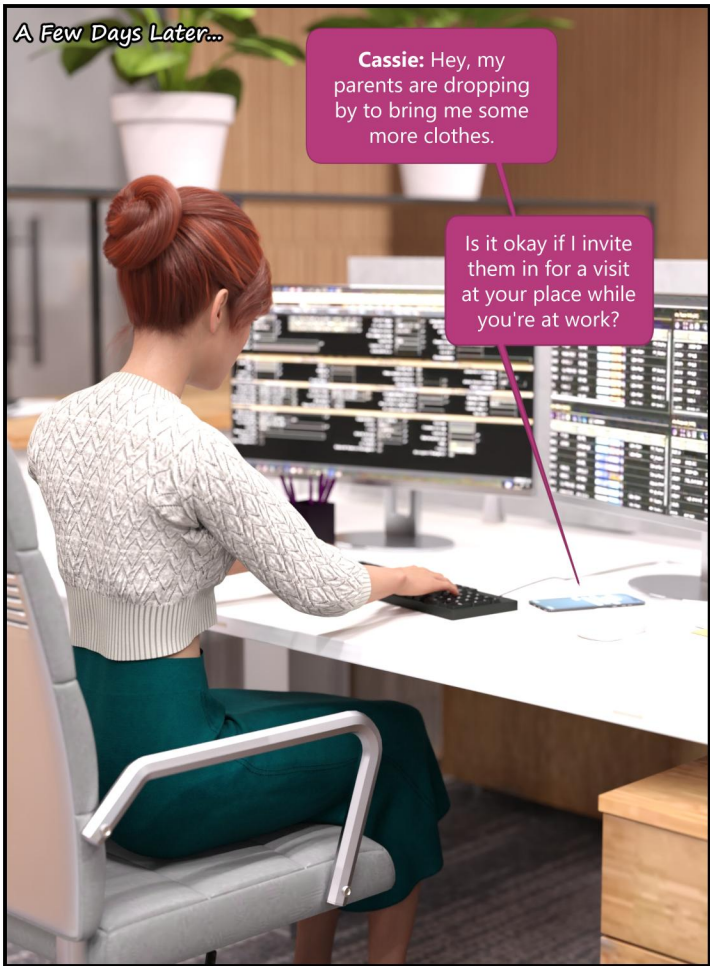


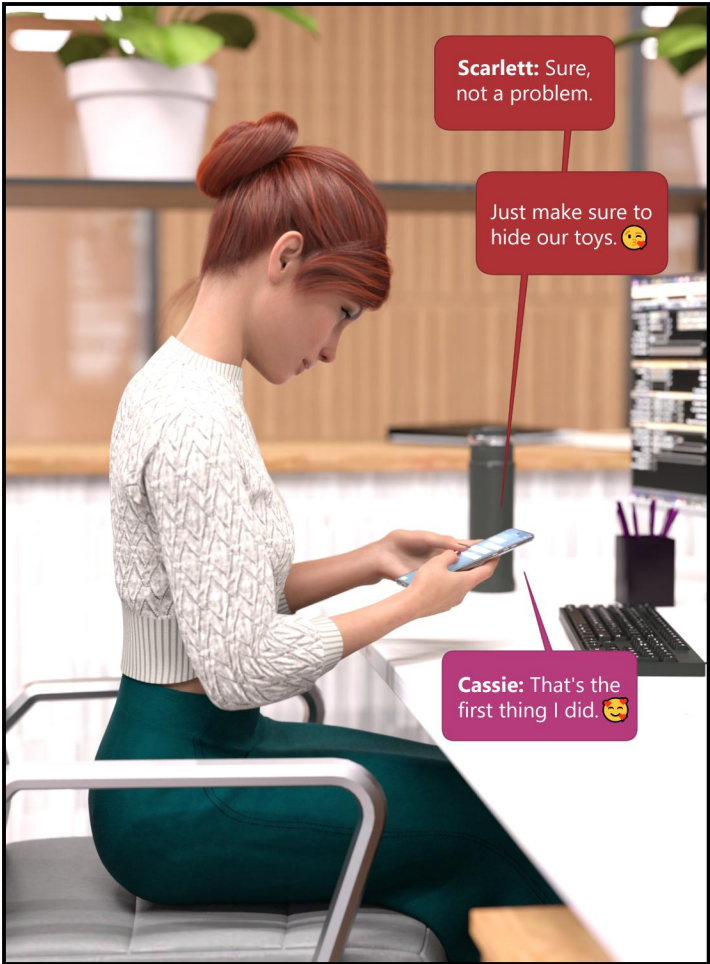
**PART 14:**  
**THE HARPERS**

*A Few Days Later...*

**Cassie:** Hey, my parents are dropping by to bring me some more clothes.

Is it okay if I invite them in for a visit at your place while you're at work?





