

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

"Of course, my dear..." Casey said with a smile, her expression dripping with practiced affection. She gracefully settled into her seat, while Lily offered a polite smile and took her place beside her.

Finished

The family began their breakfast in quiet harmony. Lily had just lifted her chopsticks when she noticed a lingering gaze directed at her. Looking up, she saw Rose smirking slightly, a faux sweetness playing on her lips.

"Elder sister, are you going somewhere today?" Rose asked, tilting her head curiously.

Lily shook her head, keeping her tone even. "No. Why do you ask?"

Rose shrugged nonchalantly. "You just look so dressed up today-really pretty, actually. I thought you must have plans to go out."

Lily smiled faintly. "Of course not. Now that my identity has been revealed, I need to make sure I reflect the Miller Family's image properly."

Morgan, her father, chuckled approvingly. "Well said, Lily. Now that the truth is out, you do have to maintain the family's reputation,"

Lily nodded respectfully. "I understand, Father."

Morgan's tone grew serious. "Just remember to be cautious. Things could easily get out of hand if you're not careful."

Lily lowered her gaze. "I know, Father. My identity was supposed to remain a secret, but when I heard someone insulting my parents, I couldn't hold myself back. I'm truly sorry for acting impulsively."

Before Morgan could respond, Rose scoffed audibly, her irritation cutting through the conversation. Then you shouldn't have shown up at all, she muttered, glaring at Lily.

Morgan's brow furrowed. "Rose! Watch your tone. She's your elder sister. You shouldn't speak to her like that."

Rose huffed, her frustration bubbling to the surface. "But I'm not wrong! Everyone here knows it's her fault. Why did she have to come here-all dressed up like she was attending a gala? If she hadn't shown up, her identity wouldn't have been exposed in the first place."

Once, Lily might have swallowed such harsh words quietly. But not anymore. Instead, she let her eyes glisten with tears, her voice trembling as she spoke. "Rose, I only wanted to celebrate Taylor's success with the family yesterday. That's all. I just wanted to feel like I belonged. I never intended for my identity to come out like that... I'm so sorry."

Rose's expression hardened. "It doesn't matter if you meant to or not. The damage is done. And you're lucky it was a private event. At least the outside world doesn't know about you yet." She sneered. You were fine staying home all this time, so why did you suddenly feel the need to push your way into our lives?"

The tears Lily had been holding back finally spilled down her cheeks. She pushed her chair back abruptly, standing up. "Rose... why are you saying these things? Am I not part of this family? Don't I belong here, too?" Her voice cracked as she choked back a sob, and before anyone could respond, she turned and ran from the

room.

"Lily" Ryan's concerned voice rang out as he jumped up to follow her.

Rose watched him go, her mood instantly lifting now that Lily had left the table. She picked up her chopsticks, a smug smile curving her lips as she resumed eating.

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"Finally, some peace," she muttered under her breath. But her satisfaction didn't last long. Her smile faltered, and a flash of jealousy sparked in her eyes. Why did Brother Ryan chase after her? What if that linle schemer tries to seduce him?

Her grip on her chopsticks tightened. If she dares to cross that line, I won't let her get away with it.

Morgan's stern voice broke the tension. "Rose! How could you speak to your elder sister like that?"

Rose, unbothered, folded her arms and snapped back, "She is not my elder sister! And Father, it's your fault too. You shouldn't have called her here in the first place."

Morgan's brows drew together, his tone turning sharp. "I brought Lily here for a reason. There's a business deal at stake, and I needed her to help Taylor. But now you've ruined everything"

"But, Dad...!" Rose protested, her frustration bubbling over.

"No, Rose." Morgan cut her off, his voice rising in anger. "Everything I do is for you and Taylor's future. I love you both, but that does not mean you can destroy my plans. And mark my words, don't you dare talk to Lily like that again!"

With that, Morgan stood up abruptly and strode out of the room, Casey quickly following him in an attempt to calm him down.

Rose stared at the empty doorway, stunned. Dad never shouts at me. Then why today? Her fists clenched under the table, and her glare turned venomous. It's all because of her. That woman... Without another word, she stormed away from the breakfast table, her heels clicking angrily against the floor.

In the chaos, only one person remained completely unaffected. Taylor sat calmly, munching on his breakfast as though he were watching a lighthearted sitcom. He glanced around once and smirked to himself. Getting involved in family drama was never his style.

Outside the Miller Mansion, Lily stepped into the crisp morning air. She swiped at her tear-streaked face, the fake tears disappearing almost instantly. Taking a deep breath, she muttered to herself. "Finally, I can breathe. I wasn't about to sit there and eat with those wolves." Her stomach grumbled softly. I'll grab something to eat on the way.

Before she could make her escape, she heard someone calling her name. "Lily! Wait!" It was Ryan.

Not wanting to deal with him, Lily quickened her steps, disappearing around the corner. Watching her vanishing figure, Ryan sighed regretfully. I wanted to use this chance to get closer to her. Oh well. If not now, there will always be another opportunity.

At Marvellous Universe

The office buzzed with the usual hum of activity as employees went about their work. When Lily walked in, a few curious glances flickered her way, but no one dared to linger. She ignored the stares and made her way toward Mia's office. She knocked lightly and heard Mia's cheerful voice call out, "Come in!" "Good

morning, Sister Mia, Lily greeted as she entered the room. Before she could say more, Mia

practically leapt from her chair, grabbing Lily's hands excitedly.

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"Good morning, my foot! Sit down! Now tell me everything-everything! I want every single juicy detail Don't you dare leave anything out!" Mia's eyes sparkled with curiosity.

Lily sighed, knowing there was no escape. Sitting down, she recounted the events from the party-every awkward, shocking, and embarrassing moment. By the time she got to the part where she was drunk, Mia's eyes had widened to the size of saucers.

When Lily hesitated, Mia leaned in impatiently. "And? And what happened? Don't stop now!"

Lily cleared her throat, cheeks flushing slightly. "I... I kissed CEO Ethan."

For a moment, Mia was silent, and then she squealed with delight. "You what?! You kissed CEO Ethan? Oh my God! Was it your first kiss? Was he a good kisser? Tell me, tell me!"

Lily's face turned crimson. "Sister Mia! That's not the point! Don't you get it? I kissed CEO Ethan-and he's gay! Worse, Boss Parker saw us!"

Mia froze mid-celebration, her smile faltering. "Wait, wait. You kissed Boss Parker's boyfriend, and Boss Parker caught you? Oh no, Lily, what have you done? What did Boss Parker say?"

Lily buried her face in her hands. "He didn't say anything. He just walked away. And... and they're not exactly a couple yet. They're friends with benefits."

Mia gasped. "What?! Friends with benefits, and you broke their... whatever it is? Lily, that's even messier! No wonder Boss Parker looked heartbroken."

Lily groaned, her voice muffled by her hands. "Sister Mia, you have to help me. What am I going to do? I can't fix this on my own.

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Seeing Lily's tear-streaked face, Mia couldn't help but feel sorry for her. The poor girl had already been through enough-her first kiss accidentally given to someone who wasn't even interested in women! If that wasn't bad enough, now she had another mountain to climb.

Patting Lily gently on the shoulder, Mia offered her a reassuring smile. "Don't worry too much, Lily. Our boss is a kind man. He has a big heart, and if you explain everything clearly, he'll understand"

"Really, Sister Mia?" Lily looked up at her with a mix of hope and nervousness. "You're sure he won't see me as some sort of rival?"

