

Twenty Pounds of Tentacles

by

Niccolo E. Sohn

1 INT. MAX'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

CORINA wakes up in bed next to her boyfriend, MAX (early 20's, wannabe frat guy living off his dad's credit card) who stares at her patiently.

CORINA
Morning, babe. What's wrong?

MAX
We need to talk.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - MINUTES LATER

Corina is planted right outside Max's front door. Her arms are overflowing with her belongings.

MAX
It's not you, it's me. It's my problem. I don't like stretch marks.

CORINA
Wait! Things can change. I can change!

MAX
Yeah, but *I* also don't like body hair. I'm sorry I'm not perfect.

CORINA
I forgot to shave for just three days. THREE DAYS!

MAX
Yeah, I don't know if that's something you can get looked at or what but ummm-

Corina can't even look in his stupid eyes. This is the last thing she expected today would bring.

CORINA
Do you at least have a box or something?

MAX
Oh a box? Umm.

Max looks around him, as if a cardboard box would magically be sitting there neatly between them. In their fruitless

search, his eyes wander to the house across the street.

A cute alien with tentacles comes out of the house to get her mail and waves over at Max. He smirks and waves back. Corina sees this and stomps on his foot.

MAX

Ow!

Corina scoffs and stomps off.

MAX

Typical.

CORINA

Typical!

3 INT. CORINA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Corina and her friends lounge about in their living room. Corina's friends come off like classic backup dancers - Steph (the tall one), Jenn (the short one) and Cass (the funny one).

JENN

What a pig!

Corina nods, a little tipsy.

CORINA

How did I ever like him? He was such a little bitch. I can't believe this man could get drafted by the U.S. military to fight in a world war.

STEPH

Yeah, but he'd be like, "Please! No! I'll do anything, please! Just don't kill me!"

Steph takes over the bit. She stands on the couch with her hands on her hips.

CASS

"Would you take it up the ass?"

STEPH

"Yes! Please! Impale me with your rifle!"

Everyone recoils.

CASS, STEPH, CORINA
Aaaaaaewwww! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

JENN
So it's not enough that they're
obsessed with guns, now they want to
fuck 'em, too.

CASS
Ah, but see, it's *because* they're
obsessed that they want to fuck 'em!

STEPH
Men are fucking weirdos. Have you seen
the kind of porn they watch online?
Crazy dominatrix stuff with giant
instruments! Gangbangs! Step-mommy and
me play time!

CORI
They're sick, sick people.

JENN
You can actually look up what the most
popular type of porn is for American
male users.

Everyone turns to face Jenn.

JENN
What?! A while ago I got curious.

Corina, Steph and Cass survey one another, smiles growing
wide.

4 INT. CORINA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The girls gather themselves on the couch around Corina's
laptop. Corina's fingers release a quick *clickety-clack*.

JENN
It's probably lesbian porn. It's
always lesbian porn.

Another *clickety-clack* from Corina's fingers. They all lean
in.

CASS
Alien porn?

JENN
I've never heard of it.

Corina clicks on a link. They recoil from the screen again.

EVERYONE
Whoa!

CASS
Well, it wasn't a rifle but it was close.

STEPH & JENN
Hee, hee, hee, hee.

Corina gets to her feet and slinks away.

STEPHANIE
Dude, what's wrong?

Corina looks outside the window with tears welling up in her eyes.

CORINA
He's probably fucking that alien!

She bursts into messy sobs.

STEPHANIE
It's ok. It's ok. I bet he's hating every second of it.

CASS
GUYS! We may have a problem.

Everyone gathers with Cass around the laptop.

CASS
I don't know about you, but I can't do that.

Steph, Jenn and Corina look closer, their eyes growing wide.

STEPH
Oh my, God!

CASS
And there's more. The list is endless.

JENN
You know what this means, right?

Everyone wrenches their eyes from the screen.

JENN (CONT.)

What happened to Cori is just the beginning. If our boyfriends are really watching that, it could happen to any of us.

STEPH

Michael would never. He's as vanilla as they come.

Everyone looks at Steph.

CASS

Oh yeah? Where's he at right now on a Saturday night?

STEPH

Group project.

No one bats an eye.

STEPH

Fuck.

5 INT. MAX'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY

Max's souped-up Honda Civic is nowhere to be found. Corina steps up to the door, peeking through the small window of the door.

