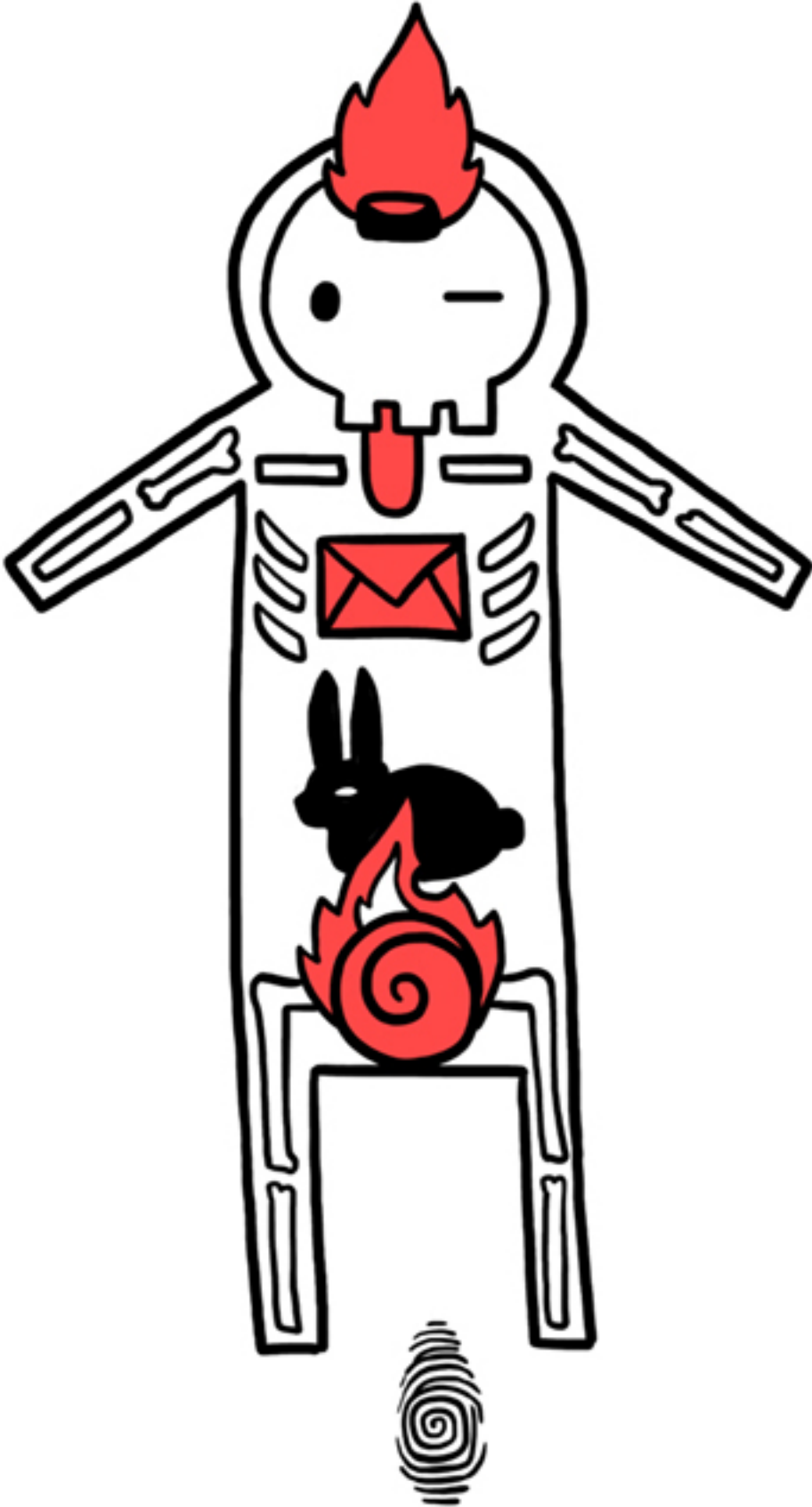


SEX



I'VE ALWAYS HAD KIND OF AN ANTITHETICAL RELATIONSHIP TO SEX.



I MEAN I ENJOY IT, OF COURSE. JUST ALWAYS FELT LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD THERE.



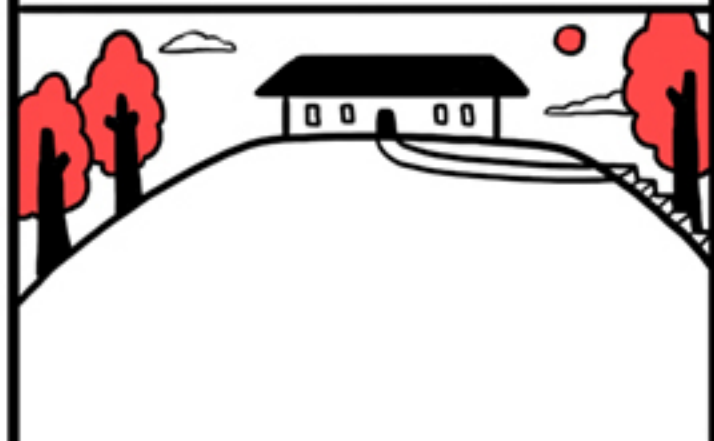
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I WAS EXPOSED TO PORN AT A REALLY YOUNG AGE.



ALWAYS WONDERED IF THAT WAS A FACTOR.

IT WAS ACTUALLY AT MY GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE.



THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SAFE PLACE, RIGHT?

