

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

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

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Taylor chuckled, his tone light but tinged with something deeper. "Maybe because, in some ways, I'm just like you.

Lily's eyes narrowed as she studied him. "You...?" She hesitated, pointing at him. "You're an orphan too?"

He sighed, his lips curling into a faint, almost melancholic smile. "Unfortunately, I don't have that kind of luck.

Her expression darkened at his words, and she frowned deeply. "There's nothing good about being an orphan," she said quietly. Only she knew the ache of missing her real parents, the longing to find them and feel their warmth again.

Taylor shrugged casually. "Perhaps. But being an orphan is still better than being tied to the Miler family."

Lily nodded in agreement, her voice laced with bitterness. "That much is true. All they care about is using people for their own gain. But if you're not an orphan, then who are you? What's your connection to the Miler family?"

Taylor leaned back, an amused glint in his eyes. "Why don't you take a guess, Elder Sister? Who do you think I am? Why do you think I'm telling you all this? Do you even believe a word I've said?"

She raised her chin, refusing to back down. "I'm not sure. Maybe I believe you, or maybe I don't. Either way, I want to hear your story."

In her mind, the facts were clear: Taylor was Morgan's son. Unlike her, the true outsider, he had always been treated with respect and privilege. Morgan was a selfish, manipulative man who cared only about his own benefit. There was no way he would have taken in someone without getting something in return.

And if Taylor had truly been helping her all this time, why hadn't he stepped in during her darkest moments? When she was drugged and humiliated, where was he? When she was trapped in that fire, calling out for help, why hadn't he come? In the end, she had died, abandoned and alone.

Her gaze hardened. Whatever story he had to tell, she was certain it would be a lie.

Taylor seemed to sense her skepticism. "Would you believe me if I told you my story, Elder Sister? Would you believe me if I said I'm not Morgan's son? If I said I'm not that self-obsessed woman's twin? Would you believe me?"

"Honestly?" she replied, her voice firm. "No. I wouldn't. I think this is just another trick to trap me. After all, you have the Miler family's blood in your veins. How could you not be deceitful, malicious, and cruel?"

He groaned dramatically, throwing his hands in the air. "Oh, come on, Elder Sister! First of all, I'm no to you. And second, can you please stop lumping me in with the Miler family? I'm nothing like that narcissistic woman who thinks the world revolves around her. Just look at me-do I look anything like

Lily snorted, rolling her eyes. "Of course not. You're fraternal twins; you wouldn't look alike."

Taylor burst into laughter, his tone mocking. "And you actually believe that nonsense?"

She raised an eyebrow, her curiosity piqued despite herself. Then what's the truth? If you're not Rose's twin, then who are you?"

His expression shifted, becoming more serious. "I won't deny that I have the Miler family's blood in my

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He paused, taking a deep breath before speaking again, his voice filled with quiet pride. "My name is George Darby."

The name seemed to carry weight as he said it, and for a moment, his eyes glistened with unshed tears. A small, bittersweet smile played on his lips, a glimpse of the story he had yet to tell.

George Darby?

Lily furrowed her brows, her curiosity piqued as she waited for him to elaborate. George Darby-no longer Taylor-took a steadying breath, opened the file he had retrieved earlier, and slid a photograph across the desk toward her.

As she picked up the picture, her eyes flickered with emotion. The image was heartwarming-a man and a woman, radiating happiness, held a chubby-cheeked baby between them. Her gaze shifted back to George Darby, seeking answers, "The baby in the picture is me," he began, his voice steady but tinged with an undercurrent of pain. "These are my real parents-Williams Grant, my father, and Beatrice Miller, my mother. Beatrice Miller was Morgan's younger sister."

Lily's eyes widened in surprise. "Morgan had a younger sister?"

He nodded. "Yes. But my parents passed away when I was just a baby. This company was originally founded by my father and was called Grant Corporation. After their deaths, Morgan seized the opportunity and renamed it Miller Corporation."

His tone turned bitter, his emotions bubbling to the surface. "Morgan is nothing more than a greedy parasite. He didn't take me in out of love or family loyalty. He only did it to gain control of the company. Elder Sister, you think he's treated me well, but that's only because I'm the key to his power over this empire."

Pausing, he looked directly into her eyes, his expression raw. "Why do you think he never lets me lead any projects? On paper, I'm the CEO, but in reality, I'm a mere puppet. And when this company reaches its peak, he'll waste no time in discarding me to hand everything over to his precious, self-absorbed daughter." Lily listened in stunned silence, her thoughts racing. If what George Darby was saying was true, it painted a picture of Morgan far worse than she had ever imagined. She had known him to be a selfish man, but this level of deceit and cruelty was beyond anything she had anticipated.

Taking a deep breath, she finally asked, "How did you discover the truth?"

He leaned back slightly, his posture still tense. "Four years ago, a man claiming to be my uncle approached me in secret. He told me everything. Naturally, I didn't believe him at first-it sounded too outlandish. But as I started digging and piecing things together, I uncovered evidence. Morgan had buried the truth so deeply that it took relentless effort and my uncle's guidance to bring it to light."

His voice softened, but the determination in it remained. "Since then, I've been playing the role they expect of me. I've kept my head down and avoided getting tangled in their schemes. If you think about it, Elder Sister, you'll realize I was never part of their plots. I wanted to help you see through them too, but you were so entwined with them that you couldn't recognize the hints I tried to give you."

Lily's expression remained unreadable, but her mind churned with the implications of his words.

George Darby leaned forward, his voice firm. "But now, you've woken up. You're clever enough to see them for who they really are. So, I thought, why not join forces? You want justice for what they did to you, and I want to reclaim what's rightfully mine and make them suffer for their greed and betrayal."

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His gaze locked onto hers, filled with sincerity and resolve. "Let's be partners in this. Together, we can make them pay. What do you say, Elder Sister? Will you join hands with me?"

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After reflecting on everything, Lily realized that George Darby was indeed telling the truth. She was two years older than him, and her childhood memories from that time were either blurry or had faded entirely. The revelations shocked her.

Never in her wildest thoughts had she suspected that Taylor, the seemingly well-treated "son" of Morgan, was also a victim of the same manipulative man. She had no idea that Morgan had a younger sister or that the company she had once admired wasn't his creation at all.

She thought back to her life and recalled how Morgan always showered his daughter, Rose, with extravagant praise and gifts. Among the children, Rose was undoubtedly the favorite, the most pampered. She remembered an interview where Morgan publicly credited the company's success solely to Rose's efforts.

At the time, Lily believed those words were meant to spite her. But now, she saw the truth: Morgan never credited Taylor because he wasn't his biological son.

The hatred in George Darby's voice and the raw emotion in his eyes when he spoke of the Miler family mirrored her own. They both carried deep scars inflicted by the same people.

