

DANS DISTORTION

RECEPTION

CHAPTER 2: HIDDEN MESSAGES

HEY
THERE!



SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT'S A VERY PRETTY SWEATER YOU GOT THERE.

MY GRAND-DAUGHTER LOVES THAT COLOR.

ROOM A





ROOM C

ROOM C



EXCUSE ME, MISS... ? MISS?

Two electrical outlets on the wall.

YEAH, I'M TALKING TO YOU. DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?

UH...



RECEPTION

ROOM A

HEY, UH... YEAH. I SPOKE WITH BECKY ON THE PHONE. SHE KNOWS I'M HERE.

OH MY... I'M SORRY, SIR. I THOUGHT...

Inventory Value	Reorder Level	Reorder Time in Days	Quantity in Reorder	Discontinued?
\$1,275.00	29	11	50	
\$12,276.00	211	4	50	
\$1,276.00	114	11	150	
\$1,907.00	158	6	50	
\$1,534.00	29	12	50	
\$4,855.00	9	11	150	
\$55.00	108	7	100	
\$1,348.00	162	1	150	
\$1,638.00	82	8	150	
\$1,196.00	283	1	50	
\$8,750.00	229	12	100	
\$10,984.00	36	9	100	
\$296.00	102	2	100	
\$1,872.00	83			
\$2,804.00				



OH MY GOODNESS! DAN?

SHH! NOT SO LOUD.

I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU. IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE YOU STOPPED BY.


ARE YOU DOING THE HORMONES NOW?

WHAT? DOROTHY, NO. I...

LISTEN. BECKY ALREADY KNOWS I'M COMING, CAN I JUST GO BACK AND...?

OH, I'M SORRY, DANIEL. BUT DR. PRATT IS CURRENTLY BUSY AT THE MOMENT.





GODDAMN IT,
DOROTHY. JUST LET
BECKY KNOW I'M HERE.
I'VE HAD A REALLY
WEIRD, SHITTY DAY
TODAY, AND I
NEED TO...

OH,
MY GOD!
DAN?



UH...
HEY THERE,
BECK.

YEAH...
CAN WE
DO THIS IN
PRIVATE?

WOW!
I MEAN, HI. IT'S
BEEN A LITTLE
WHILE.

YOU'VE
CHANGED.



SORRY IT TOOK
SO LONG. I HAD AN
APPOINTMENT OVER
THE PHONE THAT
RAN A LITTLE
LONG...

SO WHAT'S WITH
THE NEW STYLE? IF I
DIDN'T KNOW ANY
BETTER, I'D SAY
YOU WERE TAKING
ESTROGEN.


I... I DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING, BECKY.
I WAS HOPING YOU
COULD HELP ME
FIGURE IT OUT.



AND NO,
I'M NOT TAKING
FREAKIN' ESTROGEN.
SOMETHING IS DOING
THIS TO ME.

WELL THEN, DANIEL,
HAVE A SEAT AND EXPLAIN
TO ME WHAT YOU *THINK* IS
GOING ON. ANY PATTERNS
YOU NOTICED...

AND
PLEASE, DO
BE AS DETAILED
AS POSSIBLE.



BECK, I...
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE
TO BEGIN.

WHY DON'T YOU
JUST START FROM THE
BEGINNING? WHEN DID
YOU NOTICE SOMETHING
WAS HAPPENING?

WELL... IT'S
GONNA SOUND CRAZY,
OR IMPOSSIBLE. BUT,
LIKE, I GUESS IT
STARTED AT A PAPER
STAND...



NO! BEFORE THAT. THERE WAS A NOTE.

A... NOTE?

YEAH! A LITTLE WAYS DOWN FROM THE OFFICE. I WAS WALKING AND HAPPENED UPON A NOTE IN A WINDOW THAT SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BEING SHORT.

YOU KNOW... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU REALLY ARE SHORTER, AREN'T YOU?



DAN... I'M A PSYCHIATRIST. OF COURSE I HAVEN'T EVER SEEN 'REAL VODOO.'

THAT SORT OF STUFF DOESN'T REALLY EXIST.

YEAH, BECK. THIS WHOLE THING IS... REALLY JUST... IMPOSSIBLE!

LIKE, HAVE YOU EVER COME ACROSS SOMETHING LIKE REAL VODOO OR...?



SO WHAT DO YOU THINK IS HAPPENING TO ME, THEN?

I HONESTLY DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO WITH THIS.

