**When Brian Met Justin**

**By Shirley Imsurlay**

Brian Kinney & Justin Taylor, can they just be friends?

Part 1

Brian Kinney drove grudgingly down the winding streets of Commonwealth Ave. The closer he got to the Boston College campus the more he regretted being talked into this. His sister Claire is going to owe him big time.

Brian made a right turn into the campus parking lot. He opened the driver’s door and stood outside.

“Shit, how am I supposed to find this guy..” he muttered to himself as he looked around the vast parking lot. There were several people standing around with suitcases looking as if they were waiting on people. Brian continued to look around when he spotted a guy walking toward him. He was a fairly short man with beautifully brilliant blue eyes; his blond hair was long and shaggy. Brian continued to watch him as he approached, he was struggling as he carried a huge suitcase and what looked like an art portfolio. He walked up to Brian and stopped.

‘Are you Brian?”

“Yeah. You Justin?”

Justin nodded his head in answer as he walked to the back of the beat up Oldsmobile Brian was driving.

“Could you pop the trunk?”

“Actually the trunk is full-you’ll have to put that on the back seat.” Brian opened the back passenger door and Justin slid his suitcase and portfolio into the back. He slid off the backpack Brian just noticed he was wearing, and carried it around to the front passenger seat with him. Once they were both settled in the car, Brian started the engine and pulled back out onto the street.

“Brian I appreciate this ride, you really saved me at the last minute” Justin said as he sat back in the passenger seat.

“Not a problem, it was only a half an hour of my way. And what’s a half hour when you have a 6 hour drive ahead of you”

Justin looked at Brian and smiled. “What a sweetheart you are” he said. He was either ignoring the sarcasm, or he missed it completely. “You know Linda said you were a good guy.”

”Who is Linda?”

“Your sister’s best friend. She’s the one who told Claire I was going to Pittsburgh after graduation and my ride fell through. Claire told her you were heading back home as well so…here we are carpooling.”

“Yeah here we are?” Brian muttered with a lot less enthusiasm than Justin.

Justin Taylor was not one for silence so whenever the conversation died down he introduced a new topic to get a going again.

“I had this professor in my Human Behavior Studies class.”

“Human Behavior Studies, why take a class to study people?”

“Hey don’t knock it; it was quite an interesting class. Well, anyway my professor made this remark that sparked a huge debate in class. He said a man and a woman could not be friends without there being some sort of sexual undertone to the relationship.”

“I find that to be true with some men and women.” Brian said as he focused on the road ahead of him.

“What, that is utter bull. My friend Daphne and I have known each other for two years and not once did I have an urge to do it with her.”

“Why? Is she ugly?

“No, quite the opposite, she is a real looker”

“And you as a red-blooded male do not want to rip her clothes off and do unthinkable things to her.” Brian said trying to contain the shudder that was threatening to course through his body at the thought of heterosexual sex.

Justin glanced at Brian as he drove, wondering now if maybe this was not a good topic to bring up at this time. Justin has never lied or denied his sexuality, but he was wondering about the logic of revealing he was gay while driving alone with an obvious jock. He could either strand him on the highway or beat the shit out of him and then strand him on the highway. Even with those negative thoughts floating around in his head, Justin decided to be honest and take his chances.

“I’m not attracted to her, because I am not attracted to women in general.”

Brian shot a glance in Justin’s direction. Justin could not miss the instant anger. “I knew it, I knew it.” Brian proclaimed loudly causing Justin to shrink back into his seat.

“You knew I was gay?”

“No,… I knew there was a reason my sister was hounding me to pick you up. She was trying to play match maker. I see her and this Linda now plotting to get the two fags together.”

“Wow you’re gay?” Justin said in surprise.

“As if you didn’t know.” Brian said in an accusatory tone. “Let’s get one thing straight, I am not about relationships. If anything happens on this trip it will be nothing but a quick fuck in the backseat and a see you around.”

“My, my, my... someone is very full of themselves. You’re a prime example of the gay stereotype that gay men don’t believe in relationships-just fucking. You should’ve been a case study for my Homosexual Studies class.”

“Did you take any real classes?” Brian said with a snort

“I'll have you know those classes help to shape a better society. If more people understood different cultures and beliefs, instead of forcing their cultures and beliefs, the world would be a better place.”

“Bwahhaaahaaa….holy fucking shit! Are you for real?” Brian pulled over to the break down lane. He was laughing too hard to continue driving. “What was Claire thinking!” Brian turned to a very pissed off Justin. “Listen Pollyanna, it’s a good thing school is over for you, welcome to the real world and I hope it doesn’t scare you too badly.”

“I’m so happy I amuse you. If you’re done laughing at me can we just continue driving IN SILENCE.”

“Fine by me!”

Brian pulled the car back on the highway. They drove in silence for about an hour, Justin pulled out a small sketch pad he had in his back pack to occupy his time. He refused to speak to Brian unless he had to and at the moment his rumbling stomach could not be ignored.

“Brian can we stop for food, I’m starving”

“That will mess with our time and you may be stuck with me longer than needed.”

“I’ll take the risk.”

Brian chuckled. “We can pull into a McDonalds-it’ll probably be the quickest.” Brian made the offer knowing full well he did not eat fast foods such as that. But if it would make this food stop quicker, he’d be willing to take the risk.

“Ugh no, do you know what that food does to your system? It destroys the body”

“How do you know, you took a Body Studies class?”

“As a matter of fact I….”

“Oh my Lord, you totally screwed your parents out of an education.”

“I'll have you know I went to school on a full art scholarship. And I worked to pay for what ever I needed that the scholarship didn’t cover.”

“I’m impressed.” Brian said and nothing else. He was indeed impressed.

“What did you go to school on, a jock scholarship?”

“Yes I did. I received a full soccer scholarship, and an academic grant that covered my books, room and board.”

“Athletic and smart, well good for you.” Justin said out loud pretending to be unimpressed . Under his breath he mumbled, ‘I guess you’re not just a pretty face’

Brian heard him, but decided to ignore the comment. Hey it was true he wasn’t just a pretty face.

“There’s a sign for a diner up ahead.”

Brian turned off the highway, and half a mile later they were pulling into a small diner parking lot. They walked in and grabbed the first empty booth.

The waitress came over to give them menus and took their drink orders. When she came back Brian ordered first.

“I’ll have a turkey club on whole wheat, no mayo with a side salad.”

“And you sir” The waitress said turning to Justin

“Hmm…let’s see. I’ll have the turkey club as well, but can I get the mayo, on the side…oh and the bacon on the side.”

“On the side…how do you mean on the side?” The waitress asked as she looked from Justin to Brian then back to Justin.

“Yes on the side. Can I have tomatoes on that, but on the side please? Also I’ll have a side salad with Italian dressing on…”

“Let me guess…on the side, right?”

“Right”

The waitress walked away confused.

Brian just shook his head in disbelief. "Why don’t you have them bring the food out here and you prepare it yourself?"

“So now the way I eat is a joke to you as well.”

“The way you eat is a joke to anyone. What’s for dessert, apple pie with the crust on the side?” Brian said trying hard to not burst out laughing.

“Do not speak to me.” Justin said as he looked around the diner as not to make eye contact with a pair of twinkling hazel eyes.

The waitress returned with their meal 10 minutes later and placed Brian’s sandwich and salad in front of him. Then she placed several saucers in front of Justin who began preparing his lunch in a meticulous fashion.

Forty five minutes later in which 15 of it was Brian watching Justin finish his strange way of having lunch, the boys were back on the highway heading to Pittsburgh.

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They arrived in Pittsburgh a little before 8 pm. Brian dropped Justin off at his parent’s home in an upscale suburban neighborhood right outside of Pittsburgh. Brian wasn’t surprised to see the nice neighborhood that Justin came from. His parents came out to greet him. They hugged their son and welcomed him home before they unloaded his stuff from the back seat.