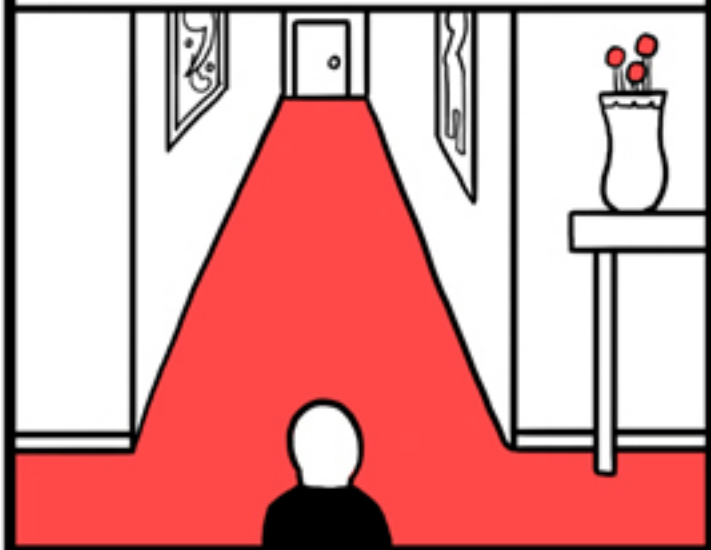
BUT DEMONS OFTEN HIDE IN UNEXPECTED PLACES.



NO ONE EVER TOLD ME THAT.



THERE WAS THIS COMPUTER WAY IN THIS BACK ROOM I WOULD USE.

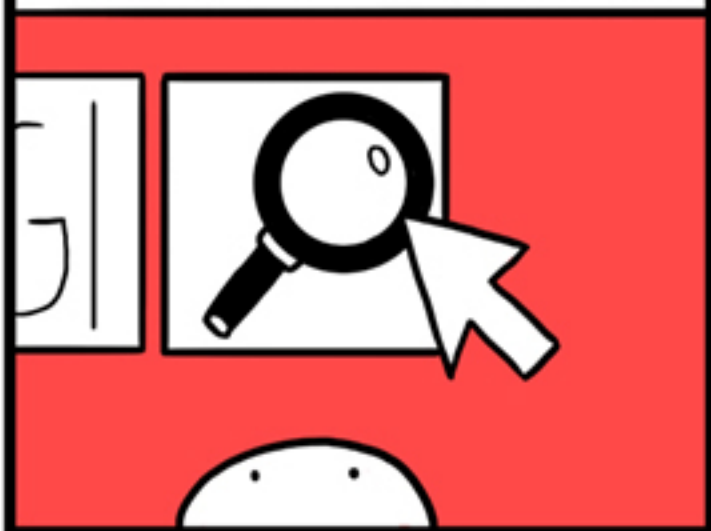


I VAGUELY REMEMBER PLAYING SOME LOW RES DISNEY GAME ON THERE OR SOMETHING.



I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE ADULTS THOUGHT I WAS DOING.

ONE TIME, RANDOMLY, I SEARCHED ONLINE FOR "PICTURES OF GIRLS KISSING."



I WAS REALLY YOUNG, MAYBE LIKE TEN. MAYBE YOUNGER.



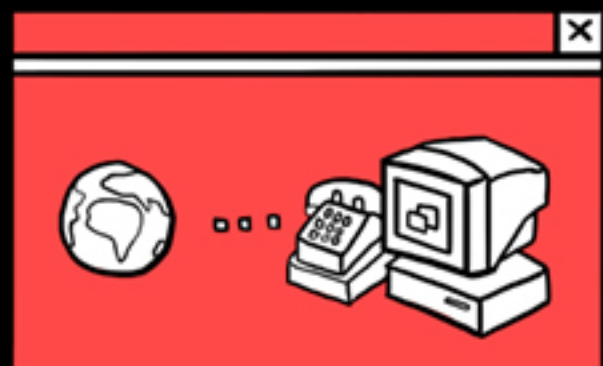
I HAVE NO CLUE WHY I DID THAT. I HADN'T EVEN GONE THROUGH PUBERTY YET.



JUST PURE CURIOSITY, I GUESS.



THIS WAS STILL DIAL UP TIMES. THERE WASN'T JUST A TON OF FREE Hardcore PORN EVERYWHERE.



BUT I DID FIND PORN SITES. AND I LOOKED AT THEM. A LOT.



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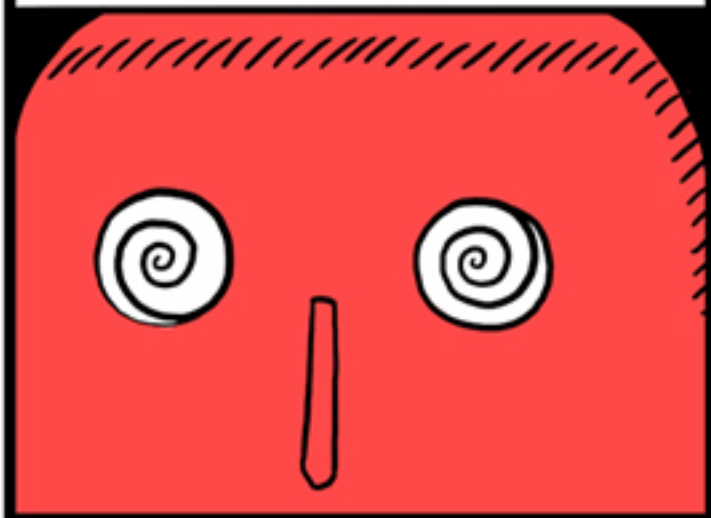
THE SITES WERE ALL BEHIND PAYWALLS, SO, THERE WAS A GALLERY OF FREE PICS AT EACH ONE.



LATER AT MY HOUSE WE GOT "NORMAL INTERNET" AND I USED FILESHARING PROGRAMS LIKE KAZAA TO DOWNLOAD PORN VIDEOS.



I WAS PROBABLY IN... 6TH GRADE THEN, SO AROUND ELEVEN.



WATCHING STRAIGHT UP Hardcore PORN. REGULARY.



SEEMS KIND OF CRAZY IN RETROSPECT.

AND THAT JUST BECAME THE NORM. I WATCHED A LOT OF PORN. I THOUGHT EVERYONE DID.



