

Writing Sample Three

Yours In Words,



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ACT [2]

SCENE [6]

OUTSIDE GILBERT'S STUDIO & LILY AND DOT'S ROOM
(EXCERPT)

(Bernie exits. Lily bursts out of the front door)

LILY

How dare you take credit for my work!

GILBERT

Eavesdropping on me, were you? Let's get one thing straight it's my work. I paid you to write it

LILY

But they're my ideas and concepts.

GILBERT

That I paid you to write based on my book. Therefore I will use your writing as I see fit.

LILY

But you can't take credit for my work that's not right!

GILBERT

That's show biz, kid.

LILY

Then I quit!

GILBERT

(Gilbert walks close to Lily putting his finger under her chin. He lifts it towards him and leans his face close to hers and whispers)

GILBERT

You can't quit my dear, because you're fired.

(Lily moves towards the door. Gilbert presses it closed with his hand then slides his other arm around her waist.)

and I won't be considered as a reference for you--I would never want anyone to know I hired such a *silly girl!*

(He pulls her close pinning her arms to her side. She tries to free herself.)

GILBERT (Continued)

A girl who gave away her best ideas for a pittance
and never asked about rights or contracts...

(He kisses her neck then leans into her
ear)

because she believed writing to be a sacred act.

(Gilbert laughs and caresses her face,
then starts to take her hair down. Lily
squirms, trying to free her arms,)

LILY

Stop!

GILBERT

You can't fight it Lily there's always been chemistry
between us. Let's write our own love story

LILY

Not if you were the last man on earth!

(He strokes her hair.)

GILBERT

So the rumors must be true then - you're a girl who
likes other girls.

LILY

Just because I won't throw myself at you doesn't
mean//

GIBLERT

And how do you think your idol Annabelle Jones would
react to knowing about this?

LILY

You wouldn't tell her

GILBERT

(Laughs) You have so much to learn about writing, Lily.
Why not let me teach you. Let me teach you and I won't
tell Jones.

(Lily stamps on his foot as hard as she can. Freeing herself, she shouts and runs down the stairs)

LILY

Never! You're not a writer you're a hack! Nothing more than a swine in a burgundy jacket!

GILBERT

Say goodbye to writing!

(Gilbert starts down the stairs. Lily runs off)

END SCENE

ACT [2]

SCENE [7]

THE BOARDING HOUSE AROUND NOON THE NEXT DAY. DOT ENTERS QUIETLY WITH A SMALL PARCEL. SHE LOOKS AT LILY WHO IS STILL SLEEPING SHE STROKES HER HEAD THEN BEGINS TO MAKE TEA. LILY WAKES TO THE SOUND OF THE TABLE BEING SET.

LILY

(Grumbles)

DOT

Lil? I think you should get up it's nearly noon.

LILY

(More grumbling)

DOT

I have pastries from Au Petite Beurre.

LILY

Why would you go there? That's where everything started to go wrong.

DOT

Because they make the best croissants.

LILY

I'm not hungry.

DOT

You need to eat. Now, get up. I put your robe on the foot of your bed and the bathroom is free. I checked all the girls are at their lessons.

(Dot continues setting doing her best to be disinterested.)

LILY

Aren't you supposed to be in class?

DOT

Yes. But I'm not going.

LILY

Why not?

DOT

Because I'm worried about you, and we have things to talk about .

LILY

I'm fine. There's nothing to talk about.

DOT

So you're just going to shut me out again? Even after I comforted you all night?

LILY

I wasn't that upset.

DOT

Not that...fine. I have better things to do with my time.

(Dot slams the teapot on the table then starts gathering her art supplies.)

LILY

Are you mad at me?

DOT

(Dot doesn't answer she continues putting things in her bag then grabs her coat. Lily takes her by the arm. Dot pulls away. As their fight escalates each discovers more about their feelings for each.)

LILY

What is going on? Why are you so agitated?

DOT

Because you are the most selfish person I have ever met in my entire life!

LILY

Just because I don't like it when you boss me around and play mother to me doesn't mean I'm selfish.

DOT

I held you in my arms all night, and you're acting like it didn't mean anything.

LILY

I didn't ask you to hold me.

DOT

No, You begged me to, and I did, even though I knew you'd rather snuggle up with your typewriter!

LILY

What?

DOT

I know how much you love that thing!

LILY

At least *Hildegarde* doesn't flirt with every person she meets!

