Dan sat forwards on the couch. His elbows were on his knees with his hands up in front of his face. If people didn’t know that he was atheist they might assume he was praying. Instead he was deep in thought and it wasn’t about the papers relating to his work which were strewn all around the room. He was thinking hard about Olivia.

For the last two weeks Dan had noticed Olivia struggling more and more. It wasn’t just her usual problems with concentrating or doing chores though, she seemed to be struggling in some much more fundamental ways. Specifically he had noticed her running to the bathroom a lot, occasionally she wasn’t even making it. Several times he had found Olivia sheepishly changing out of wet underwear. It was difficult for Dan who was worried about his wife but had to be careful when bringing things up with her. He didn’t want to upset her.

It had become such an issue that Olivia had even spoken to a doctor but they couldn’t find anything wrong. Not physically at least. Dan felt sure he knew what was really going on. Olivia was feeling stressed and her problems had been growing for weeks now, the worse things got the more helpless she seemed to become. It was the last thing Dan needed right then.

“Everything alright?” Landon asked from the armchair across the room.

“Honestly?” Dan replied as he looked up. He sighed, “No.”

“What’s wrong?” Landon asked as she put the sheet she was working on down.

“Olivia.” Dan answered.

Landon nodded her head. Dan found himself almost wishing Olivia could be more like Landon, just so that she could cope with the world better. She could be exhausting at the best of times but recently it had become a nightmare trying to juggle all his responsibilities. Between the housework, his job and Olivia it felt like Dan was being stretched beyond his limits. He was just very thankful for Landon, he wasn’t sure what he would do if she wasn’t there picking up the slack.

The situation had come to a head that morning. Dan had been lying in bed looking through the news on his phone. Olivia was sleeping beside him but she had been twisting and turning since Dan had woken up. Finally Olivia seemed to practically startle herself awake as she sat up and looked around for a second.

“Olivia? Are you-…” Dan started.

Olivia suddenly scrambled out of bed with wide eyes. She fell to the floor on her hands and knees before getting up and running from the room. It had taken Dan a few minutes to work out what was going on, until the smell hit him.

He had thrown back the covers and saw a spot on the bed. There could only be one explanation. Olivia had wet the bed. It wasn’t a big one but it didn’t have to be. Wetting the bed at all was a problem.

It had been on Dan’s mind all day and he had struggled to concentrate. He had recalled the story to Landon who seemed suitably sorry for him. She had hugged him and said she was there if he needed to talk, Olivia on the other hand had spent the entire day hiding in the master bedroom. She couldn’t be enticed out no matter what Dan tried.

“I’ll tell you what…” Landon finally said with a sigh, “How about we go for a “working dinner” at a restaurant?”

“Working dinner?” Dan repeated.

“Well it will be a lot more dinner than work admittedly.” Landon chuckled.

“What about Olivia?” Dan asked.

“Leave Livy here.” Landon suggested. She sighed and walked across the room to cover Dan’s hand with her own, “Every parent needs time off and away from their kid. I don’t think you are any different.”

“I’m not a parent.” Dan said simply.

“Only in the most literal sense.” Landon replied, “I think you know that. Look, I’ll go tell Olivia we have to go for dinner for work reasons, you just get ready. Olivia will be able to look after herself for a few hours.”

Dan thought about the proposal. He could certainly do with a break and in many ways he thought Landon was right. Eventually he nodded his head in agreement. He couldn’t help feeling a little bit of guilt but at the same time he was excited to go out and forget his domestic worries for an hour or so.

Dan nodded her head.

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Olivia was sat in her bedroom watching the television and generally doing her best to stay out of the way. She was feeling a little dejected and like she had less control of her life than ever before. Landon was, for all intents and purposes, living with her and Dan now. She understood Landon wanted to make life easier for Dan and take up some of the slack that she was creating but it felt like things were out of control for her.

To Olivia’s intense embarrassment her control had been slipping and she seemed unable to do anything about it. More and more often she was finding herself having to make sudden dashes for the bathroom as the urge to go to the bathroom hit her extremely quickly. She knew the others had noticed as well. Multiple times she had been around them only to have to suddenly run off with her hands clamped over her crotch. It wasn’t just her bladder that was affected either, she was having trouble with her bowels as well. The worst part is she didn’t always make it.

This was why Olivia was now laying on the bed with her back propped up with pillows wearing her dressing gown with a pull-up underneath it. After staining and ruining several pairs of panties Dan had tentatively suggested she wear pull-ups until things calmed down. It wasn’t a suggestion Olivia could easily reject. It represented a change though, her padded underwear had always been something fun or a way to escape mentally into a fantasy world, now they were a necessity. She didn’t know what was happening but she did know it showed no signs of calming down.

