Becoming Strangers Again Chapter 61 – 70 TheWorldWideBook

Posted by Adminh, 191

Chapter 61 RYAN I know I shouldn't have said those words and ruined the mood in the car, but I couldn't help myself. I was going to let her go, to give up and let her have the happy ending she deserves with that jerk who calls himself Jake. But after learning that he isn't who he says he is. and that he's been lying to my angel, I became selfish once more, wanting her all to myself. "Sorry if what I said offended you," I apologized sincerely, hoping to mend the tension between us. "I just couldn't help myself." She exhaled tiredly. "It's fine," she replied, her voice tinged with resignation. Needing to shift the conversation to a more positive topic, I decided to discuss the kids, knowing that Lilly's mood would instantly improve. "Liam has a great talent," I remarked, hoping to lighten the atmosphere with a more uplifting subject. She looked at me with curiosity sparkling in her eyes. "Are you talking about the painting?" she asked, seeking clarification. I nodded. "The figures may not resemble us exactly, but he did a remarkable job capturing the essence of human form," I explained, feeling a sense of pride in Lum's talents. Smiling proudly at Liam's abilities, she nodded in agreement. "He's taking lessons, so expect sketches that will be even more accurate மாட் We drove in silence for a while until I decided to break it. I think he inherited that talent from you," I remarked. Lily shot me a surprised glance, her eyebrows arching high enough to touch her hairline, before bursting into laughter. Her laughter billed the car, and I couldn't help but join in, feeling a sense of joy wash over me. In that moment I wished I wasn't driving so 1 could watch her laugh, captivated by the beauty of her genuine happiness. "Are you trying to mock me?" she asked, wiping imaginary tears from beneath her lashes. Just because I drew a human skeleton and it turned our decent doesn't mean I'm an artist I disagreed. "There were other drawings besides the skeleton," I insisted. "You mean the heart? Lungs and other medical drawings?" she countered, shaking her head. "If a gun were pointed to your head and the only way to save vou was if I drew a nice human sketch, you better say your last prayer. Ryan, because that day, you'll be meeting your predecessors "That's because you didn't take your talent seriously argued. "If you had taken up classes like Liam is doing right now, you would have been perfect Her shoulders still shaking from the subsiding laughter, she shook her head. Thank you for the vote of confidence, but I know where I stand when it comes to drawing" she assured me. Respecting her stance, I let the matter drop. Pulling over, we entered the store and began picking out every possible thing we needed for the kitchen, and even some things we didn't need, simply because I didn't want our day together to end. Eventually, our shopping spree came to an end. I gave the delivery man my address before heading back to the car with Lily. "Sorry for stressing you," I apologized as I opened the door for her. She nodded appreciatively and got in Rounding the car, I settled into the driver's seat. What do you say we grab lunch before I take you back to the house? I suggested. Before she could respond, her stomach growled audibly, and I couldn't help but chuckle. Lunch it is, then, I declared with a smile, eager to continue spending time with her. Opting for a nearby restaurant, I parked the car and we walked into the cozy establishment. However, as we approached

a free table, I couldn't help but notice a familiar figure having lunch with a woman. "Isn't that your boyfriend!" I asked Lily, pointing discreetly in their direction. She followed my gaze and her eyes landed on Jake. "I guess he's having dinner with a friend," she remarked casually. With the newfound information I had about Jake, I couldn't help but feel curious about this female friend of his. "Don't you think it's proper to say hello?" I suggested to Lily, planting ideas in her mind. "You're his fiancée, so it's perfectly fine to be introduced to his female friend She nodded, acknowledging the logic in my suggestion. "I know, right?" she agreed, before making her way towards them. "Go get a table for us. I'll join you after saying hello," she instructed me before continuing towards Jake and his friend. Determined not to miss out on the introduction, I slowed my steps and leaned towards Angelo, who had been silently trailing behind us. "I want you to take a picture of that woman and find out all you can about her. I instructed him quietly 1 Chapter fl "Yes, sir, Angela replied promptly. Hastening my pace, closed the distance between Lily and myself just as she reached the table. Our presence cast a shadow over them. and when Jake looked up and saw me, his jaw viubly tightened. "What are you doing here?" he spat out, his tour hostile. Despite the urge to respond, I remained silent, allowing Lily to take the lead in the conversation, knowing that my own words would likely only worsen the tension "I helped him out with something, and we decided to grals lunch together, Lilly explained calmly, her gaze shifting to the other woman. "Who is your fries!" Jake cleared his throat, visibly uncomfortable. "This is Yara," he introduced, "a childhood friend of mine" The tension in the air was palpable, and 1 could sense that Jake's explanation was not sitting well with Lily. "It's nice to meet you, Yara," Lily replied politely, extending her hand for a handshake. However, the stiffness in her posture hinted that she wasn't fully convinced by Jake's claim that Yara was just a chuldlwod friend. Do you stay in Canasta, Yara?" Lily inquired, her tone polite but probing "Why do you ask?" Jake interjected, his tone defensive, but Lily shot him a glare, clearly unimpressed by his interruption "The question was actually for Yard Lily clarited poimedly. "But I'm curious liecause you've never mentioned this childhood friend before, and FI like to hang out with your only friend in the future" "She doesn't stay in Canada, Jake blurted out suddenly, and Lily arched a skeptical brow at his abrupt response

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"She stays in Paris, and she's only here in Canada for a two-day business trip." Something felt off, and Lily would be naive not to sense it. What kind of business are you doing here in Canada?" 1 pressed, my tone firm as 1 directed my question towards Yara. She frowned in response "Is this supposed to be some sort of interrogation?" Yara shot back, glaring at me before turning hier gaze to Jake. "Please don't tell me that your girlfriend is accusing us of something Tru just a businessman trying to ascertain if whatever business you're doing here can benefit me and my company," explained calmly. reaching into my jacket to retrieve my business card. Handing it to her, I introduced myself I'm Ryan Williams, and I love doing. business." Yara studied the card for a moment before looking back at Jake. "When he said business, he meant family business, However, if a business opportunity arises, I won't hesitate to give you a call"

Her words seemed polite enough, but something about her demeanor still didn't sit right with me. "Whatever business you both want to do won't work out," Jake interjected, his tone defensive. "He stays in New York, not in Canaılı" I smiled at him, feeling a sense of satisfaction at his discomfort. "That's outdated news," informed horn. "Because as of three days ago, I started staying here" Jake's frown deepened. "What's that supposed to mean? "It means I moved down to Canada," I clarified, my smile widening. "And you'll be seeing my face quite often from now on" SEND GIFT

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Posted by Adminh, ?

RYAN I was in my home office, handling some of the works at the office that my secretary sent to me via mail when the door to my office opened and Angelo walked in. he plopped down on the sofa and sighed tiredly. "Didn't you hear me ring the doorbell?" Without bothering to move my attention from the laptop. I gave him a fitting response. "I gave you the passcode for a reason. You don't expect me to leave my work just to answer the door." "Then let at least one domestic staff live with you." He suggested. Finally succeeding to drag my attention away from my laptop, I blinked slowly and deliberately at him. "What are you doing here?" He scoffed, a sound heavy with a mix of annoyance and resignation. "Where else should be if not here?" he questioned. "I don't have any friends around, and staying in the cramped quarters is incredibly tedious" Exhaling deeply, I tore my gaze away from the laptop screen once more. "If you find yourself with idle time, then assist me in sorting through the files I've sent to your email, "I didn't bring my laptop, but I have some intriguing information about Jake's purported female companion residing in Paris," he interjected. Once again, he succeeded in capturing my undivided attention. Pushing my chair back slightly, I leaned back and regarded him with a quizzical expression. "What about her?" "For starters, her name isn't Yara," he revealed, prompting a scoff to escape my lips. I couldn't help but wonder why lies seemed to accompany every utterance from his lips. "And she doesn't actually reside in Paris" The magnitude of deception this man has woven around Lily is staggering While Tacknowledge my own shoncomings in our relationship, his deceitful nature surpasses mine by far. "Where does she reside?" I asked. "Here in Canada," he replied, his lips moistened by a nervous flick of his tongue. Leaning forward eagerly, be rubbed his hands together, clearly eager to share the newly acquired information. "She's actually a car dealer here in Canada. Whether she and Jake are truly friends remains uncertain, but one thing is certain-she's not in Paris, nor is she here for any family-related business."" I would rather see Angelo falsely accused of a crime than witness Lily enter into a marriage built on a foundation of deceit. "What's the name of her car dealership!" I inquired. Angelo arched an eyebrow, a hint of amusement flickering across his features. "Why? Are you considering paying her a visit?" "Shouldn't ["I snapped at him as though he is the reason for my problem. "That hastard is up to something and if paying that woman a visit is going to tell me what the f@ck is going on, then I am going to do just that" Angelo shook his head in protest. "I don't think that is a very good idea." He argued, "if you do that, she might go back and alert Jake that you are asking questions about him, and the last thing we want right now is him being extra

