

Gossip
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FADE IN:

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM - DAY

LILY WATERS, 16, sits in a stall with tears streaming down her face. Her attempts to muffle her wailing make her sound as though she is a wounded animal. She finally manages to take in a few deep breaths which somewhat stifles her crying.

Lily reaches into her bag and pulls out something sharp and metallic. She looks intently at the object, ready to do damage.

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

BROOKE BALLARD, a 16-year-old girl wearing too much makeup, walks through the hall. She stops as she approaches the door to the girls bathroom and very gently pushes it open.

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM - DAY

As Brooke walks into the bathroom, a loud scratching noise echoes off the walls.

BROOKE

Lily?

The scratching stops.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Lily?

Brooke looks under each one of the stalls until she spots the one with Lily's bag on the floor.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Come on Lil'. I know you're in there. Open up. Its Brooke.

Slowly, each of Lily's legs become visible from under the stall. Eventually her hand comes down as well, grabbing the bag on the floor. As the sound of the door unlatching is heard, Brooke stands up and steps back. The door swings open and Lily steps out. Her face is red and her eyes are swollen. She walks past Brooke to the sink where she begins to wash her face.

Brooke looks at Lily and then walks inside of the stall. On the wall, amidst other writings are the words "Lily Waters gave..." with the rest of the sentence scratched off the wall.

LILY (O.S.)
Its not true.

Brooke pulls some toilet paper from the stall and hands it to Lily who pats her face dry.

BROOKE
Of course it isn't. What did you
scratch it off with?

Lily hands her the sharp object, a letter opener.

LILY
I stole it from Miss Meloni's desk.
I wasn't even thinking. God, I
look terrible.

Brooke reaches into her bag and pulls out a compact.

BROOKE
Here.

LILY
Thanks.

Lily begins to apply the powder.

LILY (CONT'D)
I just...I can't figure it out, you
know? What kind of a horrible
person would do this?

BROOKE
I don't know Lil.

LILY
I've never done anything to anyone.
Why would they do this to me?

Brooke pulls a lip gloss out of her bag.

BROOKE
Because they're a bitch. Pout.

Lily pushes her lips out and Brooke applies the gloss.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Look Lil, its just gossip. Sure,
today its you but tomorrow it will
be someone else. That's the way
that it works.

LILY
 (Pouting as she speaks)
 It still hurts like hell.

BROOKE
 I know. But what doesn't kill you
 makes you smarter, right?

LILY
 Stronger.

BROOKE
 Huh? Whatever. Screw whatever
 attention seeking whore wrote that.
 You are like, a million times
 better than that ass. Okay?
 Finished.

Lily looks at herself in the mirror. Her face is white and
 dry, displaying not a trace of her recent state.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
 Now smile.

Lily begins to curl the ends of her mouth but is stopped by
 the loud ringing of the school bell.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
 Lets book.

As Brooke heads for the door, Lily notices that she has left
 the lip gloss on the edge of the sink. She picks it up and
 along with the compact extends her arm out to Brooke.

LILY
 You forgot these.

BROOKE
 Keep it. You never know when you
 might need 'em.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Lily and Brooke walk out of the bathroom into a sea of
 students. They are quickly joined by KLOE, KELLY and KYLIE
 three similar looking girls.

KLOE
 Hey Lil, it isn't true right?

KELLY
 How could you even ask her that.

KYLIE

Duh.

LILY

I'd rather not talk about it any more.

KELLY

Sure, right. You look real good though.

KLOE

You'd never know you were dying on the inside.

KYLIE

Totally.

BROOKE

Oh god.

LILY

(Spotting something in the distance.)

What?

BROOKE

Don't look, don't look.

Lily looks. Strolling down the hall walks CHRIS STEWARD, 17, wearing a letterman jacket and flashing a toothpaste ad smile. Beside him is VIOLET CALAWAY, a simple but pretty 14-year-old.

KLOE

Chris Steward!

KELLY

He's heading this way.

KYLIE

Hottie alert.

LILY

Oh god. Do you think he heard? He heard. Do you think he did? Hide me.

BROOKE

If anything it will probably make him like you more.

LILY
Not funny. And so not what I want.
(Beat)
Who's the girl?

The girls look at Violet. She is giggling and twirling her hair.

KELLY
Violet Calaway. She's in my PE class.

KLOE
Freshman.

KYLIE.
Ew.

Chris waves to Violet and heads over to where the girls are standing. They quickly break from staring and huddle as if in the middle of a conversation.

CHRIS
Hey Lily. Girls.

LILY
Oh, hey Chris. What's up?

CHRIS
Not much. Gearing up for the big game this Friday.

