

*Excerpt from...*  
**REALER THAN THAT**  
*by Kitt Lavoie*

*Lights rise on an economy hotel room. The room is dark. After a moment, keys jangle in the hallway. The door swings open. Colleen, 26, in a dressy pair of pants and blouse, enters, followed quickly by Jared, also 26, in a suit. As soon as Jared shuts the door, Colleen pounces on him, kissing him hard and pushing him up against the door, unbuttoning her shirt as she does. After a moment, she digs into her purse, pulling out a condom. She puts the wrapped condom between her teeth and slides down the front of Jared onto her knees, going forcefully for his belt. She undoes the belt, then reaches for his pants button. With a quick move, Jared slips out from between Colleen and the door, leaving her on her knees.*

**Jared**            Hey. Let's just...

*Jared goes to the light switch and flips on the light. Colleen gets up and moves for Jared. He sidesteps her.*

**Jared**            It's good to see you. How have you been?

**Colleen**        Fine.

*Colleen goes to the bed and slides out of her pants, hanging them over a chair.*

**Jared**            We don't have to do this.

**Colleen**        I want to.

**Jared**            I've missed you.

*Colleen slides onto the bed.*

**Jared**            Do you want anything?

**Colleen**        Not really.

**Jared**            A coke or something?

**Colleen**        What have you got?

**Jared**            Nothing. I mean, I can go down the hall to the machine.

**Colleen**        That's okay.

**Jared**            Water?



**Colleen** Fine.

**Jared** I *have* missed you.

*Jared goes into the bathroom. Water runs. He returns with two glasses of water, bringing one to Colleen.*

**Jared** You miss me?

**Colleen** It's been nine years.

**Jared** Yeah. Do you?

**Colleen** What does that mean, "you miss me"?

**Jared** I think about you.

**Colleen** And hat does that mean?

**Jared** I wonder what you're doing. And think about... stuff. We did. And... I just *think* about you. You never think about me?

**Colleen** You occur to me.

**Jared** Well... maybe that's what I mean, then. I don't know. I loved you. And so I think about you. From time to time. And I hope that you're happy. Are you happy?

**Colleen** I'm fine.

**Jared** I *do* think about you. I'm not going to apologize for that. You were my first. First love. My first... Jesus. (*a beat*) I didn't know you were going to be there tonight. It was good to see you.

**Colleen** You, too.

**Jared** I bet. After I'd "occurred" to you so often.

**Colleen** There's no need to be so... fucking... *hurt* about it.

**Jared** Did you love me?

*No response.*

**Jared** You said you did is all.



**Colleen** I was seventeen.

**Jared** So?

**Colleen** So I loved you seventeen. I don't know if that's the same thing.

**Jared** I think it is.

*Colleen gulps down the end of her water, slamming the glass onto the nightstand. She pulls off her shirt, tossing it onto the chair with her pants.*

**Colleen** Let's go.

*Colleen crawls down the bed towards Jared. He backs away.*

**Jared** Why did you come back here?

**Colleen** What do you mean?

**Jared** Why did you come back here? Tonight?

**Colleen** It was a wedding. It's what you do after a wedding.

**Jared** So you're just looking to get laid?

**Colleen** Why, you looking for a commitment?

**Jared** No, I'm just saying...

**Colleen** I'm a big girl.

**Jared** Yeah, I guess.

**Colleen** Yeah.

**Jared** It was just so much work to get in your pants the first time. I think I'm just thrown by the lack of challenge.

**Colleen** Yeah. So, you ready?

*A beat.*

**Jared** I really have missed you.

**Colleen** What do you want?

**Jared** I want to do it right. When we did it, we didn't do it right. It was all graduation and get it in and say we did it and... I mean, I wanted to make love to you. That's what I mean, when I think about you. That, and just how you're doing. But we never made love. Really. And I think about that I wish that we did. Because it would have been right.

**Colleen** Right?

**Jared** Yeah. And, you know—why not do it now? The way we should have done it. Not under the bleachers, but in a bed. And with... *Right*, you know? I know it's stupid. But I think about it a lot.

**Colleen** Look, Jared, if you don't want to fuck me... I can't do this romantic.

**Jared** When you came back for the Fourth after freshman year, I wanted to tell you. *That's* why I wrote to you. Because I wanted to talk, when you came home. To fix it. And I wanted to... do it *right*. Then. On the beach. With the sky lit up. I had it all planned. And you showed up with what's-his-name.

