

The Cell Phone

By

Jenn Charlene Jacobsen

Copyright 2011
Jenn Charlene Jacobsen

jenn.charlene.jacobsen@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE LILYS APARTMENT - DAY

LILY, a pretty girl in her 20's, walks along a sidewalk towards her modern car.

She spots a cell phone on the sidewalk. The cell phone displays "12789".

She grabs the cell phone and drives to work.

INT. LIQUOR/GROCERY STORE - EVENING

She works her shift and on her way home stops to buy some wine.

As she pays for her wine, she decides to purchase a lottery ticket and has the idea to play the numbers on the cell phone she found.

INT. INSIDE LILYS APARTMENT - EVENING

Lily sits on her couch watching television.

A commercial pops on the television about the winning lottery numbers.

insert slide "The winning numbers for the North Carolina lottery are: 1 2 7 8 9 0"

Lily looks at the numbers on the television then races to the kitchen to get her lottery ticket.

She double checks the numbers then realizes she won.

LILY
Oh my god!

Lily keeps checking the numbers against the numbers on the screen and she starts crying.

She races to her purse to grab her cell phone and calls her Mom.

LILY
Mom! I hit the lottery for 3.5 million dollars.

LILY'S MOM
You're kidding me.

LILY
I can't believe it myself Mom. I
hit it.

LILY'S MOM
Stop pulling my leg.

LILY
Mom, I really did.

They both start crying on the telephone

INT. LOTTERY OFFICE - DAY

Lily excitedly waits in the line and finally presents her ticket to the cashier.

The cashier runs the ticket then asks Lily to come in the back room.

INT. BACK ROOM CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A man in a suit, BILL, greets Lily and takes her into the conference room.

He hands her some forms for the IRS and for the state lottery commission.

BILL
Please fill out these forms and we
can process your claim and get you
your check.

Lily fills out the forms.

BILL
You have the option of a lump sum
payout, or annual payments. You
will have to discount your claim by
40 percent for the lump sum payment
or you can get a full payout over
20 annual payments.

LILY
Oh lump sum for sure.

BILL
 Alright, just let me enter this in
 the system.

Bill types on the computer and soon a whirring sound comes from the printer.

Bill walks to the printer and retrieves her check and hands it to Lily.

BILL
 Congratulations Lily.

Bill hands over the check and Lily's eyes get really wide.

insert graphic of check "1.4 million dollars"

LILY
 Oh my god!

BILL
 Is there a problem Lily?

LILY
 No, I've just never seen a check
 that big before, especially to me.

BILL
 We actually offer financial
 guidance counseling to new lottery
 winners.

LILY
 No thanks.

INT. INSIDE LILYS APARTMENT - DAY

Lily sits on her couch and sighs while her cell phone is in her hand.

She sighs deeply again and begins dialing.

RECEPTIONIST
 Stevens and Stevens, how may I
 direct your call?

LILY
 Mike Stevens please, tell him Lily
 Thomas is calling.

RECEPTIONIST

Please hold while I connect you.

Lily types in a few keys on her cell phone and her eyes brighten.

insert slide "Community Bank, Lily Thomas: Balance 1,399,956.45"

MIKE STEVENS

Hello Lily, where are you today, we need you in the office.

LILY

I've decided to quit Mike.

MIKE STEVENS

Well, I'm sorry to hear that Lily. You've done a fine job for us here and everyone likes you.

LILY

A new chapter has been created in my life and I'll no longer be employed there effective immediately.

MIKE STEVENS

Lily, we would like you to at least give us two weeks notice before leaving our law firm.

LILY

I know and I'm sorry about the abrupt departure, but it's necessary. Good luck in your endeavors.

Lily hangs up the phone.

LILY

Yes!

Lily pulls a fist down out of the air

EXT. LILY ON A BINGE - DAY

A montage of Lily buying expensive jewelry, clothes, and cars and then wasting money on gambling and drugs.

A further montage of Lily engaging in drunken promiscuous sex with several partners.

A notice on Lily's apartment headlines, "EVICTION NOTICE"

EXT. LILY ASLEEP IN AN ALLEY - NIGHT

Lily sleeps next to the dumpsters in a dimly lit alley.
The jewelry store that she spent so much money is next door.
Lily shivers as she sleeps in garbage.

EXT. LILY AWAKES TO COPS - NIGHT

A cop taps Lily on the shoulder.

COP

Wake up! Wake up before I take you
to jail for vagrancy.

LILY

mmm. Huh?

Lily lifts her head from the pavement and squints her eyes
at the cop.

LILY

What's going on. Where am I?

