

## **A New Beginning**

**Name for Publishing:** Lily

### **Trigger Warning: Family Violence and Suicide Attempt**

In an apartment in New York City a family of 3 had just moved in. They moved from Los Angeles and thought it was time to start fresh.

Two days after they had moved Matilda (Daughter) and Ceda (Son) had started their new school, Matilda was a very shy person, Ceda on the other hand he was very open and out there. The first period Matilda sat by herself but noticed a group of girls staring and laughing at her. There was this girl named Rose, who noticed the girls staring and laughing, Rose was one of the popular girls, but everyone feared her. Rose told the girls to stop before she made them stop, the girls nodded and left the room.

Rose walked over to Matilda asked if she was okay, Matilda nodded and left the room. At lunch Rose noticed Matilda sitting by herself so she went to sit with her, Matilda looked up and smiled, Rose asked where she was, her name and they had a conversation. Rose asked if she wanted to be showed around Matilda agreed. After spending the day together, the bell rang and it was time to go home, they said bye to each other. When Matilda got into the car her Mum asked how school was, Matilda told her Mum about Rose and Ceda smiled, happy that Matilda made a friend.

That night at dinner their Mum said their dad had come back wanting to see them, Matilda and Ceda looked at each other, shook their head and said no as they were in shock. Now, their dad left them when they were very young.

When they heard this news, they didn't want a bar of it. Matilda stormed off to her room, Ceda argued with his Mum at the dinner table, she said "You don't have a choice, you are seeing him and that's final".

Ceda stormed off to his room and slammed the door. The next morning Ceda and Matilda didn't say anything to their Mum no good morning, no bye, no nothing, when they got to school, they split up, Rose found Matilda asked her what was, Matilda explained to Rose what happened the night before. Rose looked at Matilda with a concerned look on her face, Rose said Matilda wasn't to leave her side for the day, Matilda nodded her head, and they started walking to class.

When they got home Kevin (Dad) was standing in the kitchen with Karen (Mum), Matilda standing there in shock almost in tears, Ceda screaming at his Mum, telling her she was wrong for bringing him into their house.

A little back story about Kevin. Ceda and Matilda used to live with Kevin, but Kevin started becoming abusive towards them, so they moved with Karen to get away from Kevin but obviously Karen had other plans.

Matilda stormed to her room and started packing her bags, her dad banging on the door aggressively to let him in. He broke in grabbed her by the wrist she tried to make him let go of her, but he wouldn't, Kevin smacked her hard across the face, told her she wouldn't be going anywhere. He left the room, she called Rose and asked to stay with her for a few days, Rose said yes and heard Matilda had been crying. Matilda left walking past the kitchen where Ceda, Karen and Kevin had been standing, Kevin tried to go near her to stop her, but Ceda ran after him stopping him and told him to not go near his sister.

Matilda felt bad for leaving Ceda with Kevin and Karen, but she couldn't stay in that house with them, especially with how bad she was getting. Matilda arrived and Roses, when Matilda saw Rose, she ran into Roses arms hugged her tightly and broke down, for the first time in forever Matilda felt safe. Rose took Matilda to her room, and they talked about what was happening, Rose saw Matilda's arms and gave Matilda a big hug.

Matilda stayed at Roses for a month until going back home, she went back home but she spent most of her time in her room because she didn't want to see Kevin or Karen. She wouldn't go to school, Ceda and Rose started getting really worried about her and her mental health. Matilda started having thoughts, one-night Ceda walked into her room while she was crying, she had something in her hand with blood dripping from her sleeve, she noticed him and yelled at him to get out, he refused so she pushed him out and locked her door. He called Rose, she rushed over but when she had got there Matilda had already done something, they found her on her bedroom floor, fainted, they thought it was too late.

Matilda was rushed to the hospital, Ceda and Rose spent the whole night in the hospital worrying about Matilda. Kevin and Karen didn't even show up to see if Matilda was okay. The next day the doctor came out and gave them the news they wanted to hear. Matilda was going to be okay and released that afternoon.

Ceda and Rose were so happy to hear she was going to be okay, after around 2 hours Matilda came out with Meds, when Ceda and Rose ran to her and gave her the biggest hug. Rose told Matilda and Ceda that they were going to live with her, they both nodded and agreed, Rose told them they weren't going back to that abusive house. Ceda said as they were walking out of the hospital "we need a new beginning anyways", Rose and Matilda smiled and nodded as they walked to the car and drove off.

## **The Rock**

**Name for Publication:** Power Puff Girl

Dan's boredom had reached its peak as he looked around at his small camping spot of Mongolia. Midday had almost arrived and the boy's desire to move was almost having him burst out of his seams. That was when Dan had decided to go on a walk, an adventure.