I GUESS I GOT LUCKY, WHEN I FIRST HAD SEX I DIDN'T NOTICE THE "EFFECT" OF ALL THE PORN AND JERKING OFF.



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YOU COULD SAY I PERFORMED NORMALLY.



I WAS FIFTEEN.

WE WERE "IN LOVE" AND DATED FOR A LONG TIME. IT WAS PRETTY WHOLESOME.



IT WASN'T UNTIL COLLEGE THAT I ENCOUNTERED CASUAL SEX, A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ANIMAL.



THE WORD ANIMAL IS USED INTENTIONALLY.



I GUESS I NEVER REALLY DECOUPLED THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL SIDES OF INTIMACY.



I NATURALLY ASSUMED THERE WAS SOME EMOTIONAL CONNECTION THERE IF I WAS BEING PHYSICAL WITH SOMEONE.

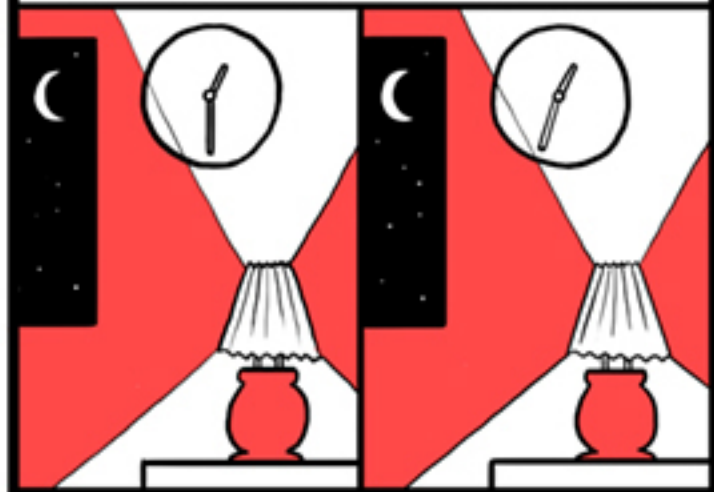


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I GOT TOTALLY BLINDSIDED BY THE FACT THAT THIS WASN'T THE CASE.



THIS GAP WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE FACT THAT THE FIRST TIME I HAD CASUAL SEX I FINISHED REALLY EARLY.



IT WAS KIND OF WEIRD BECAUSE I NEVER HAD THAT PROBLEM WITH MY PREVIOUS GIRLFRIEND.



I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT.

THE GIRL WAS REALLY NOT COOL ABOUT IT.



I MEAN DON'T GET ME WRONG,
I KNEW WE WEREN'T IN
LOVE OR ANYTHING LIKE
THAT. OBVIOUSLY.



I JUST THOUGHT WE'D AT
LEAST BE COOL WITH
EACH OTHER.



SHE WAS REALLY HOSTILE AND
WEIRD ABOUT IT.



I EVEN OVERHEARD HER
REALLY AGGRESSIVELY
TALKING SHIT ABOUT ME.



THE WHOLE SITUATION
BOTHERED ME A LOT.
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?



IT FELT REALLY BAD.



FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, I FELT KIND OF STUNG AND TURNED AWAY FROM CASUAL SEX.

WE SHOULD GO BACK TO MY DORM... AH I CAN'T TONIGHT. NEXT TIME?



LATER THAT YEAR I MET A GIRL I HAD A PRETTY EXTREME CONNECTION WITH.



I WAS (18, AND) VERY INTO GENERAL SPIRITUALITY, TRIPPY THINGS, MYSTICISM... THAT WAS HER SCENE AS WELL.



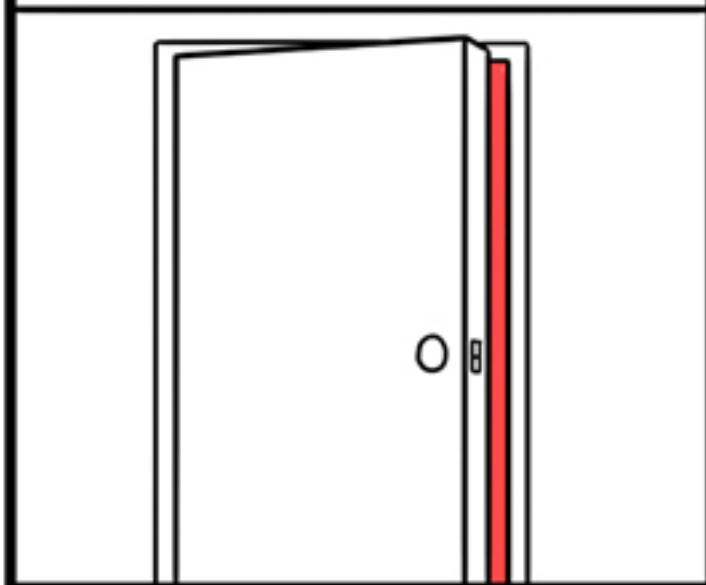
WE WOULD STAY UP ALL NIGHT TALKING ABOUT LIFE. I REALLY FELT LIKE WE HAD A PROFOUND SOUL CONNECTION.



