

# Between

By Kathy Lynn Blaylock

Somewhere in Virginia, on a lonely country road, lived a beautiful young girl named Lily. At least according to Lily she was beautiful. However, it was nothing more than her appearance of fair skin and fragile frame, that gave the false impression of tender beauty. Her thick auburn hair that hung loose past her waist, a halo of fire when she stood in the sun, or so she thought. However, there was a side of Lily she kept well hid from others. She fooled most of those around her, even those most wise. Yet there were some who could see the evil in the icy blue depths of her eyes. Furthermore, they knew better than most that the elusion of beauty went no deeper than her external shell.

The truth is people who knew the real Lily, could paint a more accurate picture that described her perfectly, as a cast iron bitch without a soul. In fact, Lily was a spoiled, rich brat, used to getting everything she wanted, or every male who caught her eye. And whom Lily wanted for the moment was the new boy in town, none other than Ted Blake. However, Ted only had eyes for Nina Tate. Nonetheless, Lily considered what Ted or anyone else wanted a minor problem. Therefore, she decided to come up with a plan to get rid of Nina.

Lily started following Nina everywhere, discretely of course. Nevertheless, on May fifteenth, two thousand and three, a month after her little spy game began, Lily just happened to bump into Nina at a local club. She had been watching the couple from across the room, waiting for just the right moment to catch her alone. That moment finally came, when Nina left the dance floor in search of the ladies room.

“Oh my goodness! Are you all right? I am so sorry; I didn’t realize my foot was in the doorway like that!”

“I am fine; really it was just as much my fault as yours, I’m sure. Actually, I don’t usually drink, and tonight I had two, too many. By the way my name is Nina, and you are?”

“Forgive me. Lily Parks,” she said, taking the other girl’s hand.

“Yes, I know who you are, you live out on Bank Road on that big farm between the school and post office, the one with those big iron gates, right?”

“That’s me alright; say, we are having an enormous party on the fourth, why don’t you come. You can bring a date, if you are seeing anyone. If not, rent a date, it works for me. Please, say that you will come, it will make me feel better for nearly breaking your neck.” I wish I had broken it, Lily thought, hiding behind a fake smile.

“Sure, I will come on one condition, if you and your date join me and my boyfriend tonight.”

“Well, there is a problem, I don’t have a date, I came alone, Nina.”

“All the more reason to join us. No girl should be alone in a club.”

“Thanks, I will see you at your table in a few. Are you sure your date won’t mind?”

“Sure, Ted won’t mind, he is new in town, and loves to meet people.”

From that moment on the three were the best of friends. They were always together, Lily made sure of that, right up until the night before the party. They had planned to go to the movies, but Lily backed out at the last minute.

“I am really sorry, you guys, but my stepmother said that I had to stay home to help with last minute details.” However, the only details that Lily considered working on were her plans for getting rid of Nina.

Once she had decided what she would do, she danced her way into bed, and dreamed of making love to Ted. In her mind, the plan was forming quite nicely, and the magnitude of what she would later do was creating a charming and cheerful Lily. In fact, Lily was so cheerful and charming the next morning that it made her stepmother very uncomfortable. She knew that Lily was up to something, and decided she had better keep her eye on the girl.

Lily answered the door with a smile as bright as sunshine. "Ted, Nina, do come in! The party is under way down by the pool, you go on down, Ted, if you don't mind. I want Nina to help me with something in the kitchen, if she will?"

"Sure, Lily, lead the way, this house is huge and I do not want to get lost," Nina replied as they headed for the kitchen and Ted made his way to the pool area.

Lily led Nina from the main part of the house into her private kitchen where they could be alone to talk and she spoke, she did so in a tone of voice that demanded her companion's attention.

"Nina, I brought you here for one very important reason, and your reaction will determine what happens here tonight."

"What in the hell are you going on about, Lily?"

"Don't play coy with me, Nina; you know damn well what this is all about. I have seen you watching me around Ted, and I know that you know I want him."

"Yes, I know that you have been trying to come between Ted and me. I also know that you will never have him!" Nina said as she turned to leave the room, announcing over her shoulder, "Ted and I are leaving, thanks for the party, it's been real."

Fury exploded in Lily, and she grabbed the ice pick from the counter lunging at Nina, knocking her to the floor, she raised the ice pick, ready to strike! However, Nina rolled over onto her back, swinging her arms and kicking her legs trying to fight off her attacker, but Lily plunged the weapon through her heart. She watched as the young girl's body twitched a few times then became still. She could not believe that she had actually killed her rival. Problem solved, or so she thought!

