

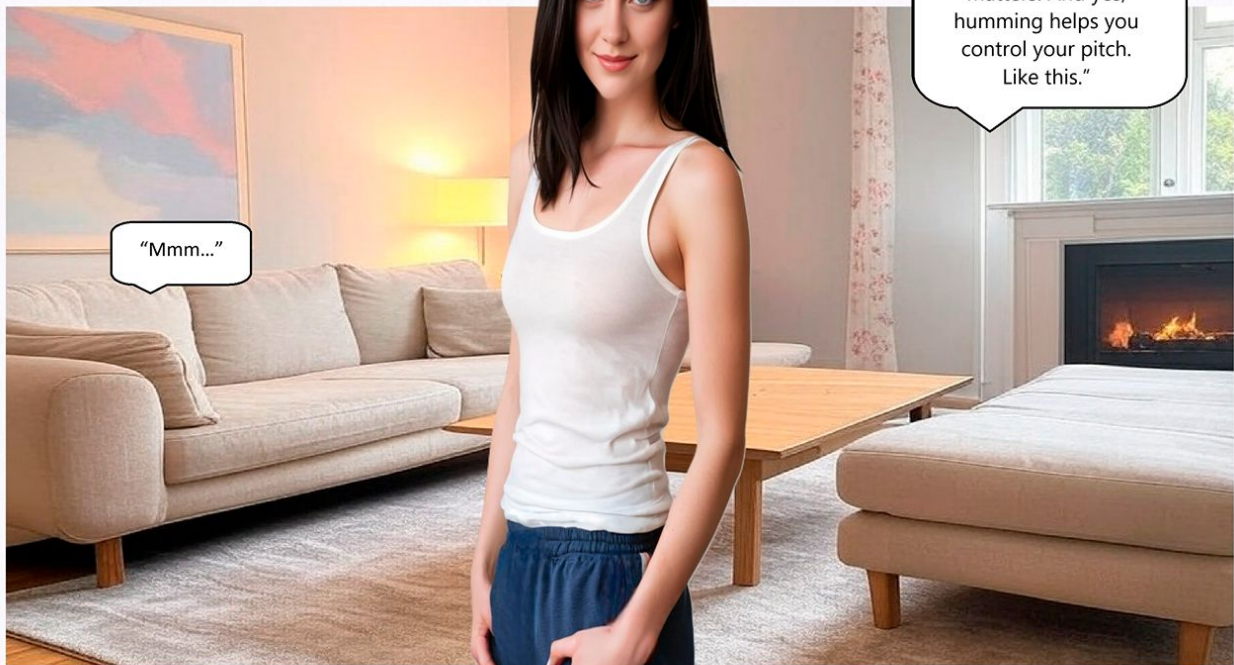




"Do you think you'll never interact with her? And what if she hears you talking? We can't take any chances. Now, let's start with some humming exercises."

"Why can't I just use my normal voice?
Britney's upstairs on the first floor, and we'll be on the ground floor. I doubt she'll even notice."

"Humming?
Seriously?"



"Mmm..."

"Stand straight. Posture matters. And yes, humming helps you control your pitch. Like this."



"Liam, that sounds like you're groaning. Try again, and focus this time."

"You'll thank me when Britney doesn't call you out. Now, try smiling while you hum. It changes the tone."

(mocking her tone) "Mmm... focus..."



“Better! See? Small improvements. Now, let’s add some basic phrases.”

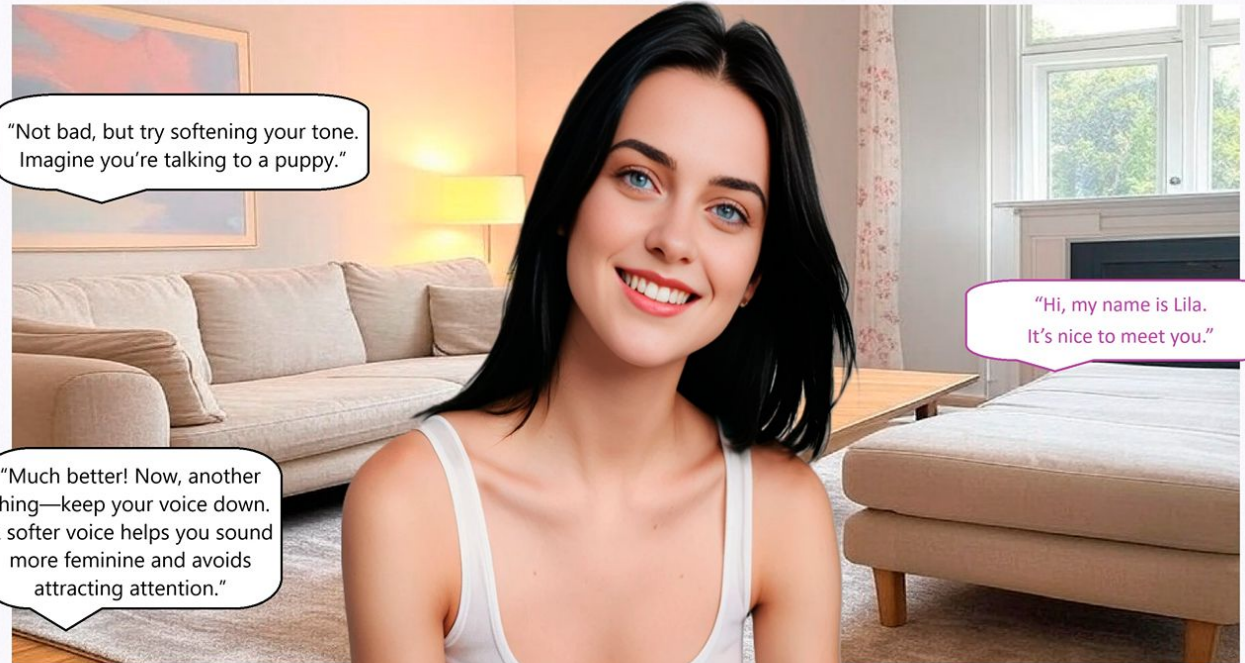
(reluctantly smiling)
“Mmm... like this?”



