

M E L I S S A FROM **MASTER** TO SISTER

Story by Melissa N. Illustrations by Joe Six-Pack A <u>Tales of Transformation</u> Story



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FROM MISTER TO SISTER

She hit the buzzer, letting him in the lobby door of her apartment building. Immediately, Natalie Logan leapt in front of the mirror by her apartment door, smoothing out her blouse and primping her hair. Anxiously, she pushed all the stray strands of red hair in place. She breathed into her cupped hand and made sure the mint she had eaten had done its' job.

As she could hear the heavy steps come up the stairs, she actually could feel her petite body tremble, knowing he would soon be here. She rubbed her bare shoulders in anticipation of being held. She heard the knock at the door, took a breath, and opened it.

"Hey, babe," Dan said to his girlfriend. He bent down to kiss her on the cheek. "Only a few more days to go! Are you ready for the trip?"

She bit her lip as she looked up at him, a more appealing man than she could ever imagine. His thick hair and unshaven beard complimented his muscled arms and chest. He was just what she wanted in a man. Hell, Dan Styles was what any woman prayed for in a man. "Hello, honey," she said, returning the kiss. She held on to his hand. "I'm really glad you came. We have a problem."

"What's wrong?" Dan asked. That was one of the great things Natalie loved about him. He never hesitated to help.

"I think we'll have to postpone the trip, Daniel. I'm very sorry."

"Why? What's the problem? We booked the cabin months ago, babe!"

"I know... The problem is..."

"Emily," Dan guessed. Emily was Natalie's younger sister. "Poor kid."

"My sister isn't in the mood to travel."

"I had hoped she'd feel better. She's been depressed for so long."

"I think she's a little worse these days," Natalie said, with sadness. "I really don't know what to do."

"Oh, babe, I wish I could do something to help you," Dan said, hugging his girlfriend, "And her."

"You already do help me. I would be lost without your support."

Natalie knew she really was a lucky girl to have found a guy as kind and understanding as Dan — especially since he worked so hard at maintaining their relationship. That wasn't easy with the problems Natalie had with Emily.

When Natalie was eighteen years old, she and her sister Emily, who was nine years old at the time, were abandoned by their mother — the only living relative that the girls still had. That horrible woman (as Natalie referred to her since then, refusing to say her name) just said one day that she was tired of her

boring life. She told Natalie that she was already old enough to look after her sister, whom she referred to as "that annoying, whiny girl." She then ran away with a truck driver, and was never seen again.

For many days and nights, Natalie tried to understand what had driven her mother to do that. She had always been a cold and bitter woman, but not a cruel person. Natalie couldn't comprehend why she would abandon them. As for the girls' father, all that Natalie knew was that he was an alcoholic who had abandoned his wife when she became pregnant with Emily. Since then, Natalie's mother had worked in low-paying jobs to support the girls — until the day she decided to disappear.

Natalie soon concluded that trying to understand her mother's motivations was a pointless exercise. What she needed to do was think about her sister, who depended on her. She then left school in order to work — there was no alternative.

Over the years, thanks to her hard work, Natalie was getting better and better jobs, until the day she got a salaried position as a secretary in a big pharmaceutical company. That was a symbolic achievement to Natalie, since before being forced to leave school she dreamed of being a pharmacist or a nurse.

The hardship of being abandoned by her own mother had been a traumatic experience for Natalie, but it was even more so for her sister. Emily had always been a little insecure and depressed, but after their mother left, it made her depression so much worse. Natalie tried and tried to convince her sister that it wasn't Emily's fault, but no matter how often Natalie said it, or how passionately she made her point, the girl unconsciously believed that her mother wouldn't have gone if she had done something differently.

For many years, Natalie had to deal with this situation by herself, but six months ago, she had met Dan. He worked as a publicist for a chemical supplier that did business with Natalie's employer. The two of them got to talking one day when one of the company directors was late for a meeting with Dan. They liked each other right away and Dan asked her out.

They had so much in common. In addition to the small difference in age, Daniel was twenty-six years old while Natalie was twenty-four, and Dan also had a tragic family history. His parents had died in a serious accident when he was just a child, and he had been raised by a grandmother who had passed away when he was nineteen years old.

Perhaps for this reason, the relationship between Dan and Natalie evolved quickly — they found in each other a safe haven; someone who understood the pain and could offer support that neither ever had.

Dan — Natalie liked to call him Daniel — was a very handsome guy. He had dark blonde short hair, expressive blue eyes and a pretty face; his body was athletic, just like Natalie liked.

by Melissa N.



Natalie had grown up to be quite attractive as well. Her hair was red and long; her face was round, with green eyes, a small nose and full lips. She had a fit body, though leaning on the full-figured side, but was a stylish dresser.

Since the beginning of their relationship, Natalie had made it clear that she had a very insecure sister who needed a lot of care and attention. She wouldn't be always available to meet Dan, since Emily took priority in her life. The young man was very understanding about this situation, and even tried to approach Emily to try and connect with her.

After a few months of seeing each other, Dan invited Natalie to come with him in July, when he would be on vacation. Natalie accepted the offer, but she said the only way she could go was if she could have to take her sister with her. As he always did, Dan said it was okay with him. He made a reservation for a cabin in a nearby beach town.

Now, as July was just around the corner, everything was ready for the trip, but Emily's mood could make the trip unviable, and put an end to Dan and Natalie's hopes for a vacation in the sun.

"I'm really sorry to hear that Emily isn't feeling well, babe," Dan said, "I know she comes first with you."

Natalie was glum. "Thank you, sweetie. You really are too good for me."

"But you know what? I don't want to sound selfish, but I think you should try to convince her to come, even if she is feeling depressed." Dan had his arms wrapped his girlfriend's waist. "I think it could be good for her. I mean, when was the last time she went out of town? I think Emily needs to know new places and people. It can't hurt."

"I totally agree, Daniel, but you know how much Emily has an aversion to strangers. It took months for her to be at ease with you. One wrong move and she might regress and get even worse, if that's possible."

"I know, honey, and I'm not trying to force a situation here. Just think about it. I'm sure it could be good for her. Also, I really would like to help bring her out of this. It's really important to me. I'll think about something I can do."

"You're so sweet! You're right. I'll talk to her." Natalie grabbed her boyfriend by the shirt and drew him in. "Meanwhile, I know what you can do to make *me* feel better." She stood on her toes and kissed him with everything she had.

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At the high-rise offices of Celgen Pharmaceutical, the company where Natalie worked, she sat at her desk, looking at nothing in particular. She had been like this all day, totally preoccupied with the plight of her sister. Her thoughts were a million miles away when her phone buzzed. "Did you drop off those reports yet, Natalie?" asked her boss.

