

Life in a Hard place
Tyikenya Anthony
Science Leadership
Academy
Joshua Block
10th Grade

Character Roles

Lily

15-year-old girl starting a new high school in a new town with no friends.

Meredith

Lily's mother who is recently unemployed and divorced trying to make a better way of living for her and her family.

Josh

Lily's older brother who turns in the wrong direction after his parents divorce.

Kathy Santony

Kathy Santony is a mean girl at Lily's school who tortures Lily.

Juan

Nice boy who helps Lily out.

Act 1 Scene #:

It's 7:25 in the morning, Meredith is in the kitchen cooking breakfast waiting for the children.

(Bell rings)

Meredith:

hello Simon, any good news this morning?

Mailman (Simon):

(hands Meredith the mail) just the regular, see you tomorrow!

(Meredith continues to make breakfast)

Meredith:

(screaming) Joshua Robert Lewis and Lily Allen Lewis you have 10 seconds to be down the steps!

(Josh and Lily race down the steps pushing each other in a hurry)

Josh:

(puts Lily in a headlock and gives her a nudge) Good morning you monstrous beast!

Lily:

(release from headlock, punches josh, fixes hair) UGGHHH I hate you, you homeschooled freak!

(awkward silence)

Meredith:

have a seat eat your breakfast I have some good news.

Lily:

(anxious and impatient) weeeeelllll, what is it ?!

Meredith:

(takes deep breathe) i'll tell you tonight at dinner, eat your breakfast and get ready for school.

Josh:

ugh, cereal again?!

Meredith:

yes, just until more money comes flowing in.

Lily:

so what do you have to tell us? Is dad coming home?

Josh:

Lily!

Meredith:

its okay Josh. (angry attitude) Lily, I have told you we won't be discussing those "matters" in this house anymore, now eat your cereal and get ready for school!

Lily:

(rolls eyes) okay, so what's for dinner? meatless pasta again (sarcasm)

Meredith:

For you certainly.

(Meredith grabs her things and leaves out slamming the door and storming away)

(Josh goes upstairs and starts his schooling)

Scene 2

The setting is in a school, Lily just transferred to this school because of issues she had at her old school. The scene starts off with Lily walking in the hallway trying to find her classes.

(bell rings and kids rush to class)

(Lily's books are knocked down and she is kneeling on one knee picking them up)

Juan:

oh! I'm so sorry (picks up books)

Lily:

its okay, (gets up) could you tell me where room 302 is?

Juan:

Sure follow me I'm going there right now.

Lily:

Great.

Juan:

Are you new?

Lily:

yeah, i just started today.

Juan:

I can help you get around if you need help, do you live near here?

Lily:

uhh, yeah. (slight irritation) so where is class again?

Juan:

this way.

(Juan and Lily enter the classroom, Juan rushes to his seat and Lily awkwardly stands in the front of the class)

(The teacher enters the classroom and is shocked to see Lily standing there, Lily hands him a note)

Mr. Fitz (teacher)

Class, we have a new student this is lyle (mispronounces her name)

Lily

(interrupts) It's Lily.

Mr. Fitz

(Im sorry, Lily. Well find a seat theres one in the back)

(loud speaker announcement: Lily Lewis please report to the main office immediately, Lily Lewis)

(Lily akwardly gets up and finds her way to the office)

Office clerk:

Hi sweetheart, we have some papers that we need both of your parents to sign.

Lily:

(whispering) but i only live with my mother it's not possible for my daa.. (cuts off)

Office clerk:

well im sorry honey, but you have to find a way to get these papers signed by both of your parents or you cant return to school

(hands Lily, papers. Lily snatches them and walks away bowing her head in shame)

(a group of girls sitting in the office are snickering and whispering as she walks by)

Kathy:

(stands in front of Lily, both hands on hips) So you dont live with both parents huh?

Lily:

(a little frightened) It's none of your business, excuse me.

Kathy:

okay newbie. (Kathy trips Lily and bust out in a roaring laughter)

Lily:

(Lily gets her self together and runs into a bathroom stall and sit and waits until the last bell rings for dismissal)

(bell rings)

(fade)

Scene 3

This setting is back at the house, it's around dinner time and Mom and Josh are home.

(Meredith is cooking dinner)

(phone rings)

Meredith

Hello?

Mary(Meredith's sister)

Hey, Mere! how are things going? wassup? how are the kids?

Meredith

Things are going okay, im just making it. The kids areee well their the kids. (small chuckle)

Mary

Thats good. i havent seen you guys at church, every since. well you know

Meredith

yes the divorce, we've been trying to make it but some things got in the way.

