

LILY EVANS AND THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT

Written by

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Based on characters created by

J.K. Rowling

GREEN / 3rd DRAFT / SLYTHERIN 7/1/17
* GOLDENROD / 4th DRAFT / GRYFFINDOR 7/15/17

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EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

HANDHELD. A pair of feet walk along the platform. We tilt up to find ALICE and MARLENE, linked-arms and mid-conversation. The rest of the platform is deserted.

Peter operates the camera, but we do not see his face.

1 PETER (O.S.)
Friends! How was your trip to
Hogsmeade?

2 ALICE
Oh no. Not this contraption again.

3 MARLENE
(faux accusatory)
Peter Pettigrew! Did you steal
that?

4 ALICE
(but yes, encourage him)
Marlene! Don't encourage him!

5 PETER (O.S.)
For your information, Lily let me
steal it. Mostly.

As the ladies and Peter LAUGH they arrive at a grouping of benches under a covering. It is adorned with BAND ADS and CLUB POSTERS. SIRIUS and REMUS are already there, too cool for school.

Marlene immediately unlinks and goes to sit next to Sirius. He stiffens for a moment then relaxes.

6 SIRIUS
Finally! Was beginning to think you
lot fell in the bloody lake.

Peter puts the camera in Sirius' face like an interview.

7 PETER (O.S.)
Sirius Black, renegade and outlaw.
Care to comment on the current
epidemic of students in lakes?

8 SIRIUS
(amused)
Put that thing away, Peter.

9 ALICE
Remus, do you know where Lily's
gone?

10 REMUS

"The Potters" are doing rounds.
Head Boy and Girl and all that.

INT. HOGWARTS, HALLWAY - DAY

*

JAMES and LILY walk quickly down the hall.

11 LILY

Pick up the pace, Potter. I thought
you were the athlete here!

12 JAMES

What's the rush, Evans?

13 LILY

We're late to meet everyone.

James catches up to her and grabs her arm.

14 JAMES

Can you forget about "everyone" for
ten seconds?

15 LILY

Likely not.

She goes to pull away, and he pulls her back into a kiss that
lasts for exactly ten seconds. James pulls away.

16 JAMES

Did you forget?

17 LILY

You were COUNTING SECONDS?

*

He grins at her. She shakes her head and grins back.

*

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

As before.

18 SIRIUS

Seems almost criminal. Being inside
on a beautiful day like this

He throws his arms wide, hitting Marlene.

19 MARLENE

Hey!

She playfully shoves him. Alice is not amused.

20 ALICE

It's not completely idiotic to be
inside right now. We should
probably be studying.

GROANS from everyone.

21 REMUS

You're top of the class, Alice!
You'd get all N's on your NEWT's in
your sleep. With one hand tied
behind your back.

22 MARLENE

And your mouth taped shut. *

Alice allows herself a moment of pride.

23 LILY

Yes. She is simply sublime.

Lily and James arrive, holding hands. Lily smiles at Alice.

24 SIRIUS

Well look who decided to show up.

25 LILY

Decided to stop for a snog. *
Jealous? *

CHUCKLES from the group as Lily and James settle in, slightly
involved in one another and distracted from everyone else.

26 PETER (O.S.)

Alright, alright. Quiet down you
lot. Now to the real reason why
we've assembled today...On a ten
scale,
(pointing camera to
Sirius)
How hotly are you anticipating
meeting the Dueling Club President?

27 SIRIUS

Probably a four.

Sirius!

MARLENE

PETER (O.S.)
Ouch.

28 SIRIUS

I JUST MEAN the last time someone
asked us to join a club, it was the
Death Eaters. *

29 MARLENE

Fiona is, most definitely, NOT a
Death Eater.

*
*
*

30 ALICE

Well I'm just excited about her
proposal. A kind of advanced
spellwork club? Battles? Yes.

*

She looks a little transcendent at the thought. Peter turns
the camera to her and continues to follow the conversation.
Alice makes a face at it.

31 ALICE (CONT'D)

You're with me on this, right Lily?

