

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

VIRTUE

Story by

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Final Draft

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INT. CHURCH - EVENING

LILLY, 19, edges through the middle aisle of a grand church. She wears a long, red dress with mesh floral detailing. Her arms are covered.

The church is bright with modern interior.

Black lines of mascara drip down her cheek, her eyes are smudged and lipstick smeared. She sniffs, and wipes away a tear.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Lilly sits, her knee bounces. The curtain closes, she leans back. A streak of light comes from the priests side, highlighting her face. She purses her lips and looks at the ground, she takes a breath.

LILLY
I haven't done one of these in a while...

She looks up.

LILLY (cont'd)
I guess.. I guess I'm supposed to start with... forgive me father, for I have sinned?

Lilly fiddles with something in her hand. She clenches her fist.

She looks around the booth and rolls her eyes.

LILLY (cont'd)
My parents would be so proud.

She attempts to laugh.

INT. THEATRE - AFTERNOON

Lilly stands center stage. She holds a battered script, dressed in yellow with no make-up on.

GEORGIA, 20, scurries towards Lilly from stage left. She wears a pink floral costume. The cut of the dress is low, exposing her chest.

The two meet either side of a small round table. On the table, a dimly lit lamp closest to Georgia, and pink lilies to the right.

GEORGIA
(as Blanche)
You can get out!

She puts her hand on Lilly's shoulder.

LILLY
(as Stella)
I'm not in anything I want to get out of.

Lilly heads stage right and pauses. **ALISTAIR**, 36, points further right, Lilly moves to her position. He tilts his head. He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and exhales.

ALISTAIR
Stop.

He walks up the front steps to the stage and approaches Lilly. He wears a crinkled white shirt, a loosely done tie, and tight suit trousers. The name badge reads "Alistair Bromley, Visitor".

Alistair approaches Lilly head on.

He smirks. She inhales.

He places his hands on her shoulders and moves down to her hips, adjusting the pleat in her skirt.

He smirks.

ALISTAIR (cont'd)
Try it this way.

He walks around her rear and places both hands on her waist. He adjusts her positioning firmly. She blushes, eyes wide.

Georgia giggles.

GEORGIA
Do you have any notes for me?

Alistair turns. He looks Georgia up and down, then leaves the stage.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Lilly pulls out the chair at the head of the table and joins her parents. The dining room is dimly lit with small ceramic Easter eggs and a large bunch of pink lilies in the center of the table.

A large spread of food is displayed across the table, her dad pours a glass of red wine.

MOTHER
Let's say grace.

She stares at Lilly, who pauses.

MOTHER (cont'd)
Lilly?

She holds out her hands, her parents take them. Her father begins grace, her mother joins him. Lilly mumbles the simple prayer, but is reluctant to take part.

INT. THEATRE - AFTERNOON

Lilly stands under a dimly lit spotlight center stage. She fidgets with the pleats in her skirt and looks around the empty stage.

He paces up and down the stage mumbling to himself.

ALISTAIR
STOP!

She looks down at the floor.

Alistair makes his way towards Lilly. He stops right behind Lilly and touches her shoulder.

He delicately moves the strands of hair from her shoulders and unhooks the gold cross necklace from around her neck. He places it between his fingers and lets it dangle.

ALISTAIR (cont'd)
(whispering)
This isn't a part of your costume.

The room is silent, Lilly is frozen.

Lilly reaches out for her necklace. He pulls away and shoves the necklace into his back pocket. He smirks, then heads to the front of the stage.

ALISTAIR (cont'd)
(shouting)
AGAIN!

He slaps his thighs. Lilly jumps and gets back into position.

INT. ALISTAIRS LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The cast of the play are drinking in the living room. The room is full of lavish decor, multiple awards and various intricate paintings.

Lilly and three other boys are sat on the sofa, other members of the cast are stood around the room. Lilly takes a drink, the boys laugh.

Georgia begins to dance provocatively on the coffee table. Lilly stands and removes a large bouquet of lilies from the table. She manouvers her way towards the bar and places the vase down cautiously.

Alistair makes his way over to the bar.

As Lilly pours a drink, Alistair leans over her shoulder, pressing his face against her ear. She spills the cup.

ALISTAIR
Interested in the flowers? I didnt
paint you as a botsnist.

Lilly stands up straight. Her shoulders raised. She clears her throat.

LILLY
I didn't want someone to break it
that's all.

Alistair smirks. He hands her a drink. It violently fizzes.

ALISTAIR
So thoughtful of you.

He moves the hair from the side of her face. Lilly turns around. She looks down at her drink.

LILLY
No thanks, I'm not really thirsty.

She places the cup on the side.

ALISTAIR
But I made it for you.

He picks it up.

ALISTAIR (cont'd)
It's the least I could do for my
little star.

He smirks, reaches out his arm, and stares at the cup.

Lilly takes it.

