

Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband

(Lily and Ryan) #Being Betrayed 9 - Read Rebirth After Being Betrayed by My Husband (Lily and Ryan) Being Betrayed 9

Chapter 9 Lily:

I felt trapped, surrounded by flames, my cries for help swallowed by the deafening roar of the fire. Panic surged through me as I spun around, desperately searching for an escape, but the inferno offered none.

"Help me... someone, please!" I screamed, my voice hoarse with desperation.

Then, suddenly, laughter rang out-mocking, cold, and disturbingly familiar. I turned toward the sound, my heart sinking as I saw Rose, Ryan, and Riley standing outside the fire, their faces twisted in cruel amusement.

"In this life too, you're destined to remain our puppet, Lily," Rose sneered, her voice slicing through the chaos like a blade. "Now... die!"

Their laughter echoed around me, growing louder, more menacing, as if it were the final blow to my soul.

"No!" I screamed, bolting upright from my bed. My breath was ragged, my heart pounding wildly in my chest. I was drenched in sweat, my hands trembling as I looked around the dimly lit room. No fire. No Rose. Just the haunting remnants of a nightmare.

Taking deep, steady breaths, I forced myself to calm down. "It's over," I murmured to myself. "Just a dream... but not my future." I clenched my fists tightly, the fire of my determination burning brighter than ever. "This time, I'll change my destiny. Rose, Ryan, Riley-you won't control me again."

With renewed resolve, I swung my legs over the side of the bed, my feet hitting the floor with purpose. I moved to the bathroom, the cool water of the shower washing away the remnants of my nightmare, helping me regain focus. Refreshed, I dressed in a simple yet stylish blue top paired with white jeans. After applying a light pink lip gloss and styling my hair in a half-up, half-down look, I slipped on my sneakers, grabbed my purse, and left the apartment.

As the cab pulled up to the towering building of Marvellous Universe, I felt a surge of resolve course through me. Standing before the impressive structure, I thought, 'This is where it begins.'

I entered the lobby, my heels clicking softly against the polished floor as I approached the receptionist. "Excuse me," I said hesitantly, "can you tell me where Sister Mia's office is?"

The receptionist, a young woman with oversized glasses that gave her a sweet, endearing appearance, looked up at me and smiled. "Are you Miss Lily?"

I nodded. She quickly made a call, and within moments, a staff member arrived to escort me. I followed them into the elevator, silently absorbing my surroundings, until we reached the floor where Mia's office was located.

Standing before the door, I knocked lightly. "Come in," I heard Mia's voice call from within.

I opened the door and stepped inside with a polite smile. "Good morning, Sister Mia."

Mia looked up from her desk, her eyes softening as she took in my presence. I saw her expression shift-her gaze lingering on me with something almost like admiration. Her appearance was immaculate, radiant yet understated, and as she rose to her feet, she smiled warmly.

"Lily, I can't thank you enough," Mia said earnestly, taking my hand. Her gratitude was genuine, her words heavy with sincerity. "If not for your help, I don't know what I would have done." The weight that had once seemed so heavy on her shoulders seemed to lift with her words.

I smiled back, feeling the powerful sense of change taking root, both in my life and in the future I was determined to shape. This was only the beginning.

"It was nothing, Sister Mia," I replied modestly, my smile sincere.

Mia beamed at me before saying, "Well then, let me introduce you to our CEO." She gestured for me to follow her.

As we walked through the bustling office, my sharp eyes picked up on the respectful greetings Mia received from every corner. Occasionally, curious glances flicked my way, but I paid them little mind. I was focused on what came next-meeting the man who would be key to my new beginning.

We arrived at the CEO's office, and Mia knocked before a deep, cheerful voice called out from inside, "Come in."

The door opened, and I found myself face-to-face with Mr. Parker, the young and charismatic CEO of Marvellous Universe. His friendly smile and sharp features radiated confidence and warmth, the kind of presence that immediately commanded attention.

"Boss Parker," Mia began with a smile, "this is Lily, my new artist."

Mr. Parker's eyes sparkled with pleasant surprise as he turned his gaze on me, his grin widening. "So, this is the person who's caught Mia's attention," he said, chuckling warmly.

I blinked, slightly taken aback by the familiarity in his tone. I didn't recall much about this man from my previous life, but his easy demeanor made me wary. "Do you know me?" I asked, tilting my head slightly, curious about his reaction.

Mr. Parker laughed awkwardly, his smile never fading. "Know you? Not exactly. I just mean that you're exceptionally talented and beautiful—it's no wonder Mia noticed you."

I smiled politely, but something about his tone seemed off. Before I could dwell on it, Mr. Parker leaned forward, his expression suddenly serious. "Miss Lily, may I ask you something?"