WELL, TO BE FRANK, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

BUT I'M CERTAINLY KEEPING AN OPEN MIND.

BECAUSE I KNOW FOR A FACT YOU NEVER HAD A BADONK LIKE THAT BEFORE.



YEAH, IT'S...
DID YOU JUST SAY
'BADONK'?

WHAT
YEAR IS
THIS?




YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, DANIEL. YOU COME IN TELLING ME THAT YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING ALTERED BY SOME 'VOODOO,' AND YOU STILL FIND TIME TO PICK ON ME.

THAT MAKES THIS EVEN MORE WORRISOME...



WELL, YOU KNOW ME, BECK. HUMOR IS MY CRUTCH... BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN?





WELL, LOGIC
WOULD TELL ME THAT
IF ANYONE CAME IN
LIKE THIS, THEY WERE
LIKELY DOING IT TO
THEMSELVES AND
NOT REALIZING IT.

THE MIND DOES
INTERESTING THINGS
DURING PERIODS OF
HIGH STRESS OR
TRAUMA.

BUT YOU APPEAR
TO BE IN THE RIGHT
STATE OF MIND. PEOPLE
AFFLICTED BY THEIR INNER
DEMONS GENERALLY
DEVELOP OBVIOUS SIGNS.
YOU DON'T APPEAR TO
HAVE THOSE.


SO I'M WILLING
TO BELIEVE THAT
YOU'RE TELLING
THE TRUTH ABOUT
THIS, DAN.



WELL, OF COURSE I'M NOT MAKING IT UP, BECK. I'M NOT CRAZY...

SOOO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. OVER THE PHONE YOU SAID YOU FOUND A MAGICAL HANDWRITTEN NOTE THAT MADE YOU SHORT AND PETITE...

THEN ANOTHER ONE THAT GAVE YOU THAT... BUTT?



WHAT ABOUT THE
REST OF IT? I ASSUME
GROWING YOUR HAIR OUT
AND PLUCKING YOUR EYE-
BROWS WASN'T YOUR
OWN DECISION.

HELL, EVEN
YOUR SKIN LOOKS
SOFT AND
DELICATE...

IT WAS ON
THE BACK OF
A PICTURE.

WHAT
KIND OF
PICTURE?

WAS IT
SOMEONE WHO
HAD THOSE
FEATURES?

SOMEONE...
YOU KNOW?

WHAT?
UM... I...

I NEED TO
KNOW THESE
DETAILS IN ORDER
TO HELP YOU.





IT WAS A...
SOME GIRL! SHE HAD
THICK HAIR... AND NICE
SKIN, BUT...

BUT I HAVE
NO IDEA WHO SHE IS
OR WHY SOMEONE
WOULD BE DOING THIS!
HOW IS THIS EVEN
POSSIBLE!?


YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME, BECK!
I... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I... DO BELIEVE YOU, DANIEL. BUT YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN. I'M PRESCRIBING YOU A BENZODIAZEPINE.

A WHAT?

SOME VALIUM.






THE ONLY THING
I CAN SAY IS IT
SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE
HAS SOMETHING PLANNED
FOR YOU, SOMETHING YOU
OBVIOUSLY FEEL LIKE YOU
DON'T DESERVE.

AND AS FOR THE
MAGIC, WELL, THAT'S
JUST SCIENCE WE DON'T
UNDERSTAND YET,
ISN'T IT?

MAYBE YOU
WERE INJECTED
WITH SOMETHING,
OR ABSORBED SOME-
THING THROUGH
YOUR SKIN...

TONIGHT YOU SHOULD
REST, BUT TOMORROW,
THINK ABOUT WHY ANYONE
WOULD DO THIS AND WHO
MAY EVEN BE CAPABLE.


GO TO
THE POLICE IF YOU
HAVE TO. MAYBE
SOMEONE ELSE HAS
HAD A SIMILAR
EXPERIENCE.



I... DON'T
KNOW, BECK. I
CAN'T GO TO THE
POLICE WITH THIS.
WHAT IF IT'S ONLY
ME? THEY'LL THINK
I'M CRAZY.

WELL, WORST
CASE, THEY SEND
YOU TO ME, A
THERAPIST.

YEAH, AND
THEN MY COMPANY
CATCHES WIND OF IT...
I'M ALREADY ON THIN
ICE WITH THEM.



COME ON,
BECK. THERE'S
GOTTA BE SOME-
THING YOU CAN DO
TO HELP ME.