COP

You're sleeping in a dangerous
alley. Wake up and move along young
lady before I arrest you.

LILY

Please don't arrest me. I'm
leaving.

Lily gets up and exits the alley as the cop watches.

EXT. LILY WALKS INTO A NEW WORLD - DAY

Lily walks down the street at sunrise.
The beautiful sunrise glistens off the buildings.
She sees the booze bottles overflowing the garbage cans.
Lily walks past the vagrants sleeping in the alleys just as
she was.
She takes a mirror out of her purse and looks at herself.

In the mirror, Lily looks dirty, hair tangled, missing an earring, eyes red.

Lily looks up from the mirror and an older car with a handsome man, PHIL, is there.

PHIL

Good morning Ma'am. Can I help you any way?

LILY

I need a ride.

PHIL

Sure thing. Hop in.

LILY

I need a ride to my Mom's house. My father is a police officer.

PHIL

Honey, don't worry. I'm just trying to help you out.

LILY

Ok, but don't you try anything because my father is well connected and you will go down.

PHIL

Relax and jump in. Where to?

LILY

45th street and Monroe

PHIL

Sure thing. So tell me about your situation and why you are down here in this bad part of town.

LILY

Well, I hit the lottery and then I spent 1.4 million dollars on frivolous things that meant nothing in life. I was sleeping in an alley just before you picked me up.

PHIL

Did you learn anything?

LILY

I discovered I can't handle money.

Lilly giggles.

PHIL

You're lesson is much deeper than that. There is far more to life than jewels, clothes, and cars sweetie.

LILY

I also learned that the hard way.

The car stops at 45th street and Monroe

PHIL

Well, here we are.

LILY

I really want to thank you. You saved me.

PHIL

You're quite welcome. One more thing. I'm a very wealthy man and I love to make a difference in people's lives when I can. Here's a check for 1.4 million dollars. Don't worry, it's good. I want you to have another chance with the money.

LILY

You are kidding me. You don't look rich. You're clothes are average and this car is an older model.

PHIL

Exactly how I got wealthy my dear. Now take the money and go do something so meaningful in life, your name will live on long after you are gone.

Lily's eyes tear up.

LILY

You are serious. This is unbelievable.

PHIL

Go now sweetie and make it happen. When I read about you in the newspaper I'll get in contact with you for our next project.

Lily gets out of the car and Phil drives off.

Lily's mouth is half open. She is puzzled as she slowly looks around her front yard.

She looks at the check, cries, and goes in her house.

INT LILY OFFICE - DAY

In a cramped, dimly lit office, Lily talks on the telephone.

LILY

Yes sir. I'd like to inquire about the storefront for rent on 45th.

MAN ON PHONE

It's 400 a month not including utilities. First and last to get going, one year lease.

LILY

I'd like to come and look at it.

MAN ON PHONE

Sure. The address is 712 45th. The tenant next door will let you in.

LILY

Great. Have a good day, bye.

MAN ON PHONE

Bye.

Lily writes some information on a paper then dials the phone again.

LILY

Hi. I'd like to look at the storefront for rent on Monroe.

MAN 2 ON THE PHONE

The one for 450 a month?

LILY

Yes sir.

MAN 2 ON THE PHONE

The address is 38 Monroe. I'll put the key in the mailbox.

LILY

Thank you. I'll be by to look at it this morning.

Lily writes some more information on a paper and puts it in her purse.

EXT. LILYS POSSIBLE STOREFRONT 45TH - DAY

Lily walks up to 45th street storefront.

The tenant next door comes out and lets Lily inside.

The front windows are cracked, graffiti litters the walls on the inside. There is dust everywhere.

Lily leaves.

EXT. LILYS POSSIBLE STOREFRONT MONROE - DAY

Lily walks up to the Monroe storefront.

She gets the key from the mailbox and opens the shop.

Bright sunshine streams through the large windows.

Fresh paint glistens and the hardwood floors shine.

Lily smiles, closes her eyes, and breathes deep.

INT. LILYS SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

A hand painted sign outside a small storefront reads "Lily's Soup Kitchen".

A line of men in dirty, tattered clothing wait with bowls in hand.

Lily ladles up Potato Onion soup from a large pot.

A man in a suit and tie goes to the front of the line.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER

Hi ma'am, I from the local newspaper and I'd like to talk with the owner.

LILY

That's me.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER

I'd like to do an interview with you for an article I'm writing about homelessness in our city.

LILY

I'm too busy today. We have lots of mouths to feed. I can give you 30 minutes tomorrow at about 10 am. It's in between breakfast and lunch.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER

Perfect. See you tomorrow at 10 am

FADE OUT: