

Tuna Melts and Longitudinal Studies

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Characters:	Ilya Rozanov , Shane Hollander , Rose Landry
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Tuna Melts and Longitudinal Studies

by [OpalApparition](#)

Summary

I (26M) want to invite man I sleep with (26M) to my house to spend the weekend. Help me not ruin it.

Or: Ilya Rozanov goes to the internet for dating advice

Notes

Click away and have fun. The links and videos in this fic *work*!

See the end of the work for [more notes](#)

Chapter 1: u/OrangeSpyder617

Chapter Summary

I (26M) want to invite man I sleep with (26M) to my house. Help me not ruin it.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



847



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/OrangeSpyder617 8 hours ago.

I (26M) want to invite man I sleep with (26M) to my house. Help me not ruin it.

Relationships

Background. I have been hooking up with this guy for six years. We work in the same competitive field, different organizations. We are technically rivals. We meet when we are in the same city for work, which happens maybe once a month. Sometimes more, sometimes less.

We have rules. Last names only. Always hotels or his fuck condo, never mine when he is in my city. We can see other people. We cannot be seen together, ever. These rules were not written down. We are not children with chore chart. They developed over time, and I have been following them like a good boy for six years because I thought they were keeping us safe.

The problem is I do not want to follow the rules anymore.

I have feelings for this man. It is like having a stone in my shoe I cannot shake out. I have had feelings for a while. Probably years if I am honest, which I am trying to be right now, and it is very uncomfortable.

He is terribly not funny. His jokes are what you find in a Christmas cracker. And yet, I laugh. It is humiliating.

He is the only person in my field who can keep up with me (he would argue that I am the one keeping up with him, and he would be wrong). He has dark hair and freckles across his nose in a pattern I have memorized and I think about his face when I am trying to fall asleep. This is not normal for me. I am a man with plenty of options. I am very attractive. This is not arrogance, it is a fact. And yet the only person I want is this freckled idiot who drives the most boring car on planet earth and goes to bed at 9pm.

He will be in my city next week for work. Usually we would meet at a hotel. But I want to invite him to my house for the first time.

My actual home where I live.

The thing is, I cannot say "I have feelings for you, this is a date."

If I tell him directly, he will either panic or not believe me, because this man is the most oblivious human being alive. He once told me I was "funny" and I nearly drove my car into a wall.

I want to make him dinner. I am not a good cook. I am, in fact, a terrible cook. I need ideas for what to make, and they must be simple because he is a simple creature. I also know his favorite drink. I plan to buy it and have it in my fridge for him.

My plan is: invite him over, cook for him, have his drink ready, sit on the couch, talk, and let whatever happens happen naturally. Maybe he will stay the night. Maybe I will finally get to wake up next to him. I have never done that.

Six years and I have never once opened my eyes in the morning and seen him there in the dawn. I did not realize that was a problem until it became one.

He is the source of all my fucking problems.

My question for this subreddit: What else can I do to make this work? Does anyone have suggestions for a simple dish that is hard to fuck up? I cannot do anything that requires more than four steps. I will burn it or set off the smoke alarm and then I will have to explain to my neighbours why there is smoke pouring out of the windows and I will not be able to do that because I will be too busy dying of embarrassment.

Help me not ruin it all. Or don't. I will probably manage anyway.

English is not my first language. If my grammar is wrong, I do not care.

EDIT: To the person who said "just tell him how you feel" — I have considered this. I have rejected it. He would combust. You do not understand. This man once had to leave the room because I complimented him. If I say "I have feelings for you" while we are alone in my home he will set off my fire alarm with the friction of how fast he runs out the door.

EDIT 2: Really. You are all hanging noodles on my ears. You say 'be yourself,' but if I am myself, he will leave and I will be alone

EDIT 3: Hanging noodles means to lie or pull a prank! No there are not actual noodles!

 40 comments

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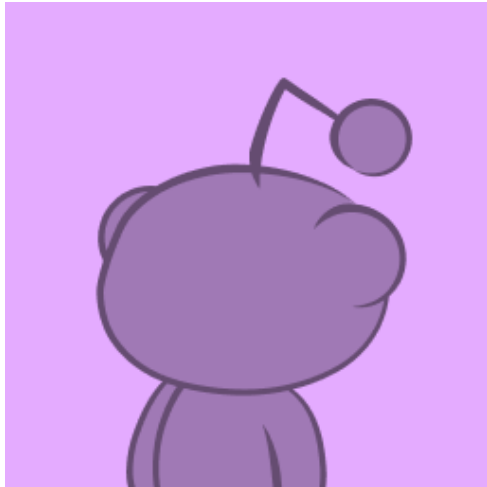
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Sort by relevance



MapleSyrupShibari · 7 hours ago

Cook for him. I'm serious. It doesn't have to be good. The fact that you tried will say more than you think. Tuna melts are easy—canned tuna, mayo, shredded cheese, toast it open-faced in the oven. Nobody fucks up a tuna melt.

 1.2k points



 Reply

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OrangeSpyder617 OP · 7 hours ago

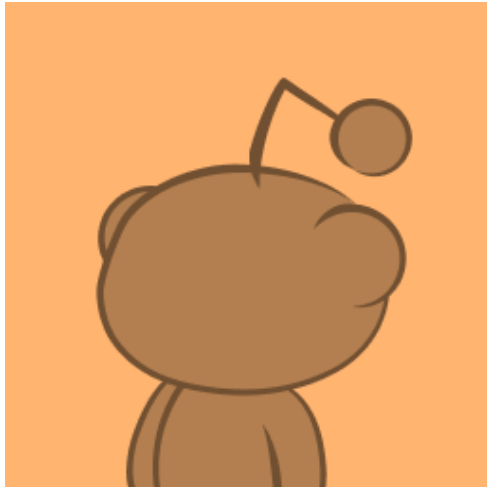
I like your username but tuna sandwich sounds the opposite of attractive meal



743 points



Reply Share Report Save



PM_me_your_red_flags · 7 hours ago

You said four steps max, my guy. You're not getting beef Wellington out of a four step limit.



689 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 6 hours ago

Fine. I will make the tuna melt. If this ruins everything I am blaming you specifically.



921 points

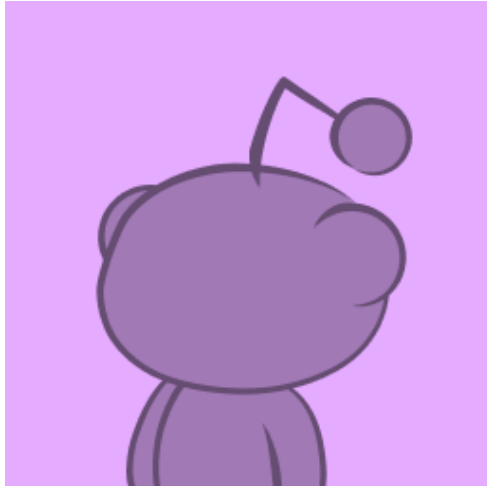


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 reddit user iconsillywillywhimsy

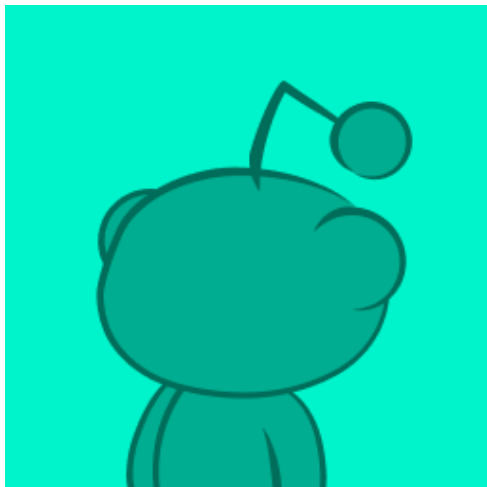
sillywillywhimsy · 6 hours ago

also its good because if he still wants you after you make him a TUNA MELT for your first sleepover you can confirm he has feelings for you, because c'mon. tuna breath sex?... you GOTTA be in love.



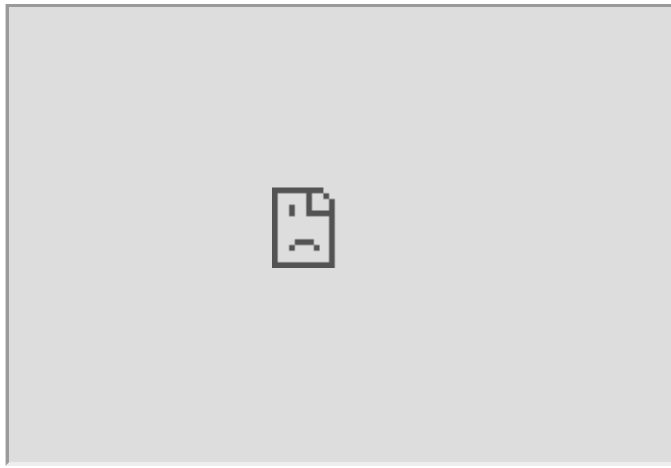
MapleSyrupShibari · 6 hours ago

RemindMe! 1 month "did the tuna melt guy get the man"



ChefMike_NoNotThatOne · 8 hours ago

OP, if you're seriously this worried about setting off a smoke alarm with a sandwich, please just watch this. It's the law that every single guy who can't cook has to start here. Just do exactly what the loud British man says.



2.1k points



Reply



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 7 hours ago

Wake up the misses and give it to her in bed - the breakfast.

LOL. I like his technique, he does not waste time. But eggs are for breakfast and training recovery. I am making a dinner. I will stick to the tuna melt. Perhaps I will give it to him in bed next day if he stays



1.4k points



Reply



PM_ME_UR_RED_FLAGS · 7 hours ago

"I am a man with plenty of options. I am very attractive. This is not arrogance, it is a fact."

I believe you, king. But I am going to need you to understand that you are not the main character of a movie right now, you don't need to plan the perfect night like this is a RomCom. Just be honest and make dinner. Use actual words. "I like you" has three words and zero steps. Easier than any recipe.



1.5k points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 6 hours ago

I am ALWAYS the main character. This is not relevant but I need you to know this. I am in top 5 hottest men in my field.



1.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



WineAuntSally · 6 hours ago

The fact that you felt the need to rank your own attractiveness is wild



534 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 6 hours ago

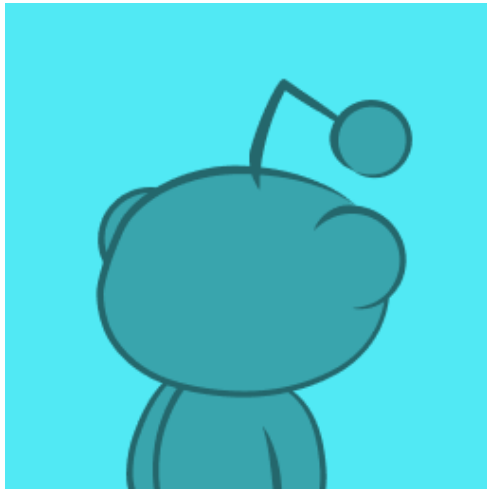
It is context. I am establishing that I could have anyone. I do not want anyone. I want this specific boring idiot. This is the tragedy.



1.8k points



Reply Share Report Save



WineAuntSally · 5 hours ago

"This is the tragedy" please someone get this man a book deal



678 points



Reply Share Report Save

 reddit user icon Opal

OpalApparition · 6 hours ago

Where does your situationship rank in hotness for your field?



312 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 6 hours ago

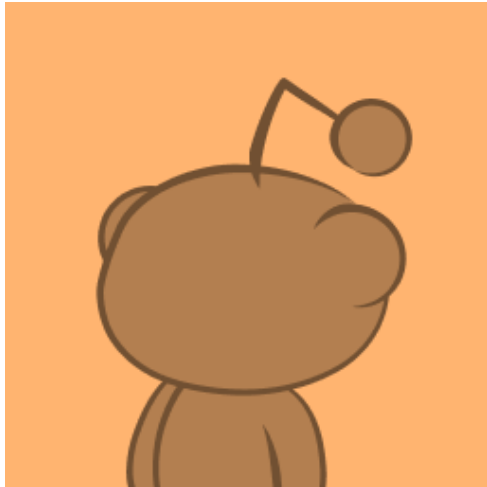
He is number 1. People, including me, agree. Many people. Magazines have agreed.



2.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



StepByStep_90 · 6 hours ago

Don't jump straight to a full weekend. That's high pressure for a six-year "hotel-only" habit. Invite him over for a "pre-game" dinner or a specific event on a Friday night. If the vibe stays good, suggest he stays over because "it's late." It gives you both an out if the "domestic" reality hits too hard.



412 points



Reply Share



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

I do not want an "out." I want him in my bed for forty-eight hours.



1.8k points



Reply



StepByStep_90 · 5 hours ago

48 hours? OP, what the fuck do you plan on doing to this man? He's going to need an IV drip by Sunday.



1.4k points Reply



PelvicFloorPro · 4 hours ago

RIP to this man's rival. Pour one out for the freckled idiot. He has no idea what's coming for him. At that rate, you're going to defy biology and someone is going to end up pregnant.



312 points Reply



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

If you saw his ass you would understand



2.4k points Reply



throwaways_for_days · 7 hours ago

Babe you've been hooking up with the same person for SIX YEARS with rules about last names only and you think YOU'RE the one catching feelings? He's been showing up for six years. He has feelings. You both have feelings. You are the last two people on earth to realize this.



2.4k points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 6 hours ago

He does not have feelings. He has a schedule and a very boring routine and I happen to be part of it.



987 points



Reply Share Report Save



throwaways_for_days · 6 hours ago

Six years is not a routine, it's a marriage without paperwork.

 1.3k points   Reply Share Report Save



deleted_my_ex · 5 hours ago

Can confirm. My ex and I did the "no feelings just hooking up" thing for three years and we now have a mortgage and a labradoodle.

 445 points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

I do not want a labradoodle.



876 points



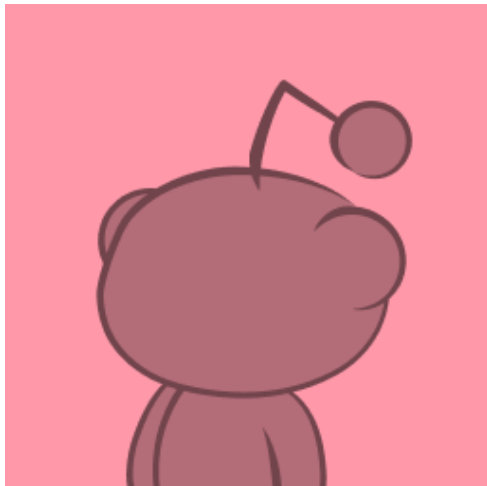
Reply Share Report Save



deleted_my_ex · 5 hours ago

That's literally what I said three years ago.

 567 points   Reply Share Report Save

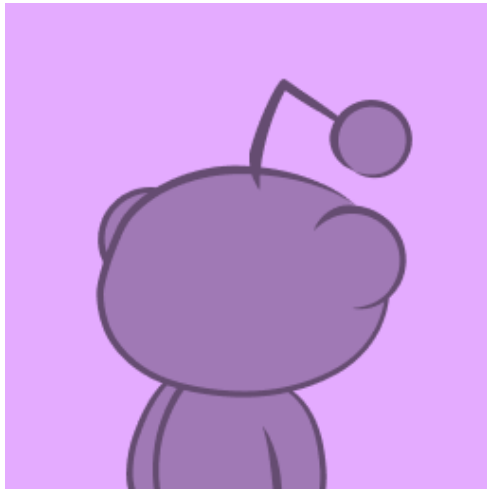


carol_in_accounting · 6 hours ago

Make him pasta! It's so easy. Lemon, butter, garlic, parmesan. Five minutes. You will not set off the smoke alarm and he will eat it because pasta is universally beloved. Stock the drink. Dim the lights. For the love of god, tell him how you feel.

I am going to follow this account and I will need an update.

 389 points   Reply Share Report Save



TheEldersScrollsV · 5 hours ago

🚩🚩🚩 Six years and you've never been to his house? OP, you're the side piece. He has a wife and three kids in the suburbs. Wake up.



203 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

You are an idiot. I have seen his 'fuck condo.' It has one bed, one chair, and a fridge with only Gatorade. No wife lives there unless she is a cockroach.



1.4k points



Reply Share Report Save



honestly_helena · 6 hours ago

Clean sheets. I cannot stress this enough. Put clean sheets on your bed, put out a fresh towel for him, and clear a space in your bathroom for his stuff. You don't have to announce any of it. He'll notice. Those details are louder than words.



756 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

I have very expensive sheets with Egyptian cotton. He will know they are clean because they will smell like the detergent I buy from Paris.



634 points



Reply Share Report Save



honestly_helena · 5 hours ago

This has "Junior Partners at rival law firms" written all over it. The "rules" are just your way of avoiding a conflict of interest that would get you disbarred. OP, if you're rich enough for your silly sheets, just quit and go work for his firm. Problem solved.

 298 points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

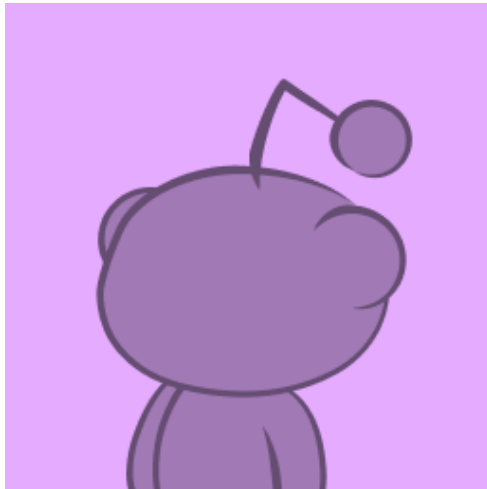
I would never work for his firm. His organization is second-rate. They have history but no future. My organization is the best because I am there. If I left, the building would probably fall down from sadness.



1.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



TooOldForThis_55 · 6 hours ago

Real talk: you've been sleeping together for six years and never stayed the night. That's not a rule, dude, that's a fucking wall. Inviting him to your home, cooking for him, having his drink ready... all good things, but you're also asking him to step over that wall. Be ready for the possibility that he does, AND be ready for the possibility that he's scared to. Patience. Give him room.



1.7k points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

This is... yes. You are right. He is not good with things that are new. He takes time with everything. Took forever for him to even realize that I was also attracted to him after we met, and I had to arrange opportunities to meet. I will give him room.

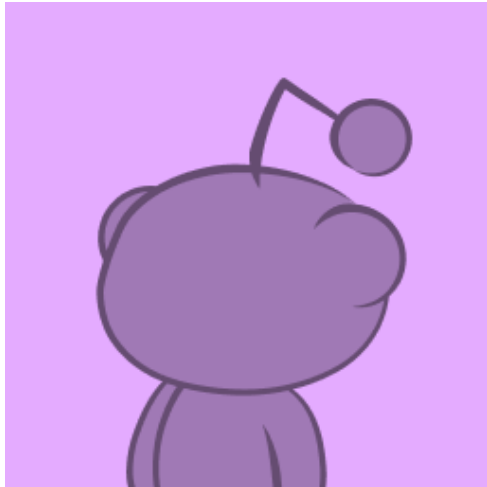
Even if it kills me to watch him take his time. He is so boring and slow.



1.3k points



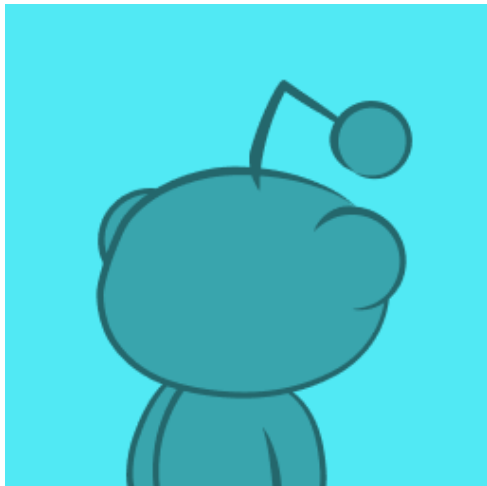
Reply Share Report Save



TooOldForThis_55 · 5 hours ago

If you've waited six years, you can wait one more evening. Let the house do the talking.

 892 points   Reply Share Report Save



GooseGrease88 · 5 hours ago

This sounds like a plot to a bad fanfic. "We are technically rivals." What does that even mean? Do you work for Burger King and he works for McDonald's? If you're actually rich, just hire a consultant to decorate your house so it looks "normal" and stop whining.

crossposting to r/nothingeverhappens because this reads like fanfic

 156 points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

I do not "whine." I said my problem. And I am richer than anyone you have ever met. I do not need consultant to tell me my taste is better than yours. If I work for Burger King, I am the King. He is... I don't know. The clown.



1.6k points



Reply Share Report Save



BostonSportsBro69 · 5 hours ago

Okay I'm going to need more info on this "competitive field" because you said you're rivals, you travel to the same cities, you meet roughly once a month, and you're both 26 and apparently very well compensated based on the cars situation.

Are you guys athletes? This reads like you're athletes. The last-names-only thing is VERY locker room energy.

Edit: OP's username is OrangeSpyder617. 617 is a Boston area code. I'm going insane.



1.9k points



Reply Share Report Save



throwaways_for_days · 4 hours ago

He absolutely plays a sport. Or he models. Those are the only two professions where someone says "magazines have agreed" with a straight face.



734 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

I do not model. I am also not saying what I do. Leave it.



543 points



Reply Share Report Save

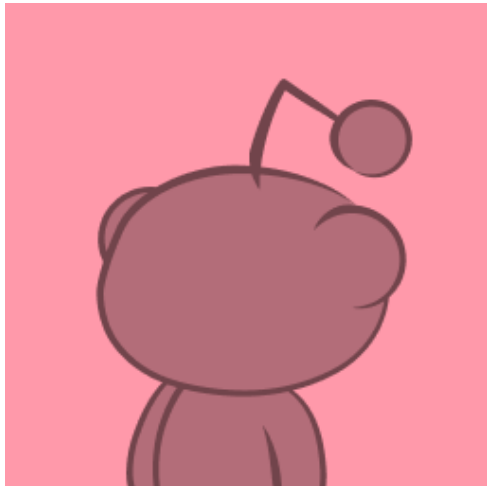


BostonSportsBro69 · 4 hours ago

Adding "has been in magazines" to the file. The investigation continues.



 867 points   Reply Share Report Save



QuietLifeQuietWife · 5 hours ago

No advice but "He once told me I was funny and I nearly drove my car into a wall" had me giggling. Good fucking luck man

 1.2k points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

He never compliments anyone. He said I was funny and he was smiling when he said it and I had to pull over. I am not ashamed of this.



1.5k points



Reply Share Report Save



DudesBeingBros · 4 hours ago

You should be a little ashamed of this.



423 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

Fuck you



2.3k points



Reply Share Report Save



BagelBitch_BOS · 4 hours ago

Hot take: you are not afraid he won't pick up on the signals.

You are afraid he will.

Because if he does, then you both have to deal with what that means outside of hotel rooms.

 2.0k points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

I do not enjoy this thread. This thread is trash. You are all trolls. I am deleting this.



1.4k points



Reply Share Report Save



BagelBitch_BOS · 3 hours ago

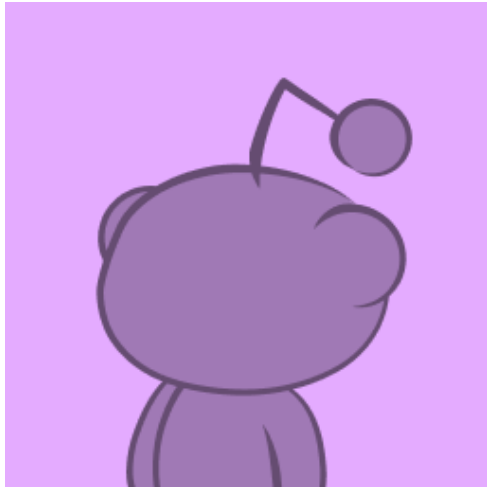
I mean, I am enjoying this



789 points



Reply Share Report Save



SiliconValleySkeptic · 4 hours ago

"Competitive field" + "Last names only" = You guys are definitely high-level software engineers or quant traders. Is this some weird corporate espionage thing? Are you afraid he's going to steal your proprietary code while you're making him a tuna melt?