cautious "You are not going to change my mind." I stressed adamantly. "Forward her address to me." As the realization settled in that his attempts to sway my decision had fallen on deaf ears, Angelo let out a resigned sigh, the weight of defeat evident in the slump of his shoulders. Retrieving his smartphone from his pocket, he tapped away at the screen with a sense of resignation. Moments later, my own device chimed with an incoming message, signaling his compliance with my request. "Continue your investigation into Jake while I look deeper into his connection with this woman," I instructed. Nodding in agreement, Angelo rose from his seat, a sense of purpose guiding his movements as he made his way towards the door. However, his departure was interrupted by a sudden pause, as if a fleeting thought had momentarily diverted his attention. "Have you had dinner yet? he inquired, a nose of concern lacing his words. Drawing my chair closer to the desk, I refocused my attention on the glowing screen of my laptop. "Not yet, I admitted, a tinge of weariness coloring my response. A scoff escaped Angelo's lips, accompanied by a subtle shake of his head. "Allow me to rectify that," he declared with gentle insistence. I'll arrange for a meal to be delivered to you promptly. It's important that you take care of yourself" He opened the door and walked out while I stared at the closed door, wondering why he just he just behaved as though he is my wife. Chapter 02 The following day, following a Zoom call that seemed to stretch on endlessly. I resolved to take matters visit to the woman in question into my own hands and pay a 1 arrived at the address provided by Angelo, and upon arrival, I couldn't help but be impressed by the expansive size of the establishment. Stepping inside, I was greeted by one of the sales representatives, Casting a brief glance over her petite frame, my attention swiftly returned to the array of cars on display. "Where is your boss?" | inquired, my tone direct. She responded with a diplomatic smile. Tim afraid she's unavailable at the moment, but I assure you, I can assist you in selecting the perfect car." Retrieving my business card from my pocket, I handed it to her. "Inform your boss that Mr. Ryan Williams won't be making a decision until she's present." Her eyes widened in response as she swiftly inspected the card. "I apologize, sir. She'll be with you shortly," she assured me before hurrying off to relay the message. Watching her depart, I settled in to await the woman of interest, A few minutes later, the woman from two days ago entered the room accompanied by another young lady, and her steps faltered as she caught sight of me. Engaging in a hushed conversation, she whispered something to her companion, who appeared slightly bewildered but nodded nonetheless. Approaching me with a polite smile, the woman

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greeted. "Mr. Williams, what a coincidence to encounter ter you here" I do not like this woman. "Yara, isn't it I queried, to which she affirmed with a nod. "Aren't you supposed to be back in Paris?" She maintained her pleasant demeanor. "My client has requested my assistance in selecting a car, and I'll be leaving tomorrow," she explained. "So you're leaving tomorrow?" I pressed further, to which she confirmed: With a steely gaze. I reached into my pocket and confronted her directly. "Tm aware that you don't reside in Paris, and I know you're the owner of this establishment Gesturing towards the other woman. I added, 1 specifically instructed her to contact you." Yara. if that's even her real name, nervously licked her lips as she pondered my question. "What do you want?"

she finally inquired, her voice betraying a hint of anxiety. 'T'd prefer to discuss matters in your office," I replied, offering a sly smile. She hesitated for a moment before turning and leading the way to her office, with me following closely behind. Entering her office, I settled comfortably onto the brown sofa as Yara busied herself with retrieving a bottle of whiskey and two tumblers. As she joined me on the sofa, I wasted no time getting to the heart of the matter. "What is your association with Jake?" | inquired bluntly, Yara paused, a flicker of defiance crossing her features. "What makes you think I'm going to give out that information?" she countered. Tiking my head slightly. I regarded her with a smug expression. Do you realize the lucrative business opportunity that awaits you?" I teased. She blinked in response, clearly taken aback. Imagine the sales potential your company could achieve in a single year, simply by having me mention your company's name during one of our events." Her eyes narrowed in suspicion. "Are you suggesting a shoutout in exchange for information?" she guestioned, her tone guarded. I maintained my composure, meeting her gaze evenly. "What is your connection to Jake Willows?" I pressed. Taking a sip of her drink, she swirled the contents of her glass, avoiding direct eye contact. Tm not sure if what I have with that man could be classified as a business relationship, but he acquired a Lamborghini from us without making payment," she confessed. My eyebrows furrowed in disbelief. "So you simply hand out cars to individuals who promise to pay later?" I queried incredulously, struggling to comprehend her cavalier approach to business. How could an establishment operate under such loose terms and still remain in business? "Not just anyone," she clarified. "He arrived with someone known and reputable in the business world, who offered to cover the payment if Jake failed to meet his obligations on time. It appeared to be a reasonable arrangement, especially considering our recent lack of sales "And who might this reputable individual be?" I asked curiously. Her expression hardened, and she maintained a stony silence for a moment before responding. Whether or not there's a shoutout involved, I cannot reveal that information," she stated firmly. "Why not?" I pressed, seeking to understand her reluctance, #

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Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 63 RYAN The more I look into Jake's affairs, the deeper the pit of frustration I found myself in. How much more dirt was I going to unearth about this scoundrel' The mere thought of it left me seething with anger and vexation. As I paced the floor in my state of agitation, Angelo sat nearby, nonchalantly chewing on a plate of pasta. His deliberate loud chewing grated on my nerves, and I shot him a glare that prompted him to cease his noisy consumption. "What did Yara have to say?" he inquired, breaking the tense silence. Running a hand through my hair in exasperation, I recounted the unsettling information. "Apparently, Jake obtained a Lamborghini without making any payment whatsoever. I revealed, noting the shock that flashed across Angelo's face mirroring my own initial reaction. "But then, it seems that someone of considerable societal influence accompanied him and offered assurances of payment Jake failed to meet his obligations within the agreed timeframe." Shaking his head in disbelief, Angelo continued to eat his meal. "What could be possibly need a Lamborghini for?" he

pondered aloud. "My guess? To impress Lily" I spat bitterly. "Did he truly believe she would be swayed by his ostentatious displays of wealth, or should I say his fabricated lifestyle? The idea that Jake would attempt to win Lily over with material possessions only fueled my frustration. Lily was more than capable of affording a Lamborghini herself if she desired one. "I recall seeing something similar to this before, Angelo muttered through a mouthful of food, waving his phone in my direction Intrigued, I turned to him, urging him to elaborate "He bought her a Lamborghini a few months ago," he explained, prompting my eyes to widen in shock Grabbing his phone from him. I quickly scanned the news article he was referring to. "But why did this become headline news?" 1 demanded, bewildered by the revelation. "It coincided with the announcement of her engagement, Angelo reasoned. "The press seized upon the opportunity to capitalize on the trending topic by publishing both relevant and irrelevant news about them." "Let me get this straight, I began, struggling to comprehend the audacity of Jake's actions. The bastard essentially borrowed at Lamborghini and gified it to her? I shook my head in disbelief. "Why couldn't he have given her something within his means? This is utterly ridiculous." "More than ridiculous," Angelo agreed, lifting the plate in his hand. "Are you sure you don't want anything to eat? I'll take the extra plate if you're truly not hungry." I scoffed at his suggestion. With everything that's going on, do you really think I have the appetite to ingest anything?" I retorted, my frustration evident in my tone. "A man has to eat to survive." Angelo remarked casually, unfazed by my irritation. Just leave me be," I snapped. Without another word, I retreated into my room, swiftly changing into more suitable attire. Grabbing my car keys, I made my way o OUL As I walked out, Angelo paused mid-bite, his fork hovering near his mouth. "Where are you going?" he called after me. "To someone who can help me calm down before I do something I'll regret." I replied tersely, my steps quickening as 1 headed towards the door. At this point, I am more than capable of walking over to that man and committing murder, He nodded solemnly, reaching forward to grab the remote. "My regards to the triplets, he called out as I stormed out, slamming the door behind me in a fit of frustration Arriving at Lily's residence. I parked my car and made my way to the front door. Pressing the doorbell, I anticipated seeing Lily or one of her staff members, but instead, I was confronted with the source of my agitation. My clenched fist, buried within my pocket, tightened angrily at the sight of him. He towered over me, a challenging glint in his eyes. "What are you doing here?" he demanded, blocking my path. Ignoring his question, I pushed past him and entered the house. He followed closely behind, his hand closing around my forearm in a firm grip. I asked you a question," he growled, his voice laced with frustration "What are you doing here?" Chapter 6 As I prepared to push him aside, my gaze shifted, catching sight of Noah observing our interaction from the top of the stairs. I quickly restrained myself, not wanting to escalate the situation in front of my son. "Im here to have dinner with my sons," I stated firmly, glaring at Jake. "Do you have a problem with that?" With a sharp motion. I shrugged his hand away and proceeded further into the room. Just then. Lily emerged from the kitchen, carrying a bowl. She froze in her tracks upon seeing me, blinking slowly in surprise. "What are you doing here?" she asked, her tone cautious "To have dinner." I replied, holding up the bottle of wine I had brought along time you plan to visit, it would be best to give me a call Setting the bowl down on the dining table, Lily approached me. "Next ti beforehand, she suggested gently. Handing her the wine with an apologetic smile, I nodded in

agreement. Tll remember that I assured her, hoping to ease any tension between us. "Dad" Ethan's voice echoed from the top of the stairs, drawing my attention as he raced down to greet me, followed closely by Noah. I welcomed them into my embrace "Where's Liam?" I inquired, scanning the room for him. "He's busy with his homework, Ethan informed me. As if on cue, Liam's voice rang out from upstairs before he joined us, completing our family reunion. I scooped him up in my arms. relishing the feeling of their presence as we made our way to the dining room, where we settled in to enjoy our meal together. Amidst clinking of utensils, I seized the opportunity to broach the topic that had been on my mind "What do you say I get you a new Lambo?" 1 proposed to Lily, aiming to rattle Jake with my unexpected suggestion. Lily's startled reaction was eviden

t as she choked on her food, prompting Jake to quickly come to her aid, refilling her glass with water, and passing it to her. She murmured her thanks before taking a gulp, her composure slightly shaken by my proposition. "Sorry if I shocked you, I offered, sensing Lily's surprise at my unexpected proposal. Her blinking eyes reflected her bewilderment as she questioned. "Why on earth would you think of buying me a Lambor "Because you don't have one," I replied matter-of-factly. "You've given me three beautiful boys. Is there anything wrong with wanting to buy you a car?" Before Lily could respond, Jake interjected, asserting. "She already has one. Thanks for asking, but I can buy her whatever she wants and needs. That's my responsibility Choosing to ignore Jake's comment. I redirected my focus to Lily, determined not to let his presence dampen the mood. "So, do you want it?" I pressed, eager to gauge her response. Shaking her head in refusal, Lily returned to her meal, her voice steady as she declared. "I don't want another Lambo. Like Jake said, he already bought me one." "Really!" I feigned ignorance, turning my attention to Jake. "Remind me again, what is it that vou do for a living!" I challenged, raising an eyebrow in mock curiosity. He let out a scoff in response, clearly irritated by my probing "Ryan, can you please stop being rude? Lily interjected, ber tone sharp with disapproval. "I'm not in the mood for an argument." I licked my lips nervously, toying with the food on my plate. "I'm just curious about how he affords such a car, I explained, resting my elbow on the table. Was the car registered in your name!" "Stop undermining my boyfriend" Lily warned, her voice tinged with frustration. "It's none of your business whether the car he bought is in my name or not. Ed rather you didn't ask silly guestions" Her reference to Jake as her boyfriend" instead of her "tance caught my attention, and I discreetly glanced at her finger, noticing the absence of her engagement ring Against all odds, I found myself smiling internally. If Lily wasn't wearing his ring frequently, it meant that I was making some progress I am indeed doing something right.