What???, You can't introduce yourself as Liam any more.. Come on liam can you give yourself a girl name?

My name is Liam...

Fine....
"Hi, my name is Lila. It's...
um... nice to meet you?"



"Not bad, but try softening your tone. Imagine you're talking to a puppy."

"Much better! Now, another thing—keep your voice down. A softer voice helps you sound more feminine and avoids attracting attention."

"Hi, my name is Lila. It's nice to meet you."



"Yes! And if you're unsure about what to say, it's better to act shy and not talk at all rather than rambling and trapping yourself in a mess."

"So... always keep my voice low?"

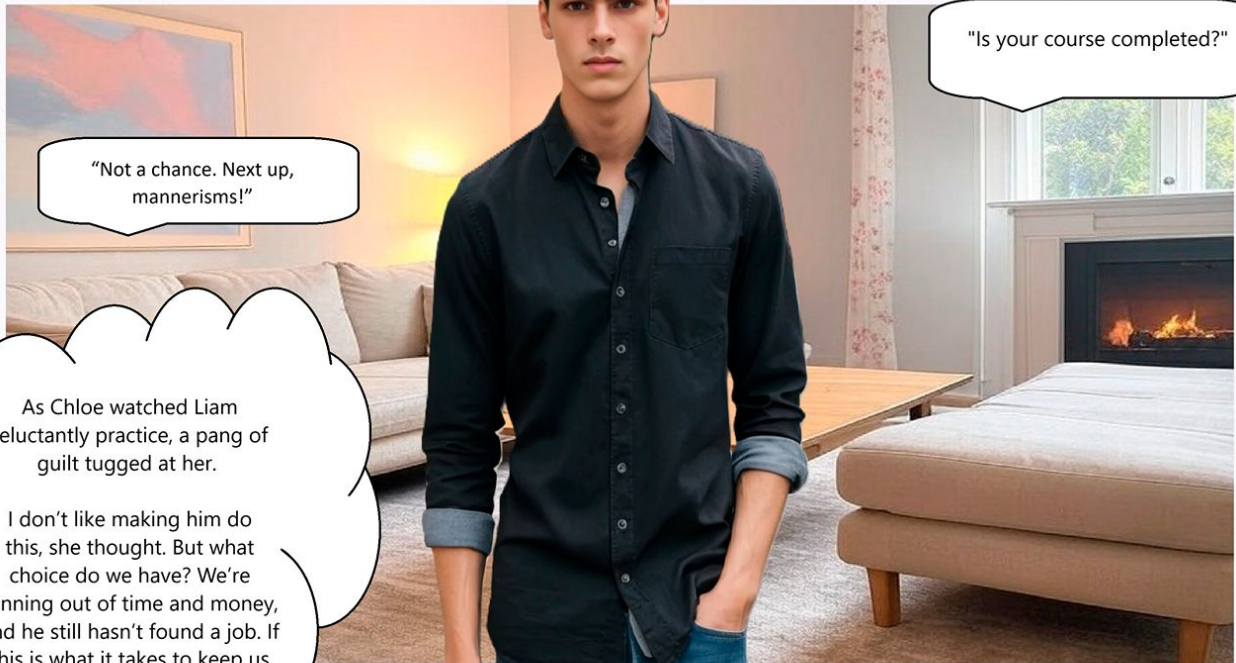
"So you're saying if I have no answer, I should just stay quiet?"



"Exactly!
A little shyness makes you seem more feminine anyway. Plus, less talking means fewer chances to slip up."

"See? You're getting it already!"

"Great... now I have to learn how to shut up too."



"Not a chance. Next up, mannerisms!"

"Is your course completed?"

As Chloe watched Liam reluctantly practice, a pang of guilt tugged at her.

I don't like making him do this, she thought. But what choice do we have? We're running out of time and money, and he still hasn't found a job. If this is what it takes to keep us afloat, then so be it.