**Scarlett:** Sure, not a problem.

Just make sure to hide our toys. 🤔

**Cassie:** That's the first thing I did. 😊



**Cassie:** Oh, and they'll probably still be here when you come home.

Because they're really excited to meet you! 😊

So be careful when you come in!

**Scarlett:** Of course!

*A few hours later...*

So why did  
Cassie warn  
me to be careful  
when I meet her  
parents?



Is she worried  
they might not  
like me?



Or is she nervous about telling them that she's dating a girl?

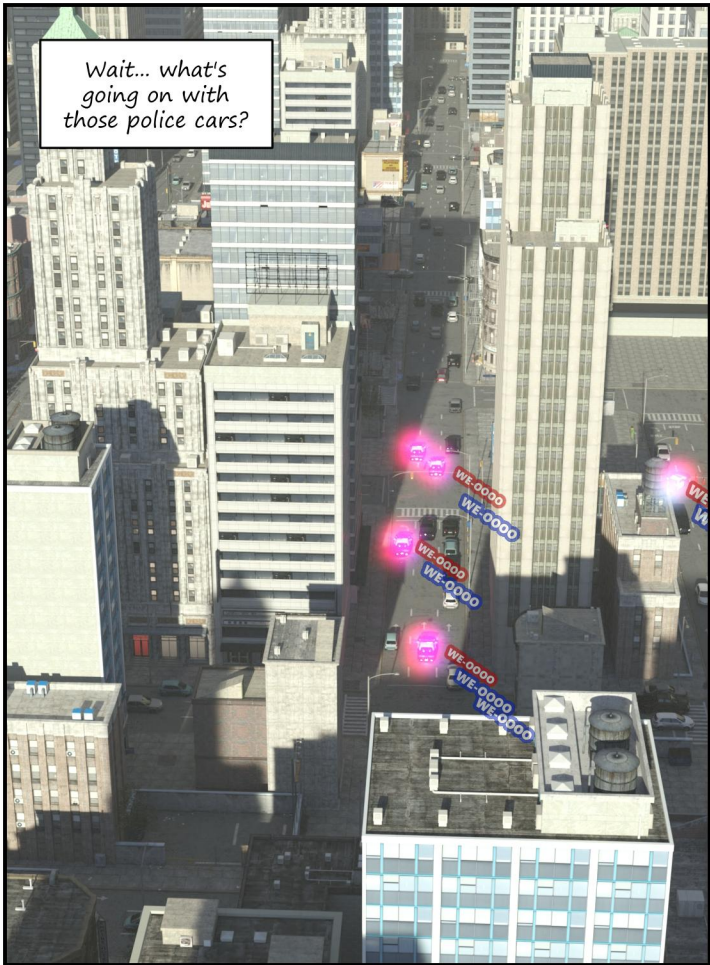


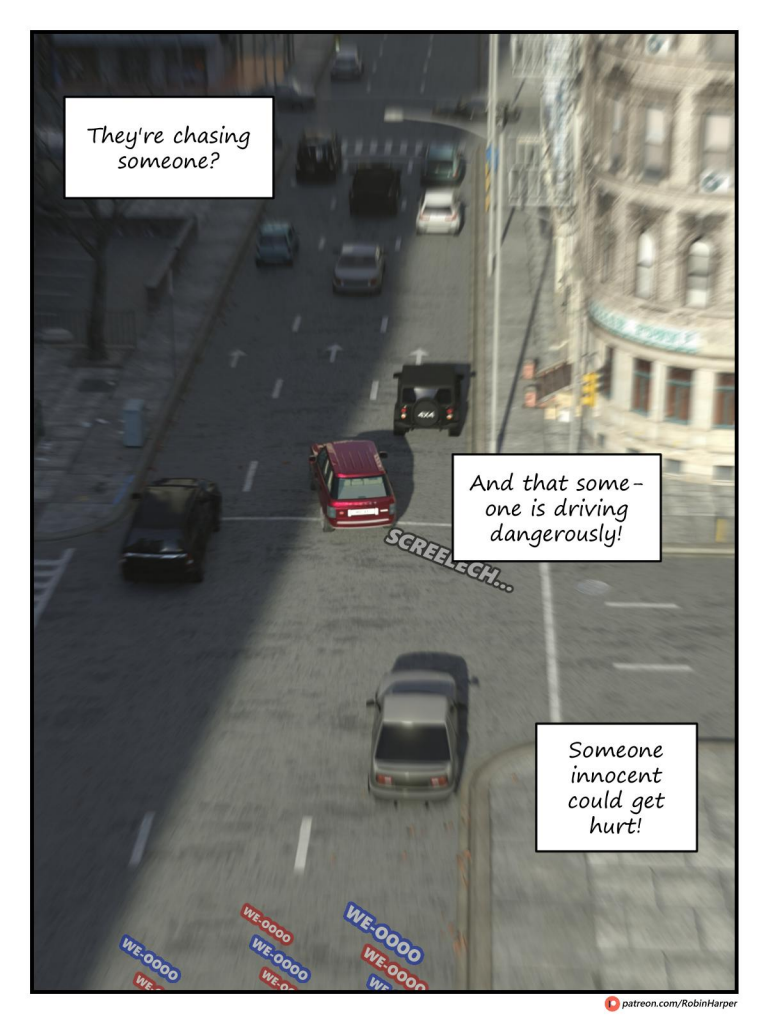
Maybe it's  
best if I let  
her do the  
talking.





Wait... what's  
going on with  
those police cars?



An aerial, slightly blurred view of a city street. A red SUV is in the center, with a black SUV following it. Other cars are visible in the distance. Buildings line the right side of the street. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image.

They're chasing  
someone?

And that some-  
one is driving  
dangerously!

SCREEECH...

Someone  
innocent  
could get  
hurt!

WE-0000  
WE-0000  
WE-0000  
WE-0000  
WE-0000  
WE-0000



That driver  
needs to be  
stopped before  
that  
happens.



And Simon isn't here to tell me no.

It's time  
to be what  
I've always  
wanted to  
be...





...a super-  
hero!





...so I'll have to improvise.

**THUMP!**

**THUMP!**






Hey, did you feel that?

**\*Twist\***

**\*Press\***

Feel what?



It felt like  
we just hit  
something.

We've hit  
a lot of  
things...

...so  
what?

Well, I think  
whatever we  
hit this time,  
broke some-  
thing...



...because  
I have the  
gas pedal to  
the floor...

...and this  
piece of junk  
is just getting  
slower and  
slower!

**\*SHOVE\***

So if our  
wheels too  
slow to lose  
the cops...

...we're  
going to have  
to lose them  
on foot  
instead!



Grab the goods from the back and let's get-

What the hell!?

Yoink!



Shit!

Hey  
asshole!

Get it  
together!

The cops  
are right  
behind us!

