

THE ONE-FIFTH

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Evening. Tara barges into Dan's office at the newspaper. She slams the door behind her.

TARA

Your sister wants me to get pregnant. Go ahead, fuck me. You always wanted to.

Dan comes out from behind his desk, weary.

DAN

What happened?

She comes to him, kisses him, aggressively. He pushes her away.

DAN

Stop.

She tries again.

DAN

Tara! Calm down.

TARA

I'm ripping off the bandaid. Fuck me and if I get pregnant it was meant to be.

DAN

Are you high?

TARA

So what? It's legal.

DAN

It's not legal.

TARA

It isn't?

DAN

Sit down.

TARA

No. Let's do this.

She reaches for his belt buckle. He backs away.

DAN
Did something happen with Jess?

TARA
I'm sure you already know.

DAN
What?

TARA
She's barren. What's politically correct- infertile. So here I am. I have to make my wife happy by fucking her brother.

DAN
Stop saying that. Have you eaten? Do you want me to order Seamless?

TARA
Stop being so nice and sensitive. You know you want me.

DAN
This is so weird.

TARA
She's going to leave me if I don't do this.

DAN
Is that what she said?

TARA
Sort of. She wasn't specific about you and I having sex, but was she pretty clear about the baby part. And she wants it to have her genes.

Suddenly the energy goes out of her,
replaced by sadness, panic.

TARA
She's going to leave me, Dan. I'm going to be alone, just like my father.

DAN
Your father chose to be alone. He pushed people away. People that loved him.

TARA
He needed me. Too much. They both said I was all they had.

DAN
They shouldn't have done that.
(beat)
But at some point Tara...

He backs her up to his desk, kissing
her neck, her ears, her lips, very
sensual. Tara jerks at his belt buckle.

DAN
(in romance mode)
Shhhh.... Slow down.

TARA
I don't want to make out. Let's get to it.

She unzips her jeans, and reaches for
his crotch. He pulls away, annoyed.

TARA
What?

He stares at her. She doesn't get it.

DAN
You think I don't have feelings?

TARA
But you wanted-

DAN
Do you have any idea how much you hurt me in college?

TARA
College? Oh my God Dan, we only went out for a couple months.

DAN
I had a crush on you for two years. We hung out every day.

TARA
As friends. You had no idea I was a dyke?

DAN
How would I know if you didn't? You never dated women. You
were making emotional love to me.

TARA
Eww. Don't ever say that again.

DAN

I thought you were waiting for me to make the first move.
Then *you* kissed *me*.

TARA

I was 20. You were my best friend. I wanted to be bisexual,
for you. I thought sex didn't matter if our minds connected.

DAN

I was so excited for you to meet my sister. I'd told her all
about you. The famous Tara. Then I finally get you home to
meet the family and you end up in bed with *her*.

TARA

Blame your mom. She's the one who made me sleep in your
sister's room.

DAN

(bitterly)

And now you want to have my kid? You were pretty fast to get
rid of it the last time.

Tara stares at him.

DAN

The baby would have been twenty now.

Silence.

DAN

Do you ever think about him? In my mind it was a boy.

Tara is quiet a long time before she
answers.

TARA

No. I don't. There was no way I would have had a baby right
then. Not even a question.

(beat)

How did you know?

DAN

I saw the pregnancy test in your garbage.

TARA

Why were you going through my garbage?

DAN

Waiting for you. Your roommate let me in and I had to pee.
Then when I had the appendicitis, you never showed up to the
hospital. That's when you had it done, wasn't it?

Tara nods.

DAN

And now you want a second shot. I could have raised the baby. You didn't have to be involved.

TARA

It wouldn't have worked like that.

DAN

You made that decision for me.

TARA

I was a kid. I was scared.

DAN

How could you not even tell me? You owed me that.

TARA

You would've asked me to have it. I would've done it anyway, and you would have hated me.

DAN

I did hate you.

TARA

Why didn't you say something?

DAN

You really thought I didn't know? I didn't speak to you for a year. Didn't you notice?

TARA

You were in China.

DAN

I took that assignment to get away from you. I couldn't hate you for being gay. I hated you for breaking my heart - twice.

Dan zips up his pants, smooths his hair and opens his office door, indicating that she should leave.

DAN

Go ahead and break Jess's heart too. You're good at that.