32 LILY

(back to the present
Of course. Always. What am I with
you on?

33 REMUS

Seems like it might be interesting.
Also seems like a lot of work...and
I'm tired.

34 SIRIUS

You're always tired, Moony. Half of
you is nocturnal.

*

Marlene giggles a little too much at this joke.

35 MARLENE

Anyway, Fiona is brilliant:
resourceful, powerful. She's done
great things with the club. You'll
see.

*

36 JAMES

So we're joining then?

37 LILY

Yes. We are.

38 SIRIUS

Oh, are the pair of you a "we" now?
I'm hurt, Prongs, I thought I was
your better half.

39 PETER (O.S.)

James Potter, Head Boy and
Quidditch Captain, care to comment
on the rift you've created in the
group with your shifting loyalties?

40 JAMES

(leans in)

If Padfoot was half as pretty as he thought he was, I wouldn't have needed Lily in the first place. Now, Wormy, what about you--?

James take the camera from him and before Peter can retort, James has turned the camera on him. We see PETER for the first time.

41 JAMES (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's your chance, now, to talk to Fiona-the-Dueling-Club-President. Commonly known as: The Girl You've Been Trying To Pull For At Least Three Months. Care to comment?

42 PETER

Well, if you must know, I have a whole plan of attack.

43 JAMES (O.S.)

Do you now?

44 PETER

Oh yes. It involves quietly observing her and then saying absolutely nothing.

The group LAUGHS. James hands the camera back to Peter. Something catches Sirius' eye.

45 SIRIUS

Now's your chance, Peter.

FIONA glides in, heading straight for Marlene who stands to hug her. Peter fumbles with the camera, turning it off and shrinking back.

46 FIONA

Ah! Marlene! You look perfect, as always. How are you? How's your brother?

47 MARLENE

Fine. He's fine, thanks.

Lily flinches slightly. Alice and Remus notice. Marlene and Fiona turn to the wider group. Fiona smiles warmly.

48 MARLENE (CONT'D)

(very proud)

Everyone.

(MORE)

*

MARLENE (CONT'D)

May I president Fiona Barnard.
President of the Dueling Club.

*

Alice bolts up and chimes in first.

49 ALICE

Fiona! It's so nice to see you.
Marlene tells us great things about
the club.

There's a small scuffle where the boys try to push Peter forward. Lily gives them a *STOP IT* look and steps forward.

50 LILY

Thanks for meeting us. Although I
think we might need a little
convincing to join. Mostly them.

She indicates the boys, who are still being a little silly. Remus disentangles himself from the scuffle.

51 REMUS

I did have one concern: safety.

52 FIONA

Completely valid. It's my top
priority. That's why I'm only
asking seventh years who are of age
to come be part of this advanced
club. We all understand magic a bit
better. Not just waving and
shouting, but raw emotional and
physical focus.

*

*

*

53 ALICE

I, for one, can't wait to start.
When WILL we be starting,
incidentally?

*

54 FIONA

Well, I'd like to do a wand test
first...

James and Sirius SCOFF at this. They share a look: *HA! 'Wand test' she says.*

55 FIONA (CONT'D)

...just to get a gauge of power and
see who might make suitable
partners.

56 SIRIUS

Peter here is extremely powerful.

Peter turns to Sirius with wide eyes: *SHUT UP!*

57 FIONA

(kindly)

I'm sure you all are. Top of the class, right? We'll be doing the wand test tomorrow. Hope to see you all there! Marlene. Everyone.

She nods at Marlene, then waves a general goodbye and leaves. Peter WHACKS Sirius as soon as she's gone.

58 PETER

Idiot.

59 SIRIUS

Just trying to help.

60 REMUS

What do you all think?

Marlene holds her breath, apprehensive. *Did they like her?*

61 ALICE

I'm definitely in.

62 LILY

I'll go as well. James?

James looks between the skeptical Marauders, then at Lily.

63 JAMES

Yes, alright, I'll go.

64 PETER

(relieved)

Me too.

