


**EPILOGUE:**  
**THE ROAD AHEAD**



Oh  
man...

...that was a  
really weird  
dream...



What the  
fuck!?!


A man with dark hair and a light complexion is lying in bed, shirtless, with his arms raised behind his head. He has a slight smile and is looking towards the viewer. The background shows a dark headboard with vertical slats. Three speech bubbles are positioned above him, containing text.

*Oh hey!*

*Good  
morning!*


*It's quite a  
shock waking  
up next to  
yourself,  
isn't it?*





No...  
...this... this  
shouldn't be  
possible...

...shit... this  
is actually  
real...

A 3D rendered illustration of a young man with short brown hair, lying in a bed. He is shirtless and smiling, with his right arm raised behind his head and his left hand resting on the pillow. He is covered up to his waist by a blue and white striped blanket. The bed has white pillows and a grey sheet. The background shows a dark room with vertical blinds. Three speech bubbles are positioned above him, containing text.

Oh it certainly is real...

...and don't worry, it'll only be a few more days of waking up like this...

...by the end of this week, waking up with a naked Robin in your arms will feel completely normal.

Anyhow,  
speaking of  
Robin, she's  
already out in  
the living  
room.

Oh, and  
don't mind her  
appearance...

...she's trying  
to build up her  
courage for work  
tomorrow.



*So she could really  
use some words of  
encouragement at  
the moment.*



Hey!

Good morning!

Good morning...!


...um...  
present-day  
Evan?

A man with short brown hair and a grey t-shirt with a black V-neck collar stands in a room. He has his arms crossed and is gesturing with his right hand. A speech bubble is positioned above him, containing text.

Yup.


So how's it going? My ...umm... future self said that you were having some trouble...

'Trouble'  
is putting it  
lightly...


A young man with short brown hair is looking down and slightly to his left. He is wearing a grey, long-sleeved, button-down shirt and blue jeans with a brown belt. The background shows a modern living room with a white sofa, a blue and white patterned wall, and a large window. A speech bubble is positioned above his head, containing text.

*Like, I've  
nailed down my  
glamour's physical  
appearance...*




A 3D rendered character with short brown hair and a grey long-sleeved shirt stands in a modern living room. The room features a blue and white chevron patterned wall, a white sofa, and a window with a view of a city. The character has a speech bubble above their head containing text.

*...but I can't seem to extend the illusion to my movement and mannerisms.*

A 3D rendered character, a young man with short brown hair, is shown from the back and side. He is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans with a brown belt. He is standing in a modern living room. The room features a white sofa with blue and grey cushions, a wall with blue and white chevron wallpaper, and several framed abstract art pieces. A large window in the background shows a bright outdoor scene. A speech bubble is positioned above the character's head, containing the text: "Like, look at how much my hips sway when I walk!".

Like, look  
at how much  
my hips sway  
when I walk!




I'm terrified  
everyone at work  
are going to notice  
how effeminate  
I've suddenly  
become!

*But isn't  
that good?*

*Won't it make  
things more  
believable when you  
tell people you're  
transitioning?*





Well, that's  
the scariest  
part of  
this...!

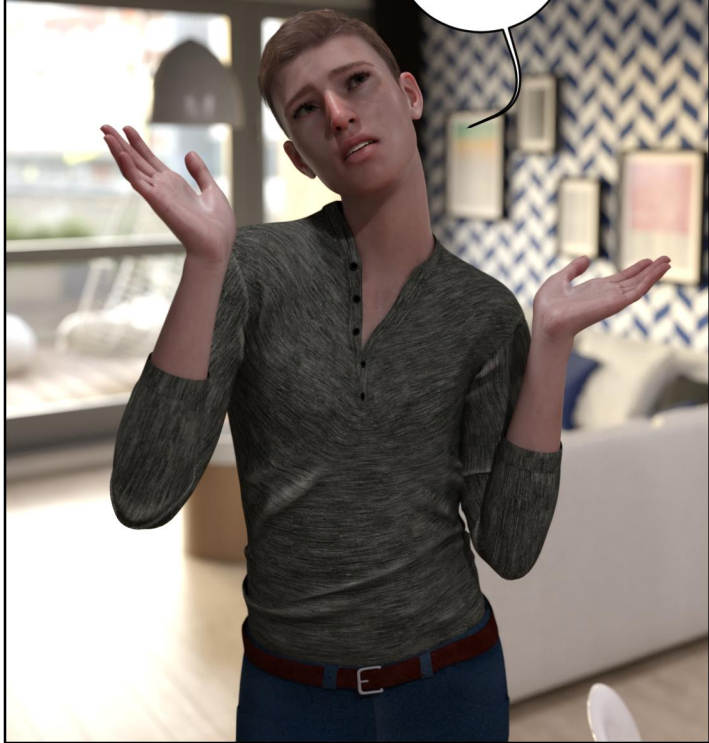
...the part  
where I have  
to tell people  
about it!



I wish  
I could just  
gradually change  
my appearance over  
the span of a year  
without saying  
anything!

But when  
people do  
start asking  
questions...

...which  
they will...





...I'll need a paper trail of documentation to back up my answers to those questions.





And to create  
that paper trail,  
I need to fake the  
proper process  
of a transition.



*Which means  
talking to people  
about it.*




Well, you  
don't have  
tell everyone  
all at once...

...just start  
with your  
family  
doctor...

...and take  
it slow until  
you get more  
comfortable with  
telling people  
about it.





Evan, that's  
like wading  
slowly into a  
cold pool...

