

DRAFT THIRTEEN

my barricade

written by

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**CHARACTERS**

Cam - 25, cis man, self centered but not trying to be. Gets his power and energy externally.

Charlie - 26, a trans man, gentle, knows when and when not to fight. Gets his power and energy internally.

**SETTING**

Cam's bathroom floor.

**TIME**

A summer night somewhere around 3am probably.

**AUTHOR'S NOTES**

This play should have the energy of a light grayish blue color and perhaps a cool blanket that you keep over you even when it's hot. Not because you're cold, but because you need the coverage and protection of it to sleep.

Please note that this play lives between plays- in the cracks of other larger (but not necessarily more important) stories.

SCENE ONE

*Night. Or maybe morning. Depends on who you ask.*

*Cam sits on the bathroom floor.*

*Charlie sits on the side of the bathtub - brushing his teeth.*

*Cam is cutting his toe nails.*

*He is clipping-*

*They start to fly.*

*Charlie tries to take cover but is hit in the face with one.*

Do you mind? CHARLIE

Not at all. CAM

*CLIP.*

If one gets in my mouth I swear to god Cam- CHARLIE

I'll be careful. CAM

*CLIP.*

*CLIP.*

*CLIP.*

*Cam oh-so subtly aims his flinging toenails towards Charlie, and ever so slightly lifting his foot up-*

*CLIP.*

*CLIP.*

*FLING-*

Bullseye! CAM (CONT'D)

Dick! CHARLIE  
(while spitting toothpaste out  
of his mouth)

*Charlie sits down onto the ground next to Cam in defeat. Charlie leans his head onto Cam.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You're annoying.

*Cam smiles gently. Charlie yawns.*

CAM

Don't fall asleep on me now.

*Charlie groans and snuggles into Cam a bit more.*

CHARLIE

I'm not sleepy.

CAM

Sweet dreams.

CHARLIE

I'm just tired. Like my body is physically tired but I'm awake and alert in my mind. And my mind is what matters.

CAM

But you're not sleepy.

CHARLIE

No, never sleepy. Never. Ever never. Just had a long week.

CAM

...You could tell Alyssa and Tyler to take care of their own kid.

CHARLIE

You don't just push away family cuz it's slightly inconvenient. Plus Maya needs some stability.

CAM

I need some stability too.

...  
-you're a good uncle.  
...

CHARLIE

...  
I think I'm gonna get one of those Lavender Honey Lattes from Joe's tomorrow. And ask if they can make me one of those cool flower leaf picture things with the oat milk.

CAM

Gay.

*Charlie kisses Cam's cheek.*

*Cam smiles, but is zoning out a bit.*

CHARLIE

I can read that Allen Ginsberg anthology I got too. Just have a nice afternoon. By myself.

CAM

(half listening, while touching his feet a bit)

Mmhmm.

*CLIP.*

CHARLIE

So anyway. I just figured.  
Might be nice.  
For me. Ya know?

*CLIP.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(genuinely)

Sorry, am I boring you?

CAM

Of course not.

*CLIP.*

CHARLIE

Can you stop?

CAM

I'll be done soon.

CHARLIE

Do you need to do that right this second?

CAM

You said they were too long- You asked me to do this-

*Clip.*

*FLING.*

CHARLIE

Jesus Christ Cam.

*Charlie stands and begins to leave.*

CAM

Wait, no, I'm, I'm sorry.

CHARLIE

You're right. I asked. It's my fault.

CAM

Tell me more about Maya- Did you take her to the park today?

CHARLIE

You know what, I told Alyssa I'd drop off Maya at day care tomorrow- and that's at 8, so I should-

CAM

Don't go- wait.

CHARLIE

I have to get up in like 4 hours.

CAM

Stay-

*Cam starts to get up but he slips on the bath mat and hits his face on the cabinet.*

*His nose starts bleeding.*

CAM (CONT'D)

Ow.

CHARLIE

Shit Cam-

*Charlie grabs a wad of toilet paper and puts pressure on Cam's nose with it.*

CAM

I'm fine, don't worry about me- you're tired.

CHARLIE

Stop talking.

*Charlie continues to help him. He runs into the next room.*

*Cam shifts the toilet paper a bit.*

*He shudders - the sight of blood - ahhh.*

*Charlie returns with ice.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Here- try this.

*Cam nods.*

*As he removes the wadded up toilet paper from Cam's nose, a glob of blood falls onto his arm.*

*Charlie doesn't react much to this other than a slight twitch in his eye.*

*Charlie has more blood on himself than Cam does.*

CAM

It's really just gushing now huh-

CHARLIE

Shh.

CAM

I look like a volcano.

*Charlie leaves the room again and returns with his backpack.*

*He grabs a tampon from his bag and opens it.*

CHARLIE

Here. This will absorb the blood.

*Charlie starts to put the tampon in his nose.*

CAM

You want me to stick this...up my nose?

CHARLIE

It's cotton.

CAM

Isn't this what you- ya know...

*Cam motions "sticking it in" with his fingers, Charlie pushes him away.*

CHARLIE

Would you trust me-

CAM

Seems kinda...seems kinda- I'm a guy.

...  
Not that you aren't, just I don't-  
I've never gotten-  
I don't want that in my body.

CHARLIE

It's not so bad.

