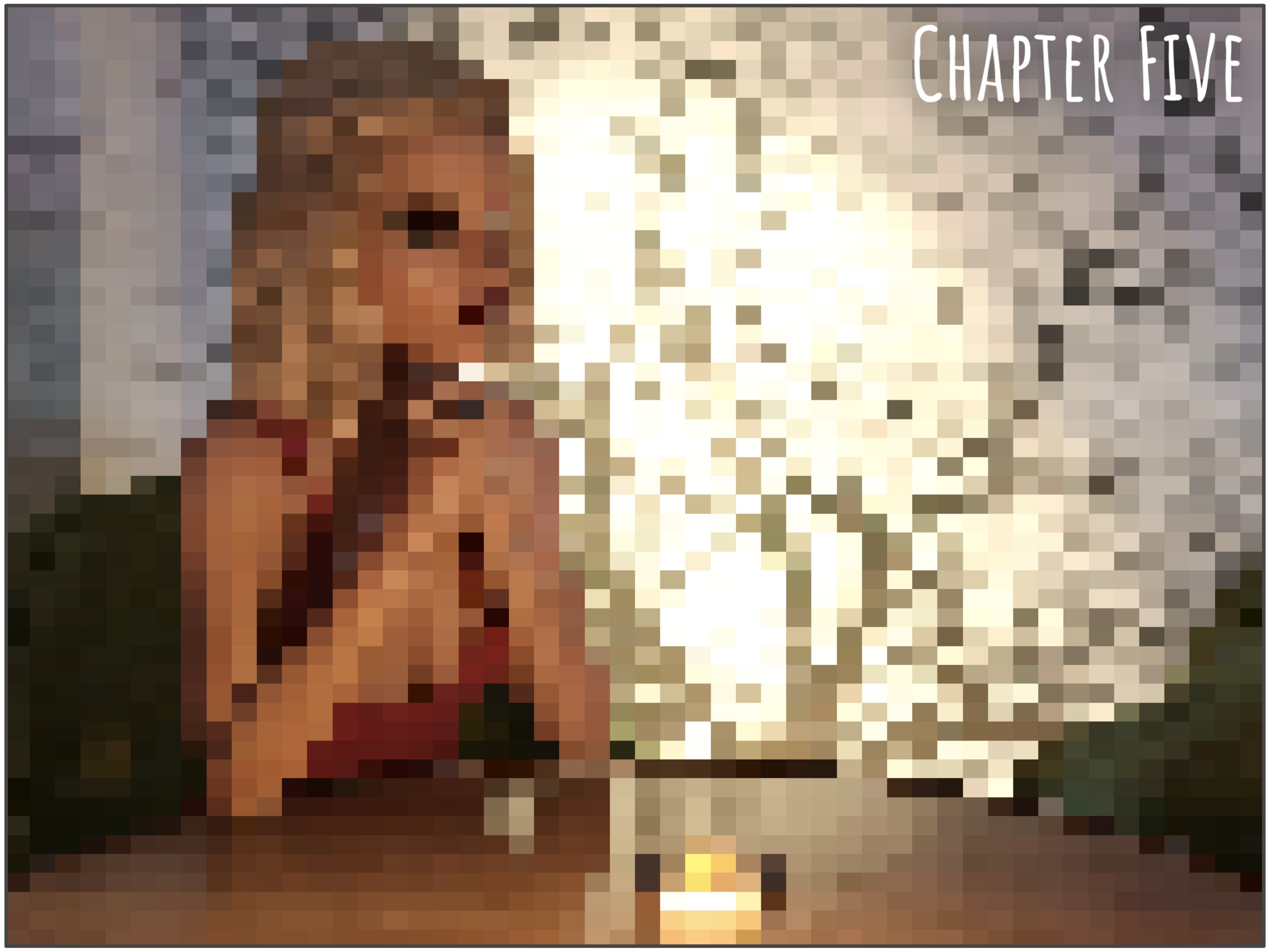


CHAPTER FIVE





I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET YOU CONVINC ME TO WEAR THIS DRESS OUT.

