

To the Stage

I'm sitting on my bed with my laptop watching a show, when I hear a knock on my door.

"Come in," I say, not paying attention.

The door opens and I look up. I move my laptop to the side quickly and jump into his arms, hugging him tightly.

"Awh Ben I missed you so much," I tell him, hugging him tighter.

"You're gonna miss me even more when you squeeze the life out of me," Ben struggles to speak.

"Oh, sorry," I let him go, but keep my legs wrapped around his waist.

"It's okay, I missed you too," He pecks my lips.

"What kind of kiss was that,"

He kisses me deeply and sits down.

I hold onto him and kiss him.

"Mm, I missed you," I mumble against his lips.

"Missed you too," He breaks the kiss.

"So how was your trip?" I ask, getting o him.

"It was good, it was so busy due to it being close to the holidays, it was very warm," Ben tells me.

"I can't imagine how busy it would've been, I'm glad you had fun," I smile at him.

"What did you do while I was gone?"

"I just mainly hung around the house, I hung out with Cindy a few times,"

"So what do you reckon we do today?" He asks.

"Eh, I've been cooped up in my room for a while, we should go take a walk," I suggest.

"In this temperature?" Ben raises a brow.

"Come on, dress warm, I'm sure you're now used to the thirty degrees, but it's the negatives here, get your jacket on," I laugh.

"Alright,"

We get ready and leave the house.

"What all did you do in Mexico?" I ask.

"Well the first day I got there my parents wanted to rest for the day because of how long it took to get there, so we rested for the first day, but the next day my parents booked us for this day trip to see the traditional land, all this and that, it was boring but fun, the rest of the trip we hung around the resort and I swam a lot, drank a lot, you know, it was fun, but I'm glad to be back here with you, even if it's freezing," Ben explains, laughing at the end.

"That sounds like a lot of fun," I tell him.

"It was,"

We walk around the park, surprisingly a lot of people are out with their kids playing in the snow, considering how cold it is.

"Do you want to get hot chocolate?" Ben asks.

"Sure,"

We walk to the nearest coffee shop, they serve hot chocolate around the winter time.

We sit down at a table and just make small talk.

We hear the bell hanging from the door ring. I look over to see James and a girl.

"Hey, there's James," I tell Ben.

Ben looks over as James looks at Ben, he smiles and walks over.

"Hey Ben, Veronica, how are you guys doing?" James smiles at us.

"We're great, how are you?" Ben speaks.

"I'm great! This is my girlfriend Brandi," James introduces her.

"Veronica," I shake her hand.

"Ben," He shakes her hand.

"Oh! Dude I got your money!" James hands Ben \$200.

"Whoa man, what's this for?" Ben asks, clearly confused.

"For the bet," James says.

"Bet?"

"Yeah! Remember? We made a bet that you could get Veronica drunk and to have fun with us, sorry man I just got around to giving you the money," James says.

"You made a bet on me?!" I ask, angry.

I don't let them speak, I just storm out.

I can't believe Ben would make a bet for \$200, just to see if I'd drink with them! He didn't respect that I didn't want to break the law with them! He just pushed it onto me, and for \$200! Did he not care about what I wanted?!

I storm back home, knowing Ben will end up following me.

"Roni wait!" I slam the bedroom door in his face.

I take my jacket off and kick my boots to the side. I pull my hair in frustration, taking deep breaths.

My door opens and Ben walks in.

I just look at him, crossing my arms.

"Come on Roni, what do you want me to say? I'm sorry, okay," Ben speaks calmly.

"So what? Was getting me to lose my virginity and fall in love with you apart of the bet too? Was all of this some scheme for you to win \$200? Well I hope I was worth the money!" I sarcastically spit.

"I forgot all about the bet! I forgot it even happened!" Ben defends.

"Yeah right! That's probably why you slept with the girl, because you don't actually want to be with me," I challenge, knowing how low of me it was to bring that up, but right now I don't care.

"God! Stop fucking bringing that up!" Ben punches my wall in anger, luckily not putting a hole in it.

"How can I not?! I have trust issues with you now because of that! Just take your money and go!" I scream at him.

Ben glares at me, I glare right back at him.

Silence falls over as we both search for something to say. Ben takes deep breaths, as do I.

Ben closes his eyes for a moment, then opens them again, looking at me with a softer look.

"No Veronica, that was before you and I spoke, before I fell in love with you, that bet means nothing to me, you saw how confused I was when James gave me the money, I care about you, I'll give that money back to James if you want, I just want you,"

I take a deep breath, I know he doesn't care about the bet. I know how he truly cares about me, I know he regrets deeply about sleeping with the other girl.

"I'm sorry, I overreacted," I tell him.

"Don't apologize, you didn't do anything, it was me who was a jackss to make a bet on something you were clearly uncomfortable with then," Ben comes closer to me.

I get closer to him, embracing him in a hug.

"I'm sorry I got mad," I tell him sincerely. "I know you don't mean anything by the bet, I know,"

"Thank you, I'm sorry too,"

We stand there and hug for a while.

"What a great way to start off you coming home," I make a joke.

"I know right," Ben chuckles.

"Kids!" I hear my mom shout.

Ben and I head downstairs to find my mom in the kitchen with a box.

"Do you guys want to make a gingerbread house?" She asks.

"Do we look ten?" I laugh.

"Yes we do!" Ben grins widely like a ten year old.

"Well I guess we are," I laugh.

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