

HOST

She was an avid reader.
An everyday woman.
But something was missing.
When what was least expected came
to light, it shocked an entire
town.
This... is the story of Liv Booker.
Liv grew up in Toronto's east end.
As a child, she struggled with
reading, like many students at her
inner-city school. Her parents
tried Hooked on Phonics. Kumon. And
one very aggressive remedial summer
camp.
Nothing worked.
Until high school.
That's when Liv started
disappearing.
From the lunchroom.
From her living room.
From society.
Liv... had discovered romance novels.
(beat)
The explicit kind.

TAMMY

We went from riding bikes every day
to basically no contact.
Every time I saw her, her nose was
in a book.
She stopped texting back.
Because... "chapters".

WAXING LADY

(strong European accent)
Yes. She come to me for Brazilian
wax. I say, "Open like butterfly."
She lie down. Book up like this.
Most girls scream.
She... just turn page.
Very focused.

BARISTA

Yeah, she was around at the cafe.
Always reading. Like... aggressively.
Three, four books at once.
Honestly? A walking red flag.
She'd always ask for a table with
more space. For the books. I
respected that.

AMANDA

How did she find the book club? It must've been a craigslist ad or maybe a meetup group? I'm also on bumble BFF, so that's a possibility too.

(looks at producers)

Why? Are you interested in joining? I can sent you a google form

WAXING LADY

I ask if she go out.
She say sometimes.
But book always come.
No friends. Only characters. For me, very sad. No way to live life.

TAMMY

As a friend, I really miss her. She's just so disconnected, y'know? Ghost in the group chats, MIA for movie nights, and she only comes to birthday parties for the cake, then leaves.

AMANDA

Very impressive collection, hundreds of books. Romance. Fiction. Biography. Self-help. But mostly smut, I'm talking next level explicit stuff.

BARISTA

I don't really care what people read. But the cover art on some of those books was... a lot.

TAMMY

Yeah, I still text her, updates and stuff. And she responds, eventually. With "lol" or a GIF

WAXING LADY

She come every five, six weeks. For most people, is fine. But her, I recommend sooner. She say she busy. Hair does not care if you busy. Her bush, it grow fast. Like corn on cobb

BARISTA

Did I ever see her with anyone? How? There was no room.

(MORE)

BARISTA (CONT'D)

She took up the entire table with books.

AMANDA

This isn't gossip. It's just facts.
Liv... is still a virgin.
(leans back)
But you didn't hear that from me.

WAXING LADY

I ask about husband because I have to ask.
She think.
Then say, "Not right now".
No husband.
Many books.
Balance is off.

HOST

Investigators say the biggest red flag came later.

AMANDA

She was using receipts as bookmarks.
Gas station receipts. Can you even??
Any real bibliophile will tell you... that's a crime.

WAXING LADY

(clicks tongue)
She put paper in book.
Not bookmark.
Paper.
I don't judge. But...
This is not correct. Very poor.

BARISTA

It's actually really upsetting.
Like... environmentally and emotionally.

TAMMY

I just. I just want better for my friend.

TAMMY begins to break down, visibly upset. Reaches for Kleenex box, blows nose, looks at snot in kleenex, closes Kleenex, then re-opens it and puts it in her pocket.

HOST

The real tragedy?

Liv didn't know where to get good
bookmarks.

This case sparked what is now known
as

The Universal Dopeness Act—
ensuring access to trendy
bookmarks, stylish stickers, and
relatable greeting cards...

All, at a reasonable cost.

HOST

If you or someone you know is
struggling, please visit
www.ohsodope.co