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Chapter 64 DIY I know Jake is upset over Ryan's unexpected visit but opted not to voice his concerns for the sake of the boys peace of mind. After a hearty dinner together, Ryan spent some quality time with the boys, engaging in playful hanter and

sharing laughs before deciding it was time to leave. I offered to walk him to his car, to which he happily agreed. "Seriously, Ryan, I began as we strolled towards his car, the crisp night air nipping at our cheeks, "the next time you plan to drop by, a phone call would be appreciated." With his hand tucked snugly into his jacket pocket to shield it from the biting cold, Ryan offered a nod. "How many times do I have to apologize for that?" he queried, his tone tinged with a hint of remorse. "But, truth be told, I did nothing wrong. My only intention is to see you happy, and if that means offering apologies, then I'll do so willingly" Arguing with him would be utterly furile and unnecessary. "Drive safe," I said, turning to head back to the house. However, he caught. hold of my forearm, halting my departure I paused, and turned to face him, meeting his gaze squarely. "Do you have anything else to say?" I inquired, my tone tinged with a hint of resignation. He nodded towards the house. "Why isn't he leaving yet?" he asked, his tone edged with curiosity. Raising an eyebrow at the audacity of his guestion, I shrugged off his hand. "You don't have the right to inquire about my boyfriend's departure." I asserted firmly, driving home the point. "Do not overstep your boundaries Ryan licked his lips, his forehead creased with a furrowed brow. "If he can spend the night or stay this lat late, why can't I?" he countered. "Because you are here for the kids and nothing more," I retorted. "Once the kids fall asleep, which they will soon, you won't have any other reason to stay. But I can't say the same for Jake. He's not only here for the kids, I hope you understand the difference between the two of you "The only thing I understand right now is you trying to upset me with your explanation" Ryan shot back, his voice flat and devoid of emotion Exasperated. I ran a hand down my face. "Why did I even bother explaining things to you?" I muttered, feeling frustration bubbling within me. Ryan scoffed in response, but his emotions were the least of my concerns at that moment. "Good night, Ryan" I said tersely before turning on my heel and hurrying back into the house, leaving him standing alone outside Upon entering the house, I noticed that the boys had already retired to their rooms with the nanny, who was undoubtedly assisting them with their bedtime routines Ascending the stairs. I made my way to each of their rooms, planting tender ki*ses on their foreheads as 1 bid them goodnight. With their evening rituals underway, I set out to locate Jake. Jake. I think he should be leaving too because I am very tired, and I want to sleep. In the game room, I found him engrossed in a game of snooker, the click-clack of the balls echoing in the otherwise quiet space. Leaning against the doorway, I observed him silently for a moment before clearing my throat to announce my presence. He glanced up, the cue stick poised in his hand as he regarded me with a pensive expression. Tm "Aren't you leaving?" I inquired softly, my exhaustion evident in my voice, "I'm feeling quite tired and would like to retire for the night" Ignoring my question momentarily, he continued to play until the last ball found its way into a pocket Dropping the snooker stick, he leaned against the table, folding his arms as he met my gaze with a determined expression "I'm staying the night," he declared firmly. Licking my lips. I nodded in acknowledgment. "You could have simply mentioned your intention instead of brushing me off, I remarked softly, stepping further into the room. With a gentle gesture, I circled my hand around his neck and planted a tender ki*s on his lips. "Goodnight, I murmured, hoping to quell any tension between us. Returning the ki*s, Jake's demeanor seemed different, a subtle shift in his usual response to my ki*s. Sensing his unease, I furrowed my brow in concern. "Is everything okay?" I asked, studying his expression intently, Drawing me

closer to him by wrapping his arm around my waist, he ki*sed my forehead. "Why didn't you mention that he moved Canada? he questioned softly, his tone laced with curiosity and a hint of frustration Realization dawned upon me that his somber mood was partly due to Ryan's presence, but I hadn't anticipated it stemmed from my failure to disclose Ryan's relocation. "I suppose it slipped my mind," I admitted regretfully, hoping to alleviate his concerns. Jake's frustration was evident as he shook his head in disbelief. Things like this shouldn't slip your mind, Lily, he insisted. "Your ex- husband looked me in the face and informed me that I'd be seeing him quite often. Do you realize how embarrassing and irritating that Chapter 54 1 squeezed my eyes shut, attempting to empathize with his perspective. 7 apologize for Ryan's behavior," I offered sincerely, hoping to assage his anger. "He can be difficult at times? His agitation only seemed to escalate as he shook his head adamantly. "I couldn't care less about Ryan's antics, Lily," he growled, his. voice rising in intensity. What angers me is the fact that you were with him and I had to discover his permanent residence through Tm truly sorry, I interjected, hastening to apologize hoping to stop the smoke before it turns into a raging flame.. "I should have informed you, and for that, I apologize sincerely" Jake's frustration seemed to deepen as he stared down at me. Tm not finished," he asserted firmly. Ibraced myself, nodding for him to continue Releasing his hold on my waist, he continued, his tone fraught with irritation. "And why the heck is he showing up unannounced and flaunting his wealth right in front of me! Do you have any idea how infuriated I was during dinner?" His accusation caught me off guard. "How is that my fault?" 1 countered defensively, "I reprimanded him in your presence for his unannounced arrival, and I shut down his attempts to flaunt his wealth. Why are you directing your frustration at me when I clearly took your side?" File ...

're just going to let him behave however he wants, Jake snapped back. "You should have kicked him out of house when he showed up unannounced, and you should have asked him to leave the table when he insulted me. But instead, you brushed it off, which is why he continue to do it." "He was here to see the kids." I gritted out, slowly getting pissed at the argument. "I can't just walk him out. "And that is where the problem lies. He retorted. "He wasn't just here for the kids, he insisted You know that Lily. Yet, you chose to entertain his presence I felt my own irritation rising. "What would you have me do?" I countered. "Set boundaries," Jake exclaimed. "Give him specific days and times to visit the kids. He can't simply show up whenever he pleases" Taking a deep breath to calm myself, I struggled to maintain composure. You have to understand, Jake, I explained, "I deprived him of seven years with his children. It's only natural for him to want to be with them as much as possible. And I'm not going to stand in the way of that." "Of course not," he spat with a disdainful curl of his lip, his tone dripping with contempt, "especially when you seem to derive pleasure from his presence" Feeling utterly drained and mentally fatigued, I wearily shut my eyes, my fingers instinctively pinching the edge of my browsin frustration. "I think I be sleeping in Naoh's room tonight I declared, my voice heavy with exhaustion, before turning on my heel and briskly making my way out of the game room, not even bothering to glance back to see his reaction The sun had already begun its ascent by the time I roused from my slumber. greeted by the news that Jake has already left. As 1 sluggishly went about the motions of dressing for work. I managed to wrangle the boys into their school uniforms before

ushering them out the door. Arriving at the hospital, I dove headfirst into the chaos of my duties, the relentless stream of patients providing a temporary distraction from the craziness of my personal life. During a rare moment of break, I seized the opportunity to reach out to Becky "I thought you ended things with Jake," she stated and I couldn't help but furrow my brow in confusion. "Really?" She blurted out, taken aback by my surprised expression, "no offense on my assumption love." A rueful chuckle escaped her lips as she teased, "Well, it certainly seemed that way." "I only mentioned I wasn't prepared for marriage," I clarified, "but I never hinted at breaking up with him" Becky nodded, her expression thoughtful. "And Ryan?" she probed. My y eyes narrowed in confusion. "What about him!" "Is there anything happening between you two?" she pressed further. Chapter 6 "Absolutely not!" I exclaimed defensively, causing Becky to regard me with suspicion. Im serious. I've made it clear to him that he's just the father of my kids, nothing more." She glanced up from her phone, her gaze meeting the laptop camera. "If there's truly nothing going on between you and Ryan, then Im confident you'll work things out with Jake." Returning her attention to her phone, she added, "Don't stress too much about Her voice trailed off abruptly as she froze mid-sentence." "Becky? What's wrong" I asked with concern as she lifted her gaze. "I thought you said there was nothing going on with you and Ryan?" she blurted out, her eyes wide with disbelief. I could only nod in response "Then why is there a video of you ki*sing him all over the internet?" she continued, her words hitting me like a ton of bricks My heart sank. SEND GIFT

Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 65 LILY If Jake finally picks up my call, I know he'll be beyond furious, and honestly, I don't blame him one bit. Whoever crafted that video conveniently omitted the part where I pushed Ryan away. From the outside, it definitely looks like I was enjoying the whole scenario I've tried calling Jake for the tenth time since discovering that damn video circulating online, but he's steadfastly refusing to pick up Frustration courses through me as each call goes unanswered. Unable to focus on work with the weight of the situation bearing down on me, I make the decision to clock out early. Treating myself to a bottle of wine seems like the best idea right now. Thankfully, I know the kids won't be home Liam has his drawing class, Noah his piano lessons, and Ethan his golf practice. As I pulled into the driveway, my heart sank at the sight of a very familiar car parked in the garage – Jake was already at my place, undoubtedly waiting for me. Taking a deep breath to steady my nerves, I prepared myself for the impending conversation, or rather, the impending argument that was sure to follow Upon entering the house, I found Jake already seated, a bottle of wine between us. "Hey, I greeted him, my smile strained with nervousness. He stared at me with an unsettling absence of emotion, his s expression cold and impassive. "I saw the signs, he remarked, his voice tinged with bitterness, and yet you swore it was nothing" Taking a hesitant step closer to him, I attempted to reassure him. "It is still nothing. I insisted, my voice trembling slightly Finally, a flicker of emotion crossed his face as jake leveled a piercing glare at me. There's a video of you ki*sing your ex-husband, he stated bluntly, his words like a

punch to the gut. "the same man you claimed you had nothing to do with." "He ki*sed me. I blurted out in a rush, desperation lacing my tone as I tried to defend myself. Jake's glare only darkened at my words. "I swear. Jake, I didn't ki*s him back. Whoever recorded that video conveniently left out the part where I pushed him away." Silence hung heavy in the air as Jake continued to stare at me, his fist clenching and unclenching with pent-up frustration. "If anyone told me that you would cheat on me, I wouldn't believe it, he finally spoke, his voice thick with disappointment. "I did not cheat." I sighed, realizing that arguing wasn't the solution at this moment. Taking a deep breath, I closed the distance between us with another hesitant step. Tm sorry that you had to see that video, and Em sorry for even being in such a compromising position with Ryan." "Compromising position?" he scoffed, his tone laced with anger. "So you want me to believe that you aren't sleeping with that man behind my back!! That you weren't f@cking his dick?!" My eyes widened in shock at his hurtful words. "Ill let that insult slide because I know you're hurting, but if you say it again. I won't hesitate to knock some sense into you, I warned, my voice trembling with anger. Ignoring my warning, he continued to spew insults at me. "Why are you upset? Because I spoke the truth?" he taunted, rising to his full height, his imposing figure looming over me. After seeing you ki*sing him like that, you expect me to believe that he is not bending you over and that you are not sucking his dick?" His words cut deep, and without a second thought, I slapped him hard across the cheek. "I understand that you're hurt and upset, but I won't tolerate any more insults from you. I declared firmly, lifting my head high as I fought to control my rising anger. "What do I need to say to make you feel better? What do I have to do to show you how sorry I am for causing you this pain? My gaze locked onto his, searching for any sign of understanding or forgiveness in his eyes. "Let's get married" he announced, and I felt myself freeze in place. "If you're truly sorry and being honest about there being nothing between you and Ryan, then let's tie the knot I took a nervous step back, my mind reeling. "What are you talking about?" 1 stammered, trying to process his unexpected proposal. Closing the distance between us, he looked me straight in the eyes. "You know exactly what I'm talking about, Lily," he said. "If you're sure you have no feelings for your ex-husband, then let's take this step. It's the only way I'll be able to forgive you for what happened and save our relationship" "Have you lost your mind?" I exclaimed, disbelief coloring my words. "I can't believe you think it's right to pressure me into marriage with an ultimatum" "This isn't about ultimatums, he argued, his tone firm. "It's about trust." "Trust?!" I scoffed incredulously. "If you truly trusted me, you would have seen from that video that I didn't reciprocate that ki*s" Chapter 65 "I choose to believe what I saw, Lily," he insisted stubbornly, his tone unwavering "And what I saw was you and Ryan Williams ki*sing, and I refuse to entertain any other possibility just because you said so I clenched my jaw, staring at the man I had been in a relationship with for over a year. "If you're not willing to believe me and take my word for it. I began slowly, the frustration evident in my voice, then maybe we shouldn't even be doing this." His eyes narrowed in anger. "What do you mean we shouldn't be doing this!" I gestured between us with a flick of my finger. "Whatever this is between us," Lclarified, taking a step back as he advanced, "maybe it's better off not happening at all. Trust is a fundamental cornerstone of any relationship, and it's glaringly absent in ours." "And who's to blame for that?!" he exploded angrily, his voice echoing through the room. "Who's responsible for the lack of trust in this relationship? If

you had just listened to me and kept your distance from Ryan like I told you to, none of this would have happened!" I stood there, staring at him, and in that moment, I found myself in agreement without any resistance. "Fine, Lconceded, my voice devoid of defiance. TII take the blame for this failed relationship. I'll take responsibility for not addressing this sooner, for not addressing your insecurities when I should have." I reached into my bag and retrieved his engagement ring. Ti ending it, Jake. It's over. He stared at the ring in my outstretched hand, then back at me, before bursting into laughter, the sound ringing hollow in the tense atmosphere. "So let me get this straight," he chuckled mockingly. "You're the one caught cheating and yet you're still the one breaking up with me?" "I did not cheat on you!" I insisted vehemently, my voice trembling with frustration and hurt. "No matter what you refuse to believe me, but the truth remains-I did not betray your trust." "Shut up. Lily" he barked, his anger boiling over. "You're just looking for an excuse to run back to him, aren't you?" My glare intensified, disbelief and indignation coursing through me. That's absurd," I retorted sharply, my words laced with indignation He leaned in closer, his grip on my shoulder tightening uncomfortably. "You can't just walk away from this, Lily, he spat, his eyes ablaze with fury. "Not after everything I've put into this relationship! Not after all my investments!" My brows furrowed in confusion, my mind struggling to comprehend his claims. "What exactly did you invest!" I challenged, my voice tinged with frustration "Did you finance my education or help me build my c

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areer? Were you there during the difficult moments of our children's birth? Did you perhaps help me carry to them!! What investments are you even talking about?" "I know the investment I've made." he growled. his voice dripping with frustration. "And I don't need to spell it out for you." Before! could muster a response, he yanked me even closer attempting to force a ki*s upon me. Turning my head away from his advances only seemed to further enrage him. He tried again, but I fought against it with all my strength, pushing against him in a desperate attempt to break free. Let go of me!" 1 screamed amidst the struggle, my voice echoing with fear and defiance. Finally managing to break free from his grasp, I recoiled in shock. "Have you lost your mind?!" I velled at him, my heart pounding in my chest "Yes, I have lost my mind" he admitted bluntly, as he reached for me abruptly again, his grip tightening on my hand as he tried ance more to pull me towards him. Frantically, I continued to resist, screaming and yelling at the top of my lungs, praying that my security team outside would hear my cries and rush to my aid I was still struggling when suddenly. I felt a release from Jake's hold. Opening my eyes, I was met with the shocking sight of Jake pinned to the floor, Ryan delivering furious blows upon him. In the blink of an eye, their positions reversed, Jake managing to flip Ryan over and retaliate with equal force. Despite my desperate pleas for them to cease the violence, the altercation persisted, escalating into a full-blown brawl. It took the intervention of my security team, summoned from outside, to Enally separate them. Even then, Ryan continued to struggle against their hold, his rage still palpable. "When a lady says no, it means no, you crazy bastard!" Ryan shouted vehemently, his voice filled with righteous anger as he strained against the security

guards. "And who are you to tell me how to handle my fiancée? Jake spat back, his tone dripping with resentment. "Haven't you caused enough problems in our relationship already?" "Ex-fiancée," I corrected wearily, letting out a tired sigh. "I think it's best for you to leave." "You heard her," Jake spat at Ryan, his voice seething with anger. "Get out" Chapter 65 1 wasn't talking to Ryan," I clarified, meeting Jake's glare head—on. "Please leave, Jake, and don't come back because there's no reason for you to be here." "Do I need to break free for you to leave? Ryan shot back defiantly. "This isn't over, Jake growled at me, his eyes blazing with fury. "You can't just end things, Lily. This relationship isn't over until I say it is," "Just go, Jake." I urged. His feral eyes darted around the room, filled with a menacing intensity. "Il leave," he conceded grudgingly, his words laced with a chilling promise. "But I'll be back" With that, he kicked the wine boule on the floor, shattering it into pieces, before storming out and slimming the door behind him. SEND GET

Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 66 RYAN As I stormed into the room and witnessed the scene, my blood boiled with rage. Sering that scoundrel holding Lily against her will, my instincts took over, and without a second thenight. Icharged at him, fueled by a primal need to protect her. Though he didn't succeed in whatever despicable act he had in mind, the mere saght of lam touching her without consent was enough to ignite a fire within me. I clenched my fists, my mind already formulating plans for justice. He would pay for his actions, no doubt Lidecided to take legal action. Assault charges seemed fitting for his vile behavior, and I would make sure be paid dearly for it. 1 envisioned him spending countless nights behind bars, his bank account drained by hail and legal fees Leaving the room momentarily to grab a bottle of water, I returned to find fally sitting in the living room, her gaze vacant as she stared at the television. Without a word, I handed her the water "Here," I said softly, passing her the hole. She looked up at me, then at the water before she accepted the water. Sitting down beside her, I watched as she drank, a lump forming in my throat at the sight of her distress. As Lily finished the water, I gave her a moment to gather hervell before gently asking. "Are you okay?" She met my gaze belly before sighing heavily and diverting her attention to her finger, where her engagement ring used to be. Ifer hand absentmindeilly traced the spot, a silent reminder of the jam she had endured. "Tim line," she mumbled, her vore barely above a whisper, as she rose from the sofa. "You can leave now? Instinctively. I reached out for her land, rrising to let her face this alone. "I will i chave you cry over that scandag" Finsisted, pulling her back down onto the sofa beside me. Her glare pierced through me, but held her gaze firmly. "I cried over a scumbag like you, why shouldn't I cry for a lesser scumbag like him?" she retorted, pulling her hand away from my grip. "Besides, he acted out of anger and frustration. What did you out over?" Her words stung like a slap to the face, and for a moment, I was at a loss for words. She was right. My own actions had caused her pain, and 1 had no right to julge oilers for theirs however, this isn't about nor, "Im sorry." I whispered, the words heavy with sincerity. Thever meant to hurt you. I know I've made mistakes, but I'm trying to better but then this isn't about me," I insisted. Tam not the

one forcefully trying to ki*s you or do whatever to you" She bit her inner cheek, a futile attempt to hold back the emotions threatening to engulf her. Instinctively, I reached out to offer her comfort with a bag, but my gesture was met with a push, her eyes blazing with fury "This is all your fault she accused, her voice trembling wi ki*sed me psuppressed rage. "You are the reason he acted like that? If you hadn't he wouldn't have reacted like that, and we wouldn't have broken up?" I silently allowed her to vent out her anger "You stirred his insecurities and made him react like that to that video! she continued, her voice rising with each accusation. "You shouldn't even have ki*sed me, knowing that I was engaged in another man!". "Why didn't you tell him?" I asked, my voice solt and calm, Her furious gaze snapped back to me. "You had ample time to tell him about the ki*s, but you didn't. Why?" 1 Why?" 1 pressed gently. "Are you saying this is my fault?" she retorted, her fare contorted with anger. "Are you in any way saying that I could have prevented this by telling him? "All I'm trying to say ay is that you didn't tell him because you weren't entirely against what I did," Lresponded, searching her gaze for any hint of truth, "swear to me that you didn't feel anything when I ki*sed you." She scoffed, her bitterness evident in every word. The only thing I felt was anger, she spat. "Anger for giving you the leverage to behave in such a manner. And I didn't tell Jake about it not for the twisted reason you think, but because I didn't want to hurt him. But I guess in the end, I still shit" "Do you regret it?" I asked her in a hushed tone, my voice barely above a whisper, "Very much," she replied firmly, her words laced with bitterness. "I regret not pushing you into that lake that night after you ki*sed me Despite the seriousness of the conversation and the tension in the room, I couldn't help but laugh at her unexpected response. "I wasn't Chapter 6 referring to the ki*s, Lily," I clarified, trying to steer the conversation back to the heart of the matter. "I was talking about your breakup with Jake. Do you regret it!" She fell silent for a moment, her gaze distant as she contemplated her answer. "The kids are going to miss him, she admitted finally, her voice tinged with sadness "And you?" I pressed gently, wanting to understand her emotions. "I will miss him too," she muttered under her breath, her words barely audible. "I can't believe we broke up over that video" Shaking my head, I reached for the remaining water in the bottle. "I don't think you both broke up over that video" I remarked, my tone thoughtful "I was merely the last nail in the coffin, so to speak." She glanced at me, the fire in her eyes dimming slightly, replaced by a flicker of curiosity. "What do you mean by that?" she asked, her voice softer now, your engagement ring a while ago, I I kept my gaze fixed on her finger, where her engagement ring used to be. "I noticed you removed you began carefully, "and you started referring to him as your boyfriend" She followed my gaze to her ring finger, a shadow passing over her features as she processed my words. "No offense to you, Lily." I continued, "but no woman in a happy relationship will act in such a way Licking her lips nervously, she leaned back against the sofa, her gaze drifting to the chandelier above. "I was really hoping things would work out between us, she admitted sofily. Despite my own reservations, I couldn't help but feel a pang of sympathy for her. "You did the right thing by breaking up with him." I stated, hoping to reassure her She rolled her eyes at my words, clearly annoyed by my assertion. "Don't ever

think of going back to him" I added. Her right brow arched in disbelief, offended by my remark "And who are you to tell me that?" she demanded, her voice filled with defiance. I took a deep breath, steeling myself for her reaction as I prepared to reveal the truth about Jake Willow, "There are things about Jake Willow that you don't know. I began. my voice steady despite the turmoil brewing within me. Interest piqued. Lily leaned forward, her eyes fixed on me with curiosity. "And what do you know about the man I dated that I don't know?" she asked, her tone tinged with skepticism Before I could respond, she continued. "Why are you even looking into him to discover things?" "He was going to act as a father to my kids, of course 1 should know the kind of man he is I replied, uncorking the bottle and taking a gulp of water to calm my nerves before continuing. He claimed to have graduated from UIA, but the only Jake Willows who graduated from UIA died a few weeks after his graduation." Her eyes widened in shock, her breath catching in her throat as she struggled to process my words. "What are you talking about!" she whispered. "That's not all, I continued, my voice somber as I delved further into my discoveries. "The place he claimed to be working here in Canada, he doesn't work there. Lily tilted her head, eyeing me skeptically "And what do you mean by shat?" she asked, her tone guarded. "There's no doubt that there is a Jake Willow in that office building, I explained, "but he's not the one. There's someone else using his name. Her hands, which had been resting on the sofa, tightened their hold, her knuckles turning white with tension. "And what other silly thing did you learn?" she asked. "Yara," I mused, watching as her expression shifted from skepticism to disbelief as she scoffed bitterly: "She isn't his childhood friend, she doesn't stay in Paris, and her name isn't Yara-it's Sarah" She licked her lips nervously, a hollow laugh escaping her lips. "Are you trying to tell me that he's cheating on me with that woman?" I shook my head, clarifying my earlier statement. "I never said that he is cheating on you. If he is. I do not know. However, Sarah is a car dealer here in Canada. "A car dealer?" she blurted out, visibly stunned by the revelation, I nodded. "Yes, a car dealer. And Jake bought a Lamborghini from her without making payment, and I believe it is the same car he gifted Chapter 66 you." Her lips smacked together in disbelief as she processed the information. "Why would he buy a car on credit?" she wondered aloud, her brow furrowing with confusion. "I don't know, Lily," I admitted, sharing in her frustration. "I'm yet to find out the full story. However, the woman only gave him the car because he came with someone influential who promised to pay if he doesn't meet the payment deadline She glanced at me. "And who is this person!" "I don't know yet, but I will find out," I assured her. Exhaling shakily, Lily rose to her feet. "I want you to stop looking into Jake," she demanded. The isn't your business anymore, so stop being a nuisance and a busybody." Her words stung, but I knew she was speaking from a place of hurt and vulnerability. I watched as she grabbed her purse, her movements tense with emotion. "Whenever you're ready to leave, I'm certain you can find your way out," she added coldly before turning on her heel and walking away, likely retreating to her bedroomL # SEND GIFT

Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 67 LILY It's been a full twenty-four hours, and i still find it difficult to believe what Ryan told me about Jake. It's one thing to cheat, and it's another thing to be about every damn thing, like literally everything Rubbing my hand down my face. 1 let out a long sigh, feeling the weight of the whole situation pressing down on me Becky, who had been staring at me with pity, remained silent, unsure of what to say in the face of such betrayal. "So what's the plan?" she finally asked, breaking the silence with a hesitant voice. "Are you going to confront him?" I turned my gaze lazily back to the screen, my mind still reeling from the limbshell dropped by Ryan. "Confront who? Jake?" I asked incredulously, my disbelief evident in my tone. When she nodded in response, I shook my head slowly. How can I confront him when I don't even believe what Ryan told me?" Becky tilted her head in contemplation, her brow furrowed with concern. "He has no reason to lie to you," she pointed out gently. I couldn't help but scoff at her naivety. "He has every reason to lie against Jake, I argued, frustration bubbling up within me. "Let's not pretend as if Ryan hasn't always wanted me to end my relationship with Jake." Her expression softened as she tried to understand my perspective. "So you think Ryan is lying?" "To be honest. Becky, I don't know what to believe anymore," I admitted, feeling the weight of my confusion settle over me like a heavy shroud. The bell in my office chimed, interrupting our conversation, and I sighed inwardly, realizing that I needed to focus on my work instead of wallowing in the aftermath of my ended relationship with Jake. "Thave to go, Becky. There's an emergency at the hospital that I have to attend to." She nodded understandingly, concern etched into her features. "Do you think you're in the right frame of mind to work?" she asked gently, her voice laced with genuine care. "My mind is stable enough to work," I reassured Blecky, appreciating her concern but knowing that throwing myself into any job was the best distraction from the chaos in my personal life. I love you gid, and I'll speak to you later? She smiled warmly in return. "Just know that whatever decision you decide to take in regards to this, I have your back in every way" "Thank you," I replied gratefully, feeling a surge of gratitude for her support. With a final nod of acknowledgment, I reached forward and disconnected the call. Grabbing my jacket, I made my way out of my office, my mind already racing with thoughts of what to do next After work, I found myself on my way home, the events of the day swirling around in my mind. Suddenly, something clicked in my brain, and without hesitation, I changed direction and headed for Jake's workplace. Instead of succumbing to uncertainty, constantly questioning who was telling the truth and who wasn't, I decided to take matters into my own hands and seek out the truth for myself. Pulling over at the company where he claimed to work. I walked into the building and approached the receptionist with a relaxed smile. "Good evening, ma'am, I greeted her politely. "I am here to see Mr. Jake Willows." Although her attention was divided between the computer i screen and me, she responded nonetheless. "Do you have an appointment with him?" she inquired, her tone professional yet courteous "Yes," I replied confidently. "I spoke with him over the phone about acquiring a property, and he told me to head over to his office" She glanced at her computer screen, quickly checking for any scheduled appointments. "Sure" she said after a moment, her gaze returning to me. "His office is on the first floor, the first office on your left." Smiling appreciatively at her assistance, I thanked her before making my way towards the elevator. Stepping inside. I pressed the button for the first floor. As the elevator doors slid open, 1 stepped out and

