

There were many stereotypes surrounding New York City, that it was crowded, loud, full of self-absorbed people. And that it was a crime-ridden hole.

And sadly, the city never failed to live up to its reputation.

There was a crime wave this year, which had been going strong for a while now. Streets where one knew to walk safely at night were slowly becoming dangerous. You couldn't walk in front of an alleyway without fear of getting jumped by some thief with a gun or a knife for your wallet or your phone.

A lot of times you didn't need to wait till nighttime for the streets to become dangerous, all you had to do was walk by a bad part of town.

It was not easy to be a New Yorker lately, less so if you were also a woman.

Melissa sighed as she sat in the subway car, the loud sound of the tracks was almost enough to drown out her own thoughts. It never failed to feel suffocating, even if the car didn't have many people around. Melissa still felt safe enough to pull out her phone, waiting for a new text from her friend Dani.

Dani had been mugged recently; her phone was stolen. She wasn't hurt, but it still had been a horrible experience that left a mark on her. Past the fear that came with going out again after such a thing, there was righteous anger and indignation. Her best friend began looking into various methods for personal defense, pepper spray, defense classes, thankfully she wasn't looking into guns...

But right now what she needed was a new phone, which she had gone to buy today, and so Melissa was waiting for a new text to arrive so she could add her.

She browsed while waiting, trying to ignore the advertisements on her feed, most of them about the Vigorex corporation's new product 'Femmax', a sort of female-only performance enhancement drug. God, it was so tacky, their promotional material was basically athletes doing just *slightly* tasteful pin-ups. Naturally, they were promoting their product while a lot of women were feeling unsafe. How skeezy can you get?

She wouldn't mind so much if not for the fact she had seen their advertisements everywhere lately. Hell, even the damn subway car had the poster of a very toned woman sunbathing with

the word 'Power' written under it, along with the info promoting their Femmax pills. What did any of that have to do with workout enhancement drugs?

Ugh, companies were so out of touch...

Finally, her phone beeped, and Melissa's blue eyes brightened as she saw Dani's telltale sign to show it was her, a cat emoji next to a muffin. She quickly called the number and didn't have to wait long for her friend to pick up.

*"Hey girl"* Dani's spirited voice came on the other end.

"Hey," Melissa replied. "So how's the new phone?"

*"Well, it's okay. Would have gone for something better but it's not like I was planning on getting a new one soon..."* She said with a frustrated drawl. *"Fuck, I didn't want to spend money on this"*

Melissa flinched, "Sorry, Dani"

*A sigh, "I'm sorry, I shouldn't be venting like that with you. Just... been feeling all kinds of frustrated lately. So defenseless, like I can't do a damn thing..."*

"I know I know," Melissa said placatingly. "But the best you can do is just take steps to feel safer, to be more prepared if something like that happens again"

*"Trust me, I ain't never letting another creep get away with this, not with his legs intact"*

Well, this was getting dark. Melissa tried to take it as a joke, "Picked up a defense class already?"

*"Oh even better, not only did I get us into one, I have a-"*

"Wait," Melissa cut her off, "Dani, I didn't tell you to sign me up for one too"

*"Honey, this class is good. I'd feel a lot better if you went with me. This is just a free class so you can at least see-"*

"I have work, Dani. You could have at least consulted me so I could work it around my schedule!"

Her friend sighed, *"You're right, I'm sorry I was just... trying to look up for you too"*

"Dani, I'm fine. It was sweet of you to worry but don't overstep like that"

*"Sorry"*

"At least this is just a free class," Thankfully Dani didn't have her data to sign her up for real, she did not doubt her impulsive friend would have done so. Ugh, she was always rushing into things without thinking. "Anyway, you were saying?"

*"Oh right. A friend of mine teaches this class, and she actually got me in contact with her sponsor"*

The car slowly came to a stop with a metallic screech, and Dani stood up. "Sponsor? Like, the sports type?" She walked towards the opening doors, phone still in her ear.

*"Not exactly, it's actually-"*

Then she felt a hand snapping at her phone like a viper, calloused fingers brushed against hers as they wrapped around her phone. "H-Hey!" She turned around in fright, her own hand gripping tightly reflexively on her phone.