"This isn't the full story, is it?" she asked, her voice steady but probing. "Your desire for revenge isn't just about the company. There's something else driving you."

A faint smile tugged at George Darby's lips, and for the first time, he felt he had made the right choice in confiding in her. "You're sharp, Elder Sister," he said. "Yes, there's more. My uncle believes that the accident that killed my parents wasn't an accident at all. He thinks Morgan orchestrated it."

Lily's heart froze. The weight of his words hung heavily in the air. Could Morgan really have caused the death of his own younger sister and her husband just to seize their wealth and power? If he was capable of such cruelty, then what would stop him from treating her as nothing more than a disposable pawn?

Now, everything made sense. The file and photographs George Darby had shown her corroborated his claims. She believed him. But a question lingered in her mind-what had happened to him after her death in her previous life?

For the first time since her rebirth, Lily felt an overwhelming urge to look back into the past, to uncover the events that followed her demise.

She broke her silence with a determined smile. "Alright, it's a deal. I believe you, and I'll help you. But in return, I need something from you."

"Name it," George Darby replied without hesitation.

"I need you to be my eyes and ears within the Miler family. Gather any information related to me, and keep track of Rose's and Ryan's activities," she said firmly.

He tilted his head slightly, curious. "Keeping an eye on their whereabouts isn't a problem. But what do you plan to do with that information?"

Lily's smirk was cold and calculating. "Now that I have you on my side, I don't need to hold back anymore. It's time for retribution, and they'll pay for every wrong they've done. I'll start with that deceitful pair."

George Darby grinned, appreciating her boldness. "Understood. What's the first order of business, your highness?"

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And so, their unlikely alliance was forged, with a shared goal to bring the Miler family to its knees, one calculated move at a time.

That evening, after finishing dinner, Lily and Ethan were lying together in bed. Ethan had his arms securely wrapped around her, occasionally pressing gentle kisses to her forehead.

"Lily..." he called softly.

"Hm?" She tilted her head up, meeting his gaze.

He hesitated briefly before speaking. "Do you know the name of the orphanage where Morgan claimed to have taken you from?"

Lily sat up abruptly, her curiosity piqued. Shaking her head, she replied, "No. I only know that he took me from an orphanage. I don't know its name. Why do you ask?"

Ethan reached for her hand, squeezing it gently as if to reassure her. "I've been looking into it," he began cautiously. "I asked a friend of mine, James, who's incredibly skilled at uncovering hidden information, to help. He searched through every orphanage's records, but... he didn't find anything."

Lily's eyes widened in shock. "What do you mean? Are you saying there's no record of me at all?"

Ethan nodded solemnly.

"But... Lily stammered, her voice uncertain, "maybe Morgan destroyed the records? Could that be possible?"

"James considered that too," Ethan admitted. "So he checked the CCTV footage from that time as well. But what he found was... concerning."

"What did he find?" Lily asked eagerly, her heart racing with the hope that there might be some clue about her parents.

Ethan hesitated, hating that he had to deliver disappointing news. "He didn't find anything. The CCTV footage from every single orphanage during that period has been erased."

Lily's heart sank. "Every single orphanage?" she repeated in disbelief.

"Yes," Ethan confirmed. "I don't believe Morgan has the influence or resources to orchestrate something on that scale. It's possible someone else took you from your parents and placed you in an orphanage, and Morgan found you there. But for now, that's just speculation."

Lily's mind raced with questions. If someone else had taken her from her parents, who were they? And why? What could have happened during that time?

Sensing her distress, Ethan pulled her closer. "Don't worry, Lily," he said firmly. "I promise I'll find your parents. No matter how long it takes, I won't stop searching." She managed a small smile, her trust in him unwavering. "I know you will," she said softly.

After a moment of silence, she added, "By the way, I've got someone inside the Miler family helping us now. A spy. We might uncover some useful information through him."

Ethan raised an eyebrow. "A spy? Who?"

Taylor," she replied with a smirk.

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"Taylor?" Ethan's surprise was evident. "He's working for us? Are you sure about this? Isn't he Morgan's son? Why would he help you?"

Playfully, Lily poked his nose. "My dear husband, you should never underestimate your wife's abilities. We made a deal."

She went on to explain George Darby's true identity and backstory, as well as the pact they had formed. As she finished recounting the details, a yawn escaped her lips. Closing her eyes, she drifted off to sleep, comforted by Ethan's presence.

Ethan watched her peaceful expression, his heart full of determination. I promise, Lily. I'll find your parents, no matter what. He kissed her forehead gently and held her close, silently vowing to protect her. and fulfill her dreams.

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The following day on the set of *Shades of Love*, Lily sat quietly in a corner, focusing on her script. As she read, a deep voice interrupted her concentration.

"Lily...

She glanced up to see Leon, the male lead of the drama, sitting down beside her. "Do you need something?" she asked, her tone polite but curious.

"Uh, yes, actually." He nodded, appearing slightly hesitant. "Well, my fiancée wants to meet you."

"Your fiancée?" Lily repeated, surprised. "Why does she want to meet me?"

Leon chuckled, easing the tension. "She's a big fan of your work. More specifically, she's interested in someone called LX"

At the mention of LX, Lily's interest was piqued. "LX?"

"Yes," he confirmed. "At the opening ceremony, my fiancée, Mira, adored the dress you wore. She's been trying to find out more about LX ever since. She figured you'd be the best person to talk to, so she'd really like to meet you. Would you be willing to?"

ly smiled, sensing a potential opportunity to promote her LX designs. "Sure, I'd be happy to meet her.

let me know when and where, and I'll be there."

Leon grinned, visibly relieved. "Thank you so much! I'll arrange everything and let you know."

After chatting briefly about their upcoming scenes, Leon left to prepare for his shoot.

Left to her own devices, Lily reviewed her lines before heading to the makeup room to change into her costume. The makeup artist worked quickly, leaving her alone once she was ready. Feeling bored, Lily began practicing her lines when the door creaked open.

She turned to speak but froze mid-sentence. Her expression hardened. "You.... what are you doing here?"

Ryan stood at the doorway, a smirk playing on his lips. "You look stunning," he said smoothly.

"That's not an answer to my question," she snapped, crossing her arms defensively. "What are you doing here, Ryan?"

He smiled, unfazed by her hostility, "Can't a man visit his girlfriend?"

Lily rolled her eyes, her voice laced with disdain. "Oh, are you blind, or did I suddenly start looking like Rose? And which part of I'm breaking up with you' didn't you understand?"

Ryan stepped closer, raising his hand as though to touch her face. Lily instinctively moved back, avoiding his touch.

He frowned at her reaction, his lips pressing into a pout. "Lily, how many times do

I have to tell you? I'm not cheating on you. There's nothing between me and Rose- it's all just an act."