followed the receptionist's directions. As I stepped outside the door of the office I was directed to, my eyes immediately fell on the name tag affixed to the door: Jake Willows Taking a deep breath to steady my nerves, I knocked lightly before pushing the door open and stepping inside. An older man, though not too old, looked up from his laptop as I approached him. He regarded me with a guizzical expression, dearly taken aback by my unexpected presence. "You aren't the one I was expecting to see," he pointed out, his tone polite but slightly puzzled. "You clearly aren't Ms. Gladdas, and she is the one I'm supposed to be meeting right now," he continued, his brow furrowing with confusion. Without waiting for him to offer, I took a seat in one of the leather chairs opposite his desk and crossed my legs, determined to make the most of this unexpected encounter. "Apologies for the inconvenience," I said smoothly, flashing him a reassuring smile. "But I promise not to take up much of your time. Folding his hands on the desk. Jake Willows regarded me with a mixture of curiosity and suspicion. "How may I help you?" he inquired. his tone polite but guarded. Tm Dr. Lily, and I have just a few questions for you," I replied, trying to keep my voice steady despite the nerves churning within me. He arched a skeptical brow. "If you're a doctor, why are you doing the work of a detective?" he asked, his gaze piercing as he searched for I offered him a wry smile. "More like the actions of a scorned woman, I admitted with a shrug. "You are Jack Willows, right?" 1 continued, redirecting the conversation back to the matter at hand. He nodded, confirming his identity. "Yes, I am." "How long have you worked here?" I asked, my mind racing with possibilities. "Almost twenty years now," he replied without hesitation, his tone matter-of-fact That meant he should be familiar with everyone who worked in the building. With a sense of determination, I retrieved my phone and pulled up a picture of Jake, sliding it across the desk towards him. "Have you seen this man in this building before?" I inquired, my heart pounding in my chest as I awaited his response. He glanced down at the photo, furrowing his brow in concentration. After a moment, he looked back up at me. "A few times outside the building, but never inside, he answered, sliding the phone back to me. "Why do you ask?" "I was told he works here, which is why I came to confirm, I explained. The young man shook his head, his expression apologetic. "I don't know who that is but one thing I can say to you right now is that he doesn't work here. Fury bubbled up inside me at Jake's deceit, but I forced myself to remain composed. Standing to my feet, I picked up my phone from the desk and shoved it back into my purse. "If anyone asks questions about my presence here today, please, I need you to say that I was never here" He observed me in silence for a moment before nodding in understanding. "Fine," he agreed reluctantly "Thank you." I murmured, my voice tight with emotion as I turned to leave the office. With each step I took, the weight of the truth bore down on me, threatening to crush me beneath its unforgiving we

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ght. Stepping outside into the cool evening air, I made my way to my car, feeling a sense of overwhelming exhaustion wash over me. Sliding into the driver's seat, I gripped the steering wheel rightly, leaning forward to rest my head against it as I struggled to catch my breath. Who exactly are you, Jake?" I whispered to myself. Exhaling shakily. I inserted the key into the ignition and drove out of the company's

driveway, my mind consumed with thoughts of betrayal and deception. Instead of heading back home, I made my way to Ryan's place. "At least they say the devil you know is better than the angel you don't, I muttered to myself as I pulled over at Ryan's garage. Stepping out of the car, I dragged my feet over to the door and pressed the doorbell. feeling a sense of exhaustion weighing me down. A few minutes later, Ryan opened the door shirtless, his eyes scanning my face slowly as he took in my tired appearance. "Can I come in?" I asked wearily, my voice heavy with emotion He nodded silently, opening the door wider to usher me inside. I walked in and sat down heavily on the nearest chair, feeling the weight of the day's events bearing down on me. Ryan moved to sit down next to me, his expression filled with concern. I couldn't help but glare at his bare chest, feeling a surge of irritation rise within me. "Can you at least wear a shirt?" I snapped. He glanced down at his exposed torso and chuckled softly. It's not like it's something you haven't seen before he teased, his tone light "I'm in no mood for your jokes, Ryan," I replied firmly, my tone leaving no room for argument. "It's either you go wear a shirt or I leave." Chapter 67 He winked at me playfully before sauntering off. A few minutes later, he returned wearing a shirt, his expression more serious now. "What's up" he asked, taking a seat beside me. "Did something happen?" Exhaling tiredly, I shook my head, uncertain of whether to involve him in my problems. "Nothing happened," I replied evasively "How busy are you going to be this weekend?" I asked, changing the subject abruptly. Ryan tilted his head, sensing the shift in conversation. "Do you need my help with something?" he inquired, his eyes searching mine for answers "Just answer the question, Ryan," I pressed. He shook his head, a knowing smile tugging at the comers of his lips. I don't have much going on this weekend, why?" he replied, crossing his legs as he waited for my response. "You want me to accompany you somewhere?" "No, I stated firmly, facing Ryan squarely. "I want you to watch the kids this weekend" His eyes narrowed with suspicion. Don't get me wrong, I'd love to spend time with my kids this weekend, but I want to know where you're going," he insisted. "None of your business," I replied flatly, feeling a surge of irritation at his probing questions. "So, are you looking after them or not?" "Of course, I am. They're my kids," he replied without hesitation, his expression softening with affection. "Thank you." I murmured, feeling a sense of relief wash over me. Without waiting for a response, I turned on my heel, grabbed my bag, and headed towards the front door. ##

Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 68 Pulling over at the hotel I had reserved prior to the trip. I took a long, sootlung shower to wash away the stress of travel. Afterward, 1 indulged in a quiet dinner, savoring each bite as I musilled over the events that had led me to this point. Once I was settled in my room, I pulled out my plone, intending to simply browse aimlessly to distract myself from the weight of my tanglin However, fate seried to live other plans, as I somehow found myself on Jake's social meilia account.. Overtime. Had never looked deep into luis account Sure, I knew his handle and had skinned through his posts and pictures a few times, hou Had never really examined it in an investigative manner. But now, Laced with the possibility that he had been lying to me about his past,

I lega scrolling through his profile, scrutinizing each post and photo with scrutiny I kept scrolling until I got to the first post that was made in his account which was just a year old. It was at was at that point that I realized the account was only created a year ago, which means there is a possibility that he created the account just to make me believe the fact that he is truly Jake Willows Sighing. I dropped the phone screen down on the bed, covered my body with a chavet and went to sleep, hoping that I will get the information about Jake Willows tomboLTOW, The next day, I got dressed in black suit, complimenting g it with a white shirt. I booked a taxi which drove me down to the university. Before T schedulest visit, I managed to establish contact with art individual within the university administration who was well-versed in the language of transactions. After some negotiation, be agreed to assist me in accessing the records, despite the dubious nature of my repiest, in exchange for a handsome monetary reward. It was a precarious arrangement, considering my lack of affiliation with the Upon arrival at the university, I settled the fare with the taxi driver and made my way onto the campus grounds. There, I was met by the man I had arranged to meet, and together, we proceeded to his office As he inserted a flash drive into his laptop, he inquired about the purpose behind my request. "Why do you need access to the reconly? he queries "I simply wish to verify whether a friend of mine indeed attended dis institution replied, concealing the true extent of my motives Mr. Landon swiveled the laptop towards me, his tone grave. "Under no circumstances can anyone discover our collaboration," he cautionril, his eyes piercing with seriousness. "Il wood of this gets out. I'll deny any involvement, even if it means disavowing knowledge of you, ma'am. And should you face legal repercussions, I'll never acknowledge this meeting Ignoring his warning. I focused on the task at hand, typing "Jack Willow" into the search bar. A picture of Jack Willow materialized on the screen, but it wasn't the Jack that I know. "May I obtain a copy of this?" Laskeel. Mr. Landon cleared his throat uncomfortably. That would require additional compensation. Lifting my head defuntly, I met his gaze. "Why should I pay extra for a document I've already paid handsomely for? Releasing the mouse, Holded my hands and stared him down. "You'll provide me with this hle without any extra cost," "And if I refuse?" he challenged. With a chuckle that echoed lightly in the ulice, I maintained a deliberate pace, blinking slowly at the man before me. "My offer of payment stemmed from a moment of generosity, but if you harbor doulas regarding my capacity to secure this file without your assistance, perhaps invoking the name of Ryan Williams will sway your convictions?" His eyes, now narrowed with skepticism, betrayed a reluctance to entertain my chims. "Are you suggesting that you possess connections, to someone as formidable as Ryan Williams?" Undeterred by his doubt, I maintamed a calm demeanor, ready to luck my words with action. "Would you like me to make a call to confirm?" I proposed, the hint of a challenge lacing my words, After a brief pause, during which the tension in the room seemed to thicken, he exhaled heavily, his resolve visibly waning. "Very well, you may have access to the file." With practiced efficiency, I inserted my flash drive into the port, initiating the process of copying the coveted document. "Do you know any information regarding the whereabouts of Jake Willows family?" I inquired. His response was measured, revealing a hint of reluctance. "They are known to reside in the vicinity behind the central hospital." Chapter 68 Rising to my feet, I retrieved my purse, expressing gratitude for his time and cooperation. "Thank you for your assistance." I acknowledged. His smile was