 267 points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

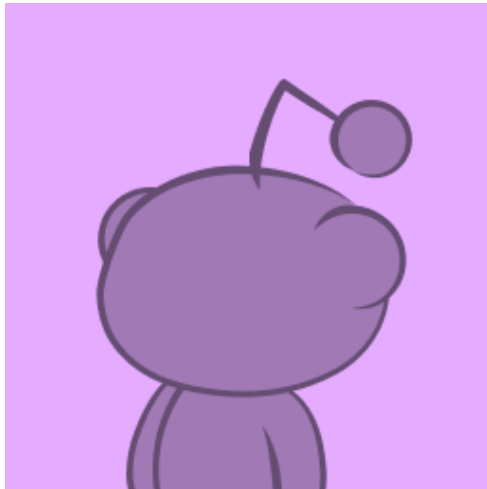
I do not "code." I do not sit in a chair and look at numbers all day. My job is physical. I get paid to be better than everyone else while people watch.



1.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



SiliconValleySkeptic · 3 hours ago

Do you do porn



445 points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

If only the internet was so lucky



1.8k points



Reply Share Report Save



actual_therapist_no_really · 5 hours ago

Okay, real advice. The dinner is a good instinct. The drink is an even better one. But the thing that will actually make this feel different from your usual arrangement isn't the food—it's the context. You're inviting him into your space. Your actual home. After six years of neutral territory and hotels, that IS the gesture. Don't overthink the menu. The invitation itself is the message.

 2.6k points   Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

This is the first useful reply I have received. Thank you. I will still make the tuna melt because apparently that is my destiny now.



1.3k points



Reply Share Report Save



actual_therapist_no_really · 4 hours ago

One more thing—have a plan for what to do if he doesn't pick up on the significance right away. You described him as oblivious. He might eat your food, enjoy your house, have a great time, and still not register the shift. That doesn't mean it failed. Some people need more than one signal.



1.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

How many signals. Give me a number. I will do all of them.



1.9k points



Reply Share Report Save



actual_therapist_no_really · 3 hours ago

The fact that you're willing to do "all of them" is itself a signal. You'll be fine.



1.6k points



Reply Share Report Save

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

I just wanted to play in CSS with this workskin. It was fun! Don't fear, more is coming and OP promises to update. This work is finished, and will update weekly!

Feel free to treat the comment space as a continuation of the reddit comments; if there are any spectacular ones I will add them to the fic :)

I promise I have not forgotten about *Nutcracker!* or *Wolfbird*, I am just having some fun :)

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ "I liked/loved it!"
- 🌈 "this wasn't my favorite"
- 💻 "Lurking"
- ★ "Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox"
- 🗡️ "this usually isnt my thing... and yet"
- 💀 "how dare you (affectionate)"

Chapter 2: u/OrangeSpyder617: UPDATE

Chapter Summary

UPDATE: I (26M) invited my hookup (26M) to my home. I have ruined everything.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



2.3k



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/OrangeSpyder617 6 hours ago.

UPDATE: I (26M) invited my hookup (26M) to my home. I have ruined everything.

Relationships

Some of you may remember my post from a few weeks ago about inviting the man I have been sleeping with for six years to my actual home for the first time. Many of you gave advice. Some of it was good. Some of you told me to "just use words" and I ignored you because I knew better than you.

This was, as it turns out, a mistake.

Here is what happened.

I invited him in November, and he came. He was confused at first at the invite because he is in my city and usually that means I go to him in his hotel, which was already a bad sign because it meant he thought the hotel was *fine*, which it was NOT, because hotels are for strangers and I have known this man for years and have memorized the freckle pattern on his nose.

I cooked for him. Several of you suggested tuna melts, and one person called it "the least sexy food imaginable," which I took as a challenge. I made tuna melts. They were good. He ate two of them and smiled with his mouth full, and I have thought about that smile every single day since.

I also bought his favorite drink. It is a specific brand of Canadian ginger ale that I would never in my life purchase for myself because it is for children. I put it in my fridge two days before he came over so it would be cold. When he opened the fridge and saw it, he said, "Oh, you had this?"

YES. I HAD IT. I WENT TO A STORE. I PURCHASED IT. FOR YOU. DO YOU THINK THE GINGER ALE FAIRY VISITED?

I do not buy ginger ale. I buy wine that costs more than his car.

But fine. I let that go, because the rest of the day was perfect. We sat on my couch and watched a hockey game. We talked for three hours about cities we like, things that happened at work that week, which coworkers annoy us. He told me about his best friend's five hundred kids. I told him about my cars. He made fun of all my cars. I made fun of his singular car, which is a Jeep Cherokee, which is a vehicle for dads in suburbs and not for a man who earns what he earns.

We argued about this for twenty minutes and it was the happiest I have been in recent memory.

I tried to find out if he sees women, too, to get a better idea about what things were between us. I told him about a girl I used to sleep with in one city to try and make it easier, and asked if he liked girls. He said "of course" in the least convincing way a human being has ever said two words. Then I told him I like girls but I also like him. He said "lucky me" like I had insulted him. I was trying to tell him I am bisexual and also interested in him specifically and he reacted like I had complained about the weather.

The point is: this was not a hookup. This was not casual. A blind person could see what this was.

I was trying to explain when I got a phone call from family for issues that I had to handle. I will not go into this, but when I returned to him, the moment for telling him that I was asking because I want *him* had passed and I did not know how to get back to it without tangling it up with how I was already feeling.

Then we had sex.

And this is where it fell apart.

I mentioned in the last post that we have rules. Here is one of them: last names only. Always. For six years I have followed this. But I was—look. He was on top of me. He was doing this thing with his hips. I lost focus. It came out before I could stop it. His first name. I said his first name and I broke the rule because of some reason I do not know, I wish I knew.

I broke it because it wanted it to be broken, maybe.

He froze. Then he said my first name back. And then he looked at me like I had pulled a pin from a grenade.

He finished. Then he panicked. I could see it happen in real time, like watching a car crash. He said he forgot about a meeting. This man does not forget meetings. He has never once in his life forgotten a meeting. He is the most organized, controlled, disciplined person I have ever met and he had to know that I knew he was lying, even as he left wearing my shirt because he could not find his own in his panic. He forgot even his underwear.

I can not bring myself to text him, either, to make things worse.

Thank you for the tuna melt suggestion. He loved them. I hope that knowledge haunts you as much as it haunts me.

 87 comments

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Upvoted

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BarbarianHorde · 5 hours ago

Dude, at some point you have to ask yourself: if this guy has missed every signal for six years, maybe he's not missing them. Maybe he's ignoring them because he doesn't feel the same way. Maybe he feels nothing and it's just sex.

 743 points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 5 hours ago

He feels. I know this.



1.2k points



Reply Share Report Save



BarbarianHorde · 5 hours ago

How can you be so sure he feels anything at all?



634 points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

Because he said my name back.



3.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



actual_therapist_no_really · 5 hours ago

Okay. Let me walk through this because I think you're catastrophizing.

You cooked for him. You had his drink. You sat on your couch for three hours and talked about your lives. You used his first name during sex for the first time in six years, and *he said yours back*. Then he panicked and left.

You're reading this as "I ruined everything." I'm reading this as "he felt it too, and it terrified him." Those are very different problems. One is unsolvable. The other takes time.



2.8k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

This does not look like a man who "felt it too." This looks like a man fleeing a crime scene.



1.9k points



Reply Share Report Save



actual_therapist_no_really · 4 hours ago

People don't flee from things that don't matter to them.



3.4k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

I need to think about this.



1.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



honestly_helena · 3 hours ago

Take your time, honey. He clearly needs time too.



876 points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



brunch_is_a_scam · 4 hours ago

Bro you didn't ruin anything. You detonated a wall and he's standing in the rubble trying to figure out why there's sunlight where there didn't used to be.



1.7k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 4 hours ago

This is a very poetic way of telling me I am fucked.



2.1k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



brunch_is_a_scam · 3 hours ago

You're not fucked. You're at the part of the story where everything looks bad but it's actually the turning point. I've seen enough rom-coms to know.



934 points



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OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

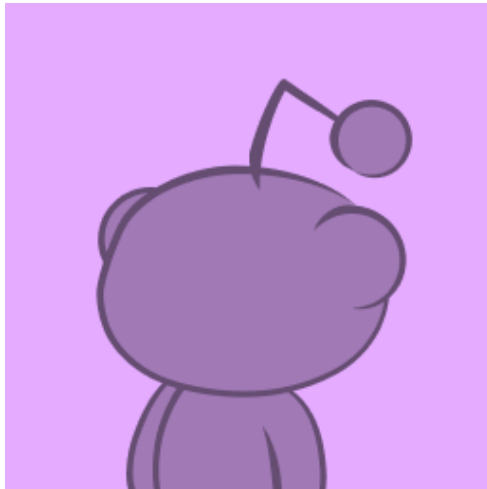
My life is not a romantic comedy. My life is a tragedy in which I am very attractive and also suffering.



2.9k points



Reply Share Report Save



MapleSyrupShibari · 4 hours ago

I suggested the tuna melts. I accept full responsibility for what has happened here and I would like to state for the record that I did not anticipate the tuna melts would lead to an emotional catastrophe. In my defense, they are very easy to make.



1.4k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

They were and they were good



1.8k points



Reply Share Report Save



BagelBitch_BOS · 3 hours ago



Are you dense?

Let me get this timeline straight. You have been sleeping with a man for SIX YEARS. You have never told him you have feelings. He panicked when intimacy got real and your response was to... sit alone in your apartment being mad at him for not reading your mind?

My brother in Christ. You are BOTH the stupid one.

And I want to focus on something you skipped over. You said you asked him about women and you

told him you're bi but you still like him and you also asked if he liked women? The fuck? How was he supposed to hear that other than "you're not special, I like everyone"? Maybe you meant "I'm telling you who I am" and were trying to feel him out but that was a dumbass way to do it.

You two are speaking completely different languages and neither of you is translating.

Edit: Whoever gave me gold for yelling at this man: thank you, I will use this power irresponsibly.

 3.2k points  Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

Excuse me? I am not stupid. I am very intelligent. I speak multiple languages.



1.3k points



Reply Share Report Save



BagelBitch_BOS · 2 hours ago

And in how many of those languages have you said "I like you more than just for sex" to this man?



4.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 2 hours ago

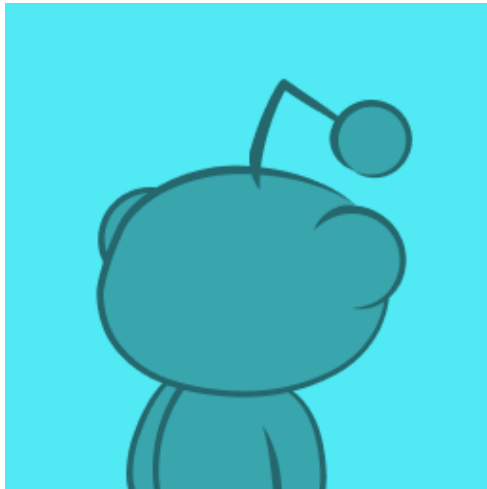
I am reporting you to the Mods



2.6k points



Reply Share Report Save



LateNightLurker22 · 3 hours ago

"I said his first name and I broke the rule because of some reason I do not know, I wish I knew. I broke it because it wanted it to be broken, maybe."

I'm going to lie on the floor now. Does anyone need anything while I'm down here.

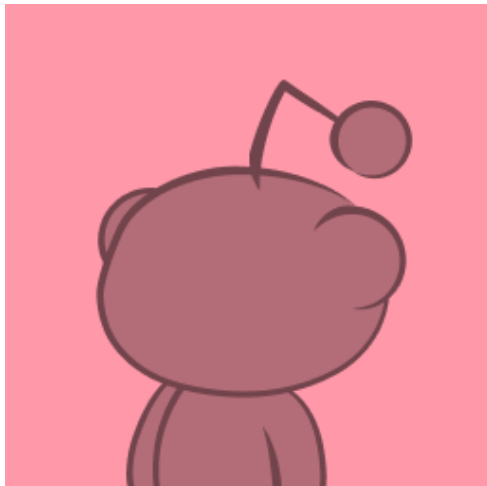
I hope you're okay, OP.



2.4k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



becky_with_the_good_hair · 2 hours ago

Already there. Brought snacks.



876 points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



deleted_my_ex · 2 hours ago

Room for one more? I'm emotionally compromised.



645 points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 2 hours ago



3.5k points



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Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter!

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ “I liked/loved it!”
- 🖥️ “this wasn't my favorite”
- 🖥️ “Lurking”
- ⭐ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

Chapter 3: u/OrangeSpyder617: UPDATE 2

Chapter Summary

UPDATE 2: I (26M) invited my hookup (26M) to my home and ruined everything. He is seeing someone else now.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



3.4k



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/OrangeSpyder617 4 hours ago.

UPDATE 2: I (26M) invited my hookup (26M) to my home and ruined everything. He is seeing someone else now.

Relationships

It has been a month. He is now dating a woman. A famous woman. I found out from a coworker who does not know about us (nobody knows about us) and who told me like it was happy news and I had to stand there and say "oh, good for him." There are pictures of them together everywhere and she is beautiful, and they look happy, and I am sitting in my house with ginger ale in my fridge and his forgotten clothes like a fucking museum exhibit.

Is he dating her because I asked? Did I remind him that women exist? There are more enemies than ever before.

He did not understand a single thing I was trying to tell him. Not my name on his skin in the dark. I practically set myself on fire in front of him and he asked if the room was warm. None of it reached him.

Or worse: it reached him and he ran anyway.

I do not know which option is worse and I refuse to think about it any longer because I have already thought about it for a month and it has made me stupid at work.

How am I supposed to continue living like this, seeing him for work, his taste in my mouth as I drink each flattening can? How am I supposed to function. I still have to see him for work. We will be in the same city next month and I will have to stand across from him and pretend he is only my rival and nothing else. I cannot tell a single person on earth what I feel for him because of what it would do to both of our careers and possibly our lives.

If your advice is "move on" do not bother. I cannot move on. I already tried. Many times. With many beautiful people. It does not work. He has ruined me. No one else will do. I hate him for that too. Is it possible to die from wanting?

I am deleting this account after this post. Some of you in the last thread made comments about my job and I prefer not to be identified.

English is not my first language. I am too tired to care about mistakes.

 112 comments

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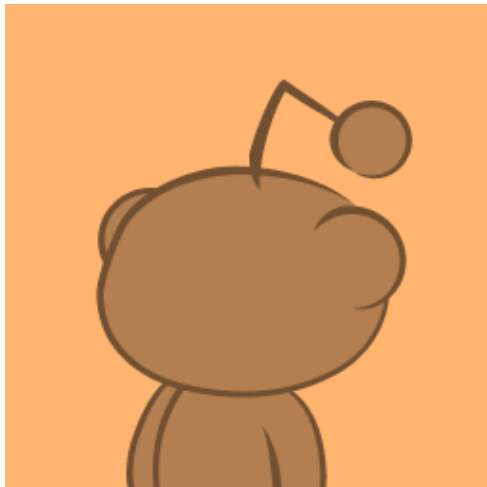
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CanUFindMe · 3 hours ago

"Did I remind him that women exist?" is genuinely one of the funniest things I've ever read on this sub. I'm so sorry OP but I am screaming.

 890 points



 Reply

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ohio_guy_1987 · 2 hours ago

This is fake btw. No one writes like this about a real person. This reads like a Tumblr post from 2014.



-12



Reply Share Report Save



throwaway_gay · 2 hours ago

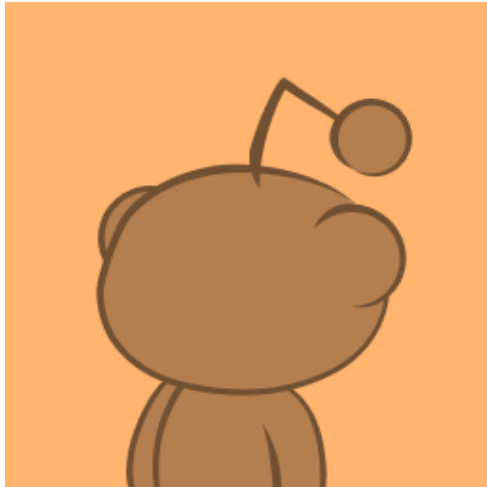
He literally said English isn't his first language. ESL speakers write differently. Shocking, I know.



445 points



Reply Share Report Save



throwaway_gay · 3 hours ago

The part about your coworker telling you like it's good news is brutal. Having to smile through that is its own kind of hell.



1.3k points



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OrangeSpyder617 OP · 3 hours ago

He showed me photographs. On his phone. Scrolling through them. "They look so good together, right?" And I am standing there with my coffee and I have to say yes, they do look good together, because they DO, and that is the worst part. She is stunning and kind and successful. I have no argument against her. She wins on paper. She wins in public. She wins everywhere except in the dark with me, and no one will ever know that.



2.7k points

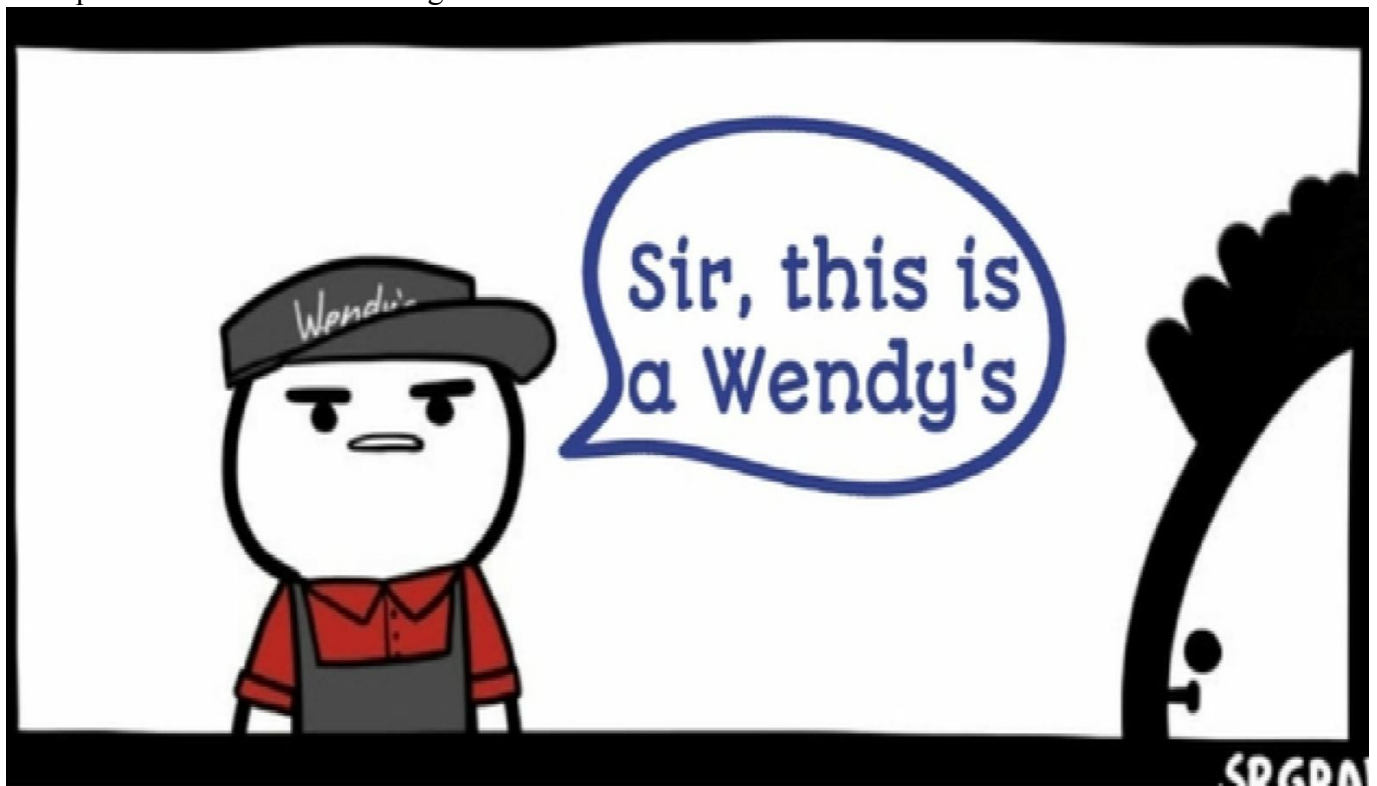


Reply Share Report Save



ChaosGremlin99 · 3 hours ago

"Is it possible to die from wanting?"



No but it IS possible to die from being this dramatic. You'll be fine king. Delete the account, hit the gym, get a hobby.



1.6k points



Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 2 hours ago

I am in the best shape of any person you have ever spoken to. I also have many hobbies. I have cars. I have fashion. I have a job where I am the best in the world at what I do. None of this helps. The problem is not a lack of hobbies. The problem is I am in love with an idiot who drives a Jeep Cherokee.



3.8k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



ChaosGremlin99 · 2 hours ago

what's wrong with jeep cherokees



734 points



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OrangeSpyder617 OP · 2 hours ago

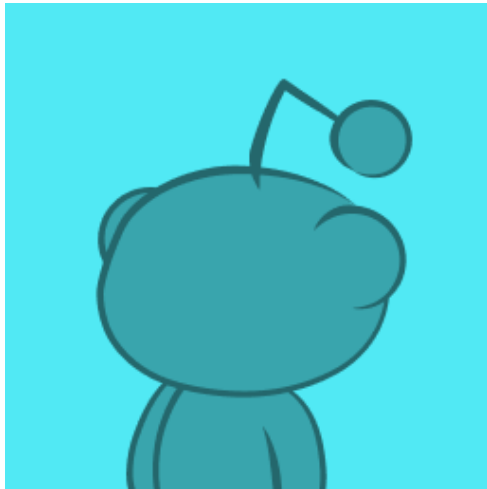
Everything.



2.9k points



Reply Share Report Save



JerseyDevil_throwaway · 3 hours ago

"I cannot tell a single person on earth"

This is the thing people don't talk about enough. It's not just the heartbreak, it's that you can't even have the heartbreak properly because no one in your life knows the relationship existed. You can't grieve what you were never allowed to have openly.



2.1k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 2 hours ago

Yes. This is it exactly. My best friend could see I was not okay last week and asked what was wrong and I told her I was tired from work. She believed me because why wouldn't she. I have no ex to point to. No breakup story. No photographs of us outside of 6 I stole from work event and keep on my phone. There is no evidence I was ever his except for a shirt that smells less like him every day and I am afraid to wash it because then there will be nothing.



3.2k points



Reply Share Report Save



sockdrawer_feelings · 2 hours ago

OP please don't do this to yourself. Keeping the shirt is only going to make it harder.



987 points



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TrashPanda_Esq · 2 hours ago

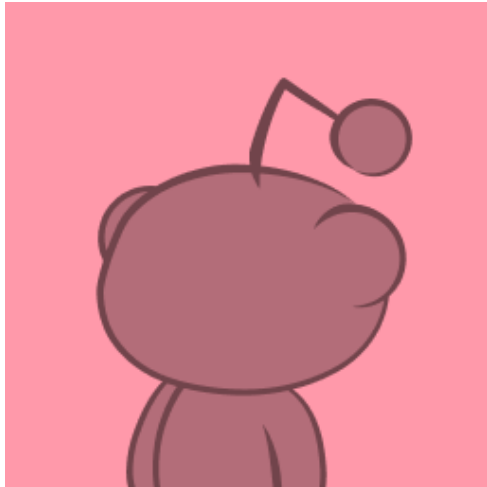
"There are more enemies than ever before" what does this MEAN. Are you a spy. Is he a spy. What field has this many enemies.