"Oh, uh..." Natalie snapped out of her thoughts and realized she was actually resting her coffee on the stack of reports she had yet to deliver. "They're on their way, Mr. Preston."

"Thank you," Mr. Preston said, with a dissatisfied grump in his voice. "Be sure that Ian gets them personally. Don't leave them with someone else."

"Got it!" Natalie replied. She quickly grabbed the reports and hustled off to the elevators.

Six floors below, where the labs of Celgen were located, Natalie came tumbling out of the elevator and searched for Ian McDermott, the new head of research. She hadn't met him yet, but she'd heard good things. She found his office empty, but she couldn't just leave the reports. She had been told not to. So she checked the lab rooms one by one.

"Have you seen Dr. McDermott?" She asked the first person she saw, a young man working by himself.

"I'm Dr. McDermott," came the unexpected answer. He was so young, in Natalie's opinion. She was expecting an older man with glasses. This man was anything but. "Are those my reports?"

"Oh!" Natalie forgot what she was doing here. "Yes. Mr. Preston wanted me to get these to you personally."

"Fine. Fine." The doctor was staring at a small cage that housed a few lab mice. "You can put them down anywhere."

"What's that?"

"Just another animal trial. My latest drug."

"Oh?" That grabbed Natalie's attention. She was fascinated by the work done down here, but never got the time to see for herself. "What does it do?"

"Something you'll never believe. If only we could test it on humans. But the company won't let me."

"Why not?"

"They're scared. It could change the world."

Natalie put the reports down and took a chair next to Dr. McDermott. "Tell me more."



In the following days, Natalie thought a lot about what Dan had said. He was a charmer, and if anyone could talk to Emily and really get through to her, it was him. All she had to do was find a way for him to use that charm and draw the

real Emily out from her shell. Unfortunately, Emily already knew Dan, and any attempt to try and reach her would be thwarted. She'd know she was being coerced and shut him out.

Slowly, a idea started to form in her mind. At first, it seemed absurd, even wicked, but the idea slowly began to make more and more sense. Once she had it all thought out, she became determined to see it through. She could help her sister once and for all, and although Natalie might have to give something up, it was more than a fair exchange. Natalie would do anything for her sister. She then decided to talk to Emily that day.

She poked her head into Emily's room, which was nearly dark, as she didn't like to have the lights on. "Are you feeling better today, sweetie?" she asked on entering.

"I would like to be alone if you don't mind, Nat," Emily said.

You're always alone, Emily. Natalie thought. That's the problem ...

Emily was as beautiful as her sister. She had the same red hair and her eyes were even greener. Her body was already maturing into womanhood, although she was just sixteen years old.

However, because of her psychological problems, Emily was afraid to show off her beauty. Her hair was always disheveled and she wore old, loose clothes. She could barely even lift her eyes when she talked with Natalie, and every sentence she spoke came out like they were the last words she ever intended to speak. It was more than clear to Natalie that Emily felt like garbage since they had been abandoned, and that feeling was voiced by the way she presented herself to the world.

Over the years, Natalie had taken her sister to see many professionals, but the situation hadn't gotten any closer to being resolved. The girl had no social contact with people of her age. At school, she was considered a very strange person, a loner and a freak, who was ignored by most and mocked by all.

However, because Natalie was hoping that a new start might be what she needed, she had arranged for Emily to go to a new high school in the summer. She wasn't naive, though. She knew a change of scenery wasn't going fix Emily. Natalie needed to get Emily's confidence built up, and have her meeting and befriending girls and boys her own age. That was her big plan— and the plan she had drawn up was about to be put into action.

"I think you should come with us, Emily," Natalie said.

"I appreciate your good intentions, sis, but I'll pass." Emily didn't even turn around to look at her sister, her eyes just staring up at the ceiling. "You can go, though... I've already said I don't want to be a burden in your life. I just take up space."

by Melissa N.



"You are not a burden, sweetie. Don't say something like that! And you know I wouldn't leave you for a whole week." Natalie was desperate. "Emmy, I've never done this before, and I never will again." She got down on her knees before her sister. "I beg you to come with us. I'm literally begging you."

Emily, on her bed, curled up and buried her head under her pillow. "Don't! Don't make me! Besides, what's such a big deal about a stupid trip to the beach?"

"I have a surprise for you that I know you will like."

"I hate surprises, Nat," Emily snapped.

"I know, but this one will be different. Please, I promise I won't ask you anything more... Ever again... Well... Until you're eighteen."

Emily still had her pillow covering her head. "How about twenty-one?" "Agreed!"

"This is a bad idea ... "

"But you'll come?" Natalie said, jumping to her feet. She got no response from her sister, who remained still. "I'm not hearing 'no!' "

"Daniel!" Natalie exclaimed, when she met Dan later that day. She hugged her boyfriend hard. She was in a good mood.

"Hello, Nat! So, did you talk to Emily?"

"Yes, and I have good... And bad news."

"I'm listening."

"Good news first. Emily will come with us."

"That's fantastic, babe!" Dan said with a surprised and delighted look on his face. "Hmm... Wait.What's the bad news?"

Natalie sighed and looked down for a moment. She had rehearsed that conversation in her mind several times, but still she was extremely nervous — even knowing Dan so well, it was impossible to know what his reaction would be.

"The bad news is..." she began uncertainly. "Our trip will have to be a little... Different than we planned."

"Different? What you mean?"

"Look, Daniel, you said you would like to help me to solve the issue of Emily..."

"And I really want to!"

"That's nice. You really are a lovely man. I know what I'm going to ask is a little too much, but I don't see any alternative."

"No matter what it is, you know that I'll do whatever I can, honey!"

"Don't be hasty, Daniel. You might regret it." She took a moment to center herself. "Do you know what the advantage is of being a secretary?"

"The fact that you're always near the coffee machine?"

"No, silly!" Natalie said, laughing for the first time since the beginning of that conversation. "The advantage is that we know everything that happens inside the company. We can go everywhere and almost and no one bothers to avoid talking about important and sometimes confidential subjects in our presence."

"I see."

"So, recently I heard about a new drug that our company is developing. This is something revolutionary, which will be a huge success when it hits the market. It's truly unbelievable." "A drug, huh? And what does this drug can do?" Dan asked, clearly interested.

"The technical name is something like Meltiloxipan or something like that. But everyone just calls it PDL."

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"Why PDL?"
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"It stands for Ponce DeLeón."

