

THE KNIGHTS

Written by

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INT. FRATERNITY BASEMENT - DAY

TRISTAN, a well built guy with pent up sexual frustration, and ARTHUR, the leader of their fraternity with the physique of a god and lack of ability to pick up when someone is hitting on him, are standing next to each other surveying the basement that has been set up for a party.

TRISTAN

Well it only took four days  
but do the arrangements  
finally meet your expectations  
your highness?

Arthur seems to be seriously considering it for a moment before smiling and punching Tristan in the arm.

ARTHUR

Hell yes it does! This weekend  
is going to be so awesome!

There is beat before Tristan takes a deep breath and turns to Arthur with a serious look on his face.

TRISTAN

Arthur. There is something I  
have been meaning to ask you  
about this weekend.

Arthur turns to him still smiling and Tristan staggers a little.

ARTHUR

Yeah? What about it?

TRISTAN

I was wondering if I could  
formally invite -

Arthur's smile gets bigger and he grabs Tristan into a sudden choke hold.

ARTHUR

I knew it! This is why you  
have been acting so weird  
lately! My little Tristan has  
got all grown up and found  
himself a girl!

Arthur noogies him suddenly and fiercely. Tristan winces for more than one reason.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

You know I'm a little  
disappointed that I had to be  
the last one to find out.

Arthur lets him go and Tristan resigned to the situation  
sighs.

TRISTAN

The last one?

ARTHUR

Sure. The rest of the guys  
have been acting the same way.  
I knew there was something  
none of you were telling me. I  
thought maybe it was because  
of two weeks ago when I told  
everyone I was bi and it just  
happened that the love of my  
life was a girl. Or that it  
was going to be something  
awful but this is great news!  
I thought you were never going  
to get laid! But hey, better  
late than never right?

Arthur laughs and heads up stairs. Tristan stands there for a  
moment frowning before also going upstairs.

INT. FRATERNITY LIVING ROOM - DAY

It is a basic layout of a wide open space with a couch to the  
side and the front door directly ahead.

When Tristan gets upstairs Arthur is long gone and his snarky  
friend KAY, a guy of medium build who while compassionate  
does like to push things along, is leaning against the  
banister right next to the door.

TRISTAN

Don't. Say. Anything.

Kay holds his hands up in defense.

KAY

Hey, I didn't say a word.  
However, I suppose I can take  
the look on your face to mean  
he either rejected your ass or  
you once again didn't get up  
the nerve to ask him out.

Kay raises a brow in expectation of Tristan's answer.

TRISTAN

The latter. I wonder if we should just tell him.

Kay suddenly loses the sarcastic smirk and pushes off from the banister.

KAY

Look man if you honestly want to tell Arthur that his girlfriend is cheating on him with his best friend then be my guest. Just make sure you are doing it for the right reasons. And by that I mean not just because you want to get in his pants.

Tristan huffs looking affronted. He stalks toward Kay angrily.

TRISTAN

Why the hell would you say that! You make it sound like this conversation is some sort of regular thing with me!

KAY

It is. This is the third time this week.

TRISTAN

Three times isn't that bad.

KAY

It's Tuesday.

They throw themselves down on the couch next to each other. There is a beat before the front door slams open and giggling can be heard. GWEN, a pretty girl with long blond hair and sporting a 'Delta Delta Delta' sorority shirt and also Arthur's girlfriend, jumps through the door before catching sight of the guys on the couch. She suddenly slams the door shut behind her and there is a muffled yelp.

GWEN

Oh! Hey guys! What are, what are ya doing here?

KAY

This is where we live.

GWEN

I know that!

The door begins to move but she thrusts her back against the door and it slams shut again.

TRISTAN

What you got there Gwen?

Kay elbows him.

GWEN

Nothing! Just a friend!

Kay laughs behind his hand and Tristan crosses his arms victoriously.

TRISTAN

Sure Gwen, just a friend.

Gwen panics and runs out the door.

KAY

You alright there Tris?

Tristan glares at Kay and looks this close to punching Kay's smug grin off of his face.

TRISTAN

Fuck You. I need a drink.

INT. BAR - DAY

The place is relatively empty because it is the middle of the day and everything is a little dingy.

Tristan and Kay are sitting at a sticky bar stool and Tristan looks a little worse for wear as he finishes his fourth Long Island ice tea.

TRISTAN

I don't understand why he  
doesn't love me!