1.2k points



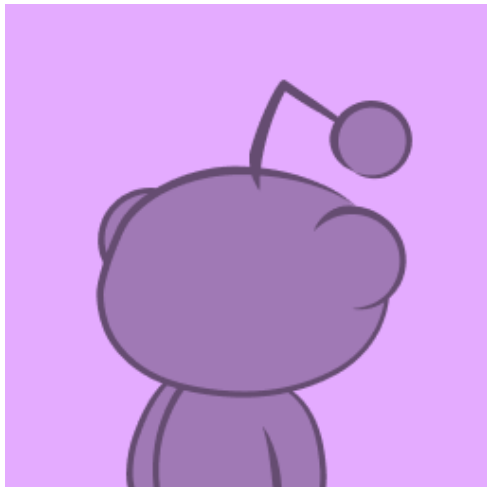
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YikesOnBikes_ · 1 hour ago

My guy you are 26. You have been doing this since you were 20. You are going to look back at this in ten years and either be married to this man or in so much therapy. There is no middle ground here.

 1.7k points   Reply Share Report Save



Spiritual_Lynx42 · 2 hours ago

I think you need to be honest with yourself about what happened here. You didn't ruin it because you said his name. You ruined it because you spent six years building a structure where feelings weren't allowed and then expected him to understand when you suddenly changed the terms without telling him. He panicked because you moved the goalposts without warning. That's not his fault.

 1.8k points  Reply Share Report Save



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 2 hours ago

I know.

I know that is what happened. You do not have to tell me. I know I built the cage and then got angry when he acted like he was in one.

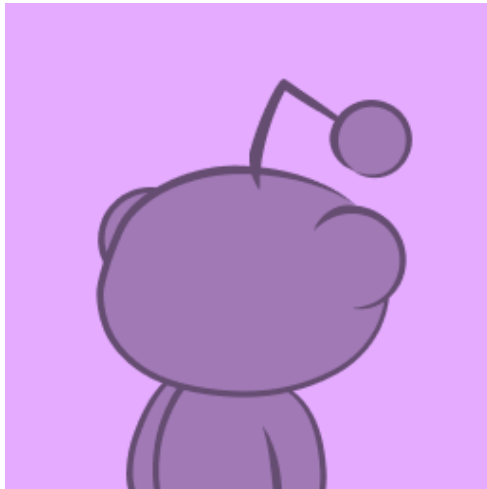
But I did not know how to say it differently. I am not good with words in English. I am not even good with them in my own language when it matters. Everything I feel for him is too large to fit into a sentence. I tried to show him instead. I thought the dinner, the drink, the invitation—I thought he would see it. He sees everything else. He is the smartest person I know. How did he not see this?



2.5k points



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Spiritual_Lynx42 · 1 hour ago

Because smart people are often the worst at reading situations where they're afraid of the answer.



2.0k points



[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



OrangeSpyder617 OP · 1 hour ago

Then we are both afraid and both stupid and both alone



3.6k points

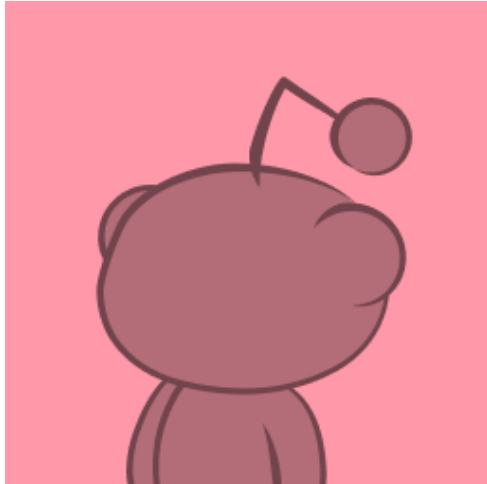


Reply Share Report Save



MusicallyChaos · 2 hours ago

Okay but "you ruined it" is a lot. Yes, there was a mismatch of expectations, and OP probably should have had an actual conversation with his partner instead of implying all of it with food, but you can't build something like this alone. OP, the way your relationship had been previously working is not entirely your doing. Your partner has responsibility too! I hope you reach out to him again one day. It seems like he made you really happy.



BagelBitch_BOS · 1 hour ago

"I am deleting this account after this post".

Don't. This is the best content this sub has had in months.





OrangeSpyder617 OP · 1 hour ago

I am glad my suffering entertains you. Иди на хуй. Goodbye.



2.3k points



Reply Share Report Save



nott_kot · 2 hours ago

"I practically set myself on fire in front of him and he asked if the room was warm."

Oh, honey, I know that you kissed the brick when you threw it



973



Reply Share Report Save

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter!

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ "I liked/loved it!"
- 🌈 "this wasn't my favorite"
- 💻 "Lurking"
- ★ "Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox"
- 🗡️ "this usually isnt my thing... and yet"
- 💀 "how dare you (affectionate)"

Chapter 4: u/GingerAle_MTL

Chapter Summary

I (26M) have been hooking up with someone (26M) for six years and I think I may have made an error in how I've been handling it. I would appreciate outside perspective.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



1.5k



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/GingerAle_MTL 2 hours ago.

I (26M) have been hooking up with someone (26M) for six years and I think I may have made an error in how I've been handling it. I would appreciate outside perspective.

Relationships

I need to get this out somewhere. I don't talk about personal things. I have one close friend and he doesn't know about any of this. My family doesn't know. I am a very private person and I have spent my entire adult life keeping certain things under control, and right now I am not in control of anything and I don't know how to function like this.

I will try to keep this organized. Sorry, this is a lot. I don't talk about personal things and I've never posted here before, but I need an outside perspective because I think my judgment might be compromised.

Some context: I'm a very private person. I have a demanding career that requires focus and discipline. I don't drink much, I eat well, I train hard, and I keep my personal life separate from everything else. I have a small number of close friends and a supportive family, none of whom know about the situation I'm about to describe.

With that in mind, here it goes: I've been involved with a man for about six years. We work in the same field, but we're direct competitors. We meet when our schedules overlap, always in private. It

always was hidden well, we'd text each other hotel rooms using fake names, and whenever we did talk to one another face to face it was last names only.

About two months ago, though he invited me to his home for the first time. His actual home, not a hotel even though I was in his city and that's what we normally do. He cooked food and had all sorts of things for me there, including this one niche brand of soda I like. At first I thought he probably had it leftover from a party or something. He is a social person. He probably entertains a lot.

I'm not sure anymore though; don't most people in America buy Schweppes?

Anyway. We talked for hours, and that is a big deal for me because I don't talk to people for hours. I don't like talking too much usually since I always worry about what I'm supposed to be saying, but with him I kept wanting to say more, and kept wanting to hear what he'd say next, but one point the conversation got strange. He started talking about some woman he used to hook up with and??? I didn't know why he was telling me this???

Then he asked me if I liked girls, out of nowhere, while we were eating. I said yes because what else do you say. It's supposed to be yes. Then he said he liked girls but he also liked me. I still don't know what that meant. Was he comparing me to a girl? Was he saying I'm an exception? Was he making fun of me? He likes to tease and is sort of a dick. Like okay I get it that you like women and I'm just here and easy but then during sex he said my first name!

So he doesn't like me as a person but enough for sex and likes women but then my name? Worse, I said his name back. I didn't mean to. It came out before I could stop it, and the moment I heard myself say it, I realized I'd been wanting to say it for years.

But last names meant it was separate from the rest of my life, meant it was a thing I did but not a thing I was. So I panicked and I left and I couldn't find my clothes fast enough so I grabbed his shirt and wore it out of the apartment and took a cab to the hotel and sat in the back seat trying to remember how to breathe.

I started dating a woman shortly after. She's a public figure. She's smart and kind and funny, and when she kisses me I feel like I'm reading a manual for a machine I don't own. I keep trying to make it work because she is everything I should want, and I like her genuinely as a person, but every time she touches me my brain edits her out and replaces her with someone else. Light brown curly hair instead of blonde straight hair. Stubble instead of smooth skin. Broader shoulders. A crooked smile I would recognize from across any room on earth.

She can tell, I think. She hasn't said it directly, but I can see her figuring it out, and I feel terrible because she deserves someone who is fully there, and I haven't been fully there a single time we've been together.

Here is the part I need help with.

Last week his organization played in my city. He and I did not speak. We have not spoken since the night I left his apartment. After the game, I went out with my girlfriend and her friends to a club. I don't like clubs because they're kind of a lot and they're loud and I can't dance or drink enough to be comfortable without compromising my performance at work, and all the bassy music gives me a headache. But I went because that's what boyfriends do.

And... he was there. At the same club.

And he was there with a girl.

I wish I could tell you I stayed where I was. That I saw him and looked away and went back to my girlfriend and forgot about it. But I didn't. I walked toward him. I didn't even decide to do it—my feet moved and I followed them through the crowd until I was close enough to see the sweat on his skin and the way his hair was curling from the heat of the room. He was dancing with her and she had her back against him and he was watching her with this look on his face that I recognized because I have been on the receiving end of it in dark rooms for six years. Her hands were under his shirt. And I stood there in the middle of a dance floor full of people, not moving, not dancing, just watching him kiss someone else like I was bolted to the floor. I don't know how long I stood there.

And then he looked up and caught me staring and I felt like it was like payback, like he wanted it to hurt, and it did.

I left the club and told my girlfriend I had a headache. I made it about four blocks before I had to pull over because I was crying so hard I couldn't see the road.

I don't cry. I can count on one hand the number of times I've cried as an adult. I sat in my car on a side street in my own city at midnight, forehead on the steering wheel, sobbing like the whole structure of my life had caved in, and I couldn't stop. I sat there for almost an hour. My hands were shaking. I couldn't catch my breath.

I think I've been in love with him for years.

I think that I ran back in November because it was this huge thing for me and I didn't know how to handle it, and I think I'm gay, like *completely* gay. I'm almost sure of it.

I should probably have figured that out sooner considering the six-year data set.

And the only person I've ever wanted to talk to about that is the person I hurt. God, I can still hear him going back to using my last name when I left like "see, no, wait, I can make it better" and I hate how his voice sounded then.

I don't know what to do. I don't know how to fix this. I don't know if it's fixable. He hasn't contacted me. I haven't contacted him.

I'm sorry if this is long. I told you I'm not good at talking about personal things. Apparently I am better at typing them to strangers on the internet at 2am while sitting in my kitchen eating dry cereal and wondering where my life went wrong.



112 comments

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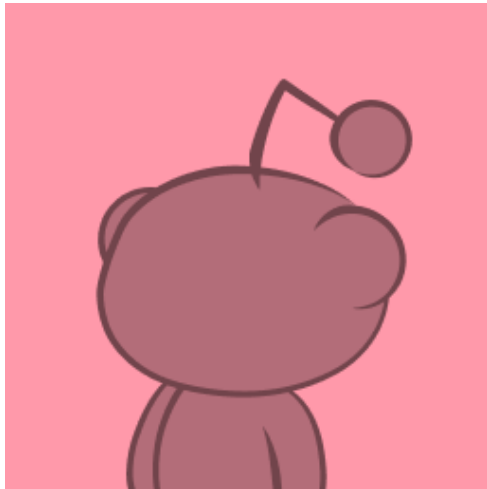


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sockdrawer_feelings · 2 hours ago

First of all, you're not broken. You're just late. A lot of people don't figure this stuff out until they're forced to, and it sounds like seeing him with someone else was what forced it. That's normal. That's okay.



845 points Reply

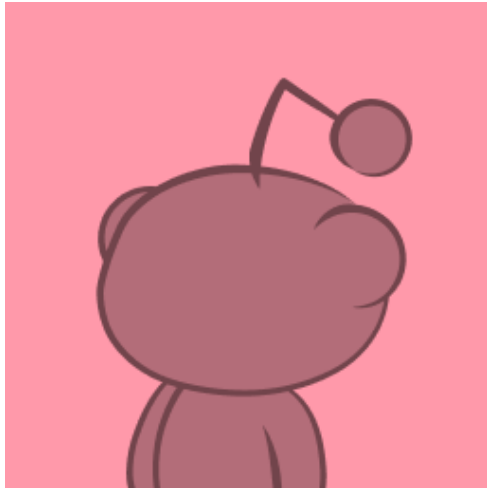


GingerAle_MTL OP · 1 hour ago

Thank you. I keep telling myself that but it doesn't feel normal. It feels like everyone else got a memo about how to be a person and I missed it because I was working.



612 points Reply



sockdrawer_feelings · 1 hour ago

Honey that is the most closeted-workaholic thing I've ever read.



432 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 45 mins ago

That's fair.



218 points Reply



NeonYearning · 1 hour ago

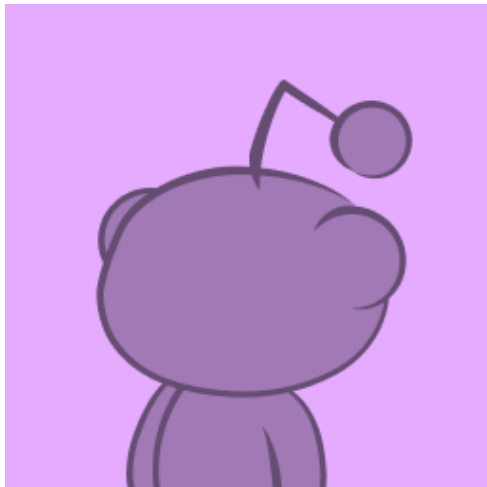
This club scene is playing out in my head with bisexual lighting because there are girlfriends and ex almost boyfriends and everyone is a mess and yearning



1.2k points

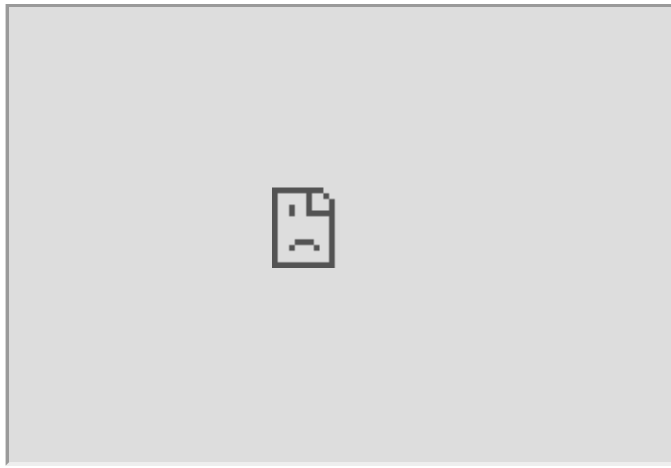


Reply

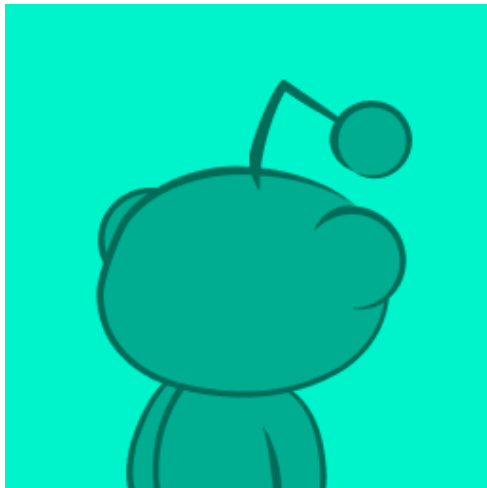


MusicLover99 · 45 mins ago

Alexa play "All The Things She Said"



 3.4k points  Reply



ChaosGremlin99 · 2 hours ago

“I should probably have figured that out sooner considering the six-year data set.”

SIX YEARS??? My man you have been running a longitudinal study on yourself and ignoring the results. YTA for emotional illiteracy.

 1.2k points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 1 hour ago

What does YTA mean? In my defense, I was very focused on my career and I thought if I performed well enough at everything else, this particular thing would sort itself out on its own. That strategy works in every other area of my life.



812 points Reply



ChaosGremlin99 · 1 hour ago

It means “You’re the asshole”. And that strategy does not work for being gay.



543 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 45 mins ago

I am learning that.



312 points Reply

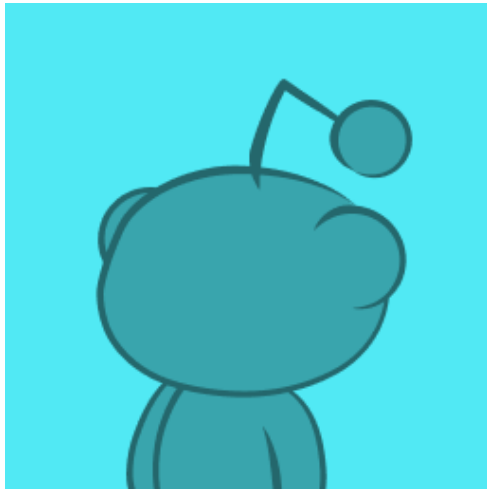


BagelBitch_BOS · 2 hours ago

Okay I might be losing my mind here but does anyone else remember that post from a few weeks ago? The guy with the ESL English and the sports cars who cooked for his hookup and the hookup freaked out and left? The account got deleted but the details are VERY similar. Six years, same field, rivals, last names only, a specific drink in the fridge...



2.1k points Reply

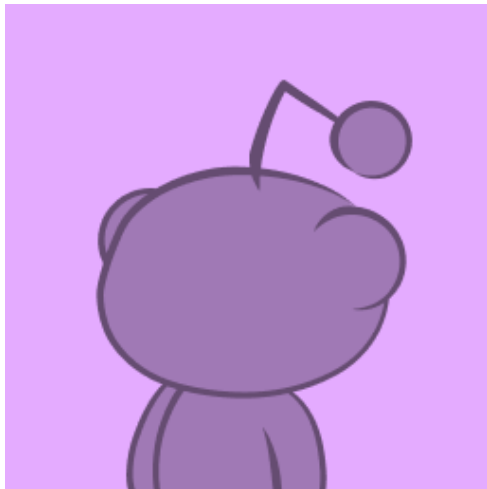


JerseyDevil_throwaway · 1 hour ago

WAIT. I remember that post. The tuna melt guy??? Oh my god. Username checks out though, holy shit. Ginger Ale!



1.5k points Reply



MapleSyrupShibari · 1 hour ago



NO. NO WAY. Are you telling me both of them posted on this sub????



982 points Reply

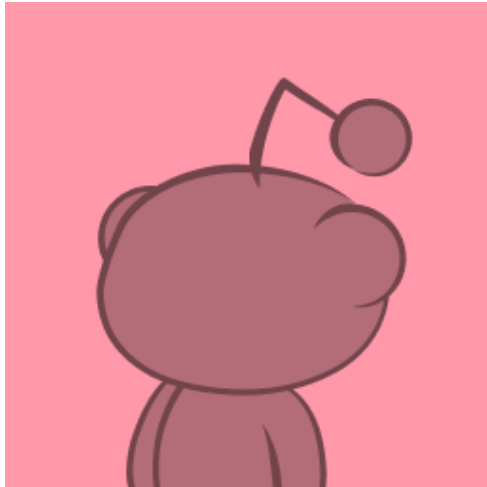


BagelBitch_BOS · 1 hour ago

I'm saying the timelines match. The first guy posted in October about inviting his hookup over. Then in November about it going wrong—the hookup panicked and ran after they used first names. Then in December about the hookup dating a famous woman. And NOW this guy shows up in January describing all of that from the other side. Someone find that thread.



1.8k points Reply

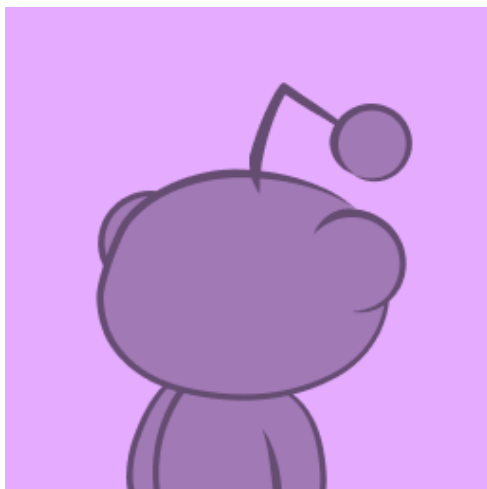


sockdrawer_feelings · 45 mins ago

The account was u/OrangeSpyder617. He deleted after the last post, but I remember the December one—he said “he has ruined me, no one else will do.”



2.3k points Reply



MapleSyrupShibari · 30 mins ago

OP. You need to read those posts. I don't think he was playing games with you. I think he's in love with you and has been trying to tell you in every way he knows how and you didn't see it.



1.6k points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 20 mins ago

What posts? What are you talking about?



843 points Reply



BagelBitch_BOS · 15 mins ago

A user posted on this sub three times in the last few months. Same situation as yours but from the other side. He described cooking for his hookup. Buying a specific Canadian drink he'd never buy for himself. The hookup panicking after first names. Then the hookup dating a famous woman. He deleted his account in December.



1.1k points Reply

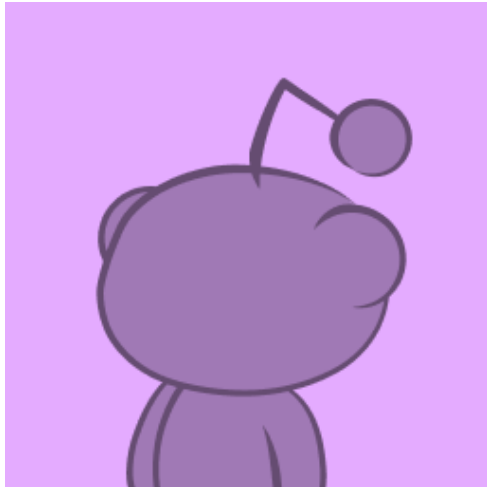


GingerAle_MTL OP · 5 mins ago

I don't understand. How do I find these posts?

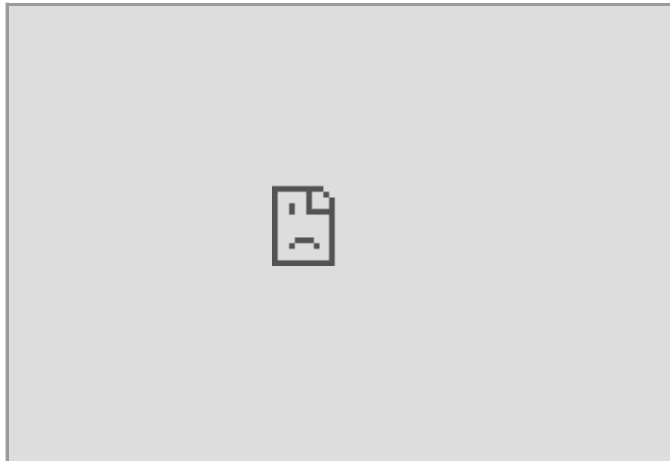


912 points Reply



Woombles · 45 mins ago

My guy YOU dumped him and started dating someone else



3.4k points



Reply



dreamersreality · 6 hours ago

I'm going to hold your hand when I say this—this is the most convoluted, roundabout, insane, inefficient way I've ever seen two people try to come together. And that's OKAY. But please figure it out because you're making my brain hurt. Xx



3.1k points Reply

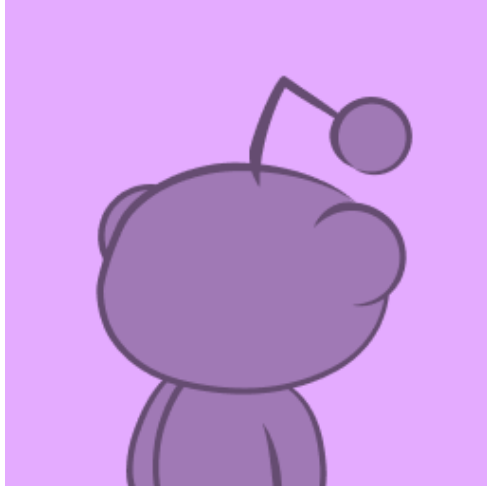


sillywillywhimsy · 4 hours ago

ORANGESPIDER617 WE FOUND YOUR BOYFRIEND COME BACK BISEXUAL AVATAR
DISAPPEARED WHEN THE REDDIT NEEDED HIM MOST



2.1k points Reply



blueskyearth · 3 hours ago

Oh my God !!!C'mon Redditors we've solved cold cases, identified plants from a single blurry leaf
, tracked down a couch from a 2003 sitcom episode , we can get these 2 idiots together !
Internet..Do your thing!



