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Escaping With Spare Lipstick

Chelsea Elwood

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Escaping With Spare Lipstick

Chelsea Elwood

January resigned last week
leaving his business suits and cologne,
a note on the coffee table:

73 *Starting all these years has been
a real drag. The slush
is so drab, my knuckles
crack and bleed.
Now, my ashtray is a bank of ash, glitter,
and cigarette butts wearing
Luann's R34 Crimson Fox lipstick.
You should see me now;
I look great in fish-nets
and platform heels.*

He signed with a lurid flourish:
XOXO Jan
and a puckered-red lip print.