**Trip!**



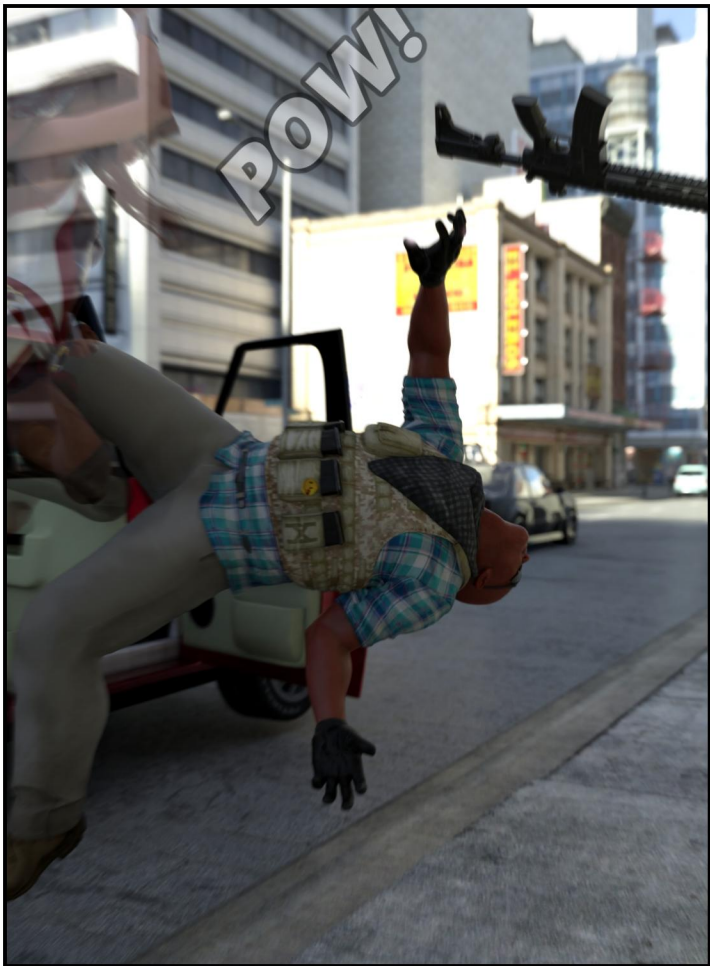
\*Sigh\*


Well, I'll  
guess I'll let that  
idiot serve as a  
distraction for  
the cops...

...while I  
make my  
getaway!




POW!





Well, my  
work here  
is done...

...I'll let  
the cops take  
care of the  
rest.



Anyhow,  
I should  
get going...



Cass is  
probably  
wondering  
where I am!



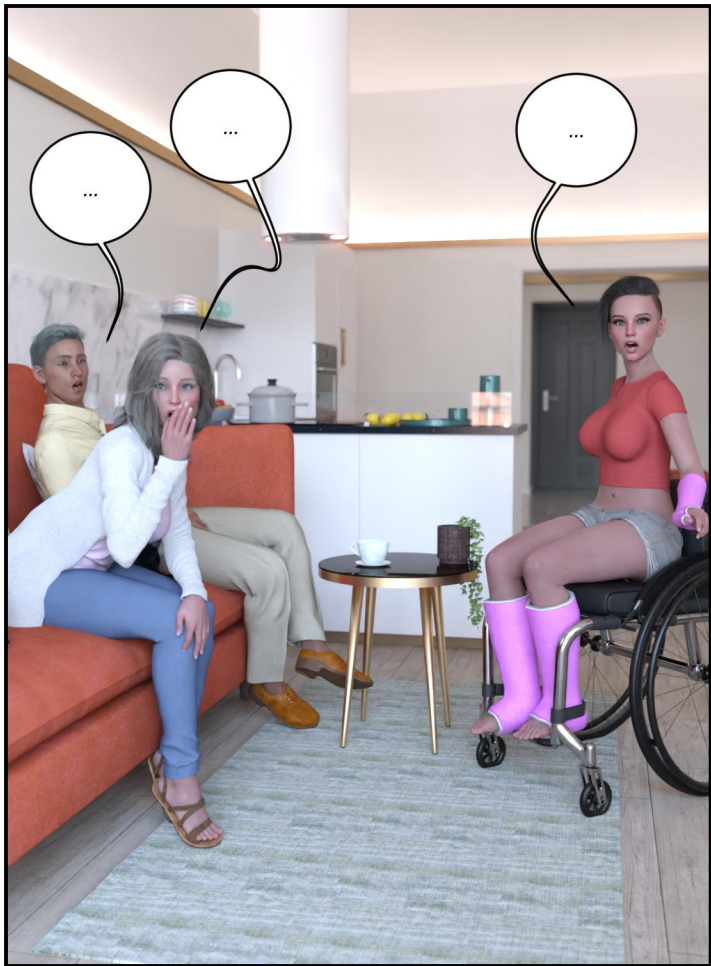
Wow!

It's hard to believe that I just fought crime like a superhero!

I wonder if Cassie has ever done anything like this with her powers.