“Livy? Can I come in?” That was Landon’s voice from the hallway. She had taken to using Olivia’s little name a lot more often recently.

“Sure.” Olivia called out.

The door opened and Landon stuck her head inside. She was smiling as she stepped just inside and pulled the door closed behind her. She scanned the room and Olivia wondered what exactly she might be looking for. She was much too passive to say anything though.

“Dan and I are thinking of heading out for dinner.” Landon said, “We shouldn’t be too long.”

Olivia was shocked. She knew that Dan and Landon had been spending a lot of time together, she had even noticed how close they were becoming but she hadn’t expected them to just leave for dinner without her. She bit her lip anxiously, she felt like she was being left out but at the same time she was very worried about leaving the house. She had always preferred to remain at home but after recent events she was doubly scared to go outside.

At the same time she felt like she couldn’t let Landon take Dan out alone. She already felt like she was being squeezed out. She felt a tug-of-war going on in her head as she tried to work out what she should do.

“M-Maybe… Maybe I could come too…” Olivia suggested tentatively.

“You want to come?” Landon seemed surprised, “What about your… little problem?”

Olivia could feel her cheeks flushing. Landon knew about her little side and diapers so the phrase “little problem” in reference to her body making her run to the bathroom was noted. It was the same worry she was feeling herself but for once she felt like she had to be brave.

“I’ll be fine.” Olivia said as she stood up, “I just need a few minutes to get dressed.”

“Very well.” Landon replied with a curt smile. She left the bedroom and closed the door behind her.

Olivia stood up and started immediately regretting her decision. A part of her wanted to just forget the whole thing and tell Landon she had changed her mind but she couldn’t do that. She slipped the robe off her shoulders as she looked through her closet. Dressed only in her pull-up she needed to find something suitably grown up for a meal.

“Oh, by the way…” Suddenly the bedroom door opened and Landon looked inside again.

Olivia scrambled. She yelped as she grabbed the robe that was hanging on the floor to cover herself back up. Her face blazed with embarrassment, there was no way Landon missed the pull-up she was wearing. It might’ve been less humiliating to be caught completely naked.

“Oh, sorry. I didn’t realise you were getting ready straight away.” Despite Olivia’s embarrassment Landon seemed nonplussed by what she was seeing. At least that was the way she was acting.

“What do you want?” Olivia asked. She was desperate to get out of this situation.

“Oh, it doesn’t matter.” Landon replied waving a hand in the air, “Nothing that can’t wait.”

Landon left the room again. Olivia kept the robe around her until she was sure Landon wasn’t coming back in again. This time she didn’t take any longer than necessary to find an outfit. A knee-length black skirt and a pastel pink top. She checked in the mirror to make sure that her pull-up was well hidden. It was probably as good as things would get.

Olivia had one last wobble where she considered hiding under the covers again before plucking up enough courage to go downstairs. She found Dan and Landon already waiting for her by the front door.

“Sorry.” Olivia said. She wasn’t really sure why she was apologising. It was something she often did if she felt the situation was awkward.

“No need to apologise.” Dan said with a smile, “I’m surprised you want to join us. It’ll be a lot of work talk I’m afraid.”

“That’s alright.” Olivia replied as she slipped on her shoes.

Olivia followed the other two out of the house. She felt a little nervous about her pull-up but she knew that was just her own insecurities. They went to the car where Olivia had to pause for a second before walking to the backseat. She didn’t know if it was on purpose but Landon had gone straight to the front passenger seat meaning Olivia was going to be in the back. She couldn’t help but feel a little embarrassed but no one said anything.

The car backed out of the driveway and then started making its way into town. Olivia sat in the back playing with her fingers whilst Dan and Landon chatted. It very much felt like they were the couple and Olivia was a child of some sort. To Olivia’s surprise instead of work the two people in the front seats were talking about the household.

“I’ve been having a look at wallpapers.” Landon said, “I think we should redecorate the living room.”

“You think so?” Dan asked, “I kind of like the wallpaper we have now.”

“It’s a little bit… dated.” Landon laughed.

“I guess you’re right.” Dan replied, “Oh, whilst I remember, this weekend do you think you could help me in the garden?”

“Of course.” Landon said. Her am went across and she touched Dan on the shoulder.

They were like a married couple. Olivia remained mute in the back, no one asked what she thought or if she could help. With the pull-up between her legs, her seat in the back of the car and the way Landon was clearly acting like the woman of the household Olivia felt like a useless child and it wasn’t in the fun way.