Corey was the first one to make a move. He was already rock hard and knew that he needed to stop before he did something he’d regret even more. He flopped onto the bed beside Isaac and sat there in silence.

“Ok. Um… Since you’ve shared a big secret with me. Can I share one with you?” Corey muttered nervously.

“huh?” Isaac replied. He glanced over at his friend and shot him an uncertain glance. Corey looked even more nervous than Isaac felt which was strange considering how nerve-wracking the day had been.

Corey looked the other way to hide his blushing face and softly muttered, “Yeah. I mean. Fair’s fair, right?”

Isaac placed a hand on his pal’s shoulder and said, “That’s really not necessary…”

Corey placed his hands over his eyes and groaned in frustration. “God dammit… this was a dumb idea…” He grumbled softly.

“It’s fine. You don’t have to feel like you need to say anything.” Isaac said softly consoling his pal. It was Corey’s turn to be on the verge of a meltdown, but Isaac still wasn’t sure what he was so freaked out by. As far as Isaac could tell his bud had taken the big reveal well enough so it must be something else that was eating at him.

“It’s not that.” Corey muttered. He let out a wistful sigh and then began to explain himself better. “I mean the stripping part. I thought it’d make this easier, but it didn’t.”

 “Wait. What?” Isaac sputtered. Isaac was really confused now, but he was more interested in soothing his pal than he was figuring out what was going on.

“It’s dumb. I was sort of somehow thinking that maybe if I stripped too it’d be less awkward? It just made it worse.” Corey grumbled.

“You can put your clothes back on.” Isaac replied.

“Yeah, but if I do that. I’ll miss my chance.” Corey muttered.

 “Chance?” Isaac asked.

“Yeah. I…. Fuck it. It can’t get any more embarrassing.” Corey said. He then took a deep breath and blurted out, “I kinda like you. Like I like like you.” The words came out so fast that it was more like a single, lengthy word than two separate sentences.

“ Like… Like…?” Isaac murmured softly. His eyes grew steadily wider as he began to process what his pal had just told him.

“Yeah… I… I’ve got a bit of a crush on you… “ Corey explained. He glanced over at his pal and flashed the biggest, pleading, puppy dog eyes he could muster. He waited anxiously for some response from his pal, but he was shocked by Isaac’s reaction. Isaac seemed to be recoiling in disgust. Corey could feel the panic welling up inside of him. This was what he was afraid of. This is why it had taken him so long to come out to his best friend.

“I’m not a girl though.” Isaac replied. He had a look on his face like he had just tasted something awful, like the words themselves were repulsive to him.

“ Huh? I know that. I was just….” Corey sputtered. His panic slowly began to fade only to be replaced by an equally awful feeling.

“FUCK!” Corey screamed at the top of his lungs. Corey once covered his eyes. His teeth were gritted in rage, but the words he was grumbling could still be understood. “Oh, god. Oh, shit damn. God fuck.” He said. Isaac could only stare on silently as his pal groaned and swore like a sailor. He had never seen Corey like this.

Isaac raised his hand like he was about to try and console his pal once more, but he couldn’t bring himself to actually move his hand the last few inches. He didn’t know what to even say. He still didn’t understand what had Corey so worked up. “What the crap…?” Is all Isaac managed to say.

“ I didn’t even make that connection. I’m sorry. I didn’t mean it like that.” Corey moaned apologetically. He finally managed to pull his hands away from his eyes and look over at Isaac. Corey’s eyes were red. He looked on the verge of tears.

It just… I mean…. I’ve had the hots for you for ages. I just thought this would be a good time to say it. Fuck.” Corey groaned.

Isaac was too stunned to respond at first. He just sat there with a stupefied look on his face as the gears slowly began to turn in his head. Corey just admitted to having a crush on him? But if what he was saying was true then he had to have had the crush long before he discovered Isaac’s secret… which could only mean…

“Wait… You’ve got…” Isaac murmured softly. His eyes grew wide as he finally pieced it together. “Dude, are you gay? Isaac asked in a voice that was barely even a whisper.

Corey nodded slightly and softly muttered, “ … hella.”

“Oh…” Isaac replied. It was a poor response, but it was all he could come up with at the time. He was still too shocked to process it all.

“I’m really sorry for what I said. I never meant to imply that you’re a girl. You’re my best bro, and you’ll always be my best bro.

I: … Does this mean that I have a chance with you?

C: You mean…

I: I may have a bit of a crush on you too… if that’s ok.

C: OK? That’s fantastic!