...or slowly  
peeling off  
a band aid...



...it's usually  
better to just  
jump right  
in...


...rip the  
band aid off  
right away.

But right  
now...

...right now  
I'm stuck at  
the edge of the  
pool...

...trying to  
build up the  
courage to  
simply take  
a leap.





*...pretending  
to be someone  
who isn't me  
anymore!*



Because  
the longer I  
draw out this  
process...

...the longer  
I'm going to be  
stuck looking  
like this...





Well, you  
have the day  
off...

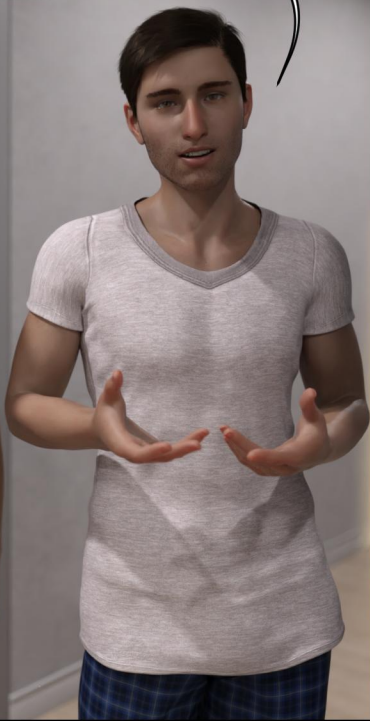
Why not  
enjoy today as  
'you 'before you're  
stuck being  
'no longer you'  
tomorrow?



Trust me,  
you'll be fine  
tomorrow.

You even told  
me that as scary  
as it was, it wasn't  
as bad as you  
thought it  
would be.

So don't  
waste all day  
today worrying  
about it.



Well, there  
you are,  
words from  
the Oracles  
mouth.

My other  
self has already  
lived through this  
week already, if  
he says it'll be  
fine, it'll be  
fine.



It still doesn't  
make me any  
less scared of  
tomorrow  
though...



Then take  
your mind off  
it for a bit...


...go outside,  
take a walk,  
and go shopping  
downtown.



And besides,  
what are you  
actually wearing  
beneath your  
glamour?

Women's  
clothing,  
right?





Well yeah,  
of course!




Well, you told me your illusion works better when your shape more closely matches the image.

Which means you'd be better off wearing men's clothing when you go out in public for the foreseeable future.







Except, I don't have any men's clothing anymore...

...I changed every last piece of men's wear I had into women's clothing.

I guess I assumed I wouldn't need any of it ever again.

Well, then that's the perfect excuse to go out shopping today for some new men's clothes.


...Or at the least, some unisex clothing that'll look good on both your male and female personas.



You should  
also get your  
hair cut.

Get a nice pixie cut  
that better reflects  
the length of the  
hair you show in  
your illusion.






Okay, but  
if I spend the  
rest of the day  
as the real  
me...

...it could cause  
trouble later on  
if I go out in public  
looking like my  
actual self before  
she is supposed  
to exist...

...someone  
I meet today  
might recognize  
me if I bump  
into them again  
later...



Well, you  
have your  
glamour...

...make  
yourself  
blond or  
something.

*Give yourself an appearance close enough to your true self to feel like yourself...*

*...but different enough that nobody who meets you now will recognize you when you start walking around as your real self.*



So...  
how's this  
look?







You look fantastic!




Well now  
that we have  
me sorted out...  
what about  
you?



We can't go  
out in public  
with two Evans  
side-by-side.





Well, these  
next three weeks  
are going to be full  
of distractions.

Which  
resulted in me  
falling behind with  
my work and  
studies.

Fortunately travelling back in time has given me a chance to catch up on all of the work I let slide during the whirlwind phase of our romance.


So I'm just going to stay here at home and take care of that while you two go out.






Are you  
sure?

Yeah, I'll  
be fine.



*Go out,  
spend the day  
together...*

*...just the  
two of you as  
a couple.*

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with a dark V-neck, is shown from the chest up. He has a thoughtful or slightly apologetic expression, looking off to the right. His right hand is raised with fingers slightly spread. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned above and to the right of his head, containing text. The background is a simple indoor setting with a white door and a square light fixture on the wall.

Well now I  
feel bad about  
leaving you here  
to take care of all  
of the work I  
didn't finish...

A man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing a white t-shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to his right with a thoughtful expression. His right hand is raised, pointing his index finger towards the right. A white thought bubble is positioned above his head, containing text. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

*Don't feel  
bad about it,  
when you get sent  
back in time  
you'll have to  
do it too!*









See you later! Try not to have too much fun!





Finally... I  
was beginning  
to believe that  
they'd never  
leave...




They didn't  
take that  
long...

...besides,  
we still have  
the whole day  
ahead of us.

A black cat with yellow eyes is standing on a light-colored, textured chair. The cat is looking towards the viewer. A speech bubble originates from the cat's mouth, containing two lines of text. The background is a blurred interior with a blue and white chevron pattern on the wall and a window on the left.

*Good.*

*Because  
we have a lot  
work to do.*



*I still wish I  
could tell them  
about this...*



They'll find  
out soon  
enough.

When dealing  
with a time loop,  
it's best to let  
things occur  
naturally.






Robin and  
your past self  
will visit Robin's  
sister a few days  
from now...

...and then  
they'll discover  
Cassie's secret,  
just like they would  
have without  
this time loop...





...and then you'll  
no longer have to  
worry about  
keeping your new  
job a secret.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK TWO:**  
**THE HEART GUARDIANS**