Well… I feel like shit.

Dylan and I just got out of a zoom meeting (for the podcast, recording the intro/outro of Beth Singler’s episode) and he brought up that I didn’t respond to his message in our irl lab meeting on zoom earlier today.

His message in the lab zoom (it was a private message) was something along the lines of: omg I possum you so much that question was so cute.

“Possum” is a term we’ve started using to basically avoid the fact that we are falling in love with each other. I possum you == i love you but I’m too scared to say it because that sounds very impulsive given the fact that we are moving so quickly in this and we don’t even know what it is yet.

I was a little bit upset that he put that in a private message on the zoom because the zoom call belonged to Casey and she has access to all of the private messages. So there was nothing I could do to delete that message from the record, nothing I could do to make sure that Casey won’t see it, and no way to know if she ever does see it.

This was important to me because I am very adamant about keeping my love life and my work life incredibly separate, and that is becoming increasingly harder. Dylan has officially joined my lab for the summer (at the very minimum), joined Jed’s lab, is seeking advice from Casey and Jed and others in the department, is having conversations with people in the department and bringing me up who knows how much, and that isn’t even including how publicly known the both of us are in the field that is so important to me through our podcast and our now nonprofit….

So basically, every facet of my professional life now involves Dylan in some capacity… and I am getting emotionally and physically involved with him.

And I’m not okay with disclosing this with the people I work with.

And I told him that today.

I told him (in so many words) that I’ve dated people I’ve worked with before and as soon …

Woah, so Dylan called me.

We talked through it all.

Nana and grandpa are going to be here soon so I don’t have much time to write about this, but I will say the following for now:

1. I have a *lot* to think about and ask myself, especially the following question: do I identify as someone who is against being in a relationship? If so, why?
2. Dylan is my best friend right now.
3. As long as I stay honest, open, authentic, and optimistic - all will be well <3

Much love,

(and more soon)

Jess

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