

Self-Control

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SCENE1.INT.DAY.OFFICE.WAITING AREA.

Plastic, multicolored chairs are lined up neatly against the wall. LILY (late 20s) and BECKY (mid 20s) are sitting next to each other. The other chairs are completely empty. Lily looks uncomfortable and tense, forcefully composed. BECKY spread herself comfortably in her chair. She is twirling her blond hair.

BECKY

(foreign accent)

Lily, lily lily lily lily lily lily
lily lily. I've said it so many
times now, I don't know what it
means anymore. You know what I
mean? Have you tried it? You can do
it with anything. Any word. Chair
chair chair chair... door door door
door lily lily lily lily lily...
you gotta do it for a long time
though...lily lily lily lily lily
and now it starts sounding like
ilil ilil ilil ilil ilil... so
weird... I like really don't know
what it means now... (continues)

LILY

It doesn't mean anything, its just
my name.

BECKY

Lily. lily. lily. lily. I'm bored.

LILY

You don't have to sit here with me
Becky. Really.

BECKY

Oh no but I want to help. (pause)
What do you think its about anyway?
Oh my God! Do you like totally
think he's gonna fire you?

LILY

I didn't.

BECKY

He might though. I hope not. But
you never know, you know? Lily lily
lily lily lily lily lily...

(CONTINUED)

Lily finally gives up. She puts both her hands on BECKY's head and twists it hard, breaking her neck. BECKY falls limp and lifeless to the floor. Lily breathes in the air of relief and sits back down on her chair. Peace at last.

An office door opens and both women look up. MR.COOPER comes out, he smiles as soon as he sees BECKY, who is alive and well and is playing with her necklace.

MR. COOPER
Becky. I trust you are well.

BECKY
(extra perky)
Super duper Mr. Cooper. Can't complain. You know me.

MR.COOPER
Yes. Lillith, would you... Come in... please.

Lily gets up from the chair and walks through the door with MR.COOPER behind her. MR. COOPER casts one last awkward, mistrustful glance at BECKY. She smiles extra hard. When the door closes, BECKY gets up and walks off.

TITLE READS "SELF-CONTROL".

SCENE2.INT.DAY.OFFICE - MR.COOPER'S OFFICE

MR. COOPER
Do you know what this is about?

LILY
No. I really don't.

MR. COOPER
I received complaints. From some people at the office.

LILY
Complaints?

MR.COOPER
About your attitude towards Becky.

LILY
You're kidding? Did she say something?

(CONTINUED)

MR. COOPER

It doesn't matter who said what.
What matters is... Actually what
was being said does actually matter
because that's what the problem is.
Anyway, I have reason to believe
that you are acting...um...
unfriendly towards Becky?

LILY

Unfriendly? Is that what she said?
Unfriendly?

MR. COOPER

She is new. She is young. She
could... maybe... possibly... have
grounds for a sexual harassment
lawsuit. I don't know... I'm not
100% clear on that... So I've
heard, anyway. Its not important.
She needs a friend around the
office that's all. She needs to
feel welcome.

LILY

So she asked you to force me to be
friends with her?

MR. COOPER

Yes. Will you?

LILY

Every time she opens her mouth I
want to rip her stupid little head
off and feed it to a pack of hungry
wolves.

MR. COOPER

Well. I have no problem with that,
Lilith. So... either you do that or
be extra nice to her around the
office, OK? You know it really
wouldn't hurt you... in general...
to be a little nicer. You don't
have any friends. You're a loner I
get it. But... It's a bit weird.

Lily tenses up quickly. She is boiling with anger, she looks
like she's about to murder Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER (cont'd)

Anyway... Are... we... clear?

Lily gives Mr Cooper a brief fake smile. Lily takes a deep breath in.

SCENE3.INT.DAY.CAFE

Lily slices a juicy, red, bleeding steak with a sharp steak knife. She takes a bite.

SANJIV
(Indian
Accent) Its too heavy!

LILY
What?

SANJIV is sitting across from Lily at the next table. He is a man in his mid to late thirties, wearing a police uniform. He is sipping his chocolate milkshake through a twisty straw.

SANJIV
Steak. It's too heavy for lunch,
you shouldn't eat that.

Lily looks at SANJIV with a blank expression. She decides to ignore him.

SANJIV (cont'd)
I have pie. If you want you can
share this pie with me and
then...sitting at the same table...
sharing food. We'll be on a date.

LILY
Thanks, but would you mind terribly
please to fuck off?

SANJIV
It's OK if you don't want pie, you
don't want pie. (pause) I see you
here every day. I think... you are
pretty. If you don't want to have
pie we can have something else.

LILY
Right. I'm gonna go.

Lily gets up and leaves. SANJIV shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

SANJIV
Ok. I'll see you tomorrow.

