

“Nothing below the waist” I said firmly.

“Ok...Can I ask why though?”

I hesitated then added. “I wasn’t able to get a script for the pill...”

“Well...I can pull out...”

“No”

“I could wear a condom at least”

I thought for a second, I wasn’t sure. I was hoping there would be more to our “date” than a quick meal and then immediately jumping into the sack. It wasn’t a date. I was still a virgin and , I was afraid of being a prude my entire life. I thought to myself about how on TV and in movies sometimes people would have sex first and that would lead into a relationship. Maybe this could be something like that. I really did like him, He was attractive in a normal people way. He was tall with brown hair that had bleached blonde ends and had blue eyes under a pair of black thick rimmed glasses. He wasn’t super built, but I was about half his size. One of my closest friends since middle school, Sarah had introduced me to him. They did fencing in college together. She had also mentioned I may want to be a little wary. His ex-girlfriend had allegations about him. But, my friend had also mentioned this girl tended to be a little dramatic. He was nice. He had an even voice, but he talked more when talking about things that he was passionate about. He didn’t smile often but when he had laughed at my jokes I felt special. We also had a similar taste in Anime and Video Games. We both loved cats. He was crazy about the cat that lived in his

apartment, Nova (even though it was his roommate's). She was an adorable little all grey cat. I thought she kind of looked like a smaller female version of my own cat, Willow. I wanted to introduce him to Willow but I hadn't found a time when my mother wasn't home in the apartment yet. My mom was super Catholic and was weird whenever I dated anyone. She had even forbidden "Hanky panky" before I left. Even though I was 23. I didn't do the best job of hiding the hickies last time I saw him.

"Well?" He was getting impatient. Oh no I didn't want him to not want me.

"...Ok. but get a condom..."

"Alright" He went off to his roommate's room to get a condom. He came back in the room and put it on. It hurt so bad. I kept thinking how it felt off like something was wrong. At one point his roommate's small grey cat, Nova ran across my bare-naked back. I giggled a bit at that then assured him I was laughing because of the cat. As he kept going I felt as though my soul had left my body and I was floating above myself, it also hurt, a lot. I started to think about how I had made a mistake. I wanted to think on it more. I didn't want him to leave. I thought about how the pain would go away after a while. In that moment I cared more about his feelings than my own comfort.

"It hurts" I said finally.

"Yeah that's normal for a first time" He kept going. I didn't want to tell him to stop. I didn't want to disappoint him. Finally, I couldn't stand it anymore the pain was unbearable.

"Can we stop? You're really hurting me." Tears were running down my face from the pain.

"Alright..." He said annoyed. "Maybe you should masturbate or something to relax your body"

"I don't think I can..."

“Alright...maybe take a shower?”

I agreed and hopped in the shower letting the warm water wash over me. He stepped in with me and knelt and tried to give me oral sex.

“Ugh you really should shave.” He said in a disgusted tone. I had shaved...just not completely.

“Ok...I think I’m done... do you think we could just hang out?”

“Alright.”

We stepped out of the shower and back into the bedroom he shared with his roommate. We both got dressed and he turned on “Bill Nye Saves the World”. My body still hurt. He leaned in to kiss me again and I kissed him back.

“You use way too much tongue.” He said flatly.

“Oh...Sorry...” I tried to sit back on the bed, but he kept climbing on me attempting to initiate sex again. I had him drive me to my friend’s house rather than my own house. I knew my mom would not make things any better. He kissed me before I left, and I just felt so drained and defeated. I felt like a part of myself had died.

“Are you Ok?”

“...no”

I broke into uncontrollable sobs. I felt like the world was closing around me. I still smelled *him* on me. I still tasted him. I mean he had kissed me before leaving me here at Laurel’s house. She embraced me. Neither of us were usually very touchy people. But right now, it was what I needed, and she was there for me. I was glad she’s the person I went too.

“I mean I was going to sleep with him...but like... I wanted to wait until I got a BC script but like he convinced me...I...I didn’t want to disappoint him” I sobbed.

“I know” She whispered, still holding me.

“I still want to date him...” I said partially to myself. My dumb-ass texted him.

*Hey...can I ask you a question? Do you want to like to go out like be together or do you want to be friends?*

I waited for what felt like hours but was only about the span of ten minutes.

*Hey, I think we are better as friends. I am looking for someone who is ok with a comfortable silent and when we were watching Netflix you seemed uncomfortable.*

I broke down sobbing again and showed Laurel my phone.

“I just wanted him to love me...” I had tears streaming down my face. “I mean it wasn’t rape... I did say yes...eventually.”

“I mean but what he did was predatory...”

“It’s my fault...I shouldn’t have said yes.”

“It wasn’t your fault...”

“And ...I just wanted him to love me... I’m not good enough...” I starred at the hardwood on the floor of her dining room.

“Ok but... ‘A comfortable silence’ honestly it sounds like he’s looking for a blow-up doll”

“True” I giggled a little despite myself. Laurel’s cat, a small brown tabby jumped onto my lap. I smiled a little. Kitsky was usually super shy but she could tell when someone was upset. She purred and kneaded my lap.

“Also, after we...he kinda got critical of me? Like he was saying I kiss with too much tongue? And he even said the cat didn't like me? But she did...”

“Man, he said the cat didn't like you? That's just nasty”

“Yeah...” I said as I pet Kitsky on the head.