

# Becoming Strangers Again Chapter 121-130

Posted by Adminh, 89

## Chapter 121

LILY

Lying on the sofa in the living room with Ryan and the boys as we watched a movie, my phone pinged. I reached for the phone and clicked on the email icon. The mail I read made me sit up.

Dear Lily Urch,

I hope this message finds you well.

As the board of shareholders for Central Hospital Canada, we are writing to provide an official update regarding your current status. As you are aware, you were placed on suspension effective on the 12th of April, pending the outcome of the case of having caused unwanted attention to the hospital.

We appreciate your cooperation during this period and understand the importance of transparency and due process. As of now, the board has decided to call you up for an impromptu meeting to discuss the measures that will determine your resumption to your office. Please make yourself available at the hospital on the 20th of May.

My eyes widened with shock and surprise. "I think I am getting my job back!" I blurted out and Ryan glanced at me curiously. I passed the phone to him. "I just received the mail right now, I think I am getting my job back.

Ryan quickly read through the message before handing the phone back to me. "I am really glad that you got your job back, but this isn't the perfect timing for that."

frowned. "What is that supposed to mean?" For someone who claims to be happy for me, he looks far from it.

Exhaling heavily, he glanced at the kids before turning to face me. "Listen to me Lily with an open mind and don't try to get me wrong." he reached for my hand. "if you want to go back to work, you know I won't be against it. I decided to move to Canada because I didn't want *you* to have to choose between anyone and your job, that is how much I respect it, but right now, going back to the place where Jake was declared wanted isn't the wisest decision and you know it."

“There is also a wanted man here,” I argued. Waper is also wanted and he is currently residing in this city.

“I can protect you better here.” He stressed, his tone slowly flaring. “If you move to Canada, I won’t have the same security leverage I have here.”

He is right and I know it, why then am I being stubborn? “Fine, get what you are trying to say.” I huffed out, my lips stretching into a pout, “however, I had another suggestion.”

Ryan nodded, silently telling me to go ahead.

“I will attend the meeting and officially ask for more time to handle personal issues.” That sounds like a flexible plan that should be perfect for everyone.

“Ad how long will be gone for?” he asked with a slight frown.

“Since the meeting is on Monday, I will have to leave for Canada on Sunday.”

Although clearly having reservations about the plan, Ryan nodded and returned his gaze to the television. “Sending them a mail for an adjournment for the meeting would have been the best course of action.” He pointed out.

“I can’t do that Ryan.” Why is he talking as if he doesn’t know how the board works? “Those people can easily kick me out of my seat Ryan, and I am not going to give them more reason to do that. I am attending that meeting and that’s final.”

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He glanced at me momentarily, gave me a sharp nod, and returned to his attention to the television. \*\*\*\*\*

Just like I said, I left for Canada on Sunday. Although Ryan didn’t like the fact that I was leaving, he dropped me off at the

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airport.

Pulling over at my place. I honked on the gate and it opened. Diving in, I had I gave Ryan a call and informed him that I had arrived. He insisted vehemently insisted that I give him a call constantly and keep him updated.

Promising to do that, I disconnected the call and went straight to bed, skipping dinner because I wasn't hungry. \*\*\*\*\*

The next day, I left for the hospital for the meeting. On getting there, other doctors were excited to see me and they fervently hoped that I would return to work.

Getting into the elevator, I pressed on the conference hall floor and it took me right up to it. The moment the elevator opened, the first face I saw was Veronica. She stared at me flatly the meeting has been adjourned to an hour time." She deadpanned, tossing a card over to me. "you can wait in your office."

I eyed her. "why wasn't I informed that the meeting has been adjourned?" I asked her.

She glared. "Well, I am telling you now." She shoved me out of the way and got into the elevator. Rolling my eyes, I took the other elevator and rode up to my office floor.

The moment I got to my office, I received a text from Julia, the lady on the mortuary team.

I HEARD YOU ARE IN  
THE HOSPITAL, PLEASE I NEED YOU TO COME DOWN TO THE MORGUE. A BODY WAS

BROUGHT IN EARLIER TODAY AND I THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE BODY.

I frowned. What is she talking about? Am I even allowed down there? Fuck this. Grabbing a disposable glove and a nose mask from the drawer, I ended down to the morgue, using the express unit which leads to the ambulance emergency exit.

Getting there, I typed in the passcode, because well I run this hospital and I know it. Pushing the door open, I stepped in and looked around the empty space.

Where is everyone? Most importantly where is Julia? "Jula?!" I called out but no response. Walking deeper into the morgue, I halted when I saw a male figure covered as though he was working the lab. "Excuse me?"

He turned around and I gasped, taking a step back involuntarily. What the heck is Jake doing here? How did he even make it into this place? "what are you doing here Jake?"

"It is lovely to meet you too Lily." He hissed, taking hurried steps towards me. "I gave you enough time to come back to me but you chose to send the cops after me."

I scoffed. "You are a con artist Jake, what did you expect?"

He took a step closer. "I am not here to waste my time with you" He closed in again and the more he took a step forward, I stepped away from him. "What? You fear me now?"

"More like disgusted." I spat.

He chuckled. "You should be more scared than disgusted because you just awoke the anger in me." He reached forward to grab my wrist, but I ran towards the table. "don't run Lily, it is of no use."

The fact there wasn't anything that could serve as a weapon annoyed me and I couldn't get to the door because he was blocking me. "Let me go, Jake, you do not want to incur the wrath of Ryan."

—

He shrugged. "Maybe, I do." He reached for me again, this time succeeding to grab me. I thrashed with all the strength in me

but it was useless the moment a black cloth was covered in my nose.

All it took was just a few seconds for me to lose consciousness.

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## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 122

RVAN

I have been trying to reach tally for the past six hours but she has not been taking my call. At some point, her number stopped commisciting To say I am losing *my* mind at the moment would be the greatest understatement in history,

Clicking my banguie, I continued pacing the floor with the photo my car, my eyes occasionally moving to the boys who were engrossed in their art paintings.

Just like before the automated voice told me that her number is reachable. "Daddy" Boas called out and I glanced *at* him "stuld I paint the sky blue or grey?"

The sky should be anything but grey, *I* need it to be as clear and blue as it can get, "Paint *it*, blue love!"

The door opened and the nanny walked in with Angelo. They both took notice of my agitated state,

“I will keep an eye on the boys” The nanny informed me and I couldn’t be more grateful.

Nodding, I stepped out of the room with Angelo hot on my tail. “Is everything okay sir?” he asked as he *walked* into my

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“I have been trying to reach Lily for the past six hours and she is not picking” I placed the phone in my ear again as I hoped and prayed for it to at least ring

“Maybe she is in a meeting” Angelo suggested, “Maybe that is why she isn’t picking”

Halting, I turned to face him, my eyes wide with fear. “I would have the same if she didn’t pick, but the problem is that her number stopped connecting at all” Something is definitely *wrong*, I can feel it *in* my guts.

