

THE SWITCH



Sarah Thorpe

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By Sarah Thorpe

"Hi, and welcome guys, I'm so glad you could make it on such a short notice," Brett opened as six of his best friends were gathered round a table in a backroom in a pizza restaurant, "You see, something has come up that needs everybody's attention. I just was told today that Valerie and Ronald are finally getting married. It will happen in early June, which is a little over four months from now. I have been asked to be Ronald's Best Man, and have accepted. My wife, Gwen, has accepted to be Valerie's Maid-of-Honor. She has, by the way, gathered all the girls right now at the Italian place one block away. The wedding also coincides with our 10th anniversary from High School."

All the guys gathered were High School friends that had kept in touch all these years. The same was true for the girls. Brett and Ronald, however, had known each other much longer than that. They came from the same orphanage, as did Valerie and Gwen. Neither of them knew anything about their biological parents before they went to college. In later years they had tried to trace them though and had been partly successful. They had all been very curious what kind of genes they had inherited.

Brett continued to do the talking. "What now stands in front of us," he went on, "is that we have to set up a stag party for Ronald. And it has to be something that he will remember for the rest of his life. We will set a day and night on the town, of course, but we must also try to set up something more. I want the guy to really go through it all. Any suggestions?"

The first to say something was Tom, an Air Force pilot. "I think I can arrange all kinds of air sports, like parachute jumping and hang- gliding for him. Maybe I also get him up in an F-16 fighter; he just has to pass a medical test first. But I can guarantee that he at least will get a ride in a simulator. If we agree on something, please let me know as soon as possible."

"Great ideas, Tom," Ronald said, "We will discuss various options tonight and meet again in one week to come up with something more concrete. Any other suggestions?"

Next guy out was Paul. "I might come up with something," he said, "There are a lot of props I get from the movie studio where I work. I have some initial thoughts already, but I will not discuss them today, as I want to talk with the

folks at the studio first. One thing I thought of was to get him in a car while they're shooting a dramatic car chase. I know there's such a scene coming up in a movie that will start shooting soon."

"Another brilliant idea. We'll see what we can fit in during the coming months."

They discussed several options the next three hours. At the end of the session Brett summarized the afternoon's meeting as follows:

"I have noted down everything we've discussed," he said, "and I will write it up and send you a copy tomorrow. Please keep your mouths about this to Ronald and Valerie. I know they will suspect that something will happen these coming weeks, but I don't want them to get any ideas about what it might be. Understood?"

They all nodded in agreement.

That evening Gwen and Brett went through their lists and compared their contents. They soon found that there were some overlaps as was expected. They started to sort out their lists and prepared emails to others in the groups. Both groups would meet again one week later.

During the week lots of information and new suggestions were communicated between the members of the two groups. Gwen and Brett kept the records straight so that when the groups met again they were ready with lots of suggestions. Some looked very promising; but then again some looked utterly crazy. But they decided that no matter how crazy, they would discuss them. It might be something in them after all.

. They met again as scheduled one week after the first meeting; same place, same time. Once again Brett took the lead. Everyone now had a copy of all the suggestions, and they went through them one by one; each of them defended by the guy who came up with the idea.

Tom confirmed that he could arrange both parachuting and hang-gliding for both Valerie and Ronald. In addition both could have a ride in the F-16 simulator. When it came to actual flight in an F-16 there were still some issues to be solved. Valerie and Ronald were after all civilians and needed clearance to be allowed to fly. The medical test wouldn't be any problem, however.

When it was Paul's turn he said: "I have arranged with the stunt coordinator that they both can take part in a car stunt. They wouldn't do it

during actual shooting, however, but they will set up a special session for both Valerie and Ronald. Then suddenly, while walking through the studio I passed the make-up section. There I saw some fancy make-up work take place. I got an idea; why not let Valerie and Ronald go through the same. We all know that Ronald is 3" shorter than Valerie, 5'7" vs. 5'10" So I thought why not turn Ronald into a woman and Valerie into a man for an evening. Then Valerie could spend a night on the town with us while Ronald did the same with the girls I checked with the guys in the make-up department and they were more than willing to help us. They had three ways of doing it. One was with normal make-up tricks and proper clothing, the second included a torso that covered the person from the upper thighs to the neck, and the third was a torso that covered the whole body. The latter had to be made to measure and required some ordering time. I saw a person at the set wearing one and it was absolutely fantastic. It was completely impossible to see that the person wearing it was in reality a man and not the woman he looked like. Even when the person was naked you couldn't see it. I also understood that you should wear it for at least one month; otherwise it wasn't worth its money. I heard that several Female Impersonators both here and in Europe are wearing one during the season. They come for both males and females. One warning though, a female wearing a male torso must not be pregnant. The reason is that it releases small amounts of hormones that can harm the child. And guys, I saw this today and have had no chance to discuss it with Mandy."

