

Lily 10

The chapter opens with Lily and her mother settling into their new home in Adams, New Hampshire, after a cross-country move from California. Their journey was filled with bonding moments, like sleeping under the stars in Wyoming and staying in budget motels. Upon arrival, they camped in the empty house, drinking wine and listening to the sounds of their new surroundings. Lily feels hopeful about starting fresh, but the next morning, the moving van arrives, and a worker named Hurley greets her with an unwelcome comment, hinting at challenges ahead.

As they unpack, Lily's mother joyfully rediscovers framed photos and art, treating them like cherished gifts. Lily stumbles upon an old photo album filled with pretransition memories, including images of herself as a child in a suit, playing T-ball, and wearing her mother's lipstick. Her mother, emotional, admits she couldn't bring herself to discard these photos, explaining that they represent a part of her own history too. Lily, surprisingly unbothered, reassures her mother that it's okay to keep them, acknowledging that her mother also underwent a transition of her own.

The chapter delves into Lily's reflections on her childhood, recalling how her mother supported her femininity at home despite her father's disapproval. A poignant memory surfaces of Lily dressing as a fairy queen, which sparked tension between her parents. This moment underscores the familial conflict surrounding Lily's identity and her mother's protective role. Lily now recognizes her mother's fragility, realizing that their shared journey has shaped them both in profound ways.

The chapter closes with Lily and her mother sitting together, flipping through the album, as Lily comforts her tearful mother. In a role reversal, Lily becomes the caretaker, imagining a future where she tends to her aging mother. The scene highlights their deep bond and the mutual resilience they've developed. The chapter captures themes of identity, memory, and the enduring love between mother and

daughter, set against the backdrop of a fresh start in a new home.