“Let me try reaching her with my phone” He suggested just to ease my worry. Pulling out his phone, he dialed her number but of course, it did not connect. “Have you tried her securities

“None of those motherfuckers are taking my call” I snapped. I lay my hands on them, I am so going to strangle them to death

“I’ll try them” He dialed one of the security numbers and placed the phone to his ear. Surprisingly, they picked, “What the fuck is going on *man*? The boss *has* been trying to reach you”

Stomping over to him, I snatched the phone from him. “It is either you all have lost your goddamn mind or you have a death wish!” I snapped, “Why the fuck have you all been ignoring my call?”

“We are sorry boss, we didn’t just know what to tell you about Lily, which was why we avoided your call

“What the fuck do you mean by that?” I gritted out, my heart hammering in my chest, “Did something happen to her?”

“We haven’t seen her in the past five hours and we have looked around for her but there is no sign of her”

Staggering back, I held onto the sofa for support “*What* happened to Lily? What the hell was she alone in the first place?”

“de insisted that we stay in the garage and keep an eye out on her car and also any suspicious activities, Veer since she walked through *that* door, she has not walked *out*, I can swear it but she is not where to be found. We have been requesting CCTV ban M. Veronica won’t give us access to it”

I knew something, was wrong with her. By guts have never been wrong, “I am on my way? Veronica or whatever her name is will regret refusing access to the CCTV footage

Chuckling, the phone back to Anydo, I scrolled through my account, searching for the pilot’s number so I could give him a

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call and have him get ready for a flight.

However, my phone chimed with an incoming message. Brows rrowing with curiosity, I clicked on the message and my heart literally stopped when I saw what the message was about.

It was a picture of Lily, on a worn-out bed, her face brutally battered with beating. I didn’t need anyone to tell me who was behind this; it was Jake and this was the major reason why I told her not to leave for Canada in the first place.

“Sir?” Angelo called him, but I was too shocked by the image to give him any response. “Are you okay sir?” he asked, closing the distance between us, “did something happen?” he took the phone from me and cursed under his breath when he saw the image. “Fucking hell, what is this?!”

For both our sake, I really hope that was a rhetorical question. Taking the phone back from him, I tried to call the number but it didn’t connect.

“I am calling Detective Rio and your father,” Angelo muttered as he scrolled through his phone and I didn’t object one bit.

As he was about to call me when another message popped up with a different number. I clicked on it and my jaw tightened. “Wait!” I called out to Angelo who froze instantly. “Don’t involve Detective Rio.”

He frowned. “and why shouldn’t I do that? This is clearly a case of kidnap?”

“He just sent a message warning me not to involve any police or government official.” I equally tried calling the new number that sent the message but of course, it wasn’t reachable too. “You can call my father though.”

Angelo tilted his head. "I still think involving the police is better they will know how to handle the situation."

"Of what use have they been to me?" I snapped at him, frustrated at his questioning. "they have been unable to catch Waper and Jake." Despite the air condition in the room, I sweated so hard. "they couldn't do their job with Waper and Jake, what makes you think they will be able to save Lily?"

"Not involving them isn't going to gether saved either." He argued. "we need to work with the police, find out what he wants. and save Ms. Lily."

I am not arguing with him right now. "Just put my father on the line," I ordered, putting an end to the conversation about involving the cops. They haven't been exactly useful to me, so I do not see the reason why I have to involve them in this.

Any mistake on my side can get Lily killed. This isn't just an ordinary case of abduction, we are dealing with someone who has actually killed someone before.

While he called my father, I dialed the pilot's number, telling him to get ready to fly to Canada. I need to be close so that when she gets released, I will be able to comfort her.

"He said he is on his way and emphasized that you shouldn't take any irrational decision until he gets here."

What decision can I possibly make right now? She is all the way in Canada. If only I had stood my ground and insisted that she doesn't leave, maybe then all of this wouldn't be happening right now.

I can't lose Lily, not when I only just got her back. We deserve a happily ever after, after all the shit we've been through and I am going to make it happen.

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## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 123

Opening my eyes, I met the dirty irritating white ceilings that side peeling off. Gironing. I am up and winced at the sharp headache and pain on my face.

What did that bastard do to me? Did he hit me after domating raj Why am I having a massive headache and why does my

Back hurt?

Groaning, I stood up and walked towards the closed door, risk the doorknob. "Where the fuck am I?" I mused to myself I pulled but the door was locked.

this.

Stepping away, I took in the room, feeling angry that he had to bring me to a place like this. I should have listened in Ryan and remained in New York, but now I will have to put everyone

Walking back to the door, I lifted my hand to knock but noticed my fist, I banged my fist on the door angrily. "Open this door, you door!"

worry.

bruise on it "Did he tie me up with something else?"

bastard!" I yelled at no one in particular "Open the

I continued banging for hours with no response from anyone. The wound on my palm started bleeding but that didn't stop me from hitting the door repeatedly

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I kept knocking and banging until I eventually got tired. My lips cobbled as backed the door and glided down

How long have I been here? How long have I been lying unconscious here? The tears rolled down and I quickly wiped the tears that rolled down my cheeks.

After a few minutes on the floor, I heard approaching footsteps Wiping my eyes quickly, I stepped away from the door and waited for anyone who was coming through.

The door opened

and the devil himself walked in. He halted when he saw me, probably surprised to see me awake: "Hello, sleeping beauty" He greeted me with a wide smile. "I didn't expect to see you awake. "Are you hungry?"

Is he mad? "you expect me to be hungry in such a situation?" I sipped at him. "if the case was reversed Jake, would you feel hungry or have a single appetite?"

Rolling his eyes, he walked

over to the bed which looked like it had been infested with bed bugs, and sat down. "Have a seat,



Lily”

I glanced at the unlocked door. “Don’t even think of it Lily,” Jake entered with nonchalance. “You will need a car to get out of here and I have the key in my pocket, so have a seat like a good girl before I lose my mind right now”

I weighed my opinions at the moment and running won’t end my favor right now. I made my way to the far end of the bed and sat down. “What do you want?”

He smiled. “Going straight to the point are we?” he asked before “Thanks to you and your husband, I can’t move around freely,

“Then leave.” I deadpanned, “why are you telling me about it?”

huckling, “well, I want to leave the country” He revealed. I have to leave,”

He scoffed. “Because I can’t just get on the plane and leave.” Folding his hand, he stared intently at me, his smile gone. “And you, my dear, you are my ticket to leave.”

“Really?” I scoffed. “I would rather walk my death than have you leave the country, Jake, that is how much I despise you”

Nodding, he dragged his feet over to the door and locked it. “People are quick to talk about death and how quick they want to embrace it, but sometimes you would want to think of the process.” He stopped right in front of me and smiled, leaning

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16:22 Fri Aug 2 BG.

Chapter 123

forward, “Do you think will give you an easy death Lily?”

I swallowed heavily which made him laugh. “I thought so *too*.” Taking a step **back**, he picked up the document I didn’t realize he even came in with. “You are going to **read** this word to word.”

Jake reached into his pocket and pulled out his phone. “Read this word-to-word while I record you.” He lifted his phone indicated I go on with the reading.

I glanced through the paper and **glared** at him. “You are stupid **to think I** am going to drag Ryan into this.”

Sucking his cheek, he closed in on me, grabbed my hair abruptly, and pulled me closer to his **face**. "Don't Fucking get on my nerves Lily, you **were a sweet** girl who for a moment made my heart beat for a moment, push my button one more time You'll hate me more than you do right now."

