

The Split

Written by

Mingjie Lyu

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

EXT. A SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

A girl, LILY (8), stands outside her house, staring at the pavement. Then, finally, she looks up, and we see her beautiful, bright eyes, short hair, and warm smile. But as she walks through the door, her face falls, and her eyes dart nervously.

INT. LILY'S HOUSE - DAY

Lily's father, JOHN (35), watches TV on the sofa. Lily's mother, JANE (32), enters the room carrying a tray of drinks.

JANE
(smiling)
Here you go, John.

John takes a drink and smirks as Jane sits next to him. Lily hides in the corner, watching them.

JOHN
(to Jane)
And where's my little princess?

Jane looks at Lily, but she doesn't answer. John stands up and walks over to Lily, towering over her.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(teasing)
Don't you know it's rude not to say
hello when someone greets you?

Lily mumbles a greeting, and John's hand touches her hair. She flinches, and he chuckles.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(to Jane)
She's getting too jumpy.

Jane looks away, and John pats Lily's head.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(whispering)
You're my little secret, Lily.
Don't tell anyone, okay?

Lily nods, her eyes downcast.

INT. LILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lily huddles in her bed, clutching her stuffed teddy bear, tears streaming down her face. We hear her father's voice, muffled but menacing, coming from the next room.

Lily's face twists in pain as she tries to block out the sounds, but they only get louder. Then, suddenly, we see a flash of light, and the sounds stop.

Lily looks up in surprise as her imaginary twin sister, LILA, appears before her. Lila is a mirror image of Lily, except with long hair and a more confident demeanor.

LILA

Don't worry, Lily. I'm here for you.

Lily's face softens as she smiles at Lila.

LILY

I'm so scared, Lila. I don't know what to do.

LILA

You don't have to be scared anymore, Lily. I'll always be here for you.

Lila wraps her arms around Lily, and Lily leans into the embrace, feeling safe and protected for the first time in a long time.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. LILY'S HOUSE - DAY

LILY(15) paces back and forth in her living room. Her face is twisted in anger and determination.

LILY

(to herself)
I can't take it anymore. I have to do something.

Lila appears next to her, a worried look on her face.

LILA

Lily, what are you thinking? You can't do anything crazy.

LILY
(angrily)
He's getting away with it, Lila.
He's never going to stop.

Lila puts a hand on Lily's shoulder, trying to calm her down.

LILA
I know it's hard, Lily. But killing
him isn't the answer.

Lily shakes her head, her eyes flashing with anger.

LILY
It's the only way to make him pay.

Lila sighs, realizing Lily is too far gone to listen to reason.

LILA
(softly)
Just be careful, Lily. Please don't
do anything we'll regret.

Lily nods, and Lila disappears.

INT. LILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lily lies in bed, wide awake, staring at the ceiling. She hears a CREAKING sound and sits up, her heart racing. The door to her room slowly opens, and her father steps inside, closing the door behind him. Lily's body tenses as he approaches her bed, his face twisted in a sickly sweet smile.

JOHN
(whispering)
Hey, Lily. Can't sleep?

Lily shrinks away from him, but he sits down next to her and strokes her hair, just like he used to when she was a child.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Don't worry, sweetie. Daddy's here
for you.

Lily's eyes fill with tears as memories flood back to her.

John's voice, muffled but menacing, grows louder and more aggressive.

John leans in to kiss Lily's forehead, and she recoils, grabbing the knife from under her pillow. She raises it over his sleeping body, tears streaming down her face.

LILY
(whispering)
I'm sorry, Lila. But this is the
only way.

Suddenly, John's eyes snap open, and he grabs Lily's wrist, twisting it painfully. She drops the knife, and he pins her with a wild look.

JOHN
(whispering)
You stupid little bitch. Do you
think you can get away with this?

Lily struggles, but he's too strong. John turns to face Lily, who scrambles away from him and runs towards the kitchen. She opens the drawer and grabs a kitchen knife, her hands shaking with fear and adrenaline.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(eyes narrowing)
What do you think you're doing,
Lily?

Lily backs away from him, holding the knife before her like a shield.

LILY
(fearfully)
Please stay away from me!

JOHN
(mockingly)
Oh, Lily. You won't hurt me with
that little thing, are you?

He steps forward, and Lily steps back, clutching the knife even tighter.

LILY
(desperately)
I mean it, Dad. Stay back!

John laughs, and Lily's resolve hardens. She lunges forward with the knife, but John is too quick for her. Instead, he twists her wrist, causing the blade to fall.

JOHN

(angrily)
You little brat! How dare you try
to hurt me!

He raises his hand to strike her, but Lily manages to break free and runs out of the room, grabbing her coat and backpack.

EXT. STREET NIGHT

Lila appears next to her as she runs out the door, tears streaming down her face.

LILA

(worriedly)
Lily, what are you doing? Where are
you going?

Lily doesn't answer, instead running down the street, not looking back. She can hear her father's angry shouts behind her, but she doesn't care. Instead, she wants to get as far away from him as possible.

EXT. PARK NIGHT

Finally, Lily stops, panting and exhausted, in a park a few blocks from her house. She collapses onto a bench, her mind racing with fear and anger.

LILY

(to herself, crying)
I can't go back there. I can't live
like this anymore.

Lila appears next to her, looking worried but supportive.

LILA

(softly)
You don't have to, Lily. We can
start a new life together, away
from him.

Lily looks up at her imaginary sister, her eyes filled with hope.

LILY

(determinedly)
You're right, Lila. We can do this.
We can be free.

Together, Lily and Lila walk away from the park, their faces set with determination. They have no idea where they're going, but they know they can't return to that house, to that life, ever again.

FADE TO BLACK.

