

Qerri's lusty fairground romance goes awry

Qerri woke up suffering from allergies on this drizzling morning and her nose was running. Nonchalantly, she wiped it with the back of her hand.

"You remember my friend, Alex, right?" she sniffled as she ducked into the passenger side of the truck to get in out of the sprinkling rain. The two were headed back out to Kayleigh's to finish the air conditioner repair project. Alex, you might recall, was the unsupervised teen who had decided to be Qerri's best friend back at the townhouse. And she was not someone Creek had approved of.

"Yeah, I remember Alex alright," he replied with a frown. "What about her?"

"Alex has this gigantic stuffy bear that her boyfriend won for her at the fair. It's, like, taller than me!"

"Alex had a boyfriend? She was like twelve, right? What was she doing with a boyfriend?"

"Thirteen and a half, and that's way plenty old enough. I want one of those."

"A boyfriend?"

"No! A gigantic stuffy bear!" she replied, buckling her seatbelt. "Will you win me one on Thursday, daddy?"

"We'll see."

"We'll see. We'll see. That's all you even say! Just say *yes!*"

"Yes," he deadpanned as he backed the truck out to turn around.

"Now, say it like you mean it."

"It like you mean it," he repeated sarcastically.

"Daddy, seriously? Repeat after me: *Yes, darling princess daughter of mine with luscious dark eyes and a really hot body. I will gladly win you all the gigantic stuffy bears your little heart desires.*"

"Qerri Anne, you're a mutt."

"A cute one, though, right?"

"If you say so. First off, wherever your friend Alex won that bear, it wasn't here. That was in a different county in a different state, at a different county fair. Who knows whether this one even has stuffy bears. And, secondly, those games are all rigged. No one ever wins the big stuffies."

"What do you mean?"

"They make you think you're going to get one so that you keep handing them your money; but all you ever really get is a stupid keychain or something."

"Well, all I know is Taj won one for Alex."

"Who's Taj?"

"Alex's boyfriend, dumbo."

"Taj, huh. He probably stole it."