

COMPLICATIONS

Written by

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INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Two couples dine together. On one side of the table sit LILY (34, long brown hair, glowing skin) and KEN (33, bald). On the other side of the table sit ROXIE (33) and ERIC (35).

ROXIE

And that's when I had to put my foot down. I told the our guide that we didn't want to horseback in the rain and demanded that we turn around immediately.

KEN

What'd she say?

ERIC

Surprisingly, she was actually relieved. She told us that she felt awkward cutting our ride short, but didn't know how to bring it up. She kept promising herself that she would say something at the next bend in the path, but after 30 minutes of twists and turns we were getting drenched and still riding.

Lily puts down her fork and moves her hand to her stomach, gesturing nausea.

KEN

Babe, you ok?

Lily stands.

LILY

I need to use the-

Before she can finish the sentence, she hurries away from the table. She weaves through tables and makes her way to the bathroom.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lily hurries into a stall. She gets onto her knees, lifts the seat cover, and immediately starts puking into the toilet.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - LATER

ERIC

Why'd you rent it?

KEN

I don't know. It just didn't have any 5 stars reviews. Mostly 4 stars from everyone. I never trust 4 stars.

ERIC

I give 4 stars all the time.

KEN

You do?

ERIC

Yeah, I gave our Keurig machine 4 stars.

ROXIE

You did? What's wrong with our Keurig?

ERIC

Nothing it's just that-

Lily returns to the table and sits.

KEN

Everything alright?

LILY

Probably just a bad piece of shrimp.

BEAT

LILY (CONT'D)

Only me?

Lily and Ken lock eyes.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - LATER

Lily and Ken burst out of the restaurant and spring towards their car.

INT. CAR - LATER

Ken drives. Lily navigates with her smartphone.

LILY

Take the next right!

KEN  
Flamingo Ave?

LILY  
No the next one!

KEN  
Pipeline Ave?

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER PARKING LOT - LATER

Lily and Ken run towards a brightly lit DRUGSTORE

INT. DRUGSTORE - LATER

Lily and Ken run through separate aisles frantically looking for something.

DRUGSTORE EMPLOYEE  
Can I help you guys find something?

They ignore them and keep looking.

KEN  
Found it!

He holds up a box of pregnancy tests so Lily can see it from her aisle.

CUT TO:

INT. DRUGSTORE - LATER

Ken waits leans on the wall between the men's and women's bathroom entrances. Moments later Lily exits casually. She shakes her head somberly. Ken hugs her.

KEN  
I'm sorry honey.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, WAITING ROOM - DAY

Ken and Lily sit next to each other. They are the only people waiting.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Ken and Lily sit across from DOCTOR EPSTEIN (24, thick hair, glowing skin).

LILY  
7 years. Give or take.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN  
That's quite awhile. But not to  
fear, everybody is different. Those  
years are hardly an accurate  
indication of your fertility. I  
need you to do something for me  
right now, and it might sound a bit  
odd.

LILY  
Ok.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN  
I need you to explain to me how sex  
works.

KEN  
Is that a joke?

Doctor Epstein shakes his head.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN  
I know it sounds a bit odd. Basic  
sexual intercourse. Just describe  
it for me.

LILY  
(Hesitant, looking at Ken)  
Well you... insert the penis into  
the vagina and then-

DOCTOR EPSTEIN  
Ok great, that's enough. You guys  
know what you're doing.

He sighs.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
You wouldn't believe how many  
people I have to teach that to.

Doctor Epstein gets up and opens the metal cabinet behind his  
desk. He takes out two sample cups wrapped in plastic.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Let me give you the standard  
fertility tests. You can use the  
bathroom down the hall.

He hands them the tests.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Bring them back to me and we'll  
schedule an appointment for next  
week.

INT. CAR - LATER

Lily and Ken drive home.

INT. ICE CREAM STORE - LATER

Lily eats chocolate ice cream from a cone. Ken eats coffee  
ice cream from a bowl.

LILY  
Are you nervous?

KEN  
Yeah, but I think just have to keep  
telling ourselves that this isn't  
the end of the world. Even if what  
we fear is true. We can always  
adopt. We can always adopt.

LILY  
What does it mean to be infertile?  
Isn't that one of the main  
characteristics of life?

KEN  
What?

LILY  
I remember in 9th grade they taught  
us the 7 characteristics of life.  
All living things must grow, have  
homeostasis, be cellular... I don't  
remember them all... but I know  
reproduction is one.

KEN  
Sure. So what you're saying is...

LILY  
Wouldn't being infertile disqualify  
you?

KEN  
I don't know. Sorry babe. I'm just  
a little stressed out. How am I  
going to tell my mom that I can't  
give her grandchildren.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NEXT WEEK

Ken and Lily sit across from Doctor Epstein.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

I'm sure you're anxious to know the results so I'll tell you now.

They nod. They hold each other's hands tightly.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN (CONT'D)

Lily, your test came back with zero irregularities. Based off that information, you are fertile.

Lily breathes a sigh of relief.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN (CONT'D)

Ken, your test came back with some irregularities. I'm afraid the test showed that not only are you infertile, you're also inhuman.

KEN

Huh?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

The semen sample we collected had a severely low sperm count. We concluded right away that it would be very difficult for you to fertilize an egg. However, a closer look at your cells revealed that we are not of the same species.

KEN

What?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

No, no, no. Though we may look alike, we are far different. Your DNA predates humankind. It probably predates this planet. If I had to guess, you are an ancestor of this universe. Unburdened by time. Freewheeling through the cosmos. Have you ever felt different?

KEN

Different how?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

Like you didn't belong? Like everyone around you was playing a game of telephone that never got to you?

KEN

What's telephone?

LILY

It's a game where you whisper a word or phrase into someone's ear, and they whisper it to another person, and it gradually erodes into a new word or phrase.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

This shouldn't be an issue. You'll still get to live a normal life. You might not notice a thing.

KEN

But you're saying we can't have kids?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

It's unlikely.

LILY

What other options do we have?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

You have a few. You could consult a sperm donor. You could try IVF. If all else fails, many of my patients have been very happy with adoption.

LILY

If we were to do IVF... how much would that cost?

He gives them a pamphlet from his desk drawer.

DOCTOR EPSTEIN

There are a lot of good resources in here if you're thinking about going that route. I recommend speaking with my friend Doctor Aliber. She's one of the best.

Doctor Epstein circles a phone number on the pamphlet with pen.

KEN  
Is this common?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN  
What?

KEN  
Complications like these?

DOCTOR EPSTEIN  
You'd be surprised. This is the 4th  
pamphlet I've given out today.

INT. CAR - LATER

Ken drives. Lily sits in the passenger seat. She gazes at  
Ken, lovingly.