDED HE
WAS DEALING. SO
INSTEAD OF GETTING
PROBATION, HE'S IN
FOR 25 YEARS.



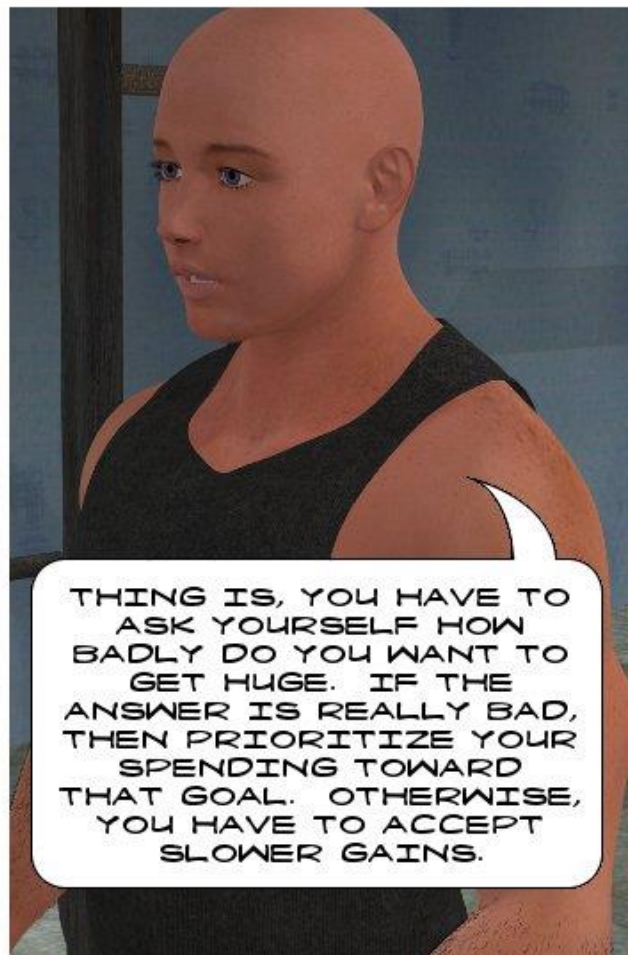
LIKE YOUR MOM, MINE MADE A LOT OF SACRIFICES TO KEEP THE FAMILY GOING. SHE WORKED A LOT OF HOURS AND SHE MISSED EVERY ONE OF MY FOOTBALL GAMES. SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE EXTRA CASH TO PAY FOR MY WEIGHTLIFTING.

THE SCHOOL GYM WAS ONLY AVAILABLE DURING FOOTBALL SEASON, THE REST OF THE YEAR, I HAD TO GET A PART-TIME JOB SO I COULD GET A MEMBERSHIP AND BUY MY SUPPLEMENTS.

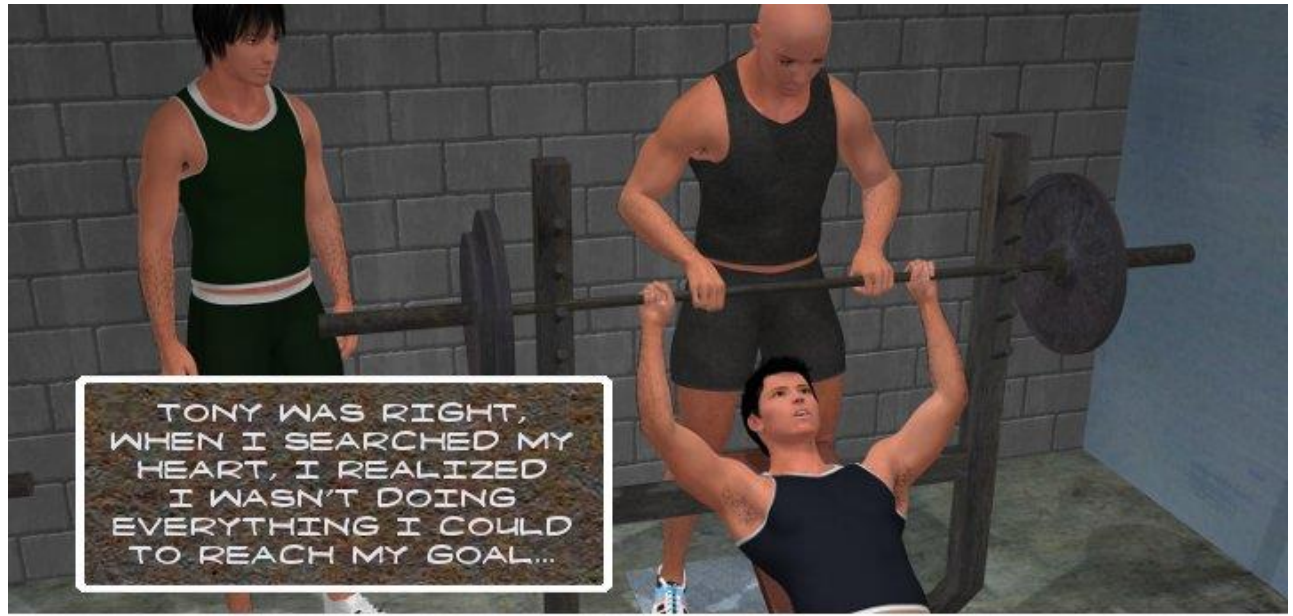


I'M SORRY, MAN. I HAD NO IDEA

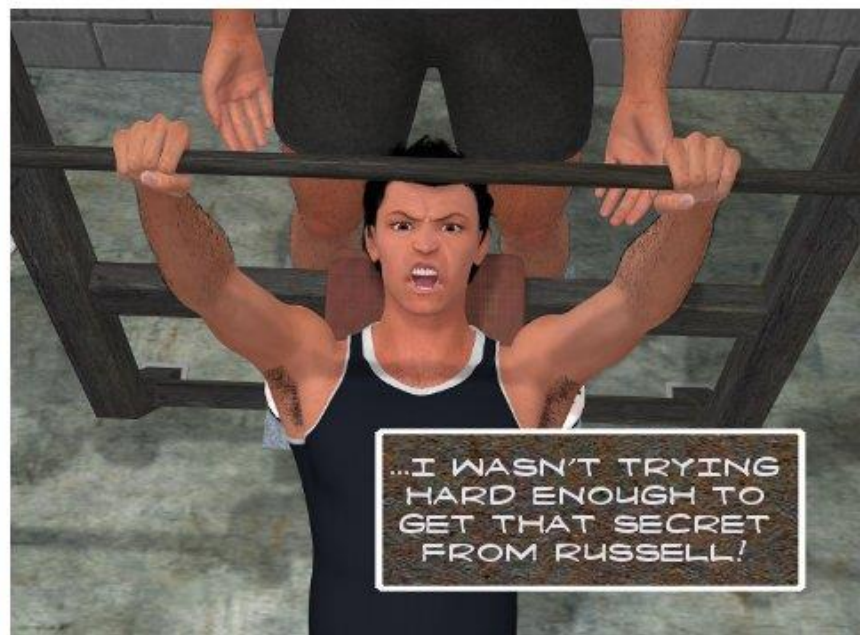
NO, DON'T BE. I ONLY TOLD YOU THAT BECAUSE I KNOW THE TOUGH CHOICES YOU HAVE TO MAKE WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY.



THING IS, YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT TO GET HUGE. IF THE ANSWER IS REALLY BAD, THEN PRIORITIZE YOUR SPENDING TOWARD THAT GOAL. OTHERWISE, YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT SLOWER GAINS.



TONY WAS RIGHT,
WHEN I SEARCHED MY
HEART, I REALIZED
I WASN'T DOING
EVERYTHING I COULD
TO REACH MY GOAL...



...I WASN'T TRYING
HARD ENOUGH TO
GET THAT SECRET
FROM RUSSELL!

I HAD TO STOP MAKING EXCUSES AND MAKE MORE TIME FOR MY TWIN. I FIGURED HE MIGHT NOT KNOW WHAT WAS AFFECTING HIM, SO IT WAS UP TO ME TO FIND IT IF I WANTED IT. I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ENVIRONMENTAL OR OTHERS IN HIS DORM WOULD BE GETTING HUGE. WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS IN HIS ROOM, AND THE ONLY WAY I WAS GOING TO FIND IT WAS BY PAYING HIM MORE FREQUENT VISITS.



BRODY! I...UH... DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU!



I GUESS YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE WEEKEND.



I WANT TO FORGET THIS WEEKEND. IT WAS A DISASTER! I WAS A JERK TO YOU, AND I'M SORRY.



I WAS HOPING WE COULD JUST HANG OUT AND TALK ABOUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN THIS WEEKEND.



THAT'S FINE, BUT COULD YOU HANG OUT BY YOURSELF FOR A FEW MINUTES? I NEED TO TAKE A PROTEIN DUMP.



WITH THE ROOM TO MYSELF, I BEGAN THE SEARCH, STARTING WITH SKIP'S STUFF. IF RUSS WAS DOSED UNAWARE, THEN HIS ROOMMATE WAS THE CULPRIT.

I SEARCHED FOR NEEDLES. I SEARCHED FOR STRANGE PILLS OR POWDERS.

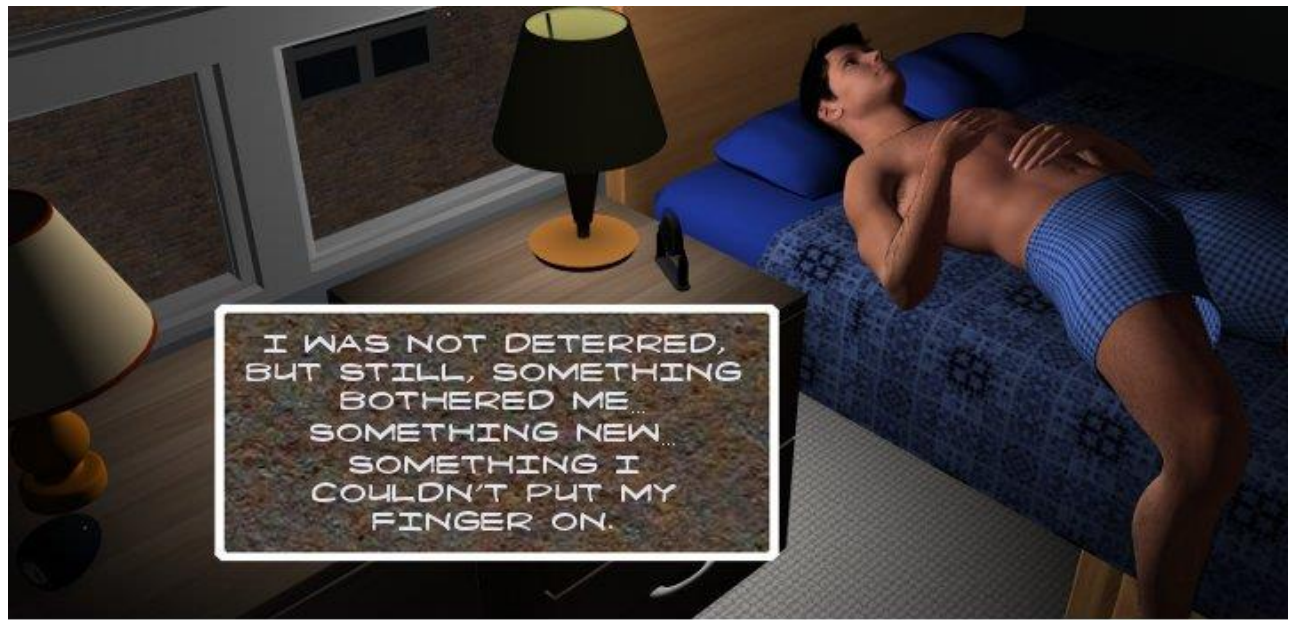


I SEARCHED FOR COLORFUL LIQUIDS IN SCIENTIFIC-LOOKING VIALS.



I CAME UP EMPTY-HANDED BY THE TIME RUSS RETURNED.

WHEW! I FEEL 10 POUNDS LIGHTER AFTER THAT!



I WAS NOT DETERRED,
BUT STILL, SOMETHING
BOTHERED ME
SOMETHING NEW
SOMETHING I
COULDN'T PUT MY
FINGER ON.



I COULDN'T LET IT
ROB ME OF SLEEP, SO
I PUSHED IT OUT
AND SHUT MY EYES.



HOME
AGAIN!

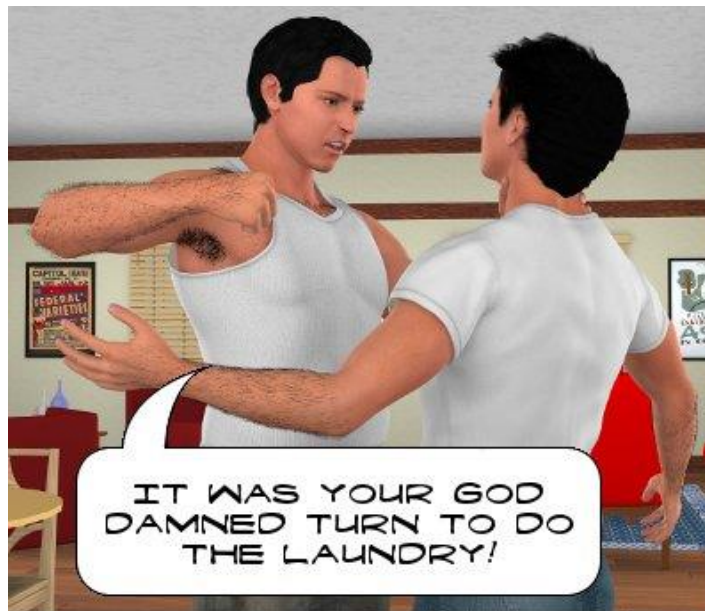


AND I'M THE
FIRST ONE
TO BREAKFAST!



HEY!
DICKHEAD!

JAY...JAYSON?



IT WAS YOUR GOD DAMNED TURN TO DO THE LAUNDRY!

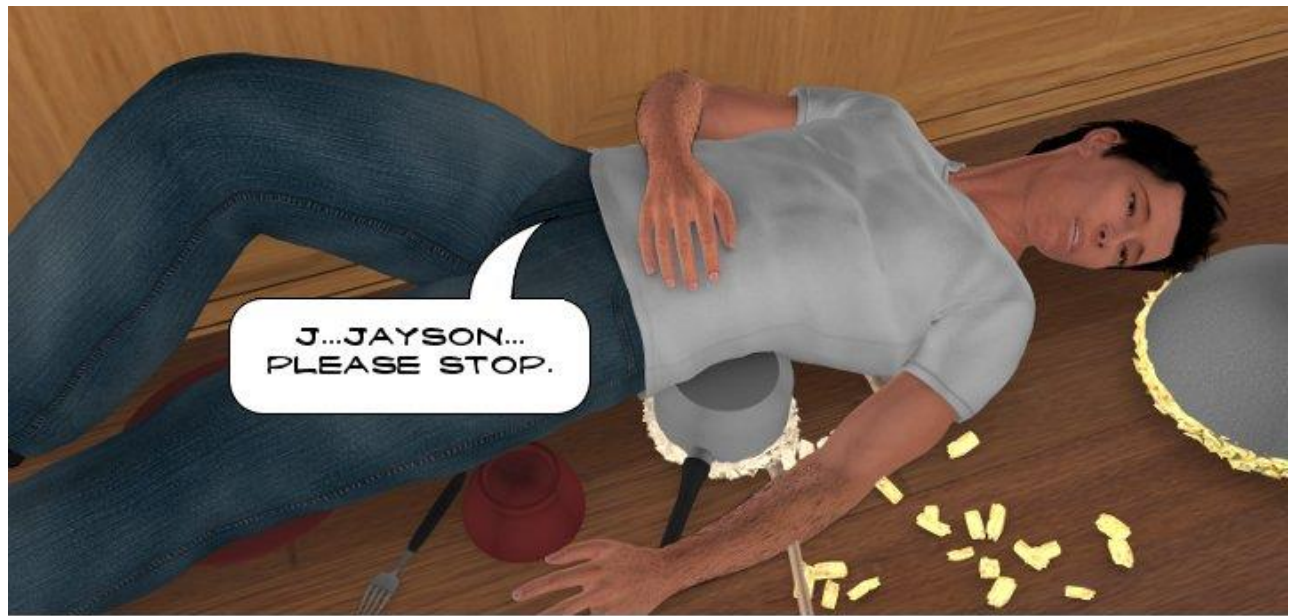


JAYSON!
PLEASE!



I DON'T HAVE ONE FUCKING CLEAN SHIRT!!!





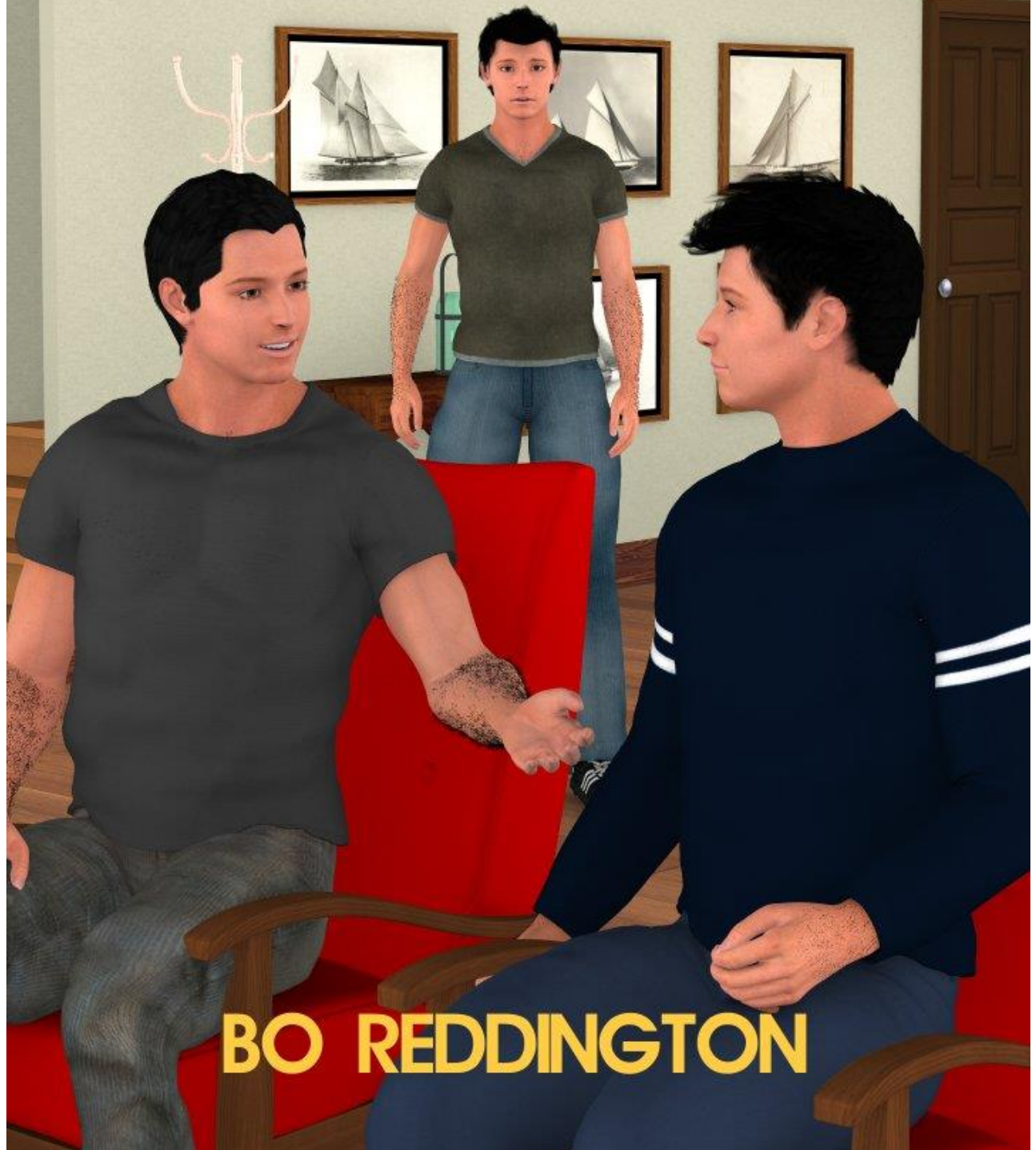
J...JAYSON...
PLEASE STOP.



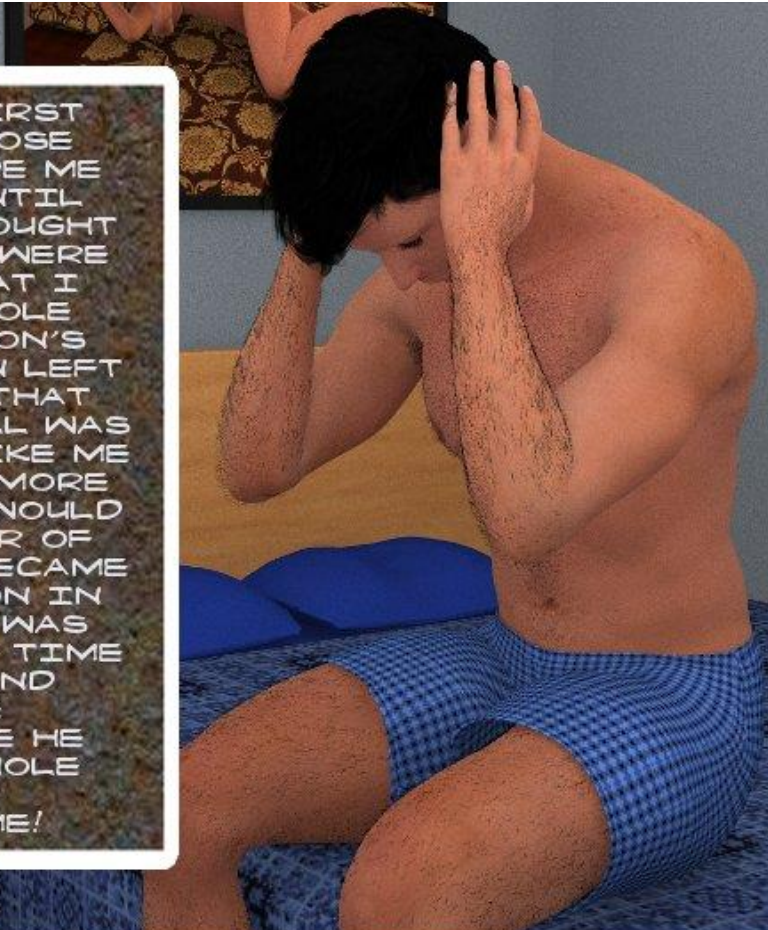
...EXCEPT THE
FACE GLARING
DOWN AT ME WAS
NOT JAYSON'S ANY
MORE...IT WAS
RUSSELL'S!

MY TWIN NO MORE

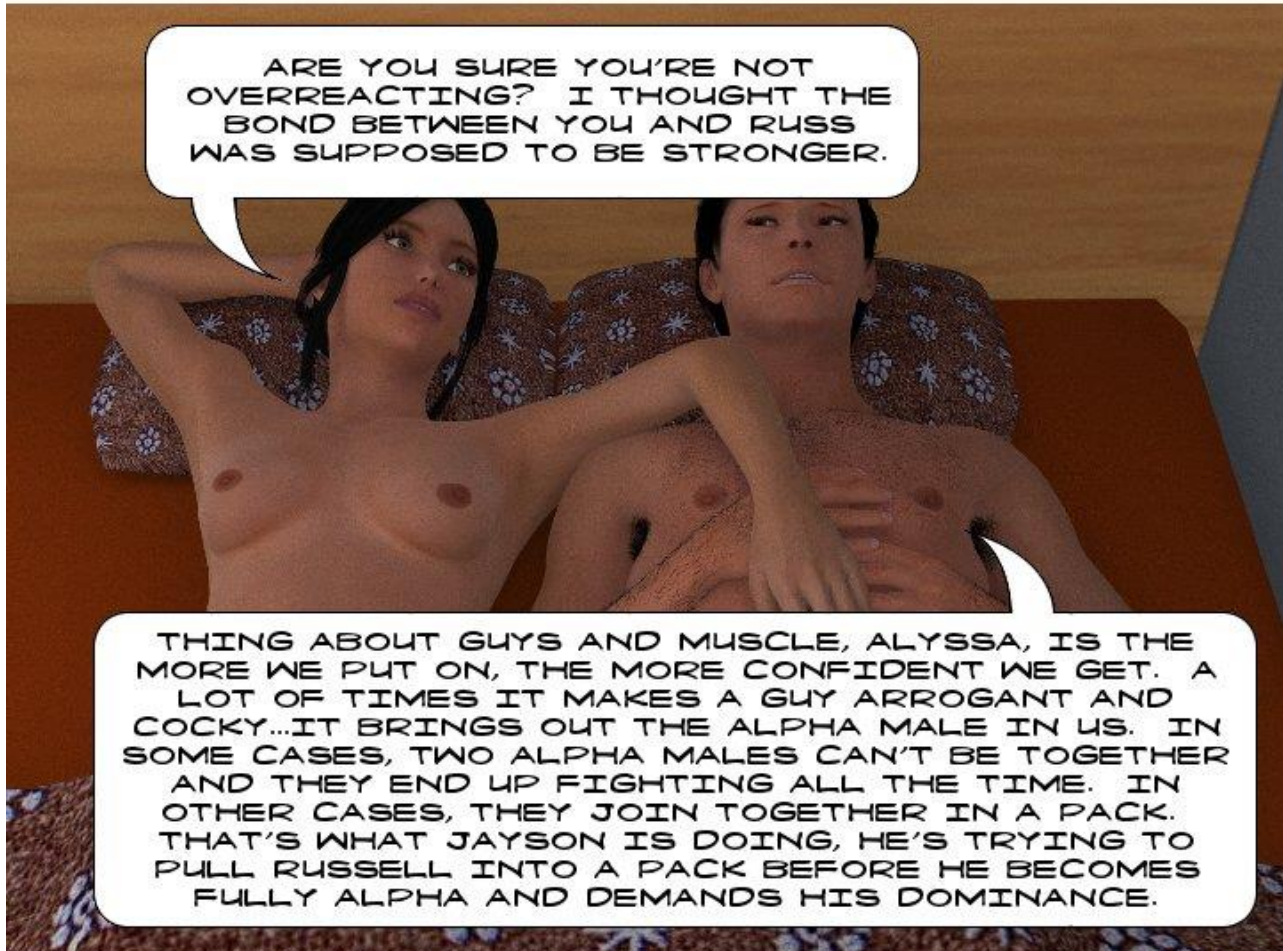
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THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME ONE OF THOSE NIGHTMARES MADE ME WANT TO CRY. UNTIL THIS NIGHT, I THOUGHT THE NIGHTMARES WERE SHOWING ME THAT I WOULD BE THE SOLE VICTIM OF JAYSON'S ANGER AS MY TWIN LEFT ME BEHIND, BUT THAT WASN'T IT. RUSSELL WAS BECOMING LESS LIKE ME PHYSICALLY AND MORE LIKE JAYSON. IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE BECAME MORE LIKE JAYSON IN OTHER WAYS. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HIS MIND BECAME LIKE JAYSON'S...BEFORE HE JOINED MY ASSHOLE BROTHER IN TORMENTING ME!

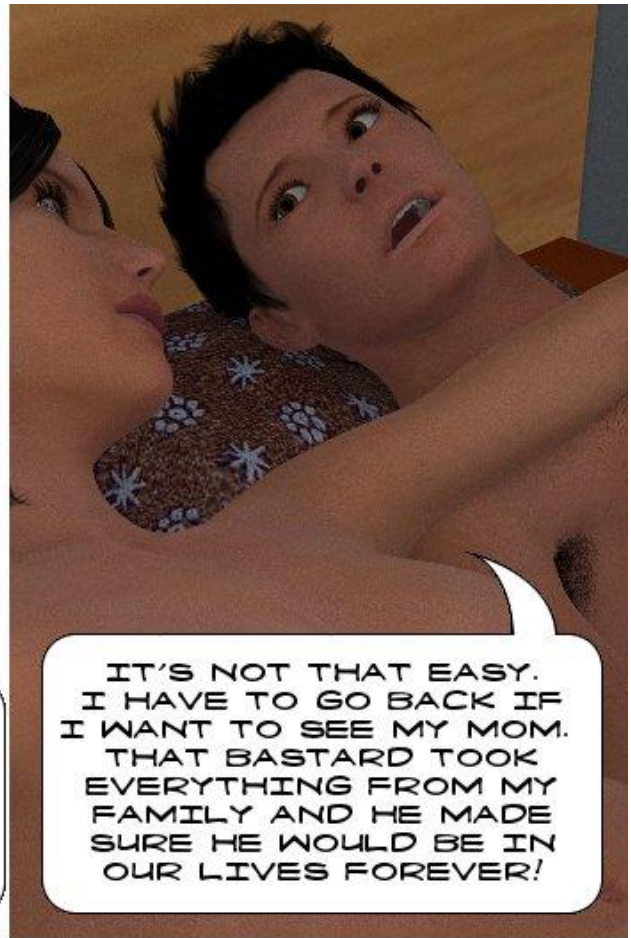


ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT OVERREACTING? I THOUGHT THE BOND BETWEEN YOU AND RUSS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE STRONGER.

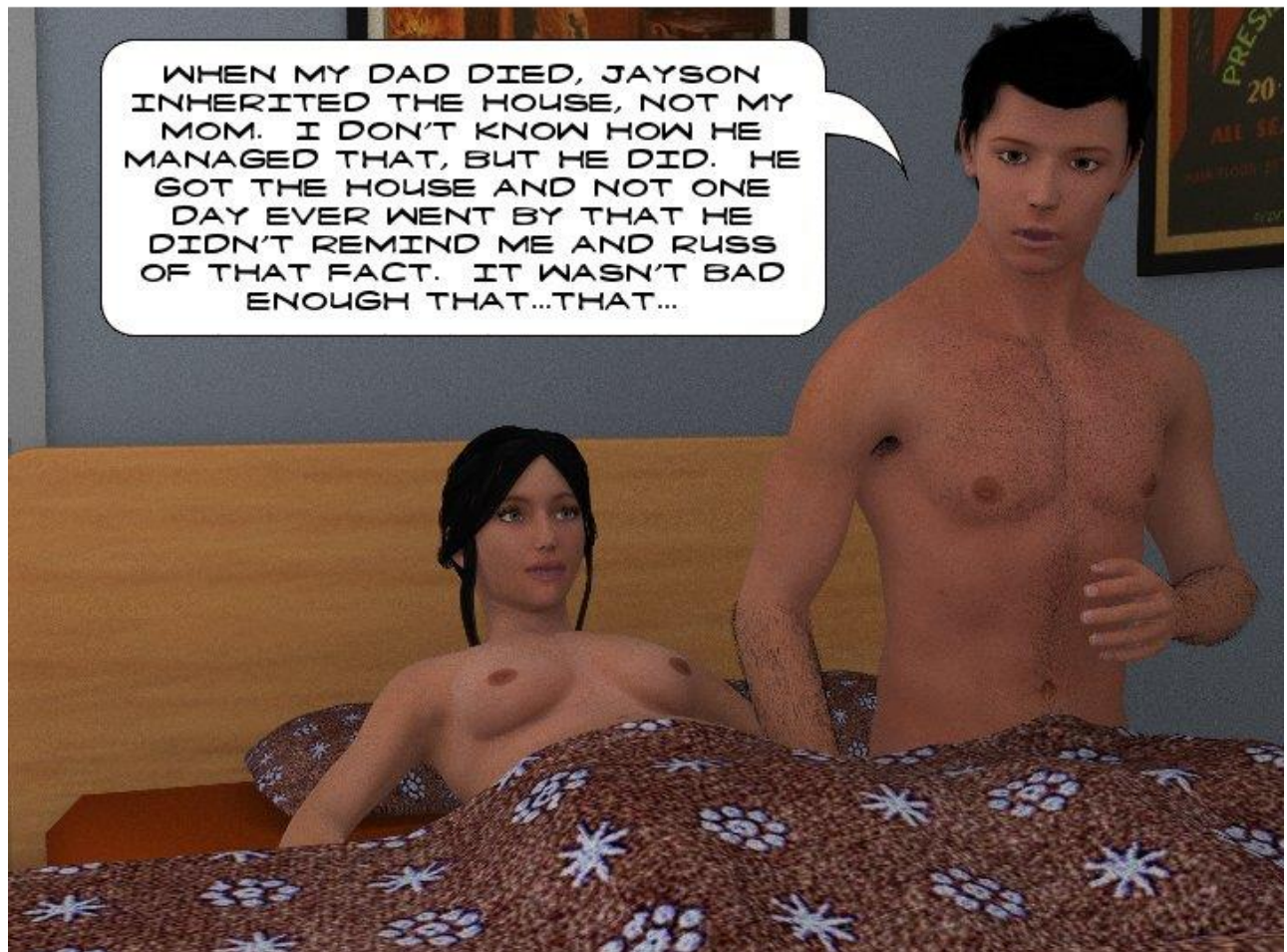
THING ABOUT GUYS AND MUSCLE, ALYSSA, IS THE MORE WE PUT ON, THE MORE CONFIDENT WE GET. A LOT OF TIMES IT MAKES A GUY ARROGANT AND COCKY...IT BRINGS OUT THE ALPHA MALE IN US. IN SOME CASES, TWO ALPHA MALES CAN'T BE TOGETHER AND THEY END UP FIGHTING ALL THE TIME. IN OTHER CASES, THEY JOIN TOGETHER IN A PACK. THAT'S WHAT JAYSON IS DOING, HE'S TRYING TO PULL RUSSELL INTO A PACK BEFORE HE BECOMES FULLY ALPHA AND DEMANDS HIS DOMINANCE.



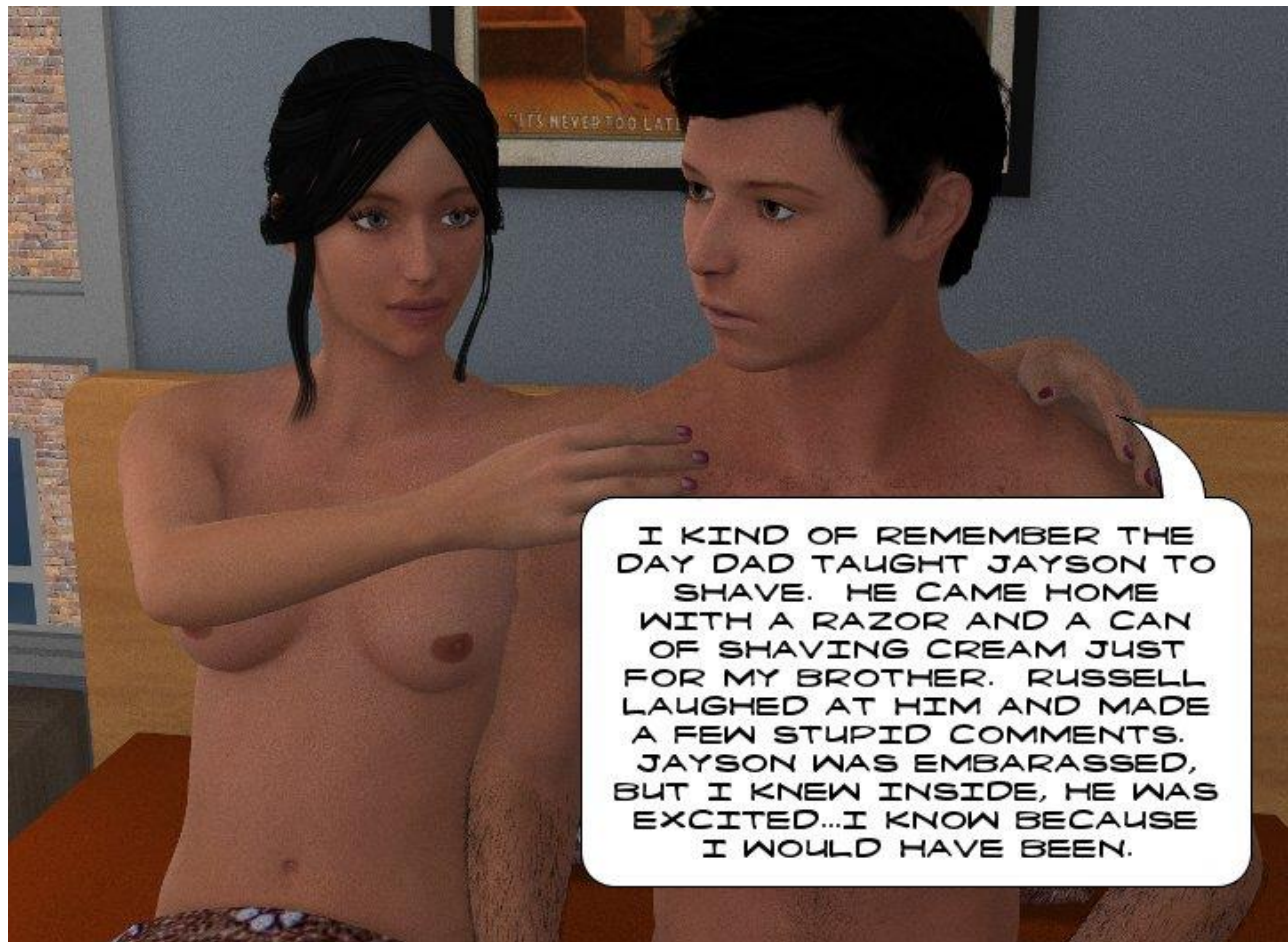
YOU'RE AN ADULT NOW, AND YOU'RE OUT OF THE HOUSE. IF HE'S AS BAD AS YOU SAY, THEN DON'T GO BACK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE JAYSON AGAIN IF YOU DON'T WANT.



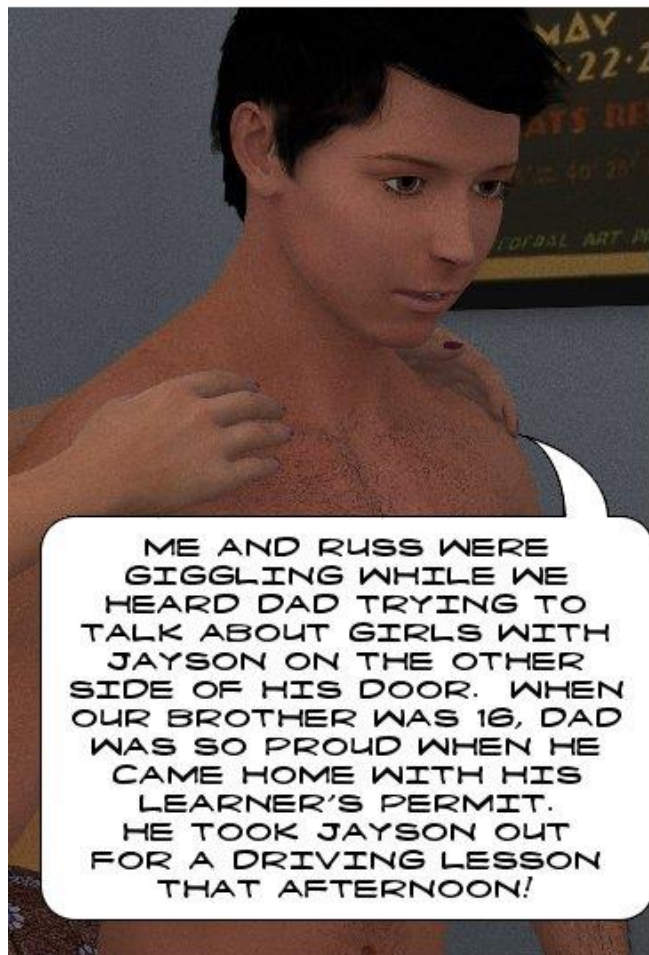
IT'S NOT THAT EASY. I HAVE TO GO BACK IF I WANT TO SEE MY MOM. THAT BASTARD TOOK EVERYTHING FROM MY FAMILY AND HE MADE SURE HE WOULD BE IN OUR LIVES FOREVER!



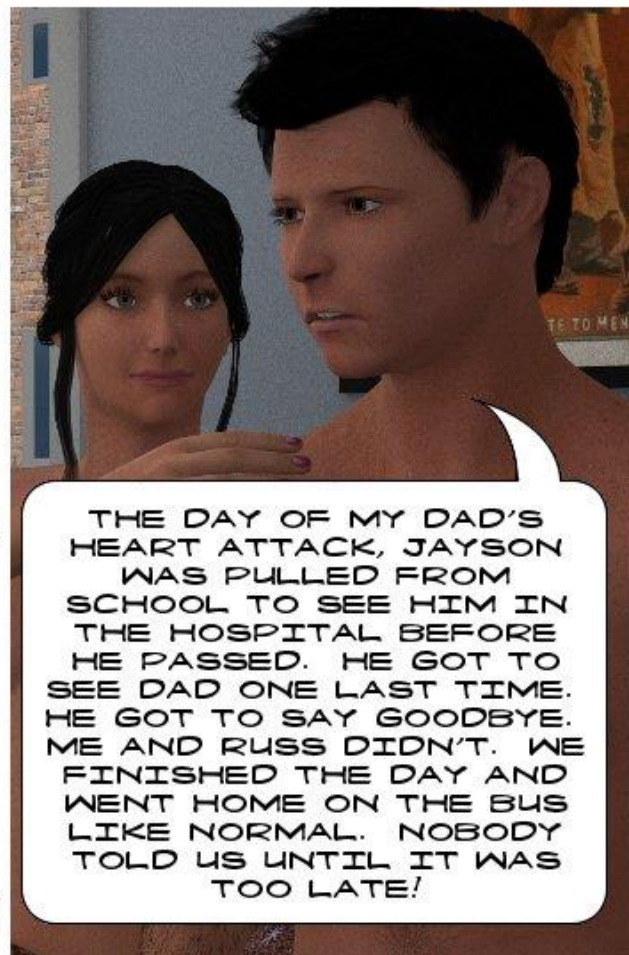
WHEN MY DAD DIED, JAYSON INHERITED THE HOUSE, NOT MY MOM. I DON'T KNOW HOW HE MANAGED THAT, BUT HE DID. HE GOT THE HOUSE AND NOT ONE DAY EVER WENT BY THAT HE DIDN'T REMIND ME AND RUSS OF THAT FACT. IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH THAT...THAT...