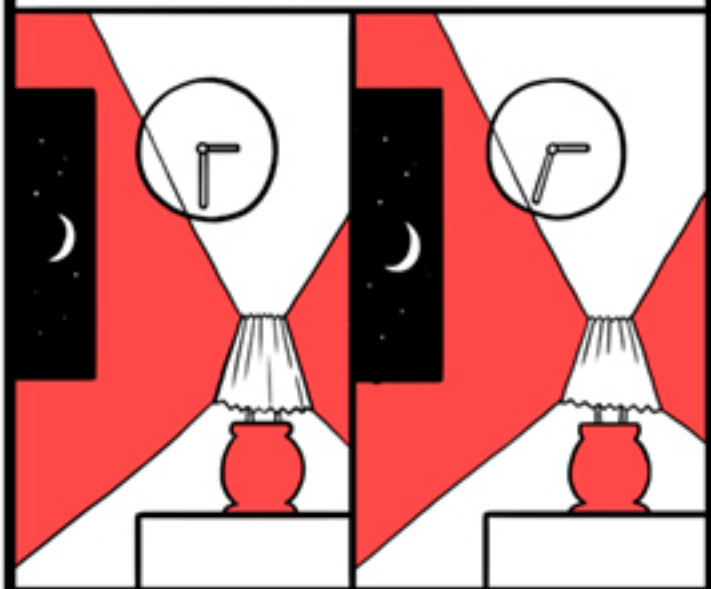
WE EVEN TALKED ABOUT THIS BOND THAT WE SHARED. SHE GAVE ME A BRACELET. I ACTUALLY WORE IT.



NATURALLY WE ENDED UP HAVING SEX PRETTY QUICKLY.



THE SAME THING HAPPENED.
AGAIN.



LIKE I SAID, I HAD NORMAL
SEX WITH MY PREVIOUS
GIRLFRIEND FOR A LONG TIME.
I KNEW NOTHING WAS "WRONG"
WITH ME.

HMMMMM ... KINDA WEIRD
WHY ... ? ...
WHATEVER



THIS TIME, I MEAN THIS GIRL
AND I REALLY CARED ABOUT
EACH OTHER. WE WEREN'T
JUST HERE FOR SEX. WHY
WOULD THIS BE A BIG DEAL?

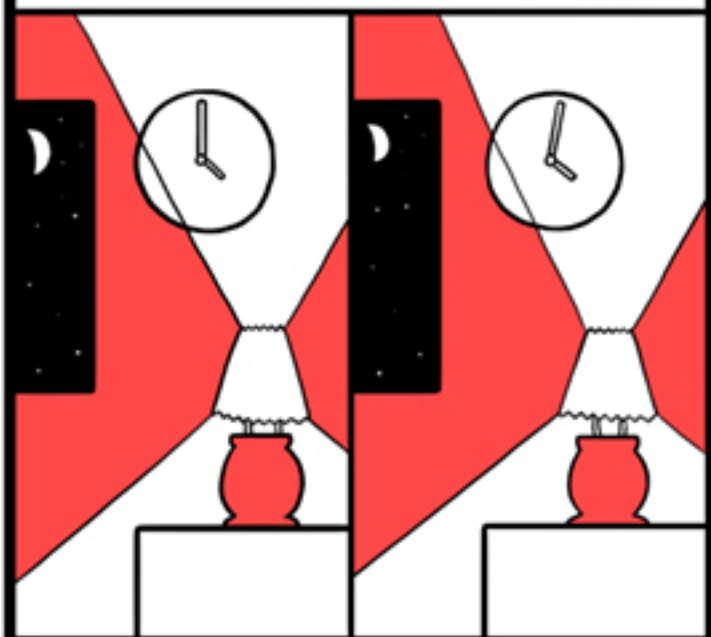


IT WAS A BIG DEAL. SHE WAS
REALLY NOT UNDERSTANDING.

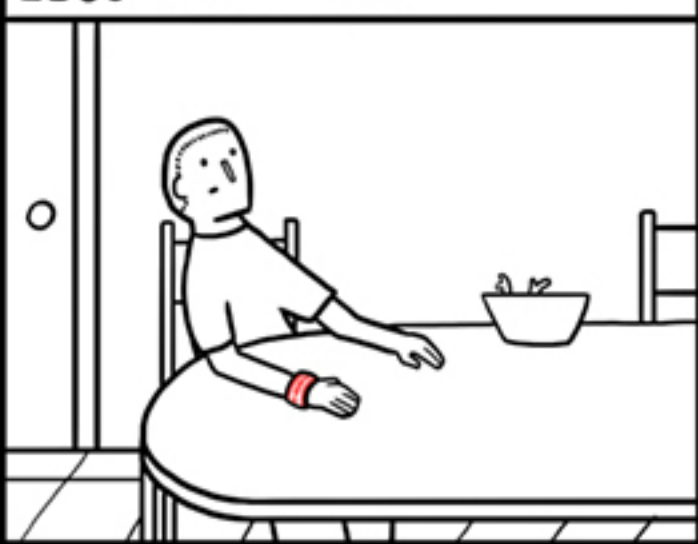


I FELT SOMETHING BETWEEN US
CHANGE.

THEN IT HAPPENED AGAIN.



THINGS STARTED TO FIZZLE
OUT. WE SAW EACH OTHER
LESS AND LESS.



I COULDN'T BELIEVE I WAS GOING TO LOSE THIS GIRL OVER SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL.



IT WAS A NEW LEVEL OF CONSTANT MENTAL HELL.

IT WAS LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR BOND MEANT NOTHING BECAUSE OF THIS PHYSICAL FLUKE.



I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

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IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS SOME CURSE ON ME AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT.



IN RETROSPECT, THE PORN USE WAS PROBABLY A FACTOR. THERE'S SOME INTERESTING DATA ON THIS LINK NOW.



IN FACT, IT SOUNDS CRAZY BUT AT THE TIME I THOUGHT MORE PORN USE WOULD ACTUALLY HELP.



HOW CRAZY IS THAT?

JUST A REALLY CONFUSED AND DESPERATE KID.



NEVER TOLD ANYONE ANY OF THIS.

THINGS ENDED BETWEEN US. INSIDE, I WAS PRETTY BITTER ABOUT IT.



I FELT LIKE THERE WAS THIS VEIL OF THE GENERAL NARRATIVE ABOUT SEX THAT I ACCIDENTALLY PUNCTURED THROUGH.