Justin parents offered their thanks to Brian. As they took the luggage inside. Justin said his goodbyes.

“Thanks for the ride, I appreciate it.”

“Not a problem” Brian said as he was climbing back into the driver seat.

“Good luck in life.”

“You too Justin.” Brian said aloud, but under his breath he mumbled “…‘cause you’re gonna need it.”

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Five years later

Brian walked into the diner strutting like a man who owned the world. He walked over to the counter and kissed his best friend Michael Novotny on the cheek

“Hello boys” He said to Ted Schmidt and Emmett Honeycutt as they were eating their breakfast.”

“What has you in such a great mood Sweetie?” Emmett asked

“What? Mikey didn’t tell you?”

When the guys shook their head Brian continued

“Mikey, you actually kept a secret, I’m shocked…. Well guys you’re looking at the youngest partner ever at the firm of Ryder and Associates.”

“Brian, that’s great baby.” Emmett said as he stood up and gave Brian a hug.

“Yeah, Brian that is great news.” Ted interjected, before turning to Michael. “Why aren’t you happy Michael?”

“I’m happy about the promotion, but he has to go work in the New York office for two months.”

“Michael those two months will go by quicker than you realize.” Brian said in an attempt to comfort his friend. “So are you ready to take me to the airport?”

“You’re leaving today? Brian we didn’t have a chance to celebrate your promotion.” Emmett said. “We could’ve had a theme party.”

“How about in a couple of weeks you guys come to New York for the weekend and we celebrate then.”

“Oohh! That sounds like fun! Teddy, clear your calendar. I’ll plan the weekend from here.”

“You do that Emmet, but if Mikey doesn’t get a move on, I’m never going to make it to New York.”

Michael helped Brian carry his luggage into the airport terminal. He went as far as security would allow him before they had to say goodbye. The two friends hugged and Michael promised Brian he would not let Emmett go overboard with his plans. Brian waited until Michael left before entering the gate toward his terminal. He really wished Michael was happier in life. Buying the comic book store 3 years ago helped him to be happier at least career wise. But he was sad in other areas. Michael believed in relationships and one true love, he couldn’t adopt Brian’s fuck ‘em, dump ‘em philosophy. Maybe one day he would get what he wanted, at least Brian hoped so.

Brian sat in the terminal for about twenty minutes before his flight was called. He was seated in first class so he was allowed to board first. He was sitting in his seat flipping through a magazine as the other passengers boarded. He was not paying attention and glanced upward occasionally, until he caught sight of face that appeared familiar. Brian looked at the person but could not place him. He had dark brown hair that didn’t seem to fit. The person was walking and looking behind as he spoke to another guy who was on the short side. The other person was dark and oily looking, not Brian’s cup of tea at all. It was obvious to Brian these two men were together.

As the two men made their way down the aisle, the man in the front looked over in Brian’s direction and his step faltered.

“Hello” He said to Brian.

“Hello” Brian said still not sure where he knew this face from until he looked into his eyes. “You chan…Um you look different.”

“Yeah, I wanted to see if brunets have just as much fun as blondes.” He glanced behind him at his obvious boyfriend. “And apparently they do.”

“Yeah, they do.” Brian said in agreement.

“Keep the line moving” The flight attendant said somewhere behind them.

“Oops, I gotta go.” Justin said as he continued to make his way down the aisle.

Justin and his boyfriend sat a couple seats behind Brian in first class. Once they were settled his boyfriend asked him who Brian was.

“Oh that was nobody, just that awful guy I told you I rode home with after graduation.”

“Oh, you never told me how hot he was.”

“You think he’s hot. I guess he can be...not really my type.”

Justin leaned up and kissed his boyfriend on the cheek. As he settled back for the short flight to New York, he pushed all thoughts of the rude insolent person he thought he would never see again, out of his mind.

Once the flight landed Brian, Justin and his boyfriend met up again at luggage claim.

“Oh we meet again.” Justin said feigning enthusiasm.

“Um yeah…so is this business or pleasure?”

“Excuse me.”

“Being in New York…business or pleasure?”

“A little of both. Ethan has a show…oh where are my manners. Brian…it is Brian right.” Justin said innocently

“Yes it’s Brian... Brian Kinney”

“Brian this is my boyfriend Ethan Gold. Ethan is a Violinist and he’s playing with the Symphony for the next month. How about you-business or pleasure?”

“Business,” Brian said

“That’s nice. Well good luck.”

“Justin, give Brian our hotel information, maybe we could hook up for lunch.” Ethan leaned forward as if to pick up his bag to whisper into Brian’s ear “…or something else.” Ethan said suggestively, leaving little doubt as to what that “or something else” would be

“I’ll be really busy this weekend.” Brian said letting himself as well as Justin off the hook. Brian collected his bags, gave a brief good bye to Justin and left the airport for his new home for the next two months.

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Three Years Later

“Brian I was a bit skeptical at first, but you did it, and I’m so proud of you.” Debbie Novotny said as she hugged and kissed her son’s best friend.

“Thanks Ma.” Brian returned the hug-it meant a lot to him to have Debbie proud of him. She’s been his mother in every way possible since he was 14. His home life was disastrous and meeting Michael, his mother and his Uncle Vic played a big part in Brian being where he was today.

“Yeah, Brian, starting your own company like that. I’m very proud of you too. To Kinnetik!” Michael raised his glass along with everyone at the table as he saluted Brian and his new endeavor.

“I’m still amazed that you and Teddy are working so close together and no bloodshed as of yet.” Emmett said as he sipped his Champagne.

“You and me both,” Brian said with a smirk.

Kinnetik has been going strong for the past six months. Brian refused to allow the gang to throw him a celebration until the company was out of the red and was making a profit. Brian was able to persuade all of his past contacts to join his new firm and he made a lot of new ones as well. He took Ted on as his accountant and associate because he wanted people around him he could trust. Once he was satisfied with the way things were going, Emmett arranged for them to celebrate at Tulios, an upscale Italian restaurant, that even Debbie couldn’t find fault with the cuisine.

After everyone was full to capacity and pretty much all the wine in the place was consumed, Vic and Debbie headed home. The boys made plans to meet at Woody’s, their local hang out. Brian backed out of going to Woody’s as he had made plans before hand for the latter part of his evening.

“What are your plans, a visit to the baths?” Michael asked

“So what if it is.”

“Be sure to keep it covered.”

“Always.” Brian said as he walked out of the restaurant and said goodbye to his friends.

Brian climbed into his newly bought Mustang convertible GTI. He checked the glove box for his supplies. He had plenty of lube, but he was running low on condoms. He didn’t want to drive all the way home to get some so he drove toward the closest drug store. Brian walked into the store. It was close to closing time so the store was near empty. He walked down the aisle where the condoms would be and picked up a couple of boxes. As he was walking back toward the counter he was reading the condom box and not paying attention to the person crouched before him looking over products on a lower rack. Brian tripped over the small figure and stumbled before catching his balance.

“Oh my gosh, I’m so sorry…are you al…Brian!”

“Justin!...Should have known it would be you tripping me up.”

“You should watch where you’re going.” Justin noticed the two big boxes of condoms Brian was holding. “What are you planning, an orgy?”

“Um…yeah...kind of…well sort of..”

“Hmm, well you have fun with that.”

“That’s the plan…” Brian turned to walk toward the counter. He stopped and turned to Justin again. “Why are you in a drug store this time of night looking at pesticides?”

“If you must know, my apartment is overrun with ants. I’m looking to move, but I’m having trouble deciding what I want.”

“Why am I not surprised. How did you decide on the place you’re living at now?”

“It’s Ethan’s apartment.” Justin said

“Ethan?... Oh the boyfriend, so you two are looking to move?

“We broke up, I’m looking to move while he’s on tour. Now run along with your party favors. I’m busy.”

