

Chloe stepped into the office, her mind still preoccupied with Liam's situation. The weight of his frustration and her own guilt lingered. Before she could settle, Emma's assistant appeared.



Chloe's stomach tightened.
What now?

Chloe, Emma wants to see you in her cabin.



"Good morning, Emma."

"Chloe, come in."
Emma said.

Emma, her expression thoughtful.
"I wanted to talk to you about a new addition to our team. His name is Adam—he's joining us as the senior finance manager.
He's sharp, well-connected, and has an impressive track record. I believe he could bring a lot to the table."



Chloe nodded,
"That sounds great.
How can I help?"

"Of course, Emma.
I'll do my best."

Emma's smile widened.
"I'd like you to assist him in understanding
our existing work and clients. You're one of
our most reliable employees, and I trust you
to help him settle in smoothly.
Additionally, I'd like you both to work on
expanding our client base. It's a big
responsibility, but I know you can handle it."



"I know you will. You've always been a team player, Chloe. That's why I value you so much."

As Chloe stood to leave, Emma added,
"Oh, and Chloe? Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything. I'm here to support you."

Chloe nodded, though the words felt oddly loaded.
"Thank you, Emma. I'll keep that in mind."



Chloe made her way to Adam's cabin. She knocked lightly on the door, her heart pounding for reasons she couldn't quite explain.



"Come in,"
a deep, confident
voice called out.

Chloe stepped inside, her breath catching as she took in Adam's striking appearance. He was tall, with sharp features and an air of effortless confidence. His tailored suit and polished demeanor only added to his charm.



"Hi, I'm Chloe," she said, extending her hand. "Emma asked me to help you settle in."

Chloe felt a blush creep up her cheeks.
"Oh, um, thank you. I'll do my best to assist you."

Adam stood, his smile warm and inviting as he shook her hand.
"Adam. It's a pleasure to meet you, Chloe. I've heard great things about you."



Chloe laughed, her tension easing.
"It's an acquired taste, but you'll get used to it."

Adam chuckled, his eyes twinkling with amusement.
"Well, if the office coffee is anything to go by, I might need all the help I can get. Liquid courage, right?"

Their conversation flowed naturally as Chloe explained her role and the company's current projects. Adam's charm and humor made her feel at ease, and she found herself enjoying the interaction more than she expected.



Chloe hesitated, then shared her thoughts.
"I think we should focus on building relationships with smaller firms first. They're often overlooked, but they can be incredibly loyal if we approach them the right way."

"So, expanding the client base," Adam said.
"That's a big task. Any ideas on where we should start?"

Adam nodded, his expression thoughtful.
"I like that. Let's put together a plan and present it to Emma. With your insights and my connections, I think we can make a real impact."

Chloe smiled, a flicker of excitement replacing her earlier unease.
"Sounds like a plan."

As she left Adam's cabin, Chloe couldn't help but feel a mix of curiosity and nervousness.

He's impressive, she thought, but something about him feels... intense.



Liam hadn't gone to the café today and was scrolling through Instagram, his thumb flicking past images of his friends. Seeing people living their best lives only deepened his frustration. The more he scrolled, the more his mind wandered, and the more his desires began to stir.

Evening At Home

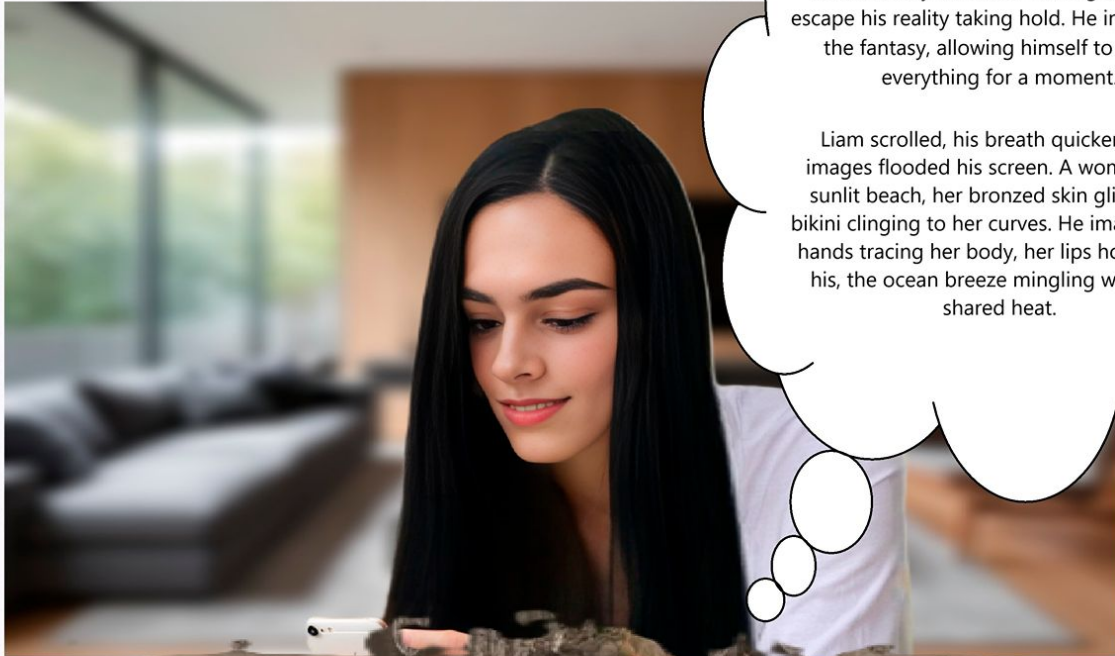


This is all Chloe's fault, he thought bitterly. If she hadn't convinced me to do this, I wouldn't be stuck pretending to be a girl.