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, ANDI.

AND WHAT IF SOMEONE NOTICES ME?

THE MOVIE'S BEEN OUT FOUR DAYS AND-

HAS MADE MORE MONEY THAN ANY ROMANTIC DRAMA BEFORE IT.

IT'S A HIT, AND! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!

THANKS, BUT THAT MEANS PEOPLE COULD START TO RECOGNIZE ME.

LOOK AROUND, BABE...

IT'S HORATIO'S ON A MONDAY NIGHT. WE CAN BE HERE BECAUSE THERE'D BE NO ONE HERE.

STILL...



I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE.

LIKE I COULD BE NOTICED BY A STRANGER ANY MOMENT.

JUST TELL THEM THEY'RE MISTAKEN... EASY.

YEAH, I GUESS...

HONEY, RELAX! WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE THIS HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT!

IT'S HARD TO CELEBRATE WITH ALL THESE THOUGHTS RACING THROUGH MY MIND.

WE SAID WE NEED TO BE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER...

...AND I CAN'T HOLD THIS IN ANYMORE.

THESE LAST FEW MONTHS WE'VE SPENT TOGETHER GOING OUT AS FRIENDS HAS BEEN A LOT OF FUN, BUT-





I'VE BEEN PUSHING THE GIRL FRIEND THING A LITTLE MUCH, HAVEN'T I?

YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO WEARING SWEATS WHEN YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE, RIGHT?

THAT WOULD BE NICE, BUT DRESSING UP HAS BEEN... INTERESTING?

I CAN REIN IT IN IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO.


I DON'T WANT YOU TO CHANGE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MIRANDA.

I REALLY DON'T.

THEN WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

IT'S...

COWARD.




IT'S PROBABLY A
GOOD IDEA TO STAY IN
FOR A FEW WEEKS WHILE
THEY FIGURE OUT HOW TO
GET ME BACK TO
NORMAL.

DID
GG SAY
THAT?

HE SAID
SOMETHING
TO THAT
EFFECT.

WON'T YOU
GET BORED? THE
HOUSE IS LOVELY,
BUT NOT LEAVING
AT ALL?

AND...



WOULD YOU WANT ME TO STAY IN WITH YOU?

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

YOU'VE ALREADY DONE MORE THAN ANY WIFE WOULD, MIRANDA.

OKAY, BECAUSE... I THINK I'D GO A LITTLE STIR CRAZY.

I CAN SEE THAT, AND...



YOU KNOW WHAT, I NEED TO GO FRESHEN UP.

DO YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?

NO, I DON'T NEED TO TURN THIS INTO SOME SORT OF CLICHE ABOUT WOMEN ALL GOING TO THE RESTROOM TOGETHER.

FAIR ENOUGH. DO YOU WANT ME TO ORDER A DRINK FOR YOU?

YEAH, THAT'D BE GREAT.

OKAY, DON'T TAKE TOO LONG.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ADMITTING
TO ANOTHER AFFAIR, JUST
WANTING TO TALK.

I'M JUST TRYING TO BE
HONEST LIKE SHE TOLD ME TO.

SO WHY AM I DREADING
THIS SO MUCH?





I JUST NEED TO NUT UP,
AND FUCKING TELL HER.

SHE'LL APPRECIATE
THE HONESTY.

IT'S WHO SHE IS.

A woman with blonde hair styled in a braid, wearing a red dress, is looking into a mirror in a bathroom. The mirror reflects her face and the text of her thoughts. The bathroom has white tiled walls and a white sink with a chrome faucet.

I'M THE ASSHOLE WHO
CHEATED ON HER.

I'M THE ONE WHO
SHOULDN'T BE TRUSTED...

...AND YET SHE DOES.

IF I'M HONEST, SHE
WILL BE TOO...

...AND THEN WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT TOGETHER.

WE'LL MAKE IT WORK BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

WE'LL MAKE IT WORK BECAUSE WE LOVE EACH OTHER...

