

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

At Ethan Corporation

+ Pearls

Ethan was in an unusually good mood that day. He was engrossed in reviewing a file in his office when a knock interrupted his focus. Without looking up, he responded, "Come in

Assistant Ben entered the office, his face lined with worry. "Boss, Zap Corporation has canceled their project with us," he reported cautiously.

Ethan's expression shifted instantly. "What?"

"And... it's not just Zap Corporation," Assistant Ben continued hesitantly. "Sheng Corporation has also backed out of their project with us."

Ethan frowned, his voice calm yet sharp, "Why? Everything was running smoothly until yesterday. What happened overnight? Did you ask them for an explanation?"

These two projects were significant ventures for the company, with both Zap Corporation and Coral Corporation previously eager to collaborate with Ethan Corporation. A sudden reversal like this suggested something critical had occurred.

Assistant Ben swallowed nervously before replying, "Boss, both companies have decided to partner with another firm. I reached out to their CEOs, but they were adamant about terminating the contracts with us."

Assistant Ben secretly felt a pang of sympathy for the two corporations. Just days ago, they had gone to great lengths to secure deals with Ethan Corporation, and now they had abruptly backed out. Having worked as Ethan's assistant for years, he had never seen such an event. Ethan Corporation's reputation was impeccable, and backing out of a deal with them was unheard of.

Ethan leaned back in his chair, tapping the desk lightly with his fingers. "Which company did they choose instead?"

"Pedro Long Corporation," Assistant Ben stammered, knowing the implications of his answer.

"Pedro Long Corporation?" Ethan's brow furrowed. "Isn't that a relatively new company that recently gained recognition?"

Assistant Ben nodded quickly. "Yes, Boss. Pedro Long Corporation has rapidly risen to prominence. It recently secured the fifth spot among the top leading companies. In just a year and a half, they've achieved remarkable growth."

Ethan's eyes narrowed as he listened intently. He recalled hearing about Pedro Long Corporation before. If memory served, the company had previously been known as FBaian Corporation-a firm on the brink of bankruptcy. Then, almost miraculously, someone acquired it. Under its new leadership, it had been rebranded as Pedro Long Corporation and had grown at an unprecedented pace, earning accolades and establishing itself as a major player in the industry.

"What's the CEO's name?" Ethan asked, his tone measured but curious.

Assistant Ben furrowed his brows, searching his memory. Suddenly, the name came to him. "Pedro! The CEO of Pedro Long Corporation is Pedro."

For a moment, Ethan froze, his body stiffening in disbelief. His hand, which had been idly rotating the crystal ball on his desk, came to a halt. Slowly, he turned his gaze toward his assistant, his voice barely

audible "What what did you say his name was?"

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"Pedro," Assistant Ben repeated, a bit confused by his boss's reaction.

+8 Pearts

Ethan stared into space, his expression unreadable, but his mind was racing. The name stirred something deep within him-a name he hadn't expected to resurface, especially not in this context.

The atmosphere in Ethan's office had shifted dramatically, becoming heavy and almost suffocating. Assistant Ben an involuntary shiv run down his spine as goosebumps spread across his skin. The oppressive aura emanating from his boss was palpable, filling the room with tension. Gritting his teeth to steady himself, Assistant Ben hesitated before repeating, "Pedro."

The silence that followed was deafening. Ethan remained motionless, his head bowed, his face hidden from view. Yet the dark energy surrounding him was undeniable, hinting at the storm brewing within. After what felt like an eternity, Ethan finally broke the silence, his voice cold and resolute.

"I want every single detail about that man," he said. "From the moment he was born until now. Assign our best investigator to this task, and ensure nothing is overlooked."

"Yes, Boss," Assistant Ben replied immediately, his voice steady despite the unease he felt.

"Cancel all my meetings for the day," Ethan continued. "And make sure I'm not disturbed. Leave."

Without another word, Assistant Ben bowed and exited the room quietly, closing the door behind him.

Ethan stood, the weight of the revelation pressing heavily on his chest. He walked to a corner of the office where he kept a bottle of aged liquor. Grabbing it, he moved to the couch, poured himself a glass, and took a deep drink.

Pedro... Is it really you? Are you alive?

The name echoed in his mind, bringing with it a whirlwind of emotions. Ethan leaned back, staring at the ceiling as memories he had tried to suppress flooded back. No one could truly understand the turmoil within him, the guilt and sorrow that resurfaced at the mention of Pedro's name.

He vividly remembered the last time he saw Pedro, his best friend, his brother in everything but blood. That day had been burned into his memory-the day Pedro had stood before him, tears streaming down his face, his voice trembling with anger and pain as he pointed an accusing finger at Ethan.

"You're wrong!" Pedro had shouted, his words like daggers. "You betrayed me!" Ethan had believed he was only speaking the truth, but those words had shattered their bond. He hadn't known then that it would be their final meeting. The memory haunted him, filling him with regret. Was he truly wrong? Now, years later, hearing Pedro's name tied to Pedro Long Corporation brought both relief and unease. If Pedro had survived and thrived, Ethan was genuinely happy for him. If taking Ethan Corporation's projects was a way for Pedro to seek revenge, Ethan was willing to let it happen.

I just want to see him again, Ethan thought. I want to explain everything, to clear the misunderstanding. But... will he ever forgive me?

As the hours passed, Ethan drowned his thoughts in alcohol. Each sip numbed the ache in his heart, but it couldn't erase the weight of his emotions. Memories of their childhood, their unbreakable friendship, and the moment of their separation swirled in his mind like an unending storm.

By evening, most employees had left the office. Only a few staff members remained, finishing their tasks. Outside Ethan's office, Assistant Ben paced nervously. It wasn't the first time he had seen his boss like this.

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+8 Pearls

The last time was years ago when Ethan had learned about Lady Boss's supposed involvement with another man. That incident had left Assistant Ben deeply concerned, just as this one did. He had no idea what had triggered his boss's behavior today, but the heaviness in the air worried him.

After wrestling with his thoughts, Assistant Ben finally made a decision. I can't leave him like this, he thought, mustering his courage. Taking a deep breath, he stepped toward the office door and prepared to knock, ready to face whatever awaited him on the other side.

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Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

+8 Pearls

When Assistant Ben stepped into the office, he froze in surprise. The usually composed and commanding Ethan was slouched on the couch, a half-empty bottle of alcohol dangling from his hand. His sharp features were softened by his half-closed eyes, and his posture gave off the impression of a king lost in his thoughts. Several empty bottles lay scattered on the floor around him, a stark contrast to the pristine office environment.

"Boss, it's time to go home," Assistant Ben said gently, trying to maintain a calm demeanor.

Silence.

The atmosphere in the room was heavy, the quiet almost deafening. Taking a steady breath, Assistant Ben tried again. "Boss, it's getting late. You need to go home."

"Shut up!" Ethan's voice boomed, startling Assistant Ben. "Who do you think you are to order me around?" His words were slurred, laced with the sharp edge of frustration.

Assistant Ben flinched, his heart racing as he stared at his boss in disbelief. Ethan was completely intoxicated, his usual sharp intellect dulled by the alcohol. His mood was unpredictable, and it was clear he wasn't in any state to listen to reason. Summoning his courage, Assistant Ben stepped forward. "Boss, let me help you. We need to get you home."

He reached out, intending to assist Ethan to his feet, but before he could touch him, Ethan pushed him back lightly. "Don't touch me," he muttered, his tone icy despite his inebriation.

The unexpected push caused Assistant Ben to stumble, nearly losing his balance. He managed to steady himself, but his heart sank. This job is going to kill me someday, he thought, suppressing the urge to cry. "I deserve a raise for putting up with this," he mumbled under his breath, glancing at his stubborn boss.

Then an idea struck him-a glimmer of hope in the chaos. With a sly smile, he moved closer and tried a different approach. "Boss, Miss Lily is waiting for you at home. Don't you want to see her?"

At the mention of her name, Ethan frowned but remained silent. Encouraged by the slight reaction, Assistant Ben pressed on, his tone gentle but persuasive. "Let's go home, Boss. Miss Lily would be waiting for you. It's not fair to keep your wife waiting, is it?"