INT. THEATRE - MORNING

Lilly sits on the stage and pulls out her script from her bag. Georgia approaches.

GEORGIA
What are you still doing here?

Lilly keeps her head down.

GEORGIA (cont'd)
Aren't we meant to be doing something
for tea tonight?

Lilly lifts her head. Her mascara runs.

LILLY
I'll be there soon. I just need to
get this right.

Georgia sits beside her.

GEORGIA
Aw Lils come on. You know this play
inside out. Don't stress yourself
out.

Lilly zips her bag and throws it back onto the stage.

LILLY
You don't get it Gee.

She pauses.

LILLY (cont'd)
I need this.

GEORGIA

It's one director Lilly. And
Allistair LOVES you. We all know
he'll be singing your praises after
opening night.

Lilly wipes her makeup.

LILLY

I just want this really bad Gee. I
really want to act, it's all I've
ever wanted to do and I just don't
know how much further I'm willing to
go...

She turns and looks at Georgia.

She takes a deep breath.

LILLY (cont'd)

It's fine I'm just psyching myself
out... pre show jitters I guess.

Georgia stands and approaches Lilly.

GEORGIA

Lilly are you sure you're ok? You
know you can talk to me right?

Lilly looks at Georgia. She hugs her tightly.

LILLY

Honestly gee, I'm good. I just really
needed that hug.

The two giggle.

GEORGIA

Come on, your mum will kill us if
we're late for tea!

They leave the stage together.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Lilly, her parents, and Georgia release their hands and
begin to eat. Lilly takes her fork and moves her food around
the plate.

MOTHER

How are you feeling about tomorrow
girls?

(MORE)

MOTHER (cont'd)
Your mum was telling me how fantastic
Alistair has been with you all.

Lilly puts down her fork.

LILLY
Yeah he's been great.

GEORGIA
So great!

Lilly's dad reaches for the wine and pours himself and her mother a glass.

GEORGIA (cont'd)
I hope he stays next term. Hopefully
I can work closer to him like Lilly
did I'm so jealous!

Lilly picks up her fork and stabs a vegetable.

MOTHER
I hope he stays too! I didn't realise
you and him were working so close
Lils. That's a big deal!

The family continue to eat. Lilly keeps her head low and continues to play with her food.

MOTHER (cont'd)
You don't realise how lucky you are
to be working with someone like him
Lilly. He's been so successful.

Georgia takes the jug of water.

MOTHER (cont'd)
He could kick-start a career for you.
Think about how much he's done.
You don't know what he's capable of.

She picks up her glasses and takes a large sip of wine.

LILLY
(under her breathe)
Believe me I do...

Lilly grabs the jug. It slips from her grasp, drenching Georgia.

MOTHER
LILLY.

She leaps out of her chair and heads to the kitchen.

Georgia laughs.

GEORGIA

It's ok, accidents happen. Alistair would be glad we're having fun before opening night. He hates stress.

Lilly's mum returns with some cloths.

MOTHER

Well you know what they say, don't cry over spilled water!

The parents and Georgia laugh. Lilly looks down at her plate. Lilly picks up her fork and continues to play with her food.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Lilly sits facing her dressing room mirror, finishing the final touches on her eye makeup.

The **DOOR KNOCKS**. She walks over and opens it, but nobody is there. She looks down and sees a lavish bouquet of pink lilies. She takes them into her dressing room and places them next to her mirror.

Lilly applies lipstick, and glances at the flowers. She stands up and smells them. She notices a card tucked into the flowers. It reads 'Break a leg, my little star. Alistair x'. She drops the note on the floor.

VOICE ON INTERCOM

15 minutes to curtain everyone.
15 minutes to curtain.

Lilly looks in the mirror and composes herself. She takes a breath and heads towards the door. She stops by the calendar on the wall. She grabs her pen and puts a cross through today's date, with 'OPENING NIGHT' written in the middle.

Her hand brushes against her pocket. She reaches inside her pocket and pulls out her necklace. She looks at it and smiles.

She shuts her eyes.

Tears fall down her cheeks. Her smile drops, and she begins to breathe heavily.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - EVENING

LILLY
I didn't know how to handle it.

She looks down to the floor.

LILLY
Nobody has ever treated me like he
did. I didn't want him to...
I didn't know he would.

Lilly clenches her palms tighter.

LILLY
I just didn't think he'd ever, no. I
just didn't think. I didn't think.

Lilly sharply inhales. She opens her palm and looks at her necklace. The cross indent in her hand is prominent.

She lifts her head, her eyes widen.

LILLY
I left. I walked out of opening
night.

She exhales.

LILLY (cont'd)
Maybe I did know.

She stands.

She smiles and exits the booth. Lilly looks up at a stained glass window.

She takes her necklace and redoes the clasp behind her neck.

Lilly walks towards the church door.

FADE TO BLACK