

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

A Letter to Lily Hadler

LILY SIDES

START

INT. Community health center RECEPTION'S DESK - DAY

Elliot opens his writing journal, sinking his head into the pages. Lily takes notice, and takes off her headphones. She glances over her shoulder, and down towards the journal.

LILY HADLER

What are you writing?

Lily looks up at Elliot, waiting for a response.

ELLIOT CARTER

(dragging his words
as he's writing)

It's this... passion project. A...
novel on... stoicism.

Stammering, Elliot waves off Lily, and doesn't break eye contact with his book.

LILY HADLER

Jesus, what are you? Like- Batman or
something?

ELLIOT CARTER

(flabbergasted,
laughing nervously)

What?

Lily grabs half of the journal, skimming through Elliot's writing.

ELLIOT CARTER (cont'd)

It's a story about life! I-It's about
my experiences and my art, and about-

LILY HADLER

(muttering, fake
reading pages[])

-About detachment and acceptance and
blah blah blah blah- curl up in a
ball and die.

Elliot stares at Lily for a beat, then the two start to chuckle while Elliot hides his face in his hand.

ELLIOT CARTER
(chuckling)
That is... wow, I don't even know how
to respond to that.

LILY HADLER
I just think its stupid- It's living
your live without *living* your life-
you're just giving up on everything.

Lily pulls the book, but Elliot isn't so quick to let go.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)
(tittering)
Lemme finish reading it.

ELLIOT CARTER
(annoyed)
Yeah? So you can keep mocking it?

LILY HADLER
(teasingly)
No... so I can *deeply respect* it.

Lily and Elliot laugh.

ELLIOT CARTER
Are you always this... enigmatic?

LILY HADLER
(chuckling, murmuring)
God, you have no clue.

ELLIOT CARTER
(still chuckling a
bit)
What are you here for anyway? You
seem- just fine.

Lily's smile recedes a bit, getting more serious. Elliot
doesn't notice this. Lily looks up at him.

LILY HADLER
(nonchalantly)
Pancreatic cancer. Its terminal.

Elliot is stunned. He squints and shakes his head in
confusion over the shocking news.

ELLIOT CARTER
(caught by surprise)
Wh- what?

LILY HADLER

-So I was thinking I could get your number, we can talk more about your sad book or.. hang out.

Lily is trying to move past the conversation, seeing how uncomfortable it made Elliot.

ELLIOT CARTER

(confused, whispering)

Wait wait wait wait wait... so are you here for like... chemo? Do they even do that here?

LILY HADLER

No? Why would I need chemo?

Elliot chokes on his words.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

(trailing off)

It's terminal. I'm just here to get meds- for pain and stuff or whatever.

Lily's eyes dart around a bit, and the two sit in silence for a beat. Lily raises her phone up to Elliot.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

So I was thinking like- coffee on Tuesday? or...

END

START

Lily and Elliot pick at their food, avoiding eye contact. The atmosphere is tense. Lily breaks the silence.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

(empathetically)

Elliot, these past few days... these were never(pause) this... Elliot, this isn't a date.

Elliot keeps his eyes down, and he responds without a visible expression.

ELLIOT CARTER

(softly)

I know.

LILY HADLER

And its not 'cause I don't like you, it's just that...

ELLIOT CARTER

I know.

Lily drops her fork- quietly, yet angrily.

LILY HADLER

(frustrated)

Jesus fucking Christ Elliot... Can you just let me talk?

Elliot finally looks up at Lily, their eyes meet for the first time this entire conversation.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

I'm dying Elliot. And I know things have been sweet, but...

(whispering)

I just want you to be my friend right now.

A deafening silence looms.

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

Promise me that... that you're not falling in love with me.

Elliot looks back down in disappointment, but feebly nods yes. Lily abruptly adds:

LILY HADLER (cont'd)

(softly)

Promise me you wont leave...

Elliot stops to think for a second.

ELLIOT CARTER

I... I promise.

END