Ethan's unfocused eyes seemed to clear slightly. "My Lily is waiting for me?" he asked, his voice softer now.

"Yes, Boss. She's waiting for you at home," Assistant Ben said with enthusiasm, nodding like a man trying to convince a child to eat their vegetables. This might

actually work, he thought, a surge of optimism filling him. He was just about to reach out and help Ethan stand when the next words crushed his hope.

"Not going," Ethan said flatly, leaning back into the couch.

Assistant Ben blinked in disbelief. What?! His mind raced as he stared at his boss. Boss, this wasn't part of the plan! Aren't you supposed to jump up at the mention of Miss Lily? Frustration bubbled inside him, but he forced himself to stay calm.

"Boss, please. Let's go home. Miss Lily is waiting for you. You shouldn't keep her waiting," he tried again, his tone almost pleading.

But Ethan was resolute, crossing his arms and puffing out his cheeks like a stubborn child. "Not going. Not going. Not going home," he declared, shaking his head in defiance.

Accistant Ren stared at him utterly defeated. Why do I even try? He thought miserahlu realizing it was

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going to be a long night.

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+8 Pearls

Assistant Ben massaged his temples, feeling an incoming headache from dealing with his boss's antics. Ethan's stubbornness was proving to be a mountain too steep to climb. Sighing heavily, he finally conceded that he wasn't going to win this battle. Seeing that his boss had no intention of leaving the office, he reluctantly pulled out his phone and dialed Lily's number. After a few rings, her familiar voice answered, tinged with concern.

"Assistant Ben, is everything okay?" Lily's soft yet worried tone came through.

"Umm... Miss Lily, about Boss... actually..." Assistant Ben hesitated, unsure how to phrase the situation delicately.

"Assistant Ben, you're worrying me. What happened? Where's Ethan?" she asked, her concern growing.

"Miss Lily, the Boss... he's, uh, drunk. Quite heavily. And he's refusing to leave the office," Assistant Ben explained, his words spilling out in a rush.

"Drunk?" Lily repeated, her tone a mix of surprise and worry.

"Yes, Miss. He's completely intoxicated and insists on staying here," Assistant Ben said, his voice filled with exasperation.

"Don't worry, Assistant Ben. I'll come and get him," she said decisively before hanging up the call.

Assistant Ben let out a small sigh of relief, feeling like the cavalry was on its way. However, when he glanced up from his phone, he froze. Ethan was glaring at him with a sharpness that cut through his drunken haze. Confused, Assistant Ben hesitated before speaking. "Boss...?"

"Who were you talking to?" Ethan demanded, his tone dangerously low.

Assistant Ben shivered under the intensity of his boss's gaze. Despite being drunk, Ethan's presence was still commanding, his aura almost suffocating. The weight of the unspoken threat made Assistant Ben feel like he was walking on thin ice. Unsure of what he had done wrong, he stammered, "M-Miss Lily..."

The silence that followed felt like an eternity.

Five seconds.

Ten seconds.

Twenty seconds.

Ethan continued to glare, his piercing gaze making Assistant Ben shift uncomfortably. Subconsciously, he took a small step back. Finally, Ethan broke the silence.

"Why do you have my Lily's number?" he asked coldly, his tone laced with possessiveness.

Assistant Ben blinked, utterly bewildered. Boss, is this really the time for this? he thought helplessly.

"Well? Answer me!" Ethan snapped, his patience clearly wearing thin.

"I-I called her to pick you up," Assistant Ben blurted out. "Miss Lily is coming here for you."

At that, Ethan's expression softened slightly. "She's coming... for me?" he asked, pointing to himself with a faint smile that lit up his face.

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+8 Pearls

"Yes, Boss. She's coming for you," Assistant Ben confirmed, nodding vigorously, hopeful that this would finally get his boss to cooperate.

"Oh! Then I need to look presentable," Ethan declared, suddenly standing up. However, his coordination failed him, and he stumbled forward, nearly crashing back onto the couch.

"Boss!" Assistant Ben exclaimed, rushing to help him. But before he could touch him, Ethan swatted his hands away.

"Don't touch me! You smell like alcohol," Ethan said, scrunching up his nose in disgust.

Assistant Ben stared at him in disbelief. Boss, it's YOU who reeks of alcohol, he thought silently, biting back his retort.

Ethan, noticing Assistant Ben's confused expression, frowned. "What? Did I say something wrong? Aren't you the one who drank all this?" he asked, gesturing toward the empty bottles littering the floor.

Assistant Ben opened his mouth to respond but stopped. Should he agree? Deny? He wasn't sure what the right answer was, so he awkwardly shook his head... then nodded... and then shook his head again.

"Stop it!" Ethan barked, rubbing his temples in irritation. "Why are you shaking your head like that? Do you have a spring in your neck? Watching you is making me dizzy. Just stop!"

Assistant Ben froze, standing perfectly still. He made a silent vow to himself never be anywhere near his boss when he was drunk again. This version of Ethan was far more terrifying than his sober self.

"Now," Ethan said, his voice sharp. "Are you going to answer my question or not?"

"Which question, Boss?" Assistant Ben asked cautiously, unsure which inquiry his boss was referring to.

"You idiot! You're so stupid! No, actually, the person who hired you is stupid!" Ethan retorted, crossing his arms like a petulant child.

"Boss..." Assistant Ben muttered under his breath, "Aren't you the one who hired me?"

Unfortunately, the words weren't as quiet as he intended, and Ethan heard them loud and clear.

Ethan's eyes narrowed dangerously. "Are you calling me stupid?" he asked, his glare practically drilling holes into Assistant Ben.

Assistant Ben gulped, his face paling. Why do I even try? he thought, mentally preparing for what was shaping up to be an incredibly long and painful night.

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Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

79%

+8 Pearls

"No, no! Boss, you're the smartest person on this planet," Assistant Ben declared with exaggerated sincerity, hoping to pacify Ethan.

"Hmph," Ethan nodded smugly, a small laugh escaping his lips. "At least you know that much."

Taking a deep breath, Assistant Ben decided to address the situation. "Boss, why did you drink so much? What's the reason? Did something happen? And even if you wanted to drink, why come to my office to do it? Look at the mess you've made!" His voice was filled with exasperation. "It's only because I'm your assistant that you're getting away with this. If you were anyone else, you'd be fired on the spot for drinking in your boss's office!"

Assistant Ben mentally facepalmed but kept his lips tightly sealed.

"What's with that look? Am I wrong?" Ethan's glare could have frozen a desert.

"Hehe..." Assistant Ben gave an awkward chuckle, forcing a smile. "Boss is always right."

"Of course I'm right," Ethan said matter-of-factly, sitting back with an air of authority. Then he frowned, his expression shifting to one of deep thought. "Tell me something, Ben. How is it that after drinking so much, you're still standing perfectly fine, while my head is spinning like crazy even though I haven't touched a drop of alcohol?"

Assistant Ben hesitated before muttering under his breath, "That's because the one who's drunk is you, Boss."

"What did you just say?" Ethan asked, his tone exaggerated with disbelief. "You're saying that I'm the one who drank all this alcohol?"

Assistant Ben nodded, his face a mixture of fear and resignation.

"Really?" Ethan gasped dramatically. He leaned forward, sniffing his own shirt. His eyes widened in horror. "Oh no! Oh no! This is bad!" he exclaimed, staggering to his feet. The sudden movement made him sway dangerously.

"Boss, please be careful!" Assistant Ben cried out, rushing forward to steady him.

Ethan waved him off, glaring. "Don't touch me!" he snapped before bending down to gather all the empty bottles scattered on the floor. With his arms full of clinking glass, he began walking unsteadily from one end of the room to the other. His steps were erratic, and his body swayed with every move.

Assistant Ben watched in utter confusion. After a minute of observing this puzzling behavior, he couldn't hold back any longer. "Boss... what exactly are you trying to do?"

Ethan stopped mid-step and shot his assistant a sharp glare. "This is all your fault, you fool! Why did you call my Lily here?" he accused, his tone a mix of frustration and panic.

Assistant Ben touched his nose awkwardly, trying to understand his boss's sudden outburst. "Boss, Miss Lily is coming to pick you up. Isn't that a good thing?"