"Alright, watch me.
Walk with small, deliberate steps,
like this. And imagine you're
balancing a book on your head."

You'd be surprised how much
posture matters.
Now, come on. Try it."

"Why do I need to balance an
imaginary book?
Isn't this overkill?"



"Focus, Liam! Subtlety is key."

"Fine. Small steps, imaginary book. Got it."

"Subtlety. Right. Got it."

"Much better!
Now, let's add some gestures. Focus on
your shoulder, hands and body
movement."

He's nowhere near where he
needs to be...

In fact, asking him to disguise
himself as a girl might just be the
most absurd idea I've ever had!



"Oh, darling, look at me!"



"Liam, take this seriously. Britney is a working woman and might be sharp. She'll notice if you're faking."

"No excuses. You're doing this, and you're going to nail it."

"She's on the first floor. We're on the ground floor. I can manage without all this."



"That totally depends on how quickly you get the job..."

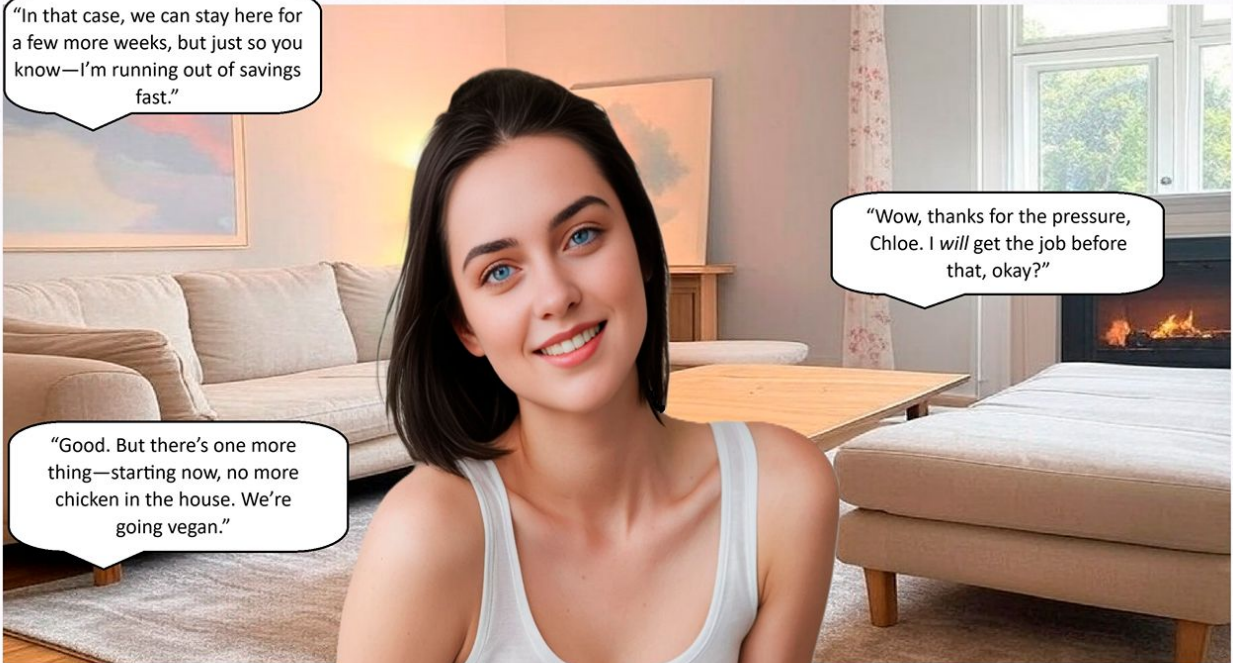
"Fine. But this better not last longer than few weeks."

"I think I'll get the job in the next few days."

"In that case, we can stay here for a few more weeks, but just so you know—I'm running out of savings fast."

"Good. But there's one more thing—starting now, no more chicken in the house. We're going vegan."

"Wow, thanks for the pressure, Chloe. I *will* get the job before that, okay?"






"Because it'll help you stay in character.
A leaner diet will make your body look slimmer, and if—just in case—you don't get the job quickly, this will make the disguise even more convincing."

"Wait... what? Why?"

"So now I'm on a *forced* diet?"



"Think of it as extra motivation to land that job sooner."

As Liam groaned about the new diet, Chloe couldn't help but feel a twinge of hope.

Maybe this will finally push him to take things seriously, she thought.

I know he'd never agree to this if he thought it would last long. But if he doesn't find a job soon... well, let's just hope it doesn't come to that.



"Your first full disguise. We need to test if you can pull this off outside these walls."

"What's this now?"

"I... I don't know about this."





"You've come this far. Just try it. We'll take a short walk and see how you do."

"I'll be with you the whole time. No pressure, just a small test."

"This is insane..."



Chloe waited outside, her stomach twisting with unease. I hate this, she thought.

I hate making him do this. But if it buys us time, if it pushes him to finally step up... then maybe it's worth it. Please, Liam, just find a job soon.

"Fine. Let's get this over with."