"Of course," I replied courteously, keeping my composure.

"Why did you choose to work with our company instead of 'Motion Stars'? You know, by signing here, you'll be directly competing with your sister," he said, watching me intently.

I didn't let my smile waver as I prepared my response, my resolve unwavering. Mia had likely shared details about me with him already, so I didn't see the need to dwell on his apparent familiarity with my situation.

I remained composed, my voice confident as I responded. "I have no problem competing with my sister," I said smoothly. "Besides, your company is far superior to 'Motion Stars.' They already have Rose; they don't need me. Or... is Boss Parker afraid of a little rivalry?"

Mr. Parker raised an eyebrow, clearly amused by my boldness. He laughed heartily, finding my response unexpectedly refreshing.

"Fear? Not at all," he replied with a grin, clearly entertained. "It will be a pleasure to work with someone like you." He then pulled a stack of documents from his desk drawer and placed them in front of me. "Here's the contract. Let's make it official."

I glanced down at the papers, feeling the weight of the moment. This was it—my future, right there in front of me. And with it, the opportunity to change everything. My heart swelled with a mix of emotions as I picked up the pen. My grip tightened for a moment, and I had to fight back the tears threatening to surface.

This is it the first step toward achieving my dreams.

Taking a deep breath, I signed the contract with steady resolve, my hand firm and sure as the pen moved across the paper. When I finished, I placed the pen down and extended my hand toward Mr. Parker. "I look forward to working with you," I said, my voice steady, my smile determined.

"The feeling is mutual," Mr. Parker replied warmly, shaking my hand with sincerity. With the formalities completed, Mia and I left the office.

Author's POV:

As the door closed behind them, Mr. Parker leaned back in his chair, a mischievous grin spreading across his face. He reached for his phone, dialing a familiar number. As he waited, he couldn't help but chuckle to himself.

A commanding voice answered on the other end, sharp and to the point. "Speak."

"Ethan, guess who I met today?" Mr. Parker said, grinning as though his friend could see him.

"Five seconds."

Mr. Parker blinked, caught off guard. "What?"

"Four seconds," Ethan's voice came again, calm but firm.

Realization hit Mr. Parker like a brick wall. This guy! He's counting down to hang up! Panic set in as Ethan continued, "Three seconds..."

"Wait, wait!" Mr. Parker exclaimed, almost tripping over his words. "I met Lily!"

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Silence followed on the other end, but Mr. Parker could almost picture the slight shift in Ethan's expression. Relieved he had managed to say it in time, Mr. Parker couldn't help but laugh to himself.

Seriously, Ethan, can you still remain calm when your crush is mentioned?

Ethan's voice came through the line, unusually soft but laced with curiosity. "Why?"

Mr. Parker froze for a moment, caught off guard by the tone. It wasn't like the devil to sound so... calm.

Trying to keep the mood light, Mr. Parker chuckled, "She wants to be an actress. She picked my company. and we just signed the contract a little while ago."

There was a brief silence before Ethan replied with a simple, "Hmm."

"Hmm? That's all you're going to say?" Mr. Parker huffed dramatically, hoping to coax more out of his stoic friend. "Let me tell you, Lily is stunning. When we met, she looked a bit shocked-I mean, who wouldn't be? It must be because I'm so handsome. What are you going to do if she falls for me?"

"She's not blind." Ethan replied dryly.

Mr. Parker nearly choked on his own laughter. "Why am I even friends with you?" he muttered under his breath. Refocusing, he added with mock arrogance, "Ethan, let's be honest. Apart from you, no one can rival my looks. And as for Lily-"

Before he could finish, Ethan cut him off. "Lily...? Are you that close to her already?"

The sudden shift in Ethan's tone sent a shiver down Mr. Parkerspine. He quickly composed himself, masking his unease with a smug grin. "She's my artist now," he replied smoothly. "Naturally, we'll be working closely together."

A low chuckle escaped Ethan, the sound both unsettling and amused. Mr. Parker heart skipped a beat. Did I go too far?

"We haven't seen each other in a while, Parker, Ethan said, his voice carrying a hint of danger. "Perhaps I should drop by and pay you a visit?"

Mr. Parker confidence wavered. His nervous laughter spilled out before he could stop it. "Hehe... No need for that, Ethan. I was just joking!"

"Hmm, Ethan replied, his tone unreadable.

Just as Mr. Parker prepared to shift the conversation, his eyes fell on a phone sitting on the corner of his desk. Lily must have left it behind. Glancing at it, an idea struck him. "Ethan, it seems Lily forgot her phone here. She's probably with Mia. I'll go return it to her now, so I'll have to call you back later."