"You're truly an idiot!" Ethan declared, shaking his head as if dealing with the most incompetent person in the world.

Assistant Ben stood there, speechless. He still couldn't understand why his boss was so upset about Lily's arrival. But after a few seconds of pondering he shrugged and moved untroubled to the bar counter of a drink.

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Ethan was clearly a futile endeavor.

+8 Pearls

Assistant Ben quickly realized it was pointless to try and make sense of a drunken person's ramblings. Still, he couldn't help but find his boss's antics amusing. Ethan, the man who was always composed, cold, and almost impossibly perfect, was now stumbling around like a child, muttering nonsense and pulling exaggerated faces.

"What do I do? What do I do? Ugh, so stupid! Where should I hide these?" Ethan mumbled while clutching several empty alcohol bottles. His gaze darted around the room, searching for a hiding spot. Suddenly, his eyes landed on his assistant, who stood frozen, watching the scene unfold.

Ethan glared at him. "Why are you standing there like a statue? Are you waiting for Christmas to come? Move it! Come here and help me hide these before my Lily gets here!" he barked.

"Yes, yes, Boss," Assistant Ben replied, half-amused, half-exasperated.

"Come on, hurry! She might walk in any second!" Ethan urged, waving him over impatiently.

Unbeknownst to him, Lily had already entered the office. She stood quietly by the door, observing her husband with a mix of amusement and annoyance. When Assistant Ben noticed her, he opened his mouth to speak, but Lily quickly raised a finger to her lips, signaling him to stay quiet.

"Stupid Ben," Ethan muttered, still oblivious to her presence. "What's the best place to hide these bottles? Come on, think!"

Before Assistant Ben could respond, Lily's calm but firm voice rang out. "Ethan, what exactly are you trying to hide from me?"

Hearing her voice, Ethan froze mid-step. "Huh? My Lily's sweet voice..." he muttered, blinking as if trying to clear his head. Then, turning to his assistant, he asked, "Hey, Stupid Ben, do you hear my Lily's voice too?"

Assistant Ben nodded, biting back a smile.

Ethan's expression turned to one of utter disbelief. "Wait a second. I'm the one who's drunk. I'm the one who loves my wife. So why are you hearing her beautiful voice too?!" he exclaimed, swaying slightly.

Assistant Ben: "..."

Lily: "..."

Finally, Lily broke the awkward silence. "Dear husband, you're hearing my voice because I'm standing right behind you," she said, her tone tinged with annoyance.

Ethan blinked, processing her words. "Stupid Ben, did you hear that? She says she's right behind me!" He let out a laugh, but then his eyes widened in sudden realization. He spun around clumsily, nearly losing his balance in the process.

When he saw her standing there, a goofy grin spread across his face. "Wifey! You're here!"

Lily crossed her arms, raising an eyebrow. "Yes, I'm here," she replied, walking toward him. Her gaze fell to the bottles in his hands. "And what's that you're holding?"

Ethan looked down at the bottles, then back up at her, smiling innocently. "Alcohol bottles," he said matter-of-factly.

Lily's expression hardened slightly, though she maintained a calm demeanor. "Did you drink all of these?"

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+8 Pearls

Ethan frowned. He could sense that her calm voice masked something more serious. For a moment, he hesitated, unsure how to answer. First, he shook his head. Then, he nodded. Finally, he shook his head again.

Lily's patience wore thin. "Yes or no, Ethan? Did you drink all of it or not?" she asked, her tone sharp.

Ethan lowered his head like a guilty child. After a long pause, he suddenly pointed at his assistant and declared, "It was Stupid Ben! He drank it all! Wifey, I'm innocent. It was him!"

Lily: "..."

Assistant Ben: "..."

Assistant Ben stared at his boss in utter disbelief. What did I do to deserve this? he thought. Why, Boss? Why are you blaming me?

"Boss, everyone says a drunk person always tells the truth," Assistant Ben muttered under his breath. "But you... you're clearly lying. And blaming me, no less!"

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Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

+ Pearls

"Don't try to deny it, Ethan. It's obvious you're drunk," Lily said, shaking her head in disbelief the was utterly taken aback by his behavior. The man she had always known to be calm, collected, and in control was now acting like a child. She had never seen him in this ware before.

With a heavy sigh, she turned to Assistant Ben. "Please, take these bottles away"

"Yes, Miss Lily," Assistant Ben replied promptly. He carefully removed the empty bottles from Ethan's hands and slipped out of the office, leaving the couple alone.

Now, the room was silent, except for the faint hum of the air conditioning. Lily walked closer to her husband and asked softly. "Ethan, why did you drink so much? Did something happen

Ethan looked at her with wide, teary eyes, like a child caught doing something wrong "Lily! Don't hate me! I promise I won't drink again. Please, don't hate me! I'm so sorry!" he pleaded, his voice trembling with desperation.

Lily couldn't help but chuckle at his antics. Drunk Ethan was an entirely new side of him-endearing, innocent, and completely out of character. She had seen many people behave absurdly while drunk, but Ethan was in a league of his own.

When she didn't respond immediately, Ethan suddenly grabbed her waist and pulled her into a tight hug. He buried his face in her shoulder, whining like a little boy seeking forgiveness. "Wifeyyy! Please forgive me! I'm so sorry! My sweetie! My cuticee!"

Lily froze for a moment, speechless. What is this man even saying? she thought, completely thrown off by his childish behavior.

"Alright, alright, stop shaking me!" she said, steadying herself as she held his shoulders.

Suddenly, an idea crossed her mind, and a mischievous glint appeared in her eyes. She smirked at her husband, who continued to cling to her like his life depended on it. "Ethan, do you want me to forgive you?" she asked sweetly. Ethan nodded enthusiastically, his drunken state making him even more eager. "I'll forgive you," Lily said, her smile turning sly, "but only on one condition. Will you do what I ask?"

Without hesitation, Ethan nodded again. "Yes! Anything for my wifey!"

"Good!" she said, her eyes sparkling with mischief. Glancing around the room, her gaze fell on the cameras mounted on the walls. Pointing toward them, she asked casually, "Are the cameras in your office working?"

Ethan blinked, trying to process her question. "What?"

"The cameras," she repeated, her voice patient but firm. "Are they working?"

He tilted his head, his brow furrowed as he pondered. Then, his face lit up. "Oh, the cameras! Yeah, the ones in my office are working!" he said proudly.

"Perfect," Lily said, her laughter bubbling out. She looked far too pleased with herself, and Ethan's drunk mind couldn't quite comprehend why.

Seeing her so delighted, he suddenly leaned closer with a conspiratorial expression. "Wifey, do you want to

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"A secret?" she repeated, raising an eyebrow. "What kind of secret?"

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+8 Pearls

He waved her closer with a finger, beckoning her to lean in. Lily hesitated for a moment but eventually obliged, moving closer to hear him. The sharp scent of alcohol hit her nose immediately, making her grimace.

"Ugh, Ethan! Why did you drink so much? You smell terrible!" she scolded, wrinkling her nose.

Ethan pouted like a scolded child, looking genuinely hurt.

"Anyway," Lily said, shaking her head, "just tell me your secret. What is it?"

Ethan chuckled softly, a mischievous glimmer in his eyes. "Hehe.... Wifey, do you know there's a hidden camera in my office? A secret one. Nobody knows about it! Not even stupid Ben!"

Lily's jaw dropped slightly, but she quickly masked her surprise with a playful smile. Oh, this is going to be interesting, she thought to herself, ready to see where this conversation would lead.

A hidden camera, huh? Lily thought, her lips curling into a mischievous smile. "Alright, Ethan, if you really want me to forgive you, you'll have to do something for me," she said playfully, leaning back into her seat.

"What is it, Wifey?" Ethan asked with an innocent expression, his drunken gaze fixed on her.

"You have to dance for me," she declared, her eyes twinkling with amusement.

"Dance?" he repeated, tilting his head like a confused puppy. After a beat, he broke into a wide grin. "I'll dance! Of course, I'll dance for my Wifey! But wait... there's no music! How can I dance without a song?"

Lily chuckled at his enthusiasm. "Hold on, I'll fix that." She picked up her phone, scrolled through her playlist, and selected an upbeat party track. Setting the phone on the table, she smiled at her eager husband. "There you go. The stage is all yours."