This came as complete surprise to them all. Everybody wanted to say something so Brett had a hard time keeping everybody in order. When it finally calmed down Alex came up with the ultimate solution. "Why not," he said, "put them in full body torsos and let Ronald be the bride and Valerie the groom. They could even go on honeymoon as the opposite gender. The wedding would be completely legal, and it would be something they would never forget. I bet we won't forget it either."

"I like the idea," Brett said, "but I would have to mention it to Gwen and see if the girls like it as well. Do you have anything more about the torso thing, Paul?"

"In fact I have. I have some brochures and pictures that show people before and after. The torsos are pretty expensive and needs special attention when put on and taken off." Paul laid some papers on the table and let everybody have a look. Brett went to another part of the restaurant and called

up Gwen on the cell phone. He laid down Paul's proposal for her and listened to her reaction. She liked the idea as well, but asked if Paul could come over and explain in more detail and show them the brochures.

Brett went back to tell what Gwen had said. Paul agreed to go over there and explain what he meant and show them the brochures. He came back 30 minutes later and told the guys that the girls had bought the idea, but that they wanted it done in two ways; one with normal make-up and a tour on the town, then the next day they could put the two of them in the torsos and let them stay there through the wedding. It was expensive, but they all thought they could afford it. Both groups also asked if it was possible to meet someone who was wearing a torso to see for themselves what it looked like. Paul promised to check if that was possible.

Furthermore Paul needed the exact measures of Valerie and Ronald. Gwen promised she could fix that. "We need their measures for the wedding gown and the tuxedo anyway," she said.

Before we continue our story, let's talk a closer look at our four main characters. As mentioned earlier all four, Valerie, Gwen, Ronald and Brett grew up on the same orphanage. They all arrived within a few months of each other by four different women. None of them were more than a few weeks old when they were brought in. Their dates of birth were duly registered, as were the names of the women who brought them in. They were given the family name of the woman who brought them in. Thus Valerie Smythe, Gwen Connelly, Ronald Evans and Brett Mason were placed in the same room. One of them, Valerie, had, however, been brought in by a person that claimed she was the child's grandmother.

As they grew up more or less in the same room, they soon became very close. As they grew older they became closer and closer.

At the age of four Ronald suddenly became very sick. The other three became very worried and were afraid that he might die. They all stayed close to him all the time, but it seemed that Valerie stayed longer than the other two. The little girl did all she could to help him get better. And it seemed to help; after a few months Ronald was on a good way to a healthy recovery. This made the bonds between Valerie and Ronald even stronger.

They foursome started school together and all soon proved to be very clever students. At the orphanage they helped each other with the homework.

When they entered Junior High it was clear that the two boys had a sound interest in technical matters, especially electronics seemed to be their thing. The girls, however, were more interested in business administration.

Brett grew up to be a real athletic guy, 6'3" tall, blonde hair and blue eyes. Brett was in many ways every girl's dream boy, but he had only eyes for Gwen. She was a dark haired, brown-eyed beauty, 5'9" tall and every boy's dream girl. But again, she only had eyes for Brett.

Ronald, however, clearly suffered from his disease and stopped at 5'7", really small for a boy. His dark blonde hair and charming smile made his looks rather cute. Ronald's puny ways didn't make him a favorite boy amongst the girls, but he didn't care: he had Valerie and that was more than enough for him. Valerie was a tall girl, 5'10" and a little tomboyish. She was, however, very much in love with Ronald, and stood by his side all the time. When she dressed up for the annual school ball, however, she shone like the rest of the girls, and many boys would have liked to know her better. But she stuck with Ronald. She had nursed him when he was bedridden and had developed a deep love for him. She wore her blonde hair rather short, but still looked very beautiful when dressed up.

After graduation from High School they went to college together. Brett and Ronald to study Electronic Engineering, Valerie and Gwen to study Business Administration. During their college years Ronald and Brett came upon an idea they thought they could develop further and maybe set into production and make a business out of it. Valerie and Gwen were keen to the idea and made preparations to establish a company for production and sales of Ronald and Brett's product.

It was also during these years that the foursome really started to wonder whom their biological parents were. They had after all inherited their genes and considering how well they've done in school, their parents must have been very intelligent people. They also wanted to know if any of them should happen to be related to each other.

