

I Have No Mouth One Year Ago

“Why?”

It was a question she'd been expecting, practiced how to answer. Still, she blushed and fidgeted nervously.

Violet raised an eyebrow at her.

“I dunno,” Evelyn murmured, immediately going off-script. “I just... It'd be good practice. For when I go off to college. I'll need to buy my own groceries and stuff then...”

True. But not the *whole* truth.

Violet stared wordlessly at her, eyebrow still raised.

“I already go with you all the time,” Evelyn said, unable to meet her big sister's eyes. “I know what to get. I've got everything memorised! And... And I've asked my friends, and they said they'd drive me and...”

And you deserve a break.

Always working, paying for Evelyn's school things and putting food on the table, taking care of all the bills... She really did deserve more time to herself.

Evelyn taking charge of the groceries might not help much, but it was *something*. Same as when she'd started helping more around the house. Cleaning and cooking and seeing to the garden. This'd be just one more burden she could relieve Vi of. An hour or so a week freed up.

“You *really* want to take care of the grocery shopping?” Vi asked, peering into Evelyn's soul. “All on your own?”

“Yes,” Evelyn answered, standing up straighter.

Vi stared at her for a few moments longer, then she shrugged.

“Whatever,” Violet smiled. “Less crap for me to do.”

Evelyn beamed.

She might be going off to college next year. But, until then, she'd help out around the house as much as she could. She'd make her sister take a break, even if she had to tie her up and *force* her to relax!

Once I'm at college, Evelyn mused. She'll be free to live her life a little. Maybe even get a boyfriend!

Now wouldn't *that* be a sight?!

“What're you smiling about?” Vi asked, suspicious.

“Nothing!” Evelyn grinned.