"Of course not!" Mia replied confidently. "Just be honest and tell him everything

"Okay, Sister Mia..." Lily took a deep breath and stood up. She took a couple of steps forward but stopped abruptly, turning back with unease. "You're really sure Boss Parker will understand, right?"

"Yes, yes! Absolutely!" Mia waved her hands encouragingly. "You were drunk, weren't you? It's not like you did anything on purpose."

Lily nodded hesitantly.

"Good, now hurry up!" Mia urged her. "Boss Parker already called me earlier to let you know to come to his office. So this is your chance to clear everything up."

Lily straightened her back, clenching her fists for courage. "Alright, I'll go in, explain myself clearly, and then leave."

"That's the spirit!" Mia cheered, giving her an encouraging thumbs-up. "Be brave. Don't forget, you're my artist, and my artists are always fearless!"

"Everything will be fine," Lily whispered to herself as she marched out of the room, trying to summon every ounce of courage.

The moment Lily left, Mia's face froze.

"Oh no!" she smacked her forehead. "I completely forgot to tell her that CEO Ethan is also in the office today!"

Inside Parker's Office

Parker sat at his desk, busy reviewing documents, when Ethan-the ever-composed and stoic CEO-walked into the office with an unusual smile plastered across his face. Without waiting for permission, he pulled up a chair and settled in as though the office was his own.

"Good morning, Parker," Ethan greeted politely.

Parker froze mid-sentence, looking up at his friend in disbelief. "Do I need to call a doctor?" he asked cautiously.

Ethan tilted his head. "Why? What's wrong?"

or for your health

"What's wrong?" Parker echoed, pointing an accusing finger at him. "You! Since when do you greet people with a smile? You never smile, Ethan! This... this is unnatural."

"Understand what?" Parker pressed, narrowing his eyes suspiciously.

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"The joy of being in love." Ethan said casually, though the subtle smirk on his lips betrayed just how smug he was

he was

Parker nearly fell out of his chair. "Love? Wait... what?!" He grabbed a bottle of water from his desk to compose himself. "Hold on... didn't you tell me Lily still thinks you're... uh... gay?"

"She does." Ethan admitted with an innocent shrug.

"Then why are you so cheerful?" Parker asked before taking a sip of water.

Ethan's smile widened. "Because I kissed her."

The words struck Parker like a thunderbolt. He choked, spitting water all over Ethan's crisp white shirt. The shock sent the bottle tumbling from his hands as he coughed violently, eyes wide with disbelief.

Ethan frowned and sighed as he looked down at his now-soaked shirt. Without saying a word, he removed it and calmly wiped his torso with a tissue. Every movement was fluid, precise, and much to Parker's exasperation-effortlessly elegant.

"What's with the dramatic reaction?" Ethan muttered. "Get me a clean shirt, will you?"

Still stunned, Parker blinked. "Huh? A shirt?" It took him a second to register what Ethan said. Then, glancing at Ethan's bare torso, he realized his mistake and jumped up. "Right! Hold on!"

In his rush to grab a spare shirt from the storage room, Parker didn't notice the water spilled on the floor. As soon as he turned back toward Ethan, his foot slipped, and he toppled forward.. straight into Ethan's arms.

"Ah! Sorry, sorry!" Parker stammered, laughing awkwardly as he tried to regain his balance. The situation was bad enough, but his mind screamed in horror as the office door suddenly creaked open.

Standing in the doorway was Lily, frozen in place. Her eyes widened as she took in the scene: her boss, Parker, leaning into a shirtless Ethan, who still had his arms around him. The air seemed to freeze.

Lily's jaw dropped. She blinked rapidly, as if trying to erase the image from her mind. "I... I'm sorry! I didn't mean to interrupt! Please, continue... whatever you were doing!" she stammered, face flushing bright red.

Ethan's expression darkened. Lily, wait-

Parker, still awkwardly trapped in Ethan's arms, wanted to cry. What kind of timing is this?!

Lily bowed her head hastily. "I'll come back later. Sorry again!" With that, she bolted out of the office, leaving behind a stunned silence.

Ethan let go of Parker with a groan, running a hand through his hair in frustration.

"Great. Just great. Now she's misunderstood me... again."

Parker, recovering his balance, gave a weak chuckle. "Well... at least

"Parker. Ethan shot him a deadly glare.

're in love, right?"

"Alright, shutting up now," Parker muttered, stepping back cautiously. I'm so dead.

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"Boss Parker, I'm really sorry... I promise there's nothing going on between CEO Ethan and me. Yesterday, I was drunk-that's the only reason I kissed him! I didn't even know he was CEO Ethan at the time. If I had known.... I never would have done that," Lily explained hurriedly, her voice full of anxiety.

She glanced nervously between the two men, hoping her explanation would smooth things over.

Ethan's sharp gaze darkened as he listened to her words. What does she mean by that? His brows furrowed. in displeasure. If it wasn't me, would she have kissed someone else instead?

The mere thought of another man kissing her sent a wave of irritation through him. A cold, possessive anger bubbled under the surface. No! It can only be me. It will always be me.

Meanwhile, Lily couldn't ignore the way CEO Ethan was glaring at her, his piercing eyes making her shift uncomfortably. Why is he looking at me like that? Did I say something wrong?

Mr. Parker, who had been watching the awkward exchange with amusement, suddenly burst into laughter. "Lily, you've got it all wrong! We're not a couple."

Lily blinked and nodded slowly, her thoughts jumping to conclusions. They're not a couple? Ah... friends with benefits. I get it. "I know," she replied knowingly, her expression innocent but sure.

Ethan shot a withering glare at his friend. Is he making this worse on purpose? He stepped forward and added firmly, "I'm not gay."

Mr. Parker immediately whirled toward him, looking affronted. "Hey! Are you trying to imply that I'm gay? Don't go dragging me into this!" He turned to Lily, looking desperate to clear the air. "Lily, we're straight. I don't know where you heard something like that, but it's not true. We're definitely not gay!"

Lily listened to his words politely, but her face betrayed her skepticism. Her expression screamed, I don't believe a single word of that.

Mr. Parker let out a dramatic sigh, running a hand through his hair. "I swear it's true, Lily. We both like women! I even had a girlfriend back in college!"

Huh? Lily's doubt wavered slightly. Am I misunderstanding them? What about all those things I heard in my past life? Were they just rumors after all?

Ethan, watching her hesitant expression, finally lost his patience. Enough is enough. He was determined to set the record straight.

"Get out," he ordered abruptly, his tone cold and final.

Startled, Lily stiffened and instinctively turned to leave. Is he kicking me out?

But before she could take another step. Ethan's voice rang out again. "Lily, not you. I was telling him to get lost."

She stopped mid-step, confusion flashing across her face. Wait... he's kicking Boss Parker out? Why would he do that? Her heart raced as a terrible thought crossed her mind. Does he want to talk to me alone about what happened yesterday?

She had heard countless stories about Ethan-how ruthless, unforgiving, and calculating he was. People who got on his bad side never had a good ending. Is that what's about to happen to me? No, no, I don't want

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Panicking, she turned to Mr. Parker, clutching onto a final shred of hope "Boss Parker, can you stay? Please?"

Mr. Parker paused, feeling her pleading gaze on him. He opened his mouth to respond, but before he could say anything. Ethan sent him a deadly glare that left no room for argument.

"Heh... I'm leaving. I'm leaving!" Mr. Parker chuckled awkwardly, quickly retreating toward the door. "You two have a nice chat!" And with that, he disappeared, leaving the room eerily silent.