Justin continued to look at the cans of pesticide. Brian turned to leave, but a will that was not of his doing forced him to turn back around. “You need help looking for a new apartment?”

Taken aback Justin stared at him for moment. “Why do you want to help me, you don’t even like me?”

“I never said I didn’t like you. I just find you to be a bit …different.”

“Aren’t we all different? There are no two people on this earth who are the same. Not even identical twins are the same.”

“Did you learn that in your Twin Studies class?”

“Can you ever be nice?”

“I am being nice…okay that was uncalled for, but the offer still stands. If you need help that is.”

“Well I have been contemplating buying a Condo, but a loft would be better for the airiness and the light. But then a condo offers more rooms and may be more practical in the long run.”

“Practical and you don’t seem to fit together to me. I’ll tell you what. I happen to own a loft, how about you come over tomorrow and see it?”

“I saw a few with a realtor and I still couldn’t make up my mind.”

“Maybe you should see one furnished-it could give you a better picture.”

“That may not be a bad idea. Where do you live?”

Brian gave Justin his address and he also gave him his cell number just in case he got lost. Being that the next day was a Saturday, they agreed to meet around noon. Brian left the store shaking his head, he don’t know what urged him to make plans with this person. He shrugged his shoulders and looked on the bright side, it would only be for a half hour at most. Brian climbed into his Mustang and continued on with his night of anonymous sex at the Baths.

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Brian woke to a pounding in his head. It took a few minutes to realize it was not his head but actually the door. He pulled himself out of bed and dragged his body to the door.

“Who the fuck is it?” he yelled as he whipped the door open.

“Is that how you greet guests?”

Brian groaned at the sound of the voice. “What time is it?”

“Justin looked at his watch. “It is exactly 11:57. We had plans for noon and you look like holy shit.”

“I had a long night.”

Justin took in the sight of Brian standing there in just his boxer briefs. He was more beautiful naked than he was clothed. Justin pushed any thoughts of being attracted to Brian Kinney from his head. This was not the type of guy he wanted to be involved with in any way.

“Could you possibly put some clothes on?”

“Oh, is my nakedness bothering you?”

“Of course not…you do what you like.” Justin started to walk around the loft checking out the furnishings in the dining and living area. He was impressed by the way the place was decorated. When he turned to ask Brian if he decorated it himself, Brian had already left the room. Justin decided to investigate the kitchen.

Brian walked back out of the bedroom with a pair of sweats pants and white wife beater on.

“So what do you think?”

“I think it’s gorgeous did you decorate this yourself?”

“Uh huh, all by myself.”

“I’m impressed”

“You should see the bedroom-it’s my masterpiece.”

“I’ll bet.” Justin said as he walked toward the bedroom. He was even more impressed especially by the blue lights Brian had over the head of the bed. It was quite erotic. He turned to see Brian standing in the doorway. “This is very nice Brian. It does help to see a place that’s already furnished. But I have to admit even unfurnished this place is a lot better than some of the lofts I’ve seen. None of them had the windows and the lighting like this place.

“How about I hook you up with my realtor? He showed me some great places before I settled on this one. I got it for a good price too. I can ask him to show you around, and he may even take a low commission.”

“He would that? Why would he do that for me?”

“Because I gave him the fuck of his life and he would do anything for a repeat.”

“Does it always come back to sex with you?”

“Pretty much, yeah.” Brian said with a chuckle

Justin couldn’t help but laugh himself.

“Listen I have Leo’s card somewhere, let me find it.” Brian found the realtor’s card and Justin listened to the one side of the conversation. Brian made faces to Justin as he listened to Leo cooing and gushing on the other side of the line.

“You have an appointment with Leo tomorrow to look at some prime real-estate.” Brian said as he hung up the phone.

“Tomorrow is Sunday; you got him to work on a Sunday!”

“I told you I gave him the fuck of his life….need I say more.”

Before Justin could answer his rumbling stomach spoke for him.

“I guess you’re hungry.”

“Yeah just a bit.”

“There’s a really good Deli down the block.”

“That sounds great. Get dressed I’ll buy you lunch.”

Brian thought for a moment before agreeing. “Give me five minutes to shower.”

Twenty minutes later the two men walked into the deli, and grabbed a table in the back. Brian ordered a pastrami on rye. Justin ordered a Reuben sandwich with the sauerkraut, dressing and, corned beef on the side. He shot Brian a look after the waitress left.

“I’m not saying a word.”

“I just don’t like my food touching until I am ready for it to touch okay.

“Okay.”

“Okay...So Brian what do you do for a living?”

“I’m an ad executive.”

“Oh really, what firm?”

“Kinnetik”

“I never heard of them.”

“It’s a fairly new firm. It’s only been in operation for about 6 months.”

“I like the name Kinnetik. It’s cool…Kinnetik…hmm…Kinnetik..Kinney. You should own the company, your names kind of match?

“Actually I do.” Brian said trying to tone down his pride. He amazed that Justin made the connection so quickly

“Wow, I’m impressed… you’re so young.” Justin asked in awe

Brian shrugged his shoulders. “What do you do for a living?”

“I work for a gallery in town, and I do freelance and consignment work.”

“You must be really good to make a living off it.”

“I get by. Of course I won’t rake in the big bucks until I’m dead.”

Brian looked at Justin and laughed. “I do believe you just made a joke.”

“Hey I can be funny.”

“I’m sure you can. Just watching you eat is hilarious.”

The two men settled in to comfortable chatter as they ate. They actually found themselves enjoying the others company.

They parted ways a few hours later. Justin told Brian he would keep him posted about the apartment hunt.

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Justin met with Leo the following day. He was a little frosty toward Justin; and not so subtly questioned him about Brian until Justin convinced him they were only friends. Once Leo was convinced he made sure he took care of Brian’s friend. Justin knew he was doing it to make brownie points with Brian.

He showed Justin some amazing apartments and lofts that were way above the tiny hovels the other realtors showed him. The prices Leo quoted him were unbelievable. Justin made a mental note call Brian and thank him profusely for connecting him to Leo.

Justin made an offer on an apartment/condo he saw that was a few blocks down from where Brian lived. He was torn between a loft Leo showed and the apartment. They both were spacious with great lighting, but the apartment had more separated rooms which Justin liked, and the whirlpool Jacuzzi in the bathroom off of the master bedroom was a major plus. He didn’t want the open bedroom which was how the lofts where set up.

Leo worked fast, he put in Justin’s offer and notified Justin that following Tuesday that it was accepted.

Justin was sitting in his small office at the gallery when his phone rang.

“Justin Taylor.”

“Ah Mr. Taylor, it’s Leo Barnes.”

“Leo I told you to call me Justin.”

“Certainly…Justin, I have wonderful news for you. Your offer was accepted and the condo is yours if you want it.”

“Wow that was fast! Yes I want it.”

“I’ll have the papers drawn up and since it’s empty, we may be able to speed up the process and you can start moving in soon.”

“Leo, thank you so much for all your help.”

“Certainly, um let Brian know I said hello.”

“I’ll do that.”

Justin hung up with Leo and dialed Brian’s cell phone number, which was the only number he had to reach him with.

Brian was walking back to his office after his morning staff meeting when he heard his cell phone ring.

“Kinney”

“Good morning.”

“Justin?”

“Hey, you recognized my voice.”

Brian rolled his eyes as he sat down at his desk. “What do I owe such pleasure?”

“I called to say thank you for Leo. He showed me the most amazing apartment. I made an offer and it was accepted.”

“That’s great, happy to hear you’ll be escaping the ants. Where’s this new bachelor pad of yours?”

“That’s the beautiful part. It’s a few blocks from you, we can do brunch on the weekends.”

“Well, how lovely is that.” Brian’s statement was dripping with sarcasm, which this time Justin couldn’t have possible missed.

“Oh stop it you know you like me, just admit it.”

“I admit nothing.”

