

I Have No Mouth Four Years Ago

Evelyn hummed as she searched through cabinets.

Why she was so happy, she couldn't say. But, for whatever reason, she was. A skip in her step, a smile on her face.

There.

She plucked out the bag of popcorn, set it down with the other snacks and treats she'd scavenged. None of it was 'perfect'; cheap chocolate and unbranded candy, popcorn that was pre-popped and caramelized, sodas with no ice. But it was fine! They didn't need the best. All this was more than good enough.

There was just one thing missing.

Evelyn pulled some bowls out of a cabinet. One big one for the popcorn, a few smaller ones for everything else.

A minute later, she was stepping into a darkened living room. Arms laden with bowls of snacks, smiling broadly, she strode over to the sofa and dumped everything right in the middle. One end of the sofa was empty, the other contained a bemused Violet.

"There! We're all set!"

"For the movie," Violet said, glancing at the myriad bowls and treats, "or for diabetes?"

"Shush!" Evelyn beamed, hopping onto the sofa's empty spot, wrapping a blanket around herself. "So, what're we watching?"

"Figured you'd want to choose," Violet answered, the corners of the lips quirking up. "You're the one who's been pestering me about this, after all. Just... Please no superhero movies."

"I have *not* been pestering you," Evelyn huffed.

"Uh-huh," Violet chuckled.

The sound of it made Evelyn's chest swell.

After everything, here they were. Smiling and laughing. Through the dark days and hurt and all of it. Sisters again.

"I might've *asked* you a few times," Evelyn conceded. "But I didn't 'pester' you. Not one bit!"

Violet smiled wide. An easy smile under two tired, baggy eyes. She reached for the big bowl between them, tossed a kernel of popcorn into her mouth.

Then, still smiling, she turned her gaze to the TV and its menus and options.

"So," her soft, carefree voice sang. "What're we watching?"

"I don't know," Lily said. She picked up the remote. "Let's see if we can find something interesting!"