Now, it was just the two of them.

Lily felt her nerves coil tighter as she shifted uncomfortably from one foot to the other. The office, once grand and spacious, suddenly felt stiflingly small. She kept her head down, unwilling to meet Ethan's gaze.

The silence dragged on until his voice cut through the tension.

"Don't do that."

The abrupt statement startled her, and she looked up at him with wide, confused eyes. "What?"

Ethan's dark gaze softened just a fraction as he stepped toward her, his tone low and deliberate.

"Don't bite your lips."

He paused, his voice dropping even lower as his next words sent a jolt through her.

"Only I'm allowed to do that."

Lily froze for a moment, stunned by Ethan's question. What does he mean by that?

"Earlier, you said if you'd known it was me, you wouldn't have kissed me," he began, his deep voice calm but sharp. "Does that mean you'd have kissed just anyone?"

His words struck a nerve, and Lily's face turned red with anger. "Of course not! I'm not that kind of girl!" she shot back defensively. "If I hadn't been drunk, I wouldn't have kissed you either!"

Ethan didn't look offended at her retort. Instead, an unexpected smile tugged at the corners of his lips, and his dark eyes gleamed with mischief.

"But what if I want you to kiss me?" he said casually, taking a step toward her.

Lily blinked, utterly dumbfounded. "What?" she blurted out, unable to believe her ears.

The cold and aloof CEO she had heard so much about was suddenly speaking words that made her heart race. While he continued to move toward her, she instinctively began backing away. Step by step, he closed the distance between them until her back hit the wall, leaving her with nowhere to escape.

Ethan stopped only inches away, his tall frame looming over her. "Yesterday, you kissed me without my permission," he said, his voice soft but firm, sending a shiver down her spine. "That means you took advantage of me. Shouldn't you compensate me for that?"

"Compensation?" Lily repeated nervously, her pulse quickening.

"What do you want as compensation?" she asked hesitantly, feeling trapped between him and the cold wall

behind her.

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Ethan's smile widened, his gaze unwavering as he answered without an ounce of shame. "A kiss."

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Lily's eyes widened in shock. "What? No! Absolutely not!" she exclaimed, shaking her head in panic. "Ask for something else!"

Ethan chuckled lightly, his confidence unshaken. "Do you think there's anything else I could possibly want? Money? Status? Power? I already have everything I need."

Lily bit her lip, realizing he was right. Ethan was one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the city. What else could she offer him?

"Then it's sculed," he said, his tone final. "A kiss it is."

Before she could protest further, Ethan closed the remaining gap between them. "But-mmm!"

Her words were cut off as his lips captured hers in a sudden, deliberate kiss. His lips were cool at first, yet firm and confident as they moved against hers, leaving her utterly stunned. Her mind went blank as a strange warmth spread through her body, a sensation she'd never felt before.

Without realizing it, her hands had come up, pressing against his chest. The soft fabric of his shirt did little to mask the strength of the muscles beneath, making her heart pound harder.

Ethan kissed her slowly, savoring the moment, until he finally pulled away with reluctance. His gaze dropped to her flushed cheeks and wide, dazed eyes, and a satisfied smirk appeared on his face.

"Do you still think I'm gay?" he asked, his voice low and teasing.

Lily couldn't speak. Her heart was still racing, her mind a complete mess. She stared at him, breathless, unable to comprehend what had just happened.

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Lily didn't know how to process what just happened. This was her first kiss-across both of her lives-and it had left her completely breathless. Her cheeks were flushed, her heart raced uncontrollably, and her mind felt like it had short-circuited.

She stood frozen, dazed and unable to speak, her wide eyes unconsciously glued to the man standing in front of her. Ethan's broad chest and defined abs were right

before her, and it didn't help that he wasn't wearing a shirt. The sight of his chiseled body made her thoughts scatter like leaves in the wind.

Ethan noticed her lingering gaze and the faint upward curl of his lips betrayed his amusement. "Lily, do you think I'm attractive?" he asked teasingly.

The question jolted her back to realizing she'd been caught staring, her face turned an even deeper shade of red. She quickly tried to pull her hands away from where they rested against his chest, but Ethan's firm grip stopped her.

"Am I handsome?" he asked again, his tone light and playful.

Lily's mind raced. Flustered, she blurted out, "No!" The lie tumbled out so quickly she didn't even have time to think.

1. nt. "No?"

Her response only made him raise an eyebrow in amusement.

"C-can you.... can you please put on a shirt?" she stammered, turning her head slightly to avoid looking at him. Her face felt like it was on fire, as red as a ripe tomato,

"Why?" Ethan smirked, leaning a little closer. "Can't control yourself?"

"You!" she huffed, thoroughly embarrassed. This man was shameless! She clenched her fists and closed her eyes tightly, taking a deep breath to steady herself.

Calm down, Lily, she told herself. Opening her eyes again, she forced a smile and looked him over from head to toe. Trying to regain some control of the situation, she scoffed, "Not really. There's nothing much to

see."

Ethan blinked, pretending to be offended. "Nothing much to see?" he repeated, glancing down at his own torso as if to confirm her statement. "Are you sure?"

Absolutely," she said, nodding firmly, though her cheeks were still pink.

Ethan tilted his head, his lips quirking into a mischievous grin. "Hmm. You might be right. Maybe I should take my pants off, then there will be a lot more for you to see."

Lily's eyes widened in horror as she saw his hands move toward his waistband. "Wait! Stop! Don't-don't do. that!" she shrieked, immediately covering her eyes with both hands. "You're hot, okay? You're ridiculously hot! The hottest man on the planet! Just don't take your pants off!"

Her panicked voice filled the room, and Ethan couldn't help but laugh. Watching her flustered reaction only added to his amusement.

Seeing no response, Lily peeked through her fingers, realizing he hadn't actually done anything. Ethan stood there, smirking with that devilish charm of his, clearly enjoying her embarrassment.

"You... you're impossible." she muttered, her face still red as she turned her back to him, determined not to

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Ethan chuckled softly, finding her reactions even more adorable.

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Finished

He felt like he was balancing on a razor-thin wire. She was breathtakingly beautiful, so much so that stirred a deep longing within him.

Gently tilting her chin, he made her meet his gaze. "Do you still think I'm gay?" he asked, his voice teasing

but firm.

Lily hesitated, her instinct to nod betrayed by her uncertainty. Finally, she shook her head. "No... you're definitely straight."

Hearing her answer, Ethan chuckled, "Good," he replied, and without warning, leaned in for another kiss.

Lily's eyes widened in shock as she felt his lips on hers again. Her hands instinctively pushed against his chest, trying to break free from his hold. Why is he kissing me again? she thought, her mind racing. Didn't he say

one kiss was enough, just as compensation?

Struggling in his embrace, she grew increasingly frustrated. Summoning her resolve, she bit his lip sharply. Ethan groaned, pulling away and rubbing his mouth.

"Y-You! Why did you kiss me again?" she stammered, glaring at him.

"For your compensation," he said with a nonchalant air, his expression smug.

"But I already paid with one kiss! Why did you do it again?" she snapped, her tone indignant.

"One kiss isn't enough," he replied smoothly. "My lips are very precious, after all. Naturally, the compensation has to be... generous."

What?! Lily's fury flared at his shameless declaration. Precious? she thought bitterly. What nonsense! He's just using this as an excuse to take advantage of me!

Her frustration boiled over. "Are you planning to keep kissing me until you're satisfied?" she shouted, her voice rising with anger.

