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by  Jason Dewey Craft 3 months ago 46 Views ▾


Jason Craft @craftfiction 

Mike and I are enjoying imagining Lindsey Graham's boyfriend. His name is Lawrence and he was on a "cheer" or "yell" team at Clemson

6:35 AM - Jul 28, 2017

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  6
 



Jason Craft @craftfiction 

Lindsey leaves all domestic decisions to Lawrence. The house is gorgeous, and the meals are varied and healthy for older gentleman Lindsey

6:36 AM - Jul 28, 2017







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Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence is 48 but still looks 25. He does so much yoga that he got his teaching license two years ago, just for kicks

6:38 AM - Jul 28, 2017




   1 




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Many of his friends give Lindsey the side-eye when he enters the living room. Lawrence defends him: "The Senate is complicated"

6:40 AM - Jul 28, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence has learned to live with it, his clean invisible life, but in the yoga studio when he does warrior he chants to himself "I exist"

6:44 AM - Jul 28, 2017

   4 



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

When Lindsey Graham was 22 his parents died within months of each other. He then single-handedly raised his 13-year-old sister. Real talk

6:30 AM - Jul 29, 2017


   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

These necessities of family and public service have left Lindsey ambivalent about the household. He will not make a bed or fold a towel

6:31 AM - Jul 29, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence knew not to nag, just to provide. Once Darline saw Lindsey's home transformed by Lawrence's hands, she adored him, and he her

6:32 AM - Jul 29, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence does not particularly adore Champ, Darline's husband. That is not a pet name: the man's birth name is actually "Champion"*

6:33 AM - Jul 29, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

* (Darline's husband IRL is named Larry. I maybe need a notation to mark truths only of the Lawrenceverse)

6:34 AM - Jul 29, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Darline and Lawrence's holiday tradition: go to Chili's (the old one, not the new one), drink ridiculous drinks, tell stories about Lindsey.

6:35 AM - Jul 29, 2017

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They leave Lindsey at home, with Champ, and the two men watch football together in cavernous silence

6:36 AM - Jul 29, 2017


 




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

The summers in South Carolina feel different from how they used to feel.

7:00 AM - Jul 30, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence remembers the storms used to come in with a breeze and leave the air cool, almost cold at dusk. Now, always muggy torrents.

7:01 AM - Jul 30, 2017

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Jason Craft
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Lawrence kept Lindsey honest about the summers. Lindsey went on the record: it's real, we're causing it.

7:02 AM - Jul 30, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

In private, sometimes Lindsey told Lawrence only the market could solve it. Sometimes, he said it couldn't be solved.

7:03 AM - Jul 30, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"Why would you go out round the storms, anyway?" Lindsey held Lawrence on the screened-in porch. "I stayed in. I hated storms."

7:04 AM - Jul 30, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence's holdings: 1. a Columbia duplex. One half holds his mail, the other half his old cheer buddy Brooks, now a pediatric nurse

6:00 AM - Jul 31, 2017



   

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2. An etsy store that Lawrence started when he was doing embroidery but now just sells some old books he once collected





6:01 AM - Jul 31, 2017



   

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3. His 401(k), of course, with his mother as the beneficiary, because Lindsey worried that his name would be traced if he was listed





6:02 AM - Jul 31, 2017



   

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The only record on paper of what they mean to each other is Lindsey's will. Only five people know it exists in a Columbia safe deposit box





6:03 AM - Jul 31, 2017

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Their worst fight was a few Junes ago. I would like to tell you that it was over Lindsey's interventionist military stance

6:00 AM - Aug 1, 2017


   

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

or over civil rights but it was not. It was a disagreement over plans for a trip to Mexico


6:01 AM - Aug 1, 2017

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 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

Lawrence hung up on Lindsey. "This is meaningless. I'll never be important to him. I'll never be real." He went with friends to Folly Beach

6:02 AM - Aug 1, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

All day, too long in the sun drifting, turning them dark and red. Lawrence is not a drinker but if offered a treat with weed he will accept


6:03 AM - Aug 1, 2017


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 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

Lawrence slept at a friend's condo and woke to 25 missed calls, all from Washington. Lindsey never texted as that is material evidence

6:04 AM - Aug 1, 2017



   

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@craftfiction 

"We always call before we go to bed. You know that. Why didn't you call?" Lindsey's voice, Lawrence didn't remember it ever so near tears




6:05 AM - Aug 1, 2017

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

REAL STATEMENTS AND DISCLAIMERS: *

11:17 AM - Aug 1, 2017

 11   

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Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey is a vocal believer in human-created climate change and is a proponent of the Paris Accords

11:17 AM - Aug 1, 2017

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey has uniformly voted in favor of unlimited gun ownership and the promotion of the gun industry

11:17 AM - Aug 1, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey has supported legislation protecting "Dreamers" and the children of undocumented immigrants

11:17 AM - Aug 1, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey has repeatedly supported the suspension of due process and civil liberties in the name of the "War on Terror"

11:17 AM - Aug 1, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey has been a vocal opponent of Donald Trump and has introduced bipartisan legislation to curb his anti-democratic excesses

11:18 AM - Aug 1, 2017



Jason Craft

@craftfiction



Replying to @craftfiction

* Such as they are, Lindsey generally votes in line with Trump's priorities projects.fivethirtyeight.com/congress-trump...