She squats low to pick something up. The door knob rattles and opens, revealing a key in Corina's hand. She bends down again to put the key back under a near-naked garden gnome with nothing but a skimpy loincloth around his waist.

CORINA

Thanks Chodie.

6 INT. MAX'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Corina rushes towards Max's counter and opens a drawer. She rifles around, inspecting every other bottle of stuff. Aftershave. Gel. Testicle Moisturizer.

Corina rolls her eyes. She picks up another bottle - Tentacle Moisturizer.

CORINA

Bingo!

She unscrews the cap and takes out a vial of purple liquid. With a dropper cap, she prepares to put some of the purple contents into the moisturizer bottle. The first drop almost leaves the dropper when -

Rattle-rattle.

The front door whines open.

MAX (O.S.)
I'm not upset. It's nothing. I swear.

Corina's eyes go wide. She's trapped. She peeks out of the bathroom. Sure enough, it's Max and the alien from across the street, Kelpie.

Corina stuffs the testicle moisturizer back into the drawer, but puts the tentacle moisturizer in her pocket. With nowhere to go, she dives into the bathtub behind the shower curtain. The voices are getting closer.

KELPIE (O.S.)
Could you please just tell me what's wrong? I know there's something you're not telling me.

MAX (O.S.)
It's not important, ok? So just...

KELPIE (O.S.)
What if I do that thing you like-

Corina scowls. She takes out the vial and the Tentacle Moisturizer, unscrewing both.

MAX (O.S.)
Kelpie.

KELPIE (O.S.)
I know you can't resist it.

Max and Kelpie moan in unison off-screen. Corina clenches her teeth. She fills the dropper with purple liquid and brings the tip to the bottle of moisturizer.

Once again Corina is about to squeeze the drops into the moisturizer when-

THUD.

MAX (O.S.)
See that's exactly what I'm talking
about.

The moaning stops. Corina freezes.

KELPIE (O.S.)
What's wrong?

MAX (O.S.)
You do it all the time in bed. We
start and it's going great and then
you start throwing me around.

KELPIE (O.S.)
Baby, I thought you liked playing
rough.

MAX (O.S.)
Yeah, I do. I just don't like getting
thrown up against the wall like a
bitch.

Corina rolls her eyes.

KELPIE (O.S.)
I'm sorry. I couldn't help it. You
just get me so excited.

MAX (O.S.)
Well, stop. Ok? I should be throwing
you, not the other way around.

KELPIE (O.S.)
I thought you liked my tentacles.

MAX (O.S.)
I do. Could you just, like, not hulk
me around? If you really can't help
it, I'm sure they have tentacle
reduction surgery or something.

The sound of steps approaches the bathroom door that Corina
is peeking out at from the bathtub.

KELPIE (O.S.)
Where are you going?

Corina ducks out of sight behind the curtain just as Max
opens the bathroom door.

MAX
To take a shower.

Corina panics. She sets the moisturizer and the vial to the side, and sinks down flat to the bottom of the tub. Kelpie joins Max in the bathroom doorway.

KELPIE
I thought we were gonna have some fun.

MAX
Nahh, I don't really feel like it anymore.

Max proceeds towards the bath tub. Corina covers her mouth with her hand.

KELPIE
Wait baby!

Max's hand snatches the edge of the curtain high above Corina. Corina shuts her eyes, bracing for disaster.

Kelpie wraps her tentacles around Max from behind.

KELPIE (CONT.)
I promise I won't use them on you...

Max looks back at her. Kelpie smiles up at him, devilishly.

KELPIE (CONT.)
Except the way you like.

Corina's eyes are still shut. She looks like she's about to cry and shit herself at the same time.

Max rolls his eyes.

MAX
I guess a shower can wait if you're really going to keep your promise.

Kelpie nods.

KELPIE
Let me be your little alien.

Kelpie grabs Max's hand and leads him away to the neighboring bedroom. The door shuts off-screen.

Corina opens her eyes; she can finally breathe.

She looks over to the moisturizer and vial she set aside, still uncapped. She grabs both and studies them for a second, looking from one to the other.

Max's moans emanate from the bedroom next door. Not a sound from Kelpie.

She frowns, putting the tentacle moisturizer down.

