

“Mashiach”

by Sophie Katz

When we got back to the dorm, I curled up on the sofa again with my book, but it was hard to focus on the story while Eden stood in the center of the room. My eyes kept sliding off the page to watch her eyes, which flickered from side to side, glaring at everything, as though the world had done her some great injustice. Then, to my mild shock, she bent over and pulled down her shorts. She scrutinized her underwear for a few seconds before sliding her clothes back to their usual location.

“No blood,” she announced. “Just sweat between my legs and an unexplained ache in my gut. And three days before I’m due! I hate being damp.”

She shook her head, planted her feet firmly in the carpet, and turned her face to the ceiling.

“Dear G-d,” she said. “Few things in life are simply black and white, so why is uterine behavior a simple matter of ovulation or infertility? Why can’t a vagina-person become fertile when they decide they really want to procreate? On the selfless hand, it might just make those assholes in Congress who think birth control is a sin finally shut up and leave their victims alone. On the selfish hand, it’d save me a lot of hassle every month. Just imagine how much money I’d save on laundry and ibuprofen! Think about it, would you?”

Her request complete, Eden collapsed backwards onto her beanbag chair with a loud sigh.

“Oh, the joys of being cis-sex female!” she said, covering her eyes with her hands. “May He who blessed us with Adam’s rib be blessed with every other monthly pleasure He bestowed upon us.”

It was difficult to tell if she was still soliloquizing, or if she expected a response from me. But she was silent for long enough that I assumed the former and turned back to my book – which, naturally, was the moment that she suddenly sat up and looked at me, a maniacal grin plastered across her face.

“Why, yes, I *did* just curse G-d with period cramps,” she said, and she looked so damn pleased with herself that I couldn’t help but laugh, which only made her smile more.