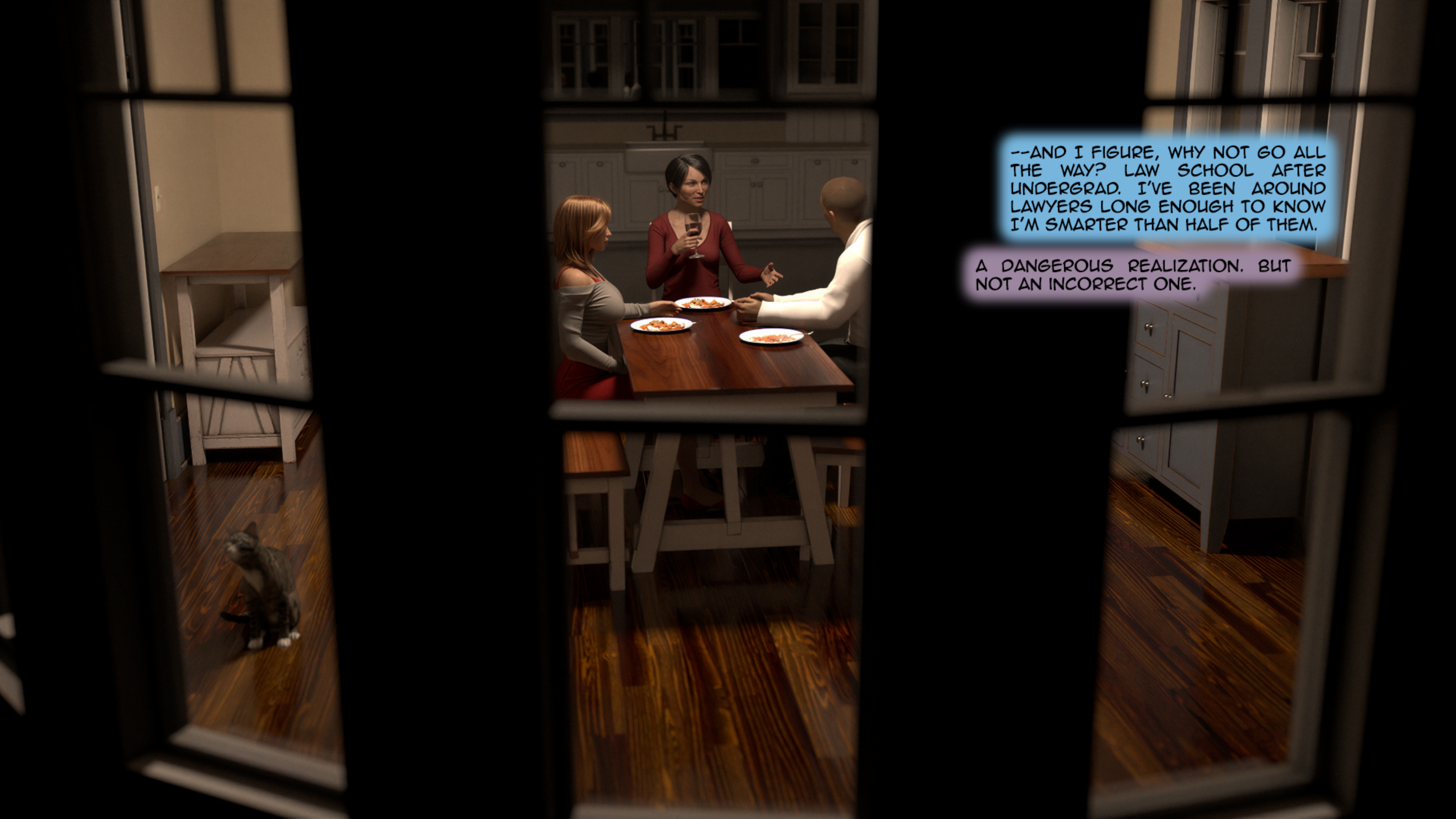


HALF SISTERS

Episode 70

Groundwork



--AND I FIGURE, WHY NOT GO ALL THE WAY? LAW SCHOOL AFTER UNDERGRAD. I'VE BEEN AROUND LAWYERS LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW I'M SMARTER THAN HALF OF THEM.

A DANGEROUS REALIZATION. BUT NOT AN INCORRECT ONE.




