



YourEssence - Quarreling Lovers, Volume 2 - Chapter 8

One Week Later...

"What time is it?" Amber asked.

"It's almost eleven. Why?" Daisy answered.

"Shouldn't David, err... Diana, be back by now?"

"No, I'm guessing they will be back after midnight."

"Ugh! But I want my snuggle bear back. Sleeping without him has been so lonely."

"I'm sure Lyle would be happy to snuggle with you tonight."

"I know, but I want David," Amber whined.

"You're that into him? His body?" Daisy asked.

"Have you seen him? I mean, I know you have, but gosh, he's just the greatest."

Daisy's interest was piqued. Amber was the epitome of feminine beauty, and hearing her fawn over her old form was particularly intriguing.

"Does anything in particular stand out?" Daisy asked.

"His chest! He's got that athletic physique that just drives me crazy. I love running my fingers through his chest hair. Oh! I just remembered something."

"What's that?"

"You were David, too!"

"Uhhh, yeah..."

"So why are you asking me about this? You know how great you were. You obviously spent a lot of time maintaining that physique, so why do I have to tell you all this?"

Daisy was uneasy in responding but had set herself up for this. "I guess it's just nice to hear that someone finds you attractive. I... No, I don't think you want to hear that."

"Hear what?"

"Why I decided to stay living as a woman."

"What do you mean?! Of course, I want to know why you'd give up that bodacious bod! Not that you aren't hot now, too."

"Thanks, Amber. I'm glad you think I'm hot like this, too. I guess the thing is that I realized I was unhappy living as David."

"Why would you have been unhappy? Diana is hot, too! Were things so bad between you both?"

"No... Well, I guess. We were seeing Dr. Simms over some things I had done that upset Diana."

"You bastard! How could you cheat on Diana!"

"What?! No!!! I didn't cheat on Diana... If anyone cheated, it's Diana with you!"

"Tsk, we've already been over this. You had an unspoken mutual understanding. My David didn't do anything wrong."

Daisy huffed in exasperation from the response but collected herself, not wanting to repeat this particular conversation. "Fine, I'll drop it. I didn't cheat on Diana. I was just insensitive to her and wasn't being a very empathetic lover."

"Huh, that's... strange to hear. My David has always been so compassionate and thoughtful in bed."

"Yeah, still not interested in the details, Amber. I was feeling lost in life. My job was mundane, and I was getting nowhere. The luster of the relationship had worn off some, and frankly, I was..." Daisy trailed off.

"What?" Amber asked, sitting on the edge of her seat.

"I was doubting whether I was a very good husband. I felt like a failure of a man."

"Gosh, that sounds really bad. Why did you feel like that?"

"Because I wasn't living up to the expectations I thought the world had of me. I was my own biggest critic. All my self-doubt and loathing were welling up inside me, and I just didn't have it in me to work through my feelings. So, with all that anxiety built up, I did what my body felt compelled to. Diana said she felt like a piece of meat from how I made her feel. I get it now. I took all my frustration and turned it into physical exertion. I was at the gym all the time, and then when we were making love, I treated it like a competition. I never hurt her, but I wouldn't be surprised if she questioned whether I might in the future. Things were getting rough. So, despite my complete repression of these feelings, I knew deep down that going to therapy was important."

"Wow! You are a complicated person!"

"What? I just tell you that, and you react like this?"

"Yeah, it's the truth though. You are complicated."

"And you're not?"

"Nope. I'm not."

"How can you say that? You do realize you are in a relationship with three other people of your own free will? right?"

"Yeah, but that's easy. I'm dating my David, you, and Lyle. See simple."

"Amber, I really wish I could think of it that way," Daisy said, sighing.

"It's easy enough. You just have to get out of your head. Just live!"

"Well, I'm doing better at that now, like this," Daisy said, gesturing at her body.

"Damn right, sister!"

"Heh, probably best we don't adopt that as a nickname between us."