Tristan slams his head down on the table. Kay rubs his back in a comforting manner.

KAY

There, there buddy. Tell old  
Kay all your problems that he  
certainly has never heard  
before this point at the most  
un-godly times of day.

Tristan lifts his head slightly.

TRISTAN

Okay.

Kay looks like he wants to be the one with his head on the table.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)

It all started Freshman year  
when we rushed for the same  
frat and now four years later  
we're about to graduate and if  
I don't tell him how I feel  
before the ceremony next week  
then I will never know if we  
could have truly been  
something!

KAY

Breathe dude. Breathe. Why  
don't you just go tell Arthur  
right now if that's really how  
you feel?

TRISTAN

It would hurt Arthur to know  
that his best friend in the  
entire world and his  
girlfriend are betraying him  
like this. I love him Kay, I  
don't ever want to see him in  
pain like that.

All of a sudden LANCE, a man who is constantly horny and the size of a mountain, walks through the door and Tristan looks like he is about to cry.

Lance spots them and walks over smiling and generally looking very content.

LANCE

Hey guys! I hope you're  
feeling great because I'm  
feeling great. Do you know if  
they serve food here? I have  
worked up quite the appetite,  
if you know what I mean?

Lance laughs and Kay grabs Tristan's arms before he can charge at Lance in his drunken stupor. Lance does not notice as he is trying to wave down the bartender for assistance.

TRISTAN

You are the bane of all my problems!

LANCE

Dude are you talking to me?

KAY

Dude I wouldn't. Don't poke the beast.

TRISTAN

Yes! I am! In fact now I know what I'm going to do. I am going to tell Ar-

Kay cuts him off by slapping his hand over his mouth.

KAY

Lance. Listen man, he's wasted! Just run!

Lance looks confused but starts standing up.

LANCE

But! My drink!

KAY

I'll get the tab! What do you care about more your liquor or your life?

Lance hesitates.

KAY (CONT'D)

Your life man! It's your life!

Lance runs out the door taking one more look behind him at the snarling Tristan and struggling Kay before fleeing the premises.

Once he is gone Tristan visibly begins to relax and returns to his drink. Kay lets go of him but keeps his hand hovering near by just in case.

KAY (CONT'D)

You good now man?

TRISTAN

Noooooooooo!

KAY

Are you going to jump someone?

TRISTAN

Noooooooooo!

KAY

Have you actually decided whether you are going to tell Arthur or not?

TRISTAN

Noooooooooo!

KAY

Well, one problem at a time.

EXT. MARSHALL SQ. STREET - DAY

Tristan and Kay were kicked out of the bar and are now wandering up and down the street. Kay walks while balancing on the curb.

KAY

Dude, you just have to make a pro's and con's list if you are ever going to make an actual logical conclusion on telling Arthur about the affair or not.

Tristan seems to contemplate it for a beat before nodding his head.

TRISTAN

Okay. Pro, I love Arthur and want him entirely for myself.

There is a beat of silence before Kay shakes his head and moves.

KAY

And a con?

TRISTAN

It might possibly crush him when he realizes his girlfriend from the last 7 years of his life has betrayed him just as they are about to take one of the biggest steps in their adult lives.

KAY

Good we're making progress, what else?

TRISTAN

Well, what if he finds out on his own and then finds out I didn't tell him?

KAY

That... is actually a not totally crazy pro. I'm proud of you Tris!

TRISTAN

Your not very supportive are you?

KAY

Not true! I'm a great friend! You're just insane.

Tristan is suddenly looking very murderous again and Kay backs up.

KAY (CONT'D)

Whoa dude! I'm just kidding!

TRISTAN

It's not funny! If I tell Arthur then I might get to be with him but I also might break his heart ruining any chance of love for him ever again.

KAY

Are you absolutely sure that Arthur is the one for you? Maybe this is just a crush and you just need to butt out of this messed up love trifecta going on.

TRISTAN

Of course I'm sure! Otherwise I haven't had sex for the last four years for nothing!

Kay takes a beat to process this new information.

KAY

Are you seriously telling me that you haven't had sex for four years?

Tristan shrugs like it isn't that big of a deal but Kay can't close his mouth.

After a second Tristan blushes and turns away. Kay takes this moment to whip out his phone and text someone quickly. It is away by the time Tristan turns around.

TRISTAN

Look can you just help me make a decision today or not?