YOU REALIZE LAW SCHOOL MEANS ACTUAL STUDYING, RIGHT? NOT JUST LOOKING AUTHORITATIVE AND HOT AS FFFF-FLUDGE IN A NICE TIE.

BABE, FIRST, THANK YOU. SECOND, I SPENT SIX YEARS WATCHING LAWYERS BILL THREE HUNDRED AN HOUR TO SAY THINGS I ALREADY KNEW. AT SOME POINT YOU STOP TAKING NOTES AND START THINKING, "I SHOULD BE THE ONE CHARGING."



SO YOUR LEGAL INSPIRATION IS... GREED?

SEE? I'M ALREADY THINKING LIKE A LAWYER. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE STILL DOING THE DINOSAUR THING, RIGHT?



PALEONTOLOGY. AND YES. BUT FIRST I HAVE TO SURVIVE TWO SEMESTERS OF GEOLOGY. ROCK FORMATIONS, STRATIGRAPHY, MINERALOGY... YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE GROUND BEFORE YOU CAN READ WHAT'S BURIED IN IT. HONESTLY, WHEN I FIRST GOT DRAGGED DOWN HERE, TEXAS WAS THE LAST PLACE I WANTED TO BE. NO OFFENSE, MOM.

YOU ALSO DIDN'T WANT TO BE A GIRL, AND NOW...

I SAID NO OFFENSE! ANYWAY, FROM A PALEO PERSPECTIVE? THIS STATE IS INSANE. LIKE, TWO HOURS SOUTH OF HERE THERE'S A SITE IN THE JAVELINA FORMATION WHERE THEY PULLED OUT ALAMOSAURUS BONES - ONE OF THE LAST GIANT SAUROPODS BEFORE THE EXTINCTION EVENT. WE'RE TALKING SEVENTY FEET LONG, THIRTY TONS. AND BIG BEND HAS QUETZALCOATLUS, WHICH IS THIS PTEROSAUR WITH A WINGSPAN THE SIZE OF A SMALL AIRPLANE. THEY FOUND IT IN THE SEVENTIES AND PEOPLE ARE STILL ARGUING ABOUT HOW IT FLEW.

I UNDERSTOOD MAYBE FOUR OF THOSE WORDS.



AND THEN THERE'S DINOSAUR VALLEY DOWN IN GLEN ROSE, WHICH HAS SOME OF THE BEST-PRESERVED THEROPOD TRACKWAYS IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN LITERALLY STAND IN A RIVERBED AND PUT YOUR FOOT INSIDE A FOOTPRINT THAT'S A HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN MILLION YEARS OLD. OH! AND THERE'S A PACHYCEPHALOSAUR THEY FOUND NEAR THE OKLAHOMA BORDER THAT THEY LITERALLY NAMED TEXACEPHALE. TEXAS. HEAD. THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS. THEY NAMED A THICK-SKULLED DINOSAUR AFTER TEXAS.

HOW APPROPRIATE.

RIGHT? AND THE STATE DINOSAUR IS PALUXYSAURUS, WHICH MOST PEOPLE HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD OF BECAUSE IT GOT DESIGNATED IN 2009 AND NOBODY UPDATED THE TEXTBOOKS. BEFORE THAT IT WAS BRACHIOSAUR-- ANYWAY, THE POINT IS, I HAVE TO GET THROUGH TWO SEMESTERS OF ROCKS BEFORE I CAN TOUCH ANY OF THIS. BUT YEAH. TEXAS IS ACTUALLY KIND OF PERFECT FOR THIS.

SORRY. I GET CARRIED AWAY.

NO, KEEP GOING. I LIKE WATCHING YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING THAT ISN'T SHOPPING.

WOW. SEXIST.

BABE, YOU BURNED THROUGH SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LESS THAN A WEEK WITH ME.

I'LL DRINK TO THAT.

HEY. FOR THE RECORD - THE DEGREE STUFF IS GREAT. IT IS. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.



I SPENT A MONTH IN THAT APARTMENT WITHOUT YOU. EATING COLD PIZZA OFF PAPER PLATES. WATCHING THE DOOR LIKE YOU WERE GONNA WALK BACK THROUGH IT ANY SECOND. AND WHEN YOU DIDN'T... I REALIZED I DON'T REALLY CARE WHERE I AM OR WHAT I'M DOING AS LONG AS YOU'RE THERE. BOSTON, TEXAS, THE GODDAMN MOON. DOESN'T MATTER.