I LOVE HER SO GODDAMN MUCH THAT IT-

SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU...





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING IN
HERE!

IT'S THE
WOMEN'S
ROOM!

UM...



NOT MANY
WOMEN'S
RESTROOMS HAVE
URINALS IN THEM,
MISS.

OH MY
GOD...

WHAT THE FLICK
WAS I THINKING?

I'M SO
SORRY, I'LL
GET OUT OF
YOUR-



SORRY, I
DON'T TYPICALLY
DO THIS, BUT...

...ARE YOU
ALICE? I MEAN,
THE ACTRESS IN
ALICE?

OH NO.

YOU LOOK
SO MUCH LIKE
HER, SO I
THOUGHT I'D
ASK.

UH...




I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT. I'M NOT IN
ANY MOVIE.

COME
ON, YOU
EVEN SOUND
JUST LIKE
HER.

MY FRIENDS AND
I HAVE SEEN THE
MOVIE FOUR TIMES
ALREADY, SO I KNOW
WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE
REALLY WELL.

**FOUR TIMES? NO WONDER
IT MADE SO MUCH.**



SORRY, THAT
CAME OUT WAY MORE
CREEPY THAN I WAS
INTENDING.


I JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW THAT
I THINK YOU'RE
AMAZING...

I MEAN, YOUR
PERFORMANCE WAS
EXCEPTIONAL.

WHOA, HE'S SO NERVOUS
ALL OF A SUDDEN.

IS HE... STARSTRUCK? BY ME?

ANYWAY,
I'LL LEAVE YOU
ALONE TO-



YOU SEEM
LIKE A GOOD
GUY, SO YEAH...
I'M ALICE.

I MEAN,
I *PLAYED*
ALICE.

OH MY
GOD! I KNEW
IT!

AND I'M
GLAD TO HEAR
YOU LIKED THE
MOVIE... IT REALLY
MEANS A LOT TO
ME.

IT'S THE
FREAKING BEST
MOVIE, I MEAN
IT.



AND, UM... IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT YOU'RE **REALLY** PRETTY.

THANK YOU.

EVEN MORE SO IN PERSON.

ISN'T THAT SWEET?

THANK YOU,
THAT'S SO NICE
OF YOU TO
SAY.

I'M SURE
I'M NOT THE
FIRST PERSON TO
CALL YOU
SEXY.

OH, AND
NOW I'M
SEXY?

DID I SAY
SEXY? I MEANT
CUTE...

YOU SAID
PRETTY, BUT I'LL
TAKE SEXY AND CUTE
ANY DAY FROM A
HANDSOME GUY
LIKE YOU.

WHAT AM I DOING? AM
I FLIRTING WITH HIM?





I'M SURE
YOU'VE MET
GUYS WAY MORE
HANDSOME THAN
ME.

I MEAN...
LOOK AT
YOU.

BELIEVE IT
OR NOT, BUT
NOT AS MANY
AS YOU
THINK.

SO...
YOU'RE NOT
SEEING
ANYONE?

I, UH...
LIVE WITH MY
FRIEND...

**MY WIFE! SAY
SHE'S YOUR WIFE!**



...BUT YOU JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF I WAS *SINGLE*, RIGHT?

ARE YOU?

WHAT IF I WAS? WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

WELL, IF YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE THE CHARACTER YOU PLAY-

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I'M MORE LIKE ALICE THAN I CARE TO ADMIT?

STOP THIS, AND!!




THEN I
MIGHT DO
SOMETHING
LIKE *THIS!*

OH, MY!

IS THIS HAPPENING?

IS THIS *REALLY*
HAPPENING?



NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU PUT THOSE PRETTY LIPS ON IT?

UH...

IT'S A *COCK*.

A *REAL COCK* ON A *REAL MAN*.

I COULD SUCK THIS COCK RIGHT NOW, AND MIRANDA WOULD HAVE NO IDEA.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET DOWN ON MY KNEES...

TO BE CONTINUED...