

Return to Lily Cove

By Lynn Case

(Excerpt from Chapter 15)

"No, not anymore." She heard little Katy whisper as she swiftly swept by her with a cold breeze and went into the dining room. Lillian locked the front door and followed Katy into the dining room. Then went to the kitchen and made a cup of hot tea. It was a little cold out tonight. Lillian took her tea into the living room and sat down on the sofa and proceeded to order her old favorite, sausage, pineapple, mushroom with anchovies from Pizano's Pizzeria."

Luckily, Clay didn't answer the phone, one of the young men working for him took her order. Lillian hung up the phone and decided it was a good night to build a fire in the old fireplace. "*Maybe it was a good thing Clay didn't take her order.*" She thought to herself with a giggle. "*Could have used a good mattress mambo tonight.*"

She knelt down in front of the fireplace and opened the flue halfway and made a pile of small twigs and a small log. Next she tightly rolled up a piece of newspaper and lit the end of it with a fireplace match she had on the mantle in decorative a holder She picked up at the hardware store. She held it up and let it burn for a few seconds then placed it under all the pile of twigs and waited for them to catch fire.

It only took a few minutes for the twigs and small log to catch fire. Lillian then added a larger log onto the fire then placed the fireplace cover in front of the fireplace so no embers could escape.

She stood up and looked into the array of family photographs she had placed on the mantle. There were pictures of her parents standing next to their new sailboat, which would eventually be their demise. There was a picture of her and her sister Grace when they were little playing in the snow out in the back yard. There was a picture of her with her father swimming in the cove. Located almost in their backyard, that was covered in lily pads, where she had got her nickname Lily pad. Then it was just shortened to Lily as everyone else began to call her by her nickname. The fact that her last name was Cove didn't help much either. Now that she was older she went by Lillian Anderson, her married name. It seemed more fitting in her line of work, but she always felt like a Lily.

With her parents gone and her only sibling gone, Lillian suddenly felt all alone. She still had her grandparents but they lived almost a world away. She used to have David and a dream of her own little family one day, but that was just a dream now with the impending divorce and no one special in her life, it was just a dream. "*I can see myself now, a houseful of cats and sitting by the TV every night.*" She said to herself.

Just as she was standing there, feeling lonely and sorry for herself that her dream would never be realized, her cell phone rang. "Probably the pizza delivery guy." She thought to herself as she reached for the phone.

"Hello?" Lillian answered.

"I want to keep the lake house." David said in a calmer more rational tone. "We both may have dreamt it and we may have built it together, but you left it. I still live here, I want to keep it."

Lillian wasn't expecting a rational David to call, but now that he had, she was immediately on her guard and ready for this fight to begin. "If you want to keep the lake house" Lillian replied "then you are going to have to get it appraised and buy me out of my half of its current value."

"You want me to buy you out of the lake house, and you want the condo in Cabo San Lucas?" David replied sounding a little more irate. "Why should you get both?" David was getting a little hot under the collar. "Do I need to remind you that this is the state of California and everything is supposed to be split down the middle fifty /fifty?"

"I don't care what state it is in" Lillian replied in a tense tone of voice. "You cheated on me repeatedly in the past few years. All of our friends and neighbors knew about it but had the decency not to say anything to me about it. You never tried to be discreet, you all but flaunted it in front of me. I think I am I entitled to half the lake house and the condo in Cabo."

"Just because you think I cheated on you doesn't make you entitled to anything!" David replied angrily. "You left me, remember, you left me." Sounding slightly hurt.

"Oh come on David? Don't try to tell me your hurt by my leaving?" Lillian asked like he had to be joking. "Let me guess, your new girlfriend wants the house and the condo, doesn't she?" Lillian asked.

"That has nothing to do with this." David responded, knowing full well that Lillian guessed it right away.

That was all Lillian needed to know. The girlfriend wanted it. He didn't deny it. She was going to fight David for it just as a matter of principle now. "David, I will fight you in court for half the house and the condo. I have plenty of proof that you cheated on me and remember you have a nice little police record that is on my side."

"What kind of proof, there is no proof because there never was anyone else other than you Lillian." David replied being confident that Lillian had nothing on him. "And just because I got pulled over for drinking and driving. Won't help you in divorce court Lillian." David replied trying to call her bluff.

"Oh, don't be so sure of yourself David. I have more on you than that." Lillian said with a nasty grin on her face knowing that she had him by the balls this time. She was going to get what she wanted and David wasn't going to stand in her way. Even if it meant sending the photo of him standing next to his new car with the sailboat sticker on the back window along with a copy of the story of little Katy and how she died.

"You don't have anything on me. You're just bluffing." David responded.

"We will have to wait and see won't we?" Lillian's snapped back. She saw the pizza delivery guy drive up to her house. "Sorry David, I have to go now my dinner is here. It was nice talking to you though." She said hanging up the phone and placing it down on the end table then walked to the front door.

"Your pizza ma'am?" The young boy said as he pulled a pizza box out of the insulated pouch he was carrying.

"Here you are young man." She said handing him thirty dollars.

"Just a moment I will get you your change." The young man said reaching into his pocket.

"No need, keep the change, your timing was worth it." Lillian said smiling at him as she closed the front door waving.

"Thanks ma'am" he replied as he turned and walked back to his car parked at the curb, got in and drove away quickly screeching his tires and the music blaring from his radio.

Lillian placed the pizza on the coffee table and went into the kitchen for a plate and poured herself a glass of wine. She walked back into the dining room and sat down and opened the pizza box. She leaned over and inhaled the fresh steamy aroma of her favorite pizza. Lillian took out a large slice and placed it on her plate. Picked up her glass of wine, raised the glass up in the air.

"Good for me." She said to herself as she took a drink from the glass.