65 SIRIUS

Meh. (or some sort of sound)

Sirius shrugs and stands to leave. Remus is the first to follow suit. The group falls in, walking away from the train station. Lily and James have a side, whispered conversation that we don't hear. *

66 SIRIUS (CONT'D)

I just wanted an excuse to send a couple hexes Remus' way. He made fun of me yesterday. *

67 REMUS

I'm sorry, but your nonstop "Hand Solo" talk is getting absurd.

68 SIRIUS

It's HAN Solo and you wouldn't feel that way if you'd finally just see Star Wars!

69 PETER

It is so good, Moony, you won't regret it. *

70 SIRIUS

Yeah, listen to our own Luke Skywalker here.

Lily is brought back to the greater conversation. *

71 LILY

Oh are we on Star Wars again?

72 SIRIUS

Always.

Lily leans in to Sirius, and STAGE-WHISPERS.

73 LILY

I still haven't told James he has to be Chewbacca.

74 JAMES

Gesundheit?

Sirius and Lily LAUGH as the group LEAVES.

INT. GRYFFINDOR COMMON ROOM - DAY *

Remus, Lily, and Alice sit at a table covered in open BOOKS. Remus and Lily are intently studying. Alice looks up suddenly.

75 ALICE

That Fiona is up to something.

76 REMUS

(not again)
Alice...

Lily perks up and turns to Alice.

77 LILY

What makes you think that?

78 ALICE

There's no way someone that happy isn't hiding something.

79 REMUS

Contrary to popular opinion, some people are just genuinely happy.

80 ALICE

(not even listening)

And why now? I hadn't even HEARD of this advanced club until last week.

81 REMUS

Have you met our mates? We're not exactly the most approachable clique.

*

82 LILY

Stop. We're wonderful.

83 ALICE

I've just got a feeling.

84 LILY

OK, what if I go talk to her?

85 ALICE

You ARE brilliant at reading people. Beyond what they present...

*

86 REMUS

(RE: Alice)

I think you're being paranoid.

87 LILY

(RE: Remus)

Then YOU will have nothing to worry about!

She smiles and gathers her things.

88 LILY (CONT'D)

Lily Evans is on the case! I'll see you both later.

She exits. Alice and Remus look after her.

89 ALICE

Regardless of Fiona, you can't deny that the club is a good place to recruit.

90 REMUS

Ah. The Auror Training Program. Have you taken over as leadership?

91 ALICE

What makes you say that?

92 REMUS

You essentially just sent Lily on a mission! You've got a knack for it, but your secret is starting to show.

*
*
*

93 ALICE

Oh don't start with me about secrets, Remus Lupin.

94 REMUS

All I'm saying is that secrets are heavy things. It's alright to share the load sometimes. It helps.

95 ALICE

Frank knows. He's enough.

96 REMUS

Just CONSIDER telling Lily. She's your best friend.

97 ALICE

I can't. If I tell Lily then she'll want to tell James and I can't ask her to keep something like this from him.

*

98 REMUS

Would James knowing be the worst thing in the world?

MASSIVE ALICE SIDE-EYE.

99 REMUS (CONT'D)

Right. Well. It's your life. Just don't close yourself off from everyone, alright?

*

Off Alice, considering that possibility.

EXT. HOGWARTS, CASTLE GROUNDS - DAY

*

Lily finds Fiona sitting against a wall, practicing a complicated flourish that causes the tip of her wand to GLOW.

*

100 LILY

Oh that's fantastic!

101 FIONA
Seven years of Professor Flitwick.
Finally paying off.

*
*

102 LILY
Can I join you?

103 FIONA
Please!

Fiona smiles warmly. Lily sits. Begins her "interrogation."

104 LILY
Thanks again for coming to talk to
us today.

105 FIONA
Oh it's my pleasure. I was just
excited to hear that you all were
interested.

106 LILY
It's not everyday we get a special
visit from the Dueling Club
President!

107 FIONA
I wish you wouldn't say it like
that. It's not as fancy as it might
sound.

108 LILY
Now you're just being modest.

109 FIONA
I will say this: I am the first
Hufflepuff to ever lead the group.
Which many would find odd - we're
so often underestimated when it
comes to this sort of thing. But
let me tell you a secret: we LOVE
being underestimated.