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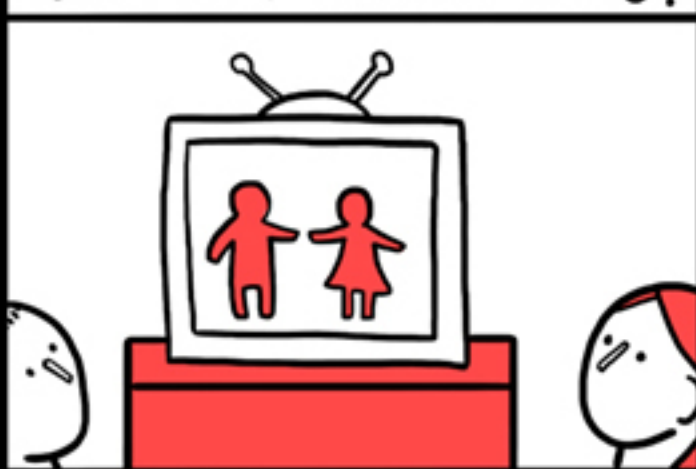
GUYS JUST LIKE, USE GIRLS FOR SEX. WOMEN ARE MORE EMOTIONAL THAN MEN SO IT'S HARDER FOR THEM WHEN—



I JUST SPENT A YEAR GETTING MY TEETH KICKED IN BY WOMEN WHOSE VIEW OF ME WAS HIGHLY BASED ON MY SEXUAL PERFORMANCE.



HOW DOES THAT FIT INTO WHAT EVERYONE SAYS ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING?



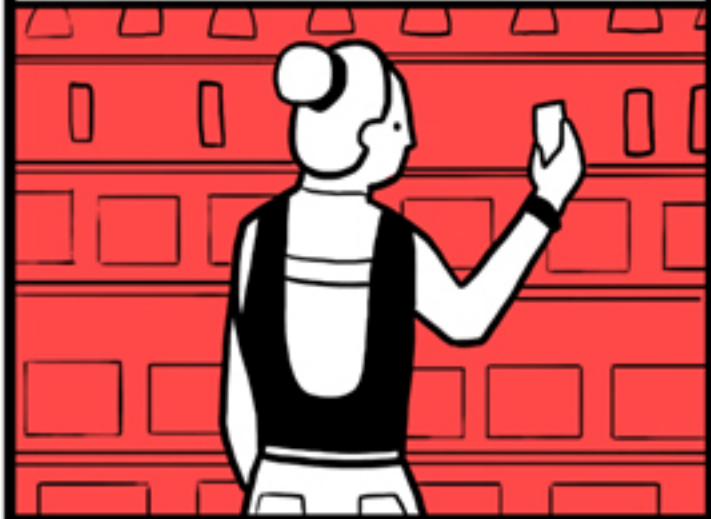
IT DOESN'T.

MEN ARE ALSO SUBTLY CONDITIONED TO NOT TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS.



ANYWAY...

EVENTUALLY THERE WERE OTHER GIRLS. I MET A GIRL AT WORK.



WE HOOKED UP PRETTY QUICKLY. ODDLY, I DIDN'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM WITH HER.



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INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, IT WAS A TOTAL MIND OVER MATTER SITUATION.



THE FIRST TIME WE HAD SEX, I JUST TOLD MYSELF NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH ME AND THAT IT WAS ALL IN MY MIND.



IT ACTUALLY WORKED.

WE DATED REALLY BRIEFLY. THAT STORY ISN'T REALLY RELEVANT TO ALL THIS.



I'M INTRODUCING HER HERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.



AFTER WE BROKE UP, WE HOOKED UP A FEW TIMES, CASUALLY.



THERE'S THAT WORD AGAIN. CASUAL.

MOSTLY, IT WAS COOL. EVERY NOW AND THEN SHE'D HIT ME UP AND COME OVER.



I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT.

THIS WENT ON FOR A LONG TIME, THERE WERE HUGE GAPS BETWEEN THESE RENDEZVOUS. OFTEN MANY MONTHS.



SHE WAS LIKE ONE OF THOSE CHARACTERS WHO APPEARS UNEXPECTEDLY LIKE ONCE A SEASON.



MEANWHILE MY OWN STORYLINE WAS PROGRESSING.



I WAS MORE INTO SPIRITUALITY AND MYTICISM THAN EVER.

ONE OF THESE MEETINGS CAME OUT OF NOWHERE WHEN I WAS STUDYING ONE NIGHT.





YEAH. COME HERE.

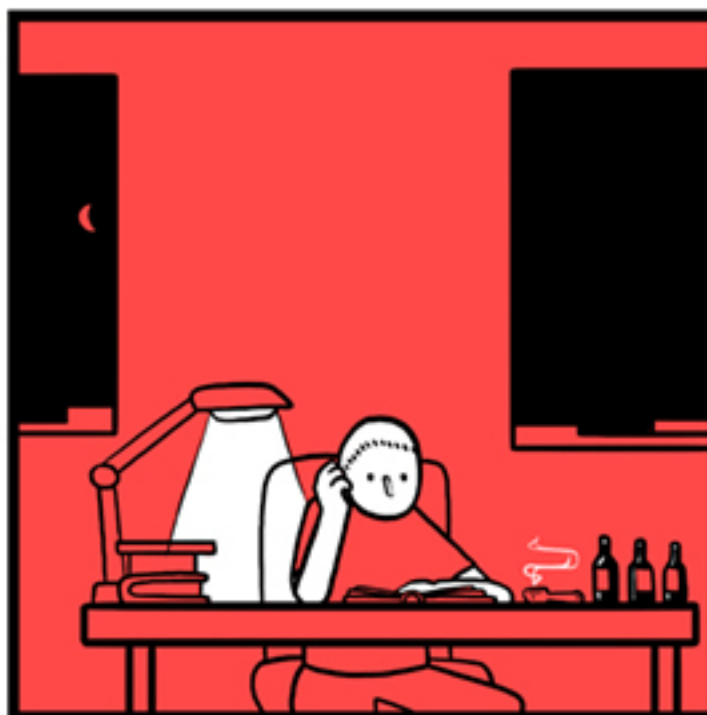


I SAID YES. I MEAN A GIRL WANTED TO HAVE SEX WITH ME. WHO WOULD SAY NO TO THAT?