"I am not reading this." I hissed, spitting on his **face**. "Do your worst!"

His jaw gritted as he stared at me with anger. Unable to hold in his anger anymore, he slapped me hard **across** the **cheek** sending me stumbling to the floor.

Squatting to my level, Jake snatched my cheek and squeezed hard. "Will you still **have** to his bravery and defiance **if I deci** to bring your triplets into this?" He **spat**.

Fear gripped me at the mention of my kids' names.

"I thought as much Lily." He picked up the book again and shoved it into my hand. "For the last time, **read** this word to **w** without omitting any shit because if you provoke me one more time, I am going to chop you into tiny pieces, dump your chopped body in the bin, and go after your kids."

Shoving me away, He stood up again and backed away. "Go on, I Don't have all day to spend with you."

With trembling voice and tears which I had wished would remain away rolled down my cheeks.

"This is a message from Jake to you Ryan," I began, "your sweetheart will be in a very much worse position than she **is** if you do not comply. You already know the rule but I am going to repeat it for you because I am feeling generous."

I glanced at Jake and sniffed before returning my gaze to the paper to continue reading.

"Do not involve the police and your father, Do not try to call the numbers with which I used to text you, do not ignore my warnings or take them for granted, and most importantly, do not try to play a fast one on me."

Taking a deep breath, I continued. "**If** you break any of these rules, it will cost you Lily's finger and I am sure you do not want that. In order to ensure Lily's safe return, You have to provide a means for me to get out of this just four days to make that happen."

That **was** all in the note. Dropping it to the floor with a Thud, I glared at him. "Is that all?"

country and you have

He nodded. "For now, yes. Let's hope that your baby papa loves you enough to abide by the rules and provide a means to get me out of this country."

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## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 124

RYAN

"What is this nonsense I'm hearing about Lily being abducted?" My father asked the moment he walked into my home office. "Why isn't he on every news outlet yet?"

"Because he specifically stated that we shouldn't involve the cops and Ryan is planning on obeying that order."

My father's sharp glare moved to me. "Have you lost it? How do you want to handle a case of abduction without the cops?"

He pulled out a seat and sat down, Crossing his leg. "So what's the plan? For you to have decided not to involve the cops, that simply means you have a plan. Let's hear it."

Sighing, I plopped down on the sofa. "I honestly do not have any plans yet."

He scoffed. "Yet you do not want to involve the police?" He shook his head. "Is there a particular reason why you don't want to involve the cops?"

"They have been useless," I stressed and his brow jerked up in surprise. "They couldn't find Waper and they never caught Jake which is why we are in this problem to start with."

"That is not an excuse not to involve them." He stressed.

Angelo cleared his throat and stood up. "I'll get a glass of whiskey for everyone." He walked out of the office, probably hunting for the old Irish whiskey on the mini bar downstairs.

"What does he want in return?" Dad asked and I cradled my head.

I've been looking at my phone every second, waiting for him to make his demand so we can get on with it, but till now, no response. "He's yet to say anything about what he really wants."

The door opened and Angelo walked in with three glasses and the whiskey I assumed he went for. He passed each one the glass and filled it halfway.

"He's probably going to ask for money," Angelo chimed in, "or a means to leave the country."

He took a seat and I glanced at him. "Why do you sound so confident? Have you worked with abductors that much?"

He scoffed. "Are you trying to be funny right now?" He leaned forward. "The case against him isn't about Lily alone, he is an already wanted man, which means you do not have the power to stop his case, so he won't demand that from you, however, he is going to believe the fact that you can give him the money which will aid Jon to leave or help him out of the country. That is his only two options."

My father nodded. "If I were in his shoes, that would be my option too, but helping a wanted criminal out of a country is a serious offense," He bit his lips in contemplation, "I can think of the charges that come with it. Aiding and Abetting, obstruction of justice, harboring a fugitive, conspiracy, international law violations, should I continue?"

He's not helping matters right now. "What exactly are you getting at?"

"That I'd rather let him have Lily than Have you face those charges." He deadpanned. "The only way to make sure you don't get charged for these crimes is to involve the police."

"He is going you hurt her if we do," I stressed in case he missed that part. "I refuse to gamble with Lily's life like that."

"Well, I'm going to gamble with it no matter what You day." He retorted. "Just so you know, the moment I get out of this place, I am getting the police involved. I will invite them over to my house, give them good food and the finest wine then tell them the mother of my grandchildren have been abducted."

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My phone chimed, pulling me out of the conversation. Picking up the phone, I clicked on the message icon. The moment I saw a video, I knew it was from him.

"Is it a message from him?" Angelo asked, already getting off his seat to join me in mine.

I nodded. "It's a video from him." My father equally got out of his seat and sat beside me.

My fingers shook as I clicked on the video. We waited for it to load, and when it did, I inhaled sharply. "She has more bruises on her face," I muttered to no one in particular.

"Just play the goddamn thing!" My father snapped, snatching the phone from me. He played the video himself.

Glaring at him, I took the phone back and watched the video. The fear in Lily's eyes as she read the message made me feel like a failure.

I failed to protect the woman I love. When Lily read the rules, my father scoffed. "Is he being serious right *now*? How did he think you won't involve me?"

Ignoring him, I watched the video to the last part until it stopped playing.

"Not involving the cops, that I understand, but not involving me too?" Dad cussed at him, "What does that lowlife bastard take us for?"

Pinching the bridge of my nose, I glanced at him. "Not isn't the time to rain insult or curses because it isn't going to change anything."

He sighed "You're right, we shouldn't do that." Reaching into his pocket, he pulled out his phone and scrolled through his

contacts.

I eyed him. "Who are you calling?"

"Detective Balham of course." He responded, putting the phone in his ear.

My blood boiled with anger at his nonchalance towards this situation. "I just told you that I do not want to involve the cops!" I yelled at him, snatching the phone from his ear. "Didn't you hear him say any rule we break is going to cost Lily's fingers? What the fuck is your problem?!"

"What is your problem?!" He yelled back, his face contorting in anger. "Why are you behaving like a wimp?! Where is my son who has the ability to handle situations effectively?"

I glared hard.

“What guarantee do you have that He will release her steer you’ve provided a means of escape? Are you even sure he is in this alone?”

Exhaling

heavily, he reached for me and placed a hand on my shoulder. “I understand how you feel Ryan and I’m going to need you to trust me. Have I ever not you out of trouble if you reach out to me?”

He has never disappointed.

He took my silence as a Yes. “Now I’m going to need You to trust me on this too, trust me to get that lady out of this safely.”

“I need her to be back safely,” I mumbled. I have never had someone close to me abducted, so I honestly do not know how to react to this. “She needs to come back to me or I’ll lose my mind.”

“She will come back to you.” He assured me, “That is a promise to you, Ryan, before the end of this week, you’ll have Lily back here with you. Just let me do my thing.”

I nodded. “Sure.”

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Chapter 121

Satisfied with my response, he reached for his phone and resumed calling Detective Baham.

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## **Becoming Strangers Again**

Posted by Adminh, ?

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**Chapter 125**

STEPHANIE

I finally got discharged from the hospital and the every day I was to leave was the exact day the detectives decided to show up and ask about my father.