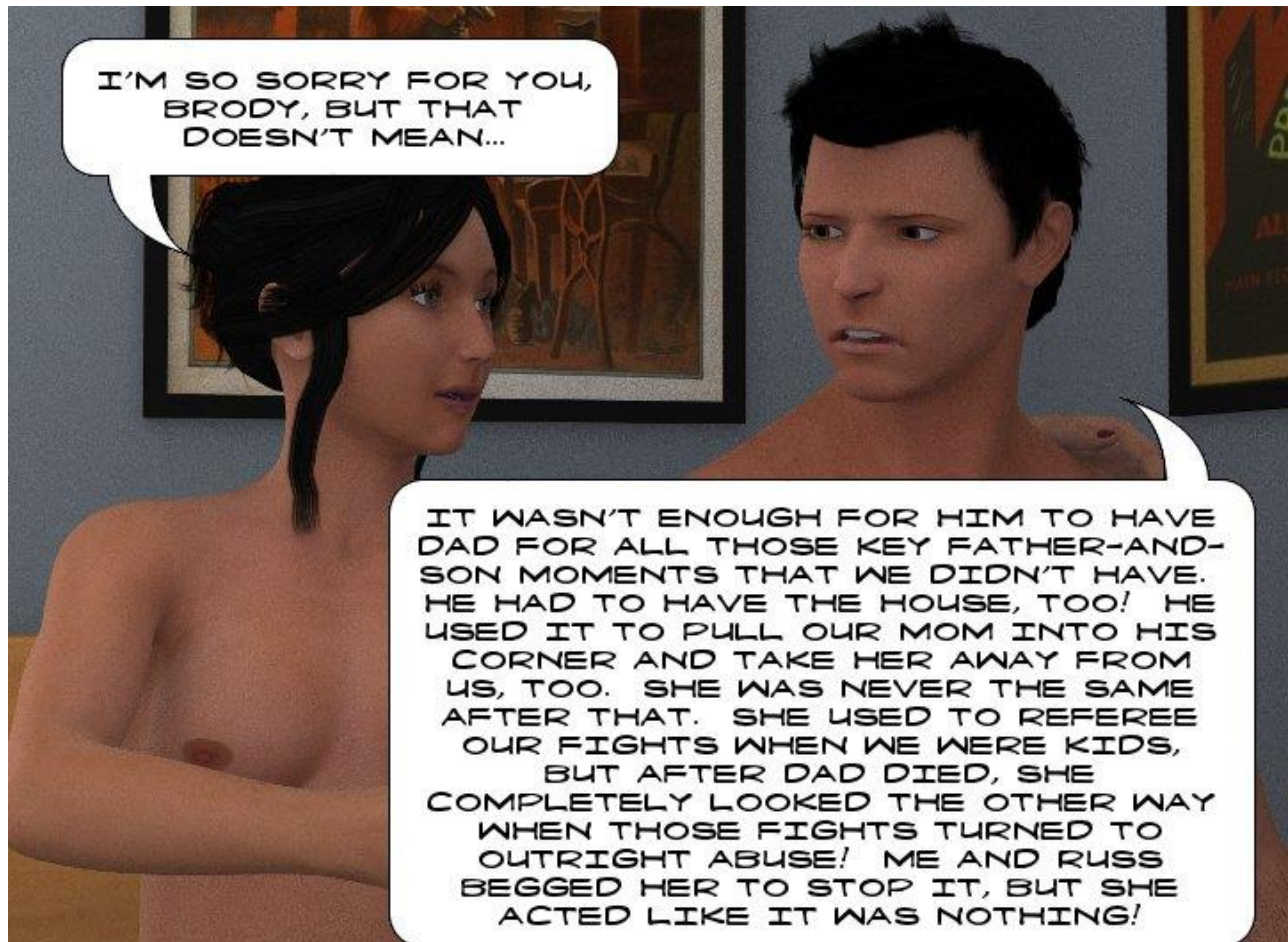
I KIND OF REMEMBER THE DAY DAD TAUGHT JAYSON TO SHAVE. HE CAME HOME WITH A RAZOR AND A CAN OF SHAVING CREAM JUST FOR MY BROTHER. RUSSELL LAUGHED AT HIM AND MADE A FEW STUPID COMMENTS. JAYSON WAS EMBARRASSED, BUT I KNEW INSIDE, HE WAS EXCITED...I KNOW BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE BEEN.



ME AND RUSS WERE GIGGLING WHILE WE HEARD DAD TRYING TO TALK ABOUT GIRLS WITH JAYSON ON THE OTHER SIDE OF HIS DOOR. WHEN OUR BROTHER WAS 16, DAD WAS SO PROUD WHEN HE CAME HOME WITH HIS LEARNER'S PERMIT. HE TOOK JAYSON OUT FOR A DRIVING LESSON THAT AFTERNOON!

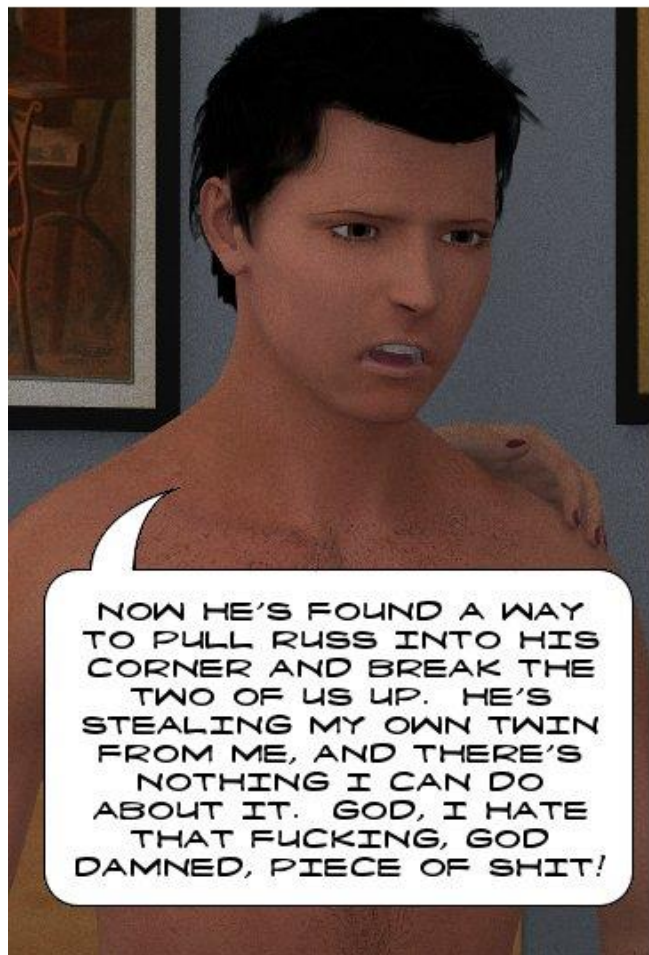


THE DAY OF MY DAD'S HEART ATTACK, JAYSON WAS PULLED FROM SCHOOL TO SEE HIM IN THE HOSPITAL BEFORE HE PASSED. HE GOT TO SEE DAD ONE LAST TIME. HE GOT TO SAY GOODBYE. ME AND RUSS DIDN'T. WE FINISHED THE DAY AND WENT HOME ON THE BUS LIKE NORMAL. NOBODY TOLD US UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!



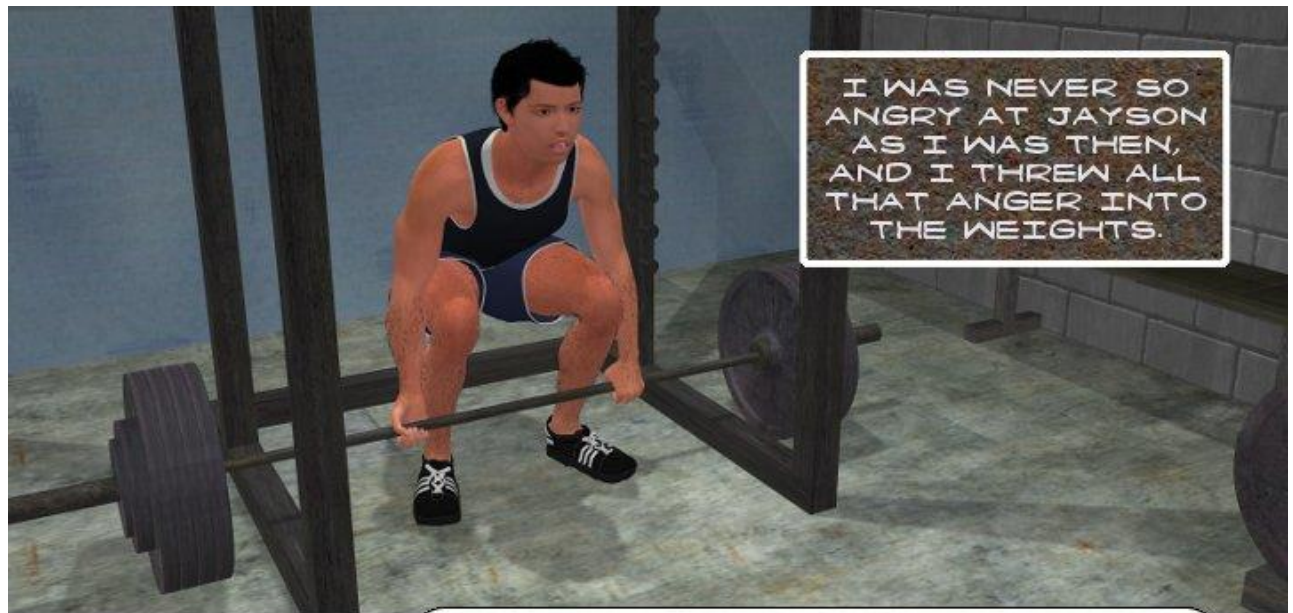
I'M SO SORRY FOR YOU, BRODY, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN...

IT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM TO HAVE DAD FOR ALL THOSE KEY FATHER-AND-SON MOMENTS THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE. HE HAD TO HAVE THE HOUSE, TOO! HE USED IT TO PULL OUR MOM INTO HIS CORNER AND TAKE HER AWAY FROM US, TOO. SHE WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT. SHE USED TO REFEREE OUR FIGHTS WHEN WE WERE KIDS, BUT AFTER DAD DIED, SHE COMPLETELY LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHEN THOSE FIGHTS TURNED TO OUTRIGHT ABUSE! ME AND RUSS BEGGED HER TO STOP IT, BUT SHE ACTED LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!



NOW HE'S FOUND A WAY TO PULL RUSS INTO HIS CORNER AND BREAK THE TWO OF US UP. HE'S STEALING MY OWN TWIN FROM ME, AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT. GOD, I HATE THAT FUCKING, GOD DAMNED, PIECE OF SHIT!





I WAS NEVER SO ANGRY AT JAYSON AS I WAS THEN, AND I THREW ALL THAT ANGER INTO THE WEIGHTS.



RRRRRRRAAAAAAAAAA...



C'MON, BRODY. YOU GOT THIS.



...AARRRRRGGGH

DAMN! 3 MORE THAN LAST WEEK!

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER, I WAS HITTING P.R.S WITH EVERY LIFT.





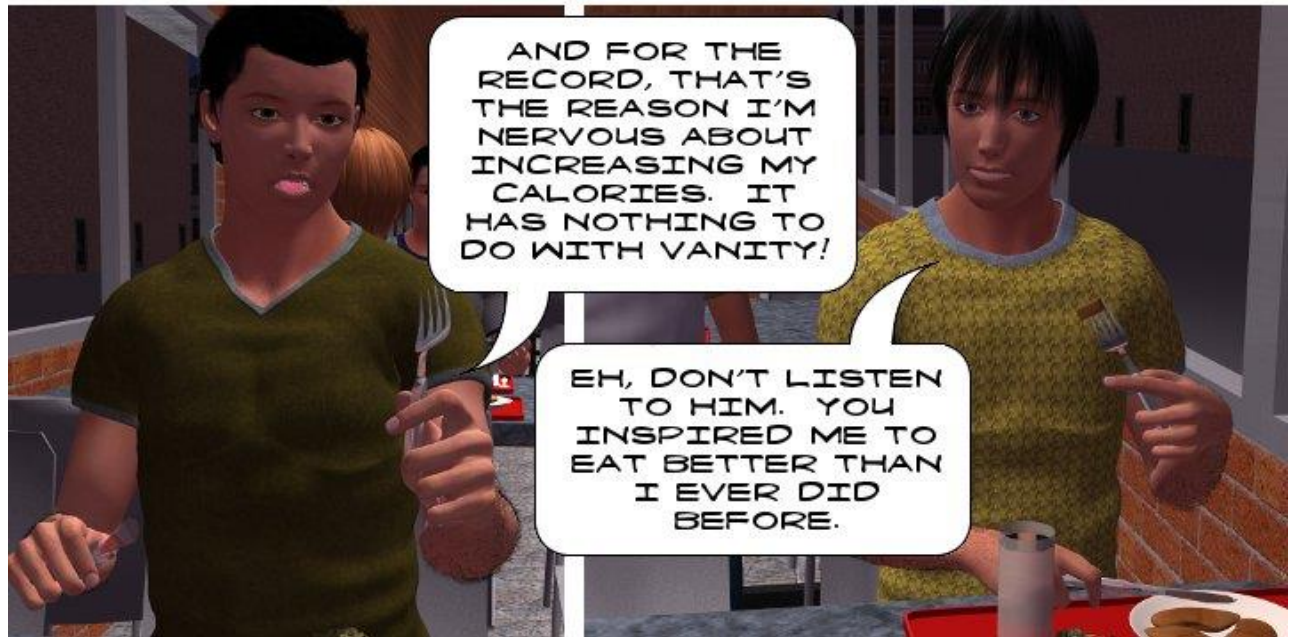


I SEE YOU'RE FINALLY LISTENING TO ME ABOUT EATING MORE.



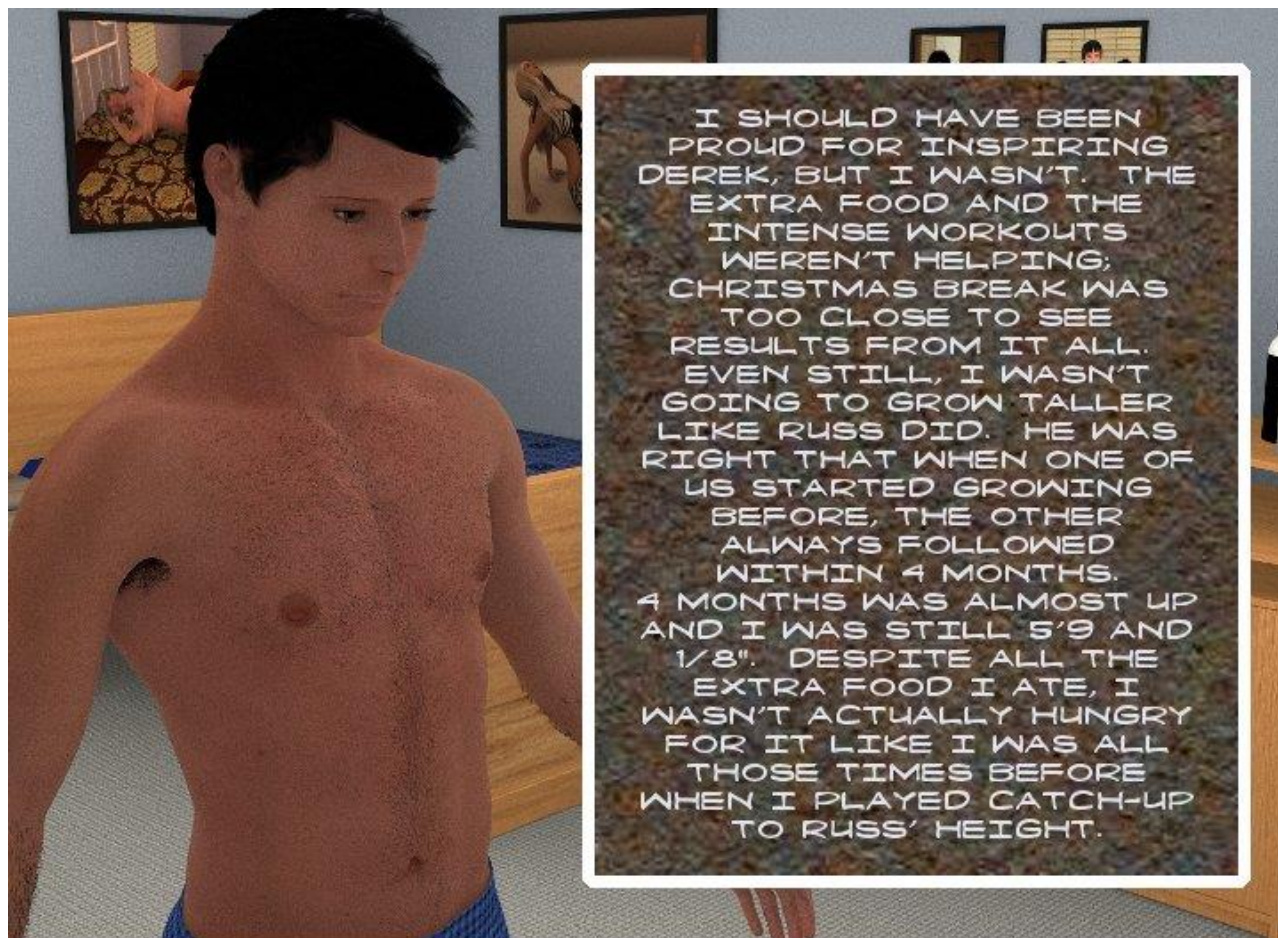
BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU WANNA EAT HEALTHY DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T HAVE A STEAK ONCE IN A WHILE. A LITTLE RED MEAT WON'T HURT YOU.

YOU EAT WHAT YOU WANT, BUT I'M NOT HAVING A HEART ATTACK BEFORE I'M 40.

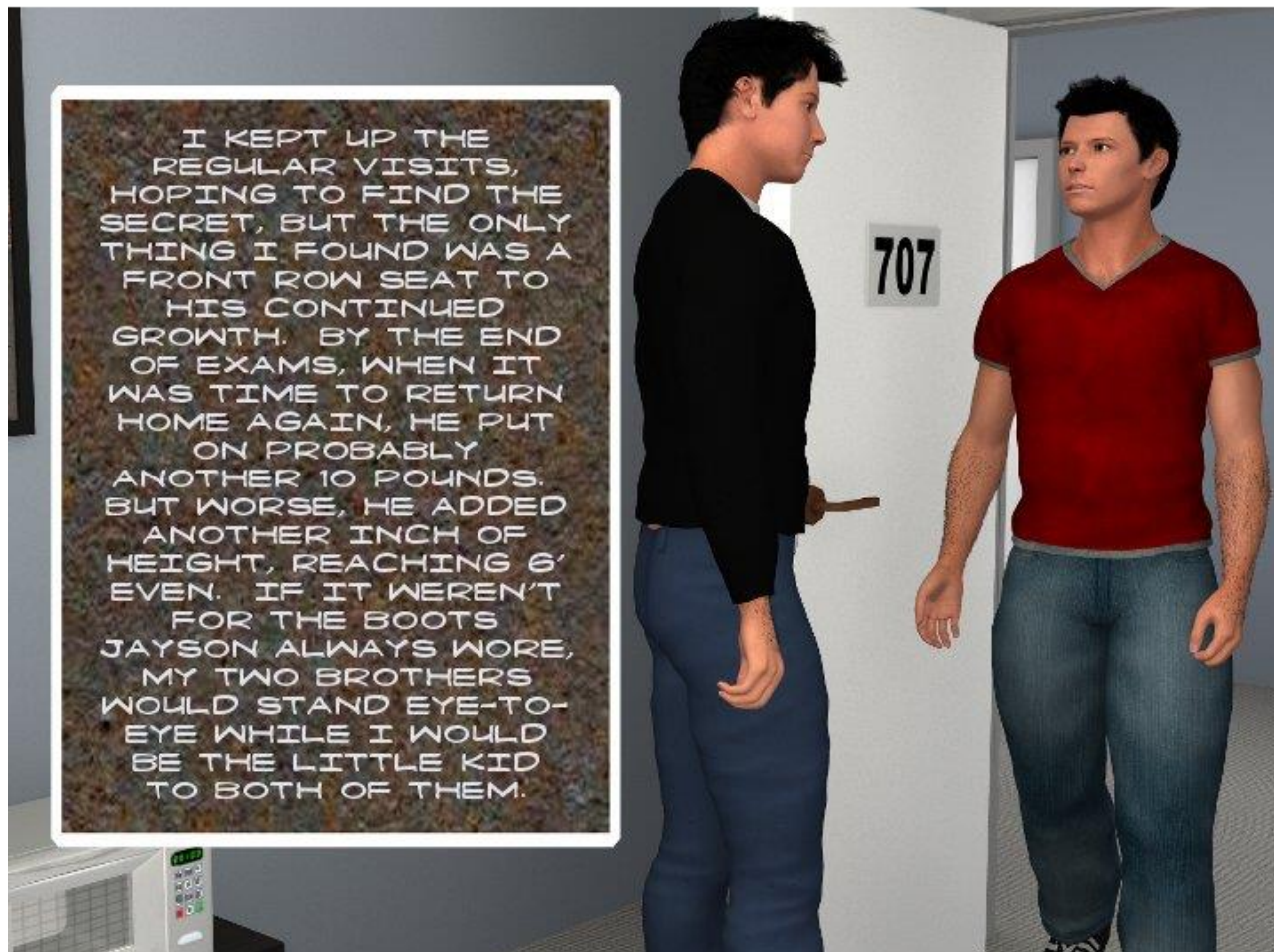


AND FOR THE RECORD, THAT'S THE REASON I'M NERVOUS ABOUT INCREASING MY CALORIES. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH VANITY!

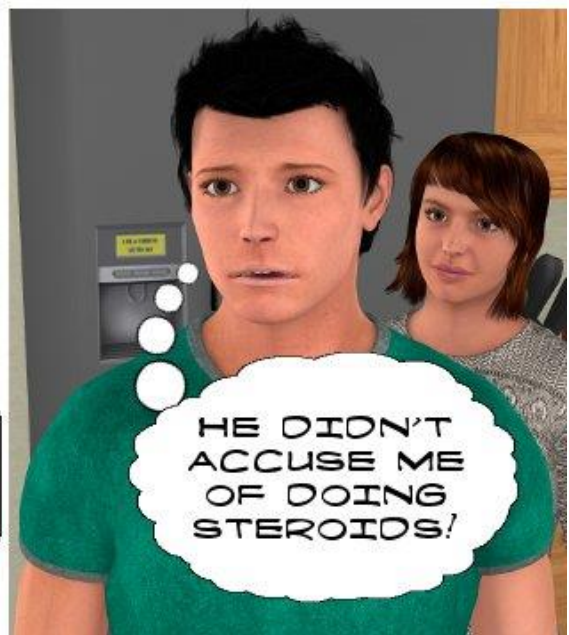
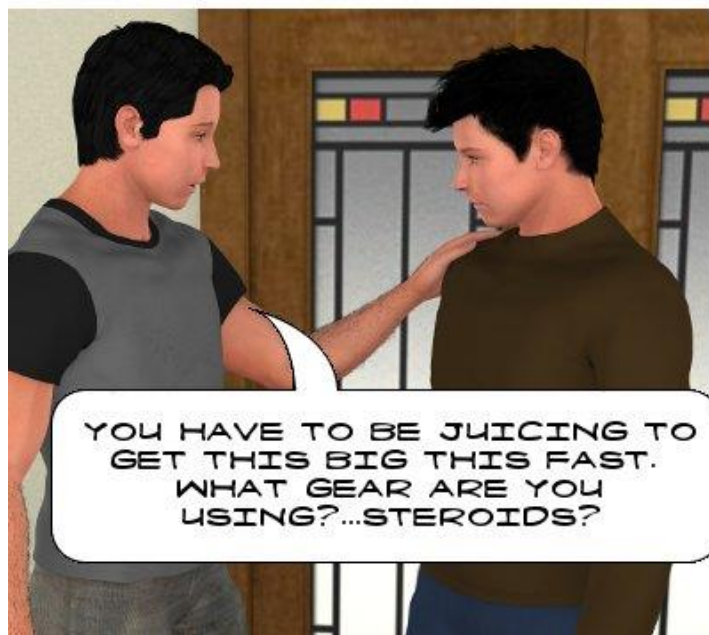
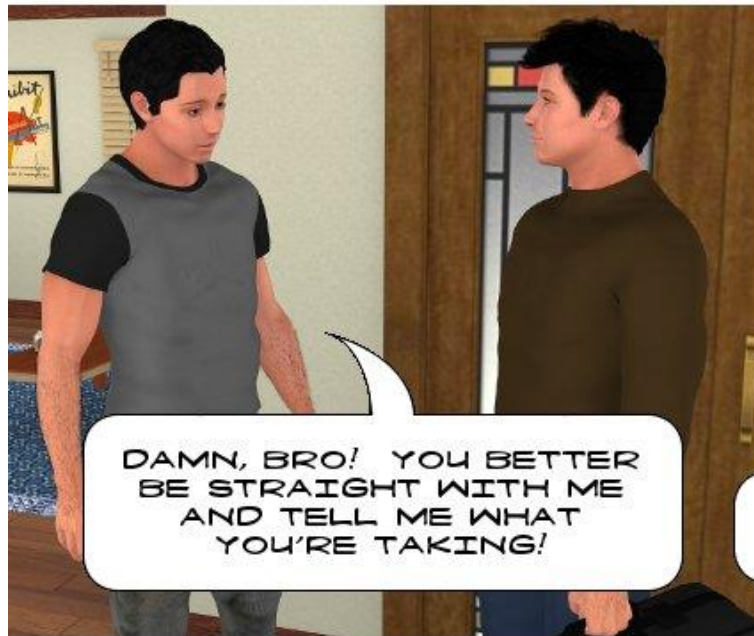
EH, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. YOU INSPIRED ME TO EAT BETTER THAN I EVER DID BEFORE.

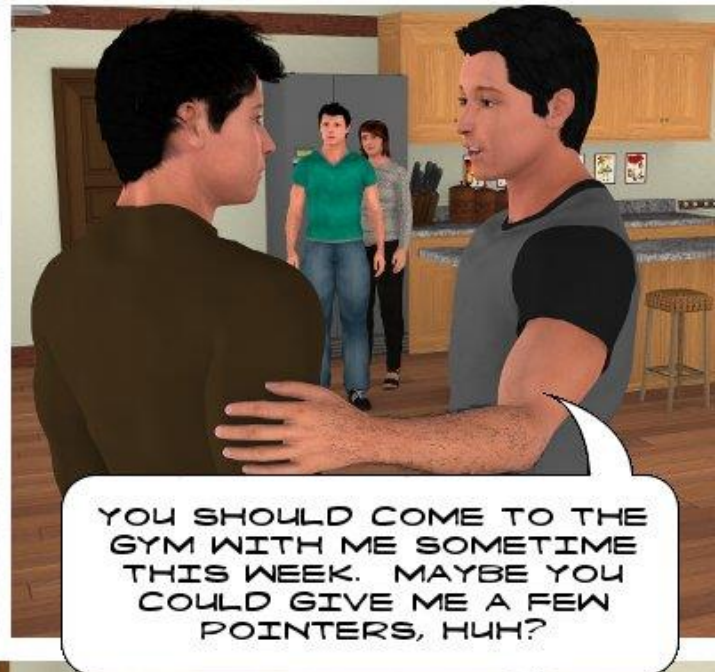
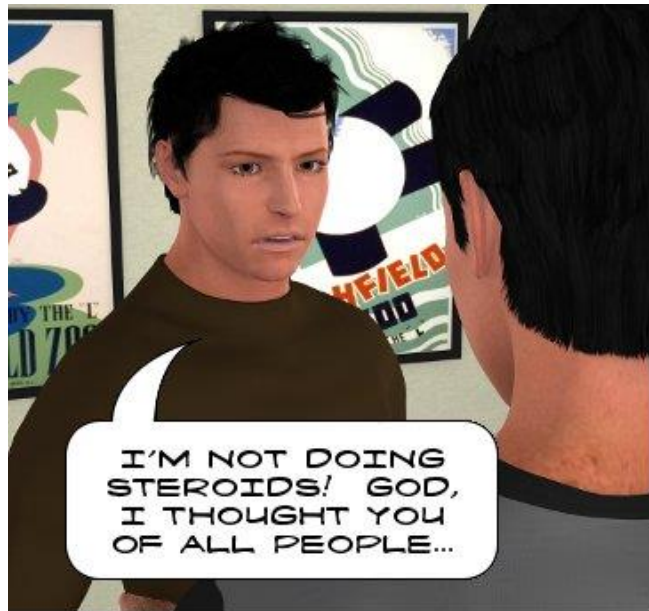


I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD FOR INSPIRING DEREK, BUT I WASN'T. THE EXTRA FOOD AND THE INTENSE WORKOUTS WEREN'T HELPING; CHRISTMAS BREAK WAS TOO CLOSE TO SEE RESULTS FROM IT ALL. EVEN STILL, I WASN'T GOING TO GROW TALLER LIKE RUSS DID. HE WAS RIGHT THAT WHEN ONE OF US STARTED GROWING BEFORE, THE OTHER ALWAYS FOLLOWED WITHIN 4 MONTHS. 4 MONTHS WAS ALMOST UP AND I WAS STILL 5'9 AND 1/8". DESPITE ALL THE EXTRA FOOD I ATE, I WASN'T ACTUALLY HUNGRY FOR IT LIKE I WAS ALL THOSE TIMES BEFORE WHEN I PLAYED CATCH-UP TO RUSS' HEIGHT.



I KEPT UP THE REGULAR VISITS, HOPING TO FIND THE SECRET, BUT THE ONLY THING I FOUND WAS A FRONT ROW SEAT TO HIS CONTINUED GROWTH. BY THE END OF EXAMS, WHEN IT WAS TIME TO RETURN HOME AGAIN, HE PUT ON PROBABLY ANOTHER 10 POUNDS. BUT WORSE, HE ADDED ANOTHER INCH OF HEIGHT, REACHING 6' EVEN. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE BOOTS JAYSON ALWAYS WORE, MY TWO BROTHERS WOULD STAND EYE-TO-EYE WHILE I WOULD BE THE LITTLE KID TO BOTH OF THEM.



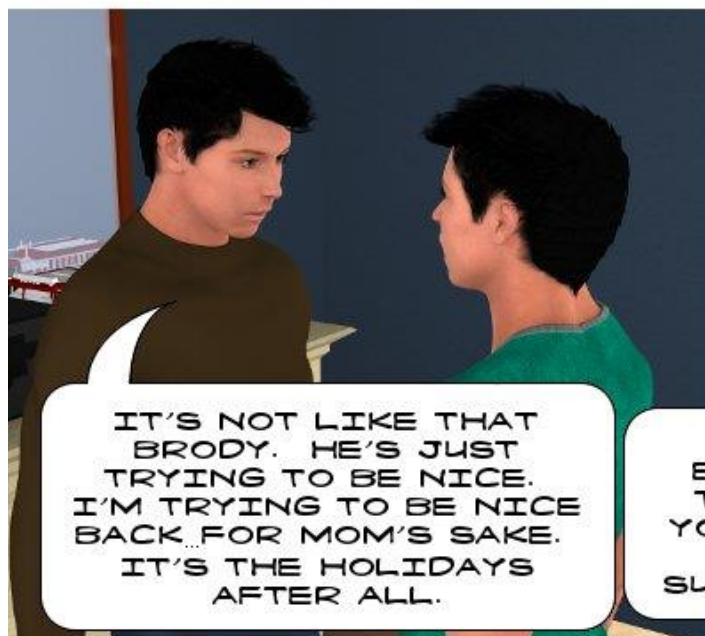




OK RUSSELL,
WHAT THE HELL
WAS THAT ABOUT?



YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HOME
5 MINUTES AND ALREADY
YOU'RE BEST BUDS WITH
JAYSON! HELL TWO OF YOU
ARE WORKOUT BUDDIES NOW!



IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
BRODY. HE'S JUST
TRYING TO BE NICE.
I'M TRYING TO BE NICE
BACK FOR MOM'S SAKE.
IT'S THE HOLIDAYS
AFTER ALL.



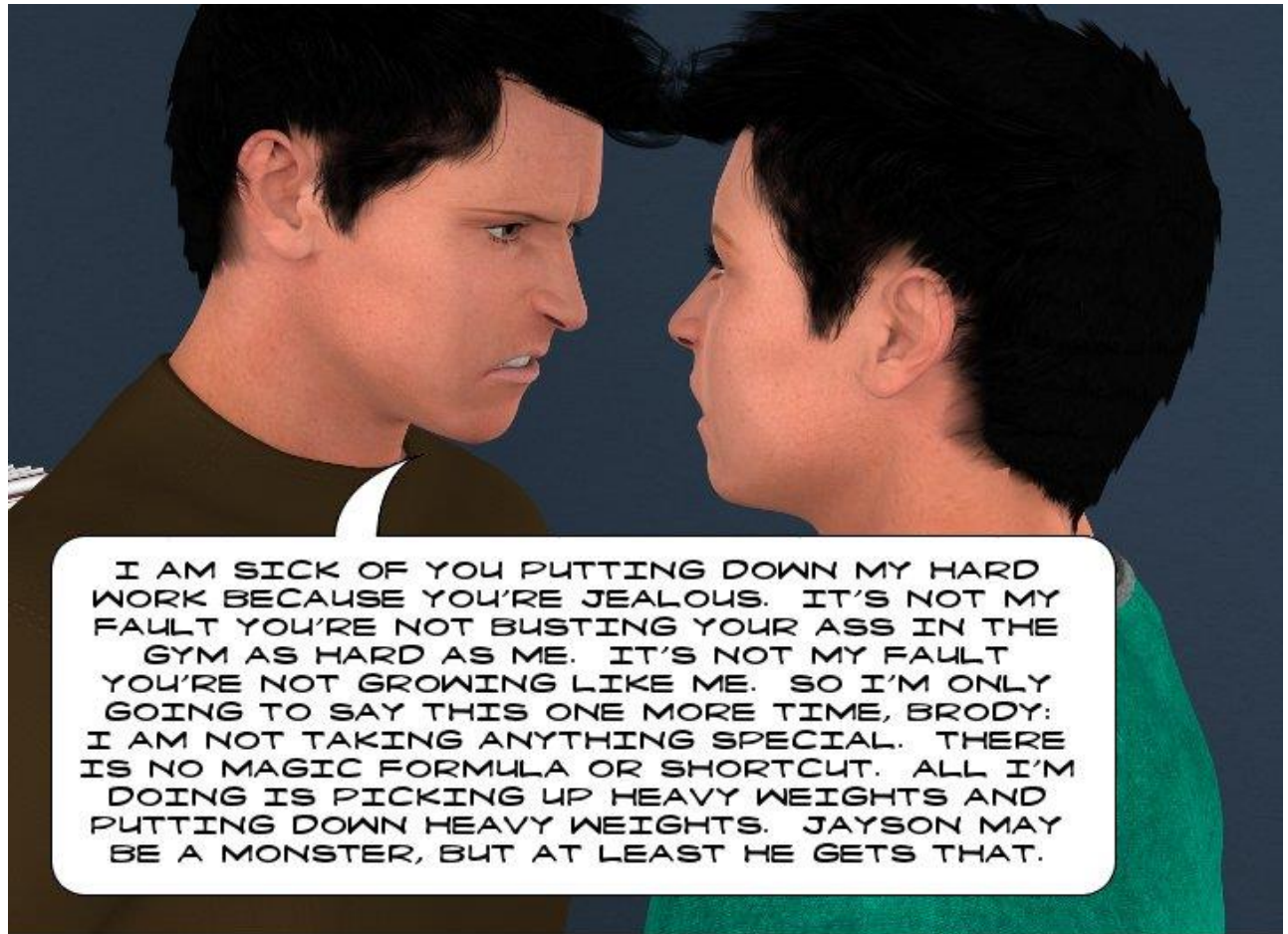
REALLY? AFTER
EVERYTHING HE'S DONE
TO US OVER THE YEARS,
YOU THINK A HALF-ASSED
COMPLIMENT IS
SUPPOSED TO UNDO THAT?



FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,
RUSSELL, HE ALMOST
BROKE YOUR NOSE WHEN
YOU WERE 15! IF HE HIT
YOU A LITTLE HARDER,
OUR TWINNESS WOULD
HAVE ENDED RIGHT THERE!



BUT HE'S THE ONE
YOU'LL SHARE YOUR
SECRET WITH! HE'S THE
ONE YOU WANT TO GET
HUGE WITH! NOT ME!
NOT YOUR TWIN! NOT
THE PERSON WHO
SHARES YOUR DNA!



I AM SICK OF YOU PUTTING DOWN MY HARD WORK BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS. IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE NOT BUSTING YOUR ASS IN THE GYM AS HARD AS ME. IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE NOT GROWING LIKE ME. SO I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONE MORE TIME, BRODY: I AM NOT TAKING ANYTHING SPECIAL. THERE IS NO MAGIC FORMULA OR SHORTCUT. ALL I'M DOING IS PICKING UP HEAVY WEIGHTS AND PUTTING DOWN HEAVY WEIGHTS. JAYSON MAY BE A MONSTER, BUT AT LEAST HE GETS THAT.



I WAS TOO STUNNED TO ANSWER BECAUSE I KNEW OUR RELATIONSHIP HAD CHANGED FOR GOOD. WE WERE NO LONGER TWINS..NO LONGER EQUALS, AND RUSS WAS READY TO BE THE BOSS IN OUR BEDROOM.



WHY DON'T YOU GET MOM ONE OF THESE CHAIRS SO SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO SIT ON THAT HARD THING?



IF I GET COMFORTABLE, I WON'T WANT TO GET UP TO HAND OUT PRESENTS!



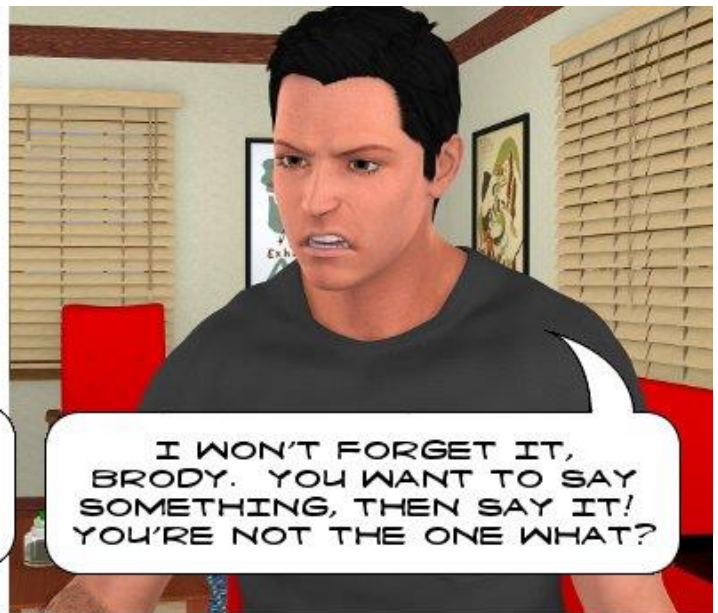
I THINK WE'RE OLD ENOUGH TO GET OUR OWN PRESENTS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY SANTA, MOM.



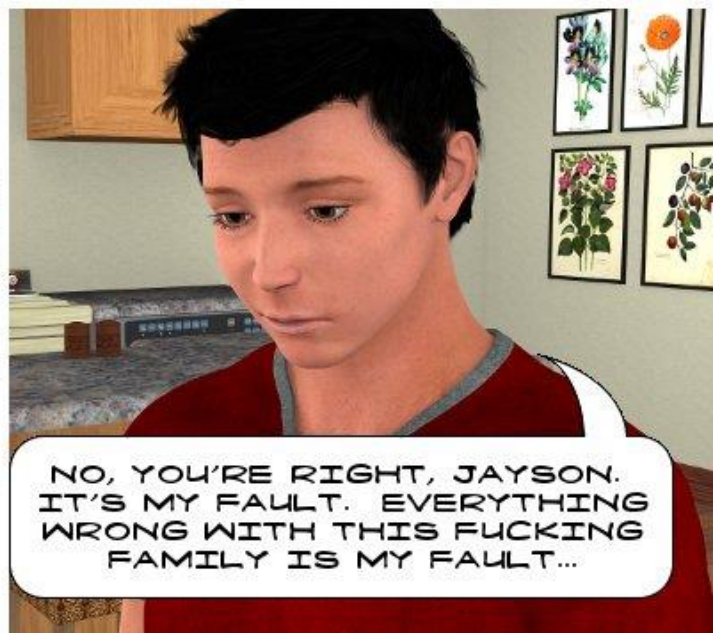
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO RUIN EVERYONE'S CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR FUCKING ATTITUDE PROBLEM, BRODY?