Hey  
Cassie!







Oh...  
right.



Did you  
just... come  
in through the  
balcony?








*\*Sigh\**

Timestop!

What  
the hell,  
Scarlett!?

I told  
you to be  
careful!






I thought  
you meant that  
I should be careful  
about what I  
say to your  
parents!


Such as  
letting you be  
the one who tells  
them that we  
are dating...

...because I  
wasn't sure if  
you were scared  
about how they  
might react to  
you dating a  
girl!



I already  
told them  
that we're  
dating!

That's why  
they're so  
excited to  
meet you!

A woman with short brown hair and blue eyes is sitting in a black wheelchair. She is wearing a red short-sleeved crop top and light blue denim shorts. Her right arm is in a pink cast, and her left leg is in a pink cast. She has a thoughtful expression on her face. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a kitchen or living area.

Besides, I had thought that telling you that my parents would still be here...

...was all I had to say for you to understand that you shouldn't come in through the balcony!



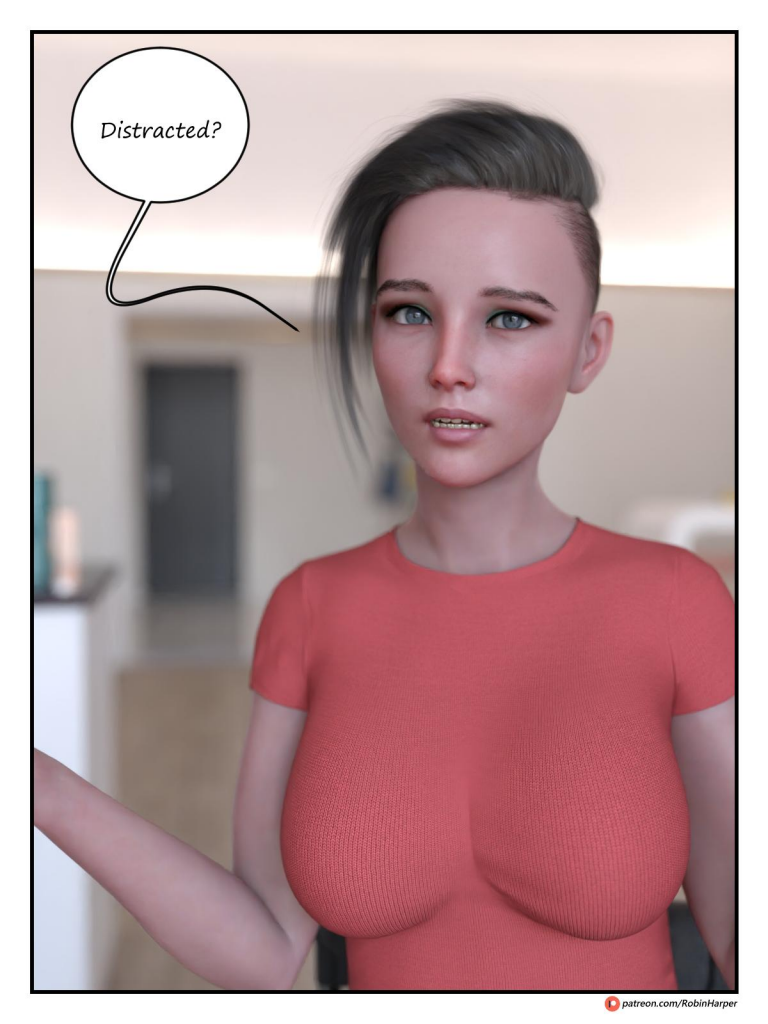
Sorry, I  
guess I was so  
nervous about  
screwing up  
meeting your  
parents...

...that I  
didn't think  
about what I  
should have  
been thinking  
about.






Well, that  
and I got  
distracted on  
the way  
home.



Distracted?



Yeah! It's  
why I was so  
excited when  
I came in!



On my way home, I noticed a ton of cop cars...

...chasing an SUV right through the busy traffic of downtown!



So I flew  
down there,  
pushed that  
SUV to a  
halt...



And then  
before they  
had a chance  
to shoot at the  
cops as they  
escaped on  
foot...

...I ripped  
their assault  
rifles out of  
their hands...