Ethan chuckled at her flustered expression, pinching her cheeks playfully. "That's actually a great suggestion," he teased.

Lily stared at him, dumbfounded. "Suggestion? That's not a suggestion!" she yelled.

He leaned closer, smirking. "Lily, I'm a fair man. I'll consider your input. Don't worry, I'll kiss you until my heart's content."

Her jaw dropped. Who wants to be kissed by him? she fumed. Shaking her head vehemently, she declared, "I refuse!"

"You can't refuse," he said matter-of-factly. "I'm the one who was wronged, remember? So, I get to decide how much compensation is owed."

"What?" Lily was stunned. Her mind reeled at his audacity. How can someone be this shameless? she thought. Finally, she accepted one thing without a doubt- this man was not gay. He was a shameless, self-proclaimed pervert.

"I've never met anyone so disgraceful in my life!" she shouted, her anger spilling over.

Ethan smirked and leaned closer, trapping her against the wall with his arms.
"Shameless? That I am... but

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only for you," he said, his voice low and provocative,

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Her heart skipped a beat, and her thoughts jumbled. Why do his words sound like a confession? she wondered. No, I must be imagining things.

"Pervert!" she yelled, mustering all her strength to shove him away. This time, Ethan didn't resist and let her

1. go.

Storming out of his office, Lily stomped her way toward Sister Mia's room, her anger radiating off her in

waves.

Mia looked up from her desk, alarmed by Lily's flushed face and hurried steps.
"Lily, are you okay? What's wrong? Why are you so upset?"

"Upset? Sister Mia. I'm not just upset-I'm furious!" Lily exclaimed, pacing in circles as she vented her frustration.

"That shameless pervert! How dare he! Idiot! Jerk!" she ranted, her voice rising with every word.

Mia blinked in confusion. "Lily, what happened? Weren't you just going to apologize? Why are you so angry now?"

Lily stopped pacing, her face red with indignation. "Sister Mia, a shameless pervert tried to take advantage of me!" she cried out, throwing her hands up in exasperation.

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Hearing Lily's furious account, Mia's own anger ignited. The very idea that someone dared to take advantage of her artist was enough to make her blood boil.

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Who is it? Who had the audacity to bully you? Tell me their name right now! Mia demanded, her voice sharp and protective "How dare someone be so shameless under my watch?"

Seeing the distress written all over Lily's face, Mia softened slightly and placed a comforting hand on her shoulder. "Lily, don't worry. You have me and Boss Parker on your side. Just tell me who this pervert is, and I'll make sure they regret it!"

Lily hesitated, her lips parting to reveal the culprit's name, but a knock on the door interrupted her

"Come in," Mia called out, still seething with determination.

The door swung open, and in walked Ethan, exuding an air of authority and refinement. His presence was magnetic, his every step radiating confidence and dominance. Mia froze in place, her jaw dropping slightly as she processed the sight of him standing in her small, unassuming office.

Ethan was a figure of admiration, practically worshipped by countless fans. Wherever he went, people couldn't help but be drawn to his charisma and aura. For Mia, who had always been a quiet admirer, seeing him up close felt almost surreal.

"Hello, Sister Mia," Ethan greeted her with a warm smile. While he wasn't typically polite to others, he had a favorable impression of Mia because Lily often referred to her as "sister."

Mia's heart skipped a beat. Did... did he just call me sister? Her inner fan was in full meltdown mode, and she could barely maintain her professional composure. Her eyes sparkled with awe as she stared at him.

Ethan's movements were fluid and deliberate as he approached Lily. His attention was fixed solely on her, and the moment their eyes met, Lily's breath hitched. Fear flashed across her face, and she instinctively took a step back, but it was too late.

In one swift motion, Ethan wrapped an arm around her waist, pulling her close and enveloping her in a firm embrace.

"Ah! You... you pervert! Let go of me!" Lily shrieked, struggling against his hold. Her voice was desperate as she called out, "Sister Mia, help me!"

Mia stood frozen in place, her mind racing to make sense of what she was seeing. The two of them were locked in a peculiar moment, and Mia's confusion deepened with every passing second.

What is going on here? she thought, her gaze darting between them.

Ethan didn't seem the least bit bothered by Lily's protests, holding her firmly as if her struggles were nothing more than a mild inconvenience.

Mia's thoughts spiraled further. Wait a minute... isn't CEO Ethan supposed to be gay? Then why is he hugging Lily like this? Could it be... does he actually like her?

Lily, meanwhile, was practically screaming internally. This shameless man! What does he think he's doing in front of Sister Mia?!

Mia finally managed to speak, her voice hesitant. "Lily... are you two... um... involved?"

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Lily's eyes widened in horror. "Involved!! No way! He's a pervert, Sister Mia! Help me escape!"

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Mia blinked, her fan mode and professional instincts colliding in a spectacular mess. This situation..... just what am I supposed to do here?!

Mia's mind raced with excitement as her imagination ran wild. Watching the two of them embracing, she couldn't help but squeal inwardly. They looked unexpectedly perfect together.

If CEO Ethan isn't gay and he actually likes Lily, this would be incredible! she thought, her heart soaring. Only a man of his caliber deserves someone like my Lily. What a power couple they would be!

Unbeknownst to Lily, her manager had already started pairing her with Ethan in her mind, envisioning their future as a glamorous couple. Meanwhile, Lily was entirely focused on breaking free from his grip.

Ethan, on the other hand, seemed entirely unbothered by her struggles. His lips curled into a playful smile as he bent down slightly and bit her earlobe.

"Ouch!" Lily flinched, a sharp jolt of pain bringing her resistance to a halt. She froze in shock. Did he just bite me?!

Before she could lash out, Ethan leaned in and spoke softly, his warm breath tickling her ear. "Just a little reminder," he said, his voice deep and smooth. "Wait for me after the opening ceremony. I'll meet you there."

"Why?" she managed to ask, her voice trembling with a mix of confusion and frustration.

"I want my kiss," he replied casually, as though it was the most natural thing in the world. Then, without waiting for a response, he kissed her gently on the lips and followed it with a light peck on her forehead. "Goodbye. I'll see you there."

Lily stood rooted to the spot, completely dazed. Her mind spun in disbelief. What is happening? Why is this pervert acting like he's my boyfriend?

Ethan smirked at her stunned expression, clearly pleased with himself. Then, turning to Mia, who was still squealing like a starstruck fan, he said, "Sister Mia, take care of her for me."

"Yes, CEO Ethan!" Mia replied eagerly, straightening up and saluting him as if he were her superior officer.

Satisfied, Ethan left the room, his presence lingering like a whirlwind. Even as he walked out, Lily's gaze remained fixed on his retreating figure, her mind a jumble of questions and disbelief.

The moment the door closed behind him, Mia practically leapt with excitement, giggling uncontrollably. "Lily, what's going on between you and CEO Ethan? Why did he kiss you? Isn't he supposed to be gay? And what about poor Boss Parker? Are you two... in a relationship? Oh my, Lily! You and CEO Ethan look so good together! It's like a match made in heaven!"

Lily groaned, feeling the weight of the chaotic moment crashing down on her. She walked to a chair, slumped into it, and gulped down a glass of water as if trying to wash away her frustration.

Mia, not one to miss a beat, followed her and plopped into the chair beside her, pouting.

"Sister Mia," Lily began, her tone accusing. "That pervert kissed me right in front of you, and you didn't even try to save me! What happened to all that talk about protecting your artist from bullies? Weren't you going to teach the pervert a lesson? Where did that go?"