1.1k points Reply



StepByStep_90 · 4 hours ago

OP did OrangeSpyder get you pregnant



1.2k points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 3 hours ago

What



843 points Reply



ChaosGremlin99 · 2 hours ago

Darn, shit okay. Maybe he will need to try again. If OP lets him try to knock him up again.



2.1k points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 1 hour ago

WHAT?



1.5k points Reply

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter!

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ “I liked/loved it!”
- 🌊 “this wasn't my favorite”
- 💻 “Lurking”
- ★ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

Chapter 5: u/kidnapped4times

Chapter Summary

Men of Reddit, I (26F) think my boyfriend (26M) might be gay. Am I crazy or am I seeing a pattern?

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



9.1k



r/AskMen · Posted by u/kidnapped4times 3 hours ago.

Men of Reddit, I (26F) think my boyfriend (26M) might be gay. Am I crazy or am I seeing a pattern?

Advice

I want to start by saying I love my boyfriend! We met at a mutual friend's party and talked movies over fries. He is sky and sort of quiet, but honestly the funniest person I know. He's thoughtful, he remembers things I tell him, he watches my terrible movies and pretends they're good (they're not, I know they're not, I've been kidnapped in four of them), and he's the kind of guy who would drive three hours in a snowstorm to bring you soup. He is a good man (with a KILLER body) and I am not posting this to make fun of him or humiliate him. I am posting this because I think I already know the answer and I need someone to tell me I'm not projecting.

Some context: I work in an industry where a lot of people aren't out. I've dated a few men before this who turned out to be gay, both actors. One of them came out two years after we broke up and called me to apologize and I told him there was nothing to apologize for and I meant it. I know what this looks like. I know the shape of it and... I think I'm seeing it again. But at least all the times before I was someone's beard or they broke up with ME when they figured it out.

Here's the evidence, and I'm sorry in advance because this is going to be long:

- The sex! I don't want to be graphic, but I will say that I have never had this problem with a man before. He tries. He tries *so hard*. He's attentive and sweet and clearly wants it to work. But it's like he's reading from a script someone else wrote. There's no... urgency? I don't know how else to describe it. He is there but he's not into it. Every other man I've been with has had a moment where they kind of get into it and I can tell they're excited. He never gets there, it's like he's on autopilot. We've had a few attempts and they've all been what I would charitably call "technically incomplete," because while I (sometimes) finish, he almost never does. He gets frustrated with himself after, and I can tell he's embarrassed, and it breaks my heart because I know he's not doing it on purpose. It's very square peg and round hole sort of situation
- How he looks at me. I *know* how men look at me. I'm sorry if that sounds arrogant, but I have a pretty good dataset at this point. Men stare. They trip over their words. They get nervous. My boyfriend looks at me like I'm his favorite person at a dinner party, big smiles, the whole deal, but I never get bedroom eyes from him even when I'm wearing something skimpy. He has literally never once looked at me like he couldn't breathe, and I keep waiting for it and it doesn't come
- How he kisses me. He kisses me like he's greeting an old friend at an airport. Perfectly nice. Absolutely zero heat behind it, it's like how you might peck someone on the cheek. I've tried initiating more aggressively and he freezes for about half a second before recovering.
- How he is with his body. He's an athlete (I'm not going to say what kind, please don't ask) and so he's very disciplined about his body in general, but it's more than that. When I touch him in certain ways, like putting my hand on his chest, running my fingers through his hair, he goes rigid for just a moment and then forces himself to relax. Like he's overriding something. I grew up with three older brothers and I know what it looks like when a man is uncomfortable. It's subtle, but it's there.
- The club. We went out with my friends last week. He doesn't really like clubs, which is fine, lots of people hate clubs. But he was so distracted the whole time. Not in a "this is loud and annoying" way. In a "I am somewhere else entirely" way. For a while I thought it was because this one visiting sports team crashed the club (re: again, boyfriend is into sports), and at one point he disappeared for a while and when he came back he said he had a headache and wanted to leave. I said okay and he took himself home (I left with my friend), and when I FaceTimed him the next day he was very quiet and his eyes looked red, and when I asked if he was alright he said he was fine. He is not good at acting, and he was not fine.

I don't think he's cheating on me, but I don't know what HAPPENED. There was a moment last night where my (male) friend and I were both dancing with him at the same time, and I am wondering nonstop if that triggered something in him, like he was having more fun dancing with my friend than me? He is the sort of person that would feel guilty, I think, about that while dating me. To be fair, he is a little thick with his feelings, so I think he might not even know what's going on with himself. He comes from a very traditional sports family and I don't think this is something he's ever allowed himself to examine. I don't think there's anyone in his league that's out as gay.

So here are my questions:

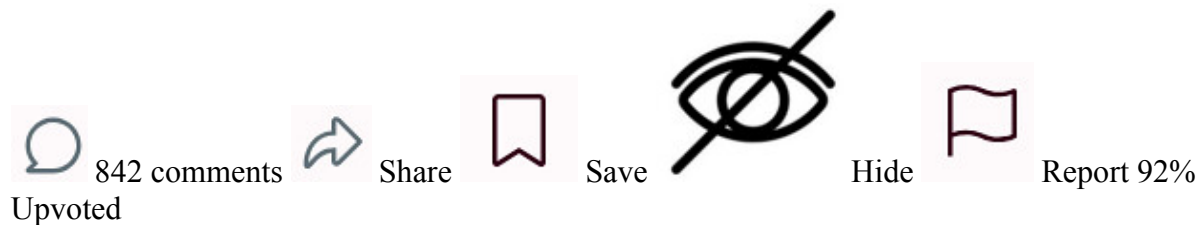
1. Am I seeing a pattern that isn't there because of my history, or does this sound like what I think it sounds like?
2. If I'm right, how do I have this conversation without making him feel ambushed or exposed? I want to open a door for him, not kick one down. He deserves to figure this out on his own terms.

3. More about my male friend from the club: he's an actor I work with, he's gay, and he's wonderful. He's a babe!!! He's also told me a few times how hot he thinks my boyfriend is, and how jealous he is of me. Would it be insane to casually suggest they follow each other on Instagram? I'm not trying to set them up. (Okay, maybe a little, could you IMAGINE me walking arm in arm with these two baddies? I want a boyfriend and I want the boyfriends to be boyfriends... /s) I just think my boyfriend needs someone in his life who *gets it* in a way I never will.

4. How do I break up with someone in a way that says "I love you and I *see you* and none of this is your fault" instead of "I'm leaving because you're broken"? Because he's not broken. He's just not mine.

Thank you. Please be kind. He's a good person and he's trying his best.

EDIT: A few of you are trying to guess who I am. Please stop. This is a throwaway for a reason and I will delete this post if it gets weird.



What are your thoughts? [Log in](#) or [Sign up](#) [log in](#) [sign up](#)

Sort by relevance



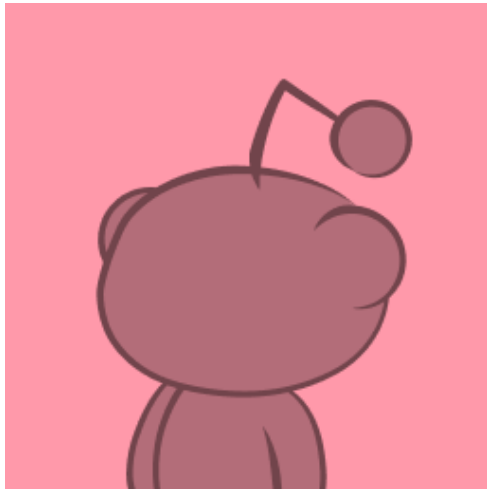
definitelynotatherapist · 2 hours ago

you asked how to break up without making him feel broken. Here's what worked when my sister did this for her college boyfriend — she didn't frame it as "I think you're gay." She framed it as "I think we both deserve someone who's crazy about us, and I don't think either of us is that person for the other." Took the pressure off him entirely. He came out eight months later and thanked her.

Also: wine. Have wine available. For both of you.



1.6k Reply



kidnapped4times OP · 1 hour ago

I know exactly where to take him. There's a wine bar where we had one of our best dates. Private table in the back.

And yes there will be wine. Several bottles if necessary.



743 Reply

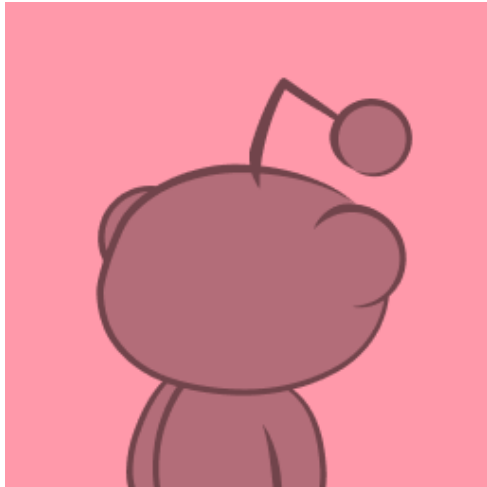


definitelynotatherapist · 45 mins ago

You're going to break up with him at the place you had your best date? That is either the most romantic or the most devastating thing I've ever heard and I genuinely cannot tell which.



892 Reply

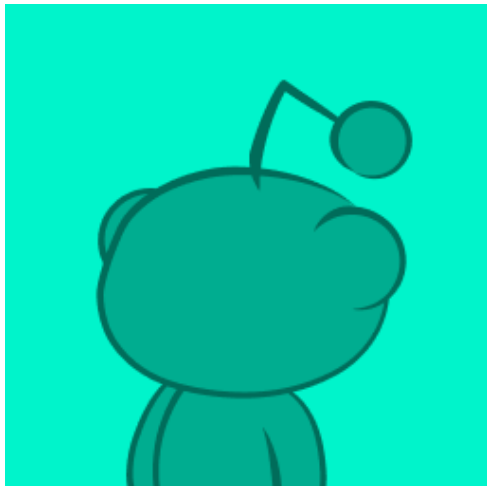


kidnapped4times OP · 40 mins ago

Both. I'm an actress. We love a thematic callback.



2.1k Reply



ex_choir_kid · 22 hours ago

I was your boyfriend in this story. My college girlfriend figured it out before I did. She didn't confront me about it — she just asked me one night if I'd ever thought about what it would be like to be with a man, and the silence that followed was apparently all the answer she needed.

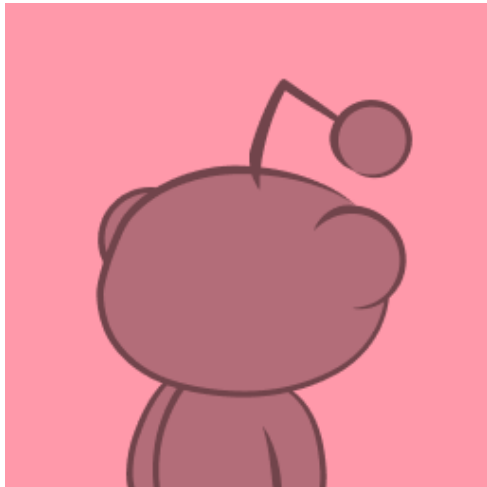
What made it okay was that she didn't make it about her. She didn't cry (at least not in front of me). She didn't say "I knew it." She just said "I think you have some stuff to figure out and I'd rather be your friend while you do that than be the person standing in your way."

Ten years later she was at my wedding. To a man.

Your boyfriend is lucky to have someone who's even asking these questions.



3.1k Reply



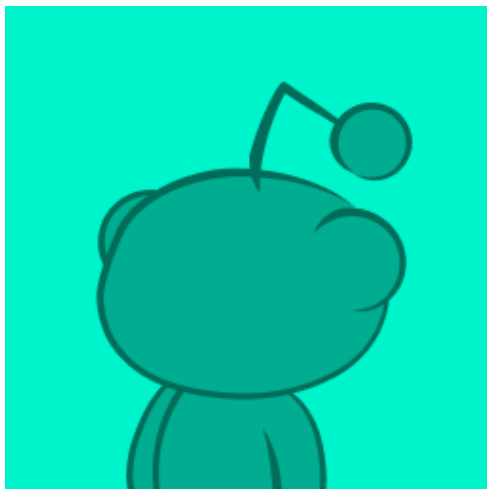
kidnapped4times OP · 2 hours ago

This is exactly what I needed to hear. Thank you. I think I already know I'm going to have this conversation soon. I just want to get it right.

Did you ever resent her for seeing before they were 'out'?



876 Reply



ex_choir_kid · 1 hour ago

At first, a little. Not because she was wrong, but because I wasn't ready to be right. Give him time after. He might need to be angry for a minute before he can be grateful.

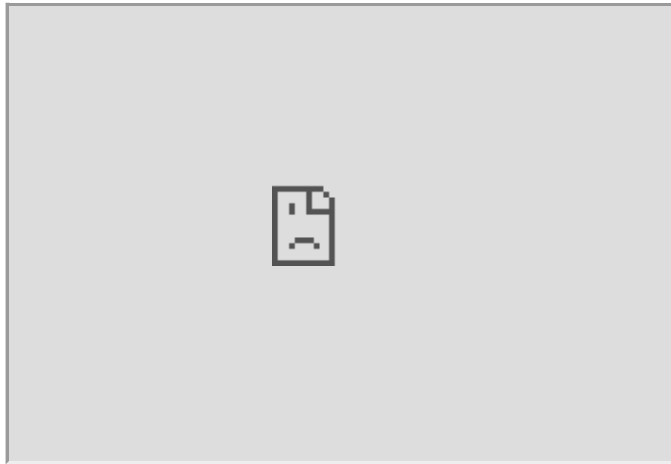


1.4k Reply

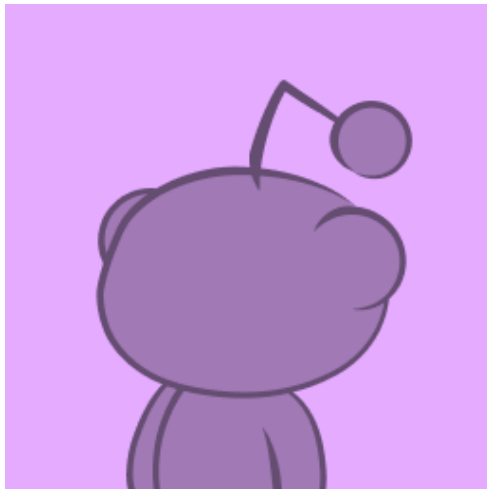
 reddit user icon Shalamarr

Shalamarr · 1 hour ago

Hey, OP, if being subtle doesn't do the trick, try this:



1.3 Reply

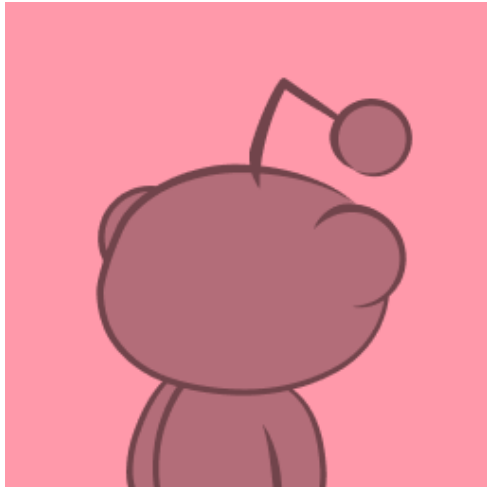


brewksiandbench · 3 hours ago

Have you considered that maybe the sex thing is just performance anxiety? Athletes have insane pressure and their bodies are their whole livelihood. Could be stress. Doesn't necessarily mean he's gay.



342 Reply

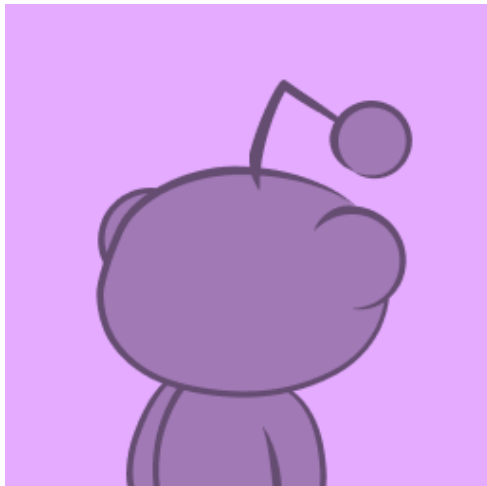


kidnapped4times OP · 2 hours ago

I've considered that! I really have. If it were just the sex I'd agree with you. But it's the sex combined with the kissing combined with the way he flinches when I touch him combined with the look on his face that I can only describe as "trying very hard to want something." I've seen performance anxiety. This isn't that. This is a man who is doing his absolute best with hardware that wasn't designed for this particular software. I say that with love, because I wish that wasn't the case! I just don't do it for him.



2.3k Reply

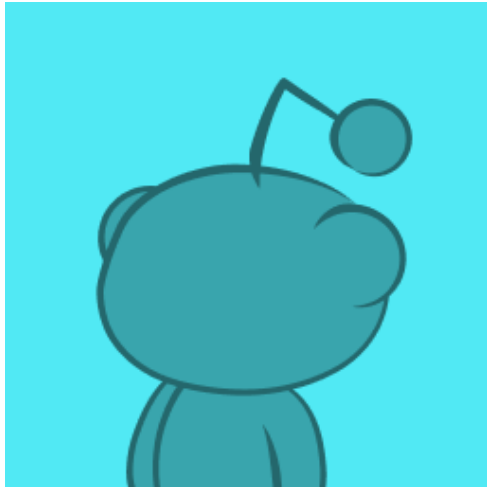


brewksiandbench · 2 hours ago

"hardware that wasn't designed for this particular software" is an insane thing to say and also probably the most accurate description of this situation possible. Fair enough.



978 Reply

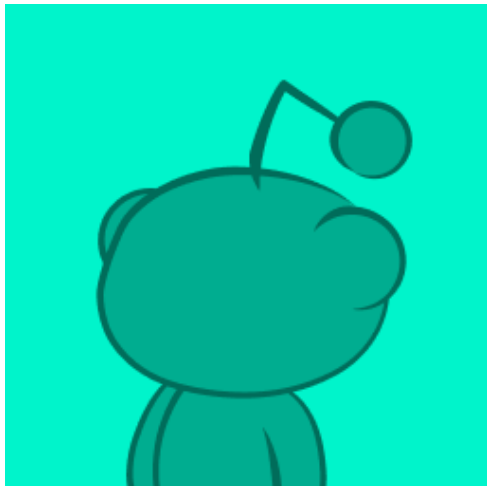


justdave · 3 hours ago

Have you tried lingerie



-89 Reply

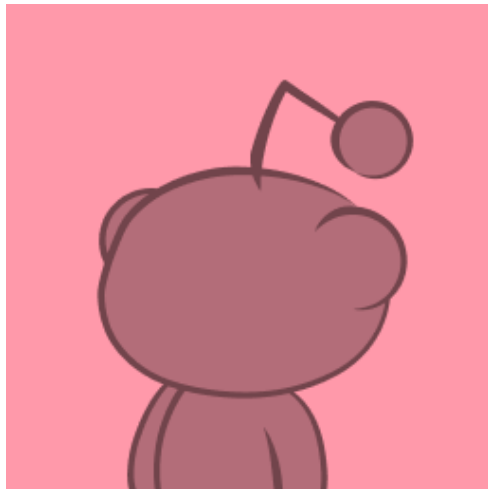


midnight_oil_burner · 2 hours ago

least helpful comment in the history of this subreddit and that is a VERY competitive category



1.1k Reply



kidnapped4times OP · 2 hours ago

I appreciate the suggestion, Dave. I will say with complete confidence that this is not a lingerie problem.



4.3k Reply



greg_from_accounting · 1 hour ago

I just want everyone to appreciate the absolute OP has. Working on her career, about to perform the most compassionate breakup of all time, AND she's already scouting her boyfriend's next relationship. Someone get this woman a project manager title because she is HANDLING this.



2.8k Reply

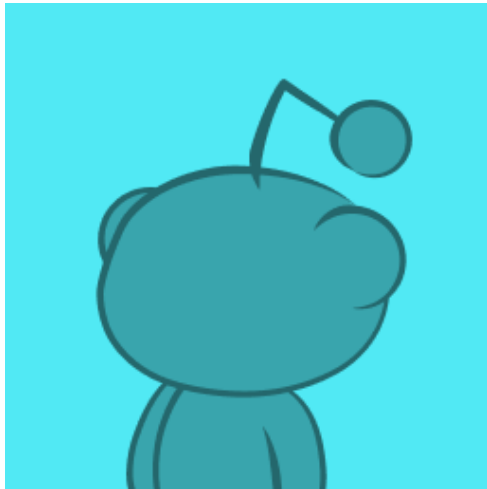


throwawaydude · 45 mins ago

She said "he's not broken, he's just not mine" and I need everyone to understand that I am a 34 year old man sitting in a Wendy's parking lot getting emotional about strangers on the internet.



3.4k Reply



justdave · 30 mins ago

but really lingerie would fix it, or maybe ask another actress chick to 3way him and if that doesn't work for him itll work for me DM me



-204 Reply

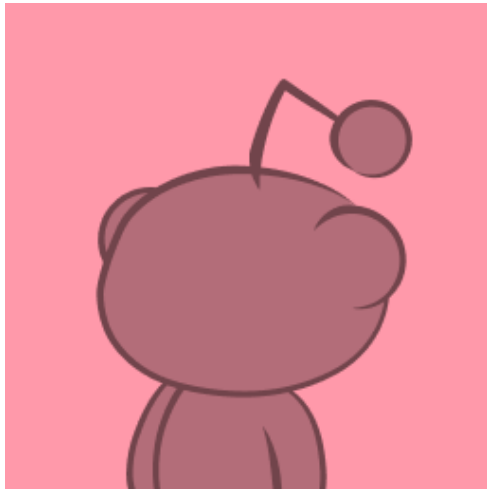


greg_from_accounting · 25 mins ago

DAVE. DAVE STOP.



1.9k Reply



quietlyqueer2891 · 2 hours ago

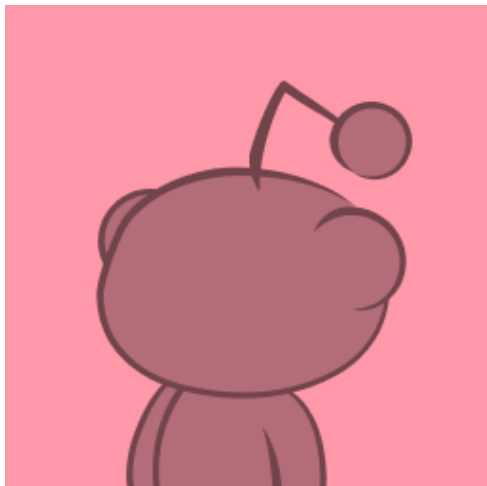
Gay man here. Everything you've described — the effort without desire, the flinching, the overcorrecting, the distance during intimacy — I did all of this with women I dated before I came out. Not because I didn't care about them. Because I cared so much that I kept trying to make it work through sheer willpower, and willpower doesn't change what your body wants.

The club thing especially. You said his eyes were red when he came back. Whatever happened during those minutes he was gone — that wasn't a headache. Something hit him and he didn't have the words for it.

As for the conversation: don't ask him if he's gay. Ask him if he's happy. Ask him if this is what he wants. Let him get to the word on his own.