11:18 AM - Aug 1, 2017



Tracking Lindsey Graham In The Age Of Trump

FiveThirtyEight is tracking which senators and representatives agree and disagree most with Donald Trump.

projects.fivethirtyeight.com



Jason Craft

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Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey has voted to defund Planned Parenthood and restrict women's access to abortion

11:18 AM - Aug 1, 2017



 **Jason Craft** @craftfiction 

Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey has voted many times to restrict my rights and those of my fellow LGBT Americans

11:18 AM - Aug 1, 2017

 **Jason Craft** @craftfiction 

Replying to @craftfiction

* As far as we know, Lindsey does not have a life partner named Lawrence Rhodes

11:19 AM - Aug 1, 2017

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 **Jason Craft** @craftfiction 

Replying to @craftfiction

* Lindsey says he chooses a single lifestyle. Ideally, that's his truth and need not be changed. Single people don't need to be "fixed"

11:19 AM - Aug 1, 2017

 **Jason Craft** @craftfiction 

Replying to @craftfiction

* Moments of compassion for Lindsey that may arise as part of this process are not for his benefit, but for mine, and maybe yours

11:19 AM - Aug 1, 2017

   1 




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Have I mentioned that Lawrence is a technical writer at Boeing?
That's how they met

6:00 AM - Aug 2, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lindsey came to the office to make a speech about industry and planes blah blah. Lawrence had a deadline, but the speech was mandatory.

6:01 AM - Aug 2, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence's office diversity lunch group proposed turning their backs to Lindsey in silent but visible protest

6:02 AM - Aug 2, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

which Lawrence considered, but decided "What's the point? I work at Boeing, for God's sake. I'm so complicit in this crap already"

6:03 AM - Aug 2, 2017



   

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

In the end, only two lunchers turned, quarter-angle, lowkey, like maybe they were just checking their phones.





6:04 AM - Aug 2, 2017

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 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

But after, at the handshakes, Lawrence stepped to Lindsey. "I'm a gay man. I work hard. I pay taxes. I'm your constituent."

6:05 AM - Aug 2, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

Lindsey said, "You certainly are," and asked Lawrence to call him at a handwritten number that hadn't yet become national news



6:06 AM - Aug 2, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

When Lawrence called, they had a formal constituent chat, but at the end Lindsey asked, "Are you gonna watch the Lost finale?"

6:07 AM - Aug 2, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

What? Lawrence was, yeah, even though he'd lost patience with the show a dozen times. Lindsey: "Call me tonight after you watch it."

6:08 AM - Aug 2, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence called back that night. He loved the ending; Lindsey hated it. They talked about Lost and everything else for three hours.

6:09 AM - Aug 2, 2017





   




Jason Craft
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The first night Lawrence stayed over, he saw Lindsey's master bedroom turned into an office: piles of books, papers, a secretary table

6:30 AM - Aug 3, 2017





   



Jason Craft
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Lindsey didn't sleep there. He slept in the smallest of his guest rooms, with one tiny window opening up to a fence

6:31 AM - Aug 3, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"The smaller room is simpler, it's safer. I can relax in here,"
Lindsey said, before stepping away to turn on the alarm.

6:32 AM - Aug 3, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lindsey clung to him in the bed, clung to him like he was going
to be stolen. Lawrence traced along Lindsey's cotton Sears
pyjama sleeve

6:33 AM - Aug 3, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence listened to Lindsey's kitten snores and watched what
little moonlight made it through the fence and window's vigilance

6:34 AM - Aug 3, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lindsey has one pool table, burnished with gold tassels, in his
master-bedroom-that's-not, and another, scarred chalky felt, on
his patio

8:00 AM - Aug 4, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

He plays more often on the patio, with his cosmo on one table corner. Lawrence's game is weak, but he likes to watch and plan the angles

8:01 AM - Aug 4, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

REAL TALK: Lindsey was raised in a bar and billiards parlor and is a mean pool player

8:02 AM - Aug 4, 2017



   

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Sometimes they go to a bar near the state capitol. Not a gay bar, but not a straight bar either. Lindsey holds court there, runs the table





8:03 AM - Aug 4, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

He plays for hours. At first, Lawrence would watch for hours, before he got tired of Lindsey's public "I don't know you" act

