

Chapter 7

Lily:

As evening fell, I pushed myself up from the bed and shuffled toward the mirror. I paused, staring at my reflection. A frown tugged at my lips as I took in my pale complexion and the loose, baggy clothes that hung from my frame.

Deep down, I knew I was naturally beautiful. I had an elegant figure and delicate features, but I had always hidden them away. Following my mother's advice, I had avoided standing out, convinced that it was safer to blend into the background.

But beauty has a way of shining through, no matter how much effort is made to suppress it. Even in my plainest outfits, my charm had never faded—though I hadn't realized just how much that had irked Rose.

'Not anymore,' I thought firmly. It was time to reclaim myself and everything I had let go of.

Stepping over to my wardrobe, I pulled out a simple yet flattering pink knee-length dress. After slipping it on, I tied my hair into a casual, messy ponytail. I glanced back at the mirror, and for the first time in a long while, I felt a glimmer of pride. The dress highlighted my natural glow, making me look fresh and vibrant.

"Now this is more like it," I murmured, giving myself a satisfied nod.

Grabbing a folded piece of paper from my desk, I tucked it into my purse before heading out. Outside, I hailed a cab and gave the driver the address for *Sunshine Café.*

At Sunshine Café ...

Mia looked up, her gaze landing on me the moment I walked through the door. For a brief second, I saw the flicker of surprise in her eyes.

The way she studied me was almost amusing, as if she were trying to place me, trying to understand something.

I could tell she was examining me hard. It made me slightly nervous but I kept the agitation to myself and held a confident composure.

Intrigued, she gave a small nod and gestured for me to sit. I took my seat, keeping my posture poised but relaxed. Though Mia remained professional, I could tell she was assessing me. There was something about her gaze that told me she saw more than most people did.

"May I know what Miss Lily wishes to discuss with me?" Mia asked politely, her tone calm yet curious.

I offered her a warm smile. "Miss Mia, I want to become an actress, and I want to work under your management."

Her eyebrows lifted slightly, clearly caught off guard by my directness. Most people who approached her either danced around the topic or wasted time with empty flattery. But I had no intention of doing that.

I have done that in the past a lot. I thought that would make my family like me, but I was wrong.

Leaning back slightly, she folded her arms. "Oh? Have you ever worked in a film before?"

I nodded, my smile unwavering. "I have."

Mia's sharp eyes narrowed as she studied me further. "You have a very striking face, Miss Lily. If I'd seen you in a film, I'm sure I would have remembered."

A light laugh escaped my lips. "I understand why you might think that, Miss Mia. I've acted in a film, but if I told you which one, I'm not sure you'd believe me."

My confidence made Mia narrow her eyes at me and cock her face. I am sure at first she might have thought I was just saying stuff to impress her but seeing my confidence must have made her curious.

"I'm listening," Mia said, her curiosity now fully visible on her face.

I tilted my head slightly, still smiling. "Miss Mia, have you seen the film *Enchanted*?"

Mia nodded. "Of course. It's a beautiful film. The lead actress delivered an exceptional performance—it's one of the most memorable I've seen. Are you saying you were part of that film?"

I nodded again, my expression calm.

I could see Mia mentally flipping through the cast, confident that she knew every character—especially the female lead. She didn't recall seeing me anywhere, and I watched as intrigue flickered in her eyes. She leaned forward slightly.

"Which character did you play?" she asked, trying to piece things together.

"The main female lead," I answered simply, my smile unwavering.

Mia froze, momentarily at a loss for words. I could almost hear the gears turning in her head as she processed my words.

Just like everyone else, she knew the female lead was Rose. Her performance had been widely acclaimed, earning her numerous awards. The idea that I was claiming that role seemed absurd.

Mia studied my face for a while before she shook her head and snorted a secret laugh, probably thinking I had lost my mind.

Choosing not to call me out too harshly, she responded with careful diplomacy. "Miss Lily, I'm sure you have great potential as an actress. But there's no need to make such claims. Everyone knows that Rose was the female lead in *Enchanted*."

I didn't flinch or appear offended. Instead, I continued to smile warmly, my eyes holding a glint of determination.

"I'm not lying to you, Miss Mia," I said, my voice steady. "The female lead in *Enchanted* was me. Rose is my younger sister, and I acted as her substitute for the entire film."

Mia blinked, startled by the revelation. I could tell she was trying to process my words, weighing whether to dismiss me outright or entertain the possibility.

She leaned back in shock, her eyes seizing me up. I could tell she had received a huge shock that had left her frozen for a moment.

I remained silent, giving her time to absorb the truth. I knew what I was saying sounded unbelievable, but I had spent too long living in the shadows. It was time for the truth to come to light.

Mia's sharp gaze met mine again, this time filled with something different—something closer to belief.

I had a feeling she was ready to dig deeper now.