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# Below Her Mouth

By Stephanie Fabrizi

1

Oh my god.

Hey

did you come?

A bit.

What's wrong?

I don't know.

Tell me the truth.

There's nothing.

Don't start getting hyper.

I'm not getting hyper.

I'm in love with you.

You're over me.

Say something.

Something.

Grow up.

I'm moving out.

I think you should.

I put a deposit on an apartment.

I gotta go to work.

Dallas!

You're better off without me.

Why?

I'll call you later.

Hey sweetheart!

Pass the keys, let me take it  
for a ride.

I'd take her for a ride.

Hey, why do ladies love roofers?

You should pick me up and go  
like that.

Hey, babe.

What time is it?

Time to go.

Is it?

I'm up.

Just wait.

What is this?

What?

What do you mean what,  
what is this?

Did you paint my nails?

Mhmm.

Why.

You have the most gorgeous  
nail-beds.  
I feel violated.  
What?  
Why?  
I don't know it's fucking weird.  
Okay look baby I gotta go.  
Would you take that off please?  
I just want one picture.  
You're not taking a picture of  
me.  
Hello.  
Welcome back.  
Fuck off.  
Already drinking alone?  
There's one left for you.  
Do you want one?  
Yeah.  
Where's your thing?  
Over there.  
Okay, what's up?  
Talk to me.  
You just walked out on her?  
Kind of.  
I got better things to do.  
I don't wanna play house  
right now  
she wasn't right for you.  
I'm buzzed.  
I gotta catch up.  
You won't catch up.  
No one will ever catch me.  
What time is Claire coming over?  
She's on her way.  
I'll call you in the morning.  
What's the time difference in  
Arizona?  
Two hours.  
Call me when you get to the  
hotel.  
Do you think you'll be up that  
late?  
Probably not.  
I'm shooting tomorrow morning.

Don't try to keep up with  
Claire.  
I never do.  
Hey, Dallas.  
Yes, Joslyn.  
When are you picking up  
the rest of your stuff.  
What stuff?  
Stuff that you don't want  
donated  
to goodwill with your  
name and address on it.  
You have 20 minutes.  
Hmm, I can't be there in 20  
minutes,  
I have a party to get to.  
Throw it out.  
Don't call me about this stuff  
anymore.  
I wanna be amicable with you  
and phone calls of this  
nature piss me off.  
You know me better  
than to think I give a shit  
where my stuff ends up.  
Even inanimate  
objects are not safe from you.  
What, fine.  
Stop calling, if you know that's  
the case.  
Buzz kill.  
I bought a few new things.  
I like to boil and recycle.  
I'm starting over.  
You see anything?  
Nothing.  
Hot girls are never on time.  
What about us?  
We're not hot girls.  
I'm wearing women's clothing.  
On the outside.  
I'm calling firsts on the  
bartender.  
Too bad she likes me.

You can back off if I like a  
girl.  
I've been after her for months.  
You don't get it.  
Maybe you don't get it.  
I'm taking a lap.  
You can handle it.  
This is cute.  
Where should we go first?  
It's a girl party.  
Let's keep walking.  
We're going in.  
What do you want to drink?  
I'm okay.  
I'm going to find the bathroom.  
Excuse me.  
She's ignoring me.  
I'll be right back.  
I think I'm being overlooked.  
I got you.  
Desiree.  
What do you want?  
Hey.  
Hey.  
Were you on my street today?  
Thought you looked familiar.  
You come to girl parties often?  
I don't come at all.  
Terrible news.  
Can I change that for you?  
My friend is waiting for me.  
What's your name?  
Jasmine.  
Don't be rude.  
Dallas, named after the American  
television show my parents fell  
in  
love with in Sweden.  
Did you grow up in Sweden?  
What gave me away?  
Am I talking funny?  
You're talking fine.  
I'm curious.  
About?