“Fine” Justin said with a sigh. “Well I guess my other reason for calling you is off.”

Curiosity got the better of Brian. "Alright what’s your other reason for calling?”

“Well I really like how your loft is decorated, and even though I have an idea how I want things to look color wise, I wanted to know if you wanted to help me pick out furniture.”

“Shopping? I’m always up for shopping.”

Justin smiled into the phone. “I figured you would be. How about Saturday?”

“Sounds good.”

“See you then.”

Justin sat back in his little office thinking about his new apartment. He found his smile broaden when he thought of Brian. He was happy that two of them were starting to become friends.

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Leo worked some major magic for Justin. He called Justin Friday night on his cell phone to let him know he had the paperwork in order. All he needed was Justin to sign, and they could close in a couple of weeks. Justin made arrangements to meet Leo at the apartment that following afternoon. He figured Brian could meet them there as well, that way he could see the apartment before they went furniture shopping

Justin was first to arrive at the apartment. He waited on the front stoop for Leo to arrive. He didn’t have to wait long. Leo arrived shortly after he did.

“Hello Justin.” He said as he approached Justin. “Are you excited about your new place?”

“I’m thrilled. I can’t wait to start furnishing it. Brian is going to meet me here and we’re going shopping.”

Leo’s eyes widen. “Brian is coming here today? “He asked as he reached a hand to smooth his impeccable hair back in place.

“Yeah he should be arriving soon. I told him we might already be upstairs.”

Justin and Leo walked into the building. Justin’s apartment was on the second floor. They took the stairs up instead of waiting on the elevator. Leo was constantly checking himself and making sure everything was in order. He was wishing he had worn his jeans instead of the khaki slacks he pulled on this morning.

They were at the counter going over paperwork when Brian walked in.

“Wow this is impressive," he said when he entered the front room. The apartment was almost as roomy as his loft, but it was not as open.

“You like it?” Justin asked as he looked up at him.

“Yeah I do.” Brian glanced over at Leo who stood silent taking in the sexy appearance of his one night stand. “Leo.” Brian said with a nod

“Brian, I took good care of your friend here.”

“I appreciate the favor.”

Justin handed Leo the papers he had signed. “You guys feel free to look around, the door will lock behind you.” He looked at Brian the whole time he spoke.” Leo gathered up his things to leave. He walked purposely toward Brian and brushed his body up against his. Leo leaned forward and whispered into Brian‘s ear. “Maybe you can show your appreciation sometime soon at the baths?”

“Maybe so.” Brian said as he gave Leo a tongue in cheek smirk.”

Leo stepped back and walked toward the door. “Justin I’ll contact you with the closing date.” He said to Justin right before giving Brian one last sultry look and heading out the door.

As soon as the door closed Brian and Justin looked at each other and burst out laughing.

“He was practically drooling over you.” Justin said between fits of laughter

“Hey what can I say-I have that effect on people?”

“I’m amazed by your modesty.”

“There’s nothing wrong with being confident.”

“True.” Justin said with a nod “But there is confidence and there is conceited.”

Brian shrugged “As long as I can fuck whomever I choose whenever I choose, you can call me what you want. Now show me around this place so I can get some ideas of furniture.”

Justin gave Brian a tour of his new home. Brian had terrific ideas of furniture for the bedroom and dining room. Justin told him of the colors he wanted for each room. And they bounced ideas back and forth.

Brian took Justin to some of the trendy upscale stores that he liked to shop at. They found beautiful pieces for every room in the house. By the time they stopped to have a late lunch/ early dinner, Justin and Brian had the bedroom and living room furniture all picked out. There was a two to three week wait on some of the items. That worked out perfectly, being that he wasn’t sure of the closing date yet. By the time the two separated it was late in the evening.

The next few weeks went by rather quickly for Justin. He closed on the condo and called Brian as soon as he was given the keys. Brian stopped by the apartment with a nice bottle of champagne and they toasted to Justin’s new home.

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It didn’t take long for Justin to get his new place in order. He painted all the rooms in beautiful vibrant colors. The furniture Brian helped him pick out fit perfectly. He also found a beautiful vintage dining table with matching antique chairs. Within a month Justin had his home exactly how he wanted it. He moved only his clothes from Ethan’s apartment. Once he was all moved out he notified Ethan to let him know he had gone.

He and Brian began seeing a lot of each other. They found they had a lot in common from music to movies, to favorite books. Brian would walk over some nights after work and they would hang in and watch movies.

One night Brian came, arms full of Thai food. He was banging on the door for Justin to let him in. Justin opened the door and handed him a key to his apartment.

“What’s this?”

“You’re here almost as much as I am. It doesn’t make sense for you to have to knock.”

“What if I interrupt something?”

“Brian I don’t sleep around, and if I do get involved with someone, I’m sure you’ll use your common sense before just barging in. You do have common sense right?”

“Fuck you, you twat…. I’ll get you key to the loft tomorrow.

“You don’t have to.”

“All my friends have one, so you should too.”

“Okay…thanks.

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Justin and Brian were sitting in the deli that quickly became their Saturday lunch spot talking about relationships yet again.

“You never told me what greasy boy said when you told him you moved out.”

“Why do you constantly bad mouth Ethan? You don’t even know him.”

“I met him.”

“Briefly in an airport. Ethan is not a bad person, we just wanted different things.”

“Such as?”

“He wasn’t ready to settle down like I was. I wanted a commitment, marriage if possible. Maybe even kids at some point-he wanted things to stay as they were.”

“So it was you who decided to break up?”

Justin looked up from his plates. “I guess it was my idea. He was going on tour for 4 months and I told him if he didn’t want to commit to me then I would be gone before he came back. He didn’t seem too devastated when I called to tell him I moved out so I guess he wanted to break things off as well.”

“Well it’s his loss.” Brian said quietly

Justin tapped his ear in jest. “Was that a compliment? Did you just say something nice to me?”

“Shut up and eat”

Justin chuckled to himself. “I knew it wouldn’t last. I see why you’re not in a relationship.”

“I have relationships. I just don’t need them to last past my orgasm.”

“Buying condoms at an all night drugstore, sleeping around with no name faces are not relationships. Brian you should be in a relationship, a nice monogamous relationship.”

“If I was, I doubt it would be a monogamous one.”

“Why is that? Don’t you want that one special person to share your life and love with?”

“I share with many men on a weekly basis. That love shit is for heteros and lesbians.”

Justin looked at Brian dumbfounded. “You really believe that don’t you? Wow that’s sad.”

“So you believed in happily ever after huh? Well I don’t see a happily ever after with you and Ethan. Did you not move out of his place, erased all memory of him?”

“Just because we didn’t work out it don’t mean I’m giving up on finding my soul mate. There is someone out there who wants to share my life, and be with me and not others”

“You are such a dreamer.”

“No, not a dreamer, a believer.”

“If you say so,” Brian smirked.

“There is someone for you too Brian. You’re an amazing guy. I’m sure you can find someone just as amazing to be with.”

Brian was surprised by how much he liked being complimented by Justin. When did he began to care how Justin felt about him? He focused back on the conversation.

“Justin I’m not in a relationship by choice not because I can’t find someone. Trust me if I chose to be in a relationship the line of available men would be endless.”

“I’m not saying you can’t meet men, but the slugs you meet in backrooms and bath houses are not what I’m talking about…you know what-I’m going to fix you up with someone. I know the perfect person.”

“Um…no, you’re not. I don’t do dates, and especially blind dates.”

“What are you afraid of? Are you scared that I may find the right guy for you….that it might be love at first sight…kismet?”

“Kismet…is there any way to get you to live in the real world?”

“Come on, you’ll love this guy. He’s gorgeous, built and intelligent to boot. He’s a professor.”

“If he is all that; why are you trying to pass him off on me?”