For Valerie this was no problem, She was the only survivor of a fatal car accident where both her parents and maternal grandparents were killed. Her paternal grandmother was divorced and had no chance of raising the child, so for her the next option was to hand it over to the orphanage. By the time she turned 18 Valerie was given all the details of her parents, and a large fund in

her name was made available to her. That made Valerie a very rich young woman.

Gwen was the result of a one-night stand between two teenagers and where the boy was not ready to take up the responsibility as a father. They were both still in High School so again, the orphanage was the obvious solution. It took her some years to find her biological parents, but when she did she learned that they both had made good careers, they were married, but not to each other, and lived far away in two different towns. She took contact with a private investigator that searched them out. He confronted them and told them that their child wanted to make contact. None of them seemed interested, but instead transferred a large sum of money to her account. A child from their teenage years would be very damaging to their careers. Gwen's father was a congressman while her mother was assistant DA in large town the Mid-West. She learned to know who they were, however, but respected their wish for no contact. The P.I. had, however, given both parents a picture of her as a grown-up and told them what she was studying.

Ronald's mother turned out to be a junkie. She had OD'd a long time ago. His father was nowhere to be found. It was doubtful if even his mother had known who he was. It was suspected that Ronald's disease had something to do with her abuse of hard drugs. He never learned who they really were.

Brett was a result of an extramarital affair between a lawyer and his client. The affair had to be hushed down so his mother paid a discreet visit to the orphanage and delivered him there. Both parents made sure that the boy would get a good start in life and set up a fund in his name. Brett met them both at the time he was 25. They parted as friends and promised to stay in touch.

When the foursome graduated from High School Gwen and Brett exchanged rings and promised each other eternal love. They were married when thy year they turned 22. Ronald was Best Man while Valerie was Maid-of-Honor. Valerie and Ronald also exchanged rings after High School, but seemed to have no time for marriage until now, six years after Gwen and Brett.

As planned they started a company as soon as they graduated from college. It was an electronics company based on an idea Brett and Ronald had had in College. It required hard work to get someone interested in their idea,

but after lots of legwork they found a company that saw a need for their product. They liked what they bought and the device soon became an integral part of some of their products. Fortunately Brett and Ronald had been granted patent on their product. It didn't take long before the word spread and their product suddenly became very popular. It became in great demand all over the country and they had to speed up production. They bought a new production building and set up an assembly line there. Luckily the product was easy to manufacture. It didn't take long before the foursome were four wealthy people. Most of the hard work was done, now it was up to them to keep the product alive and make necessary improvements. This was the situation now that Valerie and Ronald finally had decided to get married.

The six other couples that made up the groups for preparation of the marriage consisted of High School friends who had careers of their own, but had stayed in close touch the ten years since graduation.

Now back to our original story. As promised Paul had set up a demonstration of the complete torsos. They all met in a Hollywood studio where the demonstration would take place. The first person that came in appeared to be a beautiful woman. She wore a red mini-dress with a deep v-shaped neckline that showed off her beautiful breasts to their full advantage. The dress clung to her body and showed off a narrow waist and a firm bottom. Her face was made up perfection and her blonde hair reached down below her shoulders. On her feet she had red sandals with 3" heels. Her looks were totally feminine; no traces of a man could be detected.

"My name is Jimmy Morgan," the person said in a male voice, "but for the moment you can call me Annie. That's the name of the character I'm playing."

The person's voice went into a female mode as he/she went on. "The movie is about a police officer who is recruited to solve the murders of transvestites. In order to infiltrate it is decided that the person shall dress up and try to lure the killer into a trap. The plot is successful and the killer is caught. Then it was only to wait for the trial. In order not to raise any suspicions it was decided at the precinct that I should remain a female until the trial was over. I would after all be a key witness in that trial. So in order to make things a little easier for me they it was decided to put me into this torso until the case was closed.



"While waiting for the trial another murder took place and I was put on the case. After some very complicated investigations we finally caught the culprit. It turned out that he had killed five women and managed to take over his sister's identity. He even married his boyfriend as his own sister. The sister had died in a car accident in Germany. Back home and still waiting for the two trials, I was involved in solving a 20-year-old case. This case also

involved a man who had been transformed into a woman. I will emerge as a man again at the end of the movie. A good friend of mine is playing the role as the one of the culprits. We are now in the middle of the shooting, but since this is my day off I decided to I could visit you and tell you all about the torso. I normally don't dress this sexy; I'm even wearing a wig for the occasion. For the role as a female police officer I have much shorter hair."

