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Chapter 863
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"Why didn't you betray her?" Phyllisprodded. "Don't tell me she's dead."

"No, she's fine," I replied."She was the onewho told me to date other women."

"That's harsh," Zelda commiserated. Shethought Kimberly had dumped me.

"Oh no," I corrected her. "We stayedtogether until I graduated last month. Four of the best years of my life. When she told me to date other women it was because I was killing her. I have a voracious sexual appetite and she was desperate for a full night's sleep."

"Do you ever go home alone?" Marshajoined in.

"Does leaving a woman's house at 1 a. m.count?" I requested.

"Did she throw you out?" Rivka interrogated.

"No. She and her sister were exhausted so Ipicked up my roommate and left," I

exaggerated.

"Wait!" Nicole held up her hand."Sisters...and you told us your roommatewas gay?"

"Morals and scruples," I repeated. "See, I wasdating one sister and the other sister wanted a date so I talked my gay roommate into being my wingman so I wouldn't end up sleeping with them both. It didn't work out so well. The second, older sister was horny, so my guy pretended to pass out."

"Have you ever considered you are ahorrible person?" Marsha studied me.

"Yes. Not only have I thought about, I'vebeen told that a few dozen times. It usually is accompanied by 'I 'm going to kill you', or ' you had better make it up to me'."

"Have you ever been hurt?" Phylli s appearedconcerned.

"My body is a roadmap of poor decisionmaking," I responded.

deceptively pretty had to have made her a frightening lawyer.

"What was the worst thing to ever happen toyou?" Rivka grinned. Her ability to be

"When they were happening, I was a bitmore concerned with what might happen to me as opposed

to rating them," I informed her.

"Except for being shot with an arrow, beingchased around naked with a hot poker and having my

bed dowsed with lighter fluid while I was still in it were probably the worst,"I nodded."I've been stabbed a few times, tasered, occasionally thrown out of a window not on the first floor and had bookcase dropped on me once, so I consider myself a connoisseur of ex-girlfriend vengeance."

"Have you ever been involved with a policeproceeding?" Rivka became a tad bit more intense.

"Nah," shook my head. "I had it coming. Asyou said, I'm kind of a horrible guy."

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slavishly devoted to the law that I'd ruin some girl's life because I was a total bastard."

"That's unfair," I countered. "I'm not soww . NονεθŴΦrm.có(m)

"Domestic Violence laws are supposed toprotect the innocent from the abusive," I added."I haven't

problems myself. By the looks on your faces, you are about as disappointed in me as the policewoman I am currently seeing. This is who I am and I'm not going to apologize for it."

"Mind you, I'm not some gun-toting,roughneck Libertarian," I clarified. "I believe in law, order and the justice system. If someone pulls out an AK-47 on me at a corner bodega, I'm making 9-1-1 my bitch

lied to you about my misadventures, but you should understand I chose to handle most of my

girl kneeing me in the nuts because I slept with her best friend in her lingerie."

There was a pause as the ladies looked around. They were making an assessm ent of how much trouble I'd cause versus how much fun I would be. They all smiled at me. They always do.

on speed-dial. I don't want to be a hero, or fulfill my organ donor card. I just don't equate that to a

trouble I'd cause versus how much fun I would be. They all smiled at me. They always do.

"Who was wearing the lingerie?" Zeldasmirked.

"I've worn women's lingerie before, but itreally wasn't my thing," I mused.

about it."

means."

"I'll go through a lot for good sex," I winked."It was my girlfriend's lingerie on her bestfriend."

"Wait," Rivka noted."Didn't the best friendknow you were dating the first girl?"

"Yeah. I'm not sure why that never stopsthem," I shrugged."Around the fifth time I stopped worrying

"Wow, do you have any idea how manywomen you've been with?" Rivka asked.

"Yes--223 as of Friday. I'm hoping to break300 before work replaces me with those guys from 'Hamster Dance', " I told them. "And yes, I always use protection."

"I may not know where my partner hasbeen, but I know where I've been and it

different woman, she wasn't pissed?" Rivka giggled.

scares me," I snickered. "That's why I always carry ten."

"Do you always use protection?" Phyllispiled on.

"Ten?" Nicole snorted."Do you regularlycheck the expiration date, or are you that ambitious?"

"Have you ever run out?" Marsha snickered.Our snickering, chuckling and laughter were drawing

"Ambitious? I'd carry more except it's hardto hide more than ten in a wallet--I've tried," I sighed.

"Run out? Hell, I've gone door to door in awomen's dormitory at 2 a. m. trying to find some," I

related. "Ran into an old girlfriend doing that."I slipped into a dreamy smile.

"Why do I think that despite it being 2 a. m.in her dorm with you seeking a condom for use with a

"Oh God no," I waved off. "She was freakingfurious. That was some of the most intense 'I'm lonely and it's all your fault' sex I haveever been through."

"You have names for different kinds of sex?"Nicole was almost crying from laughing so hard.

"Oh yeah. The first time I run across adifferent sexual experience, I slap a name on it so when it

happens again, I know what to do,"I explained.

"Isn't every woman unique?" Zelda sniffled.

"That sounds nice in a love song, but 'no'," Ismiled."Women, and men, have a finite number things-needs and responses. Women can have different erogenous zones, but there all on the human

"What's my 'thing' then?" Nicole taunted. She didn't think I could do it.

"Sex has to be an accomplishment with you, Nicole," I informed her. "You need to be engaged

mentally as much as anything else. You need a poet who runs marathons. Otherwise you end up

staring at the ceiling after sex wondering what better use you could have made of your time."

body. Admittedly, it can be a bit like predicting the weather at times. It is not a perfect system by any

being misunderstood even more.

"Nicole?" Rivka prodded her friend. Nicoleremained silent. I knew that look.

Silence. That was the norm for that kind of revelation. Women hated to be laid bare. They hated

"Nicole, I'm bad news. Wouldn't you preferto keeps thing simple?" I hoped.

I was wrong to hope. I kept praying they would go 'hey, great, mindless sex-- let's not blow it', but

"We could go out on a date and see how thatworks?" Nicole offered. Doom.

they never did. I hated giving lame erotic encounters, despite the guarantee of anguish that always

"Cá el Nyilas; I'm in the book and I work forHavenstone Commercial Investments," I stupidly replied. "You probably have a killer workload were as I spot-check children's toys for WMDs, Give me a call when you have a night free." How was it going to turn out? Sex, sex, sex, sex, sex,-let's make

a commitment --you cheating fuck-nut! I hate you.

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Girls weren't predictable --I was.

"Cáel, we are going out to dinner, if youremember who you are supposed to be with," Libra seethed as she and the others passed Nicole's table.

"Yup, gotta go where I'm not wanted. Niceseeing you again, Nicole," I grinned. "Ladies, I hope it was a pleasure. It was for me. Good night."

Dinner-- was-- bad. Felix, hemorrhoid that he was, squashed Gene's feeble attempts to draw him

back to her as he made crystal clear that he was taking Brooke home --to fuck her into Paradise...

instead of letting her go home with me. Problem being -- Brooke wasn't mine to take--never had

For the first time in his life, I thought Brian was about to be screwed. Libra was past uber-bitchy by the fifth glass of wine. Brian held a pair of Jokers and thought he was the boss, like always. Libra had four Queens and would be screaming my name when she orgasmed -- Brian was sexually

proficient. He was also a misogynist, I was now sure, and Libra was going to make him

him again. It wasn't that I was that unforgettable. I was that I knew what she wanted and had given it to her and not getting it Saturday afternoon while Brooke did was frosting her ass. What did that mean for me?

For the first time in a long, long time, I was pissed with another guy. Trent really wasn't worth my

time, but Felix was about to cross my here-until-now unforeseen line of what guys did to girls. It was

dawning on me that this was the result of me. Someone was doing something wrong to a girl

Then she was going to grab up her clothes, storm out of Brian's place and never want to talk with

That would be of cold comfort for Brooke. We split up after dinner. I didn't have the heart to pick up Gene, who was easy prey right then. It was too much like what Felix thought he was doing to me. I took a cab to Havenstone, changed clothing and biked home. I barely had dinner ready for Timothy when he came through the door.

www.nô $\mathbb{V}e\mathbb{L}\mathbf{W}$ o \mathbf{r} @. \mathbf{c} o \mathbf{m} "I should have beaten someone up," Ifrowned, "but I didn't and now some girl --Brooke --is going to

"Was it something you did?" Timothy asked.

"No. There is this guy at work who is usingher to alpha-dog me," I

because of me. It wasn't my fault. Felix was being a jerk.

"That's not a look I'm used to seeing," heremarked.

have her heart kicked because of it."

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-- only dishonest and unfaithful.

"Brooke?" Timothy was confused."Youhardly like her. What a sleaze (Felix). If it was Odette, first I'd slap you around for still being here. Then we'd go get him."

"It is called a conscience, Dimwit," Timothysnorted. That didn't help much. Conscience? Man, I'd stop my bike to run across a highway to move a tortoise off the road. I used to feed some of the Bolingbrook wild hares during the winter. I did humiliating crap for charity. I was never mean to a girl

"I'm not even sure why I feel bad about this,"I grunted."As you said, I hardly like her."