As the music filled the room, Ethan wasted no time. He began to sway his hips, waving his arms dramatically and stomping his feet in rhythm with the song. Despite his occasional unsteady swaying, which had her holding back giggles, Lily found herself impressed. His moves were surprisingly good- playful yet confident.

She clapped along, thoroughly entertained, until she noticed a mischievous glint in his eyes. Before she could question it, Ethan shot her a playful wink. Her heart skipped a beat.

And then, to her utter shock, his hands moved to his shirt. Slowly, he undid the first button.

Her jaw dropped. "E-Ethan..." she stammered, her voice catching in her throat.

He didn't stop. With each beat of the song, he unfastened another button, revealing more of his toned chest. Lily's cheeks turned a deep shade of red as she tried-and failed-to look away.

By the time the last button was undone, her eyes were glued to him. His sharp collarbone, his chiseled everything was on display, and she couldn't stop herself from staring.

"E-Ethan....." she managed to whisper again, her face flushed.

Grinning like a cat that had caught its prey, Ethan sauntered toward her. He gently cupped her face, his fingers brushing against her cheek as he leaned in. The scent of alcohol lingered in the air, but his sultry smile made her heart race. Just as he was about to shrug off his shirt completely-

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"Stop!" Lily yelped, pushing him away in a par

Caught off guard, Faben undded backward, landing, wwwwdy on the cont. We get bet against the cushions, and he cried out, "Oud Wifey, the te

"Oh no, I'm so sorry!" Lily exclaimed, rushing to his side, the helped him up, ber

honde femy over him. "Are you okay? Does it hurt a lot

Ethan pouted dramatically, rubbing his nose. "Yes, it hurt My pen now

"Let me see," she said anxiously

He moved his hand away to reveal his red, slightly swollen nose. Vohnting, at the whined, "Look, all ret It hurts so much!"

Lily stared at him for a moment, trying to keep a straight face, but she couldn't hold it in the borst into laughter, doubling over as she clutched her stomach,

"Haha... Oh my gosh, Ethan, you look so cute with a red nose" she teased between fits of laughter

Ethan's pout deepened, Crossing his arms, he turned his head away, muttering, "Bad Wiley, You're so mean, laughing at me when I'm hurt, Bad, bad Wifey!"

Lily wiped tears from her eyes, finally regaining her composure. "Okay, okay, I'm not laughing, anymore. I promise. Show me where it hurts," she said gently, "No!" he huffed, stubbornly keeping his arms crossed.

Lily smiled at his childish behavior. Cupping his chin, she gently turned his face toward her. Leaning in, she pressed a soft kiss to his nose. "Does it still hurt now?" she asked sweetly.

Ethan blinked, his expression softening as he nodded.

She kissed his nose again. "How about now?"

He nodded again, his lips curving into a small smile.

Lily grinned and began peppering his face with kisses, from his cheeks to his forehead, even the tip of his nose. Ethan burst into laughter, squirming under her playful affection. "Wifey, stop! It tickles!"

"Still hurting?" she asked, finally pulling back.

"No," he said with a wide smile, but then he pointed to his lips. "But you didn't kiss

me here." Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

"Wifey, why did you push me?" Ethan asked, looking at her with wide, innocent eyes.

+8 Pearls

Lily narrowed her gaze at him, her lips twitching with disbelief. If she didn't know better, she would have thought he was just playing dumb. Pinching his cheeks gently, she asked, "Why were you strip-teasing? Ethan, were you trying to seduce me on purpose?"

Ethan nodded earnestly, his expression as sincere as a child's. "Didn't you tell me to do that? You said you'd forgive me if I danced for you."

Lily sighed and facepalmed, exhaling sharply. "When did I ever say anything about a strip tease?" she asked, gritting her teeth. "I only told you to dance!"

Ethan's expression turned hurt. "But wifey, you didn't like it? Am I not handsome enough?"

The sight of his distressed face, paired with the slight quiver in his voice, made her panic. It almost looked like he was about to cry again. Quickly, she nodded and reassured him, "No, no! You're very handsome. My husband is the most handsome man in the entire world. I liked it a lot, okay?"

Ethan's mood lifted immediately, his lips curling into a wide smile. Wrapping his arms around her waist, he pulled her closer. Pressing a soft kiss to her neck, he whispered, "Wifey, I just got an idea."

Her cheeks flushed slightly at his sudden closeness. "What idea?" she asked cautiously.

"I want to have your baby," he said with absolute sincerity. Then, as if realizing something, he quickly corrected himself, "No, wait. I mean, I want you to have my baby. Let's make a baby, wifey!"

Lily froze in shock, her eyes widening. "W-what did you just say?"

"I want a little Ethan who's as handsome as me or a naughty little Lily who's as cute as you," he explained, inching closer to her, his voice warm with excitement. "Come on, let's make a baby!"

"Stop!" Lily exclaimed, her face turning bright red. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

But Ethan wasn't deterred. Pouting, he cried out dramatically, "Wifey, you don't want to have my baby! Waah! My wife doesn't love me anymore!"

Lily blinked at his theatrics, utterly speechless. "Ethan, stop crying!" she said, trying to calm him down.

"No baby means no love! Waah! No love means my wifey doesn't care about me anymore! Waah!" he wailed, tears threatening to spill.

"Ethan, if you don't stop crying right now, I'm going to leave!" Lily shouted, trying to rein him in.

Instantly, he went silent, looking at her with puppy-dog eyes. "Don't leave me," he said, his voice trembling. Then he whispered, almost to himself, "Don't leave me like he did..."

His words struck her. She frowned, confused. "What do you mean?" she asked softly, patting his back. "Who left you?"

Ethan looked up at her with watery eyes, his voice breaking as he said, "He left me. He was so bad... Why did he leave me? Am I that awful? Are you going to leave me too?"

His pitiful tone tugged at her heartstrings. She cupped his face gently, offering a small, reassuring smile.

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"Promise?" he asked, his eyes searching hers.

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"Promise," she affirmed with a nod. "But tell me, Ethan, why did you drink so much? Was it because of him?"

Ethan nodded, his face falling slightly.

Lily watched him carefully, her curiosity growing. Who is 'he,' and why did Ethan seem so hurt? she wondered silently.

"He was my best friend," Ethan began, his voice soft yet heavy with emotion. "He was like a brother to me. But because of one misunderstanding, he left. He thinks I betrayed him... but how could I? I would never do that to him. He believes I was jealous of him because he was more successful than me. But I wasn't. I was proud of him."

Ethan's voice faltered as his thoughts swirled. "He thinks I hated him... but I didn't. I cared for him. I admired him. And he thinks I lied to hurt him, but why would I do that? We had such a strong bond. We shared everything. So why did he turn away from me? Why didn't he trust me? Why did he leave me?"

Ethan paused, his shoulders slumping as though the weight of his memories had become unbearable. "It's been so many years since then," he continued quietly. "I don't even know where he is now. I don't know what he looks like. I don't even know if he's still alive... or if..." His voice cracked, and he swallowed hard. "Or if he's gone."

Lily sat beside him, stunned by the raw pain in his words. She didn't know how to respond. What could she say to comfort him? Gently, she placed a hand on his back, patting him in soothing circles. "Ethan," she said softly, "you're one of the most amazing people I've ever met. Don't let this weigh you down. I believe that one day, you'll meet your best friend again. Things have a way of working out."

"Do you really think so?" Ethan's voice was quiet, almost hesitant. His eyes grew heavy with exhaustion as he leaned his head against her shoulder.

"I do," Lily reassured him with a smile.

The corners of Ethan's lips lifted slightly, and he closed his eyes, drifting off into a deep sleep. The room grew silent, the tension replaced by a sense of calm. For a while, Lily sat still, her hand resting lightly on his back as she watched his peaceful face.

After a few minutes, she carefully stopped patting him and whispered, "Ethan, let's get you to your room. Come on, I'll help you." But when she turned to look at him, she chuckled softly. He was already sound asleep.

Shaking her head fondly, she gently shifted his head onto the couch cushion and kissed his forehead. "I really hope you get to see your best friend again soon," she murmured, her voice filled with quiet determination.

