

## Hey, Lilly You Ok?

“It happened near here.” Mike said in a transparent voice, “not too far from my street, that was where Mary was killed.” Mike jumped, trying to scare me. I rolled my eyes, “Yeah right Mike, that’s not true.” Mike’s black hair swayed and his freckles seemed to dance as he jumped up and down, “I swear I’m not lying.” Mike’s voice sounded shrill, “cross my heart.” Mike made an X motion on his chest. My vision blackened and a figure came into sight. It was as if it had appeared out of a cloud of mist. Rage rose like wildfire in my body. The last words I heard from Mike were, “Hey, Lilly you ok?”

When I came to, I was by my house. Did I walk here on my own, I wondered? Well, maybe I did. I walked into my house and slid my shoes off. My mom’s scream alarmed me, “Lilly come look at this.”

“Ok.” I walked into the living room taken aback when I saw Mike on the news but, he seemed to be dead. That’s when the news person’s voice sounded on the TV. “14 year old boy found dead in the woods. Police say that he has multiple stab wounds and broken bones. Police think he was running from someone when he broke his bones. Informa....” The TV turned off with a click. My mom turned to me with grief and sympathy. Cold tears

ran down my face. I turned and ran to my room. My head swirled with grief and determination. I needed to find out what happened to Mike.

I got my backpack and stuffed it with a few things before jumping out my window. I landed with a crunch on the grass. Careful not to wake my family I snuck out the backyard and into the woods. I lay in the bushes almost holding my breath. The woods seemed dark and scary at night and every unfamiliar noise scared me. A shiver ran down my back.

“So we all think he was killed right?”

“Yup, we have enough evidence to go to court.”

Then all the cops spoke in hushed voices. I don't know why but the word court sent a feeling of alarm jolting through me. I looked at Mike, his eyes were written with the fear and story he had to tell of his death. In that moment I saw Mike.

He was running paralyzed with fear, but then he fell hard and landed with a sickening crack. In what little time he had left he kept going but fall after fall left him in bad shape. And then a shadow befell him. Mike's eyes widened and his fear flared. My body felt weird when I came to, not like broken bones but sticky with blood almost. Unable to see any cops in sight I ran home.

I awakened to a warm yellow gleam sliding through my window. Mom was letting me have a few weeks off from school. I slowly ate my food still feeling sick from what I saw. When I was done braiding my brown hair and had a green dress on I walked out of my room. I heard mom talking to someone on the phone in a hushed voice. I walked close enough to hear mom saying, "...court my child? I mean well, ok, if it helps with the case. What! Today you want her to go to court today!" My mom's voice sounded shocked, "Ok, fine we'll see you there."

Mom let out a long sigh, "Lilly, I need you to come with me."

"Ok." I felt scared a tiny bit but at the same time I felt I needed to protect myself from what was about to come.

The courtroom was big and shocking for me to look at. There were so many seats and a small hammer of some sort. A whole bunch of people came into the room. Some I knew some I didn't. Then a man said, "Lilly Craftsmen, please tell us the last time you saw Mike."

"Um, well, we were walking home from school and, um..." my voice trailed off. "He went home, I guess". One of the cops stepped up, "Your honor I have some evidence that you might want to see." On a huge TV came a few dozen pictures. I didn't listen to what the cop was saying. I looked at the photos.

“Hey Lilly you ok?” Mike said, a worried look on his face. I remained silent and then told Mike I needed to tell him something important. After I got Mike into the forest, I smashed something then Mike seeing the stuff I had in my hand ran. But because of his untied shoelaces I caught him easily, killed him and walked home still in my trance.

“We have reason to think that maybe, his friend could have done it.” Not wanting to be found out, my mind worked to find a good excuse. “I saw him go home I swear, and then I went home myself.” My hands were shaking and alarm pulsed through me like a heartbeat. My heart was beating loudly. My mother was gazing at me calmly but worry and alarm were swimming in her eyes.

“Lilly’s sister has killed before. Luna Craftsmen killed her friend after a fit of rage shot through her. However she had never been mad with her dear friend in all her life. The poor girl went insane and died in jail. So you see it wouldn’t be shocking if Lilly did in fact kill Mike.” My mom’s enraged scream shot through the room. “My child would never commit such a crime,” my mom looked pleading. My alarm flared and I burst into tears.

I was put behind bars. Mike’s voice echoes through my cell. Still haunting me. “Hey, Lilly you ok?”