Her assailant wore a hoodie and a cap under the hood, obscuring most of his features, she could only make out a stubbled jaw and mouth. The man grunted as he pulled, trying to snatch the phone from her hand.

*"Meli? Meli you alright?!"*

Panic and fear made her heart drum in her chest, Melissa's flight or fight instincts kicked into full gear as she pulled with both hands, trying to keep her phone from being taken. "L-Let go!"

"Hey!"

The man did let go, not from Melissa's shout, but from the sight of a couple of police officers who entered the car and witnessed the assault in progress.

"Freeze!"

This one the would-be-thief did not listen, and quickly ran out of the door. Melissa stood there, panting, her heart beating a mile a minute as she tightly clenched her phone over her chest.

"I'll go after him!" One of the officers called out, running after the assailant.

The other cop approached her, "Miss. Miss you alright?"

Melissa barely registered the words, her hands shook along with her knees as the full weight of the event fell down upon her.

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The tea was not helping her calm her nerves, Melissa thought with regret. Her favorite drink, a source of comfort when she needed the world to slow down and make sense again, was not working. Seldom anything was after that experience...

"I can offer you something stronger," Dani said as she sat down.

"I think I know what you have in mind, it's too early..." Melissa replied knowingly.

Dani hummed in thought before looking at her with understanding, not pity, but honest empathy, as the two now knew very well what the other had gone through. "How are you doing, honey?"

Melissa sipped her tea, "Could better"

"Heh, same"

At least Dani's company was helping her feel better. The two couldn't be more different, yet their long-standing friendship had carried them through tough times together. In Dani, she often found a source of comfort, an opposite that complimented her reserved nature quite well. Pushing her to do things that were good for her, get out of her comfort zone, aim higher.

Melissa was sometimes jealous of that sheer *confidence*. Dani was drop-dead gorgeous, with a slim curvy figure, flawless brown skin, and piercing green eyes. Her cropped short hair fit her very nicely, it drew more attention to her lovely facial features.

Melissa often felt bland compared to her, her long brown hair wasn't anything to write home about, her blue eyes didn't have that 'piercing' effect Dani's green ones had. And she considered herself to be just about average in terms of looks, regarding Dani's constant insistence that she was gorgeous and she should 'own it'.

So of course, she was leaning on Dani for support after this event. And it made her feel good knowing Dani relied on her just as much.

"No arguments about joining me for self-defense classes now?" Dani asked with a raised brow.

"Don't feel safe enough with a paper spray," Melissa admitted. "I need to know I can handle myself if it happens again. Next time the guy might be armed..."

Dani reached over the table and gently held her head, "We're going to be okay honey... because I know just the thing we need" Her smile widened slightly. "Remember what I tried to tell you before, about my friend's sponsor?"

"Kinda," It happened right before the incident. Some sort of athlete promoting sports enhancements substances for workouts or something?

"She is working for Vigorex,"

*That*, Melissa wasn't expecting.

"She is taking Femmax, oh but not just the Femmax that's on the market. She's in the clinical trials for their 'next phase' pill. A *much* stronger variant"

"Where are you going with this, Dani?" Melissa slowly asked, not liking where this was going.

"She said she can get me into the trials too, all I need to do is go over to Vigorex and sign a few forms" Her grin grew positively devious. "And I can bring a friend"

"...You're kidding me," Melissa deadpanned. "Your plan is to start doing steroids, *experimental* steroids at that?!"

"It's got *really* promising results, and it'd help with our training *so much*. You really think any thug with half a brain would try to rob someone who looks like they lift for a living"

"It's insane!" Melissa argued, "You've always been impulsive, but *clinical trials*? Dani, please who knows what kind of side effects- Besides if this is just to look fit, train like a regular person! Or hell, just start taking the Femmax that's on the market"

Dani frowned, "I don't have the patience to wait for results, not even with the regular Femmax"

"Thank you for proving my point. Seriously Dani, why would you ever think this is a good idea?"