**Colleen** Ted.

**Jared** Ted, yeah. Wouldn't that have been great, though? Water lapping, your face lit up and looking at me.

*Colleen reaches to pull off her undershirt.*

**Colleen** Come on.

**Jared** Did you make love to *him*? That weekend?

*Colleen lets go of her undershirt.*

**Colleen** No.

**Jared** Ever?

**Colleen** Yeah.

**Jared** Like, real love?

**Colleen** I married him. Two months after graduation.

**Jared** Oh. (*a beat*) I'm sorry. What happened?



**Colleen** Nothing.

*A beat.*

**Jared** You're still...

**Colleen** Yeah. Like I said, I can't do this romantic. So let's fuck.

*Colleen slides down the bed towards Jared. He gets up from the chair and moves away.*

**Jared** I'm not sure that this... is a good idea.

**Colleen** It matters?

**Jared** Yes.

**Colleen** To you?

**Jared** Yes.

**Colleen** That I'm married?

*Jared just looks at her.*

**Colleen** I'm surprised.

**Jared** You shouldn't be.

**Colleen** It didn't seem to matter that Jannelle was married.

*A small smile crosses Jared's face.*

**Jared** You watched it?

**Colleen** Night vision doesn't lie.

**Jared** No, but Fox editors do. Nothing actually happened. They were just trying to sex it up.

**Colleen** Seemed to work out pretty well for you.

**Jared** I guess. But you watched?

**Colleen** How could I not?

**Jared** *(holding his fingers an inch apart)* This close.

**Colleen**        What do you do, right?

**Jared**         I got twenty five thousand. Not half a mil, but...

**Colleen**        I want you to fuck me, Jared.

**Jared**         You really watched?

*Colleen nods.*

**Colleen**        Come on.

**Jared**         You vote for me?

**Colleen**        I don't do that kind of thing.

*Colleen and Jared look at each other for a moment. He walks to the edge of the bed, leans in, and kisses her gently. She kisses him back, harder. She climbs atop him and continues to kiss him aggressively as she begins to undress him. She digs into his chest with her nails. He begins kissing her harder, reaching up and grabbing her by the back of the neck to pull her closer. She jerks suddenly away. He stops.*

**Jared**         (gently) We really don't have to.

**Colleen**        I said I want to.

*Colleen leans suddenly into Jared and begins kissing him—hard. She grabs his hand and places it on her breast. She rolls him over so that he is on top of her. They continue to kiss as she continues to hold his hand on her breast. After a moment, he pulls away, yanks his hand from her grip, and kneels over her. They look at each other.*

**Colleen**        Come on...

*She reaches for his crotch. He gently moves her hands away.*

**Jared**         Did you see it?

*She begins to sit up to kiss him. He moves aside.*

**Jared**         Did you?

**Colleen**        Yeah. Come on...

*Colleen sits up and kisses Jared hard. He pulls immediately away, moving to the other side of the bed.*

**Jared** I'm just saying, I told you I think about you.

**Colleen** Will you just *fuck* me. For real, Jared. Come on.

*Colleen sits up, lifts her T-shirt and grasps the waistband of her underwear, ready to pull them down. Jared grabs her hands firmly. She tries to pull her underwear down, but he prevents her. He pulls her hands from her side. She continues to struggle.*

**Jared** Come on. Can't this just be nice.

**Colleen** I don't want it nice. I want you to *fuck* me.

**Jared** Well, I don't want to.

*Colleen continues to struggle. Jared pushes her back on the bed.*

**Jared** *Jesus.*

*Jared looks down on Colleen. She looks back.*

**Jared** You're different than I remember.

**Colleen** Fuck you.

*Jared sits at the table. He and Colleen stare at each other across the room.*

**Colleen** I can't do it like this, either.

**Jared** If *you* could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would *it* be?

**Colleen** Fuck you.

**Jared** 'Cause I said you.

**Colleen** I know.

**Jared** They asked and I said you.

**Colleen** I saw.

**Jared** I thought that might mean something.

**Colleen** Not really.

**Jared** I mean, I thought maybe you didn't know. They bleeped it out.



**Colleen** No, I could tell.

**Jared** They bleeped it.

**Colleen** I asked them to.

**Jared** How?

**Colleen** They called and asked permission to use my name. I said no.

**Jared** Oh.

**Colleen** *But you could tell.*

*Silence.*

**Jared** But doesn't that mean anything?

**Colleen** Are we gonna fuck?

**Jared** You still want to?

**Colleen** Not really, but yeah.

**Jared** Well... not like this.

*A beat.*

**Colleen** Then I'm going.

*Colleen gets up and goes for her pants hung over the chair. Jared snatches them up and takes them to the other side of the room.*

**Colleen** Give them.

**Jared** *It doesn't mean anything???*

**Colleen** Give them to me!

**Jared** Anything?

**Colleen** Give me my fucking pants!

**Jared** No.





Colleen turns and goes to Jared's suitcase, on the floor. She opens it up and takes out a pair of men's pants. Jared bounds over the bed and snatches them from her. He grabs the suitcase and drags it across the room.