Why do women love roofers?  
You have to go out with me if  
you  
want to find out.  
I need to get some air.  
What was that?  
My ring.  
Ouch, it's a weapon.  
You're engaged.  
My condolences.  
Now you're being rude.  
I'm just being honest.  
See you.  
Why do women love roofers?  
No idea.  
Because we strip'em  
and nail'em all day long.  
Sounds exhausting.  
I'll be on the same street  
tomorrow,  
if you want a demonstration.  
I'll pass.  
Let me buy you a drink?  
Pass again.  
Wait.  
We're not done talking.  
I left my friend alone.  
Your friend found company.  
Has he been saving since  
he was a little boy?  
He's good with his finances.  
I was almost engaged.  
I thought about buying a ring  
for my ex.  
I even googled it.  
I got my own apartment instead.  
Rile and I just moved  
out of our first apartment.  
How's the sex after  
all the living together.  
It's good.  
I've got no emotional  
stamina for intimacy.  
I know how to keep him

interested.  
I think I might be different  
with you.  
Keep saying that and you might  
find  
the right girl.  
What if you're the right girl?  
I'm engaged.  
Why are you being so crazy!  
Because I have to wake up early.  
We were having a good time.  
At my expense.  
What?  
I should listen to my instincts.  
Jasmine!  
What are you talking about?  
She kissed me.  
What did you do?  
I kissed her back.  
What?  
I feel sick.  
Did you like it?  
Claire, I'm not answering that.  
I'm just curious.  
Don't talk about that,  
it's not about that.  
I feel weird.  
Because you like her?  
Because I'm engaged.  
Oh please, Jasmine.  
You're the most faithful person  
I know.  
You and Rile are like Mary  
and the fuckin carpenter.  
It will never happen again.  
Giddy-up.  
What time you done?  
Rile?  
Hey, I just got to the hotel.  
I want to get married in  
the garden, at the old mill.  
Okay baby.  
Okay that's great.  
Call the planner in the morning.

I'm red-eyed.  
I got to go sleep.  
K, I love you.  
I love you.  
I'm coming!  
I'm awake.  
Hey, I gotta get to work.  
I have stuff to do too.  
Cool, I'm leaving the spare key.  
You'll probably see Quinn before  
you see me again.  
Just give it to her.  
Actually, can you just give  
me a ride.  
I gotta go.  
Here grab a cab.  
Morning.  
Morning.  
You didn't say  
goodbye last night.  
I'm late for work.  
What do you do?  
I work in fashion.  
Retail?  
I'm an editor for  
a fashion magazine.  
Does that mean you're the boss?  
It's more complicated than that.  
I'm the boss.  
This is my company.  
My site.  
What are you doing later?  
I'm working late.  
I'll be here until dark  
finishing up this job.  
Cool.  
I'll be done and you'll  
never have to see me again.  
Bye.  
I want her nude on top.  
She wants you nude on top.  
Is that fur?  
There is no way I will ever put  
that on my naked body, it's in



my  
contract, no fur.  
I'm an anti-fur advocate.  
Why is there a fur coat on your  
set?  
You think that's real?  
It looks real.  
Even if it's not I'm not putting  
it on.  
The coat is faux, it wouldn't  
be on my set otherwise.  
Was that true?  
It worked.  
I want to be home before dark.  
I'll wrap it up.  
You change your mind?  
One drink, one.  
And we're done.  
I'll be back in an hour.  
You trying to kill me?  
Nice outfit.  
Thanks.  
Stop it.  
Stop what?  
You're staring at me.  
I'm not.  
You were saying that you're a  
brilliant fashion editor.  
I never said that.  
Tell me what you said?  
I had an opportunity to go to  
New York.  
What happened?  
Rile had just been promoted.  
So.  
I made a sacrifice.  
Sounds like martyrdom to me.  
You'll understand someday.  
Don't be condescending,  
I understand the concept of  
sacrifice.  
I would have made you go, in  
fact I  
would have gone with you.

