

# Two Heads Are Better

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## One

"I really enjoyed meeting you," said Jay.

"Same here," said Ericka. She smiled. Well, half smiled.

They were outside of Marc's house. BBQ Brawl XVII was winding down, an annual tradition of Marc cooking "everything" and hosting a big event in his backyard. Things were, after several hours, winding down.

Ericka was waiting for an Uber. Jay was crashing at a friend's place around the corner.

"This was cool," she added.

"I was thinking," said Jay. "Maybe it'd be fun to hang out some time? Get dinner and a drink or two?"

"Is that a date? It sounds like a date," said Ericka.

"A date thing would be cool," she continued.

"I'd like it to be a date," said Jay, laughing. "Just didn't want to overplay it."

"Let's do it," said Ericka. "You saved my number right."

"Oh yeah," said Jay. "You're in there as 'BBQ Rando.'"

"That wasn't my fault!" shot back Ericka. "Steve was hassling me to play his stupid corn game and said we needed a team name."

A silver car approached, slowing down.

"Well," said Jay. "Looks like this is your ride."

"Ericka?" said the driver, rolling down a window.

"Looks like it," said Ericka.

She leaned over and gave Jay a surprisingly direct kiss on the cheek.

"Thanks BBQ Rando," she said.

She gave him an additional peck. Then she went to the car.

It occurred to Jay, as the ride drove off, that although they'd talked for at least an hour, he'd never maneuvered the conversation to what was on the surface level, the most intriguing and unusual thing about her.

Why did she have two heads?

Obvious the answer started somewhere with body magic. Ericka's left head was a strawberry blonde with freckles and a cute smirking look. Her right head had a darker complexion that made her ethnicity harder to place, black curly hair tied back with a slight undercut.

Neither Jay nor Ericka were new to body magic stuff – as a penalty for losing a corn hole game, they'd both had to spend an hour without arms. This might have played a part in how well they'd hit it off.

But from secondary sources and context, he'd put together that she wasn't just someone with an "extra" head, she actually had been a two-headed person for ... at least a while.

There'd be time to unpack that on the date.

# Two

They were thought the first margarita and on to the second. Dinner was at upscale casual spot known for both tapas and churros.

"So," said Jay. "I wasn't sure how to bring this up, but uh—"

"You want to ask about the two-head thing," said Ericka, snapping her fingers and pointing.

"Yeah," said Jay, with a laugh. "I think it's really cool, it's just not something we talked about at the party."

"I get it dude," said Ericka's dark-haired right head. "It's either the first thing people ask about or they try to play it cool, but like – it's not obvious that I'm not someone just with an 'extra' head riding along."

"Yeah see—" said Jay. "That's what I assumed at first."

"Which is also really awesome," said Ericka's freckled left head. "It's really fun to share a body like that."

"Oh I know," said Jay, grinning and taking a sip of his marg.

"Do you now?" said Ericka's left head, raising an eyebrow.

"What's your favorite experience sharing a body?" said her right head.

"I think it was probably this gap year after college," said Jay. "An old girlfriend and I backpacked around South AmEricka, but to save money, we only took one body."

"Whose body," said Ericka's right head.

She lifted her own drink and took two sips.

"Hers," said Jay, laughing. "Sorry – it's just kind of cute that you take sip your drink with both your lips."

"What's wrong with that," said Ericka's left head. "We both like margaritas!"

"We?" said Jay. "I thought you were one person."

"I am," said Ericka's right head.

"'We' just sounds better sometimes," said Ericka's left head. "If I'm talking about both my heads, it makes more grammatical sense."

"But it does confuse people," said Ericka's right head. "Because I'm one person."

"We're one person!" said Ericka's left head, grinning.

"If I get drunk enough," continued the same head. "You'll get to hear me argue with myself a bit, it's great."

"Okay," said Jay. "See – that is exactly the kind of stuff here I'm super curious about."

"I'll tell you my origin story in a sec," said Ericka's right head. "But before I do that, I want to hear the rest of this gap year story."

"Oh," said Jay. "Sure."

"What was this girl's name," said her right head.

"Gabby," said Jay.

"How long were you combined," said Ericka's left head.

"Uh," said Jay, pausing to remember. "Like two months?"

"Why didn't it work out," said Ericka's right head.

"Visa stuff," said Jay. "She went back home to Australia."

"Gabby from Australia," said Ericka's left head, dreamily. "And you shared *her* body with her for two months."

"I mean if it matters we did bring my dick too," said Jay, with a shrug.

"That *definitely* matters," said Ericka's left head.

"It completes the picture for sure," agreed Ericka's right head.

"So," said Ericka's left head. "What's your review then?"

"I had a great time," said Jay, with a shrug. "We both had a great time."

"Would you do it again?"