warm as he responded, "It was a pleasure doing business with you, ma'am. Should you find yourself in similar predicaments in the future, feel free to reach out to me." "I certainly hope such situations do not arise," I replied, a note of weariness creeping into my tone. The thought of sacrificing precious time with my children to pursue investigations was unsettling. Thank you again for your assistance" Though he offered to escort me out of the university, I politely declined, opting to make my exit alone. Stepping out into the crisp air, I hailed another taxi and instructed the driver to take me to the central hospital. As the cityscape blurred past the window, I thought about the penalty for impersonation. Considering reporting Jake Willows for his deception is understandable given the extent of his deceit, but it's important to weigh the consequences and consider alternative courses of action before proceeding. Confronting him directly or seeking closure through other means may also be viable options. Arriving at the hospital, I found myself contemplating the potential repercussions of reporting Jake Willows. While a part of me yearned for retribution for his deception and disregard for my trust, I couldn't shake the nagging uncertainty of the situation. Arriving at the hospital, I found the drive shorter than expected. Stepping out of the taxi, I walked through the bustling surroundings to locate the Willow family's residence. Engaging with locals, 1 gathered information until I eventually pinpointed their house, response that awaited me. The door swung open, revealing an Ascending the porch steps, I rang the doorbell, steeling myself for the res elderly woman whose resemblance to Jake Willows was unmistakable Offering her a warm smile, I greeted her respectfully. "Good day, ma'am. She regarded me with a hint of wariness, her gaze scrutinizing "Good day. How can I help you?" she responded cautiously "Are you Ms. Willows!" I inquired, and she nodded, albeit with a hint of skepticism. "I was a friend of Jake's back in college, but I had to move to Canada" At the mention of her son's name, her expression darkened, and she frowned, "And she prompted, her tone guarded, "Would it be possible for me to come in!" I pressed gently, Eyeing me skeptically, she hesitated before relenting and opening the door wider. Stepping into the living room. I waited until she gestured for me to take a seat. "If you don't mind my asking what happened to Jake? I've been trying to reach him for guite some time, I inquired Her face clouded with sorrow as she delivered the devastating new

s. "Jake is no longer with us," she revealed, her voice tinged with sadness. "He passed away shortly after his graduation in a motorcycle accidentTM A sad chuckle escaped her lips as she blinked back tears. "Whenever I encounter people claiming to be his classmates, I can't help but wonder what he might have become, she mused, her voice heavy with grief and nostalgia Reaching out, I gently clasped her hand in mine, offering a gesture of comfort. Tm truly sorry to hear about your loss," I murmured softly. The mere thought of losing one of my own sons sent a shiver down my spine. "If it's not too much to ask, could you show me where he was laid to rest?" I requested, my voice filled with empathy. She nodded silently. "It's just a few minutes walk from here," she replied, her tone heavy with sorrow Together, we made our way to the gravesite. Standing before the marker, I gazed down at the final resting place of the young man whom Jake had impersonated. "I'm deeply sorry that someone felt the need to assume your

identity," I offered, a pang of guilt tugging at my conscience. "While I can't fathom his reasons for such deception, I will ensure he faces the consequences" As the woman avened her gaze, I discreetly snapped a photograph of the gravestone. Returning to her apartment, I penned a check, a small token of remorse and support. "I know this won't bring your son hack," I acknowledged, handing her the check, "but I hope it can offer some assistance to you and your family during this difficult time." Shocked by the unexpected gesture of generosity, she stepped forward and enveloped me in a heartfelt hug. Thank you," she whispered, her voice trembling with emotion. Deciding against returning to the hotel just yet, I opted to unwind with a drink at a nearby cafe. Lost in contemplation, I found myself joined by a random young lady at my table. We exchanged greetings before returning our attention to our respective phones, respecting Ħ SEND GIFT Chapter 68 each other's privacy. As I pondered the evidence I had gathered, I found myself in a state of dilemma. Was sending him to jail the right course of action! Perhaps I owed it to myself to uncover the reasons behind his deception before making a final decision. Raising my head. I directed my gaze towards the young lady seated across from me. Imagine discovering that someone you've been in a yearlong relationship with has been lying to you about everything, including their job and their name," I asked, seeking her perspective. Her eyes widened in response, shock evident in ber expression. "If you were in were in my shoes, what would you do, especially considering I have evidence that he's been impersonating someone?" I inquired, seeking her advice. "I think you should confront him," she replied without hesitation. I wrinkled my nose in contemplation. "You really think so?" She nodded emphatically. "Yes, absolutely. You deserve to hear his side of the story" I couldn't help but wonder what kind of excuse or explanation he would offer.

Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 69 RYAN As Lily had been gone for three days. I grew increasingly anxious. I'd tried calling her countless times, each attempt met with the frustrating sound of an unanswered phone Panic began to gnaw at the edges of my mind, imagining all sorts of temible scenarios. Had she been in an accident? Was she okay? Finally, that night, just as I was about to call the authorities, my phone lit up with her name on the screen and she spoke with the boys Liam ever the stickler for rules, immediately launched into a tirade about my lack of skill in their favorite video game. That's not how it's done, Dad?" he yelled, frustration evident in his voice. You're supposed to move it towards Ethan, not away from him. I told you this already Suppressing a laugh at his serious expression. I nodded earnestly. "You're night, buddy Daddy's just getting old, you know? It's getting harder to keep up with you young whippersnappers" With a dramatic sigh. I corrected my mistake in the game, moving the ball to the correct line. There you go, Liam Happy now! He rolled his eyes, but a small smile tugged at the corners of his lips. "Yeah, much better. But serioudy, Dad, you need to practice more." As Ethan defily moved the ball to Noah, who in turn passed it to Liam, the game flowed smoothly. I found myself gradually getting the hang of it. thanks to their patient explanations and encouragement. We played for hours, the competitive spirit driving us to keep going

until exhaustion finally set in for the boys, and they trudged off to their room for the evening. Once I was certain they were tucked in and sound asleep. I made my way to the mind bar feeling a mix of exhaustion and anticipation. As I poured myself a drink, my mind wandered back to Lily. She had promised to return today, but I still hadn't heard from her since her brief FaceTime call. The worry that had been gnawing at me all day resurfaced, threatening to consume me once again. Taking a sip of my drink, 1 reached for my phone, fingers trembling slightly as I dialed her number for what felt like the hundredth time. Still, there was no answer, and a sinking feeling settled in the pit of my stomach Just as I was about to give in to panic, the front door swung open abruptly, and Angelo, strode in Without a word, he joined me at the bar, pouring himself a drink with practiced ease. He settled into the seat next to me, his eyes fixating o on me intently. "Are you alright" he inquired, concern evident in his voice 1 let out a heavy sigh, my gaze dropping to the contents of my glass, Lily and Jake, they re no longer together. I divulged to him. A small smile played at the corners of his lips. "Isn't that a positive development?' he questioned gently. Why the long face!" I took a moment before responding gathering my thoughts T. I confessed to Lily about Jake's deceit. I confessed. His expression turned serious, a frown forming on his face. Since then, she's been completely unreachable "He took a slow sip of his drink, contemplating my words. Perhaps it wasn't the right time to reveal everything" he mused, leaning in closer and crossing his legs. "I understand it's dißßrult to hear, but I believe Lily genuinely cared for him Learning the truth like this will undoubtedly devastate her, and she'll need ample time to process and heal." That guy never deserved her, I muttered under my breath, frustration evadent in my tone. "It's actually a good thing that they've decided to part ways, in this manner, you can finally breathe a sigh of relief without constantly fretting over him, he commented "I don't believe this is the end of it," I murmured, a slight frown creasing my brow as a persistent notion gnawed away at me. "I just have this persistent feeling that once Lily fully comprehends the extent of his deception, she'll be compelled to go after him." Angelo's eyebrows shot up in surprise, his expression reflecting a blend of incredulity and apprehension "Do you genuinely think she's capable of mustering the courage to go after him?" "Do you have any inkling of what it feels like to endure betrayal twice from someone you held dear!" I posed the question to him, a somber undertone coloring my voice. "I can't shake this unnerving sensation that shell tap into the lingering resentment from my past behavior and channel it into seeking retribution against him." "Damn," he murmured softly under his breath, his eyes widening with a sudden realization. He drained his glass and hurried off to refill it, the ice cubes clinking against the sides. "Maybe it's time you had a heart-to-hear with her. he suggested upon his return, his voice tinged with concem. "Encourage her not to pursue him any further, and if he persists, make it clear that you'll step in and handle the Chapter 69 situation on her behalf. I rolled my eyes inwardly at the suggestion, knowing all too well how stubborn Lily could be. My phone buzzed loudly against the countertop, drawing my attention away from our conversation. With a guick glance, I saw Lily's name flashing on the screen. A grin spread across my face at the sight of her message, but before I could respond, Angelo leaned in to peer over my shoulder. "What's got you smiling like that?" he asked, his curiosity piqued. I pushed him away. I opened Lily's message and read the simple question: "WHAT IS YOUR EVENING LIKE A puzzled expression crossed my face as 1 remembered she had used the same line before

leaving the kids with me and disappearing the last time. Tm here for you whenever you need me, Lily. What's on your mind?" I swiftly replied, eager to offer my support. "Get dressed and meet me. her message came through, prompting me to act quickly. I stood up from the stool and drained the last drop before heading upstairs for a speedy shower. The water cascaded over me, refreshing and invigorating as I washed away the day's worries. Dressed in record time, I made sure to inform the nanny to keep an eye on the boys before rushing out the door and driving straight to Lily's house. Upon arrival. I found Lily waiting outside her gate, her Lamborghini parked nearby, gleaming under the streetlights. Stepping out of my car. I approached her, my curiosity piqued by the sight of the luxury vehicle. "What's going on?" 1 inquired, sensing there was more to the situation than met the eye. "I'm returning the car," she stated with determination. "I need you to come with me to Jake's place so I can hand it back to him. I don't trust him not to try anything foolish or reckless," she explained. I scrutinized her closely, my mind buzzing with questions. "Why are you returning the car?" I asked, unable to hide my confusion and curiosity. Where had she been all this time, and what was she up to? She shot me an incredulous look. "Are you seriously asking me why I'm returning a car that wasn't even paid