KAY

Don't worry man, I'm sure that by the end of the day this whole thing will be sorted out. But hey what do you say we take this some where more attuned to the hard thinking we have to do?

TRISTAN

The bar again? But we just got kicked out.

KAY

What? No! The library dim wit.

INT. BYRD LIBRARY - DAY

Tristan and Kay are sitting at a desk both reading textbooks but suddenly set them down at the same time.

KAY

Anything?

TRISTAN

Nothing useful from the Mathematics of Love. What about you?

KAY

Nothing from the Penis and all its Functions.

TRISTAN

Damn, my faith was really resting on that one.

They stare at each other for a moment before both sighing and leaning back in their chairs.

KAY

Listen man, just taking into consideration the utter hopelessness of this endeavor.

(MORE)

KAY (CONT'D)

As well as the fact that you really do have a pathetic obsession that hinges on the need for a restraining order -

TRISTAN

Get on with it.

KAY

Okay, okay. I'm just saying that due to your obvious sexual frustration your mind is clearly foggy over exactly what -

TRISTAN

Kay!

KAY

You need to get laid.

TRISTAN

What exactly is that going to solve?

KAY

You will finally be able to get your mind off of Arthur and see that he isn't even that great. You need. To move. On.

Tristan stutters unsure how to process this advice.

TRISTAN

I don't even know how to do that! It's been so long since I even tried flirting with somebody, never mind trying to get them into bed!

Just then one of the librarians walks past with a cart full of books. She looks sternly at them and shushes them before moving on.

KAY

That's why you have me.

TRISTAN

What the hell are you talking about?

KAY

Just before we came here I  
texted my friend Merlin to  
meet us here in the library.

Kay stands up and looks across the room looking for someone.  
He suddenly smiles and waves somebody over.

TRISTAN

No! What are you doing? Stop  
it right now!

KAY

He loves books, plays for the  
varsity soccer team and likes  
long walks on the beach.

Tristan is now clearly panicking.

TRISTAN

I can't do this! Don't you  
dare leave me! Kay!

Kay is starting to walk away and shoots Tristan a thumbs up.

KAY

Just be yourself, don't  
mention Arthur and have fun!

Tristan freezes in his seat just as an average looking boy  
(MERLIN) with glasses and carrying a back pack takes a seat  
opposite Tristan, Merlin looks fairly confused.

MERLIN

Do you know where Kay is  
going?

Tristan shakes his head but doesn't say anything.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

He told me to meet him here  
with his friend but... Hey are  
you okay?

Tristan is sweating and turning a little green.

TRISTAN

I LIKE LONG WALKS ON THE  
BEACH!

There is a beat where the two just stare at each other both  
shocked at Tristan's sudden announcement.

The librarian walks past them again with her car full of books and shushes them furiously but doesn't stop walking. The boys both turn to look at her before returning to staring at each other. Then Merlin smiles.

MERLIN

That's cool, so do I.

Tristan blinks and then hesitantly begins to relax.

TRISTAN

Oh. Do you like anything else?  
I uh, for one am a fan of  
soccer.

MERLIN

No way! I play for the varsity  
team here.

TRISTAN

Wow that's really cool.

MERLIN

Do you play any sports?

TRISTAN

Well, not officially but  
sometimes I take part in the  
intramural ultimate frisbee  
games.

They are now both clearly relaxed and smiling easily.

Tristan looks down with a frown. Merlin notices and nudges Tristan under the table with his foot.

MERLIN

What's up? I thought we were  
having fun.

Tristan looks up back at Merlin.

TRISTAN

We were and that's the  
problem.

MERLIN

I'm not following.

Tristan sighs.

TRISTAN

It's just that there's this guy, Arthur, I'm totally in love with but he has a girlfriend who he loves but is also cheating on him with his best friend Lance and I think that I should go tell him.

Tristan moves to stand but Merlin grabs his arm and pulls him back down.

MERLIN

Whoa, you can't just dump that on a guy and run. First of all is the guy even into other guys?

TRISTAN

Yes.

MERLIN

And why exactly do you want to tell him?

TRISTAN

Well, it would be the right thing to do wouldn't it?

MERLIN

Maybe. But first tell me, is that really the only reason you want to tell him?

TRISTAN

Of course!

MERLIN

So I can take it that you have all the facts then?

TRISTAN

What? I mean, yes absolutely.