She looks up and moves the shower curtain aside, eyeing the drawer she put the testicle moisturizer in.

7 EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - WIDE - MINUTES LATER

Corina sneaks through the front door and out to the street.

SMASH CUT.

8 EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - WIDE - NIGHT

The house and the street are illuminated by a streetlight and the warm lights coming from the house's interior.

The sound of Max, rustling through a drawer, can be heard.

MAX (O.S.)
Where the- Ah! There's my ball cream.

9 INT. CORINA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Steph and Jenn are bawling their eyes out on the couch, bunched up with Corina and Cass.

JENN
I knew this would happen!

STEPH
He said she was more exciting. He called her exotic. Exotic!

CASS
More like Sex-otic.

STEPH
How do I get him back? There must be something I can do.

CASS
Well, unless you have extra limbs or orifices, I don't think your chances are too good.

STEPH

Why do you have to be such a bitch all the time? Just because you sleep around doesn't mean you get to laugh everything off.

CORINA & JENN

Whoa!

CASS

All right, hold on now. I have NOT been sleeping around....Recently. Courtesy of our intergalactic visitors, pickings have been slim.

CORINA

How long's it been?

CASS

Oh, just like two weeks.

Everyone stares at Cass.

CASS

All right, all right....Five months.

CORINA

What!?

Steph and Jenn burst into sobs again.

JENN

W-weneed to do something! Cori, how did it go with that bitch's moisturizer. Tell me her stupid scaley alien skin is pimpling up!

CORINA

Yeah, they're pimpling up.

STEPH

They? You got the two of them?

CORINA

Yes and no.

Everyone raises an eyebrow at Corina.

CORINA

I may have not so accidentally confused testicle moisturizer with

tentacle moisturizer.

CASS
Cori, you illiterate ape.

JENN
I'm sorry, so you just damaged the merchandise...ON PURPOSE?!

CORINA
It's not my merchandise anymore. And, I don't want it to be. Besides, Kelpie didn't do anything but fall for his bullshit like I did before her. She doesn't deserve to pay for being with an asshole.

CASS
You got cuckold by an alien named "Kelpie"?

CORINA
Yes, but I- we - don't have to be the losers here. Jenn, what did Ethan say when he dumped you?

JENN
He said he needed to explore with someone who didn't need makeup or a 10-step skincare routine.

CORINA
Steph?

STEPH
I'm not exotic.

CASS
Sexoti-

Steph raises her hand to hit Cass.

CASS
Alright, alright!

CORINA
I'm tired of not being perfect. I'm tired of not having what they want. So fuck it! I'm going to have whatever I want. Think about it, up until now we've twisted ourselves into pretzels

to please them because we could do it.
We could shave our armpits daily. We
could workout daily.

JENN
We could be cute.

STEPH
And sexy.

CASS
And smart.

JENN
But not too smart.

CORINA
We can get degrees, lip fillers and
boob jobs, but we can't grow tentacles
or get more holes, so fuck it! They've
done us a favor. We can't keep up
anymore? Fine! If they don't want us,
then we're free.

10 EXT. LONG UNIVERSITY CAMPUS QUAD - DAY

Cori, Jenn, Steph, Cass and a bunch of other young women are
grouped together raising protest signs high in the air. Among
the protest messages are -

"PATRIARCHY = HYPOCRISY"

"OWN YOUR STANDARDS"

"BODY HAIR'S A PROBLEM, BUT 10 EYES AREN'T?"

"20 POUNDS OF BODY ARE EQUAL TO 20 POUNDS OF TENTACLE"

Max and several of his lumbering male friends, including
JEFF(the human equivalent of a Bang energy drink) and HARVEY
(yup, think a young Harvey Weinstein) pass by the group of
protesters. As they approach, Max walks as if he shat his
pants. Most of the guys chuckle to themselves at the sight of
the protest.

HARVEY
Hey Max, isn't that your ex?

Max spots Corina.

MAX

Yup, good thing I jumped ship, eh?

JEFF

Max, bro, you gotta tell her to stop. She's killing our prospects. I haven't been able to pull anything above a five in days.

HARVEY

You can't pull anything above a five, period.

JEFF

Bro, shut the fuck up! This shit's turning all the 7's, 8's, and 9's into 4's and 5's. They don't care how they look anymore.

