Decisions

Not long after the interview, I was fired.

I turned over more than 150 double-sided pages of texts, dozens of emails, countless pages of Facebook messages and all my medical records. They didn't even read them. There simply wasn't enough time between when I went in for the interview and when they made their decision. Even though we spent hours going into detail about the relationship, none of it even mattered. None of that was factored into their decision.

In the end I wasn't fired for the lies, I was fired for the truth. They specified three reasons for why I was fired:

1. Having sex in my office

2. Taking to Garrett's professor

3. Not reporting my arrest to my department

I did all of those things. I couldn't argue with that. Sure, grad students probably fool around all the time in their offices, and if that were all that it was they may have overlooked it. They could have given me slack for waiting a few days to report my arrest, if they wanted. And I literally did the exact thing they had been scolding me for not doing for half an hour before I told them I went to his professor.

But they wanted to fire me. I simply gave them enough reasons to justify doing it. In being honest, I provided the ammunition. Now I had to deal with the university and try to salvage my education. I wasn't sure how'd I pay for it without my teaching assistantship. I'd take out loans if I had to, I thought. I couldn't have this taken away from me, too. Did Garrett know what the consequences would be when he told that first lie? When he went to the university? Was this what he wanted?

Did you care at all? Did you feel any guilt or remorse about ripping this away from me? Did you know I tried to save my job without getting you in trouble?

Did you know that I went to bed every night for weeks sick with myself, hating myself for everything that happened between us?

Did you know that I would have given anything, truly anything, to make things right between us?

Did it matter to you at all that I loved you?

Did it, Garrett?