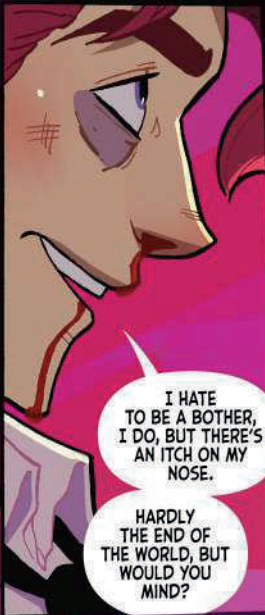


BRANDT & STEIN

Worst MAN





I HATE
TO BE A BOTHER,
I DO, BUT THERE'S
AN ITCH ON MY
NOSE.

HARDLY
THE END OF
THE WORLD, BUT
WOULD YOU
MIND?



I'D DO
SOMETHING ABOUT IT
MYSELF, BUT MY HANDS
APPEAR TO BE CAUGHT
ON SOMETHING.

IS PLAYING
GAMES *REALLY*
WHAT YOU WANT
TO BE DOING RIGHT
NOW?



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO PUT ME IN
HANDCUFFS...

COME
ON, MAN...

FINE.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT TO
KNOW?



WHAT
EXACTLY
HAVE
YOU BEEN DOING
HERE?

AND WHY THE
███ ARE YOU
DOING IT?

Oh, YOU
ACTUALLY WANT
TO HEAR MY
STORY?

COLOR ME
SURPRISED.

"I WAS **CONTRACTED** TO WORK THIS WEDDING, WHICH LET ME TELL YOU IS **STRESSFUL** AT SHORT NOTICE."

"CONTRACTED?"

"WHO THE HELL CONTRACTED YOU?"

"WHAT IS IT YOU EVEN DO?"

...THE WHAT?
AND HOW DID YOU GET FREE?!

I'M THE
Worst
MAN

Oh, come on, I talk with my hands.

OK, so.

SOMETIMES THERE'S A COUPLE THAT ARE **SETTLING**, RIGHT?

THEY'VE CONVINCED THEMSELVES THEY'RE HAPPY, THEY'RE **FOREVER** HAPPY.

A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER KNOWS THEY AREN'T, BUT DOESN'T WANT THE **SOCIAL FALLOUT** OF POINTING IT OUT.

SO WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED HERE?

SO THEY HIRE ME TO REVEAL THE TRUTH IN A MORE SUBTLE WAY, **BEFORE** THEY GET MARRIED.

IN THIS CASE, THE STORY GOES BACK A WHILE...

"SEVERAL YEARS AGO I WAS CONTRACTED TO WORK ON GALATEA TILFORD AND MERRITT McELLIGOTT--"

"THAT'S THE BRIDE'S SISTER, NOT THE BRIDE."

"UH, YEAH. WHAT'S YOUR POINT?"

"SO SHE'S NOT WHO I'M ASKING ABOUT."

"PATIENCE. THIS IS BACKGROUND."

"SO, I GOT A TEMP JOB AT THE SCHOOL WHERE MERRITT AND GALATEA WORK."

"EVEN MET SOME OF THEIR FRIENDS."

"BUT WHAT I WAS COMING TO LEARN WAS--"

"ENOUGH. I'M DYING OF OLD AGE HERE."

OK, WHAT NOW?

I'M LITERALLY DOING *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU ASKED ME TO.

I WANT TO GET TO *THE POINT*. WE DON'T HAVE LONG TO TALK UNTIL IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS.

YOU SAID YOU'D TALK. WHY ARE YOU MAKING THIS *SO HARD*?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME, MAN?!

I WANT YOU TO BE *HONEST* WITH ME!

I WAS HONEST...

...ABOUT THE *IMPORTANT STUFF*, ANYWAY.

YOU CALL *THAT* HONESTY?

Oh,  YOU.

JUST BECAUSE I WAS *WORKING* DOESN'T MEAN IT WASN'T *ME*.

AGAIN. WHO HIRED YOU?

START WITH *THAT*, AND WORK UP TO *NOW*.

????? ??? in ???

"SO, THERE I WAS, A FEW DAYS AGO, AT HOME.

"I HAD EVERYTHING; GREAT PLACE, GREAT SOCIAL LIFE, AND A JOB I LOVE.

"I GET TO RESCUE PEOPLE FROM THEIR FUTURE MISTAKES.

"I WAS SLEEPING THE SLEEP OF THE JUST."

"CHRIST, YOU'RE SUCH A MERCHANT.

"WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?"

"OH MY GOD, WILL YOU LET ME TELL IT?"

"YOU WANTED MY STORY, SO SHUT UP AND LISTEN."

"FINE."

"I'M JUST SAYING. ONE MORE INTERRUPTION AND I STOP."

"YEAH, THAT'S LIKELY."

"SHUT UP."

"SO THERE I WAS, RESTING PEACEFULLY, WHEN..."

ahem