"The guy who was looking for the fountain of youth?"

"Exactly! That's what it does. It can't make people rejuvenate for real, but it can slow and even reverse the external effect of aging a little. I mean, people can look younger."

"That's incredible! I mean, I suppose someone is always trying to make a drug like that, but... Does it work?"

"Yes! It's not quite perfect, but it take years off someone's appearance."

"Wow! Amazing! How much younger are you talking about?"

"Ten years or so. However, for some still unknown reason, the drug's effect lasts just seven days. All the test subjects returned to normal after a week. The scientists are trying to solve this issue, before they apply for larger testing."

"All of this is really amazing, but I haven't figured out what that has to do with our trip."

"I got some of those pills, Daniel."

"You did what? How? When? Why?"

"Because I'm desperate, Daniel, and I saw an opportunity. As I said before, we secretaries can go unnoticed in almost anywhere. After hearing what this could do, I knew I had to get some."

"But you're beautiful and so young! You don't need..."

"Not for me!" Natalie said. "And thank you for the compliment," she added with a blush.

Dan was confused. "So...What exactly are you planning?"

Natalie took a deep breath. That was the moment.

"I want you to take it, dear."

"Me? Why?"

"That's my plan: by the time we get to the beach cabin, you will have already taken the pills. According to what I was told, the drug takes sixteen hours to start working and, once the process starts, the transformation takes about four hours. So, once we get there, you will pretend you received an urgent call from your boss and you have go back to work for two or three days. Once Emily is asleep for the night, you come back. By the next morning, you'll be rejuvenated, and look like a sixteen year old boy. Hopefully. Then, you'll go out again

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before Emily wakes up and then you'll return later, as your nephew."

Dan was understandably hesitant. "Are you sure?"

"I already told Emily that I have a surprise for her, and this surprise will be the visit of *Kevin*. After a few days, I'll pretend I got a call from you, Daniel, saying that you're stuck at work and can't return. So, *Kevin* will be able to spend all week with Emily."

"How is that supposed to help Emily?"

"Don't you see? If all goes as I hope it will, she can get used to socializing with people of her age and feel less insecure. You can even help her to meet other teens. You can help Emily simply by not being an adult. She won't listen to anything we say. But someone her own age? That's something we've never been able to try. It's really her only chance."

When Natalie finished her explanation, the both of them were silent for a while. The nervous young woman watched her boyfriend apprehensively. His face was impassive. That was understandable. This was a lot of information to sort through. He'd have to trust Natalie completely, and if he didn't, it might mean the end of their relationship.

"I guess you've spent a lot of time planning it all," he finally said. "But tell me something, Nat. What you did... Isn't, it... Umm, unethical?"

"More than that, Daniel. I think it was a crime to take those pills from the lab, but..."

Her eyes filled with tears and she couldn't finish the sentence.

"Please, don't cry, babe," Dan said, hugging his girlfriend. "You just want to help your sister. I can understand that. But don't you think that your plan is a little... *extreme*?"

"Absolutely, Dan, but what else can I do? I'm really out of ideas... But I won't blame you if you say no."

They were silent again. Dan hated to see Natalie sad like this. He really wanted to help her, but her plan... He kept thinking about it for a few minutes.

"Do you think it's safe?" he asked. "I mean, do you think I'll run any risk to my health?"

"Oh my God, are you really considering doing it?"

"I already said that I want to help, Nat, and I wasn't kidding."

"You are amazing, Dan! I just can't believe it! You'll be perfectly safe, I assure you. As I said, the drug's effect is temporary. The testing hasn't shown any side effects. All of the test subjects are perfectly healthy and back to normal. The scientists are very optimistic, and they say that the only issue they need to solve is the fact that the drug's effect is still temporary." Dan grimaced for a moment. "Okay, Nat. If you say so, let's do it! Let's make your plan work!"

"Oh, sweetie! Do you have any idea about how much I love you? I will never forget what you're doing for me!"

Natalie had never felt so happy, but even so, something inside her was telling her that what she was doing wasn't right.

She hadn't been entirely honest with Dan. None of the volunteers had had any side effects, that was true — but what she didn't explain was that all *volunteers* had hitherto been animals. The drug hadn't been tested in humans yet.

With all the factors involved, what could happen to Dan when he took those pills was an unknown. Still, Natalie was confident that all would come out well. For once in her life, at least, things would come out well...

When the day of their trip finally arrived, Daniel took the PDL drug in the morning, just as he woke. Natalie gave him three pills just in case he dropped or lost one. It was quite obviously he was very nervous about it, but he tried to act natural the best he could. After all, he didn't want his girlfriend to realize that he was reluctant. This was his chance to really prove himself to Natalie, and he wanted to do his best.

Then, after meeting up, the three of them got in Dan's car and headed towards the coast. Emily, Natalie's sister, was as depressed as usual. Daniel tried to start a conversation with the girl during the trip, but his efforts were in vain. Emily remained as impenetrable as a rock. She spent most of the rip in the back seat with a pair of headphones on and a blanket over her head.

The day was sunny and just perfect for a trip to the coast. They arrived at the town in the early afternoon and after a quick driving tour, they went to the cabin they had booked. The place was small, but cozy, with wood walls, antique furniture and large windows overlooking the sea. They unpacked their things, and then Dan invited the girls out to lunch.

"That's a great idea," Natalie said. "What would you like to eat, Emily?"

"Whatever," she said. "You know, I'm not hungry. In fact, I think I'll stay here."

Natalie had to work hard to make her sister change her mind. She pleaded with her for a half hour before she finally relented. However, after lunch, it proved impossible to convince her to go to the beach. They then returned to the cabin, where Emily locked herself in her room and Dan and Natalie tried to relax a little. Natalie made some Margaritas and they sat at the porch, enjoying the sea breeze.

"Enjoy your drink, dear," Natalie said with a mocking smile. "By this time tomorrow you won't be old enough to consume alcohol."

"Very funny!" Daniel said. "So I'll have to raid your liquor cabinet just like an *authentic teenager*?"

"Don't you dare, young man!" Natalie said, and the two laughed.

"Now, seriously," Daniel started. "Do you think the drug will work? I'm still not feeling anything."

"As I said, the drug will take sixteen hours to start to work. I'm sure everything will be just fine..."

That night, they did as Natalie had planned. During dinner, Daniel pretended that he had received an urgent call from his boss and left the cabin, saying that he would return as soon as possible. When Emily went to her bedroom to sleep, a little later, he snuck back in, careful not to wake the youngest sister.