He imagined how much simpler life would be if he could just reveal the truth to Emma and Britney. I could work at the café as myself, no more living as girl, no more lies. A smile crossed his face as he daydreamed about it.

Maybe I should talk to Chloe, he thought. We could come clean, tell them the truth, and I could work as myself. It's not too late.



As he scrolled further, he came across profiles of some attractive women. His thoughts momentarily shifted, a fleeting desire to escape his reality taking hold. He indulged in the fantasy, allowing himself to forget everything for a moment.

Liam scrolled, his breath quickening as images flooded his screen. A woman on a sunlit beach, her bronzed skin glistening, bikini clinging to her curves. He imagined his hands tracing her body, her lips hot against his, the ocean breeze mingling with their shared heat.



Another photo: a woman in a sleek dress, confidence radiating, standing by a luxury car. He pictured her pressed against him, her sultry whisper in his ear, her touch igniting him. Then, a woman in a dimly lit room, silk robe barely concealing her form. His mind raced—her hands roaming his body, her lips trailing fire down his neck, the air thick with desire.

Each fantasy consumed him, his longing sharp, almost painful. He craved their touch, their heat, their freedom. But reality loomed, a cruel reminder of the lie he lived. For now, only these fleeting, erotic dreams offered escape.



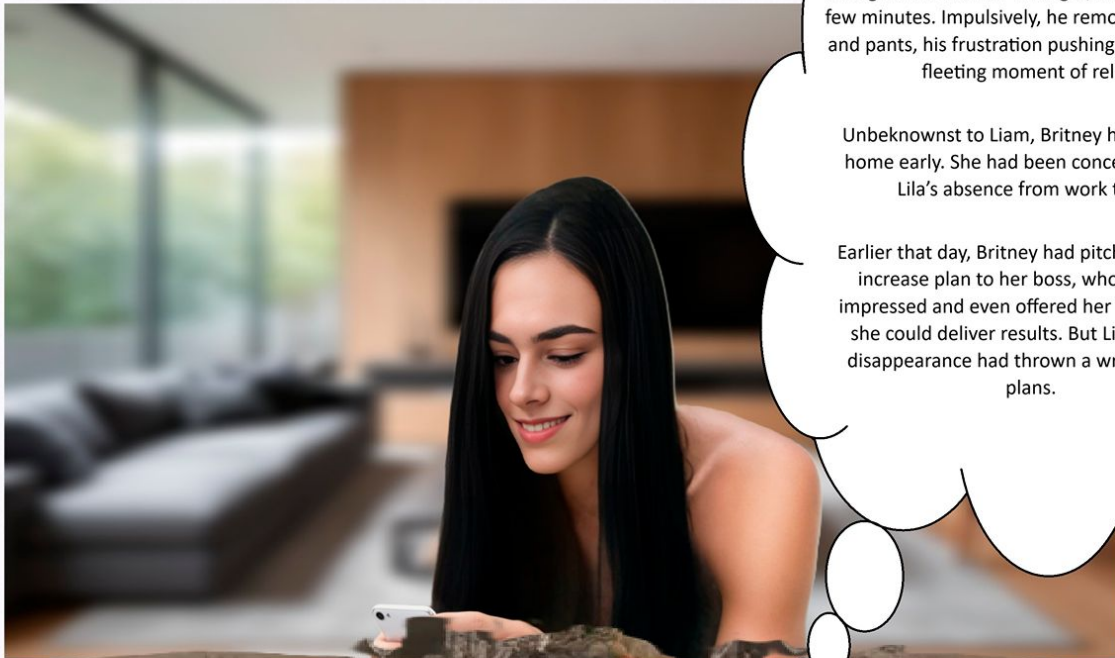
Liam's frustration boiled over, the weight of his double life as "Lila" unbearable.

His mind spiraled into exotic fantasies—hot, sun-kissed bodies pressed against his, whispered desires, tangled sheets, and forbidden touches. Each imagined moment burned hotter, a fleeting escape from his suffocating reality.



Why did I agree to this?

he thought bitterly, his
anger directed at
Chloe. *This is all her fault.*



He turned up the volume of the music in the room, the loud beats drowning out his thoughts. He needed to forget, even if just for a few minutes. Impulsively, he removed his T-shirt and pants, his frustration pushing him to seek a fleeting moment of relief.

Unbeknownst to Liam, Britney had returned home early. She had been concerned about Lila's absence from work today.

Earlier that day, Britney had pitched the sales increase plan to her boss, who had been impressed and even offered her a pay raise if she could deliver results. But Lila's sudden disappearance had thrown a wrench in her plans.