

The House of Lily

by

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Characters.

Lily. A woman in her mid-to-late thirties.

Zigniew. Lily's father.

Gina. Lily's friend.

Settings. A living room, a café, a bank-teller window.

Time. The present.

SAMPLE SCENE

Scene

(ZIG sits alone in the living room.)

ZIG

(calling out) Ellen?

LILY

(calling, from outside) Dad, I'll be right in!

ZIG

Time for your appointment!

LILY

(entering the room from outside) Hello, Zig.

ZIG

(acknowledging her, happily) Hello, dearest.

LILY

What a day it's been! Shall we go for a walk?

ZIG

Got to keep fit.

LILY

You're the champ.

ZIG

Have you to take care of.

(LILY stops in her tracks.)

LILY

Me to take care of?

ZIG

You need to rest.

LILY

Me?

(a pause)

(choosing to take it lightly) That's funny.

ZIG

Ellen, my darling.

(LILY enters the room, she stands and looks at ZIG for some time. Then she goes to him and sits next to him and, after a deep breath, takes his hand.)

LILY

Zig. I'm Lily, your daughter. You know me. . . . Come on . . . Don't you? . . . You're my father. Ellen was your wife. She was my mother. She died last year. She fell down.

And she never stood up. Remember? It was in the kitchen. She was making your tea. Like she always did. Are you following me, daddy?

(He appears puzzled.)

ZIG

Ellen?

LILY

No. No. Ellen is not here. She is not in this room. I'm here. And I am not Ellen. I'm Lily. And I am here. I'm Lily. Lily, you know, Lily, your opinionated, stubborn daughter. Your loving daughter. Your only child. Can you repeat what I say? Will you try? Can you? Look at me. I am Lily.

ZIG

No. I am Zigniew.

LILY

That's the idea! You are Zigniew and I am _____--

ZIG

I am Zigniew.

LILY

Good. Good. And me (pointing at herself) Who is this?

ZIG

(willfully) Ellen. Ellen. Ellen.

LILY

No. No. *No.* Lily. Lily. Lily.

(a pause)

For Christ's sake, dad. I'm your goddamn daughter.

(A silence follows.)

Oh, Zigniew, where are you?

ZIG

Home?

LILY

Yes. That's right! This is the new home you share with your daughter. The clapboard house is up for sale. Practically worthless. Years of neglect. Seepage and rot.

(pause)

(forcefully) I want you in reality with me. I will not let you go. Either you stick it out with me. Or you go it alone. Take your pick. It's your choice.

(getting up)

I'm going for a walk. You can think about it.

(She is leaving, clearly disturbed.)

ZIG

Ellen?

LILY

(turning sharply) *Lily.*

(A pause. At the doorway. LILY musters her will of identity, but her heart is breaking.)

Look. This is my house. The house of Lily. I built it very carefully. It wasn't easy. These are my walls. That is my roof. This is my floor.

(A pause. She is taking leave of ZIGNIEW and the pain and rage are unbearable.)

(pointing at him in a threatening gesture) Don't you dare . . . Don't you dare . . .

(She tries again.)

How dare you. How dare you.

(again)

Get out of here. Get out.

(in stark terror)

Don't make me disappear. Don't leave me.

(LILY sinks on to her knees, then lets her head and body fall forward, so that she is in a kneeling fetal position. ZIG continues to stare out. They remain this way, she silent and still in the kneeling fetal position, for some time.)

ZIG

(quietly) Ellen?

LILY

(sitting up, almost voiceless) Damn you.

ZIG

Can an old man get a cup of tea?

(A pause. Against every expectation, LILY surrenders.)

LILY

An old man can get a cup of tea.

(End of scene)

**TO READ THE WHOLE PLAY OR FOR ANY OTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE
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