

<https://linktr.ee/GrowingDesires>

1,673 words.

<Breaking the Silence>

by <Growing Desires>

Chapter Three

I finished a beer or two and the pizza, feeling a great sense of bliss as I laid down in bed.

Kara...

The thought of what might be swirled around my tipsy brain, and I let myself fall into a deep sleep, my last thought was of Kara's beautiful face.

The next morning came around in a flash, my head was groggy, and I stumbled to my feet, desperately needing to take my morning piss. I unlocked my phone, and I saw messages from Kara and then all the emotion of the night before came flooding into my skull, easily replacing the mild discomfort from the bright daylight in my eyes and the throbbing sensation in my frontal lobe.

Kara

Good morning, I was going to play it cool and not message, but I couldn't stop looking over our messages... I know I am lame...

She might be as in on this as I am...

I quickly started typing, the message was from 45 minutes ago.

Don't want her to think I don't care...

The irrational thought was there, doubling my typing speed.

Me

Morning, sorry, I was still in bed. You aren't lame, not at all.

Kara

Still not a morning person, some things don't change huh?

Me

I get up fine for work.

Kara

You used to say the same thing for class. Haha.

Me

You got me.

Kara

Good to know I can still win.

Me

I guess some things don't change. Do you have any fun plans today?

Kara

Well, I am glad you asked, I am going to a cooking class today, me and my friend, Abbie are going.

Me

Oh nice, I don't remember an Abbie, what are you cooking?

Kara

We're learning how to make Chinese food today, I think it is Bao Buns today, I can't wait!

She certainly seems to like her food.

Me

That sounds awesome, I'd love to see how they turn out.

Kara

Definitely! Abbie is someone I met at work; she is a pretty close friend.

Me

In better company than me today then

Kara

Oh, why's that?

Me

I moved here years ago, and I haven't really got friends, I just kept climbing the corporate ladder so I never stopped really, I just got myself deep into work.

Kara

That is quite sad, I'm sorry...

Me

It's my own fault. I think some time in the gym is in order for me.

Kara

Well that certainly sounds good, I'd ask for a picture but that seems a bit naughty...

Me

A little bit, but then as I said earlier, some things don't change.

Kara

You're making me blush.

Me

I've been blushing since you sent me that selfie yesterday.

Kara

Stop it now, Abbie will be here in a few minutes.

Me

Alright, alright, you got up early, your plans are early, I get it, leave this lazy bones to his day. Have fun.

Kara sent a picture through at that moment, unexpected but certainly not unwelcome. She had put on some makeup and her hair was curled into some long ringlets. Her fair skin made her green eyes really stand out; I was once again lost in that smile. I quickly snapped a picture and sent it back, my picture was understandably much more dishevelled than hers, I had bed hair and looked like I had only woken up moments prior, which I had.

Kara

Have a good day.

Me

You too, remember to show me those buns!

Kara

That is rather forward of you!

My face went bright red. I wasn't a prude but seeing as we had only just started speaking less than 18 hours ago, I was mortified to have said that, but at the same time it was certainly right up Kara's alley to take it that way.

Me

I didn't mean...

Kara

You always were a butt guy... Have a good day x

I didn't really know what to say.

Me

You too x

I put my phone down and started to panic.

Hope I didn't blow it...

I scrolled up and tapped on the picture again to zoom in. Sometimes apps will hide some of the picture unless you tap on it, something that I knew but didn't think about until now when I saw more of the image. Kara had taken the picture in the hallway, behind her was a mirror. The angle wasn't favourable for me, but I was able to see something that almost made me drop my phone.

Is that her arm?

The side of the picture had a sliver of a mirror and it was angled just enough so I could see part of her arm, at least that is what I deduced it to be as it was not like what I was expecting, the back of her arm was exposed thanks to her dress which meant I could see her pale skin. It was how much that made me wonder. It wasn't a clear picture, a clear view but it was a lot bigger than I was expecting.

Maybe the mirror has an angle on the edge of the glass, so it distorts it.

That would make sense, only if it wasn't for the red discolouration I could see. They were telltale sign of significant growth.

Stretch marks.

I stared at the large looking arm and the marks certainly appeared to be stretch marks, thanks to the blurring of everything not in focus it was hard to tell.

Fuck corporate greed for the push into phone cameras and relying on software to make pictures better...

The prospect of what I thought I was seeing was enough to get me through my morning. My mind kept drifting back and after running on the treadmill for thirty minutes, I was just winding down and about to leave when I got a message from Kara.

It was a picture message; I saw it on my lock screen, and I instinctively opened the message and saw a picture of two Bao buns on a plate.

Kara

Those were Abbie's.

Another message came through and I nearly fell off the treadmill when I saw it.

Holy buns...

I recovered but I skipped my cool down jog, something I was sure to regret later, I stood breathing heavily and started to inspect the picture.

Standing in the mirror side on was Kara, one leg in front of another and she was showing off her curvy rear, the side profile made it look like she had a butt shelf, and those thighs were looking a bit bigger than I remembered from our time together. In fact, her ass looked bigger too. I inspected the photo and continued to pick up tiny details over her body. She looked almost the same as when I last saw her, but she had added some pudginess on her frame.

Thighs thicker... Ass bigger...

It wasn't just that, but she had a bit of a pudginess to her gut that she didn't really have before, her arms were looking bigger but there was one noticeable thing different.

No stretch marks.

Her bicep was devoid of any red marks, her face might've looked slightly thinner too, no double chin forming.

I was so focused on her body that I didn't notice the time stamp at the bottom of the photo.

It was taken two months after we broke up...

I closed the picture down and saw a message from Kara.

Kara

Sorry, I couldn't resist.

Why send me a picture from three years ago?

Me

*A good joke. The guy next to me on the treadmill certainly enjoyed me nearly falling
off the thing.*

Kara

Shit, Sorry!

Why did you nearly fall off?

Me

Come on.

Kara

What?

Me

You know why...

Kara

Maybe...

Me

So why are you asking?

Kara

Tell me Christian...

Me

I think your buns are a bit better than Abbie's.

Kara

Hmmm... Well, you haven't seen her buns, but you also haven't seen my buns...

Me

Touché

Kara

Well, I had some good buns in that photo... Here are my actual buns.

Another picture flashed up; this time it was set to once only.

My Heart skipped a beat.

Kara

Look at you, being so patient, you can open it... As long as you aren't back on the treadmill...

Her egging me on was not helping my sudden onset arrhythmia.

I tapped on the message and was met with a picture of two big puffy Bao buns, overstuffed with sauce. Certainly, didn't look as clean and well put together as Abbie's but they certainly looked good nonetheless.

Me

Nice buns.

Kara

You would say that.

Me

It's true though.

Kara

You've not seen my buns.

Me

I would like to.

Kara

You haven't changed at all hahaha.

Me

Guilty. I just liked what I saw. Who can blame a guy?

Kara

It was from a few years ago, I don't quite look like that anymore.

Me

I am sure you look great now too.

Kara

You would say that.

I wasn't really going to say much about this but... I have missed this... I have been wondering about us for some time and I just have to be upfront about this...

My eyes were glued to my phone, although my breathing had returned to normal from my run, the sweat had dried on me, I was finding myself feeling my heart rate increase again. I started at the chat screen and just kept looking at her name and what it said next to it.

Typing...

Time felt like it stopped, I thought I might've had an aneurysm and died in that moment in the eternal wait of her next message.

I felt my phone vibrate and I saw the message.

The length of time of her typing was not for the amount of content she was going to send, but rather the internal struggle with the content of the message. For the message was only three words long.

Kara

I've gained weight.

* * *