"Honey," Dani fished out her new phone, looking over her files (thankfully safe in the cloud), and showed her a picture. "This is what my friend looks like *now*"

Melissa stared at the phone for a moment, "She's... big"

"This is only with one month of the new pill"

"*Ohmygod*" Melissa muttered and then cleared her throat. "But that amount of muscle so fast it's... it's not natural" *Even if that woman looked amazing...*

“Look, I won’t push you to join me if you don’t want to. But I *am* going to get the new pill one way or another” Her friend said defiantly. “At least... come with me tomorrow to Vigorex, just to get a look at things, see there’s nothing to worry about”

Ugh, damn she was making those doe eyes at her. Melissa knew she had lost this round now that the eyes were used.

She didn’t want to think much about why she would the looks Dani gave her so... enchanting. Friends weren’t supposed to think like that of each other.

“...Okay,” Melissa finally said. “I’ll come with, but I’m not joining up”

“Oh honey, if half the things my friend told me are true, you’ll soon change your tune”

“Doubtful”

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Vigorex Laboratories was located in center Manhattan, a tall building of countless shiny windows that collectively reflected everything like a mirror. As she and Dina entered the place, Melissa took notice of the pristine white décor, with statues done in the style of ancient Greece, marble sculptures of powerful women, athletes, and warriors, along with various types of paintings that depicted women at their strongest, their bravest, and most importantly, their most successful.

A bit gaudy in her opinion. Why put so much effort into the reception? Was it a statement or something? Dani sure looked like she was taking it all in with excitement.

The receptionist was a rather tall woman, short black hair, white skin, hazel-nut eyes. And strangely enough, a *very* large and baggy coat. It looked like a lab coat, but there was something... off about it. Like its purpose was to hide her body more than anything. And with her standing behind a large podium that hid her legs and the way the collar was buttoned up around the neck, it made it difficult to assess the woman’s physique.

“How can I help you?” She politely said as she welcomed them.

“Hi, I have an appointment with one of your representatives. It’s for Dani Adelice and a guest”

“One moment,” She smiled with practiced ease as she typed into the computer. “There we are; Second floor, use the elevator” She pointed at the stainless-steel doors to the right, “someone will be there to guide you”

“Thank you,” Dani nodded and hooked her arm around Melissa, pretty much dragging her. “Come on,”

“Coming, coming...” She muttered, still staring suspiciously at the large woman who waved them off with a professional smile.

The elevator ride was short, and no sooner than the doors opened, they were greeted by another woman in a baggy buttoned-up coat. The only visible part of her, aside from her head and hands, was a bit of feet because of her high heels. The woman was Asian, with brownish-black hair tied up in a bun, her almond-shaped eyes crinkled with faint wrinkles as she smiled widely at them.

“You must be Dani, it’s a pleasure to meet you,” She extended her hand, shaking Dani’s with eagerness. “And this is-”

“My friend Melissa Chambers,” Dani chuckled, “She’s here for some ‘window shopping’”

“Just... satisfying some curiosity, is all” Melissa timidly said.

“Oh I’m sure we can change her mind,” The woman said heartily, “Doctor Chenda Thach, I’m your representative,”

“You’re a doctor?” Melissa said in confusion. “I didn’t know doctors acted as reps for pharmaceuticals too...”

“We gotta stand by our brand, and what better way than to show our professionals taking an active role? Particularly for those who sign up for phase two of Femmax” Doctor Chenda said, her smile never leaving her face. “Please, follow me”

They did so, and Melissa took the chance to look at her surroundings. She spotted rows of cubicles with the eventual office. She saw only women of every ethnicity and varying ages, all of them wearing those lab coats that made them look so big.

...Did they just 'look' big, or was there more going on?

"Femmax is not just any drug," The doctor said, "It's not a mere sports supplement. It is a gateway to which woman can unleash their pure physical potential. Oh, society likes to go about 'the weaker sex', even after decades of hard-earned labor. This is why we designed this *marvelous* drug to... speed up the change in social hierarchy. Show the world that once we are no longer limited by our bodies, there truly isn't anything keeping us from achieving what we desire"

Dani grinned, "I'm liking your pitch, doc"

Melissa did have to admit it was well practiced.

"Women are only as successful as society lets them, we're only as safe as *others* deem we should be" Though she continued her rep's spiel, there was no mistaking the actual *bite* in her voice. "So we have to take matters into our own hands" She went back to 'saleswoman' quickly, "Why don't I show you?"

