

DESPERATE TIMES, DESPERATE MEASURES

Written by

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After another failed situationship, a 22-year-old hopeless romantic uses a "grow your own boyfriend" kit, unaware of its messy consequences.

EXT. STREET - SUNSET

Establishing shot of a serene and peaceful town. Happy/chill music plays. A high-pitched SCREAM suddenly cuts it off.

INT. CLARA'S ROOM - EVENING

CLARA (22), a desperate, hopeless romantic, sits on her bed moping. Her ride-or-die (but undervalued) best friend, MONA (22), rubs her back.

CLARA
(sniffling)
I just- I thought he was different.

MONA
That's what you said last time.

CLARA
How can a guy from a dating app
"not be ready for a relationship"?!

Clara screams and violently hits her pillow.

MONA
At least you didn't tell this one
you loved him after 2 weeks-

CLARA
I hate men! I hate men! I hate
them, I hate them, I hate th-

MONA
Hey! Look what I brought you.

She holds up a little goodie bag.

MONA (CONT'D)
We have some candy, face masks, and
look at this: a grow your own
boyfriend kit! It's like those
mermaid things we grew in water as
kids!

Clara stares at her in silence.

MONA (CONT'D)
I know you're upset, but... there's
more to life than just dating.
Literally, when has a man made your
life better? Maybe you can take a
break and just (gesturing at the
kit) date him instead.

CLARA

Ugh, Mona, you don't get it. Hey-

Mona grabs Clara's arm and drags her to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

CLARA

Maybe there's something wrong with me...Am I unlovable? Mona, am I-

Mona puts a finger to Clara's lips, shushing her.

MONA

Get me a bowl.

They grab a bowl, fill it with water, open the packaging of the boyfriend kit, and place it in the water. Mona stares at it proudly while Clara frowns. A tear rolls down her face and falls into the bowl.

INT. CLARA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Clara's tucked into bed while Mona sits by her side.

MONA

You should get some rest. Your new boyfriend should be ready in the morning. Love you.

Clara chuckles. Mona exits and turns off the lights.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The bowl with the "grow a boyfriend" kit bubbles and sparkles.

INT. CLARA'S ROOM - MORNING

Groggy, Clara rolls over in bed. She finds a man staring at her. She screams. He screams. She gets out of bed, runs to the bathroom, and locks the door. She frantically types on her phone.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

CLARA

Who are you?! Why are you in my room?!

MAN (O.S.)

Clara-bear! Don't be afraid. It's Adam. You brought me to life, silly goose!

Confused, Clara looks around. She sees wet footprints on the floor, and the bowl from last night is empty. She gingerly opens the door and looks at the man: he's gorgeous. ADAM (22) is a Ken doll reincarnate.

MAN (ADAM) (CONT'D)

I'm your boyfriend, Clara.

She smiles. Mona bursts through the door and takes off one of her shoes, waving it threateningly at Adam.

MONA

Get away from her! Clara, get behind me!

CLARA

Mona wait! It's okay! He's the guy from the "grow a boyfriend kit"! It's real!

MONA

(to Adam)

Did you drug my friend?! I swear to god I'm going to kill y-

Mona lunges. Adam screams. Clara gets between them.

CLARA

(giddy)

I'm not on drugs, Mona. He's real!

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Mona stares at the empty bowl and the wet footprints.

MONA

HOLY FU-

EXT. PARK - DAY

Adam and Clara have a picnic in the park. Adam reads Sylvia Plath, but puts the book down to toss grapes into Clara's mouth. They laugh. Clara checks her phone and sees a text from Mona asking to hang out. She ignores it.

ADAM

You're perfect, Clara.

They giggle and roll around the grass together.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Clara and Adam sit at the table eating dinner. Adam shifts uncomfortably and picks at his food.

CLARA

What's wrong? Are you still sad
that women couldn't vote?

ADAM

No, my head just really hurts, and
I'm really thirsty...I'll grab some
more water. We can finish talking
about 3rd wave feminism when I get
back.