...and  
knocked  
them out!



You ripped  
what out of  
their hands?



Assault  
rifles.






Like it was  
a good thing I  
disarmed them  
when I did...

...because  
if they had  
started shooting  
at the cops with  
those things in  
the middle of a  
busy street...

...people  
could have  
gotten  
hurt.

A 3D rendered woman with dark hair pulled back, blue eyes, and a slightly open mouth as if speaking. She is wearing a red short-sleeved crop top and light blue denim shorts. She is seated in a black wheelchair. Her right hand is extended outwards, and her left hand is wearing a purple cast. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper left corner.

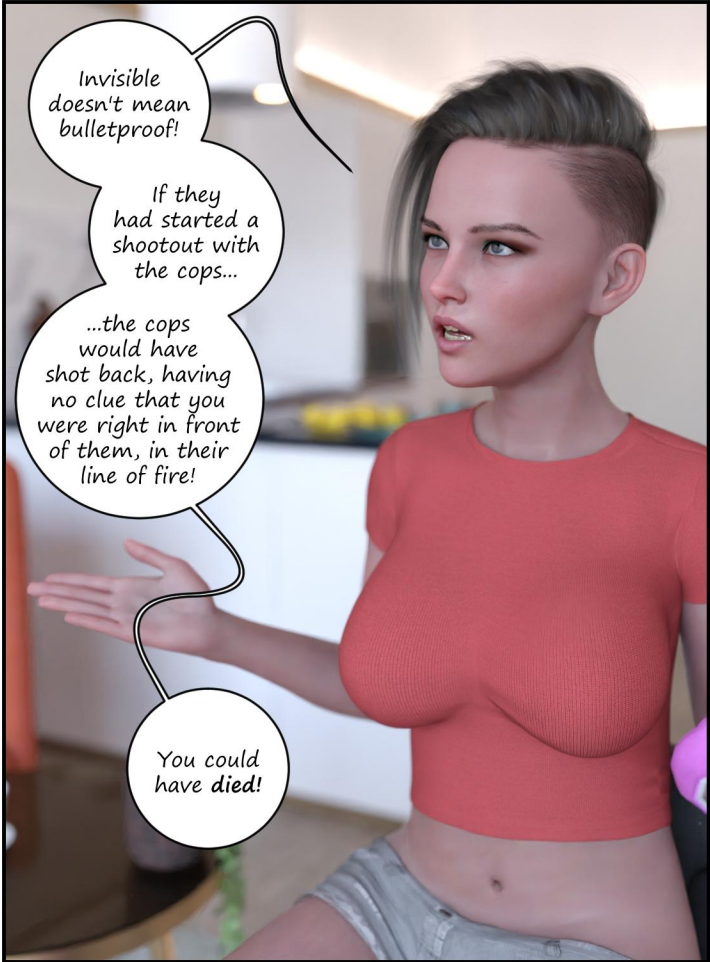
You could  
have gotten  
hurt!



Oh no, I  
was totally  
safe!

I was  
invisible the  
whole time...

...they had  
no clue that  
I was there!



Invisible  
doesn't mean  
bulletproof!

If they  
had started a  
shootout with  
the cops...

...the cops  
would have  
shot back, having  
no clue that you  
were right in front  
of them, in their  
line of fire!

You could  
have died!

I hate to interrupt ladies...

...because this is definitely an important topic...

...but don't forget that I've been holding this time stop spell active this whole time...

...a spell, if you must know, that takes quite a bit of magical energy to keep active!

So can we  
continue  
this later?

Scarlett, can  
you go out the  
front door, wait  
a minute, and then  
come back in as if  
you just arrived  
home?





And while  
you do that, I'll  
enchant Mom and  
Dad to forget that  
you ever came  
in from the  
balcony.

A woman with long red hair, wearing a white patterned sweater and a dark green skirt, stands in a hallway talking on a mobile phone. She is barefoot. The hallway has light wood flooring, a grey door, and a coat rack with a blue jacket and yellow flowers in the background.

Oh,  
okay.

And don't  
forget to  
wear shoes  
when you  
come in!

Oh yeah,  
right.



Alright,  
I'll be back  
in a minute.







Sorry,  
what were  
we talking  
about again?

