

STAIRS

Written by

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Draft III

After accidentally pushing her one night stand down a flight of stairs, Stella has to take Jackson to the hospital and begins to realize that there might be more between them than they originally thought.

CUT IN:

INT. HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

The front door flies open, JACKSON (20) and STELLA (20) barge through and furiously make out (like seriously, you probably couldn't separate them with a crowbar if you tried). Jackson slams the door closed and stumbles back. The two of them hit a wall and continue to make out.

CHARLES (O.S.)
JACKSON WHAT THE FUCK!?

Jackson looks away, Stella sloppily kisses his cheek.

JACKSON
(Slurred)
Sorry Charless, I try to be more quiet.

Stella takes off Jackson's jacket and pushes it to the ground. Jackson then turns his attention back to Stella. She pushes him back a little too hard. Jackson stumbles back into a door that isn't completely closed. It opens up into the basement and Jackson tumbles down the stairs.

JACKSON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Ooof, uh, mmm, ooooooh!

STELLA
Oh shit.

Stella runs to the door and sees Jackson on the ground, writhing around in pain and holding his leg.

JACKSON
Aaah, oh that one really hurt.

Jackson looks at his leg.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Oh boy, I can see the bone, that's fucking disgusting.

Jackson starts to GAG.

CHARLES (O.S.)
What the fuck is going on here?

Stella looks to the side and sees Charles approaching. He squits his eyes and holds a blanket around his shoulder.

STELLA

Uh... I don't really know how to-

Charles steps on Jackson's jacket, which slides out from under his feet. Charles stumbles into the basement doorframe, hits it and bounces off camera. We then hear the sound of Charles TUMBLING DOWN STAIRS.

CHARLES

Ooof, uh, mmm, ooooooh!

JACKSON

Ooooh!

Stella's eyes go wide, she covers her mouth with her hand.

Charles rolls off Jackson and looks at his arm.

CHARLES

Oh jeez, I can see the bone. I can see your bone too!

(Gag)

I think I'm gonna-

(Gag)

JACKSON

Dude, don't do it. If you do it then I'm gonna do it.

The two of them continue to GAG in the background. Stella turns to the camera, then completely sobers up.

STELLA

October 21st, 2014 at about

(checks watch)

11:45 PM. I thought this was the end of my night, but far from it.

RECEPTIONIST (PRE-LAP)

So let me get this straight...

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Stella stands across from a RECEPTIONIST (69-71). Stella's posture is way too good and her face is way too straight.

RECEPTIONIST

... he tripped down a flight of stairs?

STELLA

Yeah.

RECEPTIONIST

How?

STELLA

Uh... I pushed him down them.

The receptionist's brow furrows.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Unintentionally.

RECEPTIONIST

...

STELLA

I didn't know it was the door to the basement.

RECEPTIONIST

...

STELLA

I'm from Florida, we don't even have basements there.

RECEPTIONIST

Uh-huh.

(Beat)

So you and your boyfriend were getting a little rou-

STELLA

No, he's not my boyfriend.

RECEPTIONIST

Then what is he? Just some piece of ass?

Stella's brow furrows.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

What? Isn't that how the kids say it?

STELLA

I mean... I guess?

RECEPTIONIST

He's just a piece of ass?

STELLA

No, it's what the kids say.

RECEPTIONIST

So he's not just a piece of ass?

STELLA

No, we sat next to each other in our rhetoric class last semester.

(Beat)

Wait, why does this even matter?

The receptionist types something into her computer. Stella looks at the camera and sighs.

The receptionist types something into the computer.

STELLA (CONT'D)

(Murmuring)

It's way too late for this.

LATER

Stella sits in the waiting room. A Taco Bell bag sits in front of her.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Charles's mom picked him up. He wasn't too happy with us and didn't give us a ride. Watching Jackson trip down that flight of stairs was a pretty sobering experience, but neither of us drove and I didn't feel right leaving him behind.

The door opens and Jackson hobbles out with crutches and a cast around his leg.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Hey.

JACKSON

I thought you'd have left.

STELLA

I didn't want to ditch you. Besides, the least I could do was pay for an Uber back.

(Beat)

Oh, and I bought you this.

Stella hands Jackson the Taco Bell bag. Jackson opens it and pulls out a Crunch Wrap Supreme.

JACKSON

Wow, thanks. This is also probably my favorite thing from Taco Bell.

STELLA

I know, I remember you told me in class once.

JACKSON

You remembered?

STELLA

Mm-hmm.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Jackson and Stella sit on the curb next to each other. Jackson eats his crunchwrap supreme.

STELLA

Hey, I'm really sorry about what happened.

JACKSON

It's fine, you couldn't have known.

STELLA

Yeah but, it doesn't seem like Charles is too happy with you either.

Jackson shrugs.

JACKSON

Charles always has a stick up his ass, he'll forget about it tomorrow when I put his truffle butter on the wrong shelf in the refrigerator or something like that.

Stella laughs.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Look, uh... I know we were both pretty fucked up at that party and you uh... pushed me down a flight of stairs, but uh... I really like you and uh...

STELLA

You want another shot?

JACKSON

Well, that's a little more crude than I'd but it but yeah, I guess it gets the same point across.

STELLA

I think I kind of owe you one.

JACKSON

Not really. This wasn't my first time.

STELLA

Really?

JACKSON

Yeah. Well, I didn't get pushed but I tripped down a flight of stairs when I was seven and got a concussion. I've got some experience.

The two of them smile. The Uber approaches.

INT. UBER - NIGHT (MOVING)

Stella and Jackson sit in the backseat of the Uber. Stella yawns, then leans her head on Jackson's shoulder and closes her eyes.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Jackson crutch-walks Stella to the door. They reach the door and come to a stop.

STELLA

Thanks for taking this so well. The last guy this happened to wasn't as nice about it.

Jackson's brow furrows.

JACKSON

I'm not the first?

STELLA

No... I was joking...

Jackson shrugs.

JACKSON

Well... you know... running over a nail and popping a tire, cracking your phones screen, getting accidentally pushed down a flight of stairs and then having your roommate land on top of you after he trips down the same flight of stairs, can happen any day.

STELLA

I really mean it though.

JACKSON

And I do too. I know you'd never do something like that intentionally.

Stella kisses Jackson.

STELLA

Text me, alright? You're a really good guy and I really do want to go on an actual date.

JACKSON

I will.

STELLA

Goodnight.

JACKSON

Goodnight.

Jackson and Stella go their separate ways. Stella unlocks the door and looks back at Jackson.

Jackson waves.

Stella waves back, then goes into the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Stella closes the door, then looks into the camera.

STELLA

And that is how I started dating my husband.

CUT TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stella and Jackson lay in bed together, the sheets covering their bodies.

STELLA

You know, not too bad for being one leg down.

JACKSON

Me? No, it was you. You were incredib-

DUH

Stella and Jackson look up as Charles comes in with his arm in a sling and throws the door open.

CHARLES

What the fuck, Jackson? I came home from my GIFs, Selfies and Memes class and find my truffle butter on the shelf. Not the insulator like we talked about, the shelf and now the texture is going to be wrong. And guess what? Now my gourmet mushroom risotto is going to taste off. All because of you.

Charles storms off.

Stella looks to Jackson, who looks to her.

JACKSON

Told you he'd get over the broken arm.

CUT TO BLACK.