I'M NOT THE ONE...
...YOU KNOW WHAT?
FORGET IT.



I WON'T FORGET IT,
BRODY. YOU WANT TO SAY
SOMETHING, THEN SAY IT!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHAT?



NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, JAYSON.
IT'S MY FAULT. EVERYTHING
WRONG WITH THIS FUCKING
FAMILY IS MY FAULT...

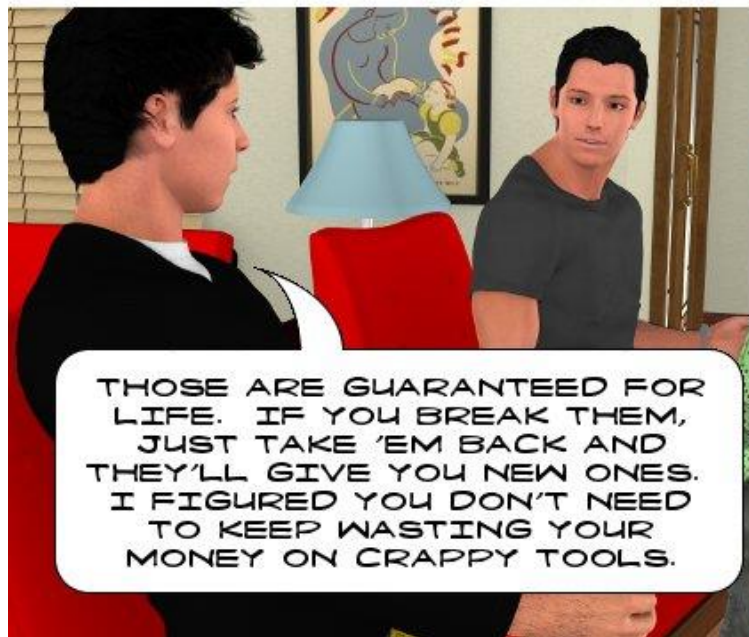


CHRISTMAS ALWAYS FELT LIKE A JOKE. WE HAD TO BUY PRESENTS FOR A BROTHER WE HATED, AND WE HAD TO PRETEND THEY WERE SINCERE.



SCREWDRIVERS! HA! I FEEL LIKE DAD THE YEAR I GAVE HIM THE CORDLESS DRILL!

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I...UH...WENT THROUGH YOUR ROOM LOOKING FOR IDEAS AND SAW ALL YOURS WERE BROKEN OR BENT.



THESE ARE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. IF YOU BREAK THEM, JUST TAKE 'EM BACK AND THEY'LL GIVE YOU NEW ONES. I FIGURED YOU DON'T NEED TO KEEP WASTING YOUR MONEY ON CRAPPY TOOLS.



NAW, YOU KNOW ME, I'LL USE THESE. OPEN YOURS. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT.

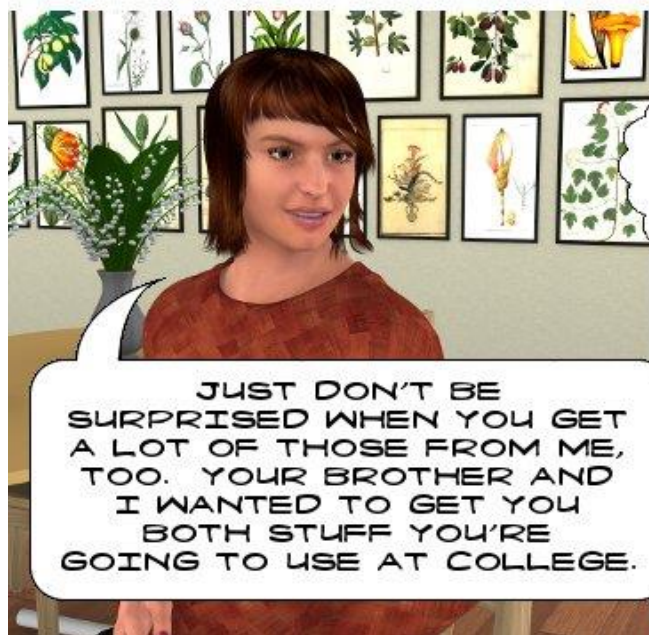


YOU GOT ME
A PICTURE
OF PROTEIN.
THIS'LL
LOOK GOOD
ON MY DESK.

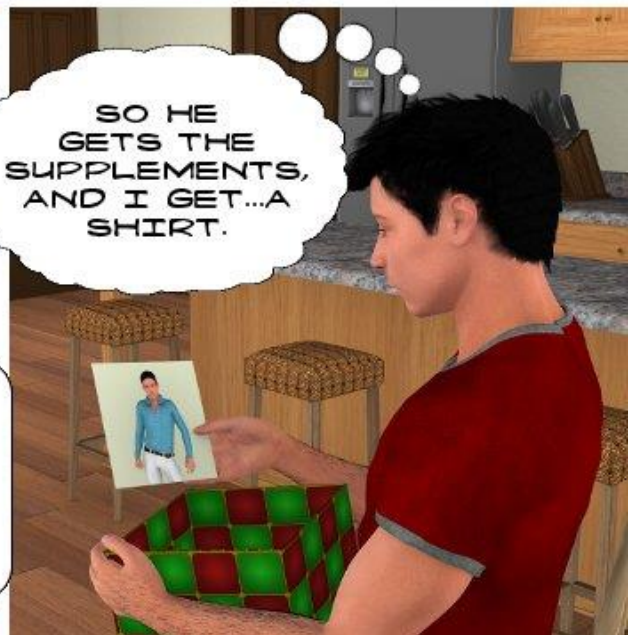
...AND WE HAD TO
PRETEND JAYSON'S
PRESENTS WERE
SINCERE, TOO.



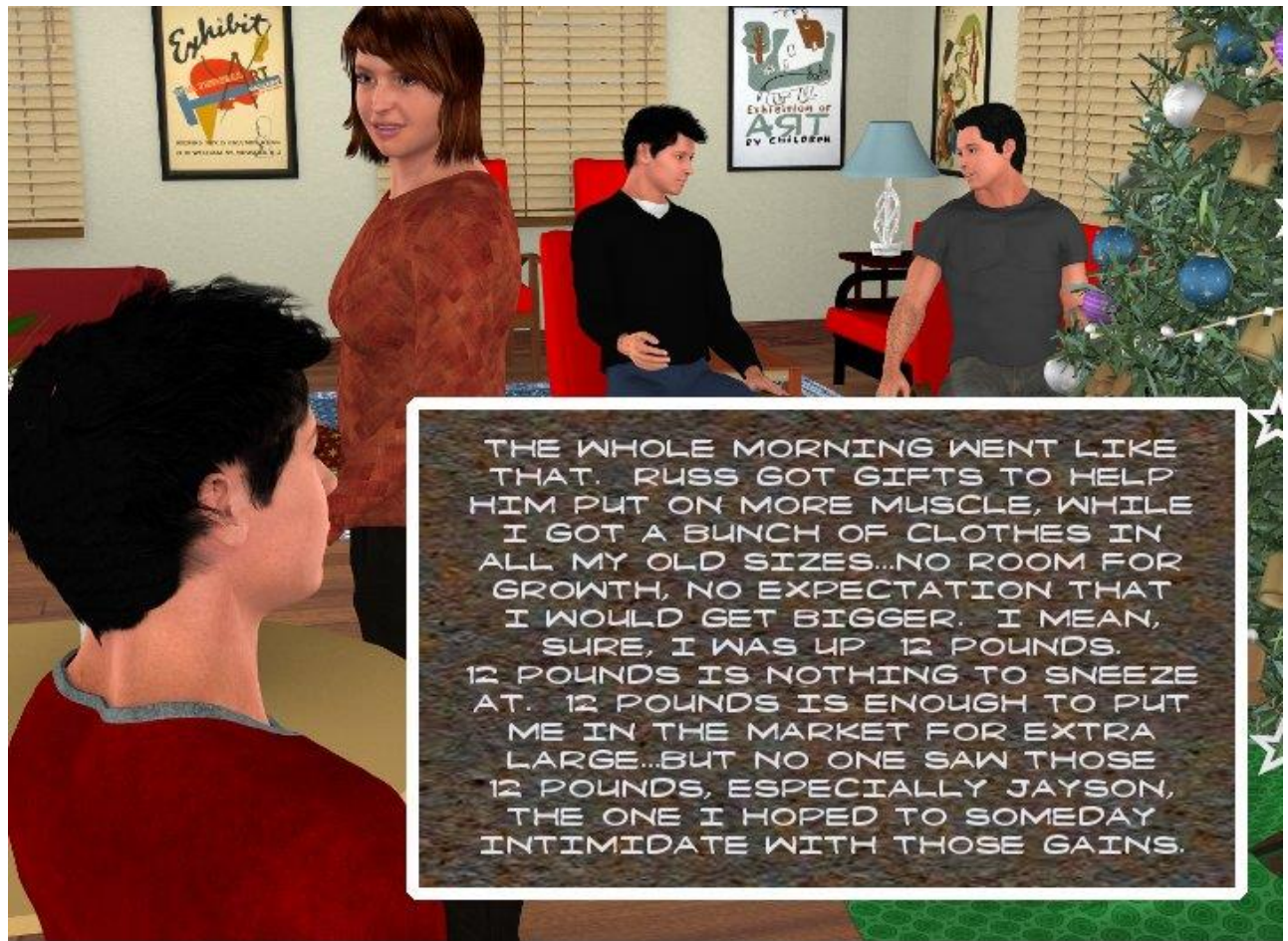
NO YOU NUMBSKULL,
I'M HAVING IT
SENT TO YOUR
DORM ROOM SO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
FLY BACK WITH IT.
THE PICTURE'S
JUST SO I CAN SEE
YOU UNWRAP
SOMETHING!



JUST DON'T BE
SURPRISED WHEN YOU GET
A LOT OF THOSE FROM ME,
TOO. YOUR BROTHER AND
I WANTED TO GET YOU
BOTH STUFF YOU'RE
GOING TO USE AT COLLEGE.



SO HE
GETS THE
SUPPLEMENTS,
AND I GET...A
SHIRT.



THE WHOLE MORNING WENT LIKE THAT. RUSS GOT GIFTS TO HELP HIM PUT ON MORE MUSCLE, WHILE I GOT A BUNCH OF CLOTHES IN ALL MY OLD SIZES...NO ROOM FOR GROWTH, NO EXPECTATION THAT I WOULD GET BIGGER. I MEAN, SURE, I WAS UP 12 POUNDS. 12 POUNDS IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT. 12 POUNDS IS ENOUGH TO PUT ME IN THE MARKET FOR EXTRA LARGE...BUT NO ONE SAW THOSE 12 POUNDS, ESPECIALLY JAYSON, THE ONE I HOPED TO SOMEDAY INTIMIDATE WITH THOSE GAINS.



YOU KNOW, BRODY, YOUR DAD LIVED FOR THIS DAY. HE LOVED TO SEE YOUR FACE LIGHT UP WITH EVERY BOX YOU OPENED. MOST OF THE STUFF WE GAVE YOU KIDS WAS ON YOUR WISH LISTS, BUT HE ALWAYS PICKED OUT ONE SPECIAL THING FOR EACH OF YOU BOYS, SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR, BUT SOMETHING HE KNEW YOU'D LOVE. AND HE'D MAKE YOU OPEN THAT ONE LAST BECAUSE HE LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUR SURPRISE MORE THAN YOU LOOKED FORWARD TO THE TOYS.



I KNOW, MOM. I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING, I REALLY DO. IT'S JUST... CHRISTMAS WAS NEVER MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY WHEN THE ONLY THING I REALLY WANT IS THE ONE THING NO ONE CAN GIVE ME.



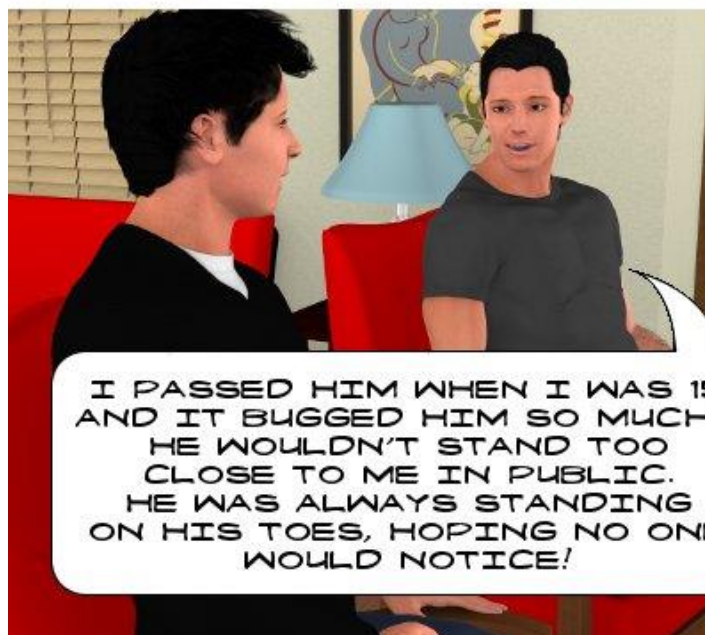
I KNOW, BUT THIS DAY IS ABOUT REFLECTING ON THE TIME WE HAD WITH YOUR DAD, NOT THE TIME YOU DIDN'T.



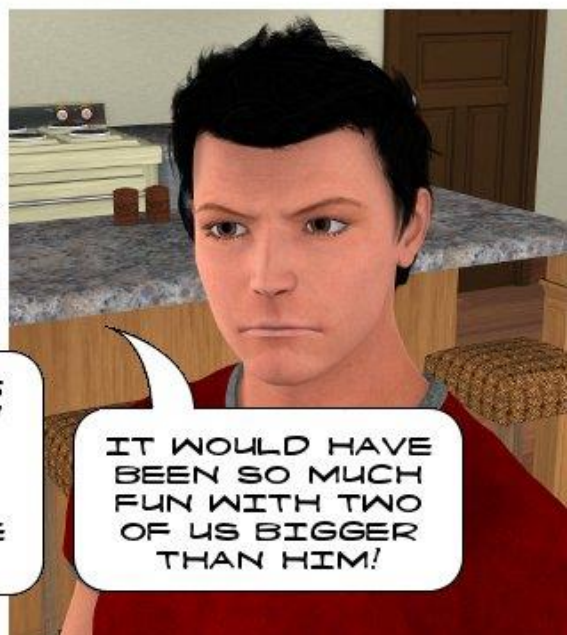
YOUR BROTHERS PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES TO REMEMBER HIM. I WISH YOU COULD, TOO. IT WOULD HAVE MADE HIM HAPPIER THAN ANYTHING.



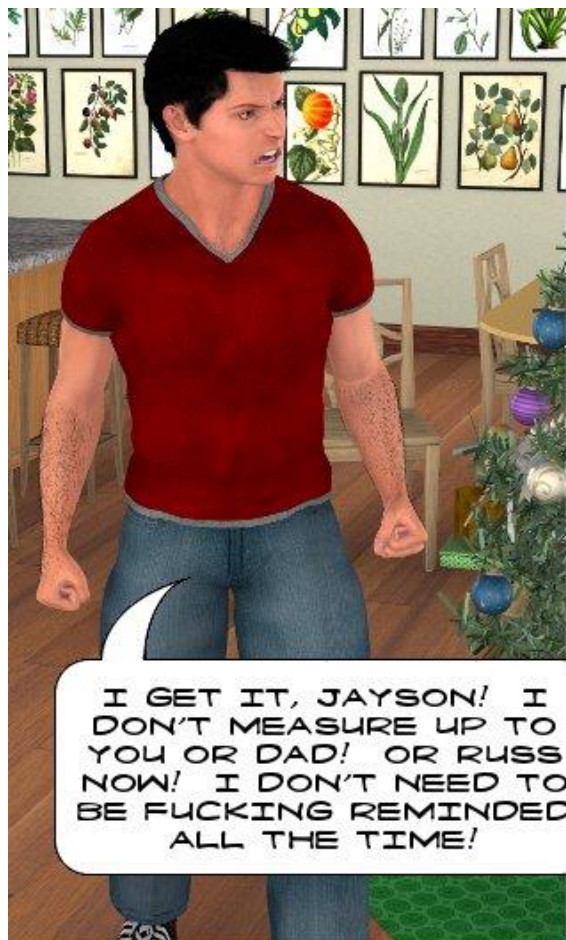
THIS WOULD HAVE DRIVEN HIM NUTS! DID YOU KNOW DAD WAS ONLY 5'10"?



I PASSED HIM WHEN I WAS 15 AND IT BUGGED HIM SO MUCH! HE WOULDN'T STAND TOO CLOSE TO ME IN PUBLIC. HE WAS ALWAYS STANDING ON HIS TOES, HOPING NO ONE WOULD NOTICE!



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH FUN WITH TWO OF US BIGGER THAN HIM!



I GET IT, JAYSON! I DON'T MEASURE UP TO YOU OR DAD! OR RUSS NOW! I DON'T NEED TO BE FUCKING REMINDED ALL THE TIME!



GROW THE FUCK UP, WILL YA? YOU'RE A COLLEGE MAN NOW, NOT SOME FUCKING HIGH SCHOOL BITCH. WHY DON'T YOU START ACTING LIKE IT FOR A CHANGE?!?



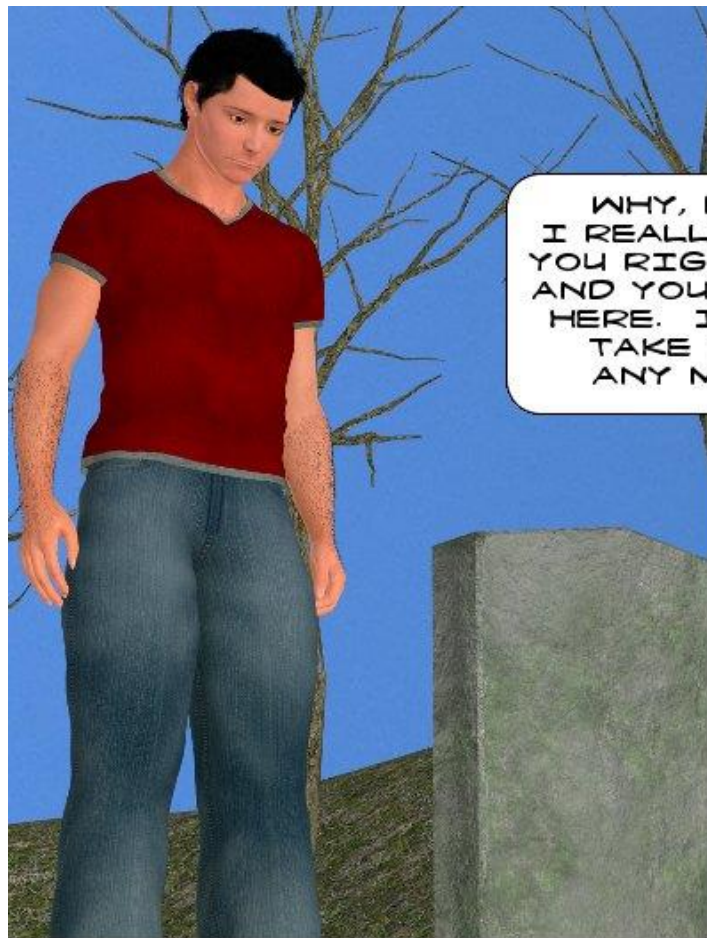
BRODY, PLEASE SIT DOWN AND LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS.



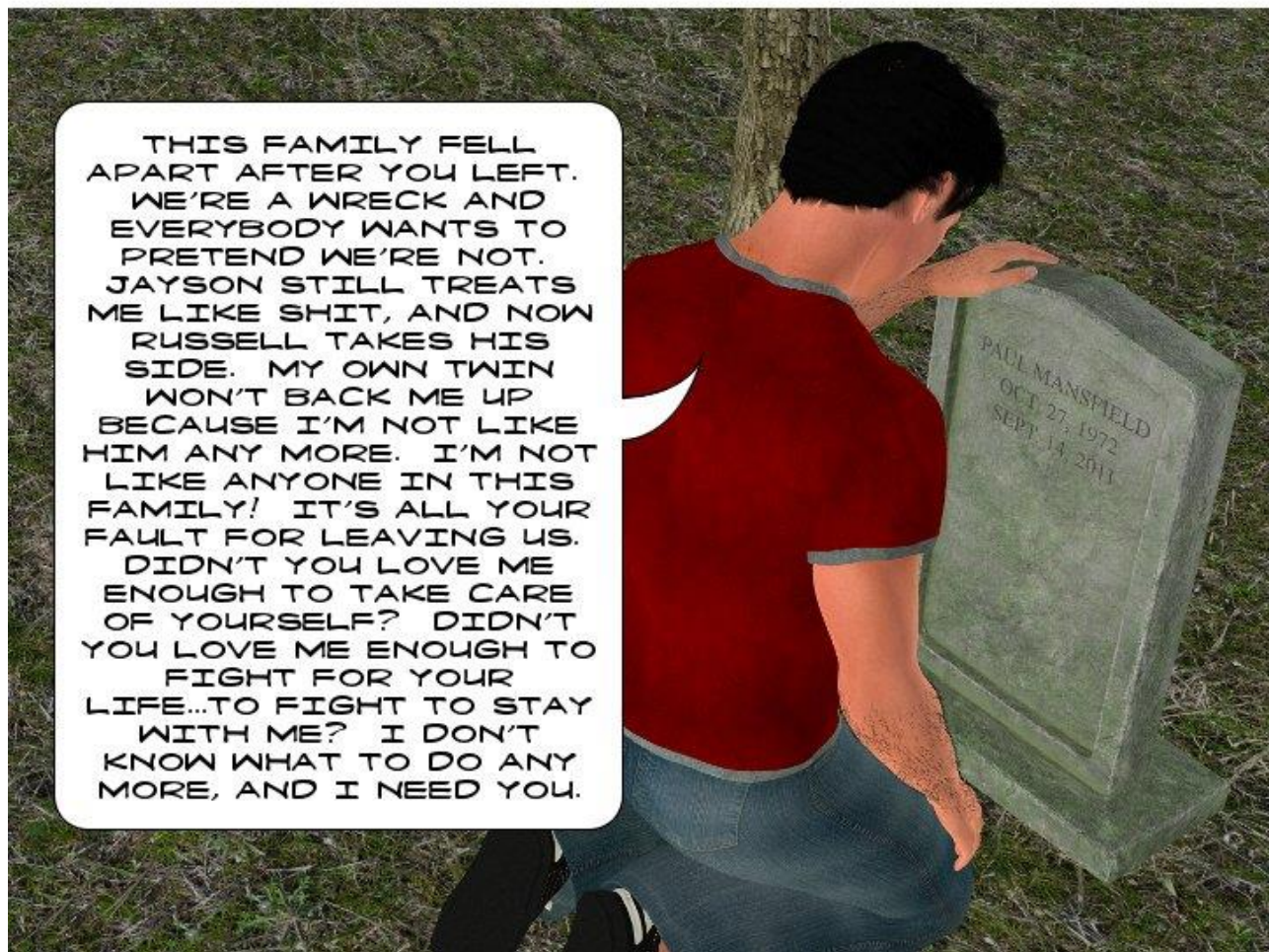
JAYSON WASN'T TRYING TO PUT YOU DOWN, BRODY.



I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! YOU ALL SIT AROUND AND TALK AND PRETEND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG! I JUST WANT TO BE ALONE!



WHY, DAD?
I REALLY NEED
YOU RIGHT NOW,
AND YOU'RE NOT
HERE. I CAN'T
TAKE THIS
ANY MORE.

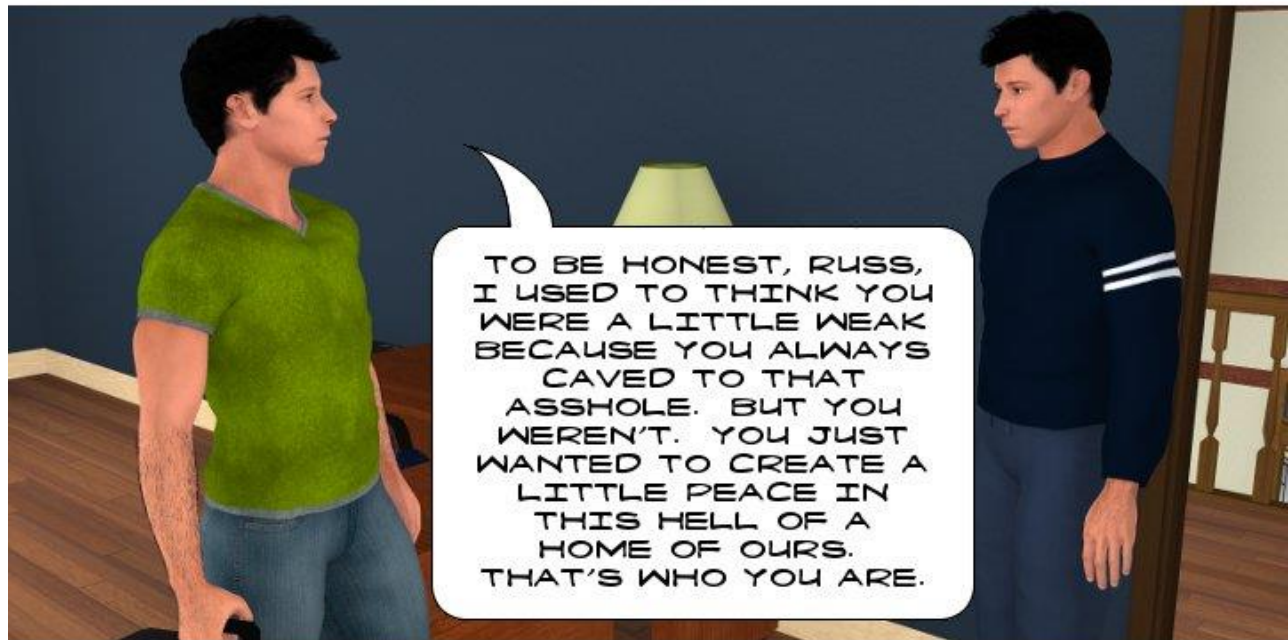


THIS FAMILY FELL
APART AFTER YOU LEFT.
WE'RE A WRECK AND
EVERYBODY WANTS TO
PRETEND WE'RE NOT.
JAYSON STILL TREATS
ME LIKE SHIT, AND NOW
RUSSELL TAKES HIS
SIDE. MY OWN TWIN
WON'T BACK ME UP
BECAUSE I'M NOT LIKE
HIM ANY MORE. I'M NOT
LIKE ANYONE IN THIS
FAMILY! IT'S ALL YOUR
FAULT FOR LEAVING US.
DIDN'T YOU LOVE ME
ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE
OF YOURSELF? DIDN'T
YOU LOVE ME ENOUGH TO
FIGHT FOR YOUR
LIFE...TO FIGHT TO STAY
WITH ME? I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY
MORE, AND I NEED YOU.



PLEASE
CHANGE YOUR
MIND, BRODY.
I DON'T WANT
YOU TO LEAVE.

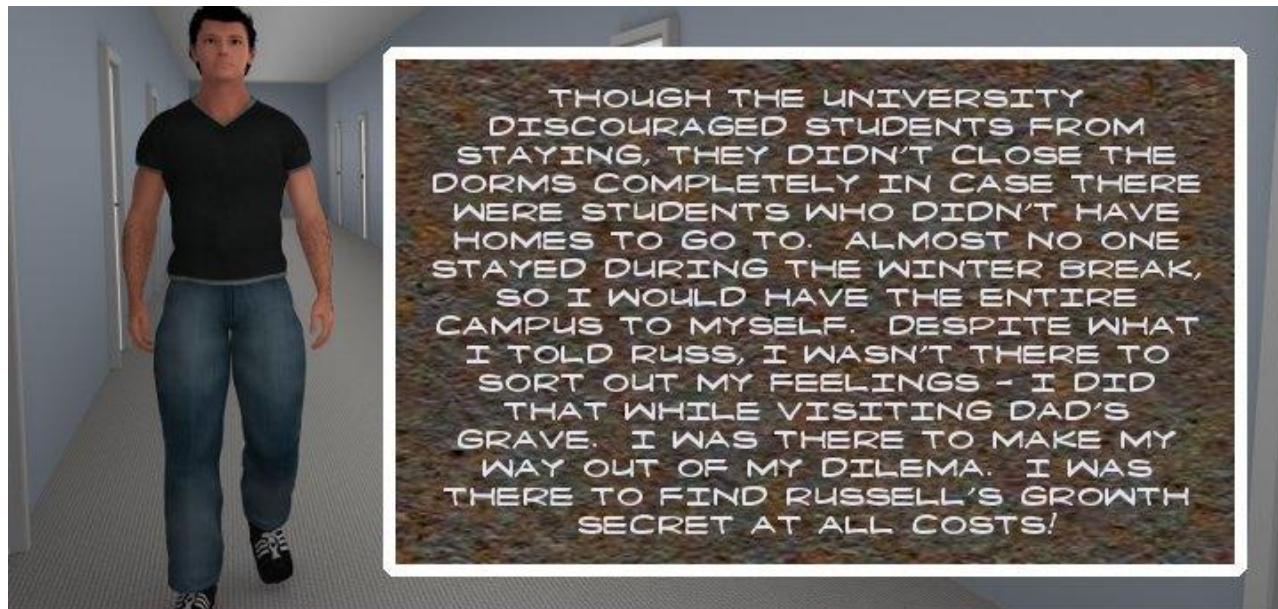
I CAN'T STAY
HERE, RUSS. YOU
HAVE NO IDEA
HOW MUCH IT
KILLS ME TO SEE
YOU AND JAYSON
GETTING SO
CLOSE.



TO BE HONEST, RUSS,
I USED TO THINK YOU
WERE A LITTLE WEAK
BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS
CAVED TO THAT
ASSHOLE. BUT YOU
WEREN'T. YOU JUST
WANTED TO CREATE A
LITTLE PEACE IN
THIS HELL OF A
HOME OF OURS.
THAT'S WHO YOU ARE.



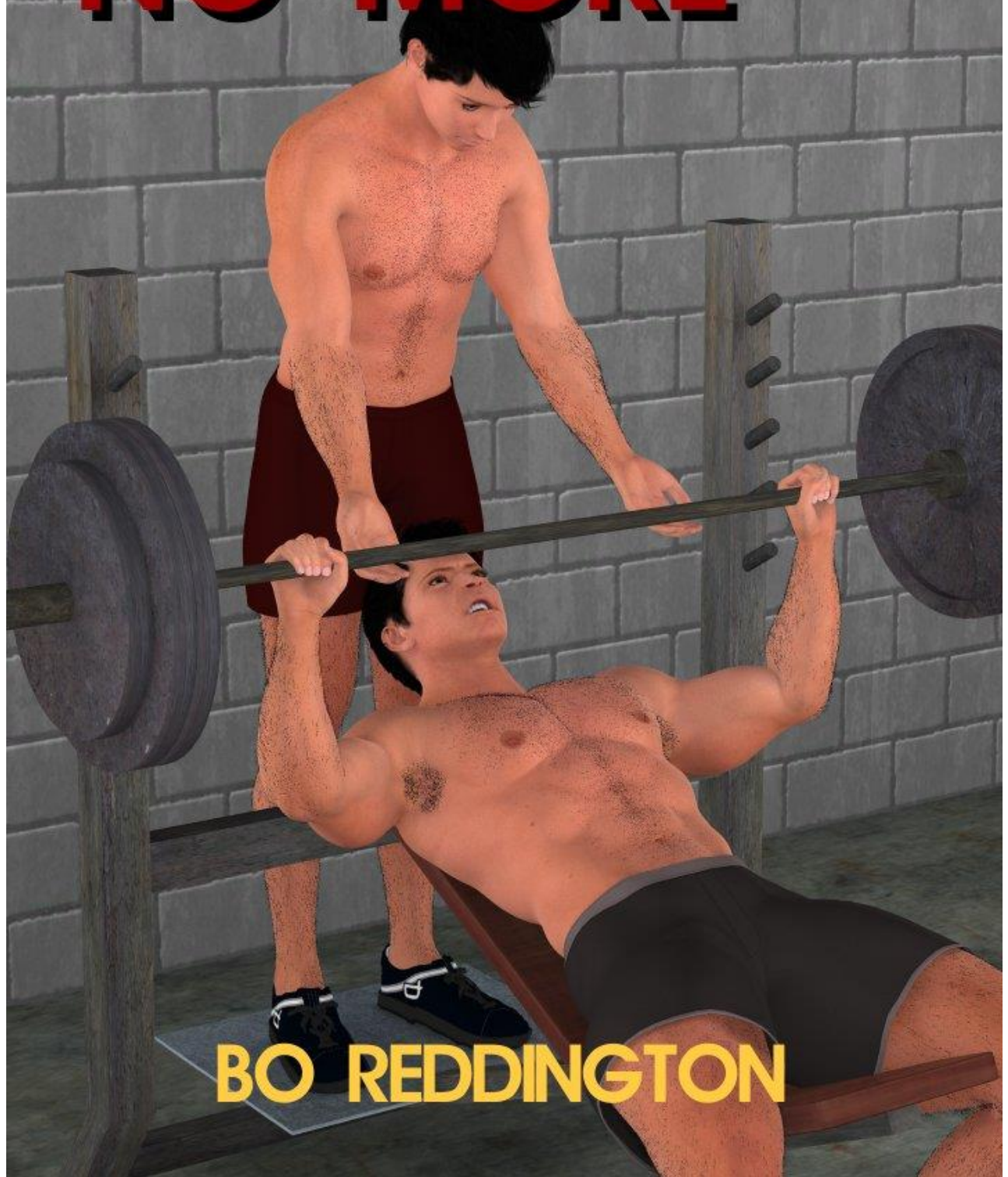
BUT I HAVE TO STAND UP
FOR MYSELF. NO AMOUNT
OF PEACE AND QUIET IS
WORTH IT TO ME, IF
I LET JAYSON WALK ALL
OVER US. THAT'S WHO
I AM. AND IF I STAY
I'M GOING TO SAY OR DO
SOMETHING TO YOU
I CANNOT TAKE BACK.
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO
SCHOOL IF I'M TO
FIGURE ALL OF THIS OUT.