8:04 AM - Aug 4, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

When Lindsey drinks, all his frat boy/Air Force/queen snark starts to bubble to the surface. Lindsey's snark is an art. He'll cut a dude

8:05 AM - Aug 4, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

But with Lawrence it's the opposite. He'll put his arm around Lawrence in the bar, use the pet name "Kicker," from Lawrence's sleep behavior

8:06 AM - Aug 4, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Drunk Lindsey will keep eyes locked with him while he makes an effortless bank shot, a show even Kicker thinks is indiscreet

8:07 AM - Aug 4, 2017

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Jason Craft
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"Why do you love the people that you love?" A surprisingly tough question. "Shared values," but we love some people that don't share

10:00 AM - Aug 5, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence had suffered a string of players; Lindsey looked at no other man. Lindsey was a protector, and Lawrence wanted to be protected.

10:01 AM - Aug 5, 2017

   1



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

The day Lawrence moved in, the master bedroom had been transformed: new shelves, brand new bed. "This is our home now," said Lindsey.

10:02 AM - Aug 5, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Together they kept home inviolate. Snark stayed out. When they fought, Lindsey would quietly redden and say "I have to go out now, please."

10:03 AM - Aug 5, 2017





Jason Craft
@craftfiction

He loved that Lindsey once dressed down another Senator for being rude to a waiter. "They do truer work than we do," Lindsey said

10:04 AM - Aug 5, 2017





  



 

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

"We forgive all kinds of things in people. He's not a criminal,"
Lawrence would say, although several friends disagreed.





10:05 AM - Aug 5, 2017

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

At first, Lawrence valued Lindsey's positive, hypocritical opinions
over the odious opinions openly held, but in time he reversed

10:06 AM - Aug 5, 2017



   

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

For years, Lindsey would privately lambast "Confederate
bullshit" but wouldn't go on the record





10:07 AM - Aug 5, 2017

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

Lindsey loved Lawrence but wouldn't go on the record

10:08 AM - Aug 5, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"What will you tolerate in someone that you love?" is another difficult question

10:09 AM - Aug 5, 2017

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Jason Craft
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The presidential campaign almost broke them up. Lindsey: "I won't end up being President. I'm just trying to make a point."

10:00 AM - Aug 6, 2017




 






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"What is that point, exactly? I guess I'll just hang out down here for 4 to 8 years?"

10:01 AM - Aug 6, 2017



 





Jason Craft
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"What happens when I become a Secret Service problem?"
Lawrence shouted from the kitchen to Lindsey on the patio.

10:02 AM - Aug 6, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



He heard a break and a few minutes of clacking, something from Lindsey that he couldn't make out. He went to the patio. "What do you need?"

10:03 AM - Aug 6, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Lindsey: "I said they know already. I had to fill out paperwork a while ago." Lawrence: "So you listed me as your employee or something?"

10:04 AM - Aug 6, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction




Lindsey: "No, because I'm not a liar. I put 'roommate.'"

10:05 AM - Aug 6, 2017







Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Lindsey: "And that'll get out, eventually, and it'll be all over."
Glared at the pool table.

10:06 AM - Aug 6, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence ran his hand over the table, messed up Lindsey's shot, swept half the balls into pockets.

10:07 AM - Aug 6, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"Of course, Lindsey, yes, I'll marry you. I'm the happiest man in the world," Lawrence knifed, then left the room before the cuts registered

10:08 AM - Aug 6, 2017

   1




 






Jason Craft
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After that chat, Lindsey left two days earlier than scheduled for campaign rallies. Lawrence, in turn, gave a sizable donation to the ACLU

6:30 AM - Aug 7, 2017




 






Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence made the donation in Lindsey's name and asked the ACLU to send an acknowledgement to Lindsey's office

6:31 AM - Aug 7, 2017





 



Jason Craft
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Lindsey called from the road, several days later. "It's not the mail. You wouldn't believe how much ACLU mail people send me."

6:32 AM - Aug 7, 2017




Jason Craft
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"The problem is: this is what you think of me? That I'm the bad guy? Everyone who voted for me, they're the bad guys too, right?"

6:33 AM - Aug 7, 2017





   




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"How about you? Didn't you vote for me?" (Yes, Lawrence had.)
"Where does that leave you, then? Are you the bad guy, too?"

6:34 AM - Aug 7, 2017





   




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

That same week, Darline was out with Lindsey on campaign stops, so Lawrence had to drive Champ to the airport.

6:30 AM - Aug 8, 2017




   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Champ broke a long quiet with: "So you're the wife, but you're manlier than Lindsey. I always wondered how that worked. No offense."

6:31 AM - Aug 8, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Before Lawrence could unpack the layers of offense, Champ followed with, "But that's like a thing for y'all, right? 'Sugar daddy.'"

6:32 AM - Aug 8, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence: "It's not a thing. There's no sugar daddy. I have my own money and my own job and I pay my own way." Champ: "You have a job?"