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF ANYWAY.



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EVENTUALLY SHE SHOWED UP. I COULD TELL IT WAS KIND OF A MISTAKE BUT, I JUST HID IT.

HEY.



IT WAS A LOT FOR ME TO JUST SMASH A BUTTON AND FLIP INTO THE HEADSPACE FOR PURELY CASUAL SEX.

SO...



IT'S REALLY A PROFOUNDLY STRANGE EXPERIENCE HAVING SEX WHEN YOU AREN'T "INTO IT."



THIS WAS MADE WORSE BY THE FACT THAT SHE WAS REALLY INTO THE "GUY BEING AGGRESSIVE" AND "GIRL FEELING USED" ASPECT OF SEX.



SOME WOMEN LIKE FEELING KIND OF SUBMISSIVE AND DEGRADED, I GUESS.



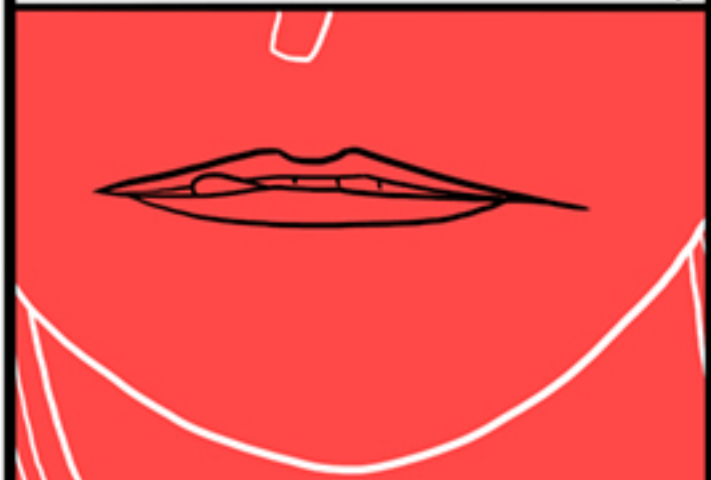
IT WAS BIZARRE TO JUST BE GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS WITH ALL THIS.

NEVER FELT SUCH AN EXTREME DISCONNECT BETWEEN MY MIND AND MY BODY.



I HATED IT. I FELT LIKE AN ANIMAL.

THE NORMALLY AT LEAST SLIGHTLY SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE ACT WAS NOT THERE.

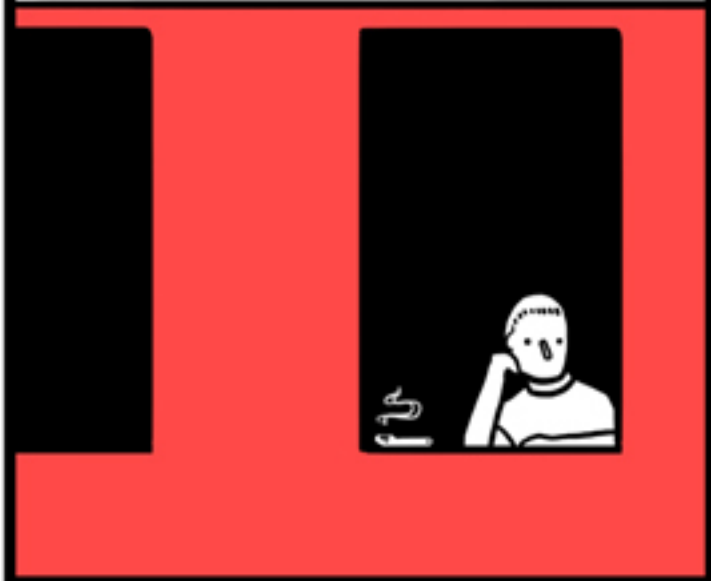


JUST TWO BODIES. ANIMALS.

THIS WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER HAD SEX WITHOUT SOME ROMANTIC ATTACHMENT.



WE NEVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN AFTER THAT.



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I FELT SO WEIRD. I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO THINK AT ALL.



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I TRIED TO TALK TO SOME GUYS ABOUT IT.

SO YEAH SHE JUST ROLLED UP AND WANTED TO... FUCK... BASICALLY...



TOLD THEM THE WHOLE STORY AND EVERYTHING.

AND IT WAS SO WEIRD BECAUSE I JUST, WASN'T INTO IT? I DUNNO MAN...



THEY... DIDN'T GET IT. AT ALL.

ARE YOU ACTUALLY COMPLAINING ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW?

YEAH SERIOUSLY WHAT.



SO I JUST KEPT IT TO MYSELF.

ANYWAY, SO MY..



JUST ANOTHER THING I COULDN'T TALK ABOUT WITH ANYONE.

I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE GETTING ADVERSE REACTIONS FROM CASUAL SEX.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DAVID?

LONG STORY.



IT SEEMED TO BE TAKING A TOLL ON EVERYONE.



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PEOPLE WERE CLEARLY SAYING ONE THING...

JUST SO YOU KNOW I'M NOT REALLY TRYING TO DATE ANYONE RIGHT NOW...

YEAH ME EITHER.



AND DOING ANOTHER.

SO YOU'RE JUST USING ME FOR SEX.

IT'S REALLY NOT LIKE THAT...



IT'S LIKE WE WERE ALL LITTLE KIDS PLAYING AROUND WITH HEAVY WEAPONRY.



JUST FUCKING EACH OTHER UP.



WHY.

MOST PEOPLE, ON SOME LEVEL, NOTICE THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF ALL THIS STUFF.



HOW COULD THEY NOT?

IT'S JUST THAT PORN AND CASUAL SEX BEING GOOD ARE FIRM RULES OF LIFE TO THEM.



