



MOVE OUT DAY

SO MANY ADVENTURES, SO MANY JOURNEYS BOTH INSIDE AND OUT OF THIS ROOM. JAMIE WORKED THROUGHOUT COLLEGE TO HAVE A PLACE OF HER OWN AND BY THE SKIN OF HER TEETH FOUND THIS SMALL APARTMENT IN THE CITY TO FINALLY BRANCH OUT AND BE THE ADULT SHE STRIVED TO BE. PERHAPS SHE NEVER INTENDED FOR THE STRIKING AMOUNTS HER RENT WOULD BE RAISED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OR THE COMPLICATIONS SHE WOULD FIND WITH HER EMPLOYMENT THAT TURNED HER SMALL LITTLE SLICE OF HOME INTO AN INCIDENTAL PRISON. A STEPPING STONE TURNED TO A CAGE.

ONE THAT SHE GREW OUT OF JUST AS MUCH LITERALLY AS METAPHORICALLY.

A BED STILL COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY HER DRUNKEN ANTICS. A COUCH THAT TRISH AND LACEY WOULD STAY ON AFTER DRINKING NIGHTS BARELY ABLE TO FIT ONE OF THEM NOW, LET ALONE ALL THREE. THE WORKING TABLE SHE WOULD USE FOR LONG DEADLINE WORK NIGHTS AND THE SAME TABLE SHE WATCHED IN HORROR AS SHE AND HER FRIENDS BECAME OVERNIGHT ONLINE CELEBRITIES. IT WAS A ROOM WELL-LIVED IN BUT A ROOM THAT COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT A WOMAN OF HER STATURE.

IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON.

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WHAT LITTLE JAMIE COULD STILL USE IN HER APARTMENT WAS QUICKLY TOSSED INTO CARDBOARD AND PREPPED FOR A SMALL DRIVE UP THE ROAD. WITH HER LIFE BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, IT WAS TIME FOR A POSITIVE CHANGE, ONE BROUGHT ABOUT BY HER NEWFOUND BOYFRIEND LIAM. CONSIDERING IT WAS HIS PELVIS THAT WAS ALSO SNAPPED IN HALF ALONGSIDE HER BED, HE WAS QUICK WITTED AND FOUND HIMSELF WANTING JAMIE TO TRY AND MOVE IN WITH HIM, AT THE VERY LEAST UNTIL THEY COULD APPROPRIATELY SET UP HER APARTMENT TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE HER SIZE OR TO FIND SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER FOR HER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER ADULT LIFE, JAMIE WAS TRULY FREE. HER RENT WAS CLEAR AND HER JOB WAS FOCUSED ON TRYING TO MAKE BOTH HER NEWLY FOUND SOCIAL MEDIA FAME AND KATIE'S GYM WORK IN THEIR FAVOR. ALL OF THIS FROM AN UNWITTINGLY LUCKY STOP AT AN ANTIQUITY STORE AND ALL OVER A PAIR OF ONCE DIRTY, RED SHOES.

"LAST BUT NOT LEAST."

THE ORIGIN. THE BEGINNING OF ALL THE CHANGES. WHAT HELPED PROPEL A GIRL NOT EVEN FIVE FOOT TALL TO NEARLY DOUBLE HER HEIGHT IN A MATTER OF MONTHS. HERE THEY HAVE RESTED AND NOW COLLECT DUST AS JAMIE, TRISH AND LACEY MAKE THE BEST OF THEIR NEWFOUND LIVES FOR THE TIME BEING. A WORLD WHERE THEY GREW EVEN BIGGER WAS OUT OF THE CARDS... FOR NOW.

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"HEY, ARE YOU GOOD IN HERE?"

JAMIE SNAPS BACK TO REALITY, THE CALM AND COLLECTED VOICE SHE HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE SOOTHING HER BACK FROM HER OVERTHINKING.

"Y-YEA, JUST HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE HERE."

LIAM LOOKS BACK TOWARDS THE DOOR, TRYING TO ACT COOLER THAN HE IS BUT ALSO REALIZING WITH ONE WRONG MOVE IT WOULD SHATTER INTO PIECES.

"I CAN HANDLE PUTTING THOSE AWAY FOR YOU IF YOU WANT. WE GOT A FEW OTHER THINGS THAT WE STILL GOTTA BRING TO THE CAR ANYWAY."