HARVEY

Jeff's got a point. I can't recognize my girlfriend anymore.

MAX

Y'all just need to find some alien chicks.

JEFF

You don't understand, bro. I need a varied diet.

Everyone looks at Harvey.

HARVEY

What?! I can't dump Janet just like that!

MAX

All right listen, when you first started dating, Janet was, what, a 7, 7.5?

HARVEY

Oh. A 10!

Max's eyebrow rises in disbelief.

MAX

Mmmkay, a 10, sure. Now, thanks to this little movement, what is she now?

HARVEY
A fi-five.

MAX
What was that?

HARVEY
A five!

MAX
So tell me, what do you think she'll
be in a month? Are you gonna stick
around for that?

HARVEY
It's not just that. You've never heard
of Intergalactic STD's?

MAX
You're such a bitch, dude. The only
disease is THAT.

Max points to the group and waddles closer. The cronies
follow like a school of fish.

MAX (CONT.)
Yo! Cori! Give it a break!

CORINA
Max! Are you ok? Why in the world are
you walking like that?

MAX
I think what matters more is the fact
that your mob is ruining our boys'
lives.

STEPHANIE
I guess you should've thought about
that when you all dumped us for
aliens!

HARVEY
Why am I putting up with this shit? I
didn't fuck any aliens, and now my
girlfriend's the creature from the
black lagoon.

THE BOYS
Ohhhhhh!

The protest group starts verbally tearing into Harvey.

CORINA

If you're willing to take the hit for her, great. But if you feel like you don't need her, then you'll see she doesn't need your bullshit, either.

JANET emerges from the crowd.

HARVEY

Janet? Wait, I didn't mean it....

Janet gives him a shrug but remains in the group.

CORINA

We're tired of all the shit we have to do to be considered worthy of the attention of apes like you.

THE BOYS

Whoa!

Max and the others drag a discombobulated Harvey away as they turn their backs to leave.

MAX

Forget about it, man! They're just jealous of the aliens. They can't compete! It's a disease, what they got! An alien disease!

CORINA

Hey Max! You look great! Do you moisturize?

The protest group laughs. Max glares back as he waddles away with the other boys, adjusting his underwear in the process.

11 INT. LONG COLLEGE RADIO BOOTH - DAY

Corina wears headphones, sitting in a booth in front of a mic. A PODCASTER (female, painfully millennial) sits opposite Corina with a sheet of questions.

PODCASTER

So Corina, what's it been like leading your own liberation movement?

CORINA

It's been such an eye-opening

experience. I don't know how we didn't see it all before.

PODCASTER

Can you elaborate on that?

CORINA

The simple fact is if men can find scales attractive, I don't see why cellulite can't be attractive either.

12 INT. JOE ROGAN-ESQUE PODCAST - NIGHT

Max is sitting at a similar radio booth, this one darker, with a brick wall in the background. The podcast host, JOHN DOGAN (a discount Joe Rogan), nods along staunchly.

JOHN DOGAN

Girls and boys, Max Stone's been on the front lines of a crisis between man and woman. Tell us about what's been going on down there at Long University.

MAX

Kyle, what I've been seeing is terrifying. It's nothing short of a threat to the survival of our generation. A population crisis, if you will.

13 INTERCUT CORINA AND MAX

CORINA

It's time to live up to our own standards. Not those of a mass fashion complex fueled by salivating men.

MAX

They've gone crazy again. They can look ugly if they want; they just have to realize that no one's going to want 'em."

CORINA

I mean, let's just look at the past standards. The sporty, permy 80's...

JOHN DOGAN

They are probably just jealous of all the attention the aliens are getting.

CORINA
Cocaine chic 90's...

MAX
And THEREin lies the rub, my friend.
If she's not giving you BJS she's
probably got AJS - Alien Jealousy.
Syndrome.

CORINA
Toned abs in the 2000's...

JOHN DOGAN
That's right! You heard it here first
folks! AJS - Alien Jealousy Syndrome.

MAX
I myself have been a victim of AJS.

CORINA
Kim Kardashian BBL 2010's.

JOHN DOGAN
If you or a loved one is suffering
from AJS, you are not alone. Contact
the AJS Hotline ASAP.

CORINA
It's all the same. It's a sick joke.