Mia blinked, caught off guard. "Wait... the pervert you were talking about earlier.... that was CEO Ethan?"

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Lily nodded vehemently, her expression full of indignation.

Finished

Mia gasped, her hand flying to her mouth. "I don't understand a thing. Lily. Start from the beginning and explain everything!"

With a dramatic sigh, Lily wiped her fake tears and recounted the entire series of events, leaving no detail untold. As she finished, Mia's eyes widened in shock before she burst into uncontrollable laughter.

"Lily, my dear," she said, wiping tears of amusement from her eyes. "Do you seriously not get it?"

Confused. Lily frowned. "Get what, Sister Mia?"

Mia's grin widened as she squealed with delight. "CEO Ethan likes you!"

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

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

Finished

The words "CEO Ethan likes you" echoed in Lily's mind, making her heart race unexpectedly. However, she quickly dismissed the thought, snorting lightly. "That's impossible, Sister Mia. You're just overthinking it."

Mia shook her head, her expression unwavering. "I don't think so, Lily. From what I've seen, I believe he likes you... maybe even more than you realize."

Lily felt a twinge of nervousness at Mia's confident tone. "Why are you so sure? There are so many exceptional women around him. Why would someone like him ever choose me?"

Mia smiled gently. "Lily. I've never seen Ethan act the way he does around you. He's known for being cold and distant with people, and he's extremely meticulous-almost to the point of being a germaphobe. But with you, it's

different."

"Different how?" Lily challenged, still unconvinced.

"For starters." Mia explained, "he's never smiled or laughed with anyone the way he does with you. He's never had any relationships or rumors tying him to other women. If he's surrounded by so many amazing women, then why do you think he's still single?"

Lily shrugged, bCasey ng off her manager's words. "That doesn't prove anything. It doesn't mean he likes

me

Mia sighed and shook her head with a knowing smile. "I've seen it in his eyes, Lily. The next time you're with him, just look into his eyes-you'll see it too."

"No way." Lily declared firmly. "I'm not interested in falling in love, nor do I care to look into his eyes. All I know is that he's a shameless pervert, and that's all there is to it!"

Mia wanted to argue further but stopped when she saw the resolute look on Lily's face. "Alright. Lily," she said softly. "I won't push you anymore. But I have a feeling time will tell its own story."

Lily sighed deeply, her eyes distant. "Day after tomorrow is the opening ceremony-my first big appearance. That's all I want to focus on. Please, let's not talk about this anymore." Her tone was firm, her resolve clear.

Mia nodded reluctantly, sensing that the topic was closed. She watched as Lily walked to the window and stared at the endless blue sky. A complicated expression crossed her face, one that hinted at

at emotions buried deep within.

The

opening ceremony would mark the beginning of her battle with the Miller Family. That was her priority now. Love? She had no room for it in her life.

She had already tasted what love could bring-and it wasn't sweetness. Love had turned her, once a rational and strong woman, into a blind fool. She had given her all to someone she once trusted with her dreams. and her heart. And what did she receive in return?

Pain. Betrayal. Death.

Her fingers clenched into fists at the memory. Love had torn her apart, leaving her broken. It had stolen everything from her-her hopes, her trust, and the life she once knew.

No, she thought bitterly. She would never let herself go through that again. The scars on her heart were too deep, too raw. Those who betrayed her had shattered her into pieces, and now, inside her new body, lay a

heart full of cracks.

#Finished

And no one-not even someone as persistent as Ethan-could heal it. Nor would she give anyone the

chance.

Love wasn't just painful. It was dangerous. And she wasn't willing to take that risk ever again.

Sierra, still fuming over her humiliation during the auditions, sat seething with resentment. Her pride had been bruised, and she was determined to exact her revenge. She couldn't stand the thought of a newcomer overshadowing her, especially in a role she had coveted.

So what if she's from Marvellous Universe? A newbie will always be a newbie, Sierra thought bitterly.

Though she had landed the role of the best friend in *Shades of Love*, it wasn't enough. The antagonist role -complex, gripping, and undeniably captivating-was meant to be hers. How could an inexperienced newbie have been chosen over her, a seasoned actress? It was an insult she couldn't tolerate.

"If I can't have it," she muttered to herself, her eyes flashing with malice, "then I'll make sure she doesn't have it easy either."

In her mind, there was no way this newbie could have the skill to pull off such a challenging role. How can someone like her-a rookie-be better than me?

Acting on her anger, Sierra decided to take matters into her own hands. Without informing her manager, she met with a close friend and devised a scheme. Using a fake identity, she crafted a carefully worded post and uploaded it to social media.

The post read:

"I am a loyal and honest fan of the novel *Shades of Love*. I was thrilled when I heard it was being adapted into a film and was initially happy with the casting choices. However, I recently discovered that the crucial antagonist role has been given to a complete newbie. I can't understand how someone with no experience could land such a complex role. I hope the production doesn't disappoint us loyal fans and reconsiders appointing someone more qualified."

The post appeared innocent on the surface, but it dripped with implications. It subtly suggested that the newbie must have used some sort of underhanded tactics-perhaps even her looks or charm-to secure the role.

Sierra smirked as she hit "Post," a manic gleam in her eyes. "Let's see how confident ceremony now, little newbie," she muttered to herself.

you are at the openin

To ensure her plan couldn't backfire, she had also bribed someone within the production to destroy the audition tape that showcased Lily's performance.

The post began circulating quickly, drawing more attention than Sierra had anticipated. Loyal fans of the *Shades of Love* novel, fiercely protective of its story, grew enraged at the idea of a rookie handling such a beloved role. Comments flooded in, brimming with criticism and disdain:

300

"As a die-hard fan of *Shades of Love*, I don't want to see a newbie ruining such an important and complex character!"

"Yes, this role needs someone with real talent, not someone who probably got in through connections."

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"I heard the chosen actress is beautiful, but beauty isn't enough. You need integrity and skill, not just a pretty face."

"Using your looks to get ahead? Pathetic. We demand someone more qualified! "Change the actor! Change the actor! If they don't, I'm boycotting the movie!" The negativity snowballed as fans rallied together, their outrage fueled by assumptions and half-truths. Sierra leaned back in her chair, satisfied with the storm she had stirred. Let's see how you handle this, rookie. You won't know what hit you

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Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

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

Finished

The online comments grew increasingly vicious as the post gained traction. Fans of Sierra, emboldened by the implication that she was unfairly treated, rallied around her.

"I heard Miss Sierra auditioned for the same role but got rejected," one comment read. "She's experienced and talented, perfect for the psycho sister role. Instead, they picked a nobody. This is unfair-justice for

Miss Sierra!"

"Yes! Justice for Miss Sierral Why give the role to a newbie when a skilled actress was right there?" echoed another.

"She's not just a newbie; she's a disgrace," someone wrote harshly. "We don't need degrading people in this movie

"Exactly. This cast is full of respected actors. A cheap actress like her doesn't belong and will ruin the film. Replace her immediately!"

"If this is the standard of casting, they should make it an R-rated movie instead," another chimed in cruelly

"Change the actor! Change the actor!" The phrase became a chant in the comments section, repeated by countless users. Fans even went so far as to demand that Sierra be given the role instead.

Sierra, watching the chaos unfold from her phone, felt a surge of satisfaction. Her plan was working perfectly.

Let's see how that newbie handles this now, she thought smugly.