"Why?"

"I think you know..."

"Oh, right. The sex."

"Yeah..."

"Well, at least we still get to share outfits. But no more sharing my sweaters. You're stretching them out. Have you put on a few pounds?"

"Hey!"

"What? My favorite sweater is totally drooping in the chest area now."

"Still, you don't have to call me fat."

"I'm not. You're reading into it too much. A few pounds up top is fine. Your body is still banging."

"Amber, for the life of me, I'll never understand how you are the way you are."

"Thanks, sweetie!"

"Yeah... sure."

"So, like, is it better?"

"Is what better?"

"The sex. Is it better as a girl?"

"Oh, uhh... It's complicated."

"Dang, I thought you would say it was better on our side."

"Do you want it to be?"

"I guess it doesn't matter, I like getting fucked, but it would be satisfying to hear that we've got the better end of the deal."

"Amber"

"Yeah?"

"We've got the better end of the deal."

"Yay! I knew it. The only thing better than sex with my David would be... sex with two Davids."

"Ha! That is not going to happen. At least not me as the second."

"Aww, but we were bonding so well."

"We are. It's just that I don't think I'm up for being David again."

"Not even for a day?"

"I know it sounds weird, but I think that's right. Not even for a day."

"See, I told you... complicated."

"Yeah, you might be on to something," Daisy responded. Her thoughts were focused on a conversation she and Dr. Simms had during her separation from Diana.

Two months earlier...

"David?" Dr. Simms asked.

"Yeah, it's me, Mary."

"Why are you—"

"I know you must be wondering what's going on. I just..."

"Go on."

"I just needed to be sure and didn't think things through very well. I forgot that the YourEssence wouldn't wear off before our appointment."

"You're sure it will wear off? You are back in your original body, after all."

"From what I've read online, yeah. I'm past the point of no return on that. If I don't take these pills, then I don't look like this..." David trailed off as he spoke, creating a moments-long lull in the conversation.

"David?" Dr. Simms asked softly but got no response. Trying again more firmly,

"David, are you okay?" Dr. Simms received no response again and decided to intensify her message, "Earth to Daisy! Hello!"

"Oh, sorry, Dr. Simms, I was lost in thought there."

"Yes, I could tell. Would you mind telling me what you were thinking about?"

David squirmed at the request. Dr. Simms, recognizing the discomfort, interjected with her usual speech about client-patient confidentiality, which helped David open up. "I wasn't trans, Dr. Simms. I know it for a fact. I loved being a guy and never felt any of the feelings that a person who feels like they are in the wrong body feels. So, I needed to figure out why I have been so comfortable living as myself... As Daisy."

"And do you feel like you understand now?"

"No, I'm more confused than ever."

"So, are you considering returning to living as David full-time?"

"No! Sorry... I'm not considering that now, but I see why you might think that. I'm not confused about who I should live as; I'm confused about why I feel gender dysphoria now, like right now even, but I never felt it before in this body."

"That's quite the conundrum to encounter, Daisy. I can understand why you'd feel a sense of confusion, but tell me more about why it matters to you."

"I guess it doesn't. I get to live my life the way I want it to be. I get to be who I am. It's just that I can't shake this feeling that I have either been tricked into this outcome or that I'm tricking myself."

"Why do you feel that way?"

"Because I wasn't trans. I get why trans people say other people don't understand," Daisy said with a heavy sigh.

"I'd like to help, Daisy, even if I can't fully understand your experience."

"Thanks, Mary. I don't know that there is anything to help. I already have my solution. I won't be taking another of 'David Martin's' YourEssence pills again. That will leave me with the body and life that I want."

"Daisy, we can't just walk away from our problems. We have to work through our feelings so we can address the underlying problems or learn to be able to accept

them."

"Mary..." Daisy said with a heavy exhale.

"Daisy, please tell me what's bothering you."

"I missed my period..."