SO YEAH, I'LL GET THE DEGREE. MAYBE I'LL BE A GREAT LAWYER. BUT MOSTLY I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE THE IDIOT WHO LET YOU MOVE A THOUSAND MILES AWAY WITHOUT FOLLOWING.



THE GUEST SUITE IS JUST DOWN THIS HALL. EGYPTIAN COTTON SHEETS, READING LAMP, EN SUITE BATHROOM, AND A LOVELY VIEW OF THE SOUTH GARDEN. I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT VERY--

HE'S STAYING WITH ME!

...AH.

I PROMISE I'M A GENTLEMAN, MRS. FERRIS.

I'M SURE YOU ARE. WELL. BREAKFAST IS AT EIGHT. I CAN MAKE A PASSABLE OMELET.

YES, MA'AM. EIGHT SHARP.

AND JOSHUA?

YEAH?

THE WALLS IN THIS HOUSE ARE VERY OLD. AND VERY THIN.

SO. BEST SURPRISE EVER?

BEST SURPRISE EVER. NOW GET SOME SLEEP.
THAT MIDDLE SEAT AGED YOU FIVE YEARS.

WORTH EVERY SECOND. AND EVERY CRYING KID.
AND EVERY ELBOW TO THE RIBS.



YOU'RE SUCH A SAP.

ONLY FOR YOU.



LEAVE THOSE. COME WALK WITH ME.

I DON'T MIND DOING THEM. IT'S KIND OF RELAXING, ACTUALLY.



I KNOW IT IS, BUT THE GARDEN IS BETTER FOR THE KIND OF THINKING YOU'RE DOING.



YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL HIM SOMETHING ALL EVENING. HE DIDN'T HEAR IT.

HE HEARD IT. HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW IT MEANS ANYTHING YET.

SO TELL ME INSTEAD.

I LOVE HIM. I REALLY DO. BUT IF HE'S THERE - AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, RIGHT BESIDE ME - AND I COME OUT AS TRANS... IT'S NOT JUST MY FIGHT ANYMORE. PEOPLE WON'T JUST COME AFTER ME. THEY'LL COME AFTER HIM. HIS REPUTATION, HIS FRIENDSHIPS, HIS FUTURE IN LAW. YOU KNOW HOW TEXAS IS. HOW PEOPLE TALK. HOW THINGS FOLLOW YOU. I WAS READY TO CARRY THAT WEIGHT FOR MYSELF. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN CARRY IT FOR HIM TOO.

HAVE YOU ASKED HIM IF HE WANTS TO CARRY IT?

HE'D SAY YES. IN A HEARTBEAT. THAT'S THE PROBLEM. JOSH WOULD LIGHT HIMSELF ON FIRE TO KEEP ME WARM. BUT I'M NOT ASKING HIM TO DO THAT. AND THERE'S SOMETHING WORSE. SOMETHING I FEEL HORRIBLE EVEN SAYING OUT LOUD.

SAY IT ANYWAY.