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SO THEY ALWAYS EXPLAIN AWAY THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS AS CIRCUMSTANTIAL

IT WAS JUST THAT GUY. HE SUCKS.



OR BY APPEALING TO OTHER FACTORS.

PORN ISN'T WHATS FUCKING GUYS UP. IT'S...



THERE'S ALSO OTHER REASONS PEOPLE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT.

THOSE GUYS ARE JUST SUCH ANGRY LOSERS, YOU KNOW?

HA... YEAH..

HA HA HA

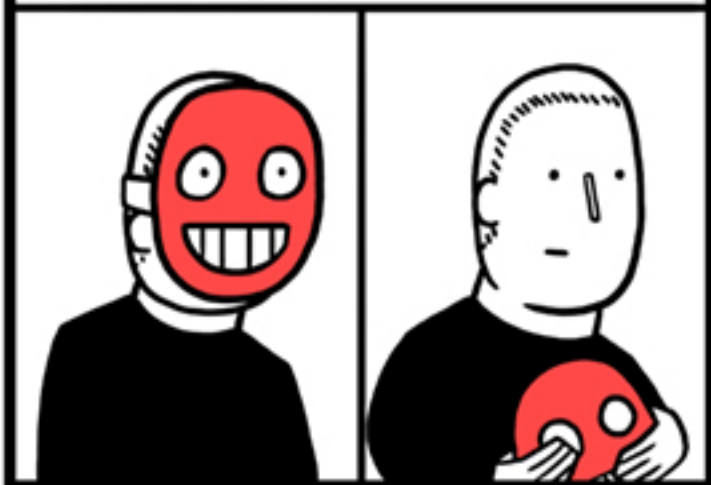


ASIDE FROM THE SHAME, IT'S HARD TO ADMIT WHEN YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

ACTUALLY I LOCKED MYSELF IN HERE ON PURPOSE.



I GUESS THERE'S A FEW REASONS WHY I FEEL COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT THIS NOW.



EVENTUALLY I MET A GREAT WOMAN, AND WE'RE MARRIED NOW.



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THE PORN THING IS SOMETHING I WRESTLED WITH FOR A LONG TIME.



THERE WAS A WHILE WHERE I KNEW HOW SICK AND EVIL IT WAS BUT I COULDN'T 100% STOP.



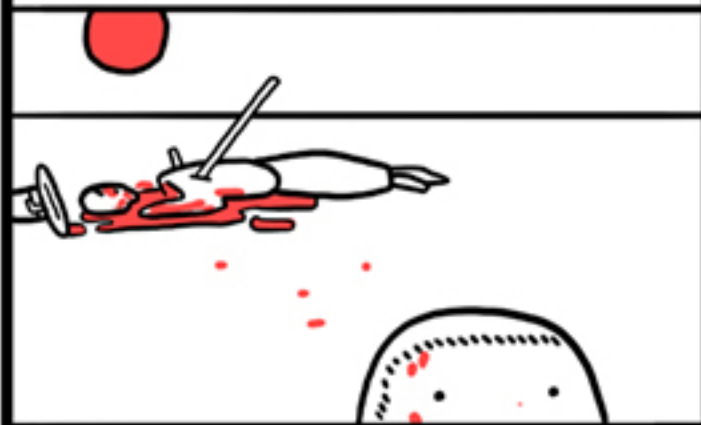
I TOLD MYSELF THAT ONCE I GOT MARRIED I COULDN'T BRING THAT INTO THE NEXT CHAPTER I WAS STARTING.



SO I DIDN'T. HAVEN'T USED PORN SINCE I GOT MARRIED.



FEELS REALLY GOOD TO BE FREE FROM IT. WISH I DID THAT EARLIER THOUGH.



I'M IN MY LATE TWENTIES, BY THE WAY.

I HAVE A NORMAL, GOOD, SEX LIFE NOW.



STILL FEEL LIKE THAT DEMON HAUNTS ME SOMETIMES.

MAYBE IT ALWAYS WILL.



MAYBE NOT. CAN'T SAY.

I KNOW A LOT OF GUYS STRUGGLE WITH THINGS LIKE THIS AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE OF HOW IT WOULD LOOK.



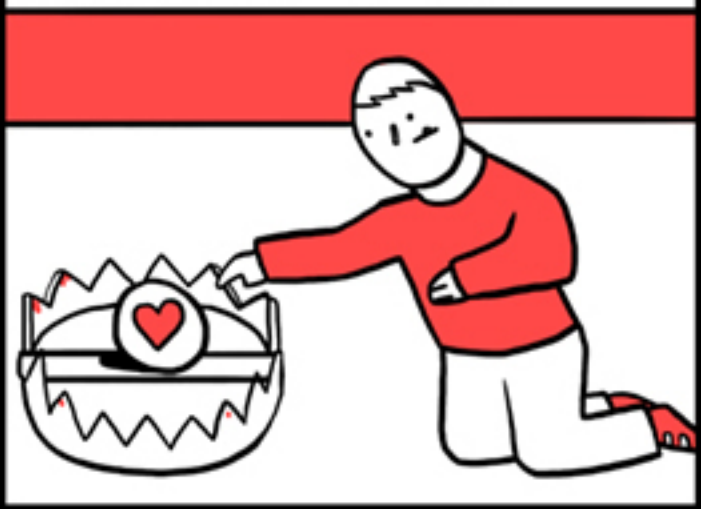
I'M OBVIOUSLY OPENING MYSELF UP TO SOME LEVEL OF RIDICULE BY REVEALING ALL THIS.