Mum had only stepped out to turn the car around while I got dressed, Imagine my surprise when there was a knock on the door, and when it opened two males walked into the room.

I glanced at them skeptically and suspiciously. "You are clearly not doctors or nurses," I pointed out with a frown, "who are you?"

"I am Detective Roger," the first dude introduced himself before gesturing to the other man, "and this is Detective Simpson."

They are here for my father. "And how can I help you?"—

"If you don't mind, can we have a seat and talk?" Roger asked, "We promise not to take much of your time."

I glanced at the closed door. "You do realize that I'm a patient who just got discharged right?"

He nodded. "Like I said, we promise not to take much of your time."

That doesn't make this right. Folding my hands, I stared at them flatly. "Get on with the question then. If my mother gets back, you won't have the opportunity to ask any questions."

"Why is that?" He asked, taking a seat.

"Because you shouldn't even be questioning someone who was diagnosed to be mentally unstable," I responded.

They glanced at each other with surprise and I scoffed. "Can we get on with it already?"

"When was the last time you spoke or saw your father?" He asked.

"I haven't seen him ever since my marriage with my ex-husband ended," I replied truthfully. "Why? Is he missing?"

They glanced at each other again. "Haven't you seen the news?"

I only hear the things my mother feeds me. "Ever since I got admitted, I wasn't allowed to use my cellphone."

Roger frowned. "Why?"

“Apparently it isn’t good for my mental health,” I replied with an eye roll. Taking a seat, I moved my gaze from one person to the other. “Is that all?”

“Your father is a murder suspect.” He revealed and I continued staring at him with zero emotions. “Why aren’t you surprised?”

Staring at the young man, I wondered if I should protect my father as always.

“Ms. Stephanie?”

I blinked slowly at him. “I wouldn’t say I’m surprised, he did after all threaten to kill Lily and her kids for my ex-husband’s inheritance.”

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His eyes widened in shock and he quickly wrote it down. “Can you explain what you mean by that?”

Nodding, I moved my gaze to his pen. “Only if You promise to give me that pen afterward.”

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He glanced at the pen in question. “My pen? Why?”

I shrugged. “Because it’s pretty and I like it.” Its mouth looks sharp enough to get the job done.

“Sure.”

Nodding, I smiled and moved my gaze back to his face. “I got married to Ryan because my father is deep neck into debt which he incurred through gambling. He nodded money to **pay** it off and Ryan seemed Like the perfect candidate to Milk.”

“How does this affect Ms. Lily and her kids?”

Is he daft? “Ryan obviously still loves his ex-wife and his children. He told me in the face that they’ll be the ones inheriting his properties and I relayed the message to my father and he thought it was an idea to kill them off”



“Your mother, is she aware of this?” He asked slowly, his eyes fixed on me with so precision.

“She knows the number of breaths he takes in a day. I reasoned believing they’d read between the lines.

“And does she know where he is hiding?”

I flipped a shoulder. “That I do not know.” He opened his mouth to ask another question, but I interrupted him. “I have answered your question, so I think you should hand over the pen and be on your way before my mother gets here.”

Nodding, they stood to their feet and Roger handed me his pen. “Will you be able to repeat what you just told us about father in front of the court?”

I shook my head. “I won’t be testifying against my father.” I won’t make it to that point.

“Why?”

I stepped away from him. “Please Leave.”

your

Lifting his hands in mock surrender, he walked away with his colleague. Stuffing the pen in between my pants, I waited for Mom to show up.

Thirty minutes later, she walked through the door with an apologetic smile. “Sorry, I took longer than necessary.”

“I was about to come look for you,” I replied, grabbing my jacket

“I saw those detectives walk out of the hospital, who did they come for?”

“Me,” I replied, heading for the door.

She grabbed the other bag and chased after me. “What do you mean by they came for you?”

Rolling my eyes, I got into the elevator. “I only answered your question, Mum.”

“Well be more specific!” She snapped.

“They came to ask about Dad.” I clarified.

“And?” She drawled out.

“And I told them what you wanted me to tell them if they ever ask about Dad.” I retorted, feeling agitated by her questioning. “They asked the last time I saw him and I told them that was two days after I woke up!”

She blinked at me rapidly while I glared. “Isn’t that what you want me to tell them?”

Smacking her lips, she nodded absently to herself. “It doesn’t matter what you tell them.” She mumbled, “A statement of

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III

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and heart hu buy were

Are you trying to cry that I’m mentally unstables

She hold Tund that what is medical report trys?”

Biting my net check, I swallowed the rest of my words. We rode home in silence, none of us paying attention to each

Getting home. I ambled straight to my room. The moment I stepped in, I noticed some things were moved.

Mum cleared her throat behind me. “I know you want to go back to your apartment, but you’ll have to stay with me for some time. So I can keep an eye on you.”

That’s not the case. “Why is my room so bare?”

“We took out everything that can serve **as a** weapon.” She responded, “Why don’t you go in for a quick bath then come **down**

for lunch”

I shook my head. “I want to take my bath and rest, I’ll be skipping dinner.”

“Oh...” Her mouth pouted. “Dinner then?”

I nodded. “Sure.”

She turned and walked out of the room. I went into the bathroom, removed my clothes, turned on the shower, and stood right under it.

As the water washed down my *body*, I lifted my hand, felt for the major vein in my neck, lifted my hand, and stabbed the pen right into it

It took seconds for me to feel dizzy and collapse onto the wet floor, slamming my head on the wall in the process.

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SEND GIFT

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## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

### Chapter 126

RYAN

Day two and no tangible news. Despite my father telling me to trust him and Detective B alham, I went ahead to discuss with a captain at the scaport.

Today, I intend on making a few calls, so one of the containers that leave for Sweden won't be checked by the officials.

Also, I am working on a fake ID for him. When they get you the middle of the sea, he is going to change into the uniform of the workers there and pretend to be one of them.

The rest of the crew members will be turning blind eyes too because they will be compensated accordingly. While my father makes his plan, I also need to make backup plans in case he fails.

The door to my bedroom pushed open and Angelo rushed in. Dropping the picture of Lily which I've been staring at, I stood to my feet, observing his shocked face closely.

Did something happen? Did they hear *bad* news about Lily? Fear gripped me. "What's going on?"

"You haven't seen the news yet?" He asked, already pulling his phone out to show me the news.

Taking the phone, I prayed with everything in me that it wouldn't be news about a body found in a bump.

However, it was news about a body, but not found where I had feared, and also the body didn't belong to Lily.

#### 1. MS. STEPHANIE'S BODY WAS FOUND IN HER BATHROOM WITH A PEN IN HER NECK.

My nose scrunched. "How did this happen?" I shed with astonishment, handing the phone back to Angelo. "Didn't she just get discharged from the hospital?"

He nodded. "I'm as shocked as you are right now." He mumbled, shoving the phone back into his pocket. "Heavens know I wasn't expecting the news of her death."

"Suicide?"

in her He shrugged. "No statement has been *made* on that yet, but I'm assuming it's suicide. Who would stab her with a pen on a bright afternoon in her father's house

Chapter 120

bathroom? It must definitely be suicide."

It's a pity her life ended this way.