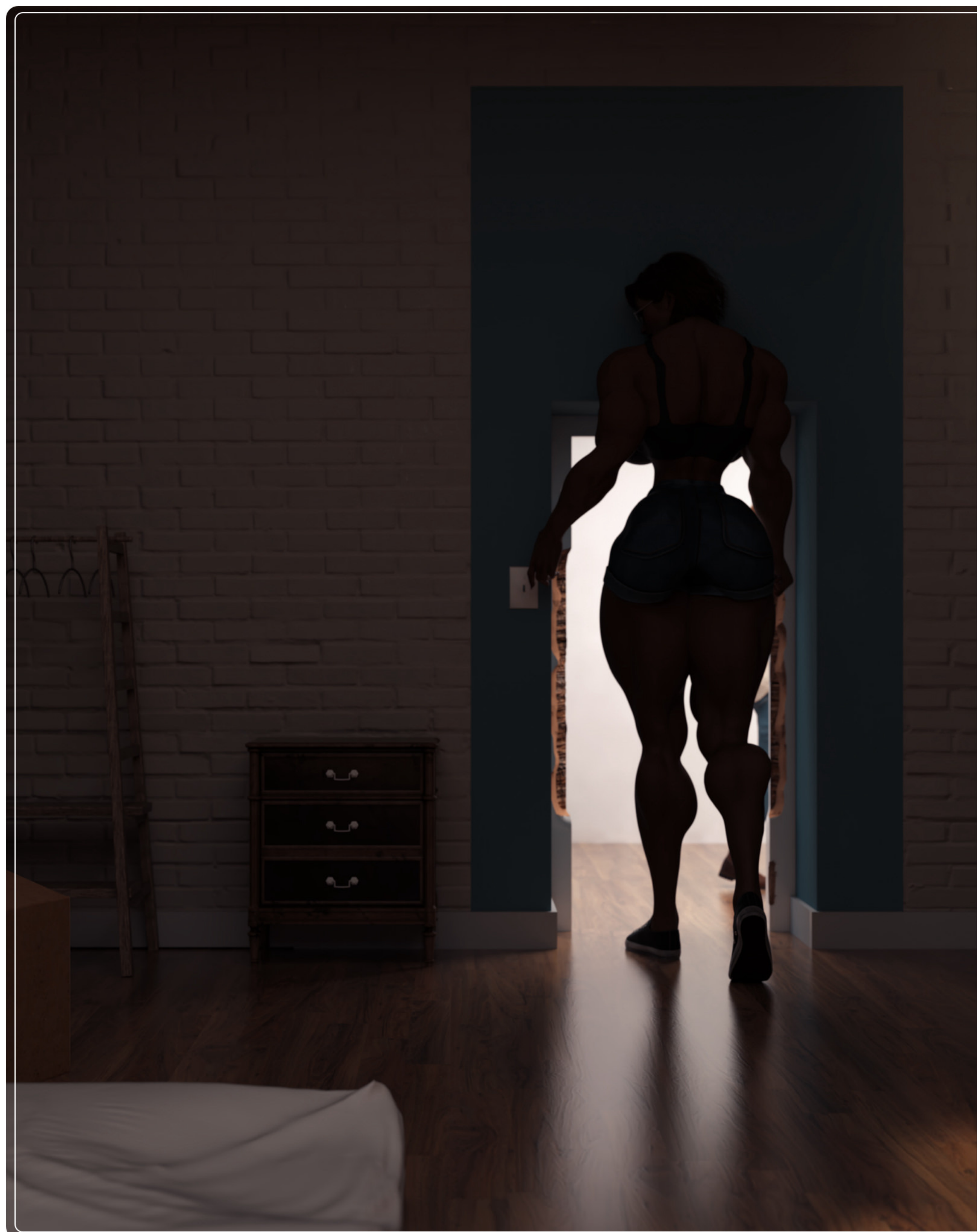
FOR JAMIE THE HEELS WERE BOTH AN ANGEL AND A DEMON, BUT FOR LIAM THEY WERE A MAJOR FOCUS OF WHAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE. HE LOVED JAMIE AT FIRST SIGHT JUST AS MUCH AS HE LOVED HER NOW LOOMING OVER HIM. IT HAS BEEN A CALMING FEW MONTHS FOR THE TWO OF THEM SINCE THEY'VE BEEN PUT AWAY BUT THEY BOTH KNEW THE TIME WOULD COME THAT THEY CAME BACK INTO PLAY TO SOME DEGREE OR ANOTHER.

"NO I'M GOOD, THANKS. WHY DON'T YOU GRAB THE LAST OF MY BOXES ON THE DESK."

JAMIE CASUALLY PUTS THE HEELS INTO HER CARDBOARD BOX.

"BESIDES, THOSE BOXES OVER THERE ARE HEAVIER!"

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LIAM LOOKS OFF TO THE TWO BOXES AND GROANS.

"YOU KNOW I DON'T MIND BEING A GENTLEMAN AND ALL, BUT YOU TAUNT ME WHEN I KNOW YOU COULD CARRY THOSE EFFORTLESSLY!"

THE BOYFRIEND RELENTS AND LIAM GRABS THE BOXES. WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF EFFORT HE BEGINS TO CARRY THE GOODS AWAY, LOOKING BACK AT JAMIE AS SHE FOCUSES ON THE HEELS WITH A WARM, LOVING SMILE. THE TWO WERE MADE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

JAMIE LIFTS THE BOX AND PREPARES TO LEAVE, THEIR FINAL PREPARATIONS FINALLY SETTLED. ANYTHING THAT REMAINS WOULD BE FOR ANOTHER DAY OR THE MOVERS TO SETTLE OUT, OR IF PLANS GO THEIR WAY, FOR KATIE WHEN JAMIE SURPRISES HER WITH THE APARTMENT ROOM AS A WAY TO BE CLOSER TO HER COLLEGE CAMPUS.

IT WAS TIME TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON THIS CHAPTER OF HER LIFE AND LOOK HAPPILY FORWARD ONTO THE NEXT.

"I WONDER WHAT'S IN STORE TOMORROW?"

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