That's sweet.  
You're really sweet.  
I like your style.  
I like your edge.  
It's just that my style  
is engaged to a man.  
Can we get the bill?  
Don't come any closer.  
Come to my place.  
I'm leaving.  
Stop torturing yourself.  
You are torturing me.  
Take me somewhere.  
You want me to take it off?  
Hello.  
Jasmine?  
You sleeping?  
No, no, I'm awake, I  
dozed off for a few minutes.  
Did you call the planner  
about booking the wedding?  
I haven't had time.  
I'll take care of it.  
I'll call her before my  
meeting this morning.  
The storm is really bad here.  
I guess I'm not golfing this  
weekend.  
Hello?  
Sorry.  
Are you okay sweetie?  
Bridget and I are working.  
We had some work to do.  
She just got here.  
Okay you're  
busy, say hello for me.  
Try to take some time for  
yourself this weekend.  
I should get going.  
Me too, love you.  
Morning.  
Is it you?  
It's me.  
You're persistent.

Look at you pushing.  
I gave myself a hernia.  
My mom said if I acted like a  
girl,  
I wouldn't get hurt all the  
time.  
Did you want to be a boy?  
I just wanted her to let me be.  
Can I have it?  
Where will you keep it?  
I'm going to frame it and  
admire it  
and all of your tomboy strength.  
Tomboy.  
I didn't like being called  
that when I was a kid.  
I couldn't hide it, but  
I just didn't like being  
called out on it.  
Besides, I'm not a tomboy  
I'm more legit than that.  
Okay, legit tomboy.  
Kiss me.  
I've never done anything like  
this before.  
I don't usually  
tell the truth about my past.  
Because you  
have so much to hide.  
I'm not  
hiding anything from you.  
What did your mom say  
when you became a roofer?  
She's pissed about it.  
She pushed me to leave  
Sweden for university  
because she didn't want me  
working  
on a roof with my dad.  
My dad used to tell me I  
couldn't  
go up on any roofs without him.  
Fuck that, he didn't  
even have to teach me.

It's like I was born with  
suction cups for feet.  
I hated being a kid.  
I'm holding you to one  
positive memory.  
I liked helping my dad build  
stuff.  
I liked the rain, even though I  
wasn't allowed to play in it.  
My mom's cooking and that she  
used to  
iron my underwear into perfect  
squares.  
What was it like for you?  
My dad made us laugh all the  
time, he's witty and silly.  
My mom is supportive,  
as long as she approves.  
When I was a teenager I had a  
summer thing with a girl named  
Denise.  
That doesn't surprise me.  
You remind me of her.  
We were inseparable, we kissed  
once.  
It lasted like four seconds.  
My mom walked in and freaked.  
I wasn't allowed to say goodbye.  
I never saw her again.  
You just obeyed?  
Of course.  
It took me a long time to  
forgive my mom.  
I pretended everything was fine.  
She tried to hook me up with  
anyone  
with a penis and a job.  
I stopped thinking about that  
part  
of me and just followed  
what was prescribed.  
I buried that story.  
It's like it never even  
happened.

How old were you when you came  
out?  
Young.  
Young?  
How old is young?  
I don't tell my coming out  
story.  
You're seriously not going to  
tell me?  
Why do I have to have one?  
I promise not to tell  
anyone you have one.  
And I'll never ask again.  
Which story do you want  
it's not one that ever ends.  
Last month I came out  
to the forklift operator  
at the roofing supply store.  
The first time you were with a  
woman.  
It wasn't a surprise or  
anything.  
I was only ever attracted to  
women.  
You never got the fearful  
flooding  
rush that things might be  
different  
for you?  
Every time I look at you.  
I'm waiting.  
You have until the sand runs out  
or  
I won't see you ever again.  
Guess I'll see you around.  
It's not that exciting.  
The first time a girl had sex  
with me.  
She topped the fuck out of me  
until  
seven in the morning.  
I didn't know what I was doing.  
How things have changed.  
I was only 16.