"I wonder what Mrs. Waper is going through Angelo mused, "her husband is wanted. for a murder case and her only child just committed suicide."

A knock sounded on the door and Angelo walked over to open

1. it.

"Mr. Richard and some man are here to see Mr. Ryan." Martha, my staff informed Angelo.

"He'll be there shortly." He closed the door softly before turning to face me. "That must be your father with the detectives."

I hope they come up with better results. Grabbing my phone from the bed, I made my way to the door but Angelo grabbed my arm, stopping me.

Glancing at his hand holding my arm, I slowly lifted my gaze to him. "You have something you want to say?"

“You aren’t doing anything behind our backs right?” He asked, his eyes slightly worried. “You are way too calm over this situation and it’s alarming.”

Shrugging my hand off his hold, I glared at him. “What would you rather have me do? Scream on top of my voice or be hostile towards everyone?” I spat, “What difference is that going to make?”

“At least it’s going to show that you’re not bottling everything up inside of you, or planning something else.”

My glare hardened. “Fuck off Angelo before you make me lose it with you.”

He cursed under his breath. “You are planning something.”

Ignoring him, I walked out of the room, cursing myself for letting Angelo know so much about me, that is the only way he could have read me so perfectly well.

Stepping into the living room, I met my father and the two detectives he already came with seated.

Dad ran his gaze on my body and shook his head in disappointment. “When was the last time you had something to eat?”

I can’t remember, probably yesterday. Ignoring his question, I shook hands with the detective before taking my seat.

## Chapter 120

“Your father already briefed me on what’s going on, and we’ve come up with a perfect plan.”

Intrigued, I glanced at my father briefly. “And what plan did you come up with?”

“Your father here told us that you are scared of him holding out you involved the cops, which is why we’re going to give him what he wants.”

My brow jerked up in surprise. “You want to get him out of the country?”

“We want to create an illusion that he can actually leave.” He explained.

“I’m not sure I quite understand where you’re heading with this.”

He nodded, leaning forward. “Let him get on a boat and sail for about three to four hours, our men will have their boat already on the sea, waiting for him to meet us. All

there.” you have to do is tell us which boat you put him and we’ll handle it from

I glanced at my father and then back at the detective, a bit disappointed at their plan. "That bastard has been wanted for a long time now, you think he survived being caught all these while by being stupid?"

"What do you mean by that son?" Dad asked, his brows furrowing at his inability to understand what I was saying.

"You think he's going to hand Lily over until he crosses that border or makes it safely to the country? For Fucksake that dude isn't stupid in the slightest."

Dad shook his head. "I'll have to disagree with you on that son. We will negotiate."

Detective Balham nodded. "Agreeing you the term that he holds onto her until he makes it to another country is a bad agreement. What is the guarantee that she is still alive?"

"And what is his guarantee that those men in that boat won't throw him into the water?" I asked the detective, "What is the guarantee that they won't hand him over to the police? That will be Jake's question."

"He is desperate." Dad argued, "and out of desperation He won't think that far."

"We are equally desperate." I argued, "And he knows that."

"Why are you being negative over everything?!" He snapped at me. "We are not your enemy Son, we are only trying to help you get that woman back."

"I am not trying to be negative." I arched back snappishly, "I am only trying to be smart

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**51%**

and realistic." Just because they are eager to come up with a plan doesn't mean they'll overlook some things and put Lily in danger. "If you are going to come up with a plan, then come up with a better one."

"We can't even arrest them if we catch him because the bastard isn't even in our country." The Detective claimed, "We have come this far with this arrangement because we have spoken with the right authorities in Canada and because we are in international agreement with them! Don't let our efforts go to waste!"

"At the expense of my

woman's safety?" I hissed at him, "Yes it will

go

to waste!”

“Enough!” Dad chastised, “Don’t shout at him when he is only trying to help.” He licked his lips and sighed, “Take him to Turkey.”

I arched a brow. “And what happens when I take him to Turkey?”

“I’ll Wait for him there.” He deadpanned. “I never wanted to use this favor just yet, but I guess now is the right time. Send the bastard to Turkey.”

SEND GIFT

## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 127

LILY

I’ve been here for three days and don’t even know what’s going on. Liam, Noah, and Ethan must be missing me really bad, and don’t get me started on Ryan.

Sighing, I held onto the window railing and stared down at nothing but a green field and water.

I know I’m still in Canada as Jake does not have the freedom to move around, so he couldn’t have taken me far.

Biting my lower lips, I tried to be positive, try to look towards the day I’ll get out of this and return home to my kids and Ryan.

The door unlocked and opened, and without even looking back, I was certain it was Jake who just walked in.

I have every reason to believe that we are the only one in this building, because I’ve

never seen any other person, nor have I heard him speak to any

“I see you’re hell-bent on killing yourself with hunger.” He remarked and I ignored him, something I’ve decided to do.

“Honestly Lily, I don’t care if you decide to kill yourself, but at least stay alive until I’ve gotten what I happened.”

He noisily dropped a tray on the table. “Come and eat Lily, you’ll not let this one go to waste again.”

Finally turning around, I glared at him. “Don’t worry Jake, I’m not dying nor am I eating your food.”

His jaw clenched. “Don’t push me, Lily, either way, his food is going down your throat.”

My eyes hardened with defiance and I’m sure he saw it too. Chuckling, he shook his head. “That look in your eyes, I can easily break it, but I decided not to. Don’t make me change my mind.”

I took steady steps towards him and spat on his face. “You can’t break me, Jake.”

“I know you despise me.” He stated

most definitely break you Lily. I matter—of—factly, “and shoving my c

dick into you will

warning you, don’t provoke me further.”

His words instilled fear in me I won’t lie but I tried not to let him see it. “Fuck you!”

1/4

## Chapter 127

He chuckled. “In the history of abductors, I should be the most caring and patient.” He made his way over to the bed and sat down. “Have you heard the latest news?”

I walked back to **the** window and looked out, longing for freedom. We take it for granted until it is taken away from us.

“Of course, you haven’t, you don’t have any means of communicating with the outside world.”

His voice irritates me, it gets on my very last nerves. “I’ll eat the food, you can leave now.” Anything you get me to stop hearing his voice or seeing his face.

“Stephanie Waper is dead.” He revealed and I froze in shock. “They found a pen buried in her neck.”



Gradually turning, I faced him, eyes wide with shock. "What did you just say?"

He nodded with a chuckle. "Yeah, she was found dead two days ago, statements were released yesterday. I'm guessing it's suicide since this isn't the first time she tried to take her life."

To say I'm dumbfounded will be an understatement.

"You must be glad," he continued, "seeing your enemy dead and getting forgotten Six feet under."

I never liked Stephanie, but I never wished her dead either. "It would have been better if you were the one found with a pen buried in your neck."

Jake threw his head backward and laughed as though I just cracked a joke. "Too bad honey, I intend to live for a very long time."

He stood to his feet and jerked his head towards the plate. "Be Sure to eat that food, you'll need that strength tomorrow just in case your baby daddy fails to do as told."

try

"What is going to happen to me if he fails to provide a means out of the country tomorrow?"

He grinned widely. "Your pinkies will be sent to him, wrapped up in a cute box."

"You are sick!"

He shrugged. "I just want my freedom back." Winking, He headed for the door and walked out of my room.