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for? she countered, shaking her head in disbelief before unlocking the car. Just drive behind me she instructed firmly. I watched as she slid into the driver's seat and started the engine, my own car following silently behind until we reached Jake's residence. As she stepped out of the car and leaned against it, I mirrored her actions, leaning against the bonnet of my own vehicle. "Do you need me to do anything?" I asked guietly, eager to assist however I could. She shook her head, a determined expression on her face. "Let me handle the talking," she said firmly. I nodded in understanding "T only brought you along to keep him in check, she added, her voice tinged with urgency. Once again, I nodded, ready to follow her lead "Please, don't say or do anything unless it's absolutely necessary" "You can count on me, Lily, I assured her, ready to support her in whatever way she needed. A few moments later, the elevator doors opened, and Jake strolled out, his attention immediately drawn to Lily. "Apologies for the delay. I was just wrapping up- His words trailed off as he caught sight of me leaning casually against the hood of my car. "What's happening here, Lily?" he demanded, his tone laced with irritation "And why is he with you?" Lily's gaze remained steady as she met Jake's guestioning stare. I brought him along to ensure history doesn't repeat itself," she responded calmly, reaching out her hand towards him. Tve come to return the car" Jake's brows furrowed deeply. "What in the world are you talking about? That car was a token of my affection for you, Lily. Why would you want to give it back?" "Because I've decided I no longer want it," Lily retorted, her tone firm with resolve. "There's no point in holding onto such an extravagant gift when our relationship has come to an end." As Jake took two menacing steps toward Lily, I instinctively rose to my feet, clearing my throat to draw his attention. He spun around, his glare aimed squarely at me, but I stood my ground, unfazed by his anger. "You can say whatever you need to from there. But don't take another step, I warned firmly. He scoffed, his frustration evident as he licked his lips

angrily "So you're really ending things with me? Because of him?" he spat out, his voice dripping with resentment. "I still don't understand, Lily! You cheated, and you're still walking away! I could sue you for putting me through emotional hell" Lily's jaw clenched with suppressed fury. "You're delusional if you think you're the only one who's suffered emotional pain and torment," she retorted her voice laced with disdain "You can't just leave me, Lily! You can't abandon me!" he shouted, desperation creeping into his tone Chapter 60 For a moment, Lily simply stared at him, her expression unreadable. Then, with a shake of her head, she turned and began walking towards my car Jake made a grab for her hand, but before he could reach her, I closed the distance between us and firmly seized his hand. "Don't you dare," I growled, shoving him away to protect Lily from his p grasp Lily slid into my car and slammed the door shut, signaling the finality of her decision. I turned to face Jake, my expression firm and unwavering "You heard her. It's over," I stated firmly. Under no circumstances should you linger around her. If you dare to try anything. I'll show you a side of me you never want to see "I don't fear you, Ryan!" Jake retorted defiantly. "Then you're making a grave mistake, Jake. Underestimating me will be your downfall." I warned, my voice tinged with steel 色

Becoming Strangers Again

Posted by Adminh, ?

Chapter 70 RYAN Things did go better than I expected. As I pulled the car to a stop at a safe distance, I turned to Lily, concern etched on my face "Are you okay I asked softly, reaching out to touch her hand. She licked her lips nervously, her gaze fixed on her trembling hands. Tm fine," the replied unconvincingly, but I could see the pain hidden beneath her facade. Gently. I squeezed her hand, offering what little comfon I could. It was strange to find myself in this position, comforting my ex wife over another man. "You don't have to act strong in front of me." I reassured her, my voice Elled with sincerity. "I promise not to hold it against you" She looked up at me, her eyes filled with vulnerability. "I just feel so stupid," she admitted quietly, her voice barely above a whisper. With a better chuckle, the shook her head. "Having my ex-husband comfort me over my ex-hance wasn't exactly on my to-do list for this year A sad smile rugged at the corners of my lips as I reached out to brush a stray hair from her face. "Shir happens," I replied softly "I know, right?" Lily sighed, her gaze fixed on the passing scenery outside. I should have been more careful" she murmured, her tone filled with regret. "I should have looked into him to make sure that he is really who he claims to be before introducing him to my children" I couldn't bear to see her blame herself for the deceitful actions of that scoundrel. This isn't on you, Lily" I reassured her, my voice firm "Who would have thought that he would end up being a fraud?" When she continued to stare out the window, lost in her thoughts, I reached forward and gently turned her face towards me, using my fingers to guide her chin. "Where were you these past two days?" I asked unable to shake off my suspicions. Lily stared at me wordlessly for a moment before letting out a soft chuckle. That's the most random question, she remarked, a smile tugging at the comers of her lips. How long have you been wanting to ask me that!" "Ever since you went MIA." I confessed. "Ive been worried, Lily, and I still am I can only calm down if I know what's going on with you." Lily's response confirmed my

suspicions. "I want to sue Jake for impersonation, she declared her tone resolute. It was clear that she had taken matters into her own hands, just as I had feared Tvisted his company and confirmed that he didnt really work there. I also went to the school he claimed to have attended, and of course, there was no record of him there. Leven found another Jake Willows who, like you said, died a few days after his graduation. I visited his gravesite and took pectures of everything which should serve as evidence against him in court" I couldn't help but be both shocked and impressed by Lily's determination and resourcefulness in uncovering the truth. I don't know if I should be worried right now or proud of you," I admined my admiration for her growing with each pawing moment "None" Lily deadpanned, her tone firm. "I didn't do all of that to be acknowledged by you." She folded her hands, deep in thought before continuing "However, I am conflicted about confronting him first before suing him or confronting him during the trial" I couldn't help but notice the change in Laly. The old Lily would have cowered and let someone else handle the situation for her, but the woman sitting beside me now exuded an aura of strength and determination. She was an alpha female, ready to take control of her own destiny. If I wanted to support her. I needed to approach the situation with care. "I understand that you want to go after him, and trust me when I say I'm not trying to stop you" I began carefully, but confronting him right now might not be the best course of action. "And what is the best thing to do? Lily rasped, her frustration palpable. "Not do anything and let karma take its course?" I shook my head. "Someone is working with him," I interjected, hoping to steer her away from thoughts of inaction. "Someone who is wealthy enough to pay for a Lamborghini they don't even own." Lily eyed me skeptically. "So what are you insinuating?" she asked, her tone cautious. "I'm saying you should give me time to find out who else is involved in this," I replied, my mind already spinning with possibilities, "and then you can go ahead and sue him for impersonation" Her expression softened slightly as she considered my proposal "Are you sure you're going to let me sue him in the future?" she questioned, seeking reassurance. I nodded firmly. "Yes, I promise I affirmed. If there was a larger conspiracy at play. I intended to uncover it and ensure that Lily had all the ammunition she needed to seek justice. Fine, I'll lay back for now and let you do your thing, she relented, placing her trust in me. Chapter 70 "Great," I smiled at him before turning on the car and driving off "what do you say we catch dinner?" I asked even though I have already had dinner with the boys and isn't exac

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ly hungry at the moment, I don't just want the evening to end just yet. "Sure," she replied with a returning smile. "let us have dinner. Grinning like a fool, I drove down to a restaurant that I had discovered. There no picture policy was one of the things that drew ΠΙΕ the redturant. "You are going to tell your security not to let him into the premises any more." I instructed Lily. What I saw in Jake's eyes is an unwillingness to give up. That young man isn't ready to give up on their relationship just yet. "Is that an order?" she asked with an arched brow. I glanced at her briefly then chuckled just to lighten the atmosphere of the car. "I am just trying to look out for you Lily." She sked. "That sounded more like a command." "Or a request" I countered. "Please do not let him into your premises Lily, and also tighten the security on the kids. I will equally put my security on them." She shook her head. "Adding extra security won't be necessary." "It is most definitely necessary." I countered the fastest way to get back to us is by hurting those boys, and it will be easy for him to lure them because they already know and trust him, and the only way to make sure that doesn't happen is being keeping him away from them completely, and that can only happen if we have more than enough security watching them." "Fine." She mutterd, finally conceding "I don't mind your security watching them, but they shouldn't be in their face. Noah is very shy around strangers, and don't even get me started with Liam." "They won't even notice their presence, I promise." Pulling over at the restaurant, my phone rang and when I saw Stephanie's name on the screen, I ignored the call it wasn't until I lifted my head did I find out that Lily saw the caller too "You can pick the call. She informed me, "I really don't mind." "I do mind" I argued softly, "I can't be answering a call from my ex in your presene Rolling her eyes, she got down from the car. "do not confuse yourself Ryan, this isn't a date. This is just two adults who are hungry then decided to grab food together." I opened the entrance door for her. "I never said it was. I just do not want to be disrespectful to you." I explained Halting abruptly. I blocked her path. "Do you want it to be a date!" She shook her head, fighting a smile. "Get out of my face and pick your babymama's call." That was when I realized that my phone has started ringing again. Fighting back my frustruation at the incessant ringing. I turned off the phone. -What did you do that for?" she asked, surprised that I actually turned it off, "what if you get a business call?" Who cares? "when I am with you Lily, I am with you and no distractions are welcomed. 2.2