

## TEXTS WITH MARCUS: THURSDAY NIGHT

**Alex:** I need to talk to you about something.

**Alex:** I know you're hurting over April, so maybe now isn't a good time, but I've been wanting to talk about it for a while.

**Marcus:** Yeah, I'm hurting, but you're my best friend. If you need to talk, I'm here.

**Alex:** That bar fight in Spain?

**Marcus:** Yes? What about it?

**Alex:** You never asked me what happened. I get that you had a lot going on, but that stung, dude. You just assumed I did something dumb for no reason, or because I got drunk, even though we both know I don't drink much.

**Marcus:** Fuck.

**Marcus:** You're right. I'm sorry. I should have asked. Dammit.

**Marcus:** So I'm asking now. What happened, Alex?

**Alex:** A British guy was harassing one of the female servers and grabbed her arm roughly enough that she cried out in pain. So I took his hand off her, and he reacted badly, and that started the brawl.

**Marcus:** Shit, Alex. I should have known it was something like that. I'm so sorry.

**Marcus:** I feel terrible, man. But I still don't understand. Why didn't she say something to the police? Or the media? Why didn't you?

**Alex:** She was running from abuse. Hiding. She begged me not to mention her, then disappeared.

**Marcus:** God. So you couldn't explain why you'd gotten in that fight. Not publicly.

**Marcus:** Were you able to find her again? Help her? Because I know you would have tried.

**Alex:** Nope.

**Marcus:** I'm sorry.

**Alex:** You said that already, and it's okay. I just

**Marcus:** You just what?

**Alex:** I just wanted to get it out into the open between us. I thought it might help.

**Alex:** I told Lauren earlier today. She's the only one who's ever asked what actually happened.

**Alex:** And after I told her, I felt

**Alex:** Good, I guess. Better. The whole thing didn't seem so

**Alex:** Heavy? IDK.

**Alex:** Also, FYI: She proudly wears T-shirts with the slogans BIG HARPY ENERGY and BE THE SHREW YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD, so when I call her a harpy or shrew, it's not being mean. It's just a joke. Really.

**Marcus:** And when you call her a joyless harpy?

**Alex:** ...

**Alex:** It's an endearment, dude.

**Marcus:** ...

**Marcus:** You know what the scariest part is?

**Marcus:** I fucking believe you, man.