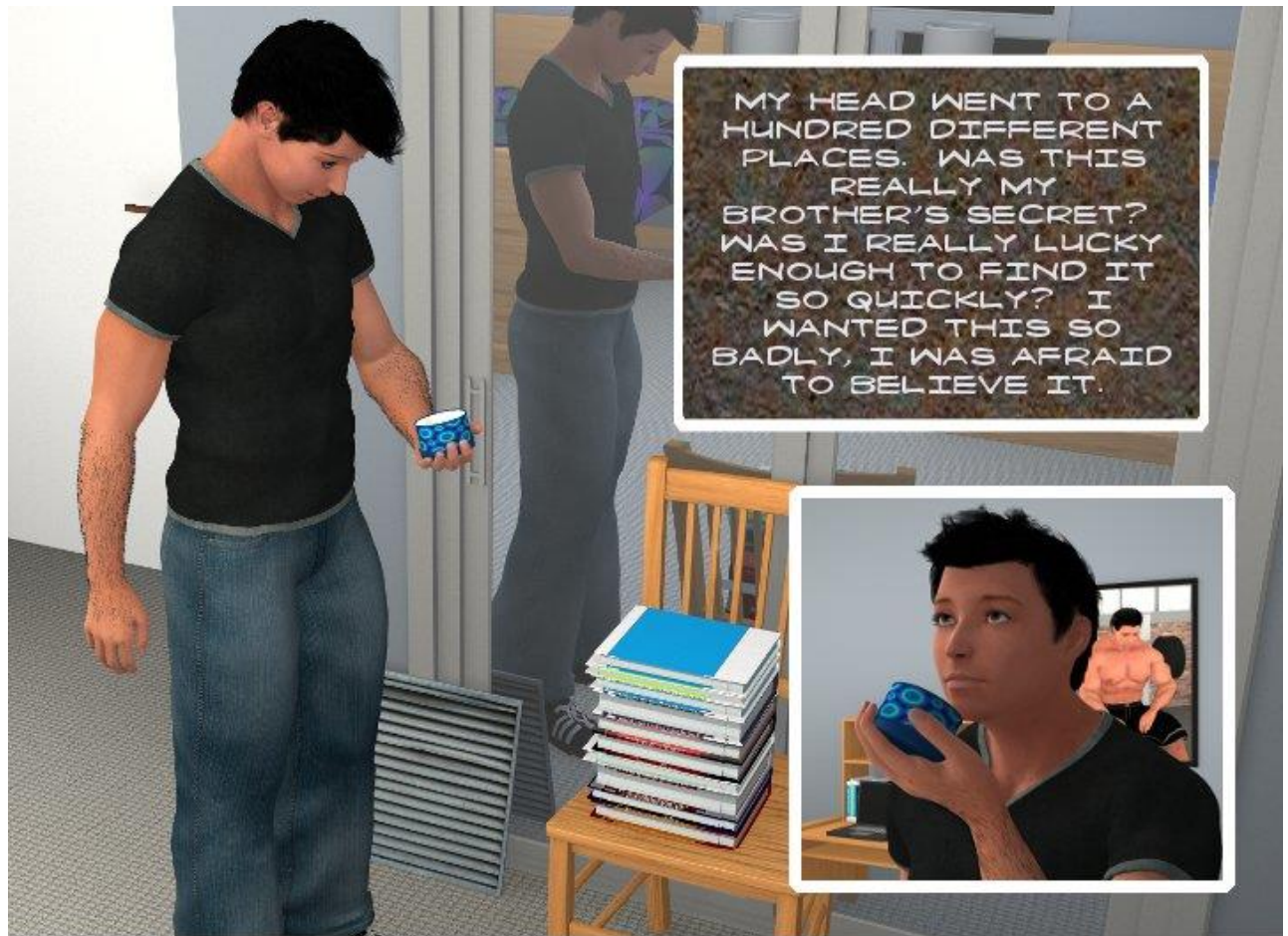


MY TWIN NO MORE

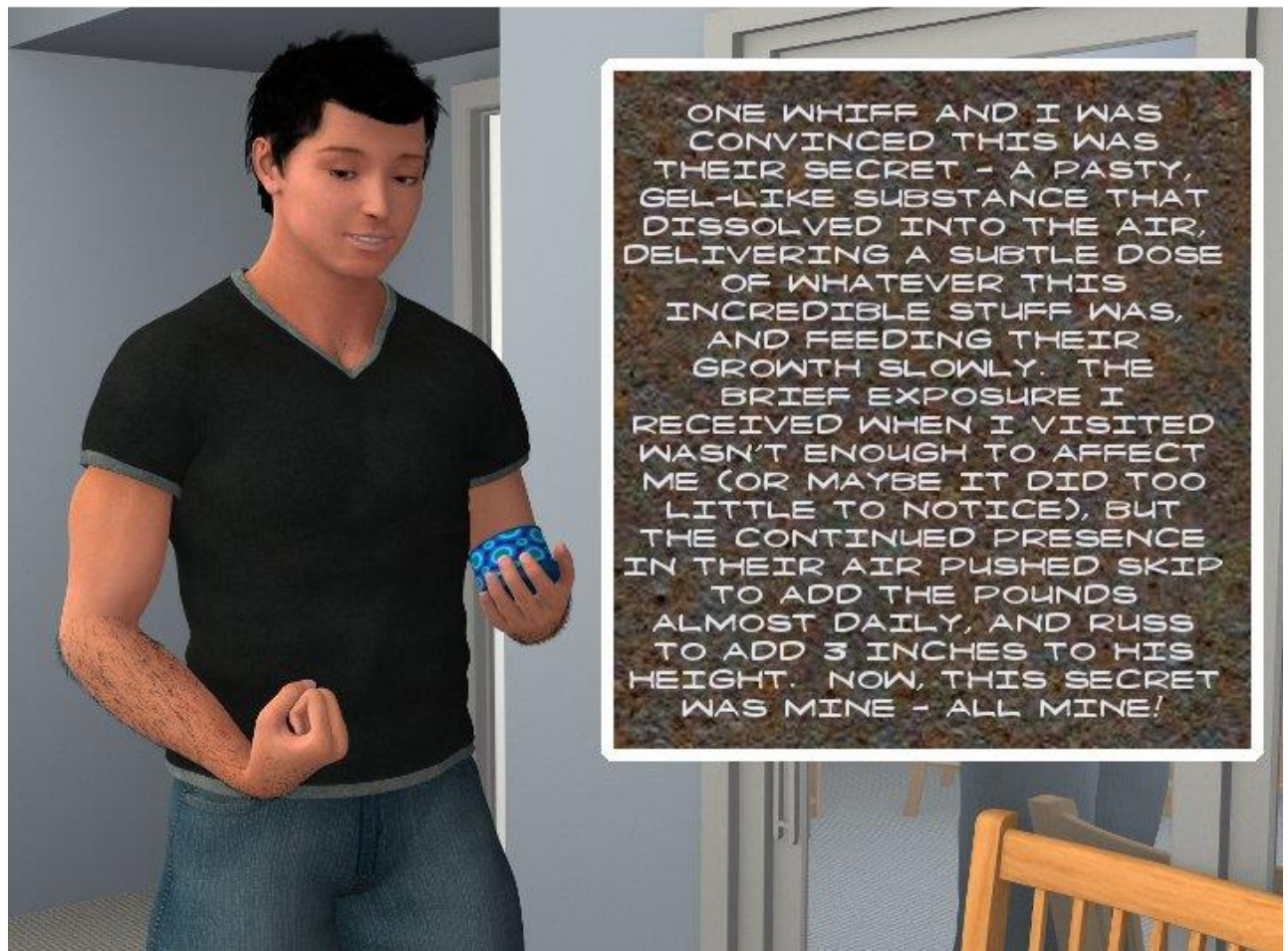
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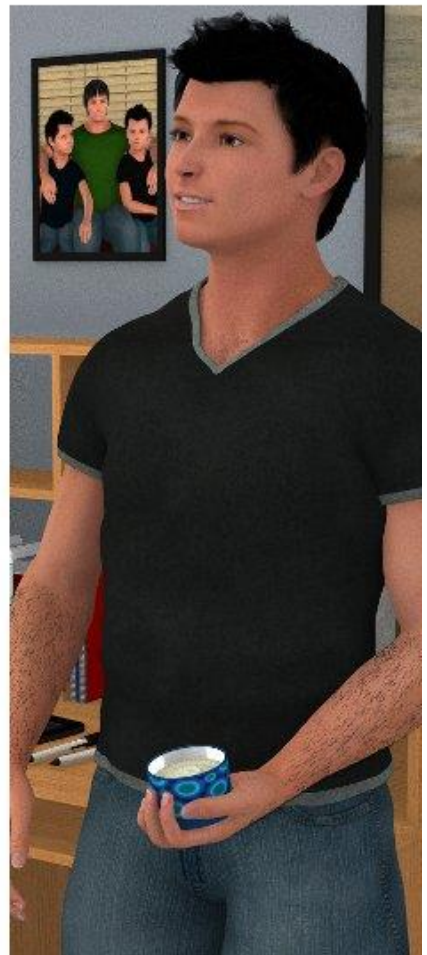
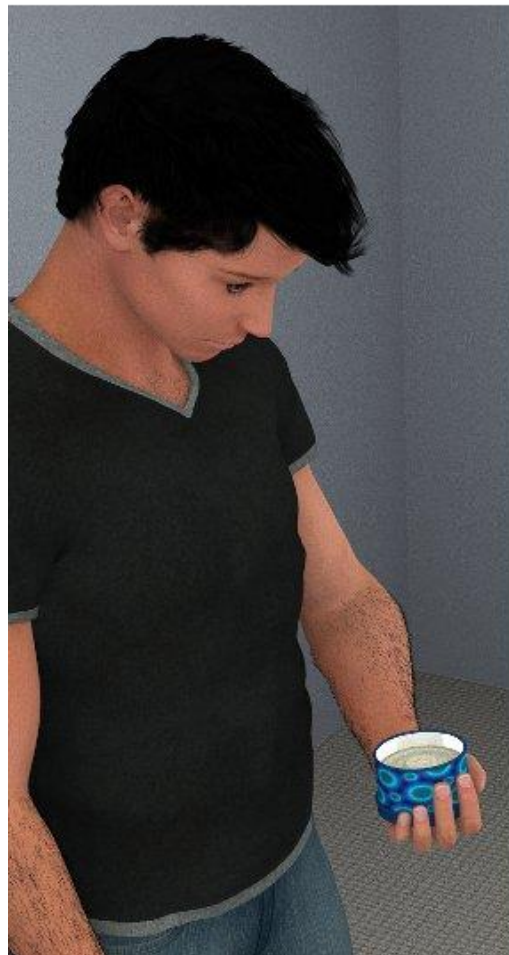
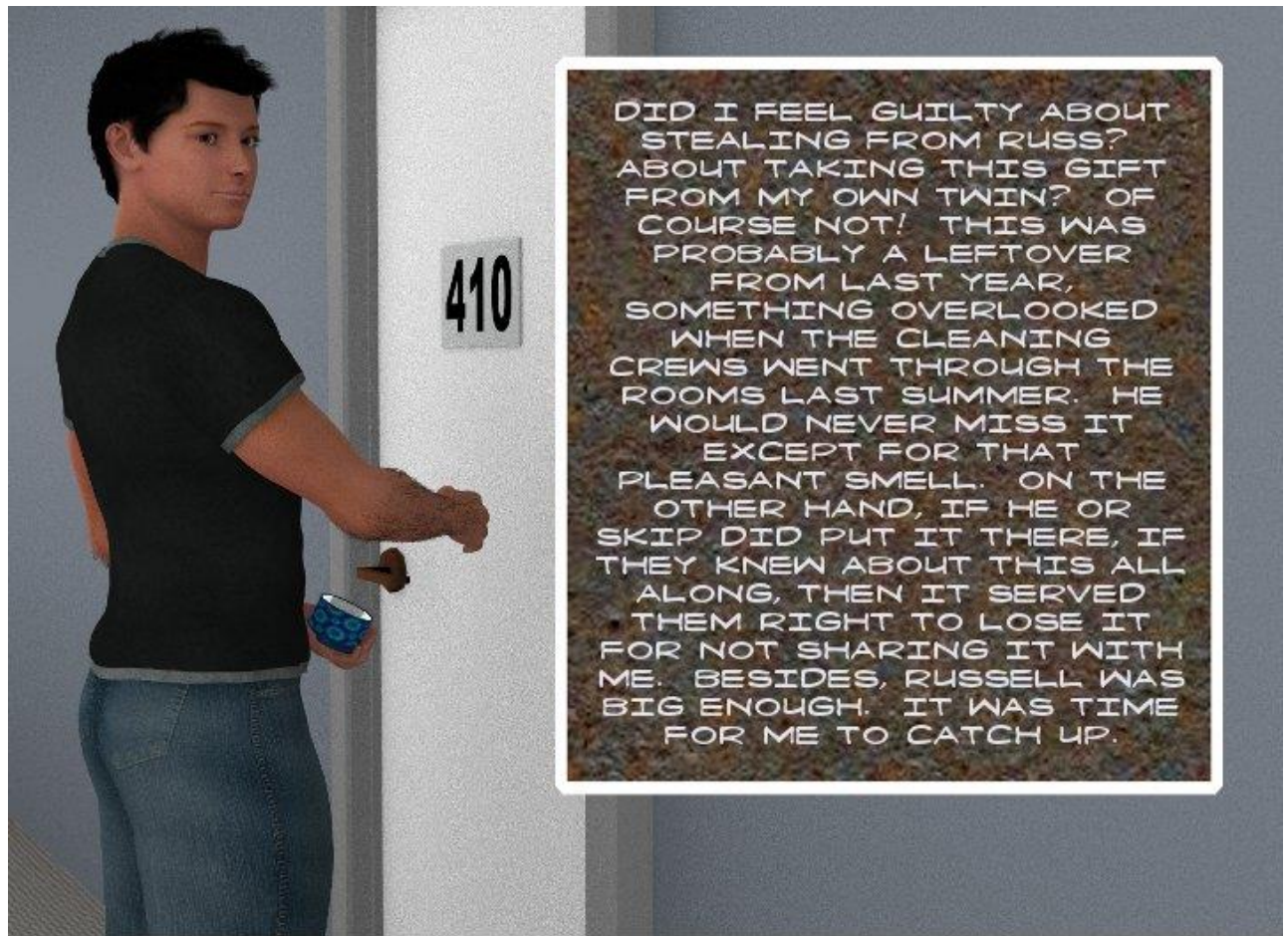
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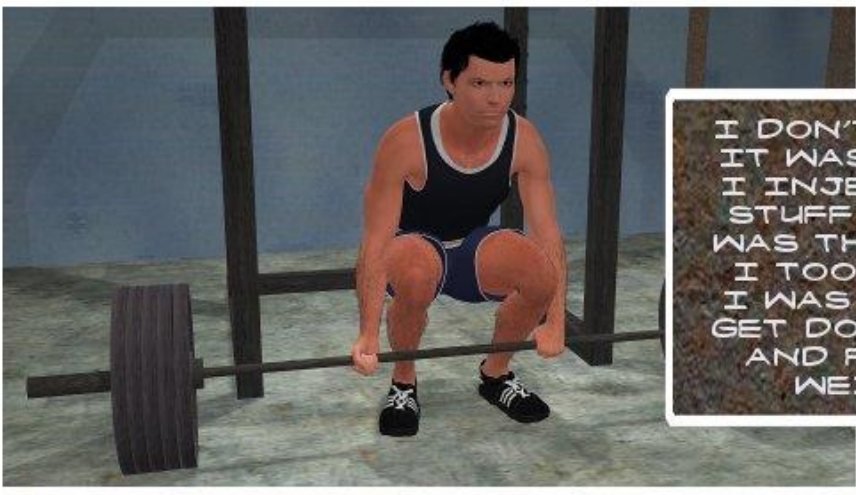


MY HEAD WENT TO A HUNDRED DIFFERENT PLACES. WAS THIS REALLY MY BROTHER'S SECRET? WAS I REALLY LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND IT SO QUICKLY? I WANTED THIS SO BADLY, I WAS AFRAID TO BELIEVE IT.

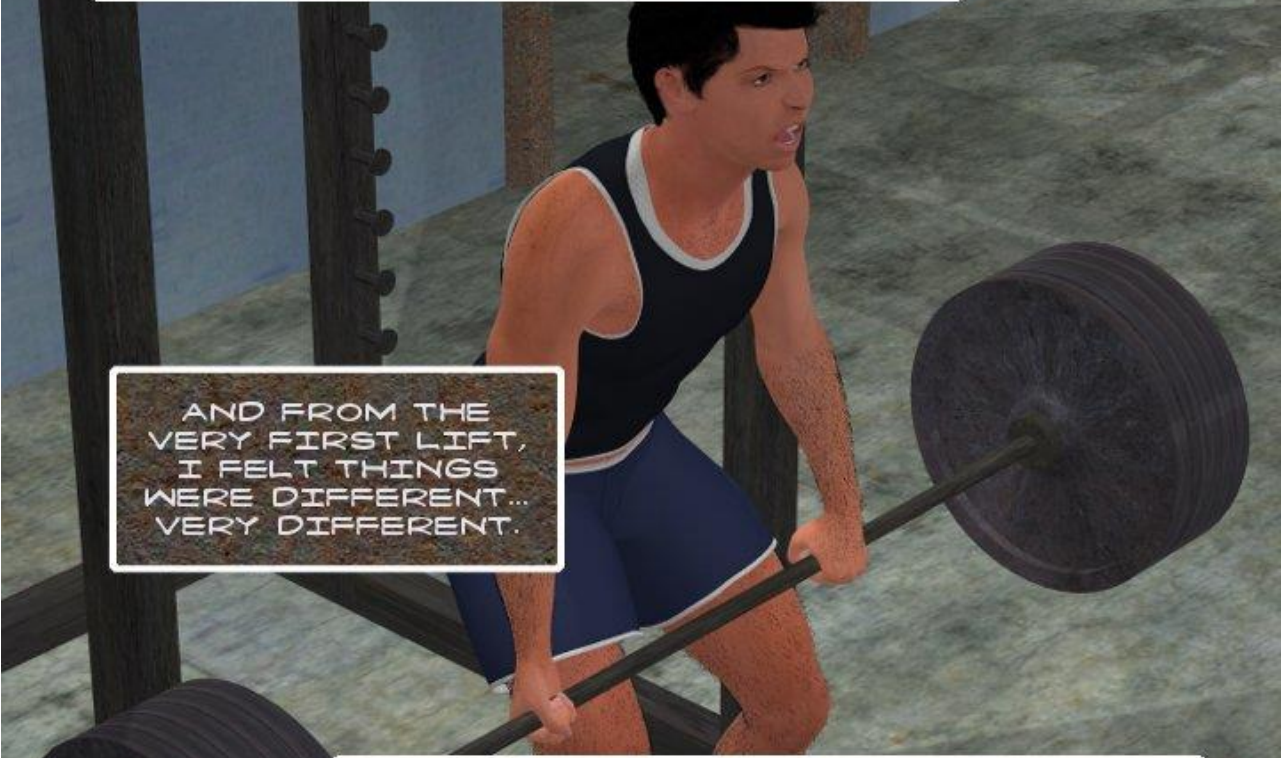


ONE WHIFF AND I WAS CONVINCED THIS WAS THEIR SECRET - A PASTY, GEL-LIKE SUBSTANCE THAT DISSOLVED INTO THE AIR, DELIVERING A SUBTLE DOSE OF WHATEVER THIS INCREDIBLE STUFF WAS, AND FEEDING THEIR GROWTH SLOWLY. THE BRIEF EXPOSURE I RECEIVED WHEN I VISITED WASN'T ENOUGH TO AFFECT ME (OR MAYBE IT DID TOO LITTLE TO NOTICE), BUT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THEIR AIR PUSHED SKIP TO ADD THE POUNDS ALMOST DAILY, AND RUSS TO ADD 3 INCHES TO HIS HEIGHT. NOW, THIS SECRET WAS MINE - ALL MINE!





I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS BECAUSE I INJECTED THE STUFF OR IF IT WAS THE AMOUNT I TOOK IN, BUT I WAS READY TO GET DOWNSTAIRS AND FACE THE WEIGHTS.



AND FROM THE VERY FIRST LIFT, I FELT THINGS WERE DIFFERENT... VERY DIFFERENT.





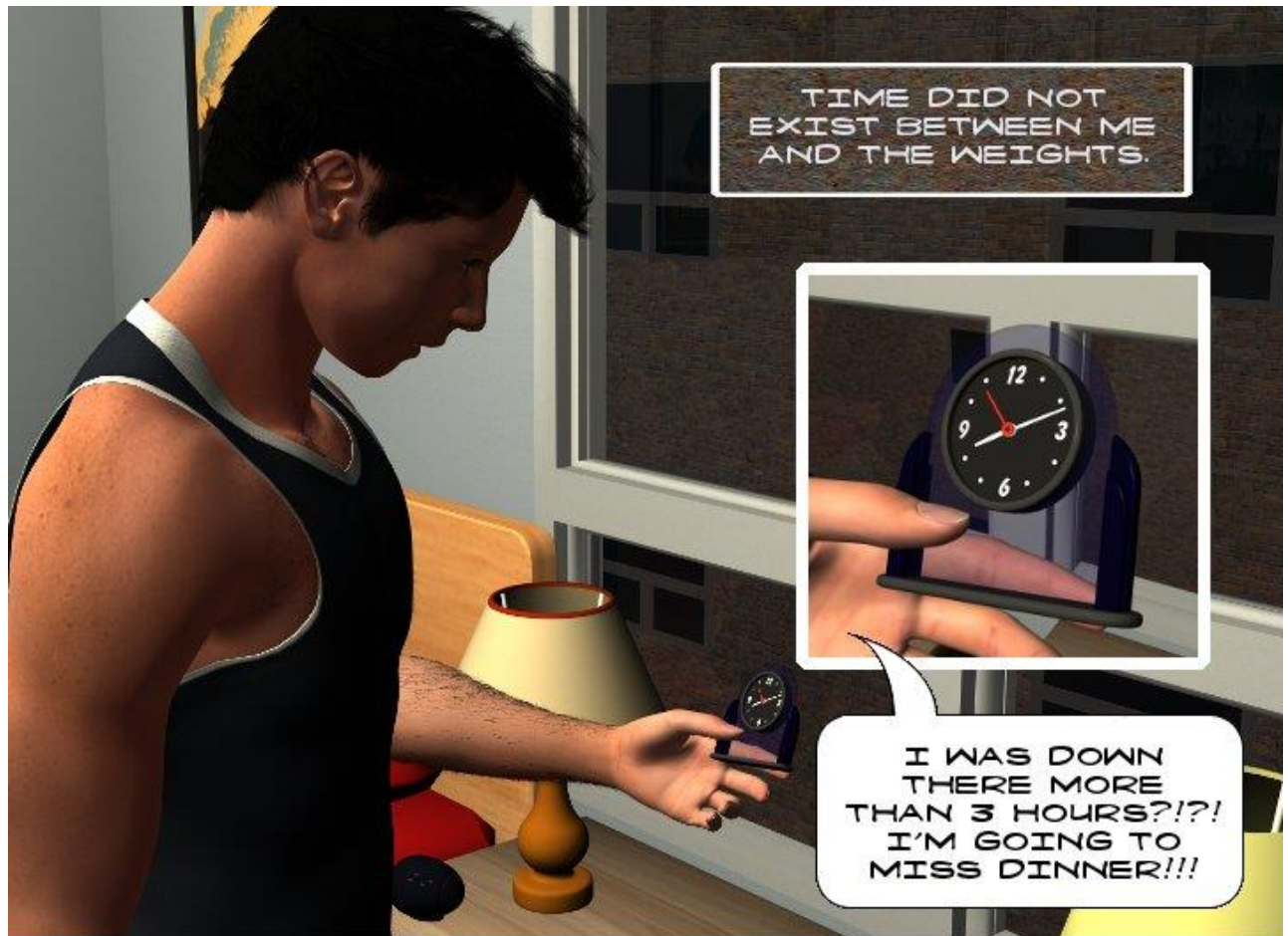
WEIGHTS I FOUGHT
WITH LAST WEEK
FELT LIKE MY
WARM-UP SETS...



I HIT 10 REPS WITH
WEIGHT CLOSE TO
MY 1-REP MAX, AND
KEPT GOING...



I PUSHED OUT SET
AFTER SET
WITHOUT TIRING...



TIME DID NOT EXIST BETWEEN ME AND THE WEIGHTS.



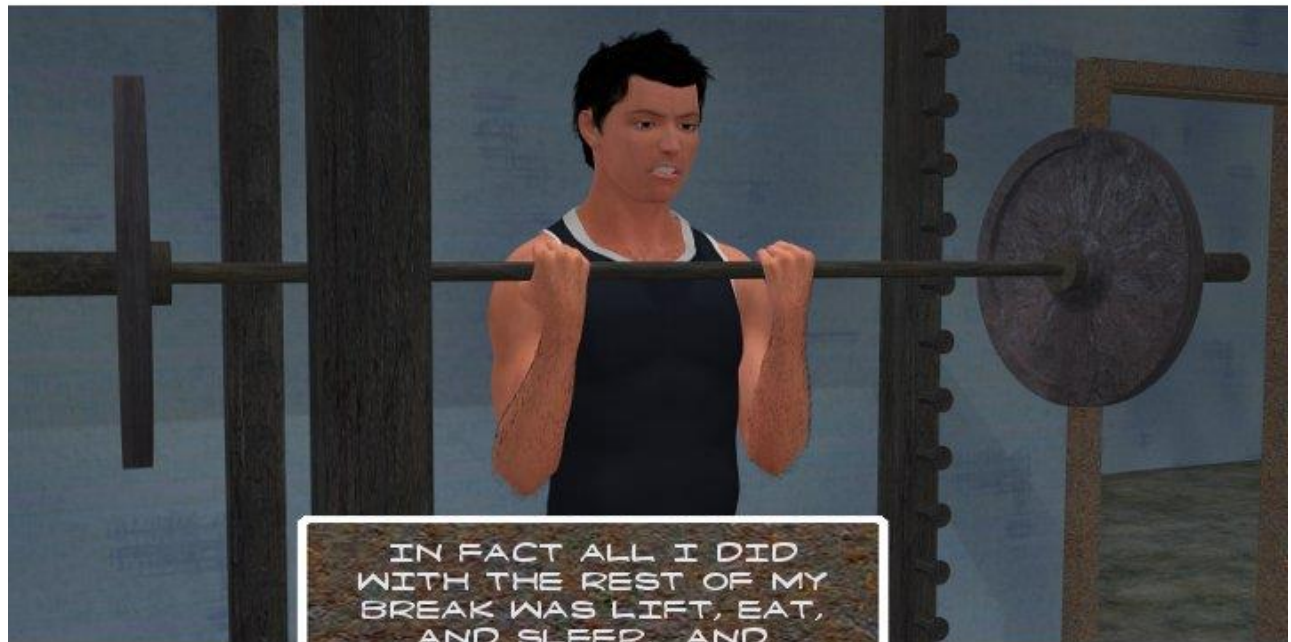
I WAS DOWN THERE MORE THAN 3 HOURS?!?! I'M GOING TO MISS DINNER!!!



AND I COULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. MY APPETITE INCREASED AS MUCH AS MY STRENGTH. AFTER THAT FIRST WORKOUT, I STUFFED MYSELF UNTIL I WAS READY TO EXPLODE, AND I STILL FELT HUNGRY.



BEFORE THE WEEK WAS OUT, I WAS DOWNING A FULL SHAKE BETWEEN EACH EXERCISE.



IN FACT ALL I DID WITH THE REST OF MY BREAK WAS LIFT, EAT, AND SLEEP. AND THANKS TO THAT GOOP, MY BODY WANTED MORE!





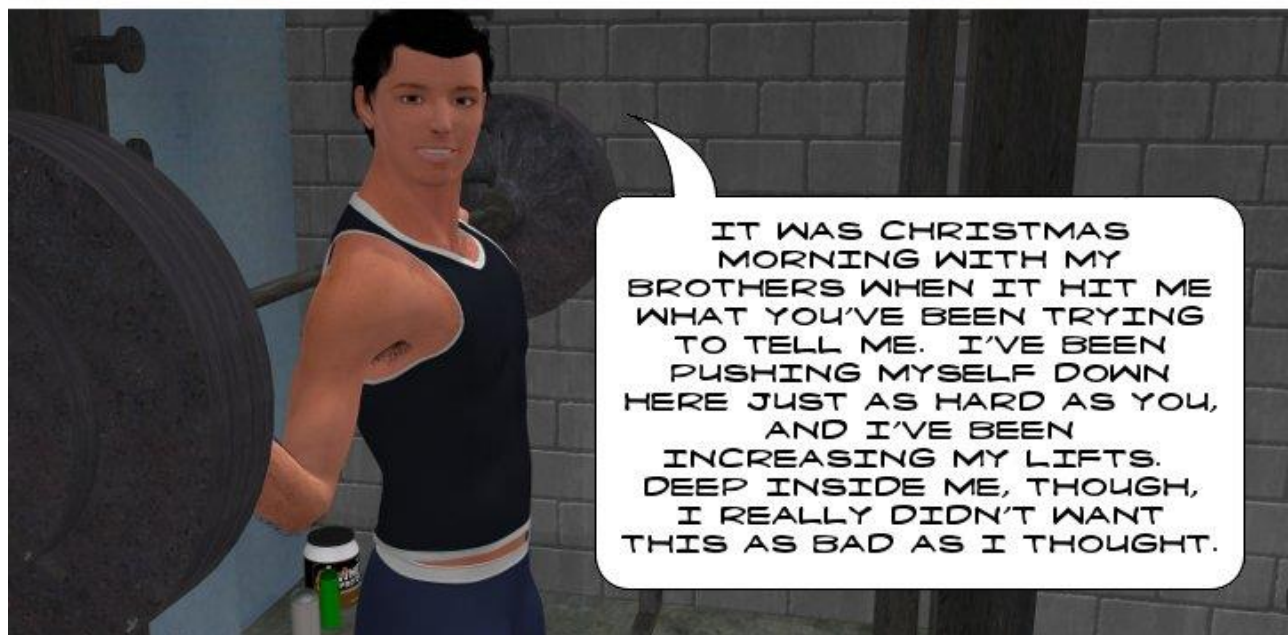
SOMEONE
COULDN'T WAIT
TO USE THE GYM!

I THINK I ADDED 10 POUNDS
THAT WEEK. IT WAS NOT
ENOUGH TO RAISE ALARM WHEN
EVERYONE RETURNED FOR THE
SEMESTER, BUT IT SURE MADE
ALL MY CLOTHES FEEL TIGHT!

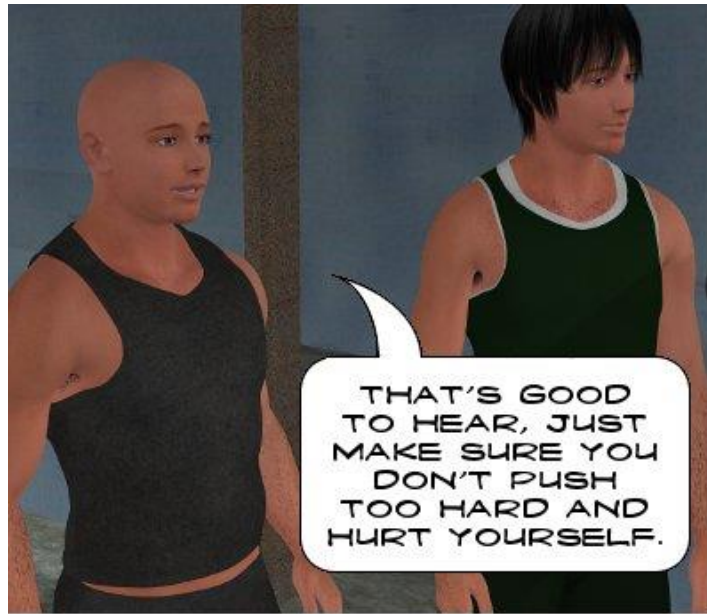


DAMN, BRO,
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU'RE
GETTING THIS
ENERGY, BUT THAT
WAS THE LAST
SET FOR ME!

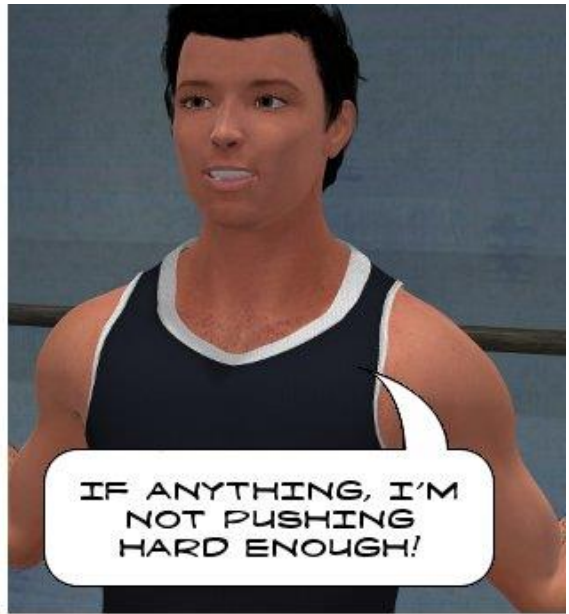
FOR ONE WEEK, ALL
TONY NOTICED WAS
MY INTENSITY...



IT WAS CHRISTMAS
MORNING WITH MY
BROTHERS WHEN IT HIT ME
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING
TO TELL ME. I'VE BEEN
PUSHING MYSELF DOWN
HERE JUST AS HARD AS YOU,
AND I'VE BEEN
INCREASING MY LIFTS.
DEEP INSIDE ME, THOUGH,
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT
THIS AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.



THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T PUSH TOO HARD AND HURT YOURSELF.



IF ANYTHING, I'M NOT PUSHING HARD ENOUGH!



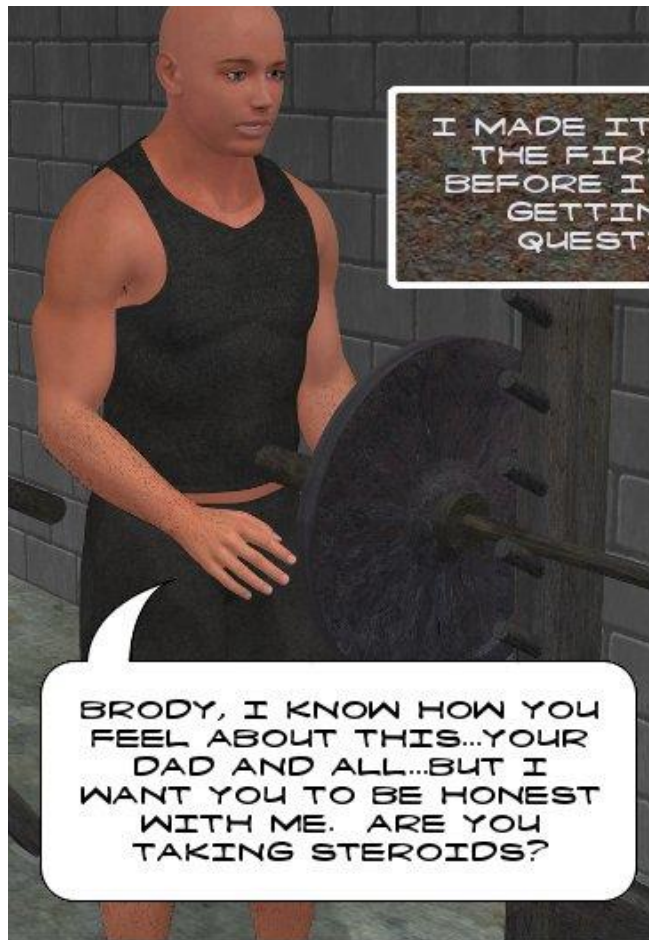
UUNNGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!



...12...
UNGH...
13...

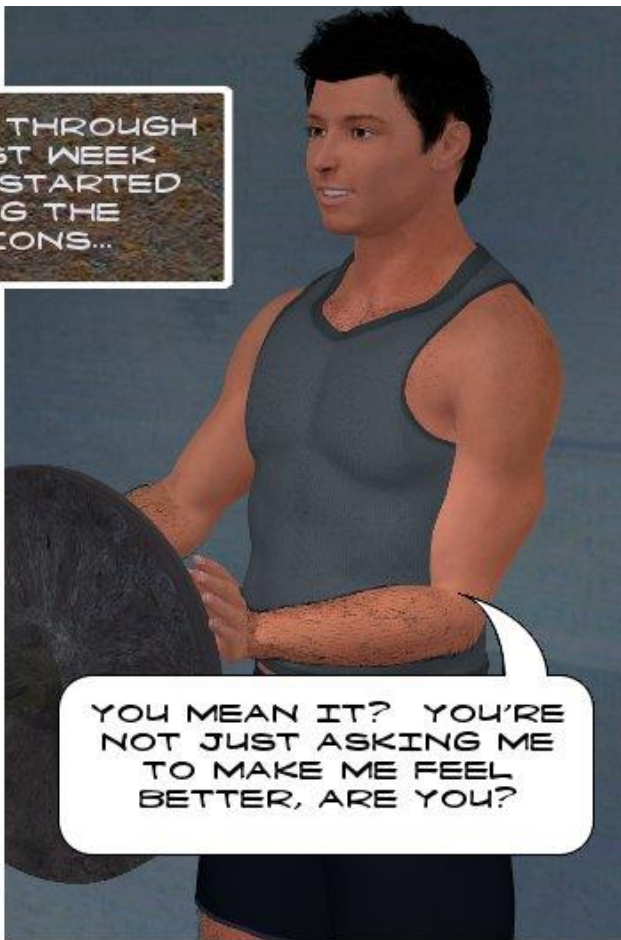


...14...
UUNNGH...
111555!

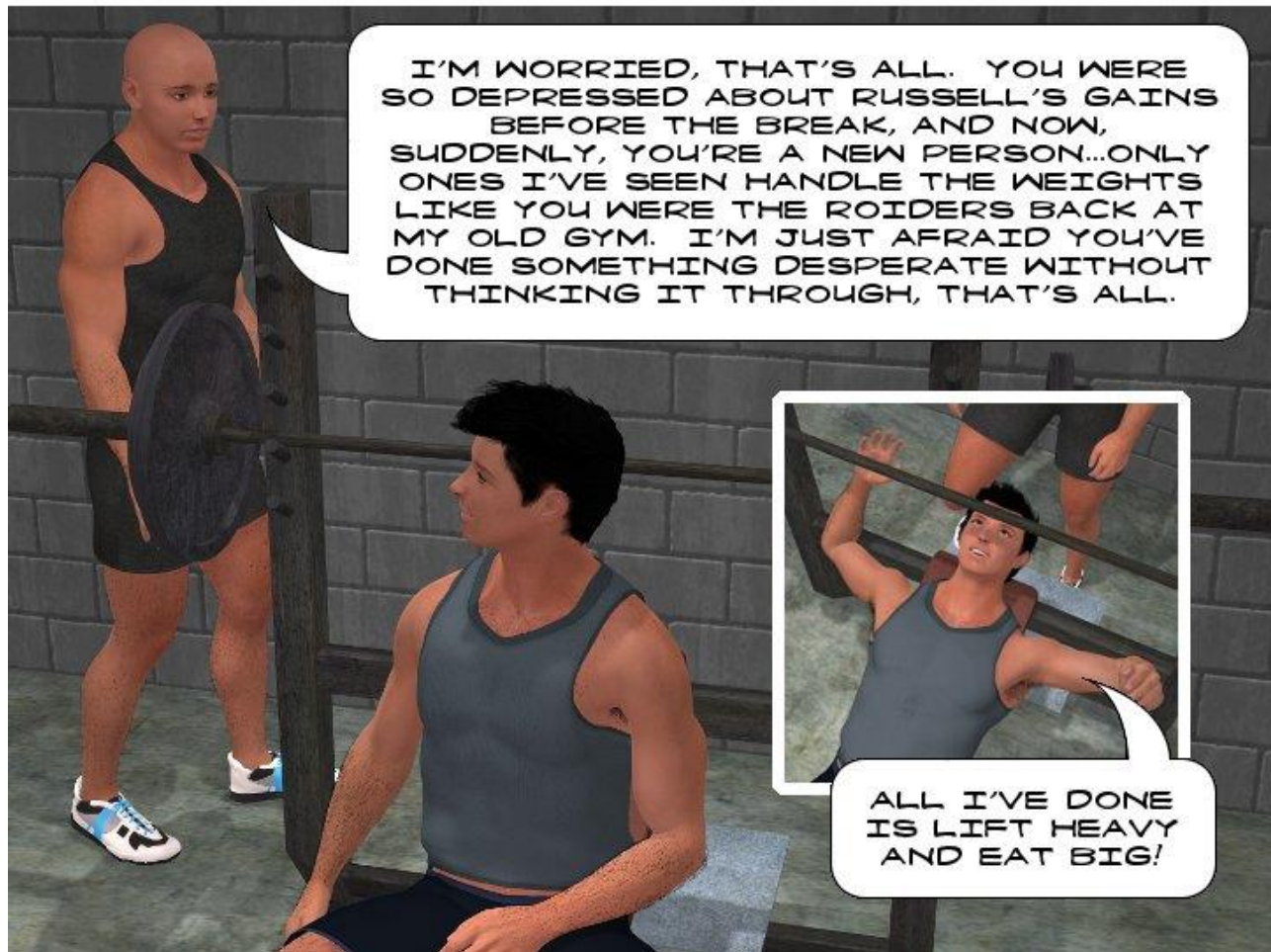


I MADE IT THROUGH THE FIRST WEEK BEFORE I STARTED GETTING THE QUESTIONS...

BRODY, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS...YOUR DAD AND ALL...BUT I WANT YOU TO BE HONEST WITH ME. ARE YOU TAKING STEROIDS?



YOU MEAN IT? YOU'RE NOT JUST ASKING ME TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, ARE YOU?



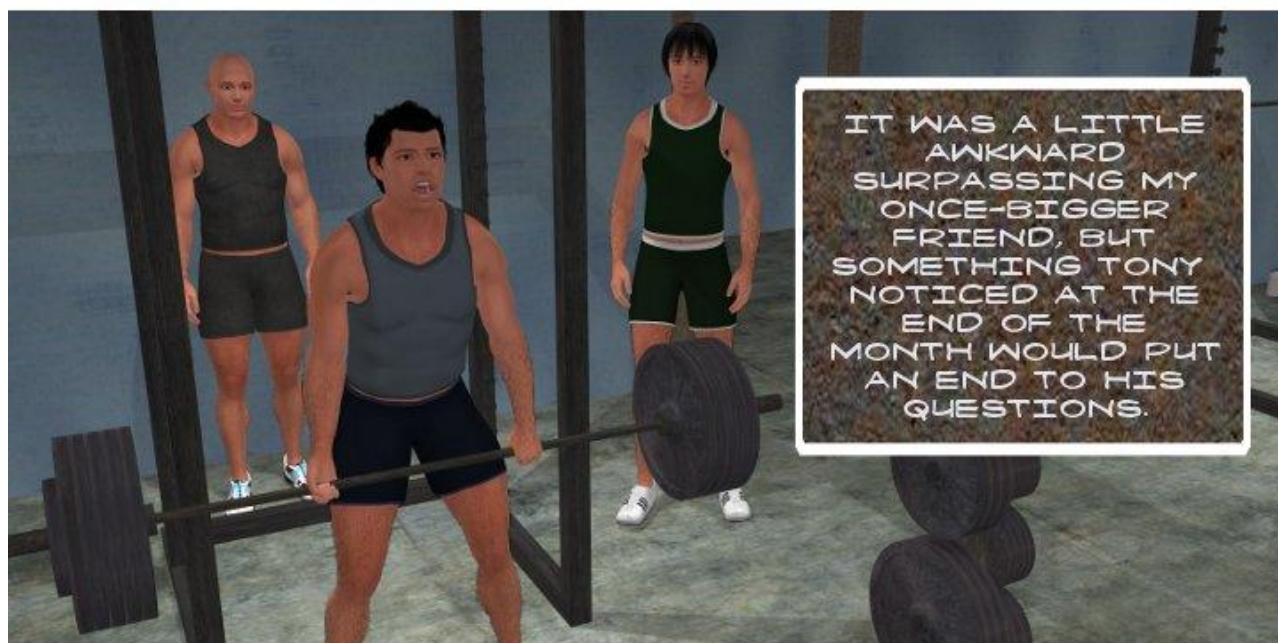
I'M WORRIED, THAT'S ALL. YOU WERE SO DEPRESSED ABOUT RUSSELL'S GAINS BEFORE THE BREAK, AND NOW, SUDDENLY, YOU'RE A NEW PERSON...ONLY ONES I'VE SEEN HANDLE THE WEIGHTS LIKE YOU WERE THE ROIDERS BACK AT MY OLD GYM. I'M JUST AFRAID YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING DESPERATE WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH, THAT'S ALL.



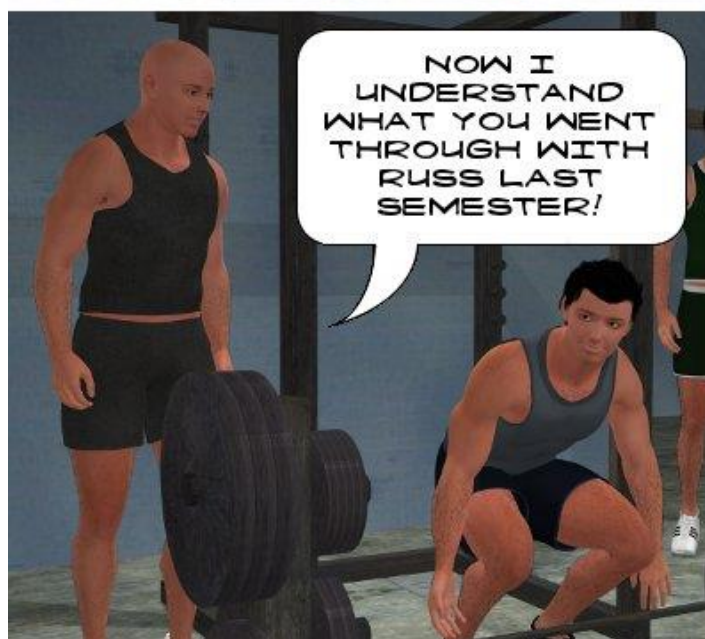
ALL I'VE DONE IS LIFT HEAVY AND EAT BIG!



I WASN'T READY TO SHARE MY SECRET. OH I WANTED TO! I WANTED TO BRING TONY AND DEREK ON THIS JOURNEY WITH ME, BUT THAT CANISTER WAS SO SMALL. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THIS STUFF I NEEDED TO REACH MY OWN GOALS.



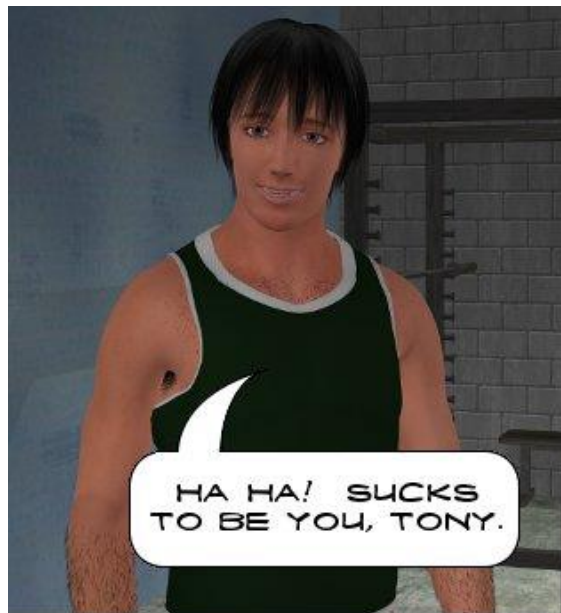
IT WAS A LITTLE AWKWARD SURPASSING MY ONCE-BIGGER FRIEND, BUT SOMETHING TONY NOTICED AT THE END OF THE MONTH WOULD PUT AN END TO HIS QUESTIONS.