*

She gives Lily a conniving smile, but then quickly chuckles
it off. Lily clocks this.

110 FIONA (CONT'D)
If I can help just ONE student
realize that they have the power to
make a difference, no matter their
House, then I've done my job.

Off Lily, interrogation completed.

EXT. HOGWARTS, AMPHITHEATER - DAY

*

Lily bounds down the steps, coming around a corner to find--

111 LILY
Oh! James!

112 JAMES
(very formal)
Hello, Lily Evans.

James is lounging on the steps and was hidden from her view. He's in Quidditch robes and his hair a bit of a mess. Lily sits down beside him.

*

*

113 LILY
Actually, I was hoping to find Alice.

114 JAMES
Well I am NOT sorry to disappoint you.

Lily gives him a quick smile and it's back to business.

115 LILY
I'm worried about her. She's rattled.

116 JAMES
More than usual?

117 LILY
She thinks Fiona is hiding something. But I talked to her and it seems like all she wants to is to prove herself.

*

*

118 JAMES
I'm sure Alice just has a lot on her mind. She always does. The brightest ones are like that.

*

119 LILY
Look at you! Saying nice things about Alice!

120 JAMES
Hey, I'm nice.

121 LILY
Sometimes selfish.

122 JAMES

Never. In fact, just this morning I was exceptionally kind to Sirius. His family was in *The Prophet* yesterday and he's been...well...glum.

123 LILY

And what did you say?

124 JAMES

I told him not to think about it. He can't let anyone's darkness cloud his head. Life's too short.

125 LILY

That's sweet.

126 JAMES

I am full of surprises.

He leans in to kiss her quickly. But when they pull apart, his brow furrows.

127 JAMES (CONT'D)

What is it?

128 LILY

I just...I'm worried about our little family. Sirius is distant. Remus goes off at night by himself. Marlene's stressed beyond belief. And Alice is...*Alice*, and--

*

James takes her face in his hands to shut her up.

129 JAMES

Hey. You have GOT to let someone worry about you for once.

130 LILY

And that's you?

131 JAMES

I just mean...I know you don't need protection or anything - you're capable and brilliant and more - but everyone needs someone looking out for them. I'm looking out for you. Because I love you.

Off Lily's eyes, WIDE AS SAUCERS.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. GRYFFINDOR COMMON ROOM - DAY

132 MARLENE
He said WHAT?!

Lily and Marlene sit together on the floor. Marlene's hands fly to her mouth.

133 LILY
"I love you." It just kind of slipped out.

134 MARLENE
And did you say it back?

135 LILY
Uh. No? I don't think so? I mean, I say "I love you to everyone!" And I mean it. Honestly. But this is different, I guess? It happened to fast.

*
*
*
*

136 MARLENE
Merlin's beard, Lily.

137 LILY
Of course he said it first. Because he's an idiot and perfect. But now what? I can't say anything to him, the way I left things.

138 MARLENE
No. Most definitely DO NOT bring it up.

Lily flops back, flat on her back on the floor.

139 LILY
Ughhhhh.

Marlene looks down her nose at Lily, a smile twisting her face.

140 MARLENE
You love him too, don't you?

141 LILY
Yes. No. I don't know. Probably? I thought I did, but then why didn't I say it back?

142 MARLENE
And here I thought there was still something between you and Michael.

143 LILY

Marlene, your brother is brilliant
but...

144 MARLENE

'But?'

145 LILY

(quickly)

I really only kissed him last
summer because I was conflicted
over James.

146 MARLENE

(playful)

Lily Evans you little minx!

147 LILY

I'm sorry! I'm terrible, I know.

148 MARLENE

Well you're just a jumble, aren't
you?

Lily puts her face in her hands.

149 MARLENE (CONT'D)

If you two can't survive this then
it was destined to fail from the
start.

*

150 LILY

Well that's...true I guess.

