

Pix of Your Partner's Privates

by

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CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

John, mid-twenties

Shelly, mid-twenties

The characters can be any race.

Setting

A bus stop in the middle of a mall parking lot. Early, early in the morning.

A bus stop. SHELLY and JOHN, both in their mid-twenties, in an embrace. SHELLY wears a backpack and has a suitcase at her side. Both have their cell phones out.

JOHN
I don't want this bus to come.

SHELLY
I know.

They embrace for a little longer.
Silence.

JOHN
I'm gonna miss you.

SHELLY
You too.

They kiss. Silence.

JOHN
So.

SHELLY
So.

JOHN
You gonna...?

SHELLY
...what?

JOHN
Are you gonna send... something back...?

SHELLY
What do you mean?

JOHN
You know. The thing I...

SHELLY
...oh.

JOHN
Yeah. You didn't say anything about it, and that's generally the kind of thing you respond to...

SHELLY
Sorry I didn't um...

Pause.

JOHN
What? Did you not like it, or...?

SHELLY
...it didn't look any different from real life.

JOHN
Thanks?

SHELLY
I didn't mean that in a bad way, it's like... I know what it looks like in real life, and the photo didn't make it look any different, so...

JOHN
Uh, I'm kind of insulted?

SHELLY
You typically ask before you send stuff like that. You have to know if the other person actually *wants* it before sending it.

JOHN
We've been together for three years, and now you're going back to the other side of the country. Why wouldn't you want it?

SHELLY
...you did not just say that.

JOHN
Sorry?

SHELLY
This was supposed to be a perfectly sad and somber goodbye with a hug, and a kiss, and a tear, and you completely ruined it.

JOHN
I said you could send one in return.

SHELLY
So you want me to reciprocate something that I didn't ask for in the first place!

JOHN
I'm sorry-

SHELLY

You're not sorry you sent it. You're sorry because I didn't like it.

JOHN

I thought you would!

SHELLY

Well I didn't.

JOHN

...I'm having a really hard time thinking of something to say other than "sorry".

SHELLY

"I apologize".

JOHN

That means the same thing.

SHELLY

Just giving you another option.

JOHN

You didn't have to send a pic back if you didn't want to. But *some* response would've been nice.

SHELLY

This is gonna sound like something my grandma would say, but I'm not that kind of girl.

JOHN

Uh, yeah you are.

SHELLY

What?

JOHN

Need I remind you of the time we first met-

SHELLY

Oh my God, that was-

JOHN

In public.

SHELLY

In the back of the train!

JOHN

People could still see us. And hear us.

SHELLY

We weren't sitting near anyone.

JOHN

And what about at Brad's party? In the bathroom.
You wouldn't let *me* leave.

SHELLY

I was drunk. It was awesome, but I was drunk.

JOHN

So, basically you have *no problem* being, let's call it
"indiscreet" in real life, but when it comes to sending your
long-distance boyfriend a photo of your-

SHELLY

I can't believe we're having this conversation out here-

Whispers.

People can hear us!

JOHN looks around.

JOHN

No one's even here. It's...

JOHN takes out his cell phone.

Five forty-five in the morning.

SHELLY

But what if someone came and decided to eavesdrop on this
conversa-

JOHN

You're saying something is going to have to happen when it
hasn't. Calm down!

SHELLY

Don't tell me to calm down! It's really fucking annoying
when you do that.

JOHN

I'm sorry.

SHELLY

And don't say sorry again.

JOHN

...

SHELLY

This is the part when you accidentally say Sorry, then
realize your mistake, and-

JOHN

You told me not to say sorry. So I didn't.

SHELLY

Thank you.

Pause.

This isn't how I wanted to end our week together.

JOHN

I know. I screwed up. But I thought... I mean, you're my girlfriend, so...

SHELLY

That doesn't mean you can just send anything to me willy-nilly-

JOHN

No pun intended.

SHELLY rolls her eyes.

SHELLY

Ugh. Be serious, John. Come on. Just be serious, for this. We've been ridiculous and silly all week. Now let's get serious.

JOHN

I thought we were serious when we decided to stay together despite you moving.

SHELLY

You know what I mean.

JOHN

Because as I remember, you were the one who decided to take a job out in California, but still stay with me.

SHELLY

Yes.

JOHN

You know how hard it's gonna be?

