

“Babe! Babe! Get in here!” Claire screams.

David, her husband, rushes into the room. Out of breath he looks at his wife with tears streaming down her face.

“What is it?” He pants, trying to catch his breath.

“I got the job.” Claire manages before falling to her knees.

David rushes to her and he takes her in his arms.

Claire has been busting her ass for the last few years to get this job, it was always her dream since she was a kid to be on TV. Every choice she made in school was to get her in front of a camera, she found she wasn't the greatest actor early on, she knew her way to the big screen was through something else, a bit less glamorous but to her just as exciting. A game show host, sure it wasn't going to get her a big time award and a ton of money but she would be a staple in the homes over the country weekday evenings. It was a start if nothing else.

All of her time interning at various companies, her extra academics, the time spent mingling at parties to just get her name somewhere close to an audition list was enough to drive her crazy. The biggest problem was that Claire wasn't “It”. She just didn't look the part, she had a pretty face, very beautiful features with a very kind and welcoming smile. Her long blonde hair was silky smooth and well kept, her makeup was always on point. There was just one thing that she believed let her down, her weight. When she met David back in college she was just a few pounds shy of 200, the freshman fifteen got her good, piling on more like twenty five pounds onto her frame. David never had a problem with it so she hovered around that size until the end of her academics, the relief of passing her master degree and finally being able to work full time called for a holiday.

The two of them went on a cruise and both gained a few pounds as the food was included in the ticket price. For two weeks straight, Claire gorged herself on the unlimited food, the two of them had a wonderful time and some of the most mind blowing sex her life. Something about being free from the shackles of daily life meant David was more playful, Claire thought.

Arriving home and not being able to fit into her work outfits wasn't quite the wakeup call that it would be for most people. She would go to work, bulging between the buttons of her blouses and stretching her waistbands to their maximum. Red marks would cover her belly when she released it at the end of the night, she was just too oblivious to it. She had her first audition not long after returning from the cruise and she thought she did a really good job, she had been training for so long for this after all. She was met with a resounding no, they didn't even have the decency to call to deny her, they just sent her a vague email.

"I'm sure they just had a lot of people Claire." David reassured her as she buried her head into a tub of ice cream.

The next audition was a week later, again she thought she did a fantastic job, she walked out the room with a big smile on her face and was merrily skipping to her car when she realised she didn't have her keys on her.

They must've fallen out in the audition room.

She walked back to the room, thankfully the door was open. As she approached, she overheard her name.

"What about Claire?" One of the voices she recognized from the panel asked the rest of them, he sounded like he could barely contain a snicker.

"If you want to explain to the board why we picked a beluga whale to be our host, then by all

means, you can put her through to round two.” The room erupted into laughter.

The tears were streaming down her face, she felt defeated, humiliated. Claire looked down and saw for the first time with clear eyes, her bulging stomach, how it stuck out from her body. The waistband cut so deeply into her stomach that she had a roll which covered the band from the front. She needed a moment to compose herself before she went in there to get her keys. She sat down in the chair she was waiting in and cried for a few minutes, reaching into her pocket to grab her phone to tell David, she felt her hand catch something cold and metallic sticking up from the chair. It was her keys. Claire let out a big sigh of relief before she slipped out the waiting room undetected.

She arrived home that night and did what she did when she was sad, buried her sorrows in food. David comforted her and consoled her but she was too heartbroken by what she had heard.

A beluga whale.... I'm not that fat...

“David... I’m not... Fat am I?” Claire looked up from her tub of ice cream to David, her make up having run down her face.

“No, of course not.” He replied, the stereotypical boyfriend response.

“Then what is this?” She pats her stomach, letting out more tears as she feels it wobble. “Where did this come from?”

“Ok, so you have a bit of chub, you really aren’t that fat at all, there are plenty of people who weigh more than you.” His hand starts to rub her thigh. “Think about Abi from school? She is going to get on that TV show because she is so fat.” He joked, it managed to get a small smile from Claire.

“I guess... But starting tomorrow, I’ve got to get rid of this, I have to lose weight otherwise I’ll never get on TV.”