1.9k Reply Share Report Save



kidnapped4times OP · 1 hour ago

"Ask him if he's happy" just made me tear up a little because I already know the answer and it's the saddest thing about all of this. He *is* happy with me, in a way. I make him laugh. We have inside jokes. He texts me pictures of dogs he sees on walks. But there's a whole part of him that's locked in a room he won't open, and I'm standing on the wrong side of the door.

I think you're right about the club. I've been turning that night over in my head all week. Something happened and I don't know what it was, but he wasn't the same after.



1.8k Reply

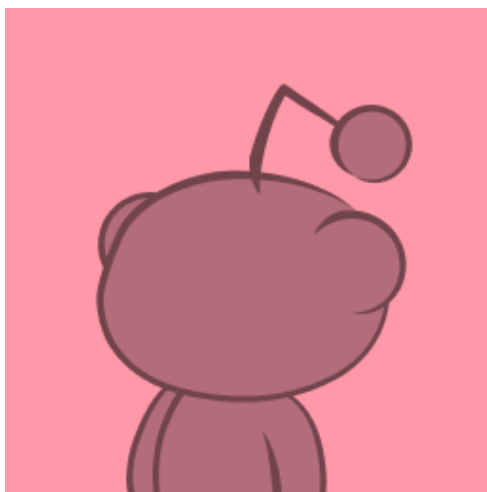


IGPlay · 1 hour ago

Regarding the Instagram thing with your friend: DO IT. Don't make it weird. Don't say "you should follow my friend because he's gay and I think you might be too." Just say "oh you'd love my friend, he's hilarious, you guys have similar taste in [whatever]." Plant the seed. If your boyfriend is gay and figuring it out, having even ONE openly gay man in his peripheral vision, someone successful, someone cool, someone who's fine, could be the thing that makes him realize it's survivable.



931k Reply



kidnapped4times OP · 45 mins ago

"Make him realize it's survivable." God. Yes. That's exactly it. I think he's spent his whole life thinking this is something that would end everything — his career, his family, all of it. And maybe I

can't fix that. But maybe I can put one person in his path who proves it doesn't have to.

My friend would be so good for him. Not even in a romantic way (although, again, my friend has *not* been subtle about finding my boyfriend attractive and that is a problem for another day). Just as proof that you can be a man who likes men and still have a career and friends and a life and be *fine*.



1.5k Reply

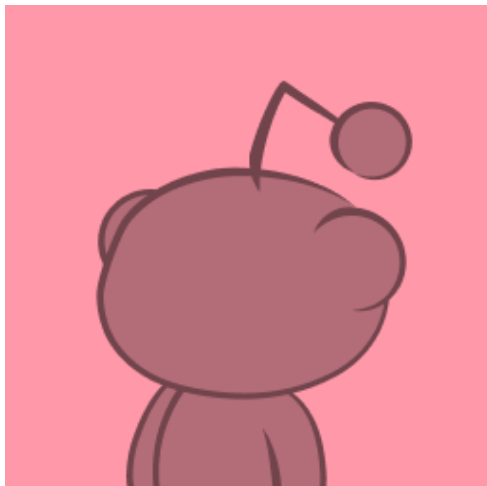


midnight_oil_burner · 30 mins ago

ma'am are you actively trying to set your boyfriend up with another man while still dating him because if so that is the most emotionally evolved thing I have ever witnessed on this website



2.4k Reply>



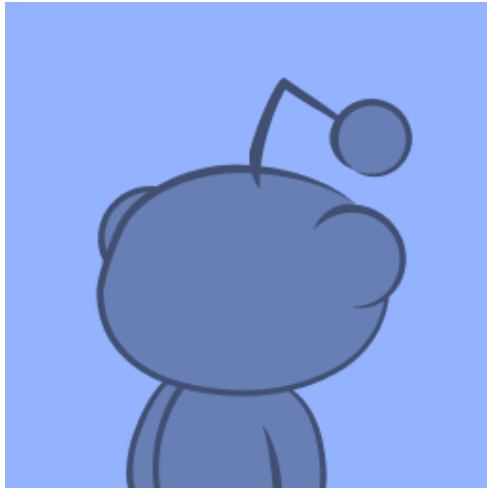
kidnapped4times OP · 25 mins ago

I am NOT setting them up. I am... creating conditions in which love could theoretically flourish in the future, for someone who is not me, with a person I handpicked.

Okay, when I type it out like that it does sound like I'm setting them up.



3.1k Reply



IGPlay · 20 mins ago

You are literally producing and directing your boyfriend's coming out arc. This is the most Hollywood thing I've ever read.



1.8k Reply

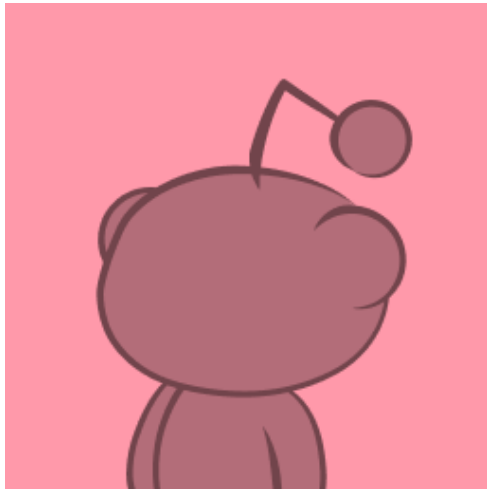


semirelated_tangent · 2 hours ago

No one's going to address the username? Kidnapped FOUR times? Ma'am?



567 Reply



kidnapped4times OP · 1 hour ago

I said I do theatre! It's for work!



1.3k Reply

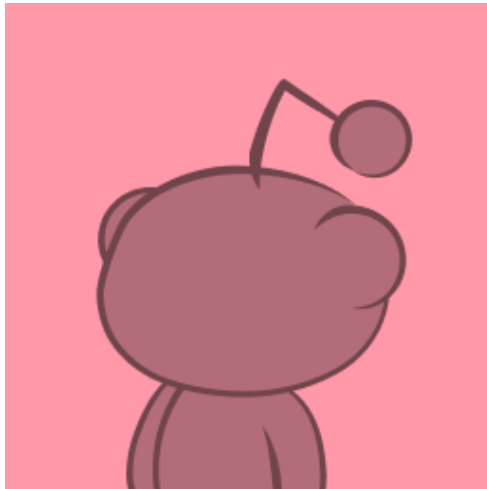


semirelated_tangent · 45 mins ago

this woman has been kidnapped four times for work, has a gay ex who called to apologize, is currently diagnosing her boyfriend's sexuality, and has a backup man waiting in the wings. What is your life.



2.2k Reply



kidnapped4times OP · 30 mins ago

Chaotic. The word you're looking for is chaotic. And honestly it's fine. I'll find a nice bookstore owner or something next time. Someone who is *definitely* attracted to women. Maybe I'll ask for references.



1.8k Reply

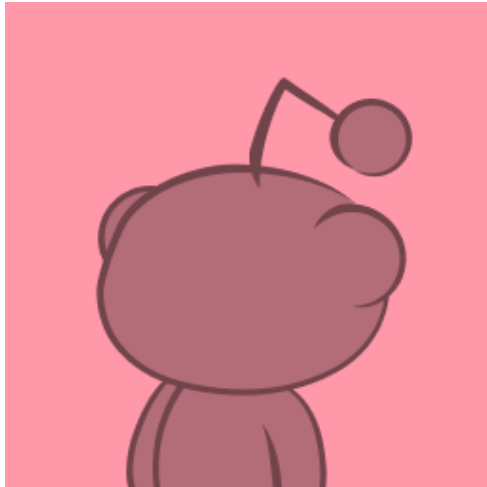


throwawaydude · 2 hours ago

Genuine question: you said you've been through this before with other exes. Does it ever get easier? Being the person who sees it first?



445 ReplyShare Report Save



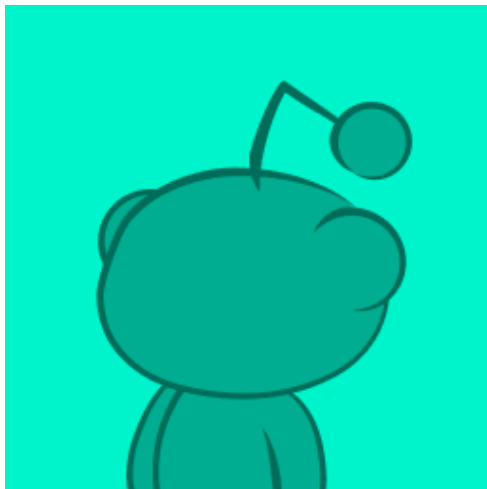
kidnapped4times OP · 45 mins ago

No. It's different every time because the person is different every time. With the first one I was angry because I felt lied to. With the second one I was sad because I saw how scared he was. With this one I just feel... tender? Like I'm holding something fragile and I know I have to put it down but I want to make sure the landing is soft.

Also, at this point, if a man is genuinely, enthusiastically attracted to me, I'm going to be suspicious. My track record is starting to feel like a statistical anomaly.



2.6k Reply

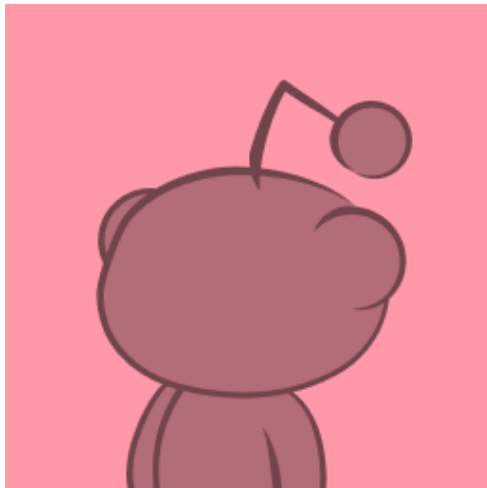


ex_choir_kid · 30 mins ago

For what it's worth, the fact that gay men keep choosing you to try to be straight with says something pretty incredible about you as a person. You're safe. They can tell. That's not nothing. Also I'm sorry I laughed but



1.7k Reply



kidnapped4times OP · 20 mins ago

Well now I'm actually crying. Thank you. I'm going to go plan the kindest breakup in human history and then probably set my boyfriend up with my coworker because apparently that's who I am now.

Thank you, everyone. Seriously. I'll figure out the right time and the right words. He deserves that.



1.9k Reply

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter! Memes/Youtube Links/etc are highly encouraged so long as they are not after 2017.

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ “I liked/loved it!”
- 🌧️ “this wasn't my favorite”
- 💻 “Lurking”
- ⭐ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

Chapter 6: u/GingerAle_MTL: UPDATE

Chapter Summary

UPDATE: I (26M) broke up with my girlfriend. I'm going to see him at a work event next week and I'm going to try to fix this.

Chapter Notes

I am dumb and I uploaded chapters 5 and 6 out of order. Whoops. Please go back to chapter 5 to see the r/AskMen post!

See the end of the chapter for [more notes](#)



3.2k



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/GingerAle_MTL 12 hours ago.

UPDATE: I (26M) broke up with my girlfriend. I'm going to see him at a work event next week and I'm going to try to fix this.

Relationships

I'll keep this short. A lot has happened since my last post.

A week after the nightclub thing, I broke up with my girlfriend, or, really, she broke up with me over wine.

She was incredibly kind about it. She said she already knew, or at least suspected, that she wasn't 'doing it for me' and that she'd rather be my friend than watch me pretend to be happy with her... and really I shouldn't have been surprised. The sex was only okay, and maybe that's when she started to put it together because any straight man would've been in heaven to be in her bed. She asked if I've ever been with a man and... for... the first time in my life I was actually honest about

it. I said yes. She hugged me and told me to go get him, and then she said something about a peg and a hole that made both of us laugh until I almost cried again, which is becoming a habit I'd like to break.

She's a better person than I deserve. We're going to stay friends and I don't think I'll ever deserve her.

So here's where things are now:

I tried to find the old posts everyone was talking about, but they're gone now. There's a major work event in two weeks, and it's sort of an annual thing. I can't really explain what it is without giving our careers away, but he and I will both be there. For the first time, we will be working 'together' which is new because normally we're always opposing each other. And, more importantly, we will be in the same city for an entire weekend.

I have been the stupidest person alive, and I ran because I was scared and because it felt too good to be real and I have spent my entire life believing that if something feels that good, it will be taken away.

I handled things badly. I know that. I left because I was overwhelmed, which is not an excuse, but it's the truth. I have a pattern of retreating when things feel like they might exceed my ability to manage them, and that night exceeded everything.

I'm not going to let that happen this time.

I don't really have a plan? That's new for me because I have plans for everything, but surprise surprise, that all falls apart when it's about him. I'm good at plans when it comes to work, and logistics, and strategy, but the second feelings are involved I turn into a complete disaster. So I'm going in with this:

I'm going to find him next week and I'm going to try to get a minute with him, alone, and tell him that I'm sorry.

And then I'm going to tell him how I feel. With actual words. Out loud. Like a person.

I have never done that before. For anyone. I have never once in my life said those words to someone who wasn't a family member. He might not want to hear it. He might be done with me and I think I'd deserve it, honestly. He deleted his entire account after his last post, and I know what that kind of exhaustion looks like because I have felt it myself. The possibility that I am too late sits in my stomach and I can't think about it for too long without feeling sick.

But I have to try. If I don't try, I will spend the rest of my life wondering, and I have spent enough of my life wondering. I don't really know what he'll say or what he'll think about it. Maybe he'll want to end it and never talk to me again or maybe it's okay?

I'm so nervous; you'd think after six and a half years I would be okay with how fucked up things between us are and have always been but I'm not. Maybe it's because I told someone about it out loud for the first time and I still can't stop thinking about how weird things were the way I left them last time we were together. I've made a list of things I want to say to him. It's on my phone. I have revised it four times. I'm aware that making a bullet-pointed list of feelings to recite to someone is not normal, but I don't trust myself to remember everything in the moment, and I refuse to leave anything out because of nerves.



245 comments



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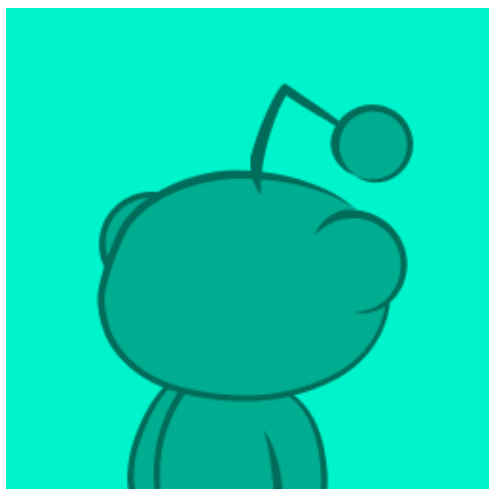
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PNW_hiker_chick · 10 hours ago

"she broke up with me"

I mean this with love: of course she did. She sounds like she has incredible instincts and was never going to sit around waiting for you to admit what she already figured out.



542 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 9 hours ago

She really is remarkable. I don't think I deserved how kind she was about it. She made me laugh during what should have been one of the worst conversations of my life, and then she hugged me, and I almost started crying again which I am trying to stop doing because it has been happening a lot lately and I don't have a great track record with it.

We're going to stay friends. I think she might be the first person other than my best friend who who I work with, and I didn't even have to explain most of it. She saw it on her own.



412 points Reply



PNW_hiker_chick · 8 hours ago

She sounds like a keeper. As a friend, I mean.



218 points Reply

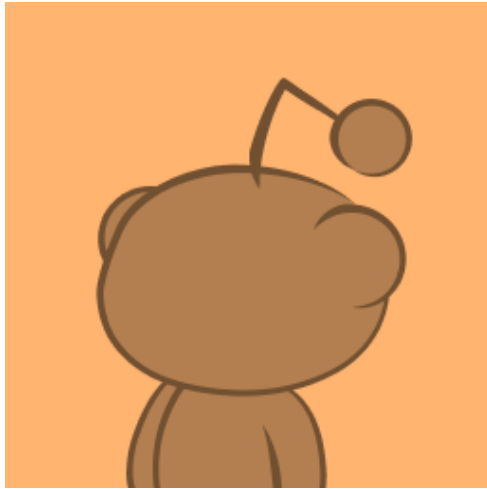


GingerAle_MTL OP · 7 hours ago

She is. She also told me I have “stray cat who doesn’t know he’s gay energy” and I still haven’t decided if that’s a compliment.



892 points Reply



ChaosGremlin99 · 6 hours ago

it is.



312 points Reply



feral_but_make_it_fashion · 6 hours ago

Stray cat energy checklist:

- refuses to communicate
- runs when startled
- shows up at same house for 6 years
- pretends it’s casual

OP is textbook.



1.1k points Reply

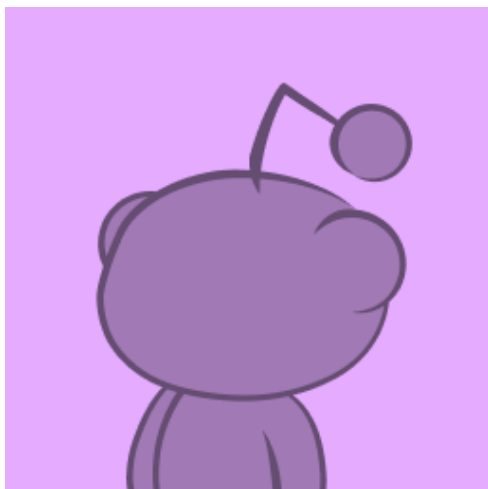


alt_account_42 · 5 hours ago

That is the most accurate description of a man I have ever heard.



432 points Reply



throwaway_dumpsterfire · 11 hours ago

OP if you don't confess I will personally drive to this mysterious work event and hold cue cards like Love Actually.



3.8k points Reply

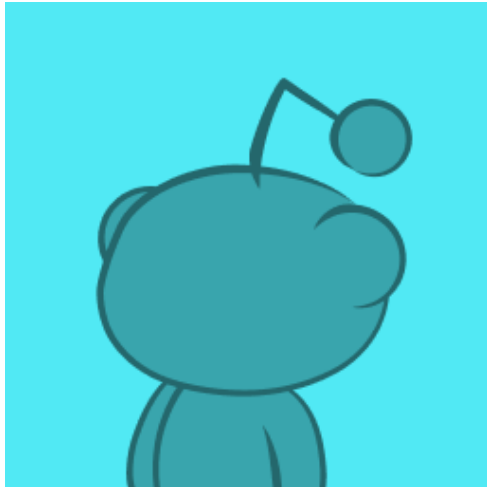


GingerAle_MTL OP · 10 hours ago

My friend's wife loves that movie



215 points Reply

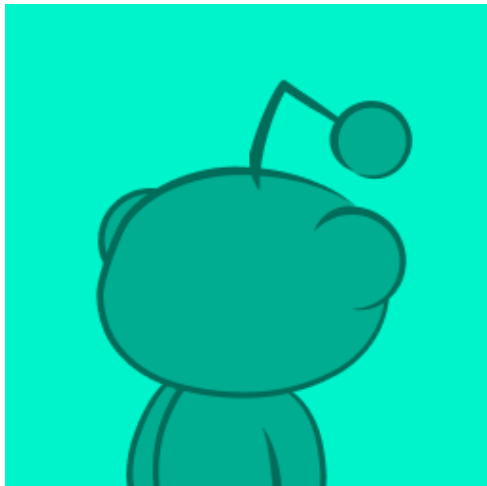


JPike1990 · 10 hours ago

I love that movie!

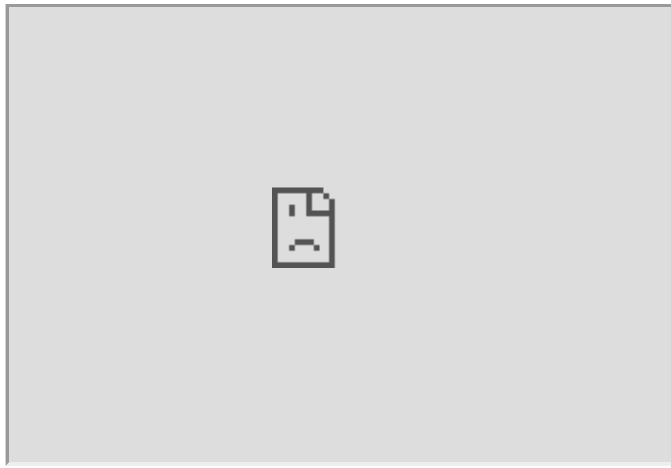


89 points Reply



StrangeKoa · 8 hours ago

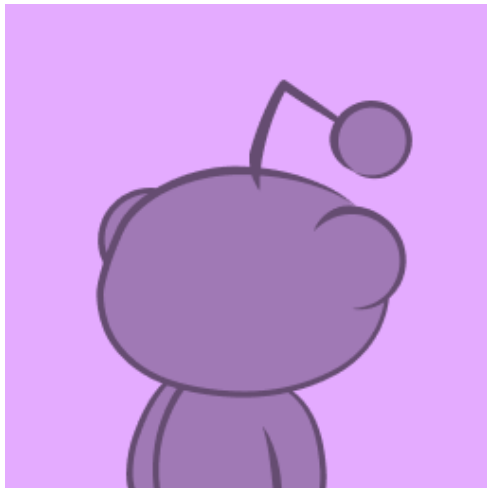
OP highly recommend you also dazzle him with this mating dance



2.1k points



Reply



throwaway_dumpsterfire · 3 hours ago

Wait I fixed it for you OP, just say this



4.2k points Reply



BagelBitch_BOS · 12 hours ago

Okay I am fully invested in this saga at this point. You said you're going to be working TOGETHER for the first time. I thought you were rivals? What changed?



892 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 11 hours ago

There's an annual event in our field where the top people from different organizations get selected to work on the same side. It's hard to explain without identifying our careers, but this is the first time we've both been chosen and placed together rather than against each other. We'll be collaborating in front of a lot of people.

I am both excited and terrified about this. I have never had to coordinate with him instead of compete against him and I genuinely do not know what will happen. I do know that we are very good at what we do and that when we're not actively destroying each other we have a kind of ... chemistry? In the professional sense. I know how he thinks. He knows how I think. It should be incredible if I can stop being nervous long enough to actually perform.



654 points Reply



BostonSportsBro69 · 2 hours ago



245 points Reply



BagelBitch_BOS · 10 hours ago

“Chemistry in the professional sense” sure buddy.



1.4k points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 9 hours ago

I walked into that one.



812 points Reply



JerseyDevil_throwaway · 8 hours ago

He deleted his entire account after his last post, and I know what that kind of exhaustion looks like because I have felt it myself.

Did anyone ever summarize those posts for you? From the last thread?



312 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 7 hours ago

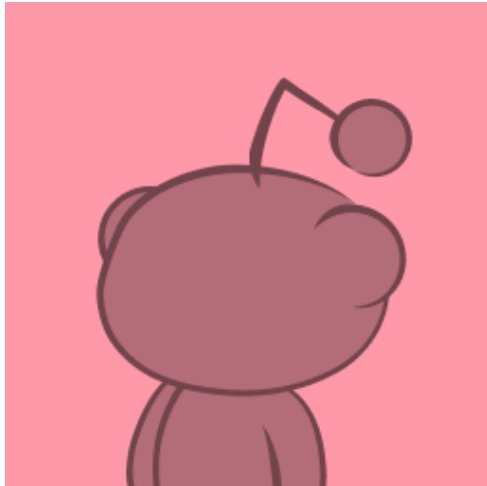
A few people sent me what they remembered in DMs. I don't have the original text because the account is gone, but from what people described ...

I thought I was the only one who was suffering. That is not an excuse. It's just that I was so convinced he didn't care—that I was convenient, that he had other options, that he'd forget me in a week—that it never occurred to me he was going through the same thing on his side.

We are both idiots. I think I might be the bigger one.