SCENE4.INT.NIGHT.LILY'S FLAT

Lily is agitated but tries to calm herself down. She puts a bowl of dog food on the floor for her little Maltese. She lights incense sticks around the house. She unrolls a yoga mat on the floor and pops a DVD into the player. She sits herself down on the mat legs crossed, her little dog now by her side. She presses a button on her remote and TV comes on. On screen a YOGA INSTRUCTOR is sitting down with her legs crossed on a mat. Lily closes her eyes, breathes in deeply in preparation. Her breath is jerky.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
(foreign accent)
Namaste. Welcome to the beginning
of your transformation. Together,
with love, we will learn to control
those emotions, to overcome anger,
stress, anxiety. A road to better,
calmer you begins right here. Just
listen to the sound of my voice,
with love... relax and breathe. Let
your breath guide you. With love,
let go of all your thoughts. Relax
into you body. Inhale deeply,
Exhale completely
relaaaaaaaaaaaaax...
Relaaaaaaaaaaaaax... Inhale deeply
exhale completely relaaaaaaaaaaaaax...
relaaaaaaaaaaaaax... relaaaaaaaaaaaaax...
Once again, with love, Inhale
deeply, exhale completely
relaaaaaaaaaaaaax... (continues).

YOGA INSTRUCTOR's voice suddenly changes. She begins to sound like BECKY.

Lily opens her eyes. She looks at the screen. YOGA INSTRUCTOR's turned into BECKY, who carries on with the mantra. Unable to keep calm Lily points her hand towards the screen and tenses up her fingers in a fist. TV Becky begins to suffocate. She clutches her head in her hands. Her head begins to shake and she turns bright red. We hear a sound of an explosion as Becky's head explodes off screen. Droplets of blood spray on Lily from the TV. Lily looks annoyed with herself, she wipes one of the droplets off her face and waves her hand at the TV, it switches off and shakes a little. DOG chews his paws.

(CONTINUED)

LILY

Fuck.

SCENE5.INT.DAY.OFFICE - KITCHENETTE

Lily is making coffee, while BECKY is very close, leaning on the counter, talking.

BECKY

Seriously, I barely got any sleep again today cause of that damn Rottweiler. And nobody cares. Like nobody can hear it snore. Mrs. Miller says I'm imagining it. And God forbid I mention something cause they have a right to own pets, its in their lease agreement blah blah blah. Well its not in my lease agreement. I just want to come home and sleep without being woken up every half hour by that horrible monster.

LILY

I have a dog.

BECKY

We can do something about that too. Anyways how did that thing go? I hope you didn't get into too much trouble. I heard some people talking about it. They really don't like you very much around here, you know. Of course I love you, but the others they really really hate you. Everyone wants you gone. Everyone, even fat Pete.

Lily who was trying to keep her cool throughout the conversation, finally opens lower cupboard and takes out a pack of rat poison. She puts some in the coffee she made and gives it to BECKY.

BECKY (cont'd)

(saccharine)

Oh thank you that's so sweet.

Lily smiles a huge fake smile right back at Becky for a second before her expression changes right back. BECKY takes a sip. She begins to choke. Bright red foam starts to come out of her mouth and nose.

(CONTINUED)

Back to reality.

BECKY (cont'd)
Lil? Hello? You okay? What's that
for?

Lily looks at her own hands. Rat poison in in her hands. She
freaks out. Puts the poison down.

LILY
Oh shit... I just gotta...

Lily leaves hastily. BECKY picks up the poison. Looks at it
with suspicion.

SCENE6.INT.DAY.CAFE

LILY
You have to arrest me.

Lily is out of breath. She sits opposite SANJIV who is
eating an apple pie with a milkshake.

SANJIV
What did you do?

Lily takes a deep breath and gathers up her courage.

LILY
I'm the devil.

Sanjiv puts down his milkshake.

SANJIV
Ok.

LILY
THE Devil you know. Satan. Lucifer.
Nospheratu. Call me what you will.
I am bad. I am evil. I kill people.

SANJIV
I thought Nospheratu is vampire.

LILY
It's... all the same...

SANJIV
Let me see the back of your head.

(CONTINUED)

LILY
What?

SANJIV
I want to see the 666 birth mark.

LILY
Oh you're making fun of me? And
that one is not true by the way.

SANJIV
Ok, so being the devil... what does
it entail? Do you have powers?

LILY
Some.

SANJIV
Let me see then.

LILY
No. I can't. It's part of the 12
steps.

SANJIV
12 steps?

LILY
I'm in recovery. I want to be a
better person. Self-Control and
all.

SANJIV looks surprised and curious rather than concerned.

SANJIV
So whom have you killed?

LILY
Well... I haven't actually killed
anyone. Yet... But trust me, you
have to arrest me I came so close
today... so close...