“Because, he’s my friend. I don’t get sexually involved with my friends.” Justin said. “I’ll tell what, why don’t we double. You can fix me up with one of your friends...You do have friends, don’t you?”

“Yes, I have friends you little twat, but I don’t get involved with their love lives. Sorry no double dates here.” Brian said trying to dismiss the subject, but Justin would not let it drop.

“I’m not going to let this go. I’m calling my friend and telling him all about you. How does Friday, your place at 8:00. I’ll make dinner.”

“My place!!!”

“I figured I wouldn’t get you to go to a restaurant.” The look on Brian’s face showed that his place was out of the question. “Alright my place-it can be my first dinner party.”

“I have to work Friday.”

“You own the company. Just take off early. So Friday it is. I’ll make my famous Lemon Garlic Chicken with Saffron Rice.”

Justin took out his cell phone and saw the time.

“Shit I didn’t realize it was so late I have to go. I’ll call you later in the week.” Justin stood up and reached for his wallet. Brian waved him off, “I’ll take care of the check.”

Justin ignored Brian and placed the money on the table. He leaned over and kissed Brian goodbye on the cheek. “Make sure you pick a nice guy for me.” Justin said and quickly turned to leave before Brian could respond.

Brian reached up and absently fingered his cheek were Justin had kissed him. He chuckled to himself before getting up and leaving the restaurant.

Part 2

Justin was engrossed in work when his phone rang.

“Justin Taylor speaking.”

“Hey it’s me.”

“It’s about time you returned my call.” Justin left his friend Ben several messages. He wanted to finalize the plans for Friday night

“Hey I’ve been busy. What’s so important anyway?”

“Are you free Friday at 8:00?”

“Yeah, why?”

“Good, you’re having dinner with a very handsome very successful bachelor.”

“What?”

“I’m fixing you up with this friend of mine. His name is Brian and he is absolutely gorgeous. He’s about 6’1, a bit on the lanky side but with strong muscular arms. He has the most beautiful eyes-they’re greenish hazel, with golden flecks. Oh, he has a thick full head of light brunet hair. I swear you’ll have to fight yourself keep from reaching out and touching it.”

“He sounds hot, but is he dumb or something, is that why you don’t want him.”

“No, he’s very smart. He has his own advertising firm and he just turned 30. He can talk to you about anything, and he has great sense of humor.”

“This guy sounds too good to be true. Why are you setting me up with him?”

“I think you two would hit it off.”

“Why don’t you want him?”

“Oh , we’re just friends.”

“The way you just described him it sounds like more than a friend to me.”

Justin let out an exasperated sigh. “He’s just a friend.”

“Did you describe me in such detail?”

“Of course I did.” Justin said trying to remember exactly what he told Brian about Ben. “So, Friday at 8:00. You can come early and check out my new place.”

“Fine, I’ll come but if he’s a troll I’m walking out. I’ll call you Friday morning for the address.”

“Great see you then.”

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Brian had a really busy week at the office. He spent most nights past 10:00 trying to get things done. He barely had time to speak to Justin or Michael. Friday was looking to be a light day and he couldn’t wait to get home and relax. His plans were terribly interrupted when he was reminded of his “date”.

Justin called around 3:00 to make sure Brian didn’t forget.

“You forgot didn’t you?” Justin said on the other end on the line

“I told you I was not being fixed up.”

“Brian, Ben is coming over expecting to meet this great guy….you have to show up…please come…for me. I have a strong feeling you two will hit it off.”

“Fine I’ll be there…8:00 right.”

“Yup. See you then.”

Justin hung up before Brian could change his mind. He left his office and headed to the market to get what he needed for tonight’s dinner. He really wanted Brian to meet someone nice, he was way too cynical about relationships.

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Ben arrive an hour early, he wanted to check out Justin’s new place. He was really impressed with the apartment and how Justin had decorated it.

“Wow, Justin I like this a lot.”

“Thanks.” Justin said from the kitchen as he finished preparing the meal. “Brian helped me pick out the furniture, he has excellent taste.”

“So I see.” Ben continued to look around before having a seat to wait for the magnificent Brian to arrive. He wondered if Justin was aware of the feelings he had for this person. In all the years that Ben has known Justin, he has never heard him speak of someone the way he did of Brian.

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It was after 7:00 when Brian walked through his front door. He stripped out of his clothes and headed straight to the shower to wash the day away.

Brian was just pulling on a pair of jeans after his shower when he heard his front door sliding open. He walked down the stairs to see Michael coming across the foyer.

“You should really try knocking.”

“Why knock when I have a key.” Michael watched as Brian buttoned his jeans and walked back to the bedroom to get a shirt. “You heading to Babylon tonight?”

“Not right now, maybe later.”

“You want to catch a movie or something. We haven’t hung out together in ages. I’m beginning to wonder if you have a boyfriend or something.”

Brian stopped buttoning his shirt and looked at his friend. “I don’t do boyfriends, Mikey. You know this better than anyone.”

“Fine, then where have you been most nights and weekends? I never see you anymore.”

Brian sat on the couch as he pulled on his favorite pair of Prada boots. “I’ve been around. I’ve been helping a friend get settled in a new place”

“Who?”

“You don’t know him.”…. Brian stood up from the couch. “Remember the guy I gave a ride home from school a few years back.”

“Vaguely…if I can remember correctly you didn’t like him”

“Well, we ran into each other a few times, and the then we just started hanging out. I’m heading over to his place now.”

“What are you guys dating?” Michael said surprised that Brian had a friendship separate from their circle of friends.

“No. As a matter of fact he’s trying to fix me up with someone tonight. I’m only going to humor him.”

“A BLIND DATE!!!! Who is this person? How the hell did he get you to agree to that?”

“Like I said I’m only going to humor him. Why don’t you come too? I was supposed to fix him up as well. You can be his fix up.”

“As curious as I am, I have to pass. The guy must be a real dog for you to be passing him along to me.”

“Actually he’s quite the opposite. Justin is about your height and he has the most incredible blue eyes. His hair is blond, not too long but very shaggy, very cute. He dyed it brown once...it looked good, but the blond brings out the brilliance in his eyes. When he smiles his upper lip has this really sexy curl to it.

Michael listened to the in depth description Brian gave of this person he once proclaimed was a major annoyance to him. He has never heard Brian talk about anyone like this, and to use the words ‘cute’. Michael was even more curious to meet this person.

“Sure I’ll go. Do I look okay for a date?” Michael spun around for Brian to check out his outfit. He had a pair of jeans and a striped pullover sweater. It wasn’t Gucci or Givenchy, but it worked for Michael.

“You are irresistible.” Brian grabbed his wallet and keys. “Let’s go, we’re going to be late.

Michael was surprised when Brian bypassed the mustang and they started to walk down the street.

“He lives close I gather.”

“Yeah just a few blocks down the street.” Brian answered as they continued to walk.

It was a little after eight when he rang Justin’s doorbell to let him know he was coming up. Brian used his key and let himself and Mikey into the building. Michael was surprised to see Brian had a key to this guy’s apartment.

Justin placed the wine glass he was sipping from on the table. “He’s here.” He announced to Ben. Instead of Justin getting up to let him in, Ben was shocked to see the front door open and two very attractive men walk in. Ben leaned close to Justin “He has key?” He whispered to him. Justin ignored Ben’s remark and went over to greet his guest. Ben stood up as well and followed him. Justin was surprised to see Brian had actually brought someone with him.

“Hi, I’m Justin” he said as he extended a hand to Michael. “You’re late," he said with a mock glare towards Brian.

“Hey be lucky I came at all, now aren’t you going to introduce me to my ’date’.” Brian tossed an approving look in Ben direction. He had to admit the man was good looking, and his body was nice.

“Of course, Ben this is Brian and this is…I’m sorry I didn’t get your name.”

“It’s Michael.”

“It’s nice to meet you Michael.” Justin said.

“It’s nice to meet the both of you.”