"Yeah for sure," said Jay. "We didn't really do it properly like you did though – like we only had one neck, so either we were smooshed together cheek to cheek or we just alternated who got to have our body."

"Oh the two necks is a must-have," said Ericka, speaking with her right head. "But you're right, it's kind of expensive to get it done right."

"We had to get our shoulders widened too," said Ericka's left head.

"Stop it with this 'we' shit," said her right head.

Jay paused with a grin forming on his face.

"As you can see," said Ericka's right head, rolling her eyes. "I still get a kick out of the two-heads thing."

"I do, it's true," agreed Ericka's left head. "Especially when I can get my other head out of sync like that."

"Okay, so yeah – so how does it –" Jay made a gesture pointing back and forth between Ericka's two head. "How does this work?"

"I have one consciousness together," said Ericka's left head, lifting her drink up to take a sip with her right.

"But," continued her right head, transferring the drink to her left face, "I do still have two brains."

She set her drink down.

"So I can be thinking about different stuff in each," said her left head.

"Which is pretty fucking cool," said her right.

"It's fucking *awesome*," agreed her left.

"But the cost of that is I have to like – sync up between both of them by paying attention to what my other brain is thinking about."

"So sometimes it's easier to just say it out loud."

"Wow," said Jay, finally breaking the dialogue between both of Ericka's heads. "That's just ... kind of fucking amazing actually."

"Thank you," said Ericka's left head. "I still think it's pretty fucking amazing myself even after six years."

"Yeah, wow," said Jay. "So how did this ... begin?"

"Well," said Ericka's right head. "It started with my friend Kelly deciding she didn't want her head any more."

"This is Kelly," said Ericka's left head, as she pointed to the right head. "*She's* Kelly."

"*I'm* Kelly, sort of," said Ericka's right head, rolling her eyes. "I'm also Ericka's second head."

"So Kelly was just like ... who wants this head? Highest bidder?"

"No it was way more gradual than that," said Ericka's left head.

"Like we actually started out attempting to date – Ericka and Kelly I mean," said Ericka's right head. "As a couple."

"Which really didn't make sense or work very well," said Ericka's left head.

"But we loved swapping our heads and bodies around, and what became clear over time was this arrangement was what worked best for everyone," said Ericka's right head. "Like, speaking as just one of Ericka's heads – I preferred being on her body to my old one. And she – Kelly – preferred just not having a head at all."

"So we hired a body magic lawyer and made the switch," said Ericka's left head. "Never of us looked back from there."

"That's very cool," said Jay. "What's Kelly up to now?"

"Moved to Denver a couple years ago," said Ericka's left head, looking over to her right head.

"*She,*" said Ericka's right head, with a grin, "Has been spending a lot of time as only a pair of legs."

"Which is perfect for her," said Ericka's left head.

"Which *is* perfect for her," said Ericka's right head. "She – shit it was *I* at that point – when she was 18 she got herself transformed into a shorty, telling her parents it was only for a week, and she stayed that way for fucking *six years*."

"It suited her, she has a great ass and legs," said Ericka's left head.

"And you know, it's always weird looking back like this – because I 100% think of myself as 'Ericka' – but when I was Kelly's head then I spent a lot of time trying to get other people to remove my head. Even when it meant I was blind-dumb-deaf without it, it just felt more normal without it."

"I'm guessing she has like ... sensory spells and stuff," said Jay.

"Oh yeah," said Ericka's right head. "She's tricked out with all the modern stuff. Even gets fucking email to her quantum-mind-space-thing."

"Have you ever been a shorty Jay?"

Jay just nodded and grinned.

"You'll have to tell me about that in a second," said Ericka's right head. "We gotta BRB."

Ericka stood up and headed to the restroom. Just as she did, the food they'd ordered started to arrive.

## Three

Dinner had been finished. They had switched to beer.

"So," said Ericka, right head, raising a half pint of sour ale, and another half pint of an IPA to toast.

"Cheers," said Jay. "I guess your heads don't agree on beer selection."

"No we do not," said Ericka's left head, sipping the sour. "It's actually what I love most about having two different heads is that I can get different experiences from both."

"She also puts cream in her coffee and I don't," said Ericka's right head.

"Wait—" said Ericka's left head, grinning hugely. "Did you just call me *she*?"

Ericka's right head rolled her eyes.

"Fine," she said. "I will indulge this *charade* of 'us' pretending to be two people."

Ericka's other head only grinned.

"Thank you," she said. "It's more inclusive for Jay that way anyway."

"Wait, wait, wait—" said Jay, holding up his hand. "So you can just ... switch it off? Just like that?"

"Not really, no," said Ericka's left head. "But it's like—"

"I can just read my other heads' mind," said Ericka's right head. "And move a thought over there too."

"But if I want to keep my heads separate, I can just – not do that," said Ericka's left head.

"Yeah, then I just talk out loud to myself like a crazy person," said Ericka's right head.