151 MARLENE

He's nuts about you. Everyone can
see it. You just have to decide
whether or not you're equally as
nuts for him.

Off Lily, contemplating that.

EXT. HOGWARTS, CASTLE GROUNDS - DAY

*

Fiona sits with a STUDENT, mid-conversation. Fiona smiles at
the student as they get up to leave. They wave to each other
as Marlene approaches. Marlene makes a bee-line for Fiona.

*

*

152 FIONA

Bye.

(seeing Marlene)

Marlene! Is everything alright?

153 MARLENE

Can I talk to you for a second?

154 FIONA

Of course! Here. Sit down.

Marlene does. Fiona turns to her, giving Marlene her undivided attention.

155 FIONA (CONT'D)

What is it?

156 MARLENE

It's my brother. I lied before.
He's not fine.

Fiona settles in as Marlene continues.

157 MARLENE (CONT'D)

He's become slightly...intense. I'm worried he's getting involved with the wrong people.

158 FIONA

What sort of people?

159 MARLENE

(sigh, then)

Michael's been recruited to this secret auror training program. The Ministry is looking for young wizards to...commit early.

160 FIONA

Your brother is many things,
Marlene, the most of all a capable wizard.

Unbeknownst to the girls, Alice sneaks up behind a hedge. We occasionally cut to Alice's view of their conversation as she listens.

161 MARLENE

I know, but now he's out there. Do you know they're sending them on missions? I get so worried about it that I start shaking. And now he wants me to join too. I don't want to let him down, but...I don't know what to do.

Alice stiffens. *Marlene too?* She had no idea.

162 FIONA

Hey. Listen. First of all, he is your brother and he will love you no matter what.

163 MARLENE

How can you say that? Even the "noble and most ancient house of Black" is fractured. This war is tearing families apart.

164 FIONA

Well for one thing your family aren't elitist monsters, right?

Marlene cracks a smile for a moment.

165 FIONA (CONT'D)

Michael is doing what he needs to do to feel like he's contributing. For some people that's going out there on the front lines. For others it's being here and learning all they can to feel prepared. For others it's removing themselves from the situation entirely. And we can feel frustrated or confused as to why anyone chooses what they choose, but in the end our job is to accept them and love them anyway.

Alice almost GAGS. *This girl is go annoying.*

Marlene listens, her breathing calming as Fiona speaks.

166 FIONA (CONT'D)

As far as you getting involved in this program or not, you have to ask yourself where you'd be doing the most good. Where are your talents? Your sensibilities.

*
*
*
*
*

167 MARLENE

But what if that's ultimately not with Michael?

168 FIONA

If you truly feel like it's where you need to be, then you can't be wrong. Trust yourself.

Marlene has brightened considerably. There's still a weight on her shoulders, but her focus has shifted.

169 MARLENE
Thanks. For listening.

170 FIONA
Anytime.

The girls hug. Marlene gets up to walk away.

Back with Alice. She watches as Marlene leaves and Fiona looks on after her. Once Fiona is alone, her face drops, a cold mask.

Fiona digs in her BAG for her WAND and a VIAL. She looks around to make sure the coast is clear, then PULLS A MEMORY OUT OF HER HEAD, capping it off inside the vial.

Fiona shivers like she's just had a good hit and rolls out her neck, relaxing. Her face brightens.

Off Alice, completely shocked.

EXT. HOGWARTS, AMPHITHEATER - DUSK

*

Fiona is checking the battle lanes she's drawn on the ground as Lily, Alice, Marlene, James, and Peter walk up.

Lily and Marlene are sticking close to one another, James wisely giving them space. He catches Lily's eye and she blushes a little. Peter is fidgety. Alice is on a different plane - on a mission. Lily keeps an eye on her.

Fiona brightens when she sees them approaching.

171 FIONA
Hello, you lot. Let's just get straight to it, shall we? Pair up - we'll just do some basic blocking to start.

An awkward dance as the pairs start to divvy up. James is angling for Peter to be with Fiona, but Alice is already striding towards her. She practically shoves Peter at Marlene.