SANJIV
Ok. Well, the thing is. For me to
arrest you, you have to kill
someone first. Or at least maim
them or something.

LILY
I don't want to hurt anyone that's
my point. Isn't it your duty to
protect the world from creatures
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LILY (cont'd)
like me? To prevent crime? I am THE devil.

SANJIV
No, its actually my job to catch people who have committed crime. And despite popular belief we the police are not actually responsible for hunting down any sort of supernatural creatures like yourself. That would be Ghostbusters or a Van Helsing. And you seem like a nice and pretty sort of Devil. With "the steps" working for you and all... I don't see why...

LILY
I'm slipping. I was on top of this thing for the past 27 years and now this awful, vile woman started working at the office, and I'm slipping.

SANJIV
Ok, wait a minute... So you want to kill an annoying co-worker?

LILY
Yes. I'm afraid I might actually...

SANJIV
Ha. Please. If I could have a penny for each annoying co-worker or wife I wanted to kill, I would have a lot of pennies and no wife. (laughs heartily, Lily looks at him like he's an idiot) I'm only joking... I'm not married. I am single. (clears throat) Do you have pets?

LILY
A dog, why?

SANJIV
There you go. Evil people don't have pets. They like to torture small animals, that's how most serial killers start out.

(CONTINUED)

LILY
I'm the devil not a serial killer.
We like animals.

SANJIV
We? Is there more of you?

LILY
I have brothers and sisters.

SANJIV
Really? How many?

LILY
A lot actually. You'd be surprised.

SANJIV
Right... So what's your dog's name?

LILY
Flower.

SANJIV
Hm... Like the plant or the food?

LILY
Plant.

SANJIV
That's good. That's very good.
Flowers they are pretty, girly...
that's good. Now flour, that's
dough, you have to hit dough to
make bread, that's passive
aggressive. Would you like some
pie?

SANJIV pushes a plate of pie towards Lily. She takes a fork.

SANJIV (cont'd)
What's your favorite film?

LILY
Some like it hot.

SANJIV
Well. That makes sense. It's really
hot where you're from.

LILY
Funny. Why did you ask? Oh no! Do
you think that if I have a piece of
this pie and tell you my favorite
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LILY (cont'd)
film and color this would be a
date?

SANJIV
Of course! What's your favorite
color?

Lily puts the fork back down and pushes the plate away from herself.

LILY
No.

Lily gets up, gets her bag from the chair and places it on her shoulder. She looks at SANJIV one last time.

LILY (cont'd)
No.

She leaves.

SANJIV
Ok. I'll see you tomorrow.

SCENE7.INT.NIGHT.BATHROOM IN LILY'S FLAT

Lily is in her bathtub. She is taking a bubble bath.

LILY
I will not be a victim of my
nature. I will not succumb to the
evil inside me. I am a strong and
confident woman. Strong and
confident woman. Strong... and...
confident...

She breathes out deeply. Tears begins to slide down her face more and more as she speaks, finally she submerges under the water.

SCENE8.INT.DAY.OFFICE - LILY AND BECKY'S DESK.

Lily is working at her computer she looks like she's on the edge of a nervous breakdown. Becky is right behind her, spinning in her chair. She has her headphones on and is singing something quite loudly and out of tune in her native language. Lily is very irritated, she tries to ignore this and meditate. Suddenly BECKY stops and pushes her chair and herself much closer to Lily.

(CONTINUED)

BECKY

Hey. I forgot to thank you.

LILY

What for?

BECKY

That brilliant idea you gave me the other day.

LILY

What?

BECKY

You know about my problem... the dog...

LILY

What dog?

BECKY

The Rottweiler. The one who was not letting me sleep. I got some of that poison you gave me. I put it in those novelty dog treats and gave it as a present, you know as a 'peace offering'. Now all my problems... are... over...

Lily's expression drastically changes to that of absolute shock.

SCENE9.EXT.DAY.STREET

Lily is walking briskly along a busy street. Her white shirt is covered in blood. She walks into the cafe.

SCENE10.INT.DAY.CAFE

SANJIV is sitting at the table eating a pie yet again. Lily walks in covered in blood. She sits down opposite him and puts both her hands on the table.

LILY

Now. Arrest me.

SANJIV

You killed the bitch?

(CONTINUED)

LILY
Well... She's is definitely...
"maimed".

Lily stares at SANJIV in anticipation. She is completely out of breath, her eyes are tearing up. SANJIV ponders the situation for a second.

SANJIV
Well. Nobody's perfect.

Lily is stunned. She takes a second to regain composure, lifts up her arm and flicks her wrist, as she does the plate pie moves away from Sanjiv and into the middle of the table closer to Lily. Sanjiv looks stunned Lily smiles shyly. She then picks up the fork and takes a big bite out of the pie. Camera turns away from the scene.