AND WHAT
EXACTLY WOULD
YOU LIKE ME
TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW...
SOMETHING.

ALL I CAN
SUGGEST IS THAT
YOU BACKTRACK, TRY
TO FIND PEOPLE YOU
MAY HAVE SCORND
AND THEN MAYBE YOU
CAN FIND WHO IS
DOING THIS.


PERSONALLY,
I'D START BY TRACKING
DOWN WHOEVER IS ON
THAT PICTURE.



B-BUT...

BUT NOTHING,
DANIEL. THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING ELSE WE
CAN DO TONIGHT.

GO HOME
AND TRY TO
GET SOME
REST...

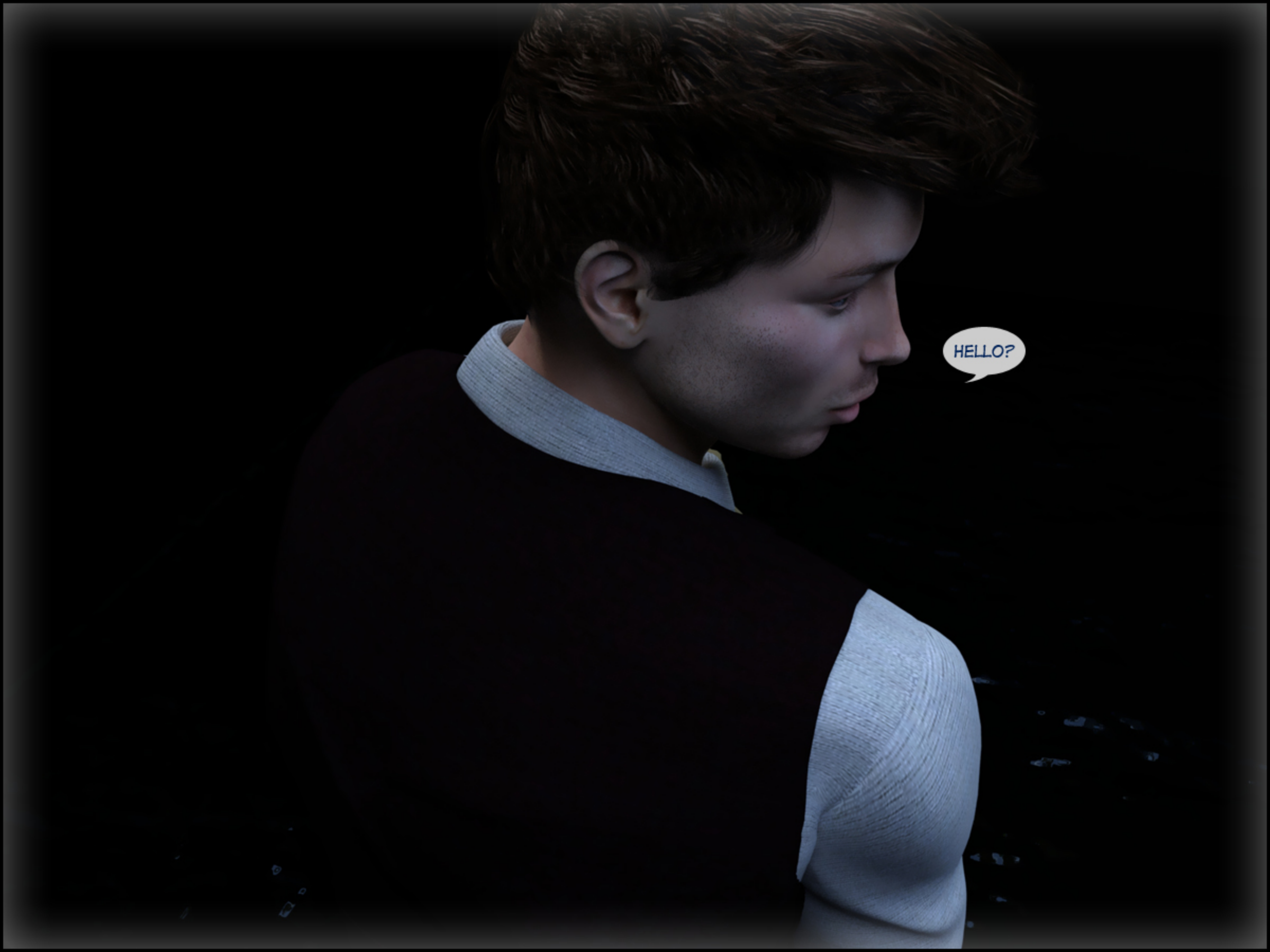


AND, DANIEL,
DO BE SURE TO
LET ME KNOW IF
ANYTHING ELSE
CHANGES.