1.1k points Reply

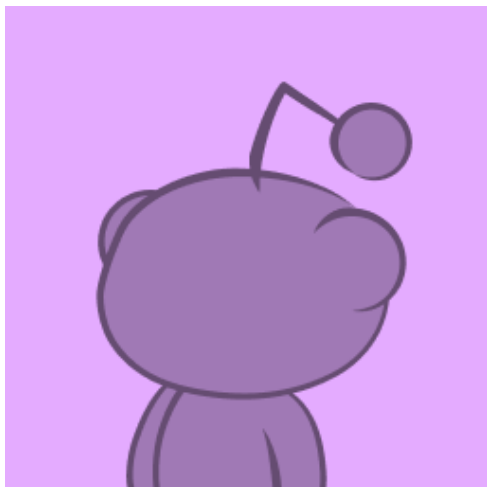


sockdrawer_feelings · 6 hours ago

You are absolutely the bigger idiot and I say that with my whole heart. Go get him.



912 points Reply



throwaway_dumpsterfire · 5 hours ago

Okay real talk. What's your plan if he says no? If he's moved on? If he's too hurt?



432 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 4 hours ago

Then I'll know. And knowing will be better than this. Right now I'm stuck in the space between not knowing if I ruined it beyond repair and not knowing if there's still a chance, and I can't live in that space anymore. It's been two months and I have not slept through a full night once.

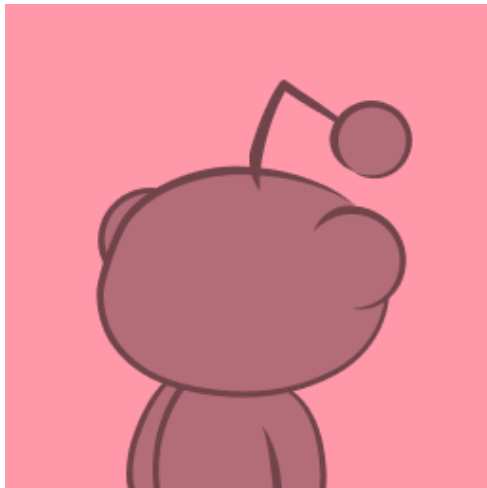
If he says no, I will respect it. I will be professional. I will go home and figure out how to rebuild a life where I'm honest about who I am, even if he's not part of it.

But I don't think he'll say no. I think he's been waiting for me to show up. I think he's been waiting for years and I'm the one who kept not arriving.

I could be wrong. I've been so wrong about him before. But I have to try because the only thing worse than hearing no is spending the rest of my life knowing I never asked.



1.8k points Reply



quietlyqueer_2891 · 3 hours ago

Update us. Please.



512 points Reply



BostonSportsBro69 · 2 hours ago

Is this work thing in Tampa



245 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 1 hour ago

Why?



112 points Reply



BostonSportsBro69 · 1 hour ago

Are you TRYING to be recognized??? Reread your own post.



432 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 20 mins ago

HOW DO I EDIT A POST



2.1k points Reply

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter! Memes/Youtube Links/etc are highly encouraged so long as they are not after 2017.

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ “I liked/loved it!”
- 🌌 “this wasn't my favorite”
- 💻 “Lurking”
- ★ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

Chapter 7: r/Hockey Megathread

Chapter Summary

r/hockey

Hollander down in Montreal. Hope he's okay. Also that Rozanov reaction...

(a bonus posting)

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



11.9k



r/hockey · Posted by u/Progenitor 2 hours ago

Hollander down in Montreal. Hope he's okay. Also that Rozanov reaction...

Marlow hit was clean but brutal. Hollander just didn't see it coming. Didn't even get his hands up. The fact that he wasn't moving for a full minute had my stomach in my throat.

Update from the arena: he's been taken to hospital for evaluation. No update on his status yet.

Also I know everyone's going to be talking about the hit but can we talk about Rozanov for a second? Because I've been watching this sport for twenty years and him for nearly half of them and I have never seen that man look scared about anything.

UPDATE: Wingman_Pike88, Hayden Pike of the Metros, confirmed that Hollander is conscious and stable.

 4.4k comments

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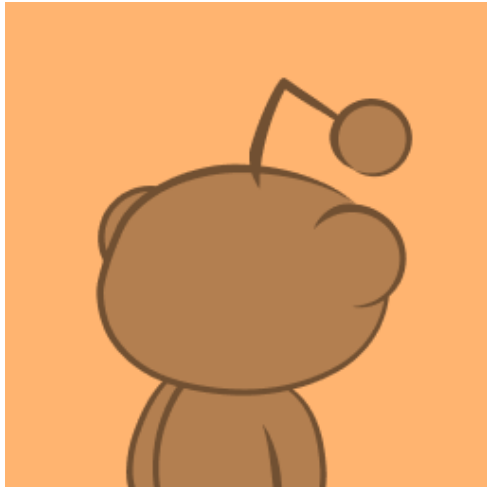
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WheelSnipeSelly_91 • 12m ago

Anyone got a mirror of the hit? I was taking a leak and missed the only interesting thing that's happened in this defensive slog.



1.4k Reply



HatTrickHero_BOS • 10m ago

[Link] here you go. Marlow absolutely leveled him. Hollander's out like a light before he even bounces off the ice.

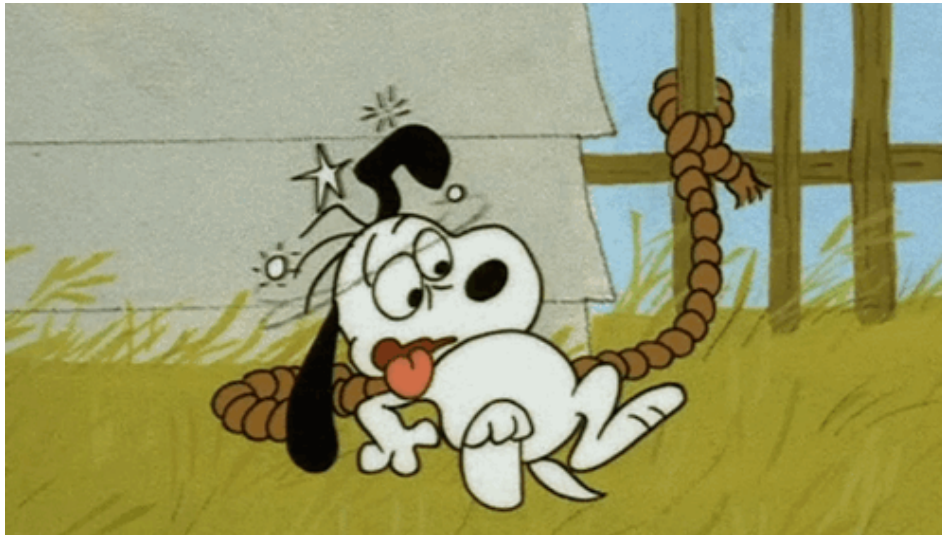


2.8k Reply



WheelSnipeSelly_91 • 8m ago

Oof. Yeah, he's seeing cartoon birds for sure. RIP MTL's postseason.



925 Reply



Chel_God_2017 • 20m ago



547 Reply

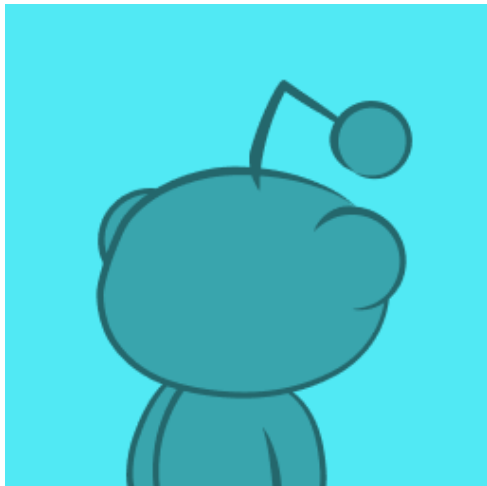


Moosey • 18m ago

LMAO too soon, but also... accurate.



219 Reply



PuckDrop_Podcast • 16m ago

I shouldn't laugh but the look on Rozanov's face in that still-frame is genuinely haunting. He looks like his dog just got ran over by a zamboni.



3.7k Reply



WheelSnipeSelly_91 • 12m ago

meanwhile this would be me with the zamboni if it meant taking Hollander out of the rest of the season



 -724 Reply

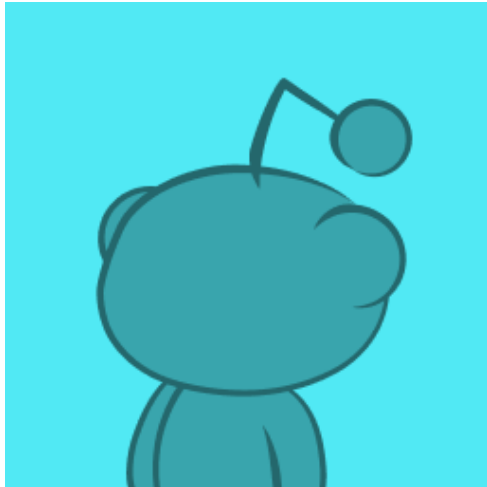


LordBiggusDikkus • 1m ago

Mod Note: Stop it.



1 Reply



PuckDrop_Podcast · 58 minutes ago

Agreed hit was clean. But can we come back to the Rozanov thing because that's not leaving my brain. They had to tell him to get back THREE times. The ref was basically herding him.



8.2k Reply

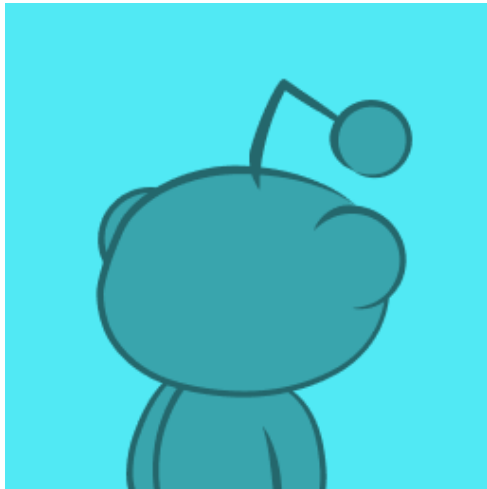


GoalieGlovesSave · 55 minutes ago

In fairness, any decent human being would be rattled watching someone go down like that. You don't have to read into it.



4.1k Reply



PuckDrop_Podcast · 53 minutes ago

Sure but most "decent human beings" don't need to be physically removed from the scene by a referee and a linesman



6.6k Reply



BostonSportsBro69 · 51 minutes ago

Rozanov talks more trash about Hollander than anyone in this league. Guy's been trying to bury him in the scoring race all season. Makes total sense he'd want to see with his own eyes that his main competition was okay before going to the bench. That's just... sports psychology. Very normal competitive behavior.



1.2k Reply



RinkRat_Ottawa · 56 minutes ago

Did anyone else catch what Rozanov said when Marlow laid him out? I was in the lower bowl and I HEARD it. It was not polite. In at least two languages.



959 Reply



NHLHotTakes_Anon · 54 minutes ago

He was MOVING when he said it too. Like he was going TOWARD Marlow. Someone on the bench grabbed his jersey.



549 Reply



HabsFanForever_1993 · 52 minutes ago

Honestly fair reaction? If someone on my team went down like that I'd be heated too.



3.3k Reply



RinkRat_Ottawa · 50 minutes ago

Hollander's not on his team



4.8k Reply



HabsFanForever_1993 · 49 minutes ago

I know that



7.3k Reply



RinkRat_Ottawa · 48 minutes ago

Okay just checking



5.2k Reply

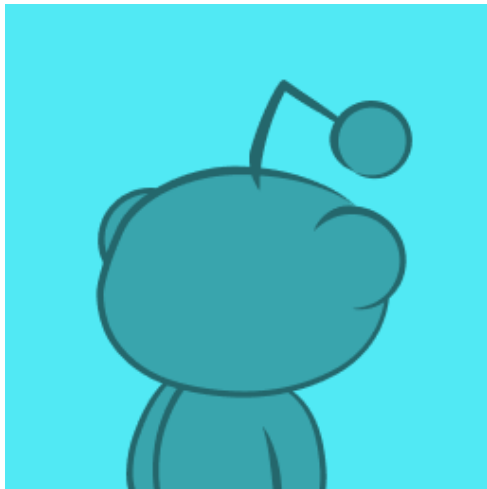


MapleleafsAgony · 52 minutes ago

The All Stars weekend changed something. Did anyone else notice it? They were on the same line for two days and they were genuinely incredible together and then they came back to their own teams and it's like they both got quieter. Hollander especially.



1.4k Reply



PuckDrop_Podcast · 50 minutes ago

This is the take I've been waiting for. I watched every minute of All Stars and there is a version of Hollander and Rozanov playing together that is the most compelling hockey I've seen in years. The way they read each other. That's not just two talented guys — they know each other.



7.3k Reply



NHLHotTakes_Anon · 47 minutes ago

Right and then they come back and have to go back to the whole public rivalry thing and you're telling me Rozanov doesn't give a damn when Hollander goes into the boards at full speed



6.1k Reply



MapleleafsAgony · 45 minutes ago

They were LAUGHING together right before the hit. Hollander turned around and grinned at him. These two men who are supposedly mortal enemies.



8.8k Reply



GoalieGlovesSave · 43 minutes ago

Guys talk trash on the ice constantly, it doesn't have to mean anything



1.5k Reply



NHLHotTakes_Anon · 41 minutes ago

I'm going to need you to watch the clip of Rozanov's face when Hollander went down and then come back and say "it doesn't mean anything" directly into the camera



9.4k Reply



Wingman_Pike88 · 30m ago

I don't care how "good" they were at All Stars. Rozanov is a headcase. The way he was hovering over the medical staff was a joke—the trainers shouldn't have to push a rival player away just to do their jobs. It's classless, even for him. Also just letting everyone know, Shane is okay. They are evaluating him more, but he is awake and will recover.



9.7k Reply



PuckDrop_Podcast · 25m ago

Pike88 coming in hot! But seriously, did you see his eyes? That didn't look like "classless" behavior, it looked like a panic attack.



5.8k Reply



Wingman_Pike88 · 20m ago

I do
not see it



If he's having a panic attack, he should go have it in his own locker room. Shane doesn't need that energy around him right now. Rozanov has spent years trying to get in his head; I'm not giving him the benefit of the doubt just because he looked "haunted" for a ten-second clip. He's probably just mad the scoring race is on pause.



8.9k Reply



BostonSportsBro69 • 8m ago

agree



-321 Reply



Wingman_Pike88 · 20m ago

no offence but if you are a Boston fan why are you agreeing with me



8.2k Reply

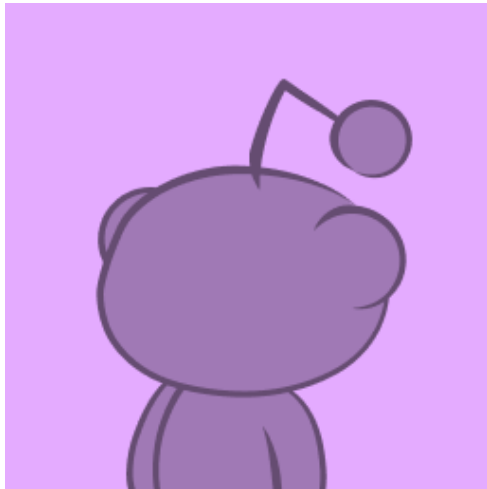


DirectionsUnclearPenisInPringlesCan · 25m ago

Real talk though: if I'm the MTL captain, I'm asking questions. Why is the Raiders' star winger the one holding up the medical evacuation? If looks could kill, Marlow would be dead and Rozanov would be the one riding in the ambulance with Hollander.



7.7k Reply



MassHole_99 • 22m ago

It's just "Respect the Game" stuff. You casuals don't get it. When a top-tier talent goes down, everyone stops. It's like a gladiator thing.



-885 Reply



DirectionsUnclearPenisInPringlesCan • 20m ago

I've watched thirty years of "gladiators" on ice, and I've never seen a "gladiator" look like he was experiencing a literal psychotic break because his "rival" got a concussion.



745 Reply



STRemixes • 15m ago

^ This. The "rivalry" is officially compromised. Something is definitely rotten in the state of Quebec.



789 Reply



BostonSportsBro69 · 39 minutes ago

I think we're all getting a little carried away here. These are two very competitive guys who've been in the same scoring race for months. High stakes, high emotion, they just played together at All Stars for the first time, obviously there's a charged atmosphere. Doesn't mean anything beyond that. People are always looking for a story.



2.4k Reply



NHLHotTakes_Anon · 37 minutes ago

Why are you being the voice of reason right now, that's not your brand at all



4.5k Reply



BostonSportsBro69 OP · 36 minutes ago

I contain multitudes. Even though Hollander is not from Boston I'm sure he has people here who care about him and I would like everyone to be respectful while he is in a hospital. Thank you.



3.8k Reply



MapleleafsAgony · 34 minutes ago

Okay that's actually fair, you're right, get well soon Hollander



1.9k Reply

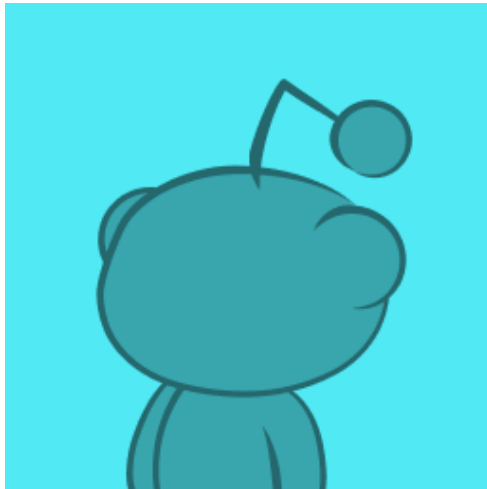


Habs_Fan_4_Life • 18m ago

If Shane is out for the playoffs, we are cooked.



3.1k Reply



PuckDrop_Podcast • 12m ago

Forget the playoffs, I just want the guy to be able to walk. That was a scary amount of time to be unconscious.

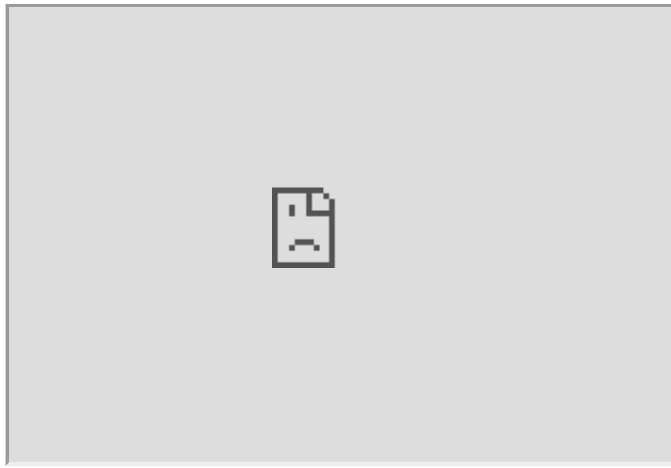


5.6k Reply



WheelSnipeSelly_91 • 12m ago

Bad time to mention that this hit'll probably get added to this compilation, then?



-871 Reply



HailSatan • 10m ago

Has anyone checked the locker room hallway cams? Apparently, someone saw a Raiders jersey hovering near the Montreal medical suite after the second period ended.



4.1k Reply



BostonSportsBro69 • 8m ago

Probably just checking on the status so they can report back to the coach for tactical adjustments. You guys are reading way too much into this. It's a violent sport, people get emotional when the stars get hurt. Let's just focus on the recovery and not turn r/hockey into a soap opera, yeah?



-491 Reply

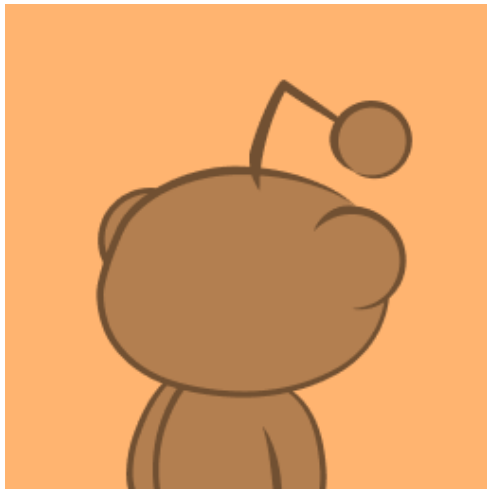


STRemixes • 5m ago

Nice try, u/BostonSportsBro69, but I saw the clip of Rozanov's face when the stretcher moved. That wasn't "tactical adjustment." That was a man losing his mind. Why are you riding their dicks so hard to say otherwise?



7.2k Reply



SummitPlummet • 2m ago

Is anyone going to post the close-up of the face?



563 Reply



LordBiggusDikkus • 1m ago

Mod Note: We're locking the thread for a bit while we wait for official team statements. Out of respect for the player and the family, please don't post zoomed-in clips of the injury or players' reactions. Let's keep it civil. #PrayForHollander



1 Reply

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter! Memes/Youtube Links/etc are highly encouraged so long as they are not after 2017.

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- 📺 “this wasn't my favorite”
- 💻 “Lurking”
- ★ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

Chapter 8: u/GingerAle_MTL: UPDATE 2

Chapter Summary

UPDATE: I (26M) broke up with my girlfriend, I saw him, and then I almost died. Everything's fine now.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



5.8k



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/GingerAle_MTL 1 day ago.

UPDATE: I (26M) broke up with my girlfriend, I saw him, and then I almost died. Everything's fine now.

Relationships

I know it's been a while. A lot has happened. I'm going to try to get through this without writing another novel, but I am apparently incapable of being brief when it comes to this man, so bear with me.

I went to the work thing in Florida, and yes, he was there. It was awkward at first, especially in the beginning, but it got easier after I let him know that I'd broken up with my girlfriend.

We were incredible together for the work thing too! I know that sounds arrogant, and I promise I am not an arrogant person in general, but there is no other word for what happened when we were the same side instead of against each other. It was like we'd been a team forever, no one else even mattered. I knew where he was going to be before he got there. He knew what I was going to do before I did it. I can't really go into details but at one point we were doing so well that he grabbed me and kissed me on the cheek in front of people. I almost passed out I was so happy.

Later, I went to his hotel room and I told him I was gay. I'd never said that out loud before to anyone except my ex-girlfriend. He laughed at me, which was annoying, but then he got us both a drink from his mini-fridge—a Coke for himself and a ginger ale for me, because apparently he

keeps my drink everywhere, not only at his apartment—and we talked and I was finally, awkwardly, able to tell him that I was sorry for running and that I can't keep pretending that he doesn't mean something to me. I asked if he would ever want to be more and...

... he said we couldn't be more.

Which wasn't what I asked, but he continued because to him it didn't matter what he wanted, even if we could. He told me about his family back home, and both the country and his family wouldn't be accepting of him being with another man. I can't share more than that, but I will say that I understood for the first time why he was so afraid of letting anyone close. And... okay, yes, we did hook up. It was cathartic. He said my name again and I said it back and the world didn't end.

After that, we started texting again. We talked on the phone. He called me once from overseas when he was dealing with a family situation—a relative had passed—and he was so upset that his English was falling apart, so I told him to talk in his own language and I'd listen even though I don't speak it. I don't speak his language. I understood maybe two or three words out of ten minutes. It's the closest I have ever felt to another person, and I don't fully understand why, but I think it's because he trusted me to hear him even when I couldn't understand him.

I think I fell more love with him during that phone call, and how is that even possible? Or fair?

A few weeks later in April, I got badly injured at work, which I can't go into too much detail about, it's a setback. It was scary, but I am okay! He visited me in the hospital the next morning. I was on a lot of medication and my memory of it is patchy, but I remember his hand in my hair and how scared he looked. I remember being so happy to see him that I almost blew our cover in front of the nurse.

I asked him to come spend the summer with me. I have a place outside the city, very private, on a lake. I've always wanted to bring him there. I was pretty out of it when I asked, and I remember him saying "maybe," but I don't know if I imagined that or if he actually said it or if I dreamed the whole conversation. The medication was very strong. For a few weeks afterward I kept trying to remember if he'd said yes or no or maybe, and I couldn't, and that uncertainty was almost worse than a flat rejection because at least a no is an answer you can grieve.