That was six months ago, six long and hard months of dieting, exercise and self-control. Claire's ambition to succeed drove her to extreme lengths to make sure she could get into shape; it was a gruelling grind but finally she could comfortably say she was there. A toned and slim 127 lbs from her heaviest to this, now her lightest, roughly a loss of 80lbs. David was proud of her and very happy for her, even after getting below her goal of 130 she didn't relent, she kept up the routine and kept up the work. David did truly love Claire but because of her drive to lose weight and her focus on herself their love life seemed less fiery than those nights on the cruise and more of a smoulder. Claire wanted to celebrate smashing her goal so she bought an expensive set of lingerie and decided to treat David to a sexy night at home. That night David wasn't quite as ravenous as he was before, Claire found herself thinking back to the cruise and how he was then.

A few weeks later and Claire is starting her new job, she has attended countless pre production meetings, she had all the briefings on the set, the game rules and everything was ready. The show wasn't scripted, it was live in a sense so the pressure was on her at all times. The show itself was a couple's quiz show, not a lot of moving parts but there was a great deal of improvisation needed to fill the dead air, when one was doing something, Claire would need to keep the viewers entertained with the other contestant. She was a natural, the hard work had paid off and she was flying right out of the gate. The show would film and a week later it would be live on TV. Months went by and the show was pulling in great ratings thanks to Claire's personality shining through. She was still strict with her dieting and exercise but that level of focus was taking away from other aspects of her life, in particular David.

One night Claire and David had a bit of a heated discussion about her job and how that it was

starting to consume her life and she didn't have much time for the relationship, what with the longer meetings as they are trying to introduce more games into the show and various other career decisions like her potentially starting a second show. It was becoming all too much for them. Claire brought up the fact that she didn't feel as sexy the way that David had been acting, like he wasn't attracted to her. The conversation came to a close after some raised voices and David stormed out.

What isn't there to love about me...

Claire thought to herself as she looked over her body in the mirror. Ignoring the streaming makeup and messed up long blonde hair, she looked great. She stripped down and walked to the bathroom to see herself in the full-length mirror before jumping in the shower. Looking over her body she was impressed at how far she had come. She was now able to run 5k, she could exercise for more than 10 minutes without getting winded. She was physically fit and her body showed that. She was light but that was intentional she wasn't aiming to gain muscle mass, she was aiming to be slim and small. Standing at 5'8 she wasn't exactly small, her body however was toned and slim. She had a good definition over her body, you could even see her abs. Claire used to have C cups when she met David but losing weight took from that area and she now was only a B cup. She had a fat ass before, she was more a pear shape back then, now she did have a proportionally larger rear but thanks to her squatting routine she had a booty that most women would murder for.

I look fucking amazing...

She thought to herself, clearly feeling herself in that moment. She looked back at her face and found herself getting upset again.

So why is he being like this?

David came home and they had a long heart to heart, they covered a lot of ground and made up, the frustration was real for David and Claire could understand, she promised to set more time for their relationship but she couldn't help but think there was something else under the surface. David came clean, he admitted his appreciation for the larger Claire and actually even more than that, his love for larger women in general. Shocked at first, Claire was quiet but things started to make sense in her head.

"I'm sorry..." She said,

"What for?"

"For what I did to my body..." her eyes filled with tears.

"Don't be silly, I love you, I love you more than anything in the world, I would never want you to gain weight for me if it meant you wouldn't be happy and I know how much you wanted to get on TV." David says, wrapping his arms around his wife. "I married you, not your weight."

Claire and David spent the next few months working on their relationship, spending more time together and less time chasing her limitless ambition. Claire could never gain weight, lest she lost her job but she could bring some dirty talk and role play into the bedroom. That did help spruce up their sex life, David thoroughly enjoyed when she would stuff herself before they would have sex, even if that meant that Claire would need to go extra hard the next day in the gym. It was a compromise and it worked well at the start, unfortunately time moved on, work was getting more intense and Claire wasn't quite feeling it as much lately with satisfying David's kinks, things started to feel a bit rocky again but David's birthday was coming up and Claire decided to do something a bit more drastic.

* * *