She led them further into the floor, and they were surprised at what they saw. Glass walls showed the inside of a moderately sized gym filled with *gorgeously* athletic women of varying levels of musculature. Though a lot of them ranged from physique to *bodybuilder*. Powerful, energetic, and *dynamic* women who worked out with fire in their eyes.

Dani looked *thrilled*, almost salivating at the sight. Melissa for her part felt her throat crack dry.

"Chenda," A dark-skinned woman wearing the same large lab coat said in a curt greeting as she stepped into the gym. Taking off the attire to reveal a sports bra and shorts and an absolutely *shredded* figure.

"T-They're all-"

"These are all our employees," Chenda explained, "They're all on Femmax, so we have a gym every three floor so they can burn off the excess energy"

The girls were stunned.

“Please, step into my office” The doctor kindly said as she guided them once again. The place was well furnished, it had a very clean ‘clinical’ look to it. With an assortment of weights in the corner of the room. “As you saw, Vigorex takes care of its employees, a steady supply of Femmax can turn office ladies into *athletes*. And the new phase of the drug we’re working on is meant to bridge the gap far faster than normal”

“This is all... too much to grasp,” Melissa muttered. “How long have they all been taking Femmax?”

“Oldest is six months, and she’s already qualified for a heavy-weight bodybuilding division,” Chenda smiled, “We want the next batch of Femmax to speed up the process to at least three months”

Oh god... to change yourself so rapidly...

“I’m in,” Dani eagerly said, sitting in front of the desk. “Where do I sign?”

“Dani, come on, you can’t honestly be-”

“I thought I told you this is *my* decision” Her friend cut her off, her brow furrowing. “I’m doing this, Meli. One way or another...” Her fists clenched. “I’m not gonna be a victim again”

“Dani...”

“If I may,” Doctor Thach interrupted. “I understand your apprehension. Clinical trials to test a ‘super steroid?’ It all sounds *extremely* sketchy. Not to mention dangerous... But I’ll point back to what I said, we *stand* by our product”

The doctor slowly unbuttoned her coat, and in a swift movement, the vestment fell to the floor.

She was *enormous*. Easily the largest woman they'd ever seen in person, marginally larger than any of the women they saw in the gym. Her biceps were almost the size of their head, shredded and marked with highly detailed definition. Her stomach jutted out six bags of striated muscle, while her legs were brimming with power, pure tree trunks of flesh. Every flexor in her body jumped with the slightest movement, making her flesh ripple.

And yet she did not sacrifice a single drop of femineity, with *beautiful* curves, along with bountiful breasts supported by two thick slabs of pectoral meat.

"So we also test it ourselves," Chenda said, taking a deep breath and placing her hands on her fists, flaring her wide lats and stretching the sports bra. "To show our commitment and trust in our creation"

She walked up to the weights as Dani and Melissa followed her with their bug-eyed stares, she bent over and showed her sinewy hamstrings and steely glutes, picking up a large barbell, she began making curls, pumping her arms with increasingly growing veins.

"We made Femmax so women wouldn't be looked down on anymore" She panted, "So we wouldn't have to conform to men's standards of beauty. So we wouldn't, hng" Chenda grunted, her muscles swelled ever so slightly, "be cowed by boy's clubs or chauvinistic lobbying. In work, or in life" Her voice grew angrier, more passionate, with every word. The speed of her reps increased. "So people would stop saying we're unqualified, too emotional, to be in positions of power!"

Her top strained and ripped.

"So we can finally stop living in a society where they have everything and we have to *fight* to have *anything*... so we can ugh!" She clenched her teeth, sweat dripping down her forehead, "*Stop being their victims!*"

Her sports bra split in half during her final rep.

Chenda panted, letting the bar fall with a loud clang, "Sorry about that... still working out the kinks for increased hormones" She said, uncaring she was half naked in front of the two. "This is what Femmax is, a promise to a better future for women... and these trials will help make that a reality"

Dani looked close to hyperventilating. She saw the doctor's power, her body, her *beauty*, and wanted it for herself.

Melissa saw what the drug had turned this woman into. A barely restrained creature, who acted proper and polite but could lash out at any moment. Fierce, dangerous... the sort of thing *nobody* would dare mess with.

Melissa signed up for the trials alongside Dani.