A "maybe" is a door you keep checking.

I was sad for a while. I didn't hear from him as much as I wanted to, and I was starting to think "maybe" had actually meant "no" and I had scared him off the same way I'd scared him off the night I ran from his house.

Then some things happened, which, sorry, I also can't go into details because they involve other people and their privacy, but there was a development in our field that made it feel like maybe the world was changing. Like maybe people like us could exist publicly someday without being destroyed for it.

He called me and I picked up and he said that he **WOULD** come for the Summer.

He's coming. He'll be here in a few weeks. I've never been this happy or this excited in my entire life. He's staying for two weeks but really I would be okay with longer. Two weeks. A month. The whole summer, I don't care. He's coming to my home, my real home, the place I love most in the world, and I want it to be PERFECT.

The problem is I don't know how to make it perfect for him. I know what I like: the lake, the quiet, kayaking, bonfires, grilling, yoga, reading on the dock. I could spend an entire summer doing nothing and be thrilled. But he's different from me. He likes speed and excitement and expensive things and being the center of attention. He drives cars that cost more than most people's houses. He gets bored easily. My cottage does not have a nightclub or a luxury car dealership or whatever else he normally fills his time with.

I have jet skis. I think he'll like the jet skis? I don't know if that competes with European sports cars but they do go fast.

But beyond the logistics: how do I make him feel at home? How do I make this feel like what he did for me—the dinner, the drink, the invitation into his real space—except that I actually recognize what he's doing this time? I want him to walk in and know that I thought about what he likes. That I prepared for him. That this isn't an accident or leftover hospitality from a party I didn't have.

I'm going to stock the fridge with his favorite drink. He likes Coke. I can do that. I'm going to learn to make something he'd actually want to eat instead of just grilling the same chicken I always grill. Are burgers lame? I'm going to put clean sheets on my bed—my actual bed, in my actual room, where no one else has ever slept other than me—and I'm going to ask him to stay in it with me.

If anyone has suggestions for what else I can do to make a competitive, easily-bored, obscenely attractive man with expensive taste feel welcome at a lake house in the Canadian wilderness, I am open to ideas. I do not think he has ever been in a kayak. He will probably hate the bonfire. He is going to make fun of my car (again).

I can't wait.

EDIT: Someone asked if I have a pool table.No, but I have some gym equipment and I have a hot tub. And before you ask, yes, I have already thought about the hot tub. Extensively.



412 comments



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ChaosGremlin99 · 20 hours ago

*I saw him, and then **I almost died**. Everything's fine now.*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW"???? You cannot drop "I almost died" in a title and then say "everything's fine" like you're giving a weather report. What happened???



1.4k points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 18 hours ago

Sorry. I probably should have structured the title better. I got hurt at work—it was serious but I'm recovering well. I can't go into details about what happened because it would identify my career. But I'm okay. I promise.



912 points Reply



ChaosGremlin99 · 16 hours ago

You are the most aggressively calm person on this entire website.



654 points Reply



prairie_dog_rights · 3 hours ago

Teach him to fish. I'm serious. Competitive people get OBSESSED with fishing once they start. Give him something to beat you at and he'll never want to leave.

 743 points   Reply Share Report Save



no_sleep_till_boston · 2 hours ago

This is actually genius. Nothing keeps a competitive person at a lake house like telling them you've caught a bigger fish than they have.

 512 points   Reply Share Report Save



GingerAle_MTL OP · 2 hours ago

Oh this is good. He would absolutely refuse to leave until he'd caught a bigger one than me. I'm going to buy a second rod.



1.5k points

[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



vibes_and_crimes · 3 hours ago

"obscenely attractive" we KNOW buddy. You've told us AND he's told us. Several times. Across multiple posts. We are aware that your man is hot. Are you both like VOUGE models or something? Secret identities and super hot dudes fucking?



1.8k points

[Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#)



GingerAle_MTL OP · 2 hours ago

I will stop mentioning it when it stops being true. And to quote James Bond: "I'm afraid you've mistaken me for someone interesting."

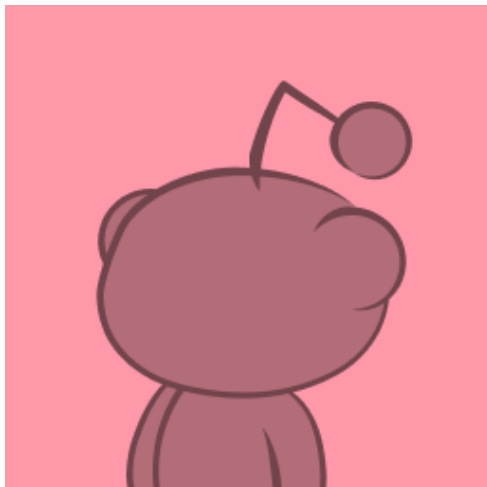
 2.6k points   Reply Share Report Save



full_send_Fridays · 2 hours ago

Bro you have a lake, a hot tub, jet skis, no neighbors, and a man who's been in love with you for seven years. You could serve him cereal on a paper plate and he'd still have the best two weeks of his life. Stop overthinking it.

 987 points   Reply Share Report Save



quietlyqueer_2891 · 19 hours ago

"I went to his hotel room and I told him I was gay. I'd never said that out loud before."

How did that feel?



843 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 17 hours ago

Terrifying. And then he laughed at me, which I did not love in the moment but in retrospect I think was his way of saying “yes, I know, I have known, we have been sleeping together for six and a half years, this is not new information.” He’s not cruel about things like this. He’s just very blunt and sometimes his sense of humor is hard to read if you don’t know him.



1.1k points Reply



two_cats_no_plan · 4 hours ago

Okay practical advice since everyone else is just crying:

1. Competitive man + kayak = make it a race. Don't teach him, challenge him. He'll figure it out fast if his ego is involved.
2. Bonfire: bring good alcohol. Nobody hates a bonfire if there's expensive whiskey.
3. Let him make fun of your car. If he's anything like you've described, teasing you IS his love language.



1.4k points



Reply Share Report Save



GingerAle_MTL OP · 3 hours ago

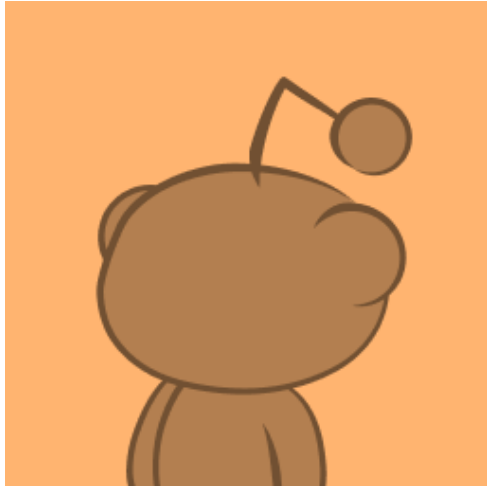
I have very good whiskey. And you're right about the teasing, he's been teasing me since 2008 and I don't think he's ever going to stop. At this point I'd worry if he didn't. Is it weird that I would miss it?



2.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



sockdrawer_feelings · 18 hours ago

"He said we couldn't be more. Which wasn't what I asked."

This distinction is really important and I'm glad you caught it. "We can't" is not "I don't want to."
Did he explain why?



612 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 16 hours ago

He told me about his family. I won't share details because it's his story and not mine, but I understood for the first time why he keeps people at a distance and why being with a man publicly isn't the same risk for me as it is for him. For me, it's my career and my privacy. For him, it's that and also people he loves who could be affected in ways I don't fully understand because I didn't grow up where he grew up.

I sat there and listened and I wanted to fix it. That's my instinct—solve the problem, make the plan, find the path forward. But there was no plan for this. There was only listening.



1.3k points Reply



sockdrawer_feelings · 14 hours ago

Sometimes listening is the plan.



432 points Reply



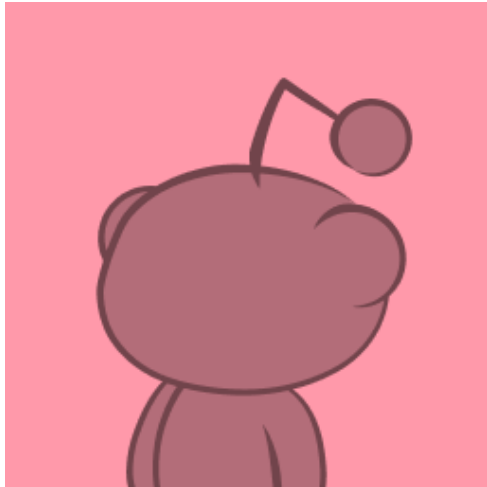
GingerAle_MTL OP · 12 hours ago

Yeah, I think you're right.

He called me a few weeks later. From overseas. A family member had passed and he was upset enough that his English was falling apart. I told him to talk in his own language and I'd listen even though I don't speak it. I talked for about ten minutes and I sat in a stairwell and didn't move. I understood none of the words and all of what he was saying, but I felt it just the same.



2.5k points Reply



flat_white_no_foam · 4 hours ago

Have you considered: doing absolutely... *nothing*? You keep describing this man like he's a wild animal you need to keep stimulated with enrichment activities. He said yes to TWO WEEKS in the woods with you. He doesn't want a theme park. He wants you, in your natural habitat, being yourself. That's literally what he's signing up for.



2.4k points



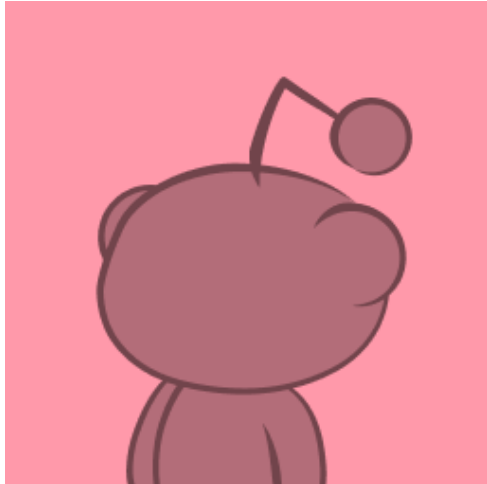
Reply Share Report Save



GingerAle_MTL OP · 3 hours ago

You're probably right. I just want it to be perfect and I know I'm boring. I still feel bad for running off last time after he'd put in effort to do something nice for me. I want him to feel that same thing (minus the freakout). That someone prepared a space specifically for him.

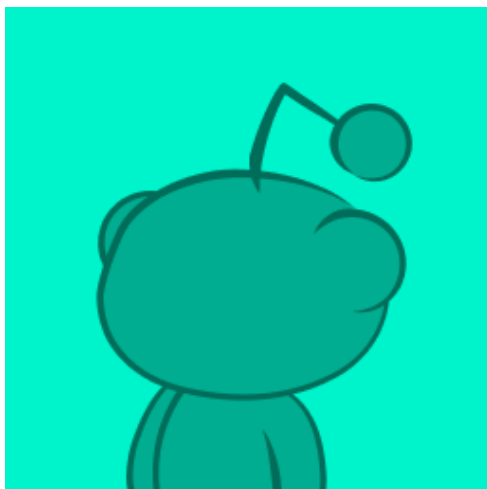
 1.9k points   Reply Share Report Save



flat_white_no_foam · 2 hours ago

Honestly I got the vibe that he was sorta into your boring. And stop worrying about this! OP, the space IS prepared. You're doing the thing. You just can't see it because you're standing inside it.

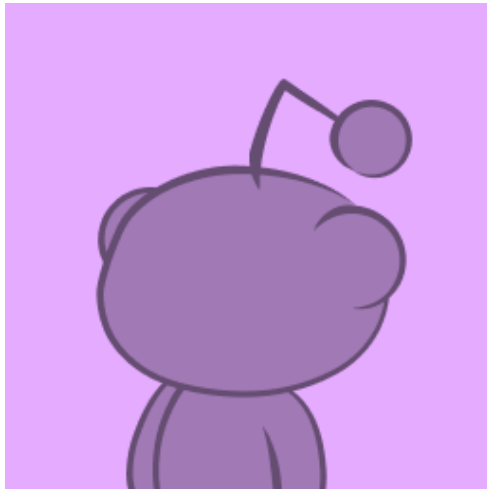
 3.1k points   Reply Share Report Save



swamp_thing_rising · 2 hours ago

just fuck him in the kayak

 567 points   Reply Share Report Save



garage_sale_guru · 2 hours ago

kayaks tip over very easily so unless OP wants to add "nearly drowned my boyfriend" to the saga I would advise against this



1.2k points

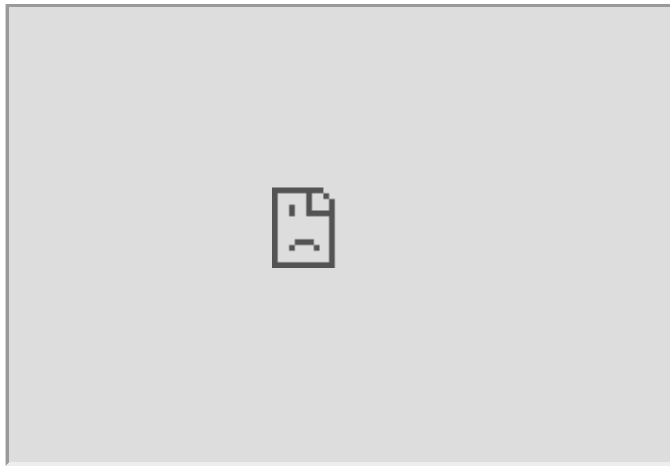


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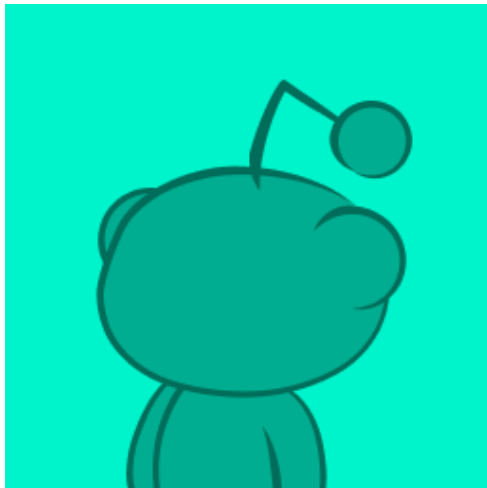


ChaosGremlin99 · 1 hour ago

this man already almost died once let's not push our luck



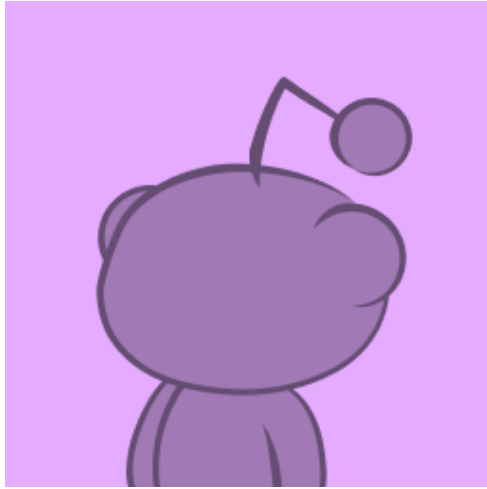
 934 points   Reply Share Report Save



JustHereForNowAndThen · 39 minutes ago

@OP - you remember that famous definition that "A Canadian is someone who knows how to have sex in a canoe" (Bertrand, apocryphal)?? You should assimilate this man into our culture. Just a suggestion.

 567 points   Reply Share Report Save



throwaway_dumpsterfire · 17 hours ago

"I asked him to come spend the summer with me. I remember him saying “maybe.”"

A “maybe” is a door you keep checking. What changed? Why did he say yes? The hot tub edit made me laugh out loud. Godspeed.



312 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 15 hours ago

There was a development in our industry. I can't be specific, but someone else in our field did something very public and very brave, and it shifted what felt possible. For both of us, I think, but especially for him. The walls didn't come down but a window opened.



812 points Reply

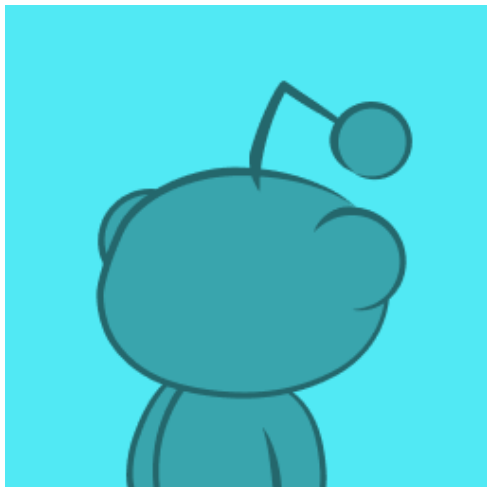


ChaosGremlin99 · 14 hours ago

u/OrangeSpyder671 breaking your windows now, got it.



1.1k points Reply



JPike1991 · 4 hours ago

Okay I don't know the full backstory here but my husband is also competitive and easily bored and here's what works: surprise him. Wear something he's never seen you in. My husband loses his mind when I wear something new to bed, even if it's nothing fancy, because it shows I was thinking about him when he wasn't there. You don't have to go full lingerie but like... a nice pair of underwear goes a long way. Men are simple. Trust me. Is there a sports team he likes? Maybe a jersey? My husband LOVES when I wear his name and number to bed!



673 points



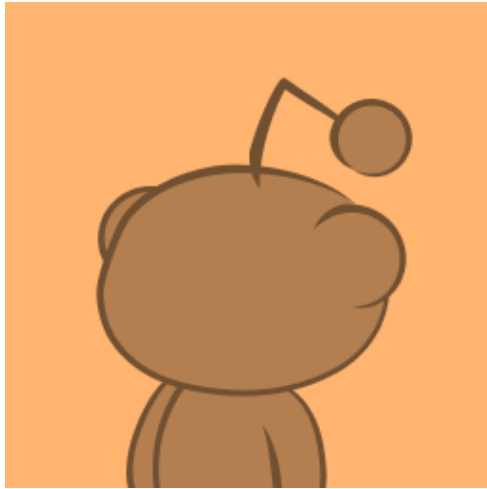
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GingerAle_MTL OP · 3 hours ago

I would actually rather die than wear anything like that with his team in bed but he would probably love that.

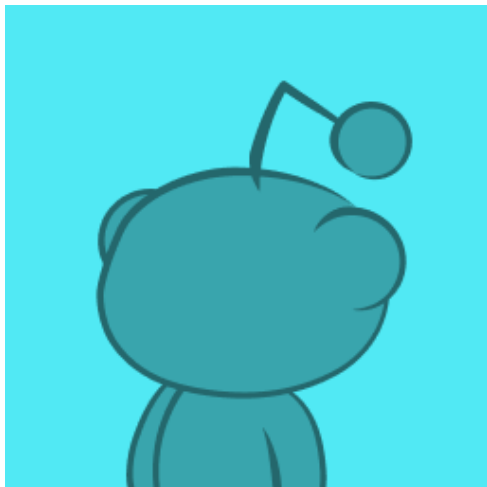
 890 points   Reply Share Report Save



night_owl_naps · 2 hours ago

"I hadn't thought about this at all" sir you have been thinking about the hot tub "extensively" but sexy underwear didn't cross your mind?

 1.3k points   Reply Share Report Save



JerseyDevil_throwaway · 15 hours ago

This man drives luxury sports cars and you're hoping JET SKIS will impress him. You are adorable and insane.

 432 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 13 hours ago

They go very fast. And you can do turns on them. He likes speed and competition and I think if I challenge him to a race he won't be able to resist because he has never once in his life backed down from a challenge I've issued. That is one of the few things about him I understand completely.



654 points Reply

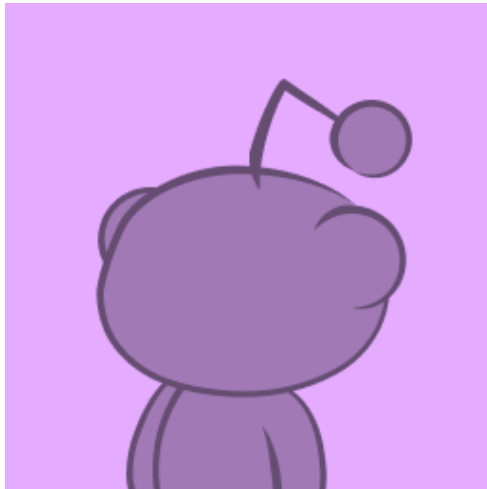


JerseyDevil_throwaway · 12 hours ago

You're going to seduce a man with competitive jet skiing and I respect that deeply.



812 points Reply



garage_sale_guru · 3 hours ago

"He will probably hate the bonfire" Dude just fuck off. It's been a thing for 400,000 years. Everyone is hardwired to like that shit.



1.1k points



Reply Share Report Save



mild_take_haver · 3 hours ago

In his defense the man apparently drives European sports cars and has "expensive taste." He might genuinely not know what a bonfire is. He might think it's a brand?



879 points



Reply Share Report Save



BagelBitch_BOS · 12 hours ago

OP. I have been following your story since January. I screamed when the deleted user's posts matched yours. I cried when you said you sat in your car for an hour on a side street. I cheered when you said you'd broken up with your girlfriend.

If you don't update us after this summer visit I will find you through the ginger ale supply chain.



2.1k points Reply



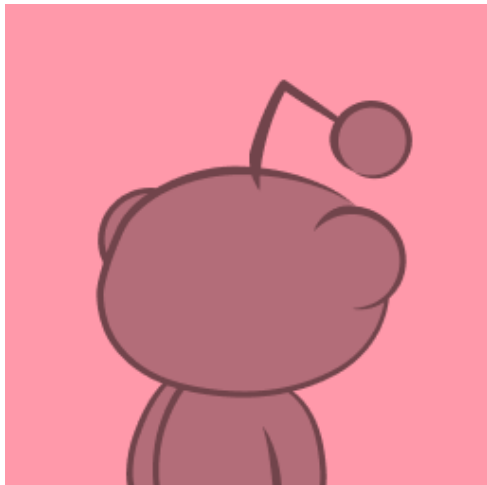
GingerAle_MTL OP · 10 hours ago

I have never been this happy or this scared about the same thing at the same time.

Thank you for caring about this. I know it's just the internet but it helped more than you know. I've never told anyone about him before this year and now strangers are rooting for us and that's strange and also the kindest thing that's ever happened to me.



1.1k points Reply

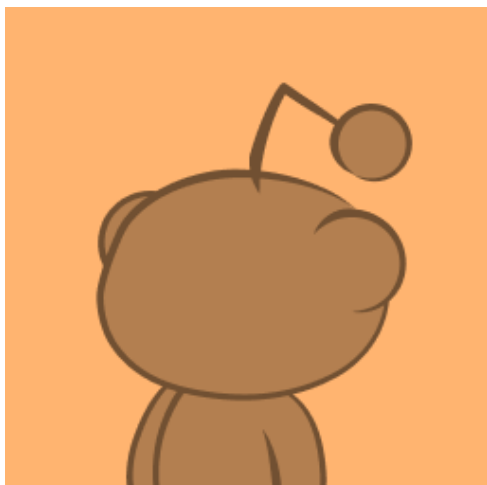


quietlyqueer_2891 · 8 hours ago

It's not just the internet. We're real people and we're really rooting for you. Go.



432 points Reply



sockdrawer_feelings · 6 hours ago

CLEAN THOSE SHEETS. CHARGE THOSE JET SKIS. STOCK THAT COKE. GO GET YOUR MAN.



512 points Reply

 reddit user icon ChccolateFreckle

chocolatefreckle · 6 hours ago

Are burgers lame?