Mary

(sympathetically) Im really worried about you Mere.

Meredith

Im fine everything is okay. (rushing) Well it was nice talking with you i have to go.

(end of conversation)

(Lily comes in the house, running up the stairs)

(Josh comes downstairs)

Josh

whats her problem?

Meredith

idk sweetheart, it's just Lily.

Josh:

okay, so whats for dinner?

Meredith

i have a surprise for dinner and big news.

Josh:

what is it?

Meredith:

wait until later.. go get your sister so we all can eat.

(They all eat together in silence)

Meredith:

Well i think i share the news you guys have been waiting for.

(Lily and Josh gives a strange look to eachother)

Lily:

(irritably) what is it?

Meredith:

I found myself a job, (dry humor) no more meatless pasta!

(Lily completely ignores her mother and continues her dinner)

Josh:

Thats great mom im so proud of you

Meredith:

thanks josh, i was even checking out those new red sneakers you wanted (small grin)

(lily looks up as if she was attentive the whole time)

Lily:

Whattt abouu.. (cut off)

Meredith:

eat your dinner Lily!

(fade, off to black)

Scene 4

The setting is in Lily's bedroom.

(Lily pretends to be sleep as she hears her mother foot steps)

(meredith foot steps echoes through the hallways)

Meredith:

Honey, your not sleep.

(Lily toss and turns as if she just woke up from a long nap)

Lily:

hmm? what ya say mom?

Meredith:

nothing, get ready for bed. i'll see you in the morning. My first shift is tonight. I'll be cleaning the house of some rich folk until sunrise.

Lily:

do you wanna really do this mom?

Meredith:

Its not what i want to do, its what i have to do.

Lily:

okay, i understand.

(Lily hugs and gently kisses her mom on the cheek)

Lily:

I love you mom.

(Lily's mom sniffles and hold back her tears and responds with a cracky voice)

Meredith:

i love you too darling, now get some sleep.

end of scene

Scene 5

The setting is at school, 7 am in the morning

(bells ring)

Teacher

(yelling) GET TO ADVISORY EVERYONE, LETSSSS GOOOOO!!!!

(kids shuffle through the hallways)

(the children enters the classroom and find seats)

Substitute James:

okay kids, quiet down, quiet down. Look, your teacher isnt here so just sit there and do whatever.
Just dont get loud

(The kids turn to their friends sit on desk and engage in conversation)

(Loud speaker: Lily Allen please report to the office, Lily Allen)

(The kids snickers and in harmony says oooooooooo)

Office clerk:

Hi, Lily the other day we gave you some important papers that needed to be signed

Lily:

uhm, yeah about those. I couldnt get my dad to sign them because... (Lily stops in the middle of her sentence as Kathy santony walks in)

Office clerk:

(loud and obnoxious) You couldnt get your dad to do it why?!

Lily:

Because he's not in my life!

(Kathy snickers in the corner)

Office clerk:

okay, we'll just have to contact your mother have a seat.. Kathy what are you in here for again!

Kathy:

Stupid substitue.

Office clerk:

Watch your mouth!

(30 mins pass by and Lily's mom arrives to school with the signed forms and deposit)

Office clerk:

oh, Ms. Allen glad to see you can make it! and about that payment?

Meredith:

ha, well i have it. I had to work to get it up

(Lily bows her head in shame and goes back to class)

(Kathy stands up as she recognizes Meredith)

Kathy:

Meredith?

Meredith:

Hello Kathy how are you?

Kathy:

good, i didnt know you worked here too.

Meredith:

No, just dropping off some papers thats all.

Kathy:

You have kids here?

Meredith:

(Hesitantly) Just uh, my daughter Lily..

Kathy:

Oh really? I'll make sure to mention you the next time i see her in class (smirk)

Meredith:

okay, have a nice day

OfficeClerk:

Kathy, go back to class! act like a human not an animal, thank youuuuu.

(Kathy and Lily approaches each other in the hallway)

Kathy:

Ha, well hey Lily.

Lily:

what do you want?

Kathy:

so Meredith is your mother? i would've never known

Lily:

So what, what does that got to do with anything?!

Kathy:

You better stay on my good side before the whole school has to find out how your mom is working for pennies cleaning out my back yard

Lily:

you wouldnt..

Kathy:

Dont doubt me, and oh btw that History paper isnt going to write itself.