172 ALICE
(overacting)
This is quite the honor, dueling with you, Fiona!

173 FIONA
(sincere)
Likewise.

Everyone takes a moment to compose themselves as they stand twenty paces apart.

174 FIONA (CONT'D)

Now. Proper dueling requires 100% of your focus, but also 100% of your energy. If you want to block a particular spell, you need to make yourself the opposite of that in order to deflect it. So. For example: *Accio* and *Depulso*. Ideally, the spells will hit each other and fizzle out. Of course, you COULD use *Protego* and conjure a shield, but depending on the counter-charm, it might not be strong enough. Plus, it's a little less...

175 JAMES

Sexy.

176 FIONA

To put it one way, yes. Now--

Fiona holds her wand in front of her like a sword, her other arm counter-balancing. The group copies her.

James has already positioned himself similarly, and Peter follows suit. Marlene looks at Peter, impressed and reconsidering him. *

Lily looks across the lane at James, gives him a quick eyebrow raise.

Alice is determined, all-business, getting into position. *

177 FIONA (CONT'D)

Let's take it in turns, shall we?

Fiona nods to Peter and Marlene. There's a silence, then--

178 MARLENE

INCENDIO!

179 PETER

AQUAMENTI!

The JETS OF LIGHT that shoot from their wands meet, spark, and burn out.

180 FIONA

Oh well done! That was perfect - you two seem to be well matched.

Marlene and Peter are instantly uncomfortable.

181 FIONA (CONT'D)
 Alright. Lily? James?

James bows low. Lily returns with an exaggerated curtsy. They look at each other. Silence again. Then--

182 LILY
ANTEOCULATIA!

*

183 JAMES
 Uh--*PROTEGO!*

James, off-balance, throws up a shield. The spell deflects.

184 LILY
 Agreed. Definitely not as sexy.

DERPY JAMES.

185 ALICE
 (jumping in)
 Us, then?

Alice points to herself and to Fiona, steeling herself. Fiona nods cheerfully. They set. Silence again. Then--

FIONA
RICTUSEMPRA!

ALICE (CONT'D)
EXPECTO PATRONUM!

*

Alice doesn't even wait to hear the spell, she just ducks beneath Fiona's charm as SILVER WHISPS erupt from her own wand. They swirl towards Fiona, knocking her back. She hits the ground hard.

The group stands dumbstruck: *what the hell was that?*

Marlene rushes to Fiona and Peter follows, crouching down closer to her face. Lily turns to see that Alice has run over to Fiona's bag and is fishing for a small glass VIAL.

186 PETER
 Fiona! Fiona, are you all right?

187 FIONA
 (coming-to)
 Yes. I'm fine.

As Peter helps her sit up, Lily looks to Alice who holds THE VIAL.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DUSK

THE VIAL, still gripped in Alice's fist.

188 ALICE
What the bloody hell is this,
Marlene?

Alice, Marlene, and Lily are alone at the train station.
Alice is raw. Lily the peacemaker. Marlene is shaken.

189 MARLENE
How should I know? It isn't mine.

Alice pulls the cork out of the vial. As a WHIFF OF WHITE
escapes, we hear:

190 MARLENE (RE-PRINT) (CONT'D)
*Michael's been recruited to this
secret auror training program. The
Ministry is looking for young
wizards to...commit early.*

Marlene looks horrified. Alice re-caps the vial.

191 MARLENE (CONT'D)
How did you get that?

192 ALICE
Fiona is storing up conversations
she has with people.

193 LILY
She's removing memories? That's
fairly...advanced magic.

194 MARLENE
I told her that in confidence.
I...I promised Michael I wouldn't
say a word.

195 ALICE
It's alright, Marlene...

196 MARLENE
(pushed now)
Alice Fawley, you used a Patronus
charm on a human being! What were
you thinking? And you...SPIED on
me?!

197 ALICE

I'm sorry for eavesdropping, but I just KNEW there was something going on with her. Once I saw this was how she was keeping herself up, I figured a Patronus would effect her. I didn't know it would KNOCK HER OVER. She's more empty than I thought.