LILY
(nervously)
Yeah. Cool. Well, I'll be there.
We'll be there. At the game.
Cheering in the crowds.

CHRIS
Awesome. Are you going to the after party at Brian's?

LILY
Um, I was thinking about it.

CHRIS
Well, you should come.

LILY
Yeah. Okay.

CHRIS

Cool. Well, I gotta get going, the coach will totally kick my ass if I'm late.

LILY

Yeah, I have...places to be too.

CHRIS

See you Friday.

LILY

Later.

The girls watch Chris as he runs down the hallway.

BROOKE

He so likes you.

LILY

Do you think he heard the rumor?

BROOKE

He's so hard to read.

KLOE

I know.

KELLY

Not always.

KYLIE

Whatever.

The girls stop and stare at Kylie. She shamefully looks at her feet.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

The following day. Lily sits with Kloe, Kelly and Kylie, picking at her lunch tray. She is cheery and is clearly removed from the events of the previous day.

Brooke weaves her way through the cafeteria.

BROOKE

'Scuse me. Woa there. 'Scuse you.

Brooke finally reaches Lily's table and plops down, excited.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
You will not believe what I just heard.

LILY
What?

BROOKE
I...I can't tell you.

KLOE
Hey!

KELLY
Way to wave a sausage in front of our noses.

BROOKE
No, I want to, but...

She looks at the girls, grinning ear to ear. This is too good to resist.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Well okay. Remember that girl we saw Chris with yesterday? Violet? Violet Calaway?

LILY
Yeah.

BROOKE
Well, it turns out that she has been all over Chris since she started school. I heard that she is like, totally his little stalker or something. She wants his piece.

Lily looks down at her food.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Oh Lil, I'm sure this has nothing to do with you. She's a frosh. Do you think she has even a nanobite of a chance? In fact if I were her, I would totally be jealous of you.

Lily looks up. The light bulb in her head has gone off.

LILY
You don't think...

KYLIE

Woa.

KELLY

She wouldn't...Just to...

KLOE

The little slut.

BROOKE

Shhhhh. She's over there.

The girls simultaneously turn their heads towards Violet. She is sitting alone at a table, seemingly glaring in their direction.

LILY

Is she staring at me?

BROOKE

What a little whore.

LILY

What did I ever do to her? What kind of a horrible person would...

BROOKE

Hey, don't worry about it. Look at you and look at her. She would have to go on a serious makeover reality show to be half as pretty as you.

KELLY

Or as cool.

KLOE

Or as smart.

KYLIE

Seriously.

LILY

Thanks guys. You're right. I mean, who is Violet Calaway anyway?

BROOKE

Slut.

INT: SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Chris stands at his locker, removing some books. Lily comes out of a classroom and spots him immediately. Clearly more confident, she waltzes straight up to him.

LILY
Hey Chris.

CHRIS
Lily. What are you still doing here?

LILY
Homecoming committee. You?

CHRIS
Practice.

LILY
Yeah. Duh.

CHRIS
No, its okay. Sometimes I forget why I'm here too. How's homecoming coming along.

LILY
Really good actually. We have these floats and well...its going to be awesome. I can't wait for you to see it.

CHRIS
I'm sure anything you put together will totally rock. Totally.

The two stare at each other, smiling. Finally, Lily takes a breath and goes for it.

LILY
Hey, what are you doing now. Do you maybe want to grab some fries or something?

CHRIS
Oh. Man, I really wish I could, but I kind of promised my aunt that I'd go take care of some things around the house.

LILY
You're aunt?

CHRIS
Yeah, since my uncle died I've been helping her and my cousin out.

LILY
Oh. Well, that's really nice of you.

CHRIS
Yeah, well. I'll see you at the game, alright?

LILY
And Brian's party.

CHRIS
Right. Catch you later.

Chris runs out the door. Lily smiles and heads to her own locker.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Lily walks through the lot, shuffling her bag around reaching for her keys. As she reaches her car, she spots something in the distance.

Chris and Violet walk though the parking lot together. He is holding her bag. As they reach his car, Chris makes his way to the passenger door and opens it for Violet. The two get in and drive off.

Lily stares the whole time, fuming.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Lily and Brooke walk down a crowded hallway on their way to class. Lily looks even more angered than the day before.

BROOKE
No way.

LILY
Way.

BROOKE
What a bitch.

LILY
She stole him. Right out from
under me.

BROOKE
So she's a sneaky bitch.

LILY
I mean it was smart really. Get
rid of her competition.

BROOKE
I still can't believe making up a
rumor about you was enough to get
Chris Steward to like her.

LILY
What do you mean?