"Nina, Lily, where are you guys? This party is too dull without you!" She heard Ted calling, and quickly stood to move around the counter away from Nina's body. She ran her fingers through her hair and checking her clothes for blood as Ted entered the room.

"There you are, Lily, where's Nina?"

"I think she said that she was going to the bathroom to put on her swimsuit. However, I am glad that we have a moment alone, Ted. I have wanted to talk to you. There is something that I need to say. I want you Ted, I have been in love with you since the first time I laid eyes on you, and I know that you feel something for me as well."

"Lily, you are a nice girl, but..."

"No, Ted, hear me out. I want you, and you will be mine! Nina is dead, I killed her, so that we could be together! If you choose to deny me, then you will leave me no choice."

"What the hell do you mean Lily?"

"I mean that I will start screaming and tell everyone I saw you kill Nina! That is what I am saying Ted! Who do you think people will believe? The rich girl, or you, a penniless drifter?"

"You can't be serious, Lily!" However, he knew that she meant every word of her little fantasy. Furthermore, he believed that no one would believe he was innocent; after all, he was an outsider, among other things.

"Oh, I am very serious, Ted. Do we have a deal, or do I start screaming?" she said, standing there with a look of satisfaction on her face.

“Yeah, we have a deal. But we should dispose of Nina’s body before someone else comes in here,” he said, following her around the counter. Ted had no doubt that if someone did discover them there; he would be hauled off to jail sooner than later!

“Good, we can bury her in my private garden, my parents will not look for me before morning,” she said skipping over to the double doors that led out into the garden.

Unable to prove his innocence in the past, Ted believed his record would only lead to no one trusting in him now. They would simply conclude that not only was he a thief but a murderer as well. He worried the thought over and over in his mind, trying to figure out how to get himself out of Lily’s trap.

Ted picked up Nina’s lifeless body, carrying her close to him, knowing he would never feel her warmth again. In the center of the beautiful garden, he gently laid her on a nearby bench, kissed her cheek, and grudgingly took the shovel from the smiling Lily, and began to dig.

However, Lily soon announced that the hole was deep enough, and rolled the body off the bench into the shallow grave. Ted shoveled the earth into the hole; and was nearly finished with the unwanted task when a soft rain begun.

“Tears from heaven, how fitting,” Lily sneered, stepping onto the fresh mound of earth. She took the shovel from him, kissed his lips, and proceeded to unzip his pants. “Make love to me, Ted.”

“Here?”

“Yes, here, right now or I start screaming,” Lily said, opening her mouth pretending that she would do just that.

“You are a sick bitch, Lily!” Ted replied, taking her hand to pull her from the grave.

“Oh, you misunderstood, I meant right here, and I know that I am a sick bitch, now get naked,” she said, ripping the thin dress from her body, stepping back on the fresh dug grave and pulled him to her. Seductively she pulled him down to the damp mound of earth, and Ted entered her with all his pent up fury; and muffled her screams with his mouth. Lily dug her nails deep into his back but he did not care, he only wanted to hurt her! However, nothing mattered to Lily but reaching the point of release, nothing until she heard a familiar voice.

“I missed you, Ted. What took you so long? Oh, hi there Lily, my you do look surprised! Why, I mean you did want to come between Ted and me. Goes to show you though, you really should be careful what you wish for!” Nina said, wrapping her former friend and lover in her open arms. Roots from nearby trees intertwined through and around them, and the rain soaked earth moved to cover them in darkness.

The next morning Lily’s father searched everywhere for her. Entering the garden and standing with his wife among the lilacs, he heard a muffled sound, someone was calling out to him.

“Did you hear that? That was Lily, but where on earth is she?” he asked, looking around confused when he could find no sign of his daughter.

“Come on, honey, it was just the wind. You know Lily, she will turn up just lying around somewhere,” his wife said, convincing him that what he had indeed heard was nothing more than the wind in the trees, or his imagination.

She had been watching Lily since Sara, her daughter from her first marriage, had mysteriously disappeared. Although she could not prove it, she knew that Lily had everything to do with Sara’s disappearance. She had been watching last night, and seen it all. Some of it was still hard to believe. However, she knew where Lily was, and decided the little tramp got what she deserved.

To this very day, only she can say, but her lips are sealed. She was not about to come between

friends, no, she would never tell the secret of how the bars on the Iron Gate to the Parks property became bent and twisted to spell the secret message!.... Lily forever, between....