

...AND THE TWO ROMEOS

By

Jennifer Maisel

Jennifer Maisel

Maiselj@dogearplays.org

Or contact my agent

Susan Schulman

Schulman@aol.com

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Excerpt from ...AND THE TWO ROMEOS by Jennifer Maisel

Stacy, 30s, lies to her boyfriend Nick about ending her pregnancy

STACY

I...did it, I went to the clinic today and there was this really nice nurse and she held my hand the whole time and I noticed her nails were blue, which I thought was an odd choice for a health professional, but y'know, whatever. And I ask her about the color and she tells me her adventures with the Vietnamese nail ladies down the block and how they do acrylics cheap and well and she wrote it all down for me, so I went. After.

I've never done that before, let some women scrape the disgusting gack off my feet, pare down the rough parts to smooth skin, have someone hold my hands and rub lotion into them. "Sometimes you do good things for yourself, yes? Feel good, look good. Nothing better than soft feet, yes? You pay now before nail polish wet, yes?" Yes.

I'm probably not the first woman the nurse referred there. She probably keeps a stack of cards in her desk and the little Vietnamese ladies are probably used to hollow women waiting for the next available manicurist to take the dead skin away. "Feel good, look good."