BROOKE
He's a football star and
she's..she's a quiet little
freshman nobody has ever heard of.

LILY
Well you know what they say about
the quiet ones.

BROOKE
No. What do they say?

The bell rings as the girls enter the classroom. They remain
standing and chatting.

LILY
Maybe she's a freak. Who knows
what she did to become so
appealing.

BROOKE
Maybe shes a student by day
stripper by night?

LILY
Or a hooker.

BROOKE
Possibly.

LILY
But not likely. Oh, I know...

The teacher walks up to the girls and stares sternly at each of them.

TEACHER

Ladies. Seats. Now.

As Brooke heads to her seat she motions to Lily to write it down. Lily sits down and tears paper out of her notebook. In big bold letter she writes "Violet Calaway screwed the entire football team". She neatly folds up the paper and passes it behind her, smiling.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Lily, Brooke, Kloe, Kelly and Kylie are walking to their seats with their stocked lunch trays.

KYLIE

Puh-lease.

KELLY

I know. But I got her to cave.

KLOE

I can't wait to see it.

BROOKE

Wait until you see my dress. It is so hot.

LILY

If only you had a hot date to go with the hot dress.

BROOKE

Look at the pot calling the ketal metal.

LILY

Black.

BROOKE

You're wearing black?

Suddenly, Violet runs by, practically knocking over Lily.

LILY

That is it! That little slut is going to pay.

INT: SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Lily chases Violet, who is far ahead of her, down the hallway. She sees Violet duck into the girls bathroom.

INT: GIRLS BATHROOM -DAY

Lily enters the room. The sounds of muffled crying and screeching can be heard. Lily walks over to the stall where her name and scratches still remain.

Suddenly the door of the next stall flings open and Violet stomps out, heading towards the sink. Lily looks in the stall where, in almost the identical location to her own scribble of shame, are the words "Violet Calaway fucked the football team. Twice." The words have been scribbled over in marker, which rather than concealing has highlighted the sentence.

VIOLET

Pretty terrible isn't it.

Lily turns around. Violet is washing her face in the sink. For a moment a wash of guilt flushes over Lily's face, but she quickly remembers who this is. She angrily looks at Violet.

LILY

Yeah. It is.

Violet finishes at the sink and looks at her red, swollen face in the mirror.

VIOLET

I would never...I'm not that kind of girl.

LILY

Maybe not that kind...

VIOLET

I'm not any kind. I've just been trying to get by. God, I look terrible.

Lily stares at her. Slowly, she pulls out the compact that Brooke has given her and tosses it at Violet.

LILY

Here. Fix yourself.

VIOLET

Thanks. That's really nice of you.

(Beat)

I'm Violet Calaway. Who are you?

Lily stares at Violet, searching for a sign to imply that she is kidding or lying. She isn't.

LILY

I'm Lily. Lily Waters.

VIOLET

Lily Waters! I know you, you're famous.

LILY

Not exactly the word I would use...

VIOLET

I would. My cousin Chris talks about you all the time.

LILY

Chris...your cousin?

VIOLET

He's been more like a brother actually. He helps me out a ton. He even carries my books when they get to heavy since I have scoliosis. And he helps my mom fix things around the house and stuff.

LILY

I saw you...I think I saw you in his car.

VIOLET

Probably. It is a pretty nice ride even if the door sticks. He doesn't have to drive me places but...I guess he is trying to make up for my dad not being around and stuff.

The consequences of Lily's actions begin to wash over her. She fidgets for a moment before digging through her bag. She pulls out the lip gloss and hands it to Violet

LILY

Here.

VIOLET

Thanks. You are really nice. Not like whoever wrote...I didn't even think anyone knew me. All I really wanted was to fly under the radar. I just...I can't figure it out, you know? What kind of a horrible person would do this?

LILY

I...I don't know.

VIOLET

I've never done anything to anyone. Why would they do this to me?

LILY

Because...Maybe the person didn't...Maybe its all just a big...I don't know.

Lily looks at her own reflection in the mirror and then at Violet. The two are eerily similar.

Violet extends the lip glass and the compact to Lily.

VIOLET

It just hurts like hell. Here, you don't want to forget these.

Lily takes the lip glass and slowly takes the makeup. She walks over to the trash ready to throw it out. It won't change anything. Hesitantly, she turns back around and hands it back to Violet.

LILY

You keep it.

VIOLET

Really?

LILY

Yeah. You never know when...well, you just never know.

The bell rings.

LILY (CONT'D)

See ya.

VIOLET

(Smiling)

Bye.

Lily walks out of the bathroom, getting lost in a sea of students. They stand around in groups, giggling, laughing and whispering into each others ears.

FADE TO BLACK.