What delighted her even more was the fact that nobody knew Lily was also under the Marvellous Universe banner. If her agency tried to defend her, people would just assume it was an abuse of power to protect a rookie. And with the audition tape destroyed, there was no evidence to prove Lily's talent.

Feeling triumphant, Sierra leaned back in her chair with a smug grin. She couldn't wait to see how this situation would play

It's only a matter of time before everything comes crashing down for that newbie.

Meanwhile, Lily remained blissfully unaware of the storm brewing online. Her full attention was on perfecting the dress she planned to wear for tomorrow's event.

This dress wasn't just a garment-it was a statement, her first bold move against Rose. Every stitch carried her determination, every detail her defiance. She refused to let anything go wrong tomorrow; the dress had to be flawless.

The sound of the doorbell interrupted her focus. She froze, glancing toward the door with a frown

Who could it be at this hour?

Carefully setting her tools aside, Lily stood and walked to the door, her steps cautious and her mind alert.

Lily glanced at the unfinished dress she was working on and then at the door, her mind racing. Quickly, she tucked the dress out of sight and tidied up the area. Scanning her apartment one last time, she nodded in satisfaction. Now, no one would have any idea what she had been doing.

The doorbell rang again, this time more insistent.

Ding Dong. Ding Dong... Ding Dong.

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"Who doesn't have the patience to wait a moment?" she muttered under her breath, clearly irritated, Yanking the door open, she prepared to give the visitor a piece of her mind-only to see a familiar face.

"Sister Mia?" Her frown turned into a smile of surprise.

Mia stepped in without hesitation, her concern evident. "Lily, why weren't you answering your phone? I've been calling you non-stop! You had me so worried!"

Closing the door behind her, Lily followed Mia to the living room. She noticed her manager's slightly frazzled appearance and felt a twinge of guilt. Handing her a glass of water, she said apologetically. "I'm sorry. Sister Mia. My phone was on silent. I didn't mean to worry you."

Mia took the glass, her shoulders relaxing as she

w Lily's calm demeanor. "It's okay, as long as you're fine. Honestly, I thought you'd be upset-after all those horrible comments online."

Lily's brow furrowed in confusion. "What comments? What are you talking about, Sister Mia?"

"You really don't know?"

Lily shook her head. Mia pulled out her phone, quickly searched for something, and handed it to her.

Lily took the phone and scrolled through the post and the flood of hateful comments. Her reaction was unexpected. She chuckled softly, then burst into laughter.

Mia, watching her artist laugh, couldn't help but feel a mix of relief and unease. Is she in shock? Mia wondered. Who laughs at a time like this?

This morning, Mia had come across the post and the avalanche of negativity it had unleashed. The harsh accusations and insinuations were enough to break the spirit of most artists. On top of that, Director Young had informed her that the audition tape had been destroyed, a clear act of sabotage. While she already had suspicions about who was behind it, she had called Boss Parker and formulated a plan.

Still, she needed to see Lily's reaction. These kinds of attacks could destroy a person's career—or their confidence. When Lily hadn't answered her calls, Mia had feared the worst and rushed to check on her.

"Lily, are you really okay?" Mia asked, studying her face.

Returning the phone with a calm smile, Lily said, "Of course, Sister Mia. These comments don't bother me at all. Why should they?"

Mia let out a breath she hadn't realized she was holding. "That's the right attitude. You should never let ignorant people get to you. They don't know the truth."

"I know. It's just someone stirring up trouble," Lily replied with a knowing smile.

Mia raised a brow. "And do you know who this 'someone' might be?" "Who else but our dear, unwell Miss Sierra?" Lily said with a mocking laugh.

Mia smirked. "She's really something. A fake ID, nasty posts, destroying the audition tape—does she think we're fools? And to think she dared to go up against my artist. She must be itching for a lesson."

Lily nodded. "She's probably waiting for a grand spectacle, isn't she? Let's make sure she gets one."

Mia chuckled, her eyes gleaming with mischief. "Oh, we'll give her a show all right."

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"By the way, what did Boss Parker say about all this?" Lily asked.

Finished

"He was furious about the comments. He wanted to make an announcement immediately to clear your name, but I stopped him."

Thank you, Sister Mia. If people found out I'm one of your artists, it would ruin my plans."

"Exactly. We don't want to add fuel to the fire." Mia agreed.

Just then, the doorbell rang again, interrupting their conversation. Both women turned toward the door. puzzled by the timing.

Lily walked over cautiously and peeked through the peephole. Her eyes widened when she saw who it was, and her expression darkened.

What is he doing here? she thought with a scowl.

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

Chapter 38.

ver Mia, can you hide in there for a bit Lily asked, gesturing toward a nearby room

Mia raised a brow but nodded. "Sure. lit someone from the Miller Family?"

Lily shook her head

"Not the Miller Family?" Mia looked puzzled. "Then who is it?"

Lily's face twisted in annoyance as she muttered, "A bastard"

Finished

Mia stared at the door in shock but reluctantly moved to hide. Whoever this person was, it was clear they had the ability to infuriate Lily. Who else could upset her this much if not someone from her family?

As Mia concealed herself, she thought grimly, If this person tries anything funny, they'll regret crossing my Lily. I'll deal with them myself.

Lily took a deep breath to steady her emotions. When she opened the door, the anger on her face melted into an expression of polite surprise..

"Ryan ?"

Surprise, surprise!" Ryan said with a dazzling smile.

Dressed in a fitted red shirt and jeans, he held a bouquet of red roses in his hands, exuding charm. His smile was the type that could make most women swoon, but to Lily, it only added to his sliminess.

Ryan had used the opportunity of Rose being busy with her event preparations to make his way to Lily's apartment. Ever since he had seen her in that stunning red dress, she had occupied his thoughts. Today, he was determined to take their relationship to a new level.

"Are you going to invite me in?" he asked with a smile as sweet as honey.

Lily crossed her arms, her expression turning cold. "Why should I? Aren't you Rose's boyfriend? What would people think if they found out you're sneaking behind her back to visit her older sister? Wouldn't that be quite the scandal?"

The confident smile on Ryan's face faltered. "Lily, you know that's all fake," he stammered. "It's just an act! My heart is loyal to you. Believe me, neither Rose nor I would ever betray you."

Lily let out a sharp laugh. "Ryan, just look at you. Your face says it all. I was only joking."

Ryan exhaled in relief, but before he could fully recover, Lily's tone turned teasing. "Though you do look guilty. Did you do something you shouldn't have? You seem like a man caught red-handed."

"Of course not, Lily!" Ryan quickly denied. "I could never harm you. I swear!"

Feigning sweetness, Lily smiled. "I believe you. Come in." She stepped aside to let him into her apartment.

Ryan followed her inside, still clutching the roses. "You look so beautiful today, Lily. How could I stay away from you?"

Lily raised an eyebrow as she led him to the living room. "So, what brings you here?"

Finished

She chuckled dryly "Oh, I know. But you've always been so busy, haven't you? You never seemed to have time to visit before"

Hehe, well

Ryan scratched his head nervously. "How could I ever be too busy for you? You must understand, being the CEO of a company isn't easy! I was handling some really important matters before, but now I've made time just for you. Don't misunderstand me. Lily. For you, I'd leave everything behind.

Lily smiled faintly, but her eyes betrayed her disdain. "Oh, how thoughtful," she said sweetly, her tone laced

with sarcasm that Ryan didn't catch.