MAX
AJS is not a joke. It's putting the
fate of our future as a species at
stake.

JOHN DOGAN
But there's hope; when one door
closes, a window opens.

MAX
Huh, huh, huh. Yeah wide open, if you
know what I mean.

MAX AND JOHN DOGAN
Heh-heh-heh.

14 INT. MAX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kelpie watches/listens to Max and John Dogan chortle away in the podcast. She rips the four earbuds out of all four of her ears. Her body crumbles to a fetal position as she begins to

sob.

15 INT./EXT. CORINA'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Kelpie rings the doorbell, eyes red from crying. Cass answers the door to reveal the hustle and bustle of a campaign office inside. Cass needs a minute to adjust.

CASS

You're a little late to the crying party, but-

Kelpie rushes past Cass to get inside.

CASS

...and now you're in the house, I guess.

Cass sighs.

CASS (CONT.)

Intruder alert. Intruder alert.

Cass shuts the door.

16 INT. CORINA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kelpie maneuvers past college girls and a smattering of guys preparing more protest gear. Her whips from side to side, trying to locate someone. She finally spots her.

KELPIE

Corina!

Corina turns in the direction of the voice.

From the distance, Jenn sees Kelpie moving towards Corina and sprints to tackle her.

JENN

Oh no you don't, you boyfriend-stealing space monster!

Corina sees Jenn whizzing in.

CORINA

Wait, Jenn, no!

Kelpie realizes what's going on and instantly dispatches three of her limbs to harness three of Jenn's limbs and suspend her in the air. Kelpie looks to Corina.

KELPIE

You don't know me. But I'm sorry. This is all my fault. I'm sorry for what I did to you.

Jenn struggles to release herself from Kelpie's grips.

JENN

Damn right, you're sorry, you-!

CORINA

Jenn-

Jenn goes quiet as Corina approaches Kelpie.

CORINA

I know EXACTLY who you are.

Cass finally squeezes through everyone else, wheezing.

CASS

Intruder. Alert. In-intruder alert.

CORINA

She's not an intruder. She's one of us.

JENN

But she's the one Max dumped you for-

CASS

I'm starting to see why.

Kelpie is still suspending Jenn in a sensual spread-eagle position. Sheepishly, Kelpie puts Jenn down. Corina puts a hand on the alien's shoulder.

CORINA

She has nothing to be sorry about.

KELPIE

But I was so stupid. I was so anxious about starting out here and I didn't know anyone....And that's when Max happened. I knew what I was doing when I came between you guys. I just didn't know how else I was going to get to meet anyone or make friends or anything.

Corina, Jenn and Cass exchange glances.

KELPIE

The way he looked at me. It was as if I was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen.

CORINA

Welcome to the club. I think we're going to be great friends.

Corina and Kelpie shake hands.

17 EXT. LONG UNIVERSITY CAMPUS QUAD - DAY

The group of protesting women has grown five-fold, including a handful of men. Clearly visible in the ranks is Kelpie, vehemently shaking a sign that reads -

- MY TENTACLES ARE NOT YOUR PLAYTHING

A group of aliens passes by and sees the sign. After a moment of reading the sign, they join the ranks too, making signs of their own -

- I NEED ALL TEN EYES TO SEE YOUR WHOLE EGO.

Comparatively smaller, a group of men occupies the opposite side of the quad with AJS signs. Max arrives to do his shift as a sign-bearer. A bunch of the guys leave exhausted and uninvested. As he raises his sign in the air, Max sees Kelpie across the way.

MAX

What the-

Max waddles over to the bigger protest group.

MAX

Kelpie! What're you doing?

KELPIE

It's over Max!

MAX

What're you talking about?!

Max tries to grab one of Kelpie's limbs.

KELPIE

Hey, can't you read the sign, human?!

Kelpie shoves the sign in his face, forcing him to back off.

MAX

What did I do? Am I ugly now or what?

Corina emerges from the massive crowd to stand next to Kelpie. They link arms.

KELPIE

Yeah, you're ugly. Inside, you're the ugliest person I've ever met.

Corina and Kelpie turn to walk away. Kelpie pauses to look at Max again.

KELPIE (CONT.)

Besides, you're the only man I know with dry balls.

Corina gives Max a cheeky wink.

FADE OUT.

THE END.