I WOULD
HATE TO SEE YOU
GO THROUGH
THIS ALONE...

DANIEL...





HELLO?

OH, DANIEL...
WHERE DID YOU
GO? I'M ALMOST
HERE.

I'M...
I'M RIGHT
HERE!



DAN?
DAN DAN
DAN DAN -

MAYBE SHE
DIDN'T HEAR ME
HEAR ME HEAR ME
HEAR ME HEAR ME



A young man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a light blue dress shirt, a dark vest, and a light-colored tie, is looking up at a large, muscular arm in a light blue sleeve. The arm is bent at the elbow and positioned near his head. The background is dark.

UH, HEY...
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR ME?

DO
I KNOW
YOU?

GIGGLE



WOW...
YOU'RE REALLY
PRETTY. WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?



NOT
YET YET
YET YET etc

A woman with long dark hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a black, textured, off-the-shoulder dress. She has a green beaded bracelet on her left wrist and a red ring on her left hand, which is raised to her chin in a thoughtful pose. The background is dark and textured.

WE'RE
AMBER.

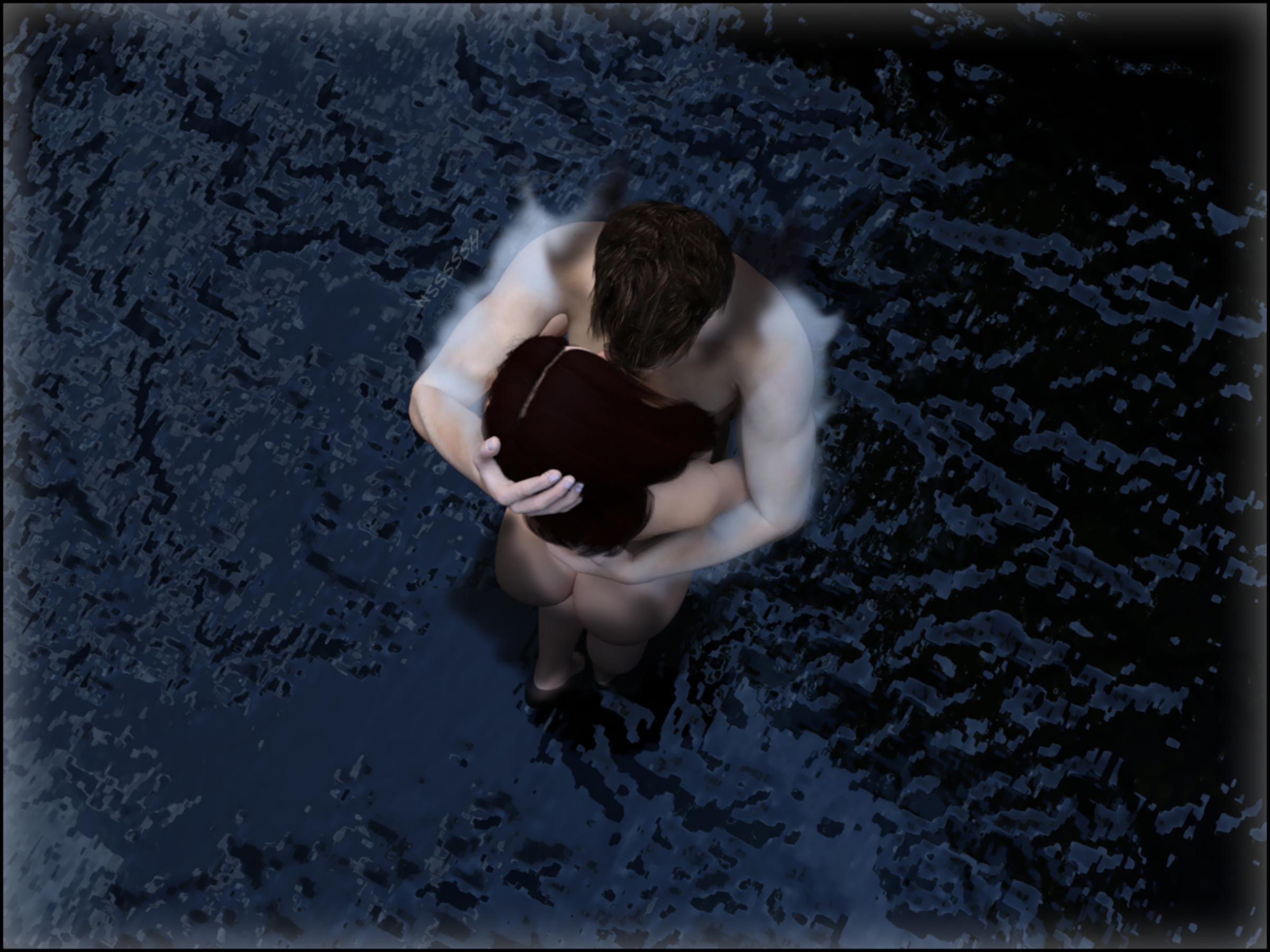
WE...?