She was like 30 or something.  
We both got what we  
wanted and that's that.  
How did your parents react?  
My dad says he can't control  
who I love.  
I always wanted them to  
love each other more.  
I don't want to loose you.  
I cannot breathe.  
You're so pretty.  
I want you to stay.  
Shh, be quiet.  
I could eat blueberry  
pancakes at every meal.  
I'm going to starve to death in  
your bed.  
I'm going to build a fortress.  
I'll visit you.  
I'm memorizing  
every part of you.  
I don't want  
to think about my life.  
The outside.  
Have you ever tried to  
count how many breaths  
you take in a minute?  
I tried,  
I stopped breathing.  
It takes your breath away.  
I don't like goodbyes.  
Will you drive me home?  
I'm going to get us lost.  
I love this house.  
I know you do.  
Look, that's my favorite tree.  
Where?  
There.  
I don't see it.  
That sad and lonely looking  
thing?  
It needs to be cut off.  
I can bring my chainsaw over for  
you.

Don't you dare.  
Don't ever fuckin do that again.  
It was supposed to be frisky.  
Kidding.  
Frisky?  
I'm going in now.  
Hit me.  
What?  
Do it again.  
Or I'll do it back.  
You wouldn't?  
That hurt.  
Do it.  
I want to see you tomorrow.  
I can't. He'll be home  
tomorrow morning.  
I can't see you again, Dallas.  
Hi it's Jasmine leave me a  
message.  
Hey, you might be asleep by now.  
I called you earlier to let you  
know  
our golf game got rained out  
I'm coming home, no point in  
sticking around.  
I'll wait for a cab. I'll see  
you soon.  
Don't get me going.  
Get out and play with me.  
Not in here.  
I want to see you again.  
I can't.  
Rile, stop!  
What the fuck.  
What the fuck did I do to you?  
Don't touch me. Don't you  
fucking touch me.  
You didn't even see me,  
standing there,  
you just,  
you were gone.  
She's a woman.  
It doesn't matter.  
Tell me what I need to do to fix

this to put us back on track.  
You're a lesbian.  
You've known me for  
six almost seven years.  
I thought I did.  
I still love you.  
Nothing has changed between us.  
I saw it with my own eyes.  
I can't lose you.  
End it.  
It's over.  
In person or you'll never see  
me again.  
Can I shower and go over to her  
place before work?  
I'm a mess.  
You want to look good for her?  
Come on let's go.  
I'll do it.  
I'm so sorry I left you.  
I had to run after him.  
Rile's outside waiting.  
Why?  
I need to end this.  
I don't want to.  
You have to.  
I shouldn't have put you in this  
position.  
I wanted it, I still do.  
I don't want you like this.  
Because you can't be in  
something.  
Jasmine!  
What kind of something would  
this be?  
You're wearing an engagement  
ring that someone else  
gave you.  
Drop me off at work.  
Hey.  
You okay?  
Thank you.  
Can I have a receipt?  
Rile.



You were you never like that  
with me?  
Can you try too?  
What's the point?  
To what?  
I love her.  
Desiree?  
No.  
Jasmine.  
She's straight.  
You don't know.  
This mean you're laying off  
Desiree?  
Come on.  
What?  
Where you going?  
We were just  
talking about you the other day.  
Here I am.  
Two bourbons and MJ.  
She might be upstairs.  
She knows I'm coming I texted  
her.  
Here, she'll be happy to see  
you.  
And there she is.  
Where have you been?  
I was in a thing.  
What about now?  
On my own again.  
Does this mean you'll visit  
more often?  
You and your filthy paws are  
outta  
of here.  
Paying customers only.  
No free rides kids.  
No free shows pervert.  
You have some fuckin balls.  
How'd I get here?  
You haven't told me yet.  
I am toxic for you.  
Because I don't love you the way  
you love me.

Sorry.

Can I come in?

I'm so sorry for what I did.

I know you are baby.

Let's get out though.

Hey, hey babe it's me.

I'm so sorry.

How was your day?

I told some friends at work  
about you.

What did you tell them?

Everything.