Meanwhile, Mia, hidden nearby, clenched her fists. This guy is so full of himself. If Lily gives me the signal, I'll send him running

Lily nodded lightly, her expression unreadable. "Of course, I understand," she said with a calm tone. Yes. you've been incredibly busy with your project-Rose

Ryan, hoping to win her over, extended a bouquet of red roses and a small box of peanut chocolates. "Here. these are for you," he said enthusiastically, shoving them into her hands.

Lily glanced at the gifts, her lips curving into a sly smile. "Oh? These are for me?" she asked with feigned curiosity.

Ryan nodded confidently, thinking he had nailed it. His usual formula-flowers and chocolates-never failed to charm women.

But Lily raised an eyebrow, inspecting the items. "Red roses and peanut chocolates, huh? Funny... aren't these Rose's favorites? Are you sure you're giving these to the right person?"

Ryan froze, his confidence slipping. His face turned pale. Rose's favorite? Damn it, how could I forget!

"I... I didn't know that," he stammered, quickly forcing a surprised look. "What a coincidence! Lily, don't you like them too?" he asked, putting on an embarrassed, almost puppy-like expression.

He was certain she would accept the gifts. In the past, she treated even his smallest gestures as if they were priceless treasures. Surely, she wouldn't refuse now, even if they weren't her preferences.

But Lily's answer shattered his expectations. "No," she said bluntly, her tone ice-cold. "I don't like them. I'm allergic to peanuts, and I hate the color red."

Ryan was speechless. His jaw tightened as he processed her words.

"These are useless to me," Lily continued, handing the gifts back to him without hesitation. "You should give them to Rose instead. She'd probably love them."

Ryan frowned at the chocolates and roses, confused. "Wait, isn't red your favorite color?"

"Nope," Lily replied smoothly. "That's Rose's favorite color, not mine."

Ryan cursed inwardly. What the hell?! Everything's going wrong today. Trying to recover, he forced a laugh. "Wow, what a coincidence. Rose likes red too, huh?"

"Hm," Lily murmured indifferently, her tone dismissive.

Ryan couldn't shake the feeling that something was off. Her tone was detached, her demeanor cold. He remembered how, in the past, she used to gaze at him adoringly and call him intimately by his first name, "Ryan." Now, she referred to him as "Ryan, as if addressing a stranger.

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Was she suspicious of him?

Finished

"Lily" he said softly, his expression turning somber. "Lately, it feels like you've been keeping your distance from me. Have I done something wrong?"

As he reached out to place a hand on her shoulder, Lily subtly stepped back, avoiding his touch. She gave him a shy smile that masked her true disgust. "It's nothing like that. I'm just... a little shy."

Ryan's shoulders relaxed in relief. "Shy? Oh, Lily, there's no need to be shy around me. I'm your boyfriend, after all."

"True," she said with a sweet but pointed tone. "But we're not married yet, Ryan."

Her mention of marriage made Ryan inwardly scoff. Marriage was reserved for Rose. With Lily, his interest was purely physical-something fleeting and temporary.

Before he could say anything, his phone rang. He glanced at the caller ID, and his expression stiffened.

Motioning for Lily to stay quiet, he picked up the call.

"Brother Ryan, where are you?" came Rose's sweet, complaining voice..

Ryan inwardly cursed. Damn it, I forgot about her gown fitting.

"Brother Ryan, you said you'd see my dress today. Why aren't you here?" Rose asked, her tone laced with impatience.

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

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Ryan gave Lily a quick glance before speaking up. "I have to head to the office..."

"Alright... I'll see you soon. Brother Ryan. Love you, bye," Rose replied sweetly.

As he ended the call. Ryan looked at Lily with an apologetic expression. I'm really sorry, Lily, but I need to

leave now."

"Oh... Was that from work?" she asked, her voice curious.

"Yeah, there's an urgent meeting, and I have to be there," he explained.

She smiled as she walked him to the door. "It's fine... I understand. Work is important."

"Take care of yourself. I'll visit again soon. Bye!" he said as he stepped out.

"Bye..." she waved with a polite smile, though secretly thinking. Please don't come back anytime soon....

Once the door was shut, Lily felt a sense of relief. Just then, Mia stepped out, her face a mix of confusion and disbelief, which was almost comical. Lily struggled to suppress a laugh.

"Is Ryan your boyfriend?" Mia asked, raising an eyebrow.

Lily shrugged nonchalantly. "Kind of..."

"Huh?" Mia's confusion deepened. "Wait, isn't Ryan already dating Rose?"

Mia grabbed Lily's hands and pulled her to the couch, her concern clear. "Lily, what is going on? I don't understand. Ryan, you, Rose... what's happening with all of you? What's going on in the Miller Family?"

Lily felt a warm sense of comfort seeing Mia so concerned for her. It made her happy to know she had such a caring friend. She sighed, knowing it was time to share the truth. "Sister Mia, I'll tell you everything but

omise I you won't tell anyone."

"Of course, I won't," Mia replied earnestly. "But only tell me if you're ready. Don't force yourself to share if it's too much."

"There's no harm in telling my sister, Lily said with a small smile, feeling reassured.

And so, Lily began to explain everything from the beginning. She didn't mention the fact that she had been reborn, but shared everything else-how she had been treated, all the things she had done for them, and the complicated dynamics with Rose and Ryan.

Mia's eyes widened in shock as she listened to Lily's story. Her gasp echoed in the room, and she couldn't hide the anger building up inside her. "How can parents treat their child like that?" she exclaimed, her voice trembling with fury. I've seen a lot of selfish people, but this... this is something else entirely."

She shook her head in disbelief. "Treating one daughter like royalty and the other like a servant? Why? Both of you are their daughters! How can they be so unfair?"

Lily's lips curled into a bitter

them, I'm just a servant the ule. "Because I'm an orphan, Sister Mia. I'm not their real daughter. To

decided to raise."

Mia's face softened with understanding. "No wonder you hate them so much," she said, her voice filled with

didn't want you, why did they adopt you in the first place? They're not even human

Finished

Lily's gaze dropped to the floor. "It's my fault. I was too naïve to see the truth. All their actions were right in. front of me, and yet I let them continue to hurt me. I allowed them to cause me so much pain and torment,

Sister Mia

Mia's heart broke for Lily. Despite all the suffering, Lily still managed to wear a smile, always trying to hide her pain. It made Mia feel protective of her, especially

knowing she had been betrayed by those she should have been able to trust the most- her parents, her sister, and even her boyfriend.

"Lily, what happened in the past is over now," Mia said gently. "What they did to you, you don't need to carry it with you anymore. You deserve all the happiness in the world, and I hope you find it. I'll be here for you, always

Lily felt a warmth spread through her chest at Mia's words. She smiled, reassured that she had someone who truly cared for her now. "Thank you, Sister Mia. I'm glad I have you by my side"

Mia smiled and gave her a gentle pat on the head. "You're not alone anymore. I'll always be here for you."

Lily's heart fluttered with the new sense of belonging. She finally had an older sister who would look out for her.

"Oh, and Lily," Mia added, her tone light and teasing, "I had no idea you were a fashion designer too! That dress you made is incredible." She pinched Lily's nose playfully.

Lily laughed softly. "Thank you, Sister Mia."

Mia raised an eyebrow, curiosity flickering in her eyes. "So, are you planning to open your own studio someday?"

Lily nodded. "Yes, that's my dream... but for now, I want to focus on this movie project."

"Sounds like a good plan," Mia said with a smile. After chatting for a while longer, Mia prepared to leave. As she stood by the door, she turned back to look at Lily one more time. She made a quiet vow to herself to always protect her, like a true elder sister.