DOT

Are you implying that I do that?!

LILY

You're like a dog you'll flirt with anyone for a treat!

DOT

A dog?!

LILY

Yes! You prance, spin, and giggle on command as long as someone is paying attention to you. I can only imagine what Tom, oh excuse me Thomas thinks of your behavior//

DOT

I'd say he rather enjoys it considering he asked me to marry him last night.

LILY

He what?!

DOT

You heard me.

LILY

Why didn't you tell me?

DOT

Because you were inconsolable from the minute you ran in.

LILY

That's not true...

(Dot shoots her a look)

you should of told me.

DOT

And you should have told me that you promised to stay away from me so you could get a typewriter!

LILY

I didn't//

DOT

Don't lie to me. Tom told me that he helped you get the typewriter.

LILY

He wasn't supposed to tell you!

DOT

Well, he did. But I didn't believe him because I knew you would lie to me. But apparently, I was wrong. Tom showed your little agreement.

LILY

Of course he did.

DOT

Don't make this about him

LILY

Look, I wanted the typewriter ...I did. But staying away from you wasn't part of our agreement ---- Tom added that at the last minute and Hildegarde was already here and //

DOT

And you agreed

LILY

Yes, but I didn't want to ---- you have to believe me.

DOT

Then why did you sign it? And why did you lie to me?

LILY

Because I didn't want to be selfish. I did it for your own good.

DOT

(Seething) That's ridiculous...

LILY

No, you were getting attached to me and Tom said I was ruining your chances to have the life you're meant to have so//

DOT

So you and Tom figured you'd make my life decisions for me?

LILY

What? No. I'm nothing like Tom...I had your best interest at heart.

DOT

It doesn't sound like it. And it's not up to you or Thomas to decide with whom or how I spend my time.

LILY

Of course not. But...

DOT

But, what?!

LILY

It's just that you're very flirtatious with me and you've never talked about having feelings so I//

DOT

You've never asked about my feelings

LILY

I wouldn't presume it's my place to ask you. Besides, you've always said you wanted to get married.

DOT

I've said I want to spend my life with someone I love, who treats me as an equal, not as an object to be placed on a shelf.

LILY

And I'm sure you will. I know I've encouraged your flirting and mothering and for that I apologize.

DOT

Let's be clear you haven't only encouraged my flirting you've enjoyed.

LILY

I never meant to hurt you, Dot. My fear is I've confused you.

DOT

Lilian Lamont, how dare you tell me I'm confused. I'm not a silly school girl.

LILY

I didn't mean...

DOT

I know what you meant. I will admit I didn't know the extent of my feelings until Tom proposed... Then all I could think about was you.

LILY

Dot, don't//

DOT

Lily, you are my everything. You inspire me, you motivate me, you make me feel needed and smart and talented//

LILY

That's because you are all those things. But I would never forgive myself if I was the reason you didn't get married and live a traditional life.

DOT

I don't want a traditional life. I want a life of adventure, activism, art, and love.

LILY

And children? What about children? You've always wanted to have them.

DOT

Have I? I don't know... I've been told since I was a little girl that I would be a mother. It was never a choice. It was meant to define who I am.

LILY

You would be an amazing mother.

DOT

There are plenty of people who need mothering.

LILY

It's not the same.

DOT

No it's not. But I have choices and those are mine to make.

LILY

Indeed they are.

DOT

And just so you know -- you're not the first girl I've ever had feelings for.

LILY

You've never mentioned that before.

DOT

There have been several actually. I even kissed one of them.

LILY

That doesn't mean//

DOT

I'm going to turn Tom down. He wouldn't let me answer him last night. He asked me to think about it. But//

LILY

I agree with Tom

DOT

What?

LILY

You need to take time to think this all through.

DOT

No, I don't.

LILY

Will you be turning him down because you think there is a future with me?

DOT

No. Maybe...I don't know.

LILY

I've known for a long time that my life has a different path. But Dot, you have choices. I would never allow you//to

DOT

(Livid) You are worse than Tom!

LILY

What?!

DOT

You know what it feels like to have limitations placed on you, and yet, here you stand professing rules as if you have the power to run my life. You don't!

LILY

I...

DOT

I don't want to hear it! And instead of telling me how to live my life why don't you try fixing the mess you've made in your own life

LILY

I haven't//

DOT

It's time you grow up and take responsibility for things!

LILY

I do.