NOW I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH WITH RUSS LAST SEMESTER!



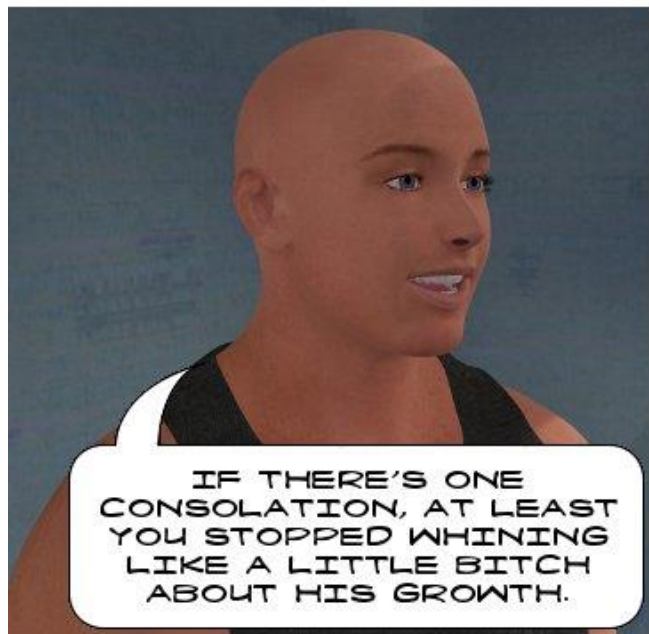
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE TALLER THAN ME NOW! WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?



HA HA! SUCKS TO BE YOU, TONY.



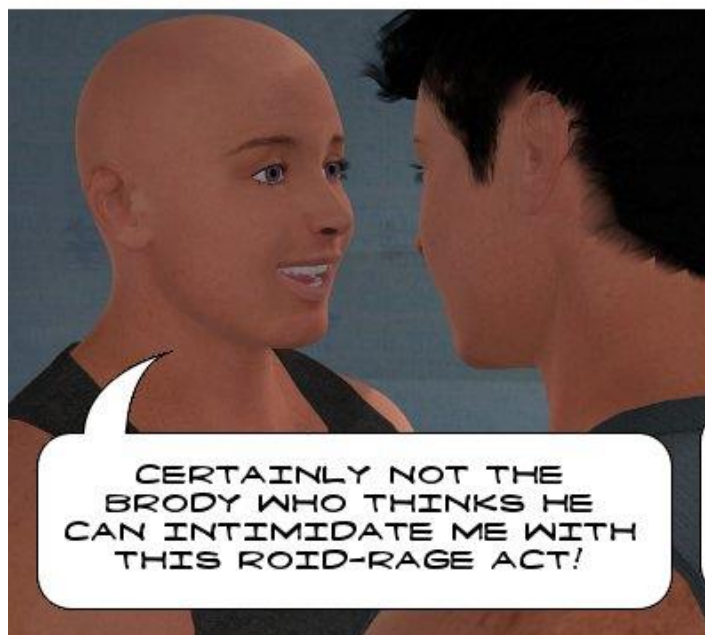
MY BROTHER WAS RIGHT AND I'M FINALLY CATCHING UP TO HIM!



IF THERE'S ONE CONSOLATION, AT LEAST YOU STOPPED WHINING LIKE A LITTLE BITCH ABOUT HIS GROWTH.



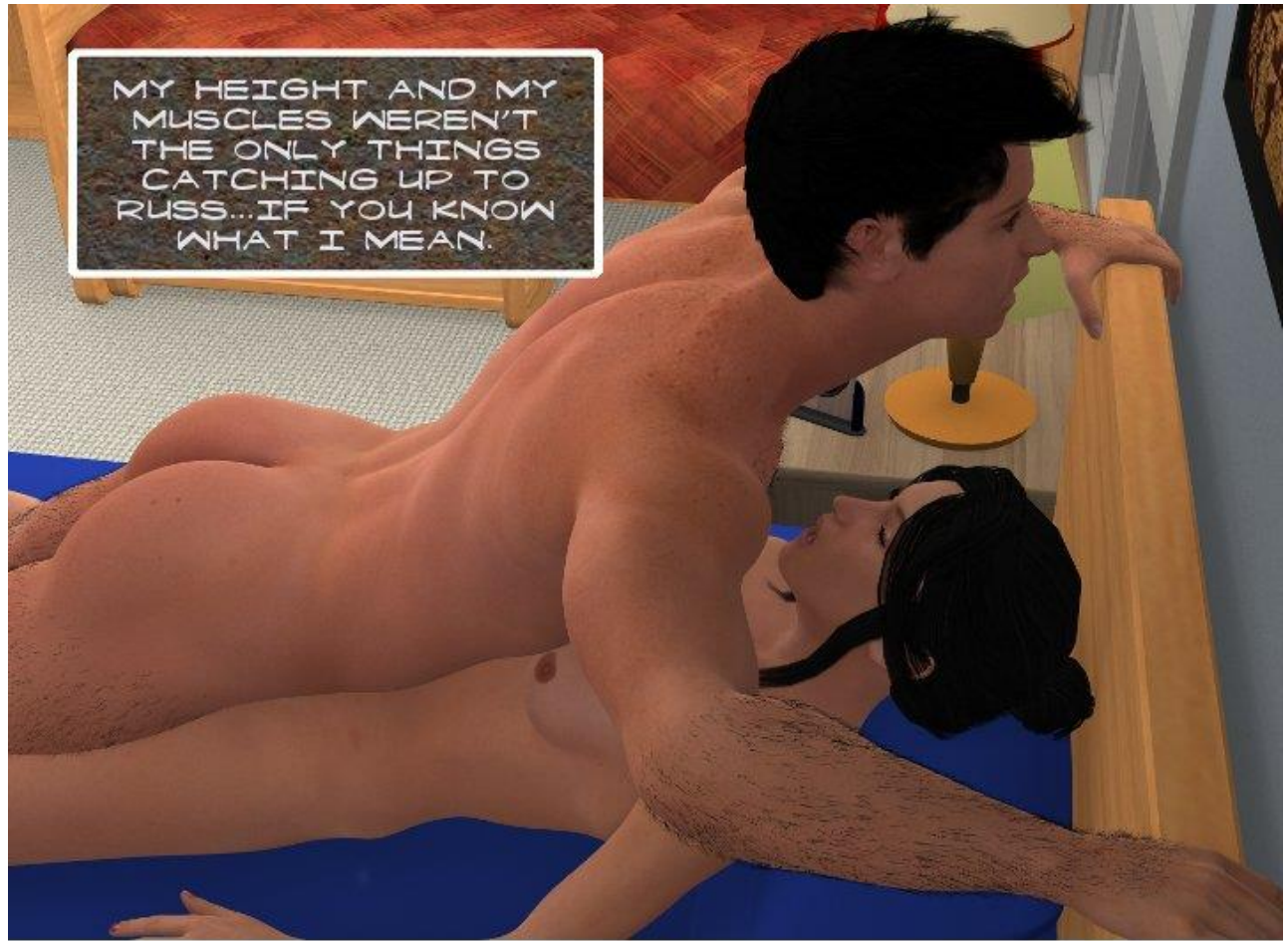
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A LITTLE BITCH?



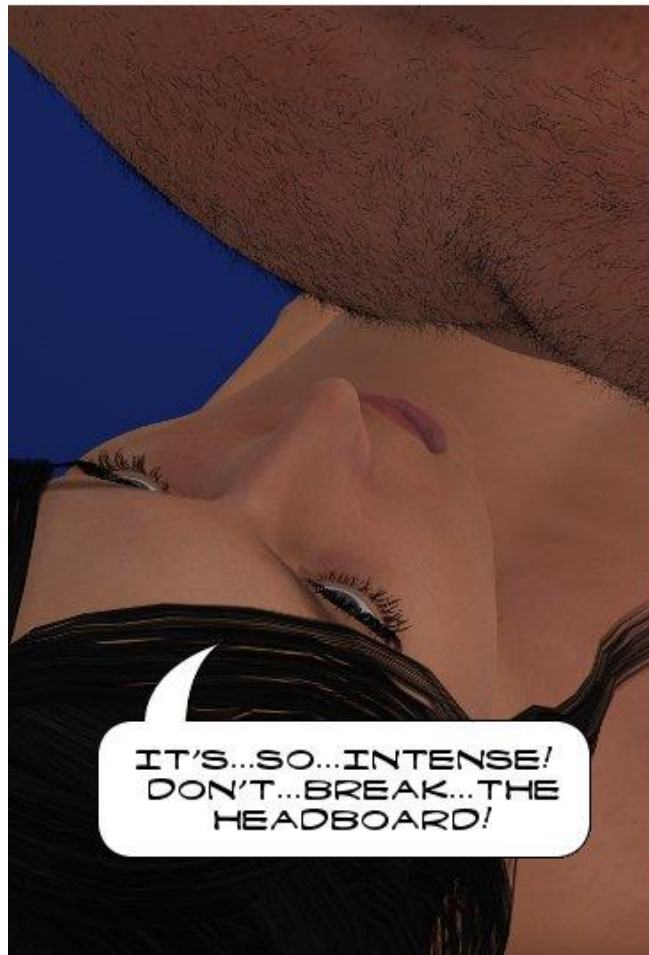
CERTAINLY NOT THE BRODY WHO THINKS HE CAN INTIMIDATE ME WITH THIS ROID-RAGE ACT!



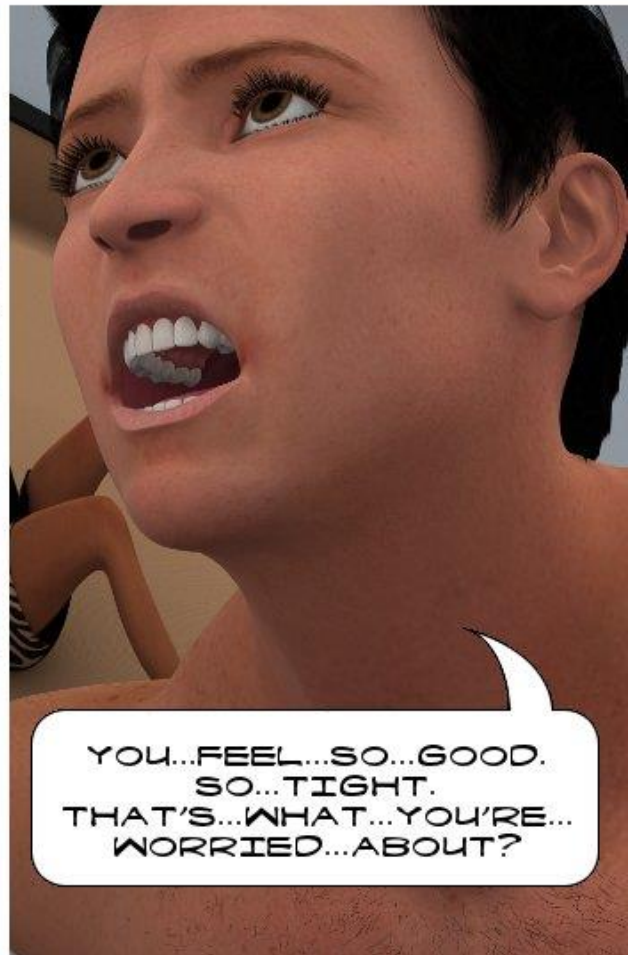
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. NOW STEP UP TO THE BAR AND SHOW US HOW MANY TIMES YOU CAN PULL 545.



MY HEIGHT AND MY MUSCLES WEREN'T THE ONLY THINGS CATCHING UP TO RUSS...IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.



IT'S...SO...INTENSE!
DON'T...BREAK...THE
HEADBOARD!



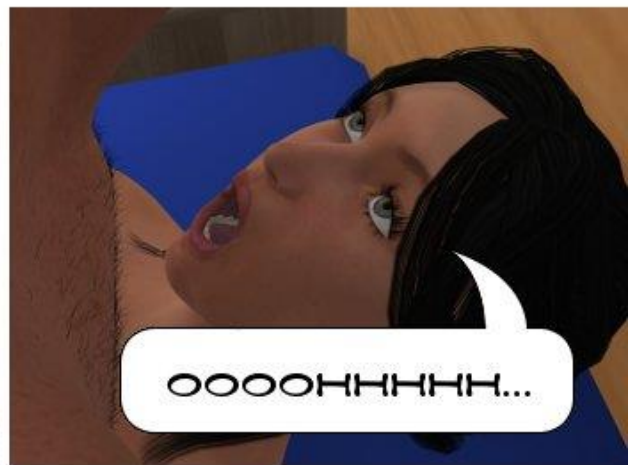
YOU...FEEL...SO...GOOD.
SO...TIGHT.
THAT'S...WHAT...YOU'RE...
WORRIED...ABOUT?



YOU'VE...GOTTEN...SO BIG...SO STRONG...I BET YOU COULD...IF YOU WANTED...



DO...YOU...WANT... TO SEE..ME...DO IT?



OOOOHHHHH...

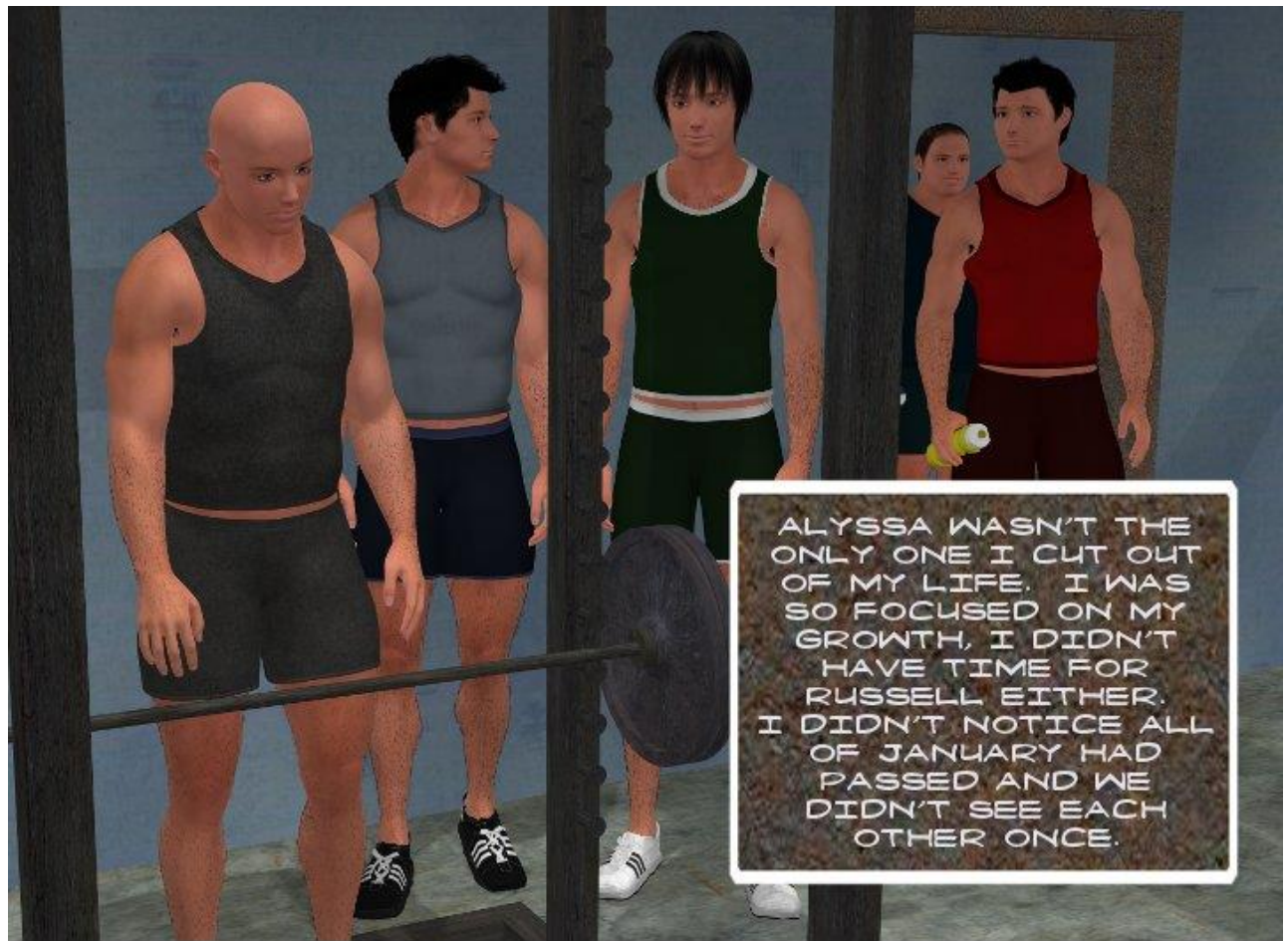


ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING YOU'RE BIG ENOUGH.

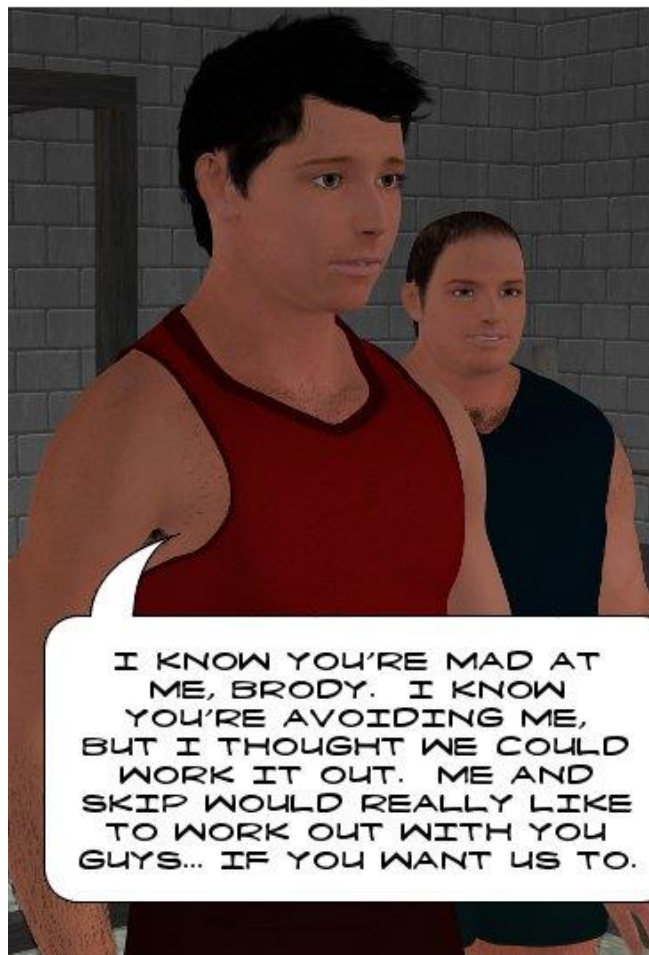


BIG ENOUGH? THERE'S NO SUCH THING!

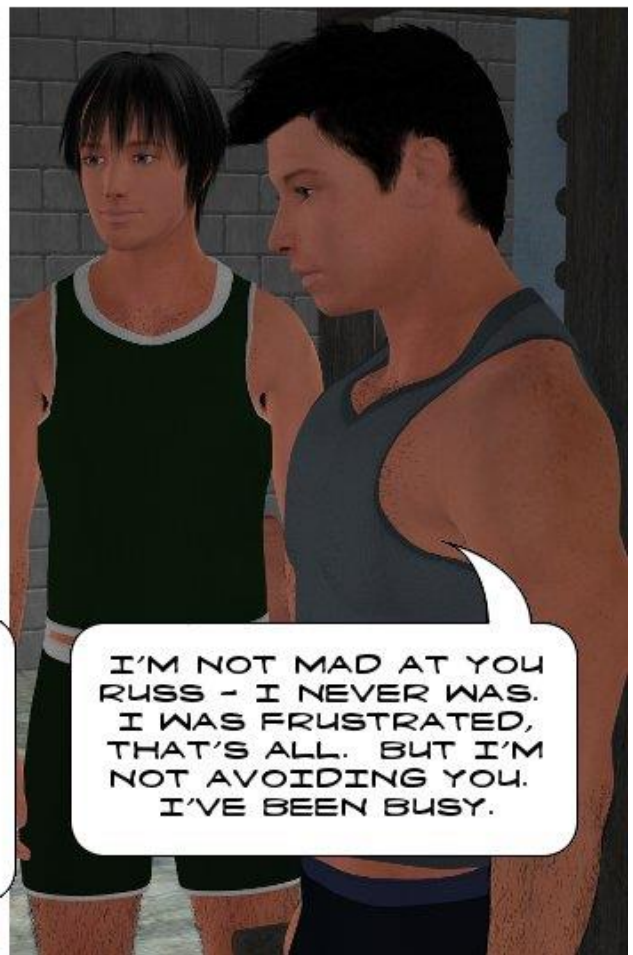




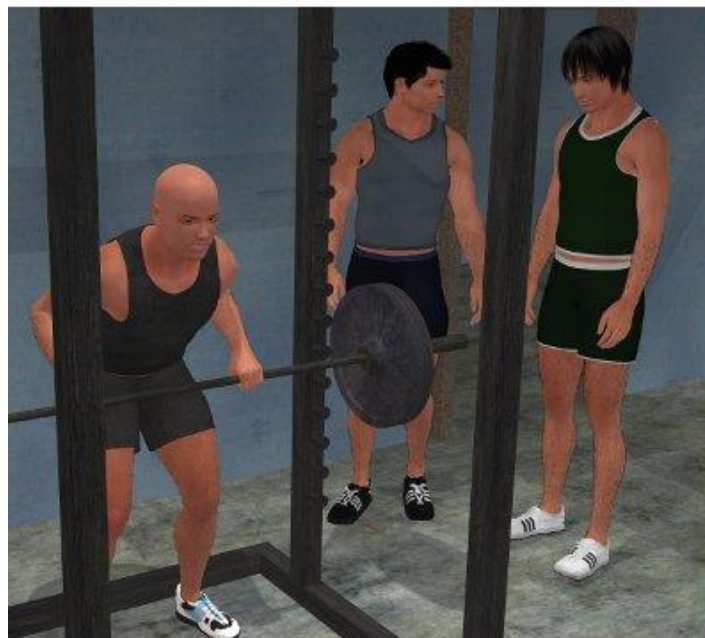
ALYSSA WASN'T THE ONLY ONE I CUT OUT OF MY LIFE. I WAS SO FOCUSED ON MY GROWTH, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR RUSSELL EITHER. I DIDN'T NOTICE ALL OF JANUARY HAD PASSED AND WE DIDN'T SEE EACH OTHER ONCE.

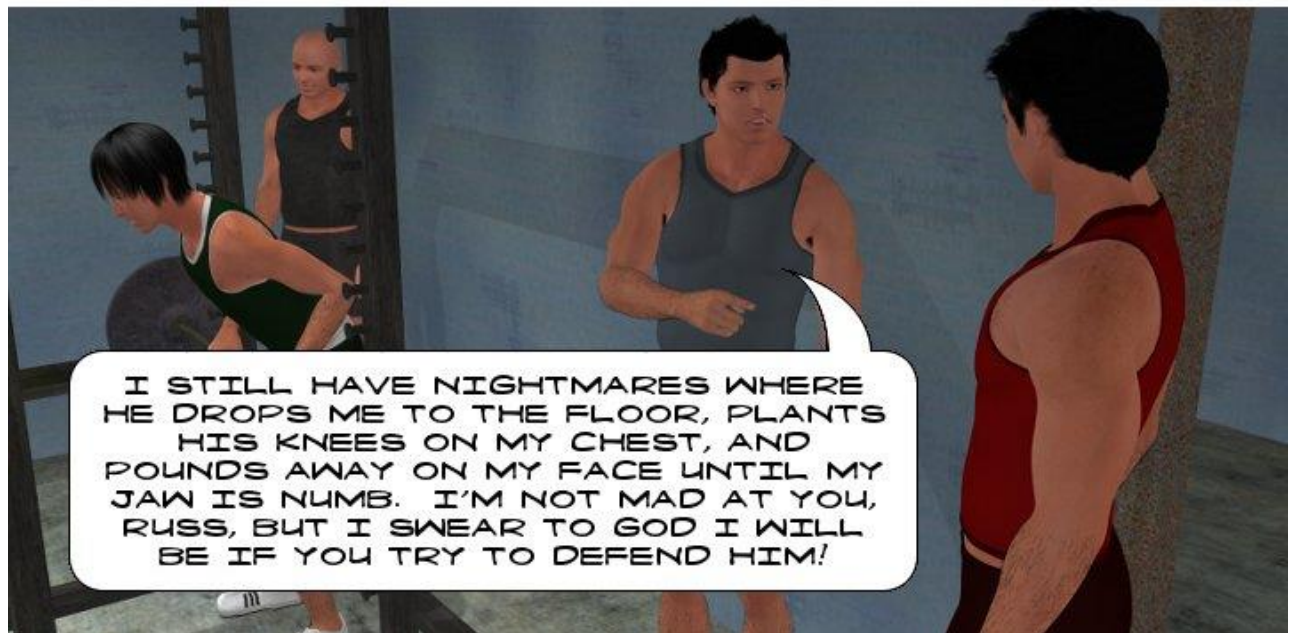


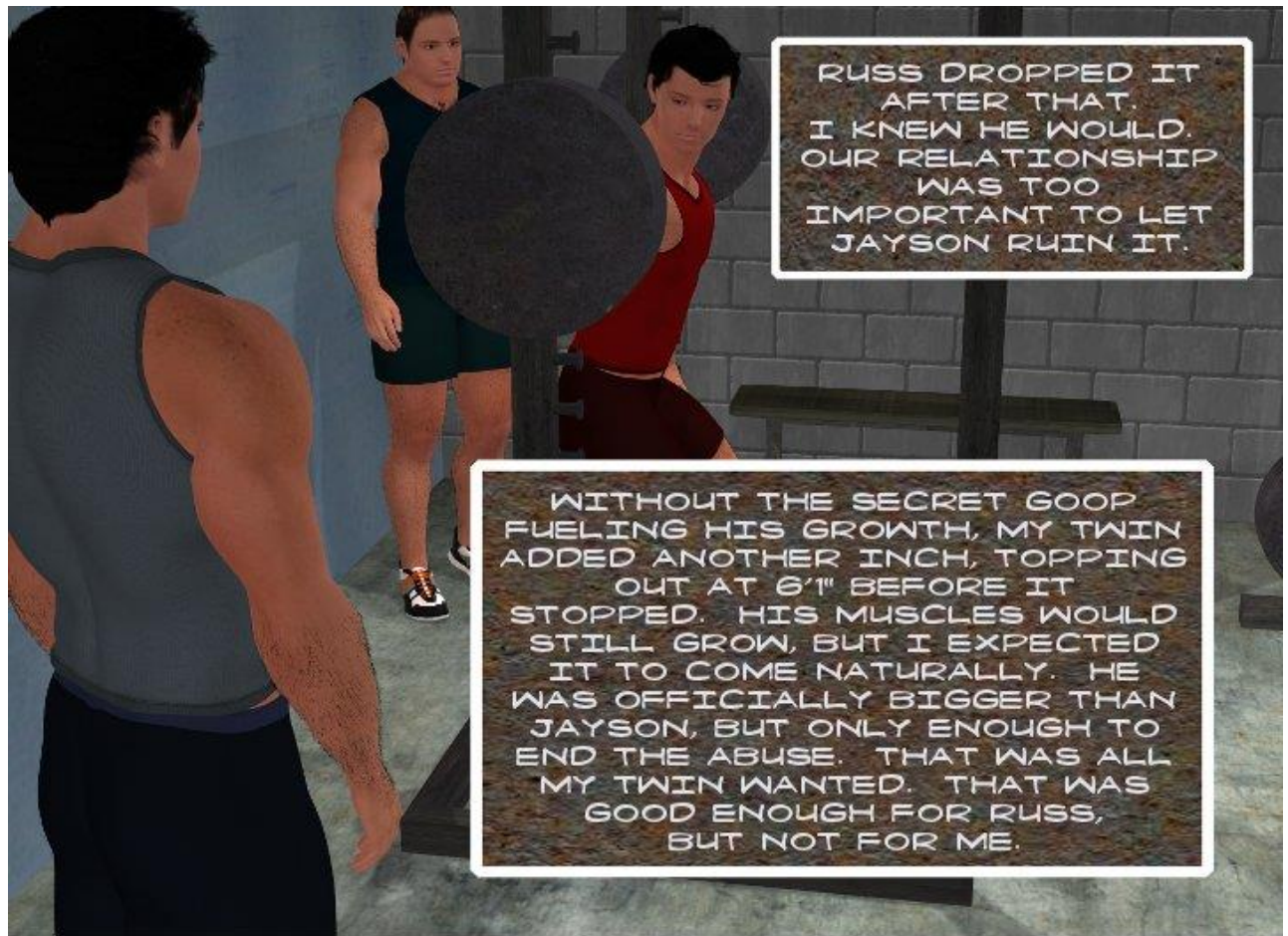
I KNOW YOU'RE MAD AT ME, BRODY. I KNOW YOU'RE AVOIDING ME, BUT I THOUGHT WE COULD WORK IT OUT. ME AND SKIP WOULD REALLY LIKE TO WORK OUT WITH YOU GUYS... IF YOU WANT US TO.



I'M NOT MAD AT YOU RUSS - I NEVER WAS. I WAS FRUSTRATED, THAT'S ALL. BUT I'M NOT AVOIDING YOU. I'VE BEEN BUSY.







RUSS DROPPED IT AFTER THAT. I KNEW HE WOULD. OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO LET JAYSON RUIN IT.

WITHOUT THE SECRET GOOP FUELING HIS GROWTH, MY TWIN ADDED ANOTHER INCH, TOPPING OUT AT 6'1" BEFORE IT STOPPED. HIS MUSCLES WOULD STILL GROW, BUT I EXPECTED IT TO COME NATURALLY. HE WAS OFFICIALLY BIGGER THAN JAYSON, BUT ONLY ENOUGH TO END THE ABUSE. THAT WAS ALL MY TWIN WANTED. THAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR RUSS, BUT NOT FOR ME.



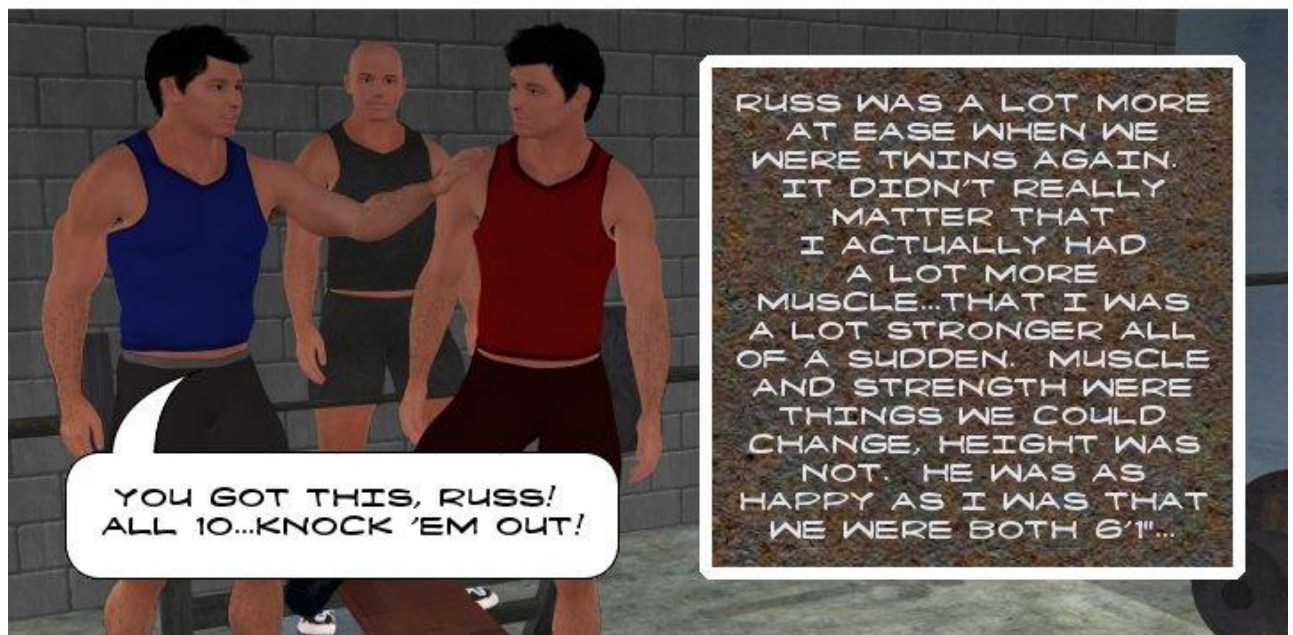
I WANTED TO BE HUGE! I WANTED TO MAKE JAYSON MY BITCH! I WANTED HIM TO PAY!



DAY BY DAY I
GREW...THICKER...TALLER.
MY ARMS EXPLODED.
MY CHEST EXPANDED.
MY LEGS THICKENED.

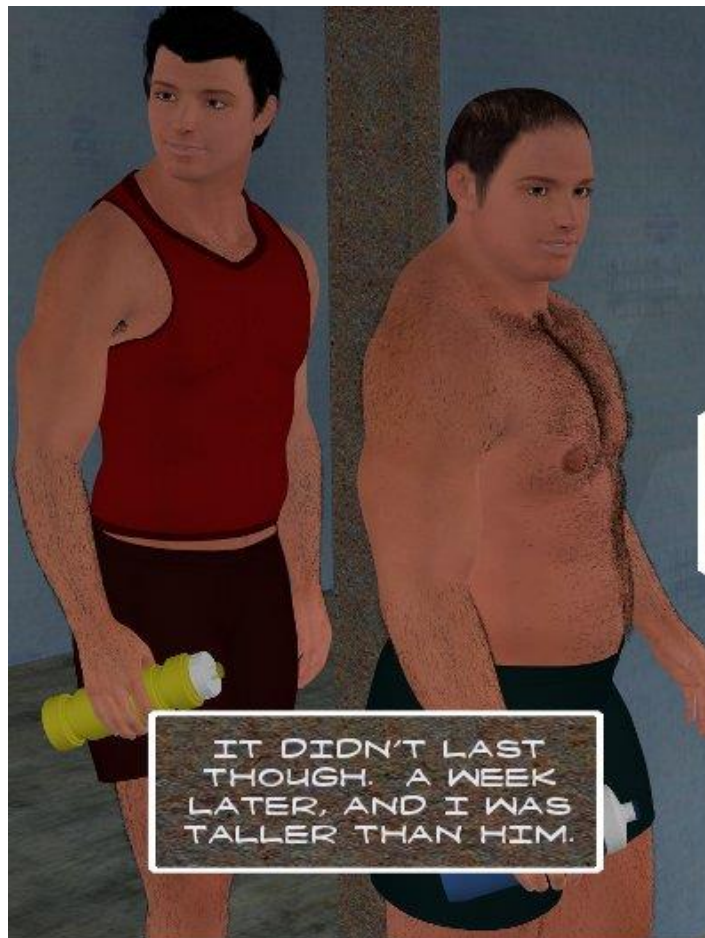


MID FEBRUARY CAME
AND I FINALLY
GREW TALLER THAN
JAYSON! AT THE
END OF THE MONTH
I WAS AGAIN
THE SAME HEIGHT
AS RUSS.



YOU GOT THIS, RUSS!
ALL 10...KNOCK 'EM OUT!

RUSS WAS A LOT MORE
AT EASE WHEN WE
WERE TWINS AGAIN.
IT DIDN'T REALLY
MATTER THAT
I ACTUALLY HAD
A LOT MORE
MUSCLE...THAT I WAS
A LOT STRONGER ALL
OF A SUDDEN. MUSCLE
AND STRENGTH WERE
THINGS WE COULD
CHANGE, HEIGHT WAS
NOT. HE WAS AS
HAPPY AS I WAS THAT
WE WERE BOTH 6'1"...



IT DIDN'T LAST
THOUGH. A WEEK
LATER, AND I WAS
TALLER THAN HIM.



READY TO BLAST
YOUR QUADS, BRO?

HE SAID NOTHING, BUT
IT BOTHERED HIM
LIKE IT BOTHERED ME
A SEMESTER BEFORE.



ONLY 5 TODAY?
SOMETHING
WRONG?

I'M HAVING AN OFF
DAY, THAT'S ALL.



ANOTHER PERSONAL
RECORD! GOOD
JOB, BRODY.

...ONLY I WAS TOO
FOCUSED ON MY OWN
PROGRESS TO NOTICE.

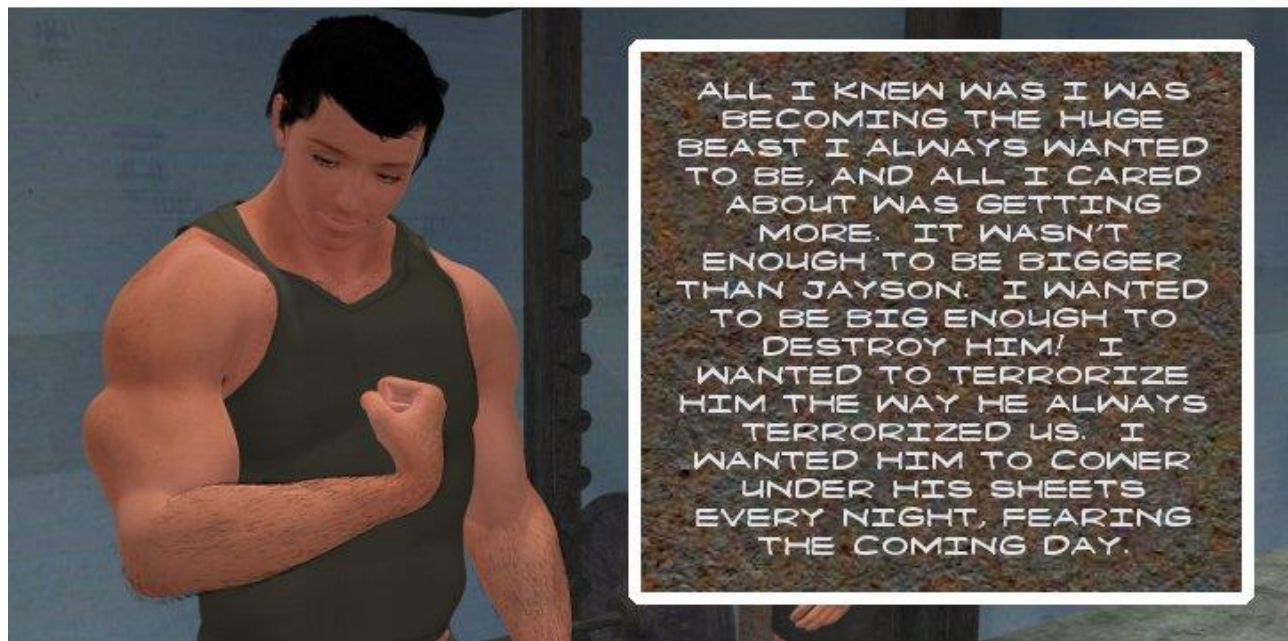


AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS, HE JUST STOPPED COMING DOWN THERE WITH US.

WHAT HAPPENED TO RUSSELL AND SKIP?



PROBABLY MISSED THEIR CABLE MACHINES AND DUMBBELLS.



ALL I KNEW WAS I WAS BECOMING THE HUGE BEAST I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE, AND ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS GETTING MORE. IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO BE BIGGER THAN JAYSON. I WANTED TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO DESTROY HIM! I WANTED TO TERRORIZE HIM THE WAY HE ALWAYS TERRORIZED US. I WANTED HIM TO COWER UNDER HIS SHEETS EVERY NIGHT, FEARING THE COMING DAY.



OW! BRODY, STOP.
IT HURTS.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
IT HURTS?



I'VE BEEN TELLING
YOU ALL SEMESTER
THAT YOU'RE GETTING
TOO BIG. WE DON'T...
FIT ANYMORE.



IT FELT FINE TO ME.
IN FACT, I DON'T
THINK IT EVER FELT
THIS GOOD!

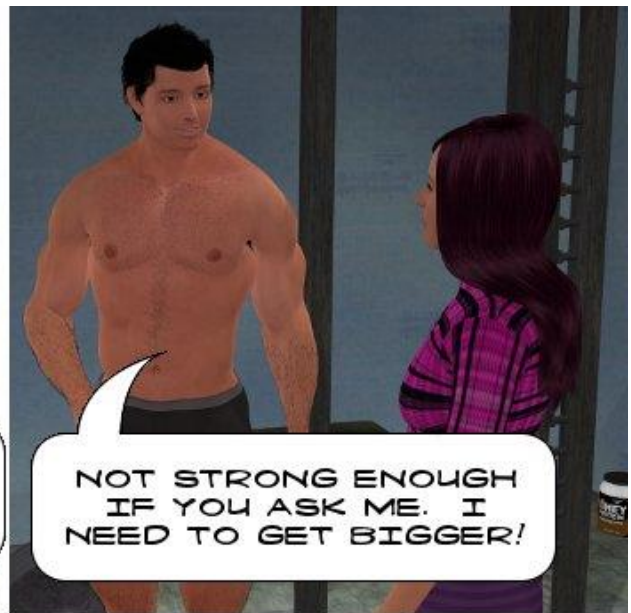


IT'S LIKE TAKING IN A
BASEBALL BAT. I'M
SORRY, BRODY, BUT I NEED
A GUY MORE MY SIZE. WE
CAN STILL BE FRIENDS
THOUGH. I'D LIKE THAT.