MERLIN

Uh huh. So you know if for instance Arthur didn't give her permission to perhaps do this?

TRISTAN

That's ridiculous, why would Arthur do that?

MERLIN

Why does anyone do anything?  
But in this case you say that  
she is cheating with the best  
friend and I just think that  
out of all the guys in the  
world, why the one Arthur is  
most likely going to find out  
about? Plus he is clearly bi  
so maybe he is into this Lance  
guy as well, and considering  
that we are all graduating  
soon maybe this is all just a  
bit of fun.

TRISTAN

That's insane!

Merlin smiles and holds his hand up in a placating gesture.

MERLIN

Okay, okay. What about the  
possibility that Arthur has  
ever cheated on his  
girlfriend?

TRISTAN

Arthur would never do that.

MERLIN

But can you be sure?

Tristan frowns in confusion.

TRISTAN

Well, no. I guess I can't.

MERLIN

And besides, so what if this  
girl is having a bit of fun  
before she graduates? What's  
the big deal? Arthur and Lance  
might not see each other  
again, or at least not for  
awhile as they go to lead  
separate lives. While this  
girl, at least it seems this  
way, will still be seeing  
Arthur. Besides is it really  
any of your business any way?  
If not it sounds like the only  
reason you want to tell this  
guy is so you can have him  
instead.

Tristan is stunned and can't speak for a beat.

TRISTAN

I guess you might have a point.

MERLIN

Not only that but I have one more.

TRISTAN

What else could you possibly say?

Merlin leans across the table.

MERLIN

Just that you should consider not wasting your time chasing this guy when others might be trying to get your attention.

Merlin smiles seductively at Tristan and Tristan blushes.

TRISTAN

You make a very convincing argument.

MERLIN

Thank-you.

Just then Merlin's phone dings and Merlin looks at the text message.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Damn. Problem with my group project I gotta go. But hey, here's my number.

Merlin pulls out a pen and writes his number on Tristan's hand.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Why don't you call me sometime and we can, maybe, grab coffee sometime? That is if you would be up for that?

Merlin giggles nervously waiting for a reply.

TRISTAN

That would be great!

MERLIN

Great! Well, I'll see you later then. Oh and tell Kay where I went when or if he gets back would you?

TRISTAN

Definitely! I mean on both. I will do both of those things. And uh, thanks for the talk, I think you're right about not having all the facts and it not being my business. Besides, now that that's out of the way I can spend more of my attention on more... appealing prospects.

Merlin shoots him one more smile before picking up his bag and walking away.

Tristan slumps back in his chair with a goofy grin on his face. Kay, who has been listening to the whole thing from behind a book shelf, pops his head around before seeing Merlin is definitely gone and walks up to Tristan.

KAY

So. What do you think lover boy, head over heels yet?

Tristan sighs.

TRISTAN

I need to see Arthur. I need to face him and end this stupid crush once and for all.

INT. FRATERNITY KITCHEN - DAY

Arthur is in the kitchen making out with Gwen when Tristan and Kay walk through the front door. Tristan heads toward the kitchen and motions for Kay to stay where he is.

Arthur sees Tristan walk though the door and halts the current face sucking.

TRISTAN

Hey Arthur can I talk to you real quick?

Tristan glances at Gwen.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)

In private?

Arthur gives a questioning glance at Gwen who smiles and gives Arthur a quick kiss before leaving the room and shooting Tristan a concerned glance.

ARTHUR

What's up Tristan?

TRISTAN

There's something I have to tell you.

ARTHUR

Okay what is it?

There is a beat before Tristan continues.

TRISTAN

It's about earlier when I said I wanted to formally invite someone, well it's this guy I know. His name is Merlin and I just wanted to check you were cool with that.

Arthur is shocked for a second before he smiles and claps Tristan on the back with his hand.

ARTHUR

What the hell man? Of course it's cool with me! Why do you even have to ask?

TRISTAN

I don't know, the rest of the guys were good with it and I just wanted to make sure you were happy as well.

ARTHUR

Yeah dude! Maybe now you'll finally get some action! I'll see you later, I have some of my own business to take care of. If you know what I mean?

Arthur leaves and Tristan stands there as Kay comes in grabbing two beers from the fridge and handing one to Tristan.

KAY

Do you even remember how to  
have sex?

TRISTAN

Like riding a bicycle.

They clink their bottles and drink in silence.

FADE TO BLACK.