"An act?" she scoffed. "If you expect me to believe that, you're delusional."

"I'll prove it," he insisted, his tone desperate. "I'll break up with her, end all of this nonsense. Just don't push

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Lily's patience snapped. "And I don't love you, Ryan! I want nothing to do with you. Stop this ridiculous drama and leave me alone!"

Ignoring the dark expression clouding his face, she turned and headed for the door. But before she could leave, Ryan grabbed her wrist roughly and pinned her against the wall.

"What the hell are you doing?" Lily hissed, glaring at him with fiery determination. "Let go of me!"

She struggled against his grip, her voice sharp with fury, but Ryan held firm, his expression twisted with anger and desperation

Ryan was furious. Never in his life had he encountered rejection-especially not from a girl. Women always melted under his charm, but now, Lily stood before him with an icy stare, as if he were nothing more than stranger.

"Shut up!" he barked, his voice sharp with frustration. "Lily, I am your boyfriend, and nothing is going to change that. Do you understand me?"

His chest heaved with anger as he stepped closer. "You said you wanted to break up with me, but did I agree to that? No! You are mine, Lily. My girlfriend. And nothing will change that."

"Leave me alone, Ryan!" Lily snapped, her voice trembling with a mix of fear and defiance.

His expression twisted with disbelief. "Why? Why are you doing this to me? I've been so good to you, and now you're breaking my heart. Why, Lil

You're so beautiful... I just want to hold you, kiss you, be with you. Can't you see? Everything I do is for you!"

"Ryan, I said leave me!" she shouted, her voice breaking slightly.

"Why? Why are you pushing me away? There's nothing going on between me and Rose! What do I have to do to make you believe me?"

Lily's lips curled into a bitter smile. "Believe you? There's nothing you can do, Ryan. And do you know why? Because I don't care."

Her words struck him like a slap to the face.

I don't care if you're with Rose or anyone else. I don't care about you anymore because I have someone in my life-someone far better than you."

Ryan's face contorted with rage. "What? You're cheating on me?"

Lily let out a cold, mocking laugh. "Cheating? Look in the mirror before accusing me. And for your information, we're not even in a relationship anymore."

"Who is he?" Ryan snarled, his grip on her wrist tightening. His eyes burned with fury. "Who is this man you think is better than me?"

Lily met his gaze with unflinching confidence. "You wouldn't believe me even if I told you. But know this- he's the most incredible man I've ever met."

Ryan let out a dry, bitter laugh before lunging forward and gripping her chin. His face hovered inches from hers as he hissed, "Then let me show you how 'amazing' I can be."

In a flash, Lily's eyes widened with horror as she realized his intent. Without hesitation, she drove her knee upward-hard-into his groin. As he doubled over in agony, she swiftly pulled a hairpin from her hair and

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stabbed it into his left arm.

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Ryan howled, clutching his bleeding arm as he sank to his knees, staring at her with shock and pain.

Lily stood tall, her chest rising and falling with ragged breaths. Her voice was low but venomous. "Take this final warning, Ryan. Stay away from me. Stay within your limits. If you ever try to touch me again.

as your !

She leaned down slightly, her eyes locking onto his. "Next time, it won't be your arm I'm stabbing.

With one final, vicious stomp on his trembling fingers, Lily turned and strode out of the room, leaving Ryan kneeling on the floor, clutching his wound and seething in his humiliation.

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Finished

Stepping out of the room, Lily inhaled deeply, trying to steady her racing heart. The encounter with Ryan had left her shaken, and the mere memory made her skin crawl. "What an awful experience," she muttered under her breath. If she could, she'd scrub herself clean right then and there.

Hearing faint groans of pain from behind the door, a small smile tugged at her lips. "At least he'll think twice before coming near me again."

Regaining her composure, Lily walked back to the set, her expression calm and composed as if nothing had happened. She took her seat, casually adjusting her costume. Moments later, she noticed Ryan limping into view, his face twisted with anger as he glared at her. His awkward gait nearly made her laugh, but she bit her lip to hold it back.

Director Young soon approached her, script in hand. "Lily, let me brief you on the next scene."

He explained that the upcoming shot required her character, Stella, a mentally unstable older sister, to obsess over a mysterious man who had saved her life. Meanwhile, her younger sister would return home. with her boyfriend, introducing a contrasting emotional dynamic.

Taking her position on set, Lily adjusted her mindset, ready to embody Stella.

"Action!" Director Young's voice boomed.

In an instant, Lily transformed into Stella, her eyes wild with obsession and her voice sharp as a blade.

"Did you find any information about him?" she barked at the trembling detective in front of her..

"No, Boss," the actor playing the detective stammered.

Stella's face contorted with fury, "Nothing? After all this time, you still have nothing?"

"I-I'm still trying. Boss," the detective whimpered, his head bowed.

Her voice dropped to a chilling calm. "Trying? I don't need your excuses. I need results. You have two hours to find him-or consider your life forfeit."

The detective collapsed to his knees, his voice trembling. "Boss, please... give me more time. I'll find him. I promise!"

Stella smirked, her voice laced with mockery. "More time? Fine. Two hours and..... a minute."

The man stayed frozen, staring at the ground, too terrified to respond.

"What? Is that too generous? Should I reduce it?" Stella tilted her head, her smile cold.

The detective frantically shook his head.

"Good," she said with finality. "Two hours and one minute. Now get out of my sight. Your face is testing my patience."

The man scrambled away, nearly tripping over himself in his haste.

With a sigh, Stella dropped onto a velvet couch, her sharp demeanor softening as she clutched a pillow to

her chest.

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18 Pearls

"Where are you, my love?" she murmured, her gaze distant and wistful.

She closed her eyes, allowing herself to be swept away by fleeting fantasies of the mysterious man who had captured her heart.

"Sister?" a soft voice called out.

Stella's eyes fluttered open, and a warm smile broke across her face as she saw her younger sister, Hannah, standing in the doorway.

"Hannah, you're back..." she began, her voice trailing off as her gaze froze on the man standing beside her

sister.

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"Cut!" Director Young's voice rang out.

Lily blinked back into reality, her professional smile returning as she looked towards the director.

Gathering the three main actors, Director Young gave them notes for the next scene and announced a short five-minute break before continuing filming.

Lily stood quietly beside Leon and Rose as Ryan approached them. His face still carried traces of discomfort, but he forced a smile as he wrapped an arm around Rose.

"Baby, you were incredible out there," Ryan said, his voice dripping with affection.

"Aww, thank you, darling. Rose replied sweetly, but her eyes flashed with a mocking glint as she glanced at Lily

Ignoring Rose's expression, Lily's gaze drifted to Ryan's arm where she had stabbed him earlier. Her eyes widened in feigned innocence. "Oh my, is that... blood? Are you hurt, Ryan?"