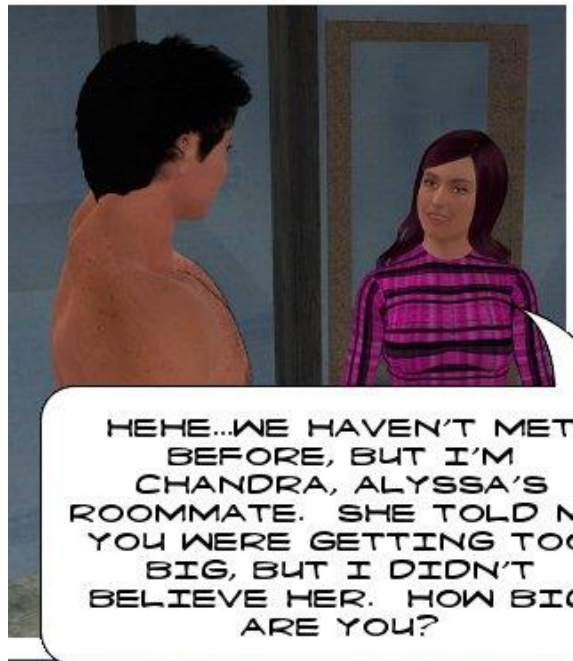




YOU ARE PRETTY STRONG TO PICK UP ALL THAT WEIGHT!



NOT STRONG ENOUGH IF YOU ASK ME. I NEED TO GET BIGGER!



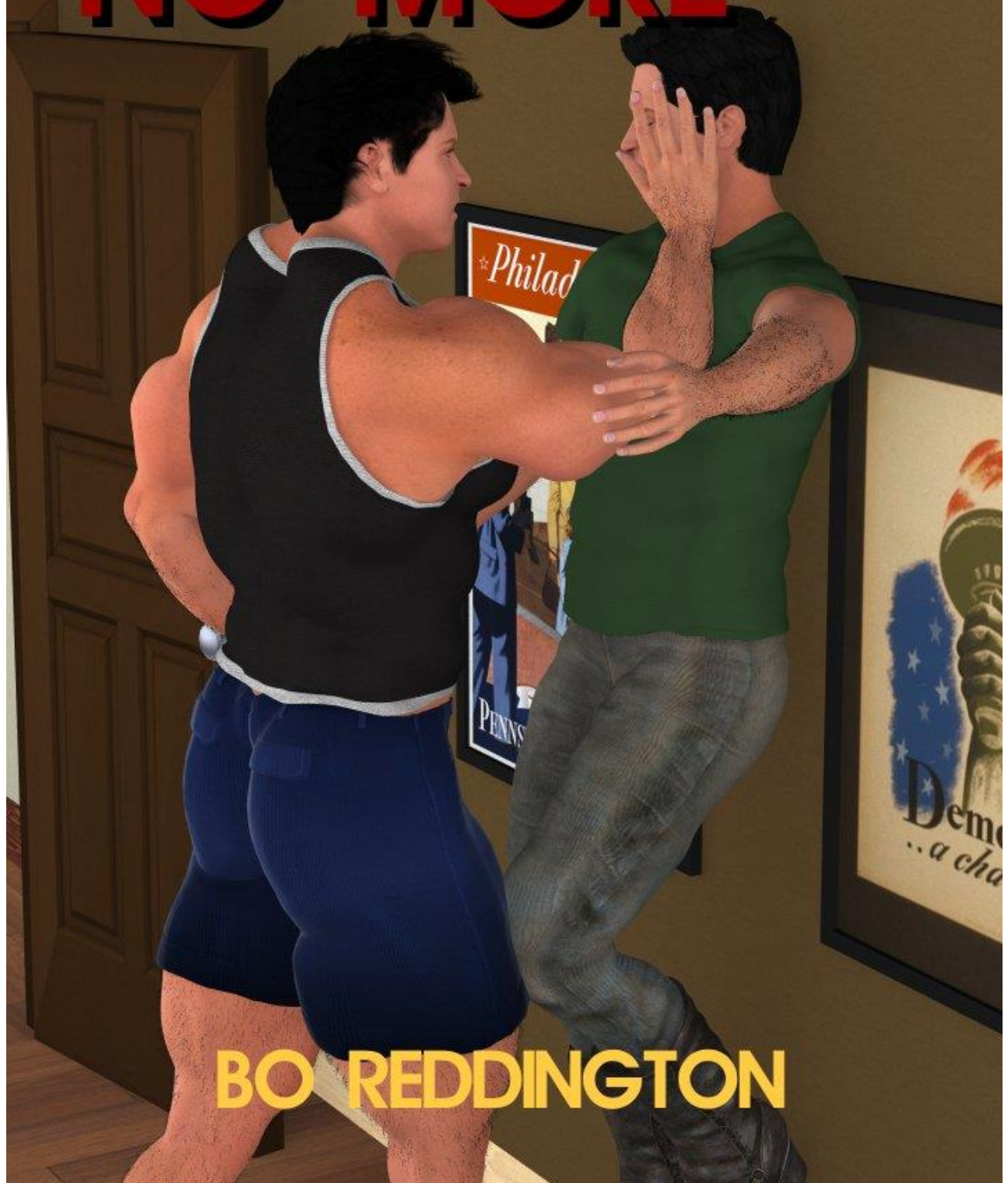
HEHE...WE HAVEN'T MET BEFORE, BUT I'M CHANDRA, ALYSSA'S ROOMMATE. SHE TOLD ME YOU WERE GETTING TOO BIG, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE HER. HOW BIG ARE YOU?



I CAN SHOW YOU IF YOU WANT TO SEE!

MY TWIN NO MORE

#6 of 6
LIMITED
SERIES

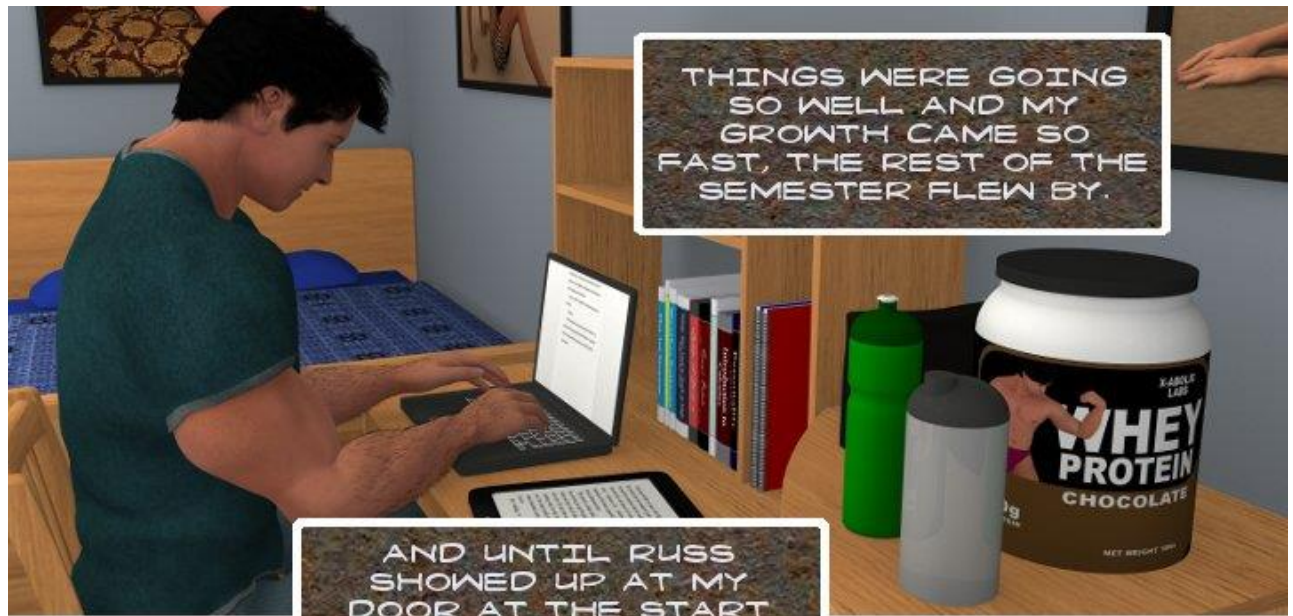


BO REDDINGTON



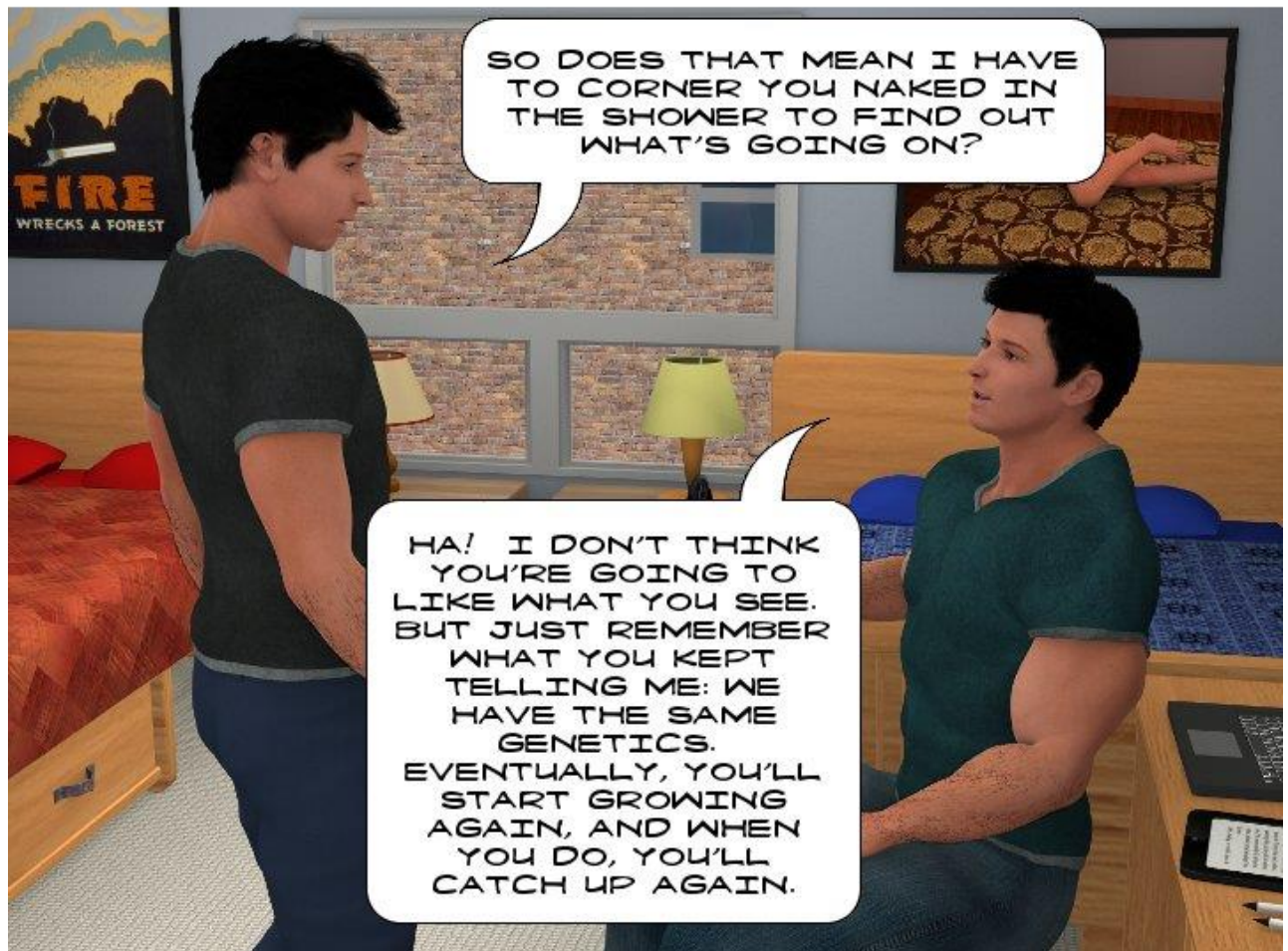
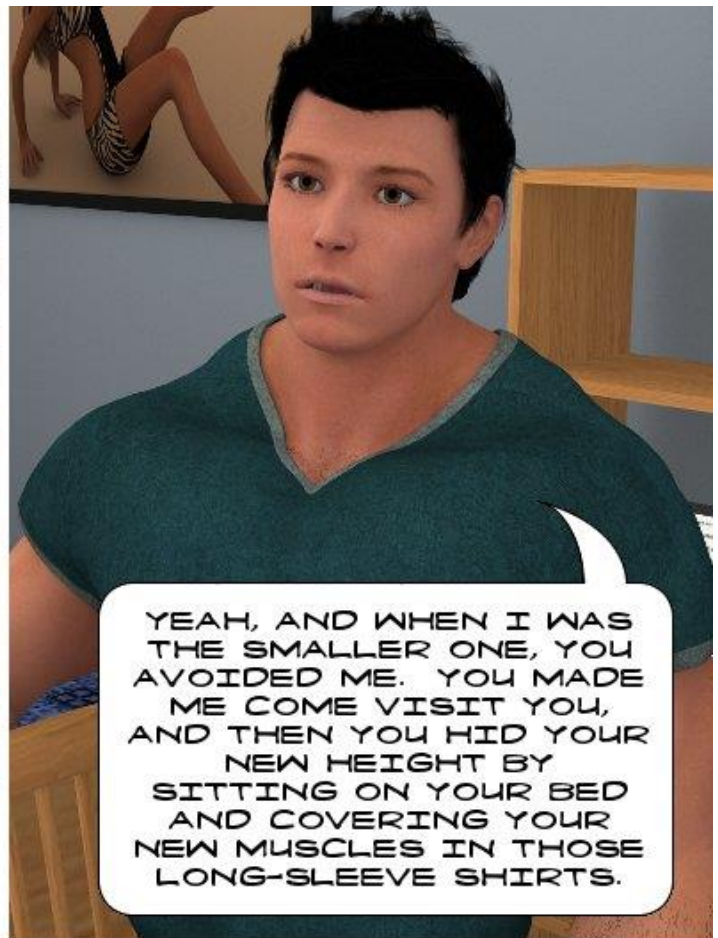
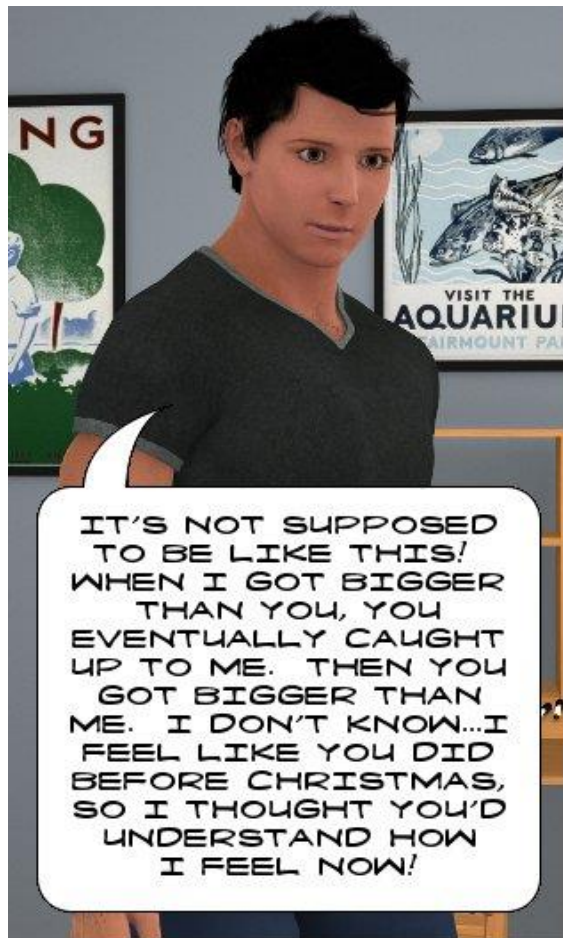
WHAT IS IT THEY SAY
ABOUT ONE DOOR
CLOSING AND ANOTHER
OPENING? HA!

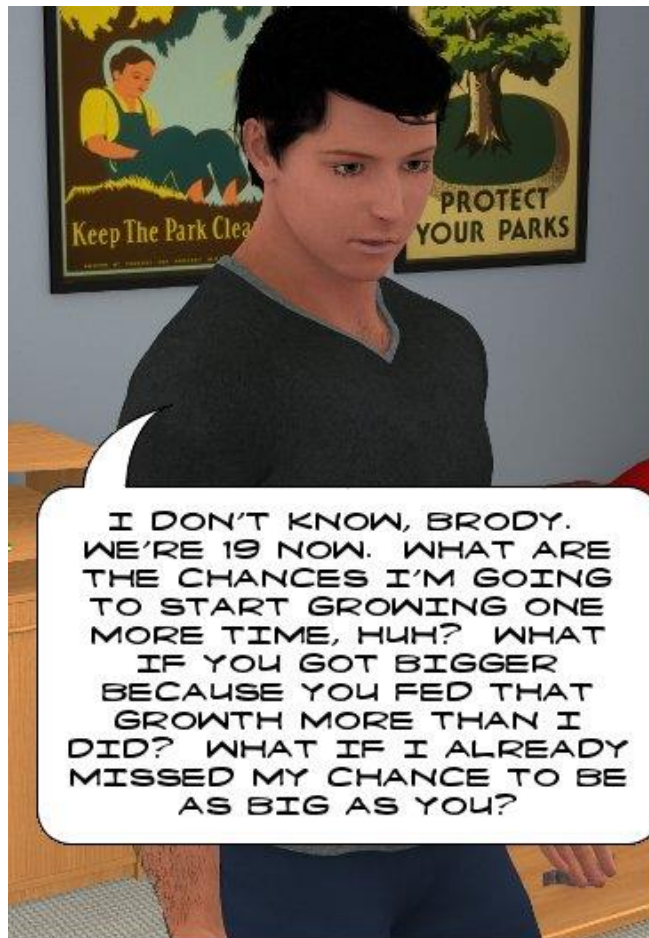




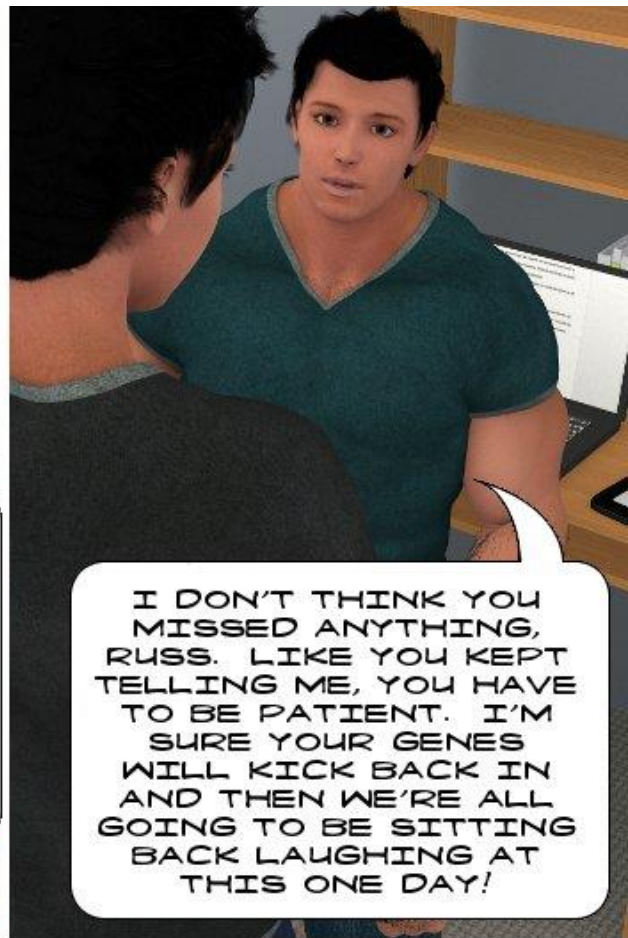
AND UNTIL RUSS SHOWED UP AT MY DOOR AT THE START OF MAY, I DIDN'T REALIZE I HADN'T SEEN MY TWIN SINCE HE LAST TRAINED WITH US.



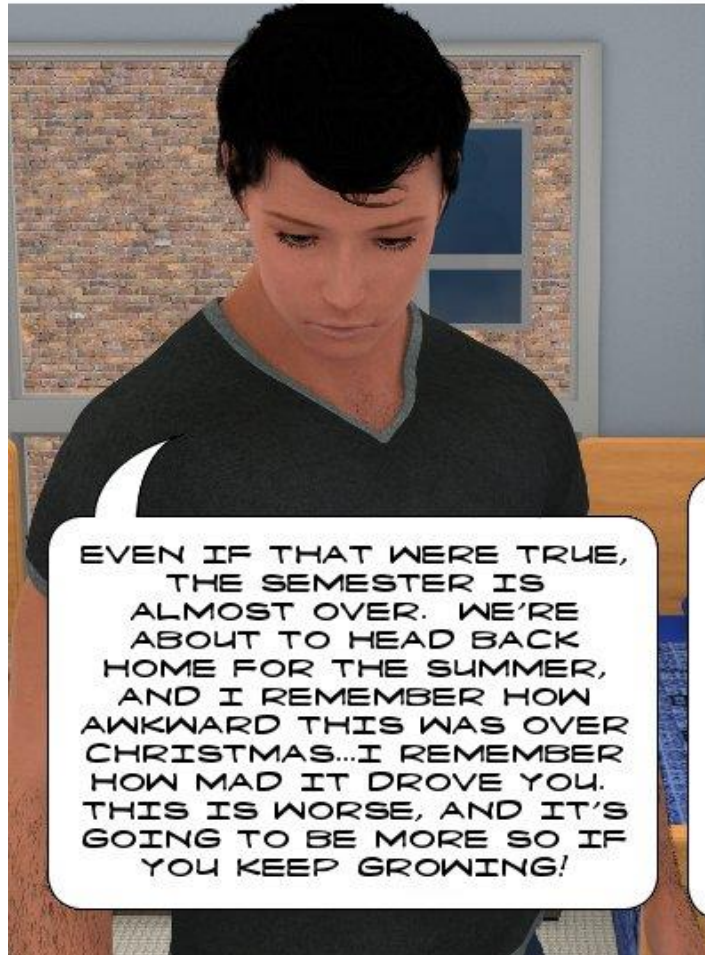




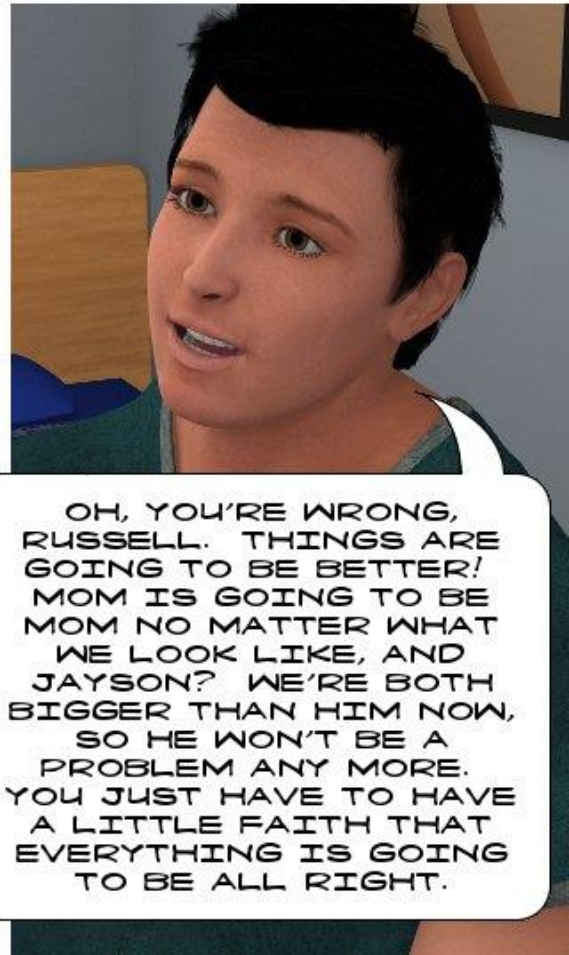
I DON'T KNOW, BRODY. WE'RE 19 NOW. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES I'M GOING TO START GROWING ONE MORE TIME, HUH? WHAT IF YOU GOT BIGGER BECAUSE YOU FED THAT GROWTH MORE THAN I DID? WHAT IF I ALREADY MISSED MY CHANCE TO BE AS BIG AS YOU?



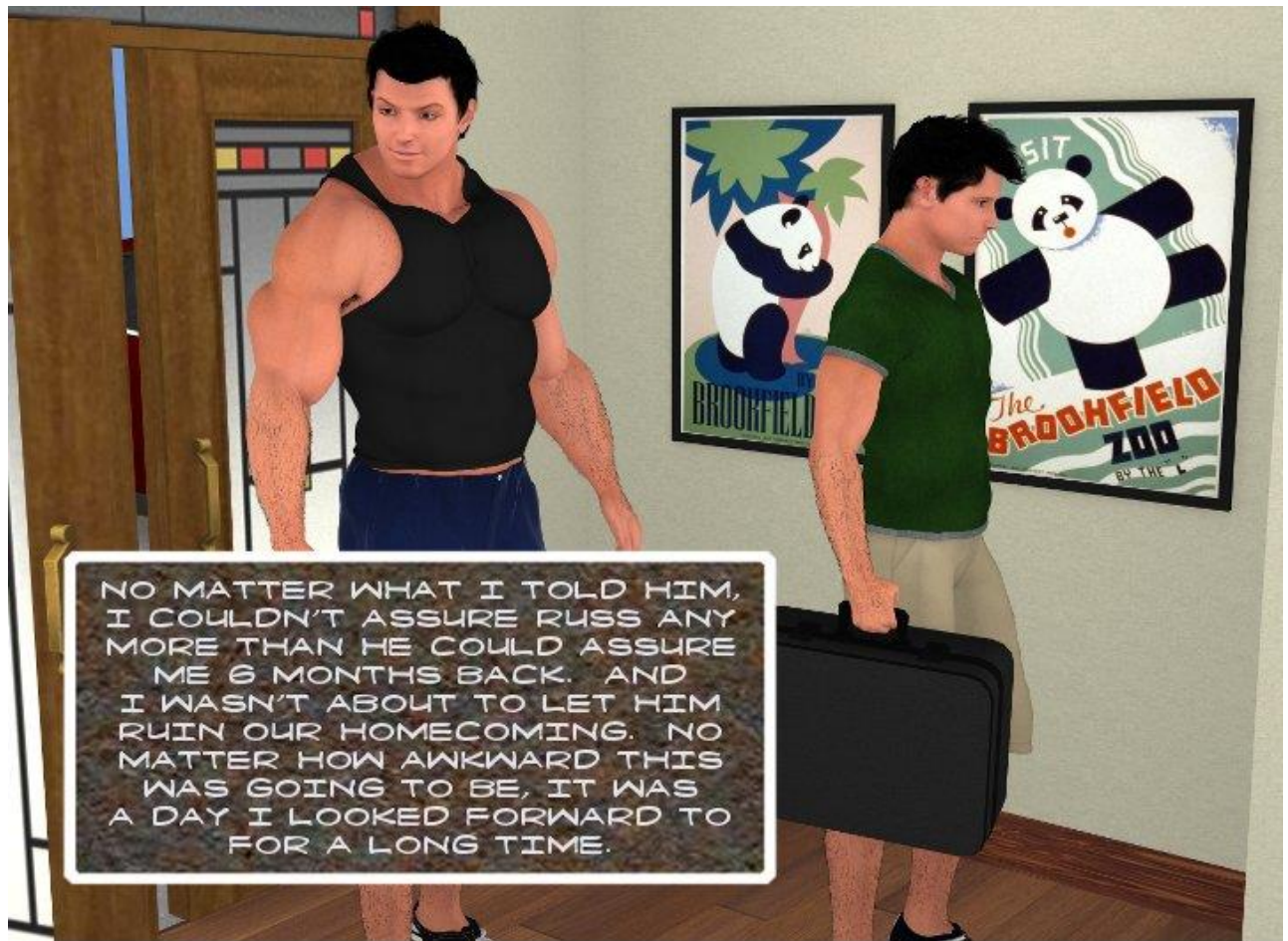
I DON'T THINK YOU MISSED ANYTHING, RUSS. LIKE YOU KEPT TELLING ME, YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT. I'M SURE YOUR GENES WILL KICK BACK IN AND THEN WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE SITTING BACK LAUGHING AT THIS ONE DAY!



EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, THE SEMESTER IS ALMOST OVER. WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD BACK HOME FOR THE SUMMER, AND I REMEMBER HOW ANKWARD THIS WAS OVER CHRISTMAS...I REMEMBER HOW MAD IT DROVE YOU. THIS IS WORSE, AND IT'S GOING TO BE MORE SO IF YOU KEEP GROWING!



OH, YOU'RE WRONG, RUSSELL. THINGS ARE GOING TO BE BETTER! MOM IS GOING TO BE MOM NO MATTER WHAT WE LOOK LIKE, AND JAYSON? WE'RE BOTH BIGGER THAN HIM NOW, SO HE WON'T BE A PROBLEM ANY MORE. YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.



NO MATTER WHAT I TOLD HIM, I COULDN'T ASSURE RUSS ANY MORE THAN HE COULD ASSURE ME 6 MONTHS BACK. AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO LET HIM RUIN OUR HOMECOMING. NO MATTER HOW AWKWARD THIS WAS GOING TO BE, IT WAS A DAY I LOOKED FORWARD TO FOR A LONG TIME.



DAMN, JAY, YOU SHRUNK! LOOK HOW SMALL YOU ARE!

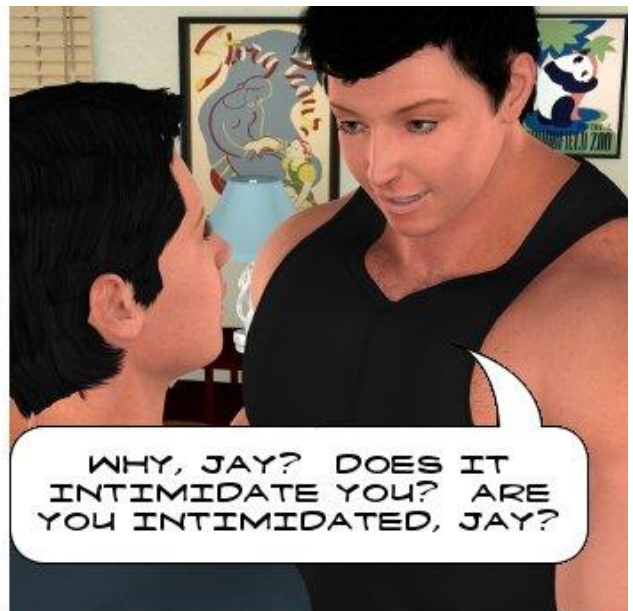
FUNNY! WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED TO YOU?



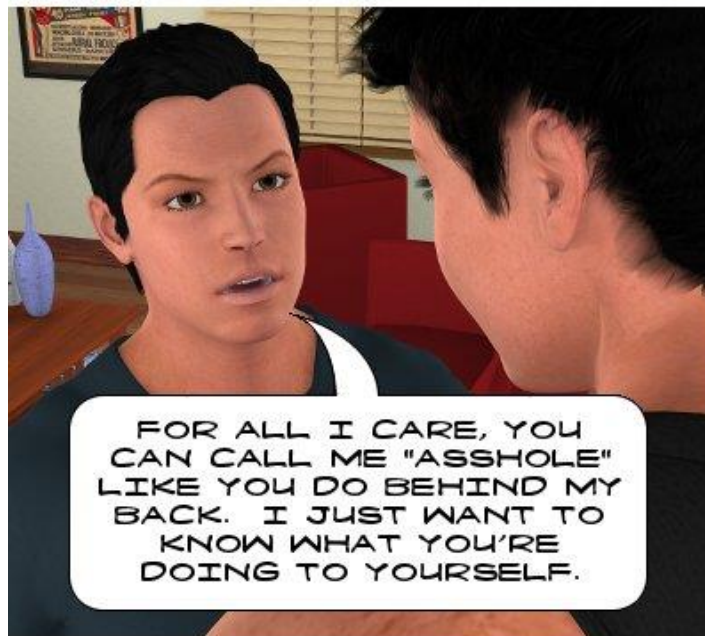
IT'S CALLED WORKING OUT, JAY. YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME. PUT SOME MEAT ON THESE LITTLE CHICKEN WINGS OF YOURS, JAY.



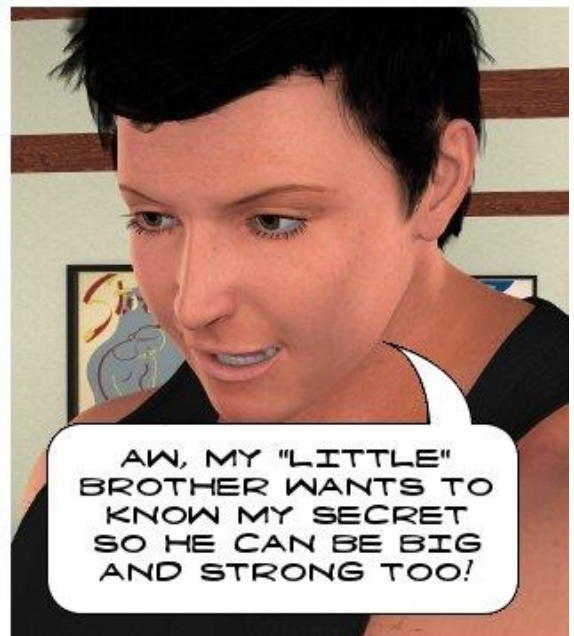
FUNNY! CALLING ME JAY LIKE I'M 10 YEARS OLD. IS THAT SUPPOSED TO INTIMIDATE ME...JESSE?



WHY, JAY? DOES IT INTIMIDATE YOU? ARE YOU INTIMIDATED, JAY?



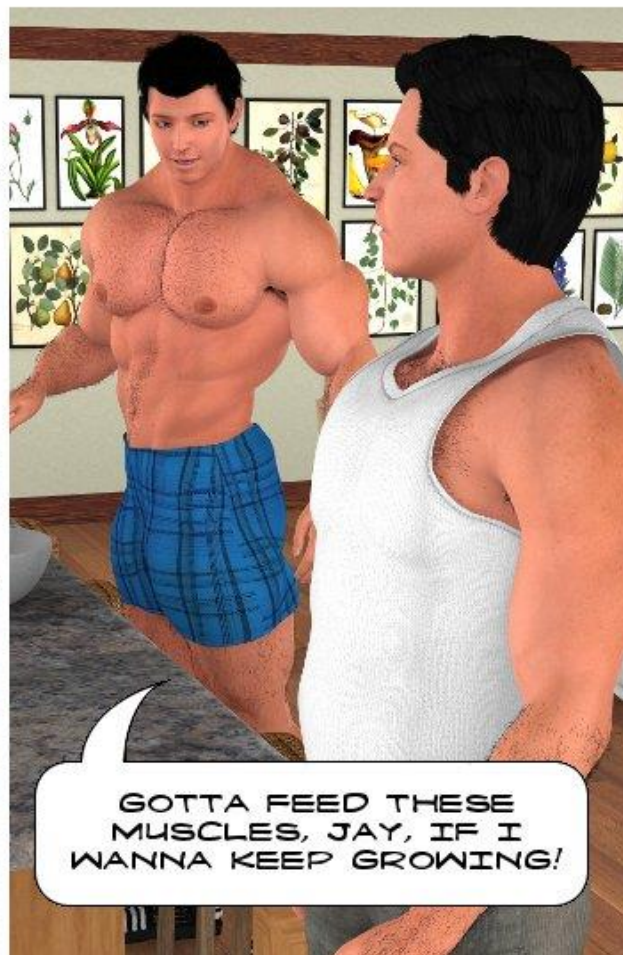
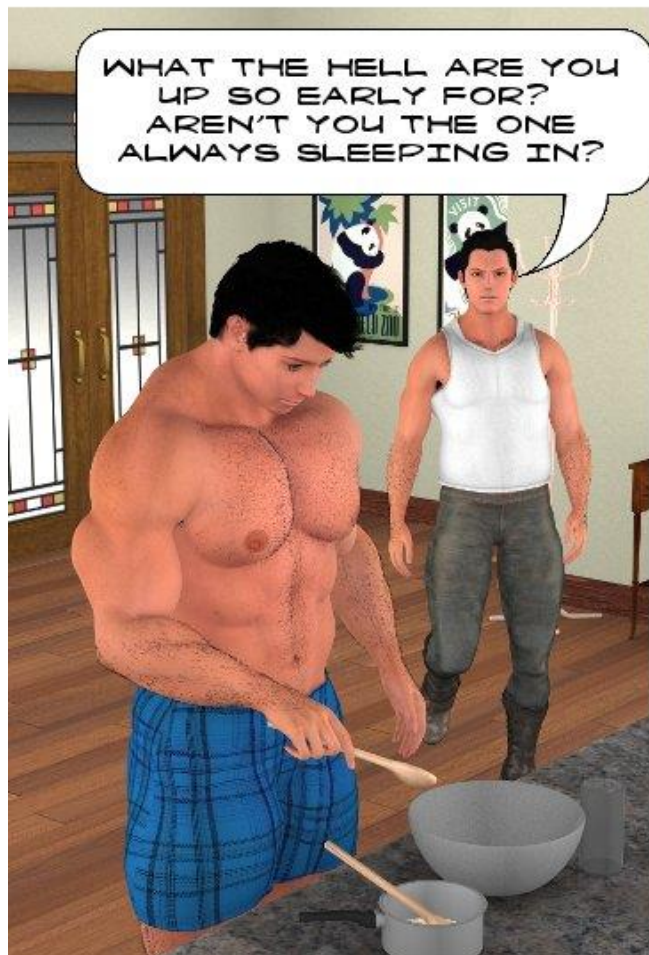
FOR ALL I CARE, YOU CAN CALL ME "ASSHOLE" LIKE YOU DO BEHIND MY BACK. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO YOURSELF.

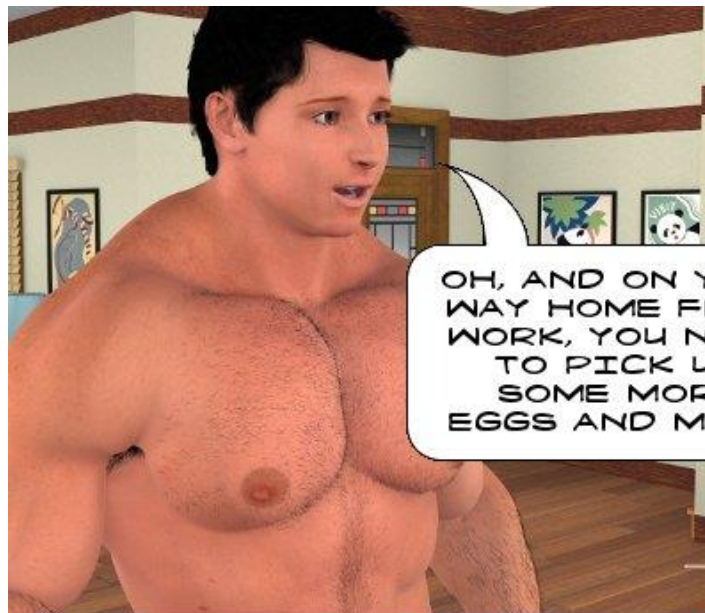


AW, MY "LITTLE" BROTHER WANTS TO KNOW MY SECRET SO HE CAN BE BIG AND STRONG TOO!



IT'S NOTHING BUT HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, JAY. IF YOU WANT TO BE BIG, YOU HAVE TO WANT IT...REALLY WANT IT. BUT IF YOU'RE GOOD AND YOU ASK ME NICELY, JAY, MAYBE I'LL COME WITH YOU NEXT TIME YOU GO TO THE GYM, AND I'LL SHOW YOU A FEW THINGS.