GIGGLE



A top-down view of a man and a woman embracing on a dark, textured surface. The man, with brown hair, is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a dark vest. He is hugging the woman from behind, with his hands resting on her head and shoulders. The woman has dark hair and is wearing a dark, possibly black, dress. A speech bubble is positioned near the man's head, containing the text "MMM..." in pink and "MMM..." in blue.

MMM...
MMM...







DO YOU
THINK I'M
PRETTY?
PRETTY? PRETTY?
PRETTY?

YEAH...
YEAH YEAH
YEAH...

DO YOU
LIKE MY
TITS? TITS?
TITS? TITS?

OH, HELL
YEAH! YEAH
YEAH YEAH!

A photograph of a woman from a rear perspective. She has long, dark hair and is unclothed. Her hands are placed on her chest and buttocks. The background is dark and textured.

MMM...
I'VE NEVER
SEEN TITS SO
BIG BEFORE.

GIGGLE



MMM!
MMM!

OH! YES! I'M
COMING COMING
COMING COMING...

BUT
WE JUST
STARTED...



COMING
COMING COMING
COMING...





COMING
COMING COMING
COMING



I'M
HERE.





MMM!?

GIGGLE

WHAT
THE HELL!?





WHO
ARE YOU?

JUST ANOTHER
RANDO WE PICKED
UP SOMEWHERE.
GIGGLE

OH, AMBER,
YOU'RE SUCH
A SLUTTY GIRL
GIRL GIRL GIRL.

WHAT?
BUT I'M A
MAN!



WE ARE
SO SEXY SEXY
SEXY SEXY...

I'M
A MAN! A
MAN!



SLUT...
AMBER...
MAN...



SNORE
AMBER...



WHA? DID
SOMEONE SAY
SOMETHING?



WHAT
A WEIRD
DREAM...

COUGH
THAT VALIUM
MUST'VE BEEN
REALLY STRONG.
EVERYTHING
SOUNDS...
WRONG.

AND I WAS
SURE I CUT MY
HAIR SHORTER...
OH WELL.

RAUL WILL
KNOW HOW TO
FIX THIS.

LIGH...
MY WHOLE
BODY FEELS
OFF.

I THINK I'LL
HOLD OFF ON THE
BOZODIAZAPOOPS
OR WHATEVER
BECK CALLED
'EM..



WOW...
THAT'S A LOT
OF HAIR. I DON'T
KNOW HOW
CHICKS DO IT.



YAWN






I WONDER
HOW LATE I
SLEPT...

YAWN
GOOD THING IT'S
SATURDAY. GIVES ME
THE WEEKEND TO
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON.





A person's legs, wearing a black skirt, are visible in a shower stall. The person is standing on a grey tiled floor. A silver shower pan is visible in the background. The person's feet are bare. The background consists of grey tiled walls and a white shower door.

GOD, I'VE
NEVER HAD TO
PISS SO BAD IN
MY LIFE.

HOPEFULLY
A WARM SHOWER
WILL SHAKE THIS
GROGGINESS.



SIGH
THEN I GUESS
I'LL TRY TO COME
UP WITH A PLAN
OF...

A close-up shot of a woman with long, straight black hair and striking, bright green eyes. She has a shocked or intense expression on her face, with her mouth slightly open. She is shirtless. The background is a room with grey walls, a light switch, a wooden nightstand with books, and a doorway leading to another room with a tufted chair and a floor lamp.

NO
FUCKING
WAY!

TO BE CONTINUED