“Same here.” Ben said.

“Okay, can I get you guys a drink before dinner?”

“I’ll get them. Mikey what would you like?” Brian asked

“A beer is fine.”

“Ben?”

“The same”

“Coming right up.” Brian followed Justin into the kitchen. He headed for the fridge and took out a couple of beers. He was at the counter removing the caps, when Justin could no longer control his curiosity.

“So…what do you think?”

“About?”

“Don’t play dumb, it doesn’t look good on you.” Justin said as he placed the food into serving dishes.

Brian shrugged his shoulders. “I’d fuck him.” He gathered up the beer bottles and left the kitchen before Justin could reply.

Brian walked into the living room and handed Ben and Michael their beer. He was about to sit down when Justin announced dinner was ready. He arranged the seating to where Brian and Ben ended up sitting next to each other. He wasn’t sure if Brian would be bringing a date for him, but he set the extra place just in case. The conversation was monopolized by Justin and Brian. Justin was surprised by how quiet Ben was, he wondered if he was being shy because of Brian.

“Ben, Brian has a membership to the gym not too far from here. He was thinking about upping his weight training. Maybe you can give him some pointers?”

Brian head shot up and he looked at Justin as he just told a bold face lie. Did he think Brian needed help getting this guy?

“Brian I would love to give you pointers. Maybe I can get a pass to your gym for the day?”

“Yeah, maybe…” Brian said with a shrug. Ben was hot, and Brian really would fuck him, but that would be the extent of it.

Silence fell over the table and Justin began speaking to Ben about his classes, as Brian spoke with Michael about the comic book shop. Ben caught part of their conversation and interrupted them.

“You own a comic book shop?” he asked with interest

“Uh, yeah I do.”

“I’m talking about comic heroes and gay representation in my Gay Studies class.”

“Gay Studies” Michael and Brian both said in unison.

“How cool is that?”

“What a waste of time.”

“Brian, you think what I do is a waste of time?” Ben said slightly annoyed

Justin sensing an argument about to start decided to break it up fast. “Brian, why don’t you come help me with dessert?” He said as he stood up from the table.

“I’m having a conversation with my date.”

“Brian, kitchen, now!”

Brian stood up and followed Justin into the kitchen. Once they were in the kitchen Justin turned an evil stare in Brian’s direction. “Why are you being an ass?”

“I’m being me.”

“Oh, yeah I forgot it comes natural.” Justin removed the pie he made for dessert from the fridge. “Ben is such a great guy why don’t give him a chance.”

“I told you before I don’t need to be fixed up…And what’s this bullshit about upping my weight training. What are you saying I need to work out more?”

“No, Brian your body is perfect… I just figured you and Ben needed to find something in common.”

“Justin, I have never needed help getting laid. I don’t need anything in common with a guy except a dick and asshole. With those two things we will get along famously.”

Justin shook his head. “You are so crass. Grab those dessert plates.”

Brian and Justin walked back into the dining area. Michael and Ben were deep in conversation. They looked up when Justin placed the pie on the table. Ben stood up and asked Justin if he could speak to him in private. The two walked into the kitchen.

“Justin, tell me what you know about Michael.”

Michael, I don’t know anything about him. I just met him when you did…Why?”

“He’s cute and I want to get to know him better”

“Ben, you’re here for Brian. Michael was my date.”

“Oh… shit… Were you interested in him? I mean I didn’t get the vibe that you were. You were talking to Brian most of the night.”

“No, I’m not interested in him, but Brian might be bothered. You were his date.

“I don’t think he would mind-besides he seems to be more interested in you than me.”

“What!...be serious. Listen if you and Michael are going to do this just wait until after dessert or something, be tactful.”

“Fine”

As Ben and Justin talked in the kitchen Michael and Brian were having their own conversation.

“I want to ask Ben out for a drink.”

“Go for it.”

“You don’t mind?”

Brian shot Michael a ‘What do you think’ look.

“Yeah, dumb question. It’s obvious that you’re more interested in Justin anyway. You should just fuck him and get it over with.”

“Fuck off, it would be like fucking you…we’re friends.

“If you say so.” Michael said with a smirk.

Ben and Justin returned to the table. Before Ben could sit down, Michael asked if he wanted to go for a drink.

“Ben there’s a local gay bar called Woody’s, would you like to go there for a drink.”

“Sure let’s go.” Ben thanked Justin for a dinner and vaguely acknowledged Brian before heading toward the door with Michael.

Michael stopped in the doorway. “You two are welcome to join us?”

“No…I have a lot of cleaning…” Before Justin finished speaking the door was closed and the two were gone.

Brian laughed at the disappointed look on Justin’s face.

“It’s not funny. This was a total disaster.”

“You wanted to make a love connection and you did. I see it as a success.”

“You just see it as a reason to laugh in my face.”

That too,” Brian said with a chuckle. He began to help Justin clear up the dishes and get his apartment back into order. Justin was surprised that Brian helped him. He even washed the dishes-well he dried them after Justin washed them.

“You want to go out for a drink?” Brian asked after everything was in order.

“No, I rented some movies for us to watch after dinner.” Justin shrugged his shoulders. “I guess I’ll watch them by myself.”

“What did you get?”

“James Dean, I rented East of Eden and Rebel Without a Cause. ”

“My favorites. I’ll watch them with you.”

Justin flashed Brian one of his brilliant smiles. Brian couldn’t help but smile back. They settled on the couch in front of the TV set. They watched Rebel Without a Cause and recited the lines word for word. Each were surprised that the other knew the movie so well. As the movie played they drifted closer to each other until they were snuggled together watching the film. Once one ended, Justin popped in the second one. He made popcorn for them to eat during the second movie. Neither man was sure who fell asleep first, but eventual the two of them drifted off to sleep.

Brian woke somewhere around 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning to a crook in his neck and a warm body pressed up against him. He moved his neck slightly and winced against the pain as he looked down at the top of the blond head resting under his chin. Brian took in the soft masculine smell of Justin and he raised his hand and touched his silky soft hair. Justin woke instantly.

“Argh, my back!” He cried as he tried to sit up. “You do not make a comfortable pillow.”

“Well neither do you! My neck is killing me. I guess I should get home.”

Brian stood up after Justin did and tried to stretch out the kinks.

“I’m not looking forward to the walk.”

“You didn’t drive? Why not just stay here. The sofa is really comfortable, we were just lying wrong.”

“No, my neck is killing me. I need my shower massager.”

Justin eyes began to sparkle as he looked at Brian. “I have something better than that-my deep bottom Jacuzzi. The water gets really hot.”

“It’s like 3:00 in the morning. You’re getting in the Jacuzzi now?”

“Yeah… you’re welcome to join me.”

Justin walked into the bathroom and started the water running in the Jacuzzi. He stripped off his clothes down to his black bikini briefs. He peeked out of the bathroom door and saw Brian still standing by the sofa.

“Brian, are you coming?”

Brian walked toward the bathroom and began stripping off his clothes. He stopped short when he saw Justin standing in just his briefs, Brian wasn’t sure if it was the tiredness he was feeling or what, but Justin looked incredible to him standing there.

Justin slid into the water. He slid down until his entire body was covered. Brian finished undressing. He contemplated keeping on his boxer briefs, before stripping them off. Justin sat in the water with his eyes closed-he opened them as Brian stepped in the tub. His blue eyes flew wide open when he noticed Brian was totally naked. Justin cock hardened instantly at the sight of Brian’s semi-erect penis.

Brian noticed Justin body stiffen slightly when he climbed in.

“Your back is really bothering you huh?”

“Yeah, um I um…yeah…it’s rather stiff.”

Brian settled across from Justin. “Maybe you should turn the heat up a little higher?”