No! Burgers are not lame!!OP you should totally make burgers! Here's my family burger recipe if you want to try it:

Ingredients:

Patties:

- 1kg ground beef (ask your butcher for a high-fat blend if you can, chuck and brisket is nice)
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire/Bulldog/Tonkatsu sauce
- 2 tsp sea salt flakes
- 1 tsp freshly cracked black pepper
- 4 tbsp olive oil

Burgers:

- 8 crusty bread rolls, halved and lightly toasted on the grill
- 8 slices of your favourite cheese (if you can get it, I recommend Port Salut)
- 4 tomatoes, sliced 1 red onion, finely sliced Lettuce, washed and DRIED (use a salad spinner or drip dry in the drainer, nobody likes wet lettuce)
- LOTS of dill pickles. Do not accept any pickle with a recipe closer than Prague.
- The Polski Ogorki and Malosolnye Ogurtsy are the best.
- Whole-egg mayonnaise Tomato relish (or ketchup if you must)
- Mustard (a nice Dijon, Thomy or Maille, or a wholegrain is nice. Don't put that squeezezy yellow crap on there.)

Instructions

- Put the mince, breadcrumbs, egg, sauce, salt and pepper in a bowl, and mix well with your hands. Split the mixture into 8 balls and flatten them into patties. Go large, they'll shrink a bit as they cook. Make a dent in one side of the patty. I don't know why you have to do this, but my Gran insists.
- Sprinkle them with olive oil (brush the grill plate as well) and then cook them on your grill until they look delicious. Some people say only turn them once but I saw an article one time that says to turn them every 20 seconds? I've tried both and they're both fine. You can do them in a pan too. If you want the cheese melted, you can put it on the burger a minute or so before they're finished.

You can use a meat thermometer if you really care about done-ness but that's out of my league. I'm lazy. It's usually about ten minutes.

You can put the burgers together for your guests, but (like I said, I'm lazy) I like to just put out the toppings and let people dress their own!

Update me if you make them, my Gran's been following your posts (she loves Reddit but doesn't have an account) and she'd get such a kick out of you making her burgers!



512 points Reply



GingerAle_MTL OP · 4 hours ago

Thank you, I will try these. I am on a macrobiotic diet though, so I might need to make some tweaks.



912 points Reply

Chapter End Notes

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter!

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ “I liked/loved it!”
- 🌌 “this wasn't my favorite”
- 💻 “Lurking”
- ★ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

Chapter 9: u/YellowPorsche617

Chapter Summary

I (26M) love a man (26M) that speaks fluent bird.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)



9.1k



r/relationship_advice · Posted by u/YellowPorsche617 1 day ago.

I (26M) love a man (26M) that speaks fluent bird.

Relationships

New account and I also have new sports car and new boyfriend.

I hate him so much. I hate how he cannot cut a recipe in half. He is so smart and so bad at math. I hate how his perfect body haunts my dreams, and now I know what it looks like in the morning, tangled up in sheets beside mine. We are at his cottage and I hate that he likes these stupid fucking wolfbird loons and can use his hands to speak back to them. I hate how soft his hands are with me, and that now that I know how it feels to be in his arms and to tell him the truth, there is no going back.

I hate how stupid we were to get here.

Thank you for nothing, reddit.



842 comments



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Report 92%

Upvoted

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Sort by relevance



ChaosGremlin99 · 22 hours ago

YOU'RE BACK! ORANGESPYDER?????? HOLY SHIT

I hate how his perfect body haunts my dreams, and now I know what it looks like in the morning...

And you got to wake up next to him! You finally got the thing you said you'd never had. Six years and you never saw him in the morning and now you have. How was it?



3.1k points Reply



YellowPorsche617 OP · 20 hours ago

Terrible. The worst. I recommend it to no one. He sleeps on his stomach like a dead person. Arms straight at his sides, face smashed into the pillow, completely flat. He has freckles on his shoulders. I knew about the ones on his face. Everyone knows about those. But there are more on his shoulders and down his spine and I have had sex with this man probably a hundred times in the dark and I never saw them. The light came through the window very early and hit his back and I could see all of them. Then he opened his eyes and saw me and smiled before he remembered to be awkward about it. I had about half a second of his real face before he tried to roll away and say he needed coffee. I did not let him roll away. And then I am not going to tell you what happened next because you are strangers on the internet and also because he would kill me, but I will say that he does not need coffee to wake up. There are better ways.



4.5k points Reply



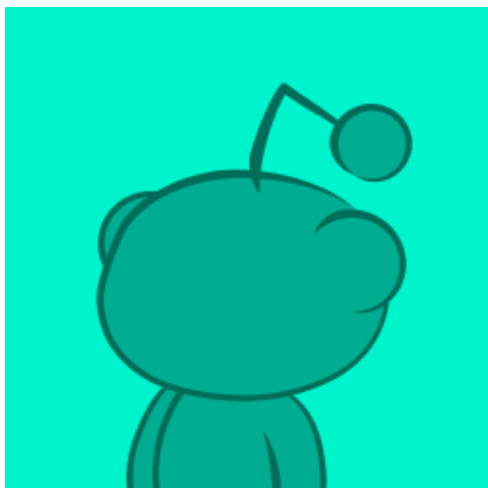
ChaosGremlin99 · 18 hours ago



Nice



1.8k points Reply



diamondelight92 · 6 hours ago



1.8k points Reply



turbo_questionmark · 1 hour ago

Wait. New sports car??? You just dropped that in the first sentence like we wouldn't notice. What did you get and do you still have the Audi?



2.6k points Reply

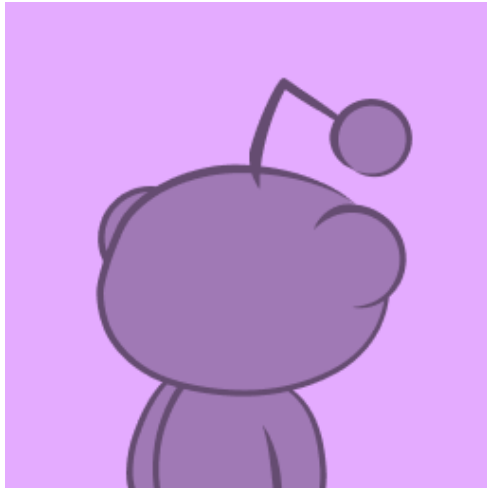


YellowPorsche617 OP · 48 minutes ago

yes, I still have the Audi. I am not a monster. The Audi was here first. It has seniority, but the Porsche is fast and dramatic... and will be even better once I fuck this stupid man on the front hood



3.9k points Reply

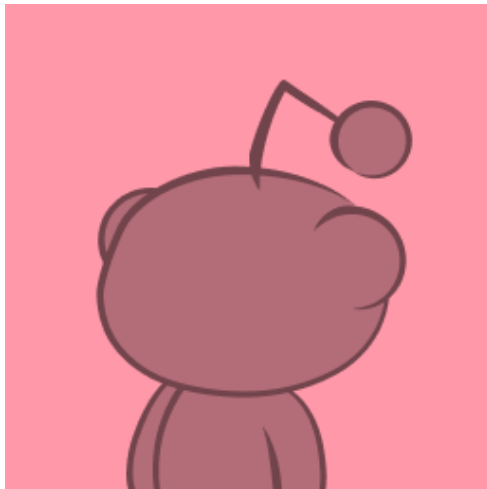


garage_enabler · 30 minutes ago

“I am not a monster” is exactly what someone with two sports cars would say.



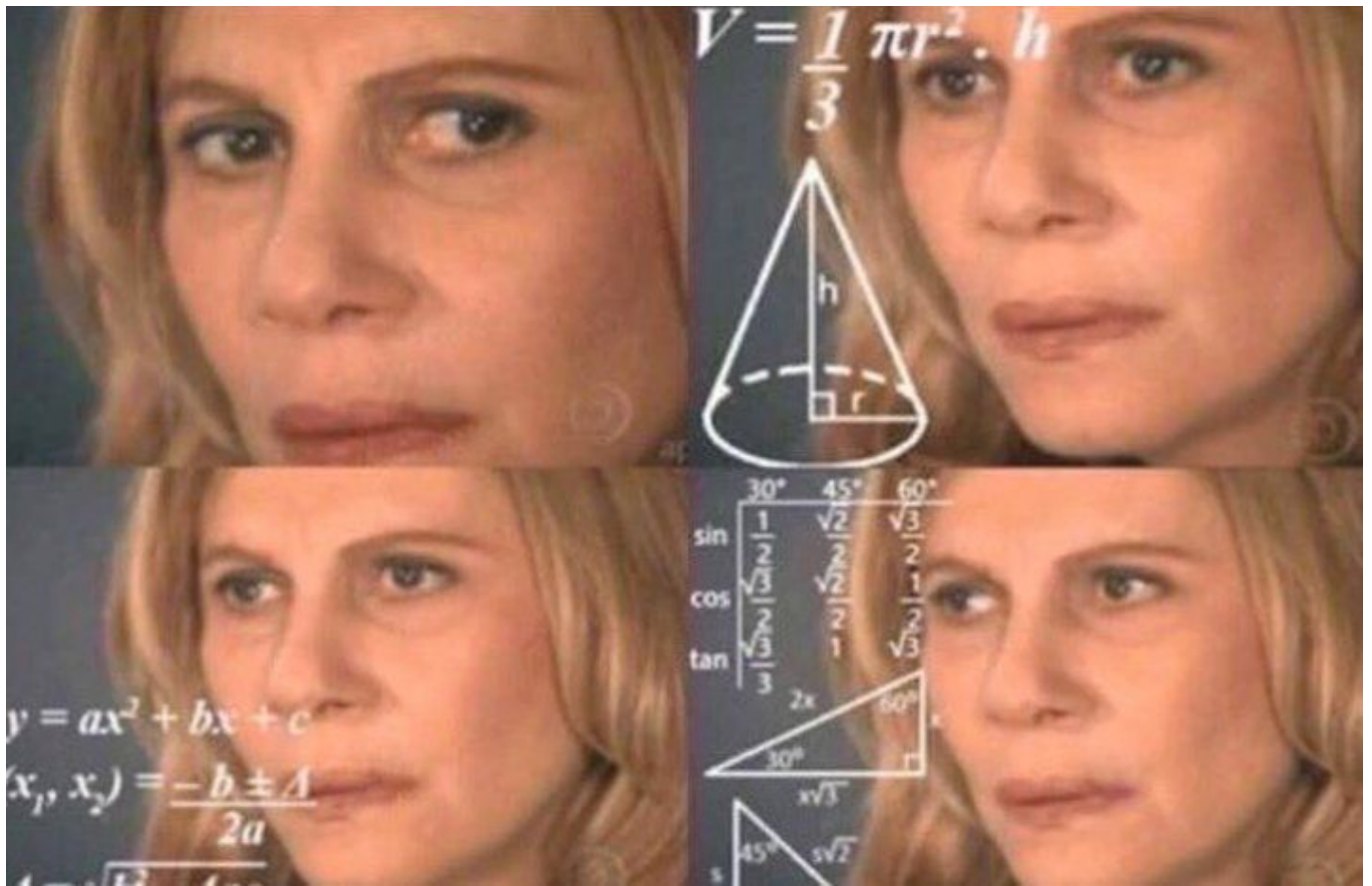
1.8k points Reply



quietlyqueer_2891 · 21 hours ago

I hate how he cannot cut a recipe in half. He is so smart and so bad at math.

OP what was he trying to cook?



912 points Reply

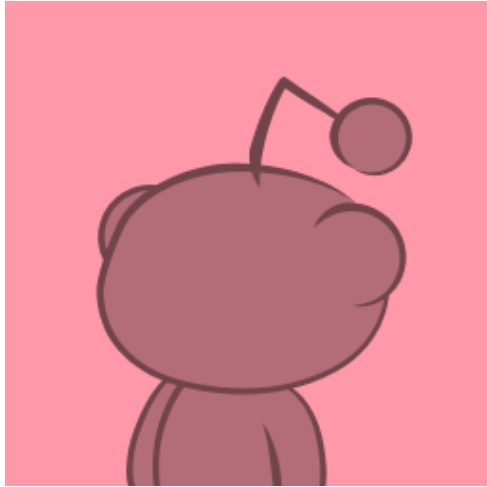


YellowPorsche617 OP · 19 hours ago

Burgers. He wanted to make them for me and nice person's grandmother gave him recipe. The recipe was for eight. There are two of us. He made all eight and used these strange healthy buns that I did not like and were terrible. I ate two and told him they were great and I will take this lie to my grave.



2.4k points Reply

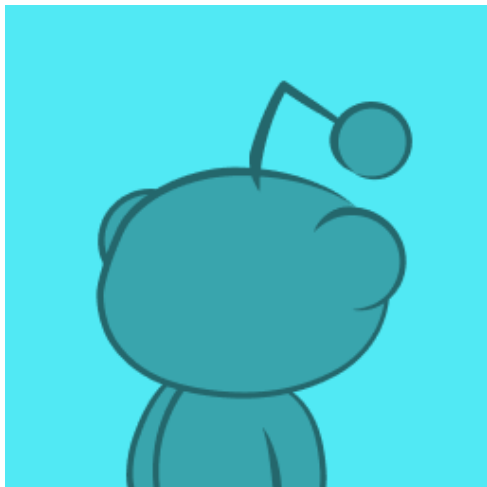


quietlyqueer_2891 · 18 hours ago

You are so far gone.



1.1k points Reply



JerseyDevil_throwaway · 19 hours ago



Please explain “speaks fluent bird.” I need to understand this.

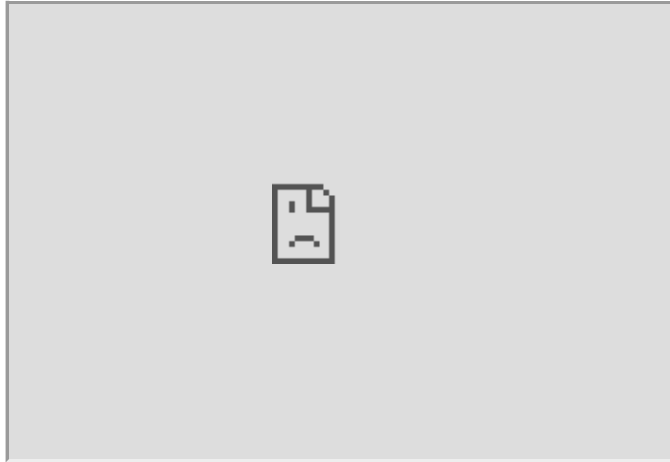


743 points Reply

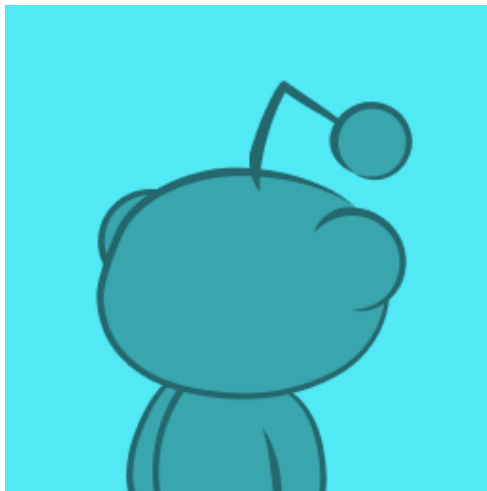


YellowPorsche617 OP · 17 hours ago

There are birds on the lake, Loons. Black and white, very loud, very dramatic. They scream at each other across the water at night like they are having a fight about custody. He talks to them. Not in the way normal people talk to animals, like “oh look a bird, hello bird.” He cups his hands around his mouth and makes their call and **THEY CALL BACK**. He has full conversations with them. I sat on the dock and watched him do this for twenty minutes and he was completely serious about it and when one of them swam closer he turned to me with this look on his face like he had accomplished the greatest thing in the history of human achievement and I thought, ah, this is it, this is the man I love, he speaks to birds with his hands. It's like this but he does them better



4.1k points Reply



JerseyDevil_throwaway · 16 hours ago

I have no follow-up questions. This is perfect.



1.1k points Reply



BagelBitch_BOS · 16 hours ago

He was SO WORRIED about the jet skis and the hot tub and this man was won over by LOONS.



3.4k points Reply

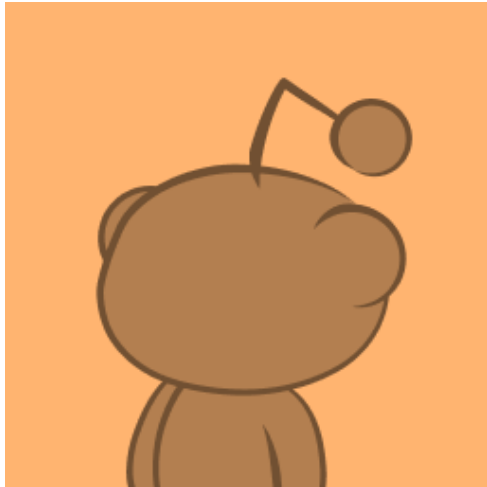


YellowPorsche617 OP · 14 hours ago

I also enjoyed the jet skis. I won every race. I also turned very sharp to splash him until he was completely soaked because he looks better wetter 💧



2.8k points Reply



sockdrawer_feelings · 14 hours ago

I hate how stupid we were to get here.

But you got here. That's the part that matters. We did it Reddit!



2.1k points Reply

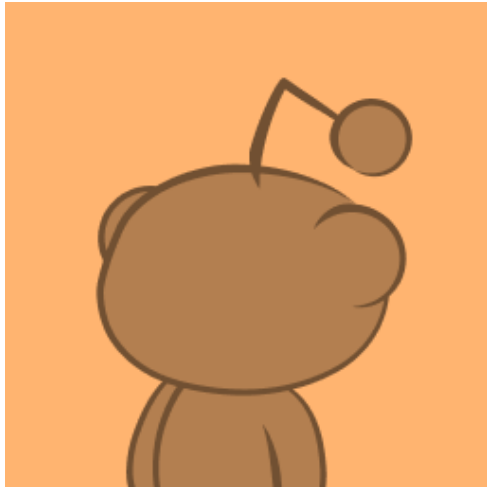


YellowPorsche617 OP · 12 hours ago

We did. We are both still stupid. I do not think that part will change. But now we are stupid together, which is better than being stupid alone in my house with flat ginger ale and a shirt I refused to wash. I washed the shirt, by the way. I do not need it anymore. I have the real thing. He is outside right now on the dock in shorts and no shirt doing yoga and I am sitting in his kitchen on his laptop writing this, which he would kill me for if he knew, and I should go before he finishes and comes inside and asks what I am doing.



5.1k points Reply



sockdrawer_feelings · 10 hours ago

Get off the internet. Go be with him.



2.1k points Reply

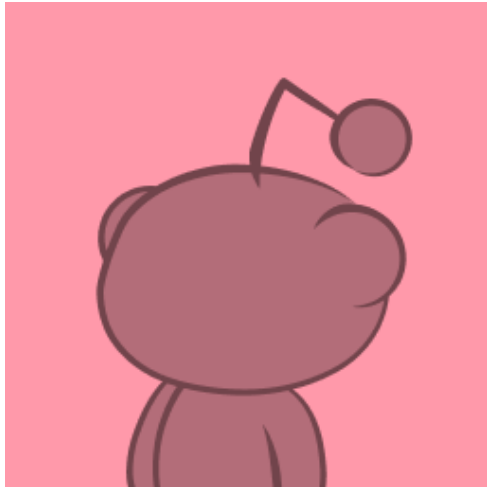


BagelBitch_BOS · 8 hours ago

YOU ARE WELCOME FOR NOTHING. NOW GO OUTSIDE AND TELL THE BIRD MAN YOU LOVE HIM.



3.4k points Reply

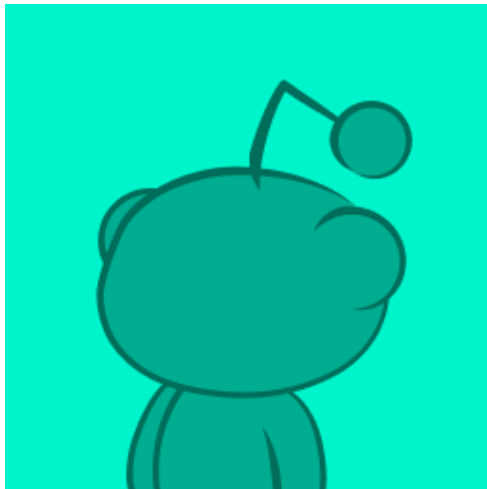


quietlyqueer_2891 · 7 hours ago

This is the best thing that has ever happened on this subreddit. I'm not exaggerating. RemindMe! 5 years "did the loons officiate the wedding"



1.2k points Reply



ChaosGremlin99 · 6 hours ago

tuna melt guy got his happy ending!



1.5k points Reply



PNW_hiker_chick · 5 hours ago

Did you see his posts from January/June? etc? How did you handle the casual "I almost died. Everything's fine now."



2.3k points Reply

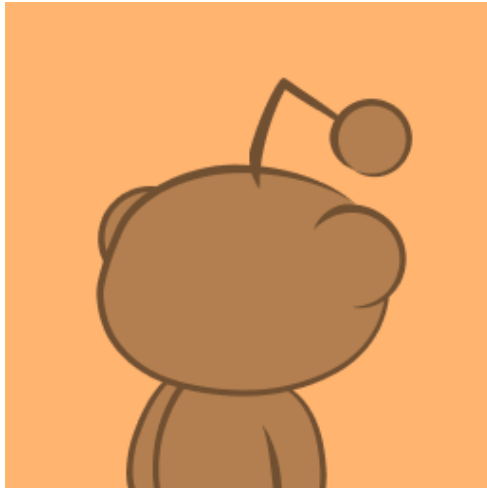


YellowPorsche617 OP · 4 hours ago

Not well. It was scary and difficult time. He was also very cute on pain medication when I went to visit him in hospital.



3.4k points Reply



StepByStep_90 · 3 hours ago

So... we still doing the 48 hours in bed, or what?



1.1k points Reply



YellowPorsche617 OP · 2 hours ago

No. Forty-eight hours is for children. I want forty-eight years now. Maybe forty-eight million. He has the endurance for it and I need to make up for time lost.



4.5k points Reply

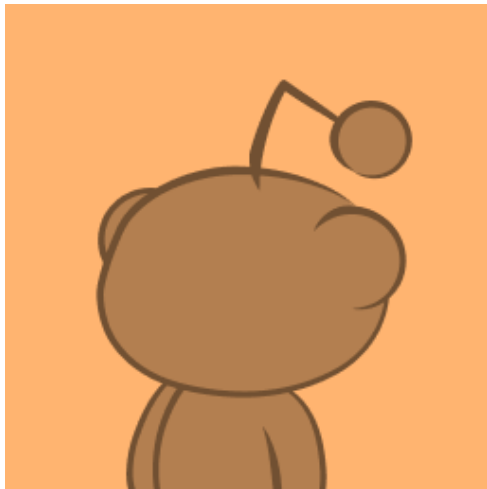


ChaosGremlin99 · 1 hour ago

The medical miracle is back on! Get him pregnant OP!



2.2k points Reply



sockdrawer_feelings · 30 mins ago

RIP u/GingerAle_MTL, godspeed soldier



1.5k points Reply

[Bsky](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [My Hollanov fics on AO3](#)

Reminder that you can pretend the comment section is part of the subreddit and add comments for OP. If they make me laugh I might add them to the chapter!

This was my planned 'end' for this silly SocMed fic as it was more CSS practice for me than an actual story, but at this point I'm having so much fun that I think I will drag it through TLG. I also want to do more side posts/megathreads, etc etc. I don't have them drafted, which means they will come LATER... but that also means you guys can recommend/request certain subreddits, posts, characters etc etc. Marking this as complete until I get there! In the interim, I am catching up on comments on previous chapters :)

Thanks for reading!

Not sure what to say? Comment anxiety? How about...

- ❤️ “I liked/loved it!”
- 🌌 “this wasn't my favorite”
- 💻 “Lurking”
- ★ “Edit: wow this blew up R.I.P inbox”
- 🗡️ “this usually isnt my thing... and yet”
- 💀 “how dare you (affectionate)”

End Notes

Reddit workskin by [jinsake](#)!

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Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!