I stared at the covered plate for a while, sighed, and walked over to it. I carried it over to

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the bed, sat down, and opened it.

Instead of a meal, I saw a piece of paper with a message written on it.

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I SEE YOU REALLY WANT SOME FOOD IN YOUR SYSTEM NOW. FOR STRESSING ME, YOU'LL ONLY GET DINNER EVERY DAY.

Scoffing I covered the plate and pushed it away. However, a thought occurred. Maybe I should bury a broken piece of this plate in his neck.

Walking over to the door, I placed my car on it and listened for any movement and when I didn't hear anything, I grabbed the plate, went further away from the door, and smashed the plate.

Picking up one broken segment with a sharp edge, I cleared up the rest and placed it under the bed. Taking a deep breath, I waited for him to serve dinner..

As night came, I heard his approaching footsteps. Charged with adrenaline, I hurried over to the door and stood behind it, waiting to catch him unaware and attack him.

He inserted the key, twisted and unlocked it. Next, the doorknob twisted before the door pushed open. The moment that happened, I jumped on him, aiming for the vein in his neck, but he was fast enough, faster than me.

His hands blocked the incoming sharp piece and I stabbed his hand instead of his back.

Jake shoved me away roughly and I landed with a loud thud, hitting my head hard on the cold hard floor.

Lifting my head and ignoring the pain that throbbed in my skull, I glared at Jake, feeling glad at the sight of the glass being stuck in his palm.

His face turned red in anger as he stared at the blood dripping from his wounded hand. "Why are you making it difficult for me to be nice to you?!" He roared, "Why the fuck is wrong with you Lily!"

More blood dripped. "I will be back for you!" He stomped out of the room, locking the door behind him.

Patting myself inwardly for making an attempt, I quickly rushed over to the plate he broke that contained my dinner.

Picking up yet another sharp glass, I packed the rest under the bed, and shoved the glass in between my bra, ignoring the sharp grazing that would definitely leave a wound

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later on.

Jake didn't return that night, or at least I didn't think he would but when I heard the door unlock, it rose me from my sleep.

He walked in, dropped another plate of dinner, and walked out.

My stomach grumbled in hunger, which made me rush towards the plate.

I opened it, picked it up, and ate the rice and ketchup, hoping that I was not getting poisoned.

He won't do that though, he needs me alive for a successful negotiation.

However, I felt a tingling sensation in my leg, which crept up my body. I tried moving my legs but couldn't.

Gradually, the immobility covered the rest of my body and I lay on the floor, unable to move a single muscle.

SEND GIFT

## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 128

JAKE

I was certain the effects of the drug should have kicked in by now. Turning off the radio, I made my way to the room where she was staying. Inserting the key, I unlocked the door and pushed it open.

There she lay, frozen and immobile, **her** eyes the only part of her body able to move. She was sprawled next to the untouched food, paralyzed.

Chuckling, I squatted down to her level and grabbed her cheek, feeling the helplessness radiate from her. "You really had the nerve to stab me, Lily, and then you went ahead and ate the food I presented? How foolish."

Her eyes spoke volumes, conveying the fear and regret her body couldn't express. Tears rolled down the corners of her eyes as she stared at me, unable to blink.

"You do realize that you are at my mercy right now?" I asked, wiping her tears away with my thumb. "I could do whatever I please with you, and you wouldn't be able to fight back."

She was fortunate that I wasn't the type to take sexual advantage of women. I might be guilty of many things, but rape was not one of them.

Sighing, I lifted her paralyzed form; and carried her over to the bed, gently laying her down. "Don't worry," I said in a calming tone, "you'll gradually regain your mobility as the effects of the drug wear off. That should be in about three to four hours. Just close your eyes and *try* to sleep through it. Tomorrow, we'll call Ryan to see if he has my demands ready. Otherwise, you might lose a pinky."

Patting her cheek, I leaned down and kissed her forehead softly. "For what it's worth, Lily, you were a lovely lady. You made me forget the darker aspects of my life, even if just for a little while."

I walked out of the room, closing the door softly behind me and making sure to lock it. I didn't trust her not to attempt running away once she regained her mobility.

The next morning, I woke up to a very quiet house. Chuckling at how well-behaved she was being, I went to the kitchen to prepare her final meal. After this, we would both be going hungry since there was nothing else left in the house, and I couldn't risk going out to shop. It amused me to think how I had been using the last of my supplies to make her food, and she was letting it go to waste.

I quickly whipped up some scrambled eggs for her, then carried the plate upstairs.

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Chapter 10k

Unlocking the door, I carefully stepped in, wary of any potential ambush. Despite cleaning up the broken glass under her bed, I wouldn't be surprised if she had hidden some of her muskshift wraps somewhere.

Rebalancing the plate, I approached her with a rationed morning. Lily, I said, my voice calm. I've brought you some breakfast, hope you appreciate it this time.

And she sat on the bed, her gaze fixed blankly on the wall. Are you okay? I

asked, setting the tray of food down on the floor. What are you doing at?"

In response to my question, she continued to stare intently at whatever had captured her attention. "Thought food," I announced, blocking her view from the wall.

Suddenly, her eyes shifted to me, and before I could anticipate her next move, she raised her hand and delivered a sharp slap across my cheek.

The sudden sting on my cheek triggered a chuckle from me. It seemed I hadn't quite broken through to her yet. I had assumed that paralyzing her would instill more than clearly, she still had fight left in her.

"How dare you?" she growled, her voice seething with anger. "How dare you drug me I shrugged indifferently, which only seemed to fuel her rage further. "Do you realize the implications of this for my health?"

"My heart is still beating, isn't it?" I quipped with a chuckle, trying to lighten the tense atmosphere. Standing up, I gestured towards the tray. "I brought food, whether you

choose to eat it or not is up to you."

Her gaze bore into me with an intensity that made me slightly uncomfortable. And you get me to eat it?" she retorted, her voice dripping with skepticism.

I dragged, feigning nonchalance. "I'd call you naive if you accepted it without any skepticism," I replied, attempting to maintain a facade of confidence. Walking over to the tray, I picked up a fork and stabbed a small piece of scrambled egg, popping

it into my mouth. "You can eat; this one wasn't tampered with," I added, trying to measure her.

Lily returned to her silent contemplation of the wall, seemingly uninterested in engaging with me any further.

So, to myself, I muttered under my breath, deciding to give her space. "Eat while I go take a shower. When I come back, we'll call Ryan and hopefully get some good news." Without waiting for her response, which I didn't expect anyway, I turned **and** walked out of the room, closing the door behind me.

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After showering and changing into fresh clothes, I returned to Lily's room to find the food still untouched, and Lily remained in the same position, seemingly lost in her thoughts.

"Are you really going to be stubborn about that food?" I asked, knowing full well she would likely ignore me, as usual. With a scoff, I pulled out the phone I hadn't yet used to contact Ryan and dialed his number.

He answered almost immediately, which elicited a chuckle from me. "I guess you were really expecting my call," I remarked teasingly.

"Where is Lily?" he demanded, his tone sharp and urgent.

I glanced at Lily, who continued to stare blankly at the wall. "She's right here with me, staring emptily at the wall."