“Or colder…” Justin mumbled to himself. He reached for the controls and turned the heat up as well as the massager sprays. He and Brian both couldn’t help but moan in pleasure as the bubbles caressed away the stiffness of their neck and back. Justin stared at Brian through half closed eyes. He was leaned back with his eyes closed, Justin took in the beauty of him. He was bothered by this attraction he was feeling toward the man. Brian was his friend, he should not be having these feelings.

Justin glanced down into the clear water, Brian’s cock waved back and forth from the massage sprays. Justin chuckled, it looked as if his cock was waving for him to come over to it. Justin was very much tempted to do so. He inhaled deeply and closed his eyes. He had to shake these thoughts from his mind.

“This feels so good.” Justin said

Brian opened his eyes and looked at Justin. “Yes it does, I may become a permanent house guest.”

Justin opened his eyes and laughed. "I think one of us would end up dead if we lived together.”

“Well that’s easy to figure out?”

“Hey, I may be little-but I’m wiry. I can most definitely hold my own.”

“I’m sure you can. As much as I hate to, I should get going.” Brian began to stand up. His neck was feeling a little better, but other parts of his body were stiff. He sat back “Maybe you should grab a towel, I hate to wet up the place.”

“Yeah sure.” Justin stood, Brian’s eyes were drawn to the hard to miss bulge in his briefs.

He wondered if that was for him.

Justin handed Brian the towel. He stood and wrapped it around his waist. Brian stepped out of the tub and began to gather up his clothes.

Justin wrapped himself in a bathrobe, and removed his wet underwear.

“Brian you can stay here. It makes no sense to leave now. Get some sleep and I’ll make breakfast in a few hours.”

Brian looked down at the clothes in his hand then at Justin. “Justin if I stayed here tonight it won’t be on your couch. If you’re not feeling the same way, it’s best if I leave now.”

Justin looked at Brian, his blue eyes filled with lust. “Feeling what way Brian?”

Brian studied Justin’s expression to be sure they were on the same page. He approached the smaller man and placed a hand behind his neck. Brian gently titled his head back.

“This way” he said as his mouth captured Justin’s. The kiss was soft and unhurried as the two friends explored new territory. Kissing Justin was like nothing Brian had ever experienced. He felt the kiss deep in his soul as Justin’s warm mouth invited him in. Brian moaned loudly as he gave himself into the kiss.

Justin loosened the towel around Brian’s waist until it fell to the floor. He felt Brian working loose the knot of his bathrobe. He lifted Justin gently off the floor, Justin wrapped his legs around Brian’s waist and they walked from the bathroom to Justin’s bedroom.

Justin kissed and caressed Brian’s body-he would have been content with just that. Feeling Brian’s silky tongue leave wet trails across his body was ecstasy. He definitely would have been content with that, but his body was greedy for more. He was quivering in anticipation when Brian placed Justin’s legs on his shoulders. His condom covered and thoroughly lubed cock was poised for entry. He stared into Justin deep blue eyes. Justin began to close them when he felt Brian’s cock press against his hole.

“No keep them open, I want to see your eyes.” Brian whispered.

Justin did as he was told. He never broke eye contact as Brian entered him slowly at first. Once Justin got used to him being inside him, Brian increased the pressure. He rode in and out of Justin savoring every movement, every stroke.

“Oh shit Brian… I’m coming… oh baby I’m coming…” Justin clinched his ass cheek as he came. He shot his load against Brian’s chest. Brian came soon after.

He pulled out of Justin and lowered his legs before removing the condom. He lay down next to Justin and tried to catch his breath, before turning to faced him.

“You my friend are quite talented.”

“I told you not to underestimate me. There is a lot wrapped up in this little package.”

“So I see.”

The two men climbed under the covers. Justin laid his head on Brian’s shoulder.

“I thought I made an awful pillow.” He said shooting Justin’s words from earlier back at him.

“I thought I’d give you a chance to redeem yourself.... Now go to sleep.”

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Justin climbed out of bed feeling light and giddy. He glanced at Brian peacefully sleeping in his bed. He could finally admit to himself this is where he wanted Brian to be in his life. Sleeping in Brian’s arms was unlike anything he could have imagined. He leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek, before heading to the bathroom to take a shower.

Brian woke to the sound of water running. He lay in bed wondering what the fuck did he just do. He broke a rule he always said he would never do. He fucked a friend. Brian climbed out of bed and gathered up his clothes. He smelled Justin all over his body. The scent was rather intoxicating; he felt his cock twitching as he pulled his jeans on. Brian rushed to get dressed, he knew he was being a shit by leaving while Justin was in the shower, but he didn’t know what to say to him just yet. Brian finished dressing and left out the front door. He walked up the street to his loft. It was too early to fix a drink, so he headed to the bathroom and jumped into a hot shower.

Justin emerged from the shower he walked toward the bedroom as he toweled dry his wet hair. “Wake up sleepy head, what you would like for break…” Justin looked toward the bed and saw it was empty. He headed toward the kitchen “Brian… Brian ...are you here?” There was no sign of Brian in the apartment. Justin walked back to the bedroom and sat on the edge of his bed. He stared off into space. He has never felt so rejected before in his life.

Two weeks later

Justin sat in his office going over some paperwork. He has been keeping busy to avoid thinking about Brian. It wasn’t working. His mind would wander back to their night of passion and he couldn’t help the huge smile that came over his face as he relived the feelings he felt from that night. Unfortunately he had to remember how Brian left like a coward afterwards. He wanted to call Brian and give him a piece of his mind, but he couldn’t bring himself to speak to him just yet. Justin looked at his watch, it was after 8:00 pm-he needed to head home. He gathered his things and locked up the gallery.

Justin stopped at the deli near his house to grab a sandwich for dinner since he wasn’t in the mood to cook anything. He walked to the counter and ordered Pastrami on rye with the mustard on the side and provolone cheese on the side. Everyone there was used to him and his strange way of ordering so they barely batted an eyelash now when he comes in. He was standing there waiting for his order when Brian walked in. He noticed Justin immediately.

“Hi.”

“Hi Brian.” Justin said coldly.

Brian sighed at the greeting. “Look I’m sorry I left the way I did that morning.”

“Sorry is bullshit.”

Brian chuckled “Yeah, I guess it is.”

The waiter handed Justin his order. He paid him and turned to walk out, Brian began to follow him. “Aren’t you going to order?”

“We need to talk” Brian said as he continued to follow Justin to his car.

Justin stopped at his car. “Talk”

“Justin I fucked up, I fucked a friend.”

Justin looked at Brian dumbfound “In more ways than one huh…. So, is that all you have to say to me…. I was a fuck up.”

“No you were a friend, are a friend.”

“Well if that’s how you treat friends, I want no part. Excuse me my sandwich is getting cold.”

“Justin don’t do this. Let’s not throw away our friendship. Justin…come on…What do you want? What were you expecting? I told you I don’t do relationships or boyfriends.”

“Well what was that night then Brian? …Why did you ask me if I was feeling the same way? You know I don’t do casual sex, you asked me if I was feeling the same way...I guess I wasn’t, or you weren’t feeling the way I was.”

“I guess not.”

“So, you’re telling me that it didn’t feel amazing when we were making love?”

Brian hesitated, he diverted his eyes from Justin as he spoke. “It was just a fuck.”

Justin looked at Brian sadly. “I don’t know which is worse, lying to me or to yourself… good bye Brian.”

Justin climbed into his car and drove the block to his apartment.

8 months later

"I can’t believe you and Michael are having a commitment ceremony so soon. You barely known each other…what 9 months or less."

“Justin when you know it’s the right thing there is no need to wait. I love Michael, I think I fell in love with him at first sight.

“Well I’m happy for you two.” Justin stood and straightened Ben’s tie. “You look really” handsome.”

“Thank you. How are things with you and Donald?” Ben asked as he turned to pick up his boutonniere of small white roses.

Justin shrugged his shoulders “Okay I guess” he replied somewhat indifferently.