A sudden knock at the door broke the silence, and Lily called out, "Come in."

Assistant Ben entered, holding a few items in his hands. "Madam, I was about to leave," he said, "but then I realized you might not have eaten dinner. So, I brought some food for you."

Lily was pleasantly surprised. "Thank you, Assistant Ben. That's very thoughtful of you."

After a brief pause, she added, "Oh, and could you help me move Ethan to his bedroom?" Together, the two carefully guided a half-asleep Ethan into the small room adjoining his office. They laid him on the bed gently, and Assistant Ben gave her a polite nod before leaving.

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Once they were alone, Lily took off Ethan's shoes and unbuckled his belt. After removing his shirt, she brought a bowl of warm water and wiped his face and arms clean. Satisfied that he was comfortable, she tidied up and quickly ate the dinner Assistant Ben had brought.

Before turning in for the night, she leaned down and kissed Ethan softly on the lips. "Goodnight, Ethan," she whispered, wrapping her arms around him as she snuggled close. Soon, she drifted off to sleep beside him.

The next morning, Ethan woke up with a pounding headache. Groaning, he rubbed his temples and looked around, realizing he was in the bedroom attached to his office. He frowned in confusion. "How did I end here?" he mumbled to himself.

up

Then, as if a floodgate had opened, memories from the previous night came rushing back-his drunken antics, the embarrassing moments, the striptease, the baby talk... The more he remembered, the more he cringed. His ears turned red with mortification. "What was I thinking?" he muttered, massaging his temples. "I was completely out of control..."

Before he could wallow further, he heard Lily's voice. "Here, take this," she said, handing him a pill and a glass of water. "It'll help with the hangover."

He gratefully accepted it and quickly downed the pill with water. "Thank you," he murmured, avoiding her amused gaze.

Lily smiled knowingly but didn't tease him further. Instead, she silently resolved to help him face the pain he had buried for so long.

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Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

"How are you feeling now?" Lily asked gently, watching Ethan closely.

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+8 Pearls

"I'm fine," he replied, though his tone was a little stiff. Memories of his antics the previous night began to creep back into his mind, and he mentally cringed. Determined to salvage his dignity, he resolved to pretend he didn't remember anything. He had already embarrassed himself enough.

"Do

you remember what you did yesterday?" Lily asked cautiously, her eyes sparkling with curiosity.

Ethan feigned innocence, looking up at her with wide eyes. "No! Why? Did I do something?"

"You really don't remember anything?" she pressed.

"Nope." Ethan shook his head firmly, but the tips of his ears had turned a bright shade of red. Lily didn't miss the subtle tell, and a knowing smile crept onto her lips.

Suppressing a chuckle, she decided to tease him. "Oh, don't worry about it. I recorded everything. I can show you all the fun moments-your striptease, your dancing..."

Hearing her playful tone, Ethan's gaze sharpened, and he glared at her. Before she could say another word, he grabbed her hand and pulled her toward him. In one swift motion, she was trapped beneath him. Smirking mischievously, he pinched her cheek and said, "Lily, didn't anyone ever tell you that teasing your husband comes with consequences?"

Lily wrapped her arms around his neck, grinning. "Nope, no one told me that. But honestly, teasing you is so much fun!"

"Oh, is that so?" Ethan raised an eyebrow, leaning closer.

Lily nodded confidently.

Without warning, he leaned down and bit her earlobe gently, his voice dropping to a deep, seductive tone. "Then I think it's only fair that I punish you for it."

Before she could respond, Ethan's lips trailed down to her neck, kissing, nibbling, and leaving a trail of marks. Lily gasped, her grip on his neck tightening instinctively as he continued to leave his possessive marks on her collarbone and chest. His hands roamed over her body, creating a storm of emotions within her. "One day," he murmured in her ear, his voice rich and tantalizing, "I'll make you dance for me in our bedroom... and you won't be wearing a thing."

Feeling something hard press against her, Lily's face turned scarlet. "Shut up!" she exclaimed, her voice flustered but filled with laughter.

Seeing her reaction, Ethan smirked, leaning in to kiss her lips. But just as his lips were about to meet hers, she stopped him, pressing her palm against his mouth.

"Go brush your teeth first!" she said, pushing him away playfully as she got up from the bed. "I'll go get us some breakfast."

Watching her slip out of his grasp, Ethan groaned in frustration. "You're so mean, wifey! I hate you!"

Lily chuckled, glancing back at him. "Love you too, my dear hubby."

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Ethan sighed dramatically, muttering to himself as he got out of bed. What he needed wasn't breakfast—it was a cold shower. Dragging himself to the bathroom, he prepared to freshen up and shake off the lingering embarrassment from the night before.

When Lily returned with breakfast a short while later, she was surprised to see him already waiting for her at the table. Placing the food down, she took a seat beside him.

"You got all this ready?" Ethan asked, glancing at the spread.

"Nope," Lily replied, shaking her head. "Your silly Assistant Ben brought it over." Ethan groaned for what felt like the hundredth time that morning, burying his face in his hands. "You're never going to stop teasing me about this, are you?"

Lily gave him an innocent look, her grin widening. "Not a chance."

Ethan let out an exaggerated sigh. Why, oh why, had he drunk so much last night? Not only had he lost face in front of his wife, but even Assistant Ben had seen him in that state.

As Lily noticed his pitiful expression, as though he were a child unfairly scolded, she couldn't help but laugh softly. "Don't worry, though," she said with a playful glint in her eyes. "You were absolutely adorable yesterday."

Ethan groaned again, covering his face. It was going to be a long day.

Ethan's expression softened, though he still felt a tinge of guilt from the previous night's antics. As a memory flashed in his mind, he looked up at Lily, his voice suddenly playful and sweet. "Was I really cute yesterday?" he asked, tilting his head in an endearing manner.

Lily blinked, momentarily stunned by his sudden shift in demeanor. She nodded with a small smile. "Yes, you were cute."

Encouraged by her response, Ethan's eyes sparkled. "Then... how about granting the wish I told you about yesterday?"

Lily frowned slightly, confused. "Wish? What wish?"

As he gazed at her with an intensity that made her heart flutter, her mind raced to recall the events of the previous night. Slowly, her face grew warm as she remembered what he was referring to-his request for them to have a baby. Her cheeks turned a deep shade of red, and she quickly looked down, unable to hold his gaze. Her heart was pounding so hard it felt like it might burst.

Noticing her sudden shyness and how she avoided his eyes, Ethan felt a flicker of worry. Gently holding her hands, he leaned closer and asked hesitantly, "You... don't want to?"

Lily snapped her head up to glare at him, her eyes blazing. "What do you mean by that?"

Realizing his words might have been misunderstood, Ethan froze. He quickly realized he'd mistaken her shyness for reluctance, and panic set in. He scratched the back of his neck awkwardly, letting out a nervous laugh. "Hehe... Wifey, that's not what I meant..."

"Oh?" Lily raised an eyebrow, her tone sharp. "Then explain, Ethan. What did you mean by asking me that? Do you really think I don't want to have your children?"

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+8 Pearls

Ethan immediately shook his head, his hands waving in a frantic attempt to pacify her. "No, no! That's not what I meant at all!"

"Then what did you mean?" she pressed, her voice laced with anger. "Do you not trust me? Why on earth would I marry you if I didn't want to have children with you? Tell me, if not yours, whose child do you think I'd want to have?" "Mine! Obviously mine!" Ethan blurted out, nodding so vigorously that he looked like a bobblehead.

"Exactly!" Lily retorted, her frustration evident. "So why would you even think that I wouldn't want to have your children?"

Her words struck him like a lightning bolt, and he instantly realized how much his careless question had upset her. She looked genuinely hurt, and it twisted

something deep in his chest. He opened his mouth to say something but faltered, unsure how to fix the mess he'd created.

Taking a deep breath to calm herself, Lily stood up from her seat. "I think I should leave now," she said, her tone cooler than before. "I have a lot of things to take care of. You should finish your breakfast."

She turned to leave, leaving Ethan sitting there, stunned and regretful.

558

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

94%

* Pearls

As Lily turned to leave. Ethan quickly reached out and grabbed her wrist, stopping her in her tracks. Without a moment's hesitation, he pulled her into his arms, wrapping them tightly around her waist. His voice was soft yet desperate. "Lily, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean it. Please, forgive me."