The night wasn't easy for Dan. He began to feel dizziness and stomach pain around midnight. He really didn't know what to expect, and after that, the situation just got worse. The pain became so intense that Dan thought he would die. He broke out in a cold sweat, and Natalie tried to calm him, worried that Emily maybe could hear the groans of her boyfriend.

"Natalie..." Dan said, weakly. "Was this supposed to happen?"

"Yes, dear," she lied. "All volunteers felt some discomfort during the procedure." In fact, none of this was written in the report that she read. All the *volunteers* had been animals, after all.

Half an hour later, she was about to give up her plan. Daniel needed to see a doctor, and quickly. However, just as she was about to get him to the car, he suddenly stopped feeling pain. Then, the transformation began.

Right in front of Natalie's eyes, Daniel's appearance started to change. His face became younger, with no trace of facial hair; his dark blonde hair grew out a little down his neck; his body lost the muscle tone and he even shrank an inch or two.

She didn't know that this would happen, but she was relieved. Otherwise, Daniel's *nephew* would be a bit too tall to be a teenager.

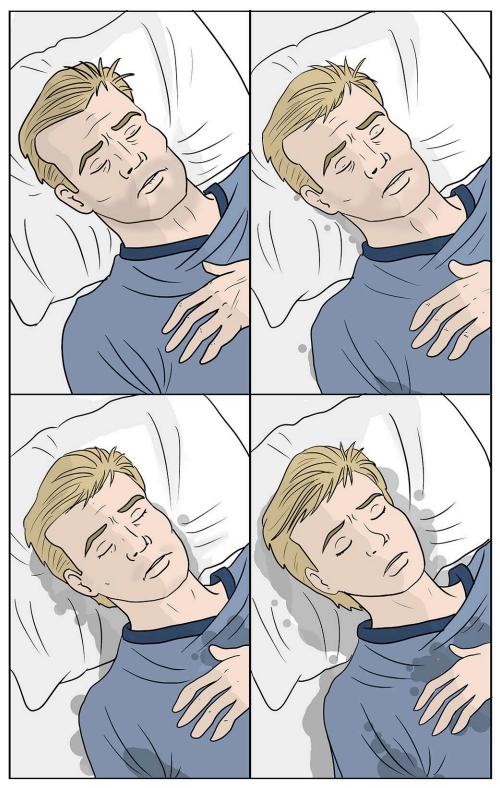
His skin smoothed. The angular features of his face softened. Defying all rationale, the years were disappearing. At the end of the process, Natalie couldn't help staring at her boyfriend in total disbelief. The man that Daniel had been was gone — there was now only a sixteen year old boy.

"So, how do I look?" Daniel asked.He was shocked with the tone of his voice. He didn't sound like an adult anymore.

"You look perfect!" Natalie said enthusiastically. She then handed a mirror to him.

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"Oh, crap!" he exclaimed. "I have to admit, I never thought that it would actually work. I haven't seen that face for..."

"Ten years?"

"Yeah..."

They tried to get some sleep after that, but they were too keyed up. Natalie was very excited. Her plan was already off to a great start, and she believed she could finally help her sister. Dan was a little shocked. It was very strange to have the appearance of a teenager again, as if he had gone back in time.

A few hours later, while Dan was still trying to get used to his new body, Natalie told him it was time for the next phase of her plan.

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Dan changed his clothes using some suitable teenage stuff Natalie had brought with her, a Chicago Bears jersey to start with. He left the cabin carrying a student backpack to look like most kids his assumed age. Dan had to wait before Emily was up, so he decided to take a stroll along the beach to pass the time. He was still very tense because of the transformation. It was too weird! For all practical purposes, he was an underage kid. He couldn't drive or drink alcohol. At least he felt alive and full of energy – he couldn't remember the last time he had felt so vigorous. Plus, his penis reacted with an astonishing speed and tenacity when he saw a sexy woman on the beach.

Oh, I've forgotten what it's like to be so full of hormones, he thought.

After the walk, he returned to the cabin. He could hear voices inside, which meant that Emily was already awake. He then knocked and waited.

He soon heard footsteps and then Natalie answered the door.

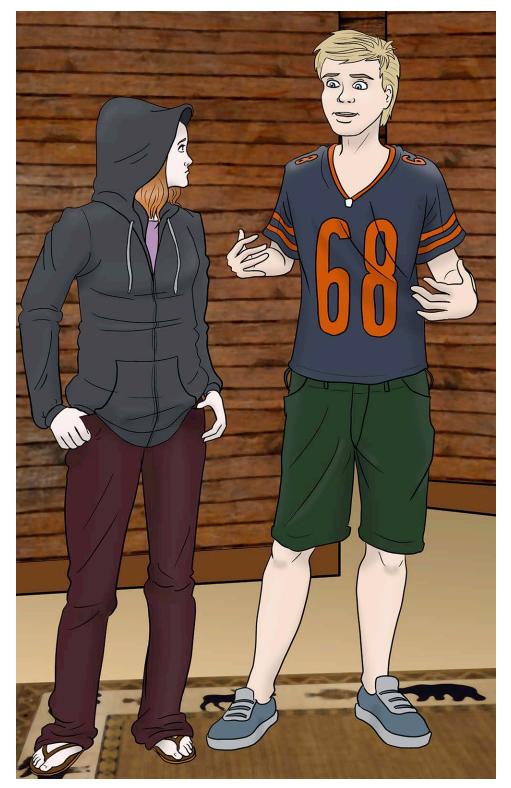
"Hi!" she said, with a radiant smile. "You must be Kevin."

"Y-yes, ma'am" Dan stammered. He was impressed by the act his girlfriend was putting on. It was almost as if she had really never seen him in her entire life. "Nice to meet you!"

"Oh, you're such a lovely boy! Nice to meet you too, sweetie. And you needn't call me 'ma'am!' Oh, you're probably here to see your uncle! Well, Daniel unfortunately had to go back to work, but he'll be back in a few days!"

When Dan entered the cabin, he saw Emily gnawing on a granola bar. The girl looked at him for a moment, and then looked at Natalie with an expression that said, *who is this boy and what the hell is he doing here?*

"Emily," Natalie said. "Do you remember that I said I had a surprise for you? Well, this is Kevin, Daniel's nephew. He's on vacation, too, and we invited him to come. Of course, he's here to see his uncle, but now you don't have to feel



like you're the only teenager. If you want, you two can spend some time together. I'm sure you two will get along just fine!"

"I can talk to you for a moment?" Emily asked her sister in a cold voice.