"What the fuck did you do to her?!" Ryan snapped angrily through the phone, his voice booming in

my car.

I raised an eyebrow at the sudden outburst, unfazed by his anger. "Nothing yet," I deadpanned, "and you're going to have to stop yelling in my ear before I end this call

I

"What you want is ready," Ryan revealed in a raspy voice, sounding breathless and desperate. "I've made the necessary arrangements to get you into Turkey. I've arranged for a new identity for you. I just want her back home!"

It was surreal to realize the power I held over Ryan Williams. "I'm going to move to a new location alone tomorrow," I informed him, keeping my voice steady. "From there, I'll give you a call. Have someone pick me up and take me to whatever location you've prepared for me to leave this country."

"And Lily?" he pressed, his concern evident in his voice. "How am I supposed to get her back?"

"I'll leave her with enough water and energy drinks to keep her heart beating for three to four days," I replied, my tone matter-of-fact. "Once I'm far away from here, a scheduled mail will be sent to you with her location."

"You're insane to think I'm going to agree to that!" Ryan retorted, his voice filled with disbelief and anger. "How do I know, that she's fine and alive?"

"I'll FaceTime for a few seconds before I leave tomorrow," I reassured him, trying to sound as convincing as possible. "That way, you'll see for yourself that she's alive and..." I glanced at Lily and chuckled softly, "...well."

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“I hope you pray to the heavens that I don’t get my hands on you because when I do, you’ll regret being born! That’s a promise!” Ryan threatened, his voice dripping with venom.

“Don’t worry, Ryan,” I teased, unable to resist taunting him. “You won’t see me, or your hands on me, that’s a promise.” With that, I disconnected the call and turned to Lily. “Looks like you’ll be heading home soon.”

I was met with silence, once again, as Lily ignored my presence. With a scoff at her unwarranted attitude, I approached her and stared down at her small form. “I’ll advise you to eat,” I urged, my voice tinged with frustration. “Because after today, all you’ll have access to are liquids—water and energy drinks, to be precise.”

When I didn’t receive a response or even a flicker of acknowledgment from her, I shook my head in exasperation. Walking out of the room, I locked the door behind me and headed to the kitchen to prepare for her three-day stay.

SEND GIFT

## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, 101

Chapter 129

RYAN

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Stephanie was laid to rest today and I didn’t even bother showing up, not that I didn’t want to, or that she didn’t deserve my last respect, but because Jake is getting picked up today and I do not want to miss the FaceTime with Lily.

Angelo had to go in place of the family because well...my father blatantly refused to go. He swore that nothing would connect him to that family ever.

My phone vibrated on the table, and the moment I glanced at it and saw an unsaved number I picked it up without even waiting for a signal from detective Balham.

“I’m switching it to FaceTime.” Jake informed me before the call switched.

Lily's beautiful face stared back at me. The pain and emptiness in her eyes showed me that she is slowly losing it and that I have to get her out of there quick.

"Lily," I breathed out and the tears which had pooled in her eyes rolled down her cheeks. "I'm sorry." I apologized.

I shouldn't have maintained my stance on her not going, or I should have left with her, then none of this would have been happening.

"I miss you, the boys too but we're all strong for you, the same way we want you to be strong for us."

Her opened her mouth and spoke, but I couldn't hear a thing of what she said. That bastard muted her mic.

"I love you Lily," I reminded her, "Give me a nod if you can hear me." She nodded slowly which made me force a smile for her sake. "I'll get you home soon Lily, and I swear on everything I have, I'll

but a bad dream which will make you forget all these crazy ordeal, it will be nothing never will come true."

As she nodded. More tears rolled down her cheeks.

Jake picked the phone up. "Your time is up Ryan, I'm heading out, and like I said earlier, in three days you'll receive a mail telling you of her location. I was certain you'll not fail me."

Before I could respond, the call disconnected I turned to detective Balham and his crew. "Were you able to find the location of the call?"

The young man who was working with the machine shook his head. "You should have engaged him longer."

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Chapter 129

Aug

The fact that I'm in Canada right now, with men out in the streets, looking for anyone that has a resemblance with Jake.

"We narrowed it down to the area of Tursujug national park, but no exact location."



My father placed a hand on my shoulder and squeezed. "Do not worry, we'll bring her home soon."

The thought of her being alone, surviving on water alone is daunting right now. "I hope her sanity will be intact when I do find her."

"She is a brave woman," Dad reassured me, "I'm sure she'll be fine when she gets back home."

She was crying during the video call, which means she's far from being okay. "I hope so too."

I sat on the edge of my bed, looking out the window at the setting sun. The room was quiet, shadows lengthening as the day drew to a close. My mind was drifting, thinking about anything but the heavy events of the day, of the fact that Lily was all alone right now, scared to death.

The door creaked open, and Angelo stepped in. His face was tired, eyes dark with the weight of the day. He didn't say anything at first, just walked over and dropped into the armchair in the corner of my room.

"Hey," I said, breaking the silence. "How did it go?"

Angelo sighed deeply, rubbing his hands over his face. "It was going as well as a funeral I could, I guess. Everyone was trying to keep it together. But then..."

"But then what?" I asked, a hint of concern in my voice.

He looked up at me, his expression tense. "Stephanie's mother saw me. She completely lost it."

I frowned. "What happened?"

"She blames you, Ryan," Angelo said bluntly. "She thinks it's your fault that Stephanie took her own life."

I leaned back, processing his words. "Why would she think that?"

"Apparently, she found Stephanie's journal," Angelo explained. "There were entries.

+51%

## Chapter 129

about you, about how you broke her heart. She thinks that's what pushed Stephanie over the edge."

I shook my head, more irritated than anything. "That's ridiculous. We had problems, but I wasn't the cause of her suicide."

sure,

Angelo nodded, his expression sympathetic. "I know, man. But grief makes people look for someone to blame. Right now, you're that someone for her mom."

I sighed, feeling a mix of frustration and resignation. "It's unfortunate, but there's nothing I can do about her feelings. I know I didn't cause this."

"You're right," Angelo said, his voice firm. "You can't take on that guilt. It's not your burden to bear."

There was a knock on the door, but I remained on the bed, staring blankly at the ceiling, lost in my thoughts. The sound of footsteps approached, and the door creaked open. Without looking up, I heard the staff's voice.

"Dinner is ready, Mr. Ryan," she said softly.

I clenched my fists, frustration bubbling up inside me. How could they think of food at a time like this? Lily was still missing, and every moment that passed felt like an eternity.

"Leave," I snapped, my voice harsher than intended. "I'm not hungry."

The staff hesitated for a moment, sensing my agitation, then quickly retreated, closing the door behind her.

As the silence enveloped me once again, I buried my face in my hands, feeling the weight of uncertainty pressing down on me. Lily had been missing for days now, and despite our best efforts, there was still no sign of her. The fear and worry gnawed at my insides, leaving me feeling helpless and frustrated.

I couldn't bear the thought of sitting down to dinner while Lily was out there, somewhere, alone and afraid. Every moment that passed without her safe return felt like a betrayal. We had to find her, and we had to find her soon.

With a heavy heart, I pushed myself off the bed and crossed the room to the window, gazing out into the night. The streets below were quiet, the world seemingly oblivious to the emotions and confusion raging inside me.

