



KERRI ASLEEP WITH HER FAVORITE TEDDY BEAR.

A FEW MONTHS AGO SHE SAW A BICYCLE IN A CATALOG THAT SHE JUST HAD TO HAVE.



SHE MADE A DEAL WITH OUR PARENTS. THEY'D PAY HALF IF SHE COULD COME UP WITH THE REST.

SO SHE STARTED SAVING.

SHE SAVED EVERYTHING SHE COULD: HER ALLOWANCE, SPARE CHANGE FROM MY MOM OR DAD, EVEN A QUARTER SHE FOUND ON THE STREET.



IT ALL WENT INTO THE LITTLE METAL BOX SHE KEEPS IN HER TOP DRAWER.

AND I'M ABOUT TO *BORROW* IT.



TAKING MONEY FROM MY LITTLE SISTER'S PIGGYBANK...

HOW'D IT COME TO THIS?







YEAH.
STOKED...



WHAT'S
THE PROBLEM,
BRIANNA?



ARE YOU KIDDING?
WHERE DO I START? HOW
ABOUT US MOVING TO A
DUMP WHERE I DON'T
KNOW ANYBODY?
OR HAVING
TO SHARE A ROOM
WITH MY
LITTLE SISTER?



WE'VE
BEEN OVER
THIS
ALREADY.
IT'S NOT
JUST
ABOUT
YOU.
WE ALL
HAVE TO
DO
OUR PART.



WELL,
WHAT ABOUT
HER??



WHAT
ABOUT KERRI?
SHE'S SIX
YEARS OLD!

YEAH,
WHAT? YOU
WANT HER TO
COME TO WORK WITH
ME AND RUN THE
JACKHAMMER?



TEE
HEE
HEE!





NO, KERR.
I'M NOT.



DID YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAID AT SUPPER?



NO. IT'S JUST HARD, Y'KNOW?
HAVING TO MOVE HERE AND START ALL OVER.



BUT I LIKE IT HERE.
MAYBE AFTER A WHILE, YOU WILL, TOO.
MAYBE. GO TO SLEEP, KERR.



'NIGHT, BREE.

THE NEXT DAY...









HEY, BRIANNA!



YOU GOT ANY MONEY?

OH.

A LITTLE. IT'S FOR MY LUNCH.



COME ON! THE GAME SHOULD BE STARTING SOON!



THEY'RE PLAYING HOLD 'EM.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM. POKER!

C'MON! I WANNA GET IN ON ONE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HOLD 'EM?















AND THAT'S HOW IT WENT. THESE WERE MY NEW FRIENDS. I DIDN'T EVEN CALL MY FRIENDS BACK HOME ANYMORE.



I WAS ABLE TO BUY SOME NICER CLOTHES. WHEN I WON, ANYWAY.



I WAS IN WITH SOME COOL PEOPLE.



AND I FINALLY WON A BIG ENOUGH POT TO GET THAT 'POD I WANTED.



BUT IF I WERE PAYING CLOSER ATTENTION, I'D HAVE SEEN THAT I'D LOST WAY, WAY MORE THAN I WON.





HEH HEH!
NOT THAT
GOOD!

YOU'RE
GETTING PRETTY
GOOD AT
POKER.

GOOD
ENOUGH TO
WIN SOME OF
MY MONEY BACK
FROM YOU?

HA.
HA.



SO,
WHAT DO YOU
LIKE MOST
ABOUT IT?

HMM,
WINNING,
OF COURSE.

WELL...
YEAH, WINNING
IS COOL!

AND WHEN
I'M PLAYING I
USUALLY FORGET ABOUT ALL
THE STUFF I HAVE TO DEAL
WITH EVERYDAY.
FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST.



YOU KNOW,
MY PARENTS,
SCHOOL
'N' STUFF.
YOU?

SAME
AS YOU, I GUESS.
BUT MOSTLY FOR
THE RUSH.

RUSH?



YEAH,
YOU KNOW, RIGHT
AFTER THE TURN?
THAT'S WHEN IT STARTS.

THAT CRAZY
EXCITEMENT.

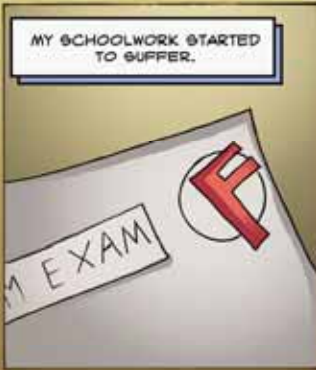
YOU AND THE
OTHER GUY STARE
AT EACH OTHER
AND YOU BOTH
KNOW ONLY ONE
OF YOU CAN WIN.

FOR ME,
NOTHING BEATS
THAT.



I DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT MY SISTER'S BIKE. I DIDN'T REALLY CARE MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING AT THE TIME.

ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS THE NEXT POKER GAME.





AWESOME!
YOU GONNA GET
ONE OF YOUR GAMES
GOING?

LADIES!
MY FOLKS ARE OUT
OF TOWN THIS WEEKEND

PARTY AT
MY PLACE
FRIDAY!



YOU
KNOW
IT!



WAIT 'TILL
YOU SEE THIS, B.
HE HAS THESE AMAZING
HOLD 'EM PARTIES!

HUNDRED
BUCKS
GETS YOU IN!



A
HUNDRED?

WOW...



THINK
YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO COME?

SOUNDS
LIKE A LOT, BUT
YOU COULD WIN AT LEAST
THREE TIMES THAT.

I
DUNNO...

OH,
COME ON!
YOU HAVE TO
FIND A WAY! IT'S
SO COOL!

WELL,
I THINK I
MIGHT KNOW
A WAY...











KERR,
PLEASE, I...
I...



I'M
SORRY. SO
SORRY...



THE LOOK ON MY LITTLE SISTER'S
FACE BOTHERED ME MOST.

SHE WORKED HARD
FOR SOMETHING.

AND I STOLE
THAT FROM HER.



SURE,
IT'S NICE TO WIN.



BUT PLAYING CARDS DIDN'T MAKE
ANY OF MY PROBLEMS GO AWAY.

AND I GOTTA ADMIT, IT IS EXCITING
WHEN THAT CARD IS FLIPPED
ON THE TURN.







AND I REALLY LIKED THAT 'POD TOO... OH WELL.



THE HOURS ARE LONG, THE PAY SUCKS, AND I REALLY WANT TO PUNCH SOME OF THE CUSTOMERS IN THE NECK.



BUT AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF MY PART TIME JOB AT "BURGER HELL", I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO START PAYING MY PARENTS BACK.