Lily remained silent, her body rigid in his embrace.

Ethan felt a wave of panic. Cursing himself inwardly, he tightened his hold, his tone pleading, "Baby, I'm such an idiot. I was careless. Please don't be mad at me. I'll do anything to make it right."

Still, she said nothing.

Ethan was about to say more when he noticed her body trembling in his arms. His heart dropped as he realized she was crying.

"Lily, baby, why are you crying?" he asked, his voice full of concern. He gently turned her around, tilting her face toward him.

Lily refused to meet his gaze, her tears streaming silently down her cheeks. She whimpered softly, trying to suppress the sound of her crying.

Ethan carefully cupped her face, tilting her chin up until their eyes met. Her tear-filled gaze was like a dagger to his heart. Gently wiping her tears away with his thumbs, he leaned down and pressed a tender kiss

to her forehead.

"I'm so sorry, baby," he whispered, his voice full of remorse. "I never meant to hurt you. Please, forgive me."

Through her tears, Lily finally spoke, her voice shaking. "How could you say that? Do you not trust my love for you? Asking me something like that... it's like you're questioning my feelings for you."

Her words hit him hard. He immediately held his ears, his expression sincere and full of guilt. "I'm really, really sorry, baby. I was wrong. I wasn't thinking. Please, forgive me."

Lily sniffled, her eyes still red and swollen from crying. "You're so bad. I hate you," she muttered, lightly punching his chest in frustration.

Ethan nodded earnestly. "Yes, yes, I'm terrible. I'm the worst. Hit me, slap me-no, wait, I have a better idea!" He suddenly pointed to his head. "You know what? Pull my hair until I'm bald if it makes you feel better, but please, stop crying."

Despite her tears, Lily couldn't help but chuckle at his ridiculous suggestion. She laughed and cried at the same time, her emotions a chaotic mix. "Do you think I'm some wild animal who would pull your hair?" she teased. "And if you go bald, I'll divorce you immediately."

Ethan gasped dramatically, clutching his chest like she had just stabbed him. "What? Divorce me?!"

"Yes!" she replied, feigning seriousness. "What do you think? A beauty like me isn't going to live with a bald man! Looks are everything. If you go bald, I'll dump you and find someone more handsome to be with."

Ethan narrowed his eyes playfully, cupping her face in his hands. He leaned in and placed a quick peck on her lips before declaring possessively, "Not allowed."

"Not allowed?" Lily raised an eyebrow, amused. "And how exactly are you going to stop me?"

Ethan shook his head his tone mock carious "If you even think about it. I'll bidnan quemren called

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'handsome' man you look at and shave their heads personally."

+ Pearls

Lily burst out laughing. The mental image of him rounding up random men and shaving their heads was so absurd that she couldn't stop giggling.

Seeing her finally laugh, Ethan let out a breath of relief. Her tears had stopped, and the tension in the room had dissolved. "Baby," he said cautiously, "does that mean I'm forgiven?"

Lily looked at him, her eyes still twinkling with amusement. She pretended to think for a moment before finally nodding. "Forgiven. But," she added sternly, "if you ever say something like that again, I'll really slap you next time."

Ethan laughed nervously, nodding quickly. "Understood, ma'am. It won't happen again."

With that, the air between them cleared, and a warm sense of comfort returned to the room.

Ethan chuckled softly and nodded. "Alright, you can slap me as much as you want. This face is yours anyway."

Lily rolled her eyes dramatically, pushing him aside. "Who told you that you're handsome? And look at you! You've made me miss my breakfast because of all this nonsense."

She turned and headed toward the dining table, her movements quick but graceful. Ethan trailed behind her, a small, amused smile lingering on his lips. Without saying a word, he pulled out a chair and sat down next to her. Together, they resumed their breakfast, the earlier tension replaced by a warm sense of normalcy.

After a while, Lily broke the silence. Her voice was soft but carried a note of seriousness. "Ethan, don't ever question my love for you again. It's not that I don't want to have children with you. I just think it's too soon."

Hearing her heartfelt words, Ethan reached across the table, taking both her hands in his. He brought them to his lips and kissed them gently. "I understand, my love. I was thoughtless and insensitive. I'm sorry for

what I said."

A gentle smile played on Lily's lips as she nodded, her eyes reflecting her forgiveness.

After breakfast, they spent a bit more time together, but eventually, Lily had to leave. Today marked the final day of promotional activities for her latest film, and an important interview awaited her.

Ethan personally walked her downstairs to the car. Before she got in, he gave the driver some careful instructions and closed the door behind her. He stood there, watching as the car drove off, a lingering smile on his face.

As he made his way back to his office, Ethan suddenly slapped his forehead. The memory of his earlier blunder made him groan inwardly. "Next time, I need to think before I speak," he muttered to himself. Then, an idea crossed his mind. Perhaps he could get her a special gift to make up for it.

Once inside his office, he picked up the phone and called his assistant.

"Yes, Boss?" Assistant Ben's voice came through cautiously. His nerves were still raw from whatever chaos had occurred the day before.

"Do you have any updates on Pedro?" Ethan asked, his tone calm but commanding.

Assistant Ben shook his head. "Not yet, Boss. The report should be ready by tomorrow."

Ethan nodded and waved his hand dismissively, signaling his assistant to leave. Yet when Ben turned to go, Ethan called him back.

"Wait a second," Ethan said, narrowing his eyes slightly. "How good is your memory?"

Assistant Ben paused, confused by the question but answered truthfully, "It's... it's very good. Pow?"

"Good." Ethan leaned back in his chair. "Do you remember what happened yesterday in this ofENT

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Assistant Ben hesitated. His boss's gaze was sharp, and he knew better than to be completely hoes We uh... yesterday you were a bit-"

Before he could finish, Ethan's eyes flashed dangerously, making Assistant Ben's words trail off. Sullenly, hard, the assistant quickly corrected himself. "Actually, Boss, I don't remember anything, in fact, I wasn't even in the office yesterday. No! I wasn't even in the country!"

Ethan raised an eyebrow, unimpressed. "You don't need to exaggerate so much. Just remember that you don't remember. Understood?"

Assistant Ben nodded fervently, repeating the words as if his life depended on it. I remember nothing

Satisfied, Ethan gestured for him to leave. Once the door closed, Ethan leaned back in his chair, his thoughts returning to Lily.

"What should I get her?" he murmured to himself. The idea of surprising her with something meaningful brought a small smile to his face as he began to brainstorm ways to make his wife happy.

Lily narrowed her eyes, shaking her head. "No way. I'm not kissing a drunkard!" Ethan's face fell, and he pouted again. "Wifey is so mean..."

Lily chuckled at his dramatic sulking, thinking to herself how utterly adorable he looked. Drunk or Ethan was a handful-but he was her handful.

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

+8 Pearls

That evening, as Lily stepped into her home, exhaustion from a long day weighed on her. However, the moment she walked through the door, her senses were greeted by the delightful aroma of freshly cooked food. She placed the gifts and trinkets she had brought home on the table, then made her way toward the kitchen to investigate.

Inside, Ethan was busy cooking, his casual attire giving him an approachable, boy-next-door charm.

"Rough day?" he asked, glancing up from the stove and noticing her leaning against the doorway.

Lily nodded with a tired smile.

"Go freshen up," he said warmly. "Dinner will be ready soon."

Grateful, she smiled again and headed to the bedroom to change. After washing up, she returned in comfortable clothes to find Ethan setting dishes on the dining table.

They sat down side by side, and Ethan served the food. Lily, famished, wasted no time digging in, savoring each bite.

"What's all that?" Ethan asked, gesturing toward the pile of packages she had brought in earlier.

"Just gifts from some fans," she replied between bites.

He nodded, and the two ate in companionable silence, enjoying the flavors of the meal. Every bite spoke of effort and care, making the meal even more special.

Afterward, Lily got up to clear the table and headed into the kitchen to do the dishes.

"Hey, come here. I have something to show you!" Ethan's voice carried a note of excitement as he appeared at the doorway, a big grin on his face.

"What is it?" she asked, glancing back at him.

"Just come," he insisted, grabbing her hand eagerly.