I couldn't shake the feeling of guilt that gnawed at me, the sense that I should have

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done more to protect Lily, to keep her safe. But dwelling on regrets wouldn't bring her back. I had to stay strong, to focus on finding her and bringing her home where she belonged.

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## Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

### Chapter 130

RYAN

Day two and I kept looking at my phone, hoping for a message despite knowing **that** Jack clearly said that the message will sent on the third day.

That doesn't make it any better, knowing she is alone. The worst scenarios has been going on in my head. What if she chokes and no one is there to help her, What if she's running a fever and no one is there to help, what if she slips and fall and no one to call an ambulance.

I am slowly losing my sanity and only Lily can revive it. The door opened and Angelo walked in with a food tray.

He paused by the door and sighed deeply. "I don't get why you are starving yourself sir." He mumbled. "I get it that Lily is not here at the moment but getting yourself sick before she gets back is of no use to anyone."

Picking up my phone, I clicked on the screen but nothing, no text, no email.

Angelo walked further into the room. "Sir, this is your lunch, please eat something. If everything should go well, Lily will be home tomorrow."

I moved my gaze to him, my glare hard and intense. "If you have nothing to say to me Angelo, get out."

He took another step forward and dropped the *tray* beside me. "I'm literally begging you bossman."

"Get out!" I roared at him. "I do not want to do something we both will regret. Get out while I'm being nice."

"How about you stop acting like a child and have something in your system!" He fired back. "What is wrong with you Ryan?! For the past two *days* you've had nothing to do, You've seen your kids, all you do is stay in your bedroom and stare at your phone!"

The more he spoke, the more furious I became. "You'll not tell me how to deal with Lily's absence!"

"Your kids needs you!" He retorted, "they can't be missing both their father and mother! Wake the fuck up and do what you're suppose to do **as** a father!"

I glared and he glared harder. "Your mother and father may have been helping to you take care of them, together with the nanny but at the end of the day, the need you."

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He muttered some words under his breath. "Do you even know that Noah cried all night requesting for Lily? Do you know that am has asked your father countless times. his mother is?"

Noah cried all night? How come I didn't hear him cry?  
Running my hands down my face, I sighed.

"We understand the fact that you are grieving, but your children needs you Ryan, and you need to be healthy to be there for them."

Sighing, I reached into the tray and picked up the bottle of water. "Lily is surviving only on liquid and I'm going to take just that."

Angelo scoffed. "I don't think I've seen anyone as stubborn as you are."

Ignoring him, I gulped down the water, dropped the bottle on the floor and rolled off the bed, walking to the window to look out to the busy world outside.

"I'll drop the tray here incase you change your mind."

Angelo mumbled.

I went ahead to ignore him, right until I heard the door close behind him. Leaning my head on the window, I sighed, my shoulders slumping with defeat.

I heard a soft knock on the door and I turned to see my father, Richard, stepping into the room. His face was lined with concern, and I knew what he was going to ask before he even spoke.

"Ryan," he began, his voice low and serious, "have you received the email from Jake concerning Lily's location?"

I shook my head, frustration gnawing at me. "Not yet, Dad. I've been checking my inbox every few minutes, but there's still nothing."

Richard sighed, running a hand through his graying hair. "We need that information, son. The sooner we have it, the sooner we can take action and make sure she's safe."

And he think I don't know that? "Did you come in here to make things harder than it already is?" I hissed at him.

Understanding his mistake, he exhaled heavily. "I apologize for sounding insensitive. Few minutes ago, it's just that the whole thing is taking a toll on everyone."

Licking my lips, I took a deep breath before turning to face him. However before asking the question in my head, I took a deep breath, trying to steady my nerves as I refreshed

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my email yet again. No new messages. The silence was maddening.

"Dad, any news on Jake?" I asked, unable to mask the tension in my voice.

“The people we have on the boat with him are giving us regular updates. They’re keeping a close eye on Jake and his movements.”

That was a small comfort, knowing we had eyes on him. “And the government officials?”

“They’re positioned ahead in the sea, ready to intercept him. They’ll arrest him and ensure he faces justice for everything he’s done,” Richard replied.

I felt a flicker of hope. “Good. The sooner they get to him, the sooner we can make sure he’s held accountable.”

My father

nodded, his gaze steady, “We’re closing in, Ryan. Jake won’t be able to evade much longer. Once he’s arrested, he won’t be able to hurt anyone else.”

capture

I rubbed a hand over my face. “I just want this to be over, Dad. I want Lily back safe and sound.”

Richard walked over and placed a reassuring hand on my shoulder. “We all do, son. And we’re doing everything in our power to make that happen. Just hold on a little longer.”

I nodded, taking some encouragement in his words. “Thanks, Dad. Knowing everyone is on this gives me some peace of mind.”

“We’re family, Ryan. We stand by each other through everything,” he said, his voice filled with conviction. “Lily is family, too. We’ll bring her home.”

I smiled. “Thank you.”

“How about you come see your kids? I believe they’ve missed you.”

Nodding, I followed him out of the room.

As I stepped outside, I was greeted by the sight of my three boys, Noah, Liam, and Ethan, engaged in a spirited game of basketball. Their faces were flushed with excitement, and for a moment, the worries plaguing my mind faded away.

“Hey, Dad!” Noah called out, waving me over. “Come join us!”

I forced a smile, grateful for their enthusiasm, “Sure thing, buddy.”

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I rolled up my sleeves and took my place on the makeshift court. As the game took off, I found myself caught up in the rhythm of **it** all—the sound of the ball bouncing, the feel of the cool breeze on my skin, the laughter of my boys ringing in my ears.

Despite my initial reluctance, I soon found myself fully immersed in the game, the worries of the outside world fading into the background. For a brief moment, all that mattered was the here and now—the simple joy of spending time with my sons.

As we played, I couldn't help but marvel at their resilience and strength. Despite everything they had been through, they still found joy in the simplest of things.

Eventually, the game came to an end, and we all collapsed on the grass, panting and laughing. As I looked at my boys, their faces flushed with exertion and happiness, I knew I had to bring their mother home.

"Thanks for playing with us, Dad," Liam said, his eyes shining with appreciation.

I ruffled his hair affectionately. "Anytime, buddy. You guys are the best teammates a dad could ask for."

As we lay there, catching our breath after our game of basketball, Noah's curiosity **got** the better of him.

"Hey, Dad," he began, his brow furrowing slightly. "Where's Mom? I haven't seen her in a while."

I hesitated, unsure of how to respond. The truth was too complicated for a young mind to comprehend, and I didn't want to burden him with worries he didn't need.

"She went on a trip," I said finally, forcing a smile. "She needed some time away to recharge."

Noah nodded, accepting my answer without question. "Oh, okay," he said, his attention already shifting back to his brothers. "I hope she's having fun."

"Me too, buddy," I replied, pushing aside the guilt gnawing at me. "Me too."

As I watched my boys resume their game, their laughter filling the air once more, I couldn't help but feel a pang of regret for the lie I had told. But in that moment, all I could do was focus on giving them the sense of normalcy and stability they deserved. Lily—

would want us to protect them, no matter what it took. And until she was back home where she belonged, that's exactly what I would do.