Rob's new  
roommate,  
Evan -

Hey! I'm  
home!





How is everyone?

We're good.

Just relaxing at the moment.

We went for a walk earlier.

But other than that we spent most of the afternoon just talking.

Mostly about you.

But don't worry, it wasn't all about you...

...we talked about other things too.

How about you?

How was work?








Anyhow,  
here are my  
parents...

Hello!


Hey!





...my Mom,  
Laura...

We're so  
excited to  
finally meet  
you!

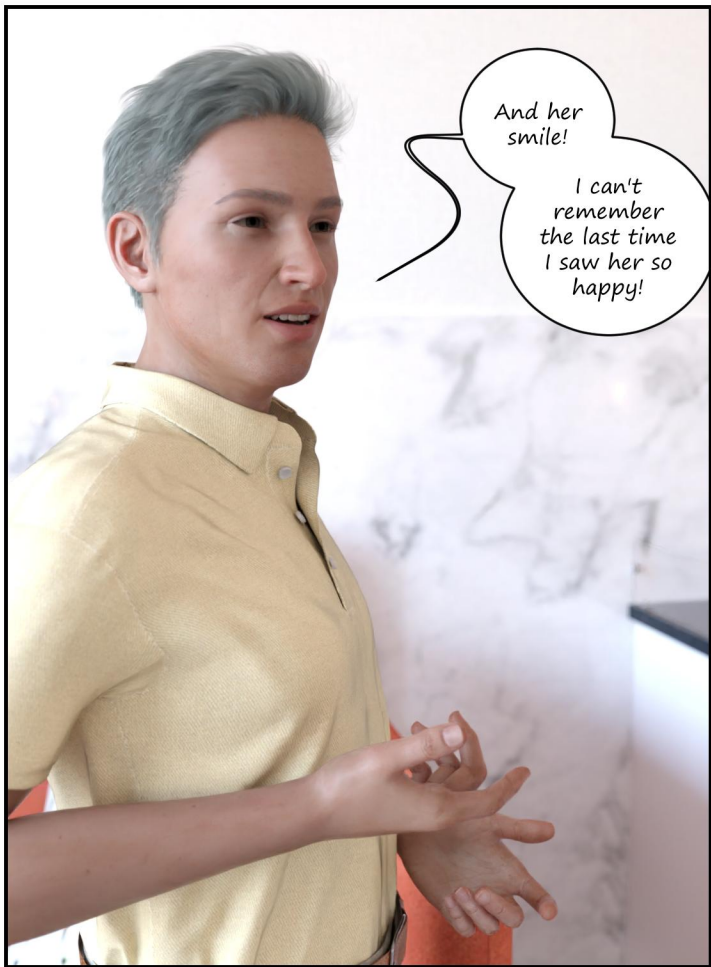


*...and my  
Dad, Rory!*

*We can't  
thank you  
enough for every-  
thing you've done  
for Cassie!*



Like, I  
haven't seen  
Cassie wearing  
this much color  
in years!



And her  
smile!

I can't  
remember  
the last time  
I saw her so  
happy!

Well, I can't  
remember the  
last time I've  
smiled this  
much either!





Well, both  
your smiles  
really warms  
my heart.



You girls  
look so  
beautiful  
together!



We are so  
happy for  
you!





Thanks,  
Mom!




Now Scarlett,  
do you mind if  
I rummage  
through your  
kitchen and cook  
up a hearty  
meal?

Sure! Not  
a problem!  
Rummage all  
you like!



Perfect!

However,  
this does  
bring me to  
my one  
complaint,  
Scarlett...




When we arrived...

...and Cassie offered us something to drink...

...she struggled to grab any of the drinks sitting on the top shelf of your refrigerator...

...and all of the glasses you keep above your sink are out of her reach!



Cassie has  
been staying  
with you for  
more than a  
week now...

...and she's  
stuck here in  
your home while  
you are at work  
all day...

...you should  
make an effort  
to ensure she can  
reach what she  
needs...

...when you  
aren't here  
to help her!

Sorry  
Scarlett, you're  
going to have to  
take the hit  
on this one!

Because there's no way we can tell my Dad that I've been floating up into the air to grab things whenever I need them!