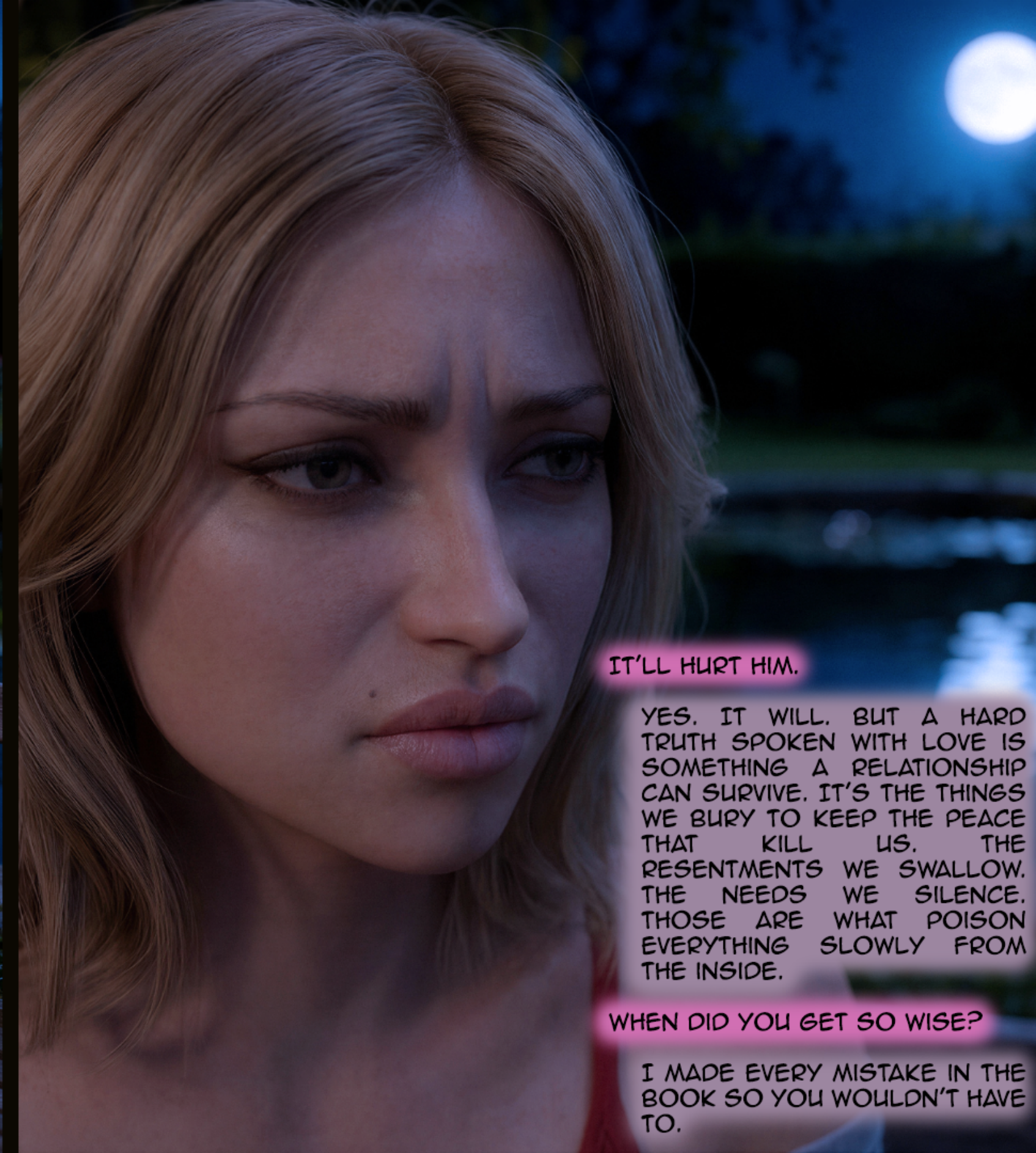
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING JUST ME. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER. NO ONE'S GIRLFRIEND. NO ONE'S PROJECT. NO ONE'S RESCUE CASE. JUST... SANDY. FIGURING OUT WHO SANDY EVEN IS WITHOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S EXPECTATIONS PRESSING DOWN ON ME.

AND NOW HE'LL BE RIGHT THERE. IN MY CLASSES, AT MY DORM, AT EVERY PARTY AND STUDY GROUP AND CAMPUS EVENT. AND I'LL BE "JOSH'S GIRLFRIEND" BEFORE I EVER GET TO BE JUST MYSELF. AND I KNOW HOW THAT SOUNDS. I KNOW IT MAKES ME SOUND SELFISH AND UNGRATEFUL--

IT MAKES YOU SOUND HUMAN, DEAR.

SO WHAT DO I DO? TELL HIM NOT TO COME? HE'S ALREADY ENROLLED. HE'S ALREADY HERE.

NO. YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH. YOU NEED TO TALK TO HIM, SANDY. REALLY TALK TO HIM. NOT AROUND IT, NOT IN HINTS HE MIGHT MISS. TELL HIM WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF. TELL HIM WHAT YOU NEED.



IT'LL HURT HIM.

YES. IT WILL. BUT A HARD TRUTH SPOKEN WITH LOVE IS SOMETHING A RELATIONSHIP CAN SURVIVE. IT'S THE THINGS WE BURY TO KEEP THE PEACE THAT KILL US. THE RESENTMENTS WE SWALLOW. THE NEEDS WE SILENCE. THOSE ARE WHAT POISON EVERYTHING SLOWLY FROM THE INSIDE.

WHEN DID YOU GET SO WISE?

I MADE EVERY MISTAKE IN THE BOOK SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO.













READY FOR THE
SHOW, SISSY?