"Which isn't that crazy when you talk to your *other* head," said Ericka's left head.

"But," said her right head. "Everything you tell me I already *know* that you're thinking it, so saying it out loud is just performative."

"As you can see," said Ericka's left head to Jay. "This is sort of a ... unresolved thing for me. Or us. Or whatever."

"Interesting," said Jay. "How do you ... refer to your heads yourself? Like is there 'head 1' and 'head 2' or something?"



"She's Erica with only a 'C'," said Ericka's right head. "I'm Erika with a 'K' since I was previously Kelly. Together, 'Ericka' with both."

"That's pretty clever," said Jay, laughing.

"Thanks," said Erika. "I'm the one who thought of it actually."

"If you ever hear me refer to C or K individually, that's the specified head," said Erica.

"Got it," said Jay. "It really just seems like there's so much to this that's not obvious. Like what else am I missing?"

"Let's see," said Erika. "Some frequently asked questions –"

She started to enumerate on her fingers as she spoke.

"One – yes it takes me twice as long to get ready, cause I've got two faces, etcetera."

"Two–," continued Erica, "Yes I will make out with myself but only for an audience."

"Um, three–," continued Erika, smirking, "It does feel weird if my heads are on the wrong side of my body."

"Four, I'm really good at 3-ways," said Erica, grinning hugely.

"Like really good," said Erika, laughing.

She toasted with herself and took two sips.

"Wow," said Jay, offering his own glass. "That's um... exciting."

"It is, isn't it?" said Erika. "You know what else we like to do together..."

She paused and looked sideways at Erica, who smirked conspiratorially.

"Head and body swaps," said Erica, with a big smile. "But it sounds like you've got a bit of experience there yourself."

"Probably not as much as you do," said Jay. "But yeah. Some."

"What's your go-to then? With body magic I mean," asked Erika.

"Let's see..." said Jay. "Kind of ... depends on the company. But I really – I kind of told you this at the party, but I kind of like losing all my limbs."

"Right," said Erica, grinning. "Because we both had no arms, and you just seemed to be like 'This is totally normal for me.'"

"Well sure. I mean, I guess I like the submissive side of it."

"I can handle that," said Erika. "Or rather, we can handle that."

"I want to cut him in half," said Erica, addressing her other head.

"Or make him a shorty," said Erika.

"Oh yeah!" said Erica. "Definitely a shorty."

Both of them looked at him expectantly.

"Um," said Jay. "That sounds great. When were you thinking?"

## Four

"I think we're done!" said Erica. She flicked the switch on her APN-Reducer turning it off.

"You're calling this a shorty?" said Jay. "I'm glad you don't work at WizWorks..."

"It's a shorty for my purposes," replied Erica. "Legs – head."

She pointed to Jay's legs sitting patiently on the couch, and his head on their coffee table.

"You don't actually have a way to attach my head to my legs do you," said Jay.

"He's got you on that one," said Erika to her other head.

"I might not have the whatsitcalled to do the whatever-it-is," said Erica. "But I met the objective, which is that Jay is back at our place – my place – whatever. And – even

more importantly – he’s only legs and a head because we vacuumed the rest of him up with our cute little vacuum guy.”

She gestured towards the Reducer, which, all things as they were, did resemble a vacuum cleaner.

“I guess you did get the results you were after,” said Jay.

Ericka sat down on the couch and leaned over to pick him up, setting his head in her lap.

“Pretty much,” said Erica. “Are you cool with this?”

“This is great!” said Jay. “I told you, I like being kinda helpless. Only not just kinda.”

“Great,” said Erica. “And we’re not moving too fast for you?”

“I wouldn’t have come back here with you if I wasn’t okay with this,” said Jay.

“Good point, just want to make sure,” said Erica.

She lifted him up to kiss him, then smoothly moved him over to her other face.

“The best thing about hooking up with me,” said Erica into his ear.

She transferred him back to her other face again.

“Is that I’m almost a 3-way already,” continued Erica.

She pulled Jay’s head away from her faces just a few inches.

“I don’t do this for every guy I get with either,” said Erica.

Then she kissed her other face. This escalated into fully making out for a few moments.

“Holy shit,” said Jay. “That’s actually super hot to watch.”

“I know it is,” said Erica, with a grin. “Which is why I save it for special occasions.”

While she spoke, Erica’s head continued on her cheek and neck as much as she was able.

"So I was thinking," said Erica. "After we get naked get a condom and all that stuff here, I'd try to bend over on the couch, and your legs can go behind me while I double-make out with your face."

"That sounds awesome," said Jay, returning her grin. "I ... might not be able to get a lot of leverage from behind you, given that I'm just ... you know, legs."

"You'll do your best," said Erika, with a smirk.

"And that's what counts," said Erica. She pulled him back in to her face again.