End of Scene

Scene 6

(Weeks later, Lily has been Kathy's "personal slave")

The setting is back at the house

(Lily walks in and begins rushing up the steps)

LILY! Meredith:

ughhhh, yes? Lily:

come here, have a seat Meredith:

for what? Lily:

(Lily sits down and Meredith throws a pile of paper in her face)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! Lily:

(Meredith slams her hand on the table)

Plagiarism, really?! explain this now! Meredith:

(Josh starts to enter the house but backs out when he sees the commotion)

uhhh, i-i-i dont know Lily:

well you better know, we have a meeting with the principle and Kathy Santony and her parents tomorrow morning. Do you know how embarrassing this is for me? I could lose everything! Meredith:

Lily:
do you know how embarrassing this is for me?! The snickers, the stares, i bet you dont even care!

(Lily storms out the door, josh slowly walks in)

Josh:
Im not gonna ask (walks upstairs)

Scene 7

The setting is at school, 7:45 am in the principals office)

Principle Shane:
Okay, now do you understand plagiarism is a serious thing?

Kathy:
So is every other crime in the world!

Helen: (kathy's mom)
Kathy! act like you have sense

Principle Shane:
back to what i was saying, this is a very serious crime and consequences will be taken to the full extent. Now Lily what do you have to say about this.

(Kathy gives Lily a stern look)

Lily:
well, (clear throats) um. i had wrote my paper (kathy coughs) and i didnt like it so i copied off of Kathy's

Meredith:
Now thats a lie! Lily, i watched you for hours sit at that table and write the paper. Who are you defending?

Kathy:
uh, ms. Meredith i think you need to hold your piece Lily stated her plead so lets continue

Principle Shane:
(interrupting) Lily is that the truth

Lily:

(looking down) um yes.

Principle Shane:

well, this situation is handled and Lily we'll be working on expulsion for your shameful behavior.

(Lily and Kathy are dismissed in the hallway while the parents continue the conference)

Lily:

So kathy did you get what you wanted?

Kathy:

what newbie?

Lily:

exactly, you pushed someone out of the school you got your way. Congratulations.

(Meredith storms out the room)

Meredith:

Lily, lets go!

(The car ride home is silent neither Lily or Meredith says a word)

(They arrive at the house and Lily storms upstairs)

Scene 8

(Lily is in her room standing looking in the mirror)

Josh:

Lily, do you see what you do this family?!

Lily:

Leave me alone you jerk!

Josh:

I hate you! you push dad away, you stress mom out, and your the reason why we have little to no money! Mom sacrifices everything just to make youy happy and this is how you repay her? I hate you, you brat! (Josh pushes Lily on the floor)

(Lily stays on the floor crying)

Lily:

You hate me?! You hate me? how about i make you hate me even more

(Lily runs into the bathroom and likes the door)

(she stands in the mirror panting, crying and out of breathe)

(Lily opens the medicine cabinet pulls out a pill bottle and consumes everything inside, she passes out in the tub)

Meredith:

Josh, get your sister and come downstairs for dinner

Josh:

no, i dont want to talk to her. You get her.

Meredith:

ugh, josh. i taught you better. (screaming) Lily get down here! (pause) Lilllyy!!
Josh go get your sister!

Josh:

omg. (runs up steps)
(bangs on bathroom door) Open the door you freak! Lily, lily.....
(Josh slams in the door)

(Lily is laying on the floor, half concsious)

Josh:

MOM, QUICK! CALL AN AMUBLANCE

Meredith:

(runs up the steps) what?! whats going on

Josh:

It's Lily, i think she overdosed!

Meredith:

(sobbing) Omg, pick her up lets go!

Scence 9

(The setting is at the hospital, Lily is in a critical condititon)

(Lily is laying in the hospital bed)

Meredith:

Lily, what.. what were you thinking you could of killed yourself

Lily:

I know, im sorry mom.. it was just ... (Josh cuts her off)

Josh:

Dont stress it Lily, were just glad your okay (guilty conscious)

Doctor:

uhm, Hello Mrs. Lewis how are you?

Meredith:

im fine. so is everything gonna be okay

Doctor:

yes, everything is going to be fine. Her blood is flowing right and she's on an oxygen machine.
Could you tell me why this happened?

Meredith:

i-i-i dont know. I dont know what pushed her this far

(Lily's and Josh's father walk in and the whole room remains silent)

Doctor:

is this the father?

Meredith:

(stunned and staring) uh yes.

Doctor:

well hello, you can have a seat. So i'll recommened you to some doctors and special therapist and get the lily the help she needs... (fade)

End of Play.....