"Blood?" Rose gasped, turning her attention to his arm. "Ryan, are you okay? How did this happen? Does it hurt? We need to see a doctor!"

Panicking, Rose immediately grabbed Ryan's arm and pulled up his sleeve. A handkerchief was tied hastily over the wound, but faint traces of blood had already seeped through.

"It's just a small cut, Rose. There's no need to worry," Ryan said, trying to calm her down.

"But-

"Don't worry about it. You have a scene to shoot. I'll go to the doctor right away," Ryan reassured her before pulling her into a hug. Over her shoulder, his eyes locked onto Lily's with a burning glare.

Lily... this humiliation, this pain-I will make you pay for it.

With that silent vow, he turned and walked away.

Once Ryan was gone, the set returned to business. This was the first time Lily and Rose were sharing a scene together. Pushing aside all distractions, Lily focused on her breathing and waited for the director's cue.

"Action!" Director Young called.

As the scene began, Lily, in character as Stella, turned towards the man beside her younger sister with an expression of shock, followed by surprise, and then a soft smile.

84

+8 Pearls

"Hello, I'm Stella," she said sweetly

"Hello, I'm Lucas, Leon, playing the male lead, responded with a charming smile. "It's a pleasure to meet you. I've heard so much about you."

"Oh? Have you?" Stella's eyebrows lifted in curiosity. "But this isn't the first time we've met."

Beside them, Hannah-played by Rose-frowned slightly. "Sister, you've met him before?"

Stella hesitated, her gaze flickering between her sister and Lucas. Her expression darkened slightly before she forced another smile.

"You two are..."

"He's my boyfriend, Sister," Hannah said cheerfully, clutching Lucas's arm.

Stella's smile froze, her fingers curling tightly at her sides. "Oh... I see."

Lucas, noticing her discomfort, spoke gently. "Miss Ste-

"Please, call me Stella," she interrupted, her voice unusually soft

Hannah's eyes narrowed slightly. Her elder sister was never this... friendly.

"Alright, Stella, Lucas continued cautiously. "You mentioned we've met before. When was that?"

"Do you remember the fire yesterday? You saved me." Stella said softly, her eyes glistening

Lucas's expression shifted to recognition. "You were that girl? Are you okay now? Did you get

"Sister, why didn't you tell me about the fire? Are you alright?" Hannah asked, her voice full of concern.

Stella smiled faintly. "I'm fine, thanks to Lucas."

hurt?"

Hannah hesitated before asking, "Sister, if it's okay, can I show Lucas around our home?"

For some reason, she felt uneasy about the way her sister was behaving.

"Of course," Stella said with a forced smile, watching them walk away arm in arm.

As soon as they disappeared from view, her smile vanished, replaced by a twisted expression.

How can he be with her? He's supposed to be mine-only mine! How can he be my sister's boyfriend?

Her mind raced with conflicting emotions. If their relationship ends, maybe... just maybe... I'll have a chance.

Sorry, little sister, but Lucas belongs to me and me alone.

"Cut!" Director Young's voice broke the tension on set.

The crew continued filming for several more hours, the day stretching into

evening. Finally, the shooting wrapped up, and everyone dispersed, heading home after a long day of work.

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

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One week later.

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18 Pearls

Today was a day Lily had been eagerly anticipating. It marked the beginning of her plan to finally sever all ties with the Miler family once and for all.

The filming schedule had been running smoothly, without any interruptions from Ryan. Today, there were no scenes scheduled for her, giving her a rare day off. With Taylor's help, she had meticulously planned an unforgettable dinner for Morgan and Casey,

Smiling faintly, Lily made her way to the kitchen. Since she wouldn't be having dinner with Ethan tonight, she decided to surprise him by preparing his favorite dishes and delivering them to his office.

After witnessing her fear of cooking, Ethan had ensured the kitchen was stocked with all the necessary supplies. Now, with a newfound confidence, she began gathering ingredients, her mind drifting to how much her relationship with Ethan had changed.

When she first agreed to marry him, it was purely a matter of convenience, a business-like arrangement guided by her conditions. But over time, Ethan's gentle gestures and thoughtful actions began to break down the walls around her heart. He didn't just fulfill his responsibilities as a husband—he went above and beyond to make her feel cherished.

She loved how he paid attention to the little things, how he kissed her forehead before saying goodnight, how he held her hand as if it was the most natural thing in the world. He had become her safe haven, a light in her darkest moments, and without realizing it, she had started to care deeply for him.

She wasn't sure if what she felt was love yet, but she hoped that someday, it would blossom into something profound.

Picking up her phone, she called Parker. The call was answered almost immediately.

"Hello, Sister-in-law! Do you need something?"

She couldn't help but smile at the affectionate term. She still wasn't used to being called that.

"Boss, do you know-

"Boss? Sister-in-law, how many times do I have to remind you to call me 'Brother' outside the office? What have I done to deserve this cold formality?" Parker's dramatic voice echoed through the phone.

Lily chuckled softly at Parker's playful tone. "Alright, Brother Parker, can you tell me what Ethan's favorite food is?"

"Ethan's favorite food?" Parker teased. "Sister-in-law, are you planning a surprise for him?"

Blushing slightly, Lily nodded. "Maybe... Now spill it. What does he like to eat?"

Parker let out a dramatic sigh. "Ah, Sister-in-law, I'm afraid I can't help you. I actually don't know."

Her brows furrowed in disbelief. "What? You don't know his favorite food? Aren't you his best friend? Yo.. ve known him for years! How could you not know something so basic?"

Awkwardly scratching his head, Parker laughed. "Sister-in-law, I'm his best friend, not his girlfriend. You're his wife-you should know this stuff!" Chapter 85

Lily huffed. "Oh, please! It's only been ten days since our marriage. How would I know! Meanwhile, someone who's been his best friend for ages still doesn't know. What a shame!

+1) Pearls

"Hey, that's unfair Parker whined. Honestly, Sister-in-law, even if you served him poison on a plate, he'd eat it happily if it's from you. Just make whatever you want: he'll love it

"Not helpful at all, Lily muttered, rolling her eyes.

Parker chuckled. "Alright, alright. I might not know, but I know someone who does. Hold on, I'll pass the phone to her."

Her? A girl? Lily's stomach twisted slightly with a pang of jealousy. Another girl knows Ethan's favorite food, but I don't? What kind of wife am I? She scolded herself silently.

"Hello!" came a bright, cheerful voice from the other side.

"Hi..." Lily greeted hesitantly.

"Oh my gosh! Miss Lily! I can't believe I'm talking to you! I'm such a huge fan. You're so beautiful, and your acting is just incredible. That video of you walking the red carpet? Absolutely breathtaking! You looked like a queen-so confident, so regal. I can't wait for your movie to come out! I-"

Lily's patience began to wear thin as the girl rambled on. Is she ever going to stop?