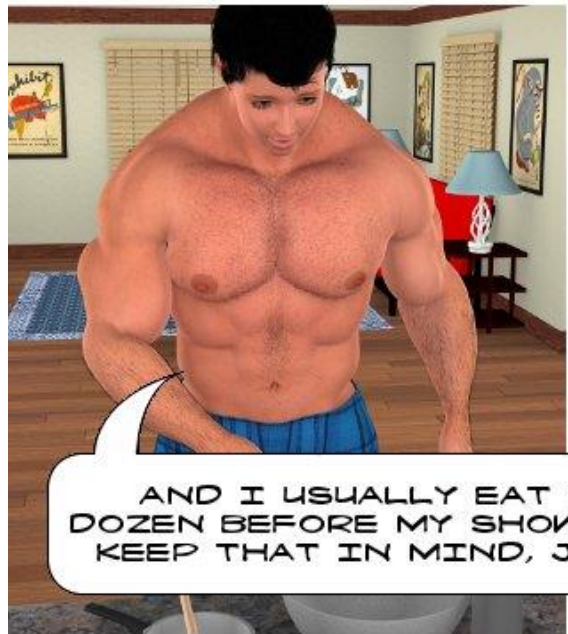




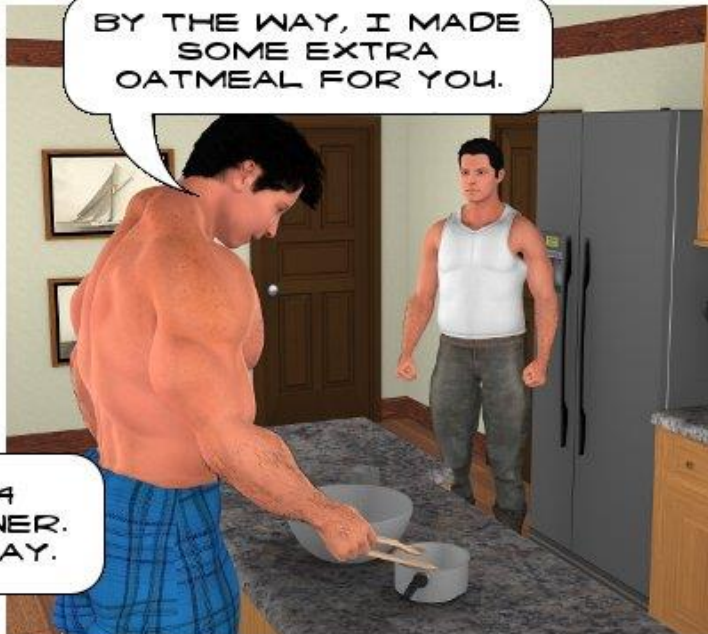
OH, AND ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM WORK, YOU NEED TO PICK UP SOME MORE EGGS AND MILK.



I HAD 3 DOZEN ON HAND YESTERDAY!



AND I USUALLY EAT 4 DOZEN BEFORE MY SHOWER. KEEP THAT IN MIND, JAY.



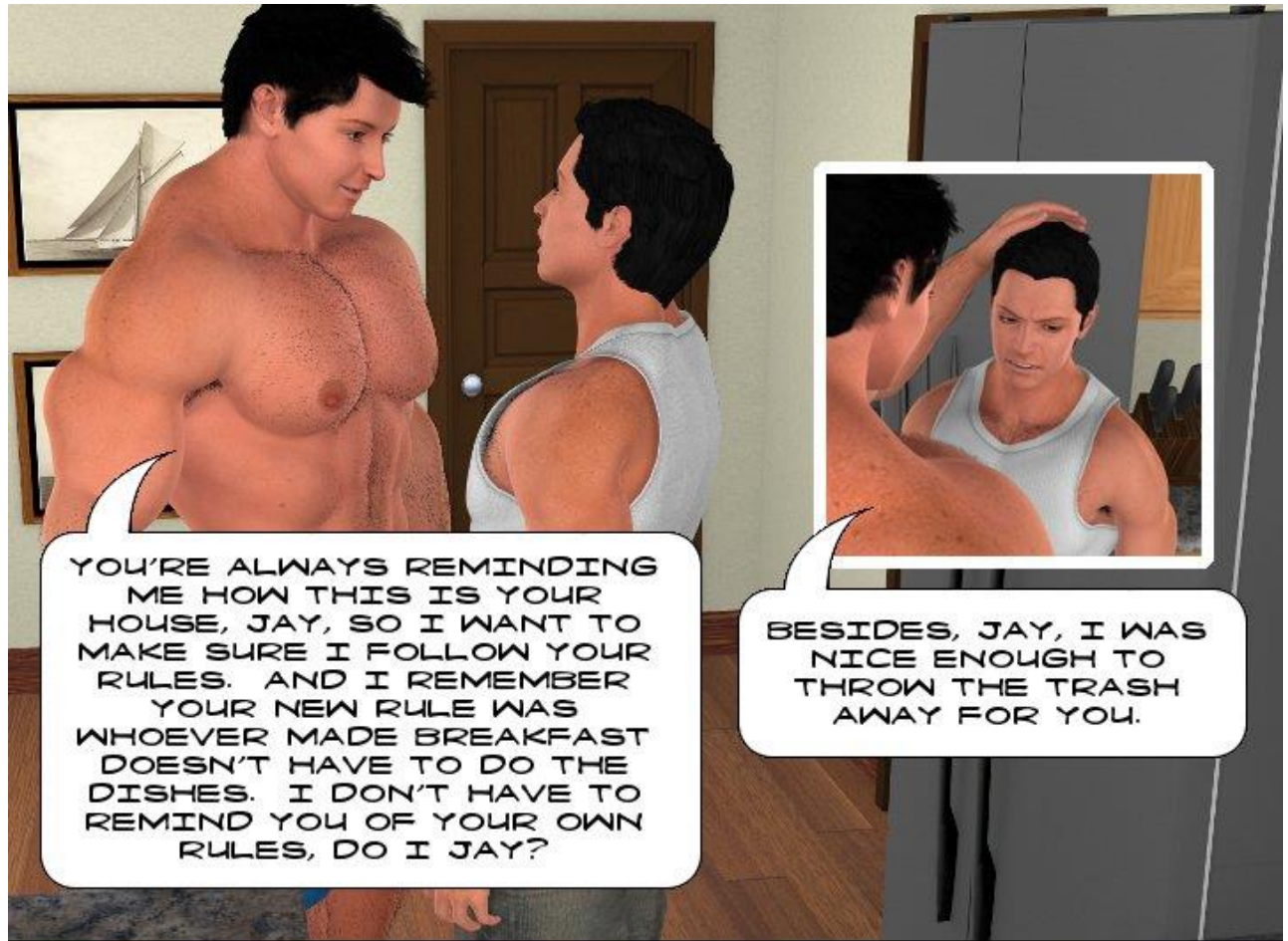
BY THE WAY, I MADE SOME EXTRA OATMEAL FOR YOU.



AND SINCE I WAS SUCH A NICE BROTHER, YOU WONT MIND CLEANING UP THE DISHES BEFORE YOU GO TO WORK.



EXCUSE ME?



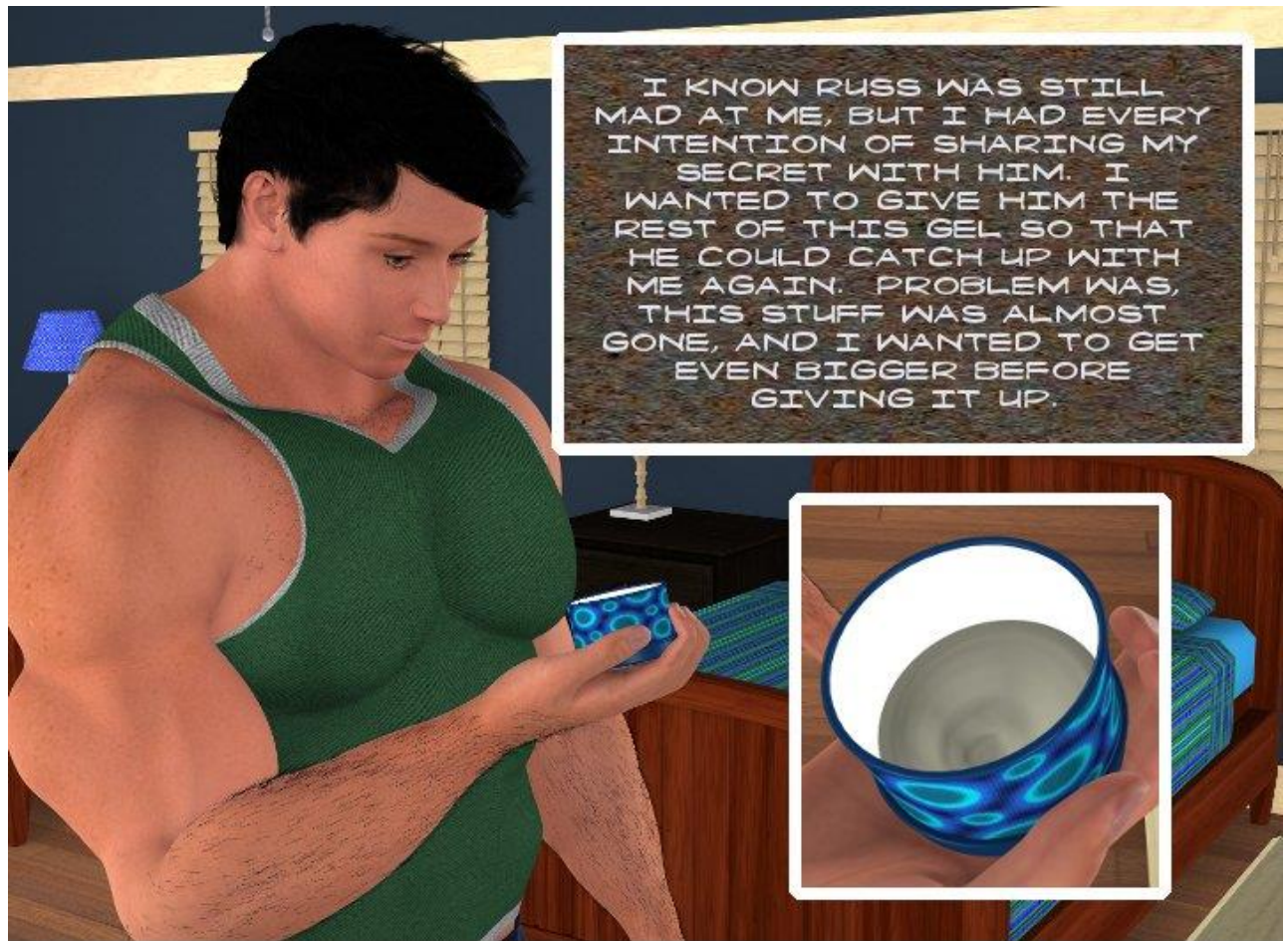
YOU'RE ALWAYS REMINDING ME HOW THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, JAY, SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE I FOLLOW YOUR RULES. AND I REMEMBER YOUR NEW RULE WAS WHOEVER MADE BREAKFAST DOESN'T HAVE TO DO THE DISHES. I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR OWN RULES, DO I JAY?

BESIDES, JAY, I WAS NICE ENOUGH TO THROW THE TRASH AWAY FOR YOU.

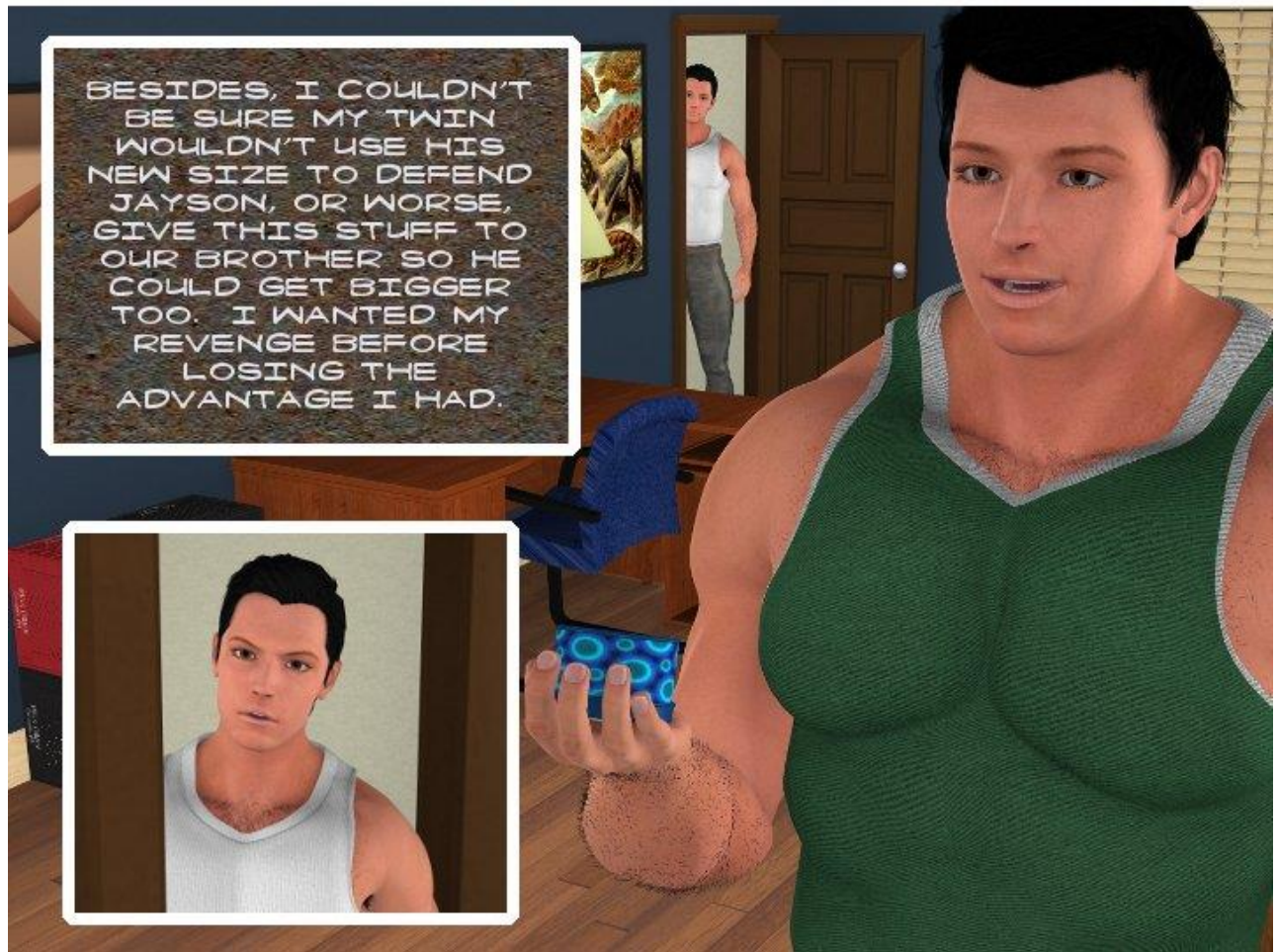


WHY ARE YOU UP SO EARLY?

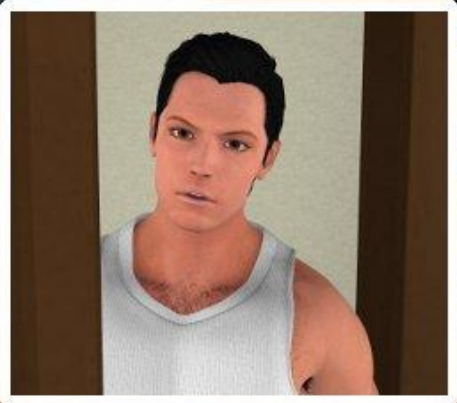
I WAS HAVING BREAKFAST WITH JAY!

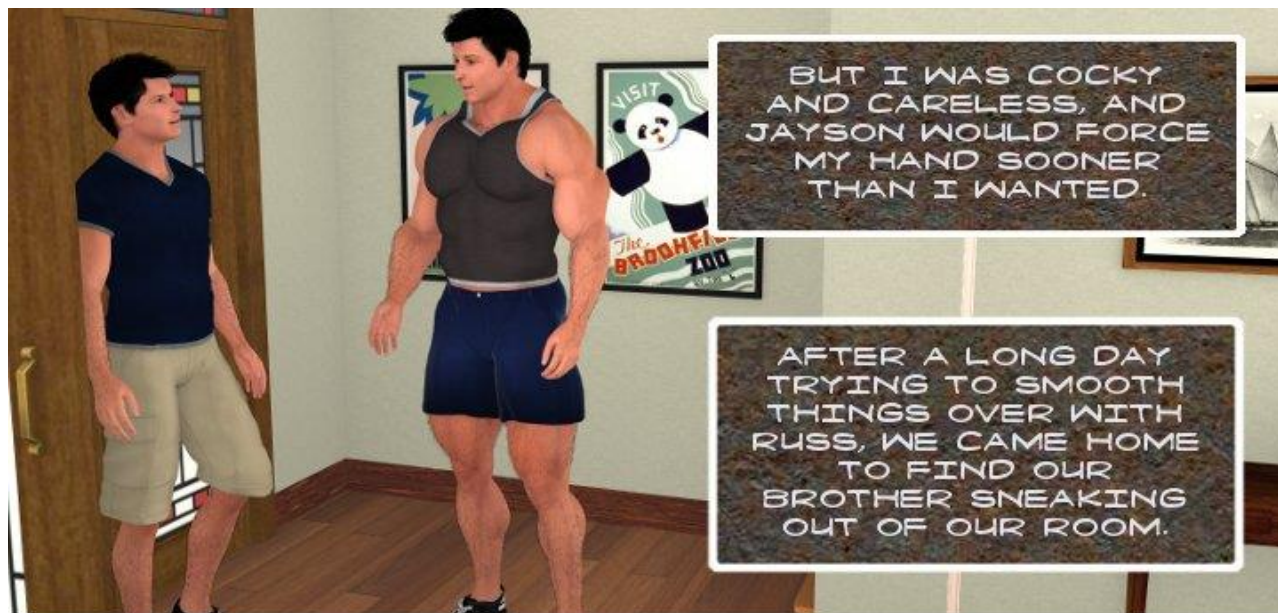


I KNOW RUSS WAS STILL MAD AT ME, BUT I HAD EVERY INTENTION OF SHARING MY SECRET WITH HIM. I WANTED TO GIVE HIM THE REST OF THIS GEL SO THAT HE COULD CATCH UP WITH ME AGAIN. PROBLEM WAS, THIS STUFF WAS ALMOST GONE, AND I WANTED TO GET EVEN BIGGER BEFORE GIVING IT UP.



BESIDES, I COULDN'T BE SURE MY TWIN WOULDN'T USE HIS NEW SIZE TO DEFEND JAYSON, OR WORSE, GIVE THIS STUFF TO OUR BROTHER SO HE COULD GET BIGGER TOO. I WANTED MY REVENGE BEFORE LOSING THE ADVANTAGE I HAD.



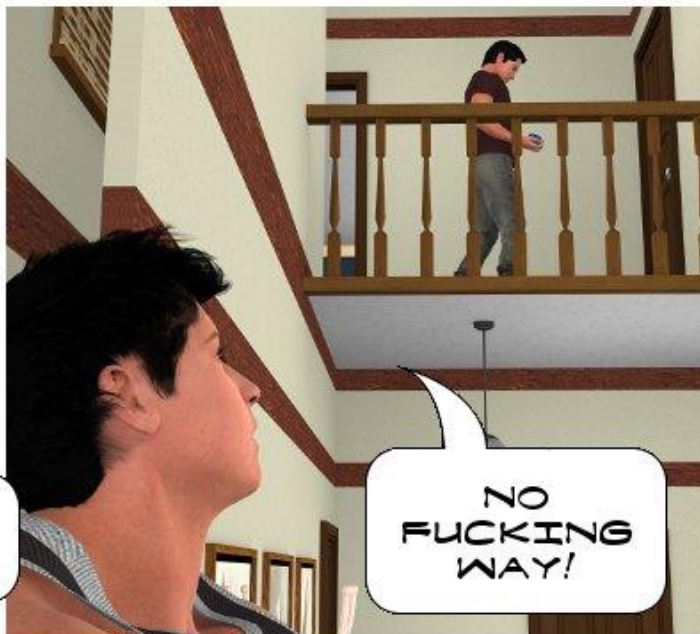


BUT I WAS COCKY AND CARELESS, AND JAYSON WOULD FORCE MY HAND SOONER THAN I WANTED.

AFTER A LONG DAY TRYING TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER WITH RUSS, WE CAME HOME TO FIND OUR BROTHER SNEAKING OUT OF OUR ROOM.



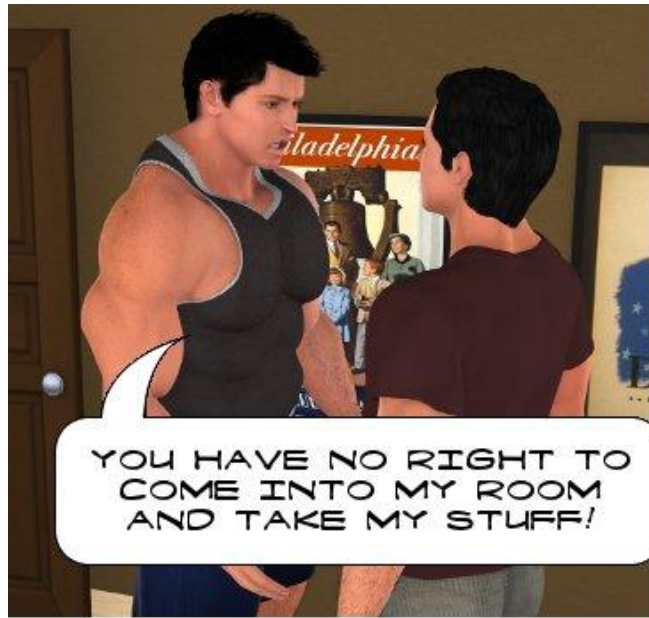
WHAT IS JAYSON DOING IN OUR ROOM?



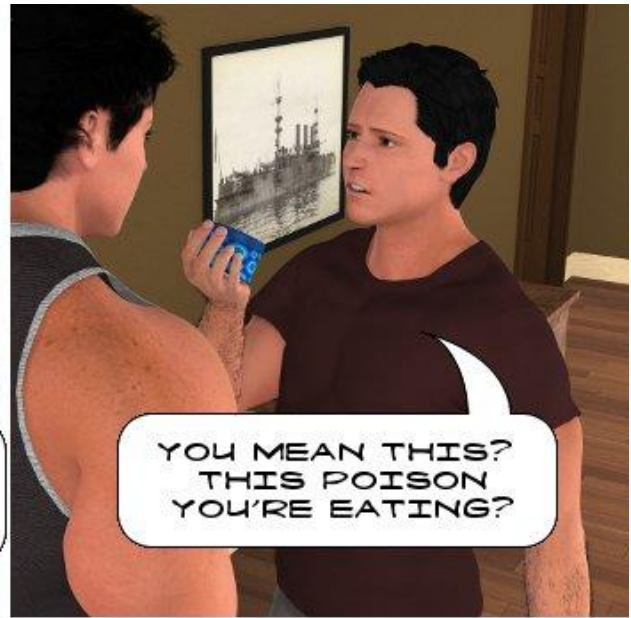
NO FUCKING WAY!



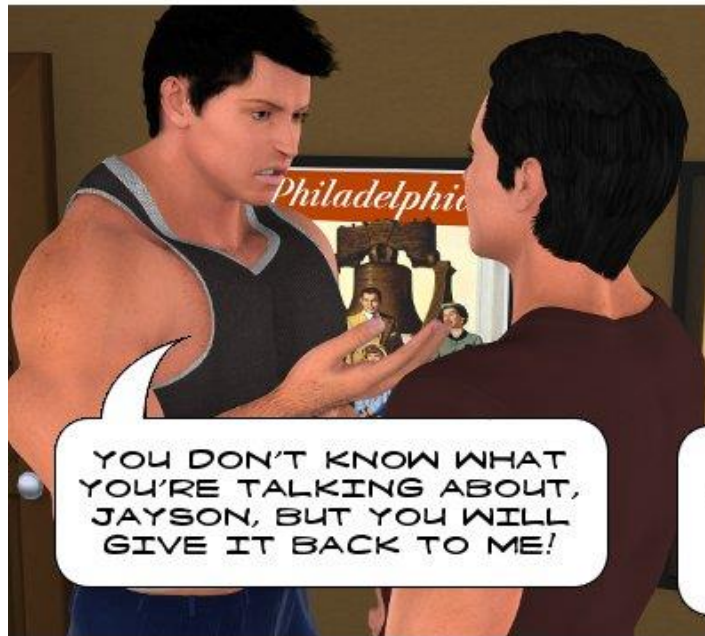
WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING JAYSON?



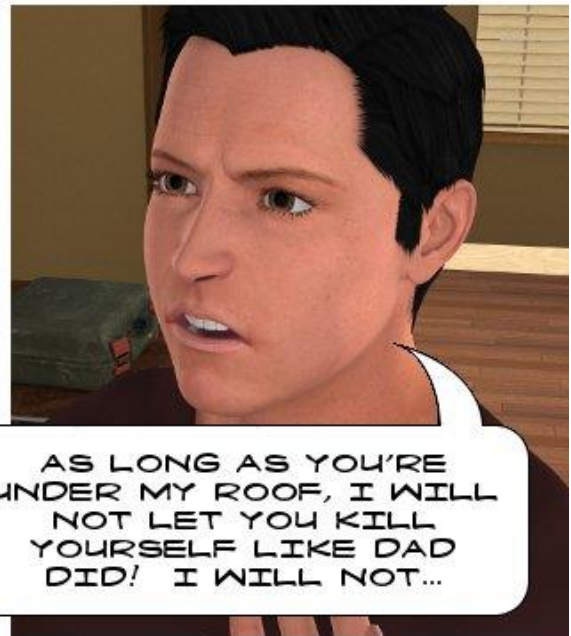
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COME INTO MY ROOM AND TAKE MY STUFF!



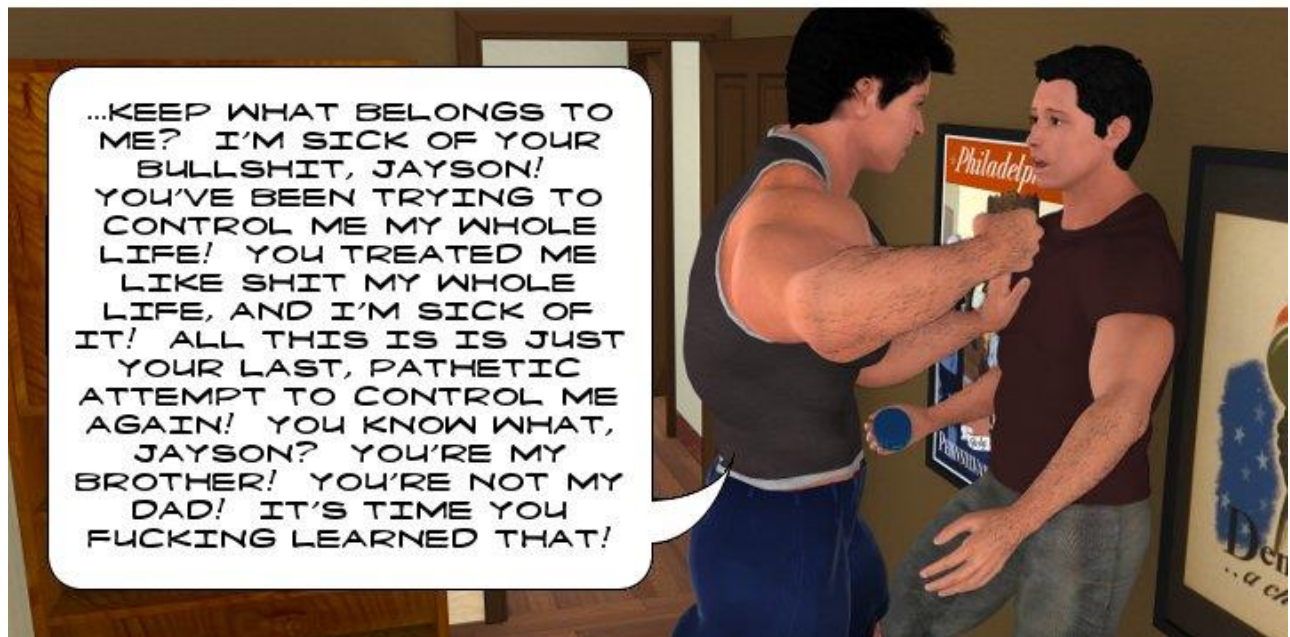
YOU MEAN THIS? THIS POISON YOU'RE EATING?



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, JAYSON, BUT YOU WILL GIVE IT BACK TO ME!



AS LONG AS YOU'RE UNDER MY ROOF, I WILL NOT LET YOU KILL YOURSELF LIKE DAD DID! I WILL NOT...

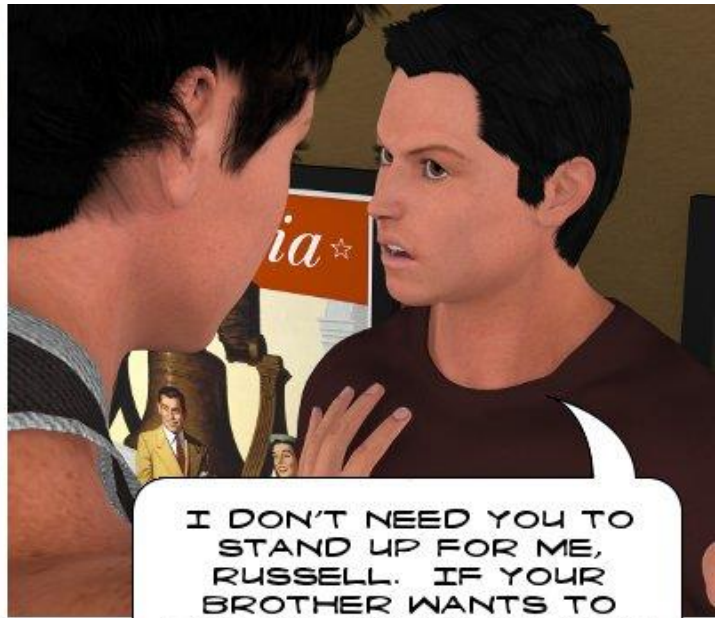


...KEEP WHAT BELONGS TO ME? I'M SICK OF YOUR BULLSHIT, JAYSON! YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONTROL ME MY WHOLE LIFE! YOU TREATED ME LIKE SHIT MY WHOLE LIFE, AND I'M SICK OF IT! ALL THIS IS IS JUST YOUR LAST, PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO CONTROL ME AGAIN! YOU KNOW WHAT, JAYSON? YOU'RE MY BROTHER! YOU'RE NOT MY DAD! IT'S TIME YOU FUCKING LEARNED THAT!

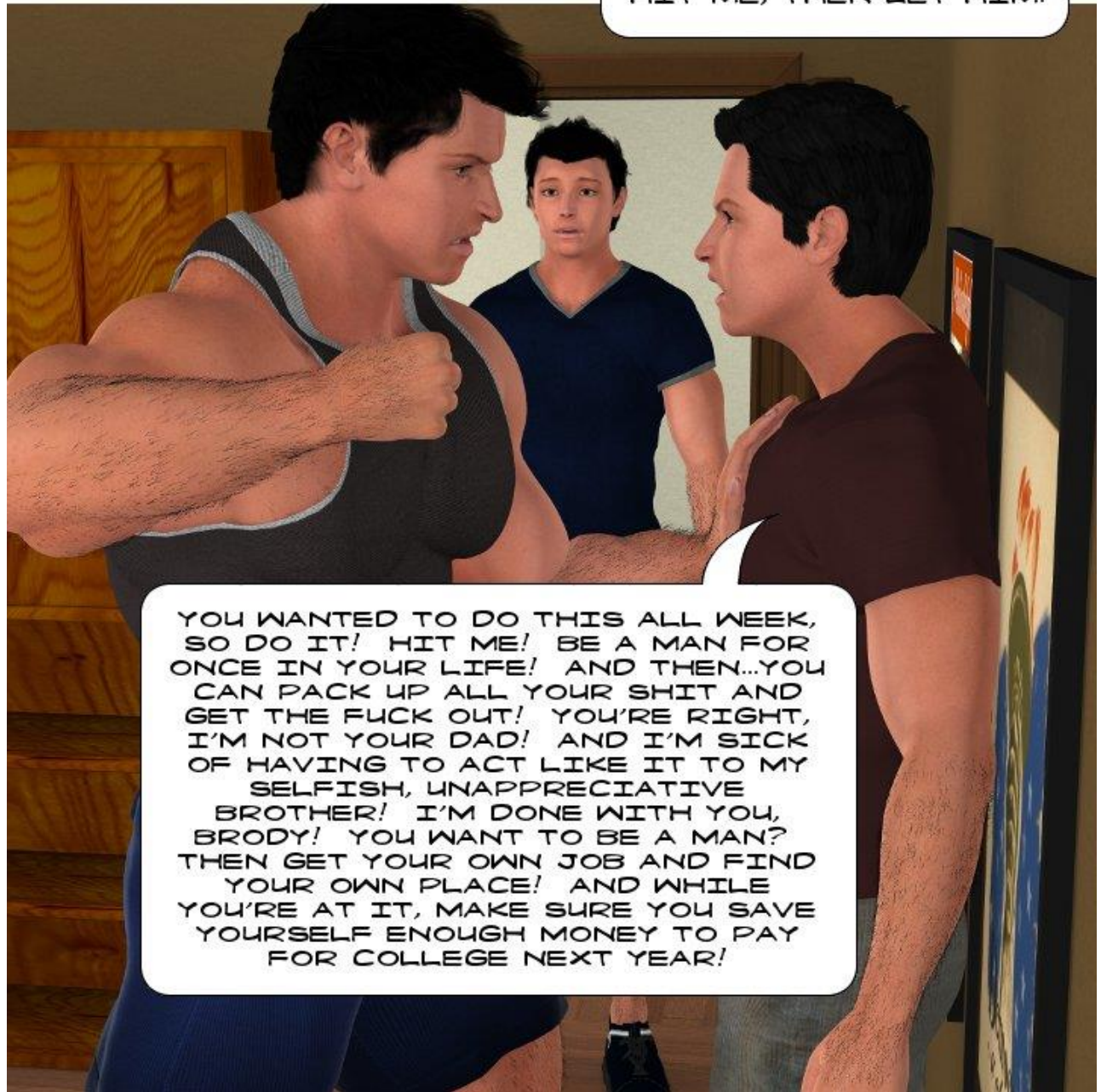
Den... a ca



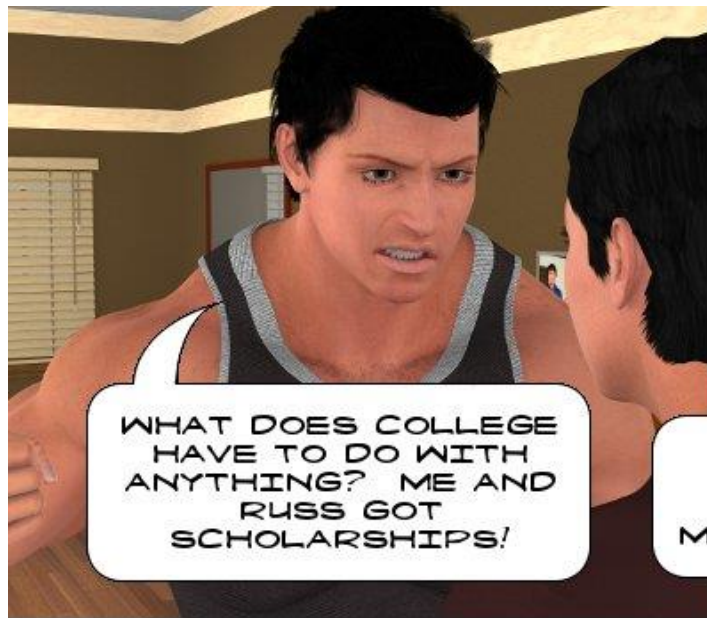
**BRODY! STOP!
DON'T DO IT!**



**I DON'T NEED YOU TO
STAND UP FOR ME,
RUSSELL. IF YOUR
BROTHER WANTS TO
HIT ME, THEN LET HIM.**



**YOU WANTED TO DO THIS ALL WEEK,
SO DO IT! HIT ME! BE A MAN FOR
ONCE IN YOUR LIFE! AND THEN...YOU
CAN PACK UP ALL YOUR SHIT AND
GET THE FUCK OUT! YOU'RE RIGHT,
I'M NOT YOUR DAD! AND I'M SICK
OF HAVING TO ACT LIKE IT TO MY
SELFISH, UNAPPRECIATIVE
BROTHER! I'M DONE WITH YOU,
BRODY! YOU WANT TO BE A MAN?
THEN GET YOUR OWN JOB AND FIND
YOUR OWN PLACE! AND WHILE
YOU'RE AT IT, MAKE SURE YOU SAVE
YOURSELF ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY
FOR COLLEGE NEXT YEAR!**



WHAT DOES COLLEGE HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING? ME AND RUSS GOT SCHOLARSHIPS!



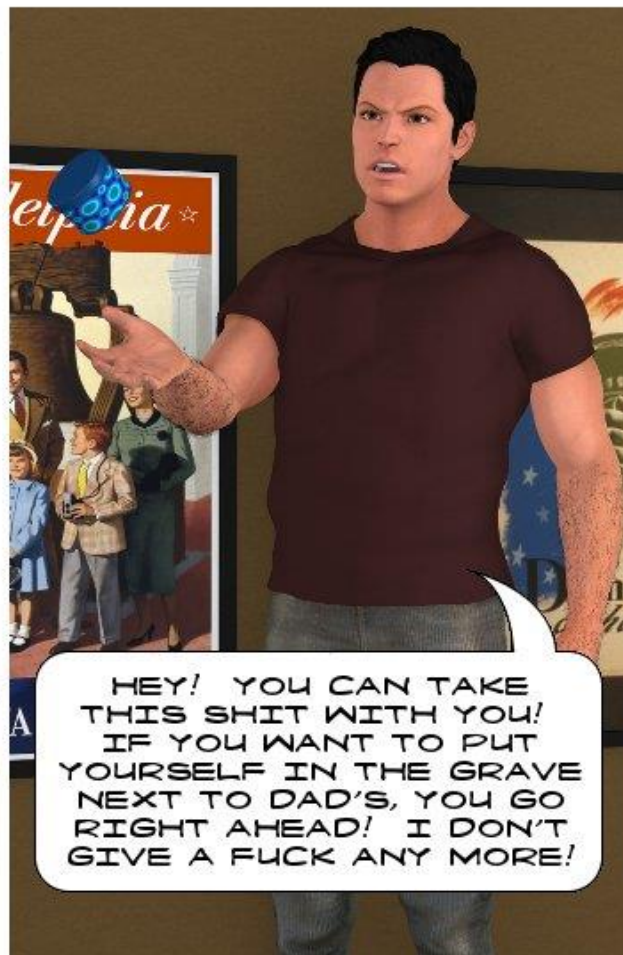
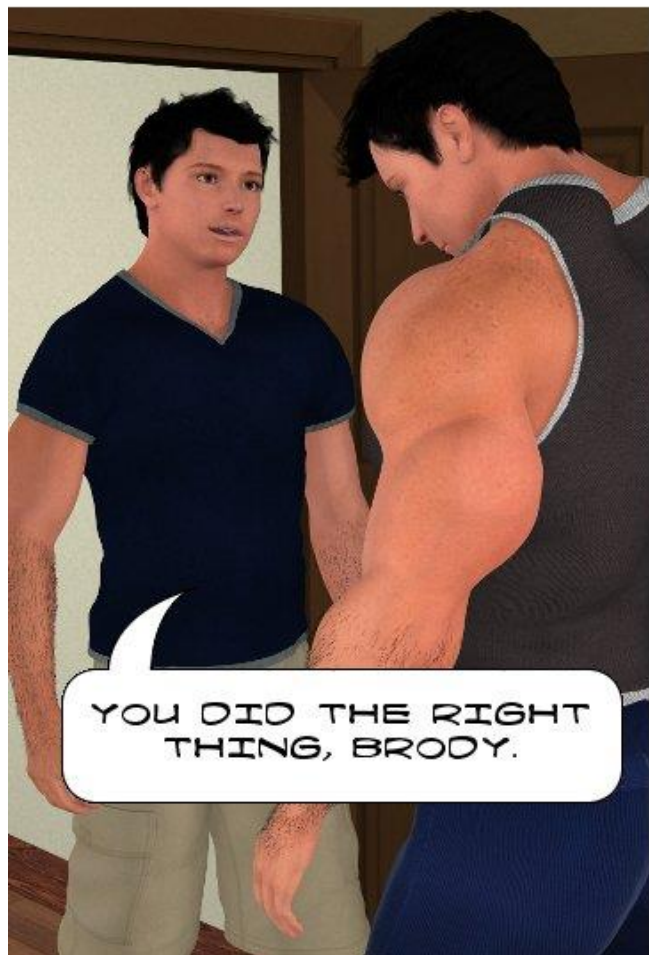
YEAH, KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT. BUT THAT FIST ISN'T MANNING UP ON ITS OWN.



COME ON, BRODY! HIT ME! SHOW ME HOW MUCH OF A MAN YOU REALLY ARE!



DO IT!