**Colleen** Give them back!

**Jared** "If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be?"

**Colleen** Give them!

**Jared** "Colleen. My girlfriend from high school. 'Cause she was my first love and I want to know that she's happy."

**Colleen** I'm sure all your little internet girl-fans fucking creamed themselves over that.

**Jared** That's not what that was about.

**Colleen** "Didja fuck 'er, Jared?"

**Jared** That guy was a prick.

**Colleen** "Didja?"

**Jared** He was being a dick and I said "I was with her."

**Colleen** Fuck you!

**Jared** "I was with her" was pretty diplomatic, I think.

**Colleen** *Do you?*

**Jared** I got twenty five thousand dollars out of those two weeks, plus an astonishing number of unreasonably attractive women writing me these absolutely *filthy* e-mails and sidling up to me on the street. And I'm not used to that kind of thing, Colleen. I never have been. But the only thing I *ever* hoped after that episode aired was that I would hear from you again. These five weeks, every new e-mail, every ring of the phone, that's all I've wished. Doesn't that mean anything?

**Colleen** Give me my pants.

**Jared** Doesn't that mean *anything*?

**Colleen** Yes.



**Jared**           What?

**Colleen**          Give me my pants!

**Jared**            What does it mean?

**Colleen**          It means my husband fucking watches reality TV, is what it means!  
Who'd've guessed? I wouldn't've. Now give me my fucking pants.

**Jared**            What does that mean?

**Colleen**          My fucking marriage is over, Jared. Almost ten years since I've seen you  
and you fucking ended my marriage.

**Jared**            How?

*A beat.*

**Colleen**          I told him I was a virgin, Jared. When we met. That he was my first.

**Jared**            Why would—?

**Colleen**          'Cause I wanted him to be. 'Cause I wanted him to be and so I told him  
that he was. I was nineteen. I didn't think I'd end up *marrying* him. But  
you know what—after two, three... *seven* years, a little dorm room bunk-  
bed fantasy can begin to feel an awful lot like a lie.

**Jared**            Well, it is.

**Colleen**          Fuck you!

**Jared**            What? It's not supposed to matter to me. You were *my* first, Colleen.  
And I was yours.

**Colleen**          You weren't my *first*. Don't say that.

**Jared**            You said I was.

**Colleen**          Ted was. I wanted Ted to be and he would have been if you hadn't  
fucking told the world.

**Jared**            Why would you tell him that?

**Colleen**          'Cause I wanted it to be true.

**Jared**            It don't make it so.

**Colleen**      *I wanted it to be.*

**Jared**          Why?

**Colleen**      ‘Cause I didn’t want to be who I was anymore. I wanted to be new.

**Jared**          New?

**Colleen**      He made me feel good, Jared. Not good, like, “happy.” Good like a good person. And not dirty. I didn’t want to be that girl anymore.

**Jared**          What girl?

**Colleen**      *I didn’t want to be some girl that got raped anymore.*

*Jared is taken aback. He looks at her a moment.*

**Colleen**      So I started new like it didn’t happen and it was fine.

**Jared**          I’m sorry.

**Colleen**      “Some girl.” That’s what it felt like for—... Then the fucking phone rings. “I saw your boyfriend on TV tonight, honey. Is there anything else you want to tell me?” “Yeah, I guess there are a couple things...”

*Jared moves gently towards her.*

**Jared**          Are you okay?

**Colleen**      Don’t.

**Jared**          What?

**Colleen**      Don’t look at me like that.

**Jared**          Like what?

**Colleen**      Like I need to be taken care of. That’s how Ted looks now. All the time.

**Jared**          I thought you said he was leaving.

**Colleen**      No. *No.* He’s been fucking *perfect*. Always taking care of me. Always *so* careful whenever we touch—on the rare occasion that we touch anymore—always so careful to be sure that he’s making love to me.

**Jared** That sounds—

**Colleen** It's *always* making love now, Jared. He won't *fuck me* anymore.

**Jared** Well—

**Colleen** That's all I wanted from you tonight. I thought you could handle it.

*A beat.*

**Jared** I can't. Look, I have been looking forward to tonight for a long time. You have no idea. But it sounds like you've got a good guy. Ted—

**Colleen** No—

**Jared** And it sounds like he's willing to work through whatever—

**Colleen** It's over, Jared.

**Jared** It sounds like he can deal with what happened.

**Colleen** That's *all* he does anymore. Is deal with it. And it makes something that felt like it had almost gone away really fucking hard to forget. All the time.

**Jared** You didn't do anything wrong.

**Colleen** *I know I didn't.* That's why I wanted to fuck you tonight. So I *would've* done something wrong. So it would be okay the way he treats me. And I wouldn't have to hate him.

**Jared** You shouldn't hate him.

**Colleen** Maybe not. But I do sometimes.

**Jared** Sleeping with me wouldn't make it any better.

**Colleen** It might.

**Jared** It won't.

**Colleen** It's all I think about, Jared. How I hate him. Nothing will change until that goes away.

*A beat.*



**Jared**        I won't have sex with you, Colleen.

*A beat.*

**Colleen**      I can't make you.

*...continues*