"Thank you so much," Lily interrupted politely. "But could you please tell me Ethan's favorite food?"

"Oh! Right, sorry! I got too excited! Okay, listen carefully. He loves vegetable soup, stir-fried tofu with rice. shiitake mushroom fried rice with water chestnuts, and lots of seafood. Make sure you add plenty of shrimp and scallops. He's a huge seafood lover!"

Lily's eyes widened slightly. That's... a lot of food.

"And don't skip anything," the girl continued firmly. "He eats a hearty lunch, so make sure you prepare everything I mentioned."

"Thank you," Lily said, her tone a bit sharper than intended.

"You're welcome! And don't forget the seafood! Bye-bye!" The girl giggled before ending the call.

Lowering her phone, Lily's mind buzzed with questions. Ethan loves seafood? But when he cooked last time, he didn't make any seafood dishes.....

Shrugging off her thoughts, she decided not to overthink it. Rolling up her sleeves, she focused on preparing the elaborate lunch. Time to give Ethan a meal he won't forget.

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The employees sat silently in the conference room for nearly two hours, enduring Ethan's sharp glares and explosive outbursts.

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"Boss," Ben stammered, hesitating.

"What is it?" Ethan snapped, his glare shifting to his assistant.

"It's lunch time," Ben began timidly. "And..."

"Lunch?" Ethan cut him off, incredulous. "You still want lunch? Like I said, no one eats until the work is finished. Submit your files to me first, and then you can have your precious lunch. Any objections?"

The employees shook their heads in unison, replying in a chorus, "No, Boss."

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The silence in the room was soon broken by murmurs. "What just happened?" someone asked

"Ben, what's going on with the boss?" another chimed in.

Shaking his head with a small laugh, Ben replied, "Our savior has arrived."

"Savior?" the employees echoed, curious.

"Does the boss have a girlfriend? Do we have a Lady Boss?" one employee asked, excitement creeping into their voice.

Ben chuckled, "Perhaps. But one thing is clear-Miss Lily certainly knows how to bring out the best in him."

Ben gave a confirming nod, adding with a smile, "Yes, she's here. But you all need to keep this a secret. Now, go and have your lunch!"

With that, Ben left the conference room, leaving behind a lively discussion among

the employees about who their mysterious Lady Boss could be. Meanwhile, in Ethan's office, Lily was busy setting the table when the door

opened. She looked up to see Ethan walking in, his face lit up with a broad smile.

"Hey," she greeted him warmly. "I made you lunch," she said, gesturing to the neatly arranged dishes on the table.

Ethan sat down beside her, his smile deepening. Taking her hand in his, he kissed it softly and said, "My wife is amazing! Thank you."

Blushing, Lily pointed to the food and said with a smile. "I made seafood-your favorite."

"Seafood?" Ethan asked, his smile faltering slightly as he frowned. "My favorite?"

Before Lily could respond, the door suddenly swung open, and a cheerful voice rang out. "Brother! Your sweet sister is here!"

Lily immediately recognized the young woman standing in the doorway. It was Ivy, Ethan's spirited younger sister.

"Oops! Am I interrupting something?" Ivy asked playfully, her eyes darting between her brother and Lily.

"Yes! Get out!" Ethan frowned, clearly annoyed by the intrusion. "What are you doing here?"

"No, please come in," Lily said politely, offering a welcoming smile.

Ivy grinned and immediately moved closer to join them. Ethan and Lily exchanged amused glances as Ivy pulled up a chair and sniffed the air enthusiastically. "Oh, seafood! Sister-in-law, did you cook this? It smells incredible!" she exclaimed, settling herself comfortably next to Lily.

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been nervous about how Ethan's family might react to their marriage. Being acknowledged so openly by Ivy was a reassuring moment.

Ethan, however, looked less than pleased. "Ivy, what are you doing here?" he asked, his tone a mix of exasperation and affection.

"Aww, don't be so harsh, brother. I missed you, so I came to see you," Ivy replied with mock indignation. "But now that I'm here, I'm going to have lunch with you and my lovely sister-in-law" She smiled cheekily

"No! You're not joining us." Ethan declared firmly. "You're not allowed to eat my wife's cooking. She made it especially for me. It's mine!"

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"Even if I can't eat it, I won't let you have it either," Ethan retorted. "My wife cooked it for me, and it's mine. You have no right to touch it."

"As your sister-in-law, I have every right to enjoy her cooking, Ivy argued,

matching his tone.

"Wait!" Lily interjected, cutting through their playful bickering. Turning to Ethan, she asked with a concerned expression, "You're allergic to seafood?"

528

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

birth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

At Parker's office, Ivy was holding Parker's phone, a mischievous grin playing on her lips

Parker snatched the phone back, frowning deeply. "Ivy, why did you say that?"

"Say what?" Ivy asked, feigning innocence as she twirled a strand of her hair.

"You know exactly what I mean! Why did you tell Lily to make seafood? Ethan is allergic to it

Ivy giggled and clung to Parker's arm. "Oh, come on, Brother Parker! Why do you think I did it?"

+B Pearlo

Parker's brows knitted together in frustration. "I swear, Ivy, I am not in the mood for your little detective games. Spill it now, or I'm calling Sister-in-law and telling her everything"

Flicking her forehead lightly, he gave her a stern look.

"Ow!" Ivy pouted dramatically, rubbing her forehead. "Alright, fine! Brother Ethan doesn't like seafood, but someone else does..."

Realization dawned on Parker, and his eyes widened in horror. "No way. Don't tell me you're planning to crash their lunch date?!"

"Ding ding ding! Correct answer!" Ivy said with an evil laugh. "Brother Parker, you really do understand me."

"But why? Why would you sabotage something so romantic? Shouldn't you be happy that your brother and Sister-in-law are getting closer?"

Ivy rolled her eyes as if he'd just asked the most ridiculous question. "Oh, please! This is the perfect chance to meet Sister-in-law! Plus, I'll get to eat her cooking. It's a win-win situation!"

Parker shook his head firmly. "There's nothing 'win-win' about this plan. Absolutely not! And wait-what did you mean by 'we'?"

Ivy grinned wickedly. "Oh, Brother Parker, seafood is your favorite too, isn't it? That means you're coming with me."

Parker's jaw dropped. "No! No way! That's a suicide mission. Ethan will kill me on sight."

Ivy crossed her arms, tilting her head stubbornly. "As my partner in crime, you have no choice. You're coming with me, end of discussion."

Parker collapsed back into his chair, clutching his chest dramatically. "Ivy, I'm too young and handsome to die. Ethan will bury me alive. Do you know what my future wife will say when she hears I was killed for ruining my best friend's romantic lunch date?"

Ivy stifled a laugh but said nothing.