"Thank you, Annie," Paul said, "Are you willing to undress to display yourself as a naked woman? Then the guys can see for themselves what the torso really can do."

"Of course. That's one of the reasons I'm here." Annie started to undress. Soon she stood there completed naked in front of them. The eyes of the spectators almost popped out of their heads. Was this really a man? Incredible!

"I invite you all to come up and touch my body," Annie said, "You will find that it feels almost natural. Further touching will reveal, though, that the skin is artificial. This is especially evident in the breast area. The torso also covers my head and face. It also contains small amounts of hormones to keep the beard growth at bay under it. My face is, however, almost exactly like my male face. You can also get torsos that reshape your face a little. But not too much, the basic face shape cannot be changed."

Gwen was the first one to come up and touch Annie's body. She didn't know what to expect, but careful touching told her that Annie's skin was not like hers. In the breasts it was very clear that something was wrong. Especially the nipples seemed out of context. Soon the others followed and touched Annie. After about 20 minutes they were satisfied. Brett summarized the situation. "This is amazing," he said, "It would be the ultimate thing to put Ronald into something like this. I hope the male torso is just as good. If we go for this option we have to change the face a little, though. But can you tell us what has happened to you male genitals?"

Annie dressed again and said: "They are hidden inside my body. When putting on the torso my penis is put into a sheath and pressed into my body along with the balls. It hurts like hell in the beginning, but the pain subsides after a few days. This way I can pee like a normal woman. I cannot make love as a woman, though. There is no cavity inside me. There is also an opening for anus."

They talked with Annie for an hour more before they ran out of questions. She finished off by saying: "If you want me to help you put the torso on your friend, I'm willing to help. Just tell me the time and place. One word of caution before I leave. Never wear the torso for more than about one year at a time. I know about a case where the person wore it for two years before they tried to remove it. Then it was too late; the torso had become such an integral part of the body that the person was stuck with it. The only solution was to perform full SRS on him. He was just as glad; he now lives as a woman working as a secretary for the CEO in a large company. There she is obliged to do a little more than ordinary secretary work. Things she is now much better equipped to do." With these words Annie left the room.

Next person to arrive was to all appearances a man. Not the most athletic man you could see, but clearly a man. He was dressed in a three-piece gray suit, a light blue shirt and a tie in almost the same color. On his feet he had black socks and shoes. His face was slightly tanned and his hair was short and medium blonde. "Hi," he said in a feminine voice, "my name is Lucy Ellen, but you can call me Howard."

He reverted to a masculine voice and continued. "That's the name of the character I'm playing. The movie is about a woman who is a material witness to a crime that had very strong mob connections. She is taken to a safe place before she can come forward as a witness. Her testimony put the crooks away, but the leader swears that he will get even with her and have her killed in the cruelest way he could think of. The police and the DA get worried and must come up with a plan to keep her 100% safe until the appeal comes up.

That's when someone comes up with the plan to put her into a male torso and thereby change her into a man. At least on a temporary basis. As a man she could live an open life and monitor the mobs frenetic search for her. Howard works for the DA's office and is able to track down most of the gang. So when the mobsters once again come to court, she once again comes to the witness stand and brings them all down. The remaining few from the gang just leaves town and are never seen again. After the verdict she marries the assistant DA and lives happily as a woman forever after."

Once again it was Brett that opened the show. "Howard," he said, "can you tell us a little about your torso and how it works?"

"Of course, that's after all what I'm here for. As in Annie's case, the torso

covers me from top to bottom. In my groin they attached a small pipe to my urethra and extended it into an artificial penis. This way I can pee like a man. Strange thing. The torso is further designed to fill me out a little in the waist and breast regions, giving me a body that looks more like a man's. My breasts are inside the torso; the area around is filled up to give me a male chest. My hips however are squeezed to make them appear smaller. Painful in the beginning, but bearable after a day or two. The most difficult part was the beard region. Normally Howard could appear clean-shaven in all scenes, but that is not very realistic. Therefore I had to be equipped with artificial beard during some takes in order to make things realistic. It happens only twice, though."

Howard then started to undress. It didn't take long before he stood naked in front of them. His body was very realistic; you really had to look hard to see that something was wrong. At a distance the penis looked perfect, but looking real close you could see that something was wrong. Gwen was curious and asked if she could touch it.

"Of course," Howard replied, "do whatever you like with it. It's not a part of my real body so I won't feel a thing. It will be just like when you touched Annie's breasts."

Gwen reached out and took the artificial penis in her hand. She felt right away that it wasn't the real thing. She even touched the balls. She tried to squeeze them. Then something happened; the penis became erect just like a normal erection. Gwen jumped back; this came as a complete surprise. After the initial shock she said: "Does this mean that you can make love like a man?"