*Cam hesitates...but lets him.*

*Charlie sticks the tampon up his nose - he makes a bit of scene with it.*

CAM

This really fits in there? How does it not get stuck-

CHARLIE

It's normal- can you stop talking for a second, I don't want you to swallow-

CAM

Why is there a string? Do people like ever just mess with it? Like a cat or somethin'? I would.

*Charlie cleans him up.*

CHARLIE

How's that?

CAM

Uncomfortable...but it's working. I think.

*Cam starts to play with the string.*

*Charlie starts to rinse himself.*

*Cam notices all the blood on Charlie.*

CAM (CONT'D)

Is that all mine?

*Silence.*

*Cam gags again.*

CHARLIE

I'm trying to hurry.

CAM

You'd think since it's my blood it wouldn't gross me out.

CHARLIE

I get it.

CAM

But here we are.  
There's no way all of this was all me.

*Charlie breathes out slowly and loudly.*

*Cam starts to feel nauseous.*

CAM (CONT'D)

I'm gonna be sick



CHARLIE

Close your eyes.

CAM

Trash can-

*Cam pulls the trash can close and spits into it.*

*Charlie turn off the water and runs to pull Cam's hair out of his face.*

*Charlie is clean now. Ish.*

*Charlie gets a a wad of toilet paper and wipes around Cam's mouth and nose.*

*Cam's cleaner now.*

CAM (CONT'D)

(tugging at the string a bit)

Do you still need these?

CHARLIE

...Sometimes.  
Not usually.  
But if my T levels are low.  
Sometimes it comes back.

CAM

Are you still taking your shots?

CHARLIE

Sometimes.

CAM

I bet it hurts.

CHARLIE

A bit, yeah.

CAM

I can't imagine sticking myself with a needle everyday.

CHARLIE

It's not everyday.

CAM

Every other day.

*Cam think about sticking himself with a needle everyday.*

*Cam gags.*

Again.

CAM (CONT'D)

Charlie?

*Charlie looks to him and asks "what?" with his kind eyes.*

CAM (CONT'D)

Thank you.  
And I'm sorry.  
I know you have to-  
I'm gonna get up with you tomorrow and I'll take Maya with you-  
I'll get one of those Lilac Lattes-

CHARLIE

You need your rest for work tomorrow.  
I'll stop by after.  
Okay?

CAM

Okay.  
I'm sorry.

CHARLIE

You're okay.

*Silence. A really loud and filled silence.*

*It's uncomfortable.*

*Cam coughs and spits a bit more.*

*Charlie grabs a rag, soaks it in cool water, and puts it on the back of Cam's neck.*

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

CAM

I hate my nose.

CHARLIE

It'll stop bleeding soon-

CAM

I don't care that it's bleeding.

CHARLIE

You just had a little slip love, it's not so bad-

CAM

I mean I care a little cuz blood is gross but-

CHARLIE

It'll stop.

CAM

I hate that I can always see my nose.

...

Hair, if it gets in my eyes I can push it back or put on a hat, but I can't get rid of my nose.

I realize I'm not the only person who lugs on with this weight. I mean, we all have noses, most of us anyway, I'm not, I swear, I'm not trying to make this about me. I know, I know-

But you asked me to focus on the world around me and to get out of my head and...I've been trying, I have been, I swear, but all I can see is this fucking schnoz.

...And to my knowledge.

This is all that surrounds me.

--My barricade.

A constant reminder that part of me sticks out farther than I'd like.

Voldemort really had the right idea -- I can't fix my nose like that, I can't just like panini press that bitch you know?

But you have made me aware of my nose.

When I look out, when I open my eyes, it's always there.

Sure, our brains learn to ignore them after we stop thinking about it- but that's the thing- I can't stop thinking about it.

No escaping the clouded view.

It's like a bad hotel room that advertises as having an ocean view but you get there and the water, it's there, it's just behind like a bunch of pillars and construction or some shit.

And I'm trying- I am. I swear. I don't want to be stuck on myself.

...

I want to be more for you.

For myself too-

I mean, no, I'm not trying to make this about me- god I'm doing it again.

I don't know how to go on.

Tell me how.

How do you do it?

How do you ignore your nose?

Or long fuckin toe nails?

You've been able to find and literally build yourself into the man you thought about for so long, and at the same time, you're the most selfless person I know.

And doing that alongside some doofus who probably drains you.

...

And you do it so lovingly too.

...

How do I?

How do I get past the only thing blocking me from the person I need to be for you.  
You told me to get out of my head, look out, see more than myself. I'm proud to say I got out of my head. I did.  
But not past it.  
All because of my fucking nose.

*Cam sniffs and wipes his face. His cheeks, then his nose.*

*Charlie is now on his knees, he has been listening to Cam.*

*Charlie pulls the tampon out from his nose. The blood has stopped.*

*He gets a damp rag and wipes off any remaining blood.*

*He gently grabs his face and goes in to kiss him.*

*Only Charlie doesn't kiss Cam's lips.*

*Charlie lays a soft kiss on Cam's nose. He looks into his eyes.*

*A moment.*

*Charlie takes Cam's hand and guides it to his nose. He feels it for a moment, then he takes his hand holds Charlie's face for a moment.*

*He boops his nose.*

*Charlie laughs.*

*Cam laughs.*

*He sees Charlie's nose now.*

*He sees his eyes and his hair and his perfect smile.*

*Cam sees Charlie. He finally just, sees him.*

*He, for a moment, forgets he has a nose.*

*No noses exist, just for now.*

*They lean in, their noses touch, their eyes close, they breathe together.*

*Blackout.*