Sensing this was going to be a testy exchange, Natalie excused herself. "Oh, I'd love to, honey. But I have to call Dan to say that his nephew arrived and to make sure he made it back to the city okay. So, make Kevin fell at home for a minute, okay? I'll be right back!" She then went to her room.

"Hey," Dan said, trying to keep his attitude low-key and disaffected, like any other teenager.

"Hey," Emily said, without looking at the boy's eyes.

"It sucks, right?"

"Huh? What do you mean?" Emily asked, raising her head. She really didn't expect this boy to say something like that.

"Ermm..." Daniel muttered, pretending to be embarrassed. "Look, I know you must be a nice girl, but I just... I'm not good with people, you know? My uncle got on my case to come meet you... He said it would be good for me..."

Emily was eager to chime in. "You know how many times I've heard that? 'Go meet people, it'll be good for you.' "

"I'm fine on my own," Dan said. "Who needs people?"

"Yeah, you're totally right!" Emily said, expressing some emotion for the first time.

Daniel almost smiled, but he managed to stay in character. He had begun to start earning the girl's trust.

In the days leading up to this vacation, Dan had thought hard about several strategies to blend in with Emily. He concluded that the best way to do this would be pretending to be a shy, introverted kid, just like her. In fact, that wasn't a *complete* lie...

During his teenage years, Dan had been a very insecure, too. He only managed to overcome the issue through a lot of effort and the help of a few friends. Maybe that's why he was so determined to help Emily. She maybe just needed someone to guide her along to open herself up...

"You know," he continued. "What people don't understand is that they don't need to worry so much about me. I'm not a freak or something... I... I just like to be alone... If I want to meet someone, I can do it myself!"

"God yes! I'm so into that," Emily said. "Why is it so hard for adults to understand that?"

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Emily and "Kevin" talked for many hours. The young girl even forgot about her older sister, who was overjoyed, listening to it all from her room. Natalie had never seen Emily open herself that way to someone.

She had to physically restrain herself from doing a happy dance, or else she could spoil everything she'd gained up to this point. Emily had to be kept in the dark about her plan, and Natalie needed to keep cool.

Even so, Natalie managed to convince Emily to walk with "Kevin" that afternoon at the local mall. The teenage girl even pulled off the hood from her hoodie, showing her head to the world for the first time in forever. In addition, to the utter amazement of Natalie, Emily allowed her big sister put a bit of makeup on her face.

Oh, she's so pretty, Natalie thought. I hope she realizes it today.

Dan and Emily walked through the mall all afternoon. They talked a lot and Dan could finally discover what Emily liked, her favorite books and movies, the school subjects in which she was interested... He knew that Natalie would dearly love to know all this sort of information.

"Are you hungry?" Dan asked at some point.

"Now that you mention it... I'm starving!"

They then found the food court. The place was a bit crowded, but they managed to find a family who was just leaving and quickly swooped in to get a table to themselves. While they were enjoying their burgers and soda, two teenage kids approached them.

"Um, hey," said a pretty girl who appeared to be the same age as Emily. "I know this is, y'now, a bit weird, but could we sit with you guys? There's no tables available."

"Why not? Go for it." Dan said, before Emily could open her mouth. Since *Kevin* wasn't going to be around for a long time, it was important to Dan that she also get used to chatting with other people.

"Thanks a bunch," the girl said. "I'm Zoe, and this is my boyfriend, Ryan."

Zoe was brunette with a cute face and green eyes. Ryan had dark eyes, a mop of dark hair and a friendly face. It wasn't long before they started talking, and soon Emily discovered that the couple lived in the same part of town as her. Not only that, but they would go to the same high school as her this fall.

"That's great!" Zoe exclaimed. "I was a little nervous because I didn't know anyone in this new school, but now I'll have at least one friend when school starts!"

"Hmm... yeah!" Emily said a little embarrassed. "The same for me, I guess." Did Zoe really want to be her friend? It was *that* easy to make friends? Her thoughts were almost visible in Emily's expression. Dan was very satisfied, he

could see her defenses and her shyness dissipating by the minute. He believed that Emily would practically be a new girl very soon. After another half hour of conversation, she was already very comfortable, unafraid to be herself and express her personality. Dan had never seen her like that.

Then, as they were about ready to dump their trays into the garbage, two other boys appeared."Hey, there you are, little sis," one of them said. "Did you think you could ditch us?" He appeared to be about seventeen years old. He had a trendy swirl of brown hair, a manly face and an athletic body. He looked like a pop star and a jock at the same time.

"Hello, Dylan," Zoe said to her brother, a hint of disappointment in her voice. "Where's Camilla, your girlfriend?"

"Oh, we had another fight, you know... Nothing serious, though. She can't live without me." He spoke with all the arrogance of one of the popular kids, Dan thought to himself.

"And how about you, Will?" she asked the other boy. "Didn't you have a date with Camilla's friend?"

Will appeared to be sixteen years old. He had dark, close-cropped hair, a handsome face and a charming smile.

"Hmm?" he murmured, distractedly. "Oh, yeah, that tall girl! Well, things didn't work out between us."

The fact was that all Will's attention was focused on Emily. Dan noticed that he had been looking her over from the first moment he had seen her. The two boys sat at the table, too, and Zoe introduced them to Emily and Kevin.



"So, *kid*," Dylan, Zoe's brother, said to Dan, since the two were sitting nearby. "Big Bears fan?"

Dan remembered he was wearing the Chicago Bears jersey that Natalie had given him.

"Yeah, of course!" Daniel said. "This is their year!"

"As if! The Packers are the champions! Only little kids root for the Bears. Maybe you'll understand when you become a man, *twerp*!"

Dan couldn't believe it. That dumb kid was treating him like a child. He was a twenty-six year old man, after all!

"Watch who you're calling a twerp, twerp!" Dan shot back.

"What're you gonna go about it, little guy? Call your mommy?" Dylan replied, with a sneer.

"Leave me alone!" Unfortunately, his anger only made Dan behave more and more like an immature teenager being teased by an older boy. Fortunately, no one else at the table was paying attention to their little squabble.

Meanwhile, Will, who had slipped in and sat himself next to Emily, was still lusting after the girl.

"Tell me something, Emily," he said. He pointed at Dan. "Is this your boy-friend?"

"Kevin? Oh, no! He's just ... Hmm ... My cousin!"

Emily didn't know why she had said that. She could simply have said that Kevin was her friend. However, for some reason, she wanted to make absolutely clear that she wasn't in a romantic relationship with him, and this *cousin* story came out of her mouth before she could think straight.