"In theory it does, but I've never tried it. I don't think I ever will. In one scene, however, I do my best to seduce one of the mobster women and succeed quite well. According to the script she falls for me and I get a lot of information out of her. That information proves to be crucial in order to get the gang's top man behind bars."

"How can the public fall for such a thing when they, at least, know about you?"

"The plot is that the woman is high on drugs and cannot differentiate between my penis and a real one. According to the script we make love and she seems to like it. As long as she's high when we are in bed together, it's all

right."

After a few more questions Howard dressed again and Annie came back in. They had to answer some more questions before the visitors were completely satisfied. When they were finished Annie and Howard left the room arm in arm just like an ordinary couple.

Then Paul stood up again and told them to follow him to the make-up department. There the make-up artists were busy preparing some actors for a scene. Paul explained what was going on. He also told them that in a few minutes time two make-up artists would demonstrate how to change a man's face into a woman's and vice versa. This to show them what these folks could do to Valerie and Ronald. A middle-aged woman came forward and presented herself. "My name is Amanda Carrington and I am the boss of this department. What you see here is what we consider normal movie makeup, which is make-up to make the actors look natural on film. We can also make actors look a little different from their normal looks, of course" She went on explaining what the make-up artists did and why. She finished off by saying: "Now, please come with me and I will show you how we make a man into a woman, and a woman into a man."

She took the group to the next room where two people were seated. They were both covered in a large blanket and only their heads were visible. One head was clearly masculine and one was feminine. The models presented themselves, mostly to convince the group that they really were what they looked like.

The make-up artists went to work right away. All the way they explained what they did and why. Slowly the faces turned from male to female and vice versa. Our friends watched in amazement what was going on. Brett watched the man being made up into a woman. He paid close attention to what was going on and asked lots of questions. Finally only the wig remained. It was placed on the man's head and tightened. It was brown and reached down to the man's shoulders. It was combed out and the man was ready. Before he stood up a pair of earrings were fastened to his ears. The blanket was removed and the man stood up. To Brett's and the others' surprise the man was dressed in a two-piece blue suit with a skirt that reached almost to his knees. On his feet he had pumps in the same color with 3" heels.

At the same time the woman was almost finished. Gwen had watched the

process closely and now it was only the hair left. The woman's own hair was combed back on her head and tied up in her neck. A male wig was placed over her own hair. It had a medium blonde color and set in modern half-long male style. The woman's own hair was completely hidden under the wig. The blanket was removed and the woman stood up. She was dressed in a dark gray business suit, white shirt and a light blue tie. On her feet she had black male shoes. She smiled to the on-lookers as she walked over to the man, now woman and took him in his hand. "We have a late lunch appointment in 30 minutes," she said, "so we'd better hurry." The couple walked out the door.

Amanda gathered the group in a room close by and said: "I hope you liked what you've seen. What has been presented is a part of Hollywood magic. The couple that just left is in fact married, and they have a habit of changing roles from time to time. Their friends know what they're doing and think it's funny. They are both actors and have had many parts in lots of movies. Normally they do their own make-up in cases like this, but they were willing to be part of this demonstration today.

"Now let's move on. I understand that you have two friends that are about to be married and you want them to go through a lot of things before the wedding. I have talked a lot with Paul, and have offered our full support. Your friends will, I understand, amongst other things be involved in some real car action. Paul has also told me that you're thinking about them switching roles for a while. I can then offer the following. On a Friday of your choice you bring the future bride and groom here. My staff will then dress them up as the opposite gender and they will spend the night on the town according to their new role. When they wake up on Saturday we put them straight into sedation and dress them in torsos like the ones you've just seen. The on Sunday they will wake up looking like their partner. I suggest you keep them that way until the wedding and that they go to church as each other, Ronald as the bride and Valerie as the groom. I might also offer them some small roles in a movie we will start shooting soon.

"Furthermore I suggest you let them go through the transformation at least one month before the wedding. That will give them more than enough time to get familiar with their new appearance. Then in order to have the torsos made I need a lot of measures. I have a list and some sketches that will help you. You can use the making of the wedding dress and the tuxedo as an excuse. If you want them switch faces as well I need detailed photographs of them both.

I can't guarantee the result, but I will do the best I can. To help you with the pictures I will lend you this special camera. I need one picture off the face and one from each side. This will make it possible for us to create a 3D image of their heads. In addition and as an extra gesture I will also have the wedding clothes made for them. Any questions?"