SHELLY looks at JOHN's crotch.

SHELLY

I can probably guess...

JOHN

Why are you so uncomfortable with it? Are you insecure about your...?

SHELLY

No! It's not insecurity. It's being careful. You know people can track the photos you send, right? Like once you send something like that, it's out in cyberspace, and could wind up in someone's inbox for some reason because cyberspace is just *that* wonky. And there are some perverted creeps out there who will jack off to a photo of you without you even knowing.

JOHN

But I'm not some creep, though. Three years, remember?

SHELLY

I know.

JOHN

When you're gone, my best moments are when I... you know... *(Makes a Jacking Off motion)* To you... And I feel like you're implying that you don't want me to.

SHELLY

Of... of course I do.

JOHN

But I can't do it without...

SHELLY

...without?

JOHN

Pictures.

SHELLY

You see my Facebook pictures.

JOHN

Yeah, but when I want to imagine more, it's more of an effort. I'm a visual kind of person. I need something to look at.

SHELLY

Why do you need something to look at to remember my body?

JOHN

Because I want to visualize it as it is... Exactly as it is... while I'm... doing my thing.

Pause.

I'm trying to be romantic here. Work with me.

SHELLY

You don't send someone a dick pic to be romantic. You do it to tell them you're horny.

JOHN

I didn't mean to tell you I was horny. Although not gonna lie I was. But... I want you to see that I'm thinking of you. That my body responds to you. I think of you, and it's enough to get blood rushing from my brain down to my crotch to make it larger. And I mean, I don't know about you, but I think that's pretty amazing. And I want you to see that. Lemme ask you. Do you get wet when you think about me?

SHELLY

Well, yeah...

JOHN

...so why wouldn't you want to share that? With me? Because others might see? That's why you don't include your face in pictures like that. So no one knows it's you.

SHELLY

I just... having that part of myself out there, in the world, for people to possibly see-

JOHN

It's not like you're a porn star. Or an exhibitionist. Just... imagine it's only me. No, don't even imagine. Know that it's just me. Just me.

SHELLY

...

JOHN

Do you want me to send my pic to other people?

SHELLY

(Vehemently)

No!

JOHN is taken aback.

JOHN

Woah.

SHELLY

I mean...

JOHN

It's pretty obvious what you mean. You don't want anyone else to see mine.

SHELLY

...

JOHN

That's OK. I don't want anyone else to see yours.

Pause.

SHELLY

It's not like I...

JOHN

...what?

SHELLY

It's not like I didn't... take a picture. At some point in time.

JOHN

Oh? When was this?

SHELLY

A few months ago. I was lonely one night, and we were texting, and... You said something about wanting to eat me out. And I remember the first time you did it, how you just... And something in me just got so hot that I took off my clothes and went to the bathroom, closed the door, sat on the toilet, opened my legs, and took a picture. But when I looked at it, it was... hairy. And purple. And... blobby. Just... not something anyone should have to see. I couldn't believe it was mine. I deleted it right away. I couldn't stand to even have it be on my phone. So...

JOHN

If the vagina in that picture, which you deleted into the ether, is the same one I ate out last night... the one I'm aching to enter, even now... the one that I feel always welcomes me as if for the first time... Then it's perfect.

Pause. They look at each other.
Perhaps some sexual tension. It passes.

SHELLY

Yeah, well... must be nice not being insecure about your body parts.

JOHN

You think I'm totally secure with my body? Before we had sex for the first time, I was worried I'd be too small for you.

SHELLY

What?

JOHN

Too small, too thin, too veiny, not girth-y enough... Like, Brad and the guys brag about how they make their girlfriends scream, and squeal, and moan, and I freak out, because what if I don't do the same for you? Even today, I still look at mine and think, Why would Shelly want *this* inside her?

SHELLY

That's hilarious, because from the moment I first saw it, I wanted it inside me.

JOHN

And me?

SHELLY

Yes. And you.

The two look at each other.
Tension. They step closer to each other. Their foreheads connect.

The bus arrives.

JOHN

I love you.

SHELLY

I love you too.

They look at each other. Then SHELLY gets offstage, boarding the bus.

JOHN sits on the bench and waits for a few minutes.

After a few minutes, his phone dings. He looks at his phone and smiles at what he sees.

Blackout. End of play.