Yes, even though she wasn't really aware of it herself, Emily was interested in Will, too. Kevin was a nice guy, sure, but Will seemed to be special... He was handsome, outgoing and looked to be a popular guy, with ton of friends. In other words, he was all that Emily deep down always wanted to be, but had never had the courage to try to. And a guy like that was interested in her! She had never believed that something like that would be possible.

A little later, someone at the table noticed that it was already getting late and they had to leave. Before they did, Emily exchanged phone numbers with her new friends.

"Will you be back in town next week, Emily?" Zoe asked.

"Um, Yeah. I think so."

"That's great! Would you like to come to my birthday party? It will be next week on Saturday night. And you're invited, too, Kevin.... So you and my brother can continue this extremely interesting discussion about sports," she added rolling her eyes. "Of course I'll go!" Emily said impulsively, hardly believing in her own words. She was going to a party. A party! It was so scary... But at least Will would be there...

"Fantastic!" Zoe said. "I'll keep in touch with you, okay? See you guys!"

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"So, did you two have fun?" Natalie asked when they returned to the cabin. "I was getting worried about the time!"

"We had a great time!" Emily said excitedly. "You won't believe what happened..."

When Emily finished telling her experience at the mall, Natalie was openmouthed. She was hoping that her sister would change with the help of *Kevin*, but what had happened exceeded her craziest dreams. Emily looked like a new girl. Her face had new life in it, her eyes wide and alive for the first time in forever. She had made friends! It was just perfect.

When Emily had exhausted herself telling her tales, she went to go take a shower. Natalie pulled Dan aside. "Once again, thank you for your help, dear. None of this would be possible without you."

"It was nt any big deal," Dan said trying to sound humble, but he was clearly proud of himself, though.

"Now, I know that it might be too much to ask, but since Emily has this party to go next week... Could you keep being Kevin a few more days?" she asked, hopefully.

"What? I don't think it's necessary," Dan said. "Emily will do well, even without me. You wouldn't believe how she was at ease with those guys."

"I guess you're right, but..." Natalie said anxious. "I just want to make sure... She's so happy now... If something goes wrong at this party and she doesn't have anyone around... This could be her last chance, Daniel!"

"This is a lot to ask for, Nat. I mean, I have no idea what this drug is doing to my body!"

"Well, then you shouldn't have let her accept the invitation! I can't let her go alone! She's so fragile!"

The poor guy really wasn't happy with Natalie's request, but he eventually had to agree. Natalie gave him three more pills. She wasn't quite clear on the number of pills needed to keep him young, but she figured that three should be enough for him to continue as a teenager until next week.

"Three pills? Are you sure that's the right dosage?"

"Of course I'm sure! Bottom's up!" Natalie said with a smile. She presented a glass of water to him and stood by to watch him take the drug.

"I should probably get to bed in our room in case this starts to affect me..." Dan said, after taking the pills.

Natalie quickly blocked his path to the bedroom. "Oh, Daniel… *our* room? I don't think that's a good idea. That would be too risky. Besides…"

"What?"

"Please don't get me wrong, but it would be very weird for me to sleep with you now... I know who you are for real, but you just look like... a teenager... Am I being insensitive?"

Daniel saw her point, but that didn't stop him from getting a little upset. He also felt a bit humiliated by being forced to sleep on the couch in the living room that night, so far from his girlfriend. When she left him alone, and turned out the lights, she promised to reward him in the future...

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Dan wasn't feeling well when he woke up the next morning. His whole body was aching, as if he had been hit by a truck. He tried to get up, but he discovered a little too late that his legs were wobbly and he fell to the ground.

"Fuck!" he cursed, clinging to the couch to rise up.

He then went to the kitchen to drink some water. On the way, he realized that his shorts were a little loose. Had he lost weight overnight? It was hard to tell — especially since he also had a terrible headache that didn't allow him to think straight.

"Good morning, Kevin!" Natalie said, walking into the kitchen.

"Keep your voice down, please!" Dan said, rubbing his throbbing temples.

"Are you okay?" the concerned girl asked.

"No, I'm not." He was wincing. "Headache, body ache... Can't even stand up straight."

"Oh, I'm sorry, Daniel! I can see that you're a little pale. This is probably happening because of the pills you took last night. Do you remember how you felt the first time, right? I wouldn't worry about it. You'll be much better soon!"

"Do you think so?"

"Of course! You just need to get some rest. I'll prepare my bed so you can lie down in my room."

Dan was relieved, but at the same time disturbed that Natalie referred to the bedroom like she owned it. He was paying for the cabin, after all, and he didn't like being treated like a child.

He spent most of the day lying in bed, in real discomfort. He felt like he had a bad case of the flu. Despite being covered by many blankets, he felt chills and was shivering throughout the day. In the afternoon, Emily spent some time with him, and it was obvious that she was still very happy about the events of the previous day. At least, Dan thought to himself, his sacrifice was paying off.

That night, Natalie told "Kevin" to continue using "her" bed while she would sleep on the couch. Dan tried to argue that it wasn't necessary, but the woman had already made her decision.

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Dan wasn't much better in the morning. He was still in pain, and in addition, he was feeling an itch all over his body. He didn't like it, and it was driving him nuts. Would it be too much to ask for some good news? When he lifted the blankets, he soon discovered the reason for that itch... all the hair of his body had fallen and was spread out on the sheets.

"What the..." he started to say, but stopped in mid-sentence, startled at the sound he made. His voice sounded different. It was higher, as if he hadn't hit puberty yet. Daniel stood up, took off his black shirt and his olive green shorts, and looked in the full-length bedroom mirror. This time there was no doubt. He really was losing weight, and it wasn't his imagination. His body was very skinny, with no muscle to be seen. He raised his arm and made an effort to flex, but his biceps remained flat.

Dan was shocked. The first transformation had been hard on him, of course, but this time it was even worse. All the muscles he had worked so hard on, and spent so much time in the gym to develop – it was all gone! He had never been so thin, not even when he was a child! He rubbed his body and it only made him even more disturbed. His skin was so soft. Just like the skin of...

"Kevin, can I come in?" Natalie asked knocking on the door.

"Yes!" he answered, once again being surprised by how his voice sounded.

"Emily? Is that you? What are you doing in there?" Natalie asked, opening the door. She had mistaken Dan's voice for her young sister's. "Why are you... Oh my god!"

"Yes, I know! It's bad!" Daniel said, sounding even higher because of his desperation. His own girlfriend recoiled from his appearance. It was bad... really bad!

"What happened?" she asked, looking at his body.

by Melissa N.

"You tell me!" he said, feeling his eyes fill with tears.