A close-up shot of a woman with dark, wet hair in a shower. She has a frustrated or angry expression, with her mouth wide open as if shouting. Water is spraying from a showerhead above her. In the background, a window shows green foliage outside. The scene is lit with a cool, blueish light.

FUCK! GET IT TOGETHER,
NICK.

PALMER RANCH



NICK, HOLD ON. JUST WAIT A SECOND--

CAN'T. SNOWFALL NEEDS TO BE FED BY NINE OR HE GETS CRANKY. AND I TOLD TREVINO I'D EXERCISE HIM THIS MORNING. I'M ALREADY LATE.

THE HORSE CAN WAIT TEN MINUTES.

NO, HE CAN'T. HORSES ARE CREATURES OF ROUTINE. YOU MESS WITH THEIR SCHEDULE, THEY GET STRESSED. IT'S BAD FOR THEIR DIGESTION.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.

HONEY, YOU CAME HOME CATATONIC. YOU COULDN'T SPEAK. YOU WERE SHAKING--

I WAS TIRED. IT WAS A LONG DAY. SALON, FAKE GAY DATE, DRIVING A MOTORCYCLE - I WAS WIPED OUT AND I GOT A LITTLE EMOTIONAL. IT HAPPENS.

A LITTLE EMOTIONAL?

YEAH. YOU KNOW HOW THESE HORMONES ARE. ONE MINUTE I'M FINE, NEXT MINUTE I'M HYSTERICAL OVER NOTHING.

YOU DON'T LOOK FINE. YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S *PRETENDING* TO BE FINE, AND I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU DO THAT SINCE YOU WERE TEN YEARS OLD. I KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

MOM. I LOVE YOU. BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. NOT RIGHT NOW. MAYBE NOT EVER. I JUST WANT TO GO SEE MY HORSE AND HAVE A NORMAL SATURDAY MORNING. CAN I PLEASE JUST HAVE THAT?

AND THE FLASHBACKS? THE HALLUCINATIONS?

I HAD A WEIRD NIGHT. I'M OVER IT.

YOU'RE NOT OVER IT.

MOM. *PLEASE*.

FINE. BUT I'M COMING WITH YOU.

WHAT? WHY?

BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SEEN MR. TREVINO IN AGES. AND SOMEONE SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT OLD MAN IS EATING PROPERLY. BESIDES, I COULD USE SOME FRESH AIR.

YOU JUST WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME.

I WANT TO SEE A HORSE. IS THAT A CRIME?




A photograph of two women riding horses in a grassy field. The woman on the left is riding a white horse and wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic and light blue jeans. The woman on the right is riding a brown horse and wearing a grey t-shirt with a skull graphic and dark pants. They are both looking towards the camera. The background consists of green trees and a clear blue sky.

SEE THAT BLUFF OVER THERE?
TREVINO SAYS THERE'S A CREEK ON
THE OTHER SIDE THAT ONLY RUNS IN
SUMMER. WE COULD RIDE OUT
THERE NEXT WEEKEND IF YOU--

HONEY, I'VE BEEN THINKING. ABOUT
WHAT YOU SAID LAST NIGHT. ABOUT
THE MAN ON THE ISLAND. I KNOW
YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS. BUT
WHAT YOU DESCRIBED - THE
FLASHBACKS, SEEING SOMEONE
WHO ISN'T THERE - THAT'S NOT
JUST BEING TIRED. THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO SPECIALIZE IN THIS
KIND OF THING. THERAPISTS WHO
WORK WITH TRAUMA SURVIVORS. WE
COULD FIND SOMEONE DISCREET,
SOMEONE WHO--

DID YOU SEE THOSE WILDFLOWERS
BACK BY THE FENCE LINE? I THINK
THOSE WERE BLUEBONNETS. ISN'T IT
LATE IN THE SEASON FOR
BLUEBONNETS?

NICK--

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light grey sleeveless top and black riding pants, is seen from behind, riding a brown horse on a dirt path. In the distance, another rider on a white horse is also on the path, heading away. The landscape is a vast, open field with rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

RACE YOU TO THE RIDGE!

WHAT? NO, NICHOLAS, I HAVEN'T RIDDEN IN SO LONG! DON'T--



WE'RE TOUGHER THAN THEY THINK,
BOY. BOTH OF US. THEY CUT US
DOWN AND WE'RE STILL HERE.

NOW WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP IT
TOGETHER. JUST HAVE TO KEEP
RUNNING. THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US
AGAIN. NEVER.