"You're overreacting, Brother Parker. Ethan wouldn't hurt you. Trust me."

But Parker wasn't convinced. He turned his chair away from her, muttering something about self-preservation.

Seeing his resistance, Ivy stepped closer and put on her best puppy-dog eyes. "Please, Brother Parker? Pretty please? You can't let me do this alone..." Chapter 86

Parker groaned, covering his face with his hands. He knew he was doomed the moment Ivy deployed her ultimate weapon-the puppy eyes,

"Fine," he said in defeat. But if I die. I'm haunting you for the rest of your life"

Ivy clapped her hands in delight. "Deal! Now let's go crash a lunch date!

After preparing every dish suggested by that peculiar, mysterious girl. Lily got into her car and drove directly to Ethan Corps headquarters.

Upon arriving at the building, she made her way to the private elevator, her face partially concealed by a mask that covered her lower features. As a result, despite drawing curious glances from passersby, no one recognized her.

The elevator soon reached the topmost floor, and she stepped out confidently. As she made her way toward Ethan's office, she spotted Ben hurrying through the hallway, juggling an armful of files,

"Ben?" Lily called out, her voice cutting through the silence.

Startled. Ben stopped in his tracks and looked up from the files, his expression quickly shifting from surprise to relief. "Ma'am?" he asked, his tone laced with astonishment. A smile soon spread across his face as though he had just found his saving grace. "You're here!"

Lily raised an eyebrow, sensing his palpable tension. "Yes, I am," she replied, her tone slightly skeptical. She then pointed toward the office door and asked, "Is Ethan inside?"

Shaking his head, Ben replied hurriedly, "No, ma'am. The boss is currently in the conference room."

Lily

frowned and glanced at her watch. "Isn't it lunchtime?" she asked, her confusion evident.

"Yes, it is," Ben replied, his smile turning into a bitter one. "I'll inform the boss right away. In the meantime. you can wait for him in his office."

"Alright," Lily said with a faint smile, watching as Ben hurriedly scurried away, files in hand.

She stood there for a moment, a small crease forming on her forehead. "What's gotten into him?" she muttered to herself before heading into Ethan's office to wait.

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

Chapter 87

+8 Pearls

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

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

8 Pearls

Without waiting for Ethan's reply, Ivy chimed in quickly, "Yes, sister-in-law! Brother is allergic to seafood, so we can't let him eat it."

Lily's eyes widened in alarm. "Oh no. Ethan! I'm so sorry, I didn't know you were allergic. I just called Brother Parker and-"

"Sister-in-law, Ivy interrupted with a smile, gently taking Lily's hand. "The food is getting cold. Let's start

cating."

"Yes, you're right." Lily agreed, serving Ethan some rice noodles and vegetable soup instead of the seafood.

Ethan turned to his sister with a sweet yet suspicious smile. "My dear little sister," he said, his tone deceptively calm.

"Yes, brother?" Ivy asked innocently, though her eyes gave away her mischief. "Where is he?" Ethan asked, raising an eyebrow. He was certain his sister had a partner-in-crime. Who else could disrupt his perfect lunch?

Ivy gulped, feigning ignorance. "Who?" she asked, batting her eyelashes.

"Parker, I know you're out there. Get in here now!" Ethan called out, rolling his eyes.

Parker, who had been lurking outside the office, flinched. Slowly, he opened the door just a crack, peeking inside with an awkward smile. "Hehe. Hello, everyone," he said sheepishly.

"Come here. What are you afraid of?" Ethan said, his voice calm but laced with warning.

"Oh, nothing." Parker replied nervously as he entered and quickly took a seat beside Ivy. "It's just that if you're going to kill me, can you do it after I've tried sister-in-law's cooking?"

"Traitor," Ethan muttered, glaring at Parker.

"Hey, how did I betray you?" Ivy protested, crossing her arms. "Brother figured it out on his own. I didn't say your name!"

"Not talking about that," Parker grumbled, pointing at the seafood. "If Ethan hadn't called me in, you would've eaten all the seafood by yourself."

"When did this become yours?" Ivy shot back. "It's made by my sister-in-law, So it's mine."

"She's my sister-in-law too!" Parker argued. "Ivy, we had a plan. I was waiting for you to call me in."

"I never told you to wait outside," Ivy said with a smirk. "You were the one shivering and crying the whole way here."

"Hey, I wasn't crying!" Parker denied, flicking her forehead in annoyance.

"You were," Ivy teased, laughing. "Oh, Ethan is going to kill me! My dear future wife, I'm so sorry I won't get to meet you, and so on..."

"Ivy, stop lying! I wasn't doing any of that," Parker protested, though his red face betrayed him..

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Chapter Be

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troublemakers First, they'd ruined his lunch date, and now they were giving him a headache with their

endless hanter

Just as he was about to yell at them, a sweet sound filled the room-Lily's laughter. Ivy and Parker stopped their squabbling, turning to see Lily giggling, her face alight with amusement.

"You two are so funny," she said between laughs, her eyes sparkling.

Hearing his wife's laughter, Ethan's irritation melted away. The frown on his face disappeared, replaced by a soft smile. Her happiness mattered more than anything, and seeing her smile was enough to calm him.

As Lily's laughter subsided, she looked at Ivy and Parker with newfound affection. At first, she had been confused by their antics, but now she realized the phone call earlier had been Ivy's doing. A small pang of jealousy had lingered when she thought about Ethan's close bond with his sister, but seeing their camaraderie now, she couldn't help but feel warmed by it.

Suddenly, a thought struck Lily, and she turned to Ivy with a curious expression. "Ivy, if you knew Erhan was allergic to seafood, why did you ask me to cook it for him?" she questioned.

Ivy's face flushed with embarrassment, and she offered a sheepish smile, "Well, sister-in-law... it's all brother's fault! He told me not to meet you, so I had to come up with a plan."

"you decided to sabotage my lunch date?" Ethan's tone was sharp as he glared at his sister.

"Oh, come on, brother," Ivy replied, waving her hand dismissively. "Don't be like that. I just wanted to meet my sister-in-law. Every time I tried before, your bodyguards stopped me. When I finally got the chance, I

took it."

Lily's eyebrows shot up in surprise as she looked at Ethan. "You instructed your bodyguards to keep her from meeting me?" she asked.

Ethan gave her a small, guilty smile as he gently poked her cheek. "Well, someone did tell me to keep our marriage a secret..."

"Alright," Lily said with a blush, letting the matter go. She then glanced at the table. "Anyway, the food is getting cold."

What had initially been planned as an intimate lunch for two quickly turned into a lively gathering of four. Despite the unexpected turn of events, Lily found herself enjoying the lunch immensely. She and Ivy connected instantly, and their conversation flowed effortlessly as they got to know each other.