"Oh, sweetie, don't worry! Everything will be fine!"

She then hugged her boyfriend, as tears streamed down his face. Was he really crying? Dan couldn't believe it. He had never been emotional, but at that moment he was just unable to control his feelings.

"What's happening to me, Natalie?" he asked, sobbing. "Look at me! I..."

"Shhh... You need to calm down, okay? I'm here and I'll fix it!"

"You... You promise?"

"Of course, sweetie! Just trust me!"

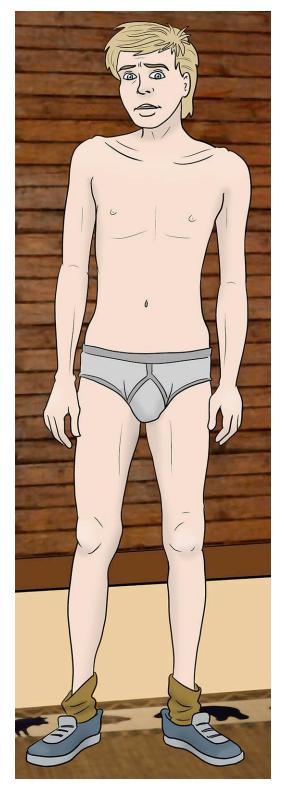
Dan couldn't explain why, but Natalie's confidence calmed him a little. She really sounded like someone who knew what to do – while he was completely lost.

"Now lie down again, and tell me how you're feeling."

Dan told her that he was still feeling as bad as the day before, and that he was very concerned about these new changes.

"I see..." Natalie said. "I'll tell you what. If you don't get better by tomorrow, we'll go back home and then I'll take you to see a doctor, okay? Just wait one more day to see what happens."

Dan agreed, although somewhat reluctantly. He really wanted to solve this as quickly as possible. His body was still changing and it



sure wasn't supposed to. What other changes might happen?



That afternoon, Emily once again spent much of her time with Dan. The girl was worried about the "boy" and he tried to calm her by saying that he only had a cold and that he would be fine soon.

"That's a relief!" she said. "Zoe invited me to go to the beach this weekend, and if you're already feeling better you can come with us. Wouldn't that be great?"

"Sure!" Dan said, just to please her. Spending a whole day at the beach with his new scrawny body was not his idea of a good time, and he would find some way to get out of it later.

In between conversations, he noticed that Emily and Zoe were texting just about all the time, which was great to see. Apparently Emily had made a real friendship.

Since Dan had to stay in bed all day, they watched some movies together. The movies were a little too girly and childish for Dan, but he didn't complain. He was doing this for Emily's benefit, after all, and at least he had something to distract himself from his situation. And so another day passed...

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"How are you feeling?" Natalie asked Dan the next morning, while he was still in bed.

"Much better, in fact," Dan said, a little surprised. He was no longer in pain and was feeling much more willing and able.

"I told you! You just needed a little rest."

Dan got up. Since he was still a bit sleepy, he didn't realize immediately that he was even slimmer and a bit shorter; or that his hair was a little longer, nearly reaching his back; or that his face was more delicate, with higher cheekbones, fuller lips and a button nose. Natalie, however, had seen it all, and she was looking at Dan with a shocked look.

"What?" Dan asked, puzzled, without realizing how much he had changed.

"Nothing, sweetie! I was just..." she tried to pretend that everything was right, with nothing to worry about, but it was too late. Dan had already begun to worry and approached the mirror. Upon seeing himself, he let out an extremely high scream.

"What's wrong with me, Natalie?"

"Nothing, dear. You just look a little younger than before. But you're feeling okay, right? That's what matters!"

"Yes. But my chest..."

"What?"

He turned to the side to see if it looked as bad as it felt. "It's a little sore." He then took off his shirt — which no longer fitted him anyway, like he was wearing the clothes of a much older brother — and saw that there was a strange swelling.

"Oh my god!" he exclaimed. "Look at it!"

Natalie looked, and even poked the chest of her boyfriend.

"Ouch! It hurts!" he said. "What does it mean? Why my chest is swollen? Some side effect of the drug? Is this a tumor? Oh my God, do I have cancer? Will I die?"

Natalie realized that Dan was losing control again, which was very odd for him. Usually he was so level-headed. She certainly didn't think Daniel had cancer. In fact, she recognized the problem Dan was having – she had had that same issue when she hit puberty. But this wasn't possible, right?

She then asked Daniel to take off his shorts. Despite some embarrassment, he did it. She then saw that Daniel's hips also were swollen, while his waist looked smaller.

"Now take off your underwear, dear."

"But..."

"You don't need to worry. I'm your girlfriend, remember?"

What she saw was not good. Not good at all. Daniel's penis was very tiny, and virtually hairless, as if it belonged to a six-year-old child. Then there was his butt. Natalie didn't even want to admit to herself that his ass was bigger and rounded. Could he be turning into...

"So, what do you think?" Dan asked, interrupting her thinking.

"I think everything is fine," she said hugging him. As she bent over, it suddenly became clear that she was much taller than Daniel. "It's all temporary, right? The pills are temporary. I'm sure that your body will return to normal pretty soon." She patted him on the head. "I'm sorry that this is happening to you, but it'll be okay."

She didn't know if that was true, but the last thing she wanted was to see Dan hysterical again.

"I'm so scared!" he whimpered.

"You don't regret it, do you Daniel? No second thoughts, right? Do you think it was a bad idea to take part in my plan?"

"Of course not!" Daniel said stomping his foot and pouting.

Oh, if he could see how adorable he looks doing that, Natalie thought.

Dan was adamant. "I did it to help Emily and I'm not sorry! She needs our help! If I had to do it all over again, I'd do the exact same thing! Pretending to be Kevin was exactly the right thing to do!"

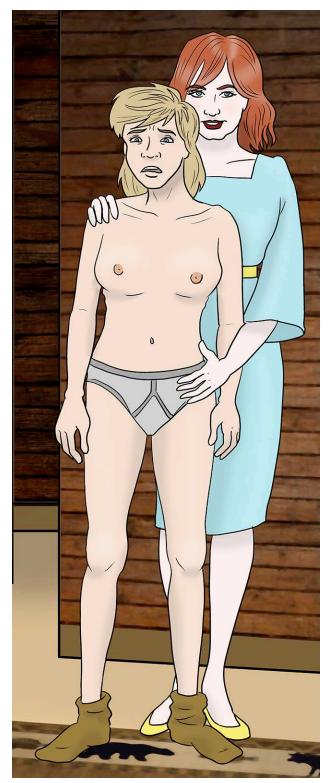
What they didn't know was that someone was listening behind the door to everything they were saying... Emily had heard Daniel's shout and, curious, she had put her ear to the door— and she had heard enough.