Adam kisses Clara on the forehead and leaves. Clara shrugs. Her phone shows missed calls from Mona and more texts asking to talk.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Clara and Adam walk through the park. Mona calls Clara, who silences her notifications. Adam rubs his arms.

CLARA

You okay-

ADAM

(Snapping)
Yeah, don't worry about it. My skin
just feels really dry. I think I
need some water.

INT. CLARA'S ROOM - EVENING

Clara cuddles with Adam as a movie plays. Empty plastic water bottles surround them. Adam ignores the movie and watches football on his phone. Clara looks at him, annoyed, and wriggles out of his arms. Adam doesn't look up.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Adam (dressed down) and Clara (dressed up) walk around. Clara has a cup of ice cream in her hands. Adam carries a massive water bottle.

ADAM
Are you really going to finish
that?

Mid-bite, Clara throws her ice cream away and sighs. As the couple walks away, we see that Adam has a bald spot.

INT. CLARA'S ROOM- NIGHT

The lights are off, and Adam lies with his back turned to Clara, scrolling through X. Clara opens her phone and scrolls through the 20+ unread messages from Mona.

CLARA (O.C)
(texting)
Hey, can we talk? Something weird's
going on.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

At one side of the table, Adam sits uncomfortably close to Clara. He's in sweats and an alpha male shirt, and his bald spot has grown. His giant water bottle sits on the table. Mona enters.

MONA
Oh, hey, Adam. Didn't know you'd be
at girls' night.

ADAM
Oh, I don't let my Clara-Bear go
anywhere without me.

He smiles and wraps his arms around Clara, who laughs nervously.

MONA
Oh...ok. So Clara, how have you
been-

ADAM
Oh, we're doing great, aren't we?

CLARA
Yeah, we are.

ADAM
You know, I was thinking, I really
want to be a father. I want to
spread my seed, bro.

Mona stares wide-eyed at Clara.

CLARA

Haha, yeah, but that's a really big commitment-

ADAM

I heard on this podcast that women don't want to have kids anymore. But...that's why women exist: breeding. Oh, and there's this crazy thing called abortion-

CLARA

Mona, can we talk alone for a sec?

Adam protests and grabs Clara's arm.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Hey Adam, why don't you go watch some football?

ADAM

Football...

Like a zombie, Adam exits.

CLARA

Please, Mona, you've got to help me. I have to get rid of him.

MONA

Oh, that's why you're talking to me: you need something!

CLARA

Please, Mona, this is BAD.

Clara looks around before whispering something into Mona's ear. Mona's eyes go wide.

INT. CLARA'S ROOM - EVENING

Clara sneaks behind Adam, who's fully captivated by the TV. Mona, who's holding a bundle of rope, mouths "go". Clara lifts a frying pan over Adam's head.

Insert Shot: Adam is unconscious and tied up in the bathtub.

The girls turn the thermostat to the max heat and put a dehumidifier in the bathroom. Exhausted, they flop onto the bed.

MONA

And now we wait for him to dry out?

CLARA

Yup.

Beat.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Ugh, Mona, I'm so sorry for getting you into this.

MONA

It's okay, Clara.

ADAM (O.S.)

(muffled)

Hey! Let me out! Help! Help! Clara-bear! Don't do this! I love you!

CLARA

SHUT UP, ADAM! (Back to Mona) No, Mona, I'm sorry. This happens every time. Well, not THIS, but...what I'm trying to say is I'm sorry. I love you, Mona.

MONA

I love you too, Clara.

They hug.

ADAM (O.S.)

HELP!

MONA AND CLARA

SHUT UP, ADAM!

ADAM (O.S.)

Help, help, he...l..p

Silence.

CLARA

I think it's done.

INT. BATHROOM- EVENING

Clara and Mona loom over the bathtub. Inside is some rope and pre-grown Adam (just like he was in the box).

CLARA

I'm deleting the dating apps too.
I'm done with men.

They smile at each other and fist-bump.