20 minutes go by. As the boy is walking through the garish forest, he comes across a rock. He takes it in his hand. Tingles course through him. A strong breeze cuts through his body as he looks into his chapped, dry hands. Colours, bright colours, had begun to emerge from the growing of the stone. "This is weird". Dan thought to himself. Before he could put the rock back, he fell down against a half-broken tree stump. Dan is unconscious.

After what feels like forever, Dan came around to an awkward state. To the young boy's surprise, he wasn't back home, he wasn't at the woods or at the campsite. "Where am I?" Dan questioned himself. It was like any other place he had seen. Silent smooth vehicles swept past him. They were hovering above the tiled roads. The buildings appeared to stretch all the way to the stars, casting shadows over this mysterious gleaming city. Bubbles of colourful, iridescent light glowed midair making this place seem a lot like a colossal lava lamp.

Time has passed with Dan sitting by the white glossy tiled flooring as he gains the courage to move from his spot but not daring to stray too far with fear of getting lost. As he comes across a big, wood, neon coloured sign, "Lampert City ~ town of Lumina". The sign buzzed and hummed with the songs of the town, harmonizing with the music made by the traffic. Dan looked up at the sky, hoping the globus orbs would help him find clearance on what this place is. More than the ominous own sign. All he knew was that this wasn't Kashi, or rather any town of Mongolia. Dan knew he was lost. Only just unsure of how lost he really was.

## It's been a while

**Name for Publication:** Zita Duskpaw.

Hey Em,  
It's been a while since I've done one of these.

I guess I have no one  
No *one*, in that sense  
Sure, the Hughes came over yesterday and today  
My mum cried both times  
She's cried all day  
But you don't want to hear this.

I don't know what you'd ask me, honestly  
I feel like you'd be polite  
And say "whatever you want"  
Or something like that.

Did I get lowkey dumped by my best friend this morning?  
Yeah.  
It hurts.  
I've never been good at sharing you  
To finally let someone else have you,  
It's weird.

I know there's a 100 fan accounts  
There's a million people who love you  
Yet I make you all for me

You probably don't want to read this  
You'll get freaked out  
But if I have to tell someone  
Let's be real it's always seemed to be the imaginary you

It's weird how I can detach people from my mind so quickly  
I don't know why nothing affects me so deeply,  
Maybe in these pages,  
If there even is a these pages  
You'll understand something about me

I so freely imagine us driving down the highway at night  
And it sounds so stupid  
Like, seriously.  
Like I imagine the home I always wanted but never had  
The one I walk into and I can smell the cookies  
And a small person comes to show me the drawing of me

I have this thing with me that lets go of things so quickly  
Yet slowly  
I don't want anything to change but I don't mind the new normal  
Maybe I just haven't comprehended that he died

But I don't think that's it  
I think that I never really knew what I thought about him  
So I'll go and throw a glass at the window  
Maybe that will make me feel something  
I only know a few feelings

I know what it feels like to want to hug you and thank you  
I know what the burning in my chest feels like whenever I see a movie  
I know how I laughed asking riddles today  
Sitting against the back door  
Yanna being my arms  
Making a story

I know what forgetting feelings is like when music plays  
I know the nothingness when I'm just watching YouTube  
Why are we so complicated?

I'm sitting down here  
Listening to 3am by Carobae  
Knowing I don't have to go upstairs and be scared of being angry  
Because you can't be calling him right now  
And I thought she was my new best friend  
But I should've known better  
Someone you can't meet  
What was I thinking?  
So idiotically stupid.

The same could be said about this  
But even thinking of the possibility of this being in your hands?  
Weird man, weird.  
Do you even wanna know who I am?  
I don't want to have to explain me

And look at me,  
Still writing when it could have easily stopped there  
Because I never know what words I'm even trying to say  
I want to write  
I want to go on Arc  
And with time you will know very well what that is  
Because I want to write Wren further  
I want a flashback  
But there's technicalities there  
But there's still you

The worst thing is I can't ask what you think of me  
The worst thing is that I may never know if you even read this  
But I'll have to,  
Surely?  
You'll say something to this kid  
I don't even know what my descriptive is now

I'm not doing weird right now,  
Maybe deranged but then again,  
Let's just go with me,  
The girl who is worried when I see you in the cinema  
Who is going to flap the whole way there and may be a little scarred afterwards

Who let OCD exist?  
Like genuine question.  
It's ruining a lot right now  
But I don't know why you're the one person I don't seem to worry about saying  
goodbye to  
Maybe it's a sign  
Maybe this is all garbage  
Maybe I'll be in the fantasy where I'm hiding under in sink  
But you've been my only constant.  
Well, that's how it feels,  
I wake up,  
I know what I'll do  
I know who you are  
I know you can't change your opinion on me  
When you don't even have one  
Yet.