Emily suddenly entered the room, startling Dan and Natalie. The poor skinny man tried to cover his private parts, instinctively covering his penis with one hand while the other covered his chest.

"Emily?" Natalie gasped. "What...?"

"You!" Emily said pointing angrily at her sister. "How... How could you..." She was so mad that she could hardly get the words out. "And you..." she said, to Dan. "You... Look so... So pa-





thetic!"

"Don't talk like that about Kevin, Emily!" Natalie said.

"Kevin? I heard everything, Natalie. I know that Kevin doesn't exist. This boy is Dan, your boyfriend! I don't know how, but it's him! How could you make a fool of me like that?"

Natalie rushed to her sister's side and tried to hug her. "We were just trying to help you, Emily."

Emily stepped aside and pushed her sister away. "Are you saying that I'm such a miserable freak that the only way I can get a friend is if my sister's boyfriend pretends to be a teenager?"

"Of course not! How about Zoe? She really wants to be your friend, right? You're a great girl, Emily. You can have as many friends as you want. You just needed a little help from Kevin, I mean, Daniel, to take the first step. Please, let me explain it all to you."

Natalie escorted her sister out of the room where they sat on the sofa. Natalie pleaded and begged her sister to listen. Meanwhile, Dan was left to himself, alone in the bedroom. He could only stare in disbelief at his reflection in the mirror. "What have I done to myself?" He asked his image.

Over the next half hour, Natalie told her sister everything that she and Dan had done. She revealed her plan to her in detail, hoping her sister would see not the deception, but the love behind it. Emily slowly, gradually, calmed down, but she still seemed a bit upset even at the end of Natalie's story.

"I can't believe you would do this to me!" Emily fumed. "I'm your own sister! I trusted you!"

"I put my job on the line for you, Emily!" Natalie said. "Daniel put his health in jeopardy for you! Don't you understand how much we love you and want to help you?"

"I don't need fixing! I'm not broken!" Emily insisted. "Maybe I'm not meant to be happy! I don't want to be like all the other girls! I want to be myself!"

"No one is trying to control you, Emily! Just..." Natalie wiped away a tear. "We just don't want you to be miserable because of what that horrible woman did to us. A piece of trash like that has no place calling herself our mother, and no right to make us hate ourselves."

Natalie fell back into the sofa and had a long, deliberative minute of thought with herself. "What you did was very serious, Natalie, but I'll forgive you this time," she said. "But... And I want you to understand this... I don't want you to try to manipulate me like that ever again, you got it?"

"Completely, sweetheart," Natalie said, realizing that she was being forgiven. "I promise!"

"So... What will we do about him?" Emily said pointing to Daniel, who had dressed his own clothes again, which were draped loosely over his frame.

"We don't need to do anything," Natalie said. "Like I told you, he'll return to normal in a few days when the effect of the pills goes away. After all, there's no other way to reverse the effect of the drug. But I'm tired of talking about this. I need to blow off some steam, and right now, I think we should go out. Do you remember that I promised you I'd take you to a salon today?"

Emily had to think about it. "Well... Okay, I'll go, but just because I'm going out with Zoe and the others on the weekend and I have this party to go the next week. I... I'm still a little unsure about it," Emily admitted.

Despite everything, Natalie was overjoyed. She had never been able to convince her sister go to a beauty salon. Emily had been so careless about her appearance. "You don't need to worry, honey. You'll do very well. And since Daniel will continue as Kevin until next week, he can go with you to the party...If you want."

"Have fun, girls," Daniel said. "I'll stay right here and watch some TV."

"Oh, no. I think you should come with us, Dan," Natalie said. "A breath of fresh air can be good for you."

"There is no way I'll go out now! "Kevin's" clothes don't fit me anymore." He held up his arms to demonstrate how ridiculous he looked in his clothes. "I'll look like a fool."

"Well..." Natalie said, precociously lingering on the word. "Emily's wardrobe is not *too* girly... I'm sure she can lend you some clothes..."

"Oh, that's a great idea!" Emily said with mischievous eyes. "I'll look for something for you to wear right now, *Dani*..."

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When they got into the car an hour later, it was now Dan who was the one who was upset. The clothes that Emily had lent to him were outrageous, in his opinion, and he was letting Natalie know about it. Natalie said he was being childish, which made him even angrier.

He was wearing a lavender blouse which had short sleeves and was cropped, leaving a part of his belly on display; white short shorts which barely covered his new slender, smooth legs, and showcased his new round ass; and white sneakers with some pink details. Emily had also selected a pair of panties for Dan, but he flatly refused to wear them and kept his underwear that barely fit on his smaller body.

Dan tried to sit in the front seat, but Emily pushed him into the back seat, saying he was too young to sit up front. He then sat back and folded his arms over his chest, pouting.

"Wait a minute," he said when Natalie started the car. "I need to get back to the cabin to pick up my phone."

"And why do you need your phone now?" Natalie asked.

"I'm bored. I want to listen to music." Dan wanted to block out the rest of the world with noise, and really didn't want to take part of any conversations the girls might have. He especially didn't need to hear any more about how cute he looked.

"Take mine," Natalie said, handing her pink phone to Dan. Before he could complain, Natalie pulled away and headed out onto the road. Without a choice, Daniel put the headphones on. The songs that Natalie had in her phone weren't exactly what he liked to listen to, but it was better than nothing.

Five minutes later, Daniel was listening to Selena Gomez. He was thoroughly entertained in the verses: You made me uncertain / Told me I'm not good enough / Who are you to judge? / I'm a diamond in the rough / I'm sure you've got things / You wanna change about yourself / What about me / Would never be anyone else.

Wow! Daniel had never realized before that this song's lyrics were so *deep*. Hearing them really made him feel a little better. In addition, the beat was so good — he just felt like dancing! Why he had never stopped to listen to pop music before? He had missed out on so much good stuff.

Something very weird is going on, Natalie thought. But maybe I can use that to my advantage.

They arrived at the salon a few minutes later. By then, Dan was listening to a Taylor Swift song, and was distracted by the catchy music as Natalie led him inside. Natalie approached the receptionist and told her that she had scheduled appointments for her and her sister.

"Oh, I see," the receptionist said. "And how about you?" she said to Dan. "I have some girls free now. Would you like to have some work done, too?"

Realizing that the woman was talking to him, Daniel took off the headphones. "What did you say?"

"She asked if you want a haircut," Natalie said.