

Allison Talucci

Apology

I would like to express my deepest apologies to [name withheld] and his family for all of the problems I have caused for them in the past few weeks. Yes, it's true, my actions were completely inappropriate that Saturday evening. It was wrong of me to wear that bold white dress that night out to that bar. I should have held my hands down to my sides before I left the house, to be sure that the hem didn't rise above my fingertips, but admittedly, I was only thinking of myself that night. I was caught up in my own vanity – I just wanted to be noticed. My shoes, in retrospect, were completely out of line. I still don't know what I was thinking when I put those high heeled boots on that evening. I wore such a bright shade of red lipstick, and my eyes were dark and smokey underneath my dirty blonde bangs. God, what was I thinking?

Moreover, I would like to apologize not only for my appearance, but for my behavior, as well. I had a really long week, and thought I could just unwind for the evening. It wasn't my intention to ever smile at you the way I did. No, I should have never smiled at you like that. What were you to think? I was completely out of line. My careless actions violated the unspoken rules of friendship; I should have kept my eyes pointed downwards at the glowing screen of my phone, and only acknowledged you occasionally with a slight nod of the head as the evening went on. There absolutely should not have been eye contact, or laughter, or deep conversation at any point in the evening. I know that sometimes I can be rather charming – it's been an ongoing problem of mine, and I'm trying hard to change that now.

I shouldn't have accepted the drinks you kept bringing over to me as I sat at the end of the bar, fighting to keep my head up over my shoulders. I'm sorry that I was too drunk to get home on my own, and that you had to

take on the burden of helping me from the bar to your vehicle as my eyes rolled up in to the back of my head. I should have clearly articulated that I wasn't interested in anything more than friendship as you pulled over behind that abandoned building outside of town and yanked my dress up over my hips.

I'm sorry for calling the police on you. In my state of mind, still drunk from earlier that evening, I was clearly making some bad choices. I didn't understand at the time exactly what effects my accusation would have on your life, and I was being selfish. I didn't mean for your reputation to be tarnished, for two of your many friends to stop talking to you, or for your family to feel shame. I understand that my apology will do nothing to change that, but I want to let you know that I will never hurt anyone again the way that I hurt you. I am taking active steps to change my behavior. It has become clear to me through all of this that I am a shameful human being. No, I don't leave my house anymore, choosing rather to focus all of my attention on changing everything about myself. All of our mutual friends have stopped speaking to me, so I have a lot of time to contemplate how I might atone for what I've done. My thoughts never turn from that night when I just assumed it was okay for me to wear a nice dress so carelessly, and to drink a few drinks without first thinking of the people around me. I'm sorry, [name withheld], and I pray every day that you are able to recover from this terrible pain that I have caused in your life.