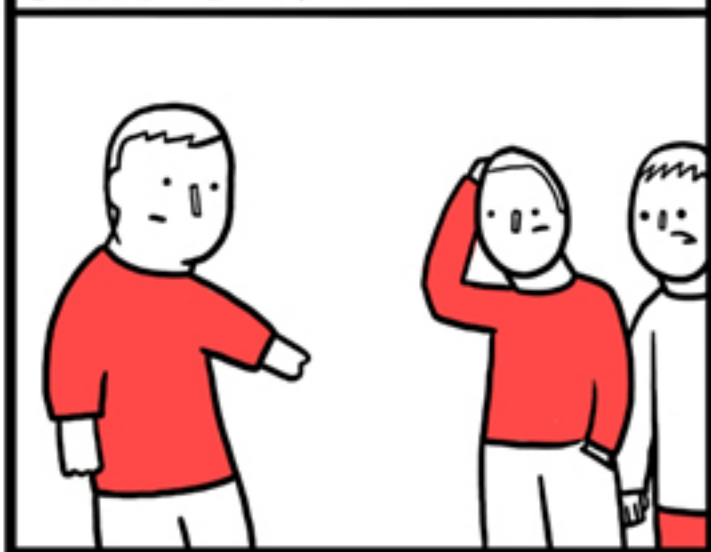
I JUST DON'T CARE.



I'VE SEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE
FUCK UP THEIR LIVES BY
HAVING A PATHOLOGICAL
RELATIONSHIP TO SEX.



BUT THESE ARE JUST THE
EXTREME CASES ANYONE
COULD SEE.



HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE
PROBLEMS LIKE THIS THAT
DON'T "SHOW IT"?



HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
I'M SURE IT'S A LARGE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

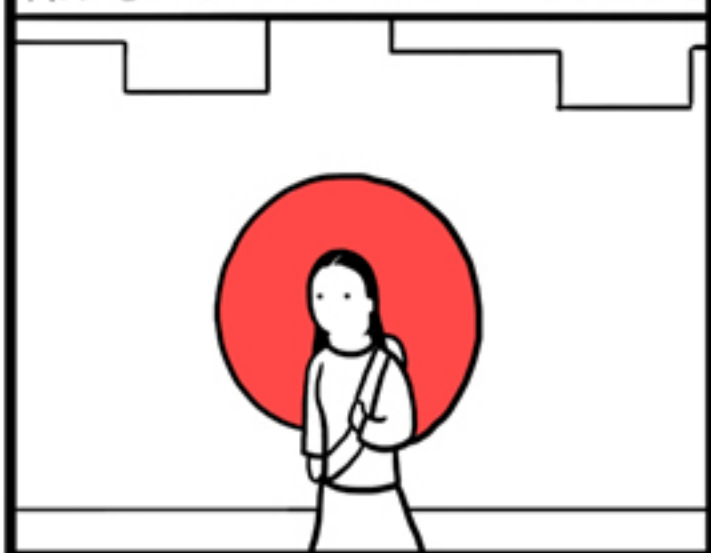


AND WE ALL JUST ACCEPT
IT AS NORMAL BECAUSE
IT'S EASIER THAN SAYING
SOMETHING.

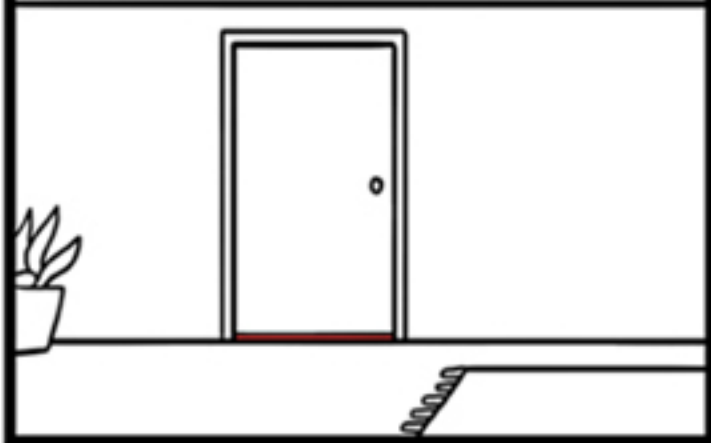


WE PRETEND IT'S NORMAL.

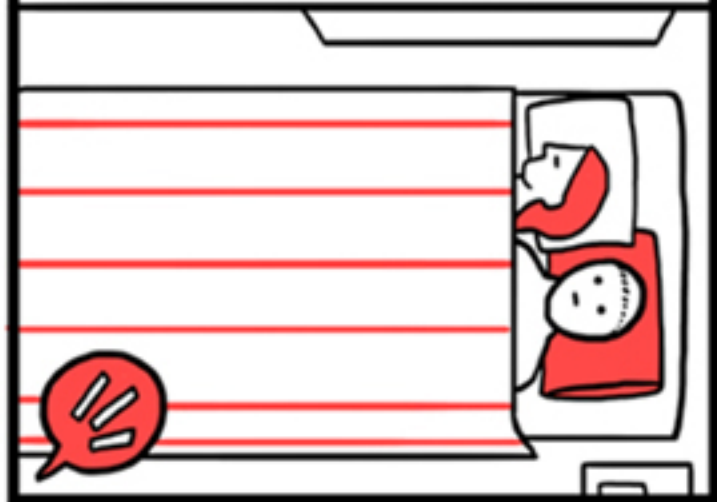
SOMETIMES I THINK ABOUT
THIS GIRL I USED TO KNOW,
AN EX-GIRLFRIEND'S FRIEND.



THEIR APARTMENT WAS WEIRD. THERE WAS A THIN DOOR CONNECTING THEIR BEDROOMS. YOU COULD HEAR EVERYTHING THROUGH IT.



MANY WEEKEND MORNINGS I'D WAKE UP AND HEAR THIS GIRL HYSTERICALLY CRYING IN HER ROOM.



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MY GIRLFRIEND SAID THIS GIRL WOULD GO OUT AND HOOK UP WITH RANDOM GUYS, THEN COME HOME AND CRY ABOUT IT.



GUESS THAT'S WHAT SHE FELT LIKE SHE "SHOULD" BE DOING.



I THINK ABOUT THAT A LOT.