Before he could hang up, Ethan's voice came through once more. "Wait." Ethan's voice came through, calm yet commanding. "Wait. Keep the call going."

Mr. Parker paused, momentarily stunned, before teasing, "Ethan, I didn't know you had such an interest in my work life."

Without missing a beat, Ethan countered, "Do you miss me that much, Parker? Should I come by and

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Mr. Parker immediately panicked. "N-no, no! No need for that, Ethan. Just stay where you are. I'm going now!" The idea of a "reward" from Ethan was enough to make his hair stand on end. He ended the call and hurried toward Mia's office.

As he approached, he noticed the door was slightly ajar. Just as he was about to walk in, he overheard their conversation and decided to pause.

Inside, Lily was completely unaware of his presence. Her voice carried a note of admiration. "Sister Mia, Boss Parker is really an incredible person. He treated me with so much respect."

Mr. Parker, standing outside, grinned, See, Ethan? She thinks I'm outstanding.

Mia, however, gave Lily a skeptical look. "Lily, that's odd. I've never seen Boss Parker act like that with anyone before. Well, apart from that person. Don't be fooled by his cheerful smile; he's actually very cold."

Lily tilted her head, puzzled. "Then why was he so respectful to me?"

Outside the door, Mr. Parker silently cursed. Because if I wasn't, the devil would make my life miserable!

Suddenly, Mia clapped her hands, an excited realization lighting up her face. "Oh! I know! It has to be this... I'm such a genius!"

"What is it, Sister Mia?" Lily asked curiously.

Mia laughed and leaned closer. "He must have fallen for your beauty! That's why he was so respectful. He wants to court you!"

Mia stepped back, observing Lily with a critical eye. "You're beautiful, young, and elegant. He's also young and handsome. The two of you would make a perfect couple! Don't you think?"

Mr. Parker, still outside, nearly dropped his phone in horror. This woman is digging my grave! Shut up! Shut up! The devil is going to kill me!

He reached for the doorknob, determined to stop the nonsense, but froze in place when he heard Lily's next words.

-Sister Mia, what are you talking about? Isn't Boss Parker in a relationship with CEO Ethan? How could you not know this?"

Mia: "..."

Mr. Parker: "."

On the phone, Ethan: "..."

Mr. Parker mind raced. Should I cry because she's pairing me with Ethan, or

laugh because she thinks Ethan is gay?

Mia choked on air, utterly flabbergasted. "Lily, who told you that?"

Lily blinked innocently. "It was on the news, wasn't it? Sister Mia, didn't you see

it?"

Mia sighed, giving her a helpless look. "That was just a rumor, Lily."

Lily shook her head confidently. "No, Sister Mia, I'm sure it's true. Let's break it down. Answer my questions with a yes or no, okay?"

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Mia nodded, intrigued.

"Have you ever seen Boss Parker in a relationship with a woman?" Lily asked.

"No."

"Has he ever shown interest in the opposite gender?"

"No. He's always indifferent toward women."

"Has he ever been close to another woman?"

"No..."

"See? He avoids women but is very close to CEO Ethan. What does that suggest?"

+8 Pearls

Mia's eyes widened in realization. "Oh my goodness. That explains everything! Boss Parker must be in a secret relationship with CEO Ethan!"

"Shhh!" Lily hushed her. "Sister Mia, keep it down."

Mia nodded fervently, but their whispered conspiracy was interrupted by a cough. Both women turned to see Mr. Parker standing in the doorway, his expression a mix of awkwardness and exasperation.

Lily and Mia exchanged nervous glances before bursting into sheepish laughter. They avoided eye contact, like two kids caught red-handed in mischief.

"Do you need something. Boss?" Mia asked with an overly bright smile, pretending innocence.

Mr. Parker sighed and handed Lily her phone. "You left this in my office."

"Oh..." Lily muttered, taking the phone.

Fixing them both with a serious look, Mr. Parker stated firmly, "For the record, I and CEO Ethan are straight."

Lily:"

Mia:

Mia quickly covered her tracks, laughing nervously. "Of course, Boss! Who would question that? Everyone knows how much you love women!"

Mr. Parker stared at her, unimpressed. Does your conscience not hurt when you lie like that?

Without another word, he turned and left the office, muttering curses under his breath. Inside, both let out a collective sigh of relief.

women

"See? I told you, Sister Mia," Lily whispered. "Boss is definitely in a secret relationship with CEO Ethan."

Mia nodded sagely. "You're absolutely right."

Outside, Mr. Parker stopped in his tracks, clutching his head in disbelief. These women are going to be the death of me.

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