6:33 AM - Aug 8, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence had in fact held the same job at Boeing the entire five years he had known Champ. Champ had been told this dozens of times

6:34 AM - Aug 8, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction




Lawrence was also painfully aware of Champ's own pursuits: four "Champion CrossFit" studios, a line of dubious "Champion Shred" supplements

6:35 AM - Aug 8, 2017






Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Champ: "Good to know you make an honest living. I hope you and Lindsey get married someday. I'd be there. I'd be your best man."

6:36 AM - Aug 8, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction




When Lawrence said "There is no way in hell we'll ever marry," it shocked him to hear as much as Champ. Silence the rest of the way

6:37 AM - Aug 8, 2017








Jason Craft
@craftfiction



At departures, Champ said: "I don't believe that. I think you guys are going to get married someday, and here's why."

6:38 AM - Aug 8, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"First, you all are better together than any other couple I know. That is weird, because you're dudes, but it's true."

6:39 AM - Aug 8, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

"2: because politics as usual is over, Lawrence. Destroyed. Once Lindsey realizes that, he can just be gay. He can stop lying to people."

6:40 AM - Aug 8, 2017


   




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence: "Thanks, Champ." To himself: Really? Thanks? "I just don't see it happening." Champ: "There's a lot you don't see, brother"

6:41 AM - Aug 8, 2017



   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction


Champ got his bag out of the trunk, put back on the MAGA hat that Lawrence had demanded he remove while in the car

6:42 AM - Aug 8, 2017





Jason Craft
@craftfiction




Of course, Lindsey and everyone else lost the primary and then everyone else lost the election

6:20 AM - Aug 9, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Something shook loose in Lindsey

6:21 AM - Aug 9, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction



Public Lindsey and Private Lindsey were always closer than you might assume or hope, but they drew nearer still

6:22 AM - Aug 9, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction



In both spring and summer Lindsey took Lawrence to Washington, their first trips there together



6:23 AM - Aug 9, 2017



   

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

Their rental had a pool table. Lawrence would watch Lindsey play for hours, the news on the television, Lindsey throwing snark at it





6:24 AM - Aug 9, 2017



   

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

During a work conf call, a rando colleague said to Lawrence, "If you run into Lindsey Graham while you're up there, tell him he's on fire"




6:25 AM - Aug 9, 2017

 **Jason Craft** 
@craftfiction

Lawrence adopted a nearby yoga studio. During a conversation he said, "Such a nightmare right now"


6:26 AM - Aug 9, 2017



  1  

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The other yogi said, "The world's always been on fire. Maybe our realizing it is an opportunity"



6:27 AM - Aug 9, 2017



   

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

Their Lululemon tees somewhat lightened the gravity of these wise words





6:28 AM - Aug 9, 2017



   1 

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This studio was unusual: no classes, no instructors. Lawrence was expected to do the Ashtanga series alone while another teacher observed





6:29 AM - Aug 9, 2017

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

Lawrence liked his practice best like this: with his own mind, no leader, no outside direction, no script

6:30 AM - Aug 9, 2017

 **Jason Craft**
@craftfiction 

Lindsey never forgets their anniversary. A colonial restaurant in Georgetown, where they were secreted to a private room.

6:00 AM - Aug 10, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lindsey about to vote, again, to torpedo ACA. They'd fought 1000 times. Lindsey: "It's broken, insolvent right now. It needs to be better."

6:01 AM - Aug 10, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence: "And you want to make it better by blowing it up."
Lindsey: "It's not about what I want." The waitress rescued them with champagne

6:02 AM - Aug 10, 2017




Jason Craft
@craftfiction

She paused, started to speak, paused again, then: "I'm sorry if this is out of line, but you two look really great together."

6:03 AM - Aug 10, 2017





   



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lindsey stiffened, but then smiled and said, "Not at all. Thank you." Looked at Lawrence. "This is my special guy."

6:04 AM - Aug 10, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Lawrence welled up, Lindsey's hand on his knee.

6:05 AM - Aug 10, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

Later, Lindsey would tip the waitress an additional \$500 to keep it all quiet.

6:08 AM - Aug 10, 2017



Jason Craft
@craftfiction

DC on a summer night, a wetter, thicker walk than even South Carolina. Lawrence didn't know how that was possible.

6:09 AM - Aug 10, 2017



   





Jason Craft
@craftfiction

They came to a busy intersection. Lindsey grabbed for Lawrence's hand in the face of the fast traffic.





6:10 AM - Aug 10, 2017



   

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Lawrence looked at their hands, looked at Lindsey, dropped his hand. "It's OK. Let's save it for home." He existed. He existed.




6:11 AM - Aug 10, 2017

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* Lawrence and Lindsey: The End

6:12 AM - Aug 10, 2017

 2   

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