198 LILY

Alice, that spell only works on dark creatures. You know that.

199 MARLENE

Are you saying that Fiona is a dark creature?

200 LILY

No! Just...Alice, how did you even think of that?

Alice SIGHS. Here it comes.

201 ALICE

You know that auror training program Michael joined?

Lily's eyes go wide. She and Marlene share a look.

202 LILY

So that's what you've been hiding.

203 ALICE

Frank and I were asked to join last year. It's been...educational. I should have told you earlier.

*
*

204 LILY

Alice...

205 MARLENE

Your secret is, at least, a little more understandable. It's quite literally a secret training program. But Fiona?

206 ALICE

You should've seen her when she did it. She was so satisfied - like it was the only thing keeping her going.

207 LILY

Which explains why I didn't notice anything was off in her. It wasn't...in her. It was next to her in her bag.

208 MARLENE

Talk about "baggage."

The girls share an uneasy smile, the tension dissipating a bit with this joke.

209 ALICE

(RE: Marlene)

I'm sorry you felt like you couldn't come to us with this.

A silence as Marlene finds the words.

210 MARLENE

You lot are always so...flashy. Big and proud and reveling in everything that's happening to you. I'm not like that. I didn't want to bring you down.

211 LILY

Oh, Marlene. NEVER think that.

Lily hugs her.

212 LILY (CONT'D)

You're our friend. Through all of it. No matter what.

Fiona marches in, almost manic. Lily and Marlene pull apart. Fiona points at the VIAL in Alice's hand.

213 FIONA

Give. That. Back.

214 ALICE

It was never yours in the first place.

Fiona looks desperately at Marlene, who won't meet her eye. Her voice starts to go a little higher.

215 FIONA

You think you know me SO well, don't you? I am not allowed to slip, not allowed to have a bad day. I do this so everyone else can be OK.

*
*

216 LILY

I understand, Fiona. Sometimes it can feel like you're carrying a lot of weight--

*

217 FIONA

Everyone needs someone to listen to them. And this way, nobody gets hurt. I take their burden, then remove it from myself.

218 ALICE

Nobody gets hurt? Don't you think you're hurting yourself?

Fiona looks completely shocked by this.

219 ALICE (CONT'D)

You told us today that you have to put your whole self into casting spells. Wouldn't that include the emotional weight you could throw into it?

*

*

*

220 FIONA

Well I can't keep it all inside! It's too much for one person to handle.

221 LILY

So don't handle it alone! Who supports YOU?

222 FIONA

You mean like your "friends," hmm? Your precious trio here and those morons the The Marauders?

*

223 MARLENE

Fiona...

*

*

224 LILY

One of those "morons" happens to be one of the greatest things in my life. So yes, I'd say you'd be lucky to have someone like him. Like any of us.

*

225 FIONA

You're all awful. You know that? So exclusive, dominating every conversation and imagining yourselves to be these great heroes.

This hits Marlene, Alice, and Lily hard.

226 FIONA (CONT'D)

Marlene, I really liked you before you started hanging around this lot. Now you're just as phony as the rest of them,

227 ALICE

How dare you...

228 FIONA

There's a war happening. I know you all mean to fight in it. None of this "supportive best friends" act really matters when you'll all be dead soon anyway.

Alice reaches for Lily immediately, but it's too late. Lily's hand flies to her wand, her protective nature swift and merciless. Marlene CRIES OUT. *

229 LILY

INCARCEROUS!

Fiona physically ducks to avoid Lily's spell, but Alice has drawn her wand too and Fiona throws up a shield.

230 ALICE

IMPEDIMENTA! *

231 FIONA

PROTEGO!

232 LILY

STUPEFY!

Marlene has hung back to this point, but jumps in to join a side when Fiona retaliates.

233 FIONA

DEPRIMO!

234 MARLENE

CONFRINGO! *

Sirius and James rush in with THE MAP, wands at the ready. Sirius looks incredibly eager, while James is all concern. *

235 SIRIUS

Thought we might find a fight!

James grabs Sirius' shoulder, holding him back. This is the girls' fight.