After finishing their meal, the group moved to the couch, where the lively chatter continued. Ivy and Parker spent most of the time teasing and bantering, but whenever an anecdote about Ethan's childhood came up, they quickly joined forces to share the most embarrassing stories.

Lily listened intently, a soft smile gracing her lips as she learned more about Ethan's past. Their playful tales painted a picture of a close-knit bond, and for a moment, she felt a twinge of longing. In her previous life, she had never experienced this kind of familial warmth. She had always been excluded, working tirelessly for a family that never cared for her.

But now, her life had taken a beautiful turn. She had a loving husband, people she could call friends, and a family that welcomed her with open arms. The sense of belonging and love filled her heart, making her feel more complete than she ever thought possible.

As the day wound down, Ivy and Parker eventually said their goodbyes and left. With her arms wrapped around Ethan, Lily gazed up at him, her expression tinged with guilt. "Ethan, I'm so sorry. I wanted this

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lunch to be special and romantic, but... well, I still had fun. Your sister is adorable"

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Ethan leaned down to kiss her forehead, his voice soft and reassuring. "There's no need to apologize There's still one thing you can do to make it special.

"What's that?" Lily asked, her curiosity piqued.

"Dance with me, Ethan replied, surprising her as he extended his hand.

A smile spread across Lily's face as she placed her hand in his. Ethan led her to the center of his office, his eyes filled with warmth. "One second," he said, pulling out his phone to play a song

As the opening notes of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" filled the air, Lily's smile deepened. Ethan placed her hand on his shoulder and held her other hand, his free hand resting gently on her waist. They swayed to the music, lost in each other's presence, creating a moment of pure magic that neither of them would ever forget.

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

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

+ Pearls

Lily glanced up from where she was nestled against Ethan, his arm securely wrapped around her while his other hand continued typing on his laptop. Her voice was soft but insistent.

"Ethan, can I go now?"

Without pausing his work, Ethan leaned down and pressed a kiss to her forehead. "Just a few more minutes, love."

She sighed, her brows knitting together. "You've been saying that for almost an hour. I need to get to the Miller mansion."

At that, Ethan finally set his laptop aside and turned his full attention to her. "I know..." he said with a resigned sigh, his dark eyes fixed on her. "Can I come with you?"

Lily chuckled at the rare vulnerability in his voice. But her laughter faded when she caught the faint flicker of fear in his expression. His eyes, usually confident and sharp, were clouded with worry.

"Ethan," she said softly, cupping his cheek with her palm. "What's wrong?"

He closed his eyes briefly, leaning into her touch. "I just... I hate the idea of you being there with those people. They're heartless, Lily. What if something happens? Like at the banquet..."

She smiled reassuringly. "I won't be alone. Taylor will be with me, and I can handle myself. You know that."

"I don't trust him," Ethan muttered, his jaw tightening.

"Neither do I, Lily admitted with a small shrug. "But this is important for our plan. You know I have to go."

Ethan let out a slow breath, his shoulders sagging slightly. "I know. And that's the only reason I'm letting you go. Just... promise me you'll be careful."

"I will," she said softly before leaning in to kiss his cheek.

As she stood up and turned to leave, Ethan's hand shot out, grabbing her wrist. She looked back at him, slightly surprised. "What is it now?"

His expression shifted slightly, a hint of jealousy dancing in his eyes. "Tell Ryan to my

wife."

far away!

Lily couldn't help but laugh. "Alright, alright. I'll make sure to let him know that your beautiful wife is off-limits. Happy now?"

She turned to leave again, but Ethan pulled her back, causing her to stumble and land in his lap. His arms wrapped tightly around her waist, holding her in place.

"Did he do something?" Ethan asked, his voice low but sharp.

Lily sighed, placing her hands on his chest. "Ethan, it was nothing. Don't overthink it."

But Ethan's eyes were intense, his gaze unwavering. "Lily, tell me. What did he do?"

She hesitated for a moment before sighing. "It's nothing worth worrying about. Trust me."

after a long moment, he let out a deep breath and rested his forehead against hers.

Just... stay safe, okay?"

+ Pearls

"I promise," she whispered before pressing a soft kiss to his lips. With a final glance at him, she stood up and walked away, leaving Ethan watching her retreating figure, worry still etched across his face.

Lily took a deep breath and began recounting the incident in detail to Ethan. She had anticipated this moment, which was why she had avoided bringing it up earlier. It wasn't that she felt any sympathy for Ryan-he was one of her targets, after all-but she didn't want Ethan to be burdened by such insignificant people. She knew he already had plenty on his plate and didn't want to add unnecessary stress to his life.

As she finished speaking, Ethan's expression hardened, and without a word, he pulled her into a tight embrace. His heart clenched with guilt, blaming himself entirely. How could he have failed to What if she hadn't been able to defend herself that day? The very thought made his blood boil.

"That bastard," he muttered under his breath.

protect her?

"Ethan," Lily said softly, patting his back in reassurance. "It's not your fault. You couldn't have known. something like this would happen. And look, I'm perfectly fine now."

He released her slightly but held her face in his hands, his eyes full of emotion. Without warning, he kissed her fiercely, pouring all his feelings-anger, guilt, relief, and love-into that one kiss. When he finally pulled away, they were both breathless. "That's it," he declared. "You're getting a bodyguard. No-two bodyguards. And starting tomorrow, I'm personally training you in self-defense."

"What?!" Lily protested, her voice rising in alarm. "Ethan, I'll agree to the training, but bodyguards? No way!"

Ethan, however, was resolute. He cupped her cheek and looked at her with unwavering determination. "Lily, your safety is my top priority. If I can't protect you, then what's the point of all the power and influence I've built? This isn't up for debate."

Lily huffed, crossing her arms in frustration. "I don't need bodyguards! I've already dealt with Ryan, and he won't dare try anything again. Plus, I carry pepper

spray and other safety tools in my bag. And now, with your self-defense training, I'll be more than capable of handling myself."

Ethan simply shook his head, unyielding. "It's not just about Ryan. As a businessman, I've made plenty of enemies. I've been thinking about assigning bodyguards to you for a while now. This incident just solidifies that decision."

Lily sighed, realizing she wouldn't win this argument. "Fine," she relented. "But they have to remain undercover. I don't want them trailing me in the open like shadows."

A small smile played on Ethan's lips as he kissed her forehead. "Done." Once Lily left his office, escorted by Ben, Ethan immediately summoned two of his most trusted bodyguards. He gave them strict orders to follow and protect Lily discreetly, ensuring her safety without drawing attention. Though confused by the unusual instructions, the bodyguards obeyed without question.

By the time Lily arrived at the Miller Mansion, the sky had already darkened. She was nearly two hours late and the housekeeper led her to the main hall where her so-called family was waiting.