"Give me a minute to finish these," she said, motioning to the plates.

Ethan sighed theatrically but waited as she quickly washed up. Once done, he led her to the living room, his excitement palpable. On the coffee table sat a neatly wrapped box, its shiny paper reflecting the room's warm light.

"Open it," he urged.

Curious, Lily carefully unwrapped the package. Inside lay a stunning silver gown adorned with delicate glitter and tiny diamond-like embellishments. It was breathtaking-and unmistakable. She recognized it immediately as one of her designs, one of the most exclusive pieces from her boutique's collection.

Her eyes widened. "This... Why did you buy this?"

"Because tomorrow is a big day for you, and I wanted you to wear it," he said, his expression both proud and affectionate.

"But it's so expensive..." she protested.

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Ethan chuckled. "I know. That's why it's worth it."

She tilted her head, narrowing her eyes at him. "Did you also get the matching suit?"

With a playful flick to her forehead, he replied, "Of course, silly. It's a couple's set, remember?"

"Of course, I remember," she said, rubbing the spot he had flicked. "But why would you?"

+8 Pearls

"I wanted to be your first customer," he interrupted, his arms encircling her waist as he pulled her closer.

Lily's heart warmed at his thoughtfulness. "Thank you," she whispered, her smile bright.

"Not so fast," he teased. "As your first customer, don't I get special treatment?"

She laughed softly, wrapping her arms around his neck. "Oh? What do you want?"

Ethan leaned in, his mischievous smile meeting hers. Before he could answer, she stood on her tiptoes and pressed a kiss to his lips.

But he wasn't about to let it end there.

Ethan cupped Lily's neck gently, pulling her into a deep, passionate kiss. Their lips lingered together, the world around them fading as the moment stretched. When they finally broke apart, both were breathless, their eyes locked as if sharing a silent conversation.

Before she could fully catch her breath, Ethan reached behind him and handed her another gift box.

"What's this?" she asked, curiosity lighting up her face.

"Open it and see," he said with a playful grin.

Lily carefully peeled off the wrapping and lifted the lid. Inside was a soft, white teddy bear with adorable, button-like eyes. Her face lit up with pure joy, her excitement bubbling over.

"This is so cute!" she exclaimed, clutching the plush toy tightly to her chest. She turned to Ethan and planted another kiss on his lips. "Thank you, thank you, thank you! I love it. This is the best gift ever!" she said, laughing as she hugged the teddy bear.

"What should we name it?" she asked, holding it up and inspecting its fluffy fur. "It's so soft and cuddly... How about 'Mr. Fluffy'?"

Ethan chuckled at her enthusiasm. "Mr. Fluffy sounds perfect."

Her joy was infectious, and seeing her smile made his heart swell.

Still riding the wave of happiness, Lily decided to open the gifts she had received from her fans earlier. She sifted through the cards and small packages, each containing thoughtful messages and trinkets, until her hand landed on a small, elegant gift box.

Curious, she opened it-and gasped. Inside was a dazzling pair of silver earrings, encrusted with what appeared to be diamonds.

"Wow... are these real diamonds?" she asked, her eyes wide with disbelief.

Ethan took the earrings from her hands and examined them closely. With just a glance, he could tell they were genuine-and incredibly valuable.

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"They're real," he confirmed, his brow furrowing. "But who would send you something like this?"

Lily shrugged, just as puzzled as he was. "I have no idea. But there's a card with it."

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+8 Pearls

"Let me read it," he offered, taking the card and opening it. The handwriting inside

was elegant, almost artistic, and there was something eerily familiar about it.

The note read:

To a beautiful lady,

A gift to celebrate your success. I hope you'll wear these tomorrow.

-LX

Ethan's expression darkened as he reread the note. The initials struck a chord, though he couldn't immediately place them. "Do you know anyone who goes by

LX?"

Lily frowned, trying to think. "LX... LX..." She repeated the letters aloud, racking her brain for a connection. Suddenly, her face lit up.

"Pedro!" she exclaimed.

Ethan froze. The name hit him like a bolt of lightning.

"Who?" he asked, trying to mask the unease creeping into his voice.

"Pedro," she repeated with a smile. "He's the guy who saved me once-my savior.

I told you about him before, remember? You even saw him that day when you came to pick me up."

Ethan's heart sank. Pedro. That name stirred a storm of emotions inside him-confusion, jealousy, and

unease.

"Saved you?" he asked, his voice steady but his mind in turmoil. How could his wife have such a significant connection with someone he knew so little about? "Yes," Lily explained, oblivious to his inner conflict. "It's a long story, but he helped me during a tough time. I'm sure he's the one who sent these earrings."

Ethan forced a smile, but his thoughts were far from calm. Who exactly was Pedro, and why did he feel so unsettled by the mention of his name?

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Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

+8 Pearls

At that moment, Ethan found himself recalling a pair of eyes filled with anger and resentment. The memory struck him vividly-he had seen them that day when he went to pick up Lily after her interview. She had been standing with a strikingly handsome man.

Could that man be him? Could he really be his Pedro?

The thought unsettled Ethan. It was possible that the man simply shared the same name as his old friend. But then again, what if it truly was him? Ethan couldn't be certain. He regretted not stepping out of the car that day, not seizing the opportunity to meet the man face-to-face. Maybe then, he could have found some clue to confirm his suspicions.

Everything about the stranger-the way he carried himself, his commanding posture, and the confidence with which he stood-reminded Ethan of the Pedro he used to know. Yet, doubt lingered. What if it wasn't him at all?

Lost in his thoughts, Ethan didn't notice Lily calling out to him until she shook his arm gently.

"Ethan? What's on your mind? You've been so quiet," she said, her voice tinged with concern.

"Huh?" He blinked, startled out of his reverie. "Oh, it's nothing. Just thinking about this Pedro guy."

Lily tilted her head curiously. "What about him?"

Ethan forced a small smile, masking his turmoil. "Just wondering how wealthy he must be to send you such an extravagant gift."

He chose not to share the real thoughts swirling in his mind. It wasn't that he wanted to keep secrets from her, but before he said anything, he needed to be sure. If this man was indeed his Pedro, there was more to

uncover.

I need to look into this, Ethan thought. He made a mental note to contact James to help him investigate.

Pushing the matter aside, he refocused on his wife. He listened quietly as Lily excitedly talked about her gown, the earrings, and the plans for the next day's pre-screening of her movie. While her enthusiasm was contagious, Ethan couldn't fully relax.

That night, as they lay in bed together, Lily peacefully drifted off to sleep in his arms. Ethan, however, remained awake, his thoughts racing. Restless, he kissed her forehead softly, a silent wish forming in his heart: Wherever you are, Pedro, I hope you're safe.

The following morning, excitement filled the air. Today was a milestone for Lily—the pre-screening of her film, *Shades of Love*. Although she had experienced events like this before in her past life, the anticipation still sent a mixture of nerves and excitement coursing through her.

Ethan was just as eager. He and Director Young had gone to great lengths to make the event special, inviting notable figures from the entertainment industry to ensure the occasion would leave a lasting impression.

When the event began, the venue was abuzz with energy. Lily and Ethan arrived together, turning heads in their coordinated outfits. The couple was joined by the cast and crew, along with other industry professionals.

Once everyone was seated, Ethan and Lily found themselves a few seats apart. As the lights dimmed and the movie began playing on the massive screen, their excitement only grew. Occasionally, they glanced at each other exchanging silent words through their eyes - encouragement, pride, and love.

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This day was monumental, not just for Lily's career but also for the shared journey they were embarking on together.

Ethan's heart swelled with pride as he sat in the dimly lit theater, watching Lily's performance unfold on the big screen. The happiness coursing through him was beyond words. It wasn't just admiration for her talent - it was the pure joy of seeing her shine in a way that was so uniquely her.

Lily shared the same elation. Seeing her face projected onto the massive screen, living her dream, left her overwhelmed with emotion. Acting in a movie was one thing, but witnessing her work come alive in such a grand way brought an entirely different level of fulfillment.

She sneaked a glance at Ethan, who was already looking at her with an expression of pride and love that made her heart race. His gaze seemed to say it all. As their eyes met, he silently mouthed, "I'm proud of you. I love you."