Mia wasn't sure about CEO Ethan's feelings for Lily yet. If he truly loved her, she would help him win her heart. But if he planned to hurt her in any way, she would make sure to stop him.

Once Mia was gone, Lily returned to her work. She spent the rest of the day finishing her dress, taking her time to ensure every detail was perfect. As she put the final touches on it, she felt a sense of accomplishment.

Stretching, she checked the dress one last time. Almost done. She could finally rest.

After a long day, Lily was both exhausted and hungry. She quickly reheated her dinner, ate, and then took a refreshing shower. With the last adjustments made to the dress, she felt satisfied with her work.

Yawning, she changed into her pajamas, ready to call it a day. It was already 11:30 PM, and her body was telling her it was time for bed. She was someone who liked to sleep early, so as soon as her head hit the pillow, she drifted off.

Just as she was about to fall into a deep sleep, her phone began ringing loudly. Groaning at the interruption, she turned over, trying to ignore it. But the phone kept ringing, persistent and annoying.

Who could it be at this hour? Frustrated, she picked up the phone. "Who is it?" she asked, her voice sharp

with irritation.

"Your heartbeat" a familiar voice replied, sending a chill through her.

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

Your heartbeat..A man's chuckle came through the phone.

Lily's eyes flew open, and she quickly glanced at the caller ID. An unknown number.

#Finished

"Mr. Heartbeat, I think you've got the wrong number, she said, ready to end the call. But before she could, the man spoke quickly, his tone almost pleading

"Hey Lily, don't hang up! I have something really important to tell you..."

Her curiosity piqued, Lily's sleepiness evaporated. How does he know my name? she thought. She squinted, trying to focus as she asked, "Who are you?"

"Did you hear it?" the man asked cryptically.

"Hear what?" Lily replied, confused.

"The sound of my heart breaking. The man's voice shifted to a sorrowful tone.

"Lily, how could you forget

me?"

"Are you going to tell me who you are, or not?" Lily asked, growing impatient.

"We met yesterday, Lily... How could you forget me so quickly? I've been thinking about you nonstop, but you can't even remember me... How could you forget our kiss?" The man continued, his voice laced with a hint of drama.

Her eyes widened in shock as she gripped the phone tighter. A kiss? Her mind raced. "So, it's CEO Ethan..." she muttered, realizing who it was.

The man on the other end laughed. "So you do remember me.. I was starting to get worried. How could you forget my amazing kiss, right Lily?"

Lily rolled her eyes, exhausted. "Whatever, CEO Ethan. You're disturbing my beauty sleep... Have a bad night!

"Wait!" he called out before she could hang up. "I need to tell you something important."

"What is it?" she yawned, feeling her eyelids grow heavy despite the conversation.

"You look really cute in those blue pajamas," he said, surprising her.

Lily froze. How did he know what I'm wearing? She glanced around her room, her heart skipping a beat. "How do you know? Did you bug my room?"

She suddenly felt uneasy. If he had put cameras in here, she wouldn't let him get away with it. The man laughed softly. "I'm not that shameless, Lily..."

"Then how do you know what I'm wearing?" she demanded, trying to steady her nerves.

"I'm right outside your window," he replied casually. "Look to your left."

Lily's heart nearly stopped. She quickly turned her head and saw the silhouette of a man waving outside her window. If she hadn't known it was him, she would've thought it was a thief or a ghost. Trying to calm her racing heart, she switched on the lights and approached the window.

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"What are you doing outside?" she asked, her voice full of frustration.

"I'm looking at you..." he answered with a grin, showing his white teeth.

"Ethan.." Lily said, a mix of disbelief and annoyance in her voice.

Finished

"Okay, fine. I just wanted to see you. I wanted my goodnight kiss," he confessed, a playful tone in his words

Lily shook her head. "As expected of a shameless pervert

"Lily, curse me later, just let me in first," he said, sounding a little desperate.

"Not a chance," she replied firmly.

"Why not?" he asked, his voice tinged with confusion.

"It's my house, my rules," she said stubbornly.

"You're so cruel, Lily!" he exclaimed. I climbed all these pipes just to see you, and this is how you treat me?"

Lily sighed in frustration. "Ethan... Did I tell you to climb the pipes for me?"

"Can't you just let me in? Then you can yell at me as much as you want. It's freezing out here.." he said, his voice now shivering as if to play up his misery.

She paused for a moment, weighing her options. He was certainly persistent, but there was no way she was letting him in just because he wanted to get out of the cold.

Seeing Ethan shivering outside, Lily felt a twinge of guilt. Without saying a word, she reluctantly opened the window. "Come in," she said quietly.

Ethan smiled warmly and stepped inside. He glanced around her room, feeling comfortable despite it being only his second time here. As Lily shut the window, she raised an eyebrow. "Couldn't you just use the door like a normal person?" she asked, her voice tinged with irritation.

Ethan flashed her a playful grin. "Nope," he replied simply.

He shrugged off his coat and tossed it carelessly aside, then walked over to the bed and plopped down without a second thought. "Why are you just standing there? Come sit," he said, patting the space beside him.

Lily rolled her eyes. This guy... she thought to herself. Does he think he owns the place? But despite her annoyance, she walked over and sat beside him, feeling suddenly exhausted after a long day. "Just take your compensation and leave, CEO Ethan.." she muttered, her voice more tired than she intended.

way

Ethan noticed how drained she looked, the weariness clear on her face. His expression softened with concern. He had been worrying about her ever since hearing about the incident, wanting to help in any he could. But he knew she was strong enough to handle things on her own. Hearing about that scumbag's visit, though, had ignited a wave of jealousy, prompting him to come check on her. "Are you going to kiss me or not?" Lily suddenly asked, breaking the silence. Ethan leaned forward with a mischievous smile, planting a gentle kiss on her forehead. "Done," he said playfully.

Lily blinked in surprise. Wait, what? She had expected him to kiss her on the lips, not her forehead. She

stared at him, feeling a little confused.

Noticing her reaction, Ethan chuckled. "Want more?" he teased, clearly enjoying her flustered state.

Lily quickly shook her head. "No..." she muttered, feeling embarrassed.

Finished

Ethan studied her for a moment, then asked, "How do you plan to handle Sierra? Do you need any help with her?"

Hearing the genuine concern in his voice stirred something warm inside Lily. She smiled softly at him. "I've got it covered, but I appreciate you asking."

As they continued to talk, Mia's words echoed in Lily's mind: CEO Ethan likes you.... She glanced at him. feeling a shift in the air between them. Her thoughts drifted before she finally asked, her voice quieter now, "Mr. Ethan....."

"Call me Ethan," he interrupted, flashing a reassuring smile.

Lily hesitated, but then nodded. There was something undeniable between them, something she couldn't shake off. After a moment of quiet contemplation, she gathered the courage to ask, "Ethan.... do you like me?"

Ethan froze at her question. The way she said his name made his heart skip a beat, and for a moment, he couldn't quite process it. A smile tugged at his lips as he felt a flutter in his chest.

She waited for him to answer, but when he didn't, she repeated his name softly. "Ethan?"

"Huh?" he said, snapping back to reality.

She repeated the question, her voice almost hesitant now, "Do you like me?"

He paused, his mind racing as he considered how to answer. Then, with a faint grin, he shook his head. "No.." he said, though the smile on his face seemed to contradict his words.

Lily watched him carefully, her mind trying to make sense of what he'd said. Was he joking? Or was he being sincere? Something about his answer felt off, but she couldn't figure out what it meant.