

SECOND CHANCE

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INT. COFFEE SHOP MANHATTEN 9AM

Lily walks into her usual coffee shop as she waits for her mom to meet up with her. She opens the door and lines up to order

LILY  
Hey!

BARISTA  
Hey Lily, want the usual?

LILY  
You know it!

(cue soft, calm music)

BARISTA  
Here you go

LILY  
Thanks

Lily goes to find a place to sit. She takes out her book from her bag and starts reading. At the same time, a woman walks in. The woman looks around the coffee shop and spots Lily. She gets excited but tries to keep her cool. She goes up and orders.

BARISTA  
Hi there, what can I get you?

WOMAN  
I'll have a plain black coffee and a scone please.

BARISTA  
Of course

(cue soft music)

The woman looks around nervously while she waits for her order

BARISTA  
Here you go, have a nice day

WOMAN  
Thanks, you too

The woman goes to where Lily is sitting.

WOMAN

Uh hi there, do you mind if I sit here with you?

Lily looks up from her book. She is immediately confused because she doesn't even know this person and there's a lot of other seating.

LILY

Um sure, go ahead

WOMAN

Thanks, my name is Martha, Martha Wilson

LILY

Um cool, nice to meet you.

(Lily goes back to her book)

MARTHA

I like your bracelet, it's lovely

LILY

Thank you

Martha

How are you? How has your day been so far?

Lily is starting to get a little creeped out, but she put her book down and starts talking to Martha

LILY

Well, my day has been pretty good, how about you?

MARTHA

My day has been great, you know I just came in from Jersey.

LILY

Hmm may I ask what for?

MARTHA

I just had an appointment - nothing too major  
(pause) What grade are you in, honey?

LILY

Um I'm in grade 12

MARTHA

Ohh must be exciting

LILY

Yeah.

MARTHA

Any boys yet? (Raises eyebrows)

LILY

What huh um no uh

MARTHA

Girls?

LILY

What umm well maybe wait uh

MARTHA (MORE)

I'm just messing with ya sweetie - You're probably too busy for all of that stuff what with university applications coming due.

LILY

Senior year is crazy busy. Anyone who tells you differently is lying! I have so much work to do I barely sleep anymore but its still rewarding...I'm almost done.

MARTHA (CON'T)

Now tell me, what are you planning on doing next? University? Jobs?

LILY

(GETTING A BIT ANNOYED AND CONFUSED)

Um (sighs) yeah, I got early acceptance to Harvard, pre-med.

MARTHA

My goodness that's fantastic!! Do you have an idea of your specialization?

LILY

Cardiac surgery.

MARTHA

That's...commendable. You know I almost went into medicine myself... in my 30s.

LILY  
(doesn't believe her whatsoever)  
Really?

MARTHA  
Yes, I had a young daughter who was very sick and our time in the health care system changed me forever. She was (gulp) she was taken from us too soon, rest in peace. (looks up)

LILY (SYMPATHETICALLY)  
I'm so sorry for your loss

MARTHA  
Thank you. What made you choose medicine?

LILY  
Well, when I was younger, there was something wrong with my heart and they were not sure how long I would live, but thankfully they were able to do a transplant and the doctors ended up saving my life. So, I just want to give someone else that same second chance

MARTHA  
That's a beautiful story.

LILY  
(awkward pause)  
Well, my mom should be here any minute now so...

MARTHA  
Of course (pause) (MORE)

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
I best be going My train will be here soon, but I'm eternally grateful that I got to meet you, you've ..truly.. made my day.

Martha begins to get up and start to put on her coat, as she does, lily's mom walks in and starts to greet Martha  
Lily sits there dumbfounded. She is moved.

LILY  
Thank you...safe travels.

MARTHA  
Bye Lily.

Lily is stunned.

PHYLLIS

Martha! How are you? It's been far too long.

MARTHA

It has been! I've been good. I just got to know your darling daughter a little better.

Martha says as she gestures to Lily.

Lily sits there confused as she never gave out her name

LILY

Wait, how do you know my name? What's happening here? Mom?

Lily sits there awkwardly and confused

MARTHA

Well, I best be going. Good luck with everything, I'm rooting for you.

(Looks to Phyllis) Phyllis, next time I'm in town we'll catch up

PHYLLIS

Sounds like a plan, good to see you

Martha walks out and Phyllis takes her place

LILY

Mom...who was that?

PHYLLIS

That was my dear friend Martha

LILY

Well yeah, she told me that, but why have I never heard of her. Like you've never talked about her before, and she just comes in here and starts talking to me...she knew me.

PHYLLIS (INTERRUPTS)

Well, sweetie, you have met her before, you just didn't realize it.

LILY

Huh?

PHYLLIS

Well, you see...when you needed a new heart, we were desperate to find a match. I met Martha outside the hospital one morning. Her daughter was very sick, terminal, only about your age. It is a parents' worst nightmare, as you know so well. She felt so helpless, as did I. Sadly, Martha's daughter lost her battle the next day, but miraculously her heart was a match. Her name was Abigail. She saved your life. Every year on the anniversary of the transplant, she sends me a note, or something that belonged to her beautiful little girl, so that her spirit can live on, through you.

LILY

Oh my god. Why didn't you tell me about this sooner?

PHYLLIS

I wanted you to grow up and to be YOU... without any guilt.

LILY

Wait, so when she pointed out my bracelet...

PHYLLIS

It was refashioned from Abigail's necklace.

LILY

Wow. Thanks mom.

Scene ends with lily looking at her bracelet thinking about how she was given a second chance and how lucky her life is.