Her face lit up with a radiant smile, and she mouthed back, "I love you too." In that moment, her happiness felt complete, as if nothing else in the world mattered. She wanted nothing more than to run into his arms and hold him tightly, but she stayed in her seat, cherishing the silent connection between them.

However, their intimate exchange didn't

go

unnoticed.

Seated a few rows behind them, someone watched them with an intensity that burned through the shadows. Pedro had deliberately chosen a seat in the back, avoiding Ethan's line of sight. His eyes remained fixed on Lily, his expression softening as he watched her on the big screen.

She was a natural, born to captivate audiences. Pride welled up within him, seeing how effortlessly she had brought her character to life. Her radiant smile, the way her emotions flickered across the screen - it all reminded him why he admired her.

so deeply. The earrings she wore sparkled under the lights, a perfect complement to her elegance. Knowing

But that joy was short-lived.

When he saw her turn to Ethan, her eyes lighting up with affection, Pedro's expression darkened. The hatred he felt toward Ethan flared like a fire, consuming his brief moment of happiness. His jaw tightened, and his eyes narrowed as he glared at the man he despised.

The intensity of his gaze didn't go unnoticed. Ethan felt a strange prickle at the back of his neck, as though someone were watching him. He turned to glance behind him, but the darkness of the theater revealed nothing out of the ordinary. Shrugging off the uneasy feeling, he focused back on the movie.

As the credits rolled and the lights came up, the theater buzzed with excitement. The audience was swept away by the film, overwhelmed by its emotional depth and artistic brilliance. Conversations erupted as people praised the captivating storyline, the skillful direction, and the breathtaking cinematography.

But most of all, they marveled at the performances-especially Lily's.

"She was incredible," one critic said, his voice tinged with awe. "Her portrayal was so raw and authentic. I was completely blown away. She's a hidden gem in the industry, no doubt about it."

Another chimed in, nodding enthusiastically. "The whole movie was spectacular-the script, the directing, the locations-but Lily? She was the dark horse of this film. Her performance gave me goosebumps. I'd gladly watch the movie again just to experience her acting."

Ethan listened to the glowing feedback, his chest swelling with pride. He glanced at Lily, whose cheeks flushed at the compliments. Her dream of becoming an actress was no longer just hers-it had become a shared journey, and tonight was a testament to her talent and hard work.

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+8 Pearls

Though the night was a celebration for Lily, Ethan couldn't ignore the nagging feeling that someone, somewhere, was watching too closely for comfort.

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan)

+8 Pearls

The critics, jury members, and nearly everyone who attended the screening of the film were full of praise for its brilliance. It was evident that this movie was destined for success, poised to rake in staggering earnings that would elevate its status to a record-breaking hit.

As the audience exited the theater, they were met by a swarm of media eager to capture their reactions. Reporters bombarded them with questions about the movie, its script, and the performances. While most of the responses were overwhelmingly positive, a few murmurs of discontent arose, sparking intrigue.

The dissatisfaction wasn't directed at the movie itself but rather at the performances of certain actors. While Lily's performance had left many speechless with admiration, Rose's acting had drawn criticism. Industry veterans and critics, accustomed to Rose's previous roles, noted a distinct difference in her performance. To them, it lacked the spark and depth she had shown in earlier films. Comparisons began to swirl, as some remarked that it felt as though the sisters had switched places in terms of acting prowess.

One particular critic, a respected elder in the entertainment world, drew significant attention as he emerged from the theater. Known for his candid reviews, this man had earned a reputation as someone who spoke his mind without fear of backlash. His critiques, though often harsh, were regarded as honest and insightful.

The moment he stepped outside, reporters surrounded him, thrusting microphones toward him.

"Sir, what are your thoughts on the movie? How do you feel about the performances by the cast?" one journalist asked eagerly.

The critic, his voice heavy with age and authority, responded without hesitation. "The movie was quite enjoyable. The director deserves credit for his craftsmanship, and the script was commendable. It explored the complexities of love, particularly how an obsessive love can drive a person to madness. The film

portrayed how some justify their toxic actions in the name of love, showing the darker side of human emotions with remarkable clarity."

"Sir, what about the performances?" another reporter probed, steering the conversation toward the cast.

He paused for a moment before continuing, "The cast put in a good effort, and you can see the dedication they brought to their roles. Leon Haris, for instance, has shown consistent growth over the years, and it was evident in his performance. However, what truly surprised me was the debut performance by Lily. For her first film, she displayed an exceptional level of skill. Every scene she was in felt genuine and impactful. She has a natural talent that made her presence on screen unforgettable."

The crowd of reporters leaned in closer, sensing there was more to come.

"But," he added, his tone shifting, must say I was disappointed in Rose's performance. I've watched her work in the past, and I know she's capable of much more. Yet, in this film, she lacked the vitality and charisma she once had. Her acting felt flat, almost lifeless. In contrast, her sister Lily outshone her in every way. If I had to choose between the two, I'd say Lily is the more promising talent by far."

His words sent ripples through the crowd, as murmurs of agreement and surprise filled the air. The media had found their headline for the day-Lily's remarkable debut and the unexpected criticism of Rose's performance.

The critic, unfazed by the attention his remarks had garnered, adjusted his glasses and walked away. The reporters scrambled to relay his comments, knowing they had just witnessed the birth of a new star in the industry-and perhaps the decline of another's once-glittering reputation.

The old man finished his remarks and calmly walked away, oblivious to the presence of a striking young woman standing just behind him. That woman was none other than Rose. She had overheard every single

word he had said.

+8 Pearls

Rose was not alone; by her side stood Ryan, making his first public appearance in ages. The last time he had faced the media was during the fallout from the collapse

of his company. Now, as reporters turned their attention toward them, Rose found herself bombarded with questions-many of which revolved around her sister, Lily.

Each mention of Lily's name felt like a dagger to Rose's pride. The reporters' praise for Lily's performance and the audience's criticisms of her own acting were almost too much to bear. She clenched her fists in frustration, forcing a polite smile to mask her seething anger.

How dare they compare her to that woman? Rose thought bitterly. In her mind, she was superior in every way-experience, looks, and talent. Yet here she was, enduring a barrage of comments that placed Lily on a pedestal while belittling her efforts.

Unable to endure the humiliation any longer, Rose abruptly left the event. Her exit was hurried, and Ryan followed close behind, sensing her mounting fury. Meanwhile, in another corner of the venue, Lily was basking in the glow of her newfound success. Countless people approached her with congratulatory words and genuine admiration for her performance. Among them were several well-known directors who extended offers for future projects right then and there.

Lily felt as if she were walking on air. This was everything she had dreamed of, everything she had been denied in her past life. Now, with the release of her debut film, she knew this was only the beginning.

As her eyes scanned the bustling crowd, they landed on a familiar face. Her heart skipped a beat in surprise. With a bright smile, she made her way toward him.

"Pedro, you're here!" she said, her voice filled with delight.

Pedro returned her smile, his gaze softening as he looked at her. "You look stunning," he said warmly.

"Thank you," Lily replied, a faint blush coloring her cheeks. "And thank you so much for the earrings. They're beautiful."

"Did you like them?" he asked, his tone gentle yet earnest.

"I loved them," she said with a nod. "But they must've been so expensive. You didn't have to get me something like this."

Pedro chuckled softly. "It's nothing. They suit you perfectly. The moment I saw them, your face came to mind, and I knew they were meant for you."

Lily blinked, slightly taken aback by his words. Something about them felt off, but she couldn't quite put her finger on it. Dismissing her unease, she quickly changed the topic. "Did you enjoy the movie?"

Pedro nodded, a faint smile lingering on his lips. He was about to reply when his demeanor shifted abruptly. From the corner of his eye, he noticed Ethan approaching them.

"Umm... Lily, I need to go. I'll catch up with you later," he said hurriedly, making a vague excuse before turning to leave.

Lily watched him walk away, a hint of confusion in her eyes. She had no idea why Pedro had suddenly left, but he seemed anxious about something.

As Pedro moved swiftly through the crowd, his thoughts were racing. He wasn't ready to face Ethan-not

here, not now. There would come a time for their paths to cross, but it wouldn't be under these

circumstances.