The girls are locked-in now. They shoot a few more non-verbal spells at one another. Lily lands one. Fiona stumbles back. *

236 LILY
(grimly)
LOCOMOTOR MORTIS.

Fiona goes down, all rigid. Lily stands over her.

237 LILY (CONT'D)
I'd have preferred that our conversation not come to this. But your lack of respect for my friends...well.

238 ALICE
(taunting a little)
Think how differently this would've gone if you'd had brought everything you have to the table. Instead you're empty. Just like a dementor.

239 SIRIUS
WOOO!!!

Sirius applauds from the sidelines. James looks amused at Sirius and proud of his lady. Lily turns back to Fiona and crouches down to her level. *

240 LILY
It doesn't have to be like this, we can--

241 FIONA
Oh, go rot, you Mudblood.

Lily is totally deflated at this. James takes a step forward, but it's Marlene who rages forward:

242 MARLENE
STUPEFY!

The spell hits Fiona and she passes out, GROANING on the ground.

James touches Lily on the arm and she sort of collapses into him. He smooths her hair and WHISPERS something.

Marlene turns to Alice.

243 MARLENE (CONT'D)
You were right about her. I'm sorry I doubted you.
(MORE)

MARLENE (CONT'D)
(RE: Sirius and James)
Thanks for coming, even if we
didn't need you.

244 SIRIUS
What are friends for?

Marlene nods firmly, getting the message. Sirius offers his arm and she takes it.

Sirius then takes a chance and offers his other arm to Alice, who first looks to Lily and James, and then takes it. Sirius brightens. *

245 SIRIUS (CONT'D)
(RE: Fiona)
What should we do with her?

246 MARLENE
Leave her.

247 ALICE
(laughing)
Now, now. We're better than that.
To Madame Pomfrey, I think.
MOBILLICORPUS! *

With a flick of Alice's wand, we CUT TO: *

INT. GRYFFINDOR COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Lily and James sit side by side in front of the fire.

248 JAMES
I heard what you said to Fiona.
That I'm the greatest thing in your
life...?

249 LILY
First off, I said "one of" the
greatest, you Billywig.

250 JAMES
As long as I'm in the top three.

He takes a beat, then:

251 JAMES (CONT'D)
You don't have to say it back, you
know. *

And she knows they've finally come to it.

252 LILY

But I want to. I meant to. I should've.

253 JAMES

Only if you mean it. And if you don't. Well. I can wait.

She turns to him.

254 LILY

No. James, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been so surprised to hear those words come out of your mouth. You've loved me for years! That sounds awful to say...but you know what I mean. It wasn't a surprise. And not just because you've been shouting at me since first year. Because lately you've been so...honest

(he flinches half in jest)

And supportive. You trust me. You respect me. You're a better man now than I ever thought you could be. And I love you, James Potter.

They go to kiss, but are interrupted by Sirius. He plops himself down, intentionally ruining the moment.

255 SIRIUS

Budge up, make way, coming through.

James looks slightly murderous, but Lily LAUGHS and moves even closer to James.

*

Peter and Remus join them, filling the space.

256 REMUS

So these jedi can use *Accio* without a wand? That doesn't make any sense.

257 PETER

It's not *Accio*, it's THE FORCE. Very different.

Alice trails behind them with Marlene.

258 ALICE

(actually tired)

It's midnight. No more Star Wars tonight. Please?

*

Everyone settles.

*

259 MARLENE

I'm sorry. To all of you. I feel somewhat responsible for all of this. I didn't realize Fiona was so...twisted.

260 REMUS

None of us did. You just never know what some people are going through.

261 LILY

Contrary to what Fiona may think, you don't HAVE to be happy 100% of the time. We all have bad days. That's why you have us. And you should never apologize for that.

Lily gives her a hug.

262 LILY (CONT'D)

Besides. Imagine if we all felt compelled to apologize for being fools. Sirius, for one, would never be able to say anything BUT 'I'm sorry.'

They all LAUGH and continue CHATTERING as we FADE OUT.

THE END.