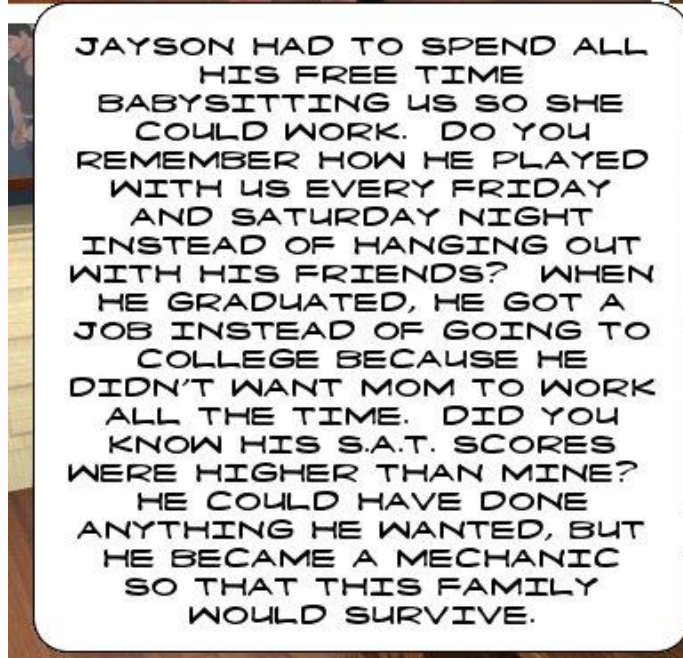




WHAT? I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THE LAST 8 YEARS WAS BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO RESENTED US ALL THIS TIME?



IT'S NOT THAT EASY, BRODY. MOM HAD TO GET A SECOND JOB TO SUPPORT US.



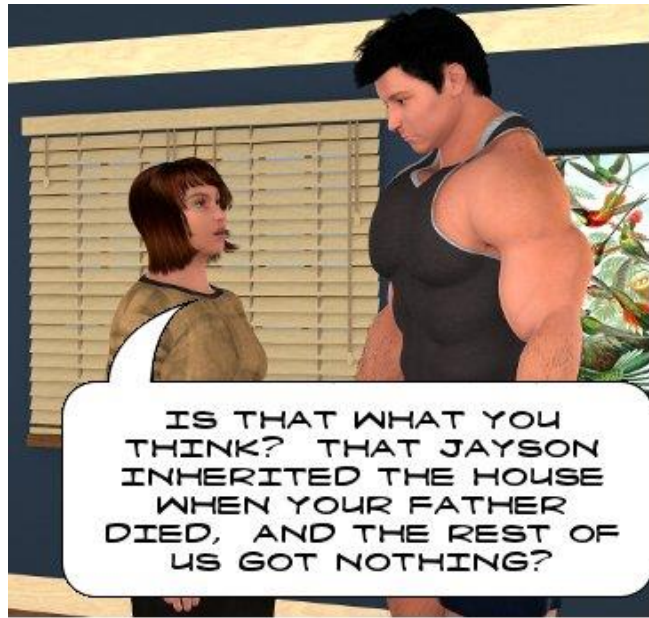
JAYSON HAD TO SPEND ALL HIS FREE TIME BABYSITTING US SO SHE COULD WORK. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW HE PLAYED WITH US EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT INSTEAD OF HANGING OUT WITH HIS FRIENDS? WHEN HE GRADUATED, HE GOT A JOB INSTEAD OF GOING TO COLLEGE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT MOM TO WORK ALL THE TIME. DID YOU KNOW HIS S.A.T. SCORES WERE HIGHER THAN MINE? HE COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING HE WANTED, BUT HE BECAME A MECHANIC SO THAT THIS FAMILY WOULD SURVIVE.



WHAT'S WITH ALL THE NOISE UP HERE?

THAT'S BULL, RUSS! HE HAD TO GET A JOB TO PAY FOR THE HOUSE HE GOT WHEN DAD DIED! IF MOM GOT IT LIKE SHE SHOULD HAVE, JAYSON COULD HAVE GONE OFF AND DONE WHATEVER HE WANTED, AND WE COULD HAVE MADE THIS FAMILY WORK WITHOUT HIM!

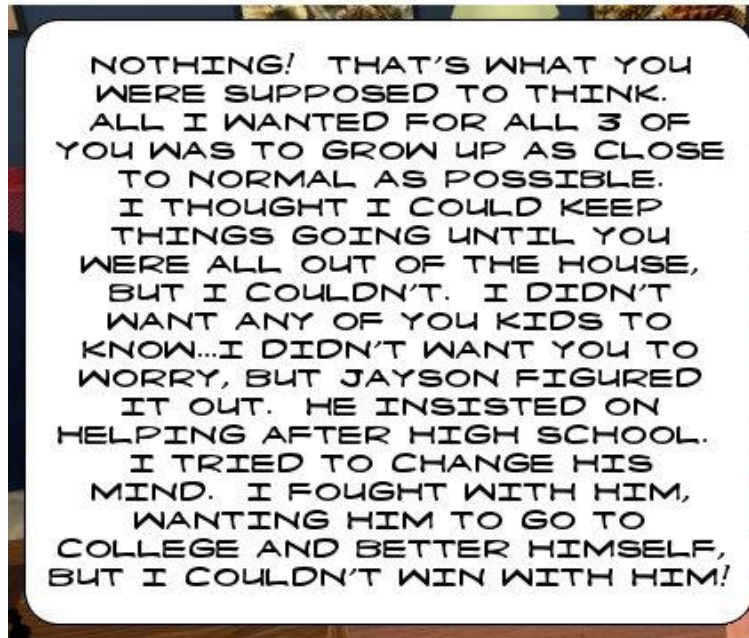




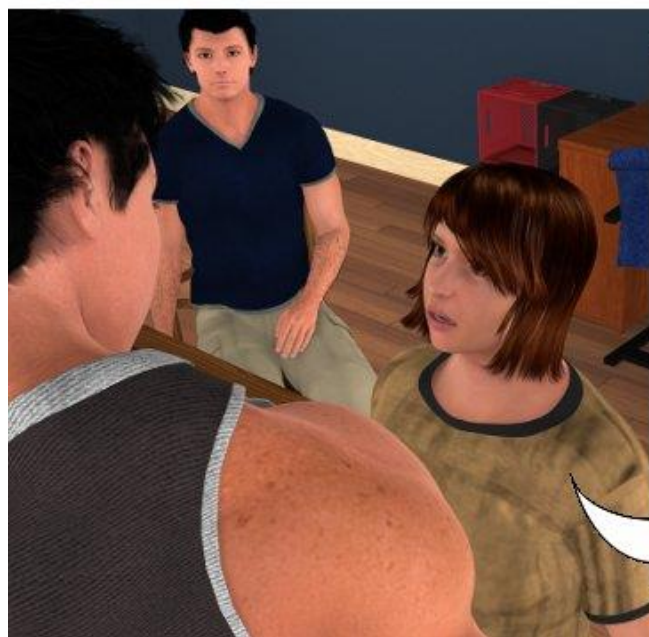
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK? THAT JAYSON INHERITED THE HOUSE WHEN YOUR FATHER DIED, AND THE REST OF US GOT NOTHING?



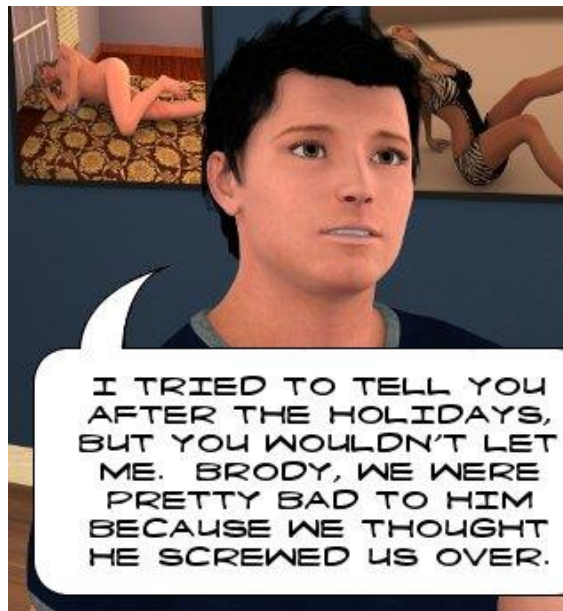
DAD DIED. JAYSON GOT THE HOUSE! WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK?



NOTHING! THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO THINK. ALL I WANTED FOR ALL 3 OF YOU WAS TO GROW UP AS CLOSE TO NORMAL AS POSSIBLE. I THOUGHT I COULD KEEP THINGS GOING UNTIL YOU WERE ALL OUT OF THE HOUSE, BUT I COULDN'T. I DIDN'T WANT ANY OF YOU KIDS TO KNOW...I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY, BUT JAYSON FIGURED IT OUT. HE INSISTED ON HELPING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. I TRIED TO CHANGE HIS MIND. I FOUGHT WITH HIM, WANTING HIM TO GO TO COLLEGE AND BETTER HIMSELF, BUT I COULDN'T WIN WITH HIM!



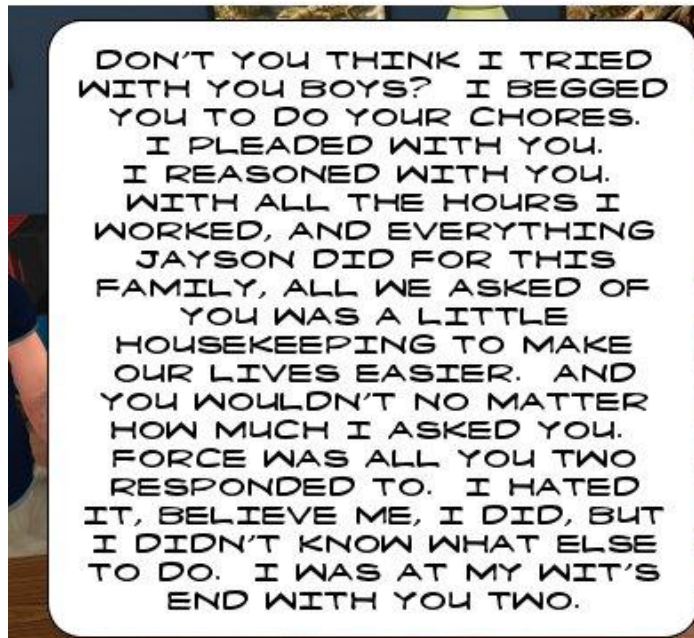
SO I MADE A DEAL WITH HIM. I SOLD JAYSON THE HOUSE. AS LONG AS HE MADE THE MORTGAGE AND TAX PAYMENTS, MY PAYCHECK COULD COVER THE REST AND LEAVE JUST ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU BOYS A FEW EXTRAS. THE EQUITY WAS GONE ANYWAY. AT LEAST THIS WAY, WE COULD KEEP THE HOUSE, AND YOUR BROTHER WOULD BE WORKING FOR HIMSELF INSTEAD OF FOR US. IT WAS THE PRICE FOR EVERYTHING HE SACRIFICED.



I TRIED TO TELL YOU AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LET ME. BRODY, WE WERE PRETTY BAD TO HIM BECAUSE WE THOUGHT HE SCREWED US OVER.



I DON'T CARE HOW BAD WE WERE, RUSS! WE NEVER BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF HIM! HE ABUSED US, FOR GOD'S SAKE! THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THAT!



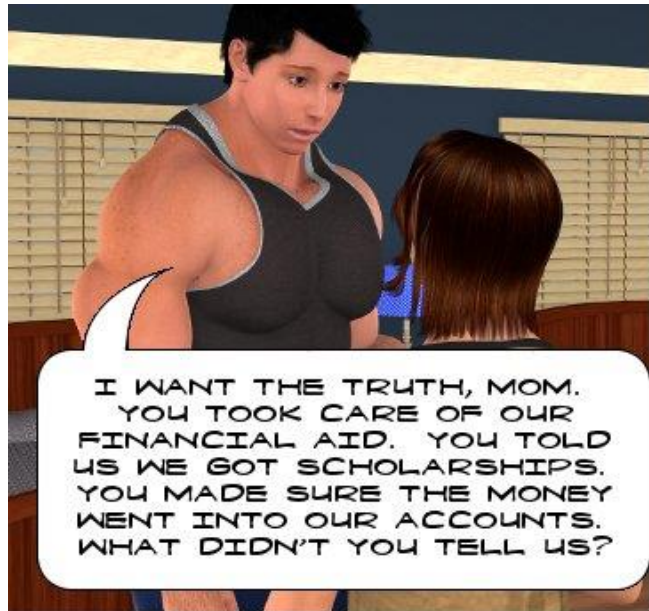
DON'T YOU THINK I TRIED WITH YOU BOYS? I BEGGED YOU TO DO YOUR CHORES. I PLEADED WITH YOU. I REASONED WITH YOU. WITH ALL THE HOURS I WORKED, AND EVERYTHING JAYSON DID FOR THIS FAMILY, ALL WE ASKED OF YOU WAS A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING TO MAKE OUR LIVES EASIER. AND YOU WOULDN'T NO MATTER HOW MUCH I ASKED YOU. FORCE WAS ALL YOU TWO RESPONDED TO. I HATED IT, BELIEVE ME, I DID, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO. I WAS AT MY WIT'S END WITH YOU TWO.



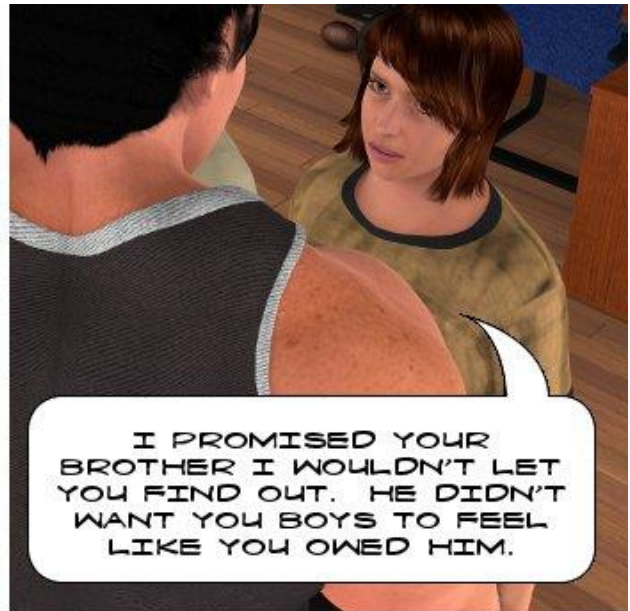
I'M NOT EXCUSING JAYSON AT ALL, BUT BRODY, WE MADE HIS LIFE HELL, TOO, IN OUR OWN WAY. HE'S WILLING TO LEAVE ALL THAT IN THE PAST IF YOU'D GIVE HIM THE SAME CHANCE.



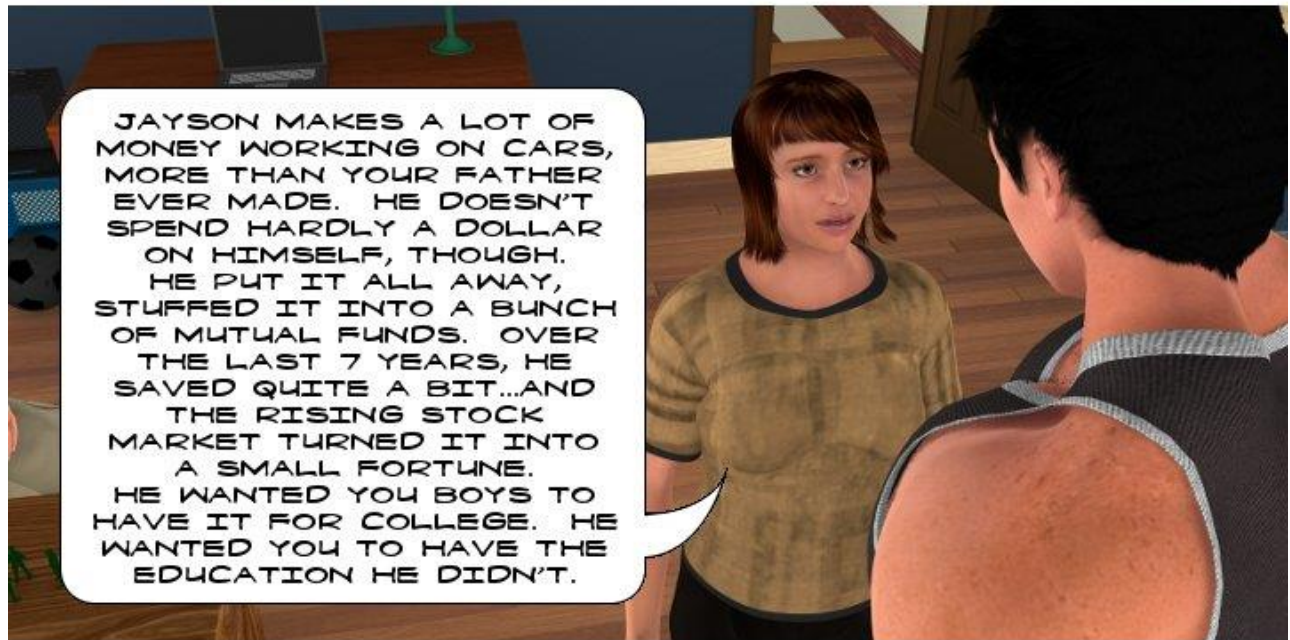
THERE'S ONE THING I HAVE TO KNOW. WHY WAS HE GLOATING OVER MY SCHOLARSHIP?



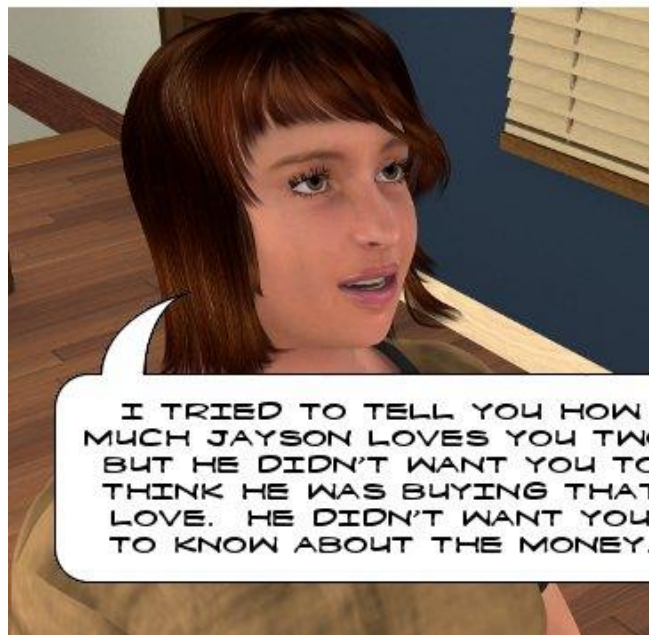
I WANT THE TRUTH, MOM. YOU TOOK CARE OF OUR FINANCIAL AID. YOU TOLD US WE GOT SCHOLARSHIPS. YOU MADE SURE THE MONEY WENT INTO OUR ACCOUNTS. WHAT DIDN'T YOU TELL US?



I PROMISED YOUR BROTHER I WOULDN'T LET YOU FIND OUT. HE DIDN'T WANT YOU BOYS TO FEEL LIKE YOU OWED HIM.



JAYSON MAKES A LOT OF MONEY WORKING ON CARS, MORE THAN YOUR FATHER EVER MADE. HE DOESN'T SPEND HARDLY A DOLLAR ON HIMSELF, THOUGH. HE PUT IT ALL AWAY, STUFFED IT INTO A BUNCH OF MUTUAL FUNDS. OVER THE LAST 7 YEARS, HE SAVED QUITE A BIT...AND THE RISING STOCK MARKET TURNED IT INTO A SMALL FORTUNE. HE WANTED YOU BOYS TO HAVE IT FOR COLLEGE. HE WANTED YOU TO HAVE THE EDUCATION HE DIDN'T.



I TRIED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH JAYSON LOVES YOU TWO, BUT HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK HE WAS BUYING THAT LOVE. HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT THE MONEY.



I JUST WISH THE 3 OF YOU COULD GET ALONG. YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE LOVED THAT.



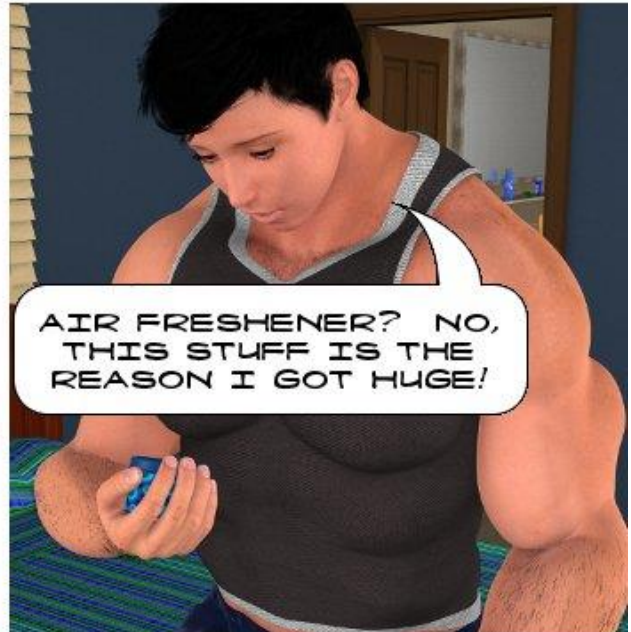
I RUINED EVERYTHING, DIDN'T I? I HAD TO HAVE MY REVENGE, AND I ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE.



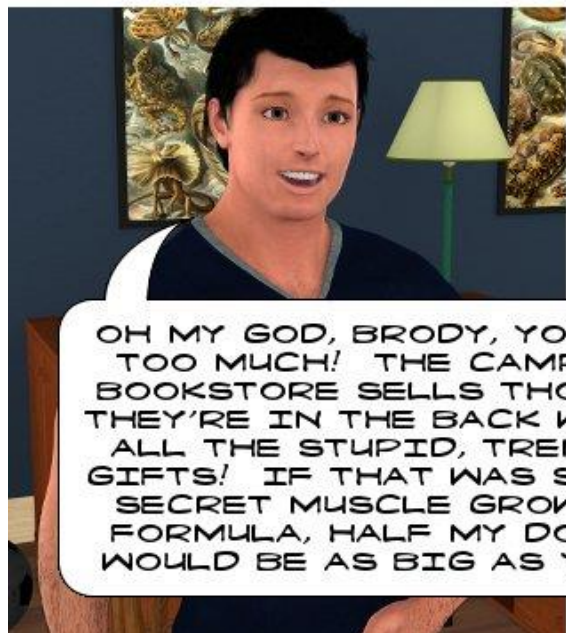
IT'S NOT THAT BAD. WHEN THINGS COOL DOWN, APOLOGIZE TO JAYSON. ALL HE'S LOOKING FOR IS A REASON TO WARM UP TO YOU, AND YOU WON'T GIVE HIM ONE.



BESIDES, HE'LL FIND IT FUNNY THE TWO OF YOU ALMOST CAME TO BLOWS OVER AN AIR FRESHENER.



AIR FRESHENER? NO, THIS STUFF IS THE REASON I GOT HUGE!



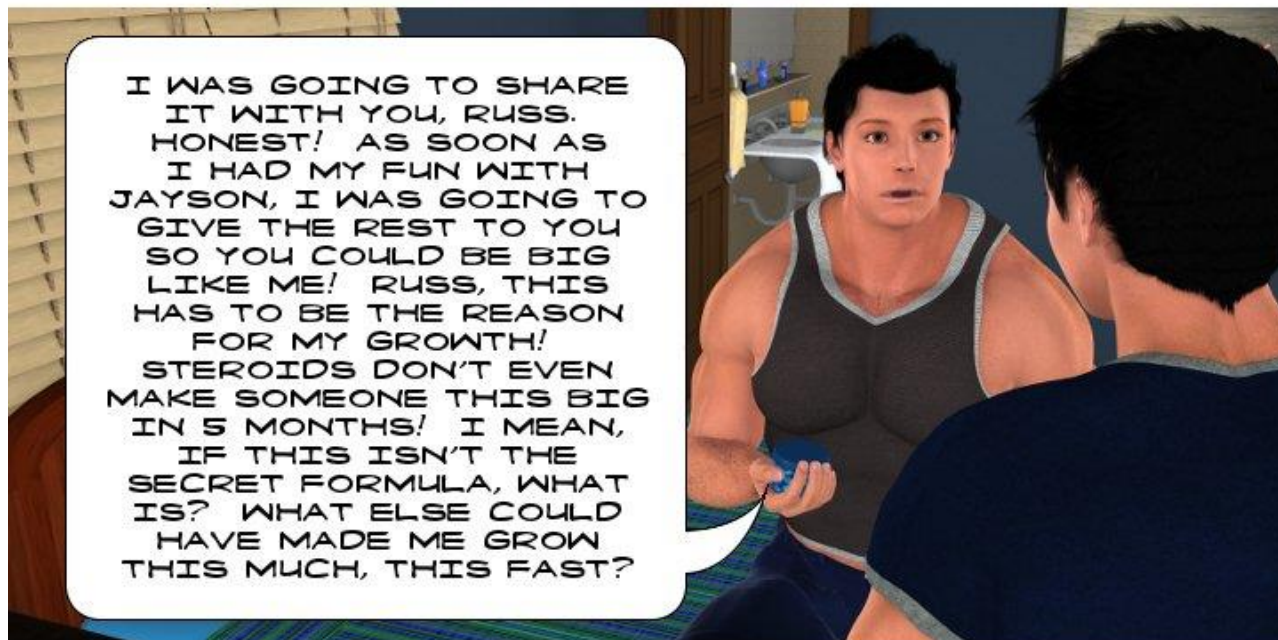
OH MY GOD, BRODY, YOU'RE TOO MUCH! THE CAMPUS BOOKSTORE SELLS THOSE. THEY'RE IN THE BACK WITH ALL THE STUPID, TRENDY GIFTS! IF THAT WAS SOME SECRET MUSCLE GROWTH FORMULA, HALF MY DORM WOULD BE AS BIG AS YOU!



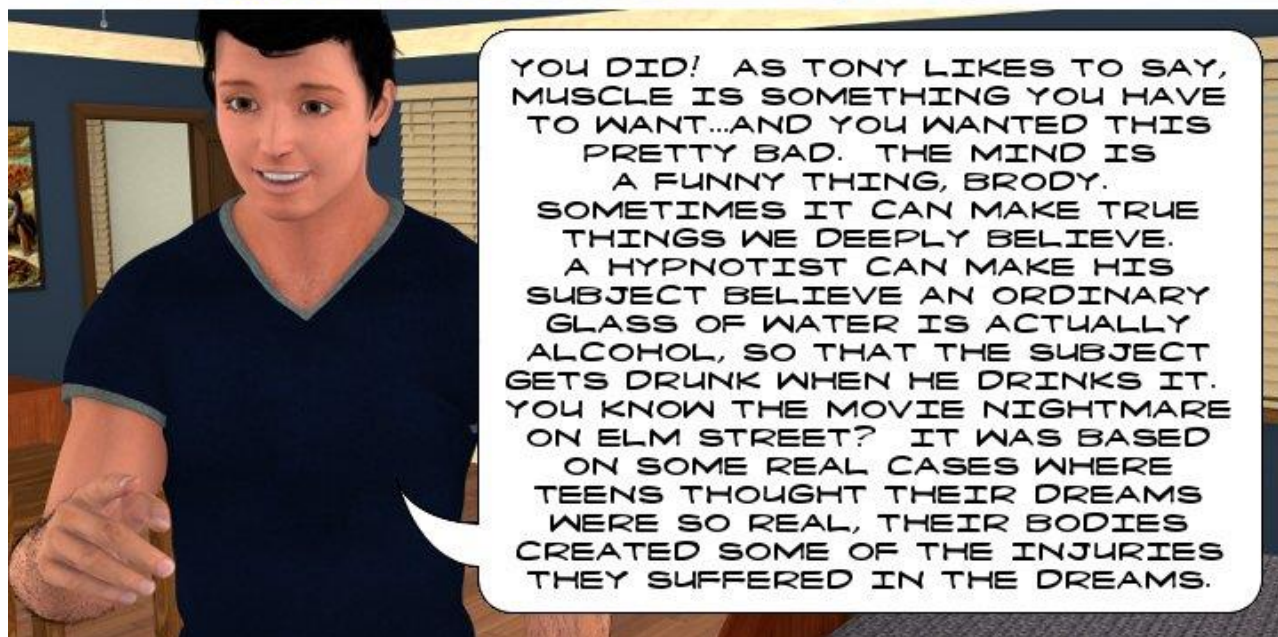
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S THE ONE SKIP PUT IN OUR AIR DUCT! OH MY GOD, THIS MAKES SENSE NOW!



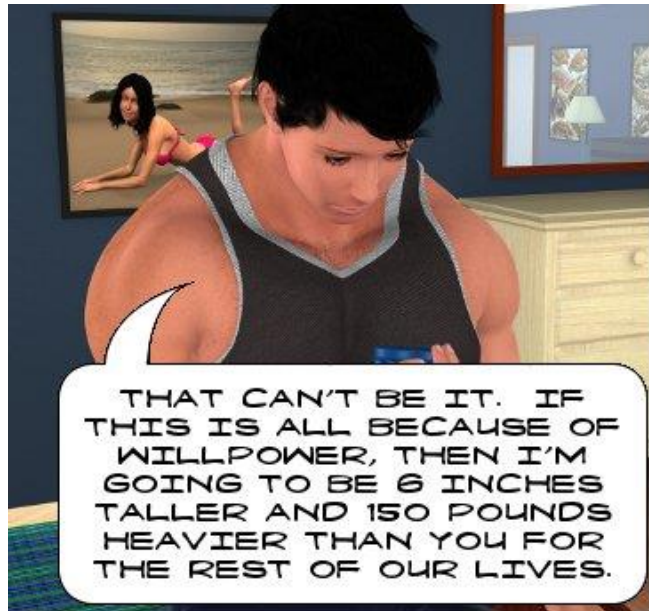
WHEN WE GOT BACK FROM BREAK, SKIP THOUGHT A JANITOR FOUND IT AND THREW IT OUT. YOU WERE SO CERTAIN I HAD SOME MAGIC FORMULA. YOU DIDN'T TAKE MY KEY BY ACCIDENT, YOU GRABBED IT SO YOU COULD SEARCH MY ROOM. YOU FOUND THAT AND JUMPED TO ALL KINDS OF CONCLUSIONS! YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT WAS MAKING YOU BIG? IF THIS WASN'T SO FUNNY, I'D BE MAD AT YOU FOR STEALING FROM ME!

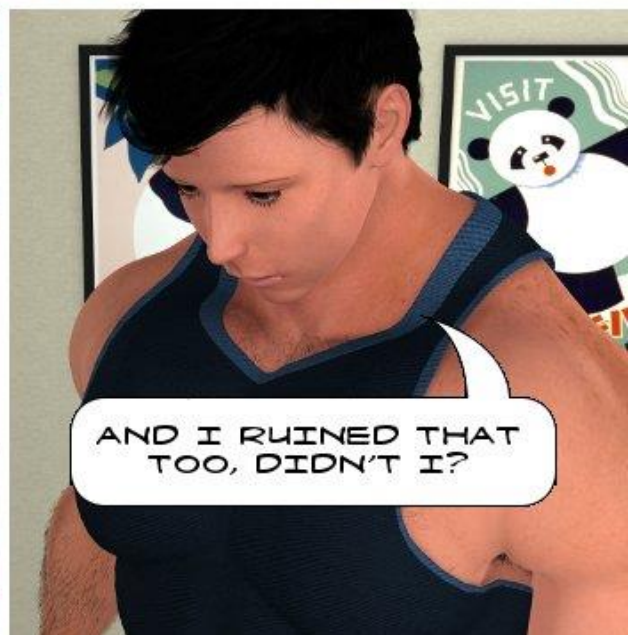
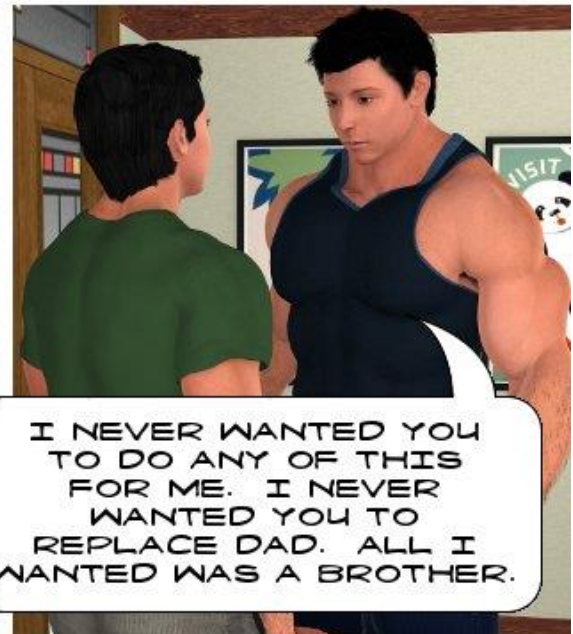
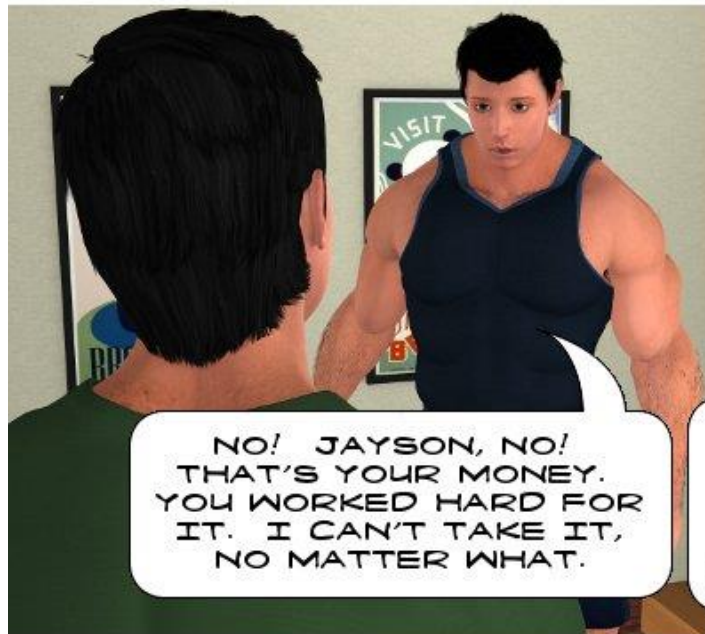
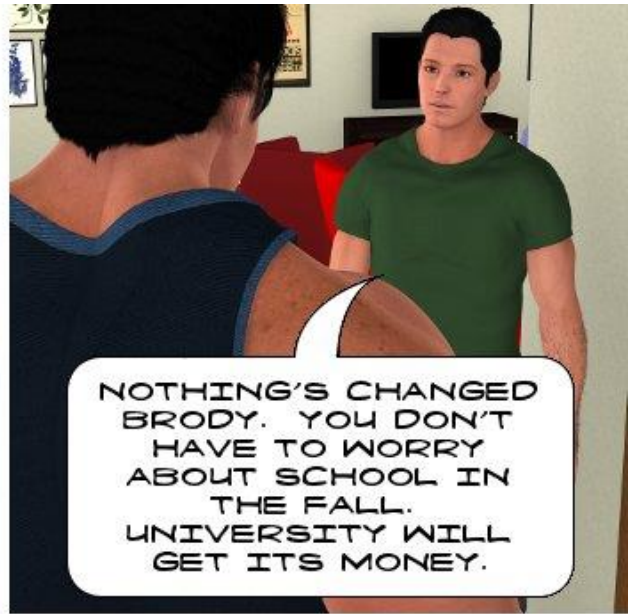


I WAS GOING TO SHARE IT WITH YOU, RUSS. HONEST! AS SOON AS I HAD MY FUN WITH JAYSON, I WAS GOING TO GIVE THE REST TO YOU SO YOU COULD BE BIG LIKE ME! RUSS, THIS HAS TO BE THE REASON FOR MY GROWTH! STEROIDS DON'T EVEN MAKE SOMEONE THIS BIG IN 5 MONTHS! I MEAN, IF THIS ISN'T THE SECRET FORMULA, WHAT IS? WHAT ELSE COULD HAVE MADE ME GROW THIS MUCH, THIS FAST?



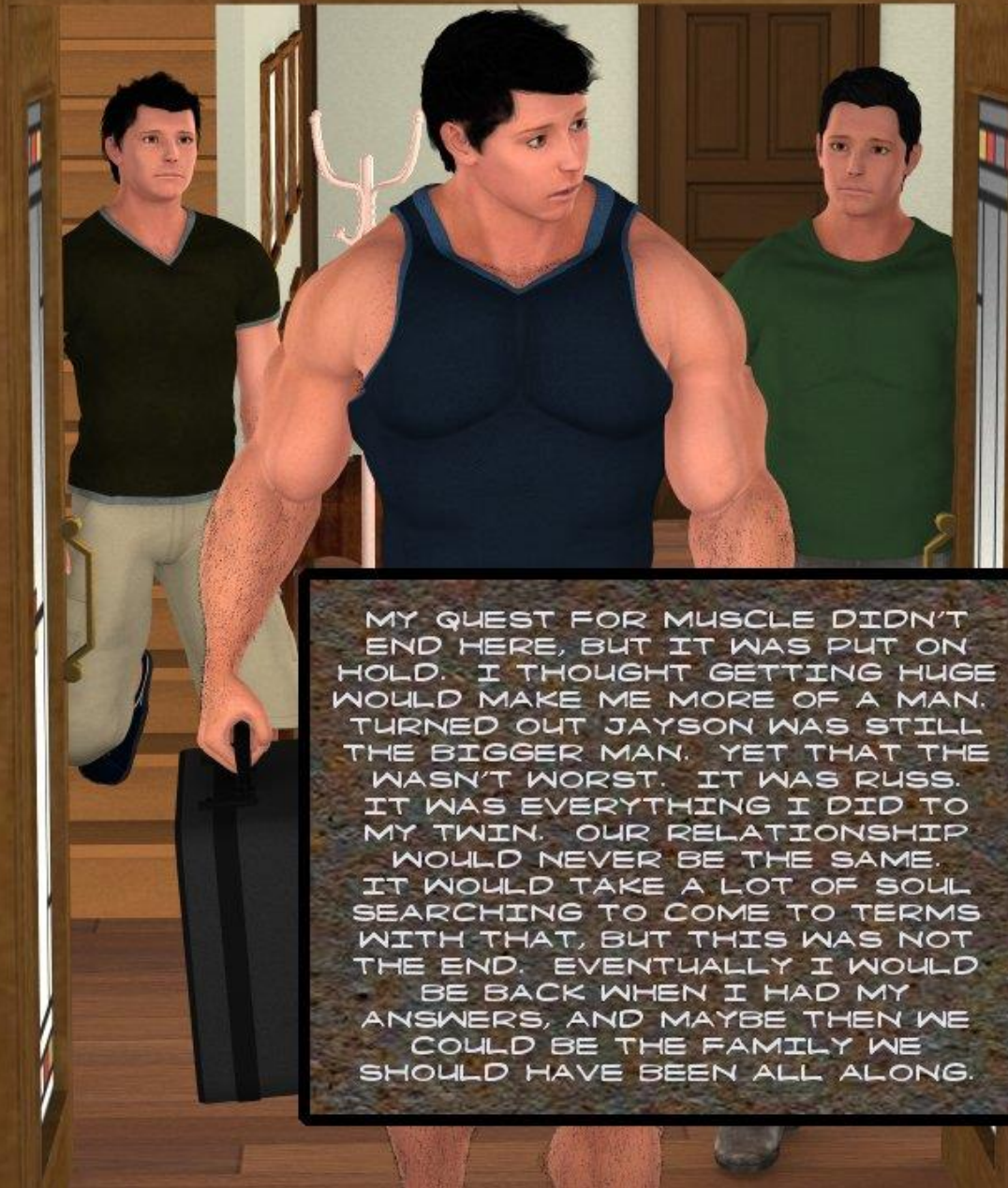
YOU DID! AS TONY LIKES TO SAY, MUSCLE IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO WANT...AND YOU WANTED THIS PRETTY BAD. THE MIND IS A FUNNY THING, BRODY. SOMETIMES IT CAN MAKE TRUE THINGS WE DEEPLY BELIEVE. A HYPNOTIST CAN MAKE HIS SUBJECT BELIEVE AN ORDINARY GLASS OF WATER IS ACTUALLY ALCOHOL, SO THAT THE SUBJECT GETS DRUNK WHEN HE DRINKS IT. YOU KNOW THE MOVIE NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET? IT WAS BASED ON SOME REAL CASES WHERE TEENS THOUGHT THEIR DREAMS WERE SO REAL, THEIR BODIES CREATED SOME OF THE INJURIES THEY SUFFERED IN THE DREAMS.







I MEAN LOOK AT ME, JAYSON. I'M NO LONGER RUSSELL'S TWIN!



MY QUEST FOR MUSCLE DIDN'T END HERE, BUT IT WAS PUT ON HOLD. I THOUGHT GETTING HUGE WOULD MAKE ME MORE OF A MAN. TURNED OUT JAYSON WAS STILL THE BIGGER MAN. YET THAT THE WASN'T WORST. IT WAS RUSS. IT WAS EVERYTHING I DID TO MY TWIN. OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME. IT WOULD TAKE A LOT OF SOUL SEARCHING TO COME TO TERMS WITH THAT, BUT THIS WAS NOT THE END. EVENTUALLY I WOULD BE BACK WHEN I HAD MY ANSWERS, AND MAYBE THEN WE COULD BE THE FAMILY WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALL ALONG.