"I'm sorry, Father. I was held up," she apologized politely.

Morgan's brow twitched, but he waved off her tardiness with a practiced smile. "No problem, Lily. Since

you're here now, let's not delay any further."

+8 Pearls

"Yes, Father," Lily replied, her voice tinged with formality. Her eyes scanned the room, and she asked, "Where's Rose?"

"Ah, Lily dear," Casey interjected with a warm yet fake smile. "Rose really wanted to come, but she had a charity event to attend. She's terribly sorry for missing this"

"Oh," Lily responded, a trace of disappointment in her voice. "I was hoping to reconnect with her. But charity is important, so I understand."

Casey quickly added. "Don't worry, dear. Rose mentioned she'd like to have lunch with you tomorrow to make up for it."

"That's good to hear," Lily said with a faint smile. "Shall we get going then?"

"Yes!" Taylor chimed in enthusiastically. "Dad, I'll ride with elder sister." He didn't wait for a response before following Lily to her car, leaving the Miller couple to take their own vehicle.

As they drove off, Lily glanced at her younger brother and couldn't help but smile. Despite everything, she felt a small sense of warmth knowing that at least one member of the Miler family seemed genuinely happy to be around her.

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

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

+8 Pearls.

Inside the car. Taylor glanced at his elder sister with a mischievous grin. "So, what kept you so busy today?" he asked, his tone light and teasing. "Let me guess-quality time with my brother-in-law?"

Lily's cheeks flushed pink as she shot him a glare. "Oh, stop it!" she muttered, clearly embarrassed.

"Ooooh." Taylor teased further, leaning back with a playful smirk. "I see. Should I be expecting a nephew or niece soon?"

"Honestly. Taylor, you're impossible!" she huffed, trying to steer the conversation elsewhere. "For your information, I was meeting Ethan's little sister today, which is why I was late."

The mention of Ethan's sister caused Taylor's expression to shift subtly, though Lily, focused on the road, didn't notice at first. "Ivy?" he asked, sounding slightly surprised.

"Yeah, Lily replied, smiling. "She's wonderful. It was my first time meeting her, but I could tell right away. she's genuine and kind. None of that fake politeness or showy behavior you'd expect from someone raised in a wealthy family."

Taylor nodded absently, his thoughts clearly elsewhere. "She is... really something," he murmured, a small smile playing on his lips.

Lily caught his tone and stole a quick glance at him, her mind suddenly piecing things together. She cleared her throat, snapping him out of his daze. "You've met Ivy before, haven't you?" she asked, her voice tinged with curiosity.

"Yes," Taylor admitted, trying to keep his expression neutral. "I've met her once."

"And?" Lily pressed, her eyebrows wiggling playfully.

"And what?" Taylor shot back, feigning ignorance. "It's not what you think, elder sister. I've just met her once. I don't... like her or anything."

Lily's laugh bubbled up as she shrugged. "I never said you liked her, did I? But for the record, even if you did, I doubt it'd work out. She already has a boyfriend."

"W-what?" Taylor stammered, his voice rising in surprise. "She has a boyfriend?" Lily kept her tone casual, hiding her smirk. "Yep. I met him too. He seems like a great guy for her."

"Who is it?" Taylor asked hesitantly, his voice quieter now.

"My boss, Parker," she replied, finally letting her grin show as she observed his reaction.

"Oh," Taylor said, his disappointment evident. He turned to look out the window, trying to mask his emotions. "Well, Parker is a good guy-rich, successful, and good-looking. Of course, she'd go for someone like him."

"I think they make a good pair," Lily added, her tone deliberately neutral.

Taylor nodded, though his voice carried a tinge of sadness. "Yeah. She deserves someone like him. No someone like me who doesn't have much to offer..."

"And Parker is her brother," Lily interjected, bursting into laughter as she watched his stunned expression.

Realizing he had been completely duped, Taylor turned to her with an arousing pour "Fiday, heat

Still laughing, Lily shook her head. "Oh, come on. I couldn't resist. But yes, Parker is just her brother

Taylor's eyes lit up with hope, though he tried to play it cool. "No, she doesn't have a boyfriend?

Lily smiled knowingly. "Nope. Not yet."

Taylor sighed, visibly relieved. A warm, almost shy smile spread across his face as memories of his first meeting with Ivy replayed in his mind

"So, you like her? Lily asked directly, her tone calm but curious

This time, Taylor nodded, his expression softening with the admission.

The lighthearted atmosphere in the car shifted as Lily adopted a serious demeanor. "Listen, Taylor" she began firmly, "your personal life is yours to handle, and I won't interfere. But as her sister-in-law, I'm warning you-if you ever hurt her, you'll have to answer to me."

Taylor met her gaze, his voice steady as he reassured her. "You have nothing to worry about, elder sister would never do anything to hurt her."

With the tension eased, the conversation turned more relaxed, and Lily couldn't help her curiosity. She bombarded her brother with questions about his first encounter with Ivy and the feelings he harbored for her. Though initially embarrassed, Taylor eventually opened up, recounting every detail to his sister. Amid their lively exchange, Lily suddenly shifted the topic. "Taylor, is everything ready?"

A knowing smirk spread across Taylor's face. "Of course," he replied confidently. "Don't worry, elder sister. Our plan is solid. You should've seen Morgan earlier at the house-he was pacing around like a caged tiger. completely on edge."

Lily raised an eyebrow, intrigued. "What was he saying?"

you." Taylor said dramatically, his voice.

"He was rambling about with mock imitation. "Why does she want us to have dinner suddenly? My control over her is slipping, and I need to fix it before it's too late. Then he started ordering everyone to behave perfectly and treat you with the utmost respect.

Lily laughed, her eyes glinting with amusement. "If he was tense earlier, he's in for a real shock tonight

"Oh, and get this, Taylor added with a sly grin. "He even had a heated argument with his precious princess, Rose.

Lily remained unfazed, her reaction calm. "That doesn't surprise me. I already guessed she wouldn't come to this dinner.

Taylor blinked in surprise. "You knew?"

"Of course," she replied smoothly. "Rose's absence will only work in my favor. A little discord between them plays perfectly into my hands."

Before long, they arrived at their destination—a popular and elegant car, and the two siblings stepped out, ready to face the evening ahead.

Chinese restaurant. Lily parked...

The Miller Couple followed closely behind as they were escorted by a waitress to a private dining room. The

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- Rears

space was spacious and tastefully decorated with a blend of traditional and modern aruhining n

air of refinement.

Lily had chosen this restaurant for two reasons: its exceptional food and its location—right across from a hotel owned by the Miler family

She took a seat by the large glass window, which provided a clear view of the bustling street below settled beside her, while the Miller Couple took their seats across the table. Once they were all seated the waitress returned to take their orders before leaving them in the quiet, luxurious room

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