“That good huh…. He asks Michael about you.” Ben didn’t have to specify who ‘he’ was. “He really hate what’s happened to your friendship. Are you going to be okay with seeing him today?”

Justin shrugged his shoulders again as he put on his own boutonniere of a white carnation.

“Justin…”

“What Ben? He hasn’t made an attempt to contact me in eight months. He asked in passing how I was doing, am I supposed to be overjoyed.” The anguished Justin felt was evident in his voice

“Justin, Michael gave me some insight into Brian’s psyche. He told me that Brian will not chase after anyone no matter how bad he’s hurting. Michael also told me that he has never heard Brian speak about any man the way he talked about you.” Ben said, wanting desperately to help his friend.

“Why are you telling me this now?”

“You wouldn’t let me speak about him before, and being that he is a part of the ceremony I would like it if the two of you got along.”

“Don’t worry I would never do anything to upset your day.” Justin gave his friend a huge hug. He walked with Ben from their dressing area to banquet hall of the Community Town Center, where the ceremony and reception was to be held.

Justin noticed Brian immediately, he stood at the front of the room next to Michael. He was dressed in a beautiful light gray suit-it complimented his eyes perfectly. Brian looked up and locked eyes with Justin. He knew Justin would look his best today, but the sight took his breath away. He was dressed in a gray suit as well, but it was more of a darker shade. He wore a light blue shirt with the top two buttons opened. His blond hair was slightly tousled. He looked extremely sexy to Brian. He and Ben came to stand next to Michael and Brian. Both Michael and Ben were dressed in matching blue suits.

Brian and Justin tried hard to keep their gaze away from each other, they failed miserably. They exchanged glances throughout the ceremony as Ben and Michael exchanged their vows and moved on to the reception. Both Brian and Justin gave best men speeches. Michael gave a speech as well.

“I just want to thank Justin and Brian for Ben and me getting together. It was us not being attracted to them that led us to each other.”

Brian glared as his friend as he continued speaking.

“I hope they are as lucky as Ben and I and find their true love.”

Everyone raised their glass to the toast except Brian and Justin who were somewhat insulted. Brian looked at Justin and saw the look of outrage on his face and couldn’t help himself from laughing-Justin laughed as well.

Brian walked over to talk to him. “What unattractive people we are?”

“Yeah, how can we walk around with our heads held high.”

Brian grew serious as he looked at Justin. “I miss you.”

“I miss you too.”

“Then why are we doing this?”

“I want something more …I guess. That night changed things for me, but not for you.”

“So you’re willing to throw away our friendship?”

“No, I’m willing to add to it.” Justin reached up and touched Brian’s cheek. “Brian I never wanted to admit it because we were friends, but I think I fell in love with your rude conceited obnoxious self.”

“Well when you put it like that, what’s not to love?”

“Yeah, I’m just a glutton for punishment.”

“Justin, I’m not your happily ever after. That night was a mistake.”

“Yeah.” Justin said quietly. “I guess it was…. If you’ll excuse me this is a party, I’m going to go mingle.”

Justin walked away leaving Brian to stare after him. Justin put on his best party mask and made himself the life of the party. Every now and then he would look around to see where Brian was. Most times he would find him looking in his direction. After a while Justin couldn’t see him anymore. It became clear that he had left. Justin wondered what guy he left with.

Brian left the party feeling like he left a part of himself back there. He said his goodbyes to Ben and Michael and wished them the best on their honeymoon. Michael pulled him aside to speak to him in private before he left.

“Brian, what are you doing?”

“I’m leaving.”

“With Justin! I’ve gotten to know him pretty well through Ben, and he’s a great guy. I can see why you’re crazy about him.”

“What are you talking about, we were just friends. Like you and me friends.”

“That’s saying a lot right there. You have never compared any other friendship to the one you and I share.”

“Mikey, you’re grasping at straws…trying to make something out of nothing.”

“Brian, I have known you for 15, 16 years, and in all that time aside from college and various business trips, we have never gone more than 3 days or less without talking to or seeing each other. We have never kept secrets. When you and Justin became friends I never saw you. You rarely frequented your regular hangouts. You were always with him. And the surprising part was that it was a platonic relationship, or at least it was until Ben and I dumped you two and left you heartbroken in the apartment.

“Oh, Mikey you are delusional on so many levels.”

“Okay maybe we didn’t break your hearts, but I do think you need to re-look at your relationship with Justin…and it was a relationship. Don’t blow this chance for happiness… I want you to be as happy as I am with Ben.”

“Well I’m not you and I’m not Ben.” Brian hugged his friend to him “Enjoy your honeymoon.”

Brian left the hall and jumped into his mustang and drove off. He drove to his loft and stood outside the car. He didn’t want to go home. He was frustrated and going to an empty loft was not very tempting. He climbed back into his car drove to the Baths, he looked around as men entered and exited the sex hall. He couldn’t bring himself to go in there either. The last few times he was there, every man he fucked or allowed to suck his dick, he imagined them to be a blond blue eyed little smart ass.

Brian found himself back in his car driving down the familiar street to home. He passed his loft and continued the few blocks down to Justin’s apartment. Brian was surprised to see Justin’s car parked out front. He really didn’t expect him to be home. He got out of the car and headed upstairs to his apartment. Brian didn’t bother ring the doorbell, he used the key Justin gave him and entered the hall. He reached his front door and took a deep breath before letting himself in.

Justin was walking out of the bedroom when he heard his front door opening. He saw Brian stepping into the apartment. He walked over to Brian totally pissed off.

“What the fuck…you have no right walking into my apartment like this…give me my key back, and get out.” Justin stood in front of Brian with his hand out waiting for him to hand over the key.

Brian looked down at the irate little blond. “You are so hot when you’re angry!” Brian said as he grabbed Justin’s outstretched hand and pulled him into his arms and covered his mouth with his. Justin struggled against the kiss before giving in and allowing himself to enjoy it. Brian broke the kiss and held Justin close to him in his arms.

“What does this mean?” Justin asked on baited breath

Brian pulled back so that two were now facing each other.

“It means I missed you…. and.”

“…and…” Justin said impatiently

“Maybe there is more to this ‘friendship’ of ours”

“So…are you telling me you’re willing to find out?”

“Yes.” Brian said as he leaned in and softly kissed Justin lips. When he pulled back the look of love in Justin’s eyes was so overwhelming, Brian was amazed he never saw it there before.” You really love me…” Brian said in awe.

“Yes, your rude conceited obnoxious self… I really love you.”

“Well, I’m going to need help with this relationship thing. This is virgin territory for me.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll help you.” Justin said as he took Brian by the hand and led him toward his bedroom.

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One year later

Brian was in his office going over his newest client’s file, when his desk phone rang. He didn’t need to look at the caller ID to know it was Justin. Somehow he always knew when it was Justin calling.

“Hey.”

“Hey baby,” Justin said “Leo just called he said he found a buyer for the apartment. They’re close to my asking price.”

“Great, the sale on the loft should be finalized by the end of the week then we can concentrate on fixing up the new place.”

“Brian you sure Leo doesn’t suspect that we’re moving into the new place together. He seemed rather cold to me on the phone.”

“No, I told him I needed a bigger loft because my wardrobe was outgrowing this one. He bought it. I think he’s upset because he’s missing me at the baths… as a matter of fact half of Pittsburgh is missing me at a lot of my old hang outs”

“Are you missing them?” Justin asked. Their relationship was not an easy road, but they survived it and were going strong. They were finally in a completely monogamous relationship, and they were taking the next step of living together.

“No, I’m not missing it at all.” Brian said honestly

“Good.”

Brian could almost feel Justin smiling into the phone.

“Justin I have to go. I’ll see you at home.”

“Okay, I love you.”

“Of course you do.”

Justin rolled his eyes. “Bye Brian.”

“Bye…oh Justin

“Yeah”

“I love you too.”

“Of course you do.”

END