



NO HOMO by Andrew Finkenstatdt

Hello, Mrs. Sizzle. Thanks for taking time out of your day to meet me; that was real chill. I'm Max as you know, and I haven't been feeling...Like myself lately, I guess? Well, like when I'm with my friend Hunter, I feel something inside...like that feeling, when you get a headsot in Call of Duty, or when you're with college girls? But like why do I feel the same way about Hunter as I do about college girls? Like no homo or anything but...

I mean, like, why would I feel this way about my BEST friend?? Him and I have been friends since 5th grade, he gave me a Pokemon Emerald game. I still have it, too! (*Takes game out of bag*) I keep it because (*short pause*) like it's a good luck charm or something. I always thought ya know,...this is one of the nicest things he's done for me. I feel like he's always been there for me, always caring about me and stuff.

I mean, things are different now. Even though we are still friends, we have new ones. It feels like him and our friends make the same joke a lot, but I feel uncomfortable when they say like "no homo" or "Bro, that's Gay." I feel like somehow it's always aimed at me, or it will be soon if...I tell them. Will they look at me differently or as nothing more than a stereotype? When they touch me, will they joke about...being gay? I mean—will they even be my friends anymore? Will Hunter hate me? Would he throw away everything over who I am?

Hunter has always been there for me. He's helped me with homework, and in video games. We've had sleepovers together. No matter how many fights we've had, we always came back the next day, and laughed it off. We care about each other, we are best friends. I feel like I've ruined a friendship so...pure because of feeling the same way a *Twilight* character feels! Why am I like this? I can't do—Oh, the bell. Hunter's at the door. I better go, we got plans (*he steps forward*). We're seeing "Spectre." I'll um...I'll figure this out...somehow.